



ZOOM in on america

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This issue of Zoom in on America features two people who really like their jobs. You can read interviews with them on pp. 3 & 4. Exercises and a contest question are on page 4, as usual. But first let's meet our October guests: **Steve Herman and SGT Kevin Pick, welcome!**

Zoom in on our Guests



Steve Herman

Steve Herman teaches history, geography and Spanish to 7th and 8th graders at the Central Middle School in Oroville. He commutes about 40 kilometers to Oroville from Chico, a university town in California, where he lives. He was born in Los Angeles and grew up by the beach. He still has most of his family and friends there. He visits LA every month. His lifelong interests are teaching and traveling. When school breaks off for the summer holidays Steve packs and goes on vacation ... to teach ... for free.

Steve has been visiting Poland since 1992. He lived and taught in Krakow for one year in 1999-2000. He says: "Krakow is one of the greatest cities in the world as far as I am concerned." He likes the people, food and scenery. Steve says that Krakow is a small enough city to get to know it pretty well. He was amazed by the changes he noticed during his consecutive visits; the number of great shopping malls and new big, modern, steel and glass hotels and the number of students and tourists. Krakow, the most popular tourist destination in Poland, was visited by 6 million people in 2006, while 9 million are expected to come in 2007.



S&J Kevin Pick

Sergeant Kevin Pick (in the photo second from the right) was born in New York. He studied music education and performance, first at Ithaca College and then at the University of Southern California. He played in the LA Lakers Band and in the University Trojan Marching Band. He performed on the movie soundtrack "Mimic II" and the TV soundtrack for "When Billy Beat Bobby". He taught music at a high school in Ohio.

Our Guests' Profiles

A real breakthrough in his life was when he decided to join the Army and play in the United

States Army Europe Band, with which he has traveled to most countries in Europe. With Dixieland, which is one of the US Army Europe bands, Kevin comes mostly to Poland. He says that Polish people are nice and friendly, and now that he has been back several times, it is like he has friends for life. SGT Pick likes traveling and living in Europe, but what he likes most is music. He would do almost anything for music. As an example, he recalls spending 4 days in a small van with 6 band members to play just one concert.

Click to listen to the texts: <http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/audio/audio14.wma>

I LOVE TO TRAVEL AND I LOVE TO TEACH

Interview with teacher Steve Herman

When you came to the Krakow IRC with your students the other day you said to them that if you were their age, no one would persuade you to attend classes during summer; you would be playing football or having a swim. Why do you think they come to your classes in August in the middle of their vacations?

Steve Herman: I think they came the first day out of the curiosity. I hope they decided to stay because they found it worthwhile and fun. And this is what I wanted. I wanted students to feel like they are gaining something and having some fun. I want them to enjoy themselves and gain some confidence in English. I wanted the course to serve them. I asked them the first day: "What do you want from this class? "Why are you here?" So, they explained what they were hoping for and I was more than happy to accommodate them.

Who are your students? How did they learn about the course?

Steve Herman: They are from two high schools in Krakow. My friends, Slawek and Gosia Kubas, teach at the respective schools. Gosia's school, High School No. 1, was interested in offering a free summer course for interested students, so I volunteered to be one of the teachers.

You teach voluntarily. You don't get paid. Why, instead of playing football on a sunny LA beach, do you work during your vacation time?

Steve Herman: I love to spend some time in Europe. I travel very much and I love to teach. It really started when I was in Ukraine. I realized that I was very curious about this country. And I wanted to try teaching students in Ukraine. It occurred to me that I could spend a summer in Ukraine. I didn't expect to earn any money because if a person goes to Hawaii or Australia, they don't expect to earn any money. So I thought my holiday would be going to Ukraine for the summer and having some teaching experience there. And I thought to myself, "Don't worry about earning money. Just have a good experience." I love to teach students who are motivated. And so I sent an e-mail to everybody I knew there saying, "Look I am an English teacher. Credentials: I taught English in Poland. And I'll teach for free. So, if you know of a good



school..." So this is how it started. Now I am in Poland, in Krakow for the third time. I am on my holiday and I teach. It's a vacation for me; it's holiday. If you have good students, it's the best way to spend time because they will motivate you.

How many hours of English do your students have a day?

Steve Herman: We meet for 3.5 hours, which includes half an hour break.

Does it take more time to prepare a lesson for a summer course, considering you don't have course books and you don't give grades...?

I really want lessons to be fun and useful, so, yes, I spend quite a lot of time preparing. I try to find things that would be useful in the classroom. The students suggested that they needed help with the phrasal verbs, so I got a book of phrasal verbs with exercises. I go through newspapers to find articles for us to discuss and think of questions that I can put on the board that would motivate the students to talk.

So what does your average lesson during a summer course look like?

I have a pattern. We have one topic to discuss each day. I have to think what topic would be good to them, and about the questions. Then, there would be some grammar. It could be phrasal verbs. It could be the use of articles or something I hear them say that is consistently wrong that I can help them with. And after that we do some reading, some short stories or pieces of literature. The course was planned from the perspective of what the students need, what I hear. Each time they are talking I would quietly write down mistakes that I heard them make, not interrupting them, just quietly writing them down. Later we come back to talk about these things.

Steve, thank you and good luck in your future work!



This Will Be My Job Until Retirement

Interview with Kevin Pick, the leader of Dixieland Band

Kevin, What musical instruments do you play and when did you start learning?

Kevin Pick: I started playing the baritone at age 3 and trombone by age 10.

How long have you been with the Dixieland Band?

Kevin Pick: I have been with the DXB for about three years now.

Who are the other members of the Band?

