Chapter Executive Board

Officers
- Chorus Director: Chris Miller
- President: Gene Downie
- VP, Chapter Development: Walt DeNio
- VP, Music and Performance: John Smith
- Secretary: Bill Holmes
- Treasurer: Dick Johnson
- Member at Large: Jeff Spires

Chairmen
- Quartet Activity Chair: Len Barnes
- Service Chair: Bruce Brede
- Singing Valentine Chair: Bob Marshall
- Chorus Manager: Jeff Spires
- Music Librarian: Roger Holm
- Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier
- Sunshine Man: Don Denoyer
- Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw

Calendar
- Aug 14, 21, 28, Sep 4, 11: Chorus practices
- Aug 17, 18: Buckeye Invitational, Columbus
- Aug 25: Chapter picnic, rescheduled
- Sep 28-30: Bush League 2001, Gaylord
- Oct 2 & 16: Next Linda Liddicoat coachings
- Oct 19-21: District Convention, Battle Creek
- Oct: Election of officers, 2002
- Nov 3: Fall show “Fortune in Dreams”
- Nov 6: Christmas singout season begins
- Nov 17: Sweet Adelines Show, “Stepping Out”

Jan 20-27, ’02 MidWinter Convention, Riverside, CA
Jun 30-Jul 7, ’02 International Convention, Portland, OR

Membership: Renewals: Irwin Mann (2 yrs)
Ill: Mel Parrish’s wife has been hospitalized with digestive system problems.
Both Bob Woodward and Jack Teuber broke their arms last month!
Barbershopper of the month (July) John Cowlishaw, for reinvigorating the
Chapter Bulletin.

Spotlight on: Bill Pascher

Bill Pascher is our most senior member, having co-founded the chapter in 1943.
Yet he still attends almost every chapter rehearsal and performance, nowadays
riding in with Bill Nevaux and Mel Parrish. I visited Bill at his home in Indian
Lake Village Apartments, in Lake Orion. We talked in his living room, where he
brings orange juice in the morning to sit and read the paper. And where he can
watch and name the birds outside his front window. Bill began:
BP My stepdaughter has been wanting me to do something like this, cuz I’ve
been in so many things and she is going to need to write an obituary. So I’ve
jotted down an outline including the seven hobbies I’ve been in, including
my accomplishments and awards. I think I can be helpful to you, cuz I’ve
been in your shoes. I was editor of the PowWow for 3 ½ yrs.
JC We’ll talk about your involvement in Barbershop music, but first let’s start
with you. Where were you born?
BP In Akron, Ohio, 2/10/15, the first of 4 children, first, two boys and then two
girls. The only two remaining are the oldest, myself, and the youngest, my
sister in Riverside, CA.
JC Were your folks musical?
BP I wouldn’t say so; they had no musical training. Mom was humming all the
time. Dad never played any musical instruments, neither did mother.
JC Did you start taking lessons?
BP No. I took violin lessons. So I did learn staff, and some of the structure of
music. I didn’t keep it up. Traded the violin for a guitar. But I’ve always
been interested in singing, I guess because I thought I had a good voice. Not
for solo work maybe, but for group singing. And I guess I started in the
grade schools. And then all thru high school I was in both glee club and
choir.
JC This was in Akron?
BP No I’d moved to Pontiac before I started school. All of my schooling was here.
JC Do you have memories of the First World War?
BP No, except Dad’s conversations with Mother, in the evening. I don’t remember why he didn’t have to go; maybe he was just over the age by the first draft.
JC Was it the war that brought him to Detroit?
BP No, he was a machinist, and of course, all machine companies were busy with government work, but his job here in Pontiac was with the Wilson Tire Mold Company on South Blvd. He was in a machine shop operation in Akron when he heard of this opportunity, so he moved the whole family up here.
JC So you went to Pontiac High School?
BP Right. I graduated in ’33. I had no college training except two or three semesters. I guess I had an idea, a hope, an ambition, that I could earn a college degree, little by little, piece by piece, but it never came about.
JC Tell me about your work experience.
BP Well, I did take a couple of extension courses with the University of Michigan, which prepared me for certain work opportunities, which I didn’t follow up on. So I started in the machine shop on the night shift working on a milling machine or a lathe or whatever was needed. Most of the night work was on milling machines, in Pontiac companies. I guess my first meaningful job was at General Motors Truck and Coach. It was in drafting, engineering. And I stuck with engineering forty years. I changed from one department to another, coaches, trucks, to government contracts and people-movers and all kinds of things – wherever they wanted to set up a new group to handle a specific contract or problem, I usually got chosen. But while I was in engineering they soon learned that I had some liking and skills in nameplates, instruction decals, things of that kind. So there was a time when all of that kind of thing had to go across my desk, get my approval. And die-castings and stick-ons, and screw-ons. I had a lot of fun with that. That lasted for 3 or 4 or 5 years.
JC Was this at the South Blvd plant?
BP Yah. I retired from Truck and Coach in ’75. As an aside, when I applied there, I had been doing some reading – on how to make an impression. I’ve forgot who the interview man was, one of the top leaders in the engineering dept. And I thought afterward, my god, I was brazen. I told him what I wanted and what I was going to have to have. Well, I got everything I wanted, except the starting salary was a little less, so my retirement salary wasn’t quite what I wanted. But I told him that I wanted to retire by 60, not 65 (the policy). I also told him that I wanted to be the owner and driver of a Cadillac. At 50 you could buy a Cadillac under a decent price. I started on my first of ten Cadillacs when I was 50 yrs old just like I said I wanted.
JC Married?
BP Can’t you tell? My wife is muttering under her breath now. Evelyn died in the room next door there – of a myocardial infarction during the night. Boy that’s still a jolt to me. That was my second marriage. I’ve gotta say, honestly, and this may be the only honest thought I’ve had about marriage, I didn’t really appreciate her. Every day something happens, you know. Where is this? Where is that? What’d she do? How’d she do this? Laundry, cooking. I don’t cook cuz I just hate the stove. I do, out of the microwave. But, I’m getting over it. I play Mario Lanza records (laughing). And think
about the good old days - and running around, and chasing girls, and all that stuff. What I used to do.

