

Chorus Chatter

News and Musings for Young at Heart Chorus Members

<https://www.youngatheartlascruces.website/>

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In the Limelight

We'd love to have you sing a solo or duet or form a small ensemble of singers for a "Special" song in one of our programs. The board has come up with the following plans to make sure the experience is as enjoyable as possible for you and our audiences.

1. You will need to select your song and get the music to Barbara a month before the program.
2. The song should fit in with the theme of the month.
3. You need to be at both practices for the month and go through the song at both to be sure you and Barbara are on the same "page."
4. The music team members (Dennis &/or Ray) will listen to your rehearsal and may offer coaching and advice to help you make the best impression.
5. You should be able to attend all four performances so we can present a full program.
6. You should provide a 3 or 4 line introduction for the song.

7. Generally, each person will be limited to one solo or other act per year, unless there is an unfilled opening after other members have first had a chance.

Uncle Sam



How did the United States get its nickname, Uncle Sam? The name is linked to Samuel Wilson, a meat packer from Troy,

New York, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson (1766-1854) stamped the barrels with "U.S." for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as "Uncle Sam's." The local newspaper picked up on the story and Uncle Sam eventually gained widespread acceptance as the nickname for—and personification of—the U.S. federal government.

In the late 1860s and 1870s, political cartoonist Thomas Nast (1840-1902)

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began popularizing the image of Uncle Sam. Nast continued to evolve the image, eventually giving Sam the white beard and stars-and-stripes suit that are associated with the character today. The German-born Nast was also credited with creating the modern image of Santa Claus as well as coming up with the donkey as a symbol for the Democratic Party and the elephant as a symbol for the Republicans.

Perhaps the most famous image of Uncle Sam was created by artist James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960). In Flagg's version, Uncle Sam wears a tall top hat and blue jacket and is pointing straight ahead at the viewer. During World War I, this portrait of Sam with the words "I Want You For The U.S. Army" was used as a recruiting poster.

In September 1961, the U.S. Congress recognized Samuel Wilson as "the progenitor of America's national symbol of Uncle Sam." Wilson died at age 87 in 1854, and was buried next to his wife Betsey Mann in the Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, New York, the town that calls itself "The Home of Uncle Sam."

Lost Words from our Childhood

Mergatroyd! Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize it?

Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day a not so elderly (I'd say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a **Jalopy**; and he looked at her quizzically and said, "What the heck is a Jalopy?"

Well, I hope you are **Hunky**

Dory after you read this and chuckle.

Here are some more old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology. **Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and Hung out to dry.**

Back in the olden days we had a lot of **moxie**. We'd put on **our best bib and tucker to straighten up and fly right. Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping**

Jehoshaphat! Holy Moley!

We were **in like Flynn** and **living the life of Riley**; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a **knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!**

Back in the olden days, life used to be **swell**, but when's the last time anything was swell? **Swell has gone**

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the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.: of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore. We wake up from what surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, *"Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!"* Or, *"This is a fine kettle of fish!"*

We discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone Where have all those great phrases gone? *Long gone. Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.*

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions

than *Carter has liver pills.* This can be very disturbing stuff! *(Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)*

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age. We, at the other end of the chronological arc, have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory. *It's one of the greatest advantages of aging!*

Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth. *See ya later, alligator! Okidoki.* You'll notice they left out *"Monkey Business"*! Submitted by Joan Kowalski

