

CATAWISSA MILITARY BAND

March 2005

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 No. 2

Swept Away: Some Thoughts on Spring Cleaning

by Anne Cosper, Editor

As spring, the season for cleaning, approaches I find myself looking around the house with a critical eye. The accumulated dust, cat hairs on the curtains and piles of project related reference books are enough to send me back into hibernation.

Then I remember my hero, the "Clutter Wonder from Down Under", professional organizer Peter Walsh. The Australian Walsh, star of TLC's *Clean Sweep*, would know just how to handle the dust, cat hair and books. *Clean Sweep's* premise is simple; "one house, two people, lots of clutter." Each week, Walsh, assisted by an interior designer, carpenter, hyper host and a team of flunkies, clears the junk, redecorates and organizes two very messy rooms.

Convincing serious pack rats to reform and change their ways is not an easy task. Arguments, teary scenes and domestic spats are part of the process, but Walsh, armed with a Masters Degree in Psychology and a large amount of Zen, is able to soothe emotional homeowners while keeping the focus on clutter control.

At the end of the show, freshly painted, decorated, cleaned and organized rooms are revealed to surprised and happy couples. The transformation from the "before" rooms to the "after" is amazing and I usually find myself wishing that the *Clean Sweep* team would come to my house -- but then I remember

Continued on page three

A Menu at Every Cable: A Lifetime of Bad Programming

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.

"What a waste," my ex-boyfriend once told me, "to have a big screen TV and not have cable." I responded with an "I'm not home enough to watch TV. Besides, there's more to do in life than watch TV." I receive three stations clearly -- sometimes five, if the weather is right. As long as I can get *Jeopardy!*, *Law and Order*, and an occasional *Seinfeld* rerun, I'm happy. It's not that I am opposed to television, I'm just not a constant viewer. I might check out *Saturday Night Live* to see if it's a good good year or bad (I miss Will Farrell's talent!). I like the new ABC show *Lost*. It's the first show in a while that's not a forensic/police/doctor/lawyer drama. When PBS comes in, there's usually something interesting. I'm not the only person who describes *The Red Green Show* as Canadian *Hee Haw*. Actually, I'm amazed that any of my co-workers have even seen *The Red Green Show*.

My co-worker, John, is always asking me how I can live without cable. There are plenty of other things to do besides watch TV all night. But this isn't about TV alternatives.

I don't have cable for several reasons. It's the quality of the programming combined with the ever increasing cost of cable. Why should I spend my hard earned cash for programs and channels I don't even like? The above mentioned (ex) boyfriend had to have cable. He couldn't live without ESPN or the Weather Channel. Even though I am not a sports fan, I can understand ESPN. I don't understand the need for 24 hours of

Continued on page three

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. Reception: March 26, 6-8 p.m. Info: taiwoong@lycos.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.

May 3, 7:30 p.m. The Catawissa Military Band will be performing its spring concert at the Caldwell Consistory Auditorium, Bloomsburg.

DID YOU KNOW

The often repeated story that 19th century bandleader Patrick S. Gilmore came to the U.S. after deserting from a British army band in Canada has now been refuted. Recent research by Michael Cummings of the P.S. Gilmore Society has found that he and his brother came directly to Boston from Ireland in 1848. The story was a rumor started by rival band publicists in New York attempting to diminish his appeal within the Irish-American community. If that wasn't enough, his principal cornetists, Matthew Arbuckle and Ben Bent, were also tagged as deserters. At the time, U.S. immigration law prohibited the legal admission of foreign military deserters. Despite this, the rumor still has widespread currency in contemporary reference works. More information at www.psgilmore-society.org.

Stevan Galbreath

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

Written material may be given to Stevan Galbreath.

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GUEST REVIEW

Golden Age of the March: Walking Frog Records

By Bob Ridgway

"Go to any band concert and watch what happens when the band starts to play a really great march. The first thing you'll notice is how the band perks up and starts to enjoy itself and the audience quickly follows suit. The times may change, but the attraction of this timeless music never varies." This starts the description of Walking Frog Records' two volume set *Golden Age of the March*.

Military Escort is a march I haven't heard for a long time, and it's on this CD. When Ralph Wolfgang took charge of the Catawissa High School Band (about 1947), *Military Escort* was the main march I remember playing. This makes sense. It was written by Henry Fillmore,* under the pseudonym "Harold Bennett," to be performed by young players. He was amazed when it turned out to be a favorite of bands, even at the professional level, and it is reported that none other than John Philip Sousa told Fillmore, "I wish that march had my name on it."

