



The Chordsmen Chronicle



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The birth of a new JAD quartet

By: Steve Kovach

We're all aware that there are different reasons to form a quartet. You have the local quartet that wants to be able to sing in the area in which they live. There's the chapter quartet that puts a few songs together to be able to sing on the annual show.

Then there's the competing quartet that gets together to sing for the experience of a District level competition. And there's the all-star quartet that competes at the international level in hopes of winning the gold medal in their first year of competition.

I'm not sure where my new quartet lines up with these examples. We're a hybrid, I guess (trying to do my part in "going green"). Our goal is to have fun, sing well, entertain, and see what shakes out at the competition level.

The "new quartet" started as a duet, really. **Richard Brooks** and I knew we wanted to sing together but didn't have two others to round out the foursome. We talked to **Michael Harrison** of BOSH, Turning Point, The Tabasco Cats, and many other quartets in the JAD. Mike and I had talked a while back about singing in a quartet but the opportunity didn't really arise as I was singing with Richard and the Wulf brothers in APEX.

When APEX disbanded, Richard and I went straight to Mike. We met, sang a little, talked about our quartet philosophy and decided to become a trio. Now...the tenor. Just like in the chorus, the "real world" does not feature tenors growing on trees. The pickin's are slim as they say.

We talked to a few guys and **Carl Cash** was added to the mix. Carl and I went to Bowling Green together and have a long friendship entering into this quartet. We're a good fit



Cadillac Jack
L-R: Steve Kovach (Br) Richard Brooks (B)
Michael Harrison (L) Carl Cash (T)

"on and off the court."

At that point we had four members without a name We started with a list of about 35 names and pared it down to 5 or so. By the way...the names came from some ideas we came up with on our own but mostly from a

listing of DJ's we found on the Internet. If you'd like a unique name for your quartet, look up DJ's in the U.S. and you'll find a rich list of possibilities.

So, our list of 5 names were scrutinized for a short time...

we played the game of announcing the names as competitors of JAD... "Ladies and gentlemen, representing the JAD, please welcome xxxx!" Some of the names sounded good, and others were crossed off the list.



Cadillac Jack
sings through a "tough song" for the benefit of the photographer

We narrowed the choices down to two. The name that won gave us the best possibility of logo, imagery and "catchiness." **Cadillac Jack**. It doesn't mean a thing; it just

See Cadillac Jack on Page 3

Behold The Dangly Hootchie Pucker (The Legend Begins)

By: Tom Webb ~ Lead Section Leader



Tom Webb

During the course of human events legends are made of human endeavors spurred on by the trials and tribulations of obscure but determined people, battling insurmountable odds for truth, justice and the American way.

Such is not the case for the legend of the Dangly Hootchie Pucker. Actually, no one really knows, or sadly enough, cares how this esteemed decoration came to be in existence. At least, none that I have talked to, and, since I have not talked to anyone, well, then there you are.

Our story begins with three distinguished members of the Ocohotchee Glee and Perloo Society Anvil Chorus, sitting in a local tavern, partaking of adult beverages and grouching about the treatment they had been receiving from their bombastic director, one **Antoine "Spatz" Kovach**. Rumor has it he was nicknamed Spatz because of his habit of wrapping paper towels around his ankles, and his propensity for verbally sparring with members of his chorus.

The three gentlemen, aptly named **R.U. Dangly**, **I.C. Hootchie** and **U.B. Pucker** were described by eyewitnesses as incensed that they had received no accolades for all of their hard work and dedication to the chorus. Dang, as he was called by his friends was quoted as saying, "By gar, ve are mad as heck, and ve vill not take it anymore, you betcha!" To which Hootch replied, "Dang, what are you talking about?"

You're not even Swedish!" To which Puck added, "You've been goin to too many Abba concerts." The three men were visibly upset. Having to haul around those

heavy anvils to every pool hall and tavern in which they performed was a pain. And they received not even a shaboo or howdy-do.

