



BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



Pontiac/Waterford Chapter
Meetings on Tuesdays: 7:30 to 10 PM

Vol. 7, No. 6, (#78)

October 1, 2007

Showtime approaches, our 63rd.

Songs to learn, no time to burn, script to tweak, within the week, quartets to choose, none to lose, tickets to sell, better sing well, program to fill, to pay our bills.

The Script committee has a tentative script. It is malleable but at this point includes eight songs: Country Roads, Wells Fargo Wagon, Lida Rose, In My Room, Under the Boardwalk, Aura Lee, Ridin' down the Canyon, and Ain't Misbehavin'

It also will include five resident quartets. Al Fisk visited the chorus September 25 and affirmed Celebration, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, B NATURAL, LOCAL COLOR IV, and NORTHBOUND SOUND.

The deadline for submitting program ads is October 18.

AROUND THE PATCH

Once again, Wayne Cheyne led us expertly through a Guest Night, on September 18. What a nice job he does of it, integrating songs in their variety, with

descriptions of barbershop and the Big Chief Chorus. The presence of guests swelled attendance to 50.

Wayne reminds us to wear our name tags.

We have two October singouts. If you can do a daytime gig, Tuesday, October 9, gather at 12:30 in Class Cs at Central United Methodist Church on Highland Rd. On Sunday, October 14, we will be doing a Western show reprise at the Orion Township Library, 825 Joslyn Rd. Jack Teuber reminds us: "Please gather your hats, kerchiefs and chaps /jeans. WARM-UP is at 1:15. Hats can be purchased at many dollar stores; I checked the Dollar Store on Dixie near K-Mart." Not only will the Big Chief Chorus be singing, but Tom Blue will be expected, now that the Library has repaired the flyers that omitted him from the edge of the picture. "Penny Peterson and the Library are working hard on your behalf. Check out the website: www.orionlibrary.org"

Bill Nevaux will be going inactive for a while as he cares for his wife Candy, the effect of whose fall last Christmas lingers on.

The BCC Chicks had an Alice in Wonderland Tea Party Oct 27, at Barbara and Bob Legato's farm. Rumor had it that the White Rabbit himself would make a guest appearance.

Election of officers is October 16. At press time, the candidates and offices were:

President – Doc Mann
V.P. Music & Performance – Roger Holm
V.P. Chapter Development – Wayne Cheyne
V.P. Marketing and PR – Jack Teuber
Treasurer – Dar Johnson
Secretary – Bob Butcher
Members at Large – (Four to be elected)
Terry Jamison
Gil Schreiner
Dave Myre
Dave Shantz
Neil Braun
Ron Clarke

All positions are still open up until Election night.

Our contest songs for Sprint Pioneer District Contest have been chosen: "Aura Lee/Love Me Tender Medley and "I'm Beginning to See the Light"

New songs in 2008 will feature patriotic songs, in anticipation of the Fall show's patriotic theme.

QUARTET NEWS

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE has registered for quartet competition at the Pioneer District Convention in Kalamazoo, October 26-28.

(From Bruce Brede) Our CELEBRATION BARBERSHOP QUARTET had a busy September. On Saturday, the 8th, they visited St Joseph Mercy Hospital and sang for about 60 staff, patients and visitors. Highlights included "Precious Lord" for a thankful young mother with a very sick infant, "Irish Blessing" over the speaker phone for a doctor's wife as well as a wheelchair-bound, former barbershopper with lost memory who sang word-for-word "My Wild Irish Rose" and "Shine on Me." The rehab therapists commented on the positive therapeutic impact the quartet had on several patients. The quartet also had an opportunity to sing for Zaven's sister and Bill Dabbs' niece as well as promoting our Country Roads Show.

Then, on the 22nd, CELEBRATION surprised Irishman Don Delaney at his 60th birthday party along with about 50 friends and guests at his daughter's White Lake home. CELEBRATION began with "My Wild Irish Rose," "Happy Birthday Dear Dan" and "Danny, Danny Bless Your Heart." After a few old favorites, they concluded with "God Bless America," "This Little Light of Mine" and "Irish Parting Prayer." The audience was into music and vigorously sang along with "Happy Birthday" and "This Little Light." Again, CELEBRATION had an opportunity to promote our Country Roads Show.

