The 2009 **BCC picnic**, August 28, was a rainy affair, but thanks to Bob and Eileen Marshall’s large home (on Sylvan Lake) and gracious hospitality, the forty of us got along just fine. (Well, Walt Denio and Wayne Cheyne might have gotten a little damp, grilling the brats and hot dogs.)

On August 4, the Big Chief Chorus – forty-one strong – sang at the **Auburn Hills Community Center** for their National Night Out (booting out crime and drugs). Freddie led us in a nearly hour-long program that included two-song sets by **Celebration**, **Local Color IV**, **Vintage**, and **The Naturals**. The venue looked splendid but turned out to be difficult. It was outside, in the sun, with our back row looking into an overhanging awning, and much commotion on the lawn in front of us, as Auburnites gathered food, met friends, and talked on cell phones.

**BCC Rehearsal, Aug 11, 2009**

It was a special evening, in many ways. Tom Blue returned from his summer hiatus at Blue Lake and the Rochester Adams highly acclaimed musical, *Jacob and the Coat of Many Colors*. Art Lane arrived from Anaheim (via Saugatuck) to present the 2009 PROTY award to Jack Teuber. We filled the Fridge with 43 melodious voices. Five quartets sang. And we worked our way thru the Disney songs, preparing for the next step of getting off the paper.

As John Cowlishaw said, “For those of you who have been living in a cave for the last month and haven’t heard, our very own Jack Teuber won the International’s highest award for Public Relations, the Public Relations Officer of The Year, PROTY.”

Art Lane, from the Holland Windmill Chapter, is the Pioneer District PROBE Contest Coordinator. For the last several years, Jack and John have submitted their entries thru Art. Art has himself won the International PR Award; he has published a Saugatuck weekly and the Holland chapter’s Windmill Blade, and was last year elected to the PROBE Hall of Honor. Art was at the PROBE annual meeting in Anaheim last month when the announcement was made, so he volunteered to carry the award home and...
deliver it to Jack. On Tuesday, he drove from his home in Saugatuck.

Six Chieftains met him for dinner at Applebee’s – Teuber, Mann, Smith, Holm, Melkonian, and Cowlishaw. (Paul Smith was the runner-up to Art in the 1998 PROTY competition, when Paul was active in the Flint Arrowhead chapter.)

At the evening chorus rehearsal, Art presented the award to Jack. Jack’s wife Mary, and their daughter and son-in-law, Sarah and Rocco Kaleta, were there to share in the delight. Art really enjoyed himself at the rehearsal, got into the Disney songs, and did a little polecatting afterward. Then he repaired to the “Melkonian Hotel” before a Wednesday a.m. return trip home.

On August 18, NorthBound Sound sang their two Bush League competition songs to the chorus – “Memphis Blues,” and “Those Two Eyes of Blue.”

MEMORIZING SONGS

It’s crunch time for contest songs, and I’m struggling to learn all those songs, as I think many of us are.

So I thought of an article for September SMOKE SIGNALS – How do you memorize songs? I sent a message out to several senior members of our chorus. Here is a digest of the answers I’ve received from Bruce Brede, Greg Moss, and Dick Johnson.

1. Establish a chronological plan. What order will you learn them in? What are your personal deadlines for (a) learning to sing the notes correctly from the paper, (b) being off the paper, and (c) singing with confidence?
2. Discover your own best way to learn. Phrase by phrase? Line by line? Page by page? Listening many times before even starting to sing?
3. Listen to the CDs and your own recordings, daily.
4. Prepare your own practice CDs with your-part-dominant, and then Lead-dominant, which you can duet with.
5. Take advantage of chorus and sectional rehearsals by responsible attendance.
6. Try to sing next to your section leader or other voices that learn the music faster.
7. Notice wherever words come hard, and try to find a rationale for memorizing them.
8. Use the piano or pitchpipe to work thru troublesome areas.
9. If the song is sung, in rehearsal, or on the CD, too fast for you, work it out more slowly with a piano, or a section leader, or in sectionals.

