

Biographies of Ohio Band Director's Hall of Fame

Laurie Lafferty - 2023 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee Buckeye Local (Ashtabula) Schools

Laurie Coffey Lafferty, Professor Emeritus at The University of Akron, is a native of Vandalia, Ohio. A graduate of Baldwin Wallace College, she holds a Master's degree from Youngstown State University, and a Ph.D. from Kent State University. She was an instrumental music teacher in Ohio public schools teaching band grades 5 – 12 in Fairfield Local Schools, Leesburg (one year), Wapakoneta City Schools (2 years), Buckeye Local Schools (Edgewood High School, Braden Jr. High), Ashtabula (18 years), and Chagrin Falls Exempted Village Schools (2 years). While teaching in Wapakoneta she was also principal horn in the Lima Symphony and horn instructor at Ohio Northern University. During her years in the Buckeye Local Schools her bands received 48 superior ratings and 8 excellent ratings at Ohio Music Education Association (OMEA) Adjudicated Events and performed at OMEA Professional Conferences; the American School Band Directors Association (ASBDA) State Conferences, the District V OMEA Conference, and the Ohio Band Directors Conference. Her 18-member horn ensemble also performed at the OMEA Professional Conference and the ASBDA State Conference.

With the support of the Buckeye Music Boosters three works were commissioned for her Braden Junior High Bands: *Cambridge Overture* by John Tatgenhorst (Barnhouse), *Edgewood Festival* by James Curnow (Jenson), and *Wind Chimes* by John Kinyon (Alfred). Guest composers during her tenure in Buckeye included composers Jim Curnow, John O'Reilly, Sandy Feldstein, John Kinyon, Rex Mitchel, John Tatgenhorst, and Quincy Hilliard; conductors Robert Jorgensen, Robert Fleming, Mark Kelly, Craig Kirchoff, A. Jerd Bayless, and Les Hickens; clinicians and soloists Johnny Woody, Joe Edwards, Larry Snider, Tucker Jolly, Georgia Peoples, Jim Umble, Donald Byo, Ray Premru, Paul Ferguson, John Turk, Ed Zadrozny, the Paragon Brass Quintet, the YSU and Solaris Woodwind Quintets, among others.

During her two years at Chagrin Falls her two junior high bands received 4 superior ratings at OMEA Adjudicated Events and were accepted to perform at the OMEA Professional Conference.

As a faculty member at The University of Akron Dr. Lafferty served as the Music Education Coordinator and taught wind and percussion method classes, rehearsal techniques, University Band, graduate core music education classes and supervised student teachers. Most recently she has been working as an advisor in the College of Engineering at UA.

Dr. Lafferty has a long record of service to OMEA. She served as an adjudicator for both large group and solo and ensemble adjudicated events from 1984 – 2020. She was treasurer of District V and President elect for that same district. She served on multiple music selection committees for OMEA band required repertoire and was chair of the music selection committee for the revision of the horn solo and ensemble list. She also served on the Government Relations Board, as State Chair of the Ohio Collegiate Music Education Association, Chair of the District VII Honors Band, Chair of the All-State Band, and Co-chair of the OMEA 2006 Professional Conference.

As a clinician Dr. Lafferty has presented clinics at professional conferences in Texas, California, North Carolina, New Hampshire, the Music Education National Conference in Pittsburgh and New York, multiple clinics at OMEA State Professional Conferences, and twice at the Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago. She has guest conducted OMEA Honor Bands and Music Festival Bands throughout Ohio and in California.

As a composer Dr. Lafferty's young band compositions and arrangements are published in the catalogues of Heritage Press, Great Works, Ludwig, Carl Fisher, and Wingert-Jones. Her compositions appear on the contest lists in states around the country. She has articles on music education published in the Triad, Instrumentalist, Band Director's Guide, the National Federation of Interscholastic Music Association Journal, and Contributions to Music Education.

Laurie Lafferty is a member of the Ohio Music Education Association, the National Association for Music Education, and Kappa Kappa Psi and Pi Kappa Lambda, honorary service and leadership organizations. She was the recipient of the ASCAPLUS Award; Favorite Faculty, Mortar Board College Honor Society; received a Summer Fellowship as a Post-Candidacy Doctoral Student; listed on the ABC Summer Directors Top Ten List, and elected to PHI Beta Mu, The International Bandmaster's Fraternity.

She is honored to have spent her career in a profession with so many fine students and supportive colleagues, many of whom have become her closest friends. She is extremely fortunate to have had the support of her extended family Gene Milford, son Alex, daughter-in-law Tosha, son John and daughter-in-law Jade, Nancy Coffey, Susan Milford Cook, Tricia Milford Hoyt and in more recent years, the Karriker family, Galen, Kendra, Graeson, and Korinne. And she is extremely proud to be the grandmother of Adelise Claire and Malcolm Alexander.

Patricia Meeks - 2022 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee Shawnee Local Schools

Patricia Meeks recently retired (June, 2022) following 40 years as the Director of Bands for Shawnee Local Schools in Lima, Ohio. Her career also includes one year in the Findlay City School system. At Shawnee, Pat directed the Lima Shawnee Marching Band, High School Symphonic Band, and taught grades five through eight at Shawnee Middle School. Under her direction the Shawnee Symphonic Band had an outstanding record of OMEA state superior ratings over the past 35 years, and collectively (marching band and large group) earned 63 OMEA state superior ratings since 1980. Shawnee bands were asked to perform at the BGSU Reading Clinics and selected to perform at Walt Disney World on 10 occasions during her tenure.

Mrs. Meeks has a long record of service with the Ohio Music Education Association. Her OMEA service includes: Co-Chair of the District 3-East Band and Chorus Adjudicated Event for the past 30 years, State Chair for the NW OMEA State Adjudicated Event for many years, President of OMEA District 3, as well as serving on numerous committees in District 3. She served on the OMEA Adjudicated Events Committee for 15 years in the positions of Marching Band Affairs Chair, High School

Affairs Chair, Adjudicated Events Committee Chair, Instrumental Advisor, and Rules and Regulations Chair. She has also chaired multiple revisions of the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Required music list.

Patricia Meeks was elected President of the Ohio Music Education Association and served in that position 2012–2014. Following her years as President she served as Chair of Da Capo 2014–16. Recently, Pat served as Chair of the OMEA Constitution Committee, and Appeals board. She served on several music selection committees for OMEA large-group-band-required repertoire over the past twenty years. She served on music advocacy teams both in Ohio and in Washington D.C. during the annual NAFME National Assembly. In 2018, she had the honor of being selected to serve on the NAFME President candidate national selection committee.

Mrs. Meeks received Shawnee High Schools Faculty Award “Make Shawnee the Best It Can Be” in 2012-2013. Mrs. Meeks was proud to be named Teays Valley West Middle School “teacher of the month” in October, 2017 while serving as a substitute teacher (band) during her “first” retirement. She was awarded the Ohio Lottery’s Teacher of the Month in November, 2017. On February 4, 2017, she received the OMEA Distinguished Service Award which was presented to her at the OMEA State Conference. Mrs. Meeks was named “2019 Arts Creator of the Year Award” by the Arts Advocacy of West Central Ohio. In 2020 she was awarded the Hawksoft Dick Fanazick Award “for profoundly impacting the lives of our future leaders.” The Lima Optimist Club awarded her the Educator of the Year for 2021-22 in May of 2022. Mrs. Meeks is an active adjudicator for local and state marching band events, solo and ensemble events, as well as district and state large group AE. She has served as guest conductor of numerous bands in Ohio, Virginia and Georgia. Her expertise, knowledge, and outstanding mentorship is highly respected and admired by colleagues and she is in constant demand to rehearse and assess their bands. She is a member of NAFME/OMEA, OEA. In 1997, she was inducted into Phi Beta Mu by sponsor, and 2000 OBDC Hall of Fame recipient Mary Jane McKinley.

Patricia Meeks is grateful for the support of Shawnee administration, students, and band parents, as well as their belief in the vision: “small school, big goals” that has guided the Lima Shawnee band program since 1980. She cherishes the 10 years that she taught with her late husband Daniel Meeks, and is forever grateful for his continuous support when she returned to Shawnee after her “first retirement”. She is the proud mother of two sons, Aron and Adam (Larissa) and grandchildren (all musicians), Rylan, Rhys and Noah.

William Thomas - 2021 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Lakota East High School

Greg Snyder - 2020 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Lakota West High School

George Edge - 2019 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Grove City High School

Thomas Brucoli - 2018 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Champion High School

Kenneth Mehalko - 2017 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Strongsville High School

Marty Lydecker - 2016 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
North Royalton High School



Marty Lydecker spent his entire 35 year music teaching career teaching in Ohio Public Schools.

Lydecker graduated in 1969 from Bergenfield High School (NJ). His high school band directors, Donald Angelica and Bernard Baggs, are both members of the DCI Hall of Fame. He spent the 1969-70 school year in Sweden as an American Field Service exchange student.

Lydecker graduated from the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music in 1975, earning both a Bachelor in Music Education and a Master of Music Education degree. Originally a double degree major in both Music Education and Physical Education, he served as Intramural Sports Director and President of the Oberlin Conservatory Student Council. He has been recognized as a “Distinguished Graduate” by the Oberlin Music Education Department.

Upon graduation, Marty began teaching music in the Perkins Local School District, Sandusky, Ohio. His assignments included teaching bands grades 5-8, general music, and Assistant Band Director at Perkins High School. He coached 7th grade basketball, and served 2 years as President of the Perkins Education Association. During his 9 year tenure, the Perkins Wind Ensemble received consistent OMEA Superior Ratings at both the district and state level, the student participation in the high school band program more than doubled, and the Perkins Marching Band in 1980 was one of 10 Class B bands to appear at the first OMEA State Marching Band Finals. Marty is

fortunate to have learned much about the band director business from his mentor and friend, H. Dennis Lavy, Head Band Director, Perkins High School.

In 1984, Marty was hired by the Maple Heights City Schools, where he taught 7th Grade Band, 8th Grade Band, general music, and the Maple Heights HS Concert and Marching Bands. In 1986, he was appointed High School Band Director and Music Department Chairman for the North Royalton City Schools.

During his 24 years at North Royalton, Mr. Lydecker taught a variety of classes, including 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade Band, Music Theory, Music Appreciation, Jazz Band I and II, and directed the NRHS Choir, the NRHS Freshman Band, the NRHS Marching Band, the NRHS Brass Choir (holiday season only) and the NRHS Wind Ensemble. The NRHS Wind Ensemble received its first OMEA District “Superior” rating in 1988 (Class B). From 1991-95, the Wind Ensemble received OMEA Superior Ratings at both District and State Adjudicated Events in Class A, and from 1996-2010 received 15 District and 14 Superior Ratings in Class AA. The NRHS Wind Ensemble has appeared at the OMEA State Conference, the BGSU Reading Clinic, the University of Akron OBDC, Severance Hall, the ASBDA Ohio Convention, and Cleveland State University. The NRHS Freshman Band (established 2002) performed 7 times at the OMEA State Large Group AE in Class C.

In 1986, there were 78 instrumentalists in the NRHS Band Program. By 2002, the band program grew to over 320 student in 4 high school concert bands, the NRHS Wind Ensemble (AA), the NRHS Symphonic Band (B), the NRHS Concert Band (C), and the NRHS Freshman Band (C). On multiple occasions, all 4 high school bands earned Superior ratings at both district and state events.

The North Royalton High School Marching Band has participated in the OMEA State MB Finals every year since 1986. From 1991-2010, every performance by the NRHSMB received a Superior rating at both the District and State levels. The NRHSMB has appeared 9 times at Disneyworld, the Indianapolis 500, the BCS National Championship, Disneyland, 2 Cleveland Indian World Series Parades, Cleveland Browns halftime, and in 2003, the 339 member NRHS Marching Band appeared in the Tournament of Roses Parade. The NRHS Marching Band was twice recognized by Cleveland Magazine in the “Best of Cleveland” issue. Marty celebrated his retirement year in 2010 directing the combined NRHS Alumni Band and the NRHS Marching Band. Over 800 students filled the field.

Mr. Lydecker has been an active member of the Ohio Music Education Association, serving as a District I President, District VII Sec/Treasurer, and as a chairman for over 25 District Solo and Ensemble, District Large Group, and State Large Group Adjudicated Events. For ten years he was a part of the OMEA Adjudicated Events Committee, serving as Band Affairs Chair and later, High School Affairs Chair. An Adjudicator since 1980, Mr. Lydecker continues to work at OMEA District and State Large Group Adjudicated Events and OMEA Marching Band District and State Events.

Marty has been a guest lecturer at Oberlin College, Kent State, the OMEA State Convention, and for 2 years was the OMEA MB Music Caption Head. In 2010, he directed the BGSU Honor Band. Mr. Lydecker has been recognized as a North Royalton Teacher of the Year, a PTA Life Member, a PTA District Teacher of the Year, and in 2010 received the OMEA “Outstanding Music Educator” Award.

Marty and his wife Mary Lou (Oberlin, BM, 1974) live in North Royalton. He enjoys golfing, his American Flyer train hobby, and playing bridge. He is a member of the North Royalton Stadium Foundation and a volunteer at the Railroad Museum of South Florida. Mary Lou, also a retired music teacher, is the founder of “Sounds of Hope Project”, a non-profit organization which provides music for hospice and nursing homes. They both look forward spending time with their 2 sons (Mark, Michael) and their families. Marty would like to thank the OBDC for this great honor, his many colleagues, especially Craig Sievert, Christopher Burdick, and David Vitale, the OMEA for providing educational venues to help us become better teachers and directors, and most of all, thank his wife and family for all of their support.

Richard Sherrick - 2015 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Parkway Local Schools



Jeffery D. Shellhammer - 2014 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Gahanna Lincoln High School



Jeffrey D. Shellhammer is currently in his third year serving as lecturer in the School of Music at The Ohio State University where he team-teaches undergraduate conducting and supervises student teachers. Previously he served for two years as a member of Capital University's adjunct music faculty, acting as conductor of the Wind Symphony and instructing music education classes. He retired in June 2010 after 35 years as a high school band director in the State of Ohio. Jeff earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education from Bowling Green State University (1975), Master's in Music Education from VanderCook College of Music (1984) and served as graduate assistant while enrolled in post-graduate studies at Florida State University (1984-85).

Jeff's early teaching positions included three years at Berne Union High School (Sugar Grove) and six years at Fremont Ross High School. For 25 years he was Director of Bands at Gahanna Lincoln High School where he directed the Golden Lions Marching Band, Freshman Band, Blue and Gold Bands and taught music theory. Jeff's concert bands consistently earned high ratings at Ohio Music Education Association adjudicated events, having accumulated a career total of sixty-six Superior ratings at the State level. In December 1992, the Gahanna Lincoln Gold Band was one of five high school bands in the nation selected to perform at the prestigious Midwest International Band and Orchestra Clinic held in Chicago. Additionally, Jeff's bands have been invited to perform for the American School Band Director's State Conference, the Ohio Band Director's Conference, Bowling Green State University and Capital University New Music Reading Clinics, and six Ohio Music Education Association State Professional Conferences. The Golden Lions Marching Band, in addition to serving the Gahanna community through non-competitive and varied halftime presentations, had the privilege to host and

participate in various festivals throughout the State and parades in Chicago, New York and Washington, D.C..

Jeff was the recipient of the 1983 ASBDA-Stanbury Award for Ohio in the Senior High Division, was named to the Edgewood (Ashtabula) High School Hall of Fame in 2005, in 2006 the OMEA Outstanding Music Educator and the Gahanna Lincoln High School Renaissance Staff Award recipient, induction into the Fremont Ross High School Music Hall of Fame in 2008 and a recipient of the Gahanna-Jefferson Education Foundation Cornerstone Award in 2014.

