



The Rome'n Times

Official newsletter of the Rome Division,

Johnny Appleseed District of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Rome Division Newsletter

Southwestern PA and Northern WV

Aug - Sep 2009

Rome Picnic Set for Wheeling Park

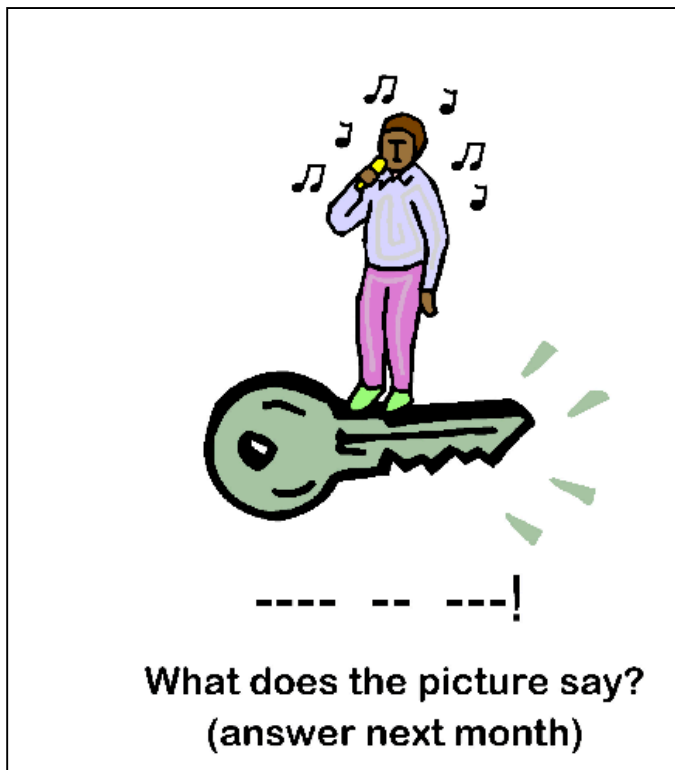
The third annual Rome Division Picnic and Novice Quartet Contest has been scheduled for Saturday, September 12, from noon to dusk at Wheeling Park, Wheeling West Virginia. This year's sponsors are the Rome Division's Wheeling Metro Chapter.



The picnic promises to be a day of fellowship, games, good food (all catered) and even better singing along with fellow barbershoppers. There will even be the chance to experience the thrill of victory in the division's third annual Novice Quartet Contest. The contest is open to any foursome that is not registered as a quartet with the BHS or hasn't competed in a JAD district competition.

For those that want to shake the agony of defeat from the quartet contest, there will be a chance to experience the thrill of victory in horseshoes, bingo or bocci. Of course those games will be open to anyone – not just quartet competitors. Although not part of the picnic, there is also a swimming pool with baby pool and water slide which requires a separate admission price.

Directions to Wheeling Park from your location can be obtained on Map Quest, Google Maps, or any other navigation programs. For those traveling from the Pittsburgh area, the park is about a mile north of I-70 Exit 5, Elm Grove / Triadelphia on U.S. Route 40. (Take a left at the end of the exit ramp and a right on to Route 40.) You can also contact Dick Benson at 740 859-6567 or Ken Williams at 412 915-6726 for directions.



Cost of the picnic is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The cost includes all food, drink and quartet contest registration. Register with one of your chapter officers or with Ken Williams at the phone number above.

Inside:

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ROME DIVISION PERFORMER PRIDE

By Mike Sisk

The four consecutive decades of the 50's-60's-70's-80's, finds the Rome division with quartets as champions of the **Great JAD**. Each of these quartets was from the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter.

JAD QUARTET CHAMPIONS

1952 Four Maldehydes
1958 Town & Country Four
1967 Travelers
1968 Point Four
1975 Road Show
1983 Harmony Partners
1985 New Affair

It is also noteworthy to mention that there are only three JAD quartet men to have each won four times as a **JAD Quartet Champ**. They are as follows:

JAD 4X CHAMP JAD QUARTET CHAMPS/YEARS

LEO SISK Town & Country Four-58 Point Four-68 Road Show-75 Harmony Partners-83
ROD NIXON Sound Advice-72 Matinee Idols-76 Sound Syndicate-79 Yesteryear-93
DALE FETICK Bustin Loose-84 Ricochet-92 Marquis-94 MatriX-00

Each of these JAD 4X Quartet Champs has unique distinctions in how they won. **Dale Fetick** won every championship on his quartet's very first try in district competition. **Rod Nixon** not only won 3 of 4 championships in the 70's (72-76-79) but also sang 3 different parts tenor-lead-bari in his combo's. **Leo Sisk** distinguishes himself having won a JAD championship in four consecutive decades in a row of the 50's-60's-70's-80's. Don't forget the run that the Alumni Quartet had as JAD Seniors Quartet Champs in the 90's (91-97) as well as International Bronze 3rd place medal & three 2nd place silver medals. That is what I call Rome Championship Representation!

Ken's Korner – A Note from the Rome Division Manager

Fellow Barbershoppers,

This is number 2 and I don't know how often the **Rome'n Times** will be published yet, but I look forward to reading the news, stories, jokes and other tidbits you send in to our editor, Buzz Miller. I encourage chapter bulletin editors to send Buzz their chapter news but encourage all of you to contribute your two cents worth.

