Duane Roy

Duane died August 5. He was diagnosed with esophageal cancer one year ago and was relatively strong and healthy until the very end. His golf score on his 79th birthday this past April was not much more than his age.

He was a five-year member of the Pontiac-Waterford chapter, having been attracted into the Christmas chorus in 2009. For the last several years he has chaired the Valentines Sing-Out program.

“Duane has our greatest respect for the manner in which he handled his illness.” Jack Teuber

Duane had 18 brothers and sisters, so it was perhaps not surprising that the Memorial service for Duane, Wednesday, August 12, swelled beyond the 220 seating capacity of the main room at White Lake Oaks.

Jack introduced the chorus which sang “God Bless America,” “It is Well with My Soul,” and “Irish Parting Prayer.” BIDIN’ OUR TIME sang “Caroline.” Duane’s three children spoke and his daughter Terri presented her young dancers who performed the dance dedicated to Duane. Pat Roy thanked the many who had gathered to memorialize her husband. Granddaughter Meghan showed her video program, which included the Chief’s National Anthem at Tiger Stadium. Lennie Barnes was able to join in the singing, despite his van being struck by another vehicle in his driver’s seat door.
From VP Roger

We’re sure going to miss Duane! Singing at his memorial at White Lake Oaks was a special honor, and the impact of his life was certainly evident in the standing room only/packed room attendance for a great tribute to a great guy!

Terri’s Dancers

Bidin’ Our Time

A Big Chief Quartet sang at the funeral, Friday, August 21, 2015, of Frances Bevington, Donna’s mother. The funeral was at Central Methodist Church. LIMITED TIME (Mike Frye, Jeff Doig, John Cowlishaw, Roger Holm) sang “It is Well with My Soul.”

The Pontiac-Waterford BIG CHIEF CHORUS’s 71st annual Barbershop Harmony Show, Saturday, November 7, at 7:00 p.m. at Waterford Mott High School.

A Night of A Cappella Singing in Barbershop Style

Featuring:
- **Instant Classic** - 2015 International Champion Quartet
- **The Voice Barbershop Chorus** - Under-30 young men from around the State
- The Big Chief Chorus and Quartets

Ad kits have been distributed. Tickets will be shortly. Pricing is $18 for adults and continuing with last year’s price of $5 for under 12 and $12 for groups.

Tickets can be ordered online at: [http://BigChief-Tickets.ezevent.com](http://BigChief-Tickets.ezevent.com)

BCC Picnic

The turnout was grand at the annual BCC picnic, Tuesday night, August 11. Bob and Eileen Marshall felt well enough to host it again, (unbeknownst to about four Chiefs who showed up at WOAC for practice). Walt DeNio and Chuck Murray did the grilling.

More photos are available at: [https://goo.gl/photos/nL516KMvmbUusExu8](https://goo.gl/photos/nL516KMvmbUusExu8)

Quartets

LIMITED EDITION was the featured act for the Highland DDA’s Sounds Like Summer Festival, Tuesday evening, July 28. It was a two-hour program, with the quartet singing 32 songs, requiring a “deep dip” into its repertoire. Perhaps a bit too deeply as a few of the songs were less than fully harmonic, but the audience of about 50 was tolerant and appreciative, staying for the full performance and for chatting afterward.

To give the quartet some breathing room, the evening was divided into four sets, interspersed by the pleasant sounds of a folk group comprised of Tim Twiss (owner of Milford Music) on banjo, with side-kicks on violin and sticks.
Who would not have enjoyed the evening anyway, with the shaded, 85° temperatures and blue sky, seated on the grass under the trees at Veterans’ Park.

It helped that Highland’s Summer Series of six performances was advertised by genre, with LE’s “barbershop” interspersed between weekly rock/blues/folk, and thereby drawing an audience that was prepared for a cappella music.

