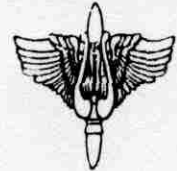




# CODA

RETIRED USAF BANDEADERS  
AND SUPERINTENDENTS SOCIETY  
Founded 1980



JUL AUG SEP 1998

VOL XVIII No. 3

## USAF Band History

## RAFM 98

## "I REMEMBER" ...

**Harry Gleeson** ...has committed to writing a comprehensive history of the USAF Band. This will obviously include many items from all Air Force Bands, as our mission was one and the same.

So far, he has collected over 500 photos, and is anxiously awaiting more from the archives of sources formerly unheard of!

He will be contacting many of you personally for excerpts, anecdotes, and other first hand information necessary for an accurate and personal history of the program since 1942.

His commitment is to be admired! His dedication has taken on massive proportions, and the effort involved will be time consuming.

Harry worked for a year and a half in the Bands Branch in the Pentagon. He says that experience was most pleasurable since he learned about all of us "out in the field," and what the entire Band Program was all about!

His enthusiasm seems to be unlimited. Two of the photos in this issue came from his archives! I trust all who read this will be eagerly awaiting his call to contribute to this worthy cause! .....Ed.

**CODA** is the unofficial publication of the Retired Air Force Bandleaders and Superintendents Society. Published Quarterly.....  
Herman G. Vincent, Editor and Publisher  
4126 Hyde Park Ave., Lake Charles, LA 70605  
Tel: 318/478-6091  
Louis C. Kriebel, Chairman and Treasurer  
5647 Rosewall Cir., Leesburg, FL 34748  
Tel: 352/728-5966  
Patrick F. Veltre, Circulation  
1841 Pheasant Dr., Sumter, SC 29153  
Tel: 803/469-2326

The Retired Air Force Musicians reunion, RAFM VI, was a resounding success. Aug 19 - 23 in Colorado Springs saw 299 retired members and spouses, guests (as we say in south Louisiana) "Pass a good time" together.

Ken Schinstine, Chairman, tells me that his committee was very pleased with the schedule, attendance, and that generally, everything went very, very well!

The committee was:  
**Ken Schinstine**, Chairman  
Margaret Schinstine  
Fred and Bonnie Correll  
Gary and Emma De Kler  
Phil and Gladys Perry  
Chris and Janet Walters  
Keith McCurdy

After the Band of the Rockies concert, an afterglow was held at the Raddisson, and of course a "session" included Bill Barbier, drums, Chuck Gardner, piano, Hank Weber, bass. Joining the group was Johnnie Osiecki, and many others.

Ken Schinstine reports; "The most important thing I observed was the quality time made available for visiting old friends and making new ones. The restaurant, lounge and lobby of the hotel were all together under an atrium roof, providing a great environment for visiting.

Thirty one states were represented by the attendees.

The next reunion will be held in the year 2000 at Myrtle Beach, SC. The Chairman is John Norse.

This is a new column, one which I sincerely hope will "fly." My heartfelt congratulations to Dick Daugherty for responding to my last plea for input to this publication! My sincere thanks, Dick!

"I remember".....by **Dick Daugherty**.....

"Being taken under his wing by MSGT Cedric Smith when I was an 18 year old kid. Eight years later "Smitty" worked for me but was still teaching me. What a soldier!"

"Strapping on parachutes and loading the 604th AF Band into a C-47. ... and flying from Maxwell AFB to Craig AFB for a base parade...a distance of about 50 road miles. I couldn't figure it out but as a PFC, no one consulted with me."

"Charles Vesely and I playing a trumpet duet called "Ida and Dottie." As I recall, Mr. Vesely was Ida and I was Dottie."

"Playing in a pit orchestra with Lucky Borland for a show in which Clem Dawson was dancing. Lucky said "I'm going to marry her," and 89 days later he did!"

"Ed D'Alfonso and Buddy De Franco jamming before 6,000 people at Ak-AR-BEN in Omaha with no rehearsal."

"Herman Vincent and I arriving at the SAC Band office with different uniforms. He had the mess dress uniform and I had tails and a white shirt and tie. Vince said "If it's a big gig, you take it." I lost and he sat in the audience and giggled."

