



CODA

RETIREd USAF BANDLEADERS
AND SUPERINTENDENTS SOCIETY
founded 1980



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VOL XVIII No. 2

TAPS

Curtis S. Parsons

B. July 1, 1911
D. March 23, 1998

Inurement
Riverside National Cemetery
Riverside, CA

Curtis S. Parsons, 86, died of a heart attack at his home.

Mr. Parsons, who was born in Norwich, NY, lived in Sun City for 30 years. He served in the USAF from 1943 until 1968, retiring as a band director. He served as a first sergeant in Africa during WW II and was an instrumentalist and band leader for eight military bands.

He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Maxine who resides at 26650 Cherry Hills Blvd., Sun City, CA 92586.

Walter G. "Speedy" Lyons

Speedy died March 19, 1998. No other information was made available.

Speedy was a member of the SAC Band, The USAFA Band, and the MAC Band, a bassist of the first order!

Bert Goodwin

Bert Goodwin, wife of John Goodwin passed away on May 19, 1998, while hospitalized in San Antonio.

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PERSONALS

Lou and Micki Kriebel

In March we spent 5 days in Curacas, Netherland Antilles. This island, in the Dutch Caribbean, is small but interesting. There are several tours throughout the island and many excellent restaurants, night life shows and several nice beaches. nice hotels (17), museums (7), estates (11), flora and fauna (8), beaches and bays (12), forts (8) and a sea aquarium. You can take the plunge at the sea aquarium and swim along with the fish. Of course Micki and I were unable to take advantage of all of these things, but we did participate in several. At Centre Willemstad St. Anna Baai, you can see the pontoon bridge in action; visit shops and have lunch while watching ships entering and departing the harbor. At Fort Nassau is a control tower, like the control tower at any airport. However, from this control tower, the ship traffic is controlled as they enter and leave the many ship yards and docks. We had an interesting visit with several tours. Would recommend a visit to this interesting island anytime.

Cont'd on page 4.

JOHN PHILIP SOUSA POST NO. 1112

The all musician Sousa American Legion Post is accepting new members. The Post was organized in 1934. Please write Joe Losh (USAF Band Director, ret.) 1662 W 8th St., Brooklyn, NY 11223, for application. Dues are \$20.00. You will receive a Post newsletter and the Legion Magazine. NOTE: Joe is a member of our Society and is a charter member of the Post

LOCATOR

The USAF Band, Washington, DC is trying to locate the following retired and former members of the Band.

Chester Davis
George Dowtin
Hugh Edgerton
Kenyon Ewing
Bailey Filkins
Winston Depew
Donald Eccleston
Gary Ennis
Thoms Eynon
David Fite

If any of our readers knows the whereabouts, performing unit, date entered or left the band, of any of these people, please contact MSgt. Anthony B. Kirkland at 202/767-4119 or write The USAF Band, 201 McChord St., Bolling AFB, Washington, DC 20332-0202.

Thanks for your help!

Change of Address

Jim Whittenton
6243 Love Drive, Apt # 1612
Irving, TX 75039
942/910-8523
e-mail: whija01@mail.cai.com

ACTIVE DUTY NOTES

BANDS AND MUSIC "DIVISION"

Since the inception of the Air Force Band Program, the office in the Pentagon has always been a "Branch" of the "Community Relations Division" of the "Office of Information," or "Information Office," now known as "Public Affairs."

Just recently the Bands and Music office has been "upgraded" to Division Status, alongside Media, National Affairs, etc.

Upon Major Frank Hudson's retirement, Major Mark Peterson will take over as Chief of the new division sometime this summer. Mark is presently Commander of the Band in Omaha where he has been for three years.

Band Division moves

Jim Self writes:

"I will start my terminal leave in June. SMSgt. Bruner will be going to Germany in July. My replacement will be SMSgt. David Ward, currently assigned to Bolling. SMSgt. Bruner's replacement will be MSgt. Virgil Layn, who is presently a trumpet player at Scott.