Disco choruses songs Personal check list:

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Here’s a list of our recent shows:

64 Nov 1, 08 American History Waterford Mott Tom Blue
63 Nov 3, 07 Country Roads Waterford Mott Tom Blue
62 Nov 4, 06 Happy Trails to You Waterford Mott Dick Johnson
61 Nov 5, 05 JukeBox Classics Clarkston HS Jim Troeger
60 Nov 6, 04 Family Clarkston HS Jim Troeger
59 Nov 8, 03 Ed Sullivan Show Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
58 Nov 9, 02 Dorothy Returns to Oz Clarkston HS Chris Miller
57 Nov 3, 01 Fortune in Dreams CUMC Silverdomes, Philatoga Township
56 Nov 5, 01 Chocolate Box Strings Clarkston HS Jim Troeger
55 Nov 6, 01 Broadway Classics Clarkston HS Jim Troeger
54 Nov 7, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
53 Nov 8, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
52 Nov 9, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
51 Nov 10, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
50 Nov 11, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
49 Nov 12, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
48 Nov 13, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
47 Nov 14, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
46 Nov 15, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
45 Nov 16, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
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43 Nov 18, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
42 Nov 19, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
41 Nov 20, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
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39 Nov 22, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
38 Nov 23, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
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36 Nov 25, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
35 Nov 26, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
34 Nov 27, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
33 Nov 28, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
32 Nov 29, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
31 Nov 30, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
30 Dec 1, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
29 Dec 2, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
28 Dec 3, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
27 Dec 4, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
26 Dec 5, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
25 Dec 6, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
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23 Dec 8, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
22 Dec 9, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
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0 Dec 31, 01 The Beatles Clarkston HS Bruce Collins
Dick Johnson has the picture taken of the chorus at Spring Pioneer District competition in Taverse City. Thanks to Doug Metzger’s printing, the cost is only $5. See Dick with a fiver in hand.
QUARTETS
On Sunday, August 16th our Celebration Barbershop Quartet celebrated Helen Czarnowski’s 88th Birthday with twenty-five family and friends at Waterford Oaks Senior Care. Freddie McFadyen filled in for Jack Teuber at tenor to join Greg Moss at bass, Bill Dabbs at bari and Bruce Brede at lead. Favorite songs were “Helen, Helen, Bless Yure Heart” and “Happy Birthday.” The quartet was surprised when the audience repeated “Happy Birthday” in Polish. The birthday girl also liked “Aura Lee,” “Ain’t Misbehavin,’” “Let the Rest of the World Go By,” and “In My Room” as well as participation in “This Little Light of Mine” and “God Bless America.”

At Leonard Barnes’ 60th High School Reunion. August 22, about 110 people were treated to songs from a quartet composed of Mike Frye, Jeff Doig, Dick Johnson, and Zaven Melkonian.

MEMBERSHIP (at 64)
Renewals: Zaven Melkonian (10)
Pending: Bob Brain, Ross Ensign
ByeBye: Fred DeVries, Cory Flatoff, Stan Mersino, Tom Tailford
September Birthdays: Charlie Perry (6th), Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlishaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Jim Claflin (16th), Dick Johnson (24th), Dave Myre (29th)

In memoriam
Sep 12, 2006, Art Ripley, Tribute in Smoke Signals #67
Sep 19, 2003, Chris Miller, Tribute in Smoke Signals #30

AROUND THE DISTRICT
Brian Philbin puts out the word to all friends of Scott Turnbull that there will be a memorial service on Saturday, September 19, 2009 from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM at Clarkson United Methodist Church, 6600 Waldon Rd., Clarkson, MI 48346. Scott, a former member of the Pontiac chorus, succumbed to complications from diabetes at age forty-eight. The surviving members of THE IVY LEAGUE will be there “and we would appreciate any barbershoppers’ attendance. Partnering with Scott’s family, we will honor Scott’s life and our memories of him in a ceremony particularly suited to him. Please find Scott’s Obituary at this link and feel free to share your thoughts at this location.