In addition to his responsibilities at OSU, Jeff remains active as an adjudicator for OMEA, an organization for which he has Co-Chaired the 2014 Professional Conference, chaired and hosted the South-Central Region State Band and Choir State Adjudicated Event for nearly twenty five years and acted as All-State Band Chair and All-State Coordinator on several occasions. He has served as guest conductor in three Counties, five OMEA Districts and clinician in numerous schools and at Capital and Ohio State Universities. He is a member of Phi Beta Mu, International Bandmaster Fraternity and served in the Spring of 2014 as Interim Conductor of the Westerville Community Band. Jeff volunteered for nine years as conductor of the Gahanna Community Theater Pit orchestra, has been for nearly thirty years Director of Music Ministries at Stonybrook United Methodist Church (Gahanna) and for seven years, been the bass trombonist in the Heisey Wind Ensemble (Newark), with whom he has also served as guest conductor. Jeff and his wife Kelly recently celebrated thirty years of marriage and have two daughters, Jena (24), a graduate of The Ohio State University and Taylor (22), a student at The University of Akron. Jeff credits family, friends and faith along with the love, support, patience and understanding of Kelly, Jena and Taylor, for that which he has had the good fortune to achieve and experience in his life and career.

**Sam Reynolds - 2013 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Princeton High School**



The 2013 inductee to the Ohio Band Director's HOF is **Samuel D. Reynolds**, former band director at Princeton High School in Cincinnati, OH. Mr. Reynolds taught in the Princeton schools from 1960-1990. A graduate of Miami University he has also served on the faculty of his alma mater, as well as the University of Cincinnati and Wright State University.

His Princeton High School Bands earned 25 Superior ratings at the Ohio Music Education Association adjudicated events. The band performed twice at OMEA Professional Conferences and performed in New York, Detroit, and Toronto. Internationally noted composers David Shaffer, Clare Grundman and Jerry Williams each composed works specifically for the Princeton Bands.

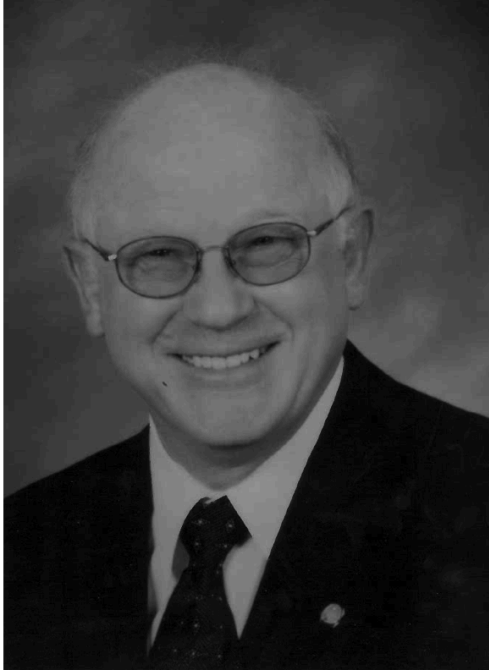
The Princeton marching band, in addition to performing at the high school football games performed at Ohio State, Miami, Wilmington, and Xavier Universities and three times for the Cincinnati Bengals.

Mr. Reynolds is the recipient of the Citation of Excellence given by the National Band Association, Delta Chi Outstanding Faculty Award, an Honorary Member of the Golden Key International Honour Society, member of American School Band Directors Association, Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, past president of Phi Beta Mu Band Honorary, a Delta Omicron Patron, Princeton High School Hall of Fame, and a life member of Phi Mu Alpha. He is also listed in the *International Who's Who in Music*,

Personalities of the West and Midwest, Men of Achievement and Who's Who Among America's Teachers.

An active member of the Ohio Music Education Association Mr. Reynolds held numerous elected and service positions and has served as an adjudicator in Ohio and Kentucky for both concert and marching events.

Gayle Stalheim - 2012 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Mentor High School

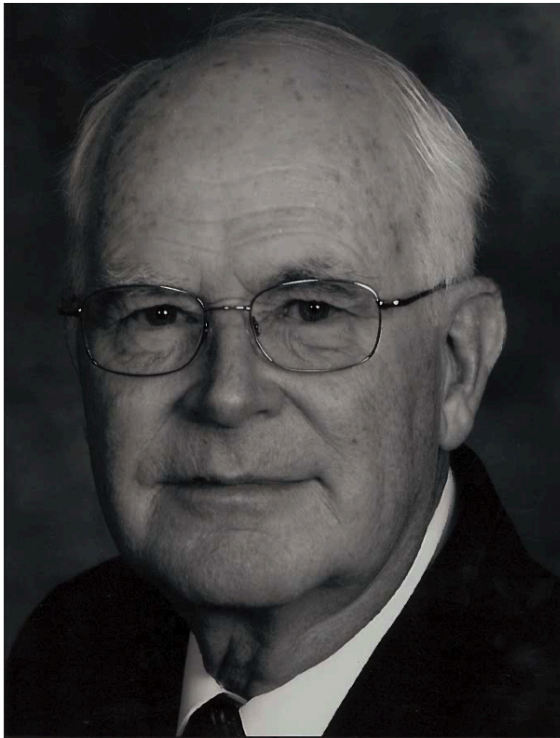


Gayle Stalheim started studying music as a sophomore in high school after receiving a trombone for his 14th birthday from his parents. He grew up in a musical family whose parents had no formal music education, both leaving school after finishing the 8th grade. His father tinkered a little with the fiddle at barn dances and his mom played the pump organ by ear. Because his legs were too short to reach the pedals of the pump organ, Gayle and his older brother, Garry, crawled under the keyboard and each were responsible for pushing one of the pedals down. Lots of family singing kept the family entertained because this was before they were living in a home with electricity. When Gayle's youngest sister, Glenyta, was in third grade, she started taking piano lessons. All the others in the family played instruments in their respective high schools except for Gwendolyn who played accordion. As Gayle was finishing country grade school the May PTA meeting had the Canton, So. Dak. Municipal Band perform at his school. On the way home from the concert, his mom asked each of them which instrument they liked best and Gayle said trombone. Lo, and behold, sixteen months later, for a birthday present, Gayle received a trombone. When he asked his mom about it she said, "For all this time, I have been saving a dollar a week out of our grocery money and this was for your present." When you realize your brothers and sisters had been eating less because your parents wanted you to have a musical experience, you grow up quickly.

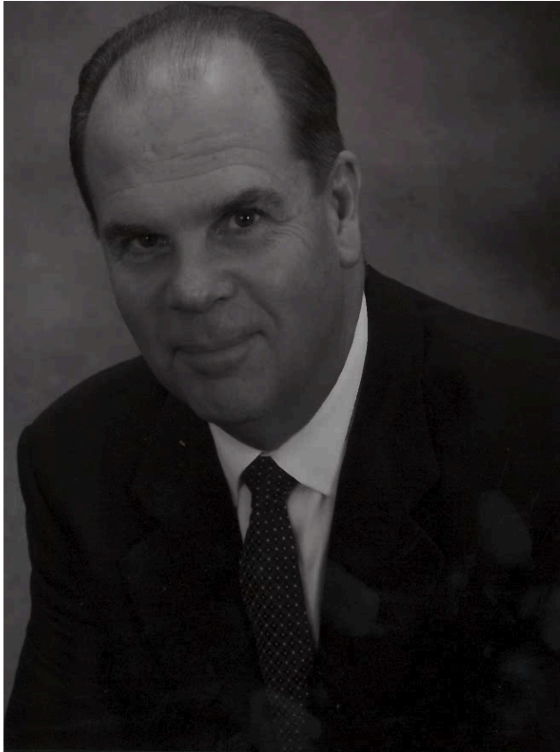
During the summer preceding high school, lightning struck Beresford Grade School in June, 1948 (where the band room was located) and burned the school to the ground. Following WWII, it was very difficult to get brass instruments and Beresford borrowed whatever they could from other schools. The marching band only performed once during Gayle's high school band career and that was for the homecoming parade. Band jackets were borrowed from Canton High School (a neighboring school that had different colors) and wore gray trousers. It didn't make any difference, the kids were so happy.

Following graduation from high school in 1952, he served three years in the United States Marine Corps. After his discharge Gayle entered Augustana College in Sioux Falls, S.D., where he played trombone, baritone in the band, was drum major for four years and student conductor his junior and senior years. As a freshman he organized the first Annual Pops Concert and Style Show for the college's Syttende Mai celebration (Norwegian Independence Day), an annual event which continues to this date. Graduating in 1960 with a Bachelor of Arts degree he taught for two years in De Smet, S. D., also playing trombone in the Huron, S. D. Orchestra.

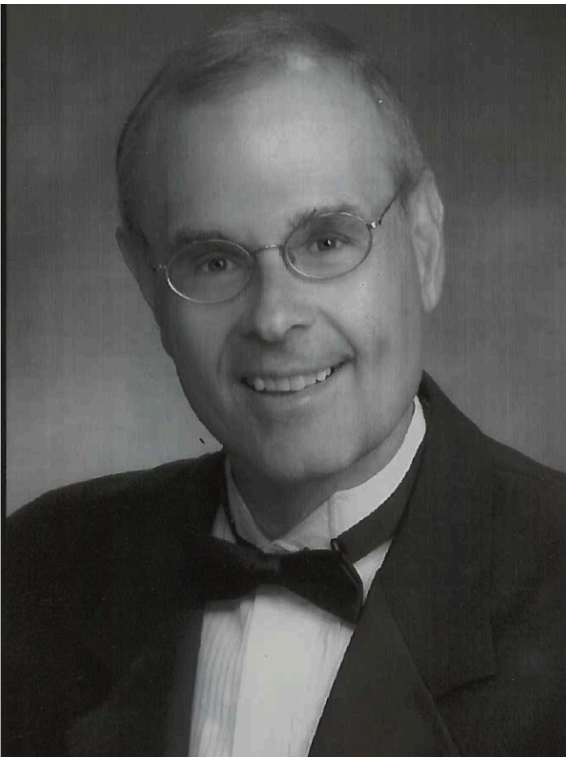
**William Rasey - 2011 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Austintown Schools**



**Roger Hall - 2010 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Perry High School**



**Vince Polce - 2009 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Defiance High School**



Vince Polce has strived for excellence in music education at Defiance High School and in the state of Ohio. Administrators appreciate the fact that he endeavored to do what was best not only for the music department, but also for the Defiance city School System and the community of Defiance. Colleagues search him out for advice because of his years of experience and outstanding program he has developed in a small town with little resources. Parents respect his dedication and time commitment to the students and the music program. Students value his attention to their individual needs and his awareness of what is happening in their lives outside of the music department.

Vince has become an institution in the Defiance City School system as well as the band world in the state of Ohio. He has served as an adjudicator, chairman of adjudicator events, and chairman of committees for state conventions. His ensembles have performed at a variety of state functions as well as represented the state of Ohio at national performances. He has been sought after as a conductor for honor bands and has served as a clinician at various types of band director workshops.

In 2001, a book was compiled in honor of Dr. Polce. The book was presented first to OMEA for the educator of the year award and then to Vince at the band's award night. This compilation of letters demonstrated the great number of people in our community and fellow educators in the state that feel he was deserving of the awards. Letters were received as far away as England and Vince received the OMEA educator of the year award.

Upon retirement Vince has continued his teaching through a position at IPFW. He also accepted the position of director of the Defiance College Community Band. He quickly began "pounding the pavement" for musicians, current directors and past directors who had not been actively performing and encouraged them to participate with the DCCB largely due to Dr. Polce's involvement. Each rehearsal is a learning experience, even for seasoned musicians.

**Jack Gray - 2008 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Shelby High School**



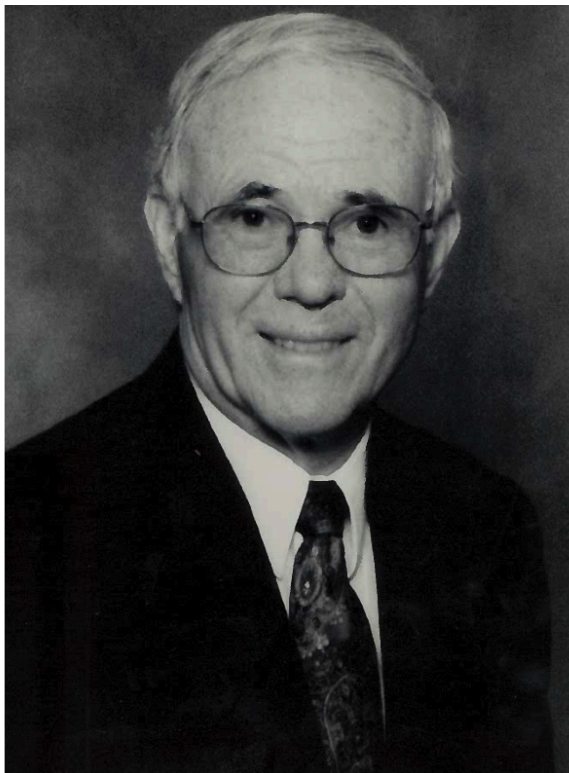
Retired in 2000 after serving as Director of Bands at Shelby High School for 30 years.

Jack earned a Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees from Bowling Green State University. The Shelby Symphonic Band under Jack's direction received Superiors at the OMEA State Adjudicated Events every year of his career. Many students from the Shelby bands were members of various honors bands including the OMEA Conference All-State Bands.

His band performed at Walt Disney World, the Ohio State University Skull Session, OSU Buckeye Invitational Marching Band Festival, Bowling Green State University New Music Reading Clinic, OMEA Professional Conference, the Lincoln Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington D.C., the ASBDA State Clinic, performed with the Dallas Brass and presented a program for the Presidential Candidate Bob Dole.

Jack has been an OMEA Adjudicator and a Marching Band adjudicator for over 30 years. He has continued to adjudicate since he retired. He is a recipient of the Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education presented by the Ashland Oil Company. He serve 22 years on the OMEA Adjudicated Events Committee, and has guest conducted and served as a clinician throughout Ohio.

**Alexander "Sandy" Stuart - 2007 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Austintown City Schools**



Alexander "Sandy" Stuart taught in the Austintown Public Schools from 1957 to 1987. He taught instrumental music in grades 5-8. The program consisted of a fifth grade beginners band, sixth and seventh grade cadet band, and a seventh and eighth grade concert band. His concert band always earned superior ratings from all of the adjudicators at the OMEA Junior High large group contests and a majority of the band members participated in the Junior High solo and ensemble contests earning superior ratings. He also maintained a stage band ensemble that met before the school day.

Each year no less than 95% of the eighth grade continued on to the high school band program and similar retention was achieved in the younger grades.

Unfortunately, many of his bands never appeared at festivals, clinics or other conventions, but his teaching methods and influence was experienced by many student teachers that passed through his school.

Many students that graduated from Sandy's band program have gone on as professional performers and music educators.

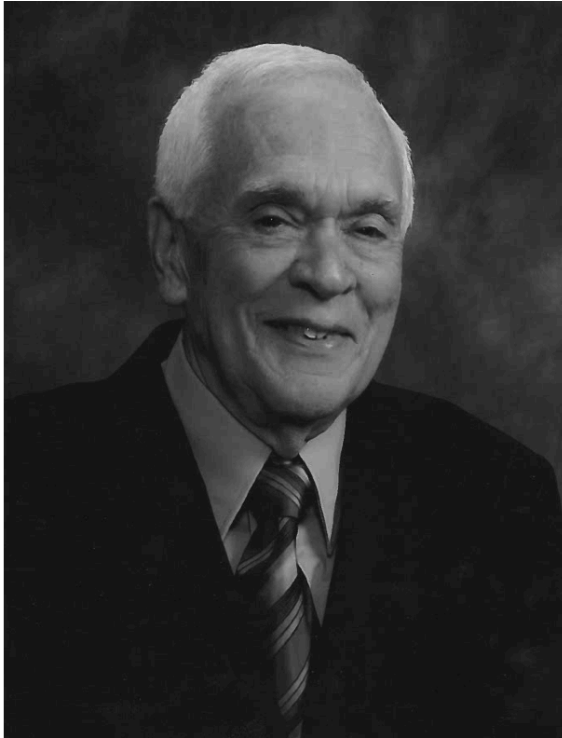
**Gene Milford - 2006 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Edgewood Senior High School**



**Anthony Cebriak - 2005 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Canfield High School**



John E. Crumly - 2004 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Hilliard High School



Harry Pfingsten - 2003 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Avon Lake High School



Harry Pfingsten was born on September 1, 1935 in Cleveland, Ohio where he attended John Marshall High School. He retired after thirty-five years of teaching in Ohio Public Schools. Presently, he is a very active OMEA adjudicator and conducts the Patriot's Symphonic Band. This band has a very busy year round concert schedule and has eighty members. They played at the OMEA convention in 2003.

