SHOW TIME!
Four days and two rehearsals to go. Is everybody thinking “Western”? Are you longing for “land, lots a land under starry skies above”? Is your throat “burnt dry”? Are you hoping to “watch the desert sun go down”? Would you exchange your “home on the range where the buffalo roam and the deer and the antelope play?” Do your spurs jingle “single,” or are you ready to “build a sweet little nest” with your “pal good ‘n’ true”? In all this rain, “Who cares about the clouds when we’re together? Just sing a song and bring the sunny weather.”

But we’d like to sing it to Mott’s capacity of 750, and as of the weekend we are at about 400 tickets sold. Time to sell more tickets!

The Cast Party follows, at Liberty Golf and Banquet, 6060 Maybee Road in Clarkston. From Waterford Mott, head north on Scott lake Rd, turn left on Dixie Hwy, turn right on Sashabaw Rd, and left on Maybee Rd for a half mile.

AROUND THE PATCH
Sharon Spire’s long battle finally ended, as she passed away October 25 of acute liver failure following a second liver transplant. The community’s feelings and its support for Jeff were manifested by the large number of people that gathered at Lewis Wint Funeral Home Friday and Saturday and for the service Sunday at Clarkston Community Church.

From the Nominating Committee (John Cowlishaw, Jeff Doig, Al Monroe):
Thanks to all of the members who stood for election October 17, 2006 for the 2007 BCC Board. With the Board’s authorization to increase Members at Large to four, here are the results:

President – Zaven Melkonian
VP Chapter Development – Wayne Cheyne
VP Music/Performance – Roger Holm
VP Marketing/Public Relations – Jack Teuber
Secretary – Bill Holmes
Treasurer – Dick Johnson
Members at Large – Ron Clarke, Dar Johnson, Dave Myre, Gil Schreiner

The chapter’s Awards and Installation dinner will be November 17 at Santia Hall in Keego Harbor.

MEMBERSHIP (at 57)
Renewals: None
Bye-Bye: Jim Troeger
Barbershopper of the Month: October – Walt DeNio for his hard work and loyalty, most recently exemplified by his being a super-salesman for program ads.

November Birthdays: Ron Clarke (8th), Doc Mann (13th), Gil Schreiner (18th), Marv Wilson (19th), Paul Smith (21st), Fred McFadyen (24th), Lew Mahacek (25th).
Illness: Terry Jamison’s daughter was hospitalized for abdominal problems.
Guest: Corey Flathoff (a much-appreciated bari!)
QUARTET NEWS

Four Wheel Drive sang October 11 to the 400 folk who had gathered for the dedication of the new Waterford Senior Center, in the re-formatted Leggett School on Pontiac Lake Road at Cass Lake Road.

A highlight was the presentation of a U.S. flag that had flown over the US Capitol on September 11, 2006 for use by the Center. Congressman Joe Knollenberg, representatives from Governor Granholm and Senator Stabenow’s offices, and many local officials were also on hand. A NEW HORIZONS’ quintet played the Star-Spangled Banner, so FOUR WHEEL DRIVE, quick-on-its-feet, switched to singing “God Bless the USA,” which was enthusiastically received. After the ceremony, the quartet sang for several hours in the various rooms of the Center, singing at least fifteen of its repertoire songs.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Macomb Guardian Dick VanDyke, a 39-year member of the BHS, died October 10. He sang in THE FOUR HATS with Freddie McFadyen, Bill Nevaux, and Bob McDermott.

Tom Uicker of DOC writes:

“The Detroit-Oakland Chapter invites all barbershoppers to our Annual Interchapter Party--CANADA NIGHT, on Friday, Nov 3rd, at St. Aidan’s Parish Hall, 17500 Farmington Rd in Livonia (between 6 & 7 Mile Rds). We open the doors at 7:30 pm and dinner is served at 8:15 pm with much singing to follow. Although quartets are welcome to come and sing, we want the chapters to put together mini-choruses--10 to 16 singers with or without a director. We will hold a mini-chorus contest and FERMATA NOWHERE has agreed to act as judges. The traveling trophy is the "Old Oakland Bucket," and the defending champs are the guys from Motor City Metro Chapter. The $10 admission charge includes both food and soft drinks.”

Chuckles Murray adds:

“For those of you who are relatively short time barbershoppers, you probably do not recall the many Friday Fun Nights we used to have here in the Pioneer District. D.O.C.’s Canada Night is a long-standing tradition, an Annual Event reciprocating every year with the Windsor Chapter's Uncle Sam Night. Both nights are great barbershop fun. There are no border crossing tunnel or bridge fees to attend this one! Pontiac Waterford has a great opportunity to sing a Show Song “teaser” such as “Ridin’ Down the Canyon,” and then hawk Show tickets for the following night.”

