

C. W. BEENE

Band Director

Panhandle, Texas

Oct. 29th, 1937

Amon G. Carter,
Ft. Worth, Texas
Dear Mr. Carter,

I wish to pay you my compliments for your work and influence with the T.C.U band, and the school in general.

I know you have quite an influence over what the foot ball team does, but since my interest lies principally with band work, I will confine my compliments this time for your good work with the band.

I refer mostly to the purchase of some new instruments recently. If it had not been for your influence (and possibly money also) the band would still be playing those old battered horns they had before the new ones came. Maybe others helped or at least made some remarks which caused the idea to be born but in either case-- they now have the instruments and if my ears do not deceive me, they have a much better band than they had before. I listen to them over the radio quite a lot.

For three years, my son Elton, played in this band, and graduated in 1936. This year, I have another son playing cornet with the band. He will likely be there four years. If interested enough to ask, you would learn that they are and have been the tops in cornet playing in the United States. W.W. Wagner of Elkhart Ind. told me about two weeks ago that he was satisfied that Rex and Elton were the best advertised boys of their ages in the entire country. He handled advertising for them quite a bit of the time. (But this is beside the subject).

I am deeply interested in the T.C.U band and the entire school. I recommend all my best students to T.C.U. because if they wish to study music, they have such a fine opportunity there. At present I have three in the T.C.U band. One of their outstanding trombone players is my student.

It takes GOOD instrument players to make a GOOD band, and I don't mean ORDINARY players. If the band is GOOD it is appealing to those students who outstanding players. So, I am interested in helping to make it not GOOD, but the BEST in the entire south and if what few good players I can turn out will help any, I certainly will recommend that they go to T.C.U.

I am sure that you agree with me that travel is one of the best avenues of education, or you would not be spending so much time and money helping this foot ball team and band to go so far away. I had a talk with Pres. Waits and he agrees that the school ought to help all the students possible to travel, meet people and to take part in as many forms of social activities as possible. It is what actually fits a person for future life.

The music depart of T.C.U is far out in the lead of other schools of the state, and I want to see it even build more and more. In the band is where I think there is most room for development at present; because it really isn't in the lead of quite a few of the leading bands of the country.

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Band Director

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The band can be a credit to Ft. Worth and the entire state if it can be built and conducted on the proper scale. It can go where ever the foot ball team goes-- and I don't mean to part of the places. I think that if the people of Ft. Worth, the school and all concerned will see that it gets to make ALL the trips, the time will soon come when crowds at all foot ball games will be doubled what it would be if people know there is not going to be a show for them between halves and before the games. Many people attend games now because they know there will be added attractions by the bands. I call to memory an even of the Simmons foot ball team making a visit to Canyon just a few weeks ago. For two weeks prior to the game there was an article in the paper every day telling something about what a show the band would make at the game, and not quite so much said about the game its self. The Simmons boys walloped Canyon 40 to 0, and people are still talking about what a show the band and foot ball team made. Many went from here to see the game.

I am told that you are responsible for the band getting to go to Columbus. I hope you can make them (whoever "them" is) see that it is an added attraction which they need at every game. If the band doesn't give the attraction necessary, then get right in behind the director and others responsible and see that they get up a show that will be attractive for the fans. Let the time come when people will cheer the band before they march out on the field.

I think the band has a fine young man for a director and back of him is Mr. Sammis, who is also a fine director. If they can get the players who can handle instruments like they would like to have them handled, I am sure they can work out a great show for anything or any occasion that will please the fans. It doesn't take more than fifty good players, even though we see bands from 100 to 200 on the field in many places. Too many makes it hard to finance trips and it also cuts down on the quality of playing for it is almost impossible to get that many players together who can play their instruments expertly.

To get these players the school has to have something to offer. That is in the form of schollarships, good music courses, trips, jobs, and most of all a fine aggregation of players who can take the music as they see it without having to drap along and carry poor players on their shoulders (as foot ball players have to carry the burden of some of their teams lots of times).

My letter may have been long, but it takes words to express my sentiments, and I hope it finds a listening ear. I congratulate you and all those who are helping in any way. I hope the time will come when people will look to Ft. Worth as their music center. It means dollars to Ft. Worth added to what they now have, and it also means more than that: it means culture added to what you now have and in the future greater things for the citizenship.

Sincerely Yours,

CWT Beene

P.S. The first time I am in Ft. Worth, I would like to talk to you about a National Band contest in Ft. Worth next Spring. I'm on national Board of control - CWTB