

BIG CHIEF CHORUS SMOKE SIGNALS



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

Vol. 6, No. 3, (#63)

July 1, 2006

Orion Township Summer Concert Series (June 20)

The Big Chief Chorus performed for the Orion Township Parks summer concert series Tuesday night, June 20. A relaxed audience sat on lawn chairs in perfect weather (unlike last year!) and numbered 310 according to Park Supervisor Jennifer Rowe. The 90-minute show included sixteen songs by the chorus and thirteen songs by its “embedded” quartets/ensemble.

Under Dick Johnson’s direction, the chorus sang with pitch and gusto, aided by a superb turnout of 46 men. Fred McFadyen directed us in our “Doo Wop repertoire.” It was good to see Dave Shantz, Tom Tailford, and Walt DeNio back with us, to beef up the Bari section.

CELEBRATION, with Dick subbing for ailing Bill Dabbs, sounded solid; isn’t Jack Teuber sounding more and more relaxed at Tenor? What a gift that has been.

The ensemble, renamed ON THE RESERVATION, was led by Bill Holmes. It was great to hear them sing their new songs. They’ve obviously been working hard.

With the absence of B NATURAL (that virus making the rounds made Lyle Howard), FOUR WHEEL DRIVE stepped up to sing six songs; they were “in the zone.”

Jeff Doig was everywhere, setting up the sound system (with help from Howard Lynn), emceeing the show, and remembering the Lead line for 22 songs! Art Ripley and Roger Holm hauled risers. Chorus Manager Art Carinci corralled the men as needed. Dick brought show flyers that were all swept up by the audience after our performance.



From the Director:

BCC: Your efforts at our Lake Orion Show, demonstrated what the BCC can accomplish working together. You showed me BCC has even greater potential. Your singing quality continues to grow. Now let's take it the rest of the way by keeping our Tuesday night meetings and performance obligations member-filled. Forty-four members on the risers made the difference. Now, let's pool efforts to put 60 singers on the risers at next year's Lake Orion performance.

When you see Jeff Doig, Jack Teuber, Art Ripley, Roger Holm, Howard Lynn, 4 Wheel Drive, Bruce Brede, Bill Holmes, OTR, Celebration, Fred McFadyen, John Cowlshaw, Greg Moss, Art Carinci, Walt DeNio, and Zaven Melkonian, give them a SPECIAL THANKS. Without them, no MC, script, music order, pitch, or sound system. While you're at it, pat your own back. Without you...NO SOUND!

You're the greatest. Dick Johnson

Tuesday, June 27th, the Big Chief Chorus maintained its tradition of mass attendance at the Flint Chapter's Frankenmuth Bratfest. "Beer, soft drinks, Kern's brat's cooked by John Voss, sauerkraut & pork cooked by Dave Lonsbury to top your brat, special hot sauce by John Voss, YUM!" says Chuckles.

Music Committee chair, Roger Holm, reminds us:

No chapter meeting on July 4. "But - there sure will be the following week on the 11th! Time is rapidly passing, and we need to get serious about our Western show songs! Doesn't seem possible, but there are only 3 rehearsals left in July! Our next BIG sing-out is July 27th - a Thursday night - where we will again be on tap for about 80 minutes at the Oxford Summer Concert Series! So - see ya'll on the 11th."

Quartet News

June 7th: B NATURAL was part of the entertainment hired by IKEA for their grand store opening in Livonia.

June 8th: "THREE WHEEL DRIVIN' HOLM" sang for about 60 attendees at "Carnival in the Park," sponsored by Smith Barney of Ann Arbor. The venue was the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens off Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor.

