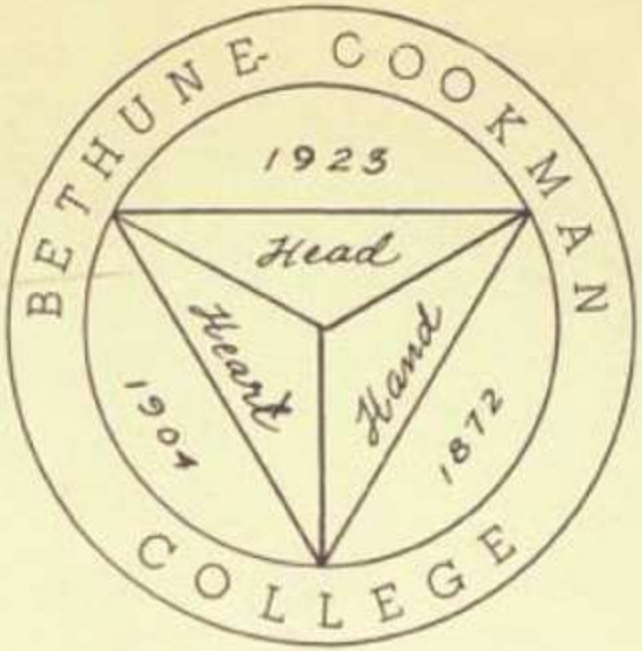
MARCHING ALUMNI

of BETHUNE-COOKMAN

OUR HISTORY



Seek to Be An Artist
Cease to Be a Drudge

Band Directors

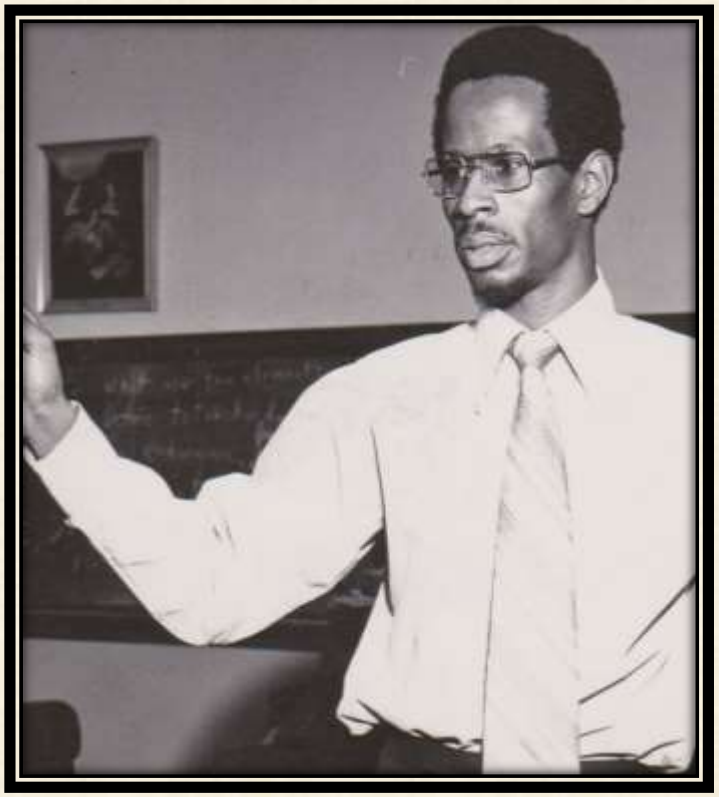
Wilhelm Sykes

Alexander Valentine

George Holland

Jimmie Carter

L. Allen Pyke



Dr. Harold A. Bray Jr.

Dr. Harold A. Bray Jr., attended public school in Lakes Charles in Calcasieu Parish. He graduated from Grambling State University in 1969 with a bachelor of science in music education. He received his Master of Music Education from Vandercook College of Music in Chicago, Ill., in 1976. In 1994, he was awarded the Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the American Conservatory of Music in Chicago. In the 1970s, Dr. Bray worked for the Chicago Board of Education as a music teacher and director of bands, where his band was invited and performed at the Inaugural Parade in Washington D.C., for President Jimmy Carter. He was also chairman of the Chicago Vocational Music Department. He was once an Oak Lawn Jazz finalist and his bands received superior ratings during the Chicago Public School music festivals for eight consecutive years. Bray assumed the post of band director at Bethune-Cookman College in 1982. He embedded his philosophy of order, discipline and excellence. As Director of College Bands at BCC, he administered a total program that included the following: marching band, symphonic band, jazz band, steel drum ensemble, and woodwind ensemble. For years, the BCC band was all male and was known as "The Marching Men," but Dr. Bray believed that the band should be opened to all students. This resulted in many females trying out and the band became known as "The Marching Wildcats." A flag corps of females was then organized and, finally, the 14K Gold Dancers were added to the delight of many. The band doubled in size and earned a national showmanship reputation. He was a member of the College Band Directors National Association, National Band Directors Association, Florida Band Directors Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity, and Alabama Band Directors Association.

Samuel C. Berry

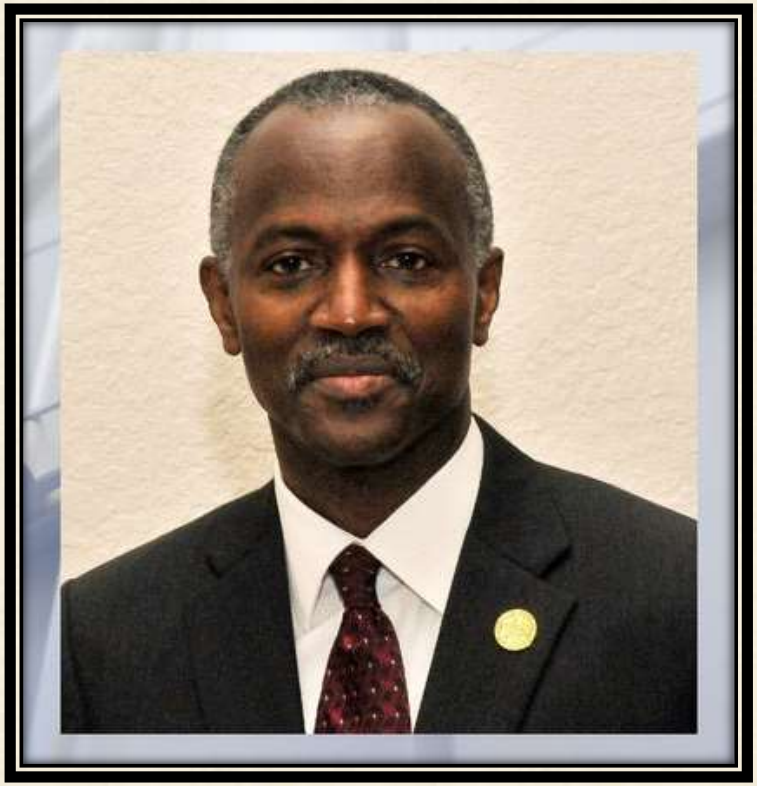
A native of Washington D.C. Berry became the director of bands at B-CC in 1970. He received a bachelor's degree in Music Education from Florida A&M University and received a master's degree in Music education from the University of Illinois. Instruments he played included the trumpet, baritone, trombone, and saxophone.

Directing the high school bands in Florida and Georgia, which began his professional career, he received many superior ratings for both marching and concert performances.

While holding the title as Director of Bands at Bethune, he acknowledged in 1972 as outstanding Faculty Member of the year and received the Mary McLeod Bethune Medallion in 1975.

Berry originated and managed the rick band "Fusion" in Daytona. Named the best rock group in Florida, they were the winners of a statewide competition. The group also made an appearance on the "Midnight Special" Program.

A member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and charter member of Kappa Kappa Psi he was affiliated with many other activities including the Florida Band Masters Association, the College Band Directors National Association, and the Music Educators National Conference.



Dr. Hiram Powell

Dr. Powell, who graduated in 1976 from B-CU with a bachelor's degree in Music Education, currently serves as Dean of Performing Arts and Communications and has worked at the university since 1977.

During his time at B-CU he has served as Interim Provost and Vice President of Institutional Advancement. Dr. Powell has also served as Dean of Graduate Studies and as Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Powell began his career at B-CU in 1980 as an Associate Director of Bands/Arranger and ultimately became Chair of the Music Department after other roles that included Assistant Director of Bands and Band Director. He earned his Master of Fine Arts in Music Theory from the University of Florida, followed by his Ph.D. in Music Theory in 1992 from Florida State University.

Powell has had a lifetime of engagement in the arts that includes service on the boards of Arts for a Complete Education/Florida Alliance for Arts Education, Florida Music Educators Association, Florida International Festival, Daytona Beach Community Cultural Foundation and most recently Atlantic Center for the Arts, Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and the Pabst-Steinmetz Foundation.

Powell is a three-time Associate Artist at Atlantic Center for the Arts where he studied with the renowned jazz composer and violinist Leroy, jazz great David Baker and female Cuban born composer and international conductor Tania Leon. Powell served for more than a decade as a Distinguished Adjudicator for Festival Disney and his awards and recognitions include The Silver Knight Award, Faculty Member of the Year (B-CU) and Outstanding Musicianship Award (UF).

James Poitier graduated in 1977 from Bethune-Cookman College with a bachelor's degree in Music Education.

He currently serves as Assistant Director of Bands at the University and is a member of Kappa Kappa Psi Fraternity.

James Poitier

Dr. Donovan V. Wells

Dr. Donovan V. Wells is a 1984 graduate of Bethune-Cookman College and a 1995 graduate of Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia. Wells served as Band Director at various high schools in the Hampton Roads area of Southeastern Virginia where his bands won numerous state and national awards. Wells has served as guest conductor, clinician, keynote speaker and adjudicator for high schools and institutions throughout the East Coast of the United States. Wells came to Bethune-Cookman University in 1996 as Assistant Director of Bands. Since becoming Director of College Bands at Bethune-Cookman University, the band program has taken on a new spirit of excellence. Wells supervises the productivity and recruitment of the marching, concert, and symphonic Bands. The Marching Wildcats is comprised of 300-plus band members and is ranked as one of the top performing collegiate bands in the nation.

