



## USAF RETIRED BAND DIRECTORS SOCIETY

Retiree Bulletin - 7 - 82

Hello everyone:

This bulletin exposes a few more "Firsts" for our people. A big CONGRATULATIONS to Benny Knudsen, who has succeeded in making Full Colonel, as "Chief" of the Band & Music Branch, in the Pentagon. This creates a second Full Colonel slot in the Air Force Music Field.

Another, I believe, "First"; I have the honor of being the first Air Force bandleader to become President of an Air Force Association chapter. On 1 October 1982, I will assume this position. During the past year I have been Program Chairman; this chapter, the Central Florida Chapter, of approximately 1200 members, is an active group and a lot of fun to work with. I am looking forward to a fun year.

Vic Keehner: In 1968 the Keehner's moved from Montgomery, AL to Biloxi, MS. Vic's interest in electronics and computers is enhanced in this area, as Keesler Air Force Base is the Electronic Center of the Air Force. He is quite active in Amateur Radio W5MOJ. Vic is still a member of Local 802 in New York, and keeps his piano busy at home.

Jean and Joe Losh: Joe retired twice; once from the ANG in 1979 and from the Bureau of Alcohol and Firearms. He is still playing, approximately eight club dates a month. He has several brass students. Joe is the Founder and Director of the Brooklyn Concert Band, Inc., Director of the Mecca Temple Shrine Band, Empire State Band and the John Philip Sousa American Legion Band. He is Commander of the John Philip Sousa American Legion Post, the only all musician post in the United States.

Winda and Ernest Greer: These two have become tourist 1<sup>st</sup> class. They enjoy traveling and tow a 31-foot Airstream. They have covered most of the country and have made the Mayo Clinic a priority stop.

Ruth and John Kirkpatrick: Another couple of happy campers. Their last trip took them to TN, VA, WV and DC. Visited relatives and friends. While in DC they got to visit with Mae and Col Weckesser, also Fred Kepner. Everyone is doing fine; however, Fred is no longer playing, just teaching at home.

Harold Hoyt: Sent a clipping from the Chicago Federation of Musicians (Local #10-208). "Reunion!  
WW2, 597<sup>th</sup> Army Air Force Band, Turner Field, Georgia, plans a first-time reunion. If you were a member of that group and wish to see your old comrades once again, contact: Eugene Wagner

Lady and Harold Copenhaver: After a triple by-pass operation, Cope is back to work, half-days. He is recovering well and doing fine. They wish to thank everyone for their good wishes and kindness during his illness.

Marilyn and Herman Vincent: Vince will be on TV again during the "Miss America" contest at Atlantic City, NJ. This showing will be on 11 Sep, so look for him.

Sadako and George Howard: The 5<sup>th</sup> of Sep will take Col Howard to Ephrata, PA where he will guest conduct with a combined Community Band. One the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the

Historical Society of the Cocalico Valley, they are opening an exhibit of Colonel Howard's memorabilia. The 12<sup>th</sup> of Sep. he will be guest speaker at the Banquet and Guest Conductor at their concert.

Mae and Paul Weckesser: Col Weckesser reports that Harry Meuser retired from the school system in January 82. He is the last to retire of ten or twelve USAF people teaching in Prince George County, MD. Frank Lockwood is still going strong in Fairfax County, VA.

While cleaning some of my files, I came across an old list of retired Air Force Bandleaders. There were six names and addresses of colleagues not yet contacted. George Z. Diaz, Mark S. Foster, James McMillen, Carl W. Hehmsoth, Frank Ruffin and Wm T. Burns. I mailed each of them a letter. To date, the results have been: --- Wm T. Burns (Deceased) and a very nice letter from Helen Hehmsoth.

Helen Hehmsoth: Carl, her husband passed away March 7, 1970. As he was the original leader of the 661<sup>st</sup> Air Force Band at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, OH, she was invited to their first reunion. She reports the hospitality extended to her by LTC H.C. Johnson (present Commander/Conductor), made her "proud to be a former band leaders wife." She requested to be placed on our mailing list so she could enjoy hearing of their old friends. She is our "First" Honorary Society member.

Stamps/checks are very much appreciated and needed. Keep in touch. Please get notes to me early for our next bulletin which will be prior to Xmas.



Louis C Kriebel  
Field Rep