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Black-Eyed Peas For New Year's Luck, Fortune

DECEMBER 31ST 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Black-Eyed Peas For New Year's Luck, Fortune

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

New Year's is steeped in traditions and superstitions for good luck. Certainly we could all use a bit of that! And many of the New Year's superstitions-traditions involve what we have to eat on New Year's Day.

Probably the most well known of these traditions – at least in the South and Mid-South – is eating black-eyed peas. Eating black-eyed peas ensures good luck and prosperity throughout the upcoming year.

Some say this is because the shape of the black-eyed peas loosely resembles coins. I never could see that one. But, they do swell as they cook – just as you want your wealth to expand during the New Year. A coin in the pot is also supposed to promise extra fortune to the one who finds it in his scoop of peas.

One of my all-time favorite cookbooks is the Dexter Centennial Cookbook, published by the Junior Civic Club during Dexter's centennial celebration in 1973. Maybe I like it because I have fond memories of the ladies of put it together, or because I know many of the cooks who have entries in the book. Or, maybe it's just because it was printed and assembled in my parent's business.

Anyway, in the cookbook is an entry from Doris Darby Evans, a descendant of Randal Evans of Dexter's famed Evans' Pottery. Evans Pottery was just north of Dexter (on 'old" Highway 25) and was an active pioneer industry even before the Civil War.

Mrs. Evans recalls that a few days after Christmas she would “start cooking the 22 pounds of peas and 20 pounds of hog's jowl...I cook it two pounds at each time.” Mrs. Evans writes that she served the peas and jowl with corn muffins, cabbage relish and other goodies, such as cookies and candy.

“The dish can be found in many Southern States. What would happen to the Southerner if he passed up either of these dishes on New Year's Day? The native is pragmatic. ‘Mister, I wouldn't take the chance of finding out.’ she writes.”

Now, today's sage of Southern cooks, Paula Deen, eats one pea for every day in the New Year.

“We Southerners know that eating black-eyed peas ensures good luck and prosperity throughout the upcoming,” she says. Deen is not leaving any chances that there might be a day without enough luck from the peas.

Legend tells us also that black-eyed peas became a lucky dish during the Civil War. Union soldiers near the town of Vicksburg burned all crops except the peas. Thinking they were animal feed, the soldiers did not bother them. Residents were on the brink of starvation – with nothing on the shelves and nothing in the fields. The peas were the only things left to eat. The resourceful Southerners adapted it into their diet, and black-eyed peas were therefore considered the food of good fortune.

Black-eyed peas represent pennies or coins. Collard greens stand for paper money. Cornbread signifies a goal. Pork symbolizes progress since they root forward when looking for food.

Eating traditional New Year's food runs deep for some families.

Spicy Black-Eyed Peas

Courtesy Paula Deen

Ingredients

- 4 slices bacon
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 (16 ounce) package dried black-eyed peas, washed
- 1 (12 ounce) can diced tomatoes and green chilies
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup water

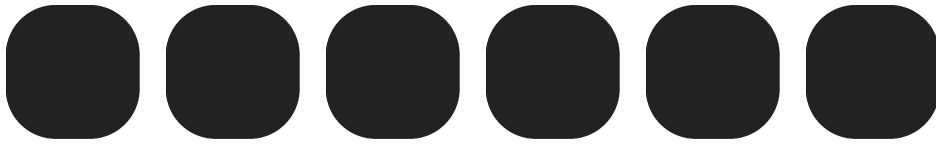
Directions

In a large saucepan, cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon, crumble and set aside to use as topping for peas. Saute onion in bacon drippings until tender. Add peas, diced tomatoes and green chilies, salt, chili powder, pepper and water. Cook, covered, over medium heat for 45 minutes to 1 hour, or until peas are tender. Add additional water of necessary.

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BUZZ Concert To Ring In New Year

DECEMBER 28TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

BUZZ Concert To Ring In New Year

By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

Most every kid has done it. Just admit it and move on! Sure, you fiddled around with a guitar, a drum set, maybe thought you were the next great singer to take the stage.

Sure, you “practiced” on the carport, in the garage, in a basement. Maybe you and your “group” were chased out into the ‘back 40’ to practice.

Then you realized you were never going to be the Beach Boys, or Bon Jovi, Billy Joel or Sting. So you hung up the guitar, whittled down the drumsticks into toothpicks and went on your merry way.

But not this group!

Nope, these guys still think they are good. They still play gigs, they still have that rock ‘n roll music in their hearts. They still have fun - probably more fun than when they were teenagers!!

