



FootNotes



Jan. 20, 2009



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Director's Notes

About Our Show Songs

With a short time left until "SHOWTIME", we thought it may be both educational and entertaining to give you a bit of background on the songs we will be performing for the Spring Concert. So, over the next eight articles, we will share special insight and provide a valuable backdrop to the material we've chosen to entertain 'sell-out' crowds at the Van Wezel. So here we go.

HI NEIGHBOR

In 1941, *Hi Neighbor* was recorded and released by The Orin Tucker Orchestra and earned the #22 song of the year on the Annual Hit List. It was written by a man named Jack Owens, affectionately called "The Cruising Crooner". More on Jack later.

Hi Neighbor was featured in the 1941 film release, *San Antonio Rose*, an amiably wacky mini-musical evenly divided between its "official" star, *The Merry Macs*, an American close-harmony pop music quartet from Minneapolis, Minnesota in real life, and a strong cast of supporting clowns including Lon Chaney Jr., and the vivacious Eve Arden and the ever popular Shemp Howard of Three Stooges fame. As the story unfolds, a roadhouse operator, whose establishment is in danger of being squeezed out by its competition, teams up with stranded entertainers Eve Arden and Jane Frazee who decide to revivify the establishment by staging an energetic floor show built around the talented *Merry Macs*. A rival club owner dispatches his two top hooligans—Chaney and Shemp to wreck the club posing as waiters. The two stupes are easily cowed into submission by the leading ladies. Imagine how *Hi Neighbor* fits in the plot.

Continued in next column>

Calendar

2009

Mar. 8: Annual Show at Van Wezel: afterglow at SAHIB SHRINE, 600 N. Beneva Rd.

Continued-->

The Merry Macs were an active quartet from the 1920s and consisted of the three McMichael brothers and a female lead singer named Cheri McKay. Best known for the hits, "Mairzy Doats" and "Sentimental Journey", they also sang on recordings with Bing Crosby.

And what about "The Cruising Crooner" Jack Owens? The singer/songwriter who looked like Cary Grant and sang like Bing Crosby, when performing, would move around radio show audiences from woman to woman, crooning and cruising through the aisles singing love songs directly to the girls. Sometimes while sitting on their laps and mussing their hair, he would even kiss them. While this appealed to some women, it offended critics and boy-friends, a full seven years before anyone had ever heard of Elvis Presley. Yet a different twist on *Hi Neighbor*.

The SCOK will choose *Hi Neighbor* to welcome our audience with a rhythmic theme, an energetic performance approach and some vintage choreography... "NOW THAT'S BARBERSHOP"! Although we will enter coming down the aisles for *Hospitality*, ALL performers will be onstage by the time *Hi Neighbor* begins. No one will be left in the aisles.

Have fun with this one.

Your directing team—

Coacher and GGG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Member

1-20 Don Loos
1-24 Hank Stromenger

And Spouse

1-22 Franchin Wise, Bill
1-24 Lois Ann Huldin, Don

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

None to report

MEETING NIGHT AFTERGLOW

Everyone is Welcome..... to attend our weekly "Afterglow" immediately following the meeting. You're invited to wet your whistle, sing songs with the guys, chat with our Director and get a bite to eat in the mall alcove at Applebee's Restaurant on Main Street about 3 blocks east of our meeting hall on the corner of the movie theater parking garage. Park along Main Street or pull into the parking garage (it's free at that time of night) and come and ring some chords from 9:15 pm until.....?

See you there!

ANNUAL CHAPTER AWARDS

For those who attended our Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of new Officers, it was a good time for all. Our thanks to our MC Gordon Lenci, hosts Don and Mary Ann Scholten the fabulous quartet TRUETONES, Don Loos, installation officer, and Howard Dobson & his awards committee for the great job. I haven't had a better dinner since the last time we got together at The Meadows.

25 Year Pins—Dave Frantz, Bob King, Jerry Lunkes, Jim Styer

45 Year Pins—Arnie Appel, Gene Courts

Rookie of the Year—Bob Amer

Music Award—TrueTones

Hall of Fame—Del Sinclair

BOTY—Tom Hankins

Presidents Award—Jim Stoup

OUR WEBSITE

All of the information for viewing, listening to, or downloading files, training CDs, and recent rehearsal recordings is available on our web site at — www.chorusofthekeys.org

Go to the **Members** page by clicking on **Members** in the main menu. You will need a password to access this page. If you don't know it, ask any member; but for security reasons, please **DO NOT EVER** email the password (or ask someone else to). On the **Members** page, click on **Current Rehearsals**.

Sunshine News

A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER

Jump at opportunities
more often than you jump to conclusions.

Cards, calls & prayers are always welcome.
Sunshine Chair— Ed Manville **941-346-8219** or
[<hiedm3@comcast.net>](mailto:hiedm3@comcast.net)

AD CAMPAIGN — 2009 SHOW PROGRAM

The time for closing out our AD Sales Campaign for the 2009 SHOW PROGRAM is drawing near, with only **TEN DAYS** remaining. So far we have only 1/2 of a book in hand. We still need to secure the big ones (Inside front and back covers & Back Cover!). No more procrastination. We have yet to get enough ad income to pay for the printing costs. This is a challenge which I know the members of the CHORUS OF THE KEYS is up to, so let's hit the streets. Every business card that can be scanned (without art work of editing) is another \$60 towards off-setting our costs. There is a current list of those supporters we have secured to date posted on church bulletin boards where we enter. I'll bet your favorite Doctor, Dentist, Accountant, Restaurant, or Retail Store is not yet on that list. **LET'S GO GUYS!**

WE HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE ON TV

The Truetones were interviewed on "Community", The TV Show. It's on Comcast Channel 21.

Host Annette Scherman interviewed the Quartet about the Chorus, the Van Wezel Show and Valentine's promotion, as well as individual backgrounds, Chorus and Quartet music, Directors and Chorus history.

This half hour show is seen daily at 7:30 AM and 4:00 PM as well as Sunday at 6:00 PM. The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys interview is scheduled to run Wednesday the 21st in both the 7:30 and 4:00 slots. Friday the 23rd at 7:30 and Monday the 26th at both the 7:30 and 4:00 slots. That's 150 minutes of TV coverage for January alone.

Latest independent survey reports that "Community" is the most watched local TV show in this area.

News & Views for the FootNotes

should be sent to the editor at—
[<editorken@yahoo.com>](mailto:editorken@yahoo.com) by **Noon Monday**.
This address is for **FootNotes** articles only.
For all other emails, please use—
[<rohorskf@yahoo.com>](mailto:rohorskf@yahoo.com) Thank you, Ken