



# FORTUNETELLER



Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune  
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District  
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**"WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP, WE ENRICH SOCIETY WITH A-LEVEL BARBERSHOP ENTERTAINMENT"**

**November 2008**

## 2008 Pan Pacific Convention



The "*Great Pacific Harmony*" was held October 31-November 1 in Honolulu. This tremendous event, hosted by the **Sons of Aloha Chorus** (part of BHS Far Western District), was open to choruses and quartets from around the Pacific Rim. There were 25 quartets (including 10 seniors), 17 choruses (547 men) and 3 mixed harmony groups. The beautiful Hawaii Theatre was a delight; it dates back to the mid 20's with balconies, gilt-edged paintings, orchestra pit and Wurlitzer Organ.



From the **GoF** the newly formed quartet **Force Four** did well (**Allan Pinvidic, Mac Matheson, Bill Kowk, Jim Gibson**) and the chorus came 3<sup>rd</sup>

overall (with bronze medal and highest singing scores). Other Evergreen District representatives were the **Quartet Formerly Known as Prince William Sound, Anchorage Midnight Suns Chorus**, Contest Administrator **Brian Ayres** and **Chuck Landback** in the seniors quartet 1<sup>st</sup> place winner **Vintage Gold**.

Contestants came from New Zealand, who dominated the contest with 7 choruses & 11 quartets, Australia (3&3), Japan (2&4), Hawaii (1&1), Alaska (1&1), California (2&3) and BC (1&1). **Hi-Fidelity** (FWD) took quartet 1<sup>st</sup>; **Vintage Gold** (FWD, EVG) seniors 1<sup>st</sup>,

and **Pride of Auckland** were Chorus Champs (and Small Chorus winners) with **NZABS Northern Regional Chorus** in 2<sup>nd</sup> (and Large Chorus winners). Those Maoris really sing both on and off stage. **Tokyo Metropolitan** were Intermediate Chorus winners.



### A Medal! by Tucker Goodwin

Thanks Charlie, thanks Gentlemen of Fortune. After 38 years of Barbershop singing, I finally have a medal!

### Reflections by David Jones

From an old timer, the efforts of the last twenty years have paid off handsomely, and the Chorus has been gradually gaining in momentum and excellence. The dedication to detail, and faithfully following the guidance of our Director and the great coaching we have been given, has truly helped us to ascend to Medal status. I am proud to be part of such a talented group who give of their best for the success of the whole Chorus. [More reflections and pictures on pages 3 & 4]

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Get you **Christmas Show ticket orders** in to **Laurie Dye**. Tell all your friends and neighbours about the talent on show December 6<sup>th</sup> at the Michael J. Fox.

## 2008 Chapter Officers

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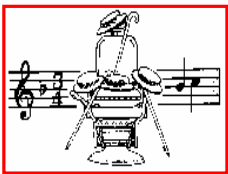
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## November 2008 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

### 40 years ago this month (1968)

**Rob Hood** showed up as a guest in Nov '68, as well as **Bob O'Shaughnessy**. We donated our uniform white jackets to the Penticton Chorus (their fee for coming down for our show). Our chorus hosted a SING DING sponsored by the area council. The party included all chapters in the area for a dinner and dance with some quartet and mini chorus singing. Barbershopper of the Year was (guess who) - **Me**.

### 30 years ago (1978)

**Harry Magee** was presented with the Barbershopper of the Year award at the installation banquet. The Area Councillor **Tucker Goodwin** installed **Harry Magee** as President, **George Metzger** as VP. **Gary Korstrom** took over as Treasurer. We officially retired our hobo costumes, little did we know.

### 20 years ago (1988)

We sang on the **Chilliwack Chapter** show, along with the quartet **Both Sides Now**. A move to the Elks Club in New Westminster was begun as the facility at Queen's Park was becoming too small. The repertoire for '88 included; *Forgive Me, Don't Cry Little Girl Don't Cry, I'm Knee deep in Daisies, When the Midnight Choo-Choo Leaves for Alabam, Ain't She Sweet and Shine on Harvest Moon*. I have no record of who received the Barbershopper of the Year for 1988. [Mac Collver, Ed.]