The quartet strolled for an hour thru the Conservatory singing polecats to the folks who were munching the goodies (provided by Gourmet Express of South Lyon) and admiring the wide variety of botanical specimens under the vaulted glass ceiling. When the guests assembled in the small auditorium, the quartet sang a three-set of "In the Still of the Night," "In My Room," and "Hello, Mary Lou." Our contact, Monica Gobba sat in the front row with her young music-loving son, and had a broad smile. Later she said, "You guys are hard to find,"

referring to her early efforts to find a barbershop quartet once she had decided on the theme of the evening.

The quartet triumphed over adversity. Zaven was recovering from laryngitis, and Roger Holm graciously agreed to fill in at bass. This changed our repertoire somewhat, but we were still able to sing "Good Night Sweetheart," "Under the Boardwalk," "I'm Sittin' on Top of the World," and "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah," as well as the songs mentioned above. Jeff and John were also at various stages of vocal debilitation.

June 13th: On Tuesday, June 13th, the Big Chief Chorus, OFF THE RESERVATION and HARMONIC PROGRESSION performed for 404 students and 18 teachers at Waterford Riverside Elementary School as part of the Chapter's Youth In Harmony emphasis. Particular favorites were "Riverside, Riverside, Bless Your Heart," "Kitty, Kitty," and "Bill Grogan's Goat." A pickup quartet demonstrated four-part harmony with "My Wild Irish Rose." Many compliments and thank yous were received along with students' requests to sign their yearbooks. Later that day Teuber delivered the words and music of "Riverside, We Love you" to Debbie Brokaw, a Sweet Adeline and Music Teacher at the school. Ms. Brokaw plans on teaching it to her students in September.

June 14th: C-NATURAL (Johnson, Holm, Brede and Teuber) was enthusiastically welcomed by 470 students, teachers and parents at Houghton Elementary School. The occasion was the retirement of Principal Louise Abersold who sat up front on, very surprised and proud. The quartet sang that multi-functional, universal favorite, "Houghton, We Love You" as well as "Irish Parting Prayer." The singing performance of the students was awesome. They were very attentive to their director and didn't have to sing loud with over 400 voices. One of their three selections was an original composition "Blue Ribbon School". After the kids left, some in tears, the quartet sang "Heart of My Heart" to Mrs. Abersold. (Houghton School staff and spouses have since purchased thirty tickets for the Big Chief Performance at Comerica Park, August 8, 2006.) (As part of our renewed Youth-in-Harmony emphasis, we expect to do a couple assemblies for Houghton next year similar to those done this year at Cooley and Riverside.)

June 16th: OFF-THE-RESERVATION made their initial public performance at the Mendleson House, Our Lady of Lourdes, joining about 25 seniors and staff for a Fathers' Day celebration. Twelve men presented about 15 songs over a 45 minute period at 7 pm on Friday, June 16th. OTR's favorites, "Mood Indigo" and "It Had To Be You," were particularly well received. Bob Butcher strengthened the Bari Section and Dave Myre sang Lead for the first time. OTR appreciated the efforts of Directors Bill Holmes and Dick Johnson as well as the planning by Jack Teuber and Bruce Brede.

June 25th: CELEBRATION (with Dick Johnson subbing) sang a 30-minute barbershop set to Evelyn Millar of Union Lake for her 99th birthday. She was very alert and attentive, mouthing the lyrics to “Wild Irish Rose,” “Ain't Misbehavin',” “God Bless America,” “Irish Blessing” and others. About thirty family and friends held an open house picnic in her honor and appreciated the music with their attention, smiles and personal thank yous.

JACKPOT: Terry Jamison has replaced Tom Ford at tenor in JACKPOT, as Tom begins his relocation.

AROUND THE PATCH

From Pete Mazzara: The dates of March 23-25, 2007 have been reserved for the Big Chief Choruses Singing Retreat at the MacMullan Conference Center.

Bob and Eileen Marshall will be hosting their annual Fireworks party at their Sylvan Lake beach home. It's this Monday, July 3. As everyone who has been there knows, the lake homeowners put on a pretty good display. Bring your own beach chairs/blankets, and whatever you want to eat or drink. The fireworks start at darkness, but come anytime after dinner. Bob and Eileen live at 969 James K Blvd, between Telegraph and Voorheis, on the northeast shore of Sylvan Lake.

