

"The Old Chorale"

February 27, 2009
Volume 2, Issue 2

Contents

Singing Valentines	1
Tickets	1
Dewey's Dialog	2
Who is This C.R.?	2
Upcoming Singouts	3
I've Heard That Song	3-4
Midwinter Convention	4
Tax Time	6
Mission Statement	7

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **March 21**
Extra Rehearsal
- ◆ **April 4**
Park County
Pioneer Society
Livingston
- ◆ **April 17-18**
Annual Show,
Grace Bible Church
- ◆ **May 31**
Memorial Day
Soldier's Chapel,
Big Sky



**FRED to headline
2009 Annual Show!**



Singing Valentines

Many Chord Rustlers helped share "love" this Valentine's Day by singing valentines across the Bozeman and Belgrade area. The project was started early enough to get good coverage with advertizing and participation from singers. Dan Hopper covered media announcements, while Mike and Cecilia Tank received orders and made delivery schedules. We had a good form for them that Dan designed to use in giving instructions to the quartets. Dan and Wyman solicited singers and organized quartets where various parts were needed. Quartets were assigned time periods for Friday and Saturday, February 13th and 14th so that all deliveries could be made with minimum of overlap and travel. From 9:00 am Friday until 8:00 pm Saturday, Chord Rustlers were on duty. Many deliveries were made to businesses and a few to private homes. Reactions were always positive—some humorous. While most of the recipients of the deliveries were spouses or significant others, one valentine was sung for all the ladies in a downtown architectural firm.

We find it interesting to sing to men who were obviously loved by the sender, or maybe the sender(s) had some friendly interest in the recipient. Ages of the recipients varied from people in their 20's to at least one retired man who was well over 60. This was a great Chord Rustler activity. Let's remember to do this again next year. A special thank you to all those who participated and to those that were ready to lend a "voice" if the need arose. *Charlie McGuire*

Tickets are Available for Annual Show

Gary Tschache is again handling our ticket sales and sponsorships for our annual show, "A Night at the Oscars." He did a yeoman's job last year and is hitting the streets to ensure that we have a crowd. Tickets are Reserved Seating only and are \$10, \$15, and \$25. For tickets CALL GARY @ 587-2926.



“If you don't use the apostrophe in a standard way someone is going to consider you a nincompoop.

Dwight Adams

Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

YOU CAN'T SING AN APOSTROPHE

Pity the poor apostrophe. The city of Birmingham, England just eliminated it from all street signs. Few people use it with any confidence. It doesn't represent any sound (try singing an apostrophe). We put it where it doesn't belong and leave it out where it does belong. For instance, my last name is *Adams*; the singular possessive is *Adams's*. The plural possessive is *Adamses'* (the Adamses' dog). How many people know the difference between *its* and *it's* (or care)? How often do you see something like "the fault is their's?" A tongue-in-cheek committee once tried without success to get the Albertsons chain to put an apostrophe in their signs. So let us feel fortunate that it doesn't figure in song interpretation. Trouble is though, in writing if you don't use the apostrophe in a standard way someone is going to consider you a nincompoop. And it may be somebody other than an English teacher. *Dwight Adams*

As a copyeditor, I relish finding misuses of apostrophes. I noticed that one of the doors in Bozeman High School is labeled Mens and another one Womens. Mens or Womens what? Lynne Truss in her book "Eats, Shoots & Leaves" devotes a whole chapter (32 pages) to the use and misuse of the apostrophe. Echoing what Dewey says above, she talks about the Law of Conservation of Apostrophes. This law states, "A balance exists in nature: For every apostrophe omitted from an it's, there is an extra one put into an its. Thus the number of apostrophes in circulation remains constant, even if this means we have double the reason to go and bang our heads against a wall." 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 born in Hettinger, North Dakota. After high school he attended the University of Montana, getting a B.S. in Forestry. In the fall of 1953 he entered the Air Force and completed the Aviation Cadet program in 1955 as a pilot and officer. From 1955–1958 he served as a pilot in Europe. He returned to O'Hare Airfield in Chicago with the 56th Fighter Group. From 1950–1978 he was employed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as a forester in parts of Montana and Idaho, specializing in timber management. In 1978 he was employed by the USFS in Redding, California as a pilot managing the smoke jumper aircraft support program. From 1981–1988 he was the Regional Aviation Officer for USFS Region 4 in Ogden, Utah. He was responsible for planning, organizing, and directing USFS aviation activities in the region that included the states of Utah, Nevada, and parts of California, Wyoming, and Idaho. In addition, he piloted USFS aircraft for administrative needs and fire suppression. He retired in 1988 from the USFS and moved to Bozeman where he became a charter pilot for Sunbird Aviation. In 2006, he became Director of Operations for Sunbird until retirement in 2008.