MEMBERSHIP (at 56)

Birthdays: Tom Tailford (Aug. 29th), October: Art Carinci (18th), Walt DeNio (22nd), Bill Nevaux (27th), Roger Holm (29th)

Barbershoppers of the Month – Bob and Eileen Marshall – for their complaint-free hosting of the muddy chorus picnic.

Medical: Mel Parrish was admitted to Troy Beaumont with what was described as a mild heart attack.

Tom Blue's father-in-law was hospitalized with respiratory problems. Zaven Melkonian's 96-year-old sister, Isabelle, was admitted with pneumonia to the ICU at St Joseph Mercy, Oakland, August 28, but has now moved to a private room at Canterbury on the Lake.

Al Monroe's son-in-law, Chris, had reconstructive eye surgery on Sept 12.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

No sooner king of the hill than gone...

"SHOWTIME, 2007 Bush League Champions, regrets to announce that due to his work schedule our lead has found it necessary to leave the quartet. Any

interested lead, with previous quartet experience, please contact Jim Johnson. The other members are: Jim Johnson – tenor, Wayne Hodgson – bari, Al Smith – bass."

AROUND THE WORLD

<http://www.goldmedalideas.com/bbshop/BBShop.htm> looks like a good site for barbershop wear.

A popular feature returns:

Big Chief Jeopardy, #13 (Try these.)

1. Answer: After graduating from Bethel, he attended Purdue University where he met his wife Carolyn, and where they both earned Ph.D.'s in psychology. (Issue #47)
2. Answer: His parents had met and married here in 1921, after emigrating from Turkey. They had each lost entire families, including their spouses (and three daughters), who were massacred by the Turks in 1915. (Issue #57)

MEET BOB LEGATO



Despite his youthful appearance, Bob was born 76 years ago – in Detroit, MI. His father was a pipe fitter at Chrysler, and also a licensed barber, and his mom was a homemaker. He attended parochial school (Nativity) for ten years, but graduated from East Detroit High School after the family moved to Eastpointe.

Bob started playing tenor sax and clarinet at the age of 13 and was a professional union musician by the time he was 17. He played in Joe Doto's 17-piece Detroit band and was their soloist. But at the age of 19, he had a bad accident falling on a bottle, cutting three fingers, which resulted in a numbness that ended that stage of his musical career.

He married Roberta in 1951, and they had ten children, four sons and six daughters, over the next 21 years. Bob has taken his parent role very seriously and is happy that they have all turned out so well.

When his ranch home in Warren became too small, he bought five acres behind Alpine Ski resort and built his own house. His marriage of 46 years ended with his wife's death in June of 1997.

Bob attended Macomb Community College, Michigan State, University of Michigan, and Lawrence Tech. Although he never finished a degree, his work as an engineer led him thru Koltanbar as a tool designer for 18 years, and then Ford Motor as a Process Engineer and Systems Engineer. He retired in 1997, when his heart began giving him trouble. In the same year, his wife died, and he had triple bypass surgery.

Barbara Workman was his wife's cousin, and her husband was killed by a drunk driver eleven days before Bob's wife died. They began to see each other, and five years later, she moved in to take care of Bob.

A remarkable thing about Bob is that he buys Christmas gifts all year round, because he's got about 50 to buy, including his own and Barbara's six. He's probably well along in his purchasing for Christmas, 2007.

Barb shares his love of horses, and they currently have five horses, a donkey, two goats, four sheep, and chicks and ducks. Bob has also raised hogs.

About seven years ago, Don DeNoyer invited him to lunch; they sang together, and Don said, "Hey, you're a singer; come visit our chorus." Bob has been singing Lead in the chorus ever since. He has also taken some acting roles in our fall shows, as a bean counter, as a chef, and in the hockey show.

Skiing has been another love, and he has skied, not only at Alpine, but in Vail, Vermont, Aspen, Boyne, Nubs Knob, and Shanty Creek. He has been a stamp-collector, and is into several activities as a result of his interest in ecology. He also is a member of the Optimists.

