



JOSEPH A. GREMELSPACHER

The son of Mr. & Mrs. W.A. Gremelspacher, Joe Gremelspacher grew up in Logansport, Indiana. As a senior at Logansport High School, he was President of the Senior Class and of the Junior Music League, a member of the Glee Club, Basketball Team, Track Team, Yearbook staff, and lead in the school play.

A graduate of Butler University, Joe was very active in campus affairs with majors in journalism and social studies. He also has a degree from Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis and a MM in Music Education from Indiana State Teacher's College in Terre Haute.

Gremelspacher taught music at Warren Central and Rockville schools in Marion County before accepting the post of band and orchestra director and supervisor of music at Crawfordsville in 1929, a position he held for 10 years. His bands at Crawfordsville were of high quality, earning 3rd place in Class B (behind Hobart and Frankfort) in 1931 and Superior (or First Division) ratings each year. In 1936 his band received a Superior rating at the National Band Contest in Cleveland.

During his years at Crawfordsville Joe was very active in the fledgling Indiana Band Orchestra Association as both an officer and an adjudicator. In 1933 he succeeded William Revelli as President of the association (he had served as President of the Music Section of the ISTA in 1930) and in 1935 became the permanent secretary/treasurer of the Indiana Central-Southern Band Orchestra Association. He was on staff at Interlochen for five years, the last two as assistant camp director. In 1933 he was chair of Indiana Day at Chicago's "Century of Progress" world's fair. He was guest conductor of the Petrie Band Camp at Winona Lake in 1936, 1937 and 1938; guest conductor of the Indiana State Fair Band Day in 1938 and 1939; guest conductor of the South-Eastern Music Camp in Daytona Beach in 1939; guest professor the summer of 1940; and a frequent guest conductor/clinician in the Midwest.

In 1939 Gremelspacher accepted the position of Director of the Concert and Marching Bands at Indiana State Teacher's College. Within the next two years he established a Spring Tour of the Concert Band and a Summer Clinic for Directors and selected HS students that continued for over 20 years. Through his tenure, the Marching Sycamores were about a 70-member all male band. Once again, his bands were of high quality and much of his programming was specifically selected to prepare the music education students for the music they would be teaching in a few years.

Gremelspacher directed the marching band until 1956 and the concert band until 1959 after which he taught music education classes until his retirement in 1970.

During World War II, Gremelspacher served as Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy reserve from August, 1942 to October, 1945.

President of the Indiana Music Educators Association in 1946 and Sec/Treas of the College Band Directors National Association in 1950 and 1951, Gremelspacher had been President of the Music Division of ISTA in 1930 and was President of the Indiana State School Band and Orchestra Association in 1933. He held memberships in Indiana Music Educators Association, Indiana State Teachers Association, Indiana Bandmasters Association, Elks and Masonic Lodge and was a life member of Music Educators National Conference, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Kappa Kappa Psi, and ISC Alumni Association. In 1973 Gamma Chapter of Phi Beta Mu International Band Director's Fraternity named him the first recipient of the Outstanding Bandmaster Award.

Married in 1934 to the former Beth Booe, the couple had one daughter. Among Joe Gremelspacher's many students at Indiana State are six members of the Indiana Band Hall of Fame: Robert Carr, William Fread, Hal Meurer, John Parshall, Don Robertson, and Max Eugene "Gene" Smith. Other distinguished alumni included Joe Guth and Ray Cox.