Dead Creek Picnic
By Mike Frye
The BCC along with several members of the Grosse Pointe Chapter boarded a brand new Oakland County Parks and Rec Bus and headed for Frankenmuth for the annual Brat Fest.

The BCC was represented in song not only by the chorus but by three quartets. Gil Schreiner made his debut singing in front of the public and he did great.

This was probably the largest gathering of Chapters and quartets at the Brat Fest in a long time.

A new senior quartet called ROLLS VOICE made its debut consisting of Doc Gillingham, Bruce LaMarte, T.C. Conner, and T. R. Gerard. Of course they were outstanding and a force to be on the lookout for in the near future.

There were also the District Champions (RIGHT ON Q) singing well, along with the up and coming college quartet G-FOURS. Not only are they very good but they are quality young men.

Several other quartets performed to round out an enjoyable evening.

Thanks again to the Flint Chapter for being the host of this event and for the invitation.

By Jack Teuber
The Dead Creek Picnic, with the Frankenmuth Brats, was near capacity with 145 Barbershoppers and guests. There were ten chapters represented - from Monroe to Lansing to Mt. Pleasant. There were too many quartets to count including the three from the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter.

The Big Chief Chorus was well represented with 25 singers and several guests. It was great to share our bus with nine Grosse Pointers and two from D.O.C. We had only two vacant seats. It was a night filled with singing including tags taught by William Stutts Jr. A highlight of the evening was the singing of the G-FOURS, Collegiate Champion and the debut of ROLLS VOICE.

Here's looking forward to the DOC Picnic on July 28. It will again be held in nearby Sylvan Lake.

From John Noteware
Please convey to the chorus our gratitude for attending the Flint Arrowhead chorus Dead Creek gathering. It was great fun.

Pontiac-Waterford has always supported this June event. We appreciate the effort it takes to get to Frankenmuth and perform.

Photos by Herbert Judd from the Dead Creek picnic https://picasaweb.google.com/117274343507121371738/BarbershopDeadCreekJune242014?authkey=Gv1sRgCL_tlt-v0ofxJA The BCC chorus is at 16,17. And our three quartets are at 28-32.
LOG CABIN DAYS

The chorus met at Pierce Middle School to bus to Fish Hatchery Park for Log Cabin Days. Under summertime temperatures and threatening skies, the chorus of 24 sang an eleven-set, opening with the Star Spangled Banner and closing with Irish/Keep. Freddie McFadyen explained the BHS history to the audience of about 70, and Jack Teuber put out the good word about our Aug 15 and Nov 1 dates. Two quartets sang. 4GVN sang the Spiritual Medley and the “Dum-Dum Song.” TODAY’S EDITION (McFadyen, Frye, Cowlishaw, Perry) sang “Old St Louie” and “Breaking Up.”

AROUND THE PATCH
Seventeen Chiefs helped to make Lew Mahacek’s Memorial memorable Friday, May 31, at Elton Black & Sons in Highland Twp. Fred McFadyen led them in singing “Aint Misbehavin’” and “Irish Parting Prayer.”

Roger Holm organized a work party June 3 to sort thru Dick Johnson’s barbershop belongings. Thanks from Roger to Lennie, John, Jeff, Mike, Howard, Freddie, and Jack.

Chuck Murray has suggested that for an event like Log Cabin Days, strolling quartets might be a better option than all of the effort it takes to set up risers and sound system for the chorus where the audience was very limited in past years. Most were friends and relatives of the barbershopper performers! And the quartets could recruit new chorus members after every song or so. “Sign ‘em up!” [Another option would be to split the performance into chorus, and strolling quartets.]

From Bob Legato’s significant other, Barbara Workman, (whose email one should use to contact Bob or Barbara):

“Hi John: Thanks for all the updates from the club. Just want you and the guys and gals to know that I am changing my email address to: barbara041847@gmail.com”

Thanks. Chickie Barbara Workman

Our sing-out at Lockwood is July 3rd!

BHS Quartet Finals Webcast
With Jim Owens out of town, is there another volunteer to host the BHS Quartet Finals? The show begins at 10pm EDT Saturday night, July 5. The $45 cost would be split between attendees.

