

CATAWISSA MILITARY BAND

April 2005

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 3

Comfort Food for Thought

by Anne Cosper, Editor

If it seems that the level of public politeness has declined in recent years, or that people are just plain surlier, perhaps Dr. Atkins and his ilk are to blame. I have read several articles claiming that the popularity of high protein, low carbohydrate diets has resulted in an increase in, well, crankiness. Our obsession with weight loss and subsequent attempts to get thin by following the Atkins plan and similar diets has created a nation of contentious, carb deprived individuals.

The diet gurus have taken away comfort food -- mashed potatoes, macaroni and cheese, pasta, pastries, ice cream and chocolate -- all are off limits. I feel for the sullen, stressed out, carb craving dieters -- is it any wonder that life seems a lot less civilized?

How about comfort reads? Surely the diet powers-that-be cannot complain if someone picks up a favorite book for a reread? I have a few "comfort books" that I seek out when in need of a safe and satisfying read. Jane Austin's *Pride and Prejudice* is a reliable favorite. I recently reread it for about the 200th time. Okay, so that's an exaggeration, maybe only the 100th time. James Thurber always can be counted on to cheer me up, especially his absurd and wonderful debunking of self help books, *Let Your Mind Alone*. *Let Your Mind Alone* is the perfect read when you've been taking life too seriously. Then there's my well worn copy

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Classic Toys Change: Batteries Still Not Included

by Lisa Chernesky

Note: The author is a graduate of Bloomsburg University and is currently collaborating with the editor on a children's book. Article used by permission of the author.

Legos were, and still are, my favorite toy. Each year I would get a different kit -- a 127 piece, a 204 piece or a deluxe 525 piece kit. I had wheels, windows, shingles and people with snap-on hair and hats. I played for hours building and designing original creations. Once I built a maze for my hamster, Linus. He climbed over the walls instead of following the maze and when he began to chew on the plastic bricks, he was sent back to his Habitat.

For my nephew's birthday, I knew the perfect gift. I went to Wal-Mart to purchase my beloved Legos for Billy. Legos are now more like model kits. They have a particular design that can be built -- like a pirate island or a space station. Pirates and astronauts have the potential to inspire all kinds of creative scenarios, but when the interconnecting blocks fit together only one way to build a finished product -- well, where is the creativity (or fun) in that? I would have given Billy my set of Lego blocks, but they had been claimed by his older sister, Andrea, years before. I had to come up with another idea.

I wandered the aisles hopeful and confident that something could be found suitable for four-year-old Billy. I left the store with a purchase feeling victimized by commercialism. Overpriced action figures from movies released in the last several years lined the shelves. I didn't want any Spiderman, X-Men, or (insert current movie fad here) for Billy. He has a knack for losing small things, including action figures. Anyway, how can

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Annual Spring Concert

Tuesday, May 3, 2005

7:30 p.m.

Caldwell Consistory Auditorium

Market Square, Bloomsburg

No Admission Charge

Coming Events

March 24 - April 24, *Vestiges of Memory*, recent works by TaiWoong Kang, Artspace Gallery, 221 Center St., Bloomsburg. Hours: Thurs.-Sat. 12-8 p.m.; Sun. 12-5 p.m. Info: taiwoong@lycos.com

April 11, 6:30 p.m., Anne Cosper, Bands and Parades. For good listeners ages 3 - 8. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

April 15, 7:00 p.m., *Tax Day Tales*, Phillips Emporium, Main Street, Bloomsburg. Take your mind off the IRS with an evening of stories for grown ups with Hal Pratt, Karen Roszel, Lethan Candlish, Andrew Huard and others. There is a \$5.00 cover charge for this program. Info: Lethancandlish@yahoo.com

April 17, 2:30 p.m. BUP Concert Band Spring Concert, Mitrani Hall, Haas Center, Bloomsburg. Directed by Dr. Terry Oxley and guest conductor Sam Hazo, composer of *Echos*, the tribute to Richard Martin.



Josh Shelhamer models the 1917-23 CMB summer uniform for the Bloomsburg Public Library exhibit.

Submissions or comments may be sent to the Editor at delta2@ptd.net or Stevan Galbreath at sagalbreath@hotmail.com.

Written material may be given to Stevan Galbreath.

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Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble to Present *The Women of Lockerbie*

By Dennis Downing

Note: The following article is drawn from information furnished by Scott Atherton of the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble.

After two years, the Bloomsburg Theatre Ensemble is able to present *The Women of Lockerbie* by Deborah Brevvoort. Some band members may remember that the play was originally planned for the 2002-03 season, but, after the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, exclusive rights were assigned to a New York production.

