Vol. 11, No. 6 (#126)  October 1, 2011

Fall Retreat
The chorus held its one-day Fall retreat at Royal Oak Church of Christ, a venue arranged by Joe Maxwell, who will also use his mellifluous voice and past WJR professional radio career to play the Announcer in “Phantom of the Barbershop.” Doug Lynn enjoyed throwing himself into the role of the Phantom. And Bob Stephenson is the commanding chorus manager. Donna Bevington was there to consult with Jeff Doig and Pete Mazzara about details of the production.

After coffee, donuts, juice and fruit at 8:30 (thanks, Roger, Jack, Dave), Tom took the 38 of us thru our ten song show package in three chunks. Then Jimmy Johns’ sandwiches were served, while Doug Metzger kept us abreast of the developing spread in the scores of the UofM and MSU games. In the afternoon, we went thru the show package twice, for timing and flow.

From Director Tom:
Men and Friends of the BCC,

Thank you all for your time and efforts this past Saturday. Several musical things along with show script run-throughs were accomplished without a sense of being “pressed for time.”

Thanks again for all of the people who helped set up our practice facility, brought and organized our breakfast and lunch, and arranged for our guests. It is going to be a good show and hopefully a full house!

AROUND THE PATCH
On Thursday, September 8, 32 men braved the rainstorms and the distance to sing at Waltonwood On Main in Rochester. Tom Blue led the chorus, and three quartets sang – 4GVN, Chris’ Craft, and Natural E. The singout was a referral from Don Lewis of the Rochester chapter.

Eighteen chieftains entertained the folks at Westlake Health Campus, in Commerce Township, Monday, September 26. Twenty-three residents, family, and staff listened as Freddie led the crew thru a half-hour repertoire. Two quartets were formed to entertain as well. Southwest Corner (Teuber-Sturdy-Cowlishaw-Wallace) sang “It’s a Good Day” and Natural E (with Frye at Lead) sang “Sweet and Lovely.”

The Westlake Ladies

The three Rochester Adams High School girls who attended Harmony Explosion on our nickel have found a fourth girl to join them in forming a barbershop quartet. Way to go.

The yellow show tickets distributed Sep 20 had the wrong date on them and are being replaced by blue tickets with the right date.
Bill Dabbs’ long-time friend and recent finance Betty Guerin died August 30 of complications from cancer and lung problems. It was thru Betty’s husband, Dick Guerin, President of the Big Chief Chorus in the 1970s that Bill got into barbershop. Years later, after the deaths of Dick, and of Bill’s wife, they reconnected. They traveled to Las Vegas together for last winter’s International Barbershop Convention, where the rest of us attendees met her.

The memorial service was Saturday, September 10 at Hess Hathaway Park. Bill Holmes officiated, and a quartet (Mike Frye, Lyle Howard, Dick Johnson, and Zaven Melkonian) sang “Nellie,” “Lida Rose,” and “Let the Rest of the World Go By.” CELEBRATION also sang, and the eighteen Chieftains who were present concluded with “Irish Parting Prayer.” A fine meal was served.

Quartet News

Limited Edition sang at the 60th wedding anniversary celebration for Ralph and Betty Jones, very special friends of Tom and Jana Blue, Saturday, September 3, at the Seventh Day Adventist Church of Lake Orion. Ralph and Betty were surprised by the celebration, arranged by their daughter, and pleased by the presence of the quartet. Given the conversational nature of the luncheon (60 people?), LIMITED EDITON assumed the role of “wallpaper” as they sang a seven-song set. They concluded with “Let the Rest of the World Go By,” as Ralph and Betty clasped hands together.

LIMITED EDITION put on a half-hour show for a dinner meeting of the Birmingham Chapter of Eastern Star, Wednesday evening, September 14. The quartet really felt “in the zone” as they sang eight songs to a smartly attired and very appreciative audience of about 95 people. The chapter meets at the Masonic Temple on Woodward.