Under Wells' direction, the Marching Wildcats, recognized as "The Heartbeat of B-CU" have achieved the following performance highlights: The Marching Wildcats have performed nationally on NBC, BET, ESPN, UPN, MTV Super Bowl Special, opening ceremonies for the Daytona 500, NBA Halftimes, EA Sports 2005 and 2006, NCAA Football, ABC Walt Disney World Christmas Special 2003, 2004 and 2005; Honda HBCU Invitational Showcase for a record 13 years, NFL halftime performances for the Jacksonville Jaguars, Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Miami Dolphins, the nationally-televised "Ellen Degeneres Show" and had a guest appearance in the 20th Century Fox film, Drumline.

The Marching Wildcats were featured in a commercial for the 2006 Cadillac DTS. The NFL selected the Marching Wildcats to perform pre-game for the 2009 Super Bowl in Tampa, Florida and the halftime entertainment for the 2010 Pro Bowl in Miami, Florida.

Major League Baseball invited the Marching Wildcats to Los Angeles, California in February 2009, 2010 and 2011 to perform for the MLB Urban Sports Initiative. ESPN featured the Marching Wildcats and Mr. Wells in the reality TV show called the "The Battle," which aired six 30-minute episodes during the 2010 football season.

Wells is a native of Smithfield, Virginia, and is the son of the late Rev. & Mrs. P. D. Wells, Jr. also of Smithfield, Virginia. The Marching Wildcats auxiliary units consist of the Sophisticat Flag Corp and the nationally known 14KT Gold Dancers. The Marching Wildcats' legacy continues as the band strives to bring the finest in halftime performances to viewing audiences.

1948

1948

1948

DRILL TEAM

1950

HALF TIME

MAJORETTES

Roslyn Hodgins
Delores Jordan
Susan North
Carol Lawrence
Lillian Slater

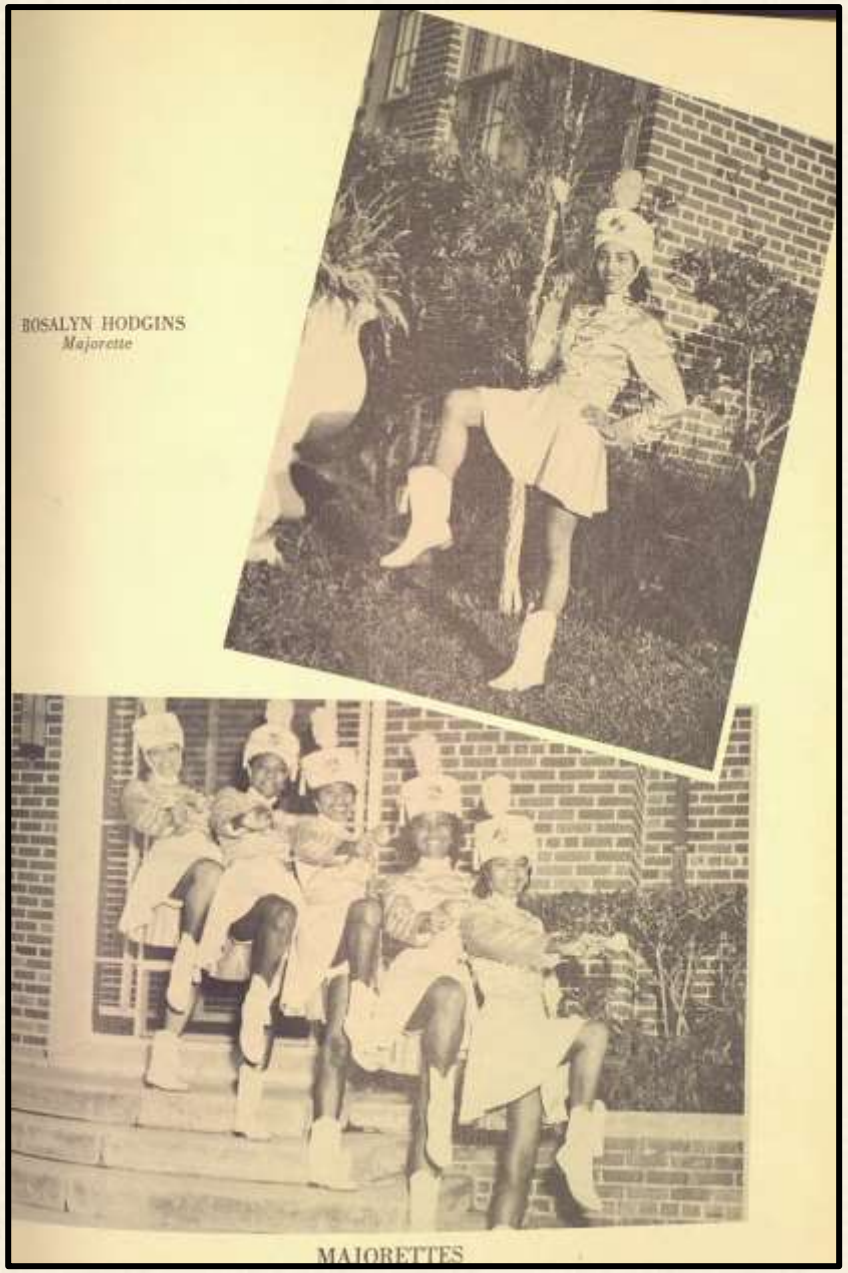
Performers

BAND ROSTER

James Borders	Toy Lee Coles	William Jackson	Otis McWilson	Henderson Witherspoon
Claude Jackson	Mary Williams	Robert Curtis	Alexander Valentine Jr.	Willie Sims
James Maxwell	Helen Oliver	Lucius Glymp	James Radford	Johnnie L. Broome
Robert Stokes	Winifred Edwards	Rosalyn Hodgins	Larry Clarke	Bonnie Newbold
Bettye Summers	Cynthia Smith	Charles Monroe	Icephine Ivey	Ida Mae Johnson
Zell Bogus	Stephen Gary	Louise Flemings	Estavan Mummings	Ralph Shepard
Joe Smith	Eva Richardson	Edward Desmore	Evangeline White	Evelyn Badger
Claudell Polite	Nathaniel Thomas	Walter Beard	Rita Jones	Mary Black
Ray Borders	James Robinson	Fannie McLaughin	Theodore Branwell	Georgia Moore
Bill Graham	Emma D. Norris	Henry Wilson	Jonathan Thurston	Louis Rizor

