



LAWRENCE B. JOHNSTON

Born in Columbia City in August 31, 1909 to Lee F. and Rose L. Johnston, Larry Johnston began college at DePauw University before graduating from Vandercook School of Music in Chicago. He began his band directing career in Northern Indiana where he was band director at Columbia City, also serving two years as president of the Northern Indiana Band, Orchestra and Vocal Association. In 1938 his Columbia City band was one of only 4 bands to earn a First Division rating among 18 Class B bands in the National Regional Contest in Elkhart.

In 1940 he became band director at Bosse High School in Evansville, serving there until his retirement in 1971 except for service in the U.S. Air Force as a Military Bands Officer from 1942 to 1946. His Bosse bands were particularly known for their excellent marching. He was the first in the area to schedule a band camp to welcome freshmen and was owner of Plasti-Music Co., Inc. that sold flip folders.

At Bosse Johnston also directed in Concert Band, Pep Band, and Orchestra. He was on the Board of the Indiana School Music Association and president of the Indiana Music Educator's Association.

He capped off his career with an outstanding performance at the nationally televised Orange Bowl Parade which led to an invitation for the band to perform at the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. Johnston retired from the Evansville schools in 1971.

Larry Johnson passed away two years later, January 6, 1973, and is buried in Greenhill Cemetery in Columbia City, leaving his wife Betty.