



Ralph Chandler, 1918 - 1991

Born December 27, 1918 to Bruce and Hazel Chandler, Ralph Chandler was a 1940 graduate and an organ major at Indiana State Teachers College. He earned his master's degree from ISU in 1948 after also completing advanced course work at the University of Cincinnati and Arthur Jordan Conservatory.

After teaching for two years at Greendale School in Lawrenceburg, Chandler spent four years in service during World War II. He then returned to the teaching profession in 1945 – this time in Elnora. His six years at Elnora were punctuated by contest participation where he had a perfect Division I rating of all his bands. He spent the next two years teaching at Oakland City High School and College.

In 1953 Mr. Chandler became Band Director at Ben Davis High School in Wayne Township where he later became Music Coordinator for Ben Davis and eleven other schools in the system. In the words of a colleague: “there wasn't much happening at Ben Davis before Ralph got there.” He again produced high quality bands and set the stage for what the Ben Davis program has become.

An article in the Indianapolis Times found the year 1960 to be the best of his teaching career: during this year the Ben Davis Band participated in the Kentucky Derby Festival in Louisville, KY; the Tulip Festival in Holland, MI; the Riverview Park Band Tournament in Chicago; won the Indiana State Fair Marching Band Championship; and received an invitation to march in the Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C. The band repeated as State Fair Marching Band champion in 1961.

Mr. Chandler also served as Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Indiana Music Educators Association for several years beginning in 1955. He was a member of Phi Beta Mu and was inducted into the Gamma Chapter Hall of Fame in 1985.

Ralph Chandler passed away October 28, 1991. He was married to Leona Russell Chandler.