He picked up his horn again to aid the grieving process after losing his wife. Then Lew invited him to be part of the Fun Addicts, where he now plays his tenor sax.

Bob attends Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Highland. He is committed to the 3 a.m. hour of the 24-hour Eucharist Adoration each Wednesday a.m., which is why he often leaves chorus rehearsal after running the 50-50 raffle at the break.

FREE WORD, EXCEL, POWER-POINT READ-ONLY SOFTWARE

If you have trouble opening Word documents, Excel spread sheets, PowerPoint programs, you should know that Microsoft offers free reader programs for their

office suites (past and current). This means you can open and read/view Word, Excel, Power-Point, you just can't edit or otherwise write in those documents.

Go to <<http://www.microsoft.com/downloads>> and on the left side of the page, click on Office. There you'll find:

Word Viewer
PowerPoint Viewer
Excel Viewer

Also, remember that music files created under PrintMusicFinale can be read by the free download of Notepad. Go to

<https://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/>

FROM OUR DISTRICT & INTERNATIONAL PUBS

July/August Harmonizer:

Pg. 1 – Info on the Midwinter convention in San Antonio
Pg. 12 – Real world audiences agree with Presentation judges
Pg. 14 – Learning sight-reading via solfeggio
Pg. 18 – Another article on ensuring music is legal
Pg. 22 – Harmony Brigades
Pg. 40 – a tag by Renee Craig, Detroit-born Sweet Ad

SHOWS AND VISITING QUARTETS AND CHORUSES

Our Society's **two top quartets** are coming to the area:

MAX Q, our 2007 Gold Medalist, is the guest quartet at the Great Lakes Chorus of Sweet Adelines International show called ``BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND`` - at 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Oct. 20 at the John R. Armstrong Performing Arts Center, 24600 Frederick Pankow Blvd. in Clinton Township, MI, 48036. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$20. Buy tickets on the Web at www.glcsing.org with a credit card through PayPal. For ticket information, call (586) 566-5965.

OC TIMES, our 2007 International Silver medalist, will be a little further away but well worth the trip! They're scheduled at Simcoe, Ontario's annual show, "The Good Old Songs," November 10 at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. Simcoe, Ontario is three hours east of us. Doran McTaggart will be the MC. There are a few evening seats still available and a good choice of matinee seats. Call Toll Free 1-888-466-2224 for information and tickets. (By the way, OC TIMES are also all members of the 2007 Gold Medalist Westminster Chorus, by the way.)

Guardians of Harmony have invited the whole Northern Lights chorus from Toronto as special guests on their Christmas Extravaganza. This remarkable chorus shouldn't be missed. The two shows are Dec. 8, 2007 at 2 pm and 7:30 pm at Lakeview High School in St. Clair Shores. Tickets are sure to sell out, so

reserve yours now! Click on this link for details.

http://www.harmonyheritagechorus.com/images/ShowFlyer_2007-12-08.pdf

Our very own Thomas Blue will be leading the choruses of Rochester Adams in concert on October 23 @ 7:30 p.m. It will feature the Men's Ensemble, the Women's Ensemble, the Concert Choir and the Chamber Choir. Selections will include a variety of music, from early American folk tunes, "Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal" to the music of Kansas, "Carry On Wayward Son."

Also of interest: The Otterbein College Choir will be @ Adams HS November 29, 2007 @ 12:30 p.m. and again at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church that same evening for a concert.

Lynne Peirce, bass in our guest quartet NOVELTY SHOP, and past Director of the Huron Valley Harmonizers will present her new chorus, Country Connection Chorus, in "I Believe in Music," a celebration of some of the greatest songwriters and songs in the history of American music. Date: Saturday, October 6, 2007, 2:00 p.m. (matinee) and 7:00 p.m. (evening) at Washtenaw Community College, Towsley Auditorium, Morris Lawrence Building (Ypsilanti, MI) Tickets: Adults: \$15.00; Children: \$12.00. Additional information and tickets are available on line at this link: <http://www.countyconnectionchorus.org>

On a less opportune note, Rochester's Heart of the Hills Chorus will be having its annual show two weeks before ours, with guest quartet FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR. Huh?? INFINITY will also be guesting.