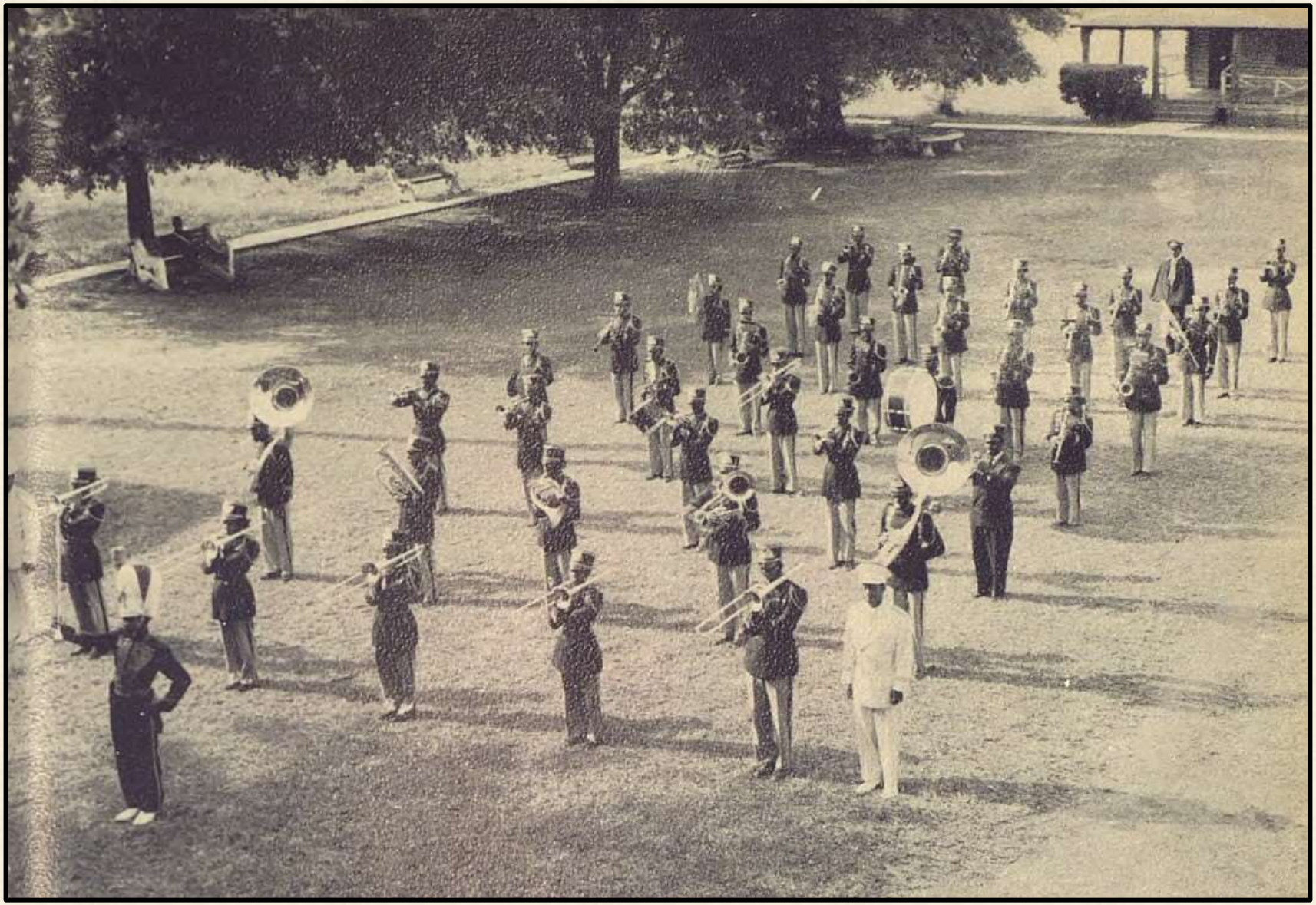
Mr. Alexander Valentine—*Director*

1951

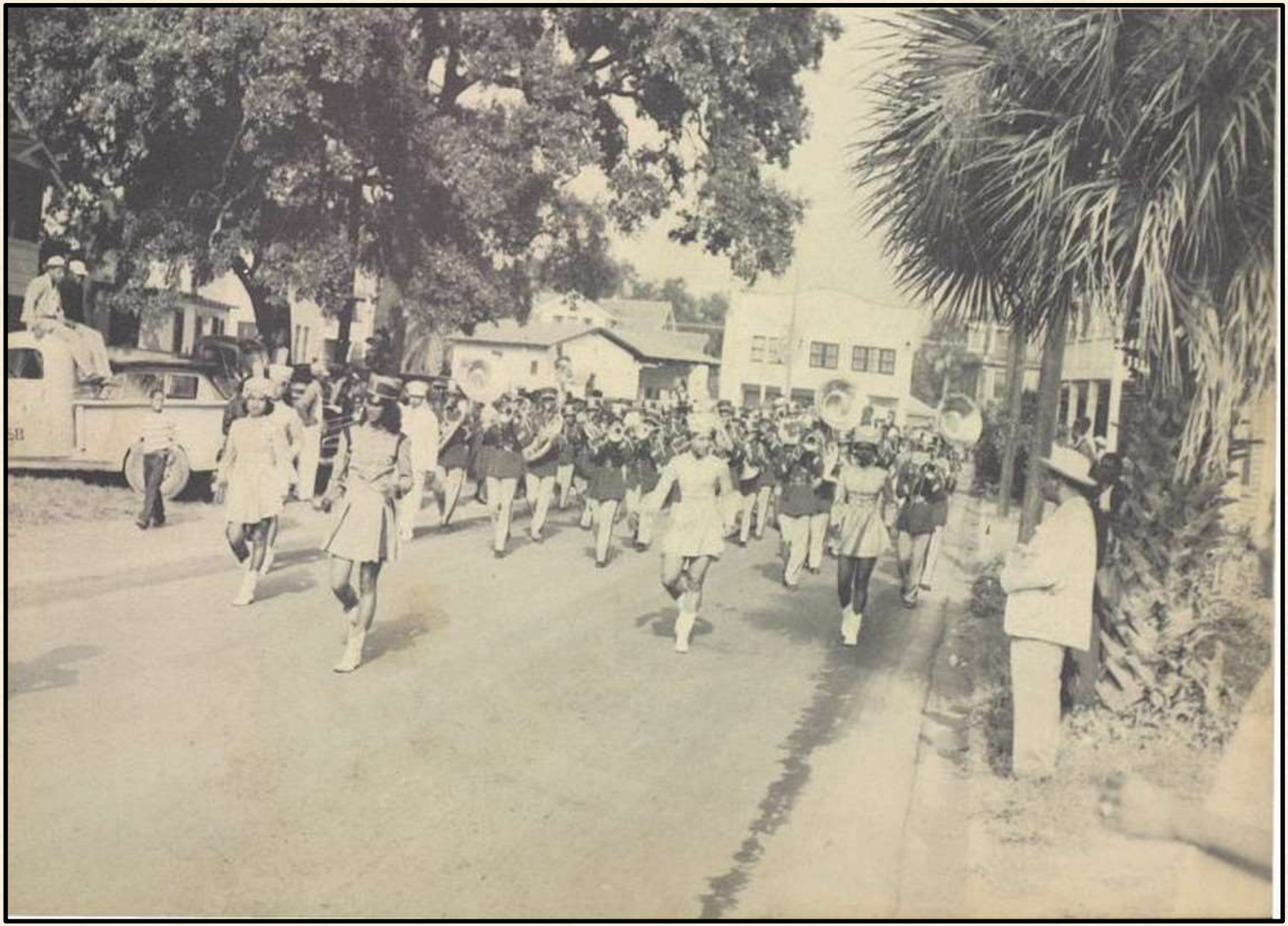


1951

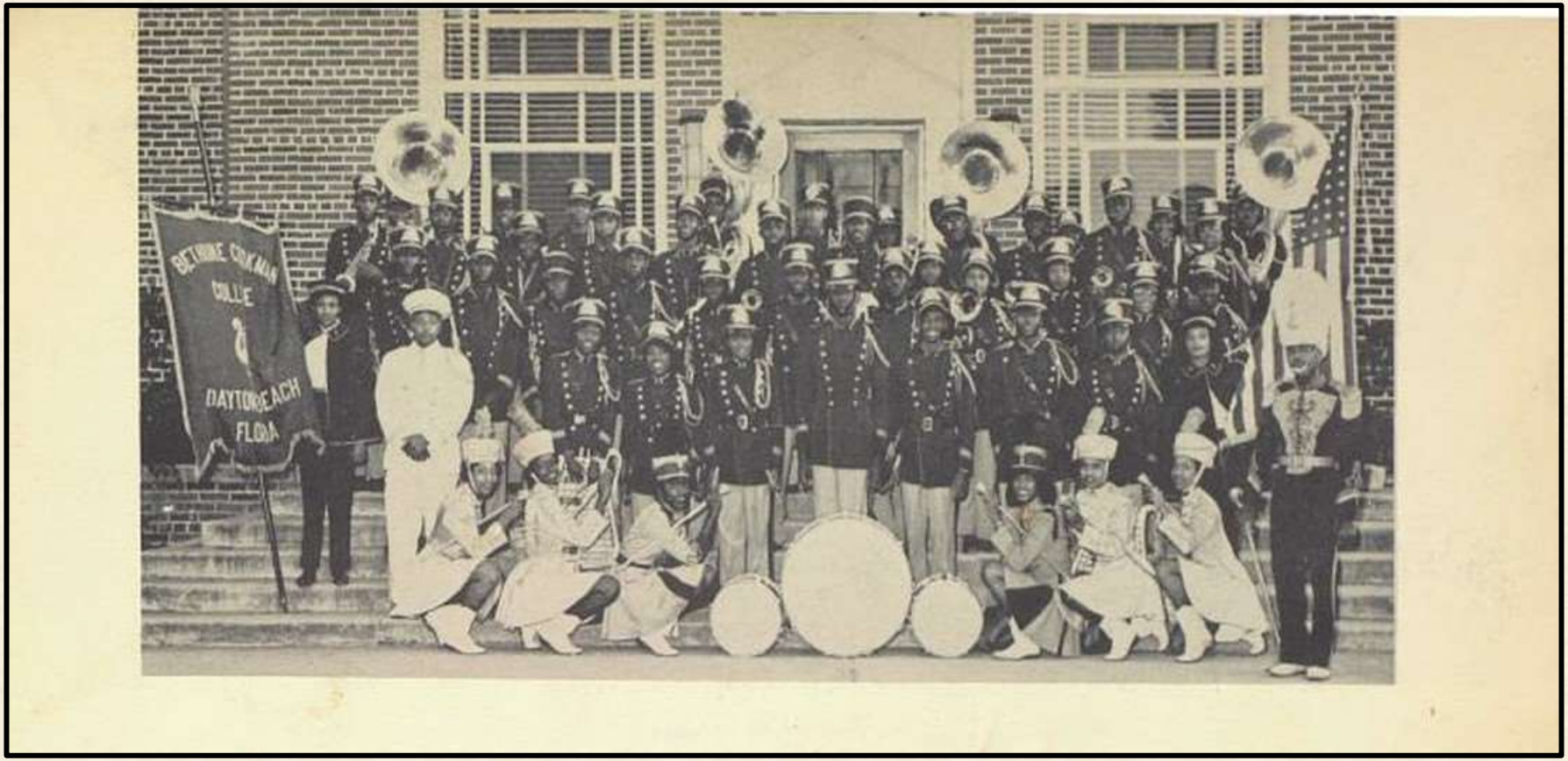
1953



1954



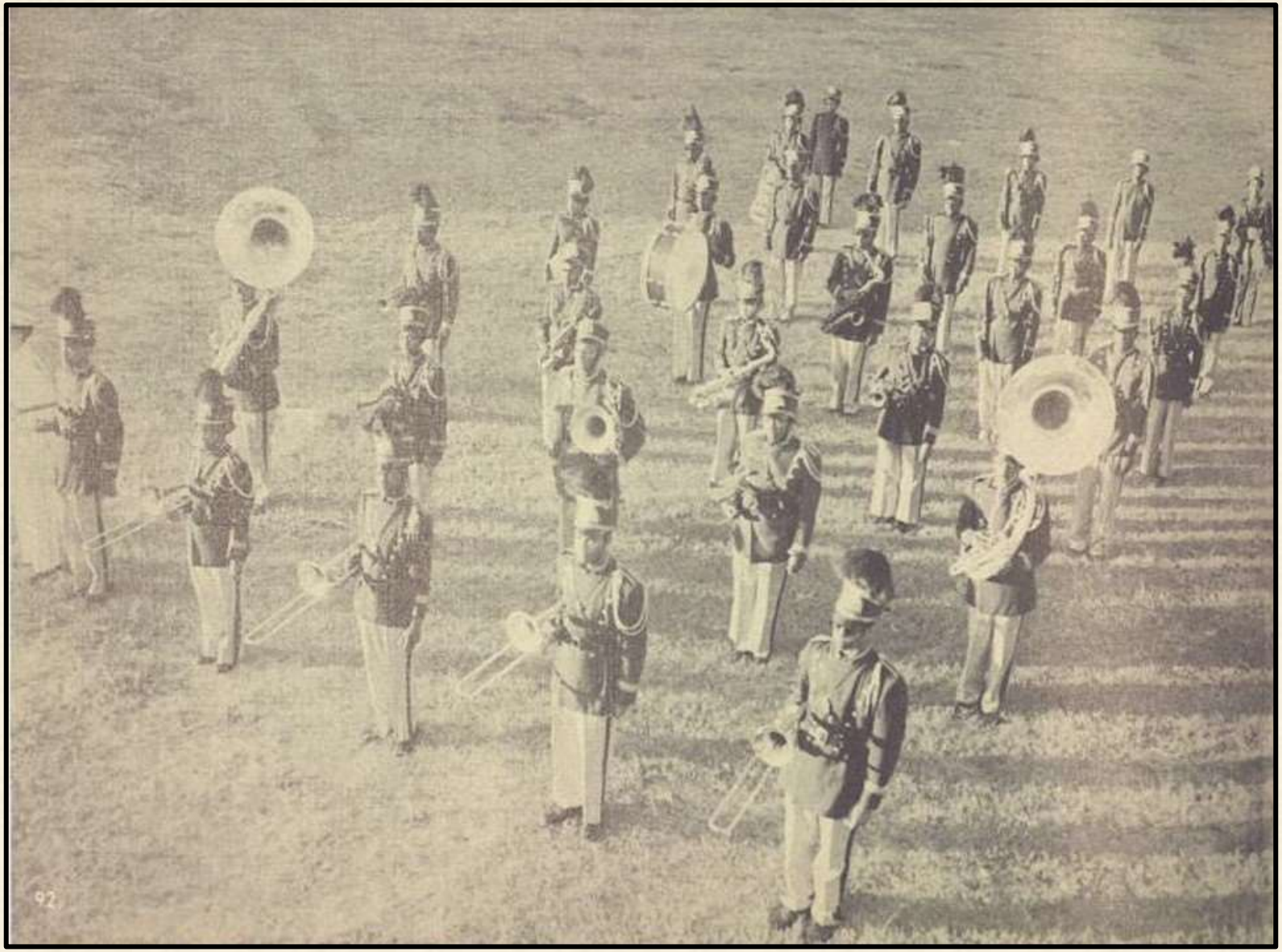
1954



1954

Ralph Sullivan receives the trophy for the B.C.C. Collegians from Herbert Wright for being the most popular college band in America.

