



# WHIRLED PEAS

ACOUSTICAL MUSICIANS

Whirled Peas is a group of musicians that come together on a regular basis to share our love of blues, bluegrass and folk music.

Our musical journey includes rock, oldies and show tunes based on the audience's support and enthusiasm.

The core of our group focuses on guitar, harmonica, banjo and more. We often are complemented by an array of talented **guest** musicians.

August 3, 2009 Vol.2 No.31

## CELEBRATING THE BUCKEYE BULLET

Co-founder *Pea*, Frank Baker attended Kent State University in Ohio. It is in that same state where this week's HONORARY PEA Jesse Owens attended Ohio State, earning his tag, the Buckeye Bullet.

Born James Cleveland Owens in Alabama, he and his family moved to Cleveland when he was 9. It was a teacher who renamed him. When asked his name, James, with a heavy Southern country accent, said J.C. Owens. The teacher mistakenly thought the J.C. was Jesse; the name stuck.

Because Owens was forced to work a myriad of after school jobs, his track coach, Charles Riley, allowed him to practice before class. Throughout his life, Owens attributed his athletic success to Riley as well as his inspiration to Harrison Dillard, a Cleveland athlete.

While in high school, Owens attracted national attention by equaling or surpassing world records held in many track events.



This notoriety captured the attention of Ohio State which recruited him. Only after employment was found for Owens'

father did he attend. He was not offered a scholarship so he continued to work part-time jobs to pay for his education.

In 1935 and 1936, Owens won a record eight **individual** NCAA championships – this feat was equaled only by Xavier Carter in 2006, although many of Carter's titles included relay medals.

While Owens enjoyed athletic success, he was forced to live off-campus with the other African-American athletes. When traveling with the team, he was forced to eat at "black-only" restaurants; likewise, he had to sleep in "black-only" hotels.

His record breaking achievements earned him a berth in the 1936 Summer Olympics which were held in Berlin. In anticipation of winning all the medals by his German athletes with "Aryan racial superiority," Adolf Hitler depicted the ethnic Africans as inferior.

Just before Owens competitions scheduled for **August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>**, Adi Dassler, the founder of Adidas, persuaded Owens to use Adidas shoes. This was the first sponsorship for a male African-American athlete.



Owens was awarded gold medals for all of his events. On the first day, Hitler shook hands only with German victors and exited the stadium. The Olympic committee insisted he greet each and every medalist or none at all. Hitler opted for the latter. To reports that claimed Hitler deliberately avoided acknowledging Owens' achievements, Owens recounted:

*When I passed the Chancellor he arose, waved his hand at me, and I waved back at him. I think the writers showed me bad taste in criticizing the man of the hour in Germany.*

He further stated: "Hitler didn't snub me – it was FDR who snubbed me. The president didn't even send me a telegram." In fact, Owens was never invited to the White House nor bestowed any honors by FDR or Truman during their terms. In 1955, Eisenhower acknowledged Owens' accomplishments, naming him an "Ambassador of Sports."

Despite Hitler's feelings during the Olympics, Owens was cheered enthusiastically by the 110,000 people in the

stadium. His autograph was much sought after when the German people saw him on the streets. Owens was afforded a luxury in Germany that did not receive in the US – he could travel with and stay in the same hotels as the white athletes.



Upon his triumphant return from Germany, New York threw a ticker tape parade in his honor. Ironically, he had to ride a freight elevator to attend his own reception at the Waldorf-Astoria.

After the Olympics, Owens was invited to compete with his fellow athletes in Sweden. He decided to capitalize on his success by returning to the US to take up some of the lucrative commercial offers he was receiving. The US officials were furious and withdrew his amateur status thereby ending Owens' career.

With no sporting appearances and the lucrative offers not materializing, Owens was forced to try and make a living as a sports promoter, essentially an entertainer. He participated in racing a thoroughbred horse. To this he replied:

*People say that it was degrading to run against a horse, but what was I suppose to do? I had four gold medals, but you can't eat four gold medals.*

He ran a dry-cleaning business and even was gas station attendant. He filed for bankruptcy and found himself prosecuted by the IRS. At rock bottom, he became a US Goodwill Ambassador, travelling the world. He always stressed the importance of religion, hard work and loyalty.

During 1968 Olympics, Owens refused to support the black power salute protest saying:

*The black fist is a meaningless symbol. When you open it, you have nothing but fingers – weak, empty fingers. The only time the black fist has significance is when there's money inside. There's where the power lies.*

He tried, unsuccessfully, to persuade President Carter to not boycott the 1980 Olympics. He argued:

*...that the Olympic ideal was to be a time-out from war and was above politics.*

He died of lung cancer at age 66 in Tucson, Arizona.

#### **THE WHOLE POD PERFORMS...**

**The Peas** will be performing 1 pm August 22nd at New Jersey's Salem Market Street Days. More to come on this event.

#### **AND THE PEA STANDS ALONE**

Solo gigs... so you can mark your calendar:

**John Frink** will perform August 5<sup>th</sup> at a noon concert at Bellevue State Park's patio behind the Arts Center. His new CD, *Cabin Fever*, has been released. (see: John Frink Poster) [www.crocodiletunes.com](http://www.crocodiletunes.com))

**Fritz Horisk** can be heard online weekdays at [www.realcountrywsig.com](http://www.realcountrywsig.com) from 10 am until 1 pm; Saturdays from 10 til 3, and he hosts *Real Country Classic Café* from noon til 1 pm (call in your requests @540-432-1128). Fritz and his wife, Peggy, just completed a CD.

**Todd Breck** will be performing at Beth Trepper's photo exhibit, "THREE." The reception will be held August 7<sup>th</sup>, 4:30 til 8:30, at the Gallery 919 Market. (see Evening of Art/Music)

#### **GUEST MUSICIANS' GIGS**

**Pea Rebecca Dunne** reminds you about the Open Circle Jam Session 7:30 til 11 August 21<sup>st</sup>. (see attachment: Open Circle Poster)

August 2009

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         |           |          |        | 1        |
| 2      | 3      | 4       | 5         | 6        | 7      | 8        |
| 9      | 10     | 11      | 12        | 13       | 14     | 15       |
| 16     | 17     | 18      | 19        | 20       | 21     | 22       |
| 23     | 24     | 25      | 26        | 27       | 28     | 29       |
| 30     | 31     |         |           |          |        |          |

#### **WHEN AND WHERE**

The arrows above point to the dates the *Whirled Peas* will be at the (BSG) Bourbon Street Grille in August. The *Peas* start about 7:30 and play until 10.

BSG, formerly the Coachhouse, is located at 2605 Philadelphia Pike in Claymont. If you go **north** on Philadelphia Pike, it's on the left just before the Wawa at Harvey Road. If you are coming **east** on Harvey Road, turn right when you get to Philadelphia Pike. Go past the Wawa and BSG is on the right. There is no problem with parking.

#### **WEBSITE**

WhirledPeasBand.com is just about completed. So, if you have a "Pea attack" you can sign in and sate your ears with such tunes as *Wagon Wheel*, *City of Chicago*, *Title of the Book* and more.

#### **A WINNER KNEW...**

Bugs Bunny was a master sergeant, who appeared on a US postage stamp while his TV show ran on ABC. Jed Clampett was NOT a creator of Bugs but Mel Blanc was his voice.

#### **PEAS PONDERINGS...**

*Find the good. It's all around you. Find it, showcase it and you'll start believing in it.*

*One chance is all you need.*

*The only bond worth anything between human beings is their humanness.*

*All saying of James Cleveland (JESSE) Owens*