



Official Newsletter of the Navy Musicians Association

Leger Lines

Volume 2, Issue 1

WINTER 2006

President's Message

Happy Holidays to Everyone,

During this time of giving and sharing, I would be remiss in not mentioning our fellow shipmates who are no longer with us. It has been a tough year for we have lost a few dear friends including Alberto R Asercion; David A Blair; Charles D Chase; Paul D "Dan" Clemens; James W Howard, Sr; H E "Gene" Huddleston; Frederick S Miller; Joseph P Mokry; Wilford Nehmer, Jr; Warren A Pettie; and Charles W Roop. On a personal note, one of our departed shipmates was probably the best band officer I ever had. Dan Clemens was a good friend, an excellent leader, and an outstanding CO at the School of Music. He, along with the others, will be missed greatly.

Our April reunion is fast approaching. My thanks go out to all of our members for spreading the word on the NMA. We have received 24 new membership applications this year and hopefully they will be in attendance at the next reunion. Speaking of which, the 2007 NMA reunion will be back in Norfolk, Virginia, from 25 to 28 April 2007 at the Holiday Inn Executive Center on Greenwich Road in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This will be the last April reunion. In the future, all reunions will be held in late June or early July.

One of the things that upsets me most is losing a member for no apparent reason, other than they wish to drop out. I hope that you all are enjoying the reunions and the *Leger Lines* information. If you have any suggestions on how to better the organization, please feel free to e-mail me or any other Board of Director member. This is YOUR organization, and anything we can do to make it better, we certainly will listen.

Have a safe and joyous holiday season. Remember to pre-register for the reunion. It's cheaper for you and easier on the registration staff. See you all in Virginia Beach.

Bob Leketa

A Note from the Treasurer

It is time to pay your 2007 membership dues of \$25. I am requesting that you send in your dues on a voluntary basis. I will not be sending you an invoice, but will send your new membership card upon receipt of your payment. This will save the association several hundred dollars if we don't have to mail out approximately 600 invoices.

At this time, we are also asking for contributions to the O L McMillan Scholarship Fund. You can contribute any amount and enclose it in your dues check, or send a separate check if you desire. The next round of scholarship awards will deplete our funds if we do not receive more contributions.

Mail checks to Navy Musicians Association; P O Box 2294; Plant City, FL 33564. The association telephone number is 813.601.3868 or fax 813.707.9207 for any questions or information.

REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHECK WRITTEN BY DECEMBER 31, 2006, IS AN ITEMIZED TAX DEDUCTION ON YOUR 2006 TAX RETURN. YOU MAY ALSO DEDUCT EXPENSES FOR ATTENDING THE ANNUAL REUNION. CALL ME FOR INFO and/or TELL YOUR ACCOUNTANT IRS Sec 501(c)(19).

Wishing all of you a great and prosperous 2007.