Chorus Sound System
(From Jeff Doig)

I do not think that I should be the only person in the chorus that has the sole responsibility for the sound system.

I am working with Lance Shew to get the sound system to Log Cabin days and I will show him how to run it. And if any of you guys can give Lance a hand I'm sure he would appreciate it.

But, for the future, if any of you are interested in learning how to set up and run the sound system and/or learning about the chorus website please let me know.

We need more of a team approach for both the website and the sound system.

FROM DIRECTOR TOM
Men of the BCC,

Thanks again for a good turn out and some good singing at the Frankenmuth “Dead Creek” gathering and Log Cabin Days. Thanks for good rehearsals! I appreciate your willingness to sing and your courageusness for forming “on the spot quartets and octets.”

Let’s continue that spirit of willingness and “bravery.” Please sign-up for the Tiger game, what a great experience and good exposure for us (maybe even the Harmonizer). It is always more fun when we have more guys like yourselves. If you noticed that someone was absent Tuesday, give ‘em a call and check on them and make sure that as many of us as possible continue singing throughout the summer. We actually make a lot of progress each summer and it makes our fall preparation less stressful.
Big Chief Chorus Facebook site
The Big Chief Chorus facebook page was set up by Doug Metzger at: https://www.facebook.com/pages/Big-Chief-Chorus/195338833812959 but it has been unattended in recent years.

Eric Domke writes: “Doug just made me an administrator and I will add Jack, John, and Wayne as administrators."

So when you see something musically interesting, send it to Eric to put on our FB site, or post it yourself on the right side. Let’s fill it up!

Chris Miller Honorary Quartets
By Chuck Murray

It's Chris Miller Honorary Quartet (CMHQ) Sign-Up Time, again!

Notice that the CMHQ service periods have been reduced, and that will allow more members to participate in CMHQ’s, more frequently.

Jim Owens started the latest Chris Miller Honorary Quartet “CMHQ-H.” We sure do look forward to hearing from them until August 12 at Quartet Time during the BCC rehearsals! Next Tuesday, Jim?

We need to get members (Leads) to volunteer to organize future CMHQ’s, and let me know who will be singing with them, and what songs we can expect to hear.

Remember, this is a great opportunity to practice chapter Show songs, as well as introduce your "personal favorite songs" to the chorus! I recall hearing that one Lead wanted to learn to sing the song, "What a Wonderful World", but I've not heard back from him. I can volunteer to be his Bass, but he'll still need a Tenor and a Baritone!

We need Leads to organize the following CMHQ’s:

"CMHQ - J"  (August 19 through October 7)
"CMHQ - K"  (October 14 through December 2)

We then give the CMHQ's a "Break" during the Christmas Chorus Season

"CMHQ - L" (January 6, 2015 through February 4, 2015)
"CMHQ - M" (March 3, 2015 through April 21, 2015)

Remember, we are all friends, and love to help each other improve in our singing. Getting up and singing in a quartet is one sure way to help that happen!

Harmony Explosion
Maryann Lambrecht writes: “Thank you once again. This year we will be sending a quartet: Melvin Jackson (T), Tiger Xamountry (L), Zach Dahlmann (Br), and Jason Spelic (Bs).

“Big Chief will be sending $400. I will be sending $425. Each of my boys will contribute $25.”

The Mud Misses Jack
Prez Jack was in Minneapolis recently to see his nephew’s handball tournament, the same area that has been flooded. Did he experience that?

“We did well with rain-free days Friday - Sunday. You may have seen on national TV, the mud slide that was within a few feet of the University Hospital. We missed the mudslide (Thursday evening) by about 15 minutes as we were walking the east bank in the rain. The mudslide was on the west bank. We did see some flooding at Minnehaha Falls on Friday.”

Jim Owens
Our river cruise turned out great. We were originally scheduled to sail the Danube. This trip was cancelled and we got on a Rhine River trip. Saw a lot of Germany and had a good time.

QUARTETS

LIMITED EDITION was invited back to the home of a 2014 Valentines recipient in Bloomfield Hills to sing at the 50th wedding anniversary of the parents, June 7. Twenty family members gathered in the living room and enjoyed.