Limited Edition was featured entertainment for the second year in a row at Milford Historical Society’s 35th Annual Home Tour, September 18. The homes were built from 1858 on along North Main St and Union Street in historic Milford. LIMITED EDITION stood outside the homes to sing to groups waiting for the guided tours inside. With a five-hour window, the quartet got the chance to work thru its entire repertoire.

Waterford’s Got Talent

LIMITED EDITION competed, September 24, in the 2nd Annual Waterford’s Got Talent, at the Waterford Mott High School Performing Arts Center. With a nearly full house of 550, the nineteen acts (selected from 60 hopefuls in June) did their things (singing, dancing, two bands, violin, guitars, a magician, and six 10-year olds who combined to form three "vertically challenged" performers in a puppet stage … oh, yes, and a barbershop quartet) before emcee Jay Towers (Fox-2), and the three judges, Rachael Hunter (DRQ & WYCD), a talent agent, and a dance instructor. LIMITED EDITION didn’t win any of the six money prizes, but they were happy with their smooth performance of "Come Fly with Me - In My Room," and they enjoyed the interactions with so much youthful energy and the chance to showcase a cappella, on the stage, and in hallways and dressing rooms. The kids ate it up, and one older woman was startled that we could grant her request for "Satin Doll." 13-year-old pianist Ana Campbell took us under her wing, assured us we would do fine and not to be nervous. 8-yr-old McKayla Prew sang the National Anthem a cappella and didn’t bat a well-made-up eye when she had to change key three times. Amy Tkac teaches at Good Shepherd Lutheran School where she heard the quartet perform last year; she sang like a pro despite her oath that this was the first time she had sung in public!

Kendall art student, 19-yr-old Hayley Hungerford, won the event, singing and guitaring an original composition.

LIMITED EDITION gets close to a thousand dollars!

The downside of singing for an event like this is the loss of contact with the audience. With two bright spots shining in their eyes, the audience disappeared until the wildly generous applause.

The woman behind this very well-organized event is Heather Halls, and the proceeds go to Waterford Coalition for Youth, a 501 (c)(3) organization that promotes a safe and healthy way of life for our youth by supporting activities that reduce the risks associated with adolescent problems, behaviors, and substance abuse.
Celebration Quartet

Our Chapter Celebration Barbershop Quartet had two singouts in September at private parties.

On Saturday, September 24, with sub Dick Johnson, the quartet helped celebrate the 90th birthday of Josephine Baker on Lakewood Drive, Waterford. Thirty minutes of song was presented to Josie, eight grandkids and another couple dozen family members. The birthday girl liked "Josie, Josie, Bless Yure Heart" and the kids were very attentive and laughed at "Kitty, Kitty". Other songs included "Let the Rest of the World Go By" and "Coney Island Baby."

Interestingly, the host saw and heard Celebration singing Christmas carols at Copperstones and was impressed enough to search thru her files for the business card they handed out. She insisted they wear their handsome tuxes and red vests/bow ties. Josie said how could it get any better than four handsome (?) young (?) men singing to her on her birthday.

On Thursday, September 29, at Bruce's home, Celebration sang for the Red Hats with subs Dick Johnson and Chuck Murray. About a dozen Red Hats were honoring June Carlson as a surprise. After "Happy Birthday", June and her friends were treated to "Let The Rest of the World", "Heart of a Clown", "Irish Parting Prayer" and few polecats. June is a close friend of the Chapter having played piano at many of their events.

BCC 2011 Performance Total: thru September: 80 gigs to 6064 people.

MEMBERSHIP (at 62)
Renewals: Bruce LaMarte (40)
Overdue: Ross Ensign, Bob Greenwood, Jim Macdonald, Charlie Perry
Good bye: Jeffrey Kafer, Joe Poole, Paul Smith
October Birthdays: Art Carinci (18th), Walt DeNio (27th), Bill Nevaux (27th), Roger Holm (29th)
Barbershopper of the Month: Walt Denio (August) for his many contributions

Medical
Ted Prueter’s wife has been in and out of the hospital.
John Northey had prostate surgery in September.
Austin Quinn’s wife Martha is in Hospice care.
Bob Legato has had vein surgery.
Joan Cheyne’s mom died September 19.

