

Longmont, Colorado's Barbershop Voice



Join Us Mondays at 7PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1303 S. Bross Lane

Singing in a WWII setting

by Bill & Kay Sachs

We are having a great time wintering here in the lower California desert near Palm Springs. I got together with my old quartet **Four on the Richter Scale** and sang a gig at the Palm Springs Air Museum located at the Palm Springs International Airport. We sang The Star Spangled Banner and God Bless America.



B24 piloted by "bari-ly old enough to enlist" Bill, somewhere over the Pacific.

The museum features a fleet of World War II fighters, bombers, and other assorted military aircraft from both the Navy and Air Force arsenals and history. These aircraft are all restored to pristine flying condition, and are often flown for special occasions. We saw a P51 Mustang, a B24 Flying Fortress, a Cobra, and a Zero fly. That parade of history-on-the-wing was truly exciting. My bass and good friend, Milt Rhea, who ran a landing launch during WWII, talked to an audience of about 250 people on what it was like to storm the beaches of the islands of the Pacific which were held by the Japanese. Some other veterans told thrilling stories of dogfights against the Zeros while flying Hellcats and Corsairs. Others related tales of fighting off the Kamikazes as they plunged toward the decks of American ships. I was

particularly amused when Milt related how the Navy never explained to any of their personnel the obvious effects of gravity. The Navy completely failed to mention, for example, that any ammo they shot straight

Hey, don't forget

Mar 7 No meeting, moved to Tuesday Mar 8

Apr 29-30

RMD Spring Convention in Broomfield

May 7

Longmont show

overhead to intercept incoming, unwelcome, and eager-to-die visitors from Japan would only arc and descend in like manner upon their own helmets should they happen to miss any of their targets! That little piece of information the Navy gunners had to learn the hard way!

Here... before I bore you any further, I will hand the keyboard over to Kay (...*handing*...). We attended Mid-Winter Convention in Las Vegas, and had a great time. The Senior Quartet Contest was wonderful. Although we'd hoped to hear **Four Keeps** competing, we'll have to wait until another year. There were 27 quartets and the competition has become really good. A lot of these singers have past medals, and the quality of singing is excellent. The winning quartet (the one that Bill picked) was **Over Easy** from the Johnny Appleseed District. We really look forward to the Youth Chorus Competition each time we are at Mid-Winter, and they did not disappoint us! Someone mentioned that there were some 600 young men singing. Isn't that great! There were 19 individual choruses, from all over the United States, and one from New Zealand. **Northwest Vocal Project** was the winner (from western Washington State), and **The 505** (from Albuquerque) came in third. **52eighty** has changed its configuration, and seems to be a high school-age chorus now.

There were a couple of great shows: Friday night we saw **Swedish Match**, the 2010 College Quartet Gold Medal winner, from Sweden; **The Musical Island Boys** from New Zealand (they were college champs a few years ago, and now compete internationally); and **Ringmasters**, also from Sweden, who were College Champions three years ago, and came in third at International last year. These young men are all SO good! *The Society is looking younger!* Saturday night's show featured **Old School**, featuring four gold-medal winners from other quartets. What a sound! Then came our own **Storm Front**. They brought down the house, as usual, and people laughed 'til they cried. A wonderful time was had by all. We urge you to take in Midwinter next year. It's in Tucson (*a nice place to be in January*). See you there!

Gary Drown of Chordial Celebration

1940-2011

Gary L. Drown, 70, of Kearney, Nebraska died Friday, Feb. 18, 2011, at his home. A lifelong music lover, he was a member of the The Sugar Valley Singers and many barbershop quartets through the years, particularly the Chordial Celebration.

The Chordial Celebration has been one of the success stories of the RMD, singing in barbershop shows all over the region. They have been the chief attraction in far more Longmont shows than any other foursome. Quartets by the hundreds would come and go, but The



Gary Drown, front center, sang lead with the "Celebration."

Chordial Celebration seemed to be forever. They were invited back to Longmont time after time not because of their unique voices, but because they were masters of the visual gag which "snuck up" on the audience and had them laughing uncontrollably. Their act never changed, yet even though you had seen it several times before, it was always as funny as the first time.

Their home chapter in Nebraska invited the Longmont choristers to sing on one of their shows in the 1980s during one of those rare moments of fleeting fame when we were RMD small chorus champions. It was a trip we won't forget.