"Loy Ebersole dancing around the grill as he prepared steaks. He was the MASTER!"

"Playing the "Evolution of Jazz" before 130,000 people in Berlin's Olympic Stadium with the Third AF Band from London. The people wouldn't let us leave

# TAPS

## Gregory S. Rodgers

*From the Washington Post, August 19, 1998*

Gregory S. Rodgers, 72, retired director of the Air Force Strolling Strings and Air Force Strings Orchestra, died of pneumonia Aug. 17 at a hospital in Gloucester, VA. He had lung cancer.

Mr. Rodgers lived in the Washington area for 32 years before moving to Gloucester last year. He served in the Air Force from 1951 to 1975, when he retired as a chief warrant officer. He directed bands in England, Germany and Wright Patterson and Lackland Air Force bases.

After he retired, he taught viola and violin and performed with chamber music groups. He was also a member and librarian of the Virginia Chamber Orchestra.

Mr. Rodgers was a native of Dallas, where he performed as a young man with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. He was a graduate of North Texas State University, where he received a master's degree in music education. He taught music in the Sherman, TX public schools before joining the Air Force.

His wife of 45 years, Carol DeWitt Rodgers, died in 1993. Survivors include a daughter, Christiana Rodgers of Gloucester, and a brother.

## Elmer R. Bruna

Elmer R. Bruna died on June 2, 1998. He had been a resident at Air Force Village II, in San Antonio since 1988.

No other information was available at press time.

## Roger W. Sims

Roger W. Sims passed away August 16, 1998 in Colorado Springs, CO. He was a retired MSGT in the USAF, having served many years with the USAF Academy Band.

Survivors include his wife Retta; two daughters, Deborah Kenny and Holly Gronseth; two sons, Kenneth & Roger A. Sims; four step-children, Roxanna M. Parrish, Robert D. Ray, Rose J. Ray, and Rebecca L. Turner; his siblings, Ruth Wade

and David Sims; four grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren and two step great-grandchildren.

## John "Joe" Senior

John Senior, 67, a resident of Cape May, NJ died May 31, 1998.

John, known as "Joe" was a well known drummer featured at the Cape May Jazz festival. Joe played the drums for most of his life and retired from the USAF Band in 1969. While a member of the Central IL Jazz Society in Peoria, he was known as "Philly Joe."

He is survived by his wife Faye Senior and his children: Linda Williams, Winnie Faussett, Mark Senior, Susan Senior and Rhea Bancroft; five grandchildren; his sister, Sister Regina Celeste, Immaculate Heart of Philadelphia.

Joe was born and lived in Germantown until he joined the Air Force in 1949.

## New Veteran Benefit Law

Recently, the internet was passing around a notice which in effect said that if you were a Veteran, and had not used a Veterans Health Care Facility within the last two years, you must register at a VA Hospital prior to Oct 1st, 1998, or lose your benefits for life!

I am happy to report that TROA has informed me that this notice is BOGUS, and although not intended to frighten anyone, it was never the less mistakenly worded.

.....Ed.

## NEW MEMBER

Richard W. and Shizuko Roclevitch  
4840 W. Cochise Dr.  
Glendale, AZ 85302  
602/939-3173

## Airmen of Note Website

The new Airmen of Note website is:  
[www.rewindplay.com](http://www.rewindplay.com)

Check it out!

## I remember...

the field! Luckily, we had memorized the music from our next routine and escaped by playing that."

"Explaining to Mark Peterson, conductor of the Mt. Prospect Community Band, that I normally played "1st Trumpet." He said he had three strong players ahead of me. Three weeks later I was his only trumpet player!"

"Sitting in Mel Huyett's office at Lackland urging a depressed Ray Toler to try the band directors audition for the third time. He did -- He passed --and kicked some major butt during a brilliant career. I like to think about that conversation!"

"Trying to get direct field grade commissions for some highly skilled warrant officers and enlisted people so they could train young lieutenants coming into the program. The result? Bill Dries, Jim Danielson and Gene Egge were allowed to attend OTS and graduated as 2nd Lieutenants. Typical Air Force thinking!"

