



## Monthly Musings from the Peas November 8, 2011 Vol.1 \* No. 4

We will be sending you our literature on a monthly basis and we will be updating our contact list. So, if you want to make any changes, additions or deletions, please contact us at [whirledpeasband@gmail.com](mailto:whirledpeasband@gmail.com).

### WEEKLY GIG

We are regulars at Catherine Rooney's in Trolley Square, Wilmington. From 7:30 until 10 we perform every Wednesday. For info or menu, directions and so on [www.catherinerooneys.com](http://www.catherinerooneys.com)

### PEAS MERCHANDISE

Peas shirts and all four of our CD's can be purchased at our gigs or by going on-line to [www.whirledpeasband.com](http://www.whirledpeasband.com)

### A SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS

Lots of holidays are celebrated in November but the one worth elaborating on is Veterans Day. This holiday was founded by a shoe repairman, Alvin J. (Al) King, in Emporia, Kansas, as cited by the US Congress.

Al and his wife raised his nephew, John E. Cooper, who served as part of the Third US Army in Germany, where was killed in action December 20, 1944. He was buried in a cemetery in Limey, France.

In Al's grief he started looking for ways to honor not only his nephew but all veterans. He started a campaign to change the existing national holiday - Armistice Day - to Veterans Day. He took his idea to the American Legion, AmVets and all the other Veterans groups plus his US Rep. Ed Rees of Emporia. Rees took Al's idea to Washington where President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed the bill establishing Veterans Day as a national holiday. The nation held its first Veterans Day on November 11, 1954.

Emporia, however, celebrated Veterans Day a year earlier thanks to the efforts of Al. Businesses were closed as were the schools, a parade was held at 10:30 and at 11 the City heard sirens, whistles, bells to acknowledge the signing of the armistice that ended WWI, the 11 day, 11th month, 11th hour in 1918,

### WILD BLUE YONDER

In 1938, *Liberty* magazine held a contest to secure a musical composition to be used by the US Air Force. Air Force wives were the judges of the 757 submissions where Robert Crawford was selected winner. It was

officially introduced at the Cleveland Air Races on September 2, 1939.

The first page of Crawford's score was carried to the surface of the moon on July 30, 1971 by the All Air Force crew.

### FROM THE HALLS OF MONTEZUMA

The earliest beginning of this tune can be traced to 1805 when the Marine Flag bore the inscription *To the shores of Tripoli*; more than 40 years later after the Mexican War the inscription changed to *From the shores of Tripoli to the halls of Montezuma*. An unknown marine on duty in Mexico transposed the recent inscription change to improve the metre. In 1942 the 4th line of the first verses was officially changed from *On the land as on the sea* to *In the air, on land and sea*.

### THE ARMY GOES ROLLING ALONG

Brig. Gen Edmund L. "Snitz" Gruber overheard his section chief call to his drivers *Come on! Keep them rolling!* during a campaign in the Zambales Mountains in the Philippines. Gruber, whose relative was Franz who composed *Silent Night*, decided that his Battalion needed a song. He called 6 of his lieutenants into his hut - a guitar was produced and the song was born.

The song was introduced at Fort Stotsenburg and after its first rendition; it became an instant success and was adopted by the US Field Artillery.

The composition was later given to John Philip Sousa who was asked to "fix it up" He did and labeled it as *The US Field Artillery March*. It became a blockbuster hit selling 750,000 copies during WWI. Gruber approached Sousa and asked for some of the royalties, after all he wrote the song. Sousa complied.

### ANCHORS AWEIGH

Lt. Charles A. Zimmermann, USN, was the youngest Naval Academy Bandleader. In 1887, at 26, Zimmermann started the tradition of writing a march or song for each graduating class. The 1907 class song was a collaboration of Zimmermann, composing the music, and Midshipman First Class Alfred H. Miles, the lyrics.

The songs first appearance was at the 1906 Army-Navy game held in Philadelphia. For years Army had dominated this annual contest but it was said that the song so inspired the crowd and the players that Navy romped Army 10 to 0.

### ALWAYS READY

US Coast Guard Captain Francis S. Van Boskerck wrote the words and music for this anthem in 1927. There have been amendments made to the song in 1943 and 1968.

### PEAS PONDERING

In war, there are no unwounded soldiers. Jose Narosky  
And I'm proud to be an American,  
where at least I know I'm free.  
And I won't forget the men who died,  
who gave that right to me. LeeGreenwood

This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as  
it is the home of the brave. Elmer Davis