Mike Tank has been a Chord Rustler since 1988. His wife, Cecilia, is a registered nurse and they have two children. Brenda lives in Roy, Utah and has two sons; Kristine lives in rural Maryland. Mike enjoys woodworking, reading, and flying. He and Cecilia look forward to camping trips in their RV and visiting their family. Mike has held several positions with the Chord Rustlers and continues to be a vital part of the Lead section. Thank you, Mike, for all you have done for the Chord Rustlers! *Jerry Mollock*

Upcoming Singouts

PARK COUNTY PIONEER SOCIETY

I have committed us to sing for the Park County Pioneer Society dinner of around 400 people on Saturday April, 4th. This is perfect timing and a large crowd to which we can promote the annual show. They have agreed to feed us with dinner starting at 6:00 p.m. We will perform around 7:00 p.m. We only need to prepare 10–15 minutes of music with one being a patriotic number of sorts. The event is being held at the Park County Fairgrounds. Please let me know if you are able to sing and if you will be eating dinner. *Steve Adams*

SOLDIER'S CHAPEL

The Soldiers Chapel Board asked me to pass on their request that the Chord Rustlers sing at the 11:00 a.m. Memorial Day service on Sunday, May 31st. They plan to furnish luncheon for us and our families at noon. We will sing at least three songs and will wear full dress uniform. We have been doing this for about 30 years and they feel we an integral part of their Memorial Day. *Wyman Schmidt*

I've Heard That Song Before

AC-CENT-TCHU-ATE THE POSITIVE was written by Harold Arlen with lyrics by Johnny Mercer. The song was first published in 1944. It is sung rather like a sermon, and explains that “accentuating the positive” is the key to happiness. Story has it that Mercer told the *Pop Chronicles* that his inspiration for the title came when "I went to hear Father Divine and he had a sermon and his subject was 'you got to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative.' And I said 'Wow, that's a colorful phrase!'" The song was a featured song in the 1944 Paramount movie *Here Come the Waves* starring Bing Crosby, who sang the song. The song was nominated for an Academy Award in 1945. The winning song that year was “It Might as Well Be Spring,” from *State Fair*. [Richard Rodgers, music; Oscar Hammerstein II, lyrics] (*I think we've heard of these guys.*)

Mercer also recorded the song with The Pied Pipers and Paul Weston's orchestra on October 4, 1944. The record first reached the *Billboard* magazine charts on January 4, 1945 and lasted 13 weeks on the chart, peaking at #2. A Bing Crosby/Andrews Sisters recording was recorded on December 8, 1944. The record first reached the *Billboard* charts on January 25, 1945 and lasted 9 weeks on the chart, peaking at #2. The song has twice been recorded by Perry Como in 1958 and later in 1980 and by Dr. John for the 1992 movie *The Mighty Ducks*.

The original introduction to the song puts it all into perspective,

*Oh, listen to me children and-a you will hear about the elininatin' of the negative
And the accent on the positive
And gather 'round me children if you're willin' and sit tight while I start reviewin'
The attitude of doin' right*

Johnny Mercer wrote or co-wrote some 1,500 songs of which some 750 were published. More than 100 became hits. He was greatly admired in the music industry, both personally and for his intelligent, optimistic lyrics. **DH** [*Information from Wickipedia and other Internet sources*]

I've Heard That Song Before

“**THE BARE NECESSITIES**” is from the 1967 animated Disney movie, *The Jungle Book* with music and lyrics by Terry Gilkyson and was nominated for an Academy Award in 1967. Inspired by Rudyard Kipling’s “Mowgli” story, “The Jungle Book” follows the ups and downs of the man-cub Mowgli as he makes his way back to the human village with wise panther Bagheera to escape ruthless tiger Shere Khan. Along the way, he meets unforgettable friends and foes including mad King Louie of the Apes, the hypnotic snake Kaa and the loveable, happy-go-lucky bear Baloo, who teaches Mowgli “The Bare Necessities” of life and the true meaning of friendship. The 19th animated feature in the Disney animated features canon, it was the last to be produced by Walt Disney, who died during its production. The movie remains one of Disney's most popular, and contained a number of classic songs, including “The Bare Necessities” and “I Wan'na Be Like You”.