While Dang, Hootch, and Puck were grouching, rather loudly I might add, the assistant director of the Ocohotchee Glee and Perloo Society Anvil Chorus was listening rather intently, whilst partaking of some adult beverages of his own.

The reports are sketchy at best, but it is believed his name was **Ivan "Big Cannonball" Kracker**, a rather shady character of some ill-repute. Legend has it that he was nicknamed "Big Cannonball" for his want of jumping, legs tucked under him, into the therapy pool at the Ocohotchee Old Folks Home. One victim of his cannonball assaults, **Edna Mae Peabody**, was heard to say, "You do that again, and before you can pucker, your dangly hootchie is going to be hammered on one or your anvils, you ole reprobate!" It was from this loud exchange that Big Cannonball came up with the brainstorm that was to lead to the decoration we know today as the Dangly Hootchie Pucker.

He mentioned to Dang, Hootch and Puck that if they wanted recognition they best be doin' it on their own cause their fearless leader was too busy shoutin' "Fidelity, I need more Fidelity" at the chorus. And, he, Big Cannonball, was too busy tryin' to figure out what Spatz meant, than to be passin' out accolades for what he called "thunder headed anvil bangin'."

Hence, the three fearless troubadors, or anvildors as they were called then, came up with their very own prestigious award, named soley after them.

To this day, the Dangly (some say dangling) Hootchie Pucker adorns the shirts of many proud chorus members. While they no longer carry anvils, due to the large number of hernias suffered by previous members, the current chorus members wear their Dangly Hootchie Puckers in fond remembrance and reverence for those who have gone before. That's my story and I'm stickin to it. 🎵

A tag where the Baritones shine

HUSH, LITTLE BABY
from *Summertime* by GEORGE GERSHWIN as sung by the Confederates, 1956

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Cadillac Jack from page 1

sounded good to us. Mike thought of the name while driving home from work.

That's how we began. But I wanted to talk a little bit about our philosophy conversation. It is really important to agree on your goals, commitment, outlook, and overall philosophy of your new quartet, even before you agree to sing with one another. This is potentially a long-term relationship that will bear fruit if put together thoughtfully.

For **Cadillac Jack**, we were all on the same page. #1 on the list is sing well. I will write more about that in next month's Chronicle. #2 on our philosophy list is priorities. For us, singing in a quartet falls in line behind family, work and every other "real world" situation. I have been involved in quartets in the past that did not discuss philosophy and expectations. This didn't work out well and created tensions that didn't need to be.

When you sing with three others, be sure you are all on the same page when it comes to your quartet philosophy. Don't assume your brothers in song feel the same way you do. Be sure!

Cadillac Jack is excited to be in the "toddler stage" right now. We're learning, growing, and trying to move forward with measured steps. We'd like to become JAD champs as soon as we can. We'd like to represent the JAD at the international competition as soon as we can. And...if we're so fortunate, we'd like to wear that BHS gold medal. However, some or none of those things happen, we want to sing well, entertain and have fun singing barber-shop harmony. That's what this hobby is about!! 🎵

Congratulations on perfect attendance in the month of August!!

**Tenor:**

- Tim Brandt

Lead:

- Lee Cook
- Luther Hampton
- Bruce Van Hesteren
- Lee Hull
- Terry Loughman
- Andrew Matulich
- Dan Strader

Baritone:

- Richard Adkison
- Norb Bruns
- Frank DeWitt
- Dave Kracker
- R.F. Miller
- Ed Sterle
- Joe Dove
- Chris Rumas

Bass:

- Mike Craze
- Bob Crowl
- Harold Eckert
- Don Marcum
- Tom Nixon
- Stan Popp
- Bill Wolfe

Northern Exposure cops heavy iron

By: Bob Crowl

On Saturday, August 23, the Singing buckeyes held their annual Sing and Sail at **Glen and Sandy Spangler's** Buckeye Lake cottage. This is a time for good food, great boat rides on the lake, and the big quartet contest. This is not for regular quartets. No sir. It's for "pick up" groups to strut their stuff and let -R- rip just for fun.

