On Saturday, November 9th…
At Clarkston High School…

“Dorothy Returns to Oz”
(Oh, dear, has she grown up!)

Pontiac/Waterford Chapter “Big Chief Chorus”
Proudly presents its
58th Annual Barbershop Harmony Show
Directed by Chris Miller
with Clarkston High School Barbershop Chorus
“Men of Grace” (Popular Gospel Ensemble)
and International Medalist comedy quartet

Chordiac Arrest
Members are Tenor Marty Jahnel, Baritone Lynn Hauldren, Bass Earl Meseth,
and Lead Dick Johnson. Not only have they finished top ten in their first four
International Quartet Contests, with fifth-place medals in two of them. But they
are one of the funniest quartets around.

AROUND THE PATCH
The Big Chief Chorus took its annual Mystery Trip on September 17. Some
members still don’t know where we went, but we do know there was a great
chorus there under the direction of Lynne Peirce, and we had the pleasure of
hearing the exciting young quartet, Party of Four. Assistant Director Dick
Johnson directed “Darkness on the Delta,” “Let’s Get Away From It All,” “This
Little Light of Mine/Do Lord Medley,” and “God Bless America.”

The Rochester chapter surprised us with a visit October 1, to pass on the jug
to us in the annual fund-raising effort. They’re preparing for their show, “In the
Barbershop Style,” Saturday, November 2, at 4pm and 7:30pm.

MEMBERSHIP (Now at 59)
Renewals: Yong McDowell (till 2010!)
New Member: Lewis Mahacek
October birthdays: Art Carinci 18th, Walt DeNio 22nd, Bill Nevaux 27th, Roger
Holm 29th, Joseph Voynar 29th.
November birthdays: Ronald Clarke 8th, Doc Mann 13th, Gerry Twomey 16th,
Marv Wilson 19th
Barbershopper of the Month – September: Irwin “Doc” Mann
Illnesses: Gene Downie’s mother-in-law has passed away. John Cowlishaw’s
wife Corinne had lumbar fusion on October 3.
Departures: Goodbye to Steve Clark who has moved to Charleston, South
Carolina. His last singing with the Big Chief Chorus was on the back of the
bus returning from Huron Valley. He has enjoyed singing with us so much
that an early goal in South Carolina is to find another barbershop home.
Absence: Jan Graham writes: Hi all, I have made it to Albuquerque, New Mexico safely. I have taken a short-term contract job in Albuquerque, New Mexico as an Environmental Field Technician at Sandia Lab at Kirtland Air Force Base for the U.S. Dept. of Energy. I will plan to return home for the holidays and then finish this contract in late January to early Feb. 2003.

Return: Len Barnes joined us on the Mystery trip, with the news that he has been pronounced disease-free.

Twenty-six quartets and fifteen choruses have registered for the DISTRICT CONVENTION, BATTLE CREEK, Oct 18-20. In the quartet semifinals Friday night, beginning at 6:30, B Natural sings about 7pm, and Four Wheel Drive about 8:20. In Saturday’s chorus competition, the Macomb and DOC choruses sing 14th and 15th. On Friday night after the quartet preliminaries join your Quartet Champions Association for a great show – six District Quartet Champions on one show! The 2002 fall contest site is the Northwestern Middle School, about 2 1/2 miles west of the McCamly Plaza Hotel. Don Denoyer will be remembered at the House of Delegates meeting that weekend.

BUSH LEAGUE, 2002. Four Wheel Drive competed in this year’s competition, finishing 7th of 10 with a respectable average score of 53.5 with its two songs, “I Love That Old Barbershop Style,” and “Love Letters.” First two places were won by Grand Prix and Party of Four, both at about 69 pts. Past Bush League winners have included the 1968 Pontiac Chapter’s Harmony Knights, with Ed Lilly, Cliff Douglas, Ray Guerin, and Lyle Howard.

Bush League, 2002 (As I Remember It)
By Zaven Melkonian

“As Friday, September 27, 2002. The Piper Tomahawk lifts off the runway at Oakland International Airport at 4:27 PM headed for Gaylord, Michigan, and Bush League, 2002. John Cowlishaw is at the controls and Zaven Melkonian is copilot. Together they form one-half of the quartet, Four Wheel Drive. Meanwhile, somewhere on I-75, also bound for Gaylord is the other half of the quartet, Wally Plosky and Al Monroe. An hour and fifty-three minutes later, the plane lands at Gaylord and the now-complete quartet is driven to the Gaylord Inn (headquarters motel) by Wally. Check-in goes smoothly, and after locating our rooms, we head for the Evangelical Free Church. The church auditorium is the venue for the contest, and we want do a microphone check before the 8:00 PM deadline. We are collectively surprised by the size and beauty of the auditorium, with its plush, theatre seating and spaciousness. We are doubly surprised at the sound of our first chord as we take pitch for the first song. We can hear ourselves in the monitors and WOW, the chord rings throughout the auditorium. Welcome to Bush League!! After singing through our set a couple of times, our confidence builds and we decide that it’s time to quit and get a bite to eat. After supper we head back to the motel for a scheduled “Master’s Class”.

