Elmhaven Manor

The chorus (18-strong) sang for a Mothers’ Day luncheon at Elmhaven Manor, Friday, May 12.

Freddie led us expertly thru a 15-set, 13 by the chorus and two (“For All We Know” and “Breakin’ Up is Hard to Do”) by Bidin’ Our Time. He had the songs grouped into: Opening, Old Favorites, On Broadway, Juke Box, Going to the Movies, and Finale.

A few expectees were missing, including Greenwood by illness and Wallace, who was hospitalized with a new blood clot.

All agreed that the singing was optimal, and the crowd of about 70 seemed to enjoy it very much, some of them mouthing along to the better-known songs.

It was a special treat for Jon Knapp to have his daughter present, who hadn’t heard her dad barbershopping before. Gene Downie’s and Walt DeNio’s wives contributed support.

Around the Patch

May 9th was Austin Suthers’ birthday celebration. There was birthday cake to celebrate! Austin had his family visiting, and listening to him sing HIS song, "I Will Go Sailing No More!"

Jerry Ramey Retires

Our May 16 rehearsal began on a serious note, as member Jerry Ramey reported that he has decided to withdraw from the chorus. He praised the chorus for its vocality and its sense of community, and for the support it has given him as he has tried to learn to sing on pitch. But the effort has not availed. Good bye Jerry.
The McVea Thank-You Party

It was 13 Chieftains who joined Peggy and Bud McVea at OverTyme Grill May 16. We sang a few songs and enjoyed the pizza and drinks that the McVea’s furnished in appreciation for our giving Doc Stone a musical home in his last two years. Thanks, Peggy and Bud.

Concerning the Cancellation of Log Cabin Days:

“I received a phone message from President Sally Strait. The Historical Society is having difficulty staffing the event for two days. They made the decision to cut back the event to one day - Sunday, June 25, which eliminated several musical groups. They were greatly appreciative of our participation in the past.” The New Horizons Jazz Band was also cancelled.

Jack

Harmony Explosion Scholarships

The Executive Board has voted to fund twelve scholarships to Harmony Explosion, July 19-22. Information at: https://tinyurl.com/mvvnubb

Maryann Lambrecht believes that Milford can fill eight slots. She plans to bring her students to our High School Night, June 6. “We have had quite a busy year this year. Filled with success. Many of the successes were with our women. However, Cole Harvey one of our tenors was selected to sing at the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. One of only four men and eight women chosen from across the state!”

Bill Sclesky’s son, Kyle, has been visiting us. Welcome, Kyle.

Dave Warner was a guest May 16 and 23 but has decided not to continue. Those high Lead notes were part of the problem. He retired from advertising to write novels. He has published three. You can read a few pages of his last one, Dead Lock, at https://tinyurl.com/k27k8v7. It’s a thriller about a 1943 Nazi plot to blow up the Soo locks.

Greg and Beverly Moss are touring Europe.

Mary and Jack Teuber have been sending back photos of their week in Utah, visiting National Parks...Zion, Bryce, Capitol Reef... What beautiful photos! https://www.facebook.com/mary.teuber

Ted Prueter

As Ted’s son Richard deals with his own medical issues, the family has moved Ted to the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Ted Prueter, Room #223
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
3000 Monroe Ave NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505
(616) 364-5300
Open: 9AM–5PM
Ted’s Ph. # 248-310-0307 (but he can’t access messages left on this number)

Mike Keith was reported hospitalized with a TIA (transient ischemic attack).

Eric Domke hurt his knee in a fall, will get an MRI, and is awaiting the final furnishing of a suitable van. “I have a possible torn something in my knee preventing me from walking much at all.”

From Music VP, Zach Schroeder:

I have been very busy lately with work, singing in two choruses, planning our shows (2017-2018), starting a new chorus, planning the future of The Troubadour with my Co-editor, Cody Harrell, and taking care of a Silky Terrier with a Napoleon complex.... It’s ruff, at times, (see what I did there?), but I’m enjoying every minute of it!
From Director Tom:
Welcome to our new member Jason Hanson! Welcome again to our visitors and guests! Continue to come as we enjoy having you be with us in voice and in song!