The Pioneer District Fall Convention led to these top four results:

Chorus competition (Winner goes to International.)
1. Macomb County Guardians of Harmony – 932 pts = 78 %
2. Mount Pleasant Mountaintown Singers – 899 pts = 75 %
3. D.O.C. Gentlemen Songsters – 828 pts = 69 %
4. Lansing Capitol City Chorus – 815 pts = 68 %

Quartet competition
1. FERMATA NOWHERE – 1778 pts = 74 %
2. SOMETHING BIG – 1646 pts = 69 %
3. ANTIQUES ROADSHOW – 1593 pts = 66 %
4. BORDER CROSSING – 1556 pts = 65 %

All scores are available on the web site at:
http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/contestsummary/contmenu.htm

Al Fisk conveyed Raleigh Bloch’s suggestions of having Pioneer Pole Cat tunes. Al suggests

“Gentry’s ‘When There's Love At Home’ (as sung by those cute and cuddly POWER PLAY kinfolk) for the first selection. If you don't already have it, pick up a few copies from Tom (available from him at $2.00 a piece). We'll use this as one of the JBC numbers from time to time. (And, get the PP CD to learn it lickety split!)”

From Chuckles Murray:

“I must admit, Saturday was probably the most fun time I've had in barbershop! And that includes all the previous chorus competitions! You might be impressed with the results of having Mike Slamka as a co-director. We are working hard on our contest set, which has a pseudo-Christmas theme.

“The chorus members are all wearing different, bright colored sweaters with contrasting bright scarves. Even three members of the Pollard family are participating. (Craig, of the former Infinity Quartet, and his sons.) Frosty the Snowman is Mike Slamka, and Santa is Jack Slamka, Adam Pollard is the young boy who asks Santa for a particular gift.

“All the risers are covered and white, like snow! We meet old friends, dream about being "Home for Christmas", decorate trees, have a snowball fight, have skaters, and there is even an ice fisherman on the "pond". (John Nolte is the "ice fisherman" sitting on a bucket on the "pond".)
“The "up-tune" is a nine page medley blending I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas, Jingle Bells, Frosty the Snowman, I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas, Santa Got Run Over By a Reindeer, etc. We have fake reindeer with antlers, and the entire chorus rides in a huge sleigh just before the end. At the end, Matt Tipton "skis" down the snow-covered risers and out onto the "pond".

“This is definitely a set you have not seen come out of Macomb ever before!”

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD

During November, the “Members Only” page of our international Web Site will be modernized.

The Society’s search for a new home in Nashville ended this week with the purchase of an existing building at a prime downtown Nashville address.

The Society will breathe new life into the 36,000-square-foot building, located at 110 7th Avenue North, as extensive renovations begin in the next few months. Just off Broadway in the center of Nashville—with easy access off Interstate 65—the Society headquarters will enjoy a prime location, good neighbors, and great potential for return on investment.

Centering the Society in Music City will help increase awareness of the organization and the barbershop harmony art form.

Located in the immediate area of the new Society headquarters are the Nashville Convention Center, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, an arts magnet high school, a Masonic temple and a planned residential building. Only minutes away are the brand new Schermerhorn Symphony Center, Frist Center for the Visual Arts, Ryman Auditorium and Tennessee State, Belmont and Vanderbilt universities. Nashville, itself, is a prime tourism location.

Purchase and renovation of the building will be funded by money from the 2003 sale of Society’s properties in Kenosha and financing arranged through Sun Trust Bank. Purchase price was $1,450,000. The anticipated move date is late summer 2007.

Dave Fobart, of the Atlanta Vocal Project, writes of a recent trip to Japan:

“I was amazed at how hard they work, and how much they enjoy it. They love the style and the songs. And, like most barbershoppers anywhere, they are great hosts to visitors. After their rehearsal, we adjourned to a local watering hole, where there was plenty of singing and some great introduction to Japanese customs for the new guy. And we ended up singing Let Me Call You Sweetheart at a subway station across the tracks from each other.

MEET RON CLARKE

Ron was born in Detroit in 1944 and raised in Mt. Clemens. His dad was a sales rep for children’s clothes, whose samples were then given to Ron to wear, so he was the best-dressed kid in his elementary school. Mt Clemens High was known as the Battling Bathers, reflecting the early 20th century resort history of big hotels and smelly sulfur baths. Later Ron’s dad owned clothing stores in Mt. Clemens and Utica, but he died when Ron was twenty-eight. Ron’s Canadian-born mom was a substitute teacher and assisted Dad in the clothing stores and continues to this day as an active 89-year-old.