First Musical Experiences

I was exposed to classical music almost from birth. My parents made sure that I attended concerts of all types including the Cleveland Orchestra almost before I could walk. When I was six, they took me to my first opera which was the Metropolitan from New York who in those days gave performances at Public Hall in Cleveland.

My parents were very musically inclined; they both played clarinet in the Band at West Tech. My father was self-taught and he invented his own fingering system on his metal Albert clarinet. He had a knack for instruments and could play them all by ear. As far as I know, he never saw a fingering chart on any of them.

When I was five years old, I was influenced for life by my Uncle Russell Petersen, who was then Director of the Grafton Band. I was attending one of the concerts and during the warm-up in the Band Room he put me on a stool in front of the room. As he gave me the baton something magical happened; as I waved my hands slow, the band went slow, the same thing happened when I went fast. At that point I was hooked. I remember telling my parents that I was going to be a band director. I never wavered from that thought from that moment on. My Uncle was also a trumpet player and while in high school at West Tech, he won the national solo competition at Elkhart, Indiana in 1930.

With my Mother's insistence, I took piano lessons for six years but I could never get the idea of playing trumpet out of my head. When I was twelve, my uncle handed me a vintage silver King Liberty trumpet with an engraved bell and began to teach me how to play.

Ironically my first job was at the very same Grafton School that my Uncle taught at. For the first four years of my teaching career we taught private lessons in adjacent studios on Thursday evenings. Needless to say, Russell Petersen was the greatest influence in my formative years.

I learned very early that the key to success was to use the OMEA solo and Ensemble Contest to a great advantage. It was not unusual to have twenty-five or more ensembles entered each year. A brass quintet and a woodwind quintet performed and rehearsed year round. This gave my principal players the opportunity to grow musically with each other and the carry over to the band was tremendous. I also tried to get my students to perform in as many musical organizations outside of school as possible. There are many opportunities in Ohio; the Ohio Band Director's Honors Band is just one of many. I try to stay abreast of my profession by attending as many conferences and clinics as possible. I was fortunate enough to have been able to conduct in summer camps at Baldwin Wallace, Ohio Northern, Miami University and the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp. Many contacts with well-respected conductors and composers evolved as a result of these experiences. These opportunities allowed me to continue to grow and learn musically. I have made many friends and mentors; several of whom I keep in contact with on a regular basis.

I have had many guest conductors and composers work with my bands. Among these were: Commander Ned Muffly, Alfred Reed, Karel Husa, Paul Whear, Vaclav Nelhybel, Francis McBeth, Elliot DelBorgo, and Stephen Melillo. The last five have conducted premier performances that were commissioned by my bands. What a privilege it was for myself and my students to have such superior musicians work so intimately with us.

Career Years

After graduating from High School in 1953, I attended Miami University and received a Bachelor and Masters Degrees. At the very wise advice of my college Band Director A.D. Lekkold, I started my career as a junior high band director. Professor Lekkold made a call to Gerald Frank, who was the supervisor of music in Lorain County. Mr. Frank hired me for the Midview Junior High job. Orley Gingery, the High School Director became a second father to me. Professor Lekkold was right; this was very possibly the best decision I ever made. I stayed at Midview six years and then took the High School position at Clearview where I stayed for two wonderful years. I then moved on to Avon Lake where I conducted the High School Band for twenty-seven years before retiring in 1991.

Personal

Mr. Pfingsten is an active member of OMEA where he served two terms as President of District four. He holds a citation of excellence from the National Band Association and is a Jennings Scholar. His bands have appeared at many clinics and conventions including the OMEA convention four times, and the Mideast Clinic three times. The Avon Lake Band was selected as the "Ohio Band of the Year" in 1971. He is married to the former Hetty Zabawski who is the love of his life and has been a constant source of encouragement and strength throughout his career. She retired from the Berea School System and is now teaching World History and Psychology at Padua Franciscan High School. Her enthusiasm for the classroom and the students is quite remarkable and she has no plans of retiring. Next December, they will celebrate their thirty-fifth Anniversary.

**Ted Wenger - 2002 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Perry High School**



J. Ted Wenger's music instruction began at the age of ten under the tutelage of Edgar L. Heist, school music teacher. His private trumpet instructors were Wayne Reger and William Straussner. He graduated from Canton South High School in 1955 and entered Kent State University the following fall to major in music education. His band directors at KSU were Roy D. Metcalf and Edward Masters, and the orchestra director was Louis Krch. He also studied french horn with Roy Waas.

Following graduation in 1959, he became band and choir director at Sandy Valley High School, where he also coached baseball. This young director was introduced to such distinguished directors as A. Jerd Bayless, Emil Puffenberger, Richard Ralston, Arthur Thiel and George Toot, all local band directors.

In 1963, Mr. Wenger moved to his alma mater, Canton South, where he taught high school marching band, jazz band and elementary instrumental music. He carried on the rich tradition of the combined half-time shows with the Louisville High School band, whose director was Howard R. Smith.

He became instrumental music director at Perry High School in 1967, where his first band was comprised of 64 members, with 12 musicians "borrowed" from the junior high band. The music program grew to include three concert bands, two in-school jazz bands, and theory and music appreciation classes. During his tenure at Perry, he earned his Master of Music Education degree from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago in 1974.

The Perry Symphonic Band performed at the American School Band Director's Association state and national conventions, premiered several of J. Rex Mitchell's compositions at the Kent State Reading Clinic, and also performed at the Bowling Green State University New Music Clinic. The marching band presented a half-time show at a

Cleveland Browns football game, and also made five trips to march at Disney World Florida.

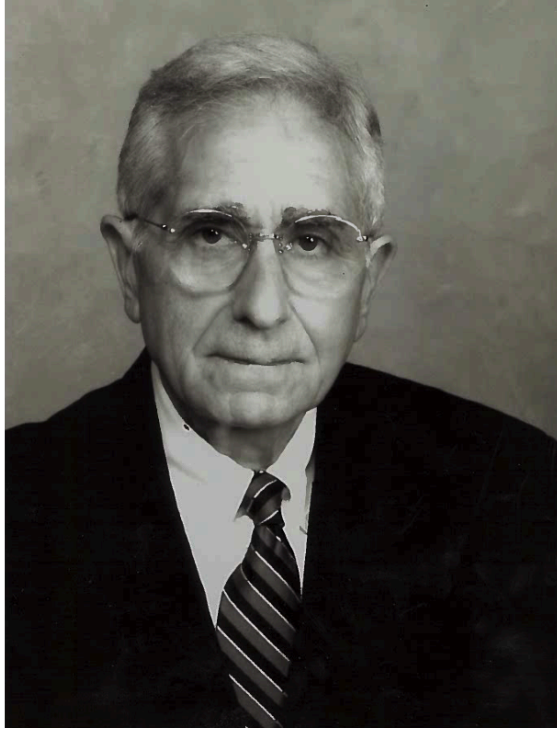
During his career at Perry, Mr. Wenger's combined contest record was 28 superior ratings at all three levels of instruction. He also hosted large group adjudicated events on several occasions.

In 1975, Mr. Wenger was invited to direct the School Band of America jazz band on its month-long European tour. He has also been a guest conductor and adjudicator throughout the state of Ohio. Following two back surgeries, he left high school to teach at Edison Junior High and Pfeiffer Middle Schools in the Perry Local School District. He retired in 1933.

Mr. Wenger maintains membership in Music Educators' National Conference, Ohio Music Education Association, having served as District VIII president; American School Band Directors' Association, Kappa Kappa Psi, Kent State Chapter; and is a board and life member of the Canton Federation of Musicians Local 111. He is presently the musical director of the Canton Concert Band and plays trumpet in three local dance bands. Mr. Wenger has served on the applied faculties of Malone College and Kent State University/Stark Campus as a brass specialist and conductor. At present, he teaches orchestration and band literature at Mount Union College in Alliance, where he also has worked with the marching band. He also is currently assisting in the music program in the Canton Local School District, where in the past, he served as a school board member.

Mr. Wenger and his wife, Barbara, have been married for 44 years and have two children and five grandchildren.

Les Susi - 2001 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Columbus Whetstone High School
Columbus North High School



**Mary Jane McKinley - 2000 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Nelsonville City Schools**



Who would have thought a young girl from Lucasville Ohio who saw a town band for the first time in 1930 would dedicate her life to music? This first experience led her to march around the house pretending to play the trumpet and sparked within her the desire to be a part of this wonderful activity. She had been born into a family of educators with her father, three brothers and aunt being teachers at some time in their lives and an uncle who was the superintendent of Vinton County Schools. It is these two strong motivations that guided **Mary Jane McKinley** to take piano lessons starting in the third grade through college and to play in the Lucasville Valley High School Band, xylophone in the 7th grade and saxophone for the remaining 5 years. She continued her education and music at Ohio University by playing in the band, orchestra and singing in the choir. She graduated from the Ohio University School of Music in 1950 in the top 10% of her class and sought positions that would allow her to apply her skills and interest.

For the next 35 years, Mary Jane applied her skills to the children of Southeastern Ohio. Her first teaching job was in Man, West Virginia but the following year she was hired by Williamsport, Ohio where she taught 7th and 8th grade English and all music 1st – 12th. She started the band program providing beginning lessons in the fall and developing a 40 member marching and concert band by the end of the year. (That band is now the Westfall Band.) The next seven years brought her to Union Furnace, Ohio and East Hocking, Ohio respectively. She moved to Nelsonville City School and continued in her position as Director of Music when the school consolidated with York Township Schools. It is Nelsonville – York that Mary Jane remained for the next 26 years. While there, a full 25% of the student population found it in their interest to participate in band. It was not unusual to see half of the cheerleaders and a number of the football players marching before and a halftime of games. While at Nelsonville-York, her band, and indeed the whole community, expected Superior ratings at OMEA Adjudicated Contests in both the district and state contests. The band and the community were almost never disappointed.

Mary Jane has been involved in most areas of music in public school. She has taught at the high school level as well as in the elementary, junior high and middle schools. She has taught general music, vocal music, instrumental music, music theory, stage band, marching band, concert band, high school and junior high school choir and elementary vocal music and has also been the head of the Department of Music at the Nelsonville City School and the Nelsonville-York Consolidated Schools.

Outside of her official public school duties, Mary Jane has lent her skills to the Ohio University Summer Music Clinic (1956-1963) chaired by Dr. Gilbert A. Stephenson. She was responsible for teaching woodwinds, conducting sectional rehearsals and assisting with rehearsals of the full band working with Paul Yoder, Carmen Dragon and Lt. Colonel Santelman. Since retirement, she also has been a member of the OMEA approved judges list for large and small group adjudicated events on both the senior and junior high levels and for marching band adjudicated events and is currently judging in all of these areas. She is also the Chair of the OMEA Recognition Committee and still has time to be used as a rehearsal consultant and does guest conducting and mentoring when requested.

Her professional associations include Sigma Alpha Iota (Music Honorary), Kappa Delta Pi (National Education Honorary), Tau Beta Sigma (National Honorary

Band Society), Phi Beta Mu (International Bandmasters Fraternity). She also serves on the state board of Phi Beta Mu.

Ms. McKinley's love of music, her willingness to serve, and her demand for excellence has brought a deep appreciation of music to thousands of people in Southeastern Ohio. Rarely can one go anywhere in the state of Ohio, where music is being played, and find people who have not heard of "Kentuck", "Aunt Mary Jane", "Mac," or just "Mary Jane."

**David McMaken- 1999 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Caldwell High School**



Ernest Burnett - 1998 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Paulding High School



Ernest A. Burnett was born January 27, 1927, in Miami, Florida, the son of Newton and Adalia (Moyer) Burnett. In 1947, he married Sara Amstutz, who died in 1975. In 1977, he married Barbara Donley, who died in 1989. He was a member of the U.S. Army Air Force Band and played taps at the site of the raising of the flag by the U.S. Marines on Iwo Jima. He was a graduate of Miami University, Oxford, and earned a master's degree at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he counseled high school summer music camp for 16 years. He directed the Paulding High School band for 27 years, and had been employed at Oakwood Elementary School as a part-time teacher. He was a Sunday School teacher, choir director and elder at First Christian Church in Paulding, a member of American School Band Association, National Conference of Music Education and Ohio Band Conference Hall of Fame, and a judge with Ohio Music Educators' Association.

Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. Doug (Rebecca) Friend, Troy; two sons, Marvin of Archbold and Kevin, Fort Wayne; a stepdaughter, Shayna Donley, Centerville; a step-son, Brian Donley, Oakwood; a brother, Raymond, Hamilton; a special friend, Jean Stuart, Paulding; and six grandchildren. Also preceding him in death were a son, Ernest Jr., in infancy; a sister, Adalia Carmack; and a brother, Orville.

Max W. Treier - 1997 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Cambridge High School



Max W. Treier graduated from The Ohio State University in 1962, has taught for almost 35 years, and has retired after serving 29 years as Director of Band at Cambridge High School.

He lives in Cambridge, Ohio with his wife Karen. They have two children, Bret and Melissa, who are both married and two granddaughters.

As Director of Bands he was able to establish a well-balanced band program at Cambridge which became recognized as one of the outstanding programs in the state. Since 1968, the Symphony Band has received twenty-three Superior and five Excellent ratings at Ohio Music Education Association State Band and Chorus Adjudicated Events.

At the national level the Symphony Band received a Superior rating at the 1985 American School Band Directors Association National Concert Band Competition. They have performed by invitation at many state and national Conferences and Conventions, including the Mid-West National Band and Orchestra Clinic in Chicago, and three American School Band Directors Association national conventions.

The CHS Marching Band began entering field competitions in 1979 and has established one of the best competitive records in the State which includes: 18 Grand Championships. They are one of two bands in Ohio to receive 17 consecutive Superior Ratings at The Ohio Music Education association state Marching Band Finals.

The Cambridge Marching Band has performed in two Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival Parades and have performed concerts and parades at Disney World in 1982, 1988 and 1996. They appeared at the Peach Bowl and performed the pre-game and half-time shows at a Cincinnati Bengals game. During the summer of 1991 the CHS Band was

selected to represent the State of Ohio in the National Independence Day Parade in Washington D.C. As a result of them winning first place in their class in that parade they were read into the Congressional record.

The Marching Band has performed in 8 Bands of America Grand Nationals in the Indianapolis RCA Dome. In 1993 they received a national Division I rating and in 1988 they were named the Division A Champions at the Bands of America Mideast Regional.

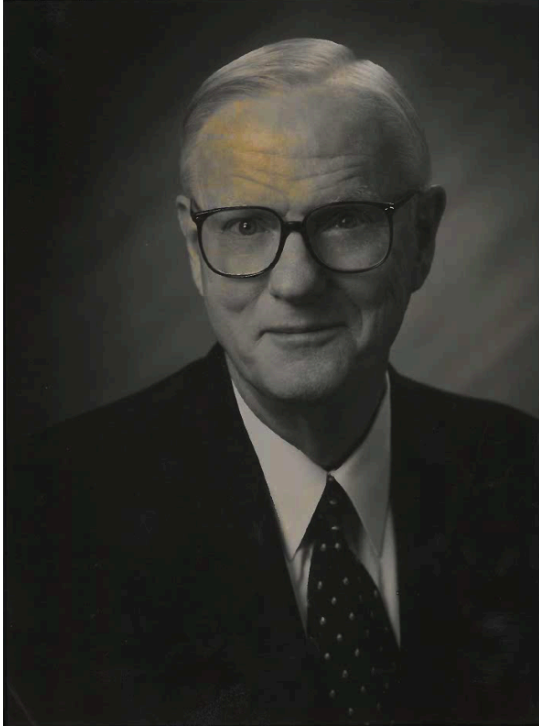
Treier is a member of the American School Band Directors Association, Phi Beta Mu (National Bandmasters Fraternity), Music Educators National Conference and Retired Educator's Association. He is an active member of the Ohio Music Education Association, having served for the past twenty-one years on the State Adjudicated Events Committee and is an approved OMEA Adjudicator. Max served on the State Ad Hoc Committee which formulated the original rules and regulations for the present OMEA State Marching Band Competitions.

