November has come and gone, momentously. Our last surviving charter member has died. Our Fall Show was a grand success. And we have transitioned from the 2006 year with our annual Awards and Induction Dinner, into the Christmas season, and good prospects for the New Year.

In Memoriam, William P. Pascher
Bill passed away November 19 at Sunrise of Clarkston. Bill was born February 10, 1915 in Akron, Ohio. He moved to Pontiac before he started school and later spent 51 years in Gingellville. Bill was preceded in death by his wife of 58 years Evelyn. His two daughters Doreen Moller of Lake Orion and Pat Forman of Santa Fe, NM arranged the funeral at the Lake Orion Chapel of the Sparks-Griffin Funeral Home. Bill had five grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Bill Holmes led the service wonderfully, with recognition of sorrow, but also with joy and appreciation for all Bill’s contributions. Bill’s grandson, as well as Len Barnes, John Wearing, Neil Braun spoke at the service. The Big Chief Chorus sang, and Mel Parrish joined FOUR WHEEL DRIVE to sing “From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye” in his honor. Bill was active in Boy Scouts for 70 years, receiving The Eagle Scout Award and The Silver Beaver Award. He was active in the Oakland County Archery Club, later the Lake Orion Archery Club, Oakland and the Michigan Audubon Society. He was a charter member of the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter SPEBSQSA (1943) and also a nature photographer and slide show lecturer of wildflowers, winter birds and butterflies. Bill enjoyed fishing trips to Ontario, bow hunting and “Barbershop Singing.” He retired from GMC Truck and Coach as a Project Engineer.
(Excerpts taken from his obituary)

Vol. 6, No. 8, (#68) December 1, 2006

My original interview with Bill is still available online at our web site in four successive issues, beginning August, 2001.

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY by Jack Teuber

The Big Chief Barbershop Chorus wishes to acknowledge the 63 years of service given by Gingellville resident Bill Pascher. Bill lived in Orion Township for 60 years.

Thank you Bill for being one of the founding members of the Pontiac Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Thank you for being one of the men from General Motors Engineering that had the enthusiasm to form the Merry Motormen Chorus, later renamed the Big Chief Chorus.

Thank you for picking up the presidency in 1943-44, 1957, and 1984. Thank you for being our musical director for 11 years, our newsletter editor, and our
representative to the International House of Delegates. Thank you for sharing your artistic talents which included trophy designs, show programs, unique decorations and show sets for all of the Pontiac Chapter events.

You entertained us through four quartets, and your works for charity with THE LAST GOODBYE topped the nation. You were honored by the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America on stage at its 1991 convention. Mel Parrish of Lake Orion, Len Barnes of Waterford, Paul Lehmkuhl of Flint were with you as you accepted the award for raising the most funds for the Society’s charity, the Institute of Logopedics.

Thank you for honoring the Pontiac Chapter by being elected to the Pioneer District’s Hall of Fame in 1974.

We will miss your twinkling eyes and your mischievous wit at our Tuesday rehearsals. Your chair will be vacant but your spirit remains with us.

Keep America Singing

FALL SHOW
On Saturday, November 4, we presented our 62nd annual show, “Happy Trails to You, Or How the West Was Sung,” at Waterford Mott High School. Forty-six chorus members sang seven songs, and were performances by JACKPOT, LOCAL COLOR II, CELEBRATION, BATH CITY BOYZ, OFF THE RESERVATION, SUNNY SIDE, and FOUR WHEEL DRIVE.

Photo by Jeff Doig

Thanks to:
Our “girl scouts,” Magahn and Makaylah Owens
Guest quartet Fermata Nowhere!

The Sweet Adelines and the Church Street Singers for:
Ushers, Programs and Seating.
Brian Drake and all the techies
Stage Manager Donna Bevington
Al Fisk for his thorough review
Terry Jamison and his friend Rose Vincent of the 5th Texas Co. E. Civil War re-enactment group for the wagon and props.
Director and associate Directors: Dick Johnson, Freddie McFadyen and Bill Holmes

The Cast Party followed, at Liberty Golf and Banquet, in Clarkston, thanks to Bruce Brede.

Our Annual Awards and Induction dinner
was held at Gino’s in Keego Harbor, November 17. Jim Kunz, Pioneer District Executive Vice President, handled the induction duties with fine explanations of each office, and his quartet, NIGHT SHIFT, performed for our pleasure. The award for Barbershopper of the Year was presented to Jeff Doig the previous Tuesday by last year’s winner, Jack Teuber, with these words:

“BSOY is awarded each year to a member that has contributed in many ways to make our chapter a stronger organization.

