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Monthly Musings from the Peas
November 1, 2012 Vol.2 * No. 11

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.

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

WEBSITE

We are please to present our new website. www.whirledpeasband.com Please check it out and let us know what you think. All our up-coming gigs, newsletters, merchandise and more is listed.

**A BIG DAY FOR THE US
BUT .. HOW DID IT ALL START**

In 1776 white men with property had the right to vote but Catholics, Jews and Quakers were barred from voting. In 1787 African Americans made up 19% of the population however the vast majority were slaves thus barred. Native American with 80 tribes comprising 150,000 people could not vote. The Naturalization Act of 1790 barred Asian Americans from becoming citizens.

By federal law in 1792, Congress permitted the states to conduct their own presidential elections (and to choose their electors) any time within a 34 day window before the first Wednesday of December. The first Wednesday of December was the date for the meeting of the Electoral College.

November was considered a good month as the US was an agrarian society and the harvest would have been completed. Additionally, it was enough time before the heavy winter storms would occur. Of course, women were not permitted the vote, nor people of color. Amendment 19 changed that for the women in 1920 and Amendment 15 changed that for people of color in 1870. DC residents were given permission to vote by Amendment 23 in 1960. In 1964, poll taxation was banished with Amendment 24. In 1970 the voting age was lowered to 18 with Amendment 26.

As time went on and with the improvement of communications, the results from some states, voting earlier than others, did influence voting...much like today's exit polls.

In 1845, Congress decided to make the presidential voting date uniform among all states. Initially they decided the elections for president would occur in years divisible by 4. They thought the first Tuesday in November appropriate, however, in calculating elections in years to come they discovered that there would a violation to the 34 day ruling for the Electoral College to vote. So, they changed it to the second Tuesday in November.

The 2008 elections saw 54% of the US's population of 303,202,683 vote. Let's break that record today.

PEAS PONDERING

All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and the well-born; the other the mass of the people ... turbulent and changing, they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class [the wealthy] a distinct, permanent share in the Government ... Nothing but a permanent body can check the imprudence [lack of wisdom] of democracy.

Alexander Hamilton