

THE MARINE BAND

History of Uncle Sam's Famous Musical Organization.

STARTED BY A KIDNAPING.

Tradition Says That the Original Band Was Spirited Away From Sunny Sicily by Captain McNeil of the American Frigate Boston.

One of the best known and most popular musical organizations in this country is the United States Marine band. It is always selected to furnish the music at important government functions, such as inaugural balls and receptions at the White House, and is always assigned the post of honor in notable parades. Indeed, it is the ablest and most famous military band in the country.

There is an interesting tradition that the original Marine band was kidnaped from the sunny slopes of Sicily. The story goes that one Captain McNeil of the American frigate Boston was cruising in the Mediterranean, when his soul yearned for the sound of real music, an art that had been little developed in this young republic. When ashore he heard a regimental band play so tunefully that the bluff old seadog became inspired. The inspiration was promptly put into execution. In his suavest manner he invited the Sicilians aboard his ship to play "a ball." The invitation was accepted with alacrity, induced no doubt by the prospect of American gold.

A few nights afterward the entire organization was on board the frigate with its instruments when the captain suddenly found it expedient to return to the United States. So it was up anchor and away before the astonished Sicilians could protest. There is no authentic record of what became of this band of Italian musicians, as many of the marine corps archives were destroyed in 1814.

The official records do show, however, that shortly after the marine corps was organized, probably in 1801, Lieutenant Colonel Archibald Henderson brought from Naples a group of thirteen Italian musicians, which was the inception of the organization as an instrumental band.

An act to establish a marine corps was approved by President John Adams on July 11, 1798. This law provided for a drum and fife corps consisting of sixteen drummers and sixteen fifers, one of whom should act as fife major. This constituted the Marine band until the arrival of the Neapolitans, about three years later.

For several years the band had no special leader. First one member and then another acted as fife major. This practice continued until Aug. 14, 1815, when J. L. Clubb, of the sloop Lexington, was regularly appointed and served until 1824. He was succeeded by Eutime Friquet, who served until Oct. 29, 1830, when Francis Schenig was appointed, serving until Sept. 22, 1843. Schenig was relieved by Francis Scala, who served until 1848 and again from 1854 until Dec. 13, 1871.

It was under Scala's leadership that the band first became famous. He inaugurated the open air concerts at the White House and the capitol grounds, for which congress allowed extra compensation in 1856. These concerts grew in such favor that steps were undertaken to improve the organization, which was still officially known as a fife and drum corps. Legislation was obtained to reorganize it as a band, with a principal musician and thirty members. On July 25, 1861, President Lincoln affixed his signature to a law that recognized the first band as part of the military service of the United States.

Scala retired in 1871 after having served in the band nearly thirty years, twenty-two of which he was its leader. He was succeeded by Henry Fries, who served until Aug. 22, 1873. Louis Schneider was appointed Sept. 2, 1873, serving until Oct. 29, 1880. On Oct. 20, 1880, John Philip Sousa was chosen leader. Sousa had formerly been a member of the band, as had his father. The elder Sousa enlisted in 1861 under the name of Suacca, but upon re-enlistment he gave the name of Sousa, which he continued to use thereafter.

Sousa left the service July 30, 1882, to organize a band of his own, and Francesco Fancullini was appointed. He served until Oct. 3, 1897. When his term expired he was not reappointed, and the band was without a leader until the following March, when William H. Santelmann was appointed.

In 1898 the band was again reorganized. In order to bring it up to the standard to which it was entitled as the leading military band of this country a law was passed, which President McKinley signed March 3, 1898, increasing the band to seventy-three members, consisting of a leader with the pay and allowance of a first lieutenant at \$75 a month and allowances, thirty first class musicians at \$60, thirty second class musicians at \$50, ten privates and a drum major. The members are enlisted for four years.—John B. Cox in Washington Star.

For the Wheels.
Mr. Wickwire—I have had such a queer humming noise in my head all day. Mrs. Wickwire—Why don't you try a little machine oil?—Indianapolis Journal.

This work of helping the world forward happily does not wait to be done by perfect men.—George Eliot.

YEGGMEN SERVE "SOUP."

Its Queer Recipe Is In Possession of the Secret Service.

Here is a recipe for soup served only after nightfall, preferably in the early morning hours.