Treier has served as a guest conductor for 4 All-County Bands and in the fall of 1980 he was guest conductor for the 145th Annual Band Day at Bowling Green State University. In 1978 he was invited by Dr. Donald E. McGinnis, the Conductor of The Ohio State University Concert Band, to be a guest conductor for a Mirror Lake Concert on the University campus.

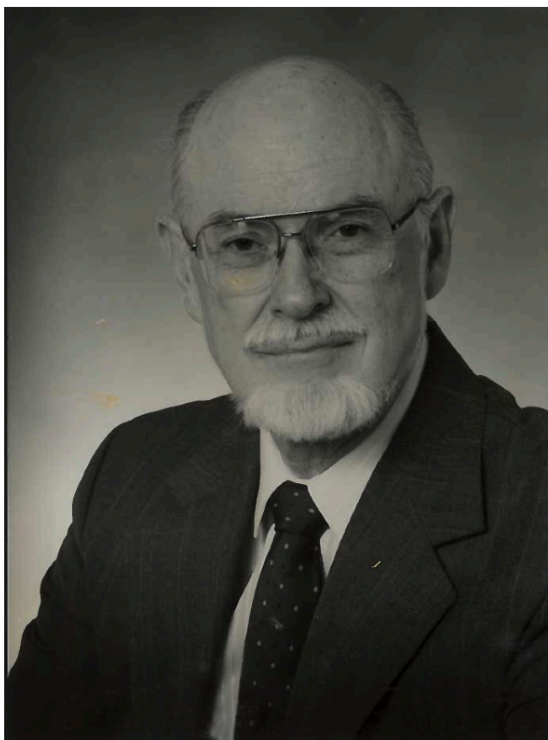
In 1970, Treier was presented "The Outstanding Young Educator Award" by the Cambridge Jaycees. In 1974, he was designated "Man of the Year" by the Cambridge newspaper, The Daily Jeffersonian. In 1975, he was presented a special award for "Leadership Excellence" by the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce. The Cambridge City Council presented him with the "Key to the City" in the fall of 1988 in recognition of the Cambridge Band Program's continued success. He was also awarded the "Legion Of Honor" in the November – December 1990 issue of the Bandworld magazine. In 1993 he was named the "Music Educator of the Year" by the Ohio Music Education Association. In 1994 he was presented the "Award of Distinction" by the Cambridge Area Chamber of Commerce.

He is presently an active member of the Kiwanis Club of Cambridge and has been the Faculty Advisor of the Cambridge High School Key Club since 1983. He plays Euphonium and is the announcer for the Zanesville Memorial Concert Band and performs regularly as trombonist, with the Southeastern Ohio Symphony Orchestra.

Robert E. Lyon - 1996 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Strasburg - Franklin School District
Dover City Schools



**Percy F. Hall - 1995 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Mansfield High School**



Percy Hall retired in June 1993 after 41 years as a public school band and orchestra instructor. He is a native of Maryland, having lived in Laurel during most of his school years. His father and also his paternal grandfather were clergymen in the Episcopal Church. There was no music in the schools, which he attended so his parents provided him and his two brothers with instrumental lessons. He started on violin and later played trumpet. One brother played piano and trombone and the other played clarinet, saxophone, and guitar. The three of them and several friends organized a dance orchestra and played for many school dances in the area.

Following his graduation from high school in 1945 he spent one year at the University of Maryland and then enlisted in the Army, spending two years in an army band in Germany. In 1948 he entered Westminster College, a small Presbyterian college in Pennsylvania, earning a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1951. It was there that he met his wife Nancy. After graduation he immediately entered the Graduate School of Music at the University of Michigan, earning a Master of Music degree in 1952. While in Michigan he became greatly interested in the percussion instruments and studied with James Salmon. He was privileged to study flute with Nelson Hauenstein, and clarinet with William Stubbins, which enabled him to gain considerable proficiency on the woodwind instruments. He played in the Symphonic Band under the direction of the famous William D. Revelli, and participated in the Marching Band, and in the University Choir and the Michigan Singers under Maynard Klein, serving as student director of that group.

He began his teaching career in 1952 at Madison High School near Mansfield, as band and choir director, serving in the capacity for 6 years. The remaining 35 years of his teaching career was devoted to the Mansfield City Schools as director of bands and orchestras, and coordinator of the music program. Even though he has been best known

as the school band director, developing, promoting and directing the orchestra and string program has been a top priority, as well as the small ensembles. Bands and orchestras under his direction consistently earned high ratings in contest performances, as did a wide variety of solos and ensembles. Upon his retirement, the school board honored him by naming the music annex at Mansfield Senior High School the "Percy F. Hall Music Annex."

He has served the Ohio Music Education Association in many capacities through the years as District President, Band Affairs Chairman, Competitions Committee Chairman, and as an adjudicator of Bands, Orchestras, Brass, Strings, and Percussion events. For many years he hosted High School Solo and Ensemble Contests. While serving on the Competitions Committee he supervised the revision of the "Solo and Ensemble Required Music List" twice. He researched and was responsible for preparing the first edition of Band Literature for OMEA Competitions from 1924 to the Present. He also served on the Marching Band Committee to change the name "Contests" to "Adjudicated Events" in an attempt to better clarify their educational purpose. In 1987 he received the Outstanding Music Educator award presented by the Ohio Music Education Association, and in February 1995, he was greatly honored to receive the OMEA Distinguished Service Award.

In June 1994 he was honored by the Richland Academy of the Arts, Mansfield, in its premier "The Academy Salutes" presentation, honoring four persons who have made significant contributions to the arts. The citation was "To Percy Hall, for his musical contribution to the educational and cultural life of the greater Mansfield area"

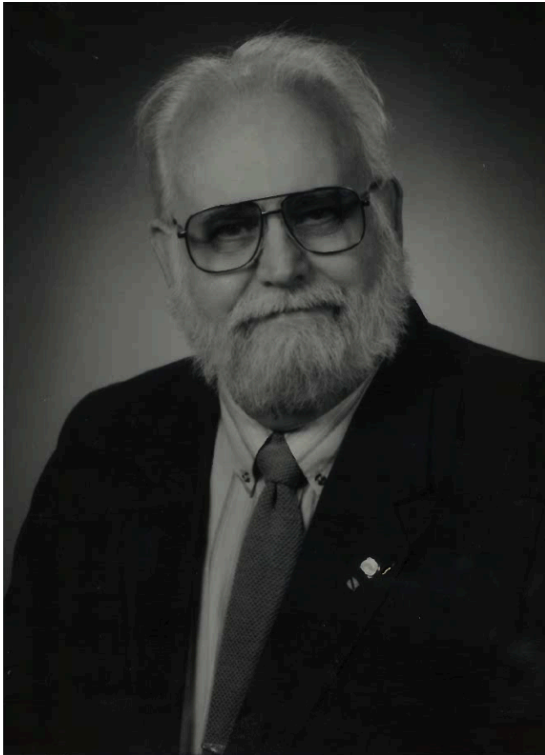
He has been a member of the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra since the early 1950's, first playing flute and later viola, and on several occasions playing trumpet, bass clarinet, and saxophone. For the past 20 years he has been a member of the percussion section, serving as principal percussionist at the present time. He is also an active performer with his own dance orchestra, and the Mid-Ohio Brass Quintet. He has served as the guest conductor for the Richland County Band, the Morrow County Band, the Wood County Band, the Crawford County Band, and was greatly honored to be selected by Dr. Donald McGinnis as a guest conductor for the Ohio State Concert Band. For many years he was the conductor of the Summer Concert Band and Jazz Band of Local 159, American Federations of Musicians. He served for a number of years as vice-president of the musician's union, receiving their "Outstanding Service" award in 1990.

He has composed and arranged over 100 compositions for small ensembles, which are performed extensively in school adjudicated events. Fourteen of his compositions have been published by Great Works Publishing, in Grafton, Ohio, and have been listed on the OMEA Junior High selected list. He has also composed eight marches for band, which have been performed by high school, college, community and professional bands. He has composed service music and anthems for church choirs, some of which have been sung by college and adult choirs in this country and Europe.

Presently he is an Adjunct Music Instructor at Ashland University, teaching classes in string, brass, and woodwind instrumental methods, and he has been devoting much volunteer time to music students in the area schools assisting in the preparation of small ensembles for contests and to the sectional rehearsals of the Mansfield Symphony Youth Orchestra.

He is a member of the Linden Road Presbyterian Church where he is a member of the Session and choir, and teaches a Sunday School class of middle- school students. His wife Nancy is the church organist, having served in that capacity for over 42 years. The Halls have five children: David, John, Marcia, Barry, and Kathy. During their high school years all five played in the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra on string instruments, and each one was in the Ohio All State Orchestra for one to four years. On various occasions, they have performed as a string quartet, quintet, or trio, and also have played brass ensembles, as all play brass instruments in addition to strings. At present, their daughter Marcia Henry is a professional violinist, having performed many recitals, chamber music festivals, and as a soloist with orchestras in various parts of the United States, Germany, and Russia. In April 1996, she was the featured soloist with the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra. She is presently the Concertmaster of the Peoria (IL) Symphony and Instructor of Music at Bradley University in Peoria. The other four are involved to various degrees with music as a part -time profession or an avocation. The Halls have six grandchildren, the oldest two of whom are involved with music in their schools.

**James Kirk - 1994 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Nordonia High School**



James D. Kirk, 65 of Brimfield, died Tuesday, Sept. 1, 1998.

Born July 29, 1933, in Barton, MD, he graduated from Garfield High School and The University of Akron School of Music. Mr. Kirk was a band director of the Stow Public Schools before taking a position with the Nordonia Hills Schools, where he was a band director at the middle school for 30 years. He retired in June 1994. Jim played French horn for the 195h and the 32nd Army Band. While in the Army, he performed in a vocal

group that made reenlistment movies with Gary Crosby. In 1956, he played for the Ed Sullivan Show, traveled throughout England, and played a command concert for the Royal Family. He was sent to the Continental Army Band at Fort Monroe, VA, where he played many concerts for the 350th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown, VA. One of those concerts was a command performance for the Queen of England. Jim was a member of the American School Band Director's Association, Phi Beta Mu, the Ohio Music Educator's Association, and was an honorary member of Kappa Kappa Psi, Kent State chapter. In his 30 years of teaching, his bands received 29 Superior ratings. The Nordonia Junior High Jazz Band received many top honors. Both the concert and the jazz bands gave many performances for O.M.E.A. and A.S. B.D.A. conventions as well as workshops and festivals. Jim was an O.M.E.A. Adjudicator for concert bands, marching bands, orchestras, and solo and ensembles, as well as an Adjudicator and clinician in several other states, and for the Bands of America. He was a Jennings Scholar in 1972 and 1979, awarded the Outstanding Music Educator award in 1988 and in 1992 received the Outstanding Music Graduate award from The University of Akron. He served O.M.E.A. as District VI president and served as a member of the music selection committee for 16 years. He was a mentor for 32 student teachers from four different universities and spent 10 years as a member of the Redesign of Teacher Education Committee for Kent State University. He also sat on faculty search committees for both The University of Akron and Kent State University, as well as serving on four North Central Accrediting Committees for area high schools. Jim was the first conductor of The University of Akron Junior High School Summer Band Camp and went on to conduct this group for five years. He was a conductor and French horn teacher for the Great Lakes Music Camp at Ashland University. He had been a member of the Cuyahoga Falls Community Band, the Goodyear Concert Band, and the A.F.M. Local 24 Concert Band. He was on the organization and curriculum committee for the River Run Music Camp. Jim was inducted into the Ohio Band Director's Hall of Fame in 1994. Former students of Mr. Kirk have performed as members of the Akron, Columbus, Canton, Minneapolis, and Cleveland symphony orchestras. After retirement, Jim continued to critique area bands several times a year and to lecture to college music education classes at Akron University and Kent State University. He enjoyed classical music, family and friends.

Preceded in death by his parents, James and Evelyn Meese Kirk, he is survived by his wife, Patricia Policy Kirk; daughters, Debra (fiancé, Michael Keating) of Lakewood and Elizabeth of Akron; sister and brother-in-law, Pattilou and Kenneth Judge; many nieces and nephews, and one great-nephew.

Elaine Ostrander - 1993 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Danville High School



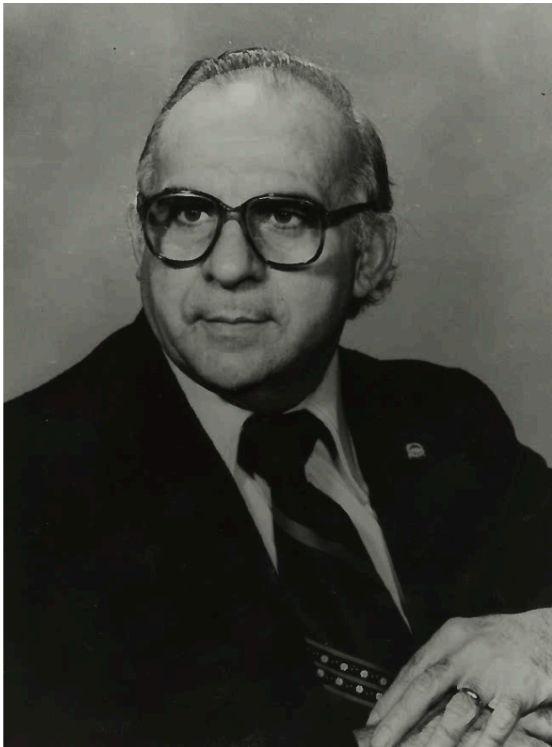
Dick Cool - 1992 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Northmont City Schools



Glenn E. Walker - 1991 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Ayersville High School



**Anthony Buonpane - 1990 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Crestwood High School**



Anthony Buonpane was born March 4, 1922 in New Castle, Pennsylvania. His early school years had him interested in music and wanting to learn to play and started in the eighth grade in Junior High School. His mother bought an old clarinet for forty-five dollars from her brother who had a music store in New Castle. He was taught using the

Albert system and Tony worked in his uncle's store for his lessons, taught by the "solfeggio" method without his instrument. He practiced diligently and earned first chair by the Junior High ninth grade. He took band and orchestra and worked up to first chair by the eleventh grade. His early childhood of a big family and depression years were hard. The family lost their father when he was nine years old and he was next to the youngest of a family of seven. His younger brother was also musical and played trumpet. They were the only ones who were able to graduate from high school. His high school years were busy ones, working, practicing and walking quite a distance for practices.

The High School director also conducted the Junior American Legion Band with whom he played and traveled throughout high school. The highlights of his high school days were being picked to play in regional contests. He also was selected to play for his graduation class and received the music award. While in New Castle, he performed in local amateur and professional bands and also the local Symphony Orchestra as well as local dance bands.

A desire to continue in music after graduation in January, 1940, led Tony to try to get into the Navy School of Music. He was granted a small scholarship but was unable to use it to continue with his studies. He tried to enlist in the Navy, failed because of high blood pressure. After trying to be accepted several times, he crossed the hall and enlisted in the army in May, 1940.

He was assigned to an Army Band in Hawaii and was on the island of Oahu when Pearl Harbor was attacked. Later with the 24th Infantry Division, made the invasion of New Guinea and was selected to perform with the newly formed Combat Infantry Band. On returning to the States in 1944, this band, directed by Chester Whiting, played concerts touring the country selling war bonds. This band was the foundation for the Army Field Band, operating out of Washington, D.C.

