



Bill Harten, 1940 Senior, Pocatello High School,
Pep Band Leader, Orchestra, and Symphony



Music Petty Officer Bill Harten, 1945 U.S. Navy Bandmaster, instructor, leader of the
SepSenders Band in Pensacola, Florida, and survivor of the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor

Bill:
 you have
 surely been a
 real "Pep Band"
 leader.
 You have been
 a real student to.
 Music I hope you a lot
 of success in your
 future endeavors
 W. H. Fawson

The "Prof," as all of the music students call him, is Mr. Fawson. As the head of the music department he is a very busy man and is continually practicing with some student-musicians. At the first of the school year he must quickly drill a band to play and march at the football games. Then he must practice with the orchestra and concert band, along with his two classes in chorus. The highlight of the music program and of Mr. Fawson's work is the operetta.
 Mr. Fawson trains all of the various trios and quartets and has one wing of the building just for the music department. This year he deserves more credit than ever for the effort he put forth in obtaining new uniforms for the band. (modeled by Pep Band leader, Bill Harten.)

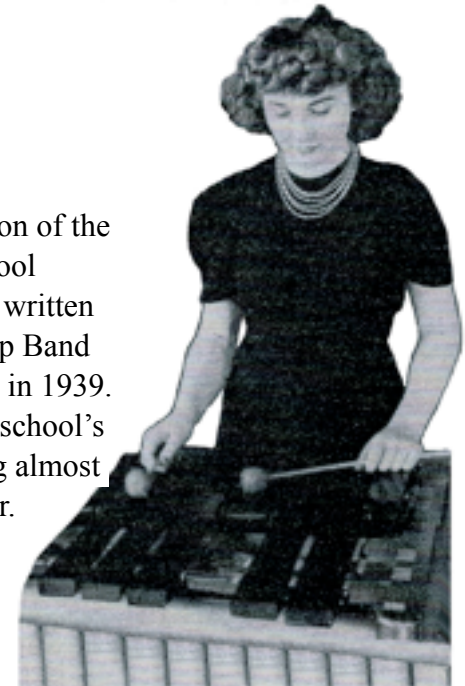
Prof. H.
 LeGrande
 Fawson
 Pocattellian
 1940 year-
 book,
 pp.50, 53



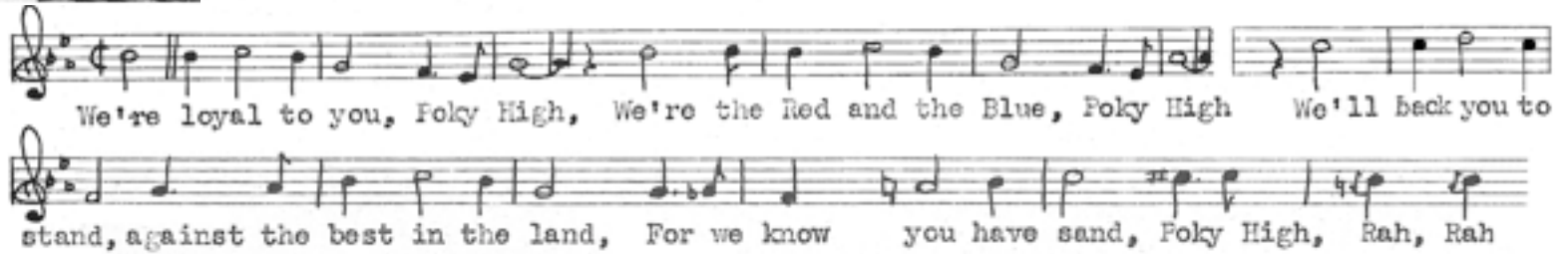
Jeane Lowe and Bill were always involved in playing solos, duets, trios. She often accompanied him on piano. Mr. Fawson gave both wonderful opportunities to learn, study, and perform for their school and for the community of Pocatello, ID.

Who knew that their personal duet would survive WWII and sixty years together as a couple.

Below is a portion of the Pocatello High School "Loyalty Song," as written by their student Pep Band leader, Bill Harten in 1939. It is still that high school's official Fight Song almost seventy years later.