1955



1957

1958

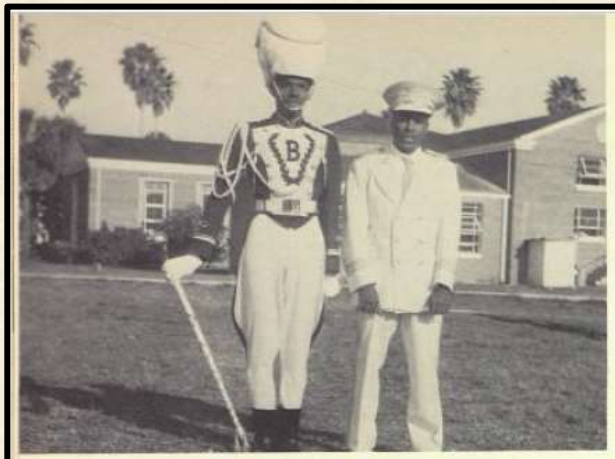
1958

1962

Pep squad leads B-CC band in Jacksonville parade.

1962

MARCHING WILDCATS



FROM LEFT: Daniel White, *Drum Major;* Mr. A. Jimmie Carter, *Band Director.*

SAXOPHONES — FIRST ROW, From Left: Syrus Alston, Betty Kinsey, Vertez Burks, Mildred Thomas. HORNS — BACK ROW: James Smith, Timothy Adams, Eugene Weaver, Fannie Perry, Robert Smith.

CLARINETS — FIRST ROW, From Left: Emma Jackson, Dottie Dabney, Brenda Baxter, Lottie Dabney, Rosa Lee Ingram. BACK ROW: Theodore Johnson, Freddie King, Issac James, Beatrice General, James Bartley.

BASS HORNS — BACK TO FRONT: Howard Ferguson, Calvin Watts, Aloyde Smith, Noble Burney.

1962

Head Drum Major Daniel White

The Band played On

1962

TROMBONES — FIRST ROW, From Left: Eugene Jones, Samuel McCleary, Edward James, David Russell.

TRUMPETS — BACK ROW: Rodney Thompson, Patricia Cates, Charles Waldron, Robert Jenkins.

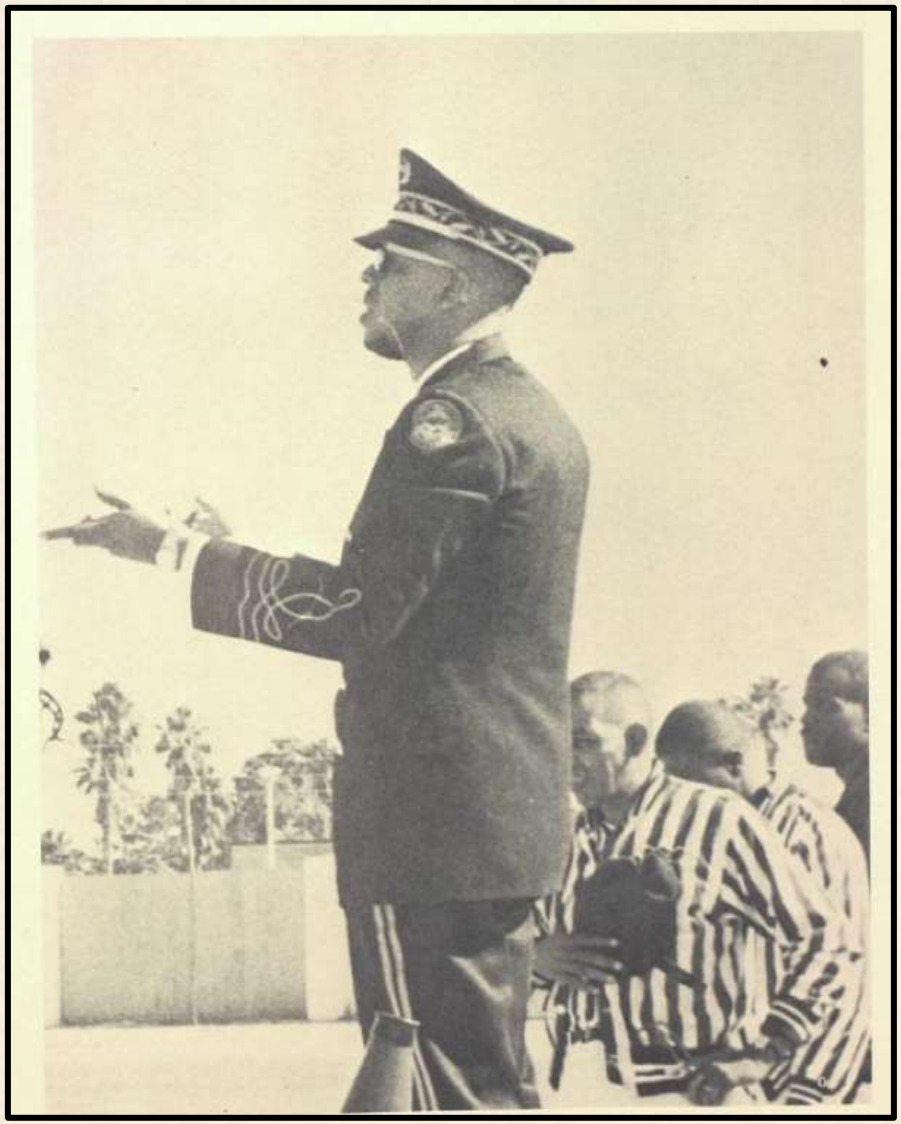
PERCUSSION — FROM LEFT: John Lord, Tracy Whitehead, Al K. Matthews, Joseph Perry, Priscilla Fields, Inez Ivey, James Furlow, Lester Jackson, Daniel Johnson.