4GVN spent all day Friday, June 27 doing Jobbie Nooner, at Gull Island, aboard Bob Greenwood’s 27' Beachliner. Their excuse was “rehearsal.” What is Jobbie Nooner? The event was started in the 80's by some of Detroit’s auto industry employees looking for a summer getaway. The workers would typically go out on the Friday following the summer solstice. Gull Island on Lake St. Clair served as a perfect venue. It has grown in popularity ever since. (The 2010 event attracted approximately 10,000 people.)

You won’t find Gull Island on Google maps. It was created by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers while dredging the canals for ship traffic. They dumped all the sand in one spot at the end of Harsens Island and it eventually became an island. The Army Corps currently manages the island.

Eric jokes that they gave away lots of beads. (Check “Mardi Gras throws” if you are unfamiliar with the custom.)

“Big Chief will be sending $400. I will be sending $425. Each of my boys will contribute $25.”

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“Big Chief will be sending $400. I will be sending $425. Each of my boys will contribute $25.”
4GVN sang at a baby shower June 28. The mother-to-be looked worn-out and the songs raised her spirits.

Chapter 2014 Performances thru June: 71 gigs to 4,607 listeners

MEMBERSHIP: (at 50)
Renewals: Ted Prueter (13), John Northey (25)
Due in July: Braun, Dabbs, Jackson, Greenwood, Hoff, Mann, McFadyen
Overdue: Metzger, Perry, Valko
Bye-Bye: Bill Nevaux
July Birthdays: Tom Jackson (1), Chuck Murray (1), Doug Metzger (14), Bill Maxfield (29), Dar Johnson (31)

Medical:
Duane Roy – has been diagnosed with esophageal cancer
Mike Keith – admitted to Beaumont Hospital June 23 for fainting spell/dizziness brought on by low blood pressure.
Ted Prueter – is being treated for leukemia
John Cowlishaw – Lacrimal gland surgery, June 24

AROUND THE DISTRICT
4GVN is one of six quartets that have signed up for Quartet Boot Camp in Okemos Saturday, July 19. They is room for nine more. Would be a good next step for some others of our chorus quartets. “You just need to know at least two songs – be off the paper. The coaches will help you make them ‘performable’ and help each man be a better singer.”

http://pioneerdistrict.org/District_Events/QCA%20Quartet%20Boot%20Camp/QCAQuartetBootCamp.htm To register, contact Roger Lewis at rjlewiscmc@aol.com

D.O.C.’s Annual Summer Picnic
“The DOC Gentlemen Songsters would like to invite the Pontiac Big Chief Chorus to joins us at our annual Summer Picnic. The picnic will be held at the Sylvan Lake Community Center on Monday, July 28. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. and begin serving food at 6:30 p.m. We welcome any quartets who would like to participate in casual entertainment during the picnic. If the chorus would like to sing a couple numbers that would be great.”
Michael Kramb

Beyond Belief
Beyond Belief is a senior chorus group, a chorus by older adults for older adults. Founded in 2014 as a part of the Mission Six Foundation, a non-for-profit organization aimed to provide music programs and opportunities. Beyond Belief consists of seniors from all across the Metro Detroit area.

Members of the group range in age from 60 to 100. They’ve joined because they want to be able to sing, dance, tell jokes and be a part of something fun and exciting.

While the chorus practices at the United Methodist Church in Novi, the group conducts shows for the communities in and around Novi.

Their current performances theme includes old western songs such as “Home on the Range,” “Happy Trails,” and “You are My Sunshine.”
Past performance sites have included Oakmont Senior Living in Livonia, White Hall of Novi, Independence Village of White Lake, Independence Village of Plymouth, and Livonia Woods Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Beyond Belief is currently in rehearsal for “Music, Music, Music” which will feature nostalgic music from the 1950s. Their next public concert will be on August 18-19 in the Novi Middle School auditorium at 1 p.m.
(Reprinted from the Spinal Column)

AROUND THE WORLD
International Convention
Our Pioneer District reps at the International Convention in Las Vegas sing:
G-Fours Collegiate Quartet 10:17 pm EDT, July 1
MAJESTYX Quartet 3:53 pm EDT, July 2
Grand Rapids Chorus 8:30 pm EDT, July 4