Our anticipation is dulled just a tad when we discover that only one of the “Noise Boys” (lead, Curt Angel) has made it to town in time for the session. The Noise Boys were 2002 International Contest Qualifiers. Things changed as Curt, and Doug Miller (who is from the Land ‘O Lakes District and a certified judge for over 20 years), began an open discussion on various subjects such as: Rehearsal techniques, Marketing your quartet, Planning a show package, Blending voices, and How to choose music.

I was personally impressed with Doug Miller, who was just a fountain of very useful information, which he presented in a dynamic fashion. At one point he stressed, “No matter where you are singing in public, always LOOK your best. Wearing a tux always makes a great impression”. Up to that point, we had decided that we would do our casual uniform, matching striped golf shirts and khaki slacks. Thank goodness we had the foresight to pack our Class A’s. We decide to wear our tuxes. The class ended with tag singing, which we decided not to participate in, as we had some really scratchy throats among the four of us.

Saturday morning, the BIG DAY, arrives. We have a quick breakfast, go back to the room, get dressed and head for the church at 8:30 AM. In the draw for order of appearance, we were scheduled to sing ninth, the very last slot. Imagine our surprise when a last minute arrival, Party Of Four (remember those “kids” from Huron Valley?) becomes the tenth competing quartet. Wally notes their arrival with the comment, “Hey guys, I’ll bet we’ll finish in the top ten!!”

At the church, we’re taken to our warm-up room where we try to relax by making small talk and doing warm-up exercises. At 9:00AM we decide to watch the first quartet go on stage as the contest begins. Satisfied that our entrance will present no problems (we had to come from BEHIND an open curtain), we head back to the room and wait to be called to proceed to the “green room”. As quartet number seven walks on stage, quartet number eight leaves the green room and lines up behind the curtain backstage. We are escorted to the green room where the moment of truth is rapidly approaching. We leave the green room just before quartet number eight is announced. Suddenly it’s their turn and they’re on!! I tried not to be intimidated by their presentation, but couldn’t help feeling that, “wow, these guys sound good”. As they finish and come backstage, we “high five” and congratulate each of them. And then, HOLY MOLY, WE’RE NEXT!! The Master of Ceremonies makes the most of his time between quartets to make announcements and of course, tell jokes. All of a sudden you hear “And now please welcome from the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE”. I’m amazed that no one has to push me from behind the curtain as first, Al, then Wally, then me followed closely by John step briskly to the front of the stage,
smiling all the way. We acknowledge the applause in the spread formation with nods and our best toothy smile, then we close to the microphone. The pitch is blown, we tune to the first chord, take a deep breath and we’re on our way. As we rang the last chord of the last song, and took our bows, I couldn’t help but feel that we did OK. First place? Hardly. Second place? Not a chance. Did we finish last? We’ll have to wait and see.

We’re standing in the rear of the auditorium as the judges get their heads together. Soon the information is passed on to the Master Of Ceremonies and he makes the announcement that we’ve all been waiting for. Chordology finishes third, with second place going to Party Of Four and Grand Prix wins it all. Now it’s our turn. We head for the judge’s area where scoring sheets are handed out, and, to our pleasant surprise, we finish seventh over all. With elevated spirits and heads held high, we head for the motel to await our coaching session, which will be held in each quartet’s room.

One after another, for one hour each, we have the Presentation Judge, Doug Miller, Singing Judge, Jamie Carey and the Music Judge, Al Fisk take us step by step through our morning performance and give us IMMEDIATE fixes on most of the problems as they saw and heard them. Time and space constraints will not allow me to go into great detail, but that coaching alone was worth the price of admission. We recorded each coaching session and are using the tapes as a guide to improve our contest set.

The evening begins by attending the Harmonie Meisters 55th annual show, “2002 Show Of Quartet Champions”. The festivities begin with the presentation of trophies to the top three competing quartets (first and second place quartets get to sing). The balance of the evening’s entertainment was provided by the Michigan Northern Lights, a Sweet Adelines chorus, the Harmonie Meisters Chorus, and featured quartets, Fool’s Gold, Relative Harmony (a mixed quartet) and The Noise Boys. The finale included all the performers plus all barbershoppers being invited on stage to sing “Keep The Whole World Singing.” All in all, a really good time.

Back to the motel for the afterglow, where all quartets were invited to sing, with The Noise Boys closing out the evening. Good food and great singing. Doesn’t get much better than that! Off to bed for a much needed night’s rest.

Up early Sunday morning. After a good breakfast, we’re airport bound. Wally and Al head for I-75 while John pre-flights the airplane. Take off is at 9:30 AM. An hour and forty minutes later we land at Pontiac.