Cecil Strange

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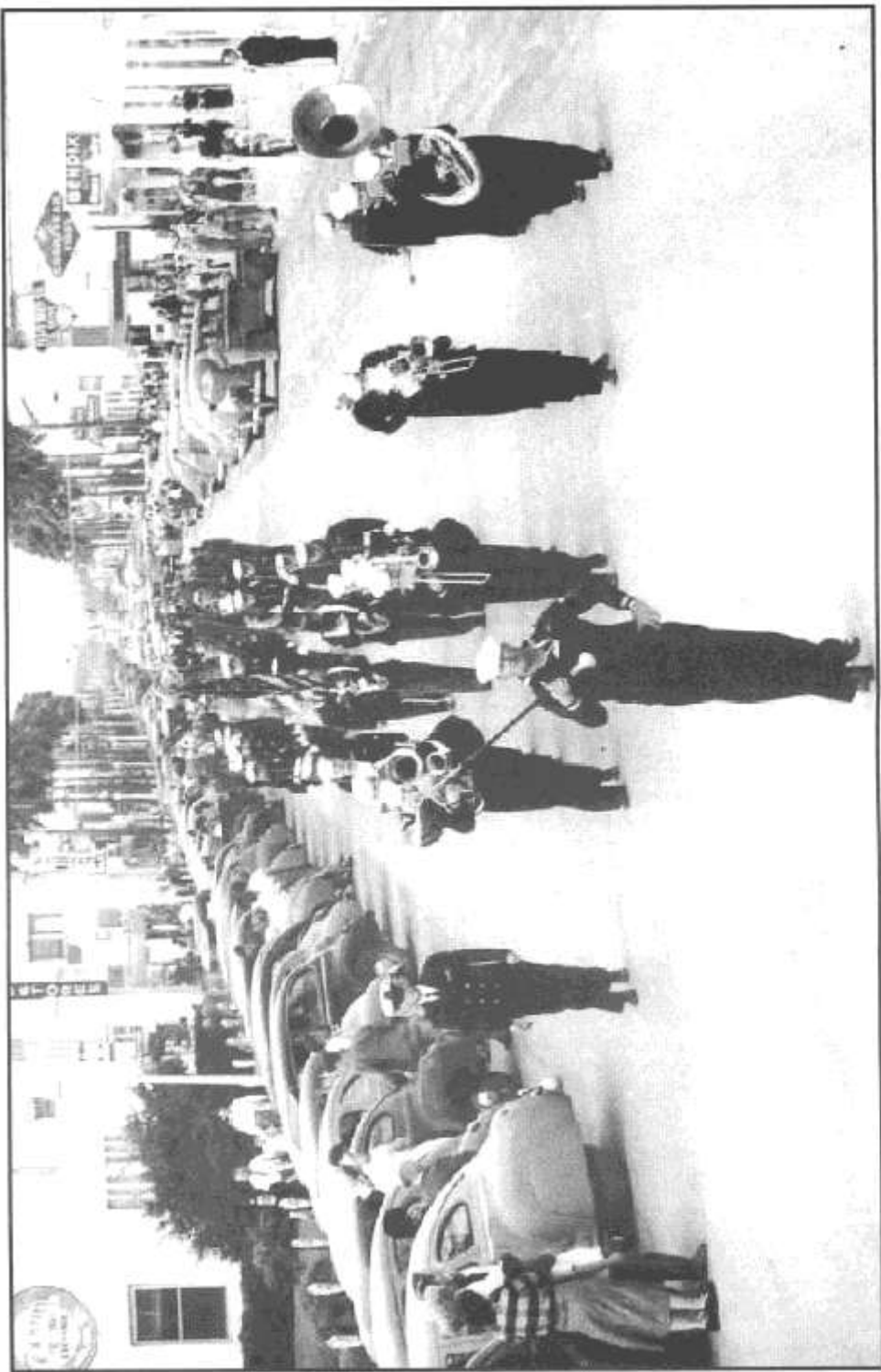
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TAPS

Paul D "Dan" Clemens



NAVY BAND 95 from Corpus Christi Texas Naval Air Station (January 1949) in Weslaco, Texas
 (Band is participating in the funeral of Marine Corporal Harlon Henry Block, one of the men raising the flag on Iwo Jima. Cpl Block was at the base of the flag pole
 in the famous Rosenthal picture)

Navy Band members are as follows:

- Row 1: C Edwards, B Thompson, Lyle Kirk, D Blanton
- Row 3: D Richardson, F Ridgeway, B Peluso, E Bennett

Bandmaster was MUC VanSickle and Drum Major was L. Phillips (Photo courtesy of Bob Blankenburg)

- Row 2: A Clark, J State, S Ciarravino, T. Bailey
- Row 4: B Meyers, H Russell, B Blankenburg, I Barry

Generations of Talent-Laden Filipinos Serve as Navy Musicians

Filipinos are natural musicians, and my family is no exception. I am Diosdado Clanor Palompo, a native of General Trias, Cavite, Philippines (just north of Manila by Sangley Point), and I served in the United States Navy for 27 years as a musician. In fact, my two grandfathers, Ramon M Palompo and Hilario Clanor were musicians in the navy as was my father Geronimo Palompo, my brother Rogelio Clanor Palompo and my cousin Clodualdo Palompo.