"First take about ten or a dozen impwri hz xug, crumble it up fine and put it in a pan or washbowl, then pour over it enough uswhos (either chlx or ikly) to cover it well. Stir it up with your hands, being careful to break all the lumps; leave it set a few minutes; then get a few yards of cheesecloth and tear it in pieces and strain the mixture through the cloth into another vessel, wring the sawdust dry and throw it away. The remains will be the ihd ugx uswhos mixed. Next take the same amount of water as you used of uswhos and pour it in; leave the whole set for a few minutes."

This is the "soup" employed by yeggmens, and a single portion of it is guaranteed to open the door of the stoutest safe, provided an aperture can be made sufficiently large to pour in the stuff. The names of the ingredients are written in a crude sort of cipher commonly used for preserving such secrets. This and dozens more of the same transparency of meaning are in the possession of the United States secret service men, the police, detective agencies and others who deal with the cooks of such dishes. By a substitution of letter for letter—the first six for the last six of the alphabet, the second six for the third six, with G and N taken out of turn and made interchangeable—the cipher is easily read. "Impwri hz xug," translated, is "sticks of dynamite." "Uswhos, either chlx or ikly"—alcohol, either wood or pure—may be used.

The directions for serving this soup require considerable attention and the best of trained service. After the "guy cat," or advance agent of the band, has learned all that can be found out about the bank, store or post-office, its lighting, protection and the means of escape by freight train, vehicle or on foot, his companion or companions come on, avoiding notice as far as possible. "Stickups," or look-outs, guard the place while the "inside men" break into the safe. Sealing the cracks about the safe or vault door with soap, the yeggmens pour in the soup through a small hole left open at the top. The liquid flows down by locks, hinges and bolts and is set off by fuse or detonator. Blankets and covers of any kind are used to muffle the sound of the explosion and the fall of the door. Perhaps the "stickups" are forced to create a diversion outside and to frighten the citizens or mislead them while the "inside men" pick out the valuable papers escape. Who pays the check for the soup then depends upon the ingenuity of detectives.—New York Post.

EYE STRAIN.

It Has Many Symptoms and May Affect the Whole System.

Chief among the symptoms of eye strain are watering of the eye, a ginging together of the eyelids on awakening in the morning, headache, the position and character of which vary with each individual. It may be neuralgic or it may be deeply seated, as was the case with Wagner, the musician, who was complaining constantly of "the nerves of his eyes."

The headache is often replaced by an inflammation of the eyelids, especially in young and healthy persons, who also have a little conjunctivitis, with a feeling of tension or fullness in the eyes which may become real pain of a dull aching character, the eyeballs being very tender on pressure.

Sometimes there are vertigo and sickness, with dyspepsia, palpitation and even difficulty in breathing. Sleeplessness is a very frequent symptom, due in part to the excessive flow of blood to the brain and in part to the low tone of the whole nervous system.

The symptoms of eye strain appear sooner in those who lead a confined and sedentary life, who follow occupations which need a constant use of the eyes in bad or unsuitable light and in those who are debilitated from any cause. The symptoms appear later in those of coarser fiber, who pass much of their time in the open air or who follow occupations which do not need a prolonged use of the eyes for close work.—London Lancet.

Odd Bargain of Dumas.

The library of Carpentras possesses among its treasures a curious collection of autographs. One is the signature of Alexandre Dumas pere to an old bargain which he proposed and which was accepted. This strange contract was that the author should present to the library of Cavallion copies of all his works, those already published and others which he might write in return for a supply of melons to be sent to him as long as he lived.—Westminster Gazette.

The Sperm Whale's Oil Tank.

Professor R. C. Andrews believes that the oil tank in the head of the sperm whale is a provision of nature to save the monster from starvation when food is scarce. He says that his experiments show that the oil from the tank is absorbed by the whale's body at times when adequate food is unobtainable.—London Telegraph.

Anecdotes.

What is an anecdote?
An anecdote is a story of extremely uncertain age that is founded on fiction and embellished by fancy.

After lying dormant for years it is dug up and credited to an entirely innocent and unsuspecting United States senator.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

CRAZY KING LOUIS

His Part in the Pitiful Tragedy at Lake Stranberg.

SLEW HIS FRIEND AND DIED.