Colonel Rand is presently SAF/PA, and is a real people person. "He understands bands and their mission better than anyone I know, and I feel the opportunity to move bands ahead is better now than ever before.

Jim also writes:

"On behalf of all 897 active duty bandsmen, I salute you and all other Retired Air Force Bandleaders. You paved the way for folks like me to have a most magnificent career, both musically and as an NCO. I sincerely hope the service I've given in my 26 years has been up to the standards you established long ago. I look forward to joining you as a full fledged retiree this summer. My very best to you and may God bless....."

TRIVIA

Composer Johann Sebastian Bach was married twice, and fathered 20 children. Only 10 children survived to adulthood. Although all of his children received musical instruction, only four of his sons pursued music as a profession.

The Post Office recently issued a 32 cent stamp honoring John Philip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever."

A Few Groaners

The first flea market started from scratch.

Two silk worms were in a race and ended up in a tie.

General Custer was the first man to wear an Arrow Shirt.

At a flea circus, a dog came by and stole the show.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

From the TROA Legislative Update, 5/15/98.

As of Friday afternoon, there are 63 Senate cosponsors of S. 1334 and 259 House cosponsors of H.R. 1766, the FEHBP-65 test bills.

The House Military Personnel Subcommittee did not approve any FEHBP initiative for inclusion in its first cut on the Defense Bill. The Secretary of Defense has opposed this initiative on medical readiness grounds.

However, an amendment to H.R. 3616, the FY1999 Defense Authorization Bill, proposed by Rep. J. C. Watts (R-OK), Jim Moran (D-VA) and Mac Thornberry (R-TX) would authorize a demonstration program that would allow Medicare-eligible beneficiaries to enroll in FEHBP at 6 to 10 sites. Enrollment would open in the fall of 1999, with coverage starting in Jan. 2000 (even assuming prompt passage this year, contract negotiations could not be completed in time for the fall 1998 FEHBP enrollment period).

TROA Special update: May 20, 1998

It's IN! The House Rules Committee

approved the Watts-Moran-Thornberry amendment. Now it's your job to help its sponsors get an overwhelming vote on the House Floor. Contact your Representative by phone, FAX or e-mail to "Vote FOR the Watts-Moran-Thornberry amendment to the FY1999 Defense Authorization Bill. A vote is expected by next week, so time is of the essence.

From the Editor

Several subjects come to mind.

1. It is a real pleasure for me to prepare news items for the CODA. I enjoy receiving them, and reminisce while typing them in. Of course, the flip side of this is that it is a real chore to try to conceive of news items out of nowhere. If, as some of you say, you enjoy reading the Coda and what's in it, why not contribute to it? Without input there is no output. It's that simple.
2. Our Society is now 18 years old. Ever since I suggested the idea to Colonel Howard, it has been a labor of love for Lou and I, and others who have participated in the ongoing effort to keep it as a viable way for us to keep in touch. Of course we assume you feel as we do. I can remember when I was the new kid on the block. Now I am an 'old timer.' While I still enjoy preparing the Coda, and Lou still enjoys keeping the roster and the financial books in order, we know that there are some newer retirees with new ideas, talents, and time to do this. Let's face it, we are not getting any younger. The computer software to publish the Coda, and the databases for the roster has improved over the years. There are many things that could be improved in the publication as far as the desktop publishing arena is concerned. I just do not feel like I want to attack the long learning curve necessary to learn this new software. I'm sure some of you younger folks are already familiar with and can make the Coda a more up to date publication. A few hours a month is all it takes.
3. Anyone got enough courage to answer this open letter? If so, let me congratulate you in advance! Also, there is the possibility something might happen to either of us, and there is no one in the wings to take over. Is that what you want?.....Vince

MEMORABILIA

These photos were sent by Johnny Osiecki.



Above: Crew Chiefs at Bolling: Ron Aldrich, Clarinet - Col. Howard, sitting in - Jack Franklin, Drums - John Osiecki, Accordion - George Roumanis, String Bass - Jimmy Stack, Vibes - John Pisano, Guitar.



The Colgate Comedy Hour, Thule, Greenland, 1953.