Upon graduation, Ron went to Michigan State in the Business Administration program. (His family bleeds green.) During the summer he worked as restaurant manager at Brownwood Acres north of Torch Lake and at Fort Restaurant across from the Mackinac Island fort. But his heart turned to clothing. His uncle, Randolph Harwood had bought a small Pontiac tailor shop in 1952 and moved it to its present location in 1955. The focus of the shop shifted from custom-
Ron married his first wife in 1970, and their marriage resulted in three lovely children, Lynnette, a Pathology Assistant, whose 2nd child is due in February, Trevor who manages a pizza store, and Shawn who works at Harwood and is priming his dad for retirement in two, three, or four years.

His first marriage ended in divorce, and in 1985 Ron married his present wife, Joanne, with whom he has shared twenty-two years. They live on Voorheis Lake, which is great for boating and swimming. Ron had never been comfortable in the water, but his wife loved it, so on a vacation trip to Grand Cayman many years ago, they took scuba diving lessons. Strap on a tank and weight belt, and the water became Ron’s friend – “Let’s get certified.” Joanne is his diving partner. They have frolicked with “fat and slow” sting rays at Grand Cayman. When they visited St. Maarten, Ron went down on a shark dive, lying (with negative buoyancy) on the sandy bottom as the dive masters enticed the sharks to come feed from the divers. The dozen divers emitted a curtain of bubbles that kept the 16-foot momma sharks at a wary distance. The encounter, captured on DVD, had the divers staring into the sharks’ beady eyes and gaping mouths.

Ron’s musical interest started as a youngster. His mother encouraged piano lessons but Ron learned on an antique pump organ, with its different attacks on the keys. He learned well enough to play the organ at their church, and he played at intermissions at the World Travel Series in the 1200-seat high school auditorium. He still plays a little bit on an organ at home and hopes to get back to it more seriously after retirement. He also sang in the church choir and high school a cappella choir, and he had lead roles in “The King and I” and in “H.M.S. Pinafore.” He sang in the Spartan Men’s Glee Club for two years. They performed 26 concerts on a 13-day bus trip to the East Coast, including Easter Sunday on the steps of Rockefeller Center. At intermissions, he sang in a quartet.

His very musical wife had encouraged his return to singing, so when he saw a newspaper ad for the Big Chief Chorus four years ago, he arrived, just before our Hockey fall show, and has been an active member ever since, including serving on the Executive Board for the last two years. Quartetting might interest him, but he realizes that it requires lots of work and practice, better put off until his retirement.

Ron has done quite a bit of photography, including his own developing, and continues doing woodworking, including different furniture pieces for their home. His other interest is aviation. He and Joanne have done balloon rides and gliders, and Ron recently did an hour of aerobatics in a T-6. Private pilot lessons may be in his future.

Big Chief Jeopardy #12 (How did you do?)
1. Answer: They spent the whole day Friday at Clarkston Elementary School as part of their Festival USA, singing and conducting classes in barbershop harmony. (Issue #12) Question: Who is SUNNYSIDE?
2. Answer: A gift of a chain saw in the 1960’s led to a sideline as a tree surgeon, which capitalized on his youthful experience cutting wood by hand on the farm and scaling heights as a lineman. (Issue #33) Question: Who was Art Ripley?
3. Answer: He arranged BCC’s first annual golf outing at Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon. (Issue #41) Question: Who is Art Carinci?

Sound and Music (the ninth in a series by Bruce Brede)
Did you know that Angels share our hobby? Yes, many written descriptions of people's luminous and mystical experiences place Angels in singing choruses.

Angels are as close to the Divine as we can get, and we sense their presence as we meditate, pray and proceed through life's trials and challenges. Angels are believed to belong to all mankind, not to any particular religion. But some claim we are each assigned specific Angels to look over us. Some are the Angels of Power, Glory, Wisdom, Love, Discernment, et al.

"The Angel Oracle" by Ambika Wauters discusses many specific Angels but, interestingly, one of them is the Angel of Harmony. The author explains that living in harmony with ourselves means we honor our own special gifts (like our voices) and, when we live in harmony, we seek to give our best (like rehearsals and singouts) and to receive with an open heart (like fun and fellowship).

It is comforting to be assured that we prepare for our Fall Show with divine partners (that's cowboy jargon). And, finally, we can learn from Angels by observing that Angels sing a lot and talk very little. Hah! That's for you, Dick!

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING October 11, 2006.
Excerpts from Bill Holmes’ minutes.

Meeting at Wayne Cheyne’s residence with all board members present except past president Pete Mazzara.

The minutes approved as distributed.
Dick Johnson’s treasurer’s report. The current balance is $15,823. Dick is working on selecting an intern to learn the treasurer’s duties.

Wayne Cheyne reported that our guest, Corey Flathoff, expressed interest in singing with the chorus.