JC  When did she die?
BP  It will be four years now.
JC  And what happened to your first marriage, to Ruth?
BP  Divorce. My daughter, the only child of that marriage, lives in Santa Fe.
JC  Were you single for quite a while?
BP  About a year is all.
JC  And you have one daughter from your second marriage?
BP  Yes, my stepdaughter, in Lake Orion.
JC  How many grandkids?
BP  My daughter has a stepdaughter. My stepdaughter has a family of four, and two of them have children. (I’m mentally trying to add up both sides of the equation.) The totals I come up with are 5 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and 2 great-great grandchildren.

JC  Are there big family get-togethers?
BP  Yes, but usually those that have the farthest to travel, in the last two years have decided either not to come at Christmas time or not to come to the reunion. They come once a year.
JC  You don’t host it here?
BP  Oh, no, this apartment doesn’t get much traffic.
JC  Where are they held?
BP  At the family home, which I helped to build, on Lake Orion, and where my stepdaughter now lives with her family.
JC  How long have you lived here?
BP  Five years anyway. I moved from Gregory Rd in Gingellville where I lived for 51yrs.
JC  What is your first memory of Barbershop?
BP  When the Engineering Building was built, which was a new building – to me and to the company, just for engineering purposes, this would give us a shop, an experimental department, test labs, drafting rooms, conference rooms, all this kind of thing – that was the building facing South Blvd. And the lobby receptionist, Ace, was a bass. And at noon hour we’d hurry up with our sack lunch, a few of us. (We were still using the lobby in 1950, when Leonard Barnes joined us.) And we’d sing old songs. We didn’t know what Barbershop was; we’d just try to harmonize, woodshed stuff, you know? And that evolved to a realization that there was something going on in the world besides impromptu singing. And a couple of the guys, one from Material Control, and one from Purchasing, had joined Oakland County unbeknownst to us, in fact we didn’t even know these guys, but their friends heard us singing and said to them, Why don’t you go up there and see what they’re doing? Well, of course, they brought it to us, and there were 3 or 4 of us guys got interested in finding out what it was all about and what it took to be a Barbershopper. Found out how many people it would take to organize; it was twenty then. We finally got twenty together and organized our own chapter.
JC  Was Oakland County a different chapter?
BP  Yes, Oakland County was the first chapter in the state. Number one. Our number is seventeen (in the district).
JC  When?
BP  Early 40’s. The date on our charter is ’43, April 17, 1943.
JC  The whole International started …
BP  …in ’38.
JC  So between ’38 and ’43 there were already 16 other chapters in Michigan? That’s amazing.
BP Yah, but they were in bigger towns – like Lansing, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek. Nothing in the boondocks.