This year Jeff Doig has sung Lead 4-Wheel Drive in more than 30 gigs, including a 3rd place performance at the Bush League Contest. He has provided the expertise and sound equipment to make our performances at summer outdoor venues a success. His triple duties of Sound Technician, M.C. and Lead of his quartet were amazing. Jeff has also used his computer expertise to tape and produce learning CDs.

Jeff has been a Chorus member for fourteen years and was the editor of the chapter newsletter known as The Owner’s Manual. The chapter chorus was known as the Merry Motormen

If you take a look at the bigchiefchorus.org website you can see Jeff’s excellent work as our Webmaster. Jeff has also been an active member of the Music and Nominating Committees. He assisted our Show Chairman in writing and co-directing HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU. As Dusty, the trail boss, he made the show flow smoothly and a great success. In the words of Al Fisk, district Chairmen of Contest Judging, “the chapter has made a real find.”

Christmas Season

“Sixteen Gigs, and whatdya get?
A barbershop chorus and maybe quartet.”
Bruce and Roger have arranged sixteen singouts Dec 2 thru 19. Ted has filled our Christmas music books with most of the usual familiar songs, and also some new songs. Let’s go sing!

AROUND THE PATCH

MEMBERSHIP (at 57)
New (Dual) Member: John Northey (Welcome, John!)
Renewals: None
Bye-Bye: Bill Pascher
Barbershopper of the Month: November Ted Prueter dismantled and reassembled all forty or more of our Christmas Books.

December Birthdays: Stanley Mersino (5th), Jack Teuber (15th), Howard Lynn (18th), Mike Frye (23th), Zaven Melkonian (26th), Jim Owens (28th)
Medical: Al Monroe’s knee surgery was delayed til Nov 30.
Lyle Howard had carotid artery surgery and awaits further surgery.
Dick Johnson’s brother passed away in Florida.

In Memoriam
Dec 7, 2001, Bob Woodward
Dec 18, 2005, Bob Wisdom

QUARTET NEWS
On Saturday, November 11th, Jack and Bruce of our Celebration Quartet sang with Roger (at Bass) and Dick (at Bari) to benefit the Baldwin Center. This charity event, held at Liberty Golf & Banquet, was a Casino Night with a western theme. Luckily, the quartet had some western outfits to wear. Songs included “Coney Island Baby,” “Under the Boardwalk” and “Happy Trails.”

Four Wheel Drive agreed for a final time to make the four-hour round-trip drive to Cass City, November 25, to perform at Northwood Meadows and Tendercare, two Assisted Living Centers. Most heart-warming was Beatrice McPhail, whose little body stood toothless and oxygen-tubed in her doorway holding up the local paper’s picture of FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, for them to autograph. “I was afraid you wouldn’t come,” she said, (because a backed-up sewer had created quite a stink.)

AROUND THE DISTRICT
BCC was well represented at D.O.C.’s Canada Night, Friday, November 3, at St. Aidan’s Parish Hall. We were at max size for competing ensembles of sixteen members. Dick was there to direct us in two songs.

Sweet Adelines Christmas show.
Great Lakes and Shoreline Sounds Choruses and Metropolis Barbershop Quartet (California) will be performing Saturday, December 2, at the John R. Armstrong Performing Arts Center, 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd, Clinton Twp, MI 48036 (Gratiot south of M-59). Visit www.glcsing.org for additional information.

Guardians of Harmony is organizing a trip to St. Louis to see the Ambassadors of Harmony’s Christmas show. It is renowned as the best of its kind. The show will also include our current quartet champs, Vocal Spectrum. The chartered bus will leave on the morning of Saturday, December 9 to see that evening’s show and return the following day by noon. Cost: $130. Show details can be found on the Ambassadors’ website: http://www.aoh.org/

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD
Flipside has a new tenor. After 8 years, 7 internationals, and a bronze medal in Indianapolis this past July, Paul Krenz has retired and Rick Spencer, our Director of Music and Education, will replace him. Many of us were impressed by Rick at a Harmony Roundup and how much he knows “for a young squirt.”

The Bluegrass Student Union (our 1978 Champs) will give their final performance on Saturday evening, December 9th, 2006 at Louisville Memorial Auditorium in Louisville, Kentucky. This is the very same hall where, in December of 1973, they gave their very FIRST quartet performance together.

Barbershop Harmony Society elects officers for 2007
The Barbershop Harmony Society Board of Directors has elected its officers for 2007. Noah Funderburg will serve as Society President, Bill Biffle as Society Executive Vice-President, Robert Guiggey as Society Treasurer, and the Pioneer District will be represented by Board Member Jim Lee.

Sound and Music (the tenth in a series by Bruce Brede)
"MUSIC INSTEAD OF MEDICINE...patients who listen to music after surgery have less pain (and need fewer painkillers) than those who don't, notes a Tufts University report. Music's effect was equal to a 325-mg dose of the painkiller, acetaminophen (AARP, Sept/Oct, 2006). So if you sing during surgery, your doctor will either conclude you’re crazy or an avid barbershopper."