If you can’t be at Las Vegas July 1-5 for the International Barbershop Harmony Society convention, consider viewing it on Webcast. Hundreds of performances. More than 25 hours of entertainment. Order at www.BHSWebcast.com

More than 2,000 men in quartets and in choruses ranging to more than 150 men will compete for the gold medals. Broadway, show tunes, old chestnuts and contemporary pop music will light up the Las Vegas Strip, in a harmonic spectacle unlike anything you’ve ever seen. Or you can sign up for just the Quartet Championship Finals, Saturday evening at 6pm MDT, that’s 9pm EDT, though the competition will probably begin closer to 10 pm (ouch).

And if that’s not your cup of tea, at least take a look at these previews: the Vegas Chorus Competitors list has earned more than 8,000 views, and the Vegas Quartet Competitors Preview has topped 6,000 views.

Share these playlists to explain to family and friends just why you’re excited about barbershop.

http://barberscore.com

This mobile-friendly website/app was created so you could easily follow the International Contest in Vegas, get stage times, write notes, and learn more about contestants. Create a free account to see the stage times in your local time zone and write notes about each contestant. (Created by Alexander Boltenko and David Binetti)
Great Lakes Harmony Brigade: A Personal Story
(by Jeff Doig)

They say that a picture can be worth a thousand words. So why does this guy appear to be shooting himself?

Let me tell you about my experience at the 2014 GLHB (Great Lakes Harmony Brigade) and then we'll get back to the picture.

First of all my name tag said that I was a newbie this year, but I had competed in the first GLHB and I went to the second year but did not compete (because of a voice problem) so as not to jeopardize the others’ chances of winning. I took photos, and sang a little with the guys.

This year my quartet LIMITED EDITION decided we would all go. We practiced all the songs and even spent a weekend up at Boyne Mountain just to work on them.

The Brigade is held in Okemos, Michigan. Early Friday morning the guys who could make it early performed for the music classes at Okemos High School. I arrived there about 8:30 a.m. and joined them. During one of the performances I was picked by one of the students to sing lead in a stand out quartet with two guys I had never sang with before and William Stutts who was the acting director that morning. It was a successful demonstration of how we can put any four guys together and sing a brigade song. That was really neat and I was proud to have been part of it.

Back at the hotel the Brigade was starting to get underway and we all were singing with different combinations of singers. For those of you that are unaware of how a Brigade works, I was given what is called a dance card and on that card was a list of all the brigadiers and what part they sing. I was also given a page of stickers with my name on them. The idea being to sing with all the people on that dance card except the ones that sing your part. You then give them your sticker and they give you theirs. If and when you sing with everyone on your card, you are then known as a “tramp.” But I'm not going to explain about tramps in this article.

The Brigade teams up four guys to be in competing quartets, and I didn't know who they were until we sat down at dinner. A name for the quartet was chosen, ours was PAZAZZ, then the bass from each quartet drew one of the brigade songs out of a bowl, and that's the song they sang later that evening. That gave us some time to rehearse before the performance. After the competition we learned that PAZAZZ was one of the eleven quartets that made it through to the next round.

Out of LIMITED EDITION tenor Tom Blackstone also made it through. There is always a Wild Card quartet drawn with the remaining names of the guys that did not make it through and baritone John Cowlishaw was picked. Then because there was a tie in the scoring, bass Charlie Perry also made it. So our whole quartet got to sing in the finals. That was even neater.

The brigade puts on a show every year in which we sing all eleven songs, and there is nothing quite like the sound of 80-plus guys who love to sing. This year Mike O’Donnell put a script together that tied all the songs together in a very clever way. Also there is room for a couple of standout quartets in the show. LIMITED EDITION auditioned for one of the spots and we got to sing on the show. This weekend just kept getting better.

OK, on to the finals and that picture. In the final competition just before you step onto the stage is when you find out what your quartet will sing. Yep, you draw the song out of an envelope. No time to practice - just step up and sing. Just before stepping onto the stage Rick Mangas and Duane Henry would call them over and after some long explanation would tell them “Just Don't Suck.”