MEMBERSHIP (at 59)

Barbershopper of the Month: June. Tom Jackson, for his work securing buses and a summer rehearsal facility, and his cooperation and interest in the chapter's growth and improvement.

Renewals: Tom Jackson (8), Art Ripley (9), Neil Braun (17), Bill Dabbs (36), Fred McFadyen (40),

Pending? Bob Brain, Doc Mann, Don Sheridan.

July Birthdays: Tom Jackson (1st), Chuck Murray (6th), Dave Shantz (7th), Art Ripley (27th), Darwin Johnson (31st).

Medical: Bill Dabbs had a triple bypass at Pontiac's St. Joe Hospital. He's at Woodward Hills (across from Fox & Hounds) for rehab.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Dick Johnson, Jeff Doig and Howard Lynn were BCC's reps at Windsor Send-off.

Tom Uicker reminds us of the Barbershop River Cruise Friday, July 14, 2006. Tickets are still available at \$30 each (www.harmonize.com/doc/doc.htm) What do you get for \$30? You get a wonderful cruise on the Detroit River aboard the beautiful Detroit Princess. (I understand that there is a good chance we will be cruising down to Bob-Lo Island and back.) There will be lots of Barbershop Harmony with two choruses and at least eight quartets, both Barbershop and Sweet Adelines. International representatives Fermata Nowhere and current

district champs Party of Four have both agreed to perform on the boat. Because several of our patrons asked, we will have a DJ set up on Deck #1 with lots of dancing to the oldies and goodies. Up on the top deck, we will have a local historian who will be able to point out items of interest and talk about the history of several of the buildings along the river. There are hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar on each deck. The boat is enclosed and air-conditioned to handle all types of weather. There are elevators allowing handi-cap access to each deck.

The Livingston County Chapter is seeking a Director. “Our chapter meets Monday nights in Brighton, Michigan. We have approximately 26 men committed to singing better, making our community aware of barbershop singing and supporting our community activities.” Raymond Jones, President

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD

International is this week in Indianapolis.

From the opening session, Wed, July 5 thru the Quartet Finals, Saturday night, July 8, it's all available on webcast.

- A wide range of audio and video streams to match your system's capabilities...
- A wide range of packages, ranging from the All-Events package at SuperBand resolution, to a FREE audio-only stream.

Check it out at: www.barbershop.org/webcast

To check which stream is best for you, simply click on <http://webcast.riverbendmedia.com/barbershop/> and follow the step by step directions.

As another alternative, the Huron Valley Harmonizers are hosting a Quartet Finals Webcast Party Saturday July 8 at the MITC center just off State and I-94.in Ann Arbor, from 6 to 10. The meal will be served about 6 and the webcast to follow. They are set up cabaret style in tables of 8. Some 35 seats were still available at \$20. Contact Greg Humble.

Going into International, the top five choruses are:

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|-------|--|
| 92.3% | Vocal Majority (Can it continue its string of winning every year that it is eligible?) |
| 90.4% | (Toronto) Northern Lights |
| 87.7% | Westminster (CA) Chorus |
| 87.0% | (Northbrook) New Tradition |
| 86.8% | The (Greater Ohio) Alliance |

The top five quartets are:

- 88.2% MAX Q
- 86.8% VOCAL SPECTRUM
- 86.7% OC TIMES
- 86.4% METROPOLIS
- 84.3% SATURDAY EVENING POST

ACOUSTIX was live on national TV, singing the National Anthem before the NBA Finals Game 6 in Dallas.

Good article on the BBS Quartet known as Dapper Dans that strolls the streets of Disneyland. Go to <http://disney.go.com/inside/issues/stories/v060613.html>

BQPA

(Tom Neal, the founder of the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association/Pioneers has authorized the release of this message to the BHS and BQPA memberships.)

