Unique drums bring special honor to band

By GRACE R. DOVE Post Staff

Lake-Lehman High school's marching garbage cans and brake drums brought home a sixth consecutive District championship and a special trophy for the best percussion section in last month's Tournament of Bands.

Marching garbage cans? Brake drums? In a high school band? These were included in a group

of improvised instruments which band director Edward Richards designed as part of a novelty percussion selection for the competition.

"I wanted to create a large, novel percussion selection involving the entire band, while experimenting with different and unique musical sounds," Richards said.

"Many band members were skeptical at first," said percussion section leaders Johanna Miller and Jay McCarroll. "Some of them were upset that they had to play rovised percussion in ruments instead of their regular brass or woodwinds.

Miller and McCarroll were rather concerned; as section leaders, it's their responsibility to see that each student knows his or her part perfectly for the performance. Many band members had never played percussion and had to start with the basics.

And in addition to the usual complement of assorted drums.

chimes and xylophones, band members had to learn to play jingle poles (an assortment of little bells attached to a long pole), garbage cans, tambourines and brake drums (two from a Pontiac and two from a Volkswagen.)

the other students how to play these things. Once it came together, it was lots of fun," Miller said. "But we often wondered how we would ever do it. Improvised instruments and

"The hardest part was teaching

drums aren't exactly new to the world of music; for examaple, steel drums made from 50-gallon drums are popular in the Carribbean.

of responsibility had prompted percussion section leaders for the Guard. 1992-93 school year.

instruments can be challenging, since they range in size from the small triangles on up to the king-("kettle drums"). And the garbage

"There's lots of stress; it's a big responsibility," Miller said. "Because we're in charge of the section, it's our responsibility if the performance doesn't go right."

"But it's worth it. I've learned to work with others under pressure, to be patient. I've matured,"

Both Miller and McCarroll credited instrumental instructors Dave Gambel and Ed Telecky with helping to teach the students their parts and perform so well.

Johanna Miller plays bassoon and saxophone in addition to percussion, and is a manager of the brass choir. She has represented Lake-Lehman in district and regional bands and district orchestra and is on the girls' basketball team.

Jay McCarroll also manages the brass choir; he plays bass drum in the marching band and tympani in concert band and district band. He Miller's and McCarroll's was a member of the Indoor Color experience, dedication and sense guard for three years and has helped to design costumes for the Richards to appoint them school play, color guard and Indoor

The award-winning novelty Packing and moving percussion percussion selection was also featured at the colorful pre-game Lake-Lehman's homecoming game under the size bass drum and four tympanis lights, where colorful silks and costumes complemented the music's "Arabian Nights" theme.

> And how do brake drums and marching garbage cans sound? Properly played, a garbage can sounds similar to a zippy, metallic

version of a snare drum. And the brake drums, both Pontiac and Volkswagen, remind the listener of a blacksmith's hammer striking



NOVELTY INSTRUMENTS - Lake-Lehman band members Johanna Miller and Jay McCarroll show off percussion instruments improvised from a garbage can and a brake drum, which were used in addition to the standard drums in a novelty selection at the Tournament of Bands competition. (Post Photo/Grace R. Dove)

ake-Lehman taxpayers oppose child care program

BAGRACE R. DOVE

The president of the Lake-Lehman Taxpayers' Association asked the following questions: says he gave the school board a letter opposing the district's new program after its regular meeting in November.

president Liz Sichler nor superintendent Nancy Davis recall

Taxpayers' Association sident Alan Moss said that he gare the letter to Mrs. Sichler in person, as required by the Public School Code

was not in the group of letter Mr. Moss game me. I opened all of the association's letters and read them at the board table that night," Mrs. Sichler said. "Possibly they thought that they put it with

the others, or maybe it was lost." Mrs. Davis said that the first she heard of the letter was when she was contacted by The Post for comments on it. She said that she ocated a copy which had been published by another local

The letter criticizes the district's ndling of a state-subsidized Department of Education. re-and after-school day care

· John Cleary, president.

elementary schools, where 17 and experienced, certified day-care insurance. 15 students respectively attend the after-school session.

In the letter, the association

• If the day-care program has been funded by a state grant, why before-and after-school day-care is this money not considered an expense to the taxpayers?