ED: I'm sure this will tweak some of your memory banks! Please send in some material!...thanks, Vince

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Chuck and Sandy Gardner  
18 Nottingham Drive  
Medford, NJ 08055  
609.953.2699

James E. and Louise McMillen  
3543 Simsbury Ct  
Carlsbad, CA 92008  
760/729-5633

Mark Peterson  
8307 Tabor Lane  
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Lewis and Irene Anderson  
Trotters Chase #504  
695 E Western Reserve Road  
Poland, OH 44514  
330/758-9434

Roger and Chris Sebbby  
660 Carved Terrace  
Colorado Springs, CO 80919-1131  
719.262.0343

## HONOR ROLL

Allee	Blanch	Dep	1 Jul 94	Lantz	Hertha M	Dep	15 Jul 97
Allee	Robert E	CWO4	6 Oct 97	Lanzillotti	Joseph	CWO4	28 Mar 90
Allen	Hiram	CWO	4 Dec 78	Laub	Elmer	CWO4	28 Jan 86
Attridge	George	Maj	21 Sep 93	Linde	Kurt	CWO	1 Oct 75
Azzolina	Mark	LTC	1 Jan 96	Losh	Jean	Dep	26 Jun 86
Azzolina	Philip	CWO	30 Jun 70	Luce	Carmine	CWO4	29 Jul 81
Baker	William	CWO	1 Nov 70	Luce	Edith	Dep	26 Aug 92
Bartiromo	Maj-Britt	Dep	17 May 88	Maciejewski	Henry	CWO	12 Jan 67
Beckett	Joe	LTC		Maniscalco	Bennie	CWO4	12 Nov 94
Berky	William	CWO4	1 Jul 83	Marston	Vernon	CWO	22 Jul 84
Blakewell	William	CWO4	6 Jun 89	Namisnak	Nadya	Dep	3 Dec 93
Bollinger	Frank	CWO	10 Oct 53	Nestico	Marge	Dep	16 Jan 94
Borland	John	CMS	30 Dec 90	Olmsted	Victor	CWO4	3 Oct 87
Bridges	Ed	CPT	9 Mar 97	Osiecki	Constance L	Dep	18 Feb 97
Bruna	Elmer	CWO4	2 Jun 98	Overton	Lloyd	CWO	9 Nov 88
Bunton	Francis	Dep	28 Jul 95	Owens	Clyde	CWO	1 Dec 68
Burt	Leonard	CWO4	31 Dec 91	Powell	Guy	CWO4	22 Dec 84
Byer	Edgar F	SMS	7 Jun 89	Proctor	Vernon	CWO4	3 Mar 80
Chura	Henry	CWO	1 Jul 48	Ramley/Ramie	Richard	CWO	
Coy	Crawford	CWO	1 Sep 57	Raymond	William	CWO	
D'Alfonso	Ed	LTC	27 Sep 94	Reade	Elmer	CWO4	18 May 86
Danielsen	Joyce	Dep	16 Sep 92	Reed	Frank	CWO	1 Sep 67
DeBusschere	Emile	CWO	26 Feb 80	Roberts	Gertrude	Dep	8 Aug 94
Dieter	Gertrude	Dep	10 May 97	Roberts	George E	CMS	24 Feb 96
Dougherty	Edward L	CPT	25 May 96	Rodgers	Carol	Dep	19 Oct 93
Dunham	Irving	SMS	4 May 92	Rodgers	Gregory S	CWO4	17 Aug 98
Dunn	Robert	CWO4	25 Jun 89	Rosheger	Eugene	CWO4	24 Jul 97
Eagle	Boyd	CWO4	22 Dec 90	Salin	Gunnar	CWO	1 Apr 72
Englert	Herman W	CWO4	1 Jul 97	Sanford	Edwin	CWO4	13 Mar 90
Fleig	Harry	CPT	27 Oct 92	Sanger	Louise	Dep	13 Dec 87
Foster	Charles	CWO		Schirmer	Ed	CMS	18 Dec 93
Fredric	Anthony	CWO4	25 Oct 89	Selke	Narvel T	CMS	2 Aug 95
Fredric	Pat	Dep	14 Sep 96	Smith	Ron	SMS	19 Mar 93
Gaydos	Gene	SMS	12 Jul 91	Spring		CWO	
Goodwin	Bert	Dep	19 May 98	Stone	Guy	CWO	1 Aug 76
Gowers	Henry	CWO	1 Sep 64	Swartz	Lawrence	CMS	29 Sep 92
Grace	Ed	CWO4	1 Dec 74	Turner	Robert A	CMS	14 May 96
Granofsky	Charles	CMS	30 Aug 91	Uhland	Leona	Dep	16 Apr 93
Greer	Ernest	Maj	28 May 84	Van Sice	Dick	SMS	21 May 89
Haines	Ed	CWO4	2 Aug 83	Weckesser	Mae	Dep	26 Jan 89
Hays	Russel	CWO		Weckesser	Pau	LTC	27 Nov 86
Hehmsoth	Carl	CWO	7 Mar 70	Weirauch	Frank	CWO4	9 Aug 92
Heiberg	Alf	LTC	9 Sep 94	Whitehead	Ross	CWO4	8 May 97
Henke	Robert	SMS	22 Apr 90	Wiehe	Larry	CMS	7 Aug 92
Howard	George	Col	18 Sep 95	Wolf	Charles	CWO	7 May 87
Howard	Sadako	Dep	21 May 95	Zavarella	Anthony	SMS	14 Jul 94
Hoyt	Harold M	CPT	8 Dec 97				
Kirpatrick	Ruth	Dep	19 May 93				
Kraft	Bette J	Dep	21 Apr 95				
Kraft	Donald	CMS	29 Oct 96				
Kurtz	Samuel	LTC	12 Dec 86				
LaBrutta	Bill	CMS	31 Oct 96				