Gentlemen:

Here is the latest on the proposed subsidiary status between the BHS and the BQPA.

The Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association, (BQPA) an organization founded to keep the old songs a vital part of our singing heritage is soon to become a chartered nonprofit corporation in the State of Nevada. This is a requirement for subsidiary status with the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS).

I believe that all readers understand that the BQPA is a PRESERVATION organization, dedicated to saving the old songs, promoting the music of the mid-1940's to the mid-1960's, and advocating the return of the "chapter meeting" in lieu of a "chorus rehearsal" type of weekly gathering (for those who wish it that way).

We also will sponsor TRADITIONAL barbershop quartet contests, with a judging system in place that follows the one in use in the above-mentioned era.

MEET FRED McFADYEN

It was with some trepidation, that I set out to interview our local "legend in his own time," Freddie McFadyen. Not surprisingly, I discovered that music has been there from the beginning. Both his mom and dad were pretty good singers, and his dad played the piano by ear. Three of the four children (Freddie was the youngest) also sang. By the time he was in grade school, Freddie was doing gigs at the American Legion Hall, and family friends were urging mom to take him down to the Broadway Capital Theater for the Little Children's Theater of the Air.

From Fred's birth in 1935 until 1945, the family home was in Grosse Pointe, then Detroit. His dad was a parts manager at Ford dealerships, and his

mom a homemaker and occasional caterer at Grosse Pointe parties. Throughout, Fred attended St. Ambrose Catholic School. In 1st grade, the boys were to sing Little Boys' Prayer on Pastor's Feast Day. Sister Alexandrine told the other boys to let Freddie start and then come in; the rest of the boys just listened as Freddie soloed the whole song. He was that kind of kid.

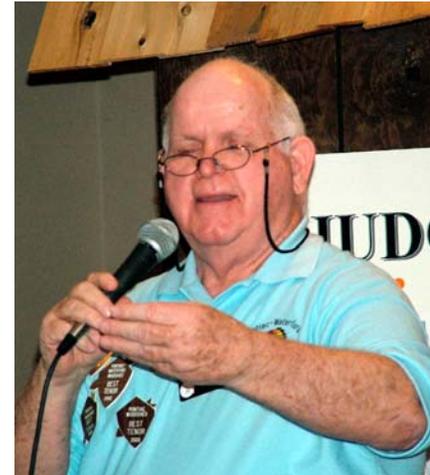


Photo by Jeff Doig at BCC Woodshed contest

He sang throughout school, but also played pretty good football (single wing quarterback), basketball (guard), and baseball (2nd base). Then came three years in the Navy, as an Electrician's Mate on the USS Compton DD-705, and the USS Boston CAG-1, the first guided missile cruiser.

His mom made sure there was a job waiting for him at Chrysler when he got out. And he evolved from soldering and wiring of missile harnesses into Production Control and finally, at Speeding Corporation, into Accounting.

In the 1980's, he worked at Thompson Phelan Construction Co. His new supervisor, learning he'd been hired, said, "Well, you must be family or Barbershopper." Sure enough, the company was lead by Lead Jim Phelan, and employed Ray McAlpine, baritone of the Four Fits, Pat Yacques, Baritone of the New Baltimore Exit and Lee Hanson currently with Antiques Roadshow.

Now Fred does accounting for MV Management Corporation, which owns and manages Great Lakes Technology Centre (The former Fisher Body #1) in Flint

Fred sang in a trio in the Navy and recalls hearing of barbershop for the first time in a 1956 Detroit News column that mentioned the Four Fits and old high school

pal, Marv Burke. But it was his neighbor's invitation from Bill Nevaux that brought both of them to the Oakland County Chapter about 1966 to sing under Dick Liddicoatt. Freddie said he sang Tenor, (though was surprised how high the barbershop Tenor is) and his passionate commitment to Tenor has lasted ever since.

