

"The Old Chorale"

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2010 Upcoming Events

- ◆ **July 4** (tent.)
LDS Church
- ◆ **July 8**
Butte Festival
- ◆ **August 6-8**
Sweet Pea Festival
- ◆ **September 23-26**
District Contest,
Portland, OR
- ◆ **November 11**
Veteran's Day Show
- ◆ **December 14**
Christmas Sings

It's Been a Busy Couple of Months

ANNUAL SHOW: "ON THE ROAD AGAIN"

Our annual show was well performed, well directed, and well received. Too bad it wasn't also well attended. Our board and show committee for 2011 will be looking at ways to improve our ticket sales and attendees. If you have ideas, please forward them to Bernie and he will get them to the appropriate people. Our singing was above par and the songs were well received. Wasn't "McPhly" outstanding? Watch for them to do very well this week at the International Convention in Philadelphia. And Jay Winchester outdid himself with the "hobo" routine. Thank you all for working so hard to make this a success.

MEMORIAL DAY: PERFORMANCE AT SOLDIER'S CHAPEL

For over 30 years the Chord Rustlers have been performing at Soldier's Chapel for the Sunday Memorial Day service. This is one of those memorable days for everyone...especially the audience. We are always well received and the invitation to lunch and the additional performance is always a treat.

PERFORMANCES: ASPEN POINTE, BIRCHWOOD, GALLATIN VALLEY REST HOME

Seeing the residents of these retirement communities singing along with Sweet Georgia Brown, Home on the Range, and King of the Road lets us realize how important these performances are. They don't always fit into everyone's schedule, but this year our numbers were much better than anytime I can remember. This shows the dedication of the Chord Rustlers to our community. Great job, guys and gal.

DIVISION V CONTEST, MOSCOW, ID

How could we top the feeling of winning the small chorus contest and placing 3rd overall in the Division barely behind two much larger choruses. Let's look at this as a small peak on the way to a much bigger peak...District. We have the opportunity to compete with the "big boys" on stage...of course, we need to be at our prime, well rehearsed, and ready to entertain. There are a lot of logistics to finalize before we trek off to Portland. But we will be ready to "knock em dead."

DH

We Have Tater Pigs™—We Have "Earlisms"

With the Sweet Pea/Tater Pig Festival breathing down our necks, it behooves us to start getting in the appropriate mindset to maintain our status as THEEEEEEEE booth that raises the mood and satisfies the appetites of everyone at the festival.

A major component of our leading the way is getting the word out to everyone at the festival that we are the best and we have "EARLISMS" to prove it. Following are some examples:

- *"Are you from Mars?"* The appropriate "earlism" for the question "What is a Tater Pig"?
- *"Calories do not affect the human body here, because we are over 4,500 feet in elevation."*
- *"If the core comes out of the left side of the potato there are no calories, but watch out for those coming out right side."*
- *"We bake 'em lovingly and tenderly."*
- *"They keep you young, look at me, I just got married, I didn't want to, I had to."*
- *"Just don't say 'tater tots' or 'spud dogs' or 'baked potatoes'; because if you call a Tater Pig those names, that man upstairs will come at you with a bolt of lightning and ruin it for everyone."*
- *"Having a Tater Pig is the next best thing to having a stomach."*

There are more "earlisms"; just listen at Sweet Pea. If after listening to the "earlisms" for more than four hours and the "earlisms" persist, call your doctor (we've got a couple of them)

I have been listening to "earlisms" for more than 20 years, and look how it affected me.

Wyman Schmidt

Barbershopper of the Month — May, 2010

Natalie Berdahl is our Barbershopper of the Month (BOTM) for May, 2010. Natalie's enthusiasm and directing skills have helped transform the chorus into a competitive, entertaining mainstay in the Bozeman community and the District. She was instrumental in helping the Rustlers put on a stellar annual show at the Ellen. Thanks, Natalie, for all you do for the chorus.

Bernie Bissell



“When the O.C. Cash gang were woodshedding, the old ones were all they had.”

