The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

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Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys | **April 2, 2012**

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Calendar

Naturalization Ceremonies, Wed, April 11, 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM, US District Court.

Special Olympics Track and Field, Saturday, April 21, McCallie 9:30am

Gold Star Wives, Saturday, April 21, Sheraton Read House, 7 PM (**no longer tentative - it's scheduled**)

Garden Plaza of Greenbrier Cove, Thursday, April 26, 7 PM.

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

50th Anniversary Celebration, Friday, June 1, 5:30 PM, Colonnade.

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

Ruby Falls, July 21.

Harmony College, July 20-21, Huntsville, AL

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

Sweet Adelines 50th Anniversary Show, October 6.

Tentative 50th Show Song List

National anthem

1960's - Hello Marylou+ Quartet song

1970s - From first Salute to America show, Minstrel Montage + Quartet Song

1980s - Shenandoah, Welcome Back To Dixieland, Quartet doing a Singing Valentines re-enactment Quartet - Please Mr. Columbus

1990s - From London Trip, Chattanooga Choo Choo and When You Wish Upon A Star + Quartet song

2000s - Simple Melody, Ten Feet Off The Ground, Maybe White Christmas to showcase our Christmas Shows.

KTWWS - Everyone sings.

On-Line Archive

Script for Monday's Meeting

7:00 Paul leads warm up
7:15 Chuck - Bill Grogans Goat
7:30 Paul - Circle - Welcome Back to Dixie
7:45 Paul - Minstrel Montage
8:00 Paul - Old Fashioned Girl
8:20 Dave White - Announcements & break
8:30 Quarteting
8:40 Risers - When You Wish Upon a Star, Darknes on the Delta & Hello Mary Lou
9:00 Paul/Chuck - Shenandoah &Ten Feet Off the Ground
9:23 Paul - Craft
9:28 Gandy and KTWWS

Summary of the Last Meeting

Chuck led warm up, and we again had fun with *Bill Grogen's Goat.*In a circle, Paul worked on *Simple Melody* and *Chattanooga Choo Choo.* (Granddaughter Maddie sat in Paul's chair.) We worked on TFOTG.

Dave White led announcements. Wilbur summarized the 50th Show planning meeting, and a tentative list of show songs is at the bottom of the left column. Contact Wilbur if you have song suggestions. Pat summarized the 50th Party planning meeting. Wally introduced Daniels friend's, Cody and Mrs. Hedrick, and we sang them a welcome. Fred passed an 8 year renewal to Daniel. Rich confirmed a July 21st sing out at Ruby Falls.

After the break, Paul passed out the sheet music for *Welcome Back to Dixieland,* and a quartet of Johnny, Paul, Lamar and Fred sang it once. We worked on Shenandoah with Paul using it for craft. We closed with KTWWS.

Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys

In 1975, when my two sons got out of service, we joined the Barber Shop Chorus in Chattanooga, then called Rock City Chorus. We owned a service station at that time in Ooltewah, Tennessee, and a customer of mine named Claude Walker asked us to come down and visit the chorus. We did, and the rest is history.

We did get hooked, and soon after that we formed a quartet in 1976 named Three D's and a Dad. This was Dennis McDowell, lead; Danny McDowell, baritone; Dan Bruns, tenor; and Charlie McDowell, "Dad," bass. We had a good time together, but after a while we started competing and were advised by one of the judges that, since three of us were family, we had the same timbre. And, as good as the tenor was, his voice didn't fit our voices. So we had to make a decision. We went to Dick Clem for some coaching to see if we could fix it because we loved Dan and knew he had a wonderful tenor voice. But Dick agreed, if we wanted to compete, we would have to get a tenor that matched our voices, and he also said Dan was one of the best tenors in the business.

In 1977 we started singing with Willard Dickerson, a tenor from Trenton, Georgia. Since he didn't have a D to use, we called ourselves The Chattanooga Shoe Shine Boys, and this also came from one of the judges from Knoxville, Tennessee. He was a stage presence judge, so we went for it

We went to competitions many times and came in second three different times, but in 1981 we were the Dixie District champions. We were on the road about every weekend. We went to Harmony College in Missouri and the Buckeye in Ohio.

Then in 1983 I had a bad automobile accident and broke my back, and was in the hospital for a month. While lying there, I got to thinking the two boys had small children and didn't need to be away from home that much, so I was the one that had to say, "Enough, I don't know what's going to happen to me, so I am hanging it up." I still love Barbershop and still love to sing. *Charles McDowell*