

IN REPLY REFER TO No.

U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

June 26th 1940.

The Naval Training Station Band under the direction of J.G. Ponchak Bandmaster, U.S.N., will present the following program in the band-stand on Rosecrans St., from 8 to 9 P.M. Friday June 28th.

March. ----- Democracy Forever. ----- Fremling.
 Overture. ----- Raymond. ----- Thomas.
 Intermezzo. ---- Pas De Fleurs.from Ballet Naila. ----- Delibes.
 Song. ----- The World is Waiting for the sun Rise. --- Sietz.
 Selections from the Princess Pat. ----- Herbert.
 waltz. ----- Bad'ner Mad'ln. ----- Komzak.
 Reverie. ----- In a Rose Garden. ----- Acciani.
 March. ----- Old Comrades. ----- Teike.

One of his weekly program.

IN REPLY REFER TO No.

U. S. NAVAL TRAINING STATION
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 11th 1940.

The Naval Training Station band under the direction of J.G.Ponchak, Bandmaster, U.S.N., will present the following program in the bandstand on Rosecrans St., from 8 to 9 p.m. Friday Sept. 13th 1940.

March. ----- Present Greeting. ----- Barnard.
 Overture. ----- Jolly Robbers. ----- Suppe.
 Novelty. ----- Lassus Trombone. ----- Fillmore.
 Selections from Amorita. ----- Czibulka.
 Fantasia. ----- Carmen. ----- Bizet.
 Waltz. ----- Artist's Life. ----- Strauss.
 March. ----- Vanguard of Democracy. ----- King.

Ponchak Center

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ogden of San Diego have purchased one of the dwellings at Ponchak Center. They have moved into their new home with their family.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Ogden and their daughters Patsy and Collene have purchased the store at Ponchak Center. After improving and enlarging the living quarters they will open the store with groceries and soft drinks and cafe.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hart and son Charles Jr. have purchased an acre at the Center and plan to build a home. They are renting the guest house at Rancho Ponchak until their home is built.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simendich and daughter Millie have moved to Los Angeles.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Simendich lost their son Louis recently in an African battle. His mother was honored with a gift of the Purple Heart.

Bandmaster Ponchak was recently home from the North Atlantic and spent two weeks at Rancho Ponchak with his family. He was honored with numerous dinners and cocktail parties by friends in San Diego. Mrs. Ponchak gave a dinner party in his honor for 30 couples in the rancho patio.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor De Lu and Mrs. J. George Ponchak (James De Lu's gadmother) entertained at dinner Sunday in honor of James' birthday, with 43 guests. Vocal music was presented in Italian, French and English. The guest list included friends from Los Angeles, San Diego and Chula Vista.

Mrs. Jessie May Templeton of Los Angeles and her two small daughters are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ogden.

Frank Ronald is recovering from a fractured skull received in an auto accident at Burbank where he was employed in defense work. Mr. Ronald was class instructor of Red Cross first aid at Ponchak Center.



FOND MEMORIES—Thoughts of J. G. (Hunke) Ponchak, bandmaster at the Naval Training station, wander back to the years when he was regarded as one of the navy's best grid players. (Official U. S. Navy photo).

Ponchak Jumps From Gridiron To Rostrum

With almost a touch of daintiness, he wields a light baton, directing his men through the measures of musical numbers ranging from the most difficult classics to roaring renditions of "Tiger Rag."

If Bandmaster J. G. Ponchak displays an additional bit of enthusiasm when members of the Naval Training station band swing into a medley of football songs, it readily is understandable. Those tunes bring back memories of the days when he was called "Hunke" Ponchak.

The husky chief petty officer, a veteran of more than 20 years in the navy, was a public figure long before he began receiving recognition in the entertainment field as bandmaster. Back in the 1920's he was known wherever service football was played, for "Hunke" still is listed among the greats in fleet grid competition.

PLAYED 12 YEARS

Particularly, are his football feats recalled in San Diego and San Pedro, because it was on the west coast that he performed with the championship Submarine Divisions teams of years gone by. Ponchak began playing with navy teams when he enlisted in 1920, and for 12 seasons he roamed the gridirons of both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts.

The 200-pound musician played for the Newport, R.I., Training station, for the U.S.S. Camden, for the Hospital Corps Training school at Mare Island, and, finally, 1925, for the Submarines. He was with the Subs when they won championships in 1925 and 1926, then returned to Newport to captain and quarterback that outfit to victory in eliminations for the coveted President's Cup, emblematic of grid supremacy in the navy.

HAMILTON'S TEAMMATE

That was during the season of 1928, and playing in the same backfield was the sensational Tom Hamilton, just out of the Naval academy, who later was to coach the West Coast Navy, and subsequently, be called back as coach at Annapolis.

