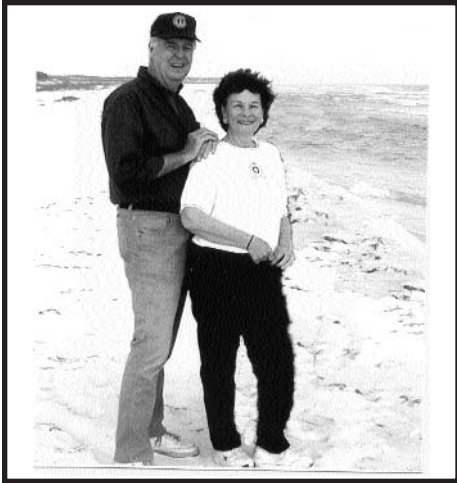


the big names. He was in Frank Sinatra's West Coast band (basically Caesars) for 17 years and played for Sinatra in Hawaii, Japan and the Philippines. After Frank Sr. retired, Dave played in Frank Jr's band. He spent 20 years to the day in Las Vegas and retired again to Pensacola, Florida for 8 1/2 years.

"I liked Pensacola, especially the kayaking (he built his own) and local gigs



*Dave and Marj  
Pensacola Beach, 2003*

with ex-Air Force musicians **Bob Maksymkow, Jack Revels** and **Paul Shortgen**. We still have property near Pensacola and may return." He and Marj moved to Branson last year and he enjoys playing with the Les Brown Orchestra.

Married 46 years, the Napier's often visit their three children and four grandchildren scattered in Colorado, Kansas and New Jersey.

At an age when most of us have long retired, Dave Napier is still out there, restless, impatient, irreverent, playing regularly and still passionate about something, but he just can't seem to remember what it is.

### *Singing Sergeants Reunion Introduces New Web Site*

The Singing Sergeants will be holding a reunion in San Jose, CA from August 9<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005, and the reunion committee just introduced a fun web site to promote the event – [singingsergeants.com](http://singingsergeants.com).

Created by the Reunion Chair, **Ken Carter**, the site has numerous pictures, a

listing of the folks who have been "found," as well as a listing of the singers for whom they are still searching, numerous written statements, plus a song recorded during a live performance in 1965 which will surely become a "classic."

Already planning to attend are several singers from the very first "Air Force Band Glee Club" back in 1942 all the way up to members of the current chorus. Every era of the Singing Sergeants will be represented.

This will be a "singing" reunion, with two concerts planned, featuring songs from throughout the organization's history. The first half will be devoted to male chorus music since the Singing Sergeants were a male chorus from 1942 to 1974. The second half will feature a large mixed chorus – reflecting the Singing Sergeants from '74 right through to today's professional ensemble which is continuing the tradition of excellence in choral music -- the proud heritage of the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants.

Everyone is excited about the fact that conducting the programs and rehearsals will be the former director of the Singing Sergeants who today is acclaimed as America's leading choral conductor, **Craig Jessop**. Currently the conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir in Salt Lake City, UT, Craig is also a former conductor of both the USAF Band in Germany and the AF Band at Offutt AFB.

For further information about the Singing Sergeants 2005 Reunion, go to the web site ([singingsergeants.com](http://singingsergeants.com)), or write Ken Carter at PO Box 2452, Saratoga, CA 95070.

### *AFMA Member Produces Historic AAF CD*

AFMA member Bob Cartwright of Greenville, TX recently captured a wonderful bit of Army Air Forces musical history on CD and in the accompanying CD booklet, while at the same time completing a labor of love to honor an old friend.

After serving in AF music early in his career (Connelly AFB in Waco, TX and Mather in CA), Bob settled down in Greenville, TX where he was both a high

school band director and eventually owned a music store.

He purchased that store from his friend of 50 years, **Kenneth McKay**, a fellow musician who passed away several years ago. Ken had been a member of the Army Air Forces Training Command's 2001<sup>st</sup> Radio Production Unit from 1943 to '45. The 322<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Band which was a part of the history of the 2001<sup>st</sup> was actually begun at Majors Army Air Field right there in Greenville.

While the unit began in Texas, it moved to New York City when the **Glenn Miller** AAF group left for England. The 2001<sup>st</sup> took over the national broadcasts of the Miller band, and had some of the finest studio players and arrangers in the country as members. For example – does the name **Elmer Bernstein** ring a bell?

Anyway, when Ken died, his daughters gave Bob some cassettes which had been made from some of those original broadcasts back in the 40s. By then "retired" (he still plays gigs), Bob has a recording studio in his house and set about cleaning up those old cassettes and putting them on CDs.

But he didn't stop there. He became fascinated with the unit and what it accomplished during the war years, so he spent a great deal of time doing research on the outfit.

The resultant work turned out to be a three CD set along with a booklet packed with information gleaned from Bob's research on the unit. "It's all very dated," says Bob of the music, "but you can tell they were top notch musicians."

So far he's only produced about a dozen copies of his work, and recently contributed one to the historic files of AFMA. While he isn't in it for a profit, he would be delighted to talk with anyone who might be interested in learning more about that uniquely talented group, and would be willing to produce more copies of the CD package for those interested in obtaining one.

You can reach Bob Cartwright via E-mail at: [sandybob@geusnet.com](mailto:sandybob@geusnet.com) or by checking his listing in the AFMA Directory and either giving him a call or writing.