AROUND THE DISTRICT
Harmony Weekend (From Ray Sturdy)
Harmony Weekend in Harrisville was not without Pontiac-Waterford representation this year as Ray Sturdy and Fred McFadyen made sure Big Chiefs would be found singing almost everywhere. In 1962 (yeah - 49 years ago) barbershoppers started gathering on a regular basis in the Harrisville State Park during the last two weeks before Labor Day. The community welcomed them with open arms and before long a number of chapters from around the state were sending contingents of singers to vie with one another (musically, that is) and play a little golf, too, if that could be worked in. The festivities traditionally culminate in a show on Saturday night and a Sunday afternoon parade to the Harborside Park. In recent years, regional Sweet Adeline groups have augmented the singing. This year, four SWI choruses, five ladies quartets and a mass chorus sang on Saturday night and their singing quality was exceptional! They were followed by Double Date, a neat quartet with Brian and Lou Anne Kaufman singing with Al and Peggi Starkey (four barbershopping teachers - go figure). MOXXY was on hand to finish out the proceedings and they got a standing ovation. A great time was had by all and next year you can expect the town to roll out the red carpet for the 50 year anniversary.

Dress Rehearsal/Send Off for Fenton Lakes Chorus
The Fenton Lakes Chorus is going to International. They’d like to sing their package to an audience, so
“Nancy Liedel has invited you to a Public Event.
Wednesday, October 12. 7:30pm - 10:30pm
Location: Holly High School Auditorium
6161 East Holly Road
Michigan 48442
No fee, we just want an audience”

Pioneer District Convention
As of Sep 27, there were 17 quartets and 8 choruses registered for the Fall Convention in Kalamazoo.

AROUND THE WORLD
The address of the new BHS President, Alan Lamson, is available at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EtIsbDrkWlU&feature=related

2012 International Conventions

Tucson Midwinter January 17-22
Portland 2012 July 1-8
Virtual Chorus
Bringing Barbershop Singers Together

Here's a fun project for your chorus: You are invited to participate in the newly-founded Virtual Barbershop Chorus - an internet-based group which will be comprised of choruses recording individual performances via web cam. The recordings will then be compiled to produce a full Virtual Barbershop Chorus performance which will be published via social media web sites, including YouTube.

The first project, *If I Had My Way*, is now in the works (many thanks to David Harrington for allowing the use of his arrangement). All singers are welcome to sign up at VIRTUAL CHORUS. Register on the contact page if you are interested, then log on to the website using your registration info to access instructions, sheet music and learning tracks.

Tom Blackstone is going to participate. “Thought I might participate. Peter Nugent has already provided me with the David Harrington Arrangement as well as the Learning Tracks. Seems to be fairly easy to learn. This should be quite an interesting project. I’m taking bets on how many will ultimately be in this chorus. Ain’t that internet an amazing tool? If anyone else has interest in doing this let me know. I call this ‘thinking outside of the box.’”

The Alexandria Harmonizers chorus has been broadcasting or podcasting with some interesting shows. They’re freely and easily accessible at:
http://harmocast.com/category/audiocast

Some of the recent interesting titles have been:
- CROSSROADS’ Brandon Guyton talks recording, leadership, impeccable tuning and more.#19
- How To Produce A Great Barbershop Show #16
- eXtreme Quartetting and Harmony Brigade - Charlie Rose & Duane
- Henry – Show #14
- Presentation Coaching. It’s Not Just For Contest - Cindy Hansen
- Interview, Show # 11
- Marketing 101 for your Barbershop Chorus - Show #10

(From Grady Kerr, Society Historian)

http://www.barbershop.org/preservation-publication.html

MEET JIM McMAIN

Jim was born and raised “south of the Mason-Dixon Line.” His dad was a foreman in a hosiery mill in Asheville, NC, where Jim was born in 1937. They moved to Nashville, TN during the Second World War, where Dad machined warheads (Jim remembers a hillbilly concert at the Grand Old Opry House) and then to Montgomery, AL in 1948. During the booming economy of the Korean War, the family (mom, dad, and eventually nine kids) relocated to Michigan. They lived in St Clair County, from where Jim’s dad commuted to Centerline to work, and Jim commuted to St Clair High School, from which he graduated. In school he played a little basketball, and had wanted to join the junior high band, but was loath to ask his folks for the $15 instrument fee.