Huron Valley Community Chorus Spring Concert
Charlie Perry, and Austin Suthers and his mother were members of 24-person choir that gave their spring concert Sunday, May 7 at Faith Lutheran Church. The fifteen songs included patriotic songs, show songs, a madrigal, pop, and religious songs. In the audience were four Chieftains - Bob Greenwood, Freddie McFadyen, John Cowlishaw, and Roger and Janet Holmes. And one of Charlie's pre-teen girl softball players who came to see what his other passion was all about. The bright sun and cold temperatures were perfect for bringing out a large crowd, perhaps 90, including many former members of the chorus, which was founded in 1977 and directed by Jackie Rhodes for the last 20 or so years.

Jackson Chorale Concert
I just wanted to send a thank you message to the Big Chiefs and chicks that were able to make it to The Jackson Chorale concert to support Greg, and his chick, and me!

Doc Mann, Fred McFadyen, Roger and Janet Holm, Bob and Mari Ellen Greenwood, Pat Hefner, Tom and Emma Blue were there, and even Al Fisk was there!

It's truly amazing how music can bring so many people together!

Zach

Geographical Relocation Statistics
Walter Bachmann and John Cowlishaw were discussing planned relocations (John by Aug 1 to Brunswick, GA, Walter later to Tucson, AZ) Tuesday night at OverTyme Grille. Attention turned to the other five guys present: none foresee a move out of the area.

Bidin' Our Time sang for Tom Blue's Van Hoosen and Adams classes, and at Rochester High, where BCC member Jason Hanson reported there was much excitement about barbershop among the students that continued after the quartet had left.

LIMITED EDITION did a 19-song, one-hour gig Friday, May 26, at Baldwin House in Birmingham. Lifestyle Director Beth Selbee has hired the chorus and quartets many times before at Lockwood of Waterford.

Limited Edition: Art in the Atrium
It was LIMITED EDITION's final gig, and what a way to go out! The event was a fundraiser for Clarkson Cultural Arts, Saturday evening, May 20. It was titled Art in the Atrium and was held in The Gateway, in the Village of Clarkson. For three hours over a hundred guests bid on art works, sampled the food and drinks, and listened to four musical groups dispersed thru the five rooms - THE TWO TALLS (a very talented violinist/accordion duo), a guitarist on a Chapman Stick, a pianist, and the quartet. (If you've never heard a 12-string Chapman Stick, you ought to take a look at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYKB6Lag-wg)

Chapman Stick musician warming up in the beautiful venue
The quartet arrived with a repertoire list of 27 songs, and sang 21 of them, including several backed up by the violin and accordion. One memorable moment occurred when the quartet began singing Billy Joel’s lovely “Lullabye” to a small group, and the surrounding hubbub ceased to a hushed silence.

As we departed, after several “curtain calls,” one organizer exclaimed, “You guys are f***ing awesome!”

https://www.facebook.com/ClarkstonCulturalArts/videos/941197499354254/

Limited Edition History

LIMITED EDITION was born in October of 2009, when John Cowlishaw stepped in at baritone to replace the recently deceased Bob Butcher. The quartet’s initial name of SPARE PARTS was in use in the BHS rolls, so we registered as LIMITED EDITION.

In the ensuing seven and a half years, we have:

- Sung about 75 gigs, including seven straight years at the Milford Historic Homes Tour.
- Earned and disbursed $11,753, including some donations.
- Sung on seven Pontiac-Waterford and three Rochester Guardians of Harmony shows.
- Competed at one Bush League (2010) and four district conventions (2012,’13,’15, and ’16) (Highest score: 61.4)
- Organized three backyard soirees for neighbors of Cowlishaw and Blackstone, and sung at four of Charlie Perry’s backyard pig roasts.
- Learned at least sixty songs.
- Participated in Great Lakes Harmony Brigades.
- Held two weekend retreats at Tom Blackstone’s Boyne Falls rental unit.
- Received coaching from Al Fisk, Linda Meehan, Jeff Woodruff, and Bruce LaMarte, as well as judges at contests.
- Held about 170 rehearsals, alternating between our homes.
- Have served as mentors for Maryann Lambrecht’s vocal program at Milford High School over the last five years.
- Published seven newsletters.
- Attended two International conventions as a quartet (Pittsburgh and Nashville).
- The quartet also sported derivatives LIMITED FREDITION, LIMITED FRYDITION, and LIMITED O’DITION.