Gary always introduced a change of pace halfway through the performance when he brought a small child from the audience up on stage, sat him on a high stool, and sang the "Frog Song" to him. It's sad that the "Frog Song" will never again be heard on the Longmont stage.

Board Meeting

Condensed from secretary Keith Watson's minutes

President **Jim Hopper** called the annual planning meeting to order at 9:02 am on January 15 . Present were **Larry Jones, Jim Schoemer, Gerry Swank, Dan Chaikin, Bob Plass, Bob Reed, Jack Gibbs, Mike Hemphill, Gene Melick, Dave Waddell, Paul West, Dean Farrier, and Keith Watson.** The secretary's report and the treasurer's report were read and approved.

The treasurer moved that the following chorus members be authorized to handle chorus funds in addition to the treasurer: valentine chairman, program advertising chairman, and ticket chairman. Motion carried.

Bob Plass and Jim Schoemer volunteered to audit the treasurer's books.

Membership. After some discussion of membership and guest night options, Dean Farrier and Jack Gibbs volunteered to work with Bob Plass on membership and guest procedures.

Program. Larry Jones suggested that we propose some specific goals for 2011 and plans to implement them. Motion was made by Jack Gibbs, seconded by Jim Schoemer, that the music team create a separate performance group of 8-12 men for additional sing-outs through the year. Motion carried.

Dave Waddell moved, and Jack Gibbs seconded, that the chorus strive to increase contest scores to at least 78 this year. Motion carried.

The Program and Music Committees were encouraged to, in consultation with Chris Vaughn, make a proposed schedule for our weekly meetings. Jim Schoemer moved, seconded by Larry Jones, that we extend our weekly meetings to 9:45 pm in order to have more time for PoleCat and repertoire songs. Motion carried.

Jim Schoemer moved, seconded by Gerry Swank,

that we try during this year to schedule at least one more event that improves our visibility, especially beyond the Longmont area. Motion carried. Jim and Gerry will work on this goal.

It was moved and seconded that there be one spring show at 7:00 pm. Carried.

Paul West showed copies of the LPC promo Patriotic Songs CD. The choice to use the 25% reverb was affirmed.

Calendar.

Feb 4-6	RMD Harmony College.
Feb 11-13	Valentine's Day quartets
Feb 18 or 19	Sweetheart Banquet
Apr 29-30	Spring Convention in Broomfield
May 7	Spring show
May 9	Post-show dinner
July 6-9	International
July 15-16?	Silverton
July 23?	Chautauqua
Aug 13	Picnic
Aug 20	Harmony in the Hills (South Dakota)
Sept 10	Retreat
Sept 12	Nominations
Sept 26	Elections
Oct 7-8	Contest in Colorado Springs
Oct 10	Post-contest dinner
Nov 5 or 12	COTS
Dec 16&17	Christmas concerts
Dec 5,12,19	Christmas sing-outs
	<u>2012</u>
Jan 7	Chili dinner and auction
Jan 14	Planning board meeting

The Singing Valentines package will be \$40.

Director's Contract. Bob Reed moved, and Dave Waddell seconded that we make the following changes to Chris Vaughn's contract. There will a fixed payment for the spring show and other paid performances and a per diem for other required multi-day travel.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am .

“No Vacancy” sings out

by JR Homan

No Vacancy (O.J. Pratt, Paul West, Luke Lorenz and JR Homan) convened for the following mid-winter singouts:

Feb. 12: A one half hour show for a fund raiser associated with the Moose Lodge of Longmont. They provide assistance to single working parents, shut-ins, invalids and etc. etc., so the quartet donated their fee to the cause. (*We had a vacancy* and filled in with Jack Kinney!)

Feb. 14: A one half hour show for the residents of Aspen Meadows Retirement Home.

Feb. 16: A one half hour show for the Rotary Club's Valentine celebration with the residents of Hover Manor Assisted Living Center.

All booked singouts and Singing Valentines are always accompanied with PR for Longmont's Longs Peak Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Singers because IOHO it's the *best* chapter in the Society!!