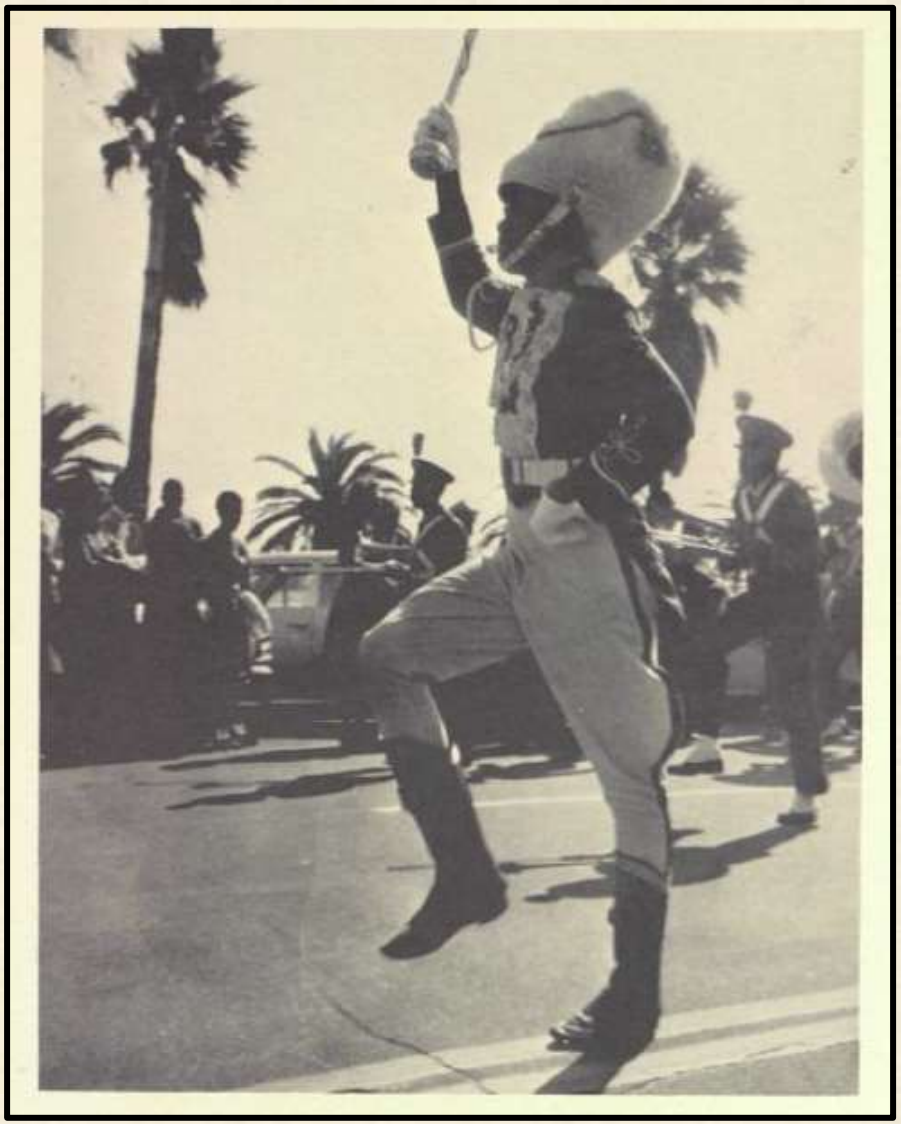
1964

1964

1964

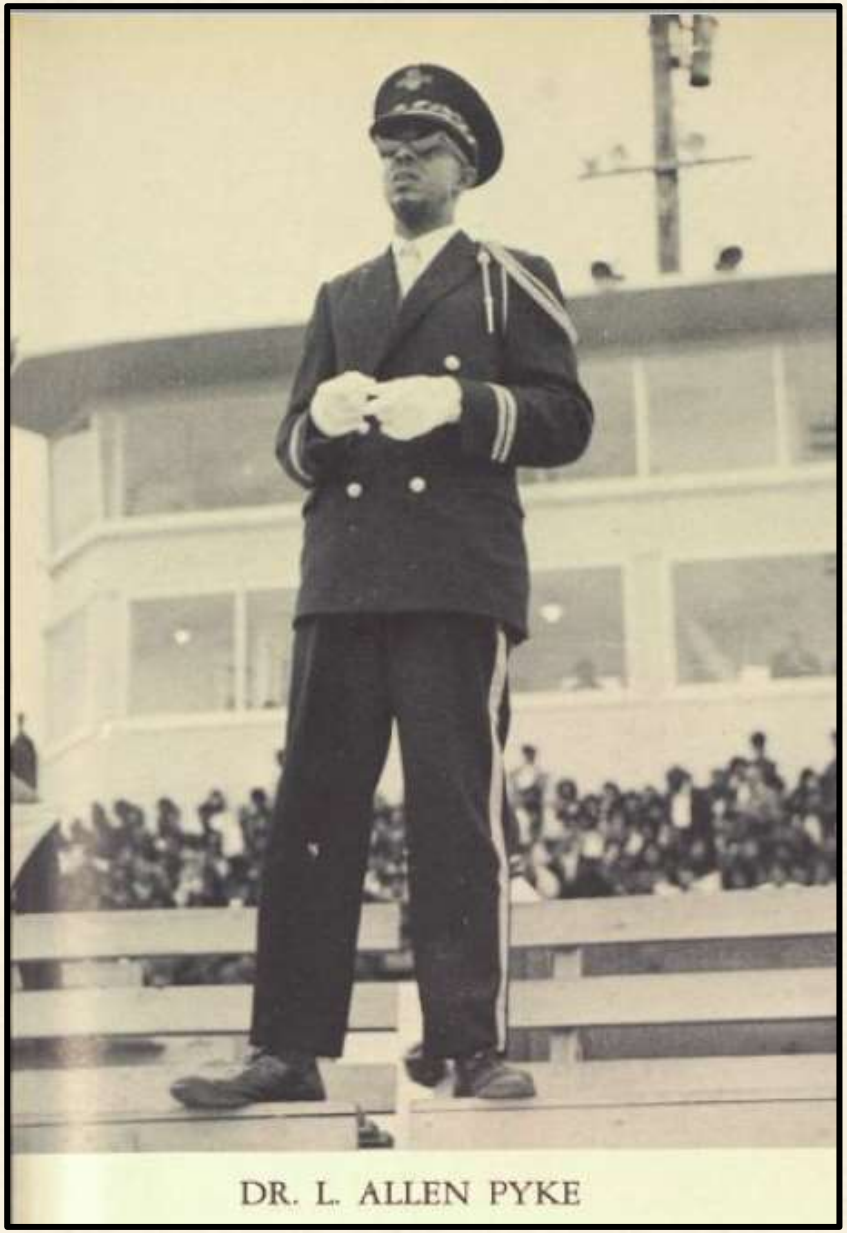
1964





1964

1965



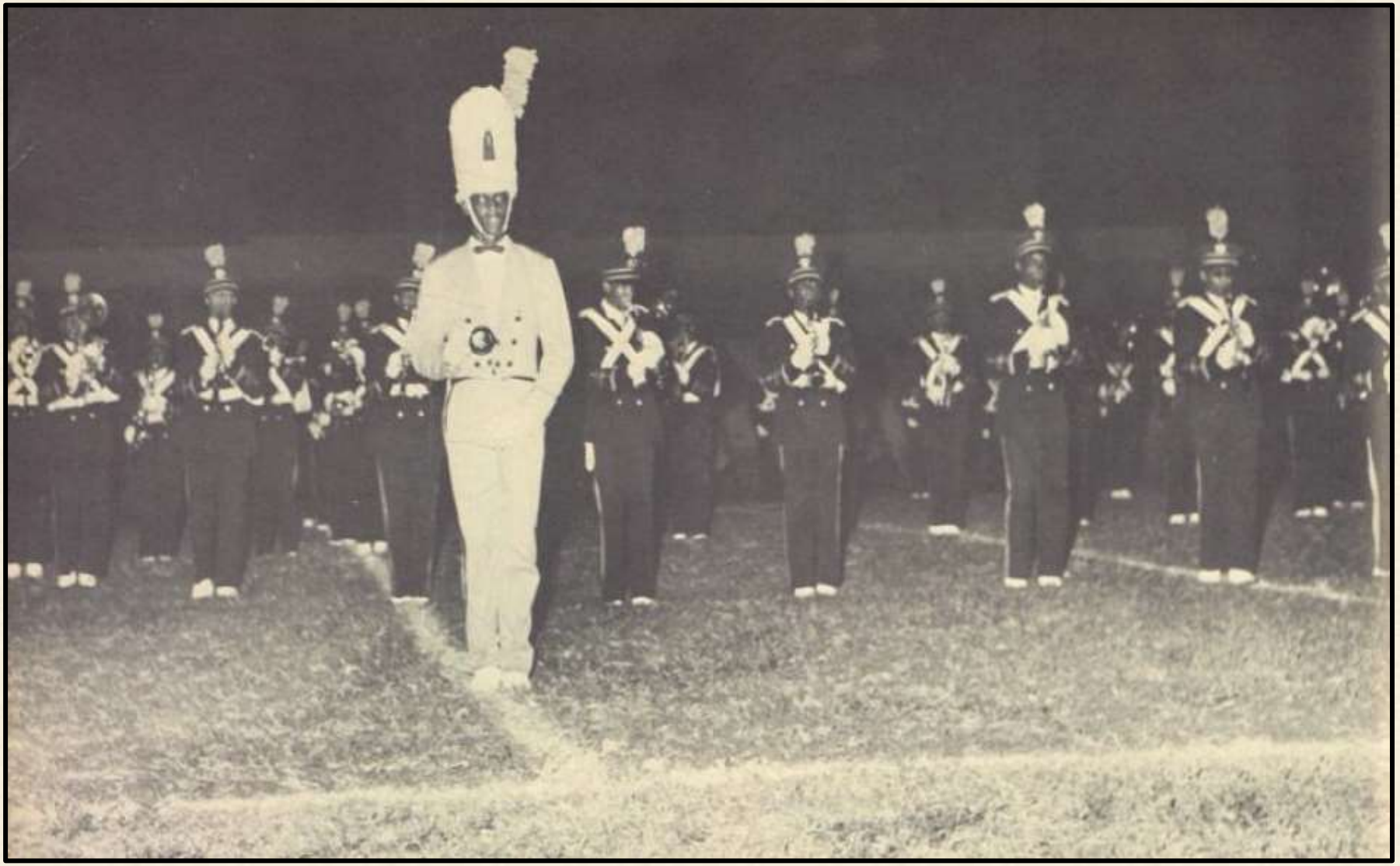
DR. L. ALLEN PYKE

1965

THE BAND IS UNDER
THE LEADERSHIP . . . . . .

. . . BILLY LONG

1965



1965

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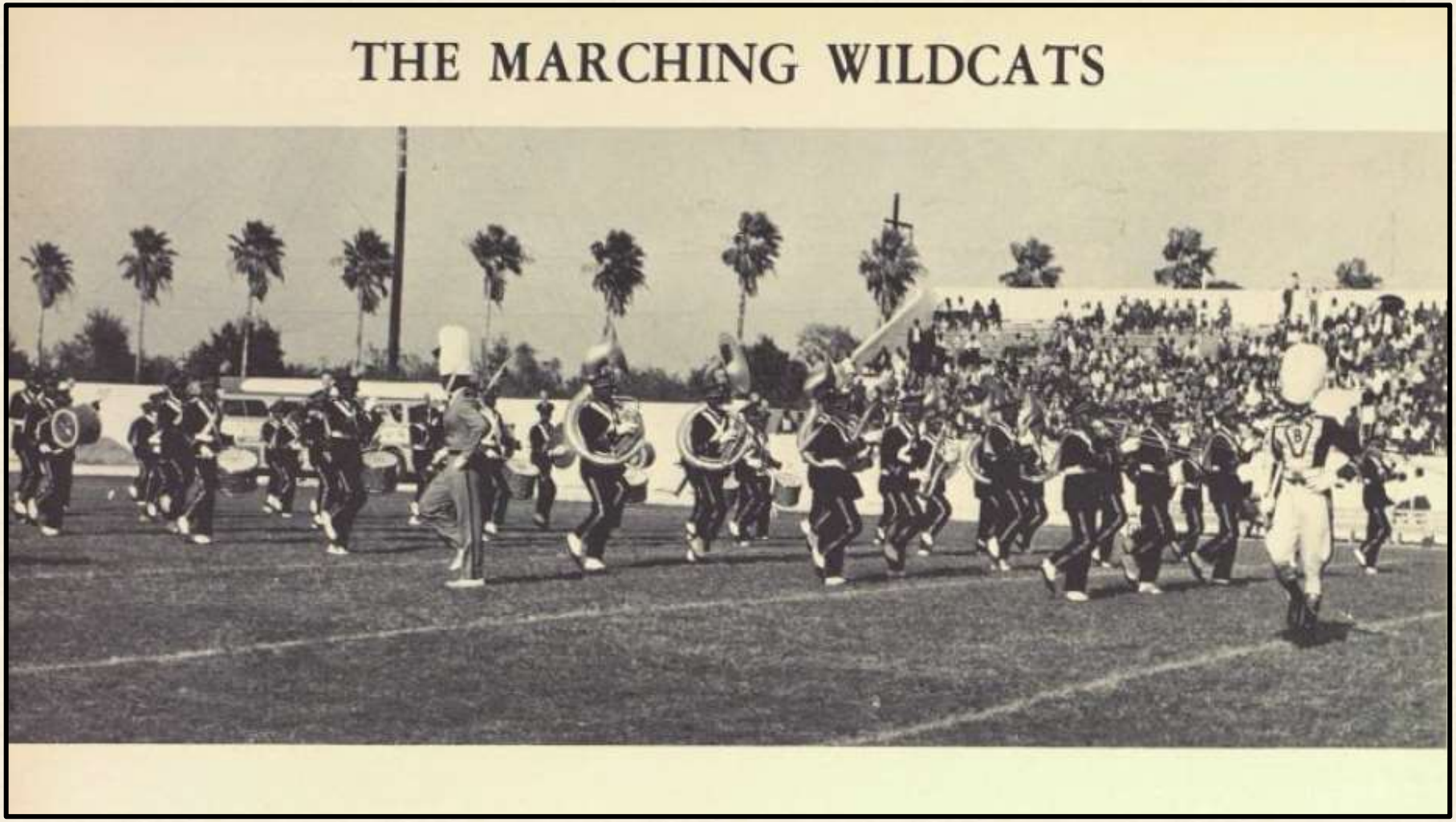


