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## Upcoming Events

- ◆ **October 24–25,**  
Evergreen District  
Contest, Boise, ID
- ◆ **November 1,**  
Leadership forum,  
Helena
- ◆ **November 11,**  
Veterans Day Show,  
Grace Bible Church
- ◆ **April 17–19, 2009**  
Annual Show, Grace  
Bible Church



**FRED to headline 2009  
Annual Show!**



## Dewey' Dialog for the Ageless

### LIFE IN THE OLD GIRL YET?

The Ellen Theater is an example of the elegant movie theaters that flourished for a while and gradually deteriorated. Now, according to the local paper, Montana TheatreWorks (MTW) is reviving the Ellen. I wonder whether the Chord Rustlers might get involved in some way. Several reasons come to mind. We should remember that our support comes, not from Tacoma but from the local community. They are the folks who buy our Tater Pigs™. They are the folks who come to our shows. They are the folks who ask to sing for their activities. Also, it wouldn't hurt to have another possible venue for our performances. So maybe it's worth investigating. I am told that the Chord Rustlers have performed there in times past. John Ludin, it's worth remembering, has helped us stage some annual shows. Incidentally, I think I read somewhere that there's a Wurlitzer theater organ in the Ellen. Probably sometime during the life of the Ellen the audience heard "Brother Can You Spare a Dime?" Maybe in light of the current meltdown we should learn that one.

[Dwight Adams]

*[I thought that Dewey introduced a very interesting topic that needed more commentary. So, with apologies to Dewey, I will add a bit more to the story taken from the Ellen's web site and articles in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle...]* DH

The plans to renovate the Ellen include returning the Ellen to a glorious, live stage venue, serving as a home for MTW productions as well as a performing arts center for various community and professional groups. "We want to get it shined up and make it the jewel of the street again," said MTW director, John Ludin, "We want to put the building back to as close as it was when it opened." MTW plans to restore the theater in stages, as it has the time and money. Architect Fred Willson's original designs for the building are being used as a blueprint for the project. The building is "in remarkably good shape for being 90 years old," Ludin said. "It was built so well that most of it is still here." The Ellen was named after Ellen Trent Story, the wife of Nelson Story, who settled in Bozeman in the mid-1800s.

*Continued p.2, "Dewey's"*



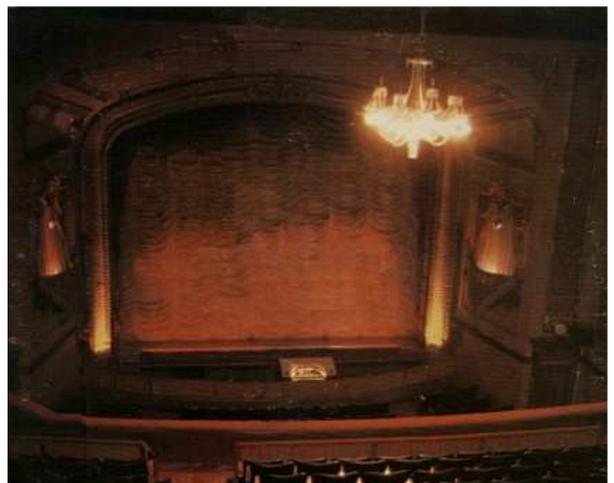
*“The Ellen Theater is an example of the elegant movie theaters that flourished for a while and gradually deteriorated.”*

*Dwight Adams*

## Dewey’s Dialogue for the Ageless (Continued from Page 1)

Nelson drove 3,000 head of cattle from Texas to Bozeman, which formed the beginnings of the cattle industry in Montana. Ellen Story was the mother of T.B. Story, one of the men who financed the theater and also built Bozeman’s famed Story Mansion. The Ellen was designed by architect Fred Willson and opened in 1919. In January 1925, a Wurlitzer (opus #979) organ was shipped from the Wurlitzer factory and installed in the theater as a Style E X (two chambers). The organ is still playing at the theater. The Ellen was originally intended as an “elegant” venue for live and movie performances, a way to help lift the public’s spirits after World War I and an influenza epidemic that killed many Bozeman residents, according to local historian Derek Strahn. The Ellen opened to vaudeville performances and over the years hosted ventriloquist Edgar Bergen, fan dancer Sally Rand and even a play with live elephants.

“Immediate restoration plans involve bringing the building up to code and adding a women’s bathroom on the main floor. The only women’s bathroom is on the second-floor balcony level and it isn’t handicapped accessible. More grandiose plans include removing the main staircase to expand the lobby, possibly extending the two staircases at the sides of the lobby to provide access to the balcony, a new heating system and the building’s first air conditioning system,” Ludin said. He also hopes to restore the theater’s organ, a mighty Wurlitzer, which still anchors the stage. The organ provided sound effects for movies before talkies came out in the late 1920s. “Someone would actually sit there and play that and accompany silent films while they were being projected,” he said. “It was a spirited place.” Ludin also hopes to save an old dumbwaiter hidden behind a wall, the stage’s original grand draperies, the floral imprint that covers the lobby walls and the dressing rooms in the basement, among other things. “We’ll take it a step at a time,” Ludin said. “The main thing is getting shows up and running and getting people in here.” The goal is eventually to stage four or five live plays at the Ellen each year. “We’ll hopefully get it back to what it looked like when it was fairly new,” he said. **DH**



## Who is This Chord Rustler?

Periodically, "The Old Chorale" will have an article describing a member's life and experiences. See if you can figure out who it is before the end of the article.