So here’s what I saw, heard, and thought as we stepped up to sing. “Next up, PAZAZZ!” OK, I draw the song and it’s “Where the Southern Roses Grow.” Not one of my favorites. And now I start thinking " I want to do this song well."

Here we go. Not a bad start. But then I can't think of the first lead pickup - which one is it? There are so many in this song. And your quartet can't help if you, as the lead, don't give them their pickup. They just kind of have to stand there. OK, stumbled a bit on the first one, but got it, and on the second. Starting to panic now a little. Looked at the judges and they're just staring at us. Got through the next and I'm home free. Then the unthinkable. Nothing, my brain went blank, could not think of a word, let alone a phrase. A total blank, and the deadly silence. At this point I dropped my head and turned as if to walk off stage in shame, but really still hoping that somehow the words would return. How does a lead forget the words for gosh sakes.
Looked around at the audience I wanted to drop through a hole in the stage. Then off to my right I heard my bass in the distance still singing the song, just what I needed to get back on track, and just as quickly as they left me the words returned. Although it was a little too late for the competition, there was still time for a decent ending. Now really upset with myself I took charge and belted out the remainder of the song. Thus the photo. I could just shoot myself for messing up the song.

OK, that explains John’s picture but here are some of the other things that I thought and observed that weekend.

The Judges for the 2014 GLHB was a Gold Medal winning quartet called CHICAGO TIMES. I got into a conversation earlier with their tenor Ray Henders. We were discussing competition and how his quartet would always score low. He said they would try to sing their songs perfectly for the judges. "But there is always going to be mistakes no matter how hard you try to be perfect." So they stopped trying to please the judges and just performed for the audience and their scores went up. Case in point, my performance, I tried to sing it perfect and after the crash I didn't care about the competition anymore and finished the song with more confidence on stage than I can ever remember before. Lesson learned.

Some other observations while on stage. Seeing judges faces as I messed up the words, looking out at the guys in the audience, seeing the look on their faces, and realizing that they felt my pain and there was nothing they could do to help either. And, oh yes, you guys in the back that were trying to help by giving me hand signals as to what word was next. Our own little game of charades. Thanks, you didn't think I noticed did you.

So all in all, the weekend was phenomenal. And I'm not going to let a thirty-second memory lapse take away any of its grandeur, even though, as the photograph shows, I wanted to shoot myself at the time.

Media

Instant Classic
BHS just uploaded some videos by our 2013 and 2015 guest quartet – Instant Classic. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W3aIFMmHPIA&list=TLhYVYr1Y_kkZGpOOFbGwiXg113Z_qr9e1&index=1

A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder
… is the2014 Tony award for best musical. Now, darn it all. Why didn’t we think of that title first … for a chapter show?

Star Spangled Banner

As we prepare to sing the Star Spangled Banner on August 15, you might be interested in this historical article on the anthem published today in the UoM Alumni e-magazine. http://michigantoday.umich.edu/star-spangled-mysteries/

The article is based on an interview with Mark Clague, associate professor of musicology and director of research in the School of Music, Theatre, and Dance (SMTD) and a nationally recognized expert on the anthem. A month after our performance, on Sept 14, 2014, the Nation will celebrate its bicentennial.

Clague recently released the double CD Poets & Patriots: A Tuneful History of “The Star-Spangled Banner,” comprising 37 historical iterations of the anthem, its precursors and parodies, recorded by SMTD faculty and students. A number of the CD’s tracks, never before recorded, accompany the online exhibit “The Banner Yet Waves” at the Smithsonian. Clague also manages the comprehensive website starspangledmusic.org, an educational partnership between the Star-Spangled Music Foundation and SMTD’s American Music Institute. More interesting details there.

By the way, some of this was known before, due to Greg Moss’s research and exposition at some sing-out.

