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Four Flats News Article

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GFC Scholarship Benefit Set



1947

Two-time champions (1947, 1948) of Northwest Barbershop Ballad Contest at Forest Grove, Oregon . . .



1972

. . . and still champions! (In rehearsal, 1972, from left—Dick Cadd, bass; Harlow Ankeny, baritone; Norval Hadley, first tenor; and Ron Crecelius, lead.)

In 1946 four George Fox College students got together to un through some male quartet selections. It sounded pret- / good.

They tried their talents in ublic and captivated their au- dences with mellow harmony and appropriate antics to ac- company their lively songs.

A year later they entered the Forest Grove barbershop quartet ballad contest. They won first place.

They entered again in the following year and again captured the top prize for quartets in the Northwest.

That was the beginning of one of the most famous music groups ever produced in Oregon—the Four Flats Quartet, later called the World Vision Quartet as it sang to millions around the world.

Special performance

Twenty-five years later, all four members are once again living in Newberg and a combination of city service clubs is bringing them together for a special performance.

Members of the Newberg Kiwanis and Optimist clubs are sponsoring a benefit concert Saturday night (Nov. 11) at Newberg High School with all proceeds to be given to the George Fox College scholarship fund.

Master of ceremonies will be Portland TV personality Kirby Brumfield.

As the "Four Flats," the four men sang together until 1952, receiving offers to enter full-time in an entertainment career. Instead they chose to devote their voices and talents to the church.

Continuing to sing together on a part-time basis, the group in 1956 became a full-time part of the World Vision missionary organization.

As the World Vision quartet the members sang before millions in person on two visits to the Far East, including Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Formosa, Hong Kong and the Philippines.

In the spring of 1957, the quartet spent five-weeks in a crusade in Manila, Philippines.

They made two trips across the United States on singing tours. But the quartet is probably most remembered by millions for their singing on the weekly Sunday morning World Vision broadcast on ABC radio.

Presidential breakfasts

The Newberg-formed group twice was invited to sing for Presidential Prayer Breakfasts—in 1957 and again in 1960.

The group recorded three albums during its career. It sang in high schools, before civic organizations, at conventions, summer conferences, youth meetings, revival meetings, and on both television and radio.

What are they doing today?

Baritone Harlow Ankeny is general manager of Barclay Press, a printing and publishing arm of the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church.

He's been in that position since 1962 when the organization moved to Newberg.

Bass Dick Cadd since 1962 has been a missionary in the Philippines, teaching at Faith Academy in Manila and doing radio and television work. He is currently on a year's furlough in Newberg.

Chaplain

Second tenor Ronald Crecelius is chaplain at George Fox College. He's been at George Fox since 1967, coming from the post of chaplain at Azusa Pacific College.

First tenor Norval Hadley is currently superintendent of the Northwest Yearly Meeting of Friends Church with 7,000 members in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

He became superintendent of the church organization in July, 1971, after 11 years with the World Vision organization as assistant to the president.

All four men are George Fox graduates. Each member married his college sweetheart and each wife graduated from George Fox the same year as her husband with the same degree.

Reunion concert

With hundreds of song selections from which to draw, the quartet is preparing a reunion concert that will include its first barbershop ballads, spirituals they have recorded, contemporary numbers and gospel selections. Instrumental backup using college students is being planned for some numbers.

Concert organizers stress all proceeds go toward the college scholarship fund.

The quartet is donating its time as well as club members preparing the program. Concert time is 8 p.m.

Tickets are available at the door.



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