Reese Olger, a long-time Lansing barbershopper, died August 25. He had been in the chapter for forty-seven years and had received thirty-three “man of note“ awards. Apparently, he was even a real barber. Paul Howe’s Lansing Woodshedder Weekly of Sep 1 has many warm recollections of Reese. If you knew Reese, you’ll appreciate reading the postings at: http://www.capitolcitychordsmen.org/ then select Newsletters from the menu and the September 1 2009 issue.

There’s another Disney show in Pioneer District this year. The Kalamazoo chapter holds its annual show, Disney: Old and New, September 12.

Rockin’ Barbershop Camp occurred Aug 27-29, 2009. We hope to hear more about it. Jeff Pierson wrote that about 100 youth were expected to attend from more than thirty schools, and to mix voices with their instructors - PRESTIGE, (who finished 4th as Collegians at International this year), LAST MINUTE, and CHORDIOLOGY.

‘Ology Quartets at Fall Convention.
Last year, CHORDIOLOGY offered its services to other barbershoppers interested in singing on the district convention stage with them. Mixed quartets of two CHORDIOLOGY members and two non-members sang, (noncompetitively, for score only).
This year, even more top singers have agreed to serve:
Cliff Dake (Tenor of CHORDIOLOGY), Paul Ellinger (Lead of CHORDIOLOGY), T. R. Gerard (Bass of SOMETHING BIG!!) James Masalskis (Bass of WILDCARD) Rob Pettigrew (Bari of CHORDIOLOGY) Toby Shaver (Lead of THE PARTY) Mark Spear (Bari of THE PARTY) Dave Spizarny (Bass of CHORDIOLOGY) Pete Westers (Tenor of WILDCARD and Bari of 1996 Champs FERMATA)

“Now, think about it: how it would be to feel the rush of being introduced and walking out from behind the curtains, to experience the applause of the audience, to enjoy the camaraderie between the quartets behind the scenes, to live out all of the fun that goes along with being on the stage with such a supportive crowd, to hear the music you are making being amplified throughout the auditorium, to see your face up on the big screen and don’t forget that you can even get the video afterward! This could be and should be YOU!

“We have listed four possible song choices of songs that we will be learning. A Little Street Where Old Friends Meet - Society Stock #200108 It’s a Brand New Day - Society Stock #200093 There’s a New Gang on the Corner- Society Stock #8844 I Don’t Mind Being All Alone - Society Stock #7399”

Livingston County Chapter, a fifteen member Chorus meeting Monday nights in Brighton, MI, is seeking a Director, replacing a Chorus member who would rather sing than direct.
The Barbershop Harmony Society's website has received another facelift with a much improved homepage and easier access to documents and pages listed on the site. Go to www.barbershop.org and check out YOUR new website.

The next two BHS conventions are:

- Midwinter: Tampa (1/26 - 1/31): www.barbershop.org/midwinter

The Sing-Off is a new NBC talent show exclusively for a cappella groups. They will be holding auditions in New York, Saturday, September 12, at S.I.R. Studios, 520 West 25th St. Groups of between four to ten members of any style are welcome. From the show's press release:

"Groups will rehearse and sing the world's most popular songs, arranged and performed like you've never heard them...no lip-synching, no back-up bands, no safety net. They will compete weekly in front of the show's panel of professional experts. One group will be eliminated each episode and America will decide in our live finale who will be the nation's best a cappella group and will walk away with the ultimate prize."

For more info visit: http://www.acappellanews.com

“The Ambassadors of Harmony 2009 International Convention performance sure is leaving its mark on the Internet! The number of hits on their 2009 performance video shown on www.YouTube.com has absolutely skyrocketed since the Society posted it several weeks ago.