With John’s departure to Georgia, and Tom’s increasing involvement in the Rochester chorus, the quartet has blown its last pitch pipe.

Chapter 2017 Performances: 28 gigs to 2240 auditors (Thru May)

MEMBERSHIP: (at 52)

New Member: Jason Hanson. Welcome Jason!

Renewals: Jim McMain (6), Pete Mazzara (17), Jack Teuber (17)

Due in June: Neil Braun, Bill Dabbs, Tom Jackson, Doc Mann, John Northey, Charlie Perry

Overdue: Bill Holmes, Zach Schroeder, Bob Wallace

June Birthdays: Bob Legato (13th), Fred Pioch (18th), Bruce Brede (22nd)

In Memoriam:
None in May

District

Jug Night

D.O.C. sponsored a Jug Night at their Royal Oak Middle School location. The BCC contingent of 13 helped to swell the crowd to 166 people. Total contributions were about $1700. (P-W contributed

Great Lakes Harmony Brigade
In 2010 a number of Pioneer District barbershoppers interested in fostering more quartet singing kicked off the first Great Lakes Harmony Brigade in Okemos, Michigan. Seven Big Chief members attended that inaugural rally. On May 26-27, 2017, the Great Lakes Brigade held their eighth annual rally in Okemos and two of the original Big Chief quartet men, Chuck Murray and Ray Sturdy, took part in the festivities. In addition to two days of random quartet singing, seventy singers competed in a total of thirty-two quartet contest performances. The Brigade also put on a spectacular show on Saturday evening featuring the 70-man chorus, a great quartet from the Johnny Appleseed District called the Crew (who will be singing at International this summer), and the eleven-member Reen Family Singers. Next year’s Brigade is scheduled for June 1-2, 2018 and the music will be distributed in December of this year.

Ray Sturdy
(Editor’s Note: Ray’s quartet placed second.)

GoFundMe for John Paul
“One of our DOC members has run in to trouble and is in the middle of a cancer fight. He lost his medical insurance and has mounting bills after a week stay in the hospital to diagnose his illness. “A GoFundMe page has been established to help with all of the bills. Please help us get our Music Vice President and marvelous bass back to singing. https://www.gofundme.com/helpjohnpaul “

SEND-OFF SHOW - 2017
The 40th Pioneer District Send-Off Show will take place on Friday, June 9, 2017 at the Serbian Centre, 6776 Tecumseh Rd., Windsor Ontario.
Doors and cash bar open at 6:00 pm: Pasta buffet at 7:15 pm: and the Show follows including choruses present (usually 5 or 6): a 200 man chorus of all Barbershoppers present and our chorus and quartet representatives to the International.
Come hear and support CHECKMATE, UPPER DECK, HEMIDEMISEMIQUAVER 4, FRONTIER and the GREAT LAKES CHORUS from Grand Rapids.
A million dollars’ worth of talent and a pasta dinner all for $21.00.
Doran McTaggart
David Koch of Traverse City, the Host Chapter Representative for the Pioneer Service Project, reports that our “generosity has brought the equivalent of 55 bins worth of donations! That's twenty 50 gallon drums worth if you think in terms of drums. An estimate of over a ton, around 2750 pounds, if you think in pounds. Three truckloads of much needed items. We asked and you responded.”

This year’s Bush League will be August 25th & 26th at Bellaire High School with Shanty Creek as headquarters hotel . . . Traverse City will be hosting (from now on I Hope).

Dale Hanson
Bush League Chairman

Quartet Boot Camp and Factory
Roger Lewis, President of the Quartet Champions Association has announced that the QCA will once again sponsor dual workshops: Quartet Boot Camp (for quartets), and Quartet Factory (for individuals looking to form a quartet. It’s Saturday, June 17th in the Okemos Convention Center. Price ($50 per quartet, $12.50 per individual)

Detroit Sound Machine got some good publicity singing for the 100th anniversary of American Coney Island.