1966

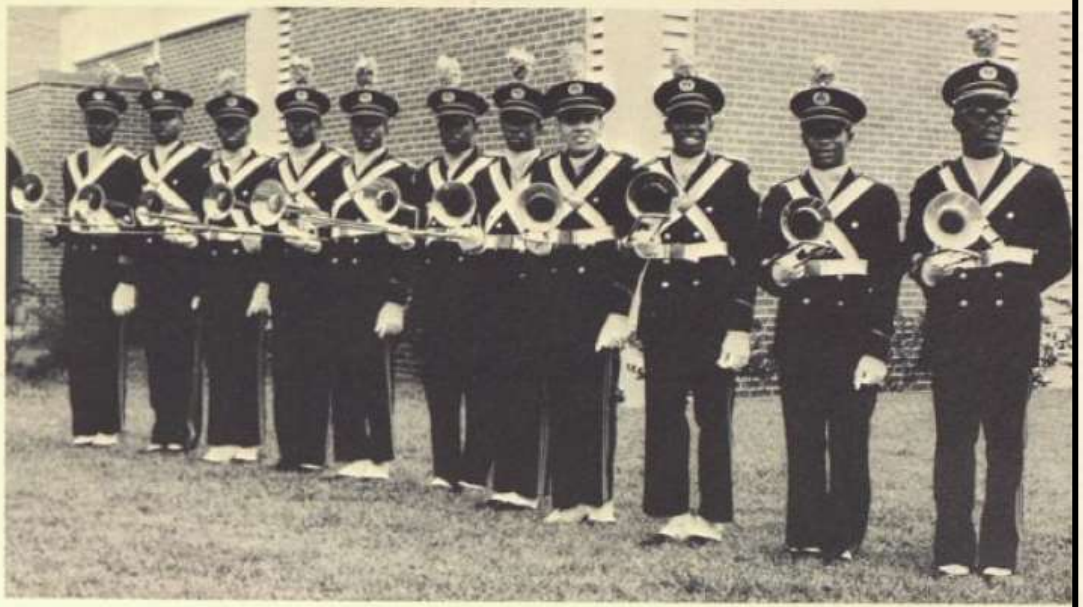
1966

1966

DR. L. ALLEN PYKE
Conductor

1966

he harmony and
ethune-Cookman
he melodious trom-



1966

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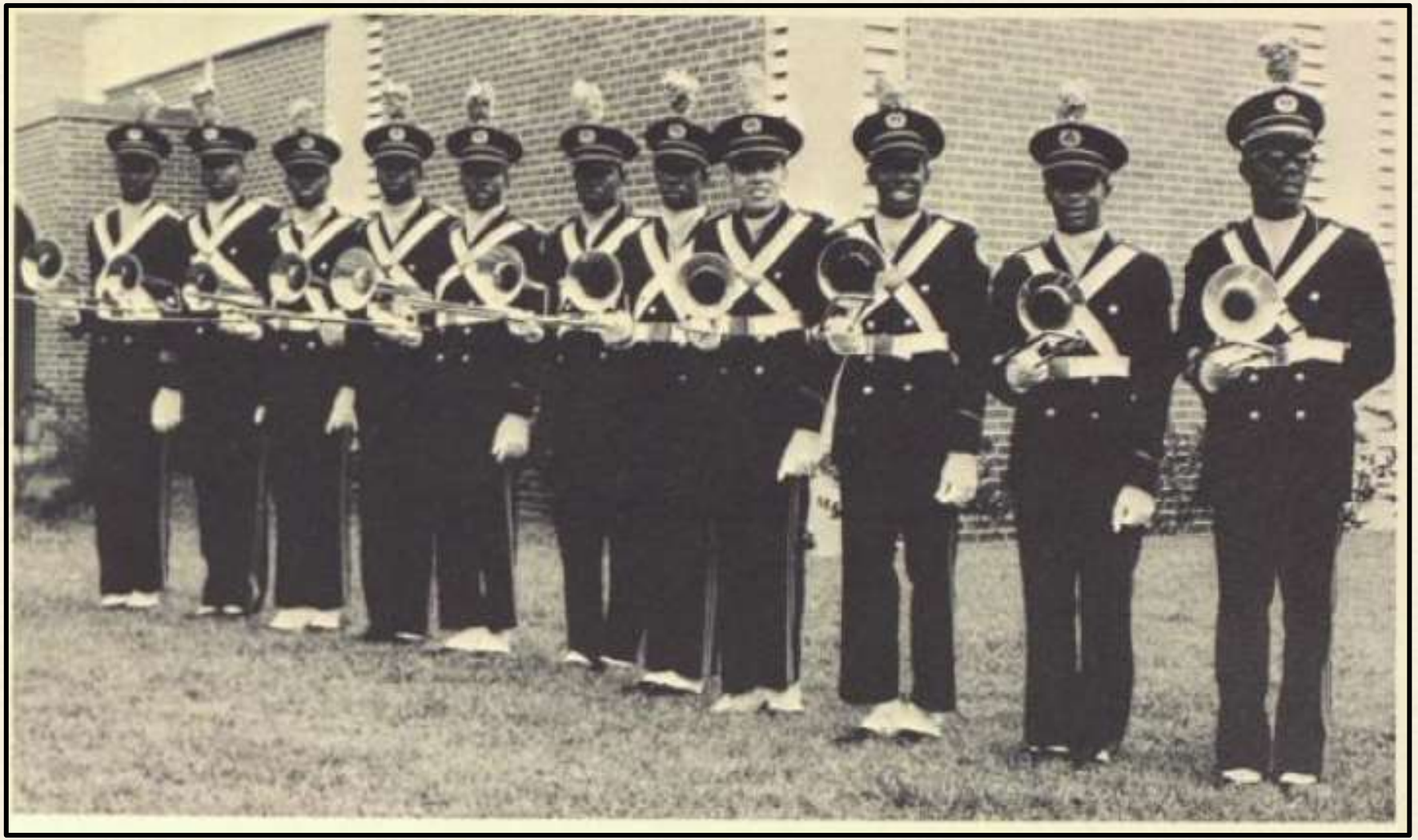


1966

1966

1966

1966

• • •

MISS GOLDEN GIRL
MICKEY KING

1967

Twirling Specialist, ALBERT HART

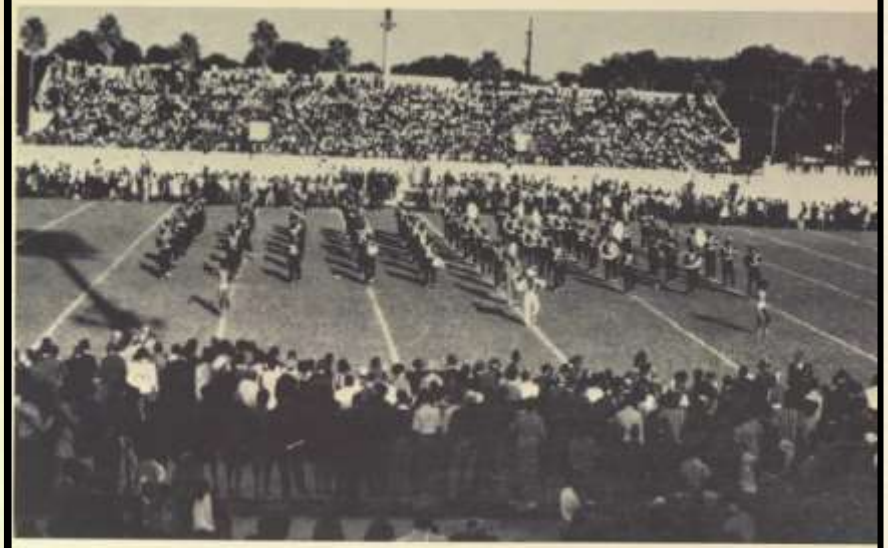
THE MARCHING MEN . . .

DR. L. ALLEN PYKE
Conductor

. . . OF COOKMAN

1967

THE PRACTICE FIELD
IS THE
SOURCE
OF . . .



