

# High School Band Is Most Outstanding

DICKINSON— One hundred and thirteen weary but nevertheless triumphant Dickinson High School band students returned home Sunday night from a 4-day trip to Enid, Oklahoma. They were escorted into town by a host of Band Boosters and Dickinson well-wishers to the sound of sirens and the honking of horns.

The celebration was not only to welcome them home, but to express to them the pride the community has for their outstanding performance at the Band Festival they had just attended.

In competition with 565 other musical groups from all over Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana, the band was voted the most outstanding marching band in its class. All eight of their judges declared them "Superior" and bestowed on them 34.7 points out of a possible 35.

Other honors given the group: In the "Solos and Ensembles" division, they had 56 first place medal winners. Their concert band and their symphonic band both got First Division Ratings. In the "Pa-

rade" category, the band received a First Division Rating.

Receiving the award of "Most Outstanding Soloist", Karen Burns of Dickinson, performed on baritone horn in competition with about 4200 entrants, out of which only 25 received such an honor.

An interesting note was the fact that one of the numbers performed by the band was written by a judge of the event. "Variations on a Korean Folksong" was written by John Barnes Chance, the judge, who gave them a "one" rating. Mr. Chance commented that he enjoyed everything the band did, and encouraged them to "keep up the good work." "When a band and a director make this kind of team," he said, "I just sit back and listen."

The Dickinson band left Wednesday morning on the eleven hour trip by bus to Oklahoma City, where they were lodged in a motel during their entire stay. To participate in the Festival they had to travel back and forth to Enid (a 1 1/2 hour trip) every day.

Accompanying the young people were Mr. and Mrs. Harlan Starnes; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wilhelm; Mr. and Mrs. James King; Mr. Preston Bullard, Assistant Principle; Band Director Gus Nelson and his wife Joann; and Don Wilkins, Assistant band director; Mrs.

Evelyn Kreig, who was accompanist to many of the soloists; and Mr. Sam Vitanza, who drove the instrument van.

On Thursday morning the group left Oklahoma City early for Enid, to take part in the Solos and Ensembles competition and the Marching contests. The town was literally overflowing with the visitors from the six states. All the towns churches and municipal buildings were used to house the events. Even the town businesses provided room. For example, a repair garage was the locale of the sight reading contest for the Concert Band.

Friday was the day for the Concert Contests. And when the group returned to their motel that evening, they were treated to a banquet in their honor given by the Security Savings and Loan, of Dickinson.

Saturday, the band journeyed again to Enid to take part in the "Parade" Competition. Sunday, they left early on their chartered buses for the return trip home.

The band trip was sponsored by the Dickinson High School Band Boosters Club, who helped to raise almost \$5,000 to cover expenses. The Booster Club was also responsible for providing adult sponsors, and for making accommodation arrangements in advance of the trip.



L, WHO WOULDN'T BE SEED? Band Director Gus Nelson steps from the bus and displays the trophy his outstanding band won in the Enid, Oklahoma contest.