(With Dave Ebersole, Dylan Broome, George C Jackson, Jr, and Jason Hall.)
**International**


**Weekend Pass**

BHS has a new option for ticket-purchasing at International this year, a three-day “weekend pass.”

**CAN’T STAY FOR THE WHOLE WEEK?**

Make it a quick getaway with our Weekend Pass!

Come for the Quartet Semifinals on Thursday, the Chorus Contest on Friday, and the Saturday Night Spectacular and Quartet Finals on Saturday. ONLY $169

(That’s about $100 cheaper than the full-fare registration.)

**PRO TIP:** Add a show featuring your favorite Champion quartets on Thursday night! Join us for PITCH PERFECTED: A Cappella at The AXIS. (Ticketed separately)

**HARMONY UNIVERSITY - July 23-30, Nashville, TN**

**MIDWINTER – January 16-21, Orange County, CA.**

**MEET JON KNAPP**

Jon Knapp was born 53 years ago in Mason City, Iowa. His father was an accountant and a builder. The family moved to Iowa City where his mom became a lab assistant in the University of Iowa School of Pharmacology.

After graduating from high school Jon attended the University of Iowa. He graduated with a B.A. in English and Secondary Education in 1987. Jon began substitute teaching and married his sweetheart, Suzette, a nurse.

While in college he had a conversion experience, and his Iowa City pastor urged him to consider the ministry. In 1990, Jon and Suzette moved to Grand Rapids where he matriculated at the Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary. He received his Master of Divinity degree in 1993, and his Master of Theology degree in 1996.

His first position was as pastor of a small church in White, South Dakota (population 500!). White was not only the town’s name but its appearance during two snow-record-setting winters, 1996-1998.

In 1998 Jon came to Scott Lake Baptist Church as Senior Pastor. The membership is about 70, with about 55 present on any given Sunday.

Keeping a choir going in such a small congregation is difficult, and the choir director finally threw up her hands. Left with no singing outlet, Jon looked elsewhere and discovered the Big Chief Chorus.

In January of this year, Jon had returned from visiting his mother - a Sweet Adeline in Iowa City since 1984 - who urged him to look for a chorus. By the next Tuesday, he had found us online and attended our rehearsal that night. He grows with every week’s passing and is now working hard on repertoire and looking forward to his first quartet.

Jon and Suzette’s three children are Michael, a police officer in White Lake; Stephanie, a junior at Rochester College; and Ryan, a recent graduate from Mott High School.

Jon has two weddings coming up in June; his son Michael is marrying Sydney, and his daughter Stephanie is marrying Bryan. While they were children, Jon was heavily involved in all their activities, coaching et al. Now the void is being filled by barbershop.

During our conversation Jon relayed two family anecdotes about barbershop and music.

a. Jon’s grandparents knew the librarian in Mason City, Iowa, who became the model for Marian the Librarian of Music-Man fame.
b. Jon's father was at Buddy Holly's last gig (1959) in the Surf Ballroom in nearby Clear Lake, IA, the night before "the day the music died."

MEDIA

Live Wire
To start receiving Livewire, go to http://www.barbershop.org/news-events/livewire/ and put in your email address and first name. You can get archived issues without subscribing, but there is a six week delay in BHS's getting current editions into the Archives; to get the current issues as they are published, you must sign up.

Linkin' Bridge
Linkin' Bridge made it to the finals of America's Got Talent last September. They're a mostly, but not entirely, beat-box (percussive) a cappella men's quartet from a rough background in Louisville. Now they work on harmony socially and musically. https://www.facebook.com/LinkinBridge/videos/1387736337981238/

"They are from Louisville and all of the images shown were here in Louisville. I think that is why they didn't show The Stephen Foster House which is located in Bardstown, KY. Stephen Foster was the original composer of that song."

CRAFT

Hearing the Baritone line
Last month I described my difficulty in hearing the Baritone line in a well-balanced quartet. The Tenor and Bass lines are usually not a problem. It's not only that they are high and low, but the timbre of the voices is very distinctive. The melody line of the Lead is sing-along-expected and easier to follow also. But what about the Baritone?

