

WHIRLED PEAS

ACOUSTICAL MUSICIANS

Whirled Peas is a group of musicians that come together on a regular basis to share our love of blues, bluegrass and folk music.

Our musical journey includes rock, oldies and show tunes based on the audience's support and enthusiasm.

The core of our group focuses on guitar, harmonica, banjo and more. We often are complemented by an array of talented **guest** musicians.

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OPERATOR....

...oh could you help me place this call. Those words are the start of Jim Croce's famous song, *Operator*. From his lyrics, one can picture him calling from a phone booth somewhere on the road (cell phones were yet to be invented). But, did you ever wonder about phone booths (rapidly fading from America's landscape)?

On June 1, 1880 the first phone booth was opened; it had an attendant who placed the call then collected the money. These stations grew and were usually housed in very large booths located in hotels or train terminals.

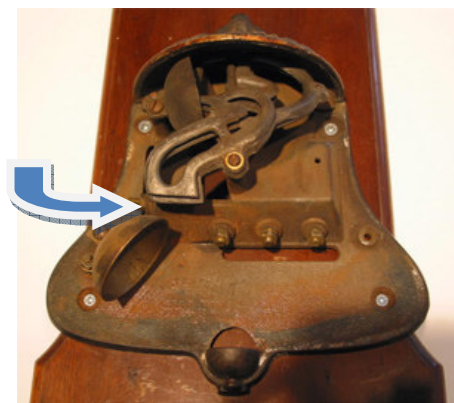
In 1887, machinist William Gray from Hartford, Conn. had a desperate need for a phone. His gravely ill wife required a doctor. With so few phones in town, Gray ran to a nearby factory and pleaded with the manager to use the phone. His insistence won him a phone call and saved his wife's life. This turn of events made Gray's mind click with an idea...a public pay phone.

His first stab at this invention was a box covering up the mouthpiece. On the principal of the slot machine, the box could slide open and

give the caller access to the phone. In presenting it to the Telephone Company, the officials shook their heads and deemed it impractical. "People would make numerous calls on one nickel...it doesn't permit a call to be made to another pay station unless the person called also deposited a coin to unlock that instrument...and finally...no means of retrieving the coin if the call did not go through."

So back to the drawing board went Gray. He decided that the instrument should remain open. The user would reach the *operator*, then deposit the money as she directed. With each drop in the slot the caller would ring a bell. Alas, a snafu in Gray's new theory, the operator could not hear the ring of the bell.

One day in Gray's workshop a coin slipped out of a helper's hand and fell on the bell. Gray was startled but **Eureka**, he found his solution. The coin itself must give the signal. The bell must be placed in the path of the coin.



Gray formed the Gray Telephone Pay Station Company which, in a relatively short period of time, became one of Hartford's biggest employers.

His pay phone invention is credited in driving interest in the phone industry and helping create a demand for household telephones.



OPERATOR....

*...oh could you help me place this call
'Cause I can't read the numbers you gave me.
You see I have to call these four
Say Happy Birthday or they'll get sore
Can you guess who they are
If you do you'll get my star...*

Submit to Shirley the names of the people who share June 1st as their birthdays, first winner gets a free beer or wine.

1. I am a famous contemporary singer songwriter with dual citizenship (Canadian and US), that's why I was selected to sing both national anthems at the Stanley Cup games. I was born a twin. I enjoy long distant bike riding because it soothes me. I also have performed on television (children shows are my passion), off-Broadway and movies. I am an ordained minister but must admit I have suffered bouts of anorexia and bulimia nervosa as well as experimented with lesbianism. I hosted the Juno awards in a bathrobe and opened for the musician's group cited in #2. I am an environmentalist and am involved as an advocate for ending cruelty to farm animals. Who am I?

2. I am from a family of water gypsies, however, I was the first to be born on dry land. I have performed with many notables hailing from the UK. I play guitar – slide, lap steel and pedal steel. I also play bass, harmonica. I lend my vocals to the very famous group of whom I am a part. I am a songwriter and an artist of note; my art work, as a child, was shown on the BBC. I authored 3 books. I owned a restaurant/club in Miami but it was closed because the neighbors complained of the noise. I played the air guitar at Live Aid. Who am I?

3. I am a voice from the past. I lived next door to Ozzy Osbourne and his family. I am a direct descendent of a famous American frontiersman and a cousin to 2 famous western TV stars. I graduated college magna cum laude. I started my career covering R&B songs sung by African-American artists. I wrote the lyrics for the theme song for the movie, *Exodus*; the song was called: *This Land is Mine*. I turned down a role with the singer/actress in #4. Who am I?

4. In 1947, I was named Miss California Artichoke Queen. I was an outstanding player on the Hollygrove Orphanage softball team. I have had 600 books written about me and I had an IQ of 168. Many singers have written songs about me like Madonna, Elton John and Def Leppard. The Beatles put my photo on their *Sgt. Pepper's* album cover and a punk band named themselves after my last movie. Although I was primarily an actress, I sang in many movies and did a darn respectable job. Who am I?

AND THE PEA STANDS ALONE

The many members of the *Whirled Peas* love music enormously. So much so that they also play in other groups or perform solo. We will endeavor to keep you apprised of the solo gigs so you can mark your calendar.

Fritz Horisk can be heard online weekday afternoons from 2 pm until 4 pm and Saturdays from 10 til 3 at www.realcountrywsig.com. Fritz and his wife, Peggy, just completed a CD.

John Frink's new CD, *Cabin Fever*, is out. On August 5th John will perform at a noon concert at Bellevue State Park's patio behind the Arts Center.

NEW CD'S

The Group is working on recording two CD's filled with a lot of their original works. More to come when release date nears.

WEBSITE

WhirledPeasBand.com is just about completed. So, if you have a "Pea attack" you can sign in and sate your ears with such tunes as *Wagon Wheel*, *City of Chicago*, *Title of the Book* and more.

PEAS PONDERING...

WHY ISN'T THERE A "Q" ON THE TELEPHONE DIAL AND/OR PAD?