The hard-hitting Ponchak, a veritable powerhouse, provided the offensive power for the championship Sub elevens of 1929, 1930 and 1931. In 1932, when Hamilton, then a lieutenant, organized the West Coast Navy aggregation, Ponchak was one of the first to respond, but the years of hard competition had taken their toll, and injuries finally forced him to lay the baton aside.

'BIT LIKE FO

He redoubled came stay C.

San Diego Union
MAR. 15, 1942

Mr. Ed Fletcher, Sr.
San Diego, Calif
Dear Friend - I am
taking the liberty of presuming
on our friend ship over these
many years, to ask a personal
favor regarding my husband,
J. George Pouchart who is
a Bandmaster in the U.S. Navy
for over (20) twenty yrs., and at
present doing duty with the
North Atlantic patrol in
Newfoundland.

As you know we have a small
ranch out on the Mission Gorge
road, the road, by the way
that I helped circulate a petition
& filed it my self at the
Superior's office 1934 after
which we got our oiled road.

You will recall how I suggested
the flood control & even by
back of you & Mr. George Burnham
Xmas cards (when he was our Congressman)
that we needed it & less expense

²/₂ to build at your dam site & long
befor we had Linda Vista or the
road we have now - I suggested
a dam + the top a bridge
so they could make a shorter
cut to Chestnut Hill + to
the river route to L.A.

I also here, caused ten
families to build + reside in
our valley - also took petition
around with Mr. Will. for our
mail delivery from main post
office S. D. + showed Mr. Hon
Stewart where the man was
doubling on route - then after
using coal oil lamps + wind
mill for water - yet only 1 1/2 miles
to Scripps electric line + after
writing P. P. Comm at least
in "36" we had electric. So I
know this old valley very well.

I bought (4) acres of land
from plane Est. just back
of + adjoining me on the south.
I have fenced on the high land.
out here we can raise lemons -
lemons + oranges.

3 I created a little place & called it "Poncha Center" - the store & gas station I rented out then when Dr. Ronald run the store & gas station I started a First Aid Station - "Emergency" but the people dont stick to things, they give up so quickly so when Dr. Ronald had to go in service - I sold the store & one acre of land for \$2500.00 on contract - then the little building - I sold it and 1/2 acre land for \$1500.00 then 1/2 acre right back store & little dwelling for \$800.00 & young people are going to build a home & while waiting they rent our tank house all this was on contract payment & to out.

I was in to see Mr. Harrison some today & want to pick up about 50 acres east of me & south - then I want a church that all religions may come & worship & we have our young men who like one yr for ministry but he can

4 go ahead & help build up a better place for all to reside in - My husband is an Episcopalian at St. Johns Boston - was 3rd in chair for master in Blue Lodge ^{El Cason} when called away - He is also a 32nd Mason in town - why I am explaining all these things to you so you will know he is worthy of any effort in his behalf what ever it may be. Now we have this small ranch & I find it impossible to do the things necessary to operate same - due to fact I have my aged mother living with me - she being 82 yrs - left 21st & requires exacting care. Farm labor is almost a thing of the past - it being impossible to hire any one regularly to farm the land.

I had my flock chicken built up to 750 to help further the war effort - but it was impossible for me to give them the necessary care to bring them to the laying stage.

5 If my husband could be transferred to the San Diego Naval Training Station here - he could do the farm work after hours & his off time.

He organized the large band there last year, from which they made (4) bands on station for numerous sailor training & etc. - He has made many public appearances in San Diego & Los Angeles - enjoying a good reputation both as a musician & leader.

It would give me great pleasure if you would use your influence in having him transferred back here again as his time is most up at that station & I can not take mother east & after foreign duty they give him duty some place in states & it would mean so much because he could help me with care of mother & the farm also. As much as there are (3) Bandmasters attached to his duty station & only one band that makes (2) Bandmasters in excess

6 His leaving there would still leave (2) Bandmasters - He has been attached to his present duty station over one yr. & if only (1) Bandmaster up there his duty is not over 18 months - So he is Sr. and not needed with the other (2) Bands - My husband also played 13 yrs fast ball in the Navy & was Capt. of his team when they won the ^{Pres.} Coolidge Cup in 1928 Washington D.C. Representative Nicholas Longworth - Speaker of the House of Representatives acting for President Coolidge presented the cup to Capt. Ponchak & the team.

So please Mr. Fletcher help me in this matter which is serious & yet my husband can still carry on his duty & even help me by helping me farm - Our well of water was passed on by the Board of Health & it was sold in San Diego for over one yr as the Crystal-tone drinking water & by Mr Barfoot

Ed Fletcher Papers

1870-1955

MSS.81

Box: 21 Folder: 21

General Correspondence - Ponchak, J.G.



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