

BAND

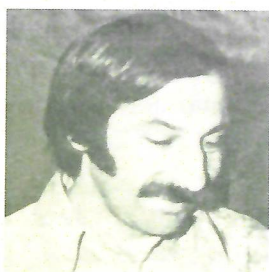


September 1964! There is excitement in the air. The first semester at the new site has just started. The fall pageantry was about to explode. This will be the



year Granada fields its first varsity football team, and the marching band will debut with them. On the sports page of the *Herald and News* the headline reads: **GRANADA HIGH BAND DEBUTS AT OPENING GAME TONIGHT.**¹ A week later a smaller headline appeared buried in the middle of the same newspaper: **Granada's Band Can't March Yet, Director Reports.**

Band director Wayne Turner explained the reasons the band was grounded. The 7 a.m. daily meeting time "cut the number of band members, and there was no place to march except dusty school grounds."² To make matters worse, instrument manufacturers were late with their deliveries and many instruments were missing.³ Turner thought that the scheduling issue would resolve itself by the end of the semester, but said that practice space would not be resolved until the following fall. Turner concluded, "We're rather restricted this year, but we have a core of faithful musicians, and Granada eventually will have a full-scale music program."⁴



Dan Goulart took over the band program in 1969 and early on, the GHS band made headlines for all the wrong reasons. On September 20, 1971 the following headlined appeared in the *Herald and News*: **GRANADA BAND UNIFORM PROTEST.**⁵ The caption under a picture of the marching band stated that the Granada band members were going to conduct a season long protest because the Livermore High School band received new uniforms. In the same paper the next day, the headline read: **NO GRANADA PROTEST OVER BAND UNIFORMS.** It seemed as though the paper had not quite got it right. "What occurred Friday night was not an organized protest, and we sincerely regret the consternation we have caused students, school officials, and parents."⁶ Given this was the 1970s they went on to write:

In another way we are glad so many got so mad at us and let us know their feelings, because all their comments say something about Granada's students as a whole.

¹ *Herald and News*, September 16, 1964

² *Herald and News*, September 23, 1964, p.12

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ *Herald and News*, September 20, 1971

⁶ *Herald and News*, September 21, 1971 p. 1

They could have rebelled. In these days of demonstrations over everything imaginable, and in the face of so much student criticism of the “establishment” across the nation, it wouldn’t have been surprising for Granada students to have organized a protest over the lack of uniforms. There have been riots over lesser issues.

But Granada’s students didn’t protest, and they’re to be commended for their own ability to override their deep disappointment.¹⁷¹

It was not until 1990 that the Livermore Board of Trustees unanimously voted to spend \$55,372 for new band uniforms for both high schools. District music coordinator David Branson said that the current uniforms were sixteen years old, and that he had been seeking funds for the new uniforms for ten years.¹⁷²

From these interesting beginnings, Dan Goulart developed a strong and competitive band. It was his Jazz Band, however, that first put Granada on the map. Since their inception in 1969, the band took first honors in six festivals, including the Paris International Jazz festival (yes, he took the band to France). But winning the Reno International Jazz Festival was the greatest. One skeptical band member, Daryl Gest, said, “I’ve been to the festival four times, and we didn’t win anything. The competition is unbelievable. But this time, I knew, and so did the others, that we’d make the finals, but we didn’t think we’d win.”¹⁷³

The winning did not come easy. The band made the finals about 4:30 p.m., but it was not until Sunday morning that the final competition started. “Knowing what all the other bands sounded like gave us the chance to be as good or better than them,”¹⁷⁴ Brian Buckner, a 17-year-old trumpeter said. Even at two in the morning, the audience knew they had heard something great when they gave the Matadors a standing ovation. The judges agreed—first place in the large school division. An elated Dan Goulart stated, “There is no doubt some good bands at the festival. It was the keenest competition in the country.”¹⁷⁵

The band’s success had some tangible, immediate effects in the community. In June 1973, Pacific Telephone and Telegraph (PT&T) announced that the Granada stage band would grace the cover of the area’s first private telephone directory. In making the announcement, Dick Piepenburg, PT&T manager said, “The GHS band is one of the Amador Valley’s many fine stage bands, and because we believe it has brought great honor to our community, we have decided to honor band members by featuring them on our directory for the year.”¹⁷⁶ Piepenburg went on to say that the band’s recent success in jazz competition throughout the state led to the selection of the group. He specifically cited the band’s first place awards in the Paris, Sonoma State, Rio Vista, Oakmont, Fresno State and Reno Jazz Festivals.