Dwight Adams



Dewey's Dialogue for the Ageless

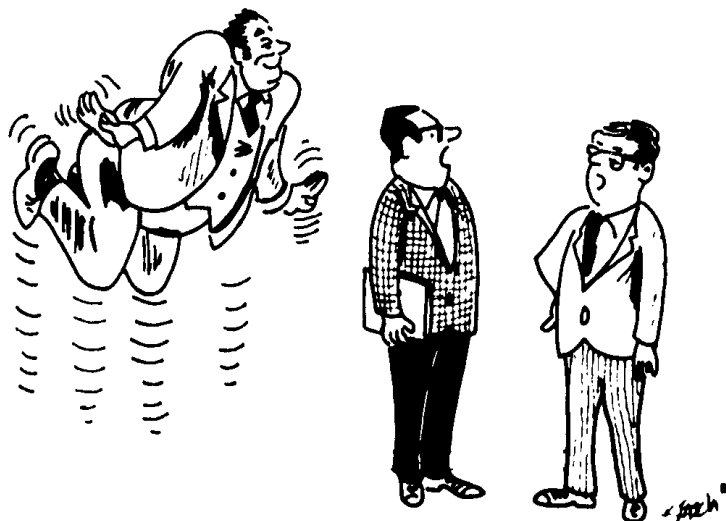
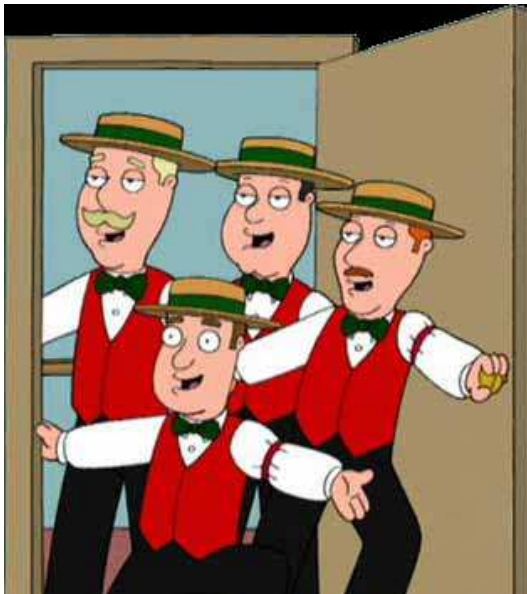
THE OLD SONGS

One trouble with getting old is a tendency to retell stories that were too long in the first place. The good old days might not have been so grand (at least the Depression days in Southwest Nebraska weren't so great). But rehearsing *Chordbuster March* suggested to me that if the committee is still searching for a show theme, lots of the old chestnuts we first learned years ago (and that are part of the history of Barbershopping) might be revived to make a pretty good show. We used to try to mix “G-B”'s (gut busters), “F-W”'s (flag wavers), and “T-J”'s (tear jerkers). From memory, here is a sample:

- *Cruisin' Down the River*
- *Waitin' for the Robert E. Lee*
- *Sweetheart of Sigma Chi*
- *Last Night Was the End of the World*
- *Sleep Kentucky Babe*
- *Alexander's Ragtime Band*
- *Jazz Came up the River*
- *Sailin' on the Henry Clay*
- *Stephen Foster Medley*
- *Aura Lee*
- *Cohan Medley*
- *Mississippi Mud*
- *Song and Dance Man*
- *When I Lost You*

When the O.C. Cash gang were woodshedding, the old ones were all they had. Maybe a show based on the old ones would work—say nothing past 1940 or so.

Dewey Adams



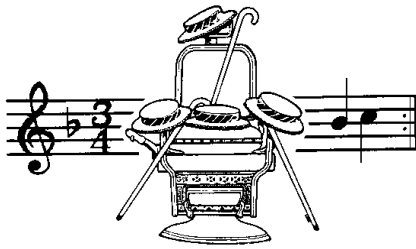
“THAT'S OUR MUSICAL DIRECTOR. HE JUST FOUND OUT WE HAVE FULL ATTENDANCE TONIGHT.”

