



Lowry Riggins
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

Who is this person, Lowry Riggins? To most of us Lowry Riggins is the man who collects our dues, answers our questions about the IDRS, and reminds us that we need to update our addresses when we move. To many of our members Lowry is a name without a face. He is also the voice on the phone who tells us where we can locate an out-of-touch friend, or the one who jots a note on the bottom of a letter that we've written inquiring about the oboe player who wrote an article in the *Double Reed*.

Our honorary members know Lowry as the person who never forgets their birthdays or the holiday season. The executive committee knows him as the one who diligently watches over their spending, and carries the credit card during conferences.

If you ask Lowry, he'll tell you that he's one of the luckiest guys in the world. He's come from playing oboe in his junior high band in Bartlett, Tennessee to executive secretary/treasurer of the International Double Reed Society, a group of over 4,000 double reed players in 50 countries, many of whom hold positions in the world's foremost orchestras. If you ask longtime active members of the Double Reed Society, they'll tell you that not all the luck has been on Lowry's side. We've been lucky to have him as a part of our Society.

Lowry was an early subscriber to Jerry Corey's *To the World's Bassoonists* and joined the IDRS as soon as it was formed. He served as secretary

from 1974-75, treasurer in 1976 and president for the following three terms. Our first European conference, in Edinburgh, Scotland, was held while Lowry was president. During his time as president, he and the executive committee worked to establish a permanent office location for the IDRS. Up to that time the office would change every time a new treasurer was elected. Lowry, a computer enthusiast, took over the task from Richard Meek, brought the IDRS into the computer age, and established the Society's "home" in his home in Monroe, Louisiana. He was appointed executive secretary/treasurer in 1983 and has served in that position until the present time.

As executive secretary/treasurer Lowry has treated each member like a member of his family. He's made double reed players and enthusiasts, without regard to professional standing or experience, feel that they are an important part of one big worldwide family. Lowry has guided the IDRS from a struggling neophyte to the strong healthy organization it is today.

It is with bittersweet feelings that we honor him as he heads into retirement. We are very grateful for the care and guidance he has given us over the years. We know that to Lowry and his devoted wife Carolyn (1934- 1997), the IDRS was an extension of their family and they invested much of their lives into its success. Thank you, Lowry, for all that you have done. ❖