What a great experience for the uninitiated. No matter what your level of interest is in our hobby of singing in the barbershop style, I would encourage you to become part of a quartet and compete at the Bush League level. That level is no longer just a venue for a pick-up foursome, being judged by a visiting quartet. The competition judges are all certified and the entire event is very similar to any SPEBSQSA contest regardless of level. Try it, I’m sure you’ll like it.”

The Sweet Adeline 'Spirit of Detroit' Chorus (2002 Region #2 Champions) presented 'Spirit Sings', October 5 at Farmington Mercy High School. Your editor was there and saw Jeff Doig and son, Bob Marshall, Yong McDowell and his friend, and Pete and Hermine Mazzara. I asked Pete to write about it:

“They did a wonderful job while keeping true to their name by ringing chords with several up-tempo tunes. The ladies were very well rehearsed, and maintained good sound and musicality despite all of the choreography. Spirit members come from 46 different cities, from Ohio to Flint, and Brighton to Troy. The Chorus is also blessed with four regional medalist and champion quartets. The quartets were also excellent and entertaining. The featured quartet was The Gas House Gang, 1993 International Male Quartet Champions. They were outstanding. Two of our BCC members’ wives distinguished themselves with their performances, Eileen Marshall and Dodie LaMarte. Congratulations ‘Spirit’ on a Great Show.”

Executive Board Meeting, Sept, 2002, submitted by Jeff Doig. Treasurer, Dick Johnson, reported a balance of $3,439.14. Show news: The school chorus will first appear at the start of the second half. The cast Party will be at the Liberty Grille. The board approved $50.00 for a 1/3-page ad in the Troubadour. The risers have been received, assembled and stenciled. Gene informed us that we need to find a permanent place to store them. WPPFA Approved. Rehearsal Facility search: Gene is checking the Vietnam Veterans of America building on Kennett Road (Pontiac), and Stringham School (Waterford) as possible sites. Sound equipment: Jeff Doig will check with Chuck Murray and see if he can help make training tapes for contest. Christmas Chorus: 1st of Oct. for signs and flyers. Summit Place needs to put us on their calendar by the end of Oct. Donations: The board decided to give The Church of Nazarene a donation of $70.00 for the summers use; the chorus will donate $100.00 to The Men of Grace for their performance in the show. Election of officers: Gene Downie and Jeff Doig will form the nominating committee; the election date is October 15. The board is actively looking for a new chorus manager and needs some candidates or interested parties. BSOM: Irwin Mann.

President Al Bonney writes: I thought you all would like to know that our District has just been funded for the second year by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs in the amount of $22,200. As you know we got $21,500 for the year we are just finishing (State fiscal year ends 9/30). This money subsidized the two chorus coaching clinics, Harmony Round-Up, A
Cappella Blast, one CDWI, and the Bush League Quartet Coaching weekend.

In the works for 2003, in addition to repeating all these activities again will be two MORE CDWI, and a Top Gun quartet coaching weekend for our District Champ level quartets. The dates for all these activities are already on the District Calendar on the District Web Site at www.harmonize.com/pioneer/pio.htm. Check it out! We are extremely fortunate to be in Michigan and have an Arts Council that supports this type of activity.

**Calendar**

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<td>Oct 15</td>
<td>Rehearsal, with Linda Liddicoat</td>
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<td>Oct 17</td>
<td>Board meeting</td>
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<td>Oct 18-20</td>
<td>District Convention – Battle Creek</td>
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<td>Oct 22</td>
<td>Rehearsal, with Penny Savage</td>
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<td>Sat, Oct 26, 10-1:00</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Crary, with Linda L.</td>
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<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Rehearsal</td>
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<td>Nov 5, Tuesday</td>
<td>Full dress rehearsal, Crary</td>
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<td>Nov 7, 7:30-9:30</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Clarkston High School</td>
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<td>Nov 9, 7:30pm</td>
<td>Fall Show &amp; Cast Party</td>
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<td>Nov 12</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Christmas season begins</td>
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<td>Nov 19</td>
<td>Rehearsal, Christmas season</td>
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<td>Jan 4-5</td>
<td>COTS, Okemos, MI</td>
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<td>January 19-26, 2003</td>
<td>Midwinter Convention, Albuquerque</td>
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<td>Feb 22, 2003</td>
<td>Chorus Coaching Clinic, Lansing</td>
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<td>April 25-27</td>
<td>District Convention – Lansing</td>
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**Chapter Executive Board**

**Officers**
- Chorus Director: Chris Miller
- President: Gene Downie
- VP, Chapter Development: Walt DeNio
- VP, Music and Performance: John Smith
- Secretary: Jeff Doig
- Treasurer: Dick Johnson
- Members at Large: Pete Mazzara and Wally Plosky

**Chairmen**
- Quartet Activity: Len Barnes
- Service (Charity): Bruce Brede
- Singing Valentine: Bob Marshall
- Chorus Manager: Jeff Spires
- Music Librarian: Bill Holmes
- Uniform Manager: Bill Auquier
- Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs
- Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw