

Gift Aids Blackford Band Uniform Drive

Town Financial Corp. and four of its affiliates provided a big boost in May to a fund drive to purchase new uniforms for the Blackford High School Band.

Acting on behalf of Bank Computer Services, City Savings Bank, First National Bank and The Bank of Montpelier, John R. Maddox Jr. presented a check for \$1,575 to the Blackford Band boosters. The money will be used to purchase 15 new uniforms.

The drive hopes to raise \$22,000 to purchase 218 new uniforms for bandmen. That money will be added to \$15,000 already contributed by the community during the band tag day, held annually.

"Town Financial's gift was most generous," remarked Mike Fiske, director of bands. "The organization has always been a wonderful supporter of the Blackford Band program and this continued endorsement is, to me personally, most encouraging."

Presently, band members are wearing the original uniforms purchased for the first Blackford High School Band in 1969. "These uniforms have been well-



John Maddox Jr. (left) presents check to Bill Buchanan, president of the band boosters. With them are (left to right) band member Chris Landis, Band Director Mike Fiske and band member LeAnn Montgomery.

cared-for but are simply in need of replacement," said Bill McCammon, a member of the band boosters.

In keeping with the half century tradition of Blackford County bands, the new black and red uniforms feature military styling. According to Fiske, the coats are red, while the trousers, hats and plumes are in black. The

uniforms are accented by a cross belt and silver buttons.

"We view this gift to the band as a part of our deep commitment to the Blackford County community," said John R. Maddox Jr., vice president of Town Financial Corp. "The county has always maintained a real strong band tradition and we hope this gift will help keep it going and growing."

Currently, the fund drive is just \$2,000 shy of its goal.