



The REEDER

Visit us on the Internet at
www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

NEWS & VIEWS by Mary Ann Love

GOODBYE TO A GREAT LADY

We said goodbye to Peg Davis on March 21, 2007 after a long illness with cancer. Peg was not only a good and faithful member but she was truly the First Lady of the Gateway Harmonica Club. Peg took charge of the Ladies Auxiliary events and was a key organizer with the three previous SPAH events held in St. Louis. She was a mainstay of the Gateway Harmonica Club and an energetic, enthusiastic supporter of SPAH. She was one of the originators of the Ladies Breakfast event that has become a permanent feature of our conventions. As long as she was able, Peg handled the sales items at various gigs and functions and was a true helper to Frank (wed 52 years) in his dedicated commitment to the club since its inception in 1987. Whenever we played Peg O' My Heart it was a special song dedicated to her. Peg was a sensible, Mother Earth type who had keen vision of what had to be done and how to do it. We will miss her more than words can say, but we rejoice with Frank that she is now free from pain and in the presence of her Lord. Frank summed it up when he said that Heaven gained another Angel. We extend our sympathy to Frank and family. May she rest in peace.

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The Gateway Harmonica Club sent a \$50 memorial donation in Peg Davis' name to the Cornerstone Methodist Church, where Peg and Frank have been very active members.

GET WELL

Keep the following members and spouses in your thoughts and prayers: Kathleen Cenatiempo. Frank Muriel had surgery on his leg twice and also a stomach aneurysm. Jerry Bonfiglio had emergency surgery for a nose bleed problem. Francis Love is recovering from heart and kidney failure. Simon Abcouwer has been hospitalized for five weeks from surgery and complications.

SPAH

The Gateway Harmonica Club has been selected to host the 2008 SPAH International Convention. Plans are in the preliminary stage and we will try to keep members updated as planning activities progress.

WELCOME BACK!

It was great to see Bob Provart's smiling face when he joined the group on March 27 with lovely Leta. Bob played along with his usual harmonious tones and enjoyed seeing all his friends again.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Laurie Hayduk
 12005 Clayton Road
 St. Louis, MO 63131
 314-569-0077
lhayduk@earthlink.net

UNIFORM CHANGE

Club members have elected to make the uniform change to the short sleeve summer polo shirt as of May 1. If you need to order a shirt with logo, contact Jessie or Buddy Hirsch.

BLUES NEWS

Each Tuesday night the GHC Blues group meets at Rock Hill Baptist Church before the club's regular meeting.

6:00 - 6:30 p.m. Blues training with Ed

6:30 - 7:00 p.m. Blues Jam to CD accompaniment.

The first Wednesday of each month, JJ's Blues Jammers meets in Jeff Wind's basement in Ballwin, MO, 7:00—10:00 PM. From 7:00 to 8:00 PM the group usually works on learning new Blues techniques, etc. Then Blues jamming goes on from 8:00 to 10:00 PM. For further info and if interested in attending, call Jeff Wind at (314) 703-0130 (or see Audria Gebhardt at GHC). There are about seven or eight people in the group.

MARKIVEE'S MOUNTAIN DECK PARTY

Carroll and Jean Markivee have graciously extended an invitation to all the club members, family and friends to attend a deck party on June 16 to begin at noon (or anytime you can arrive.) Barbecue will be provided and you are asked to bring a covered dish and your own drinks. Sign up sheets will be made available for pot-luck menus and for helpers to set-up and break down tables. Be sure to bring your harmonicas! The Markivee's had hosted a deck party some years ago and it is still a subject of conversation. Directions to the Markivee home in Eureka will be made available or you may call 636-938-3940 or e-mail markivee@msn.com

Looking forward to a jammin' good time!

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Members are always invited to submit articles of interest for this newsletter.

THE GHC REEDER is a bimonthly publication of the Gateway Harmonica Club, Inc. of St. Louis, Missouri, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and advancement of the harmonica. The club meets weekly on Tuesdays at 7:00 PM at the Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, Brentwood, MO.