“Their presentation of Seventy-Six Trombones (written by Meredith Wilson and arranged by David Wright), made quite the impression on the audience and judges, as the chorus walked away having set a new international record - apparently this is making the same impression on YouTube visitors!”

Take a look here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmDGntpZC3I

Their remarkable change of costumes occurs at 3:10 into the clip. St. Louis, Missouri’s “News 2 Morning Show” put together a great piece about the Ambassadors of Harmony regarding this year’s International Convention in Anaheim.

To view their three-minute video, click the link below:

“Under the direction of Dr. Greg Lyne, Voices in Harmony (northern California's Premier Men's A Cappella Chorus) will represent the US at the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Russian Music Festival from Aug 18-23, 2009, in St. Petersburg, Russia.

“Pride of the Pacific (www.pridepacificchorus.org), a female chorus also directed by Dr. Lyne, and Old School (www.oldschoolqt.com), a barbershop quartet from the east coast who recently earned the 2<sup>nd</sup> place International quartet silver medal at the Barbershop Harmony Society International Convention, will also join Voices in Harmony, along with eleven Russian ensembles from all parts of the country.

“During the festival, the groups will teach master classes and perform during concerts at world-class concert halls!”

MEET JIM CLAFLIN

Jim was born in Detroit 70 years ago and raised in Royal Oak. His two brothers are deceased and his sister lives in Royal Oak. His dad and mom were in “iron and steel” as he used to say during his comedy routine; i.e., his dad did the stealing while his mom ironed. Actually, his dad was a Royal Oak firefighter who died in his 40’s of a heart attack shortly after escaping a traumatic cave-in of a roof.

The Smiths took him in and sent him to Ferndale Lincoln High School, where he played a little football and sang a little chorus, but basically he was a “hood” or “greaser” that barely maintained a C average.

He married Lillian at age 18; they bought a small house and began having kids – James (an attorney), Bonnie (nurse), Andrea and Scott, taken by their mom to Utah after their 1963 divorce. (Scott is an actor whose roles for Universal sometimes show up in theaters and TV.)

Jim worked as a brick and block mason, as a postal letter carrier, as a delivery boy for Chicken Shack, as a mechanic at a gas station, but with no clear idea of where he was headed in life.
One day, his attention was drawn to a technical school offering training in computer programming. (This was 1959.) He found out he was a whiz bang at it and was soon tutoring new students. With new-found purposefulness and confidence, he attracted the attention of an insurance salesman who assured him he could be even more successful in sales. Within a year he was a sales manager, and within two years, he had a company car. (To recall the spirit of the 60’s, see AMC’s show, “Mad Men.”)

During this time, he began stage work. He did standup comedy, singing with a band, acting as emcee, working weddings, Elks clubs, and so forth. He had an agent. Throughout the 1960’s he stayed busy throughout regional Detroit and Windsor. He honed his delivery.

One of his roles was in a gospel quartet, though untouched by the Gospel himself. One night, in 1970, at Berkley Community Church, when the preacher gave the call, Georgette came forward, and Jim was smitten. By the end of the service he had asked her out – over the loudspeaker! Within six months they were married. Anyone who has seen them together know they are still madly in love. They have three children of their own, Shannon, a medical assistant, Erin, a student at Lansing Community College, and Sean, a computer tech. Jim’s seven children have yielded 27 grandchildren!

Under Georgette’s influence, Jim became a devout Christian. They attend Cornerstone Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Brighton.

Under Jim’s influence, Georgette became a biker. In those days, it was unusual to see female Harley riders, and Georgette attracted attention, including a cover story in Outlaw Biker, and her picture on a T-shirt.

Jim’s bikes have been countless. His last bike is a 1450 cc Harley Fat Boy which he bought new in 2002, and which will be taken over this Labor Day by his son, James.

In 1979, Jim and Georgette moved to Tampa, FL. Jim formed American Polishing Systems, a mobile auto detailer.