Kevin Pick: We have people coming into the band and leaving the band regularly so the people in the band change as well. The current members are: SSG Medina - drums, SGT Webb Piano, SGT Kattan - banjo, SGT Pick - tuba, SGT Levi, - clarinet, SGT Van Skyke - sax, SSG Staggs - trumpet and SSG Burke - trombone. We usually have one driver and one sound technician that go with us to the performances.

What kind of music do you play? What great hits do you have in your repertoire?

Kevin Pick: I would like to think that most of the songs we play are great hits. There are some more popular than others. We play dixieland, jazz, New Orleans brass band, funk and R&B. Some songs include: "Chicken", "Joe Avery", "St. Louis Blues", "St. James Infirmary Blues", "Mardis Gras Mambo", "When the Saints go Marching In".

Do you sometimes perform with the whole orchestra?

Kevin Pick: For large concerts, usually our Christmas concerts, we use the full band and chorus.

How does a soldier become a musician in the band?

Kevin Pick: First you have to join the Army and go through basic training or BCT [Basic Combat Training]. Then you have to go to the Army School of Music to make sure you have the skills to be a musician. Then you are assigned to a band.



Is conscription obligatory in the U.S.?

Kevin Pick: Conscription does not exist in the US.

How much do you practice? Does it not interfere with your military duties?

Kevin Pick: I try to practice whenever I get the chance. Our schedule fluctuates between very busy, busy, and not so busy. My practice time goes up or down depending what is on the schedule and what rehearsals or concerts we were working on.

What are your plans for the future? Are you going to find a music related job after you have finished your military service?

Kevin Pick: Honestly, this is the best job I have ever had. I like the travel and living in Europe. I was only planning on three years of service. Then I thought six would be good. Now I'm pretty sure this will be my job until retirement.

Does the Band have your own website? A fan club?

Kevin Pick: We do have little fan clubs waiting until our next concert. Some just follow a certain group like the concert band, dixieland band, jazz band, etc., and some will follow any of our groups. The Band's website address is <http://www.chorus.hqusareur.army.mil>

Kevin, thank you for the interview.

Click to listen to the interview:

<http://www.usinfo.pl/zoom/audio/audio16.wma>



Activity Page

Win a Prize!

OCTOBER 2007
CONTEST

In which city did
Dixieland music
originate?

Send the answer (with
your home address) to:
zoom@usinfo.pl

Deadline: November 5

Win a Prize!

The answer to the
September 2007 Contest
Question was (for
example):

**Cha cha cha, Mambo,
Rumba, Merengue, Samba**

The winners are:

**Lidya Lopez, Karolina,
Sebastian**

CONGRATULATIONS

Prizes will be sent to
you via mail

ZOOM
in on america

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■ Exercise 1. Comprehension:

Conditional sentences, as their name suggests, tell us what happens, what will happen, what would happen or what would have happened if a condition is, was, or had been fulfilled. These sentences are referred to as "0", "1st", "2nd" or "3rd" conditionals. But there is also a "mixed conditional clause", composed of types: "3rd" and "2nd", which speaks of situations from the past and their influence on the present. A sentence: "If I hadn't forgotten my umbrella, I wouldn't be soaking wet" is an example of a "mixed conditional". Looking again at introduction passages about Steve and Kevin on p. 1 and using the mixed conditionals, finish these sentences:

1. If Kevin hadn't learnt music, he
2. Steve wouldn't be coming to Krakow, if
3. Kevin would probably live in the U.S. now, if ...
4. If Steve had moved to Oroville, he...
5. Kevin wouldn't have so many good friends in Poland, if ...
6. Steve wouldn't be teaching Spanish, if ...

■ Exercise 2. Explain what the expressions below mean. All of them are related to WORK:

- a. all in a day's work
- b. all work and no play
- c. busy work
- d. get down (to work)
- e. good works
- f. has his/her work cut out for himself/herself
- g. in the works
- h. make short work of
- i. many hands make light work
- j. out of work
- k. bring home the bacon

■ Exercise 3. Read the text and put the verbs listed below in appropriate places and forms.

One day I tried to imagine a world in which we wouldn't have to work. Plumbers wouldn't have to (1) broken pipes and (2) their hands dirty. Conductors would be able to (3) their batons and (4) their hands in a more natural position. Florists wouldn't have to (5) bouquets, which (6) soon, anyway. Farmers could (7) till at least seven instead of (8) at dawn. Teachers wouldn't have to constantly (9) and (10) their pupils for correct answers. Firefighters wouldn't (11) their life at risk (12) fires. Doctors and nurses would (13) from sick people. Traffic wardens wouldn't have to (14) cars parked in non-parking areas and (15) the drivers tickets. Travel agents could (16) last-minute vacations instead of (17) them to people. Policemen wouldn't have to (18) criminals and (19) them in jail. And I? What wouldn't I have to do? I wouldn't have to (20) home the bacon. Anyway, there wouldn't be any bacon at all since butchers wouldn't have to (21) it.

stay away, chase, get, get up, bring, sleep, cut, wither away, put down, ask, sell, explain, keep, fix, go on, look for, arrange, put (2x), give, put out.

Glossary -

(in the order of appearance)

commute - travel between home & work
shopping mall - an area with many shops
soundtrack - music (or speech) in a film
breakthrough - important development
worthwhile - useful, worth the time & effort that is spent on it
credentials - previous achievements
trombone - large musical instrument of the brass family
SSG - Staff Sergeant; **SGT** - Sergeant
conscription - making people join the armed forces

ATTENTION: Contest for high school students in Poland

In the April issue of Zoom we told you how to take part in the "Know America" contest. Make sure you don't miss the deadlines, if you are interested. Visit:
<http://www.know-america.org/index2.php>