I don't want to sound like all I care about is the Rome Chorus because I care about this hobby, you and myself. You have to care about yourself! I do want you to know that the Rome Chorus will always be open to every Rome Barbershopper for the purpose of instilling enthusiasm and generating new members into the Society. That will happen by making it fun, singing well and performing to audiences of **all ages**. We will need a few volunteers. *I've got it – give a penny's worth to Buzz and a penny's worth to the Rome Chorus!*

Once again from last month, it is imperative that we grow our membership to stay alive and I hope that we can aid this by having a stronger Rome Division. As I see it, this is a volunteer (non-profit) organization and we need you! Please share your talents with your chapter, Rome, JAD and/or the Society. Many thanks to Buzz Miller for putting this official paper together.

Make it fun!

Your Rome DM, Ken Williams

JAD Announces Fall Convention and Contest

The JAD has announced its Fall convention and Contest will be October 16 – 18 in Lima, Ohio. The venue will be Veterans Memorial Civic & Convention Center. The HQ hotel will be the Holiday Inn Lima, 1920 Roschman Ave, (419) 222 0004.

Competition registration will be open from August 24 until September 22. Competition will be open to all registered choruses and quartets. The quartet competition will include senior and novice quartets. Registration fee is \$35 per person, and you only pay once even if you compete in more than one chorus or quartet.

Local Barbershoppers Mourn the Passing of Don Winiesdorffer,

Don Winiesdorffer, who was a 25-year member of the Wheeling Metro Chapter, passed away on August 8th at the young age of 77. The Rome Division expresses our sympathies to his family, friends and Wheeling brothers.

Barbershoppers Mourn the Passing of Bud Arberg

Credited with inventing the term “Barbershop Craft”

By Buzz Miller

Barbershop Hall of Fame inductee Harold “Bud” Arberg, 90, died on August 4th in Arlington, VA. Mr. Arberg was a former director of the Alexandria Harmonizer chorus and a prolific arranger, having arranged over 250 songs in the barbershop style.

Mr. Arberg is credited for coining the term “barbershop craft” and providing the basis for what is today the BHS training program. When he became director of the Alexandria chorus in 1951, he began a program to train the singers in their “craft,” using a chalkboard and a piano to teach the fundamentals of barbershop harmony. His training programs spread to other Mid-Atlantic District chapters and eventually to chapters throughout the society. His program was a forerunner of the harmony Education Program (HEP), which evolved into Harmony College in the 1970’s. Mr. Arberg was a noted music educator who, while working for the Army, wrote the lyrics for “The Army Goes Rolling Along,” which became the “official” Army song on Veterans Day in 1956.

Two Rome Division Chapters Announce New Meeting Places

Two chapters within the Rome Division have announced new meeting places.

The Mon Valley Chapter will meet at the Rehoboth Presbyterian Church, 442 Rehoboth Road, Belle Vernon, Pa. 15012, on Tuesday evenings at 7 pm.

The North Hills Chapter will meet at St. Johns Lutheran Church-Highland, 311 Cumberland Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15237.

Barbershop Blast Set to Explode in Pittsburgh

The North Hills Harmony Line Chorus will be presenting their Barbershop Blast on Saturday Oct.3, 2009, 7:30 pm, at the West View Fireman’s Banquet Hall, 398 Perry Highway in Pittsburgh. The ticket price is \$15.00 and includes beer, soda, coffee and light snacks

The show will feature two choruses, several local quartets, and featuring the Hot Air Buffoons. For additional information, contact Joe Novelly at 724-733-8293 or cell.412-951-2293. His e-mail is Joe.novelly@philips.com

The Lows of Using High Tech to Improve Singing

By Buzz Miller

In my unrelenting pursuit to become a better barbershop singer, I have decided to try some of the techniques used by highly successful athletes – both professional and amateur. The results have been mixed, in that they have resulted in changes that didn't necessarily enhance my usefulness to the chorus.

First, I went out and bought one of those polyurethane swimsuits. You know, the kind that they have been using to set new swimming world records. And, wow! Did it ever help me? I wound up singing "Down Our Way" in 53.24 seconds. And, did I ever look sexy – that is if you discounted my potbelly, sagging chest, and love handles.

But alas, the music director didn't think the changes were helpful. Little did he know that we could have speeded up rehearsal time and completed more reps with those swimsuits. And, hey! If we put the whole chorus in those swimsuits, just imagine how our stage presence would have improved. On second thought, don't imagine that.

Next, I turned to performance enhancing drugs. I started with eye drops to improve my vision. Those drops improved my vision to where I could see my music so much more clearly. I discovered there were more notes on those pages than I had originally thought. But even though I could see the music better, I couldn't sing any better.

I then remembered that we had been given CDs to help us learn the music. How stupid of me to use eye drops! In a moment of pure genius, I went out and bought eardrops. One set of drops was designed to dry my ears after swimming or bathing. The other set was designed to remove wax from my ears. After seeing big clumps of wax drop from my ears and using the drying drops to remove any left-over moisture, I set about listening to the CDs. However, I found that I still had to listen to them over and over again, in spite of being able to hear them better. There isn't as much to this performance enhancing drug thing as you might think.

But then I realized I was missing the "magic" ingredient – steroids. I mixed some over-the-counter steroid creams and rubbed them on my neck, on top of where I thought my vocal chords might be. What a change! After going out and buying new shirts to accommodate my increased neck size, I was disappointed when I realized the changes didn't allow me to sing any better. I was able to beat up every member of the chorus, but my flats didn't get any sharper, and my sharps were as flat as before the steroids. I realize that the steroids might keep me out of the Barbershop Hall of Fame, but I was hoping for some improvement in my singing.

I guess I am going to have to stick to the old fashioned ways of looking at the music, listening to the tapes, and practicing singing. Isn't there any barbershop performance-enhancing drug?