On discharge from the service, he went to Elkhart, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois studying band instrument repair work and also playing in professional dance bands. Returning to New Castle, Pennsylvania, he opened a music store and repair shop, there meeting his wife to be, Julia, in 1947. After marriage, October 9, 1948, giving up the music store, he attended Youngstown College and received a Bachelor of Music degree in 1952. While in college, he was President of Delta Eta Chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, honorary fraternity. He was also selected to be listed in Who's Who Amount Students in American Universities and Colleges.

He began teaching in Mantua, Ohio in 1952 and taught in the Crestwood School System until retirement in June, 1981. He began work on his Master's Degree and completed work on this level at Kent State University in 1959.

In the beginning of his teaching career, there was no marching football bands for three years, marching with normal clothes on Memorial Day. The concert band had no organized band library. We began using the Bennett Band Book. We met only three days a week, rehearsing the front end of the Shop as a music room. The library was organized and we were able to buy some current music along with contest numbers. For the fourth year of teaching, we went to contest and received a II rating. Uniforms were purchased and we became organized more efficiently when a new school was built (without a band room, using the cafeteria and the stage). Finally a band room was built and we finally could call a room of our own. Through the second and third years, vocal music was

added to his schedule since the vocal teacher had to retire because of her husband's illness. In the fourth year a vocal teacher was hired. The band began meeting five days a week. There was no help for most of those years. The High School Band, grade school beginners were all under one director until hiring a former student who had recently graduated from college with a music degree. This was after fifteen years of being the only band director and two of those years being the vocal director also.

Bands under his direction, have developed in the system from one band, grades 8 through 12, to two bands in the High School and two bands in the Middle School. Band members have solo and ensemble experience, band experience with music theory as an elective. Stage band, marching band and pep bands were also experienced by the students. Bands under Mr. Buonpane's direction have received the highest rating offered in district competition, 24 years and in State competition, 16 years. They have performed for the American School Band Director's Association national convention; the Ohio Music Educator's Association State Music Convention; Kent State music reading clinic twice; Bowling Green University Reading clinic; the Ohio Band Director's Conference clinic; and also performed at many invitationals from schools throughout the area. In 1974, the Crestwood Band was selected "Band of the Year" by the selection committee of Ken State University. Mr. "B", as he was affectionately called by his students, had the ability to create respect and devotion from his students and he gave respect, love and devotion back to them. These and the traits of dependability and reliability and the ability to get along and work with others are a few of the character traits stressed in participation in a band program. Although his bands were always first rate, it was these character developments that Mr. Buonpane was most happy to have achieved.

Some notable comments came following the eleventh overall number one rating and its ninth consecutive state rating in 1976 while competing in its class at Olmstead Falls, Ohio.

Crestwood was the only school in the area to receive a superior rating in the B-1 class area of competition from all four judges.

One judge remarked that the band was "hung up on a beautiful tone, which is all right". Another judge said Crestwood was a "super smooth band". The highlight of the comments came from one judge who said, "this is the most moving experience I have ever heard from any school, college or professional band."

The band received congratulations from all four judges who agreed that the band they heard was the finest, regardless of classification.

As a member of the prestigious American School Band Directors' Association from 1966, he served as State Chairman of Ohio for four years. He served on the National membership committee and the convention sites committees. He also was active on the Successful Rehearsal Techniques Committee. He is a member of the Ohio Music Educator's Association and its parent, National Music Educator's Conference. He served on the Band Affairs Committee four years and the district board. He was active as an adjudicator and as a member of the National Education Association and all of the local branches. He now does voluntary work for the Lions International and other volunteering. He is a member of the Pearl Harbor Survivors' Association and has served as local chapter secretary. Other memberships include Knights of Columbus, Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion.

The Crestwood Administrators selected Mr. Buonpane as Teacher of the Year five years and he represented the district for State Teacher of the Year for five years. In 1966, the Crestwood Yearbook was dedicated to him and again in his last year of teaching in 1981. In 1974, he was presented a plaque for his work from the local school board which was an unprecedented honor. In 1976, he served on the Mantua Bi-Centennial Committee in formulating plans for the celebration of the 200th birthday of our country. Mr. Buonpane received the Senior Outstanding Educator's Award presented by the local Jaycees. He was also honored by being made Grand Marshall of the Potato Festival Parade in 1979. On his retirement "Mr. B" Day was proclaimed by Mayor Thompson on June 7, 1981 and he was honored with a parade and celebration at the High School. This event was also televised by Channel 3 from Cleveland, Ohio. He was nominated for the state "Mac" award for four years and was awarded the "Distinguished Bandmasters" award for two years.

He is listed in the following books: "International Who's Who in Music, 1975"; "Dictionary of International Biography", 1977; "Leaders of American Elementary and Secondary Education", 1971; "Outstanding Secondary Educators of America", 1973 and 1974; "Men of Achievement", 1977; "Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans", 1976-1977; "Distinguished American Bandmasters of the Twentieth Century", 1983.

Mr. Buonpane owes a good part of his success to his wife, Julie, who has been a faithful supporter throughout his career. Two children have also helped with their support and participation in the school band program. Son, John, is a teacher of science in the Crestwood system, and daughter, Rosemary, is an elementary teacher, also at Crestwood. John is married to the former Dolores Richards and their two children, Rebecca Ann and Paul Anthony, are now attending college and graduate school. Daughter, Rosemary, has two children, Nicholas Anthony and Lauren Christine, presently in college and the youngest, Allyson Marie, is now a junior in High School. The grandchildren all participated in the band program and enjoyed sharing their music appreciation with their grandfather.

Shortly after retirement, weekly practices with a newly formed Community Band was very rewarding for both the director and the former students and other citizens of the area who made up the membership of the Band. Performances were well received by the community. He also worked with the church choir at Saint Joseph's Church in Mantua, and more to the continuance of music as well as the spiritual in his life. Other retirement activities include volunteering with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Kent and Lions International. He also helped with the steering committee for the national convention that was held in Ohio in 1984. His services were sought by local band directors as clinician and contest preparation consultant. In the past golfing in the summer and bowling in the winter are pleasant hobbies, time and health permitting. He also repaired musical instruments from time to time through a cousin who still had a music store in New Castle. Attendance at the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra Concerts continue his enjoyment of fine music. Attendance at most of the music programs at Crestwood continue to be enjoyed.

He was among former students of Kent State University to be honored with the "Hugh A. Glauser School of Music award for Distinguished Alumnus Career Achievement in Music Education" in January of the year 2000.

Another award about this time was given by the Mantua Lions Club International Foundation to a member for “Dedicated Humanitarian Service”.

A very special time was enjoyed when “Mr. B.” was surprised at the Ohio Band Directors’ Conference of December 4, 1993 when a former Crestwood student and a band director at Stow High School chose to have his special composition dedicated to Mr. Buonpane, entitled “Reflection of a Man” to be performed for the first time by his own Stow High School students.

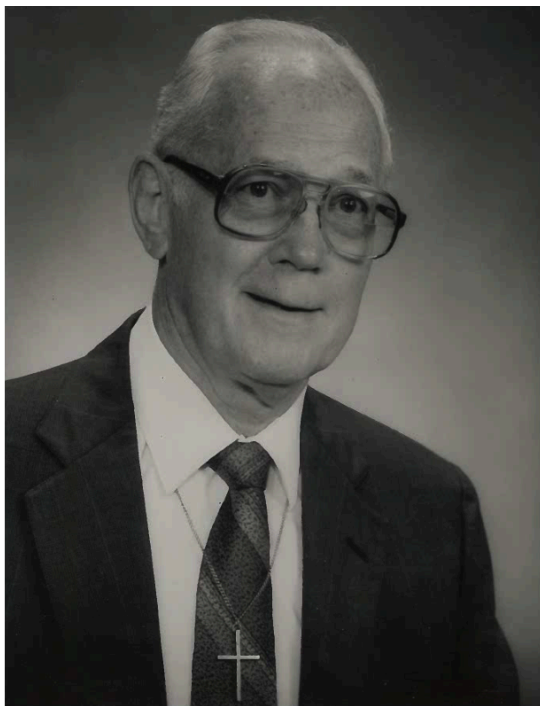
Another band director, Clarence E. Barber, who did his student teaching with Mr. B. at Crestwood, is also teaching, composing and publishing music. He also honored and dedicated his original work entitled “Solemn Jubilee” which was performed by the Crestwood Symphonic Band in May, 1979.

On another special occasion, the Crestwood Symphonic Band played for the first time an original composition for band entitled “Springtide Overture”, written by Dr. Walter Watson, then head of Kent State University Music Department. The Crestwood Band again performed Dr. Watson’s composition for the American School Band Directors’ Association at the national convention held in Columbus, Ohio.

During the school years, students were inspired to remember him with their creativity with poems and many special events. One surprise followed a Christmas concert with a poem dedicated to Mr. B. and had at its conclusion the following lines:

We have given attention to our Mr. B
We have talked it all over and come to agree
On how our director is rating with us,
We’re changing his name to Mister A-Plus.

Ward Zerkle - 1989 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Trotwood - Madison High District



**Clifford Hite - 1988 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Findlay High School**



**Dwight Somerville - 1987 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Shelby High School**



Dwight Sommerville was a graduate of Muskingum College earning a bachelor science degree in music education and supervision. His teaching career began in Shelby as the director of bands for Shelby City Schools and later became supervisor of music. He participated in numerous music and marching band clinics in many states. During his 38 year teaching career, the Shelby Band program grew from a mere 42 students to more than 350 band members. Through the years the Shelby Symphonic Band was honored to have earned 33 district and 28 consecutive state superior ratings. Under Dwight's direction, the Shelby Whippet Band performed at a Cleveland Browns halftime show as well as numerous performances at Walt Disney World . He was also one of the most requested judges throughout the band competitions in Ohio.

Dwight was a member of Ohio Music Educators Association (OMEA) Competition Committee for 20 years serving as chairman, adjudications coordinator and many other leadership roles. In 2004 he was honored with the OMEA Distinguished Service Award. His leadership was a key element in OMEA as he and the adjudications committee developed many of the policy and procedures regarding judges and band competitions, still used throughout the state today.

He used music to develop within his students the gift of living that prepared them to survive any problem they may encounter, develop strong work ethics, as well as enjoy the love of the arts.

As a member of the American Band Directors Association and Music Educators National Committee, Dwight was also honored with several awards. He was received the OMEA Distinguished Service Award and In 1983 he received the National Band Association Citation of Excellence Award and was inducted into the Ohio Band Directors

Conference "Hall of Fame" at Akron University in 1987. The Phi Beta Mu bandmaster fraternity recently presented Dwight with the Hall of Fame award.

He retired in 1983 after 38 years of service for Shelby City Schools. He continued judging both marching and concert bands throughout several states. Dwight was the director of the choir at the First United Methodist Church in Shelby for 25 years. Upon his retirement he also was a real estate agent for the Hancock Agency.

**George M. Toot - 1986 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Stark County**



While a student at Kent State University, Mr. Toot played first chair euphonium in the Ohio Collegiate Band under Edwin Franko Goldman. Later he served as principal trombone in the Canton Symphony.

Over the years, Mr. Toot's school bands (East Sparta, North Canton, Carrollton and Tuslaw) were consistent first division winners in state competition, as were the North Canton Orchestra and Carrollton Choir. The Carrollton Band was the first Ohio group to represent the state at the Midwest Band Clinic in 1955.

A charter member of ASBDA, Mr. Toot was chosen in 1966 as one of the top ten music educators of the year by School Musician magazine. He also served as director of the Canton Youth Symphony and was for eleven years co-director of the Canton City Band.

Mr. Toot retired from his position as Chairman of Secondary Music Education in the Canton City Schools in 1981.

Walter M. Sells - 1985 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee

Fremont Ross High School



Walter M. Sells of Fremont is the Ohio Band Directors Conference Hall of Fame awardee for 1985 as elected by the members of this honored group.

Mr. Sells, one of Ohio's truly outstanding band directors and music educators, was born in Kenton, Ohio. He began a successful era of trumpet performance as a boy with the citizens military training band at Camp Knox, Kentucky, and as a member of the first Ohio state fair boys band under the direction of Jack Wainwright who was one of Ohio's first school band leaders in the early 1920's.

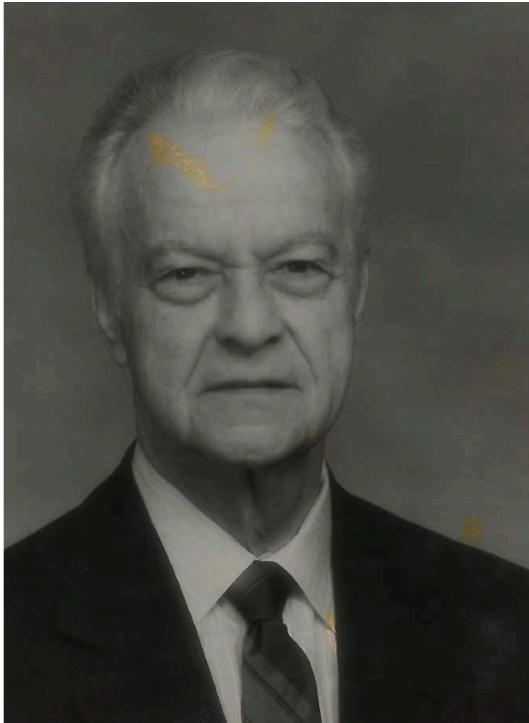
Walter Sells Graduated from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in 1930 with a major in public school music, and a minor in trumpet. He was then employed by the Fremont Board of Education as Director of Bands, and Supervisor of Instrumental Music in the elementary schools. His Fremont High School bands entered the Ohio District and state contests in Class A in 1935, and received 30 consecutive superior ratings at state, one of the best contest records in Ohio.

Walt Sells has stated that the strength of the Fremont instrumental music program was a valuable pre-band semester of training on song-flute, and the successful private instruction available for those 35 years in Fremont. Walt's contemporaries throughout the state including his assistants, Jack and Harriet Stierwald, knew then and know now that the success of the Fremont Band was primarily due to Walter Sells' musical talent, quality relationships with students (parents and administration), solid pedagogy, and characteristic ability to care and to succeed.

On the national level, Mr. Sells was a charter member of the elite American School Band Director's Association, and his Fremont band was featured at their national convention in Cleveland in 1961.

Also, on the national level, the trade journal, The School Musician, honored him in 1957 with the distinction as one of the top ten school music directors in the United States.

Fredrick R. Walker - 1984 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Oakwood - Dayton Schools



Royal O. Reynolds - 1980 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Cuyahoga Falls High School



Royal O. ("R.O.") Reynolds was born September 15, 1914 in Tallmadge, Ohio. He attended school in Tallmadge until the sixth grade. Bands marching around the circle on Patriotic holidays were among his first musical inspirations. Other musical inspirations came from Roy's father who was a fiddler and square dance caller, and from his mother who played the pump organ. He recalled one time, how proud he was when he was the only one in the fourth grade class that new whole, half and quarter, and eight notes!

In the fall of 1925, the Reynolds family purchased a farm at Shady Lake, near Ravenna, Ohio, which was a wonderful place to raise a family of seven children. Roy fondly recalled those years with the acres of strawberries, vegetables, fruit trees, and a great enthusiasm for raising honey bees; all of which became a foundation for life-long hobbies. The farm was a lot of work, but then the lake was an incredible place for fishing, swimming, ice skating, hockey, sledding and trapping; and of course there was always music with an orchestra and dancing at a lakeside hotel.

Roy attended Rootstown schools for the next six years where music continued to grow, along with a passion for acting and voice. As Royal's voice developed, he found much pleasure in dramatics, glee club, and chorus. By his Junior and Senior years he sang and acted the leading role in class plays and operettas. Leadership and speech ability grew when Royal became president of his senior class. Roy's high school graduation on May 26, 1932, brought more changes and interests. An interest in woodworking grew that summer, when he supervised and worked with an Amish working crew that was hired to move a barn at the farm.

