



Webster High School Band — 1930 State Champions

Concert Band

35th Anniversary of the Symphonic Band

The Webster Groves High School Band was started by Mr. William A. Gore, the Superintendent of Schools, in 1925. Mr. William A. Gore played the clarinet in this eighteen-member band and in his words "played as loud as he could so they would all end at the same time." Mr. Hans J. Lemcke, to whom the Music Department will always be indebted for his untiring and unselfish service, was soon secured by Mr. William A. Gore as a director for the band. Every year of its first three seasons of participation in the state contest at Columbia, the Webster High Band won an award. In 1925, the band gave its first Annual Spring Concert.

John Philip Sousa, "The March King," provided the highlight of 1928, when he visited here and enthusiastically praised our rapidly growing band. In 1929 the band played at the formal opening of the Webster Groves Public Library. Two silver loving cups in one year! This was the story for 1930-1931. Everyone was kept busy with the Spring Concert, which had

become a tradition at Webster by now. First place in the Washington University music contest for the five years, 1932-1936, was one of the many rewards for the ever-growing efforts of the band. In 1940, a voluntary marching band was formed from the Symphonic Band. In that year the band received the lion's share of the musical attention because of their flashy new uniforms, provided by the Chamber of Commerce. During the next year the band was presented with the colors by the American Legion.

In 1942 the renowned was heard on a broadcast over KXOK. In 1944, as in many future years the band provided members for the All County Band. By 1945 the band had grown to eighty-five members, and by 1947 it had ninety-five members, twenty-two of which were in the All-County Band. Webster was host to groups participating in the St. Louis County Music Festival from 1946 to 1948. During the next few years band members were busy again with the Annual Music Festival, the Annual Spring Concert, and assemblies given all over St.