Guitarist John Steward, bassist Kip Musgrave, drummer Scott Kruse and vocalist/keyboardist Bobbi Kay Wooley Parker still play that “good ‘ol rock and roll”, still have a good time, and still can chase the cows out of the ‘back 40’.

It started out just a guy thing. John, Kip and Scott all stalked the halls at DHS and thought they could make music. They practice the two – count ‘em one, two – songs in John’s basement. They called themselves Sittin’ Pretty. And they made the momentous decision to head to the Talent Show at the Stoddard County Fair.

Good thing these guys recruited Jim Elledge and Arlen Pixley to sing backup and work as bodyguards. On the positive side, they also recruited classmate Candy Coburn to sing vocals.

“A second place finish (or creative differences?) plus high school athletics and graduation sent Sittin’ Pretty heading in different directions,” Steward recalls.

Candy has gone on to greater and grander things. Thank goodness. But they had an incredible cute young lady named Addie Kruse who helped with vocals and Bobbi Kay Wooley (she's cute too!) joined the team as well.

"BK also immediately showed she not only could sing beautifully and powerfully, but she also was a true talent on the keyboard," said Kruse. *She should play that keyboard well ... her momma and daddy paid enough for piano lessons!!! Jean Rahm and MaryRuth Boone are proud!!!*

The name. Let's discuss this name thing.

The group started their musical career at the Ben Kruse 18 Fore Life Charity Golf Event Banquet. Well, Ben had this nickname - Buzzard, or just Buzz for short. So, logically speaking, since the group started on the path to musical greatness at the event which bore Ben's name, they assumed his nickname.

"We simply put his name on our band," big brother Scott said. "The BUZZ was born and has been playing music together ever since, getting people together for fun and good times."

Not many bands can boast a lawyer, accountant, school principal and a beer distributor. BUZZ can, by golly. Which can be good - they have a lawyer to keep them on the straight and narrow, an accountant to make sure there's a nickel in the piggy bank, an principal to keep them out of after-school-detention, and a beer distributor ... well, for refreshment!

Which leads us to the present; this week to be exact. After the band's World Tour (Stoddard, Scott, Mississippi, Dunklin, Cape and Dunklin counties) and headlining the Second Annual Bearcat Homecoming Tailgate Party this fall, the band has decided to blast away the old year and greet the new one.

This New Year's Eve the band will have guitars, drumsticks, keyboard and vocal cords all ready for a BUZZ BASH at the Hidden Trails Country Club. They now have 75 whole songs on their music list and promise a fantastically great time for all.

Table reservations are being taken, so call 573.624.3638 to save a table with your name. The cost is just \$15 per person and there will be drink specials throughout the night.

"It's just a fun time and great way to get together with friends and ring in a new year," Kruse said.

With a crew like the BUZZ playing the music, it's bound to be a heck of a fun year!

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MoDOT Intros New Travel Map App

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By Annabeth Miller, ShowMe Times Editor

Just in time for the winter travel conditions, the Missouri Department of Transportation has launched a smartphone application that will allow users to check state road conditions from the palm of their hands.

The Traveler Information Map App is available at both the iPhone App Store (for iPhone 3GS and above) and Android Marketplace (2.2 and above) and provides the latest information on road conditions, work zones, flooding and incidents. The app is free.

The app offers the same information as its online big brother, the Traveler Information Map, but with the convenience people have come to expect with the mobile revolution.

When the map loads, users see the entire state at a glance and can zoom in for a better view by tapping the screen on iPhones or using the pan and zoom buttons on the Android version. Weather-related road conditions are loaded as a default, but users can view work zones and incidents by tapping the "Conditions" button and choosing their display options. Even still shots of traffic are a viewable option for some routes.

Radar images supplied by the National Weather Service are also available so travelers can keep an eye on continuously changing weather conditions and plan their trips accordingly.

Information is updated continuously throughout snow and ice events. For incidents, work zones and flooding, visitors can tap on icons for more information on delays. And if drivers want more information not offered on the map, MoDOT's customer service phone number (888-275-6636) is just a tap away.

The *Traveler Information Map* is only one tool Missouri travelers should use for travel information. Local weather reports and law enforcement alerts should also be a part of any travel plan, especially during the winter months.

And MoDOT officials urge people to not use a mobile device while driving.

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Nixon Appoints Meyer To SEMO Regents

DECEMBER 27TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

Nixon Appoints Meyer To SEMO Regents

A Cape Girardeau businessman has been appointed to the university's board of regents by Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon.

Thomas M. Meyer was announced as the board's newest appointed member recently. Meyer, a Democrat, is a longtime Cape Girardeau businessman, owner of Thomas M. Meyer Realty and recent former president of the university's alumni association. Meyer will replace Al Spradling, whose term expired in January.