By fall, Royal managed to borrow ninety dollars to pay for one full year of tuition at Kent State College where he majored in voice. He soon became a charter member of the college glee club, learned to play several instruments, and became a clarinetist in Roy D. Metcalf's band. He quickly became very adept in all areas of music. The next fall, Jane Burroughs entered Kent as a freshman music major and met Royal the first day. A

romance blossomed for three years, and she learned of her love for the senior music major. Royal graduated June 5, 1936 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education, a major in voice and a minor in instrumental music from Kent State University. At this time, he also was the choir director at the Kent Methodist Church.

Royal's teaching career started in the fall of 1936 at the Ravenna Township School with an overwhelming schedule; all elementary music classes, band, orchestra, chorus, boys' glee club, girls' glee club, all operettas, plays and high school speech. He also started his pursuit of a Master's Degree in music education.

Royal and Jane were married in April 1938. A year later a daughter, Deborah, was born. In January they moved to Orrville, Ohio where Royal became the Instrumental Music Director. The Orrville school board agreed that Roy could leave early one afternoon a week to continue his Master's at Western Reserve, if he would hold a class on Saturday mornings. Vocal music continued with the position of Choir Director at the United Church of Christ.

On arriving in Orrville, Roy soon learned that the band could not sight-read music. After trying each of the 80-plus students, he kept twenty-seven and set about teaching them how to sight-read. Many unhappy parents prompted a school board meeting – set on firing this young upstart. The president of the board stood up and said “Just wait a minute, fellows! This is the first time my daughter has brought her horn home to practice. Let's give him a little time.” It wasn't long after when the other students started returning to band. Within a year and a half, the band received a Superior rating in sight-reading at contest.

Royal taught a student tuba and in less than two years, she received a superior rating in National competition in Michigan playing “The Carnival of Venice”. Another great event took place when President Roosevelt's train stopped to listen to the band that was playing in his honor.

This period was also sad as many students left for World War II. Everyone worked together. After school Roy worked as a welder in a fire boat factory; working on boats used to guard the coast. On June 11, 1941, he received his Master's Degree in music education from the Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio.

The Orrville music program continued to grow, develop, and succeed. Another move came in 1943 to the Ravenna City High School, where he was hired as the instrumental and vocal music director. The symphonic, orchestral, and marching bands flourished. A Christmas Pageant with an outstanding choir, a beautiful tableau, and even a minstrel show came about. At the same time Royal became the choir director at the Methodist Church. The 1945 “Tappan Tatler” seniors described Mr. Reynolds as “never seen without his dimples” and fondly remember him as always saying “Well, bless your heart!”

In 1945, his second daughter, Claudia, arrived and the family moved to Cuyahoga Falls, where Roy was the instrumental music director. He remained in Cuyahoga Falls until he retired twenty-seven years later. The instrumental music program grew rapidly with an excellent marching band, symphonic band and an orchestra. By 1949, the bands and orchestra were earning superior ratings at contests.

At this time, the “scatter system” was being used with marching bands. Roy developed squads, creating a much neater appearance. In 1953, he wrote and published a

book called “Squad Maneuvers and Routines in Football Band Shows.” The book was widely used by harried and grateful bandleaders. In 1955, Royal was inducted into the American School Band Director’s Association.

In 1961 the Cuyahoga Falls Symphonic band, (long known for “that organ-like quality” in sound), received a standing ovation for a concert at the ASBOA convention in Cleveland. In that same year, the band was chosen “Band of the Year” at Kent State University.

In 1971, “R.O.”’s last band was the only one of nine competing bands to receive a superior rating in Class A, from all four judges for every number performed. This same year, he retired and moved to his wife’s family home in Streetsboro. It is here that Royal’s love and talent for carpentry and farming shines as clearly as his talent for teaching! His many talents were used in rebuilding and restoring the 135-acre farm, its buildings and Greek revival Century home.

In 1980 Royal became the seventh director to be elected to the Ohio Band Director’s Hall of Fame. This award was very special to him, because he was elected by his colleagues. The remaining years of his life were spent on the farm continuing his many hobbies. In 1996, when asked to describe himself, Royal casually replied “I’ve been a builder all my life – my bands, my houses, our farm and my family”. Retirement provided even more building time!

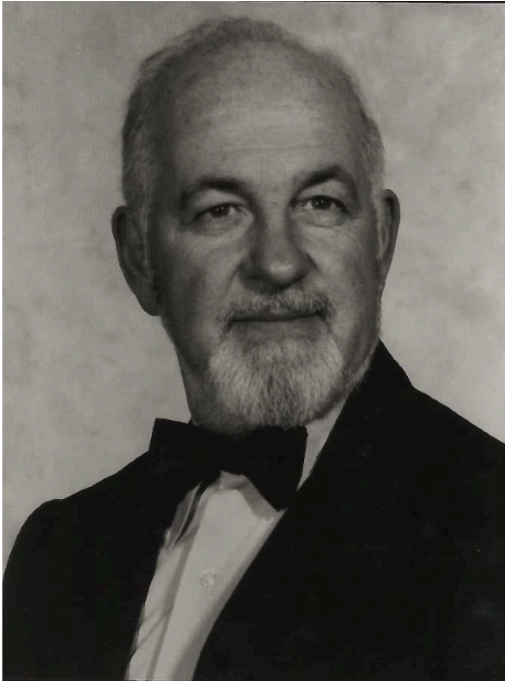
He organized the Portage County Beekeepers Association and kept as many as twenty-five hives. His skill as a sugar bush operator was certainly reflected in his last year. At the age of 83, he along with his wife Jane and a faithful army of workers, produced 183 gallons of syrup! Royal passed away three weeks later.

He is survived by his wife, Jane, who received her B.S. in Education in 1965 (at Royal’s insistence!), and taught third grade in Cuyahoga Falls for eighteen years. His oldest daughter, Deborah (Mrs. Edward Tywon) graduated from Akron General Nursing School and is now a nurse in Columbus. His younger daughter, Claudia (Mrs. Donald L. Mathias) graduated from Ohio State University with a degree in Social Science and lives in Massachusetts. Both of Royal’s daughters played clarinet in their father’s bands while in high school. Royal is also survived by Seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren, who nicknamed Royal and Jane, “Grandma and Grandpa the Great”.

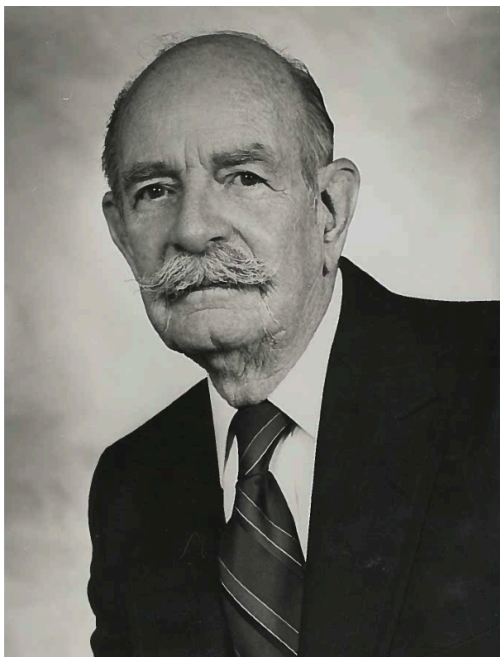
Royal O. Reynold’s pride in his students never wavered and he followed their progress both on and off stage. For thirty-six years, he kept a journal and documented to the best of his knowledge, what each student was doing after graduation, nothing both academic and professional pursuits and accomplishments. Many were so inspired they became members of the Cleveland Symphony, theatrical music producers, a Broadway actress and singer, and many public school educators. Certainly the rest have carried a joy and appreciation of music throughout their lives because of his desire to expand their musical horizons. Under his directions, they were united to produce the best musical groups they could achieve, frequently accomplishing much more than they could imagine. They were richly rewarded when achieving superior performances, and continue to reap the reward of those lessons, not only in music, but lessons of life pertaining to the values of hard work, discipline, self-reliance and cooperation.

The “Royal O. Reynolds Scholarship for Instrumental Music” was established at Cuyahoga Falls High School in 1998.

Frank Menichetti – 1979 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Fremont Ross High School



Howard “Doc” Pardee OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Salem City Schools



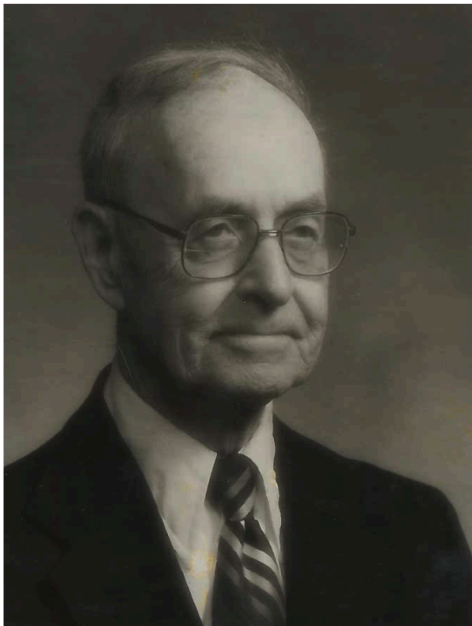
Howard "Doc" Pardee was a product of some of the finest music educator/teachers to ever teach in the state of Ohio, or for that fact, anywhere. He always said how fortunate that he was to have such superior musicians both as friends as well as mentors. He played in George Wahlstrom's (Ohio Pioneer Band Directors Hall of Fame, 1995) Ashtabula Harbor High School Band; played in the renowned Humina Finnish Band from 1926-1934; performed in The Ohio State University Symphonic and Marching Bands under the leadership of Eugene Weigel; and in 1942 after teaching in North Kingsville, Kingsville, Austinberg, Dorset, and Wayne, he was asked to take over Kaarlo Mackey's (Ohio Pioneer Band Directors Hall of Fame, 1997) job as director of music of the Conneaut Schools While Mr. Mackey was away in the military. In Doc's words, "Those five years were the most rewarding and enlightening experiences I had ever had What a band! Seventy five members had been honed to the highest in musicianship and discipline." Upon Mackey's return, doc moved to Salem, Ohio where he spent the next 29 years imparting his wisdom, musicianship, and love of music upon countless young musicians as Instrumental Music Supervisor and Director of Bands and Orchestras.

Doc Pardee was the recipient of many awards. Most notable of these were being named as one of America's "Ten Most Outstanding Music Directors," by the School Musician Magazine in 1960; receiving the Edwin Franko Goldman Award from the American School Band Director's Association in 1988; and being inducted into the Ohio Band Directors Hall of Fame at the University of Akron in 1979.

Ralph Herron - 1977 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Coventry High School



A. Jerd Bayless - 1976 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Canton Lincon High School



Born in Monroeville, PA, on July 3, 1912 **A. Jerd Bayless** lived the greater portion of his life in the Canton area. He was a 1930 graduate of Fostoria High School, where he was a member of the band which won first place Nationally, directed by Jack Wainwright. He was the 1st clarinetist in the National High School Orchestra, directed by Joseph Maddy and had played in the Bachman Million Dollar Band in Atlantic City during the summer sessions. He was a graduate of Ohio State University and received his Masters of Arts from Kent State University.

He started his teaching and band directing career in the school systems in Noble County, Ohio, the Gallipolis, Ohio and Fostoria, Ohio prior to coming to Canton.. He

was a retired teacher in the Canton Public School System, having served as Band Director at Canton Lincoln High School for 27 years. He was awarded the Teacher of the Year Award in 1964 and was a Jennings Scholar in 1967. He served for 10 years as Supervisor of Music of Canton, also served as Director of Thayer Band, Director of the Canton Community Band, Director of Malone College Community Band, Director of Clinton Band and for a number of years he played in the Canton Symphony.

He was elected to the Ohio Band Directors Conference Hall of Fame in 1967 at University of Akron, was a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Symphonic Fraternity, Phi Beta Mu National Band Fraternity, American School of Band Director's Association, OMEA, Canton Masonic Lodge #60 FAM. Mr. Bayless was twice awarded the Mayor's Proclamation and in February 2000 was given the Kent State University Outstanding Distinguished Music Alumnus Award. He served as a volunteer and lecturer for the Stark County Historical Society.

John Farinacci - 1975 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Cleveland Heights High School



John Francis Farinacci, a long-time music director and teacher, died Nov. 20 at his home in Laguna Woods, Calif. He was 91.

Farinacci, who moved to California after retiring in 1992, graduated from East High School and received bachelor's and master's degrees from Kent State University in 1937 and 1941, respectively.

His first job after graduation was teaching in Kent's Music Student Training Program.

After five years of active duty in the Army, including during World War II, Farinacci organized the Kent American Legion Band. He served in the Army Reserves for the next 30 years, achieving the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In 1949, Farinacci was named band and orchestra director at Cleveland Heights High School, posts he held until 1962. He later taught and served as a unit principal, retiring from the high school in 1979.

In 1950, Farinacci helped to organize the Akron Symphony Orchestra, which gave its debut performance in 1953 under his direction.

Among the many honors Farinacci received was his induction in 1975 into the Ohio Band Directors Conference Hall of Fame, as well as awards from Kent State University.

Farinacci Later joined the Cleveland Orchestra's Robert Shaw Chorale as a baritone singer, and he continued serving as a guest conductor in the area.

"The impact he had on his students in creating a love of music and working hard was major." Said daughter Kathleen Farinacci of Laguna Beach, California.

At their 60th wedding anniversary in 2003, Farinacci and his wife, Alice, were presented with hundreds of congratulatory letters from former students.

In addition to his daughter and his wife, survivors include daughters, Ann Bryce of San Anselmo, California and Mary Jo of Laguna Woods; sons, John Jr. of South Pasadena, California and William of Laguna Woods; three grandchildren; and three great grandchildren.

**Emil Puffenberger - 1974 OBDC Hall of Fame Inductee
Northwest High School**



OBDC Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductees

The Ohio Band Director's Hall of Fame was established in 1974 as part of the Ohio Band Director's Conference held annually at The University of Akron. The HOF inducts one retired Ohio High School or Middle School band director in recognition of outstanding work in the field of instrumental music education. In 1994, the "Pioneer" HOF component was added to recognize those individuals who were the early leaders of Ohio school bands.

Roy Liston - 2013 OBDC Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Manchester and Peebles High School



Roy Liston (1877 – 1956) was born in Wamsleyville, Adams County, OH. Roy studied the cornet, and later attended The Ohio State University College of Music. In the early years of the 20th century he organized a band in Peebles, OH and performed in the Liberty Cornet Band.

Roy taught instrumental music for 45 years, with the majority of time spent in the Manchester and Peebles Schools. As was typical of the era before school consolidation he taught in many schools, starting band programs and moving to other communities or simultaneously teaching in more than one school district. During his long career he taught instrumental music in Manchester, Jefferson Township, Locust Grove, and Peebles, all in Adams County; and Hillsboro and Greenfield in Highland County, Mt. Oral and Batavia in Clermont County and Rarden and Otway in Scioto County.

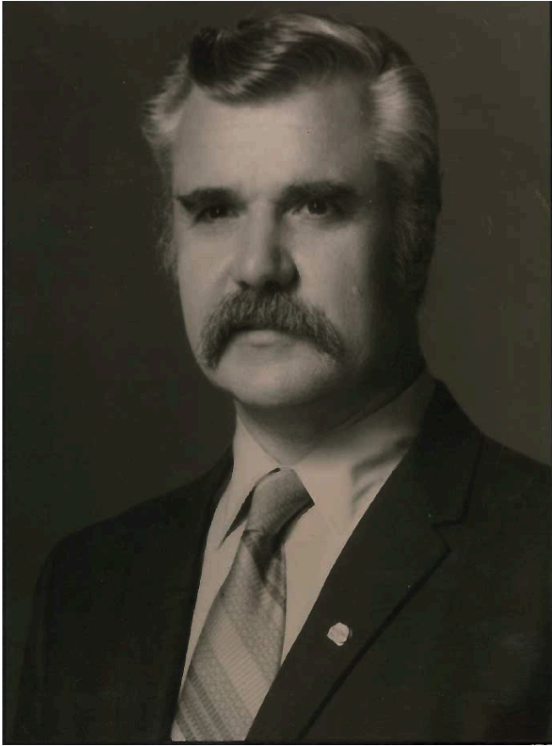
Living and working in a rural area of the state Roy convinced School Boards to purchase instruments, usually from Cincinnati pawn shops, which he repaired himself. Because he did not own the necessary tools he often crafted his own. He built a personal music library to use at the various schools he taught, which included classical arrangements for band (including his own), marches and a book of hymns.

