prepare a student for college although I had no reason to think
that I would ever be able to go to college. The one "optional" course which I took each of the four years was Band.

I had become involved with the high school band when I was in 7th grade. A few of the parents, including mine, decided that Walton High School should have a band and were willing to buy instruments for their children. Two or three of the parents agreed to fill in and play instruments for a couple of years until more young people became interested. Silas Deverick and Reese Samples were two that I remember and there may have been another. Dad bought a cornet for Harry, an alto horn for Ruth and a trombone for me. Dorothy was too young at the time but she got a clarinet a few years later. All four of our instruments were bought at pawn shops. In fact our selection of instruments was probably determined by what was available at an affordable price. My trombone showed the effects of lots of use and abuse before I got it. It was brass-plated and, in addition to having dents all over the bell, the slide was bent enough that it required some effort to manipulate it. Fortunately I didn't know until a few years later just how much difference there was between mine and a good trombone or I might have become discouraged and quit. During my last year of elementary school, I was excused from my 8th grade class for the hour or so each day that the band practiced.

Walton H. S. didn't have a faculty member who could teach us how to play band instruments when we started, so the band director from Spencer, Carl Brown, agreed to drive the 15 miles each way to help us get started during the summer months. At the beginning of the school year a Ms. Phala Craig became our band director. I don't know if she taught any other courses or whether she was even a faculty member. By the time I entered high school in the fall of 1935, Bill Newlin had joined the faculty as music teacher and band director. He remained in that position for the four years that I was in school. We never had more than about 15-18 members but we scheduled two concerts each school year. We also played at all the home basketball games and such events as Commencements.

Homer Marks, Percy Deverick and I were the trombone section from the very beginning. Homer graduated after two years and, since Percy was one year ahead of me in school, he was given first chair and held it until he graduated in 1938. I then inherited first chair. Donald Hendrickson had joined the trombone section a year or two earlier. The director told me at the beginning of my sophomore year and again a year later that I should challenge for first chair because he knew that I was a better trombone player than Percy. I didn't challenge because the Devericks were close