How to sum up the ensuing years? His first quartet was the Four Hats, with Bill Nevaux, Bob McDermott (deceased Pioneer district historian), and Dick Van Dyke. In the 1970's and 1980's, he had his most success with Sound Objective (Cliff Douglas, Fred Kienitz, Ron Gillies) which did a lot of successful entertaining in the Michigan-Indiana-Ohio area; and he also coached and sang with The Very Idea. He also spent time with the Chord Reporters, Back Porch Majority and has won The Pioneer District Senior Championship with both The Very Quick Idea and Michigan Assembly. Now he tenors in B-NATURAL.

With his sense of rhythm and dance, it was easy for him to move into choreography and then directing. He has sung with and directed Oakland County, as well as the Wayne chorus, and he has sung with Motor City Metro, Macomb County, and the Pontiac Waterford Chorus. He has also directed a Sweet Adeline Chorus.

He has been selected Barbershopper of the Year three times, by the Oakland County chapter (1976), the Wayne chapter (1988), and the Macomb chapter (2000).

He met his wife Alice at a bowling alley. During team play, there was some saucy banter that has led to forty-six years of marriage and three kids. Tim, the oldest, is a background actor on the TV show, "Boston Legal." Their daughters are Colleen and Maura, and they have two grandchildren.

Any hobbies? Mostly barbershop, though he used to play softball, and his East Warren Recreation team won the City of Detroit Class C championship.

Big Chief Jeopardy #8 (How did you do?)

1. Answer: *Merry Motor Men: The Owner's Manual* Question: What was the name of the chorus bulletin in 1990 under Jeff Doig's editorship?
2. Answer: Played football at Dearborn Fordson High School, has a college degree in Chemistry and Biology, and was Assistant Principal at Southfield High School and Girls' Track Country County Coach of the Year. Question: Who is Pete Mazzara?
3. Answer: The Society for the Promotion and Encouragement of Italian Cooking in America. Question: What imaginary Society did Cowlshaw use to explain the Presentation, Singing, and Music categories in SPEBSQSA?

Big Chief Jeopardy #9 (Try these.)

1. Answer: First prize of \$100 split between Zaven Melkonian and Dick Johnson, with second prize of \$100 split between Mike Keith and Jeff Spires. (Issue #9)
2. Answer: In Memoriam, September 19, 2003. (Issue #30)
3. Answer: This Anderson University grad had many careers before becoming Top Producer for Century Twenty-One. (Issue #38)

Sound and Music (the fifth in a series by Bruce Brede)

"Every musical instrument has three features that are together responsible for sound production. These are a source of energy, a vibrator to determine sound and pitch and resonators adding tonal qualities. Our voices can be musical instruments of great character. The source of energy is breath from our lungs. The vibrator is our vocal chords in our larynx. The resonators are the air cavities and structures of our throats, noses and sinuses. Is it any wonder that our teachers and directors place so much emphasis on breathing, mouth shape, palate, head tones and sinus resonators?"

Letters to the editor:

"That was a great interview with Hiner. Another Renaissance barbershopper.

Art Lane, Editor, Holland Windpipe

"Chuckles" especially appreciated your on-line interview with D.J. Hiner.

I stood next to D. J. in Salt Lake City last summer. He is quite a talented person, with lots of quality quarteting experience. Can we sing five octaves like a Brett Manning, and create quartet CD's with just our own voice? (Maybe, if we work at it.) I really like it when these guys with lots of good experiences open up and unselfishly share them with the rest of us!

Chuck Murray

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING June 14, 2006, Excerpts from Bill Holmes' minutes.

Present: All Board members, minus Mazzara, plus Jamison.

The secretary's minutes approved as distributed.

The treasurer's report - current balance is \$15,303.91.