LIMITED EDITION presented a neighborhood soiree in Tom and Janis Blackstone’s backyard, Saturday, August 22, and 32 neighbors and friends responded to the invitation to hear an hour-long show, organized around a global tour. Their video is online at http://tinyurl.com/oa4da2z

Chapter 2015 Performances thru July: 74 gigs to 804,331 people

MEMBERSHIP: (at 48)

Renewals: Jim McMain (5), Charlie Perry (7), Zaven Melkonian (15), Doc Mann (16)

Due in September: Bruce LaMarte, Gil Schreiner, Ray Sturdy

Overdue: None

Bye-Bye: Bob Stephenson

September Birthdays: Charlie Perry (6th), Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlishaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Dave Myre (29th)

Medical:

Len Barnes has recovered from his car accident, Aug 12

Eric Domke has returned, to BCC, but not to work, since his June fall.

Bob Legato is still dealing with breathing issues.

Howard Lynn attends to his wife, now in a nursing home

In Memoriam: Sep 19, 2003, Chris Miller, # 30

Sep 12, 2006, Art Ripley, #67

District

The Rochester Guardians of Harmony chorus presents “OMG! ... It’s Show Time,” Saturday, October 3, 7:00 pm at Rochester High School (not Rochester Adams!) 180 S. Livernois. Guest quartet is MAJESTYX and emcee is Doran McTaggart. LIMITED EDITION will also sing.

Pioneer District Fall Convention – October 16-18, 2015 - Kalamazoo

The convention web site is at http://pioneerdistrict.org/nextconvention/convention_info.htm where you can register for the convention (but hotel registration must be done by phone - Call the Radisson at 269 343-3333 Monday-Friday, 8:00-5:00 and ask for Reservations.)

Registration fee - $45 until September 24th online

Then $55 until October 10 online

Then $55 at the convention

International

Instant Classic

Our new Gold Medal guest quartet, INSTANT CLASSIC, is becoming known for its spoof, “You Gotta Change Parts.” Here they do it at Harmony University last month.

Maybe they’ll do it on our show, or at the afterglow.

http://tinyurl.com/nuk555p
Gene Cokeroft

As reported last issue, Gene Cokeroft (pronounced COKE-uh-roft), died in July at the age of 79.

“Widely regarded as one of the greatest Barbershop quartets ever, the 1961 International Quartet Champs, the Suntones performed their beautiful rendition of “Danny Boy” on the 50th anniversary of their win in 2011 in Kansas City featuring Gene.

http://tinyurl.com/qfls2qr

“Gene’s legendary tenor voice was eclipsed only by his colossal heart and his desire to spread the joy of music to every corner of the world.”

From Fred McFadyen:

I am saddened by the news. He was my idol. The Very Idea did several Suntones arrangements including "Danny Boy" and "If," trying hard to sound like Cokeroft.

Upcoming Conventions

MIDWINTER – RENO, NV. January 26 – 31
INTERNATIONAL – NASHVILLE, TN, July 3 – 10, 2016. (It’s a nine-hour road trip from Waterford.)
http://barbershop.tix.com for either/both.

What’s Up, Charlie Perry?

Charlie and Diane decided to turn a single summer vacation into weekend trips to famous baseball stadia. After visits to Wrigley and Comiskey Parks in Chicago, they went to Boston.

“Boston is a real cool town. Fenway's a cool old park. It reminds me of Tiger Stadium, without the troughs in the bathrooms. Had a ball. Got off the plane last night & went straight to the Pentatonix concert. OUTSTANDING!!!!!!”

History

In Memoriam, Chris Miller

It has been a dozen years since the death of our legendary director of six years, Chris Miller, on September 19, 2003, at age 52 of a pulmonary embolism. It seems like a good time to write of his legacy. Only 35 of our present members sang under Chris. Which of those can forget the musicality and enthusiasm he exemplified and the scripts and songs under his guidance? We remember the shows, 1999 Fun in Just One Lifetime 2000 Let’s Get Away From It All 2001 Fortune in Dreams 2002 Dorothy Returns to Oz 2003 BCC Remembers the Ed Sullivan Show and the parodies of “Hi Neighbor,” “Mistakes,” “Let’s Get Away,” and “Don’t Blame Me,” (with its succession of 7th chords, thanks to Jeff Taylor).

He got into barbershop at age 26, when his dad invited Chris to join him in the Frederick Catoctones. Chris got a job with Avemco, an aviation insurance company, moving him to California, then Rockford, IL, then back to Frederick, MD, on to Chicago, and after a divorce, to Michigan.
He joined the Grosse Pointe chapter, and formed a comedy doo-wop quartet called “Kingfish and the Mystic Knights of the Sea.”