A Journey through Time

By Lyle Howard

Let's all take an imaginary journey back in time --- how about the third Friday of any month in the year 1959. I chose 1959. But, it really wouldn't have mattered if I had picked 1961. You see, all the third Fridays of the month were the same to the Pontiac Chapter membership. That was our meeting night. It had been for years and would be for many more years. I can see the wheels turning now. You ask, "How could barbershoppers get their fill, get their kicks, get their buzz, just meeting once a month?" I assume you're asking that question. Ah, just stick with me for a little while and you will understand.

In 1959, and I think several years before and some after, we met at the Knight's of Pythias Hall at Voorheis just off Telegraph. If I'm not mistaken it's still there. Maybe you've never noticed it. But I can still visualize it and hear the chords ringing off those walls from the many quartets, organized and made up on the spot, the sang through the years from the front vestibule, from the bathrooms, from the kitchen. --- Ah, but I digress.

Sometime around 7 or 7:30 the assigned member in charge of the keys would show up, unlock the building, turn on the lights, and set the thermostat at the desired temperature, depending on what time of year this particular third Friday happened to fall. A couple more guys walked in. All three would go to the table storage room. First, they brought out an eight-footer to set up near the door. Two or three folding chairs followed. Then two tables would be set up in front of the seating area with appropriate chairs for the board members. One of the early arrivals would be the Secretary or his designate. He set up a couple of cash boxes and a sign-in book and name tags at the entry table. Those already there would sign in, and throw their dollar in the first box. Somebody would man the second cash box where he would sell tickets for beer and soft drinks. Another early arrival, I believe it was Len Barnes, brought in the beer and soft drinks already in coolers and stored them in the kitchen. Then somebody would take notice that there were all four parts present. Out came the song and tag lists. The guys always stood face to face to make them sound better. And by the way, fifth wheels were NEVER welcome while a quartet was singing, unless asked, such as a first time guest, or if someone wanted to learn a particular part to a tag, etc.

More members wandered in, including the cook for the night. In this case we'll say it was Whitey Ryden. (He just passed away a few weeks ago) Whitey carried in his groceries and headed straight for the kitchen to store them on a table or in the fridge until he was ready for them later in the evening. We took turns cooking. But, we knew when it was Whitey's turn, it was going to be his specialty, Dago Beans and Hot Dogs. Nobody could cook beans like Whitey. Lennie manned the pass-through window of the kitchen to distribute beer and soft drinks in exchange for tickets. There was a law then, maybe it's still on the books, that said you could serve beer at meetings like this as long as no money directly changed hands for the beer. Thus, the tickets. One ticket got you a beer. A half a ticket got you a soft drink.

You look around the room and see most of the membership has arrived. But, wait a minute. Who the heck are the 15 or 20 men, or maybe more mingling in the room who are not Pontiac members? I'll answer that in the next segment. Right now you stand there taking in all quartet sounds emanating from all the nooks and crannies throughout the building. You smile. Then you look around to see if you can find three parts needing a lead to fill out a quartet to ring one or two. It isn't time for the meeting to start yet. Stay tuned ---

Michael Baribeau, Webmaster of the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus, has been very energetic in communicating on Pionet. One of his best efforts is a page of links to all sorts of barbershop things. Click on <http://greatlakeschorus.org/links.html>

If you didn't hear our champion, MAX Q, do their audience-entertaining "Here's to the Losers" in last July's International competition, a U-tube version is there.

From Lyle Howard: It is with sadness I report Jack Caverly's sudden death Sunday morning at around 1:00 am at his home in Au Gres. Jack was a long time member of the Pontiac Chapter. He was my brother-in-law and got me into this hobby in 1958. He and I sang together in several pretty good quartets in the early years from an era gone by. As a matter of fact, John Wearing was in one of those quartets, the Quarter Counts. Jack was a widower at 73 years old.

