



# Original HOBO BAND INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER

• JUNE 2007 •

*Serving the Greater Hobo Population Since 1946*

## MERV CLEVEAGER'S STORY, OR, HOW I ENDED UP A HOBO

I started playing trumpet in 4th grade (age 10) with a rental horn from Albert A. Knecht Co., Phila., through school with group lessons. One time, after having been told that my sticking trumpet valves should be washed and oiled with valve oil I did that, but not knowing that each valve has a little slot inside for alignment, I hammered them in.

Those valves never worked again!

I got serious and took private lessons from Clark Pfleeger, who later became Head of the Music Department at Glassboro State, in his Barracks Home behind Glassboro State College.

A trumpet player is not supposed to chew gum while playing, but one time during a lesson Dr. Pfleeger noticed that I had gum in my mouth, so he made me stick that gum on my nose for the rest of the lesson. I was humiliated, but I didn't ever again chew gum while playing.

Then, as a teen, I took lessons from Robert Youngblood who was GHS's band director. South Jersey Band and All-State Orchestra also taught me some pretty valuable things. I thought I was a pretty good trumpet player until, at the auditions, I heard how much better other people were.

I didn't make the cut the first go-around. What that taught me was that I had to practice diligently to get good.

I continued studying under Chief Petty Officer Price who was the Bandmaster at the Philadelphia Navy Base. He was preparing me for audition for the U.S. Navy School of Music in Washington, D.C., but I eventually opted out.

I played with the Hobo Band and the Woodbury Bonsal Blues Band. In those days the uniforms were khaki; later they went to blue.

In 1957 I also played with the Woodbury Symphony Orchestra and the Hammonton Italian American Legion Band (for pay and pizza on the July 16 Catholic Parade each year). Also the Laurel Springs American Legion Band.

I played Leroy Anderson's "Bugler's Holiday" as a solo for Class Night for GHS Class of 1957, with Norman Lafferty accompanying on piano.

Later on I played in various unheard of church orchestras, dance bands and a German band.

In November of 2003, I went to Staten Island, NY where I took a lesson with world-renowned

—Continued on page 3

# UPCOMING ENGAGEMENTS (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Check the Web site (<http://www.originalhoboband.org>) for the latest engagement updates.  
Click on the [MAP] if you need driving directions.

## MAY

**Saturday, 5/26/07, 12 Noon Step-off**  
**Marcus Hook, PA Memorial Day Parade**  
10th & Walnut to Delaware & Market <1 mi.

**Monday, 5/28/07 11 am Step-off**  
**Medford Memorial Day Parade (dress B&W)**  
Starts Memorial School, ends War Memorial

## JUNE

**Friday, 6/1/07, 7 pm**  
**Cumberland County College Band Festival**  
Vineland, NJ

**Sunday, 6/03/2007 (No Rain Date)**  
**Malvern Memorial Parade, Step-off 1:30 pm**  
Starts Malvern Fire Station King St. & Ruthland Ave, Malvern, PA. Ends Memorial Park (Memorial Avenue) approx. 1.5 miles  
**(Debut appearance—big turnout, please!)**

**Saturday, 6/9/2007 (no rain date)**  
**Separation Day Parade, New Castle, DE**  
10:15 a.m. Lineup, 11 a.m Step-off  
7/10 mi., stop-go. Perform at Reviewing Stand)

**Thursday, 6/21/07**  
**Pitman Summer Concerts Kickoff**  
Grove Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

**Friday, 6/22/2007**  
**Marlton Park Summer Concert Kickoff,**  
Woodstown, NJ  
7:00 downbeat

## JULY

**Tuesday, 7/3/2007**  
**Independence Day Parade,**  
Gloucester City, NJ. Step-off 6:30 p.m.  
Broadway at CVS Drug Store  
**Wednesday, July 4th, 8:45 a.m. Step-off**  
**Wenonah Parade (no rain date)**  
Mantua & Marion Aves.  
**Pitman Parade**  
Step-off 10:15 a.m., Colonial Ave.

**Saturday, 7/07/2007**

**Rain Date: Sunday, 7/08/2007**  
Brigantine Parade & Concert  
Parade:Step-Off 4 P.M.  
Concert Downbeat:± 5:30 P.M.  
Parade Lineup:14th & Brigantine Avenue  
Concludes:26th Street Recreation Complex  
Concert at Recreation Complex  
12-block parade, 2 hour Concert

**Thursday, 7/12/07**  
**Pitman Summer Concerts**  
Sunset Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, 7/31/07**  
**Pitman Summer Concerts**  
Sunset Auditorium, 7:30 p.m.  
Youth Bands I and II

## AUGUST

**Thursday, 7/2/07**  
**Pitman Summer Concerts**  
Youth Band III and Original Hobo Band, 7:30

**August 25, 2007 (no rain date)**  
**City of Cape May Bandstand Concert**  
Downbeat: 8 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER

**Thursday, 9/2/07**  
**Pitman Summer Concerts**  
Harvest Concert, Sunset, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, 9/8/07**  
**Pennsville Septemberfest Parade, 11 a.m.**  
**Rain Date Sunday, 9/9/07**

**Sunday, 9/30/07**  
**Rain Date Sunday, October 7, 2007**  
**Bordentown 325th Centennial Parade**  
Lineup at 1 p.m.  
Step-off ±1:30 p.m.  
Finish 3-4 p.m.  
(2 miles plus—wear comfortable shoes)

# MERV'S STORY

(Continued from page 1)

Jerome Callet. I was concerned that I couldn't play high notes effortlessly enough. Callet taught professional players a technique called tongue-controlled embouchure which he dubbed "Super Chops". About 2 weeks after the lesson, in a phone call, Mr. Callet asked me if his exercises had made my embouchure stronger. I said I didn't know, but shortly after that, at a Hobo rehearsal, I played a note by mistake where nobody else was playing. Believe me – it was really strong! - and very embarrassing.

I joined the Original Hobo Band while in high school and actively through my college years. We played many a concert in Pitman's Sunset Auditorium on hot summer nights. On the 4th of July we always marched first in the Wenonah parade so we could dash to Pitman to be last right before the horses in their parade. Then at night we'd go right back up to Wenonah and play a concert in the park.

At that time the Cowtown Rodeo was televised on Tuesday nights and the Hobos would play for them from the stands. At the end of the steer roping contests when the cowboy would signal he was done tying up the animal, the band would play a chords "ta-daaaaaaaaaa".

The Miss American Pageant Parade on the Atlantic City Boardwalk was always a highlight. At that stage in my young life the Miss America candidates, who were on floats in the parade, seemed like absolute goddesses. (How come they seem like kids now?)

The Mummer's Parade in Philadelphia on New Year's Day was definitely a change of pace. It was usually cold and many people had been "celebrating" all night and hence were not too coherent. We assembled on Two Street and marched up Broad Street. Many revelers offered libations, and though band members had been warned not to partake, some did. But we somehow made it through.

After many years of absence I began to attend Hobo rehearsals again at age 63 but was no longer able to march in parades and unable to attend some distant evening concerts. But I did play almost all the Sunset Auditorium concerts and other gigs.

Only three original founding members remained – John Pedicord (Grand Marshall of the 2004 Pitman 4th of July Parade—died in 2007), George Menerey (died in 2005), and Ralph Miller – all in their eighties.

I was accepted as a member in 2004. I play for them mainly because I like to play the horn, but most importantly now, it helps my mind stay reasonably sharp since the pieces have changing tempos, keys and dynamics.

And, of course, our glorious leaders...