The story concerns a couple whose son was killed when Pan Am flight 103 was destroyed by terrorists over Scotland. On the seventh anniversary of the bombing, they return to Lockerbie seeking to deal with their loss.

Ensemble member Elizabeth Dowd said, "I cannot ever recall the Ensemble being as certain of producing a play as we were after reading *The Women of Lockerbie* early in September of 2001. A week later, Debbie's heartbreaking and beautiful play -- about healing in the aftermath of terrorism -- took on an immediacy that no one could imagine. The rights were immediately grabbed up for an Off-Broadway production . . ."

The Women of Lockerbie will be at the Alvina Krause Theatre Thursday through Sunday from April 22 to May 15 (except May 12). Thursday through Saturday performances will be in the evening, Sundays are afternoon matinees. For times and other information call: (570) 784-8181, toll free (800) 282-0283, or visit the BTE website: www.bte.org.

DID YOU KNOW

Although John Philip Sousa was known as the "March King," his professional band only paraded seven times in 40 touring seasons. It was organized, instrumented and staffed exclusively for performing as a concert band. For the record, the first parade was for the opening ceremonies of the 1893 season of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago. The next three were connected to the Spanish-American War: escorting the departing 1st Ohio Cavalry (the Black Horse Troop) to a Cleveland railroad station; the return of the 18th Pa. Infantry Regt. in Pittsburgh; and a New York victory parade honoring Admiral George Dewey. The others were for the July 4, 1900, dedication ceremonies of a Lafayette statue in Paris, and parades sponsored by the New York Hippodrome in 1916 and 1917 (the Hippodrome parades were discontinued during WW I).

Source: Paul E. Bierly, *John Phillip Sousa: American Phenomenon*, (1973).

Stevan Galbreath

Visit the Catawissa Military Band Website at:
www.geocities.com/Broadway/Orchestra/6422

Comfort Cont.

of *Signs of Life* by Alfred Appel, Jr. Part critique of photography, part reminiscence and part pop culture timeline, *Signs of Life* is hard to define. Even so it has become a favorite that I return to often.

Everyone who enjoys books has at least a few special reads, books that are the emotional equivalent of ice cream or potato chips.

A friend, whose usual reading material is of a much darker nature, surprised me by saying her comfort reads are the Little House series by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Another friend prefers the Dick Francis mysteries, set in the world of horses and horse racing. She returns to his novels not for the mysteries, but to spend time with characters that she enjoys.

My brother-in-law picks Herman Hesse's *Narcissus and Goldman*, for his comfort read, while my sister prefers Jane Austin's *Sense and Sensibility* and Dick Francis's *Heavy*.

John Keegan's *The Face of Battle* and a biography of John Paul Jones by Samuel Eliot Morison are favorites of my brother, the historian of the family.

This is only a small sampling of the variety of preferred comfort reads. The possibilities are limitless, just like the number of available carbohydrate-laden treats.

Dr. Atkins can keep his high protein, low carb diet and his ill-tempered followers. Why anyone would even consider diet advice from a man whose weight, at the time of his death, placed him in the category of "obese", is beyond me. At least it gives me something to think about while I search the house for chocolate and my copy of *Pride and Prejudice*. Bon appetit!

Toys Cont.

a \$7.00 action figure save the world without ten other friends, the \$20 hero-mobile with blinking lights, or the \$60 impenetrable fortress with secret passage and detachable laboratory?

With the birthday party an hour away, time was running out. The hero-mobile looked like a good idea. Certainly, the beeping and booping would keep a child entertained, but -- it required batteries. Experience shows that after two or three cycles of replacing batteries the toy gets retired to the back of the closet. Mom doesn't have -- or more likely "forgets" to buy -- any more batteries.

The realization came to me that I was thinking like the pre-school teacher I once was. Wanting to find something that promoted thinking and stimulated creativity, I looked at toys and saw commercialism and a lack of imagination. Remembering that Billy is a child who just wants to play, I believe it doesn't matter to him if he is improving dexterity by building with blocks. Nor is he aware of the social skills learned when cooking Grammy Sandy dinner with his Little Tykes kitchen. Really, he doesn't care if he can only build a pirate island with the Legos -- he'll probably lose all the pieces in a week.

So I compromised with something that caught my eye, the George Foreman Play-Doh grill. It comes with four cans of Play-Doh and an array of tools to create non-edible meals. While the chicken or fish cooks with a battery operated "sizzle," he can use the molds to make lettuce, tomatoes and pickles. He can then serve hot dogs and burgers on a sesame seed bun. The Play-Doh will dry out in about a week, but it's inexpensive to replace. The batteries will eventually wear out, and the grill will retire to the bottom of the toy box -- if he doesn't lose all the pieces first.

