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A Word from Our President

Gentlemen,

1. The Chord Rustlers now have a performance fee policy:

a. For non-profit or not-for-profit organizations—\$50 fee for every 20 minutes plus mileage if greater than 20 miles away. Performance fee may be waived by the Board if requested.

b. For profit organizations—less than 200 people in audience:

- \$300 for first 20 minutes
- \$200 for second 20 minutes
- \$100 for every 20 minutes thereafter

[plus mileage for performances greater than 20 miles from Bozeman.]

c. For profit organizations—more than 200 people in audience:

- \$400 for first 20 minutes
- \$200 for second 20 minutes
- \$100 for every 20 minutes thereafter

[plus mileage for performances greater than 20 miles from Bozeman]

All requests for performances of the chorus should be directed to our Chorus Manager, Steve Adams, at 580-1227. The Chorus generally needs 30 days lead time to plan for a performance. *Sig*

Upcoming Events

- ◆ April 10, RSVP Livingston (5:30 p.m.)
- ◆ April 20, RSVP, Bozeman (5:30 p.m., GranTree)
- ◆ May 9–10 Annual Show
- ◆ May 30-31, Divisional Contest, Spokane
- ◆ October 24-25, District Contest, Boise

Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

Notes from an Ancient Mariner

Some readers probably recall studying (maybe reluctantly) Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* in some English class. If you remember anything at all from the poem, it would probably be:

“Water, water everywhere and all the boards did shrink. Water, water everywhere nor any drop to drink.”

The ancient mariner tells a story of a ship doomed because of the killing of an albatross. Coleridge understood the tendency of old people to tell stories on

and on whether anyone wanted to listen or not. Well, Gerry Mollock asked me to contribute something to the bulletin occasionally. Fortunately for the readers, space will be limited.

One thing about growing old: You get a chance to see the wheel re-invented, sometimes several times. Case in point: Mike and I and our wives went to the recent Midwinter Convention in San Antonio.

(continued Dewey's, page 2, column 1)



“The list of quartets in the Senior Quart Contest included an average age for each one—all in the 60s”

Dewey’s (continued)

(cont.) As I looked at the programs of what quartets and choruses were singing, I saw lots of titles of songs we sang in the 1970s when I started Barber-shopping. They’ve been out of favor—now they’re back. I’m purposely not mentioning titles, but it’s a bit amusing. “*The Old Songs.*” Right?

The list of quartets in the Senior Quart Contest included an average age for each one—all in the 60s. **Chordial Celebration**, a competitor from Nebraska, has been a popular show quartet for at least twenty years. They didn’t win at San Antonio. Three of the quartet members have sons in **Storm Front**, who were the third place quartet at last summer’s International. Gary Drown, the lead in **Chordial Celebration**, is the father of Darrin Drown, Bari in **Storm Front** and director of the **Denver Chorus**. Gary, an old friend, said that **Storm Front** started getting a lot of gigs after they added comedy, just as their fathers had years ago. Incidentally, the bass in **Chordial**

Celebration plays *Sugar Blues* on the pitch pipe. Not an easy thing to do.

One of the highlights of the convention was to see the number of youth choruses competing—a first, I think, this year. Obviously, if the Society is to continue, a lot of younger singers have to get hooked on the hobby. That’s just a biological fact. We can hope that the likes of Kirk, Tim, Rayne, and others can attract more guys in their 20s, 30s, and 40s. It would be hard to find an Ancient Mariner who regretted his years spent barbershopping. A good example is Joe Liles who directed a chorus of former senior quartet champions at the convention. Joe has arranged a good many of the songs we sing—look at *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, for instance.

Dwight Adams, Contributing Writer

*[There were 25 Senior’s quartets listed in the show program: The oldest quartet, **The Rare Event** (SWD) had an average age of 70¾ and the youngest, **Audacity** (FWD) clocked in at 60¼. D.H.]*

Chapter Meetings

Announcements of the Chord Rustler chapter meetings appear in Monday’s *Bozeman Chronicle*. If you know places that we might benefit by advertising our meeting times, please let Jerry Mollock or Dan Hopper know.

Have You Heard the One About...