Joe Dove rewrote the words to "My Wild Irish Rose." It was titled - get this - "My Big Roman Nose." Of course we needed four guys to pull this thing off. To make it happen we enlisted **Andrew Matulich** to fill out the quartet. Did I mention that the quartets also have some of the members singing a part that they normally don't sing? Our group - "**Northern Exposure**" was comprised of **Joe Dove** (T), **Mike Craze** (B), **Bob Crowl** (L) **Andrew Matulich** (Br). We also had the appropriate props to "compliment" the presentation.

"Northern Exposure" dazzled the judges as we enjoyed our time on the stage. Several of us also sang in other groups as well. When the contest part was concluded, the "Northern Exposure" group had six trophies on their table. Our song netted us second place. Joe sang in the first place group and I sang in the third rated bunch. All in all, we had a great time. Andrew has requested that we consider him again next year. We agreed that it was a "done deal" and concluded that we have to return next summer to try for first place.

It is also our hope that more of the Chordsmen can go with us and take part in this great barbershop gathering. You will not be disappointed. 🎵



A tip of the skimmer is the barbershop way of saying "thanks a bunch."

- **Dan Noe** our Treasurer who takes care of the finances of the chapter with little fanfare.
- **To the impromptu quartet** who sang on Monday night August 25. **Trevor Garrabrant, Luther Hampton, Joe Dove and Walt Jewitt.** Good job guys!

• **To all the members** who remember to bring their tape recorders, mark their music and

review them between rehearsals.

- **Every member** who makes the commitment to eliminate the retention problem.

Quartet Corner

There are “feel good” gigs and then there are others

By: R.F. Miller~Bari Bravada



Bravada

Randy Mann, the Music Director for the Trinity United Methodist Church is also the vocal music teacher at Mt. Gilead High School. **Trevor Garbrant** sang under Randy’s direction while attending Mt. Gilead High.

Randy asked Trevor if he could provide special music for a Sunday in August. Trevor asked if he could bring some friends. And, as it turned out, *Bravada* were the friends.

On August 17, the quartet traveled South together to the church and sang a trio of songs. Starting with “Shine on Me” with the ship intro, followed by “Amazing Grace” and finishing with “This Little Light of Mine.” Everyone seemed to enjoy our singing and as a matter of fact, we did a couple of encores in the hallway after the service had ended.

Pastor Ron Heasley’s message for the day was, “Make Every Day Count.” Too often we’re too worried about the past or the future to enjoy today. So what better way to enjoy the day and make it count than to sing barbershop?

We then went to Paul Reveres Restaurant in Lexington for lunch. We sang a few songs there much to the delight of all the noontime diners. We sang “One More Song” and “Brand New Day.” One of the servers, Sara, had been out recouping from an auto accident and this was her first day back. We were asked to serenade her and we did so with “For All we Know.”

On August 22, *Bravada* sang at a dinner at the Roadhouse celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Ontario. I asked if we would be singing before or after dinner and was told we would sing before dinner.

Upon our arrival we found out we were to sing as guests arrived for about 45 minutes. This was not the best gig that *Bravada* has ever done. As it turned out, those arriving for the dinner were more interested in talking and the cash bar, than in the entertainment. No one applauded and few, if any, even acknowledged our presence. They even gave away our reserved seats for dinner.

Somewhat dismayed, we drowned our sorrows at Appleby’s and had a fun time and a great dinner. 🎵

Bravada and Home Edition team up

By: R.F. Miller~Bari Bravada



Bravada and Home Edition perform at the Richland County Library main branch

A really good gig took place on Sunday afternoon, August 24 at the main branch of the Richland County Library. Both quartets performed in the concourse area on the second floor.

Bravada kicked off the performance with “It’s a Brand New Day,” and then turned the floor over to **Home Edition** for several selections. At their break, *Bravada* came back with a few additional selections. And then **Home Edition** sang again.