Inquiries about membership should be directed to:

Buddy Hirsch, Treasurer
 47 Orchard Lane
 Kirkwood, MO 63122
 (314) 821-8651
 e-mail: BuddyHarmonica@aol.com

For information about club activities, contact:

Mary Ann Love, President
 1162 Villa Flora Dr.
 O'Fallon, MO 63366-4443
 (636)-379-7707
 e-mail: maryannlove@charter.net

To schedule a club performance, contact:

Charlie Pratte
 1547 Azalea Drive
 Webster Groves, MO 63119
 (314) 961-7764
 email: CAPJR68@aol.com

All other correspondence should be directed to:

Chris Pondo
 Recording & Corresponding Secretary
 1166 Waldorf Dr.
 St. Louis, MO 63137
 (314) 868-9557

Information about the club's activities is also available on the World Wide Web at:

www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org

Happy Birthday!!!

MAY

Sarah Muriel 5/01
 Michael LaRue 5/03
 Robert Scurlock 5/08
 Sharon Davis 5/11
 Bob Pangilinan 5/13
 Doris Rassman 5/27
 Louise Cook 5/28
 Wally DeShon 5/29

JUNE

Carole Hackmann 6/01
 Joyce Barber 6/04
 Jean Gerfen 6/06
 Guy Vaccaro 6/07
 Theon Heisserer 6/09
 Waunetta Perry 6/17
 Doreen Scurlock 6/25
 Mary Pangilinan 6/25
 Mike Maschek 6/26
 Doris Michelin 6/26
 Bill Nesslein 6/27
 Laurie Hayduk 6/27
 Bill Davis 6/29
 Rose Schmidt 6/29
 Doris Michelin 6/26

Editors Note: Please notify us if you or your spouse's birthday is missed or incorrect.

THANK YOU

I want to thank every one for their love, prayers and support during Peg's illness. This is a prayer that I ran across.

Frank Davis

A Prayer

It is my joy in life to find
 At every turning of the road
 The strong arm of a comrade kind
 To help me onward with my load.
 And since I have no gold to give,
 And love alone must make amends,
 My only prayer is, while I live--
 God make me worthy of my friends.

By Frank Dempster Sherman

THE SECRET OF LIFE

Take time to Think.
 It is the source of Power.
 Take time to Play.
 It is the secret of perpetual Youth.
 Take time to be friendly.
 It is the road to Happiness.
 Take time to work.
 It is the price of Success.
 Take time to Pray.
 It is the greatest power on Earth.
 Take time to Love and be Loved
 It is the way of God

*Submitted by Frank Davis
 (Author Unknown)*

BANQUET

The Gateway Harmonica Club Appreciation Banquet was held on March 24, 2007 at The Columns in St. Charles. It was the 20-year anniversary of the club's establishment. Over 90 members and guests were present. The Original Seven Founders of the Gateway Harmonica Club were: Sidney Wolff, Frank Davis, William (Bill) Davis, Vince Manno, Dan Perez, Boots Lackey, Fred Hessel. The last three listed have passed on and Vince Manno is no longer active with the group.

Sidney Wolff, and brothers Frank and Bill Davis, were each honored with framed certificates that read as follows: *"Founder & Charter Member and Loyal & Long-Standing Supporter of the Gateway Harmonica Club of St. Louis, Missouri with 20 years of Membership. The Officers and Members hereby convey their sincere thanks and whole-hearted gratitude."* Sidney accepted the official recognition with the statement that the real contributors to the club were the faithful workhorses who kept the club running smoothly. Bill Davis was impressed with the award and said he *"was there from the git go."* Bill Davis accepted the certificate for his brother, Frank.

A word of thanks was bestowed upon Pauline Guelbert and Guy Vaccaro for providing party favors, to Jessie Hirsch for keeping numbers and funds straight, and to the equipment haulers and set-up folks. The invocation was delivered by Rev. Ed Heininger and a few moments of silence were devoted to all the members who have passed on. Frank Muriel (who just had surgery) sent a tape titled Prayer to be played for the deceased members and for all the active servicemen and women. It was an unfortunate circumstance that the banquet fell on the same day as the funeral of one of our most beloved members, Peg Davis. The evening was dedicated to Frank and Peg Davis, a happy and fun-loving couple who enjoyed life, people and music; and who have both fulfilled significant roles in the club. Thanks is also extended to Ernie Roberts for videotaping the event. The buffet dinner was followed by solos


and duets, some with accompaniment, from all members wishing to participate in the open mic.