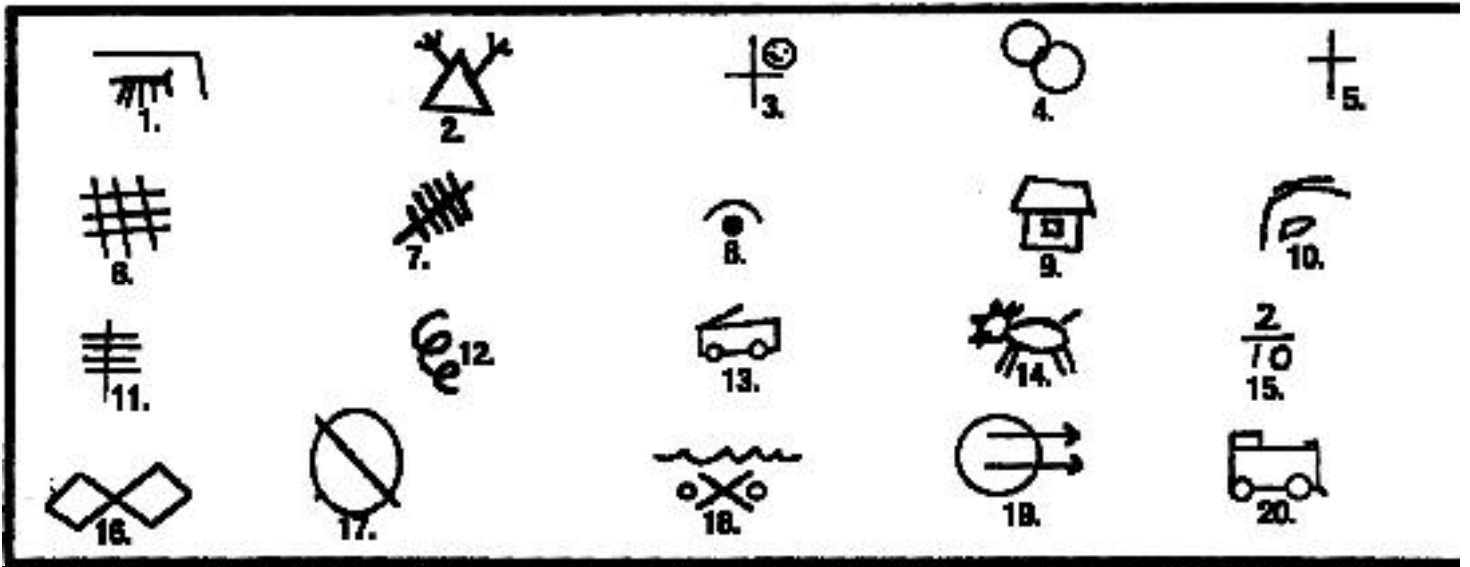


*Mervyn in the Bonsal Blues*

## *JUNE birthdays*

- Gable, Elena . . . . . June 8
- Miles, III, Ernie . . . . . June 10
- Schultz, Bill . . . . . June 12
- McKee, Rich . . . . . June 13
- Ent, Janis . . . . . June 19
- Wernega, John . . . . . June 20
- Broadley, Lois . . . . . June 25
- Bimmer, Rich . . . . . June 29
- Richman, Warren . . . . . June 30

# Hobo Signs



## AND THE ANSWERS ARE:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| A. Policeman's house _____ <b>11</b> _____            | K. You'll get cursed out _____ <b>7</b> _____    |
| B. Man with gun _____ <b>2</b> _____                  | L. You can sleep in loft _____ <b>10</b> _____   |
| C. Thieves in vicinity _____ <b>15</b> _____          | M. Jail _____ <b>6</b> _____                     |
| D. Religious talk gets free meal _____ <b>5</b> _____ | N. Police _____ <b>4</b> _____                   |
| E. Good place to catch a train _____ <b>20</b> _____  | O. Fresh water, safe camps _____ <b>18</b> _____ |
| F. Good road to follow _____ <b>17</b> _____          | P. Trolley stop _____ <b>13</b> _____            |
| G. Beware of dog _____ <b>1</b> _____                 | Q. Hit the road quick _____ <b>19</b> _____      |
| H. Kind lady _____ <b>14</b> _____                    | R. Judge lives here _____ <b>12</b> _____        |
| I. Authorities on alert _____ <b>8</b> _____          | S. Well-guarded house _____ <b>9</b> _____       |
| J. Doctor _____ <b>3</b> _____                        | T. Keep quiet _____ <b>16</b> _____              |

—Thanks to Rich Bimmer

YOUTH BAND NEWS

# SUMMER YOUTH BAND 2007

## 13th Annual Summer Youth Band Program Sponsored by the Original Hobo Band

This program offers participating students an excellent opportunity to continue to play and learn through the summer months, meet their counterparts from neighboring school districts and towns, and make new friends.

Due to enrollment over the past few years, the program will again offer three separate groups based on ability.

Also due to enrollment, the youth band committee has needed to implement a non-negotiable registration deadline.

**Applicants who have not yet applied as of the May 18th mail-in deadline still have the following registration options:**

**Register in-person between 7 pm and 8:30 pm  
on Tuesday, May 22nd, or Wednesday, May 23rd  
at the Hobo Hall, 690 Lambs Road (just outside of Pitman,  
next to J.G. Cook's restaurant)**

**OR**

**Register at the first rehearsal, Tuesday, June 5th  
(ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER)**

### **First rehearsal dates:**

GROUP 1: Tuesday, June 5th 6:30 pm

GROUP 2: Tuesday, June 5th 8 pm

GROUP 3: Wednesday, June 6th 7 pm

*Original*  
**HOBObAND**  
INCORPORATED

SINCE 1946  
CONCERTS • DEDICATIONS • PARADES  
P.O. BOX 31, PITMAN, NJ 08071  
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<http://www.originalhoboband.org>

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**OFFICERS FOR 2007**

**PRESIDENT:** Rich McKee

**VICE PRESIDENT:** Jill Wiese

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Bob Schultz

**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:** Nate Gable

**TREASURER:** Henry Ryder

**DIRECTOR:** Siegfried ("Sig") Johnson

**FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Phil ("Brother Phil") Blackman

**SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:** Steve ("Super Steve")  
Wagner

**BUSINESS MANAGER:** Alan Weinstein

**ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER:** Bev Williams

**LIBRARIAN:** Leah Cole

**FIRST ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN:** Frank Cole, Sr.

**SECOND ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN:** Bob Hitman

**TRUSTEES:** Walt McCleary, Larry Moore, Pete White, Matthew  
Murray, Bill Lamb

***YOUR ASSISTANCE  
REQUESTED***

Brother Phil and Alan Weinstein need your help with the Hobo promotional video. We are looking for creative ideas to show our group or some of them in a manner that will be remembered and associated with our theme of "Hoboism!"

**CALLING ALL WIND  
PLAYERS/DRUMMERS**

The Original Hobo Band rehearses every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. at Hobo Hall, Lambs Rd. & Holly Ave. (next to J. G. Cook's Restaurant). Come on over and sit in.