Jim attended Port Huron Junior College for a year, then married Esther and moved to Detroit. He joined Cross Company in Fraser in 1956 as a machine apprentice and worked as a machinist for six years, becoming a journeyman machinist. At night he attended Lawrence Tech to receive his Associates Degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology. This allowed him to join the Manufacturing Engineering division at Cross Company. When they began outsourcing their work in 1984, he moved to M. P. Pumps, doing the same kind of work, until his retirement in 2002.

Esther and Jim had six children – Linda, Cindy, Jim Jr, Michael, Geoffrey, and Scott. Esther died in 1990 after a long illness. In 1993, Jim married Penny who also has five children. Thus, they have large family gatherings when the kids, all out of town, and mostly out of state, can come together.

Jim thinks of his upbringing as being in a singing family. He especially remembers singing with his older sister, Nancy, who was even in a girl’s quartet in high school. He remembers washing dishes and singing from a hymnal propped up on the kitchen window sill. He has sung in every church choir, beginning with the tiny Columbus Baptist Church. The first “real” choir he was in was at Grosse Pointe Baptist church. Now he sings with the Woodside Bible Church in Troy.

However, his link to barbershop began when, as a part-time taxman at H & R Block, he got Jim Owens as a client. He heard the Chieftains perform at Log Cabin Days in Fish Hatchery Park this past June, and, after talking to Jack Teuber, he began coming to our rehearsals. He has only missed one Tuesday night since then, and became a member this fall.

In retirement, Jim drives a school bus in the Pontiac School system.

Jim says he is better-suited for barbershop bass than the frequent high notes of the church choir bass. He looks to Roger Holm as his mentor. He has
learned fast, partly because he has come to recognize some of the predictability of the bass line. Eventually, he would like to try quartetting.

**Big Chief Jeopardy, #44. (Did you get these?)**

1. **Answer:** He retired from Chrysler as a tool-maker. He learned to love a cappella as a youth at Clawson Church of Christ (where they sang shaped notes). He joined BCC and Local Color. **Question:** Who is Fred DeVries?

2. **Answer:** Of Danish descent, he attended Alma College, was a Vice-President of Pontiac State Bank, and then took over the family real estate business on Telegraph Rd. **Question:** Who is Dar Johnson?

**Mel Parrish Sings On** (from Bruce Brede)

About noon on Thursday, September 29, a five man quartet visited Mel Parrish at the Lake Orion Nursing Center. Included were Leads Barnes & Brede, Bass Murray (and Parrish), Tenor Teuber and Bari Johnson. They sang most of the polecats with Mel mouthing most of the words, as well as “Heart of a Clown,” “Let the Rest of the World Go By,” “Irish Blessing,” “Kitty Kitty,” and several formerly sung by THE LAST GOODBYE quartet that Mel and Lennie and Bill Pascher sang in for years, years ago.

Mel was relatively inactive physically during the visit but no shaking and not bad for a 93 year old. He was weak and hard of hearing but very joyful, enthusiastic and thankful for the singing. We talked about Bill Pascher and their activities together over the years. The “quartet” was invited back and soon.

**The world’s largest musical instrument…**

traverses a Japanese forest.

[http://www.youtube.com/user/sakura4250?blend=2&ob=5](http://www.youtube.com/user/sakura4250?blend=2&ob=5)

**NBC’s “The Sing Off”**

Well, the a cappella group that was championed by OC TIMES, THE CAT’S PAJAMAS, didn’t make it out of the first round. One critic said, “The Cat’s Pajamas had tight harmonies but dripped more cheese than a Sbarro’s slice underneath a heat lamp.” But there are twelve groups remaining and good singing to be heard, each Monday night at 8/7c on NBC.

