

Vernon (Vern) Giebler, age 89, spent most of his life teaching, performing, conducting or listening to music. Thirty-five of those years were spent educating students from grades 1 through 12, both vocal and instrumental music.

Vernon grew up in Hays, Kansas, graduating from St. Joseph's Military Academy in 1953. He started at FHSU as a business major but upon hearing musicians practicing outside Picken Hall, later changed his major to music, his first real love.

In 1958, he graduated with a degree in music education and in 1964 he received his Masters' degree in the same field. In 1958, Vern began his teaching career in Dorrance, Kansas and in 1959 was recruited to come to Victoria where he remained until 1970. He thought about a hiatus from teaching at this time but then went to help out the Luray school system where he remained for three years. In 1974, after the resignation of Benny Schulte, Vern returned to Victoria and remained there until his retirement in 1994, hence devoting 31 years to VHS.

While teaching and during his retirement years, he was always a member of various musical groups. Vernon played trombone in the Hays Symphony Orchestra, the University Brass Quintet and the Hays Big Band. You could always hear him with area dance bands including, Jay Leonard, Eddy Linn, Freddy Joe, Ben Earnest Band, Brad Dawson Quartet, and the Jimmy Maxwell Orchestra. He was also honored to play one "gig" with the Guy Lombardo and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestras. He finished his dance band circuit with The Big Band Reunion.

Vern resides in Hays with his wife of 15 years, Lori Giebler. He still goes to the family farm each day doing daily maintenance.