

CENTENNIAL GLEE CLUB FORMED IN MOUNT PULASKI BACK IN 1933

Club Grew To 35 Members In Short Time

(Feb. 2, 1933)

The Mount Pulaski Centennial Men's Glee Club is now a reality as the result of organization plans which were completed last Sunday afternoon.

Responding to a called meeting for the formation of such an organization, 18 men were present at the American Legion club rooms, above the post office, all eager to break forth into song in a big way.

Paul Merry, of Lincoln, who needs no introduction to Mount Pulaskians, was present to assist with a rehearsal before the business session was held. With Mrs. Frank Turley presiding at the piano, and with the different sections fairly well balanced, a rousing practice was had, and left the participants highly enthusiastic not only over their achievements, but the effects of their concerted voices.

Following the rehearsal the club became a reality with the selection of the following officers:

President, Wilbur Stoll; Secretary-Treasurer, O. W. Mayer; Business Manager, H. J. Wible; Librarian, Joe Snyder.

The personnel of the organization at present is: Frank E. Turley, Page Waddell, Jr., Harry Sisk, L. F. Sams, George J. Smith, H. J. Wible, Paul Gruber, J. Wayne Staley, O. W. Mayer, Wilbur Stoll, Loren Harper, Omer Potter, Gene Clear, B. A. Tyler, Frank Snyder, John Snyder, Otto Ey, Earl Potter, Edward O. Mayer, Eugene K. Connolly, Clarence Bowers, Paul R. Moore, Keith Rothwell and Joe Snyder.

Paul Merry has been engaged as director, and the next rehearsal will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock sharp, in the Legion club rooms. It is essential that every member be there next Sunday, if at all possible, in view of an engagement that the club has the following week.

SAN JOSE CONCERT WELL RECEIVED

(Feb. 8, 1934)

The Mount Pulaski Centennial Glee Club made a very favorable impression in their exchange concert at San Jose last Sunday afternoon.

San Jose, which is noted for its love of good music, turned out with an almost capacity attendance in the large auditorium of the German Methodist Church, and the club members felt quite at home.

Lone Hills, The Old Road, Bill of Fare, The Winter Song, Old Man River, Goin' To Shout, O

THEME SONG FOR 1936 CENTENNIAL

(April 13, 1933)

Among the numbers to be given by the Centennial Glee Club in their concert at the township high school auditorium on Friday evening, April 28, will be a popular tune that has found its way into the hearts of millions the past few months.

"Just A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet," is the title of this number, and it has been selected by the club as the theme song for their part in the 1936 Centennial. The number has been specially arranged for male chorus rendition by the director, Paul Merry, and will be one of the regular numbers on every program until after the Centennial.

The words are particularly appropriate to such an event as the Centennial when old friends do come back and renew old friendships and are greeted in a friendly sort of way.

CLUB PRESENTED FIVE WINTER SERIES LYCEUM NUMBERS

(Jan. 10, 1935)

A winter Lyceum series of 5 number will be presented to the people of this community by the Centennial Glee Club starting the latter part of this month.

The talent which will be brought here will be by the Lincoln Civic Orchestra, numbering 25 musicians under the leadership of Prof. H. O. Merry; Vera Pearl Kemp Ensemble from Bloomington, featuring Miss Winifred Mayer as vocal soloist; a group of Springfield players will present a 3-act comedy drama that has been a marked success in their presentation before Springfield audiences; an A Capella Choir from Decatur, which is one of the outstanding musical organizations of this musical center will present one of the programs.

Season ticket sales are now being conducted by the members of the Glee Club, the price for the five numbers being only \$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children of high school and grade school age. This averages only 20 cents a program for adults and only 10c for school pupils. The regular door admission will vary according to the program, ranging from 25c to 35c.

God of Gods, and, Thanks Be To God." Wilbur Stoll sang "The Toreador" and Requiem, and Harry J. Wible sang "The Publican" and "Friend of Mine". A male quartet composed of J. Wayne Staley, Paul Gruber, Omer Potter and Gene Clear sang two numbers, "Marching Men" and "Swing Along."

GLEE CLUB STARTED HOMECOMINGS BACK IN 1934; NOW FIESTA

The activities of the Centennial Glee Club were many and varied. The musical organization formed during the depression period, brought not only enjoyment and helped build the morale of the participants, but gave the community some fine entertainment and pleasure when they were compelled by a shortage of funds to stay at home.

Shortly after the club was formed, in 1934, they managed to "finance" tuxedos for the entire club which did much to dress up the new organization.

