



Joseph M. Huffman, 1920 - 2012

Joseph M. Huffman was born August 10, 1920 in Elkhart, IN. Within weeks his family moved to Logansport where he has been a lifelong resident. As a student he played cello in the orchestra and tuba in the band – twice competing in a national cello competition. After graduating from Logansport High School in 1938 he attended Capital University where he continued playing cello and tuba while also singing in the traveling choir. Mr. Huffman studied cello and voice for four years, touring the United States each year with the traveling choir, and earning his degree in 1942.

Although he had symphonic aspirations, World War II intervened and he enlisted in the army. As a member of the Adjutant General's Music Department Band he met and married Virginia, 'a lovely southern belle' and was shipped overseas a week after the wedding. During World War II his band was stationed initially in France and later in London.

In 1946 he was discharged from the Army on a Friday, and the following Monday was hired TO BEGIN IMMEDIATELY at Logansport High School as assistant band director. Choir was added to his schedule the following year. Over the years he built outstanding band and choral programs at Logansport. The band grew to almost 160 students, spread among two concert bands while the choir grew to number 290. The band performed each year at a university band day, rotating among several northern Indiana colleges.

Into retirement Mr. Huffman conducted the Cass County Churches United presentation of "The Messiah" for 25 years. He and his wife Virginia also raised thousands of dollars for a Christian charity through the production of three community concerts known as the Huffman Musicales featuring alumni from various Logansport classes reunited for the concerts at McHale Performing Arts Center. During the second of those concerts, then Mayor John Davis proclaimed a day honoring Huffman. He was also later recognized for these concerts by the Indiana Retired Teachers Association.

Known for his fine bands and choirs, Mr. Huffman is justifiably proud of the countless students who went on to symphonic jobs or careers in music education. Nominated by Harold Walters to Phi Beta Mu membership in 1955, Mr. Huffman was initiated in 1956 and as of January, 2012 had attended 57 consecutive Gamma Chapter meetings! Joe Huffman passed away on December 23, 2012.