In the 1980s in Tampa, Jim attended the annual show of the Tampa barbershop chorus. (Vocal Majority was the guest!) With Jim’s love of singing and quartetting he joined the Tampa chorus and sang in many quartets. These were non-registered quartets, many with Dave LaBar, well-known to barbershoppers worldwide, who was so kind to Jim. The only registered quartet was MEDIC ALERT, with which Jim went to District, placing second in the Seniors competition.

Last year, they returned to Michigan to be nearer to the grandkids. For awhile, Jim sang with Livingston County chapter, then learned of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter and joined us.

Jim was rear-ended in a serious auto accident earlier this year, but was still able to sing in a Valentines quartet called WATERFORD CRYSTAL (Frye, Claffin, Cowlishaw, Melkonian) that morphed in VINTAGE, with Tom Blackstone taking over the tenor role.

Big Chief Jeopardy, #32. (Try these.)

1. **Answer:** He was a member of the Society for more than forty years and served two terms as district president. He also served three years as an International board member. In 1949 he began publishing The Michigan Troubadour, which is believed to be the first organized regular district publication in the Society. He was a part of the committee that succeeded in bringing the international convention to Detroit in 1953, serving as associate chairman of the event.

2. **Answer:** He has worked as an art educator and as a Lutheran Lay Worker, but his work and interests also include: merchandising, rent-a-copping, weaving, flower gardening, antique architecture, and “libraries.”

(Clues to the Questions in Issues # 64 and 74.)

**ASK THE DIRECTOR**

Q: Tom, how did you spend your summer vacation?

A: What I did on my summer “vacation,” you ask? Let me pour you a nice mint julep and sit a spell on the front porch swing. Remember, teachers have the summer off. Right? Wrong.

The summer began with my producing/directing the Summer Music Theater program for the Rochester Community Schools. The directorship of the program rotates between the three high school choral directors and it was my turn. The musical this summer was Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. The program involved over 105 cast members, ages 5th grade and up, and many pit orchestra members, set, lights and technical crews. I employed a staff of nine including former students. A very unique part of the program is its sense of mentorship between directors, assistant directors, staff and students. We had five weeks to audition and present the final product, a series of four sold-out shows! The show was a huge success, and staff, parents and students all enjoyed the results of everyone’s hard work, and the sense of community is amazing! It is a lot of work and time commitment but in the end it is worth it!

Two days after the final performance, my family and I were off to Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Muskegon, Michigan. This was my second year as conductor for the grades 7-9 SATB Choir (approximately 75 students) and I also was asked to direct the Staff Choir and the Staff Vocal Ensemble. It was a lot of music in two weeks. Many students come from around the country to be involved in the intensive program of learning music, private lessons, technique classes and sectionals and a final concert of the music learned for parents. While I was "working" my family stayed in our new travel trailer at Duck Creek Resort right across the street from Michigan’s Adventure Amusement Park. Jana and the kids
enjoyed the park, swimming at the resort and generally just relaxing in our trailer. We did take my wife to a nice birthday dinner at the Old Channel Inn on Lake Michigan and went and visited a lighthouse as well. No Blue Family trip is complete without a lighthouse tour!

After returning home from Blue Lake we had a week to recuperate before heading south to the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee. We stayed with family there and got to visit with the kid's 87-year-old great grandmother. What a treat for all of us or should I say "all y'all." We spent time with family, visited Cades Cove and of course, Dollywood! No, we didn't see Dolly, but we did get a large dose of Southern Gospel, quartet style.

The summer has drawn to a close and now we are resting at home and preparing for one final summer Labor Day campout! Where? I am not sure yet. Need another mint julep?