JC But there was Oakland County. Where did that meet? I mean, Pontiac is the biggest town in Oakland County. Somehow I would have thought there would have been a Pontiac chapter already.

BP Yah, I don’t know how their impetus developed. I do know some of their early pioneers. But where they met, I can’t say for sure. Churches and schools, auditoriums, gymnasiums.

JC I guess my question is, why didn’t you join that Oakland County chapter instead of starting a new chapter?

BP Well, there was yanking and pulling, you know. It was either that or building our own. I always thought it was better to be a big ripple in a small puddle. It did develop that the guy who was the first president was also the manager of Club Rio, on Elizabeth Lake Rd, close to Telegraph. (He was also sales manager for Wolverine Brewery here in Pontiac.) When he got the chance to be manager of Club Rio, he figured he couldn’t do both, being evenings for both activities, so when he retired, a guy by the name of McDonnell, Mac was a tenor, vice-president, damned if he didn’t finish his tenure neither, so I got to be president. Moved up from, secretary I guess it was. In the first year. I finished my term, and I think I got reelected for a full term. Since then I’ve been president two or three times, three times I think besides that. Which was more of a lifesaver kind of thing, you know, if I didn’t do it, who was gonna do it. So it was a salvation effort.

JC I started singing barbershop in ’56 at Grand Rapids Ottawa Hills High School, cuz there was a kid there whose father had been in a barbershop quartet, that I think scored well, but I don’t know the quartet’s name, just his name – Hazenberg.

BP Sure, I know Bob.

JC Do you really?!?!?

BP Sure, he had a quartet called the Harmony Halls. Two Hall brothers in it. Gordon sang bass. They owned a meatpacking company in Grand Rapids. I haven’t heard Hazenberg’s name in a long time. I think Guikema was the tenor. Dutch name. I can remember ten years ago better than what I had for breakfast.

(Next month: the early years of the Pontiac chapter.)

According to a Harmonet report, among the 160 songs in the Nashville quartet contest, only these were repeats:
Railroad - 4 times (incl. Power Play)
How Deep is the Ocean - 3 times
Moonlight Becomes You - 3 times (incl. Power Play)
and 2 times each - Alexander's Ragtime Band, I Can't Give you Anything but Love, I'll Forget You, Beginning to see the light, It's You, Jeanie, Love Eyes Medley, Make `em Laugh, Masquerade is Over, and That's My Weakness.

**FALL SHOW - "FORTUNE IN DREAMS"
Saturday, 03 NOV 01, 7:30 p.m.
Central Methodist Church
3882 Highland Rd. (M59 west of Elizabeth Lk. Rd.)

Show Chair Volunteers

Show Chairman Pete Mazzara
Script Chris Miller
Flyers Dick Johnson/Bob Woodward
Media Publicity Mel Parrish
Program Dick Johnson
Tickets Jim Owens (sales)/Dick (printing)
House Roger Holm (not yet confirmed)
Staging Gene Downie/Howard Lynn
Sound System Jeff Doig & Son
Lighting & Curtain ?
Hospitality (Quartets) Bill Holmes
Cast Party Bruce Brede

Non-singing Volunteers are needed to hand out programs; ticket sales & ticket takers at door; curtain puller, lighting, etc.

Recent events around the chapter:
Attendance this summer has been marvelous. There were 42 present on July 24, and 45 on the 31st, two hot nights! Chris Miller recalls that there were 8 men present at his first meeting as director, Sep 18, 1997. Thanks to Barbara Holmes for helping out with piano accompaniment.

We were featured on page 3 of the **Oakland Press** on Thursday, Aug. 9, in a nice article written by Cindy Blaylock and based on interviews with Mel Parrish (who initiated the contact), John Cowlishaw, Bill Pascher, and Chris Miller, and her

**NASHVILLE REVISITED**
Special savings are available until Oct. 31 on recording and videos from the Nashville convention.
visit to our chapter practice, Aug 7. It ran to 23 column-inches plus a 5”x7” photo, featuring Big Ron, Big Al, and Big Doc out front. The article is available on-line at the Oakland Press web site, where you can search for it, or copy this page address from our website: www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=2196240&BRD=982&PAG=461&dept_id=129879&rfi=8

Chapter picnic was postponed from Aug 11, to Sat., Aug 25. Still at Walt and Margaret Bachmann’s home. See map, last issue. Just ½ mile south of the intersection of Dixie Hwy and I-75. Turn west onto Big Lake Rd, then onto Englewood Dr, then onto Nadette Dr. 6500 Nadette, end of cul-de-sac.

