



William G. Fread

William G. Fread is a retired music educator after thirty-nine years of service in Indiana. Retirement began in July, 1991.

Educated in Terre Haute, IN, Mr. Fread graduated from Garfield High School in 1946. He earned a B.S. in Music Education and a M.S. in Music Education in 1955 from Indiana State University. Prior to his music education career, he served with the Fifth Air Force Headquarters Band in Hamilton Field, California. His career in music education began in 1952 where he served as band director in the Odon-Madison Schools in Odon, IN.

From 1953-1981 Fread served as Director of Bands in the Hartford City Schools which upon consolidation became the Blackford County Schools. His bands performed for many state organizations and successfully participated in Northern Indiana School Band Orchestra and Vocal Association (NISBOVA) Contests. His contest records are admirable with some 27 consecutive years of first division ratings in concert bands and marching band competitions.

His bands performed nationally in the Virginia Beach Music Festival and Florida World Music Festival. Also, on two occasions, his bands performed at Walt Disney World in Florida.

Mr. Fread was appointed the first executive director of the Indiana State School Music Association in 1981. ISSMA is the governing organization for all school music contests and festivals in Indiana. Mr. Fread served in this position until announcing his retirement in 1991. While serving as Director of ISSMA, Mr. Fread made annual reports to the IMEA Board and the ISSA (Indiana Secondary School Administrators) State Conventions. He made presentations regarding ISSMA make-up at a music educators conference at the U. of Wisconsin in Madison, and at the state meeting of Kentucky Music Educators in Louisville, KY. In addition, he met with music majors at Indiana University and Indiana State University explaining the formation of ISSMA which was relatively new in the early 1980's and was of interest to educators in other states.

His honors include the Outstanding Hoosier Musician of the Year from the Indiana Music Educators Association, Outstanding Bandmaster (1979) and Hall of Fame Award (1983) from Phi Beta Mu Bandmasters Fraternity, the Sudler Order of Merit from the John Philip Sousa Foundation (1989) and the Distinguished Hoosier Award from the Office of the Governor in 2006.

In 1992 Mr. Fread served as Co-Conductor of the European Tour for the United States Collegiate Wind Band which was made up of high school students from the United States. Since his retirement he has continued with his musical interests by serving as guest conductor with various bands in Indiana. He plays clarinet in the Kingdom of the Sun Concert Band in Ocala, Florida throughout the winter months. Mr. Fread also performs in a few dance bands in the Indianapolis area and the Ocala, FL area.