One of their first public appearances was at the Lincoln Chautauqua a few months after their organization, where they made quite a hit and it startled Lincolniters that Mount Pulaski had such a versatile group of musicians.

They gave an exchange concert with San Jose Men's Glee Club and appeared at various places in the county at civic meetings.

Started Homecomings

The club started the present trend of fall celebrations back in 1934 with an event so successful that the late Brook Aitchison enthusiastically stated: "With a start like this there is no reason why Mount Pulaski can't revive the old horseshow days." Being a comparative newcomer to Mt. Pulaski, the publisher, who was business manager of the Glee Club, thought it a wishful but forlorn hope. Our query was, "Where will you find enough horses for a horse show? The automobile has put them out of existence!"

How wrong we were was proven the next fall, when a combined horse show and homecoming opened the eyes of most folks who had thought that the horse was extinct. It was a great show. Then the following year a still greater show combined with the Logan County 4-H Show gave promise of a still greater future, but the Logan County Fair came into being the following year and quashed the revival.

One summer during the Glee Club's tenure of three years, a series of weekly programs were given in the bandstand on the courthouse lawn. These programs consisted of concerts, skits like the "Womanless Wedding," "Howdy Judge," minstrels, hobo and clown array for humorous evening. These programs were all worked-out through weekly rehearsals and gave the public a lot of enjoyment and helped to build up morale during those rough days.

One amusing incident during the Homecoming ways was when a man the club had hired to run a hot dog stand was jailed at Clinton. The club bailed him out so he could be here.



CARY L. ROBARDS WOULD HAVE ENJOYED MT. PULASKI SIL-TENNIAL

Mount Pulaskians Would Have Enjoyed His Music, Too

One person Mount Pulaskians of other days are going to miss during the Sil-Tennial, is the late Cary L. Robards, who passed away in Peoria last year.

Cary was a master musician, who played for the love of playing. He was one of those persons who had a God-given talent and was generous with it. His early career in Mount Pulaski started when he was about four years of age. Whenever a bunch of youngsters congregated, Cary was sure to be leading the parade beating his little drum. Music lessons at an early age proved that he had a natural ability for this art and his mother encouraged him and gave him lessons on the piano. He was an apt pupil and advanced rapidly.

Cary attended school here until his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Robards, moved to Decatur. Later they moved to Peoria when he was about 17 years old. His conquest in the field of entertainment there is best told by the following reprint from the Peoria Journal Star:

If it's "cue" music you want Cary L. Robards will give it to you.

He's a seasoned show man with inspiration at his fingertips and a memory for old-time familiar musical hits.

Peorians have come to expect

him to play "The Skater's Waltz" at a Bradley University basketball game if word goes out over the public address system that driving has become hazardous because of ice, sleet or snow.

Cary broke into the silent motion picture game back in the days when this century was young and so was he. He played the piano at the Princess, the Hippodrome, the Orpheum, Majestic and the Palace theaters, until the talkies came along and ruined the musicians' business for a while. Now it's radio and TV.

When asked about the first big hit he remembered he said it was "Too Much Mustard" which was the hot tune when he played the piano and caliope on the old Columbia River Excursion Boat.

He also mentioned "Down In Mondy Town" and "Daisies Won't Tell" and "Down Among The Sheltering Palms" which he played for Mamie Eisenhower at the Bradley Fieldhouse.

When he first heard "Love Me Tender", the Elvis Presley hit number of today, he thought it had a familiar ring.

A look through some of his old original music manuscript resurrected the song that had been haunting him. It was "Ora Lee", a pre-Civil War hit number.

In addition to his organ programming at Bradley Fieldhouse, Cary plays with the Shrine Chanters and for radio station WSIV, Pekin.



MOUNT PULASKI'S GLEE CLUB—Formed in 1933, provided not only a lot of enjoyment for the club, but this community and others as well. This picture was taken just before they made their appearance on the Lincoln Chautauqua program Aug. 10, 1933. **Back Row (left to right)**—Louis F. Sams, Byron Blout, Loren Harper, B. A. Tyler, Frank Snyder, Omer Potter, Noel

Suedmeier. **Middle Row**—Joe Snyder, E. O. Mayer, Frank Turley, Rev. J. Wayne Staley, George J. Smith, Harry Sisk, Gus Stuart. **Front Row**—Page Waddell, Jr., Gene C. Clear, John Snyder, Earl Potter, Harry J. Wible, E. Keith Rothwell, Wilbur Stoll, Paul Merry, director; Harold Anderson.