VOCAL TECHNIQUE

On Harmonet, Jeremy Reynolds, Tenor, The over the Hill Gang, wrote this interesting letter:

"I am currently taking voice lessons though, at age 67, I don't expect to ever get to the point where I'd classify myself as "classically trained." I'm hoping this training will enable me to extend my range. However, if this training is going to hurt my barbershop singing, then I might drop it. Several people told me they were "classically trained" and sing barbershop. Also that Jeff Oxley was an aspiring opera singer - at least in his younger day, if not today. So I have some questions for those of you who have "trained" voices. By that I mean trained in the bel canto style.

1. Was it a difficult transition for you to move from your training into barbershop which is the antithesis of bel canto?
2. Do (or did) you have to consciously hold back the power in your voice in order to blend?
3. Do you have to consciously repress the vibrato?
4. Do you sometimes feel like you're "slumming" when you sing barbershop?
5. Are you currently active in your local opera society as well as barbershop? Can they mix concurrently?

And here was one of the replies, from a Mr. Ben Whitley:

I am another guy who has sung all his life, growing up in a musical family with a father and two brothers who were professional musicians and teachers of music.

Good singing is good singing. The voice teachers I have talked to and studied with, and the books on singing I have read, all emphasize the same things - proper breathing, forward placement, clear pronunciation, and really knowing what the song is trying to convey. They also say vibrato is natural, and to a strong degree controllable. We have all heard, especially in some older singers, voices with a vibrato so wide that you could drive a truck through it, and as barbershoppers, voices so sharp and hard that it is like being stuck with a needle. Neither of these extremes thrills us as listeners and appreciators of good singing.

A good voice teacher will let a natural vibrato happen, and does expect this to show up when the student sings with a proper and relaxed technique. The same good teacher usually will not try to artificially force a vibrato. Both restraining and forcing vibrato are inimical to the health of the vocal mechanism.

So, if a barbershopper decides to take lessons to improve his singing skills and to develop proper technique, he shouldn't be surprised to find a vibrato. What he should expect is (1) to be a more efficient user of breath - more sound with less effort; (2) to produce a more resonant sound - fuller and warmer rather than rather hard and brittle; (3) to extend his useful vocal range significantly; and most importantly (4) to sing every song with the intent of making the audience feel the emotion the singer feels and intends to convey.

If, as a barbershopper, the singer finds the vibrato to adversely affect his performance in chorus or quartet, the simple procedure of adding more breath - reducing somewhat the ability to sustain long phrases - will often bring the vibrato back to a more desirable level without affecting resonance or range.

I am a 30 year barbershopper who has sung in grand opera choruses, most of the great choral-orchestral works, light opera, and musical theater.

Lyle Howard has subscribed to Casey Parker's **GUBOQS Gazette**, and will be passing around an issue for us to enjoy. GUBOQS stands for "Get Us Back Our QUARTET Society" and advertises itself as an independent pro-quartet publication "dedicated to the interchange of ideas on restoring quartetting to spebsQsa."

From Bruce Brede:

"HAS ANYBODY SEEN MY KITTY?"

Folk wisdom has long held that animals are endowed with a 'sixth sense' forewarning them of impending natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. Much was made of the behavior of dogs and elephants in advance of the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004. Eyewitnesses in Sumatra reported that some animals refused to go outdoors that day and others were scrambling for higher ground several hours before the first wave crashed ashore. Can elephants detect seismic activity at a great distance? Can birds sense the earth's magnetic field and navigate by it?

So what about Doctor Oscar, the Rhode Island nursing home cat? This two-year old hospice pet was characterized by the staff of the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center as "aloof" but has made a name for himself by demonstrating an uncanny ability to detect which patients in the third floor dementia ward are about to die. "He has presided over the deaths of more than 25 residents" writes geriatrician David M. Dosa, M.D. in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. His mere presence at a bedside is viewed by physicians and staff as an almost absolute indicator of impending death, allowing time for adequately notifying families.

It seems that Oscar's M.O. is to visit and say good morning to each resident by jumping on to their beds and snuggling. But when he "finds" one with an imminently terminal condition, he hangs around until acknowledged by one of the staff.