“The Bare Necessities” was sung in the movie by Phil Harris as Baloo. This song was also sung by Sebastian Cabot and Louis Armstrong. The winning song at the Academy Awards in 1967 was “Talk to the Animals” from *Doctor Dolittle* . Check out the UTube video of Baloo singing “The Bare Necessities.”

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ogQ0uge06o> *DH [Information from Internet sources]*



Midwinter Convention—Pasadena

My wife & I had the pleasure of attending the Midwinter Convention in Pasadena on January 30–31, and never having attended a Midwinter, came away favorably impressed. The Seniors Quartet Contest took place Friday afternoon with 25 quartets. The winning quartet was **Audacity** from the Far Western District and the greater Los Angeles area. The Evergreen District's entry, **Syncromesh**, came in 15th. Especially pleasing to me was **Chordplay**, a comedy quartet from the Illinois District who were named the 4th place bronze medalist. Their baritone, Lynn Hauldren, has sung for years with **Chordiac Arrest**, another comedy quartet of some fame. Lynn was also recognized as the oldest competitor at 89! The Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions (AISQC) show Friday evening started with **Old School**, followed by **Redline**, and **State Line Grocery**, the 5th, 4th, and 3rd place medalists respectively from the 2008 competition in Nashville. All of the members of these quartets either have medals from being in other quartets or choruses or have great musical backgrounds. **Old School** competed for the first time last year!

Midwinter Convention (continued)

Also performing at the AISQC show were the **Jurassic Larks**,” the 1998 Senior Quartet Champs, but the hit of the evening was **Ringmasters**, the 2008 Collegiate Quartet Champs, of the Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers (SNOBS), four hip young Swedish students from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm. In addition to singing a couple of barbershop "standards," they also challenged the crowd to determine whether a song they sang in Swedish was a drinking song or a love song. Not many of us got it right!

The Youth Chorus Festival/Contest took place Saturday afternoon with 10 choruses. At one time, there were 14 choruses signed up, but for various reasons (mostly money) four scratched. A very disappointing development was the inability of a chorus from a Pasadena High School to show up because their choral director had been “cut” a week earlier presumably because of the severe cuts being made to education programs statewide in California. Of the ten youth choruses, three chose not to be entered into the barbershop scoring or the contest. I guess that’s why it called a “Festival/Contest.” In addition to the standard barbershop style scoring, all choruses were rated in the high school style of Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, etc. Different from a standard contest, all choruses sang three songs—two in the barbershop style, and one of any style.

There are three plateaus in the youth contest: Plateau AAA consists of men ages 22–24, plateau AA consists of men ages 19–21, and plateau A consists of men less than age 19. The plateau AAA winner (and overall contest champs) was the **Northwest Vocal Project** from Western Washington under the direction of Donny Rose. They were also the only plateau AAA chorus. For those of you who traveled to our District Convention this past fall in Boise, hopefully you remember how good they were! The plateau AA winner (second place overall) was **52eighty** from the Denver area, and the plateau A winner was **Tri-Star**, from the Mid-Atlantic District. Of interest for us is that **Georgia Spirit** from Atlanta, directed by Clay Hine, baritone of **FRED**, came in second in plateau A with only 17 boys.

The Saturday night Show of Champions was quite a show!! The **California All-Star Chorus** directed by Dr. Greg Lyne, consisted of over 100 singers from 20 chapters and over 50 different cities in California started things off with—you guessed it—"California Here I Come". This was followed by the AISQC chorus, only one song by the Northwest Vocal Project, an unplanned second (and highly wanted) appearance by the Swedish kids, then **Eureka**, the 2008 Senior Quartet Champs, followed by my favorite of the evening **Crossroads**, the 2008 Silver Medalists at Nashville, finishing up with our current champs, **OC Times**. To me, **Crossroads** was simply amazing and got the biggest ovation of the evening. All four members of **Crossroads** are quartet gold medal winners: Fred Farrell, Tenor, won with **Second Edition** in 1989; Mike Slamka, Lead, won with **Power Play** in 2003; Brandon Guyton, Baritone, won with **Four Voices** in 2002; and Jim Henry, Bass, won with the **Gas House Gang** in 1993. I predict they'll win in Anaheim this year.

