



Dixie Town Crier

Dixie's monthly chapter newsletter dedicated to the original town crier, Chuck Witherspoon

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Music City Chorus from Nashville, TN by David Belden

The air is turning crisp and cool so it must be time for the men of the Nashville Chapter to head to fall contest. By the time this article appears in the Dixie Town Crier the chapter members will be in Knoxville ready to share the stage with singers and friends from throughout the Dixie District.

The **Music City Chorus** returns to the contest stage ready to vie for a third straight trip to International. Of course, we know the road to Kansas City won't be easy. We have put in many hours preparing our contest set, and we hope all our hard work not only pays off for us but entertains all of you as well. The Nashville Chapter is proud to be a member of the Dixie District and wishes the best to all district choruses in the contest!

The Nashville Chapter is also pleased that our quartet development program will be showcased on Friday (and hopefully Saturday) night. A total of eight chapter quartets are slated to appear: **Second String, Standard Deviation, Gridlock, Sagacity, That's Life, Sam's @ 7, The Real Nashville Music League, and The Post-It Notes**. We wish them – and all the district quartets – the very best, because the Dixie District is certainly one of the top quartet (and chorus) districts in the Society!

As soon as fall contest is over, the gears shift into holiday show mode. The Nashville Chapter's annual Christmas show will be on Saturday, December 18, so keep that date open on your calendars. Complete show and ticket details will appear in next month's edition of the Dixie Town Crier.

Finally, the chapter wishes to note that our planned golf outing, "The Music City Invitational," has been postponed and will be rescheduled for April 2011. Again, details will appear in an upcoming chapter report in the Dixie Town Crier.

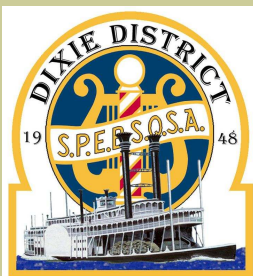
Sharing Time With a Living Legend by Jack Martin, BQPA President

While attending the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA) quartet festival in Chicago in mid September, five guys took the time to go visit Jack Baird, who is living in an assisted living home near Elk Grove Village, IL. Jim Richards (Mr. Physics of Sound) engineered this event with Pete Tyree, Fred Street, **Jack Martin** and Emit Bossing filling out the group.

To everyone's delight, Jack comprehends well, smiles a lot and has a good handshake. Although unable to care for himself, Jack recognized all the guys and was able to conduct limited conversation at times. His beautiful and caring wife, Beth, was there also. We all sang several of the Polecat songs and Jack sang right along with us. Jack's participation brought out a new alertness and you could see he really enjoyed this activity.

Beth told us that Jack was 86 years young and had been living in the assisted living home (which was very nice) for three years. We visited with Jack for over an hour singing and making reference to past times when Jack was younger and active. As I commented he smiled a lot!

We all left the home feeling very fortunate that we had got to brighten Jack's life a bit. We departed with a warmth in our hearts for this wonderful Barbershopper.



Choo Choo Chorus from Chattanooga, TN by Steve Wixson



We were Act 1 singing river songs including Cruising Down the River, Shenandoah, River of No Return, the Banana Boat song, etc. The set was a painted copy of our Southern Belle Riverboat that makes daily dinner trips on the Tennessee River. Also now docked as a hotel in Chattanooga is the famous Delta Queen riverboat and we sang Showboat Came to Town that references that boat. Two quartets from the Confederate Harmony Brigade, Sunshine Sound and Quicksilver rounded out Act 1.

Act 2 was the Confederate Harmony Brigade from which was extracted **Lunch Break** doing their comedy routines and **The Real McCoy** doing their international songs and more. We had almost 100 men on stage to

sing the 9/11 arrangement of American the Beautiful with narrative, a solo and a powerful PowerPoint video showing the events and people of that disaster.

**“Salute to
Riverboat
Show”**



Choo Choo Chorus and Confederate Harmony Brigade singing America the Beautiful

Atlanta Vocal Project from Atlanta, GA by Dennis Brannon

Atlanta Vocal Project's Creative Team is putting the finishing touches on an amazing Wizard of Oz performance package. The guys have stepped up for the challenge and suddenly, "I don't think we're in Kansas any more, Toto."

Inspired by three namesake movies, Wizard of Oz, The Wiz, and Wicked, four tunes have already been added to the repertoire with the anticipation of another song or two. While all are hoped to be audience favorites, two are being readied for the contest stage in Knoxville: "Ding Dong the Witch is Dead" and "If I Only Had a Brain."

**“Visiting the
Wizard of Oz”**

Dixie's own **Four Voices** premiered the Great and Powerful Oz Hine's arrangement of "Brain" several years back on the contest stage, so it is especially great for us to revisit this terrific chart and present it in a chorus setting. The



Photo courtesy of Lorin May, Barbershop Harmony Society

emotional framework is still being tested and refined as of this writing; it is surprising how many different ways this inspired chart can be interpreted. But the barbershop style will be evident.

We think you will enjoy the Oz set as we "Ease on Down the Road."