Margaret Whiting, Jerry Colona, Bill Holden, Brenda Marshall, Bob Hope

Vic Molzer

The Jan-Feb-Mar issue of CODA was most enjoyable and informative. Thanks for prodding me into finally writing something for your rag.

I attended the NAMM convention in LA in Jan. Larry Linke (E-flat Clar and copyist with the NORAD Band) is the CEO of NAMM and sent passes to my older brother Robert and I. Robert is a member of NAMM, having owned a Molzer Music Co. in Lincoln, NE for about 50 years.

We met in Burbank, visited with our younger sister in Van Nuys for a day then proceeded to Santa Monica for a hotel (There was absolutely nothing available in LA). The convention was the largest in LA history, and occupied the entire convention center. We visited with Larry and his wife for about 20 minutes and re-lived a few memorable times. Larry had done a magnificent job of arranging everything for us. He even had charter busses running about every hour out to the suburbs. We were picked up right at our hotel - it was a Godsend. They delivered us right to the center - saving all the hassle of having to rent a car and fighting traffic in LA, plus parking would have been impossible.

I went to my Lincoln, NE, high school reunion in Lincoln last year, the 60th!...and I might add, the last!

I am looking forward to seeing you all in COS at the reunion!

Ralph and Claire Amato

We spent 31 Apr - 2 May at New Smyrna Beach. Also went to the LPGA tournament in Daytona. Had a great time. Didn't do much walking as we carried our folding chairs. These young women who weigh 120 pounds hit a golf ball 250 - 300 yards. It's amazing! Claire received some "tips," from one of the pros and couldn't wait to get home to try them out. Of course they didn't work out right away because, just like getting to Carnegie hall, it takes Practice, Practice, Practice!

The SAF/PA Office has asked us to include the following letter. Hopefully, some of you will have some input.

"The Office of Public Affairs is now developing a doctrine which will fully incorporate Air Force bands into the way Public Affairs does business. Since doctrine is an accumulation of knowledge gained primarily from the study and analysis of experience, we are seeking input from some of the "most experienced minds in the business," both past and present. Would you please take some time and tell us some of your lessons learned in the band program. We're especially interested in formalizing how to communicate Air Force themes and messages using music. We're trying to answer two main questions: *What do bands do? Why do they do it?* Other questions which support the first two are: *Who do they do it to? When, where and how do they do it?* Lastly, how do we incorporate the "what, why, how," etc., into communicating the Air Force story?

Feel free to write as much or as little as you feel appropriate. In an effort to help you with these questions, I'm enclosing some definitions of doctrine and what it should do. Please call CMSgt Self or SMSgt Ward at (703) 695-2783 if you have questions. You may send your responses by mail, (SAE/PAC, 1690 Air Force Pentagon, Washington, DC 20330-1690), email (selfaf.pentagon.mil) or fax (703-695-1523). If possible, we'd like your thoughts by May 22 1998. We sincerely appreciate your valuable time and input on this very important document."

/s/

RONALD T. RAND
Colonel, USAF
Director of Public Affairs

Air Force band doctrine is a statement of officially sanctioned beliefs and principles that describe and guide the proper use of Air Force bands in military operations. It is meant to codify accumulated wisdom and provide a framework for the way we prepare for, plan, and conduct band operations. It is especially focused on how bands are used as an integral part of USAF Public Affairs and how they can best tell the Air Force story.

Air Force doctrine is an accumulation of knowledge gained primarily from the study and analysis of experience, which may include actual (performance) operations as well as training (rehearsals) and exercises. As such, doctrine reflects what has usually worked best. It must be emphasized that doctrine development is never complete.

All facets of band doctrine should support one or more of the four core competencies of Air Force Public Affairs:

1. Trusted Counsel to Leaders
2. Airmen Morale and Readiness
3. Public Trust and Support
4. Global Influence and Deterrence

The relationship of band doctrine to band strategy:

"Band doctrine describes how a job should be done to accomplish band and Public Affairs goals."

"Band strategy defines how it will be done to accomplish Air Force objectives."