My hometown of General Trias, Cavite, Philippines, is home to 48 retired U S Navy Musicians from World Wars I and II, Korea, and Vietnam. The following is a roll call of these talented veterans who served with honor and distinction in the U S Navy over several generations: Calixto Affortunado, Mathias Angkiko, Raymundo Angkiko, Gaudencio Alfaro, Delfin Asercion, Manuel Asercion, Apolinario Asercion, Alberto Asercion, Elpidio Asercion, Pacifico Baria, Renaldo Baria, Roberto Barrion, Eduardo Buan, Rosendo Clamor, Ben Clamor, Hilario Clanor, Norberto Clanor, Eddie Cornejo, Celedonio Culabutan, Zosimo Escano, Arsenio Estrella, Tommy Layola, Juan Liwanag, Caesar Magpuri, Rustico Mirasol, Elias Moto, Florencio Montoya, Cornelio Moral, Bonifacio Moral, Emeterio Moral, Rodrigo Mugol, Walfredo Mugol, Oscar Mugol, Pedro Nocon, Ramon Palompo, Geronimo Palompo, Diosdado Palompo, Rogelio Palompo, Clodualdo Palompo, Emerterio Pascua, Pascual Portugal, David Poblete, Rodolfo Poblete, Benigno Primero, Telesforo Risos, Florencio Salgado, Cornelio Sison, and Angel Torres.

I have always wanted to be a Navy Musician and Bandmaster. My brother and I attended the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Philippines and I enlisted in the U S Navy during the Korean War on June 3, 1953. I graduated from the U S Navy School of Music basic course and completed the Bandmaster course in Washington, DC in 1961. My first band as a bandmaster was the COM.CRU.DES.PAC.UNIT BAND 107 (pictured in *Leger Lines* Fall 2005 issue). Later, I directed the COM.AIR.PAC. UNIT BAND 187 and the COM.NAV.PHIL. BAND at Subic Bay, Philippines. Because of the strong ties to my hometown, I brought all of these Bands to General Trias, Cavite, where we played concerts for over 5,000 people at a time. My mother always welcomed the Navy Bands to our home. They would stay overnight and enjoy our Filipino food and hospitality. My mother, Adoracion Palompo, an excellent clarinet soloist in her own right and an experienced music teacher, passed away in 1988 and was made an honorary member of the U S Navy Band in Washington, DC.

Our Navy Bands served as ambassadors of the United States of America overseas and played concerts throughout the Far East. One highlight was a concert played at the invitation of the Dean of the Conservatory of Music at the University of the Philippines. We combined musicians from various Armed Forces Bands of the Philippines to form one enormous band of 500 musicians. I was privileged to conduct the 1812 Overture by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Our Command Admiral, Real Admiral Kilcline, expressed his pride that day to each member of COM.NAV.PHIL. BAND. I consider that tour an experience of a lifetime and a memorable highpoint in my naval career.

I retired from naval service after 28 years and now live in Hawaii with my wife Angelina. I regularly return to my hometown, General Trias, Cavite, where I share my musical knowledge with the young people in the Band I grew up with. I continue to expand my horizons with college courses and recently took a course in "Dance Band Arranging" at Berklee College of Music in Boston.

ALOHA and SALAMAT,
Desi Palompo (See picture on page 4)

WEBMASTER'S NOTE

Please let us know of changes in your e-mail address by sending an e-mail to the Webmaster at admin@navymusicians.org. Also, feel free at any time to send in questions or suggestions to me.