He gave them music choices, proper training, performance challenges and opportunities, and praise.



WE'RE LOYAL TO YOU POKY HIGH

William Harten, Jr., 1939

9 Were lo-yal to you, Po - ky High, We're the Red and the Blue, Po - ky High.
 So give us first palce, Po - ky High, And give us the prize, Po - ky High.

16 We'll back you to stand a-gainst the best in the land for we know you have sand, Po - ky
 Our team is our fame pro-tec - tor. On, on for we ex-pect a vic - t'ry for you, Po - ky

25 High, rah, rah! Che-he che-ha; che-ha ha - ha!!! (Drums) Che-he che-ha; che-ha-ha - ha!!! (Drums)
 High, rah, rah!

33 Po-ky High! Po-ky High! Po-ky High! Bring out that dear old flag of the Red and the Blue. Bring out your

40 sons and daugh - ters fight-ing for you Like men of old, and gi - ants, plac-ing re -

47 li - ance, shout-ing de - fi - ance, Os - ke - ow-wow! mid the sage brush hills that

53 co - ver our land, for hon - est la - bor and for learn-ing we stand, And un - to
 thee we pledge our hearts and hands, dear Al - ma Ma - ter, Po - ky High!



Bill Harten modeled Pocatello High School's new band uniform in the 1939-40 yearbook, *The Pocatellian*.

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While at Pocatello High School Bill assembled some top-notch high school musicians who became known as the “Swing Kings.” They played for dances and other school and civic events, the musicians being also in the school band, orchestra, and symphony. Bill played his cornet, helped find and arrange music (since it was rather scarce), and was also the main singer. The Hawaiian decorations were a precursor to those he would experience during 4 years in Hawaii.

Bill’s high school experiences and his exceptional musical skills put him way ahead of most Navy musicians. He floated to the top of the class and stayed there throughout his high school, and again in his Navy career and later in his civilian life and career. The Navy broadcast news and entertainment for the military stationed throughout the Pacific and at sea. Bill was a star singer and trumpet player for four years of those broadcasts during the war. Some recordings still exist and they are exciting and fun to listen to. His voice was golden and so was his trumpet.



William Harten, Jr. Plays in U.S. Navy Band for Presidential Inauguration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, January 20, 1941

(Several days later from Pocatello Tribune)

Pocatello Boy Plays in Navy Band at Capital

The following letter was received by Mrs. Sarah Harten of 1121 West Young, from her son, Bill Harten, now in Washington, D. C., with the Navy School of Music.

Bill Harten, a well-known trumpet player in Pocatello, graduated from high school last year and enrolled in the Navy School of Music last summer.

Excerpts from the letter are: "Here I am back in the navy's music school after spending three days in the navy hospital with influenza, the first time I ever spent in a hospital.

"I had a big surprise today. I just found out that the band I'm in is going to play for the big White House press conference Saturday at the Willard hotel. The president and Mrs. Roosevelt, Vice President Wallace and every big editor, publisher and reporter in the nation will be there, also several foreign correspondents from London.

"This is especially nice because Saturday, March 15, is my 20th birthday, and I will celebrate it with the President, so to speak. This is the fourth time I have played for the President, the last time being in the inaugural parade and two other times at banquets.

Bill was seeing the world from Capital heights the day following F.D.R.'s Inaugural festivities in Washington, D.C.



Graduate as a Mu 2c, from the U.S. Naval College of Music, April 1941, assigned to the battleship U.S.S. Arizona headed for Pearl Harbor in September, later transferred to USS West Virginia