This Chord Rustler was raised on a Culbertson, Nebraska farm during The Depression. He remembers one particular dust storm when so much dark, red Oklahoma dust clouded the Nebraska sky that to this day, he doesn't know how he got home from school. Of course, he helped his dad with farm chores, many requiring hours behind a team of horses. Today, he still doesn't like horses.

After graduating from high school at age 16, he enrolled at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. At 18, he was drafted, going through Army basic training in Arkansas. In 1945, he was assigned to the Americal Division of the U.S. Army and sent to the Southern Philippines. During his assignment in the Philippines, the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, quickly ending Japan's participation in World War II. After the Japanese surrender, he was shipped out to Yokohama, Japan where his unit occupied an area southwest of Tokyo. Eventually, he was assigned to General MacArthur's headquarters, "Primarily because I could type," he said.

After his Army discharge, he went to Kearney, Nebraska where he enrolled in Kearney State College [now The University of Nebraska at Kearney], getting his undergraduate degree in English; he obtained his Masters at Northern Colorado College in Greeley and his Doctorate from the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. He taught English in a couple of high schools for several years, finally moving to Kearney State College, where he eventually chaired the English Department for eight years. His teaching career spanned 40 years.

Our member acted and worked backstage on several plays, one being "*On Borrowed Time*," where he played the grandpa. When asked if he had done some playwriting, his typically modest response was, "I've done some very forgettable writing."

Dwight (Dewey) Adams has been a barbershopper for 37 years, having been a charter member of the Kearney, Nebraska chapter where he served two years as president. He has always been a Lead and was in a quartet named **Flat Baroque**. As he tells it, "The quartet name says something about the quality of our sound." He and his wife Lois moved to Bozeman in 1994, while raising three sons. Tim is a Bozeman physician, Charles is an attorney in Helena, and Dick is an attorney in Grants Pass, Oregon. All three sons' undergraduate degrees were in English, of course.

Lois was an elementary school teacher in Kearney. Dewey, Lois, and "an army of volunteers" in Kearney started the Museum of Nebraska Art, after arranging the purchase of an old post office building to house the new museum. Lois was the Assistant to the Curator of the museum. Dewey said his contribution to the new museum was "scrubbing walls." The museum is part of the University of Nebraska system, and funding came from many sources throughout the state. Lois continues to paint with watercolors and fashion interesting hats. Dewey said the majority of his teaching colleagues and students were very bright. According to him, "You tend to remember the intelligent ones." *Jerry Mollock*

## I've Heard That Song Before



### “THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC”

In the late 1850's the hymn, “Say, Brothers Will You Meet Us?” was very popular on the religious revival circuit. The melody soon became well known, and parodies began to appear. The earliest and most famous of these was called “John Brown's Body.” Contrary to popular belief, the John Brown referred to was not the fiery abolitionist who led the raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859, but a sergeant at Fort Warren near Boston. The parody was first published in 1861. It became wildly popular with the Northern troops, and soon came to the attention of Julia Ward Howe, an abolitionist leader from Boston. It didn't take her long to jot down the verses starting with “Mine eyes have seen the glory...,” although the famous “Glory, Glory Hallelujah” chorus was already in existence. She called her lyric, “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” And soon after its publication in April 1862 it became the unofficial marching song of the Federal troops. Although Mrs. Howe lived a long and productive life from 1819 to 1910, she is remembered mainly for her inspiring Civil War verses. Since then many more parodies have been written, including the amusing children's party song, “John Brown's Baby Has a Cold Upon Its Chest” in 1923 and “One Staff Officer Leaped over the Other Staff Officer's Back” which the British tommies used to lampoon the officer corps in World War I. Strangely, however, in spite of claims by William Steffe, Thomas Bishop, Frank Jerome, and those who think the famous melody was derived from a Swedish folk song, its composer remains unknown.

