

As today's AFMA has gone through a number of name changes during its history – founded in 1980 as the USAF Retired Band Directors Society, followed by the USAF Retired Band Directors & Superintendents Society and the USAF Musicians Alumni Association – so too has our quarterly newsletter, CODA, from its earliest days as a duplicated/typed newsletter to today's printed quarterly publication.

In this section of the AFMA Website, we are going to present copies of our earliest newsletters, beginning with the June, 1982 effort, the earliest one we have on file. Our Immediate Past President, Lou Kriebel, has made these wonderful windows on the past available.

To take up as little space as possible on the website, each of the earliest newsletters will be retyped rather than scanned, and volunteers are needed to help make this happen. These are not verbatim copies, but represent highlights from these early publications.

If you are willing to assist in this project – volunteer to type – please contact our Executive Director, Ken Schinstine.

So, enjoy the history reflected in these early newsletters, which will clearly amplify that wonderful old saying, "My, how the times have changed!"

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## USAF RETIRED BAND DIRECTORS SOCIETY

### Retiree Bulletin – 6 – 82

A Great Convention at San Antonio, TX 10-13 Feb 82!! Who was there? Sadako & Col. George S. Howard; Alleyne & Sam Kurtz; Dona & Jim Roland; Ruth & John Kirkpatrick; Marilyn & Herman Vincent; Miki & Lou Kriebel; Harold Copenhaver; Herman Englert; Mary G. & Dave Hale; Harold Hoyt; MaryBelle Nissly; Adam Shaffer; Hank Uhland; June & Elmer Bruna.

The meeting of old and new friends was enjoyed by all who attended. The wives who were able to attend further enhanced a gathering of great people. A total representation of 23% of our society was there for this event. We attended a superb concert by The USAF Band from Washington DC; had passes to attend 560 outstanding displays and exhibits. Above all, had ample time to renew old friends and meet new ones.

In addition, we had an invitation to attend all active duty events which were informative, enlightening and we were welcomed as 'friends of the family'. Requests came from both sides, active and retired, to have more scheduled gatherings in the future. As everyone turned towards home, they are looking forward, with enthusiasm and anticipation, to and even greater future convention.

This was the first combined active and retired Directors convention; first time all units were addressed by a four star general. Letters of appreciation were sent from the Society to the personnel concerned, through their Commanding General, for assistance given us. To mention a few: Lt. Col. Benny Knudsen and his staff; Capt. Al Bonner and his staff; Col. Howard and our committee. The latter did not receive a letter, but words of praise and appreciation from those in attendance, was overwhelming. We did receive a letter from General Ryan, expressing his appreciation in our attending and his wholehearted support and interest in the Band program.

The Air National Guard Music Program: Those of you who have attended meetings of this nature over the years, will remember representatives of the ANG Bands attending. Well, this year was no exception, except, they are well organized now and have their own "Chief." He is Major (Dr.) William L. Maxson, Chairman, Department of Music, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA. I was privileged to address a meeting of their group. They have 12 bands, and every band was represented by three or four members of their group, including its Commander. They are all quite active and have only one or two openings in the entire program.

Col. Howard: Busy, Busy, Busy!!! Our "Boss" has received another outstanding award. On 6 Feb 82, at Troy State University, Troy, AL, he became the 21<sup>st</sup> laureate of the Hall of Fame of Distinguished Band Conductors. He is the fourth living person to be so honored and the only inductee in 1982. His name now stands beside the names of John Philip Sousa, Patrick Conway, Arthur Pryor and Edwin Franko Goldman. His portrait (unveiled by Mrs. Howard) hangs next to these men who have been his personal friends and colleagues. CONGRATULATIONS, Colonel, it is an honor and a privilege to have you as our "Chief." On 4 Apr 82, Sadako and George S. Howard celebrated their 25 wedding anniversary: this is certainly a good year for both of you.

Mae and Paul Weckesser: Our "Founder" was unable to attend the convention, however, he was there in "spirit." When I arrived home, and before I could get a report off to him, he sent me a full report of the convention, and was very pleased with the results.

Dona and Jim Roland: Jim was our official photographer during our convention. Did an excellent job!

Marilyn and Herman Vincent: If you missed him last year as a judge at the “Miss America” contest in NJ, keep an eye on the TV this year. Vince has once again been asked to judge. CONGRATULATIONS, Vince!!!

Marilyn and Adam Shaffer: Adam is retired from school teaching and really keeps busy. If you remember Adam with his well groomed black hair and mustache – well, just change them to “white” and he looks just the same.

Naomi and Harold Roberts: Retired in 1970 and spent the next six years teaching instrumental music, Jr. High. During the summers he worked for an owner/outfitter as a fishing guide on the McKinze River at West Yellowstone Park. Vacationed in New Zealand for 44 days and enjoyed fishing so much he decided to become a fulltime guide and gave up teaching.

George Attridge: On 1 Jan 81, George retired for the second time. George set quite a track record after retiring from the USAF. From 1967-1981 he:

- Executive Vice President of CALU (Colo. Assoc. of Life Underwriters, Denver)
- Executive Vice President, DALU
- Executive Vice President, Rocky Mt. General Agents & Managers Assoc.
- Executive Vice President, Colo. LUPAC (1976-1980)
- Kiwanis: Twice elected Director, VP and President of Denver Kiwanis Club Foundation, Board of Directors Y VP, Capital city Kiwanis
- AFA: VP, Silver & Gold Chapter
- United Cerebral Palsy: President of the Colorado State Association

Helen and Frank Weirauch: Celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in 1981

June and Elmer Bruna: “It seems that retirement allows less time to get things done. I guess it is because we put off so very many things before retirement and then try to accomplish everything immediately afterward. Subsequent to AF retirement, I was employed by the Texas Educational Foundation. After almost 11 years I retired for the second time on 1 August 1980. Since that I have hardly a moment to spare.”

Vernon Marston: Retired 1951. Taught High School and at the same time acquired his Masters in Music Education. Retired after 15 years of teaching.

REMINDERS: We can still use any contributions of money or stamps (mailed to Cope or myself) towards keeping the information in circulation in our Society. There are several who have not mailed their wives first name or your home phone number – please do your part in keeping our records up to date. If you move to a new address, please let us know. There are three members whose mail has been returned: Gene Egge, John Nalezny and Jim McMillen. My “Crystal Ball” does not work well enough to locate a change in address. Does anyone know the address of Herb Childs or Wm. Burns? Please send it to Cope or me.

(Signed)  
Lou Kriebel  
Field Representative

This newsletter was edited and re-typed for inclusion on the AFMA Website by Harry Gleeson