Wayne Cheyne reported there are currently 59 members. He is looking toward a membership night in September. Wayne's belief, shared by most, is that our best recruitment tool is the Christmas Chorus.

Terry Jamison provided information regarding camp facilities should the chapter decide to use them; and to discuss an opportunity for present barbershop singing to youth at a camp in Lapeer. The sole emphasis would be on barbershop for those students who chose that topic. The Board asked Terry to

explore this potential activity further; it might be sponsored by the district-level Youth In Harmony.

Roger Holm raised his concerns that the chapter's sing-out schedule has been very busy; it has been difficult to get enough members during the daytime and it takes rehearsal time from our show songs. This will lighten the pressure on Jack and we don't want him feeling bad if he has to reject some requests. Jack has done a great job in achieving one of our goals to sing out more and get known in the community. Jack presented a list of upcoming performances prompting discussion regarding each one.

The "Matter of Taste" restaurant has requested barbershop singing at the urging of John Toma. Jack will pursue this matter further.

In light of our heavy sing-out requests Bruce Brede requested clarification of the Youth in Harmony activities. The sing-out at Riverside Elementary School was well received and we may receive requests from other schools. Rather than say we will do a certain number of them, we will handle them individually as they come to Bruce.

Dick presented a sample business card with a picture of the chorus on its face. He will pursue this type for the board members and generic ones for the chapter members.

The price of tickets for the Cast Party: tabled until next meeting.

Approved: that our picnic to be Friday August 25, 2006 at Bob & Eileen Marshall's home.

Approved: that our singing retreat be at MacMullen Center and Pete M. be our retreat chairman.

BSOM for June is Tom Jackson.

Discussion: a new summer uniform for next summer.

The life cycle is all backwards.

You should die first, start out dead and get it out of the way.

Then you wake up in an old age home feeling better every day.

You get kicked out for being too healthy, go collect your pension, then, when you start work, you get a gold watch on your first day.

You work 40 years until you're young enough to enjoy your retirement.

You drink alcohol, you party, you're generally promiscuous and you get ready for High School.

You go to primary school, you become a kid, you play, and you have no responsibilities.

You become a baby, then, you spend your last 9 months floating peacefully with luxuries like central heating, spa, room service on tap, larger quarters everyday, and finally you finish off as an orgasm.

I rest my case.

(From Bill Waltner)

Note: All un-attributed articles and photos are by John Cowlshaw

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

Director: Dick Johnson, (248-363-5173)

Assistant Directors: 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, Bruce Brede

Chorus Manager: Art Carinci

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

CALENDAR

Jul 2-9 BHS International Convention, Indianapolis

Jul 4 July 4th Holiday

July 11, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

Jul 12, W 4pm, American House, 1915 Baldwin Ave, Ptk, Class C

Jul 12, W 7pm, Exec Bd mtg, Bruce Brede's home

July 14, Sa D.O.C. River Cruise

July 18, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

July 25, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

July 27, Th Oxford Summer Concert Series, 7-9 PM, Centennial Park

Jul 30-Aug 6 Harmony College @ St. Joseph, MO

Aug 1, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

Aug 8, T BCC sings National Anthem at Tigers vs. Twins (by bus)

Aug 9, W Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm @ Zaven Melkonian's home

Aug 15, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

Aug 18-20 Bush League, Gaylord, MI

Aug 18, F Buckeye Invitational, Columbus OH

Aug 22, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

Aug 23, W 11am, Independence Oaks, Senior Health & Fitness Expo, 9501 Sashabaw Rd, Class C

Aug 25, F BCC Picnic, 7:00pm, Bob & Eileen Marshall's home

Aug 29, T Rehearsal @ Waterford Oaks "Lookout Lodge"

Sep 5, T Rehearsal returns to Crary

Sep 19, T Guest night

Sep 24, Su 2pm, Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd, Class B

Oct 13-15 District Convention, Kalamazoo

Nov 4, Sa Fall Show