The seven-member board of regents appoints the university's president, employs faculty and staff and makes decisions on the university's budget and policies.

Members are allowed to continue to serve until they are reappointed or another nominee is appointed. Spradling reapplied for his seat in August 2010.

Meyer's appointment requires confirmation by the Senate in January.

In addition to Meyer, Nixon announced appointments to seven other boards and commissions recently. The appointees will be subject to confirmation by the Missouri Senate, with the exception of the State Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind.

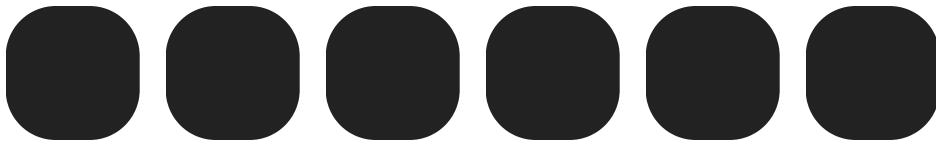
The appointees, along with their boards and hometowns, are:

- **Board of Cosmetology and Barber Examiners** - Lori L. Glasscock of Jefferson City
- **Board of Private Investigator and Private Fire Investigator Examiners** - Timothy D. Cudd of St. Charles; Charles R. Giessing of Farmington
- **Credit Union Commission** - John C. Hanneke of St. Charles; Richard D. Orr of Warrensburg; Susan L. Venable of Kansas City
- **Missouri Assistive Technology Advisory Council** - Mervin E. Blunt of Columbia
- **Missouri Health Facilities Review Committee** - Marsha M. Campbell of Kansas City
- **Missouri State Board of Accountancy** - Ryan S. Cook of Clinton)
- **State Rehabilitation Advisory Council for the Blind** - Dr. Paul Ajuwon of Springfield; Donna K. Borgmeyer of Jefferson City; Brady Clevenger of Republic; Betty K. Farley of Jefferson City; Gene Fleeman of Dixon; Rita Galbraith of Webb City; Nia Ray of Jefferson City; John W. Thompson of St. Louis; Sheila Wright of Kansas City; Patricia L. Yokum of St. Louis

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Boys State: Chance Of A Lifetime

DECEMBER 19TH 2011 BY UNKNOWN

By Annabeth Miller, SMT Editor

Four young Dexter men looking forward to graduating, also look back to last summer and an experience that helped shaped their lives.

Tyler Miller, Zane Olsen, Dylan Heflin, and Owen Flowers represented Dexter last summer at Missouri Boys State. The four young men were selected based on leadership, citizenship, academics and character during their junior year at DHS for the honor.

Boys State is a week of democracy, with the young men participating in their communities in activities, working together as good citizens, and becoming involved in Boy State government.

“It was a fun experience,” said Zane. Boys State programs have time and time again led young men to do great things. Zane is the son of John and Jo Olsen.

“You don’t know what it all about until you go, and you learn a lot,” said Flowers.

Flowers is the son of Kim and Tim Flowers and was elected Presiding Commission of Benton County.

Dylan was elected to the City Council in Meyer City while at Boys State. Elected leadership at Boy State offers opportunities for the young men. Leadership skills learned at Boys State strengthens lessons and offers a chance to meet a variety of new people.

“You meet a whole lot of people and you learn to look at things from a whole different perspective,” said Dylan. He is the son of Jay and Lizzie Heflin.

Tyler was elected as a State Representative from Blair City, an opportunity that helped provide leadership opportunities and broaden his Boy State experience. Tyler is the son of Travis and Tracy Miller.

“Boys State prepares you for your future,” he said.

Boys State staff member are volunteers from a variety of professions and leaders in the state, including education, legal professionals and civic leaders.

Missouri’s Boys State has been an important part of the lives of hundreds of young men in the ShowMe State. Juniors in high school who are interested in participating in Boys State should contact their high school counselor or visit the Missouri Boys State website. Missouri Boys State for 2012 is set for June 16-23 on the campus of University of Central

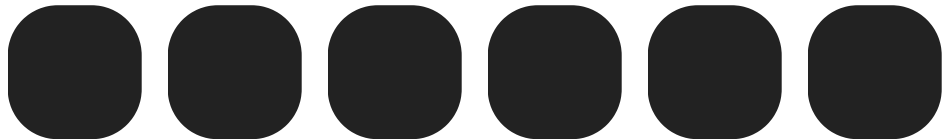
Missouri in Warrensburg.

Photo Above: Dylan Heflin, Tyler Miller, Zane Olson and Owen Flowers - Dexter's 2011 representatives to Missouri Boys State. (SMT Photo by Annabeth Miller)

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