

Leger Lines

Navy Musicians Association, Inc

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President's Message

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*Happy New Year to Each
of You*

Greetings to all NMA members,

Well, as of this date, Santa Claus is coming and hope that all members get their stockings filled with what they want. I do know that the Northeast members will be having a white Christmas. Maybe a little too white. Hmmmm, that's why I left as I recall.

We are preparing for our semi-annual Board of Director's meeting in January. We will be meeting in Orlando, Florida, at the hotel we will be staying at for the reunion. There are many items we will be discussing to improve our reunions and also we'll be discussing the purchase of new equipment. Slowly, but surely, we are trying to become self-sufficient so that renting equipment becomes unnecessary. My thanks to the officers and members of the BOD for continuing to do an outstanding job.

The reunion is fast approaching. Information on how to make reservations are in this issue. This reunion will be a tremendous opportunity for all to go and take advantage of a great hotel at a great price to make a vacation of it in Florida. Please make your reservations early! The quicker you get them in, the better it is for me to get more rooms, if needed. So please sign up early and enjoy Mickey Mouse town with your fellow members.

I'd like you all to start thinking about nominations for association officers. It's time for some other members to jump in there and get your feet wet in order to give some of our veterans a break. There are benefits in becoming an officer, the most important being that your room at each reunion is paid for by the NMA. But, more importantly, new officers bring new ideas and possibly better ways of doing business. Don't let the Association become stagnant. In all organizations, change can be very good. So please submit your names to MUCM Melanie Leketa, who just happens to be in charge of the nominating committee.

That's all from the prez. Have a great holiday season and a very prosperous new year.

See you all in Orlando.

Bob Leketa

TAPS

Frank Aurillo, Gustave Beierwaltes, Madline Bohon, Bud Fravel, Wayne Lage, Ed Wiltanger

**MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW FOR NMA REUNION
2004**

WHEN: June 23-27, 2004
WHERE: Sheraton World Resort
 10100 International Drive
 Orlando, FL 32821
Reservations: 1-800-327-0363
COST: \$84.00 per night for single or double
 \$92.00 per night for triple or quad
*(Price is good 3 days prior and 3 days
 after reunion.)*

Unit Band # 154, Naples, Italy (ca. 1953)



Saxes: Unknown, Miranda, Nadien, Persi, Yung Trombones: Richardson, Eshelman, Jim Smith,
 Joe Atherly (LPO)
 Trumpets: Unknown, Trosko, Kasper, Tewksbury Drums: Grissom Bass: LaBonte Piano: Crotzer, Do not know
 the person standing in the rear. *(Picture courtesy of Robert Yung)*



The ComCruDiv 1 band about 1953. First Row: Gilbeirer
Second Row: Jansen, Needham, Plummer, Not Known, Solomon, Not Known, Bose, Gummer
Third Row: Weeden, Pee, Not Known, Honaker, Vitt, Walker, McDonald (Picture courtesy of Bill Walker)



Above is a replica of the trophy that was presented to Lachenmayer, Albert, Emond, and Huddleston at a re-creation of December 6, 1941, at the sub base in Pearl Harbor on December 6, 1991 (the 50th anniversary of Pearl Harbor).

WHERE WERE YOU ON 6 DECEMBER 1941?

By Gene Huddleston

I was with the Music School Unit Band #8 at Pearl Harbor aboard BB-38 (USS Pennsylvania), the flagship for CINC-PAC (Admiral Husband Kimmell). The gig that night was the final "shoot out" of the Battle of the Bands that had been going on for weeks, and we were in the finals that night with the Tennessee Band, the Detroit Band, and the Argonne Band. Each of the bands had survived a shoot out with three other bands which put them in the finals. The Arizona band was there, but only to play for dancing afterward. Arizona had been eliminated in a previous round. The Pennsy band won the trophy, which was kind of preordained. We were a very good band and had been together since early 1938. This band contained six future Warrant Officers, but that is another story.

After the gig, we went to our ship with the Arizona band. We were in dry dock and the Arizona was out in the channel. Arizona sailors were kind of hitting on us because we had to make colors the next morning for the whole harbor and they could sleep in. There was a rumor that went around after December 7 that they all died in their bunks—not so. They were at their G Q station handling ammunition when the Arizona went up. About two weeks later Band 8 decided to award the trophy to the Arizona band posthumously.

When I was called back (in 1951) the trophy was on display in the old Music School and was sent to the Arizona Memorial when it was opened. Later, it was placed at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D. C for awhile thanks to the efforts of Hank Lachenmayer. Where the trophy is now is not known by the Band 8 survivors: Gene (Dutch) Albert, Frank (Fritz) Emond, Gene (Sir) Huddleston, and Eddy (Ed) Strobak (retired Air Force). Three of the aforementioned are Sax players. I don't know what that means, and I don't think I want to!