This “tag team” approach worked really well. Half way through the performance, both quartets teamed up for “Blue Skies” and “Lullaby.”

The seated crowd of about 30 were joined by walk-through folks during the one hour performance. With jokes, “true stories” and other chatter, we kept the audience entertained.

To conclude the performance, both quartets sang “Keep the Whole World Singing.” We noticed a few ladies in the audience singing with us. Later we found out that a couple of them were former Mansfield Sweet Adeline’s and one lady said she hadn’t missed one of our shows in a long time.

It was a good gig because the audience got into the action and interacted with both quartets. Members of both quartets had a “bunch of fun.” And after all, isn’t that what barbershop is all about? 🎵

Back in the day

November 2000

The Fun Center Chordsmen were in dire need of new, safe performance risers. Thanks to grants from the **Shelby Foundation** and the **Richland County Foundation**, the chapter was able to purchase eight sets of six foot brand new Wenger risers.

Dave Kracker, **Frank DeWitt** and **R.F. Miller** unloaded and assembled the 16 crates weighing in at 1,455 pounds.

Board and Chorus vote in favor of the CD project.

By: R.F. Miller ~ CD Project Chairman



The Mansfield Chapter of the Barber-shop Harmony Society was chartered in 1974. In the 34 years of our existence, how many times have we been asked, "Do you guys have a CD?"

If we had a dollar for every time that question has been asked, we could have one big party. Or better yet, invest in our first CD project.

For a number of reasons, the Music Team recommended to the Board that we forego the Fall District Convention chorus competition this year and instead, set a goal of making a CD. It will be a great Public Relations tool, a fund raiser and a Membership recruitment tool. But it won't be an easy project. Here's a few of the details that have to be worked out.

- Every member who desires to participate in the CD project is encouraged to give 100% commitment to performing the songs at an acceptable level.
- Songs must be selected and a learning schedule prepared. Followed some-time later by a track recording schedule.
- Copyright and arranger permission and clearance must be obtained. **Dave Kracker** is in charge of this process.
- A recording/mixing technician and studio must be selected.
- Track recording and mix down followed by CD duplication.



Initial contact has been made with a recording technician and a CD duplicating company. Nothing concrete has been determined as of yet but song selection is in the process.



The Chronicle will continue to keep all members updated on the progress of the CD project.

This is going to be an exciting chapter and one that will take time, commitment, dedication and retention. Let's have fun with it! 🎵

Joe Dove goes to strange places to invite guests



By: Joe Dove ~ VP Chapter Development



Joe dove

Summer time is fading and September is here. Our music team and the board along with the members of the chorus have voted not to go to contest this year. Our new goal is to produce a CD and that means just as much work on the music as going to contest would have been.

Our contest preparation would have been rushed and maybe not up to the level we would have liked it to be. Relax, no! We have much work to do but the time we will spend on preparing our songs for the CD will be a delightful and rewarding time. This will be a challenge, but we can do it. The sectionals last week proved we all learned some new notes to the old songs, surprise, surprise.

Let's turn some of our energies toward getting our membership numbers off dead center. If we increase our numbers early enough, they just might be able to be a part of the chorus making the CD. They'll be able to say that they had a part in helping with the CD production.

Not long ago I went to a Karaoke establishment and met some interesting people. I discovered, to my dismay, that many of the young college students have classes in the evening. But you never know what may come out of an invitation. One fellow I met who was a night shift store manager, said he would like to join us, but until he goes on days, it's not likely to happen.

I eat breakfast with my retired buddies on Fridays and I have asked strangers, mid-bite of their breakfast if they like to sing. And nobody yet has given me any negative answers or comment to my question. I smile a lot when I ask and make light conversation with the woman in the booth about her male companion.

I did have one response to my questions. I was told that I had already asked him once he still couldn't carry a tune. This was confirmed by his girl friend. Smiles all around and a good laugh because it's fun being friendly. They did say they had been in an eating establishment when a group delivered a singing valentine. and commented they looked like they were having fun.