Mrs. Davis replied that when But neither school board she made her original statement that the day-care program would operate at no cost to the taxpayers, she meant that the program would not add any outlays to the district's

I thought that the taxpayers understood that. Of course the state grant that funds this program is taxpayers' money from

Harrisburg," Mrs. Davis said.
"These funds, from the Department of Education and the Department of Public Welfare, are available to be used by all eligible taxpayers in the state. Lake-Lehman was one of 11 school districts eligible for the before-and after-school day-care program."

· Why were no bids publicly solicited for the day-care provider? Mrs. Davis responded that the district has never had to solicit

bids for special grants from the Wee Care and Little People were

program now operating at the the only two available day-care Lehman-Jackson and Lake-Noxen providers, according to a study of

providers conducted

for several area school districts, Mrs. Davis said.

Because Little People couldn't guarantee being ready to start when the school year began and Wee Care could, Wee Care was selected.

"If we hadn't used Wee Care, we would have missed obtaining the grant," she said.

 If a privately-owned business is operating on school property, are the taxpayers paying for

Since custodial personnel are always working in the buildings while the day-care program is operating, the lights and heat are always on anyway, Mrs. Davis said. Custodians have scheduled their the use of Brownie, Girl Scout and work so that the day-care area is

the last to be cleaned. Even during vacations or when school isn't in session, the lights and heat are on while custodians doing maintenance or repair work in the buildings, she said.

strict be held liable?

Mrs. Davis said that Wee Care homework. has its own liability insurance.

District solicitor Peter Savage had told the taxpayers' association qualify for the service under state at the October 13 school board meeting that Lake-Lehman School working or in job training programs District is fully covered by liability during these hours.

"We don't feel that the school Community Services for Children district should be socializing the community. If a day care center wants to operate here, let them come to Lehman and find their own place to operate a business," Moss said. "The taxpayers should not have to become involved in the operation of a private business. We have enough problems."

> "This letter is definitely an attack on the superintendent for her efforts to bring a needed service to the community," Mrs. Sichler said.

> Mrs. Davis pointed out that Lehman-Jackson and Lake-Noxen schools have been open evenings and weekends for several years for Cub Scout activities, without any question of liability insurance.

"I see this program as helping to provide a safe, secure place for children under 12 years of age to be after school," Mrs. Davis said. "It's not just a baby-sitting service. • In case of accidents, could the In addition to learning activities, the children also do their

> She added that parents must income guidelines and either be

Lake Twp. taxes due December 15

Ruth Orloski, Lake Twp. Tax Collector, advises taxpayers that the last day to pay all 1992 Property and Per Capita taxes is December 15, 1992. After that date all property taxes will be returned to the Tax Claim Bureau, Luzerne County Court House, as delinquent. Additional costs

Unpaid Per Capita taxes will be turned over to Berkheimer Assoc. for Committee chairpersons will be announced at a later date, according collection with additional costs being added also.



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Lake-Lehman school board reorganization

The Lake-Lehman school board elected the following officers at its reorganization meeting Tuesday, December 1:

The Dallas school board announced the following officers at its

• Dr. Martin McMahon, president.

Mrs. Ellen Nagy, vice-president.John George, West Side Tech board.

to superintendent Gerald Wycallis.

• Tom Williams, first vice-president

Golf Clubs

Skis

Santas

Puppies

Trolls

Snowmen

Bowling Pins

· Mrs. Sue Dobash, second vice-president.

Ken Williams, West Side Technical School board.

Dallas school board elects officers

reorganization meeting Monday, December 7:

Committee chairmen included Ed Kern, buildings and grounds; Jeff itzen, transportation; Dr. John Presper, curriculum and instruction; seph "Red" Jones, athletics and activities; Sue Dobash and Liz Sichler, legislative representatives to the Pennsylvania School Boards

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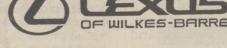
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Mice

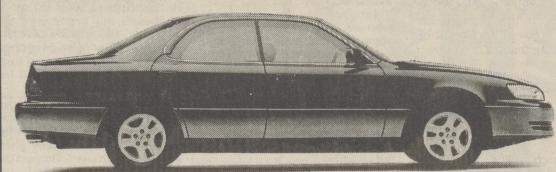
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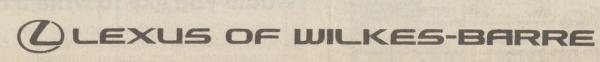
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