



Original HOBO BAND INCORPORATED

NEWSLETTER

• NOVEMBER 2008 •

Serving the Greater Hobo Population Since 1946

ORIGINAL HOBO BAND LEGACY ACCORDING TO RALPH MILLER, WORLD'S OLDEST HOBO

by Ralph Miller

The Beginnings

IN MAY OF 1937 THE GLASSBORO FOREST #2 of the Tall Cedars of Lebanon came to Pitman High School to ask the band to play for their convention parade in Atlantic City. The band accepted, and performed in the parade. The following year (1938) they were again asked to perform, and again, accepted.

As the band was assembling at the start of the parade, one of the members exclaimed, "Look, here come the Cedar Chips." The name stuck.

The majority of the band members graduated from Pitman High School that year. They decided they would stay together as a musical organization and play for the Tall Cedars. Thursday became the designated rehearsal night. Membership grew with the

band's reputation, and soon most of South Jersey was represented.

The First Uniform

The band became well established, but as yet hadn't adopted a uniform. This was discussed with the Tall Cedars administration, who then decided to fund the cost of outfitting the band. The band membership decided what they wanted, and the Tall Cedars organization saw that they were provided. The band used the funds from jobs to pay for the uniforms, and later to establish a bank account. The organization was solvent.

Musicus Interruptus

World War II had broken out, and by 1942

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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.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 25th, 7 p.m. stepoff
 Alloway Halloween Parade
 Round Robin from Alloway Elementary
 School. Marchers must arrive before 6 p.m.
 due to road closures.
 Rain date Sunday, October 26th, same time

Thursday, October 30th, 7:15 p.m. stepoff
 Ocean City Halloween Parade
 Start at 6th & Asbury, end at 15th St.
 Play on City Hall steps until end of parade

NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 29th, 1 p.m. stepoff
 Swedesboro Christmas Parade
 Band members will be transported by bus to
 start of parade from usual parking area
 across from church.
 Rain date Sunday, December 6th, same time.

Saturday, November 29th, 6 p.m. stepoff
 Pitman Christmas Parade
 Start Lambs Rd. & Broadway
 (Pitman Methodist Church parking lot)
 Band will perform for the lighting of the
 Christmas lights in Ballard Park.
 Rain date: Sunday, November 30th, 7 p.m.

DECEMBER

Friday, December 5th, ± 6-6:30 p.m. stepoff
 Somers Point Christmas Parade
 Start Dawes Ave., School, end City Hall
 Tree lighting and short concert follows.

Saturday, December 6th, 10 a.m. stepoff
 Salem Christmas Parade
 Start 4th St. & Broadway (1/2 mile parade)

Saturday, December 13th, stepoff 10 a.m.
 Ocean City Christmas Parade
 Starts 6th & Asbury, ends City Hall
THIS IS A MORNING PARADE!
 No Tree Lighting!

Holiday Concert
 Date & time TBA

JANUARY

Thursday, January 1 (New Year's Day)
 Union League Concert
 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 Van transportation provided.
 Paid parking for those who drive—
 and a meal to die for!!!

REMINDER: STANDARD TIME RETURNS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd AT 2:00 A.M.

SPRING AHEAD, FALL BACK.

(For those of you who are easily confused, you should turn your clocks BACK an hour.)

Please check the Web site or Calendar Board in Hobo Hall for the
 latest parade/concert engagements.

THE ORIGINAL HOBO BAND LEGACY

Continued from Front Page

many of the band members had entered military service. The band could no longer sustain itself. The Tall Cedars again stepped into the picture, storing uniforms and music and taking custody of bank account funds.

New Beginnings

After the war, four former members got together and talked about starting up the band again. Bob McLeish, George Volk, John Pedicord and Ralph Miller all lived and worked in Pitman. They saw each other frequently and met at the home of George Volk to discuss how to notify the former members of the reorganization plans. They made a list of all known players and divided it up among the four to contact and recruit. The time and place for meeting was again decided to be Thursday night. They would call themselves the "Pitman Community Band". Rehearsals would be held in the Pitman Boro Jail.

Independence

At this time the Tall Cedars still had custody of uniforms, music and funds. Ralph Miller was appointed to go to them and explain that they wanted to become independent of their organization, to be on their own as a community band. Not only did the Tall Cedars return all the band property, but they donated a bass horn, bass drum, cymbals and drums to the new organization.

As the band membership grew, so did the need for a larger rehearsal space. They moved from the jail to the Council Chambers, to the #1 Fire Company Hall, the Highland Fire Company, and eventually to the Legion Hall. The members soon realized they would need a place of their own.

The Uniform of Today, and the New Name

The old uniforms no longer fit the members, and

could not be used. As an upcoming Halloween parade was imminent, they decided to use old ragged garments. An onlooker at the parade made a statement to the effect of "Here comes a bunch of bums." Bass player Clint Carter heard this comment and brought it to the attention of the band at the next rehearsal. No one liked being called "a bunch of bums". Clint suggested substituting the term Hobos for Bums. The suggestion satisfied everyone, and the name became the "Pitman Hobo Band". This of course was later modified to "The Original Hobo Band from Pitman, New Jersey".

The Advent of Hobo Hall (Peach Pit Concerts)

The 1950s turned the band's focus to finding a place of their own to rehearse. A committee was formed with Ralph Miller as chairman. George Volk drew the plans and made a model out of cardboard. Since nothing suitable seemed to be available, Ralph decided to speak to Wilmer Zee about purchasing a portion of his peach orchard as a place to build a rehearsal hall. Wilmer agreed and sold the ground along Lambs Road to the band for \$1000.00. For two years, the band members picked peaches and sold them at Cow Town to make enough money to start construction. The band played while the peaches were being sold.

