



BIG CHIEF CHORUS

SMOKE SIGNALS



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

Bulletin #26, June 3, 2003

[Beginning with this issue, **Smoke Signals** will be published on the first Tuesday of each month, instead of the Tuesday after the Board meeting, which is usually the second Thursday of the month. It got confusing, huh?]

AROUND THE PATCH

On behalf of the **Grosse Pointe chapter**, Joe Serwach invited the BCC to a **Chapter Night**, Tuesday, May 27. So how did we repay them? By putting them to **parody**:

"I'm so tired of hearing old routine
'Georgia On My Mind' just leaves me green
But Seely said he'd feed us and buy us beer,
That's why the Big Chief Chorus is here.

...

Imagine that we placed just one point
Behind Grosse Pointe
Damn it all!"

From the Prez:

Due to family commitments, I asked the executive Board for a leave of absence as President. I am not prepared to resume those duties until perhaps mid-August.

It all depends on how things go. Thank you all for your understanding and support. Pete

MEMBERSHIP (at 59)

Birthdays: June: Bob Legato (13th), Bruce Brede (22nd), Al Monroe (24th)

July: Tom Jackson (1st), Chuck Murray (6th)

Renewals: Pete Mazzara (4), Tom Jackson (5), Tom Tailford (9), Ross Ensign (21)

Sing-outs: An old boys' quartet sang out May 13 at the Oxford Big Boy at its once-monthly seniors-free breakfast. Bill Pascher, Mel Parrish, Mike Keith, and Len Barnes called themselves the **Eldermen**. And they did a reprise that evening at the BCC chorus rehearsal.

With a summed age of 327, they sang "55 yrs ago" and "From the First Hello."

Meet Lew Mahacek

How deep are your musical roots? My own? My dad used to sing, "Beans, beans, the musical fruit" to me. By contrast, our 6-month-new member Lew Mahacek...well, his dad, Lou, joined the Grand Rapids chapter of SPEBSQSA in 1943! And was then President of the chapter and its director from the 60's nearly until his death in 1993 at the age of 87. His quartet was the FUN ADDICTS. The Grand Rapids chapter also included the HARMONY HALLS, who were International Gold-Medallists in 1944. Lew still has all the playbills from that time. Want more roots? Well, Lew's mom founded the Sweet Adeline's chapter in Grand Rapids, and served in offices in that group. This musical heritage was not lost on Lew. Lew formed his own band when a sophomore at Creston High School. Lew played the trombone, and occasionally the string bass. The band grew to 18-pieces, including Lew's father and continued till Lew left Grand Rapids in the 1970's. It was called the Lew Allen band, named after Lew and co-founder David Allen Payne. I asked Lew if he knew my musical classmates Tony Saltzmann, Jerry Conaty, & Dale Watermulder. Sure, they were in Lew's band. Lew says they even played for functions at my school, Ottawa Hills, (I was too busy trying to butter up that cute sophomore.) Lew even played trombone in the LES BROWN BAND, went on the road with him, and did the Bob Hope Christmas tour in Korea, in 1956. So, I've got deep roots after all; they're just thru Lew.

Tag Contest

The first two entries in the tag contest are included as an enclosure in this month's edition, "If the Stars Go Out Tomorrow," by J. Smitty Smith, and "Ode to Baritones" by John Cowlshaw.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Return the Jug Night: Tom Uicker writes: Friday, June 6, 2003, **Detroit-Oakland Chapter** is holding a party to welcome back the Traveling Jugs. All

you men and ladies out in barbershop listening area are invited. For the low, low door fee of \$10.00 per person you get food and drinks plus all the barbershop singing that you and we can provide. And for every paying guest, we add one dollar to the Jug Funds. POWER PLAY has promised to be there, as will the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS chorus and any other quartets we can scare up. If you have a quartet, bring them along. This year we are in Stitt Post #232 American Legion Hall, 23850 Military, in Dearborn Hts. (It is one block east of Telegraph and one block south of Warren Ave.) [This is where we held Canada Night last November.] Doors open at 7:00 pm. Dinner is served at 8:00 pm. The main show is after we eat.

Calendar

Jun 3	Rehearsal, Central Methodist Church, all summer
Jun 6, Fri	Return the Jug Night – DOC Host
Jun 10,	Rehearsal
Jun 13, Fri	Send-Off Show – Windsor host
Jun 17	Rehearsal
Jun 19	Bd mtg at Zaven Melkonian's
Jun 24	Flint Chapter's Picnic, Frankenmuth
Jun 28	Great Lakes Chorus (Sweet Adelines) Show
Jun 29 – July 6	International Convention, Montreal
Mar 26-8, 2004	Spring Singing Retreat, MacMullan

Chapter Executive Board

Officers:

Chorus Director: Chris Miller
(248-960-5101)
President: Pete Mazzara
(313-563-4026)
Immed. Past President: Gene Downie
Chapter Development: Doc Mann
Music and Performance: John Smith
Program: John Smith
Secretary: Jeff Doig
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large: Chuck Murray,
Zaven Melkonian

Chairmen:

Associate Directors: Dick Johnson,
Bruce Collins
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlshaw
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
Grants: Dick Johnson
Historian: (open) JC's bulletins
Music Librarian: Bill Holmes
Picnic: Gayle Mohler
Pole Cats: Zaven Melkonian
Quartet Activity: Bruce Brede
Service (Charity): open
Singing Valentines: Wayne Cheyne/
Gene Downie
Sunshine (Chaplain): Bill Dabbs
Tagmeister: Mike Frye
Uniform Manager: Ron Clarke
Woodshedding: Len Barnes

