

## ARCADIA MARCHING BAND HISTORY

In the early years of Arcadia's music program, the sound of stringed instruments could be heard coming from the room in the back of the auditorium. In 1948 the marching band was added to the instrumental music curriculum, and several years later, the marching band actually replaced the orchestra. The first marching band was under the direction of Mary Payne and boasted forty playing members, three majorettes, and one drum major. Its duties included playing for football games and the Farmers Institute--a three-day event held at the school and supported by local farmers. It featured food, local entertainment in the form of plays and musical performance, and special guest entertainers, one of whom was Hee Haw's comedienne, Minnie Pearl.

During the past forty-nine years, marching band has been a tradition at Arcadia High School. Tonight, we are pleased to welcome back to the field some of Arcadia's Marching Band Alumni in a special half-time presentation.

## AHS BAND DIRECTOR PROFILES

### **Louis Vrooman**

#### **Years at Arcadia (1963 - 1974)**

Mr. Vrooman states that things are still pretty much the same as when he left Arcadia. He is the Repair Manager for Rettig Music, Inc., in Defiance which is the position he left Arcadia for twenty-three years ago. His wife works for Lowes Home Improvement Center at the Contractors Counter, and his three children are all in the United States Air Force. Chris is a Captain, stationed in Hampton, Virginia, Dana is a Staff Sergeant stationed in Adanna, Turkey, and Lori is a Staff Sergeant stationed in Oran, South Korea. Mr. and Mrs. Vrooman are the proud grandparents of four grandchildren--two boys and two girls.

Although Rettig's has been a permanent job, Mr. Vrooman has also worked part-time in the automotive industry in Research and Development and Quality Control. He is still active in the Boy Scouts of America where he was fortunate to have received the Silver Beaver Award--the highest award a local Scout Council can give to a volunteer member.

### **David Jerman**

#### **Years at Arcadia (1974 - 1986)**

Mr. Jerman was director at Arcadia for twelve years and was the first Arcadia Band Director to bring recognition to Arcadia at OMEA State Marching Band Contests. He is currently teaching at Maumee City Schools where he has been for eleven and years. His Maumee Marching Band boasts over 100 members in grades 9-12. The band competes in OMEA State Marching Band Contests and Bands of America Competition. Maumee's drum line competes in the Northwest Ohio Indoor Percussion Association Contest and in Winter Guard International Indoor Drum Line Competition.

Said Mr. Jerman of Arcadia, "I do want to say that some of the most happy memories of my career have come from Arcadia. From the Hancock County Fair Rain Show in 1975 to the

first O.M.E.A. State Contest Performance in 1982 to Arts Festivals in the springtime to the wonderful experiences at solo & ensemble contest (especially with Jr. Hi students) to the musicals, etc. (Stage Band, Dinner Dance, Pizza Pow-Wows...). Arcadia is a very, very special place--the school is a real treasure. I hope that everyone associated realizes how truly unusual it is. Great academics, wonderful support for the arts, and most of all, a community that understands the importance of music."

### **Richard Eakin**

#### **Years at Arcadia (1982 - 1990)**

Mr. Eakin is starting his eighth year at Van Buren where they have been competing in O.M.E.A. Marching Band Contest yearly. The band has performed in the Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival Grand Parade in Canton in '91, '92, and '96, the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade in '93, and the Indianapolis "500" Pre-Race Pageant in 1995. In the spring of 1997 Mr. Eakin directed the Van Buren Concert Band to its first-ever "Superior" rating at OMEA District III Contest and first-ever "Superior" rating at the Northwest Region State Contest in May of 1997. The Black Knight Band has been selected this year to march again in the Detroit Thanksgiving Day Parade.

On the personal side, Rick and his wife, Jane, also a music teacher, have two sons--John and Daniel. John recently turned ten years old and is in fourth grade. Daniel is now seven and in second grade.

Mr. Eakin will be our guest conductor during tonight's half-time performance. His Black Knight band will be joining our Redskin band after the game tonight for a special musical presentation.

### **Jeffrey Breitigam**

#### **Years at Arcadia (1990 - Present)**

Beginning his eighth year at Arcadia, Mr. Breitigam came to us after a three-year teaching position as High School Music Director at Crooksville High School. Prior to that he was an interim substitute at Zanesville High School where he began his teaching career.

The Marching Redskins have shown a steady growth during his eight years, expanding from 33 members in 1990 to 75 members currently participating in the band. Under his direction, the band has qualified for O.M.E.A. State Concert Band Competition the past three years ('94, '95, and '96) by receiving a Superior (I) Rating at the O.M.E.A. District III Concert Band Competition. This past year was particularly noteworthy for the concert band since they received all Superior Ratings at the District III event, not only from the panel of three floor judges on their prepared music, but also from the sight-reading judge. The past three years have also seen the Marching Band receive Excellent (II) Ratings each year, only being a few points away from the Superior (I) Rating which would qualify them for O.M.E.A. State Marching Band Competitions.

## **POST-GAME ACTIVITIES**

Following the game, the Black Knight and Redskin bands will be combining to perform "Impossible Dream" from the musical *Man of La Mancha* for your enjoyment. The Marching Redskins will then perform their contest show, and immediately following, a reception will be held until 11:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria.



## ARCADIA MARCHING BAND HISTORY

In the early years of Arcadia's music program, the sound of stringed instruments could be heard coming from the room in the back of the auditorium. In 1948 the marching band was added to the instrumental music curriculum. The first marching band was under the direction of Mary Payne and boasted forty playing members, three majorettes, and one drum major. Its duties included playing for football games and the Farmers Institute. According to the 1948-1949 yearbook, "The Band added spirit and entertainment for the public as well as the student body."