Featured 16-year-old Kaleena Hutchins wowed the audience by playing several songs (and several harps). Kaleena's parents made the 5-hour driving trip from Melbourne, Arkansas, and we are truly appreciative of their support of Kaleena's interest in the harmonica. Kaleena has appeared on CBS television "The Early Show" playing William Tell Overture and won several weeks of competition. Kaleena related some stories of her life in a small town and is sometimes able to jam at Mountain View, Arkansas, the folk music capital of the country, a distance of about 30 miles from her home. Kaleena also played as a performer in the 2004 St. Louis hosted SPAH convention when she was 13. She has been invited to be featured at the 2007 SPAH convention in Milwaukee in August. We are proud to call Kaleena one of our members and wish her much success. Christine Pondo has sponsored and encouraged Kaleena to recently join as a member of the Gateway Harmonica Club.

Dr. Clifford Pugh won half of the 50-50 drawing and donated it back to the club. The Pugh family attended the banquet because of their interest in Kaleena. They have relocated near Springfield, Missouri from Lafayette, Louisiana, after the Katrina Hurricane. Their son is now employed in St. Louis and he was also present at the banquet. The other half of the 50-50 drawing was won by GHC member Wally DeShon.

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On another note,  Christine Pondo was inspired to learn the complete William Tell Overture and played it on the piano for club members at the April 24th meeting to a standing ovation. Chris described the setting, such as the pastoral landscape, the rolling thunder, the bugle call, etc. Most were delightfully surprised at her professional ability on the piano. Just proves what one can accomplish with a little inspiration and a lot of practice. Thanks, Chris!

WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE

The William Tell Overture was written to open an opera by Gioachino Rossini. The opera is based on a legend about the Swiss hero William Tell. According to the legend, William Tell was an expert with a bow and arrow who shot an apple off his son's head. You can hear the political turmoil in William Tell's Switzerland in Rossini's music.

The opera's overture, especially its high-energy finale, is a very familiar work, written in four parts, each segueing into the next:

Prelude - a slow passage with low-pitch instruments such as cello and bass

Storm - dynamic section played by full orchestra

Ranz des vaches (call to the dairy cows) - featuring the English horn (this music is often used in animated cartoons to signify daybreak)

Finale - ultra-dynamic "cavalry charge" gallop heralded by trumpets and played by full orchestra. This is the tune used in the Lone Ranger series.

There have also been versions by Spike Jones and other popular culture figures.

(See "The Story of William Tell" on page 5.)

IS THERE LIFE AFTER THE HARMONICA?

By Carroll Markivee

Of course there is. You never really stop playing the harmonica once you start. You may put it aside for a while by choice, otherwise. But it's like riding a bicycle. You never really forget.

I started in the fifth grade in school in 1936. The depression was in full force. A loaf of bread was about 6 cents and a quart of milk was a nickel. Three pennies would buy a lot of candy.

My grade school, Gundlach, in north St. Louis, wanted the students to have a chance to learn music, but the school could not afford a music teacher. Somehow, they got a salesman who promised to teach us to play a musical instrument if enough of us would buy one from him (like in the story of the Music Man). The choices of instrument were the ocarina, the tin flute and the ten-cent harmonica. Students were eligible if they would pay cash and could stay an extra hour after school on Wednesdays.

Almost everyone who wanted to get into the class chose the harmonica, largely because the man who was selling them showed us one and played it well. He also had an ocarina and a tin flute, but he didn't play the ocarina well, and he didn't do anything with the tin flute.

About a dozen of us got our parents to come up with the 10 cents for the next week when the salesman came around again and we each got a shiny Hohner diatonic. He started us off by teaching the scale, explaining the difference between the blow and draw notes. When everyone could play the scale, he left, saying he would be back next week. He never came.

However, the fifth grade teacher had been noodling around with hers during the week, and she had learned, "Oh Susanna". She held the class, teaching us how to play that song. We practiced at home all during the week.

The next week we were all proud to play "Oh Susanna" in unison when the class started. The teacher figured something like that might happen, and besides she was learning to enjoy playing the instrument. She had learned "Swanee River" in the meantime, and began to teach that to us. That took 2 weeks, but most of us got it right eventually. It didn't matter if everybody had it exactly right, it was just fun to do.

We weren't using a music sheet, and didn't know the names of the notes, just the hole numbers and whether to blow or draw. We had no idea that notes had names, or what sheet music looked like. (We couldn't have afforded any, anyway.)

Next thing you know, we had learned a whole lot of Stephen Foster's music and our parents thought it was pretty good that we were learning music.