Gold Medal Moments
Toby Shaver’s interviewees this month have included:
KJ McAlees/ergins
Sean Devine
Todd Wilson
Doug Harrington

Go to http://goldmedalmoments.com/

Craft
Two posts on Performance – BCC’s Bugaboo

1. Singing Tip G = Get Over It and Go For It
By Yvonne DeBandi http. At http://a2z-singing-tips.com/

So many talented young singers come into my studio with a good voice and with work, really shine on their vocal skills…but when it comes to performance they suffer the “I’m afraid I’ll look stupid” syndrome. Why do we do that? We see music videos and concerts every day when artists give us their all, and yet we feel less stupid singing like a statue than we do really going for it. Makes no sense, but this is not a random occurrence. And unfortunately, when you don’t really “perform” the song, you will never be able to give your absolute best performance. Why? Performance involves some sort of emotional connection with the song, when you put the emotion on your face and in your body, you will sing completely differently than the statue, no matter how knowledgeable.”
2. “Let It Out”
By John Newell, Lead, Realtime, 2005 International Champion Quartet

“Rediscover the words. Again and again. The longer you have sung a piece, the more you should do this. Experiment with ways to say them differently, breathe through them differently, color them differently, connect them to your heart differently. Make every word yours. If you are singing a piece, the words are no longer the lyricist’s. They are yours.”

Vision Vocal Coaching
(From Wayne Oberstadt)

“Found this on Facebook. This might be a beneficial resource for many of us. They are going to have free vocal tips on their Facebook page every Friday. Check it out at: http://www.visionvocalcoaching.com/
I thought the freebie about rotating your shoulders to relieve tension was a good tip. You do these with the Chorus, but I never thought about doing this while you sing!”

Note: Besides the freebies, you can register for coaching, at the same web site. It requires using a program like Skype. The cost is $55 for two 45-Minute Coaching Sessions. (For comparison purposes, Linda Meehan in Canton charges $30 per half hour session, and several of us can vouch for her in-person coaching.)

Ben Harding, founder of Vision Vocal Coaching, has been coaching vocalists and directing choruses since 2010. He holds a bachelor’s degree in Vocal Performance from Bradley University and a master’s degree in Choral Conducting from Western Illinois University. He has been a frequent clinician at Youth In Harmony events and other youth choral festivals, and he has served on the music leadership of both youth and adult choirs.

Ben also sings Lead in AFTER HOURS, who finished ranked 8th in the 2013 International BHS quartet competition.

And AFTER HOURS is one of the two invited mentor quartets at Harmony Explosion at Central Michigan this July. The other is SHADES OF JADE, for the distaff side.

Music Theory, Online

The Barbershop Harmony Society works hard at education.

Harmony University has been around for a long while, and now, some of the classes from that week are being made available online.

Music Theory is taught at Harmony U in four courses.


If you’d rather hear it as a talk, Adam Scott, from BHS headquarters, has just posted a 50’ lecture on Music Theory 1, Day 2: Rhythm Basics at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eF_hpysrI1&feature=em-subsdigest

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)
Assistant Directors: Fred McFadyen, Mike Frye, & Bill Holmes
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: Charlie Perry
Treasurer: Duane Roy
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Open
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss, Murray, Prueter, and Stephenson
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)

CALENDAR. (With Performance Times; Warm-ups 30’-45’ earlier)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jun 29 - July 6</td>
<td>BHS’ International Convention in Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>Jul 1, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Jul 3, 2:30</td>
<td>BCC gig, Lockwood of Waterford</td>
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<td>Jul 5, 10 pm EDT</td>
<td>International Quartet Finals, Las Vegas</td>
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<td>Jul 8, T, 7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Jul 10 – 12</td>
<td>Harmony Explosion, Mt. Pleasant</td>
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<td>Harmony Explosion show, with About Time and Shades of Gray and the Workshop choruses</td>
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<td>Jul 19</td>
<td>Quartet Boot Camp, Okemos</td>
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<td>Jul 22</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Jul 27</td>
<td>Harmony University, Nashville, TN</td>
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<td>Jul 28</td>
<td>D.O.C. Summer Picnic</td>
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<td>Jul 29</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Aug 5</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>BCC Sings at Tigers-Mariners game</td>
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<td>Aug 22</td>
<td>Bush League, Gaylord</td>
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<td>Oct. 4</td>
<td>Rochester GoH Show “SHOW BIZ!” 7:30 PM</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Full District Convention, Muskegon</td>
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<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Big Chief Chorus Show</td>
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A photo of our charter, March 28, 1943 (From Dick Johnson’s records)

Octet, June 10

From Concho Capers