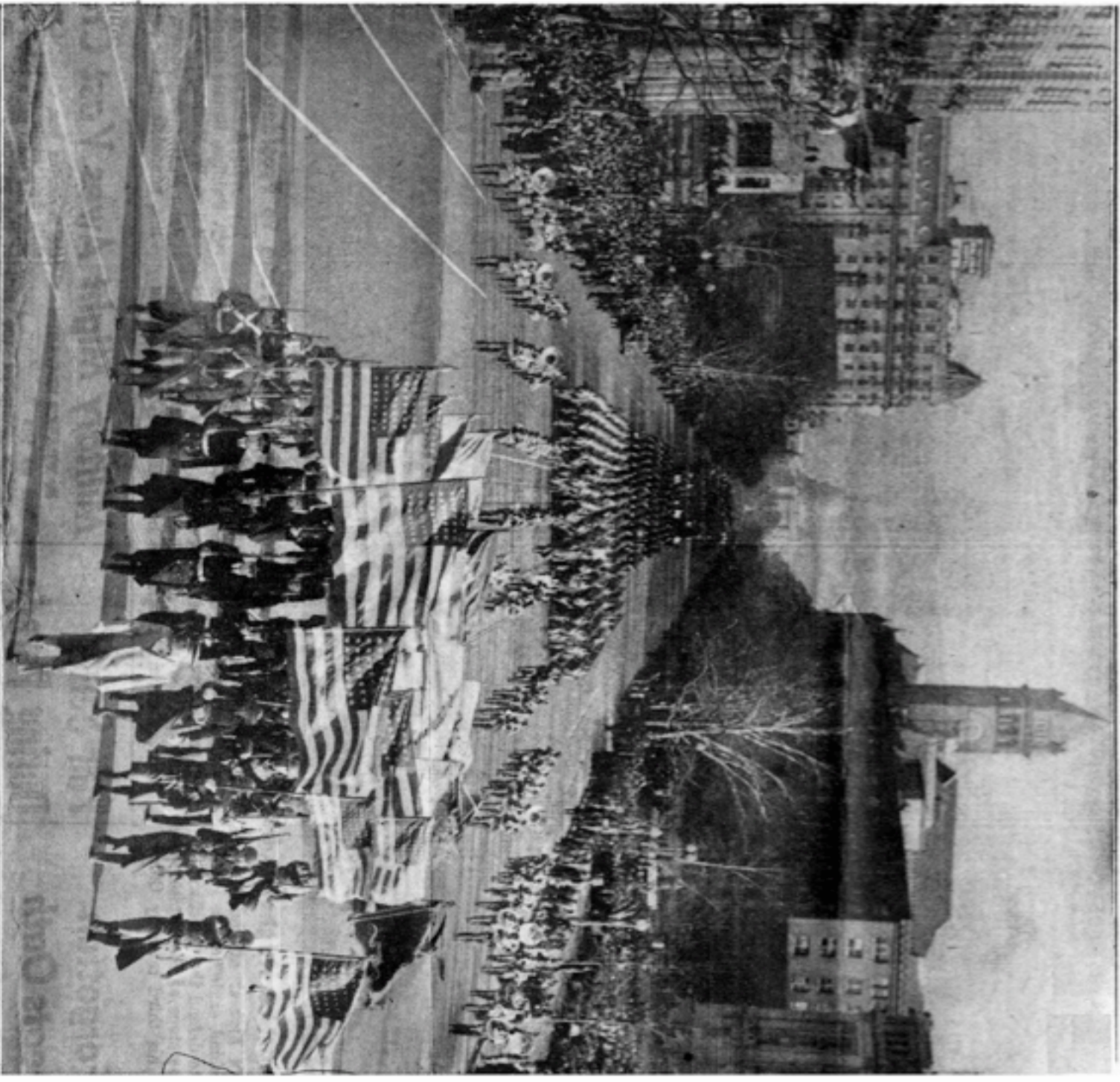
Bill was nearly killed fighting for his country when his ship was sunk during the attack on Pearl Harbor Dec. 7, 1941.



In the lap of Supreme Court Justice John Marshall



Bill Harten on cornet is second from left in band column 3/4 of the way back.



Times-Herald Photo

Capitol Dome Provides Historic Backdrop as Color Guard Heads Up the Avenue

With color guard, composed of flags of every branch of U. S. military service, in the lead—Inaugural parade heads up sunny Pennsylvania Avenue preparatory to making turn at Fifteenth Street and the Treasury Building and thence past reviewing stand at White House. Vast crowds mass both sides of avenue.