Think outside the box and come up with your own ideas about inviting guys to join us. 🎵

Notes and Quotes

By: Bob Crowl ~ VP Music and Performance



Bob Crowl

This month, I want to explain another part of our Barbershop-ping that may sometimes seem unimportant. But it is so essential to our being a positive and value adding part of our vocal performance.

In June, I emphasized how important *vowels* and *vowel targets* were to good vocal production. July's word-of-the-month was *breath*. It too is so very important for each of us every time we sing. August's article was to remind us that we have an important part in working to do our best preparing for the contest. We have now shifted our focus from contest prep to preparing to record a CD.

While the focus has shifted, all of those aspects of singing well have not. In fact, we will have the opportunity to seriously prep a lot more than two songs. Not only will this be a good learning exercise, but it will also give us 10 to 12 great songs to share at every performance.

Now on to this month's word. It is ironic that this month's pick came at a time when we were still focused on contest. Now that our time is going to be filled with preparing to record, the September "word," *posture*, becomes more important than ever. Not only do we have to practice good *singing posture* to produce good sound, *posture* also can refer to our *attitude and commitment* as we work together on this exciting new project.

Making a CD is going to be new to all of us. The Music Team and Chapter Leadership group are going to do the best possible job of keeping everyone informed as we all begin the process. **R. F. Miller** has stepped up and agreed to chair the planning and recording phase.

It is the Music Team's goal to have all the Chordsmen commit to this project and to *posture* themselves so that we can have a super time in the process. We must continue the commitment of learning and singing well, as our goal of recording a CD gets closer and becomes a reality. 🎵

***Bravada* and Home Edition express our thanks to John Maurer and Maurer Photography for the new quartet pictures. After the photo shoot at John's studio on Wednesday, September 20, HE and *Bravada* sang, rehearsed and in general had a good time together. Thanks John for great pictures!**

The Craft Corner

How To Learn Your Music Quickly

By: R.F. Miller

In as much as we're going to be learning a lot of new music in the months to come, here are a few proven ways to learn your music.

- ◆ Immediately memorize the words and the story they tell before working on the notes. It is important for you to know all the words so that everyone sings them together. When you don't know the words to a song, you are always slightly behind everyone else who does know them. This causes the synchronization errors that the judges always talk about. If you don't know the story the words are trying to tell, how can you expect to put on the correct expressions that will convey that story to the audience? You **MUST** know the words **AND** the story they tell
- ◆ Bring your "I Love Barbershop" pencil to every chapter meeting and mark your music with the director's intelligent and musical observations. Errors or changes can be erased. Notations on your music will help you to remember what the director wants you to do when you work on your music at home. (You **DO** work on your music at home, don't you?)
- ◆ Use your learning tracks to learn the notes and words. This means listening to it and singing along with it while driving to work, to the store, to church, or to chapter meeting.
- ◆ Bring a voice recorder to every rehearsal and tape the entire rehearsal. This will capture the director's comments and the proper interpretation of certain passages. When you have used your learning tracks to learn the notes and words, put it away and use only your rehearsal recordings.
- ◆ Pay attention and be quiet at rehearsals. In case you haven't noticed, there is far too much talking every time the director stops waving his arms. Don't talk as soon as you stop singing. LISTEN! Earl Moon used to say that God gave you two ears and one mouth, and He expects you to use them in that proportion. If you stop talking and listen during rehearsal, most of your questions will be answered before you ask them. You don't believe me? Try it! 🎵



Develop a "Passion for Success" for the CD project.

Points to ponder

An editorial
By R.F. Miller - Editor

OK, so now what?

The year 2008 can go down in chapter history as one giant leap forward for barbershop harmony recognition in this area. Yes, the Fun Center Chordsmen have been around for 34 years with several directors in that time.



We've done numerous special performances, many annual shows, made several appearances at the Christmas at Malabar Farm and lots of contest venues. All of which have been wonderful barbershop experiences. It took hard work and lots of rehearsal time to make these happen.