So you should be alert to any stray "Oscars" hanging around your house, worse yet jumping on your bed, worse yet hanging around when on your bed. Has anybody seen your Kitty?"

Letters to the Editor

John,

I just read the Sept issue of Smoke Signals and decided that this was a good time to let you know about my new email address. Please send everything to chuckthetenor@yahoo.com in the future.

Linda, Bagel and I are doing fine. I'm the Secretary of the BHS chapter in Madison, WI and am still singing with the quartet, Tag-along. My two artificial knees are doing well and Linda and I just returned from a tour/cruise to Alaska.

Our grandchildren now number 10 and three live in Madison. Bagel, our Border Terrier, is doing well in the (Agility) Dog Trials around Wisconsin. Finally my parents, 92 and 88, are still doing their thing in Lexington, KY.

Keep up the good work, Mr. Editor, and keep me informed.

Best regards, Chuck Barrett, Middleton, WI

Jim Troeger sends this story:

A Quick Bar of Musical Amusement

C, E-flat, and G go into a bar. The bartender says, "Sorry, but we don't serve minors." So, the E-flat leaves, and the C and the G have an open fifth between them.

After a few drinks, the fifth is diminished; the G is out flat. An F comes in and tries to augment the situation, but is not sharp enough.

Then D comes into the bar and heads straight for the bathroom saying, "Excuse me. I'll just be a second." Then A comes into the bar, but the bartender is not convinced that this relative of C is not a minor. Then the bartender notices a B-flat hiding at the end of the bar and exclaims, "Get out now! You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

The E-flat, not easily deflated, comes back to the bar the NEXT night in a 3-piece suit with nicely shined shoes.

The bartender says: "You're looking sharp tonight, come on in! This could be a major development."

This proves to be the case, as the E-flat takes off the suit, and everything else, and is now au naturel.

Eventually, the C sobers up, and realizes in horror that he's under a rest.

The C is brought to trial, is found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and is sentenced to 10 years of DS without Coda at an upscale correctional facility.

On appeal, however, the C is found innocent of any wrongdoing, even accidental, and that all accusations to the contrary are bass less.

The bartender decides he needs a rest - and closes the bar.

Corrections and Additions:

Add **Neil Braun** to those who have an aviation connection. Neil took flying lessons many years ago.

Tony DeRosa may at one time have coached the Great Lakes Sweet Adelines' chorus, who knows, but the chorus that Dave Shantz, Doc Mann, and Jeff Doig visited – at Eileen Marshall's invitation – was her **Spirit of Detroit**. Ouch!

All articles and photos are by the editor unless indicated otherwise.

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Thomas Blue (248-814-9627)

Assistant Directors: Dick Johnson, Fred McFadyen, Lyle Howard, & Bill Holmes

President: Zaven Melkonian (248-698-1144)

Past President: Pete Mazzara

VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Cheyne

VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm

VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber

Secretary: Bill Holmes

Treasurer: Dick Johnson

Members at Large – Ron Clarke, Dar Johnson, Dave Myre, Gil Schreiner

Chorus Manager: Dave Myre

Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, McFadyen, Melkonian, Murray, Pruetter

CALENDAR

Times are performance times; Class C=Yellow Shirt+Black pants

Oct 2 T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Oct 9, T, 1pm	Greater PTK Tues. Musicale, Cent. Meth. Church, Class C
Oct. 9, T 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Oct 14, Su, 2pm	Orion Township Library, 825 Joslyn, Cowboy outfit over yellow.
Oct 16 T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary, & Elections
Oct 23 T, 7pm	Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Oct 26-28	District Convention, Kalamazoo
Oct 30, 7pm	3 hr chorus rehearsal, at WATERFORD MOTT H.S.
Nov 1	Extra 2-hr chorus rehearsal at MOTT
Nov 3, Sa, 7pm	BCC 63 rd Annual Show
Nov 6, 7pm	Christmas chorus begins, Crary
Dec 1, Sa, 4:30	Lake Orion Christmas Parade