After Hours: Meet at “Time Out,” Cass and Cass-Elizabeth (1 ¼ miles south of Crary) after weekly practice.

From around the Pioneer District:
The Lansing Chapter will be cruising on the Michigan Princess Riverboat on the Grand River on Monday, August 27th from 7:00-10:00pm. Buffet dinner, cash bar and barbershop entertainment (in air conditioned comfort) for $25/person if purchased thru the chapter.

The Grosse Point Chapter will try to clone barbershoppers (has President Bush been told?) in its fall show, “Send in the Clones,” with guest quartets, “Power Play” and “Fermata Nowhere.” Saturday, Sept. 8, 2:30 & 7:30.

“Steppin’ Out” is the Sweet Adelines’ show on Nov. 17 (3 PM & 7:30 PM) at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts, and will feature the Sweet Adelines International Choruses: GREAT LAKES CHORUS and SHORELINE SOUND CHORUS, and Quartets: “LATE NIGHT BARBERSHOP” Barbershop Harmony Society comedy quartet and "SPOTLIGHT" Sweet Adelines Region 2 -- 2001 champions. Tickets: (810)566-5965 (group of 10 or more discount available)

The Barbershop Hall of Fame, part of the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in Sharon, Pennsylvania, will hold its grand opening August 18, 2001. Built at a cost of more than $1 million, the BHOF houses memorabilia from SPEBSQSA, photos of all the champions, costumes and much, much more. The museum is located in a separate building across the street from the VGHOF, at 32 W. State Street, Sharon, PA 16146. For more information, call the Vocal Group Hall of Fame at 800.753.1648 or e-mail to: vocal@infoline.net

From the Director’s Corner:
WOW! ... I was fortunate enough to attend my 10th International Convention this year since attending my first in 1979. WOW, have things changed over the years. The competition has gotten much tougher and the quartets and choruses have improved exponentially. I credit our leaders in Kenosha for this result. They have methodically placed new emphasis on music education, learning tapes (audio and video), coaching, directing, and youth out-reach...did I mention the college quartet competition?? -WOW. There has also been a change in judging that allows for more progressive songs and music style to be performed. I have to believe that our shrinking society will stop shrinking and begin growing in part due to these changes. Retiring baby boomers will be looking for a hobby and will find ours a hobby that is rewarding and friendly to all ages. We as chapter members must remember to spread the word.

Too often I hear new members say “I wish I had joined barbershopping sooner...if only I had known about it.” I call on each member to make a personal commitment to sign up one new member this year. If everyone does this, we will have a 100 man chorus.

If you think singing with 50 guys is fun, imagine what it will be like with 100... WOW!

CHRIS MILLER

BIG CHIEF MEMBERSHIP CONTEST
AUGUST 1, 2001 – DECEMBER 31, 2001

First Prize: $100 Cash to the member sponsoring the highest number of new society members approved by December 31, 2001.

Second Prize: $100 Cash to the member sponsoring the highest number of potential new society members signed in the guest register by December 31, 2001.

Special Bonus Prize: Two preferred-seating tickets to the 2002 international convention will be awarded to the member responsible for three new society members approved by December 31, 2001.

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Individual **Vocal Practice**. If you have considered individual voice lessons to improve your singing, another option is to buy Paul Mayo’s Vocal Exercises audiotape – “A Road to Better Singing” ($12 plus S/H) from SPEBSQSA headquarters. The exercises were praised and used at Harmony Roundup. “Harmonic Intentions” is using them, and they’re great! So has Walt DeNio. Guaranteed to extend range, improve breathing, reduce hoarseness, get more “forward placement.” Call Kenosha at 1-(800)-876-SING.

With so many pilots in our chapter, maybe it’s time to do a show combining **aviation and barbershop**.

**Board Meeting Minutes, Aug. 9**
Discussion of show: Guest quartets are Philatoga Township & Silverdomes; all chairmen selected; cast party to be at Gino’s Restaurant; tickets priced at $11.
Discussion of how to maximize the benefit from Linda Liddicoat’s coaching.
Discussion of Presentation coaching. Chris suggested we emphasize Music Education during the next year and try to work youth into the 2002 Fall show.
Treasurer’s report: $4,089.79.

**Corrections**: (So soon? Sigh)
Pontiac’s contribution to Power Play was grand, but did not exceed the jug’s content.
Gene Downie’s funding proposal is pending, not yet funded.