A uniform drive, spearheaded by the Band Boosters whose president was Louis W. (Bill) Blake, was successful in outfitting the band in red uniforms with white trim in August of the following year. According to the 1949-1950 yearbook, the band performed in a contest, featuring numerous high school bands of the Northwest District, held at the Clover Farm Picnic at Riverside Park in Findlay on Labor Day—their first appearance in their new uniforms. They received 4<sup>th</sup> place. They were scheduled to perform at the Hancock County Fair, but their performance was rained out. They also performed at all home football games, using such formations as an "H" (meaning "hello" for the opposing team) and an "A" (for Arcadia). Songs included Ohio State's "Across the Field" and Notre Dame's "Victory March." The majorettes were outfitted in white uniforms with gold trim and the uniformed band played in concert formation on the stage in the winter for the PTA and Farmers Institute.

During that second year of marching band at AHS, the band members elected officers: Bob Painter, president; Glenn Saltzman, vice president; Beverly Damon, secretary; and Ellen Gassman, treasurer. Under their leadership, the band "collected sales tax stamps and purchased an American flag and a school flag," later buying "an eagle for the top of each pole."

The marching band tradition has changed very little these past 50 years. Field formations are still made (although much more intricate than the first "H" and "A"), marches are still a part of the musical repertoire (although even concert band repertoire has now been added to the marching band's field repertoire), the Hancock County Fair performance has now become an entire show (and there is still the possibility of a rainout), contests are still a tradition (although the band now competes with all bands its size throughout the state of Ohio and not just in the northwest district), and although the band doesn't collect sales tax stamps, they do sell submarine sandwiches. But some things have changed. Local homecoming parades are now a part of the summer schedule, and the band has also paraded at Cedar Point and for the Hall of Fame Day in Canton. It has also played for the Toledo Mud Hens. The uniforms that were red and white and changed over the years to black with red and white accents, have almost come full circle. A uniform drive that culminated in new uniforms last season went back to the traditional red and white jacket but with black pants instead of red. Majorettes are still part of the band, but the drum major is no longer. Instead, we have what are called field commanders who do not simply march with the band, but direct it from ladders and boxes on the sidelines. Although directors are in control of the rehearsals and shows, the field commanders have taken the place of the director on the field.

During the past fifty years, marching band has been a tradition at Arcadia High School. It has grown from the original forty-four to include (in a conservative estimate) well over 500 Arcadia High School students during these past 50 years. Thanks to the dedication and desire of those first AHS Marching Band pioneers, marching band has become a love of many. Four years ago a new tradition was added to the old—an Alumni Marching Band. Tonight we are pleased to welcome back former Marching Redskins for a special halftime show to celebrate 50 years of Marching Band at AHS.



### Arcadia's First Marching Band Members (1948-1949)

Pat (Minard) Tyson '49	Joe Steyer '54
John Nau '50	Rosilyn (Street) Davie '54
Martha Jane (Slupe) Steen '50	Carol (Reid) Altman '54
Imogene (Thomas) French '50	Mary Weaver '54
Beverly (Damon) Painter '51	Tom Bickel '55
Joe Diebley '51	Dave Corbin '55
Robert Painter '51	Bill Diebley '55
Clara (Buchanon) Kerns '52	Tom Lee '55
Donna June (Damon) King '52	Gerald Marvin '55
Ellen (Gassman) Russell '52	Gertrude (Marvin) Gingrich '55
John Bushong '53 (deceased)	Bob Noel '55
Pat (Emerine) Droll '53	Ron Stahl '55 (deceased)
Shirlee Farrell '53	Lloyd Thomas '55
Peggy Fox '53 (deceased)	Bill Eisaman, Jr. '56
Shirley (Lenhart) Collins '53	Sharyn (Peters) Sheehan '56
Glenn Saltzman '53	Bill Pruitt '56
James Steyer '53	Laverne Shaul '56
Janet (Ziessler) Hanna '53	Howard Buchanan '57
James Blake '54	Joyce (Conrad) Jenkins '57
Bob Graham '54	Patricia (Eisaman) Stough '57
Marilyn Karn '54	Bob Farrell '57 (deceased)
Laverne Snyder '54	Gene Snyder '57

### AHS Marching Band Directors



1948-1950	Mary Payne
1950-1951	Ralph Lupidi
1951-1955	William Pittenger
1955-1958	Charles Hoover
1958-1960	Richard Wink
1960-1961	Paul Emmert
1961-1963	Irving Christnagel
1963-1974	Louis Vrooman
1974-1986	David Jerman
1986-1990	Richard Eakin
1990-Present	Jeffrey Breitigam

### Special Thanks!

Many people, too numerous to mention, helped in the organization of tonight's activities, but one has helped since the beginning of the Alumni Marching Band four years ago. Without her help and tireless dedication, these past four years would have been practically impossible. That person is Julie (Thomas) Sopher '79. A special thanks to her is more than appropriate!

Sincerely,  
Barb (Blake) Ebersole '65  
Alumni Band Chairperson

### Reception

Following the game the 1998 Marching Redskins will present their contest show for your enjoyment. Immediately following that the Music Boosters will be hosting a small reception in the school cafeteria until 11:00 p.m. We hope you will join us as we end our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Marching Band at AHS with a time for fellowship and the sharing of many fond memories.