## Evergreen District at Boise

**Boise Valley Chordsmen** hosted the Evergreen District Convention October 24/25 and there are reports of a great weekend.



Quartet Champs are **3 Outa Four** from Salem and **West Coast Fusion** placed 4<sup>th</sup> (**Andry Layarda, Sean Huston,**

**Jeremy Wong, Pat Downton**). Seniors Quartet Champs and District reps to Midwinter International Seniors in January, 2009 are **Synchromesh** from Langley with **Byron Walton** as bass. 2008 Chorus Champs are **Salem Senate-Aires** with **Bellevue Northwest Sound** in 2<sup>nd</sup> place; both choruses will be competing at International in Anaheim, CA next July - Bellevue got a wild card.

## Byron to International

On the weekend of October 24-25, 2008 the current Division 1 Seniors Quartet Champions **Synchromesh** competed in Boise, Idaho at the District Convention. This was a very exciting weekend as it was the quartet's first District level competition and they were fortunate enough to win 2 awards: **Highest Scoring Seniors Quartet & District Seniors Quartet Champions**. The quartet actually placed 10<sup>th</sup> out of 26 quartets competing in the contest. **Synchromesh** now qualifies to represent the District at the Mid-Winter International Seniors Quartet Contest in Pasadena, CA in January 2009.

Byron joined the quartet 3 weeks prior to the District contest because the quartet's Bass, **Martin Esau** from the Langley chorus, is undergoing very serious cancer treatment & was unable to sing at District. Byron says they had about 5 rehearsals together & he had to learn or re-learn 4 songs that the quartet knew. He is still amazed at how he fooled the judges into thinking he actually knew all of the correct words & notes to the songs!!!



Synchromesh Members:  
**Byron Walton**- Bass (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) and from **Langley** (1 - r)  
**Mike Wilcox** - Tenor, **Gordon Harris** -Lead, **Bill Findlay**- Bari.

## Pan Pacific Trip – More views

### An Expression of Thanks by Moe Jones

Last year, the Chapter Board decided that the 2008 Pan Pacific Convention would be an excellent trip for the Chorus. The Travel Fund topped out at over \$14,000, for a distribution of \$330 to each member who traveled to Hawaii. So, a special thanks to the Board members who built up the Fund and decided on this goal.

The original Pan Pacific committee included **Rick Morrison** (registration), **Bob Moller** (fund raising), **Don Frost** (travel coordinator), and **Moe Jones** (chair). Rick and Bob had to step down at the early stages, so thanks to them for helping to get the committee going.

Don took over registration and made travel arrangements with Action Travel; he certainly had some challenging issues. A special thanks to you, Don, for all the details and arrangements that you made for the Chorus.



Thanks to **Ray Fallan**, as chorus manager, for coordinating the details required for chorus rehearsals, the contest, and other arrangements during our time in Hawaii. And, **Charlie**, we thank you for all your hard work and everything that you do to prepare us for competitions. Last, but not least, thank you to all the **chorus members**, for your hard work and dedication to have made this trip possible.

Now, on to new plans for our next trip?

## EVERYDAY LAWS

**Brown's Law of Physical Appearances:**  
 If the clothes fit, they're ugly. [Sorry Ray]

## Thoughts from Taro and Shoji

The boys were both very excited to be in the first Canadian chorus to compete at the Pan Pacific A Cappella Convention & Contest.



**Taro** thought it was really cool to do an actual warm-up/run through right before going on contest stage. He was thrilled and appreciated seeing a bunch of Canadian flags waving in the audience.

**Shoji** said it was the best singing experience of his life, ever. His holiday after the contest was pretty good too. It was a wonderful surprise to get a medal at their first International event. This is their first for singing, so it's extra special.

The boys really liked meeting new and interesting people and both enjoyed singing *My Wild Irish Rose* in the elevator with a gentleman from Sidney. There were just enough parts with Mom singing lead.

They agree the event was awesome, the coolest, and extremely fun to sing in Hawaii, "...way better than singing in Abbotsford!" They are still waiting on getting candy owed them from the chorus for Hallowe'en night.