Many marches were written for the circus. *Hosts of Freedom*, one of the Catawissa Military Band street marches, was used as fast finale music for elephant acts.

Other Karl King marches the Military Band plays that came from the circus are: *Barnum & Bailey's Favorite*, *Broadway One-Step*, *The Trombone King*, *Kentucky Sunrise*, and *The Walking Frog*. Karl King wrote so many marches, so fast, that he sent them numbered to the publisher [who then] named them.

Emblem of Unity, programmed for the spring concert, was published in 1941. This is the only march in this collection that was conceived as a concert march rather than a circus or street march. [The composer] J.J. Richards wrote several hundred pieces for band. For a time, he was director of the Ringling Brothers Circus Band.

Most of these marches we all know were written before 1920. How many of today's "popular" songs will be remembered that long?

*Note: Norman Smith in *March Music Notes* states that the first sections were based on a march purchased from obscure amateur composer Will Nicholson for \$35. Fillmore did write the trio and make extensive other revisions. -- S. Galbreath

On the Web

www.tinfoil.com - Website dedicated to early sound recording, includes a section on the Marine Band role in popularizing phonograph recordings in the 1890's -- no, Sousa did not participate in these recordings either.

Swept Away Cont.

my books, and run to the yard to start digging a moat to keep the *Clean Sweep* people away.

While I agree with most of Walsh and the team's counsel, there is one point of contention -- books. Under the guise of effective clutter control, homeowners are encouraged to get rid of their books. In one episode a woman was allowed to keep only ten books that she had previously read. I was appalled -- only ten? How could anyone ever limit a collection to such a small number? And what would go? Certainly not James Thurber, Don DeLillo, Toni Morrison, Elmore Leonard, Jane Austin, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Julia Alvarez, Robert Benchley, Bobbie Ann Mason, Sinclair Lewis, Gabriel Garcia Marquez, well, you get the idea...

At last count, several years ago, my daughter had over 700 children's books that neither one of us could be prevailed upon to part with, not even for the promise of pristine, clutter-free rooms.

Perhaps the book purge is design driven, all those decorators just can't stand to see walls full of books when there could be themed accessories enhancing the room. Whatever the reason, it feels anti-intellectual. As a writer, illustrator and sometimes editor, books have never been expendable items to me.

Although I will continue to enjoy the transformations of *Clean Sweep*, while gloating that my house never looks as bad as the homes on the show, I doubt that I'll be applying for a home make-over from them. No, thank you, I'll keep the mountains of books, the dust and even the cat hairs. Now, if you'll excuse me, I'm going to put a "You'll get my copy of *Catcher in the Rye* when you pry my cold, dead fingers from around it." bumper sticker on the car.

Cable Cont.

non-local weather.

I remember one Father's Day ("quality" example) when I tuned into Lifetime. Here's how a woman's channel celebrates fatherhood: first movie -- a teacher and her high school boyfriend plot and kill her husband; second movie -- a father of three daughters dislikes their husbands-boyfriends and kills them off one by one; third movie -- an abusive wife slowly poisons her husband who wants a divorce. Happy Father's Day, everyone.

Too much TV promotes passivity. There have been many times in the past that I sat in the Lazy-Boy all day and watched TV. MTV used to have a show called *Behind the Music*. Each episode featured the biography of a musician or band. One Saturday I watched a *Behind the Music* marathon. Before I knew it, it was 4:00 in the afternoon and I was still in my pajamas. I had accomplished nothing that day except to feed the cat and myself. It seemed too much of an effort to shower and dress. At four o'clock the day is almost over. Why bother? It was winter and it would be dark in less than an hour. Besides, I didn't want to miss the next episode of *Behind the Music*.

My solution to unsatisfying programming is a pay per channel cable package. I think we should be able to pick and choose our own cable channels for individualized programming. I don't need the Lifetime network (with good reason) or ESPN, so I won't pick those. I'll take A&E, The Discovery Channel, and the Learning Channel. HBO, Showtime, and Cinemax show the same movies over and over, so I'll skip them as well. I'll take TBS and TNT though -- oh, and Comedy Central. I'll pass on the Disney Channel and the shopping channels. I'll take CNN for the news and skip the Weather Channel. MTV doesn't play music any more, so I'll skip that as well. I'm up to nine channels. My mother pays \$38.00 a month for 72 channels -- that's about .53 per channel. My package comes to \$4.77 a month for nine channels. Now, how do we convince the cable companies to go for this idea?

NOTES

Best wishes for continued recovery by Carrie Updegrave, who is scheduled to be released from rehab the first week of March.