**Show Song List**

Test yourself. How are you coming in mastering our Fall Show repertoire?

(a) Can read the notes and sing the music accurately, with paper
(b) Know the notes and words; am off the paper
(c) Mastery of the song

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**Editorial**

“You sing without instruments?!?” one recent inquiry went. Why do people find that so amazing? I think people assume that singers need an instrumental background in order to stay “in the groove,” especially to know what pitch to sing, when to sing it, and how to cover up the white space.

But we delight in taking care of those matters a cappella. Or at least we hope we do.

Lately, we seem to have had a lot of pitch disturbance. Much of it starts at the first note. We don’t “honor the pitch pipe.” And then we slide down from there. Tom keeps reminding us that the sliding is due to poor breath support. But the initial note problem is something else. Twice I have emailed little exercises for singing a pitch relative to a blown note. You can do that yourself. Blow a C. Then try to sing a 3rd accurately, or a 5th, or a 7th. Check yourself by blowing an E, a G, or a Bb.

We need to focus acutely on this pitch problem.

**Errata:** from Brian Dunckel, President, Pioneer District

Hi John, Let me clarify something that was in your latest edition of Smoke Signals. I did not go to Category School nor recently become a Candidate Judge in Presentation- that was my son, Kevin.
Letters
From Terry Jamison

My fellow barbershoppers, it had been great to make many friends throughout the district over the years. Due to my poor health and unemployment I’m forced to leave to state. Thanks to my sister who pulled some strings; she was able to get me the medical attention I need. You are my brothers and in my heart you live. I look forward to the new friends I will make.

I have greatly enjoyed our friendship and the great times I had with the Pioneer district. I look forward to seeing some of you at international down the road.

God bless you all.
Terry Jamison, Tenor
Big Chief Chorus, Guardians of Harmony, NORTHBOUND SOUND

The Power of “Amazing Grace”

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man. He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper’s cemetery in the Kentucky back country. As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn’t stop for directions. I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight. There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late. I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play. The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around. I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I’ve never played before for this homeless man. And as I played “Amazing Grace,” the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together. When I finished I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head hung low, my heart was full. As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen nothin' like that before and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years." Apparently I’m still lost.... it's a man thing.

(from the Mt Rushmore bulletin)

All articles and photos are by the Editor unless stated otherwise.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
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President: Jack Teuber (248-334-3686)
Past President: Doc Mann (248-628-0189)
VP: Chapter Dev: Eric Domke

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Bill Auquier
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large - Walt Bachmann, Terry Jamison, Doug Metzger, Fred Pioch
Chorus Manager: Open
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Murray, Prueter, Moss, Cowlishaw, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR (Times are Performance Times, Warmups 45' earlier,

Oct 4, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Five more to SHOW)
Oct 9, Su, 2pm Gig, Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd, Lake Orion, 48362
Oct 9, 3:30pm Music Committee Meeting, following gig at Library
Oct 11, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Four more to SHOW)
Oct 12, W, 7:30 Fenton Lakes Rehearsal/Send Off for International
Oct 14-16 Pioneer District Convention, Kalamazoo
Oct 18, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Three more to SHOW)
Oct 22, Sa Rochester Show
Oct 25, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (Two more to SHOW)
Nov 1, T, 7pm Chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks (One more to SHOW)
Nov 3, Th, 7pm Probable Chorus dress rehearsal, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 5, Sa, 7pm 67th BCC Show Phantom of the Barbershop
Nov 8, T, 7pm 1st Christmas chorus rehearsal, Waterford Oaks
Dec 1, Th, 1 pm Gig, Oakland Co. Retirees, 991 N. Williams Lk Rd, 48386
Dec 6, T Waterford Tree Lighting, 5200 Civic Ctr Dr, Warmup at 6pm
Apr 20-22, 2012 Pioneer District Convention, Battle Creek
Jun 30, 2012 Gig, Log Cabin Days

(from Concho Capers)