



THS Marching Band's First Invitational Performance

In early August of 1968 the 75 member Trinity Trojan Marching Band received an invitation to perform during "The Texas State Fair Massed Band Music Festival," to be held in The Cotton Bowl on Oct. 7, 1968. The programs theme was titled, "AMERICA 1968". The performance would include many Bands from across the State of Texas.

After accepting the invitation we received our music packets and began rehearsing the selections to be performed; "Hey Look Me Over", "Born Free", "Music to Watch Girls By," and the closing selection, John Phillip Sousa's, "Stars and Stripes Forever". A huge fireworks display followed the performance to close the evening's extravaganza. Each selection was to be played to a "picture " formation. These formations would cover the entire Cotton Bowl Field and had over 5,000 student musicians. The students had the honor of being directed by the Conductor of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, Maestro Donald Johanos.

NOW FOR THE BIG DAY!!

After a few weeks of rehearsals at Trinity, were finally ready for "our debut". Three buses were loaded with students, uniforms, instruments, music, sponsors, bus drivers and director. We departed at noon for Dallas and arrived at the Cotton Bowl at 12:45 pm. The students were given free time to have lunch, a short visit to the Fair and be back, ready to rehearse from 2:45 pm to 5:00 pm . At 5:30 pm, after rehearsal, a light meal was furnished to the students, by the Cotton Bowl Association, on the sidelines in the Cotton Bowl.

The Evening Performance began at 8:00 and ended at 9:00 pm. The final results of Music, Formations, and Fireworks were Outstanding, and were followed by a Standing Ovation from over 15,000 spectators! The students were excited about this once in a lifetime performance, and were extremely proud to be the first Trinity High School Marching Band to represent their brand new school. I had been a very long and tiring day and we were al ready go home.

After we arrived at the Fair, the drivers decided to refuel the buses, park the them by the Cotton Bowl and then hit the fair grounds food, fun and take in all the fair had to offer. The drivers were on the buses waiting for us to finish the Music Festival and return for the trip home. The problem was the drivers were on one side of the Cotton Bowl and we were on the other.

The end of the Massed Band Performance was ALSO the closing time for the Fair! There we were waiting on the buses on one side of the Cotton Bowl, the buses on the other, each not knowing where the others were! (before cell phones). With chaperones as scouts and 1 & 1/2 hours later they found the buses with the drivers waiting . At 11:30 p.m. we loaded the instruments and students and finally arrived at THS at 12:30 am to a parking lot full of anxious parents and the buses filled with exhausted students, chaperones and director!

My short talk to the students after arrival was: "It's late, go home, go to bed, and under no circumstances will anyone be late or miss school tomorrow. We will show that Trinity Band students are responsible even under the most trying circumstances." I'm proud to say that ALL were in attendance for our 8:30 a.m. rehearsal!

Footnote: Because of having to call a few students down during rehearsal that day I decided to establish a motto for the Trojan Band, I had it printed on a large banner that was placed over the band hall double exit doors. The motto stated "PRIDE WITHOUT DIGNITY, IS WORTHLESS". That sign remained until I left in the spring of 1972!

The Trinity High School Band received their first Western Union Telegram the following morning from Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Waite congratulating the Band on an Excellent State Fair Performance!

"Reality Check"

"UIL MARCHING CONTEST" was just a month away and we still had no marching field facility!! The next week our school parking lot was paved and I had it lined in five yard increments. We now were on our way to our first "Division 1 Superior Rating" in UIL Marching Competition! This was not only the Band's first Trophy, but was also the First Trophy Awarded to our New School !