¹⁷¹ Ibid.

¹⁷² *The Valley Times*, March 21, 1990, p. 2a

¹⁷³ *The Herald and News*, March 27, 1973, p.12

¹⁷⁴ Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

¹⁷⁶ *The Herald and News*, June 15, 1973, p.20

Dan Goulart left Granada later that summer for Santa Rosa Community College. Ted Spilman took over the program in 1973 and continued to bring home trophies from the various competitions. In 1977, he handed the reins of the program over to Dan Dooha-Chambers who stayed at the helm until 1986. Recently Mr. Dooha-Chambers recognized that both he and Mr. Spilman had huge shoes to fill when Mr. Goulart left.¹⁷⁷



The marching band also continued to gather honors in every competition they entered. In 1984, the Granada High School Marching Band captured top division honors in the Tropicana Music Bowl Western Regional Playoffs competition. "The band's score of 73.8 was the highest score ever given to a marching band from the Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District,"¹⁷⁸ said band director Dan Dooha-Chambers.

Tom Jones took over the leadership of the band program in 1986, and except for one two-year period (2002-2004) has been the leader until today. He divided the band year into three seasons:



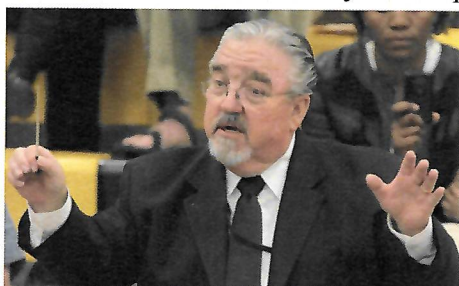
The Fall Season is marching at football games and participating in rallies. It is also the time for competitive events like the band reviews. Band reviews are exciting not only for the band as a whole, but groups in the band have the opportunity to display their talent. The Drum Line, in particular, is festive as the drum members have the opportunity to have their own percussion competition separate from the entire band.

During the Winter Season the third Saturday of March is reserved for the annual GHS Winter Guard and Percussion Show. Again the drum lines have the opportunity to perform as well as a separate competition for the flags and pageantry of the Winter Guard.

The Spring Season, which starts in April, is designed around the Music Festival, graduation, and the annual Livermore Rodeo.



Just as an athletic rivalry developed over the years between Granada



and Livermore, so too developed a rivalry between the bands, but this rivalry was much different than the one on the athletic fields. In the 1990s, Tom Jones led the Granada band, while his brother-in-law led the Livermore band. To further complicate the matter, Tom's wife Kathleen was the color guard instructor at Livermore. But Mr. Jones related that competition was never a problem between the two bands. "Music is an art form

¹⁷⁷ Dan Dooha-Chambers, April 28, 2014

¹⁷⁸ *The Tri-Valley Herald*, November 20, 1984, p.9

and should not be treated as a competitive sport,” explained Jones. “Playing an instrument is a beautiful thing that you can enjoy for your entire life.”¹⁷⁹ He continued, “I hope to teach my students true love for the art of music. I know this is a bit idealistic, but learning to play and appreciate music is first and foremost in my mind.”¹⁸⁰ Bravo!

One final note on the Jazz Band is needed at this point. Because of budget cuts throughout the entire school system in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Jazz Band was terminated. It was finally brought back in 2002 under the guidance of Randy Watson. Mr. Watson started this class at 7 a.m. to avoid scheduling conflicts with his students. It has thrived ever since, and the current students play with the same energy and style as their predecessors a generation ago.



Band/Orchestra Directors

Wayne Turner---1964-1969

Dan Goulart---1969-1973

Ted Spilman---1973-1977

Dan Chambers---1977-1986

Tom Jones---1986-2002

Emily Patton---2002-2003

Kathy Boster---2003-2004

Tom Jones---2004-present

Randy Watson (Jazz Band)---2002-present

¹⁷⁹ *The Independent*, November 17, 1999, p.1

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.