I asked Don Slamka, the Baritone of International-headed HemiDemiSemiQuaver 4.

"I have learned over time to find the baritone part by hearing the entire chord. Like you mentioned, the tenor and bass are relatively easy to hear (high and low) and the lead is predominant with the melody part. I think that also, the role of the baritone lends to an anonymous sound. If the baritone singer has too much character in his own voice, that will start to compete with the color and character of the lead singer. That's probably part of the reason we (baritones) relish the occasional "tiddly."

"Cool stuff!"

Don

Proper breathing
The most important thing I've learned in my barbershop years is "how to breathe."

A lot of vocal instructors have given a lot of different advice about how to breathe. But if I'm going to remember and use it, I have to feel it.

To me, a good inbreath feels like I was pressing out against my belt, as if to break it.

A good outbreath feels like I am controlling it from the belly, by maintaining the outward pressure on my belt or else my pants would fall down. Another way to say it is as if the sound were being forced down thru my anus (as Pavarotti was quoted as saying).

Or as my yoga instructor says,

"Fill it from the bottom up
Empty it from the top down."

PERFORMANCE

I Loved "I Love a Piano"...
...as did Roger Holm and Jim McMain and any other Chieftains lucky enough to view it at Meadow Brook Theatre.

Irving Berlin wrote an estimated 1,500 songs, including the scores for 19 Broadway shows and 18 Hollywood films, with his songs nominated eight times for Academy Awards. Sixty of his songs were collected in this show, more of a review, without a plot but just a
George Gershwin called Berlin "the greatest songwriter that has ever lived," and composer Jerome Kern concluded that "Irving Berlin has no place in American music—he is American music." He was known for writing music and lyrics in the American vernacular: uncomplicated, simple and direct, with his stated aim being to "reach the heart of the average American," whom he saw as the "real soul of the country."

His family escaped the anti-Jewish pogroms of Russia when "Israel Isidore Baline" was five. (A typing error changed his name to Berlin.)

Berlin never learned to play in more than one key (F# so that he could stay on the black notes) and used two special pianos (his first piano, purchased second-hand in 1909, is the supposed star of this show) with transposing levers to change keys.

Of the five top songwriters of the era, only Cole Porter and Berlin wrote both their own words and music.

His first big hit was "Alexander's Ragtime Band" when he was only 23.

Many of the songs in this show have been sung by the Big Chief Chorus and its quartets, including:

- Blue Skies
- How Deep is the Ocean
- Always
- What'll I Do
- Count Your Blessings
- White Christmas
- God Bless America
- There’s No Business Like Show Business

(Some material from Wikipedia)

You can hear excerpts from this revue, from 2007 Broadway, at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qikzUuGKHbs and the next three YouTubes.

“Once upon a time, there was a quartet called the Detroit Taggers.”

(Input on Pionet from Bob Winters, Doran McTaggart, Carl Dahlke, Doug Pearson, and Mike Frye)

The Taggers were a hit. They never sang a song. They just sang Tags. In the late 50s, early 60s, they were a staple at many shows throughout the state and beyond. Out of Dearborn. Members included:

- Bob Stone, Tenor
- Cecil Craig, the father of Roger Craig and Bob Craig.
- Al Maier, Bass

They had some of the funniest one liners to introduce a tag which had nothing to do with the tag they sang. Bob Stone would ask the audience to shout out a number and he would riff through a bunch of 3 by 5 cards as if the card told them which tag to sing. Things like "she rode high in the saddle till her blisters broke." Or, "I can't get over you dear, so you'll have to turn the light out yourself." They then would sing one of the hundreds of tags in their repertoire.

Bob had two sets of cards, one white and one blue, depending on the audience.

They were a classic one of a kind group and loved by everyone.

