

# Tom and Laura Derr

Inducted into the *Hall of Fame* in 1998

Tom and Laura Derr were members of WHS PPA from 1989-1995, coinciding with the years their children David and Sarah were students. Their first assignment with the organization was to chair the Publicity Committee. They then moved to Membership and ultimately served as co-Presidents in 1993-94. During their years of participation the organization grew dramatically.

In 1994, Laura worked with the Performing Arts staff to write a grant for the Iowa Arts Council for a performance to celebrate Iowa's 150th birthday. The grant was approved and Laura worked with all three Cedar Rapids high schools to present A 150 Year Leap concert on Feb. 29, 1996. For the production three new musical works by Iowa artists were commissioned for orchestra, band and chorus. The project was tremendously successful and brought together all the high schools for a one-time-only event.

Tom and Laura retired to East Tennessee near Knoxville and live on Ft. Loudoun Lake in a beautiful valley sheltered by the Appalachian and Smoky Mountains.