The winner of the Battle of Music on December 6, 1941. After Pearl, we went to San Francisco for repairs and new guns. We moved off the Pennsylvania to the YMCA and played gigs around the city. Trumpets: Ross, Gormly, Lambert, Gott (lead), Sherman (jazz). Bass: Stevens. Trombone: Lachenmayer, Underloffer, Parent. Saxes: Albert Strobel, Huddleston, Kohl. Drummer: Mandoski (Picture made Feb/Mar 1942; Picture courtesy of G Huddleston.)



The band at Nanakuli Beach in Jan 1941 stationed aboard the Honolulu with Adm Kimball COM CRU BAT FOR. Very shortly after this picture, we went to the Pennsylvania with Adm Kimball when he became CINC PAC. (Courtesy of G Huddleston)



Band 8 just prior to transferring to the Pennsylvania with Admiral Kimball.
 Back Row L to R: Porter, Burchoop, Emond, Zetger, CPO Jensen, Stevens, Undercoffler, Parent, Lachenmayer, Lambert Front Row L to R: Albert, Armour, Cummings, Craig, Mandoski, Huddleston, Lambert, John, Sherman, Gott. (Courtesy of G Huddleston)



"The Dons of Dixie" L to R: Jiminez, Childs, Villalpando, Reeser, Atwood, Degregorio
 (Picture of the above and newspaper write-up on the following page courtesy of Lennie Childs)

CNATRA's Band Has Dixieland Sound

If you've ever been in the vicinity of the Chief of Naval Air Training band room when the syncopated sounds of Dixieland create a New Orleans air, you've caught the Dons of Dixie in rehearsal.

With 133 years of combined musical experience behind them, six musicians ranging from seaman to chief jazz it up "off the top of their heads" with tunes like "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "Tiger Rag."

An important ingredient in the dixieland troupe is showmanship. "We do a lot of playing and singing and fooling around," said the group's leader MUC Pat Degregorio.

"In our group it helps to be a ham!"

The Dons travel with the Chief of Naval Air Training Stage Band. They reinforce the band for parades, but at concert time, the Dons are on their own.

Not only do they want to give their audiences something to listen to, but the Dons strive to entertain visually as well. The group has worked up two 40-minute shows complete with comedy routines, and a third show is in the making.

What makes the dixieland route worthwhile? "It's fun to do," said MUC Degregorio with zest. "The guys enjoy performing. The routines are worked out and understood, but a tune or solo is never played the same way twice."

The Dons include MUI Juan Villalpando who sings out on the trombone. Jazzing it up are MUI Lenny Childs on the trumpet and MUC Pat Degregorio on the clarinet. Pounding it out on the drums is MUSN Ernie Jimenez. MUI Lee Atwood swings at the piano and MUSN Dent Donohoo adds the heartbeat on the tuba and electric bass.

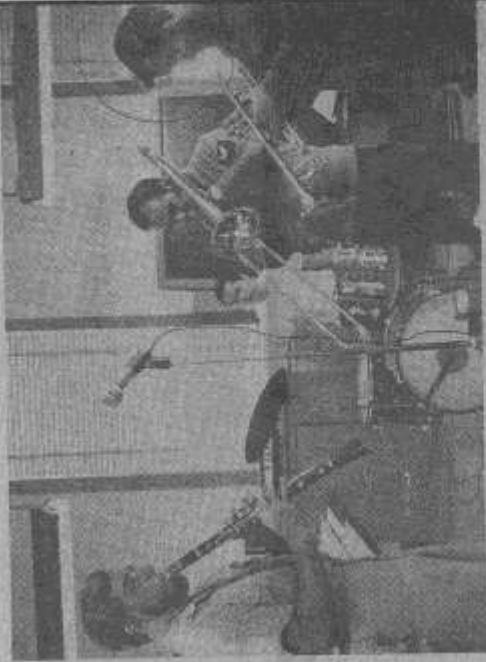
The dixieland group is currently appearing with the CNATRA band at the Frontier Days Celebration in Cheyenne, Wyo.



Villalpando on trombone



Donohoo on tuba



CNATRA's Dons of Dixie



Degregorio on clarinet

Notes from the Treasurer:

It is time to mail in your dues for 2004. The dues are still \$25.

As always, I would like to receive your payment before January, because I have very little spare time from January through April.

Navy Musicians Association: Clip (or copy) and mail to Cecil Strange, Treasurer of NMA, P.O. Box 2294, Plant City, FL 33564-2294. Dues for 1 January -31 December 2004: \$25.00 Make checks payable to NMA. (No cash please)

Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____

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Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Dates served as MU _____ to _____ Instruments _____

Comments _____

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