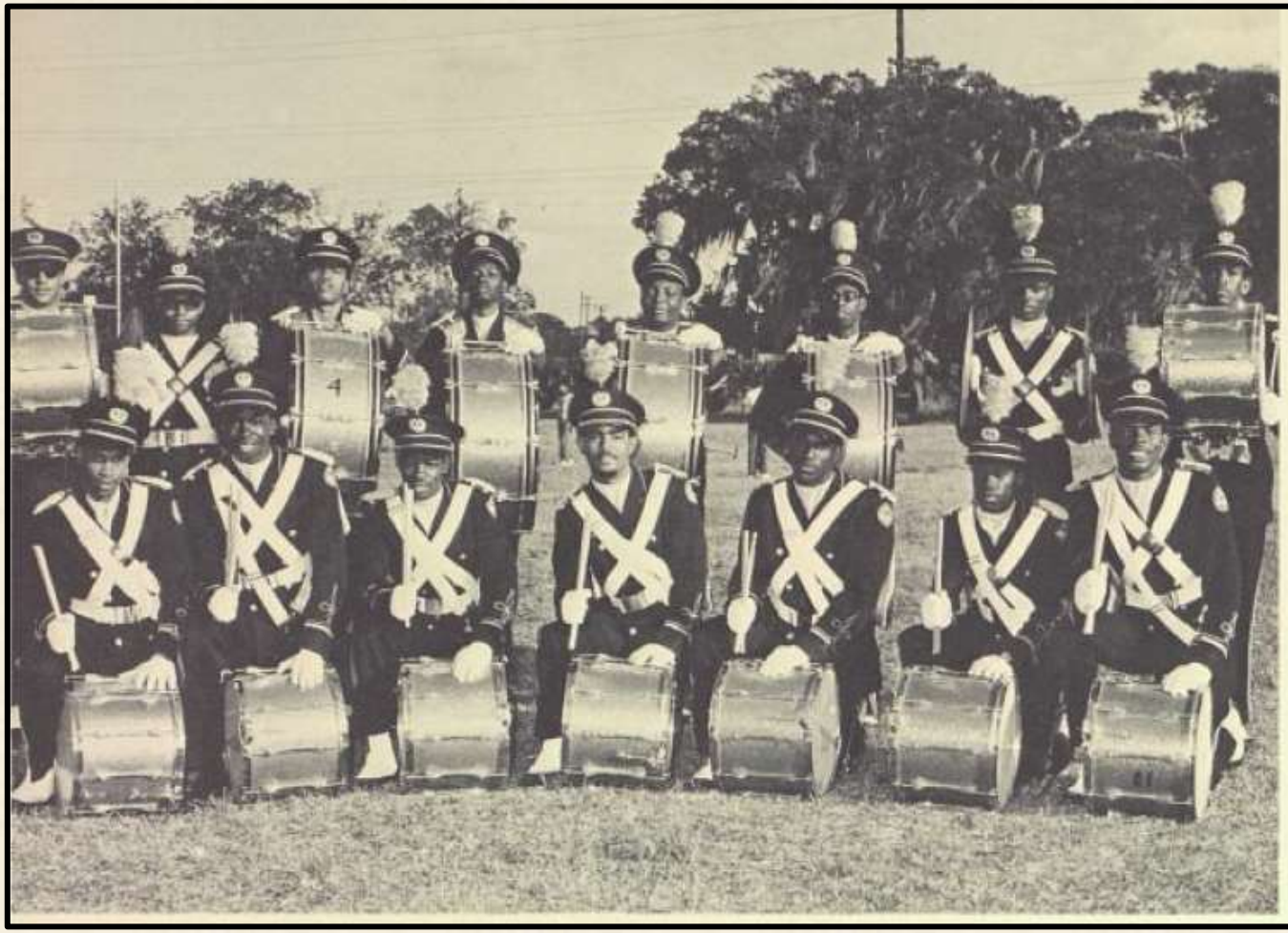
. . . PERFORMANCE PRECISION

1968

Saxophone Section

FROM LEFT:
Forrest Parson
Horace Martin
Elihu Brayboy II
Charles Coleman
Robert Simmons, Jr.
James B. Taylor, Jr.
Vonzell Harrell

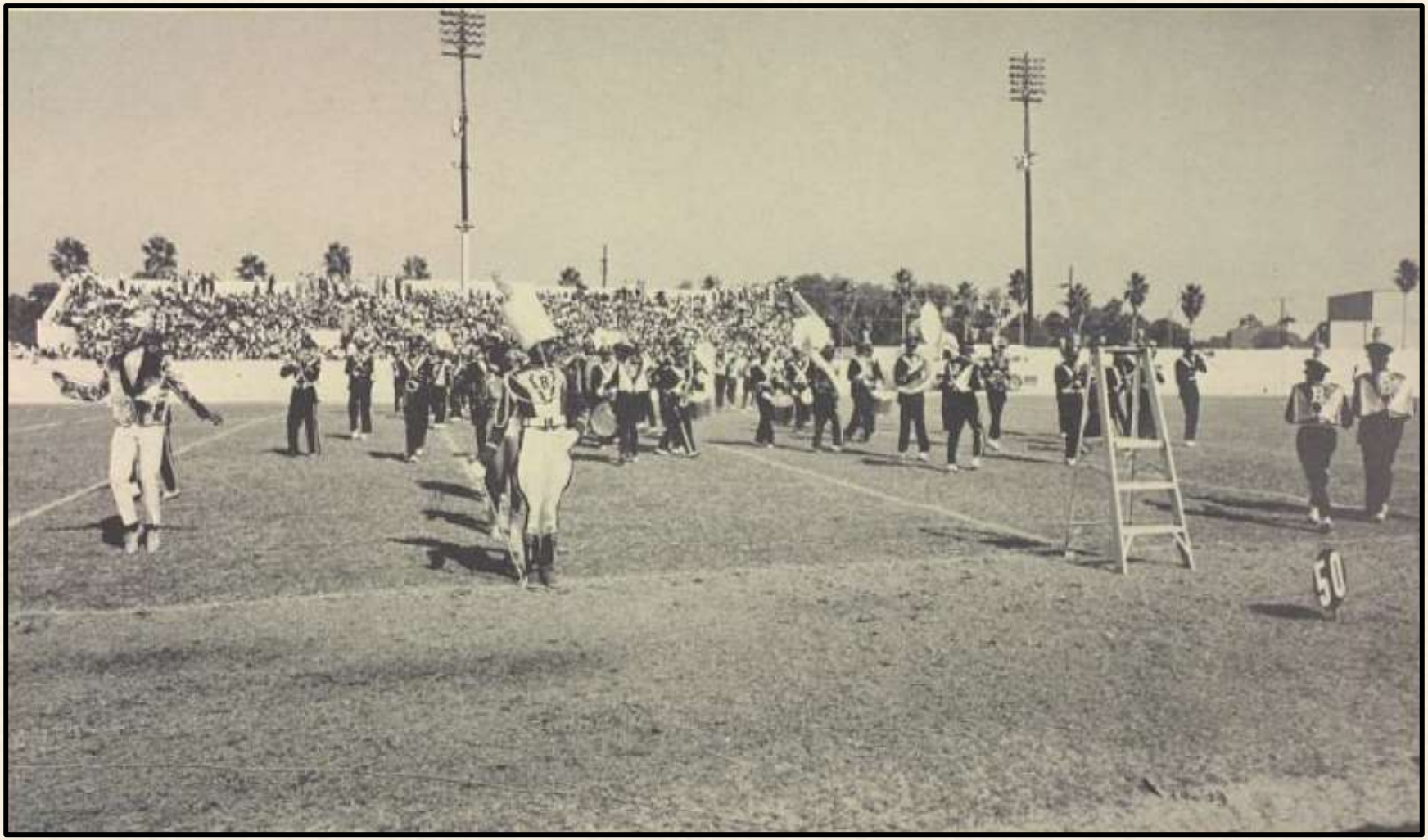
1968



Drum Section

KNEELING:
Willie Lawrence
John Livington
John Edwards
Gregory Banks
Alfred Thomas
Leon Nichols
Larry Williams
STANDING:
George Schank
John Goodbread
Ben Freeman
James Wallace
Freddie Mitchell, Jr.
Otis Harris
Winston Griffin