While Joe was preaching in a church in Mississippi, the pastor announced that their prison quartet would be singing the following evening. Joe wasn’t aware there was a prison in the vicinity and he looked forward to hearing them. The

next evening, Joe was puzzled when four members of the church approached the stage. Then the pastor introduced them. “This is our prison quartet,” he said, “behind a few bars and always looking for the key.” *Joe Barbershopper*

Get to Know Max Q

This month's issue of *The Harmonizer* carries an extensive look at **Max Q**, our current international champs and our headliner quartet for our May show.

I'm surprised these guys can walk, what with all the gold they carry around their necks. Just in the international quartet championship category alone, **Max Q's** singers have at least seven gold medals from quartets like **Keepsake**, **PLATINUM**, **FRED**, **RapsCALLIAONS**, and **Accoustix**. Clay Hine (BAR), Jeff Oxley (BAS), Gary Lewis (T), Tony DeRosa (L) are leaders in our society, great family guys, and have a million stories to tell. I encourage you to read the article, memorize their faces, and get to know them on a first name basis, so when they come to Bozeman, we can give them the Montana welcome they deserve. *D.H.*



Max Q

Sunshine Chairman

Jesse Edgar will be our Sunshine Chairman. He will be responsible for sending sympathy, get well, etc. cards. Please let Jesse AND Prue know when you know of someone we can cheer up with a card.

Earl Says...

All Members,

There is no such thing as a "legal copy." In complying with the requirements of the society, we are taking special care to be sure we are only rehearsing with music that has a legitimate right to exist.

PLEASE bring in all your music. Lyman and I have decided that we would just make up one music book for presentation to the board. Then we would start picking up music a few at a time to make the finished product.

EARL

I've Heard That Song Before

Fats Waller's "*Ain't Misbehavin'*" was introduced at Connie's Inn in Harlem during the opening of the all-black musical revue, *Hot Chocolates*. [Fats] worked on it for 45 minutes and there it was! The show proved such a success that it moved onto Broadway, opening at the Hudson Theatre on June 20, 1929, and running for 219 performances. The Connie's Inn performance of "*Ain't Misbehavin'*" was sung as an opening number by Margaret Simms and Paul Bass and then, later in the show, by Russell Wooding's Hallelujah Singers. At the Hudson Theatre, the opening remained the same, but at intermission Louis Armstrong, in his Broadway debut, took to the stage to play "*Ain't Misbehavin'*" as a trumpet solo. Fats Waller was a child prodigy who studied piano with virtuoso jazz pianist/composer James P. Johnson. He was a larger-than-life entertainer of huge appetites who approached his compositions from the viewpoint of a jazzman, creating swinging melodies and beautiful chord changes. Waller was an important recording artist of the late-1920s up until his death in 1943. His early recording career included piano solos, freelance jazz band work, and accompanying vocalists. In 1935 he formed his own band, Fats Waller and His Rhythm, with which he recorded hundreds of titles for Victor Records. In addition to his successful band work, Fats was able to record a number of stunning piano solos while under contract to Victor. Waller is considered to be the "grandfather of jazz organ." He played pipe organ in his father's church, for vaudeville shows and silent films, and made recordings on both pipe and Hammond organs. He brought his own technique to the instrument and made it swing. *D.H.*



"Sagebrush, Saddles, & Spurs" is the theme of this year's show, and performers include Bozeman's Chord Rustlers Chorus, the Bridger Mountain Harmony Chorus of Sweet Adelines, local quartets, and of course, Max Q. To reserve tickets, you must call Gary Tschache at 406-587-2926 or e-mail him at cgtschache@msn.com. Best time to call is from 1 to 4 pm MST Monday thru Saturday.

Chord Rustlers meet Tuesdays at Grace Bible Church, 3625 South 19th, Bozeman. Rehearsals are from 7:00 – 9:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome. (www.chordrustlers.com)

Mission Statement **NEW**

Bozeman Chord Rustlers

“The mission of the Chord Rustlers is to sing a cappella, four-part harmony, in the barbershop style, to support vocal music education of youth, and to provide audiences with wholesome entertainment for all occasions by men who enjoy musical and social camaraderie, desiring to share their love of music within the community, and who aspire to grow in musical excellence and preserve the tradition of four-part harmony singing.”



Bozeman Chord Rustlers



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