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING November 8, 2006.
Excerpts from Bill Holmes’ minutes.

President Zaven Melkonian led the meeting at the Big Apple Restaurant and welcomed the newly elected Board members and the Music Committee members. In attendance were: Dick Johnson, Jack Teuber, Wayne Cheyne, Bruce Brede, Jeff Doig, Ted Prueter, Dave Myers, Gil Schreiner, Dar Johnson and Bill Holmes.
Minutes were approved. The secretary reported notifying the District and the Society of our elected officers.

Dick Johnson reported a balance of $22,922. Dick estimates the chapter might reach $9,000 from the show including about $5,000 from the program ads.

Wayne Cheyne reported on membership; John Northey and Corey Flatoff have expressed interest in becoming members. Dave Myre will assist Wayne while he is in Florida.

“Let the Rest of the World Go By” and “Ridin’ Down the Canyon” have been suggested for competition songs. Dick will forward the deposit for the Spring Retreat.

The secretary will prepare a letter of thanks for Brian and his staff at the Waterford Mott High School. Bruce and three others will sing at the Liberty facility for their fine service for our Cast Party. Bruce was commended for his handling of the Cast Party. The Board not only said “YES” to Liberty but a resounding “YES” to Waterford Mott High School for our Fall Show in 2007 on November 3, 2007.

Jeff Doig reported on the Fall Show. He noted difficulty at intermission in starting the second half. The review by Al Fisk regarding the raffle prompted the Board to agree not to have a raffle next year. The Board approved refunding certain tickets for those from Independence Village who were not able to attend the show.

Jack Teuber submitted his report on potential future sing-outs.

The Director Search Committee is on hold because of the activity in putting on the show.

Zaven reminded the Board of the Chapter Officers Training School coming January 6, 2007. He also distributed the schedule of next year’s Board meetings for the members to select hosting one or more of the meetings.

Barbershopper of the Month for November is Ted Prueter. Many of our members deserve this honor but the Board chose to acknowledge the good work done by Ted as Librarian. Ted dismantled all forty or more of the Christmas Books in order to rearrange them to follow the new selections which Dick submitted for this year. Ted quietly does this job without fanfare meets the members’ needs willingly with a smile.

**FROM OUR DISTRICT & INTERNATIONAL PUBS**

**In the November/December 2006 Troubadour:**
Pg. 3 “Al Fisk named to Pioneer Hall of Fame

**In the September/October 2006 Harmonizer**
Pg. 10 “American Harmony to be entered at the Sundance Film Festival
Pg. 11 Woodshedding clues for each voice part
Pg. 16 How barbershop influenced famous careers: Gordon Lightfoot, Gary Mauer, and Bill Gaither
Pg. 34 This year’s Buckeye Invitational
Pg. 36 Art Ripley listed in the “Chapter Eternal”

Note: All un-attributed articles and photos are by John Cowlishaw

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP**

Director: Dick Johnson, (248-363-5173)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes
President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)
Past President: Pete Mazzara
VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
Secretary: Bill Holmes
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Bruce Brede
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter

**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 2, Sa</td>
<td>5:00</td>
<td>Lake Orion Parade, Broadway at Front</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 5, T</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Lockwood of Waterford, M-59 @ Crescent Lk Rd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Independence Village, 955 Union Lake Rd</td>
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<td>Dec 7, Th</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>O.C. Retirees Luncheon, White lake Oaks,</td>
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<td>Dec 12, T</td>
<td>6:30</td>
<td>Golden Oaks Care Facility, County Service Cntr</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:30</td>
<td>Lakeland Place, 2700 Elizabeth Lk</td>
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<td>Dec 14, Th</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Canterbury on the Lake, 5601 Hatchery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 16, Sa</td>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>Bus Tour, leaves Waterford Oaks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 19, T</td>
<td>6:45</td>
<td>The Inn at Cass Lake, Cass Lk Rd @ Ptk Lk Rd</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7:45</td>
<td>Fox Manor, Our Lady of Lourdes, Watkins Lk @ Dixie</td>
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<td>8:30</td>
<td>Overtyme Grille, 4724 Dixie Hwy nr Walton</td>
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<td>Dec 26, T</td>
<td></td>
<td>No performances or rehearsals, enjoy Christmas</td>
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<td>Jan 6</td>
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<td>COTS</td>
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<td>Jan 20, Sa</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Singout, American House, Rochester Hills,</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 13, T</td>
<td></td>
<td>Singout, Rochester Adams High School (Tentative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 28, Sa</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>Goodrich Summer Concert Series, Goodrich Village Park</td>
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