1968



1968

1968

1968

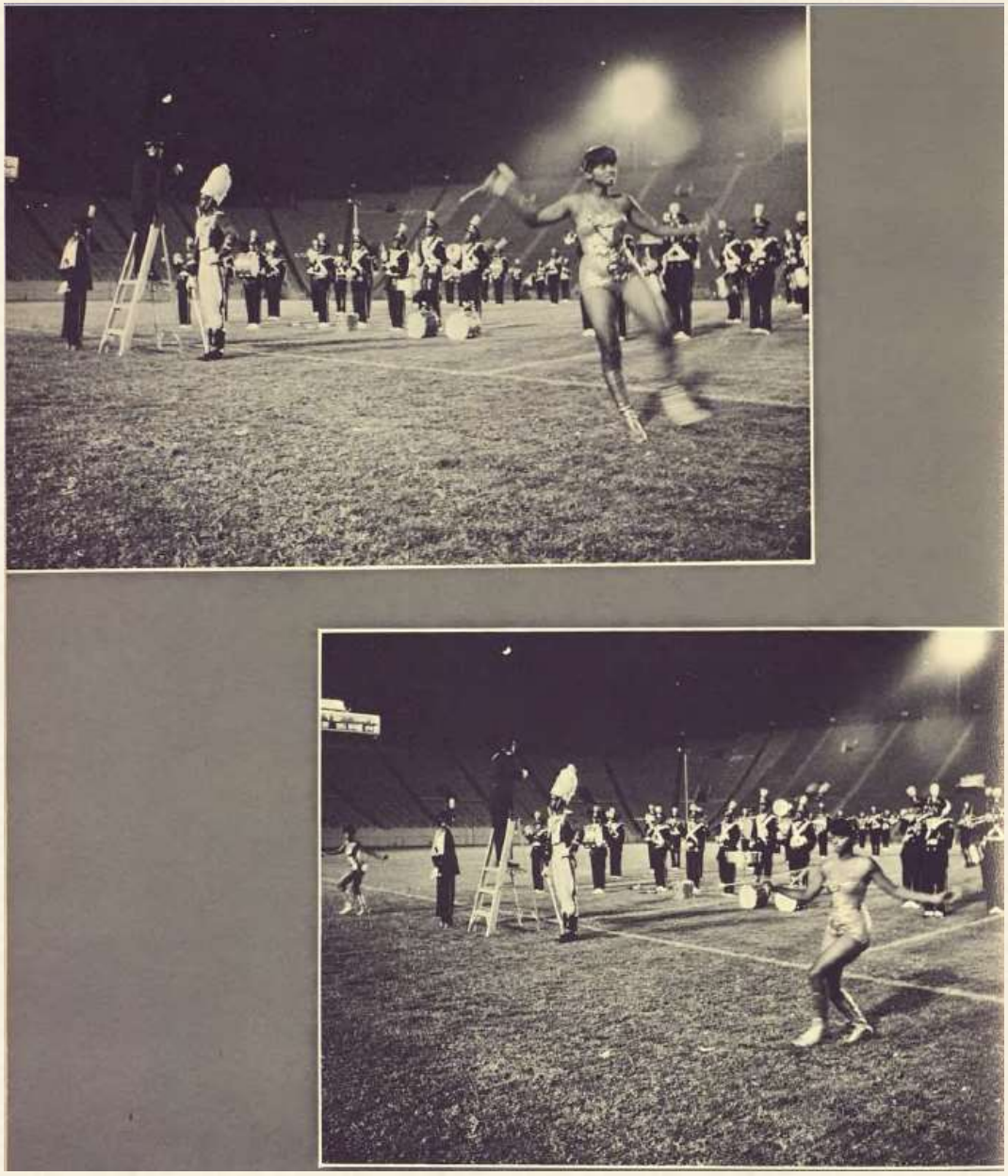
Head Drum Major

Ernest Wright

1969

1969

1969



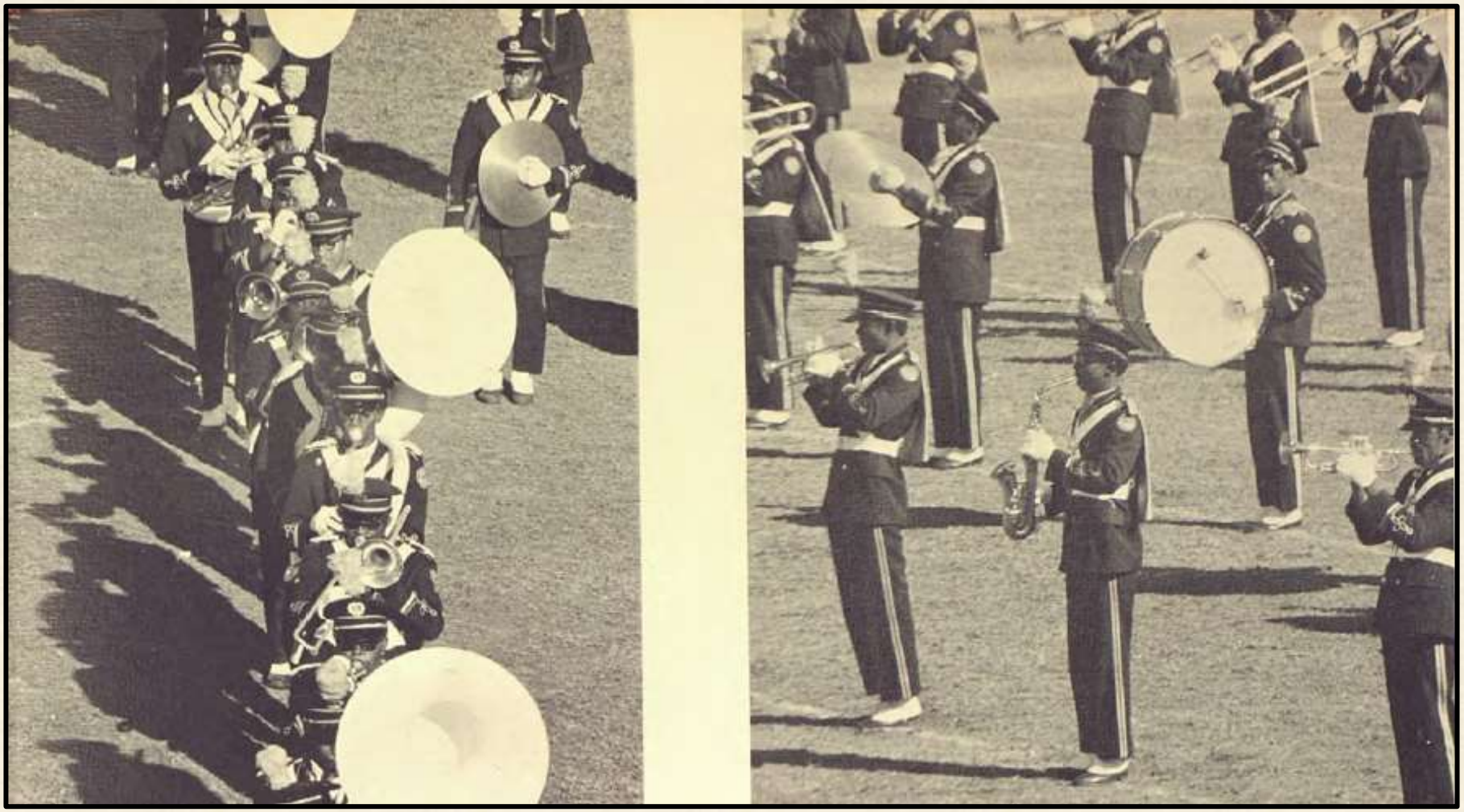
1969

The Marching Men . . . . . of Cookman

1970

The Marching Men

1970



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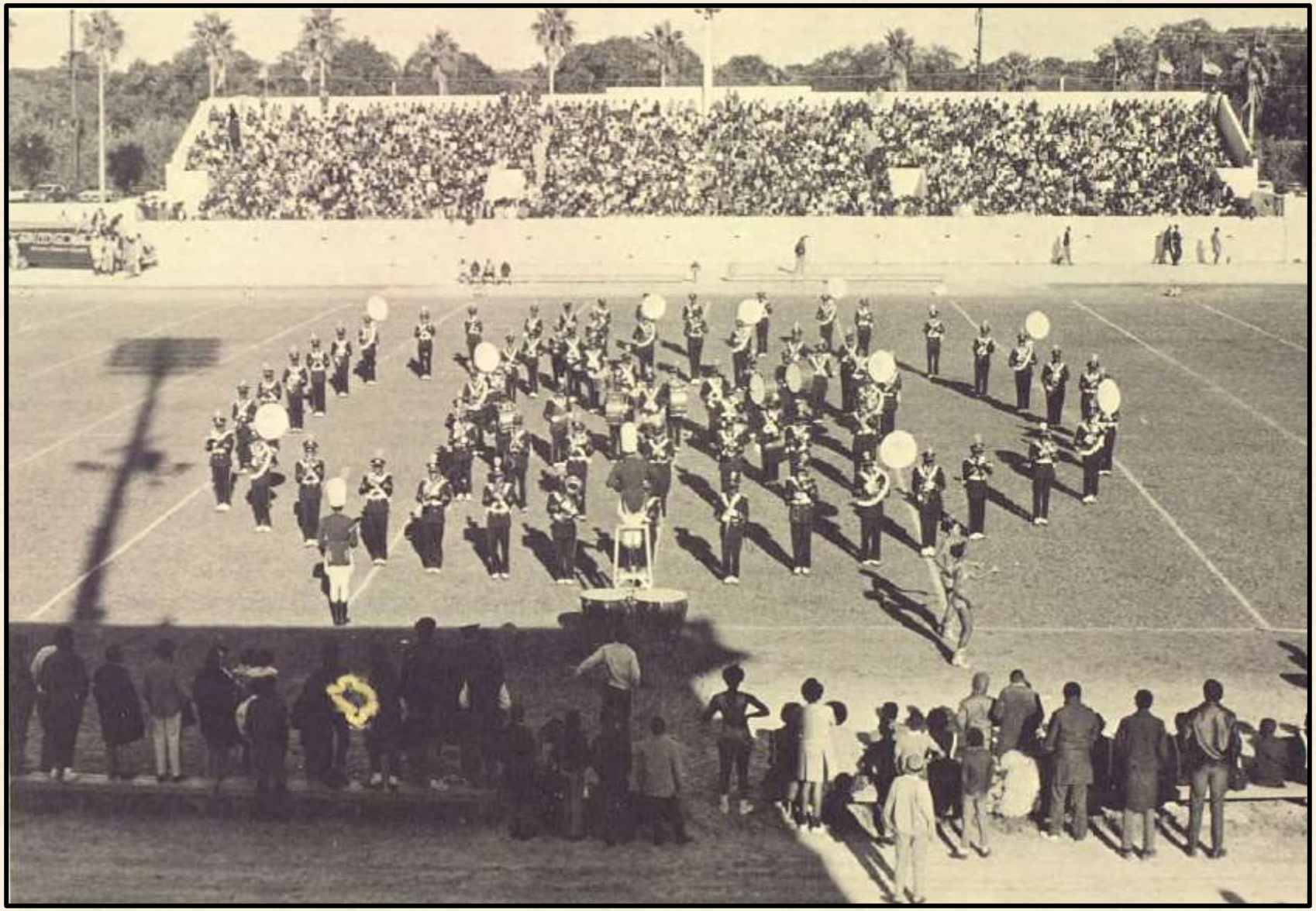

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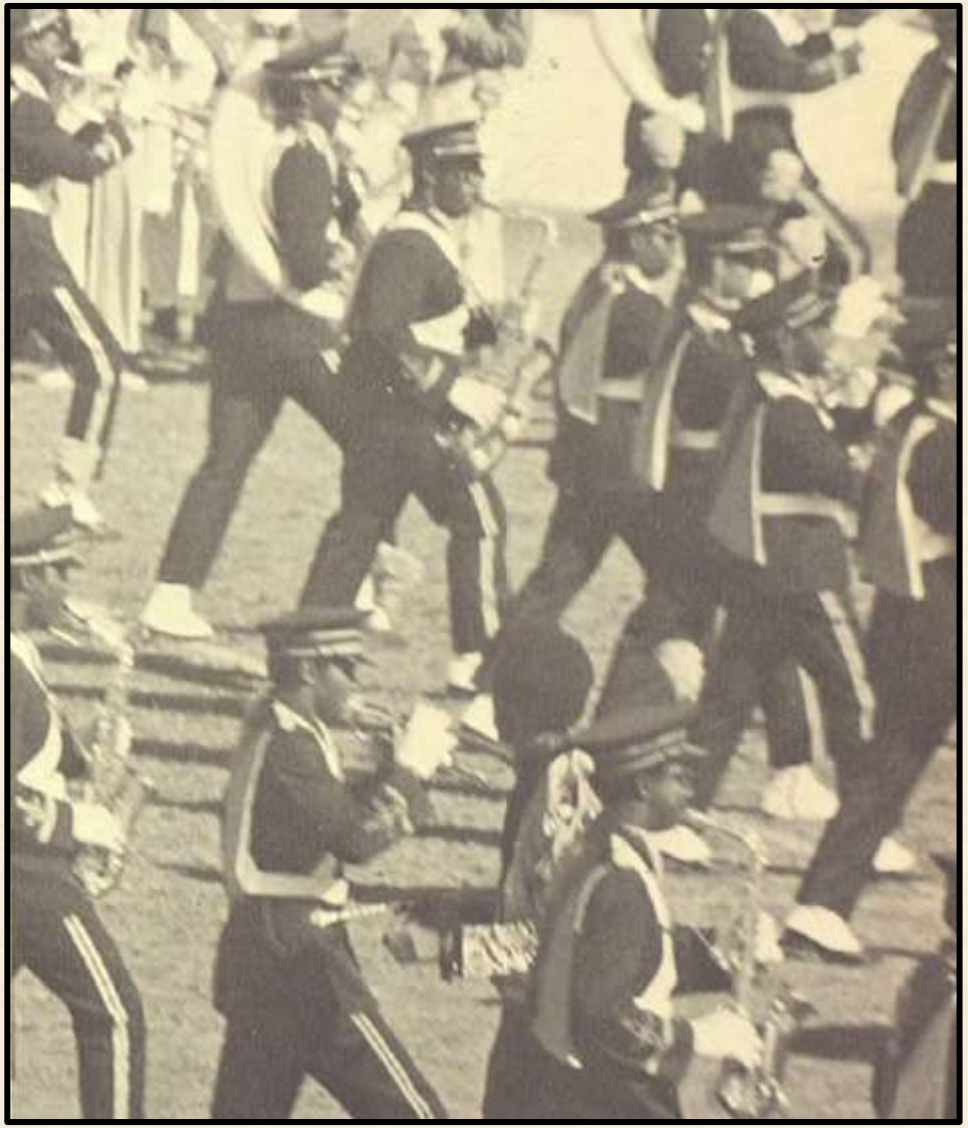

1970

1970

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