



Any opinions expressed herein are the views of individual contributors. They should not be considered as endorsed by the Los Angeles Police Protective League or the *Thin Blue Line*.

LAPD Band

by Christina Challey

"When I was born, Eisenhower was president and there were 49 states," said LAPD Band member Greg Lee. Born in the small Texas town of San Angelo, which Greg says isn't near *anything*, he also lived in the small towns of Ralls,



Texas, near Lubbock and Memphis, which is 90 miles south of Amarillo.

When asked if his family was musical, Greg said, "My dad came out of the Army after WWII and wanted to be a fiddler in a Western band, although he didn't do anything about it." Greg said his mother played the cornet in school, and also often played piano and organ in church, and his sister played the piano and trumpet.

Greg took piano lessons on and off from first grade until he was through college. He also played cello in the orchestra in junior high and high school. However, Greg's original goal was to play drums, with his second choice being the saxophone, and the French horn his third. So how did he wind up playing the trombone?

It all started when Greg was in second grade and played the snare drum. The band director, along with Greg's parents, convinced him that he should also play the trombone because there were only two trombone players in the band. A few years later, when Greg's family moved and he started a new school, the

band at that school had a lot of good drummers but only a handful of trombone players. So it was farewell to the drums and hello to the trombone!

Greg said he "played in every band he could get into." He played in his high school marching band (he was also the drum major), the concert band, the orchestra and the jazz band. In college at the University of Texas, where he received a B.A. in French, a B.S. in mathematics and a Master's in electrical engineering, he played in the marching band, the symphonic (concert band), the jazz band, the trombone choir and a couple of Dixieland bands.

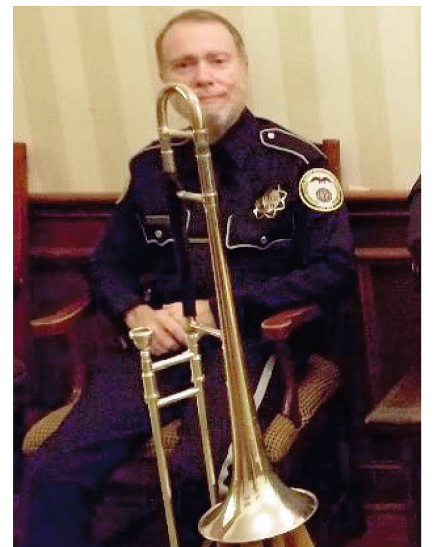
Despite his love for the trombone, another instrument drew Greg's interest—the harp. He said there weren't any opportunities to learn the instrument in the small West Texas towns he grew up in. But about 10 years ago, his wife mentioned that she had seen a harp store in Glendale. Greg went to take a look and wound up signing up for the Saturday "learn to play the harp" workshop. After the workshop, Greg was told if he signed up for more lessons, he could rent a harp from the store. So he rented a small harp, found a teacher and started to learn to play. Six months later he was able to buy a full-sized concert grand pedal harp, and at the young age of 48, began his career with the harp. Greg considers himself very fortunate to know some of the best harpists in the world by working with his teacher, Carolyn Sykes.

Today, along with playing in the LAPD Concert and Jazz bands, Greg plays in



two symphony orchestras (trombone and harp), a big band, Bones West (a trombone choir) and in musicals (usually on harp). He also enjoys ballroom dancing (which is how he met his wife) and learning languages.

For more information about the band, see our website at www.lasown.com, and contact Jim Starr, executive director at sngcop@aol.com. For greatly appreciated donations, please go to www.lapolicyfoundation.org, and in the "comments box," put "for the Band." ♦



SCHOLARSHIP GRANT CONTEST

Three \$10,000 Awards!!

Who Is Eligible?

Any high school senior who is the child of a current, full-time LAPD employee, (who has completed probation – no reserves or retired), and has been accepted or has applied at an accredited college or university.

These are merit-based awards to students who have demonstrated:

- Excellence in academic studies
- Good character and high moral standards
- Extra-curricular accomplishments

Each applicant is required to submit two letters of recommendation. One must be written by a current teacher or counselor. The other letter may be submitted by any unrelated adult who knows the applicant well. Current transcripts will also be required.

Applications will be available on January 3, 2019, in the Memorial Foundation Office, or via email, fax or standard mail. The deadline for receiving all materials is March 15, 2019.

Call the Los Angeles Police Memorial Foundation for more information and/or applications at 323-276-5970.

Up to 60% Off Retail

Specializing In
Custom Orders, Engagement Rings, Wedding Bands, Anniversary Rings, Bracelets, Pendants, Earrings

550 S. Hill Street, Suite 543
Los Angeles, CA 90013
Ph. (213) 614-9500
SueandFerrisDesigns.com

Sue & Ferris Designs, Inc.