David Blakeley

Program Notes

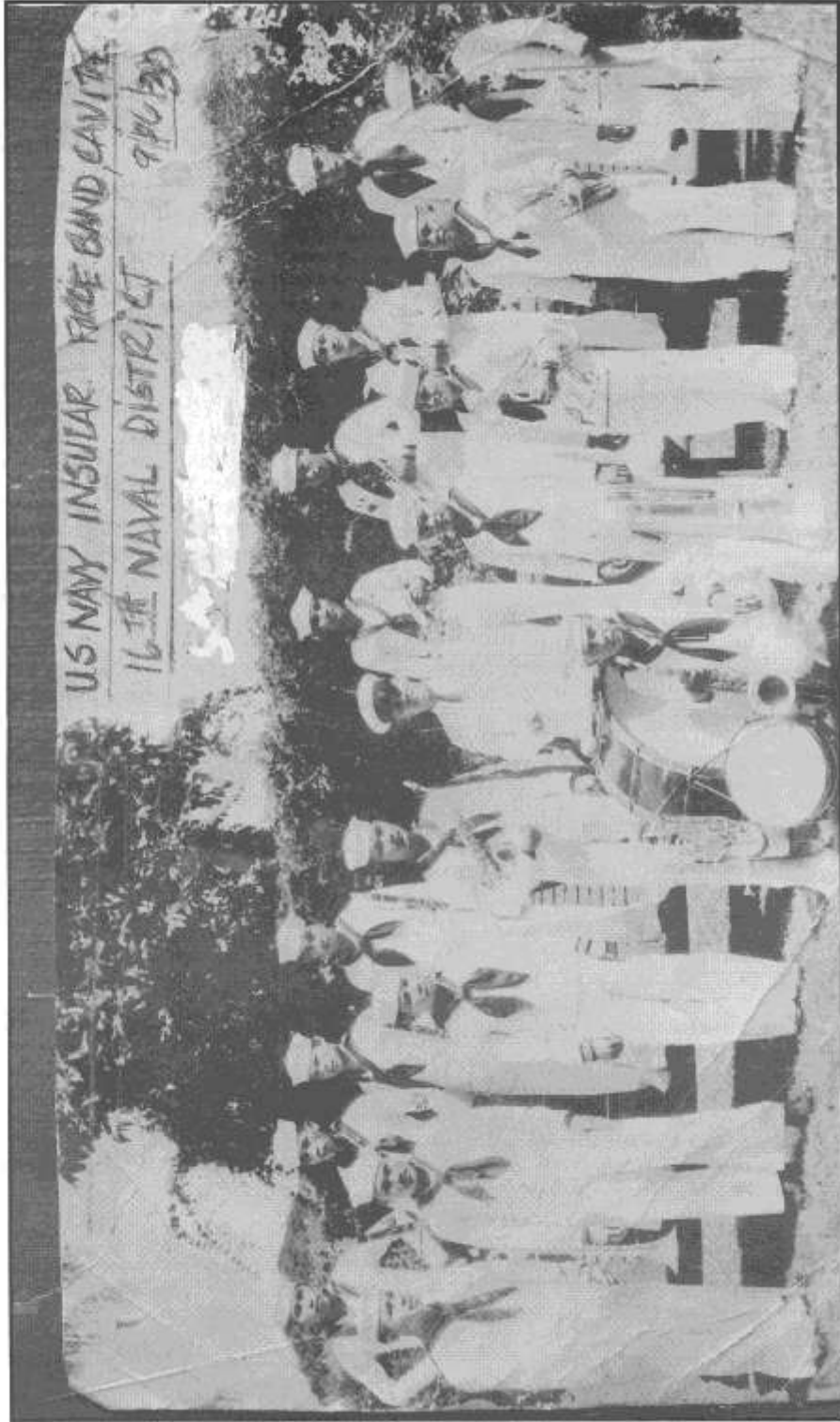
Current official information concerning the Navy Music Program is available in [Program Notes](#), a quarterly publication by the U S Navy Music Program of the U S Navy Personnel Command in Millington, Tennessee 38055-6400. Information is available online at: <http://www.bupers.navy.mil/navymusic>.

From Bill Allen

Many of you have sent in stories and pictures for *Leger Lines*. My library is quite low and I need to get additional stories and pictures representing the 70s, 80s, and 90s (but not limited to those dates!). Remember, all of you were/are in the Navy Music program and you have stories you can share with all of us.

Please don't forget the O L McMillan Scholarship Fund in your year-end giving. We need to continue awarding this scholarship.

If you change your address or e-mail address, please tell either David Blakeley, Cecil Strange, or the *Leger Lines* office.



US NAVY INSULAR FORCE BAND, 16TH NAVAL DISTRICT (1930) Cavite, Philippines
(This Band became COM.NAV.PHIL.BAND after World War II)

First Row: Marcelo, Convento, Profeta, Chief Vidal, Kaceling ?, Castro, Baria, Cervania, Palompo (Desi's father)

Second Row: Castro, Paguio, Vidal, Guevarra, ?, Concepcion, Ariss, Allaro

(Picture courtesy of D Palompo)

NAVY BAND GUAM, 1979

Navy Band Guam was great duty: laid back, a very different culture with much respect for American servicemen and women, many festivals to perform in, and good weather (when the humidity wasn't 99%). Occasionally, the band would fly off-island to perform in some other (sometimes) exotic locale. At times our two-star Admiral would accompany us (or, did we accompany him?).

One such event occurred on the island of Ponape, a brief hour or two flight on a C-130. Most Navy Musicians are very, very familiar with the C-130 aircraft—a large four engine turbo prop machine that was noisy, hot, and capable of taking off and landing on short runways, frequently with the help of JATO (jet assist takeoff) bottles to enable the plane to make these short take-offs. Our aircraft on this particular flight needed to bring along its own jet engine starter as there was no facility to power up a turbo prop plane. This was a rather large piece of machinery which was wheeled off the plane and was to be used later when it was time to leave Ponape.