NOTES

The band wishes to thank Nancy Severini and Commonwealth Acquisition and Development, Inc. for assistance with and the donation of labor for the recent installation of the band hall replacement windows.

Past issues of the newsletter are now posted on the band website in PDF format. To simplify reading, it is recommended that all pages from a single issue be downloaded (it takes about 10 seconds per page) and stored on the desktop before beginning. A complete set (including current issues) is expected to be available in the near future. Our thanks to Greg Bitler for setting up this service.

Watch for a piece on the band by Jim Timbrell scheduled to appear in the April issue of *Valley Panorama* magazine. We thank Mr. Timbrell and the staff of *Valley Panorama* for their interest in the band.

The Bloomsburg Public Library will host an exhibit of Military Band uniforms and artifacts during the month of April. The display will be located in the first floor reading room and second floor hall, adjacent to the Columbia County Historical and Genealogical Society.

Your tax deductible contributions are gratefully accepted by the
Catawissa Military Band. Donations may be sent to:

Catawissa Military Band

115 S. Berger Ave.

Catawissa, PA 17820

Thank you for your continued support.

From the Archives: The Catawissa Boy's Band

by Stevan Galbreath

Note: Most of the information in this article was taken from an interview with Charles Fegley (the last surviving member) held at his residence in Catawissa during the afternoon of July 12, 1985.

The Catawissa Boy's Band, largely forgotten, was one of many similar organizations that played an important role in the training of young players before the development of school bands. Loosely sponsored by the Catawissa Military Band, it led an increasingly successful existence for four years (1909-13) prior to World War I. There is no existing account of its organization in the local press or the Military Band records.

However, Charles Fegley, when interviewed at age 97, said the band was founded in the summer of 1909. He thought the principal reason for its organization was that the Military Band wanted a place to park student players that were either not ready or not needed in the main band.

John Berger, the high school music teacher, was the moving force behind the group. He had been the unofficial assistant director of the Military Band during the 1890's and

had directed the band for eight months in 1902 while director Charles Smith worked in Pittsburgh. Berger had little role in the Military Band after Smith's return and becoming director of the Boy's Band may well have been a consolation prize.

Instruments were purchased from the recently disbanded Dutch Hill Band. The boys soon acquired distinctive uniforms that were patterned after army service dress of the pre-World War I era -- brown tunics, puttees and campaign hats. Early rehearsals were held in the Military Band room of the Harder storage building (where the Coastal Mart now stands). After a few rehearsals, the boys caused some unnecessary equipment damage and were kicked out. Thereafter, they practiced in Pete Ervin's theater on the alley south of Main Street.

Charley Fegley believed that he had played in the first Halloween parade in Catawissa with the Boy's Band. It was one of their early performances and, by his account, was a small affair with the band leading the kids around town. This could only have been in 1909 as the Military Band began formal sponsorship of the parade the following year.

Ultimately, the Boy's Band became a victim of its own success. As its members got older (several had graduated

from high school) and more experienced, the band began competing for engagements with the Military Band. This was especially disconcerting since they were undercutting the established price structure of area adult bands. In December 1913, the Military Band leadership (possibly under pressure from out-of-town bands) decided to put an end to the competition and voted to merge the two groups. The last performance of the independent Boy's Band was for the 1913 Halloween parade.

Several long-term members of the Military Band gained their first playing experience with the Boy's Band, including: Jack Cleaver and Luther Reese (of Cleaver and Reese vaudeville fame), Francis Matthews, Robert Kistler and Arthur Erdman. John Berger went on to direct the Franklin (Township) Band until it disbanded during World War I. He later worked as a piano tuner in Hazleton.

Over a four year period, the Catawissa Boy's Band far exceeded its original purpose as an instructional vehicle and was well on its way to developing into a rival adult band. In the end, that can only be considered a tribute to the effectiveness of John Berger's instruction and the quality of the personnel.

Congratulations

Columbia County Band -- Sarah Fulmer and Allie Radice (flute); Rachel Nicoletto (clarinet); Elizabeth Reeder (oboe); Andrew Kocher (trombone) and Josh Shelhamer (tuba).

County Jazz Band -- Andrew Kocher.

District Band -- Sarah Fulmer, Allie Radice, Elizabeth Reeder, Andrew Kocher, Rachel Nicoletto and Ashley Sherwood (clarinet).

Regional Band -- Rachel Nicoletto and Elizabeth Reeder.