This year, for several reasons, the leadership recommended to the membership to stand down from the fall chorus competition. But a chorus without a goal is not moving ahead, it begins to fall back. It was determined that the chorus will embark on a project of making a CD with 12 to 14 tracks.

OK, that being said, now what? Well, now the real work begins. The article on page five just touches on the things that need to be done to make the project a success. The CD project team can only organize the project. They can't make the CD have value.

This is one of those projects where no one can sit back and say, "Let somebody else do it." Every member is mission critical to the success of this project. In order for the CD to have value, to be worth listening to and worth purchasing, it must contain songs sung very well. Here's where every member must take it upon himself to step up, learn the music, retain the changes, and work on his own to be the very best singer he can be in preparation to record.

Just one voice not totally in sync with the others can serve to make the recording less than acceptable. Please commit to making sure you're not that one voice. Instead be prepared every rehearsal. Come with a positive attitude and a work ethic that is a model for others. And oh yes, did I mention, "Check your voice at the door?"

All we have to do is listen to Steve and retain what he tells us and our CD project will be a success. Remember, he has done this process before with Uptown Sound.



It's been said the definition of luck is where "practice and preparation meet opportunity." We have the opportunity. Let's practice and prepare so we'll have good luck with the CD project. We Can, We Will, We Must! 🎵

Man of Note honor roll

New Member	Sponsor	Man of Note #
Tom Hoover	Rusty Cates	5
Lorin Weaver	Walt Jewett	1

"Ambassador of Song" honor roll

R.F. Miller
Ed Hoffmann
Lee Cook
Walt Jewett
Chris Rumas
Bill Wolfe
Steve Kovach
Stan Popp
Lorin Weaver
Tom Hardy

Dave Kracker
Mike Craze
Dan Strader
Joe Dove
Bruce VanHesteren
Roger Humbert
Bob Crowl
Tom Webb
Luther Hampton

September Birthdays

- September 3 ~ Tom Hardy
- September 23 ~ Mike Banish & Wally Wright
- September 24 ~ Richard Adkison
- September 27 ~ James Brooks & Jerry Starrett
- September 30 ~ Steve Kovach



Chordsmen Quartets



Home Edition

John Maurer (T) (419) 289-3635 (Contact)
Jerry Starrett (L)
Bill Herdman (B)
Dave Kracker (Br)

Bravada

Tim Brandt (T)
Trevor Garrabrant (L)
Bob Crowl (B)
R.F. Miller (Br) (419) 884-2441 (Contact)

Mem'ries

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Ed Sterle (Br)

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***Harmony for
life...***

The Fun Center Chordsmen
Mansfield's Barbershop
Harmony Chorus
www.funcenterchordsmen.com

We meet every Monday
night at 7:00 PM at the First
Congregational Church, 640
Millsboro Rd. (corner of
Marion Ave. and Millsboro
Rd) in Mansfield.

*Visitors and guests are
always welcome*

Special Performances and Noteworthy Events for 2008



◆ **Date:** Saturday, December 13
Time: 5:00 to 9:00 PM
Event: Christmas at Malabar
Location: Malabar Farm Big House
Uniform: Black with Holiday attire

**NOTE: Uniform: Black = black shoes, black socks, black pants and black belt.
FCC Red Logo = Red FCC Logo Golf Shirt.**

Unless otherwise credited, all articles and photos are by R. F. Miller

Chordsmen Chronicle **September 2008 Issue**

The feeling for quality, the instinct for excellent performance, can get into your very bones. Quality can make work worth doing.

And the feeling for quality, once it does get into your bones, can be a terrific asset. It can give dignity to the individual. It can give character to business. It can give satisfaction to customers.

Your personal "quest for excellence" can be another way of saying "my character is showing." And the character of this business is nothing more nor less than the sum total of the characters of the people in the business.

So long as we seek excellence, and accept nothing less, our business will succeed like nobody's business!

Reprinted from an ad for a business many years ago. Substitute the words barbershop chapter for the word business. (Ed.)