The building was started in 1954 as the members themselves pulled out the peach trees (with the help of Wilmer Zee) and dug the footings. The members built the entire building with the exception of the four outside walls and floor. The roof trusses were assembled and pulled into place with block and tackle, and "Matty" Mattson was riding the ridge beam and nailing them into place. In 1955 the first sign was put up: "Future Home of the Original Hobo Band".

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MORE HOBO LEGACY

Continued from page 3

A Football Band?

The band as kept busy with jobs like playing at Eagles and Baltimore Colts football games, the Elks convention in Asbury Park, and entertaining the Pennsylvania Band Masters with a parade. In 1958 a concert series was begun. The location? Sunset Auditorium in Pitman.

Fame and Fortune (?)

The 1960s began in a big way. The Pennsylvania Bandmasters held their annual convention in Pitman. In 1963 the first Youth Band Clinic was started, performing their concert in Camp Meeting in the Pitman Grove. A year later the band played for the Stone Harbor Golden Anniversary, the New York Jets football game in New York City, and several times for patients at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital.

The Seventies — The 25th Anniversary! And Internatonal Trips!

The 1970s were highlighted with an international trip to Kirkride, Holland. The band members stayed at the Quellenhof Hotel and performed at band competitions. The band was given special permission to play its own music, and the crowd was thrilled — they stood and applauded during the playing of "Stars and Stripes Forever".

The band's 25th anniversary was celebrated in 1971 with a week-long series of concerts featuring a different program every evening and a big parade on the following Saturday.

In 1974 the band made a second trip to Europe, touring five countries and playing concerts in each city that was visited. Some

of the stops were band competitions. The band took one first place and one third place award. Members were put up in the homes of the local residents, which proved to establish many enduring international friendships. Throughout the 1970s the band continued to perform in parades and concerts.

Eighties and Nineties — the 40th and 50th Anniversaries

The 1980s provided much of the same. Parades and concerts were performed throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In 1986 the band celebrated its 40th anniversary.

The 1990s brought trips to Buckhannon, West Virginia (1991 and 1993) for the Strawberry Festivals in May. In 1993 the band performed at the Fall Forest Festival in Elkins, West Virginia. 1995 was the year that Alcyon lake was reopened, and the band played for that celebration. Tragedy was to befall that year as well — the original director of the band, Robert MacLeish, Sr., passed away.

1996 brought the band's 50th Anniversary.

— TO BE CONTINUED —
(he promised...)

GOT A GOOD HOBO
STORY?

(GOT ANYTHING
NEWSWORTHY?)

Send it via email to the
Corresponding Secretary / Newsletter Editor:
<nagable@comcast.net>

INVESTMENT TIPS FOR 2009

With all the turmoil in the stock market today and the collapse of Lehman Bros and acquisition of Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, this might be some good advice. For all of you with any money left, be aware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks. Many companies are foundering and many are prosperous enough to absorb them to their own advantage. But be very careful — be sure you have a reputable source of information for your “new” investments.

Below is a list of the most obvious victims and predators. Watch for these consolidations in the next few months as the market experiences an upswing:

1. Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W R. Grace Co. will merge and become:
Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.
2. Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces to become:
Poly Warner Cracker.

3. 3M will merge with Goodyear and become:
MMM-Good.

4. Zippo Manufacturing, Audi Motors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become:
ZipAudiDoDa .

5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become:
FedUP.

6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: Fairwell Honeychild.

7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become:
PouponPants.

8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become:
Knott NOW!

And finally...

9. Victoria 's Secret and Smith &Wesson will merge under the new name: (you figure it out...)

MUSICAL QUOTES

"After silence, that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music."
—Aldous Huxley

"Music is, by its very nature, essentially powerless to express anything at all. Music expresses itself." —Igor Stravinsky

"The drummer drives. Everybody else rides!"
—Panama Francis

"Music is my mistress, and she plays second fiddle to no one." —Duke Ellington

Playing "bop" is like playing Scrabble with all the vowels missing. —Duke Ellington

It's nice to eat a good hunk of beef, but you want a light dessert, too. —Arthur Fiedler

There's only one God. Call him whatever you want. —Arlo Guthrie

You can't have a light without a dark to stick it in. —Arlo Guthrie

Music should always be an adventure.
—Coleman Hawkins

Musicians don't retire; they stop when there's no more music in them. —Louis Armstrong

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 2008

PRESIDENT: Rich McKee

VICE PRESIDENT: Jill Wiese

RECORDING SECRETARY: Bev Williams

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY: Nate Gable

TREASURER: Henry Ryder

DIRECTOR: Siegfried ("Sig") Johnson

FIRST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

("Brother") Phil Blackman

SECOND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR:

("Super") Steve Wagner

BUSINESS MANAGER: Alan Weinstein

ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER: Bev Williams

LIBRARIAN: Bob Hitman

FIRST ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: Ed Kille

SECOND ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN: Doug Cotter

TRUSTEES: Joe Butterick, Bill Lamb,
Walt McCleary, Larry Moore, Pete White

November Birthdays

Shimp, Ned	November	1
Griffin, Ryan	November	3
Contino, Joseph	November	6
Ghidiu, Michael	November	7
Crouch, Kevin	November	11
Miller, Ralph	November	23
Butterick, Joe	November	24

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 Carolina Blue Restaurant).
Come on over and sit in.