Seventeen special sweethearts feted

by Dave Waddell

Seventeen members, with spouses and friends, for a total of 34, attended the sweetheart dinner at Pinocchio's Restaurant Friday night. We had a fun evening of dining and singing. “Less Than Perfect” with Jim Hopper, Norm Jouett, Jim Schoemer and Mac McWilliams sang for their spouses and were “nearly perfect”! My wife Maryann and I, and others that I spoke to, were well pleased with the food and we were happy that Larry Jones, our PVP, got us a pretty good price too.

Old picture does the trick

43 valentines delivered

by Dave Waddell

We quartets delivered 43 Valentines over the Valentines Day weekend. The numbers were looking pretty bleak for awhile, but it must have been the picture and notice that finally came out in the paper on Monday that brought in a flurry of sales. The picture was taken, I think, about three years ago when Norm Jouett, Steve Zimmermann, Jim Schoemer and I were singing to one of Steve's neighbors who was sitting in her car. It is too bad we couldn't have done at least twice that many, but every little bit helps our treasury.

**One Tree, Colorado
Little, bitty town
real close to Longmont
where western music
and barbershopping
are larnin' to just get along.
The remains of the Cartwright
ranch is on the outskirts, but Pa
and the boys are all gone.**

Parker Fowler

1926-2011

Longtime barbershopping bass F. Parker Fowler Jr. died at his home in Longmont on February 9, 2011. Parker was born in Chicago on May 21, 1926, to Frank P. Fowler Sr. and Dorothy Hinckley Fowler. He attended public schools in Evanston, Ill. He and his twin brother, Hugh, joined the Navy in 1943; they came to Boulder in 1944 in the NROTC. In Guam, Parker was officer in charge of yard-craft, and skipper of yard tug Chicomico, retiring as a lieutenant.



He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Colorado (Phi Kappa Tau). He earned his Ph.D. in mathematics, statistics and operations research from California/Berkeley. He first taught at the University of New Mexico, where he was the department head of its first data processing department. He returned to Colorado and taught at CSU and then at CU-Boulder and Denver for many years.

He moved his family to the Fowler family farm in northwest Longmont in 1968 and retired from teaching in 1996. On April 27, 1976, he married Charlene 'Charly' Faimon in Boulder. He described himself as a "prenatal" Presbyterian; he was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Boulder and was an elder in both Albuquerque and at Westview Presbyterian Church in Longmont.

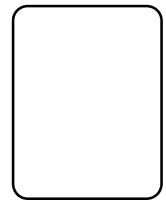
Parker loved music and singing. He directed the Longs Peak Chorus of SPEBSQSA for years and led the barbershoppers to their first championship. He was also a multi-term chapter president and he and Charly would host a barbershoppers picnic at their home each year. He sang in his church choirs and also with the Longmont Chorale over many years. He was a founding member of Jubilaté Sacred Singers in Boulder. He was an aficionado of antique farm machinery and owned a 1924 Minneapolis steam traction engine, which made many appearances along the Front Range. He was a director of the Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad and was member No. 46 of the Front Range Antique Power Association. As chairman of the Longmont Bicentennial Committee in 1976, Parker helped save Old St. Stephens Church on Main Street in Longmont.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his infant son, Brian Wade Fowler. Survivors include his wife of 35 years; his son Frank P. Fowler III and wife Rachel, their children Parker and Benjamin, of Longmont; his son John 'Ames' Fowler and wife Liz, their children A.J, Alexis, Mary, Allison and Charles, of Centennial; his daughter Allison Ames Cross and husband Scott, their daughter Helen, of Nederland; his step-daughter Randi Pepper and her daughter Ryann, of Fraser; his identical twin brother Hugh C. Fowler and wife Shirley, of Denver; his brother David A. Fowler and his wife Marilyn, of Denver; and five nieces and nephews.



Parker, front row, on left, at the RMD fall 1986 contest in Rapid City, South Dakota, as the red ties and cummerbunds are worn for the first time.

high notes
c/o Gil Norris
3813 Stoney Drive
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Please deliver to:



Our mission: "We provide each member with enjoyable experiences through continuous improvement in our singing, performing, and entertaining in the barbershop style."

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The High Notes is published monthly for the enjoyment of Longmont's barbershoppers and its content may be shared by fellow Barbershop Harmony Society (used to be SPEBSQSA) members. Please send your comments, material for inclusion and other chapter bulletins to the editor:

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