The Mad Bavarian Monarch Beat Faithful Dr. von Gudden to Death Before Heart Disease Stopped His Own Dash For Liberty.

For months preceding the tragedy on June 13, 1886, that ended his life King Louis II. of Bavaria had revealed many unmistakable signs of mental derangement. He heard mysterious voices in the air around him and believed that he was constantly pursued by dangerous enemies. He withdrew entirely from the world, his cabinet ministers were unable to obtain access to him, and his domestic servants were forbidden to look at his face, being compelled to approach him with averted eyes. The old valet Meier was obliged to don a mask to cover his features whenever he went near the king, and many other strange things happened at the magnificent palace which Louis had built for himself with reckless extravagance.

Wearing his crown and purple royal mantle, with the scepter of sovereignty in his hand, King Louis would wander through the rooms of his castles at night, conversing with imaginary guests, for the most part with the ghosts of King Louis XIV. of France and Queen Marie Antoinette. Frequently places were laid at his table for their disembodied spirits.

The king's debts brought matters to a crisis and necessitated the intervention of the Bavarian government. Most of the royal liabilities had been contracted through the construction and decoration of the famous three castles, and several creditors threatened to initiate proceedings to recover their money. King Louis requested the government to introduce a bill in the Bavarian legislature granting his property immunity from seizure for debts, and when his ministers refused this unreasonable demand he tried to borrow money from all sorts and conditions of people.

In April, 1886, the Bavarian chamber refused to sanction the payment of the king's debts from the public treasury, and a few days later the cabinet addressed a respectful petition to Louis to curtail his expenditures. King Louis responded by dismissing the whole cabinet and nominating a new ministry, at the head of which he placed his own barber.

This irresponsible act brought matters to a head. A commission of medical experts, under the presidency of Dr. von Gudden, pronounced the king to be incurably insane and incapable of ruling, and a deputation under Baron von Crailsheim was dispatched from Munich to the castle where Louis was in residence to inform his majesty of his dethronement. The king had Baron von Crailsheim and all the members of the deputation arrested.

Then Dr. von Gudden proceeded to Neuschwanstein castle, where to all outward appearances he succeeded in persuading the king to submit to his dethronement and to retire to Berg castle, near the shores of Lake Stranberg, where the final tragedy was enacted. The king was escorted to Berg castle by Dr. von Gudden, another medical man, Dr. Mueller, and several trained attendants, and he seemed to acquiesce in the arrangement that he should remain there for a year under close supervision.

Dr. von Gudden, misled by appearances, telegraphed to Munich that his royal patient was "as obedient as a child," and at dinner that evening he promised to take the king for a walk in the park. His assistant, Dr. Mueller, warned him that it would be dangerous to go alone with the king and urged him to allow an attendant to accompany them, or at least to follow them at a discreet distance, but Dr. von Gudden disregarded the younger man's advice and paid the penalty with his life. It was a Sunday evening, and a general feeling of uneasiness prevailed among those who had remained at the castle when the king and Dr. von Gudden failed to reappear after an hour had elapsed. Search parties were organized, and during the night one of the royal footmen found the king's hat, coat and overcoat close to the bank of the lake and Dr. von Gudden's umbrella close by on the ground. The bodies of the king and his physician were found not far from the shore of the lake, in shallow water, both heads projecting above the surface. Dr. von Gudden's face and head bore the marks of heavy blows which the king, a man of immensely powerful build, had showered upon him.

The position of the bodies and the articles of clothing found near them made it possible to surmise, with probable accuracy, the details of the tragedy. It is likely that the king intended to escape from his prison—for as such he regarded the castle in which he was kept as a madman—and that he dived himself of overcoat and coat to swim across the lake. Dr. von Gudden, it appears, closed with him at the water's edge and tried to prevent his flight, but the king killed him and died from heart disease at the moment when he was on the point of beginning his swim for liberty. The post-mortem examination revealed that neither had died from drowning, but the king from heart failure and Dr. von Gudden from the injuries inflicted on him in the struggle.—Berlin Cor. St. James's Gazette.

BUDDHIST CREMATION.

The Funeral Pyre and the Disposition of the Ashes.