Other groaners included:
- “She criticized my apartment, so I knocked her flat.”
- “She was wonderful to the regiment but rotten to the core.”
- “I kissed her sweet lips good bye and left her behind for you.”
- “It was torture in the tee-pee or the pain was in tents.”
And this from Mike Frye, “I have fond memories of the Taggers being on our annual Parade of Quartets show many times. I can recall Cecil Craig, Bob Stone, and Al Maier who sang bass. The fourth person has escaped me. Those four guys were truly unique in their style. Probably the friendliest barber shoppers you would ever meet.”

Keeping Smoke Signal readers abreast of the Tony Awards/Musical. Last year it was Hamilton, this year it is another (semi) historical drama. Natasha, Pierre & the Great Comet of 1812 has been nominated for twelve Tony Awards, the most of any Broadway show this season. It is described as an “electro-pop opera” based on a seventy-page sliver of War and Peace.

As a side note, Dave Malloy, the writer, composer, and original star of the show, has allowed himself to be replaced, as the show reached Broadway, by a “photogenic, puppy-eyed celebrity version of himself,” that being Josh Groban.

First virtual BBS Chorus
It seems only yesterday, but it has been five years since virtual choruses popped up on the internet. Here is the first BBS virtual chorus, January 2012. Singers from around the world came together in harmony to sing the song “If I Had My Way.”
Arrangement by David Harrington
Conductor Peter Nugent - aka ‘Nooj’
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VIgRiTX_x1Y&feature=em-subs_digest-vrecs

Letters
Hello, Pioneer!

I am happy to introduce myself and Zach Schroeder as the new co-editors of the Troubadour! After discussing the possibilities with Greg Humbel during the most recent convention, we are itching to get started with the next creation of the publication.

Best,
Cody Harrell
Journalism and English Educator
East Lansing High School

CALENDAR (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’- 45’ earlier)
May 30, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC
Jun 6, T, 7:00 Chorus rehearsal, WOAC, High School Night
Jun 16, F, 12:30 Auburn Hills Senior Center, Summer Class C
Jun 20, T, 5:30 Bus leaves for Frankenmuth Dead Creek Picnic. Short sleeve yellow polo and pants/shorts
Jun 24, Sa, 3:00 Log Cabin Days (Warm-Up 2:00) Summer Class C
Jul 2-8 International, Las Vegas, NV
Jul 17, M D.O.C. Picnic, Sylvan Lake Community Ctr
Jul 23-30 Harmony University, Nashville, TN
Jul 25, T Grosse Pointe Picnic (Bus to be arranged)
Jul 29, Sa Oakland Co. Pioneer & Historical Soc.
Aug 11, 12 Bush League, Bellaire, MI.
Aug 22, T, 6:00 BCC Picnic, Bob Marshall’s home
Sep 16, Sa, 9:15 a.m. MIOCA (Ovarian Cancer Benefit), National Anthem and short performance, 8:30 warm-up, Village of Rochester Hills, Adams and Walton
Nov 4, Sa, 7:00 73rd Annual Show, Mott H.S.
Nov 28, T, 6:00 Waterford Tree Lighting

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye
President: Eric Domke (248-674-2323)
Past President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
VP: Chapter Dev: Walt DeNio (248-922-9090)
VP: Music and Performance: Zach Schroeder (248-929-1285)
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Pat Hefner, Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Austin Suthers
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Chorus Librarian: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Doig, Cowlshaw/Sturdy, Moss
Music Team: Schroeder, Blue, Frye, McFadyen, Doig, Cowlshaw, Moss, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw, (248-891-4498)
“Music has its own healing power, not for what ails the body but for what burdens the spirit.”

Mountain Willie

VINTAGE MIX sings this tag in the key of G, at https://www.facebook.com/pg/VintageMixQuartet/videos/?ref=page_internal, but hey they’re just 16-year-old kids (quadruplets).

It’s about the seventh video, “Taking advantage…” April 2, with Paul Ellinger in the background.

VINTAGE MIX is on a roll; they were also featured, along with RINGMASTERS and a Jay Hawkins quartet, TIME BANDITS, on Episode 854 of WoodSongs Old-Time Radio Show recorded last summer that Tom Blue sent along.

http://www.barbershop.org/woodsongs-radio-show-featuring-ringmasters-debuts-this-weekend/

“He forgot Rule No. 6.”