BUSH LEAGUE
Thank you, once again, to Ev Erickson and his Gaylord crew for doing another great barbershop weekend. Thanks to CHORDIOLOGY for their awesome master class about quarteting and Audacity. Thanks to Roger Lewis, Ken Fisher, and Ron Eubank for joining me on the panel for the ten-quartet contest. Congrats to SMALL TOWN SOUND out of Kazoo on winning. This event is always filled with fun, fellowship, and education. I'm proud to be part of it. Let's do it again next year! Bush League rocks!!! (From Al Fisk)

A big congratulations to SMALL TOWN SOUND, this years Bush League champions. We have another Michael Slama in the making. This was some contest, the top four quartets were all within 6 percentage points of each other. And all ten quartets were very good. This fall’s district contest is going to be a great one. This weekend felt more like a district contest then a Bush League. A big thank you to the Gaylord chapter, the coaches (CHORDIOLOGY) and judges Roger Lewis, Al Fisk, and a big thanks to Ken Fisher (who gave me a very kind compliment that made my weekend). The talent this weekend was great. I must mention one Matt Tipton who was a stand-in for CHORDIOLOGY and SINGING WITH DAD, singing two different voice parts. How many of us can do that?

The afterglow was one of the best I've been to, everyone cheering everyone, like each quartet was the champion. Never seen anything like it. When the first official afterglow was over, the second one began. You could not tell who was who because every one was mixing it up, having the gayest of times. I can not wait to see all of you at fall convention.

Its Great to be A barbershopper!
Terry Jamison,
Tenor, Northbound Sound Quartet

AMERICAN HARMONY
The dates for the much-advertised and widely praised documentary on barbershop quartet competition are now firm:
- November 20, 2009 (Friday 7:00 pm),
- November 21, 2009 (Saturday 7:00 pm) w/live entertainment
- November 22, 2009 (Sunday 2:00 pm),
- November 22, 2009 (Sunday 4:00 pm w/live entertainment

This is the weekend BEFORE Thanksgiving.

Regular admission: $7.50; Senior/student/DIA member: $6.50
Tickets may be purchased on-line: www.dia.org/dft (add $1.50 service charge)
or by phone: (313) 833-4005 or at the box office, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit

Tickets will not be mailed but must be picked up (in your name) at the box office.

Parking vouchers will be issued [for the DIA's underground parking garage] at the box office when you pick up your tickets. Parking fee is regularly $5.00 but will be waived IF TICKETS AND VOUCHERS ARE PICKED UP BEFORE ENTERING THE PARKING STRUCTURE.

So, choose a date, ask friends to join you, order your tickets and enjoy the show.

What about those tickets you purchased in good faith on-line last month to secure the venue? Those tickets will NOT BE CHARGED to your credit card account.

Any questions? Call Floyd McDaniel at 586 292-1942

Many of you have never heard of the Redford Harmony Club. Maybe some of you are aware of the sad news I have - The RHC is about to drift off into never-land after 39 years. Reason - lack of participation. They meet only once a month, much like the old days. All they do is quartet singing. Many quartets have stopped by Redford on the second Friday of each month to pay a visit and sing a few for the most appreciative membership ($8.00 a year) One thing is for certain; if you go there you will sing.

They meet on the second Friday of each month at the Redford Jaycee Hall, 15585 Beech Daly, on the west side of the street, two blocks north of 5 Mile Rd. I hope to have a car load there next Friday. How about you?

Lyle Howard

There is an interesting article in Wikipedia, contrasting Just Intonation (barbershop tuning) and Equal Temperament (piano tuning).

“The human voice is among the most pitch-flexible instruments in common use. Pitch can be varied with no restraints and adjusted in the midst of
performance, without needing to retune (as even with the otherwise flexible string instruments). Although the explicit use of just intonation fell out of favour concurrently with the increasing use of instrumental accompaniment (with its attendant constraints on pitch), most a cappella ensembles naturally tend toward just intonation because of the comfort of its stability. Barbershop quartets are a good example of this."

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Just_intonation

Click on the examples in the second paragraph to hear the difference.

There's a fun YouTube video of Michigan in 1946 on line at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QMR7veI78f8 It'll take you back.