♪ **Music Team** ♪

Directors: Natalie Berdahl	406-451-2516
Assistant Directors: Charlie McGuire	406-582-0471
Gerry Hovland	406-585-8500
Music VP: Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
Section Leaders: Lead: Wyman Schmidt	406-587-8013
Baritone:	
Tenor: Dennis Bloxham	406-223-7824
Bass: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966

Chord Rustler Officers

President: Bernie Bissell	406-586-2966
VP Music: Dan Hopper	406-582-5194
VP Chapter Development: Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
VP Marketing/PR: Gerry Mollock	406-522-8894
Treasurer: Sig Dehn	406-586-5747
Secretary: Frank Smith	406-586-4676
Immediate Past President: Dave Schrupp	406-585-9493
Board Members at Large: Charles McGuire	406-582-0471
Wyman Schmidt	406-587-8013
Executive Vice President: Earl Vining	406-586-6502
Chorus Manager: Steve Adams	406-580-1227
Show Chairmen: Bill Ranard	406-585-9375
Gerry Mollock	406-522-8894
Sunshine Chairman: Jesse Edgar	406-579-5354



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 barbershopper was born in Detroit, Michigan in 1947 and attended Alma College prior to attending Michigan State University medical school. When he graduated, he started his residency at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. He is board certified in the specialty of family medicine. He stayed in the Air Force and had tours of duty at various bases in the United States, Asia, and Europe. In 1981, while stationed at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls, he started singing with the **Treasure Statesmen** barbershop chorus. At his first competition, his quartet sang *Alexander's Ragtime Band* so fast that they got a minus score. When he retired from the Air Force in 1988, he and his family moved to Bozeman where he was the Director of Student Health Services at MSU. Since then, he has worked at various locations throughout Montana; in Bremerton, Washington for 21 months; in Bitburg, Germany for 11 months; and recently he volunteered to help victims of the Haitian earthquake.

Frank and Linda Johnson were married in 1973 and have two children. Linda has worked for the U.S. Postal Service. Frank has been a **Chord Rustler** since 1988, having served as President and various other positions. With the help of other Montana barbershoppers he started the **Big Sky Youth Harmony Rendezvous** in 2003. He was named **Chord Rustler** Barbershopper of the Year for 2003 and **Evergreen** Barbershopper of the Year for 2007. He was on the **Evergreen** District Board of Directors and is now on the **Evergreen** District Operations Team. Frank enjoys reading, gardening, skiing, bicycling, swimming, and singing.

While stationed in Japan, the PACAF commander decreed that all Air Force buildings in the Pacific theater were to be painted tan and brown. Frank's quartet made up several verses to "*Oh Tannenbaum*" with reference to the tan and brown colors of the buildings. The parody was sung at several wing functions to the delight of all.

While in Haiti, Frank saw the almost total devastation of the country's infrastructure. The earthquake killed many high government officials and left the government in terrible shape. Frank told me that Haiti is overpopulated, undereducated, has a very high unemployment rate, with no end in sight.

Frank is always willing to lend a hand to the chorus and to sing Lead or Baritone in a quartet. Thank you, Frank, for your dedication to the chorus, district, and to barbershopping in general.

Gerry Mollock



Craft Session

What Causes Flattening in Choruses? by *Freddie King* [From the Dundalk, MD chapter newsletter]

There are many internal and external causes of a pitch going south. Following are a few of the **internal** factors:

- Unless releases are precise and intensely vitalized, there will often be a slight drop in pitch.
- Slurring, scooping or approaching notes from below will result in flattening.
- Repeated notes in a phrase are often wrongly approached from below. This causes each succeeding note to be slightly lower in pitch.
- Faulty diction causes flattening.
- Attacking a singing consonant below the pitch of the following vowel, and then sliding up to it will produce flattening. The singable consonant must always be sung on the pitch of the following vowel. Particular attention must be paid to L, M, and N.
- Insecurity in voice parts, guessing at notes and following rather than thinking for oneself will lead to flattening.
- Overlearning a selection (going stale) likewise leads to flattening.
- Having singers in the wrong voice part may cause them to sing out of tune.

There are also **external** factors that influence flattening of notes. Here are a few that contribute:

- Humidity has a depressive effect and will cause the singer to flat because he is emotionally depressed and lacking in vitality.
- Poor ventilation, stale air, and extreme heat all cause chorus flattening. To counteract, the singer must use extra vitality. He should select quick moving, cheerful songs in major keys, breathe deeply and maintain an excellent posture. An extra measure of director enthusiasm will help under such conditions.
- “Dead” auditoriums cause flattening. This can be overcome by speeding the tempo slightly. In a “live” place, slow it down a little.
- Programming two or more numbers in the same or related keys immediately together can cause some degree of tonal deafness, resulting in flattening.
- Sometimes a slight speeding up of tempo on the slower numbers will eliminate a tendency to go flat.

So, when Natalie says you are “flat,” check the list above (particularly the internal list) to see what you can do to remedy the problem.

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.”



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