Then along came a problem. The movie, "Pennies from Heaven", came out with Bing Crosby singing the title song. All of us kids tried to play the song. But on the third line

we noticed that something wasn't right. There were notes in the song that we couldn't play, no matter how we fished around for them. Of course, they were accidentals, flats and sharps. The first line of the song that gave us trouble was "You'll find your fortune falling, all over town". No matter how we tried, those notes just weren't there, and trying to fake it by playing the natural notes didn't sound right.

The next week, one of the kids showed up with a 10 hole chromatic, and played the song right, because he had all the flats and sharps. So when our group played "Pennies from Heaven" we would all stop at those notes and he played them loudly enough so that everyone could hear.

Pandemonium broke loose. Parents were told that "everyone has one of these new chromatics, so I need one, too". Eventually another kid had a 12 holer chromatic. It was rumored that there was even a 16 holer, but no one ever expected to see one.

Well, for most us, graduation ended our group and the harmonica playing. High school and college came along, and there was no time for music playing. The chromatic harmonica was boxed up and carefully wrapped up in a strong cloth bag made by my mother, so it would be protected.

Then one day, fifty years later, two years after I retired, I heard there was a harmonica club in St. Louis. In the meantime, although I didn't play any more, I bought a new gold plated 16 holer I had seen in a music store while on a trip in Germany and Austria. Then, when I went to the club meeting, I brought it along and it was like I was still in grade school. I almost remembered everything.

Because I had picked up a little knowledge about music somewhere along the way, and could bang out a few chords on a piano and actually read music (slowly), the club members voted me in. (They needed the dues money.)

Next thing I knew I was a club officer along with Ron Beer, and I had sweet-talked Jean into joining also; she got to be secretary.

After a while we had to drop out of the club. Then in December 2006, Jean said, "I miss performing music." I thought she wanted to re-join the church choir, because she had been a lead singer in the Sweet Adelines chorus for over 20 years during our time in northern Illinois. No, she wanted to get back in to the Harmonica club!

What? My wife Jean, whom I had to drag into the club in the first place, and who only went because I told her that another lady named Louise was a member, and there were some other ladies, whose names I did not know. She wants to return? OK I said, but "I'm too old to go out on those late night 50 mile gigs in the winter time when you get home after midnight, fighting the ice and snow".

So here we are, two people who love the harmonica, living it up again.

50 THOUSAND WATTS OF . . . GHC???

by Joe Fey

On Saturday night, April 28 three GHC members were guests on Don Wolff’s “I Love Jazz” show, a weekly program on KMOX-AM. This came about as a result of Sid Wolff’s attendance at a radio class taught by Don. Sid (no relation to Don) used the occasion to ask if GHC might have an opportunity to talk about the club on the air. Don graciously agreed and then Sid presented the idea to us at a business meeting.

Since the show focuses on jazz, we agreed that Frank Muriel should represent GHC because of his knowledge and experience in jazz, along with Sid and me to share information about the club.



Earlier in the week we delivered some harmonica jazz CDs by William Galison, Charlie Leighton and Pete Pedersen and Toots Thielemans to Don’s law Clayton office so that he could review them and select some tracks to complement the live interview portion of the program. Don also invited us to bring some CDs of our players’ jazz recordings. Ultimately we selected two by Frank and two by me, (although I’m not really a jazz player, I had recorded several

tunes based on Charlie Leighton arrangements).



We also provided Don with a list of topics that we wanted the interview to cover, such as: the club’s history and purpose,

the kinds of music we play, the different instruments we use, membership, meetings, performances, bookings, our website, our relationship with SPAH and our participation in SPAH conventions (including plans to bring the convention to St. Louis in 2008).

Don was a most genial host, guiding us through the discussion and integrating it with our CD tracks plus several from Thielemans and Leighton. As he had told us it would, the hour flew by — after deducting the time for news and commercial breaks, we were actually on the air only 31 minutes. We all agreed that it had been a great experience and good publicity for GHC.

COURTESY REMINDER

It behooves me to find it necessary to remind all club members that we must not be so judgmental of one another. There have been incidents lately that have proven unkind and hurtful to several of our own. My apologies on behalf of the club to anyone who has been offended. Our club’s mantra is to learn, enjoy, and give to charity. “Charity begins at home.” We are all different; we each have unique talents bestowed at various levels; and we should respect and support all others to do their own thing, whatever that may happen to be. You can see the pride and joy of everyone who is brave enough to perform. We must encourage rather than criticize. I, myself, have been guilty at times of having experienced some smirkiness, but hopefully have learned to be more tolerant and accepting (thanks to someone pointing out the same things.) Don’t mean to be preachy, but we are all a bit imperfect as humans, and need friendly reminders along the way. Life is an ever-learning process. Let’s move forward and enjoy each other’s efforts and the time we share.