An original work by Dr. Terry Oxley, *Five Songs from the Poems of Stephen Crane for Tenor and Band*, will be performed by the Kutztown University Concert Band on Thursday, March 31.

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 Societies.

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: Charles E. Smith, Director for 55 Years

by Stevan Galbreath

Certainly the central figure in the history of the Catawissa Military Band, Charles E. Smith was a member for 63 years (second only to Hogan Lewis at 65) and director for a total of 55 years. He was born September 10, 1863, at Tennstadt in Prussian Saxony.

His father, Frederick B. Smith, was a stonecutter by trade and a lance corporal in the army reserve. After having been called to active duty during the Danish War of 1864 and Seven Weeks War of 1866, he decided to emigrate to the U.S. He arrived in Catawissa in 1869 and, with his brother Charles G. Smith, established the Catawissa Marble and Granite Works (later the Catawissa Monument Works). Among his credits was the 1899 design and construction of the Civil War Monument in Union Cemetery, site of the present Catawissa Memorial Day ceremonies.

The Franco-Prussian War prevented him from bringing his family over until peace was restored in 1872. His eldest son Karl (Charles -- the family did not Anglicize their names until 1877) was nine years old at the time. Shortly thereafter, Frederick, a soprano saxhorn player with the Union Brass Band, began teaching his son to play. Young Charles was a quick study and soon became a key member of the band.

With the dissolution of the Union Band in 1881, Charles (but not his father) accepted the standing offer to join the Military Band. He easily made the transition from saxhorn to cornet (the Military Band had converted to standard instruments in 1879) and, when Archibald Lewis became director in 1887, moved up to lead cornet.

The band's unhappiness with Lewis's leadership came to a head in the summer of 1889. It was widely felt that Lewis had compromised the

quality of the organization by filling the ranks with cronies, many of whom were less skilled musicians and prone to rowdy conduct. Following a series of rancorous meetings, Lewis was persuaded to resign as president and run for director against Smith. When the ballots were counted on July 30, Smith was elected by a two vote margin.

Smith was aided in remaking the band by the recently established music program in Catawissa High School under John Berger. Beginning in 1892, Berger's students supplied the first true woodwind section (a single clarinetist named James Kelly had been with the band since 1880) and the first trombone players (previously, there had been only valve tenorhorns). By 1898, the organization was no longer a mostly brass village band, but had become a fully instrumented concert band.

Meanwhile, Smith held a clerical position in the family monument business. Faced with the prospect of selling off the business, he accepted a similar position in the Pittsburgh area in January of 1902. After an emotional farewell banquet in which the band presented him a gold watch, Charles Smith ceremonially passed the baton to high school teacher John Berger.

Berger's tenure as director was not a success. He was considered something of a highbrow in his musical tastes and may have been showing symptoms of a drinking problem that would later disable him. With the loss of members, the musical quality of the organization went into noticeable decline. As it turned out, the inevitable decision on retaining him as director would be avoided.

In August 1902, Smith returned to Catawissa after having lost the out of town job. John Berger couldn't resign fast enough and Smith was, with equal rapidity, reinstated. A few years later, Smith's employment problems were solved when he accepted a clerical position with the Columbia County government, remaining until retirement in 1927. He was also active in politics

and, although he never held public office, was elected to several terms as a member of the Democratic State Committee.

On returning, Smith began the search for a band hall. The band had rehearsed in the Harder storage building (on the site of the former Coastal Mart) since 1896. However, the relationship with the Harder family was strained due to frequent rent increases and ongoing disputes over payment for improvements the band had made to the room.

In 1903 the band made its first attempt to purchase a building. After a number of false starts, Smith arranged the purchase the George Guinn carpenter shop at 115 S. Berger Ave. Guinn, a former member of the band, had died without a will. The courts eventually awarded the building to his brother's widow Catherine, who sold it to the band for \$350 in December 1911.

The closing of the railroad shops in 1926 was a severe setback for the band. Nearly half its members were lost along with a significant part of its funding. Smith and the officers were able to get some financial assistance from the town and additional student players. The band may have only survived through the arrangement with the high school to send their instrumental students to the Military Band (the high school did not have a band until after WWII).

Catawissa had gone through its depression in the mid-1920's, so they were able to survive the 1930's depression. The band actually expanded as new members were gained from area bands that folded. During WWII, enough core members were past military age that the band would continue.

By the summer of 1944, Smith had turned the band over to assistant director Bruce Rhawn. Charles E. Smith died on November 16, 1944, at the age of 81. The Military Band led the funeral procession to Hillside Cemetery where he was interred.