We departed Guam early in the morning with the band, the Admiral, Flag Secretary, and the aircrew aboard. The aircrew, it should be noted, was lead by a crusty, old, salty, airedale Master Chief. Our flight was routine and upon arrival, we played the obligatory parade following oxen, island lovelies, and rusted-throughout old Toyota pickups decorated mostly with palm fronds. Later, we played a show for the islanders and had to leave the island rather quickly as our Admiral had a 1600 appointment with the Governor of Guam on Guam. We got to the airport, if you could call it that, loaded our gear, met the Admiral, got on board, strapped ourselves in, and settled down for the return flight.

Yep, you guessed it! The plane would not start! The engine starter (whatever nomenclature they are known as) wouldn't crank up. We waited until, finally, we were invited to leave the C-130 while the crew tried to fix the starter. We waited while the aircrew worked on the machine, we sweated, the Admiral fumed, the Flag Secretary hovered over the starter, and the crew worked frantically to fix the balky piece of equipment, taking it apart, testing parts and whatever else they had to do to fix the problem. Hours went by with no luck. MU3 Tony Townsend, from Yazoo City, Mississippi, was walking around in his own dream world when he stopped at the starter, looked at the dashboard, and said (in his particular Mississippi accent): "Ain't that there On/Off switch supposed to be on?" There was dead silence. Click! Vrooooooom!! Guess who took credit for fixing the darn thing? **NOT** MU3 Townsend!!!!

Terry Chesson (See related picture on page 6)



1973 NAVY SHOW BAND "Cookin'"

L to R: Gary Rackley (BariSax), Al Luna, Terry Chesson, Dave Schiff, Jay Fort

Background: Jaime Solano (Trumpet)

(Photograph courtesy of T Chesson)



NAVY BAND GUAM, 1979 (Surely this is not a Village People tune!!)
Left to Right: 1. Terry Chesson, Scott Davenport, 2. "Skunk", Tony Townsend, Larry Geis (wearing my hat), Background Darrell Casoli, Trumpet (Picture courtesy of T Chesson)

WONDERFUL PRACTICE ROUTINE

By: B A Waltrip aka "Old Trumpet"

Hey, cup mouthpiece players, especially my fellow Trumpet Tooters: *(reed, percussion, keyboard and string players may also read but may not comment)* This great story is from the December 2006 issue of "The Instrumentalist". It is contained in an article "The Best Routine" written by Ron Modell. Pay close attention now, and learn from a true pro:

George Mager, once the principal trumpet of the Boston Symphony, . . . Along with some other brilliant musicians, had been playing concerts with Serge Koussevitzky in France prior to the end of World War I. When Koussevitzky became conductor of the Boston Symphony, he invited some of these musicians, including Mager, to join him there.

During one year of Mager's reign as principal trumpet, an important music journal interviewed him, and the reporter asked, "Mr Mager, do you practice every day?"

Mager replied, "You know, I get up in the morning and take out my trumpet, and I play one note. If it feels good, I don't have to practice, and if it doesn't feel good, it is no use to practice."

Somehow, this method has never seemed to work out very well for me.

ALSO FROM B A WALTRIP

The 32nd Anniversary of THE GLENN MILLER FESTIVAL featuring the Glenn Miller Orchestra as well as various other band concerts, panel discussions, stage shows and much, much more, will be held June 7-10, 2007, in Clarinda, Iowa. The Glenn Miller Birthplace Society will celebrate the music and the memory of Alton Glenn Miller, American bandleader, composer, and arranger who disappeared December 15, 1944 on a transport plane to Paris.



Reunion Photos courtesy of Charlie Niehoff

Left: C J Landry Center Top: B and A Walker, B Zirnheld Center Bottom: M Rinker and J Linscott
Right: Howie Agster

Navy Musicians Association: Fill out the entire form (or write the information on paper) and mail to:

Cecil Strange, Treasurer of NMA
P. O. Box 2294
Plant City, FL 33564-2294

(Dues are for 1 January—31 December 2007 and are \$25.00)
Make checks payable to NMA. (No cash, please)

NMA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Name _____ Spouse _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (____) _____ E-mail _____

Dates served as MU _____ to _____ Instruments _____

Comments: _____

Return Receipt Requested

Standard Rate
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Gastonia, NC
28052
Permit No. 396

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