## Allan Pinvidic



I had a great time in Hawaii. Along with singing in the contest as a chorus member, quartet member (Force 4), I also spent time singing Polecats and tags with as many others as possible. It was particularly cool to sing the standards with members of the Tokyo Barbers, who knew all the songs, albeit with a slight accent. Not too many hobbies in the world that you can walk up to someone from Japan, with whom you can't otherwise communicate, and be able to share the craft and the passion of singing barbershop.

## Hawaii! by Peter Lissett

The view from our hotel window on our first morning amazed us; the bright sunshine, the blue Pacific, high rises and a marina down below. Great breakfasts at the Plantation Café shared with fellow GoF members was

another highlight. I thought the registration process was very efficient, even though a fellow there declared that I had a 'very strong' accent! Imagine! The transportation logistics must have been quite the challenge to plan with so many people going to and from the Hawaii Theatre. However, overall it went very well, given the volumes emerging from the venue after each event and the pretty horrendous traffic congestion that seems to prevail in Honolulu. We won't have that problem to contend with at Whistler next year.

As for our performance, I left the stage feeling that we couldn't have done any better!



Some of the GoF Support Group

### Hawaii Limo by Ian McGillivray

Prior to the Convention, Rita & I, along with Rod MacLeod & Martha Todd, took a trip to Pearl Harbor to visit the Arizona Memorial. We rode the bus out and, after touring the museum /memorial site, were waiting on the highway for the bus back to the hotel. While waiting, we were accosted by a somewhat dishevelled character offering a "cheap limo" ride back to Waikiki. After negotiating him down to \$20 for the four of us, we crossed the highway to encounter a limo, yes, but one that had definitely seen better days. There was cracked upholstery, no working power windows, bolted-on fans replacing the defunct air-conditioning, and crystal decanter/glasses of mysterious liquids. Still, we were committed and, after a U-turn on the Nimitz Highway that held up traffic and almost lost the transmission, we were eventually returned to our destination with a



revised view of what limousine travel is all about. The ultimate surprise was when, on telling this story to

Charlie in the hotel, he remarked that they, too, had travelled in the same limo and, together with our group, kept entrepreneurship alive in Honolulu.

### Polecats by Harry Gray

I was chatting to a group near the elevators when a voice said "Harry! We need a baritone." Not sure I had heard right, but realising that "without a baritone it ain't barbershop", I joined a crowd of guys and we went through half a dozen polecats with great gusto. It was fascinating to have folks from half way around the globe, with different accents (and languages), all singing the same harmonies. I even got to do the baritone tag tiddlies on "*Shine on Me*" and "*Sweet, Sweet Roses of Morn*" which raised some eyebrows (fortunately Charlie wasn't around). Passing on bad habits I guess. Oh well.

### **Comment #73** by Bill Gibbons

"In defence of his suggestion for new chorus uniforms, my friend claimed that 'the better you're dressed, the better you sing.' I gave it a try. I wore a brand new, top of the line, 3-piece suit to the next chorus rehearsal. I still flatted."

**Deadline for the next issue is December 16, 2008**

## CALENDAR

### 2008

- Nov 29 [50/50 Show](#) St Mary's, Vancouver
- Dec 6 [Christmas Shows](#) Michael J Fox
- Dec 7 [Singout](#) Lougheed Mall
- Dec 14 [50/50 Show](#) Como Lake United

### 2009

- Jan 16-17 QCED Show Seaside, OR
- Jan 29-31 Midwinter, Pasadena, CA
- Feb 14 [Valentine's Day](#)
- Mar 27-28 [Division I Convention](#) Vernon, BC
- April 10 Easter
- May 8-9 Prelims/Div IV, Hillsboro, OR
- May 12 BC Election Day
- May 18 Victoria Day
- June 28-July 5 International, Anaheim, CA
- July 18-19 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
- July 26 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
- Sept 5-7 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
- Sept 7 Labour Day
- Sept 11-13 [Retreat](#) Brackendale, BC
- Oct 12 Thanksgiving
- Oct 30-Nov 1 [District Convention](#) Whistler, BC
- Dec [Christmas Show](#)

### 2010

- Feb 12-28 Winter Olympics
- Feb 14 [Valentine's Day](#)
- Mar 12-21 Winter Paralympics