A Buddhist cremation is a strange and uncanny event, and it is not often that a foreigner is given to witness one. I saw some of the preliminary ceremonies at a temple in south China, but found myself apparently becoming persona non grata as the time for the cremation proper approached and did not care enough about seeing it to intrude. I have since heard and read several descriptions of the greswome ceremony.

The priests are dressed in white sackcloth, similar to that worn by the mourners at the funerals of the laymen, and their brows are bound with white bandages. The corpse, dressed in a cowl and with the hands fixed in an attitude of prayer, is placed in a sitting position in a bamboo chair and carried to the funeral pyre by some of his fellow monks, all the other monks of the monastery following in a double line. As the procession advances the walls of the monastery echo with the chanting of prayers and the tinkling of cymbals.

When the pyre is reached the bearers place the corpse upon it, and the fagots are kindled by the head priest and while the flames are mounting the others prostrate themselves in obeisance to the ashes of their departed brother. When the fire is burned out the attendants collect the charred bones and place them in a cinerary urn, which is often deposited in a small shrine within the precincts of the monastery, to remain there until the ninth day of the ninth month, when the ashes are seved up in a bag of red cloth and thrown into a sort of ossuary or monastery mausoleum.—Lewis R. Freeman in Los Angeles Times.

THE FIRST SOAP.

According to Pliny, It Was In Use Among the Gauls.

Who invented soap? According to Pliny, soap was an invention of the Gauls, who used it for giving a bright hue to the hair. He also states that it was employed by the Germans both as a medicinal and as a cleansing agent, two kinds being used—hard and soft. There is reason to believe that it was introduced into Germany by the Romans, though on this point there is some difference of opinion.

Iomer tells us in the "Odyssey" that Nausicaa, daughter of Alcinoos, king of the Phaeacians, and her attendants washed clothes by treading upon them with their feet in pits of water, so that apparently she and her servants were unacquainted with the use of soap.

The fact that soap was obtainable by boiling together oily or fatty substances and alkalis was known at an early period of history, but it must be borne in mind that the substance referred to in the Old Testament and translated "soap" (Jeremiah ii, 22, "For though thou wash thee with siter—properly, natron—soda—and take thee much soap," and Malachi iv, 2, "For he is like a refiner's fire and like fuller's soap") refer to the alkali itself and not to the substances prepared from oily bodies and these alkaline matters.

The French word for soap (savon) is supposed to have been derived from the fact of its having been manufactured at Savona, near Genoa.

The manufacture of soap began in London in 1524, before which time it was supplied by Bristol at a penny per pound. A duty was imposed on soap in 1711, but after several reductions was totally repealed in 1853.—London Journal.

Washington Monument Bent by Heat.

The towering Washington monument, solid as it is, cannot resist the heat of the sun poured on its southern side on a midsummer's day without a slight bending of the gigantic shaft, which is rendered perceptible by means of a copper wire 174 feet long hanging in the center of the structure and carrying a plummet suspended in a vessel of water. At noon in summer the apex of the monument, 550 feet above the ground, is shifted by expansion of the stone a few hundredths of an inch toward the north. High winds cause perceptible motions of the plummet, and in still weather delicate vibrations of the crust of the earth otherwise unperceived are registered by it.

Blood Thicker Than Some Water.

"Blood is thicker than water"—though not much thicker—and not so thick as sea water. The water of the ocean contains thirty-five parts of saline material a thousand, while the vital fluid of the human body contains but seven parts a thousand or one-fifth as much. In the human body each of its myriads of cells is bathed with this seven-tenths per cent saline fluid.—Dietetic and Hygienic Gazette.

The Comeback.

"You used to say," she complained, "that you counted that day lost when you did not hear the sound of my voice."

"Yes, I know," he replied, "and I shall never cease to long for those dear lost days."—London Answers.

Identification.

"I shall try to leave footprints on the sands of time," said the man who is earnest, but not original.

"Very good," replied the absent-minded criminologist, "but thumb prints are now considered more reliable."—Exchange.

The beautiful is beauty seen with the eye of the soul.—Joubert.

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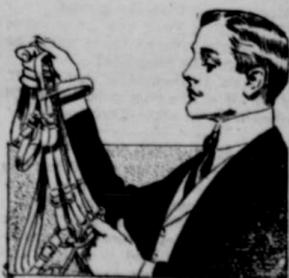
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