Respectfully, your President,
Mary Ann Love

* * * * *

“I myself am made entirely of flaws, stitched together with good intentions.” Augusten Burroughs

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THE STORY OF WILLIAM TELL

William Tell was a legendary hero of disputed historical authenticity who is said to have lived in the Canton of Uri in Switzerland in the early 14th century and was known as an expert marksman with the crossbow. At the time, the Habsburg emperors were seeking to dominate Uri. Hermann Gessler, the newly appointed Austrian Vogt of Altdorf raised a pole in the village’s central square with his hat on top and demanded that all the local townsfolk bow before it. As Tell passed by without bowing, he was arrested. He received the punishment of being forced to shoot an apple off the head of his son, Walter, or else both would be executed.

Tell had been promised freedom if he shot the apple. On November 18, 1307, Tell split the fruit with a single bolt from his crossbow, without mishap. When Gessler queried him about the purpose of the second bolt in his quiver, Tell answered that if he had ended up killing his son in that trial, he would have turned the crossbow on Gessler himself. Gessler became enraged at that comment, and had Tell bound and brought to his ship to be taken to his castle at Küsnacht. In a storm on Lake Lucerne, Tell managed to escape. On land, he went to Küsnacht, and when Gessler arrived, Tell shot him with a crossbow bolt.

This defiance of the Austrian reeve (district official) Gessler sparked a rebellion, leading to the formation of the Old Swiss Confederacy.

A SID STORY

At open mic on any given Tuesday practice, we can usually count on Sid Wolff to tell a little story. On a particular evening, Sid told us all about the Missouri Waltz. He then played Beautiful Ohio. The following week Sid told us we should all make an effort to play at open mic because we can all learn from our mistakes. Sid did a little research on the Missouri Waltz and told us most of what follows below (taken from the Truman Library), and then Sid played Chinatown. Go figure.

Evidently, Harry Truman did not care for the "Missouri Waltz," the official state song of Missouri.

Asked in a television interview how the "Missouri Waltz" became associated with him, Mr. Truman said, "It's a rag-time song and if you let me say what I think-I don't give a damn about it, but I can't say it out loud because it's the song of Missouri. It's as bad as "The Star Spangled Banner" as far as music is concerned."

A 1958 article in the Kansas City Star reported that the song was played at nearly every public occasion during his 1948 presidential campaign and it became part of Missouri folklore that the "Missouri Waltz" was his favorite song. Truman said about the song, "I just got tired of it. After all, they played it 30,000 times or more during that 1948 presidential campaign." In 1962, Truman was a guest of honor at a private dinner in a hotel. He walked down the hall towards the restroom and the leader of an orchestra in the

main ballroom saw him and had his band play the "Missouri Waltz." Truman remarked to a friend that had accompanied him, "It's getting so you can't go to the men's room anymore without them playing the song."

John Valentine Eppel is credited with the melody to the Waltz. He turned it over to Frederick Knight Logan who made an arrangement of the song and sought out a publishing company for it. The Forster Publishing Company of Chicago, Illinois, published the melody (it had no lyrics) in 1914. Forster hired James Royce Shannon to add lyrics and the song grew in popularity. It was played at the 1944 Democratic National Convention when Truman received the nomination for vice-president. In 1949, Representative Floyd Snyder of Independence, Missouri, introduced a bill to make the "Missouri Waltz" the official state song of Missouri. The Missouri legislature passed the legislation (House Bill No. 2) amidst protests from members of the legislature who said that some of the lyrics were offensive. Representative Noel Cox, an opponent of the bill, said "It does not portray the life of Missouri. It may be popular in Independence and Southeast Missouri, but songs like these are passing fancies. It does not link up any great historical event of the state." Representative Baxter Waters held a different view saying, "This is a period of racial consciousness. There are some phrases and nicknames in the song that have been handed down and are not meant to be objectionable." The lyrics are given below so that you may judge for yourself.

"The Missouri Waltz" *also known as* "Hush-a-Bye, Ma Baby"

Hush-a-bye, ma baby, slumber-time is coming soon
Rest yo' head upon ma breast while Mammy hums a tune
The sandman is callin' where shadows are fallin',
While the soft breezes sigh as in days long gone by.