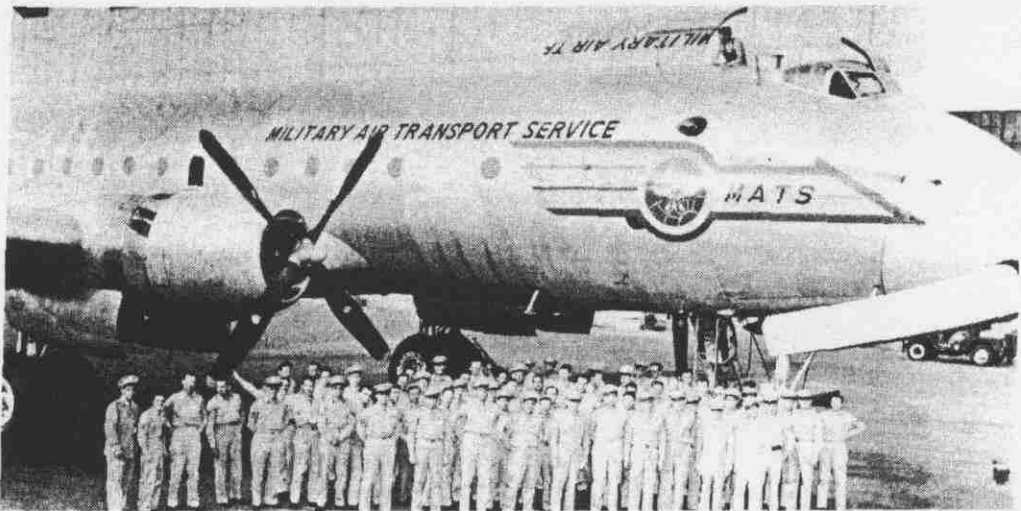
# MEMORABILIA



1956; Gregory Rodgers, Ramstein; Louis Kriebel, London; Herman Vincent, Wiesbaden; Patrick Olmstead, Laon, France  
Dave Hale, Tripoli, Lybia



USAF Band: Bill Hilferty, Eric Shaar, Carl Wirt, Dave Whitwell  
1960



USAF Band, European tour, 1951 (Anyone recognize the type of aircraft?)



New WOJG's, 1951: Unk, Unk, Unk, Pierce Walters, Unk, Frank Lockwood, Unk, Arnald Gabriel