While many band conductors are unaware of his teaching success, Roy Liston is most well-known due to dedication of Karl King's 1946 march, *The Ohio Special*, which includes the inscription "Dedicated to Roy Liston, Peebles, Ohio."

In 1918 he married Anna Rebecca Howell they had two children, George Howard (1922 – 1953) and Mary Carol (b. 1927), Pigott of Loveland.

Roy died in an automobile accident in 1956, just shy of his 80th birthday. He had taught at a school the day before the accident.

Casimer B. Kriechbaum - 2008 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
North Olmsted High School



Casimer B. Kriechbaum, or Casey, as he was known by his friends and colleagues was a graduate of old West High School. In 1941, he won a trumpet solo championship in a national student competition in Detroit. He served in the Army Air Force during WWII. While working towards his Bachelor degree at Baldwin Wallace College, he led a dance band called "Music by Casey". He earned a master's degree and was 6 hours short of completing his doctorate from Case Western Reserve. He was a member of Phi M Alpha Symphonia, ASBDA, MENC, and OMEA.

Casey started the instrumental music program in North Olmsted, Ohio where he began teaching in 1948. In 1955, while serving as director of the band, the group began participating in OMEA band contests. His groups earned 24 superior ratings at OMEA district contest and 16 superior ratings at OMEA at state contest. His former students, several of whom became music teachers, attribute their success, in part, to his ability to inspire students to achieve at their highest level.

In the mid 1960's, Casey, frequently assisted by his wife Dorothy, a string specialist, began directing the orchestra. Between 1966-1979, this group earned 10 superior ratings at OMEA state competitions.

In 1967, the Wind Ensemble and Orchestra both were featured at the OMEA Convention, in Columbus, Ohio and also at the North Central Division MENC in Detroit, Michigan. The band and orchestra were both invited to perform at the Midwest

Convention in Chicago, Illinois in 1970. This was the first time that a band and orchestra from the same school under the same conductor, appeared at the convention. In 1976, the Wind Ensemble was invited to play at the OMEA convention in Columbus, Ohio. Also, the Wind Ensemble and the Chamber Orchestra were invited to perform at the MENC 26th Biennial Meeting in Chicago in 1978.

After he retired from North Olmsted in 1979, Casey taught at Cleveland State, and Ashland College. He was a co-author of "How to Design and Teach a Successful School String and Orchestra Program". This book was used in colleges as a manual for beginning music teachers. He also authored several articles that appeared in Tira as well as other publications for music teachers. In addition, he composed and copyrighted several compositions for school and orchestras.

Over the years, Casey conducted week long summer workshops for teachers at Interlochen Music Camp in Michigan. Sponsored by Scherl and Roth, he traveled the United States, Canada and Germany conducting clinics for teachers. Also, he was a director at Eastern Kentucky University Summer Camp, served as an adjudicator both at the district and state level, and was a guest conductor at festival bands and All State Orchestra.

Also during his career, he directed the N.A.S.A Band, the choirs at Ascension Lutheran Church in North Olmsted, Dover Congregational Church in Westlake and Church of Redeemer in Westlake. Additionally, he was the founder of the community orchestra.

Mr. Kriechbaum and his wife, Dorothy were married in 1944. They had four daughters, all of whom majored in music.

**George T. Bird - 2004 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Washington High School (Massillon)**



George Bird was born in Fayette, Ohio on December 19, 1900. His father was a farmer and a photographer as well as a certified teacher in bookkeeping and penmanship that just happened to also play tuba, baritone and trombone while his other played church organ for the Methodist church.

For Christmas 1910, George received his first instrument, a silver-plated, gold-belled cornet. His musical father taught him how to produce a tone on the instrument and had marked the fingering under the notes on a scale. Catching on quickly, George was soon accompanying his father to rehearsals and then performing with the Fayette Town Band. George taught himself popular songs of the day by listening to various artists off an Edison phonograph playing cylindrical records.

10 days after graduating from high school, George went to Detroit to audition for the Dodge Symphonic Band. After two weeks of stringent rehearsing, he was accepted into the 70 piece group which not only supplied him with a job, but entailed noon concerts for the workers, playing at the opening of Dodge dealerships and concerts at Belle Isle Park.

A nearly fatal bout with pneumonia interrupted his performing career, but with recovery launched his educational career. In September 1920, he enrolled into The Ohio State University School of Music and by his sophomore year was elected the student director. With money becoming an issue, he began to play with local stage and nightclub bands exposing him to the worlds of Vaudeville and burlesque while taking school courses whenever he could. It would be this experience that would come into play in his future transformation of high school halftime shows. Eventually he worked his way into some of the finer performing bands of the day including Jan Garber, Horace Heidt, and the famous Armco band.

During this time he met and married his wife, Marie in 1926 and had daughter Shirley in 1928.

In 1931 he was graduated from the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music with degrees in trumpet performance and public school education. His first job was teaching and directing the Cincinnati Xavier high school and Xavier University bands while still performing on the side with other club bands.

He then moved to Trotwood, Ohio, Madison High School and then to Steele High School in Dayton, Ohio serving as instrumental band instructor at the former and both band and vocal instructor at the latter all the while continuing personal performances in the Dayton Symphony Orchestra and Armco radio shows.

In 1938 he was contacted by the Massillon, Ohio school superintendent L. J. Smith about the position of band director for his system and he accepted. It would be at Massillon where he is credited with the revolutionary ideas of creating a “floor show” at the halftime performances by using the innovated measured step and music cue marching techniques and assign colorful properties, costuming and floodlights.

While the marching band may have brought him fame, it was the other six months of the school calendar year that remained devoted to the true form of instrumental education. The concert hall at Massillon Washington High School would be packed for the presentations that included artists of the day such as pianists and composer Percy Grainger and cornetist Frank Simon who accompanied the high school band.

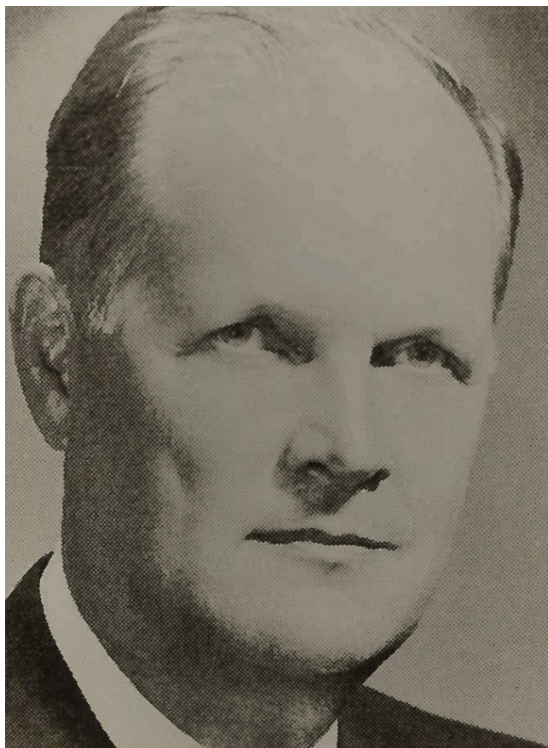
Again he remained quite active in community music life as he directed the Massillon American Legion Post 221 drum and bugle corps and organized Starks County’s first chapter of the Society for the Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

In the spring of 1946, he left the Massillon school post and rejoined Paul Brown in Cleveland for the Inaugural season of the Cleveland Browns professional football team. It was there as entertainment director that he organized an all woman 24 piece marching band called the “Musical Majorettes” which not only did the games, but performed at many venues including Madison Square Gardens in New York City. This show band lasted for three seasons and in 1950 he began a two year stint directing the University of Pennsylvania band while keeping a performance band that continued to play at the Browns home games.

In 1968 he moved again to join up with Paul Brown as the entertainment director for the newly launched Cincinnati Bengals football franchise in Cincinnati, Ohio. Although semi-retiring in 1975, he continued in an advisory capacity to his daughter Shirley who had taken over for him in Cincinnati.

George Bird died in February of 1979 and is buried in Rose Hill Memorial Park in Jackson Township, Ohio just outside of Massillon.

Kaarlo W. Mackey - 1997 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Conneaut High School
Cleveland Heights High School



For **Kaarlo Mackey**, life was music. It was his vocation and his avocation. From childhood, when he won a national prize as a clarinetist, he knew his career would be in music. And he was one of the best. He was music instructor and band director at Conneaut High School from 1935 to 1961. His student musicians, both individually and collectively, won superior rating, even in competition with larger schools.

The last six years, Mr. Mackey had performed a similar function at Cleveland Heights High School with equal success. He continued his home in Ashtabula where he spent many years directing the town choir and Zion Lutheran Church Choir.

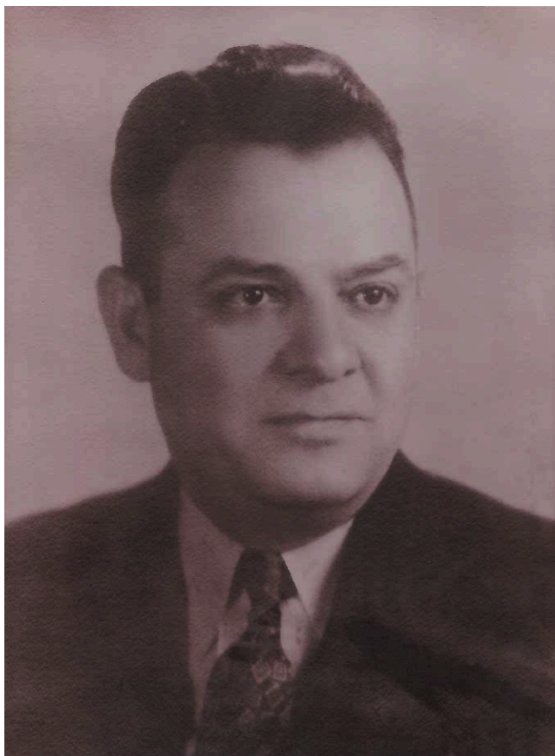
Nor was his music confined to directing. He was a composer of note and many of his songs were sung or played by the groups he directed. In recent months he had been compiling a comprehensive teaching manual.

Mr. Mackey was a perfectionist and he refused to allow his students to accept a lower standard. The level of excellence he demanded was the reason so many students won in competitions and his ability to inspire students led many of them into deeper appreciation of music and, in some cases, into a musical career. So deep was his love of music that he felt a special thrill when he found a student with unusual aptitude.

Mr. Mackey, 58, was returning from his Ashtabula home to Cleveland Heights when his car skidded on wet pavement and smashed into a tree at Geneva. He was killed instantly.

His memorial is one he would have preferred: Love and appreciation for music among the hundreds of students he taught and choir members he directed.

Dominic E. Greco - 1996 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Strasburg High School
Ulrichsville High School



Dominic Greco was born on September 7, 1886, in the town of Cerisano in the province of Calabria in southern Italy. His parents, Carmen and Rosalia Greco, had ten children-- 7 boys and 3 girls. By the time Dominic was six years old, his music teachers discovered that he had an exceptional ear for music and especially for tone. Thus his music instruction began in a few short years he was proficient in reading music.

In 1899, at the age of 14, Dominic came to the United States to join friends in Pennsylvania. Later he sponsored two sisters and four brothers to this country. Since his formal education had been limited to the third grade in Italy and because school attendance was not mandatory in Italy or in the United States, he was free to work and devote all of his spare time to music.

In addition to being an expert on the mandolin, Dominic became proficient on all of the wind instruments. At the age of 21 his music ability finally received its first recognition when he moved from being a member of the Pillsbury Steel Band and became its director. This band practiced in the mornings and performed at lunch in the steel mill, with the musicians being paid at regular job rates. He later organized both the Moose Band in Denora, Pennsylvania, and an orchestra which played in theaters during the silent movie days.

While in Pittsburgh, Dominic met and married his wife, the former Anna Fell. They were married for 53 years until her death in 1962. Their family included five children: sons Charles, Nicholas, Albert and Eugene and Daughter Rosalia. They took great pride in their children, all of whom were musicians although they did not make it their life careers. Some years later, Dominic became seriously ill and his doctor strongly recommended that he move himself and his family away from the "Pittsburgh pollution" Arrangements were made to move to Ohio and in 1917 the Grecos moved to Dover, Ohio. The rest, as they say, is history.

Mr. Greco also formed the Italian Band which was to become known as the Dover Concert Band in 1919. This band traveled extensively and presented many concerts throughout the area. By 1926, the Dover Concert Band was well on its way to becoming a group with a state-wide reputation. By the 1930's they had six appearances at the Ohio State Fair and had performed for Governor Vic Donahey's inauguration in Columbus. In fact, Governor Donahey referred to the Dover Concert band as "The Vic Donahey Band". An interesting anecdote about this band is that it shared a State Fair Program with the famed John Philip Sousa Band. The Dover Concert Band must have been something else, because some of the Sousa Band members feigned illness during their performance so they could go hear the Dover Band. Another noteworthy moment in the Band's history was a young trumpet player, Bill Antonini, who followed his mentor from Pittsburgh to Dover and raised his own family of musicians. A son, Raymond, took the professional name Ray Anthony and became a nationally known band leader and trumpet player in the Big Band Era prior to World War II.

George E. Wahlstrom - 1995 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Ashtabula Harbor High School



George E. Wahlstrom, one of the early pioneers of Ohio band directors, was born on April 22, 1883 in Helsinki, Finland. He died on August 25, 1930 in the prime of his short but illustrious career.

He graduated from Helsinki Public Schools. He then completed a six-year course at the Helsinki Military Band School. At age 14 he earned the First Chair in the French Horn section of the Helsinki Symphony Orchestra. He was inspired by his mentor, Jean Sibelius, Finland's famous composer.

His early education included the study of theory and harmony under Professor Kotilainen in Helsinki. He spent a year as a student at Brandenburg Conservatory in

Berlin, Germany. Here he pursued orchestration and conducting. He further studied conducting under Mr. Bruno Kittel, First Conductor of the Royal Dramatic Theatre of Berlin. During the same period he studied theory under Arne Rench, a noted German teacher. After settling in the United States, he was a student of harmony under Mr. Alfred Wooler of Buffalo, New York.

His great interest in voice urged him to enlist studies with Mr. Ojanpera, Finland's greatest baritone, and Mr. Paul Knupfere, Germany's greatest bass. With this background he directed high school and church choirs in various cities as well as in Ashtabula, Ohio.

Like many Europeans of the age, he ventured to the United States in the early 1900's. He found employment as Music Director at Suomi College in Hancock, Michigan. While there he met his future wife, Hilma, who was a student of voice. He married her while they were both associated with the college.

He worked with school bands in Calumet, Michigan and Monessen, Pennsylvania. While in Monessen, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. This was the proudest moment of his life. In 1922, he accepted a position with Ashtabula Harbor High School as Music Director.

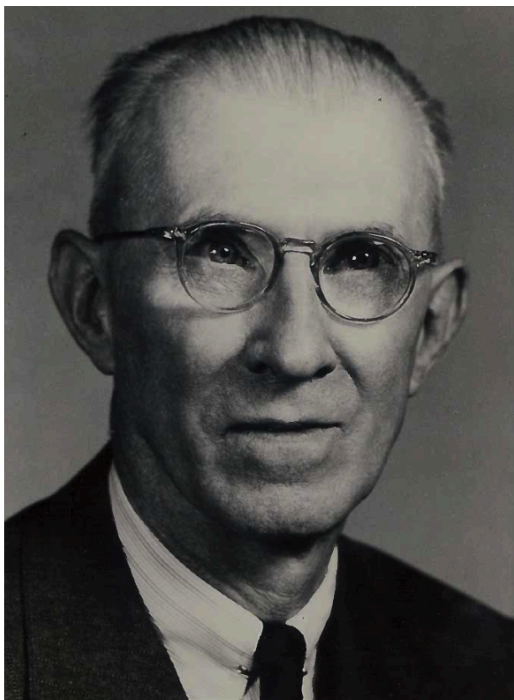
While developing the school band, he also organized an excellent orchestra of thirty-five members. He taught instrumental music at the two Harbor grade school, teaching forty beginners in each of these schools.