'Way down in Missouri where I heard this melody,
When I was a Pick-a-ninny on ma Mammy's knee
The darkies were hummin', Their banjos were strummin'
So sweet and low

Strum, strum, strum, strum, strum,
Seems I hear those banjos playin' once again,
Hum, hum, hum, hum, hum,
That same old plaintive strain.
Hear that mournful melody, It just haunts you the whole day long,
And you wander in dreams back to Dixie, it seems,
When you hear that old time song.

Hush-a-bye, ma baby, go to sleep on Mammy's knee,
Journey back to Dixieland in dreams again with me;
It seems like yo' Mammy was there once again,
And the darkies were strummin' that same old refrain.
'Way down in Missouri where I learned this lullaby,
When the stars were blinkin' and the moon was climbin' high,
And I hear Mammy Cloe, as in days long ago
Singin' hush-a-bye.

GHC Events Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

Tuesday evening meetings at Rock Hill Baptist Church, 9125 Manchester, St. Louis, MO 63144:

6:30 PM - Blues Group, led by Louise Cook — Everyone welcome

7:00 PM - First Tuesday of month: Business Meeting — Everyone welcome

All other Tuesdays: Band Rehearsal — Everyone welcome

8:00 PM - Open Mic — Everyone welcome

PERFORMANCES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

A schedule of upcoming Gateway Harmonica Club performances and special events is distributed bimonthly at our business meeting. For the most current schedule, including maps and customized driving directions, go to www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org/calendar

We Get Letters . . .

To: Gateway Harmonica Club
c/o Charlie Pratte

From: St. Louis County Library
Weber Road Branch

Please let your group know how much we appreciated the show they gave. We always have so much fun when they play their wonderful music. Your program had the most turn-out we have had this year, which just goes to show how popular you are with our audience. I hope you will all come back next year to entertain us.

Sincerely,

Joy Rucker

Weber Road Branch

We Send Letters . . .

April 17, 2007

To: Mr. Donald Erbs
2218 Telford Drive
St. Louis, MO 63125-3288

Dear Mr. Erbs:

The Gateway Harmonica Club of St. Louis was truly overwhelmed and humbled by your very generous donation of \$100.00.

We would like to invite you and a guest to one of our Tuesday night practice sessions at the Rock Hill Baptist Church located at 9125 Manchester Road. If you have access to a computer, please check out our website at www.gatewayharmonicaclub.org. We put out a bimonthly newsletter called THE REEDER that you might find fun as well as very interesting to read.

Our club is celebrating 20 wonderful years of entertaining many organizations and senior resident facilities. We are proud of our achievements in bringing excitement and pleasure to the many people that we entertain weekly.

Again, please accept our profound thanks for your donation.

Sincerely,

Buddy Hirsch

Treasurer, Gateway Harmonica Club

(Note: Mr. Erbs was in attendance at the Weber Road Library event and donated a gift to the club.)

WANT/SWAP/SELL

WANT:

CX-12 in key of Tenor C.---Ralph Barber.

CX-12/WH-12 comb, other parts.---Ralph Barber.

SWAP/SELL:

Trade new Hohner Super 64X case for a smaller case (Chromonica 270, WH-12, etc.) in similar condition.---Ralph Barber.

New reed plate set for WH-12.---Ralph Barber.

Mouthpiece for Hohner Chromonica 270.---Ralph Barber.

To list items, submit to Ralph Barber in writing or email at RnJBarber@yahoo.com.

QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT YOU

Can you cry under water?

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Why do you have to "put your two cents in" .. but it's only a "penny for your thoughts"? Where's that extra penny going to?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?

How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

Why is it that people say they "slept like a baby" when babies wake up like every two hours?

If a deaf person has to go to court, is it still called a hearing?

Why are you IN a movie, but you're ON TV?

Why do people pay to go up tall buildings and then put money in binoculars to look at things on the ground?

Why do doctors leave the room while you change? They're going to see you naked anyway.

Why is "bra" singular and "panties" plural?

Why do toasters always have a setting that burns the toast to a horrible crisp, which no decent human being would eat?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Can a hearse carrying a corpse drive in the carpool lane ?

If the professor on Gilligan's Island can make a radio out of a coconut, why can't he fix a hole in a boat?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If Wile E. Coyote had enough money to buy all that ACME crap, why didn't he just buy dinner?