PitchPipes

Up a creek without a pitchpipe? Michael Baribeau has put a pitchpipe on line at http://greatlakeschorus.org/onlinepitchpipe/ Caution, I tried it but the Bb was flat.


Conditioning and Warm-up

In my 40's I ran many road races, and one year completed 1500 miles. That much running had a strongly positive training effect. Nevertheless, each day, when I set out to run, the first strides were awkward. Then I’d get into a zone and could run for miles, feeling light on my feet, before fatigue set in.

I’ve thought about how similar that is to singing. If someone has not sung before, or not sung more than the occasional hymn at church, then there is a conditioning that must take place in the vocal apparatus, that may take weeks or months, but singing becomes easier and easier. Nevertheless, each time we sing, we need to warm up before that comfort zone occurs. Then we can sing for several hours before our voices begin to feel ragged.

Parallels!

H1N1 (swine) Influenza

As everyone has heard, there is considerable concern about the possible impact of H1N1 this fall. It could lead to some disruption in our rehearsals, and even our show.

Let’s all agree that if any of us have symptoms of this influenza that we will:
Stay home until noncontagious
Limit social contact, wash hands, and cough/sneeze into tissues or sleeve.

http://www.oakland.edu/infectionprevention/

The CDC’s recommendations web site is at http://flu.gov/

Our most knowledgeable local guy is Jim Owens, who has spent many hours studying, warning, and preparing for the possibility of influenza pandemics.

Letters to the editor:

John,

What a good idea, to reprint important tidbits from 100 issues! And you got to have the most fun of all, going back and reading, reminiscing, reading, reminiscing...

Congratulations on a great issue!

Thanks also for the good time at your chapter meeting, the dinner, and setting up my stay at the Melkonian Bed & Breakfast. P-W is a wonderful chapter and very fortunate to have you and Jack spreading the word.

Art Lane

Great Smoke Signal! I liked the memories.

Donna Bevington

Hi John,

Boy what a whirlwind summer. I am back in Vegas but it was a wonderful, busy and tiring summer. Unfortunately my best plans to visit the BCC on a Tuesday night could not come to fruition….

Maria and I had some good times, and please apologize to the guys for me, but time did not permit me running out to Pontiac on a Tuesday night. BCC is always in my heart and hopefully next time.

My best to all, and good luck on the fall show.

Art Carinci

All unattributed articles and photos by John Cowlishaw

I TOLD YOU, LEADS CAN'T REMEMBER TWO WORDS IN A ROW!
CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Dick Johnson, & Bill Holmes
President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
Past President: Zaven Melkonian
VP: Chapter Dev: Bill Holmes
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
Secretary: Bill Auquier
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large – Bob Butcher, Wayne Cheyne, Ron Clarke, Erik Domke
Chorus Manager: Bob Greenwood
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray, Prueter,
Moss, Cowlishaw, and Brede

CALENDAR  (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45’ earlier)
Sep 1, T, 7pm      Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Sep 8, T, 7pm      Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Sep 11, F, 7pm     Fallen Heroes (Blue blazers, white shirts, gray pants)
Sep 15, T, 7pm     Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Sep 22, T, 7pm     Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Sep 29, T, 7pm     Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 6, T, 7pm      Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 11, Su, 2pm    Orion Twp Library, “Show Favorites of the Past”
Oct 13, T, 7pm     Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 16-18          Fall District Convention - Kalamazoo
Oct 20, T, 7pm     Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Oct 27, T, 7pm     Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 3, T, 7pm      Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Nov 5, Th, 7pm     Possible Dress Rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 7, Sa, 7pm     “Disney on Broadway”, P-W Show, Waterford Mott H.S.
Dec 6, Su, 4pm     Big Chief Chorus with the North Oakland Concert Band
                   Christ the Redeemer Church, 2700 Waldon Rd. Lake Orion
Apr 23-25         Spring District Convention, Kalamazoo