By 1925, Mr. Wahlstrom felt the Ashtabula Harbor Band was ready for competition. His record with the Ohio State Band Contests speaks for itself. The band won First Place in Class C in 1925. In 1926, they took First Place in Class B. In 1927, the band won Third Place in Class A. In 1928, the band took Third Place again in Class A, there being only a fractional part of one percent difference from the two Cleveland bands which won First and Second Place honors. In 1929, the Harbor Band won Second Place in Class A. In addition to the Ashtabula Harbor Band, he organized bands in North and South Kingsville and Jefferson, Ohio. All of these bands making their marks in Classes B and C in state contests.

Mr. Wahlstrom's academic background was earned in Europe. Due to his outstanding accomplishments in Ohio, he was a recipient of a Life Certificate presented by J. L. Clifton, Director of Education, State of Ohio in 1928.

Mr. Wahlstrom's sudden death stunned the entire community where he had become almost an institution. His friends were legion, coming far distances to honor him. His widow and five daughters were most appreciative of their sympathy and condolences afforded them.

**Lawrence H. "Alex" Alexander - 1994 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Dover High School**



Lawrence H. "Alex" Alexander was born April 10, 1890 in Jackson, Ohio where he graduated in 1908. During his years in school he played football, but his main activity was playing the piano. "I was a two-fisted ragtime player," he said. He played for dances and traveling shows at the opera house, and also practiced classical music which he liked best.

After high school he entered the Oberlin Conservatory of Music where he majored in public school music education. He graduated in 1913 and later went on to Cornell University in Ithaca, New York.

Alexander began teaching in Dover in the fall of 1916 at the New Roosevelt High School. "I was the only music teacher when I came here," he said. "I went to every grade school. Then the program grew and I had a couple of assistants." He wasted no time and started orchestra and instrumental classes his first year. The very next year in 1917, he organized the Dover High Band- one of only three high school bands in this part of Ohio at this time.

Starting up the first Dover band was no easy task, Alexander recalled. "I had a very hard time," he said. "There was no place to practice. We practiced wherever we could find a place- usually in the basement on a dirt floor. The students brought their own instruments, but the school furnished a bass drum with the Dover letters on it. The band also lacked uniforms. When we first marched, they had white pants and white dress shirts and some caps they bought at the Five and Dime- sailor caps."

The Dover High School Band developed rapidly. In 1931, Alexander entered his band in the state contest and finished third. Two years later, the band won the state contest, qualifying for the national contest. Dover was the only class B band from Ohio to go to the national contest in Evanston, Illinois. They won the contest which was held June 8-10, 1933.

Upon their return, Alexander was presented the key to the city of Dover. On it was written: "Presented to the Dover High School Band by the city of Dover upon return from Evanston, Illinois, June 12, 1933 with the High Award in Class B National School Band Contest."

Alexander was one of the pioneers of high school music education in the United States. He was one of the first, if not the very first, to have a high school band perform at a football game during halftime. He set a number of traditions during his career at Dover that are still being used today. He also wrote the school's fight song, "Crimson Tornado," and the Alma Mater. He retired in 1958 after a 42-year career in music education.

Philip P. Gates - 1994 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Piqua High School



Philip P. Gates was born in Richmond, Indiana in 1894. Philip's early ventures into the music field began with an audition at age twelve for the Richmond GAR Drum and Bugle Corps. Once he made the bugle section he wanted to learn more about the cornet. He had seen a cornet hanging on the wall of the local barber shop, and upon inquiring, found it was for sale at the vast sum of \$3.00. It took all summer to earn the money but he finally was able to purchase the instrument. The owner had been a musician with the Robinson Circus. The cornet still belongs to the family.

During his high school years, Philip's teacher changed his instrument to French horn. His teacher, Will Earhart, later left Richmond to become the supervisor of music for the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania school system. During his senior year, Philip was invited to go to Pittsburgh as Earhart's assistant to help with his teaching load. The die was cast. Philip would become a professional musician.

After high school, Philip attended Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana and later the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. He came to Piqua, Ohio in 1917 as supervisor of music.

Mr. Gates inherited a small high school boys band in Piqua which he promptly set about to increase both in size and in performance. By 1925, the Piqua High School Band had won the state competition as the top high school band in Ohio. In the same decade, the Piqua Elks Band was organized under Mr. Gates' direction and continues to this day as the Piqua Civic Band. Another significant event during the 20's was Philip's 1924 appointment to the first board of directors of the Ohio Band Directors Association by President John W. Wainwright. This organization later became the Ohio Music Education Association.

Mr. Gates recalled that for many years he saw every child in the Piqua school system every week as he was the music teacher for the schools. He remained the sole music instructor until the 30's when another teacher was employed to teach in the grade school. In addition to the band of all boys, Mr. Gates also had an all-girls band of 25 members. Philip Gates retired from teaching in 1952.

Philip Gates died March 23, 1983 in Columbus, Ohio. Mr. Gates was a pioneer band director who touched the lives of many young musicians. His contribution to music education and bands in Ohio is truly noteworthy.

**Mark H. Hindsley - 1994 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Cleveland Heights High School**



Mark H. Hindsley was born October 18, 1905 on a farm north of Union City, Indiana. Since his first cornet lesson at age 10, Mark was involved in just about every musical activity available at his one-room school near Union City, and later at Jackson Township Consolidated School in Randolph County.

At the age of 15, Mark entered Indiana University to pursue a degree in chemistry. He joined the university band and chorus and started his church affiliation with the local Christian Church. He soon discovered that most of his friends were members of the Methodist Church and soon was attending there regularly. That is where he met his future wife Helena, whom he married a year after his graduation, while she was still a senior.

In 1925, the School of Music at Indiana University decided it should no longer maintain the university band and passed the responsibility along to the Reserve Officers Corps. At this time, Mark, equipped with an A.B. degree "with high distinction" in chemistry and a Phi Beta Kappa key, was all set to lay aside his trumpet and enter school as a teaching assistant in pursuit of the masters and doctorate degrees. "But the ROTC people needed a band director after the music school dropped the program," Hindsley remembers," and they offered me the job. It was worth quite a bit more money than the chemistry assistantship, so naturally I accepted. Of course I expected to finish graduate school as soon as they could find someone permanent."

That someone never came along, at least not until after Hindsley had arranged a special curriculum for himself and had earned an M.A. in music. By this time, his work in chemistry was all but forgotten and it was destined that Mark Hindsley was to pursue a career as a conductor.

Mark Hindsley served as band director and music instructor at Indiana from 1925 to 1929. From 1929 to 1934, he was Director of Instrumental Music in the school of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, conducting the high school bands and orchestras, with first division in concert and marching at national band contests. From 1934 to 1948, he was Assistant Director of Bands at the University of Illinois, director of the Marching Illini and conductor of the First Regimental Band. Succeeding Albert Austin Harding as Director of Bands at Illinois in 1948, he was active in that position and as Professor of Music until his retirement in 1970. Upon his retirement, he was given the title of Director of Bands and Professor of Music, Emeritus.

Dr. Hindsley is a past president of both the College Band Director National Association (1947) and the American Bandmasters Association (1957-58). His recording of the University of Illinois Concert Band and its transcriptions of historical masterpieces are highly acclaimed at home and abroad. He is the author of eight books and 45 articles magazine articles on instrumental music. He was awarded the honorary degree Doctor of Music by his alma mater, Indiana University. Among his many other honors are election to the International Institute of Arts and Letters; a Citation of Merit from the University of Illinois Foundation; the meritorious Service Award of the Illinois Music Educators Association; the Outstanding Bandmaster Award of Phi Beta Mu; the Edwin Franko Goldman Award of the American School Band Directors Association; the Distinguished Service to Music Award of Kappa Kappa Psi; the election to the Academy of Wind and Percussion Arts, with the "Oscar" of the National Ban Association; the Illinois-Phi Beta Mu Bandmasters Hall of Fame; and the National Band Association Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors.

Dr. Hindsley and his wife Helene still reside in Urbana, Illinois. They have three children, Marilyn, who is married to John Haynie, former Professor of Trumpet at The University of North Texas, Denton, Texas; Robert, who is recently retired after a long tenure as Director of Bands as Homewood-Flossmoor High School in Flossmoor, Illinois;

and Harold, a retired banker with the Northern Trust Company in Chicago, Illinois. The Hindsley's have eight grandchildren and are expecting their eleventh great grandchild.

Dr. Hindsley has touched the lives of many students during his long and distinguished career. He was not only an excellent teacher but also an outstanding role model. The music world has been fortunate to have had such an outstanding individual and musician to serve our profession.

**J. Merton Holcombe - 1994 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Mansfield High School**



J. Merton Holcombe is well deserving of recognition as one of the pioneer school band directors in the state of Ohio. He organized the second high school band in the state of Ohio-- the Mansfield High School band, which has begun in 1922 under his leadership. He had been hired that year to be the director of glee clubs, his first teaching position. His first "band" was hardly worthy of that title, as it consisted of only eight members, four of which were drummer!

Under Holcombe's enthusiastic leadership, the membership of the band increased to 42 members one year later, in 1923, and by 1924 numbered 75.

Although this was Holcombe's first school-teaching job he was in his late 30's when he accepted the Mansfield position. He was born in Westfield, Massachusetts on April 5, 1882, learning to play the cornet at an early age from his father, the town band director.

His formal education in music began at the Paulisch School of Music in Boston, and continued at the T.V. Short Conservatory in Springfield and the Virtuoso School of Music. (His formal education was not completed until 1936 at Baldwin Wallace Conservatory, long after his teaching career has begun).

Holcombe's Mansfield band improved rapidly, winning the state band contest in Columbus in 1926. As a result of this high achievement the band was invited to perform during the half-time of the Ohio State vs. Wisconsin football game, sharing the half-time with the famed Ohio State Marching Band, and received a standing ovation.

At that time, national band contests were held, and those bands that were rated first and second in state contests were eligible to compete. In 1927 the band won 2nd place honors in the State Band Contest, and traveled all the way to Council Bluffs, Iowa for the National Contest where they earned 7th place. The band also competed at a later National Band Contest in Flint, Michigan. The Mansfield Band again won first in the state contest in 1930, and second in 1932, but did not go on to the national contests.

Holcombe was very active in the Ohio School Band association in its early years. He was elected treasurer in 1924 when it was first organized following the first state band contest in Fostoria. In 1926 he was elected, and again in 1930 (the only person to be elected as president for two non-consecutive terms).

He served as band director at Mansfield High School from 1922 through 1950. He retired from active teaching in 1952 after 30 years of service, and served as a substitute teacher during the early years of his retirement. He died at his home in Mansfield on June 13, 1969 at the age of 87. Holcombe and his wife had three daughters; two are deceased and Mrs. Martin Schillinger still lives in Mansfield. She was a cornetist in his first high school band in Mansfield.

Holcombe enjoyed a long and rewarding career in music. He was affectionately known as "Prof" by his students and served not only as their teacher but also as an outstanding role model.

**Louis E. Pete - 1994 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Ashland High School**



Dr. Louis E. Pete, known affectionately as “Doc” and “Ashland’s Music Man” died April 23, 1971 at the age of 75. Born in Tiffin, June 24, 1895, he was the son of Louis E. and Mary Louise (Ferguson) Pete.

His early years were spent in Loudonville, Ohio; Hope, Arkansas; and Donara, Pennsylvania. In 1918 he came to Ashland after serving as a cost accountant with a large steel mill in Donara.

Having a love for music, Dr. Pete became director of music at Ashland High School while continuing with his education to further qualify himself as a music educator. Subsequently he became well known in a field far removed from accounting.

Under his direction, the Ashland public school music department became a model throughout the United States. His musical organizations repeatedly won national awards. Honor after honor were bestowed upon him. His popularity was statewide and he was held in high respect by music educators throughout the nation.

Dr. Pete graduated from Ashland College in 1927 and in 1936 was presented an honorary Doctor of Music degree. He served as supervisor of music for the Ashland City Schools for 37 years and associate professor of music at Ashland College until his retirement in 1965.

The music master of 41 years was director of the All-Ohio Boys Band for 35 years, retiring in 1967. Throughout those years he personally directed over 5,300 boys. He was honored during the 40th anniversary reunion for 6,000 Ohioans who had been part of the band in special ceremonies during the 1966 Ohio State Fair.

His awards and honors were numerous including the Distinguished Service Award by the Department of Agriculture, a bronze plaque for inspires service by Governor Fran Lausche, the Distinguished Service Award by the Ohio Music Association, a sterling silver honorary active membership card in the American Federation of Musicians,

Outstanding Ashland College Alumni, and many more. An important local formal tribute to Dr. Pete was the Ashland Balloon Festival in 1964.

Dr. Pete is listed in "Who's Who in the Midwest." Every governor for the 30 years preceding his death paid him tribute. In 1964, he received an outstanding honor, the Governor's Award from Governor James A. Rhodes. This is the state's highest honor bestowed upon a select few deemed worthy of the "Award for the Advancement of the Prestige of Ohio." Dr. Pete was the first public school teacher in Ohio's history to receive the coveted Governor's Award.

**John W. "Jack" Wainwright -1994 Pioneer Hall of Fame Inductee
Fostoria High School**



John William Wainwright is indeed one of the pioneer school band directors in the state of Ohio, having organized one of the first high school band in the state-- the Fostoria High School Boys Band, in 1919. Under Wainwright's dedicated and unique leadership, the Fostoria Band became a model program.

John William Wainwright was born in Lisbon, Ohio on October 30, 1889.

In 1911, Wainwright enrolled in the Oberlin Academy, a high school preparatory department of Oberlin College at the time. It was during the academy years that Wainwright became keenly interested in bands and organized the Oberlin Boys Band. Wainwright continued his education at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music, where he was student from 1914 to 1917. He directed and managed the Oberlin College Band and continued to conduct the Oberlin Boys Band.

During his senior year at the Oberlin Conservatory, Jack married a conservatory classmate, Jeannette Streeter, and enlisted in the Navy. While in the he became assistant director of the Cleveland Naval Reserve Band, which toured extensively promoting the

Liberty Loan Bond drives. One trip took the band of 30 musicians to Fostoria, Ohio to play a concert. Little did Wainwright know at the time what the town of Fostoria held in store for him.

In January 1919, Wainwright was released from the Cleveland Naval Reserve Band and in February moved to Fostoria to organize an instrumental music program in the schools. His Fostoria bands won several Ohio State School Band Contests and the first National High School Band Contest held in Chicago in 1923.

After his retirement from conducting bands in 1945, Jack then turned to a political career and was elected to the Indiana State House of representatives in 1953. He ultimately served four terms: 1953, 1955, 1957, 1959. He also became involved with the band and music program at the Indiana State Prison. Jack Wainwright passed away January 5, 1960.

John W. Wainwright was a man of many firsts. He organized (1) the first high school band in Ohio for credit; (2) the first All-Ohio State Fair Band in 1923; (3) the first Minnesota All-State Fair Band in 1929; (4) the nation's first summer band camp, The Wainwright Band Camp in 1927, (the camp name was changed to the Limberlost Camps in 1936); (5) Ohio's first state band contest in 1924; (6) the nation's first national band contest under the auspices of the National Bureau for the Advancement of Music in 1926; and (7) the Ohio Band Directors Association in 1924 which ultimately became the Ohio Music Education Association. In addition, the Fostoria High School Boys Band won the only National Band Contest sponsored by the Band Instrument Manufacturers Association in 1923. The band also won the first Ohio State Band Contest in 1924.

Wainwright was a pioneer music educator and a humanitarian who touched the lives of people from all walks of life. His contribution to music education was immeasurable.