The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

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Naturalization Ceremony

April 23, 2012

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Calendar

Special Olympics Track and Field, Saturday, April 21, McCallie, 9:30AM. Dress casual (knit shirt & Khaki pants)

Garden Plaza of Greenbrier Cove, Thursday, April 26, (assemble at 6:30 PM).

Scout Flag Day, Saturday, May 26, National Cemetery, 10:30 AM

50th Anniversary Party, Friday, June 1, 5:30 PM, at the Colonnade in Ringgold

Annual Show, *Fifty Year Parade of Harmony*, Saturday, June 9, 7:30 PM at GPS

Dixie Harmony Weekend July 20-21, Huntsville, AL

Ruby Falls, July 28 (**Date change.**)

Dixie Fall Convention, September 28-30, Tunica, MS.

Sweet Adelines 50th Anniversary Show, October 6.

On-Line Archive

Script for Monday's Meeting

7:00 Chuck leads warm up
7:15 Paul - Chattanooga Choo Choo
7:30 Paul - Circle - Welcome Back to Dixieland
7:45 Paul - Minstrel Montage
8:00 Paul - Chattanooga Choo Choo
8:10 Paul - When You Wish Upon a Star
8:20 Dave White - Announcements & break
8:30 Quarteting - Singing Valentines
8:40 Risers - Ten Feet Off the Ground & Mary Lou
9:00 Paul/Chuck - Shenandoah & Simple Melody
9:23 Paul - Craft
9:28 Gandy and KTWWS

Summary of the Last Meeting

Chuck led warm up with tuning and TOS plus working on Chattanooga Choo Choo. Paul worked on Ten Feet Off the Ground mostly with the introduction. We went to the risers and sang it some more. Back to the chairs, Paul continued teaching Minstrel Montage.

Announcements. Wilbur gave an update on the show. Rich reminded us of the Special Olympics sing out at McCallie. Dress is casual. Also Ruby Falls date is now July 28th to allow members to attend the Dixie weekend in Huntsville. Marcellus announce there would be an Open House on June 15th, both for new members and to show off our remodeling.

We went immediately to the risers and worked on Shenandoah, When You Wish Upon a Star and Simple Melody. Daniel passed the Gandy to Gary. We closed with KTWWS.

Naturalization Ceremony 2012

On April 11, 2012, the 74th birthday of the BHS, thirteen members showed up for the 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM Naturalization Ceremonies at the US District Court presided over by Chief Judge Curtis Collier. A color guard from Sequoyah High School Junior ROTC presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance, and this was followed by the Choo Choo Chorus singing an uplifting rendition of the National Anthem. After the ceremony, Judge Collier told us he watched the audience while we sang, and could see it moved many of them. After the Oath of Allegiance was administered, Judge Collier gave some stirring remarks to the new citizens.

In between the ceremonies, we had a long lunch at the Cherry Street Diner, and went back at the court house where we sang songs before the second ceremony.

We had assembled at 10 AM to rehearse, performed for about three minutes total and left 4 hours later, yet I will be surprised if any of us will miss the next ceremony. The ceremony and talking to the new citizens (from at least 27 different countries) kind a chokes you up making it very rewarding for everyone. And as Paul said, "What a way to celebrate the birthday of barbershop."

Shown in the composite photograph are the Chorus singing, most of us eating at the Cherry Street Diner, and a couple who were not allowed to bring their cell phone camera inside the courthouse and ask me to take a photo of them with the Judge. The photograph of us singing with Judge Collier on the left is by Tanya Fleury. *Steve Wixson*