This quartet entered a Lever Bros. contest and won the local, and a trip to Universal Studios for the finals, where they came in 3rd, and learned to never compete against acts with animals and small children.

At Grosse Pointe Chris was Program Vice President and planned the warm-ups, polecats, etc., which he began directing. He also sang with the Milford chapter in its dying days and when Sunnyside came over to possibly unite the dwindling forces of Milford and Pontiac, John “Smitty” Smith saw Chris directing polecats, and conversations began on Chris coming to Big Chief. “I insisted that I first meet with President Bob Woodward and the Board and we did six weeks of strategizing. That was in July ’97, and when I started directing on Sept 13, there were eight guys; the next week was guest night and we had about 40 people at the Administration Bldg at Airport Road and Pontiac Lake Road. Our goal was 22 men on stage at Spring District Contest, which we just barely made, and finished last, and felt good nevertheless; we were on our way.”

Chris married Nancy and lived in Commerce Twp. Chris supported Nancy’s involvement in dog shows (with their award-winning Afghan, Isis), while Nancy supported Chris’s Barbershop involvement (nine trips to International!).

Chris had such a wonderful BBS tone and flexible style (and breath control – ask those who’ve been held out to dry) that I asked Chris about his musical talents. “I don’t have perfect pitch. I didn’t have early musical training. I sing by ear. I couldn’t even hear harmony for the first ten years; I’d just learn the parts. Then in St. Louis, in ’83 or 4, a prize-winning quartet invited me in as fourth man, and suddenly I couldn’t hear my own voice, it was just an experience that felt like my hair being swept back. I thought, Wow, this is expanded sound!”

“When you are listening to the chorus, what are you listening for?”
“It’s a problem; I can’t do it all, I need to structure what it is that I am listening for.”
“When you look crossly at us, what are you thinking?”
“It can be very frustrating, but I’m also learning to keep it light. After all, this is a volunteer organization.”

He wasn’t always light. Although he encouraged in-house quartetting on rehearsal nights, he also critiqued them, sometimes with bite; ask Zaven.

At his funeral, the combined choruses of Pontiac/Waterford and Grosse Pointe, eighty-strong, sang an emotional set, comprised of “Irish Parting Prayer,” “Shine on Me Medley,” and “God Bless America.”

Most Big Chief Chorus members joined, not just the chorus, but to sing under Chris, relishing his sheer delight in barbershop, his enthusiasm for quartetting, his keen ear, his dominance. But as a lasting tribute to Chris, the chapter did not sink, but continued strong, under the ongoing directorship of Bruce Collins, Jim Troeger, Dick Johnson, and now, for eight wonderful years, Tom Blue.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sep 1</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>Tuesday Musicale, Central Methodist Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sep 8</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>Oct 3</td>
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<td>Rochester GoH Show, Rochester High School</td>
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<td>Oct 6</td>
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<td>BCC Practice, WOAC</td>
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<td>One-day show prep retreat</td>
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<td>Oct 27</td>
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<td>Nov 3</td>
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<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Mott H.S.</td>
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<td>Nov 5</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>BCC Practice, Waterford Mott H.S.</td>
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<td>Nov 7</td>
<td>7:00</td>
<td>71st BCC Show</td>
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<td>Dec 18</td>
<td>12:30</td>
<td>Auburn Hills Senior Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jun 25</td>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>Log Cabin Days</td>
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</tbody>
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**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 (248-674-2323)
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm (248-623-7452)
VP: Marketing & PR: Open
Secretary: Charlie Perry (248-880-9356)
Treasurer: Jim Owens (248-682-4311)
Members at Large - Fred Pioch, Ray Sturdy, Jeff Doig, Walt DeNio
Chorus Manager: Gene Downie (248-682-9321)
Captain Sunshine: Bill Maxfield (248-698-1393)
Section Leaders: McFadyen, Stephenson, Cowlishaw, Moss
Music Team: Holm, Blue, Cowlishaw, Doig, Frye, McFadyen, Moss,
Murray, Prueter, Stephenson, Mazzara
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw, (248-891-4498)