All in all, the Midwinter Convention was a great experience. If there was a negative, to me it was that the AISQC show and the Show of Champions were each too long—about three hours each—which meant that it was well after 11:00 p.m. until any afterglow/tag singing activities started. However, if you get a chance, try a Midwinter once. It’s more laid back and a little more “relaxed” than the main convention in the summer.

SigDehn

Music Team

Directors: Evan Pederson, Natalie Berdahl

Music VP: Dan Hopper

Section Leaders: Lead, Wyman Schmidt; Baritone, Lyman Janssen; Tenor, Dennis Bloxham; Bass, Bernie Bissell

Tax Time

Deductible Contributions for your Income Tax Report

There are several areas that you can consider when itemizing deductions for your Federal Income Tax associated with your membership in the Bozeman Chord Rustlers.

You should keep track of general classifications with breakdown of dollar amounts such as:

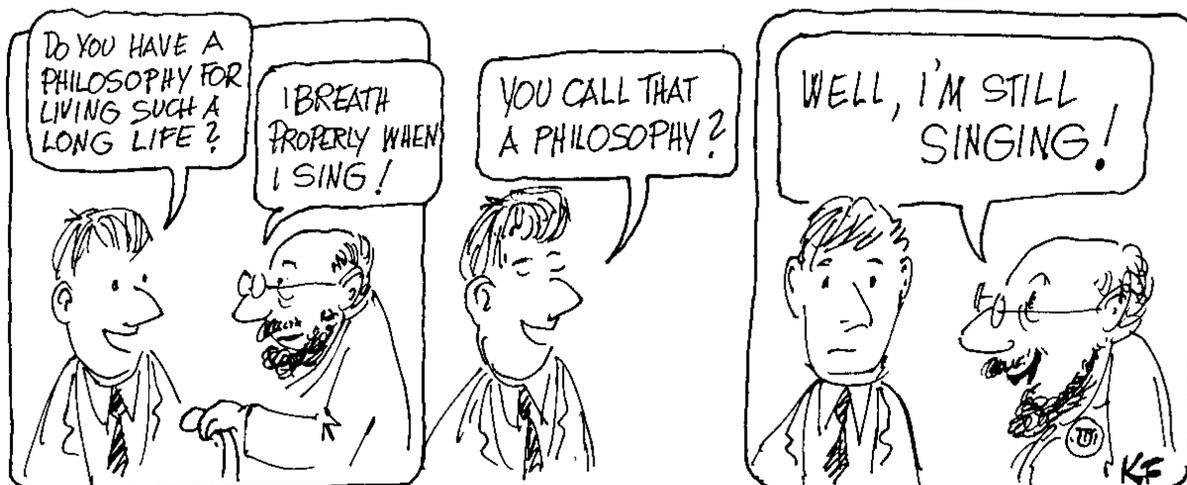
- Travel
- Lodging
- Tuition
- Supplies
- Telephone
- Other expenditures

In completing Tax Form 1040, the total amount claimed as a deduction should be entered in the "Itemized Deductions" under the classification "Contributions, other than cash." Typical allowed contributions might include:

- Out-of-Pocket expenditures for uniforms and performances.
- Travel, meals, and lodging to contests where no significant element of personal pleasure was derived.
- Travel to performances where services were donated.
- Cost of automobile travel: mileage allowances are 14 cents per mile or the actual cost of gas and oil. If public transportation is used, use the actual fare.

Show Ticket/Contributions.

Many chapters sell more than one type of ticket for their shows. They sell a standard or regular ticket, in which the price is based only on admission: the value of the seat for the purpose of seeing the show. They also sell a sponsor's or patron's ticket which includes an additional charge intended by the seller and the buyer as a gift or contribution to the chapter. A regular ticket may sell for \$10.00 while a patron's ticket entitling the buyer to a seat in the same location may sell for \$20.00. The IRS has noted that patrons or sponsors who buy tickets to functions given by tax-exempt organizations are not always advised correctly. Only the amount over and above the price charged for an equivalent regular ticket is deductible. This is the amount of their contribution. *Al Sprenger*



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.

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>. For tickets, call Gary at 587-2926.



Bozeman Chord Rustlers



“The Old Chorale”
Dan Hopper, Editor
3120 Augusta Dr.
Bozeman, MT 59715
dan_hopper@bresnan.net