*From “What's in a Song?”, Sheet Music Magazine, May/June 1995*

**D.H.**

### “THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER”

It's unlikely that Francis Scott Key thought he was writing the future national anthem when, during the War of 1812, he composed “The Star Spangled Banner.” The words were written in September of 1814 when Key witnessed the British shelling of Fort McHenry in Baltimore harbor. After an anxious night during which the fate of the fort was in doubt, Key was deeply moved when “by the dawn's early light” he saw that “our flag was still there.” He set his poem to the tune “To Anacreon in Heaven.” Anacreon was a 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C. Greek poet whose lyrics in praise of love and wine were the stimulus for the founding of the Anacreontic Society, an 18<sup>th</sup> century group of British *bon vivants*. The music of “To Anacreon in Heaven” was composed by one of the members of the society, probably John Stafford Smith. It was first printed in 1799 and soon became well known in America. No less than 85 different lyrics were set to the tune including an earlier one by Francis Scott Key himself. By late 1814 “The Star Spangled Banner” (Key's original title was “Defense of Fort McHenry”) was being sung throughout the States, and although it did not become our national anthem until 1931, it was always considered the preeminent American song.

*From “What's in a Song?”, Sheet Music Magazine, March/April 1995*

**D.H.**



## BOTM August, 2008—Bernie Bissell

Bernie Bissell has been selected as the Barbershopper of the Month for August. Bernie spent considerable time working to make our Tater Pig™ sales a success. Not only did Bernie help design and build the new countertops/serving areas for our new Tater Pig tent, he also coordinated many of our activities in the Tater Pig booth and was the "go to" guy for many of the decisions that needed to be made throughout the weekend. Additionally, Bernie has taken the time after the Sweet Pea weekend to refurbish the walk-in "cooler" that we use in the Tater Pig booth. For his dedication to the success of our Tater Pig operation and to the Chord Rustlers, Bernie's efforts positively impact our continued financial stability and our ability to help "Keep the Whole World Singing."

## Nominations for Officers for 2009

At our regular chapter meeting Tuesday, September 23rd, the following individuals have been placed into nomination by the Nominating Committee for officer/board member positions for 2009:

**President**—Dave Schrupp

**Executive Vice President**—Bernie Bissell

**Secretary**—Frank Smith

**Treasurer**—[still open for nominations]

**VP Music & Performance**—Tim Lund, Kirk Dehn

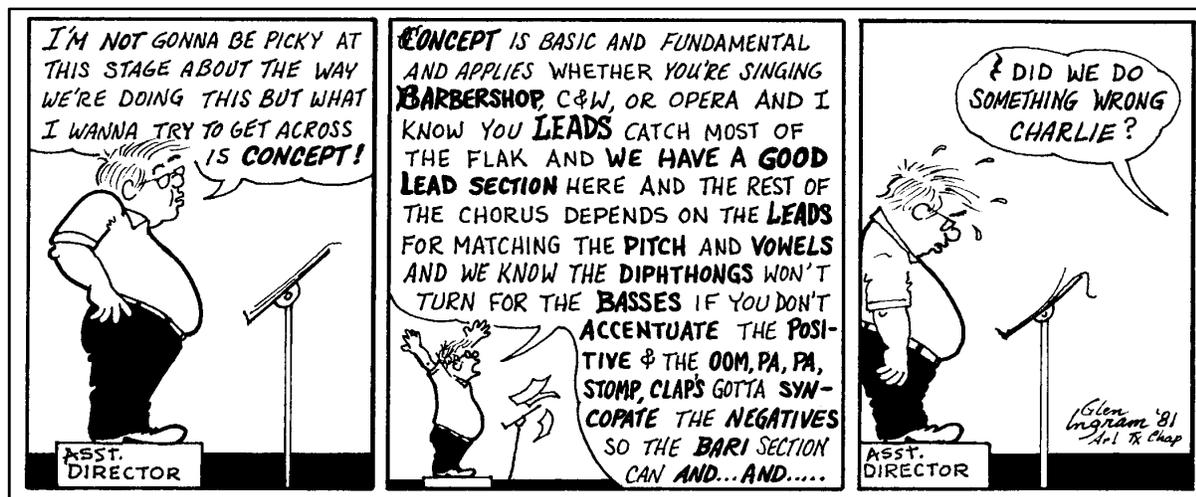
**VP Chapter Development**—Kirk Dehn

**VP Marketing & PR**—Jerry Mollock

**Board Members-at-Large (3)**—Wyman Schmidt, Lyman Janssen, Dewey Adams

Our Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will take place during our regular chapter meeting night Tuesday, October 7th. We really need someone with some basic computer and accounting skills to be willing to have their name placed into nomination for the Treasurer's position. Our Treasurer for the past three years, Al Sprenger, is willing to work with someone throughout 2009, so please consider this much needed position.

*Sig*



Chord Rustlers meet Tuesdays at Grace Bible Church, 3625 South 19<sup>th</sup>, Bozeman. Rehearsals are from 7:00–9:30 p.m. Guests are always welcome.

## Mission Statement 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.”

### 2009 Show Features FRED!

The Chord Rustler’s annual show will be April 17–18, 2009 at Grace Bible Church in Bozeman. The show will feature FRED!, a comedy quartet from the Atlanta, Georgia area that captured the Quartet Gold Medal at the 1999 International Convention in Anaheim, California. Check them out at <http://www.fredquartet.com>.



**Bozeman Chord Rustlers**



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