Roger Holm reported that we are complying with all the legal requirements of the Society and have purchased copies of five songs ($439).

Roger Holm, Bruce Brede, and Jack Teuber are making arrangements for Christmas Sing-outs. They are developing schedules for the Men’s Christmas Chorus which will begin rehearsals following the Fall Show. Dick intends to include some new songs with the well-known songs. He will develop a flyer to announce the forming of the Men’s Christmas Chorus. Bruce is working on the bus tour.

Jack Teuber reported on the huge success of the sing-out at the Waterford Senior Center which was performed by FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE. Jack will check on the Mott High School facility relating to handicap availability. He is developing sing-outs for January or February. He will be working with intern, Dave Myre, on his various assignments and duties.

President Zaven requested the secretary to review the By-laws so the board can determine the proper way to increase the members-at-large from two to four. It is believed by the board that this will include more members to understand the workings of the board and be better able to serve in the various offices.

Ron Clarke reported that all the props needed for the Fall Show have been secured. He emphasized the help and assistance that Donna Bevington has brought to the committee members.

Roger reported on behalf of his committee members, John Cowlishaw and Greg Moss, that ads for a chorus director have been developed. Roger intends to contact a number of possible candidates to explore and determine their interest.

Bruce Brede reported on the Cast Party, noting that he will meet with Liberty to clarify and finalize the contract with that facility. Barbara Workman will review the Liberty facility in planning for the center pieces.

Walt DeNio was selected for the Barbershopper of the Month. Walt’s faithfulness and loyalty to the chapter which is shown in so many ways made this selection a joy to support by the board members. Walt is the super-salesman for the chorus. He has sold at least 21 advertisements for the program bringing into the treasury thousands of dollars.

Zaven Melkonian will contact Tom Jackson to check on a facility for the Induction Dinner of 11-17-06. Dick Johnson will order the plaque for the Barbershopper of the Year award. Two BOTY pins have already been ordered by the secretary.

Bruce Brede will check on a facility (the Big Apple at the northeast corner of Walton & Dixie) for the November Board Meeting of 11-8-06, which will begin at 6:30 pm rather than 7:00 pm, and will include both old and new board members and the music committee.

Dick Johnson will review the records and arrange for a donation to the Crary Middle School for its cooperation and service to the chorus.

Submitted by Bill Holmes, Secretary (who asks that he, like Dick and Jack, may select an intern for training purposes).

FROM OUR DISTRICT & INTERNATIONAL PUBS
CHECK OUT THESE STORIES:

In the September/October 2006 Pioneer Troubadour
Pg 1: Fermata Nowhere scores best at International since Power Play.
Pg 7: Pontiac-Waterford’s busy summer of sing-outs

In the July/August 2006 Harmonizer
Pg. 2 Having fun singing
Pg. 13 Choosing the right attire
Pg. 16 Midwinter convention, Albuquerque, to remember Music Man
Pg. 18-57 complete pictorial of Indianapolis, including…
…Pg. 25 Indianapolis was the year of the “fish”
Pg. 63 The winning tags

Letters to the Editor:

From Jim Gaylock
Thanks John, I appreciate [receiving Smoke Signals]. Hope to see the show in Nov. Say hi to everybody. Jim

From Jim Troeger
Hi John,

Just wanted to drop you a quick note and say "great job" on the Smoke Signals as always! Sadly, I was shocked when I read the news of Art Ripley's passing... that is a big loss to the chorus and the barbershop community as well as the bigger community of those he touched. A bummer indeed.
I wish the chorus well in their endeavor to find the right combination of director, musician, and personality that can come in a blend well with the guys and hopefully take the chorus to a new level. I know I enjoyed my time at the helm and think that there is a great group of core guys there that have the capability to make the BCC whatever they want it to be, whether that be more "fun" or more "serious." Good luck to all of you in your renewed search.

On another note, I have transferred my membership with the BCC over to Macomb. I have been singing with Macomb for several weeks now and I will be competing on stage with them next weekend in Kalamazoo. It's a real treat to work with Michael and Jack simultaneously and I love their hard work ethic and demand to be the best (flat out not accepting less). Even more so, I appreciate the hard work ethic of the chorus members and their willingness to grind hard for three straight hours on the risers and continually improve the package. Following fall contest, Michael has invited me to join the leadership of the chorus in a visual/choreo/presentation capacity whereby I will help develop and drive what the chorus does visually to help tell our story. I'm quite excited for this opportunity and know that I will be able to learn a ton from Jack and Michael...

Please keep sending the electronic version of the Smoke Signals even though my membership with the BCC is coming to an end.
Best Regards,
Jim Troeger

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

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
Nov 2, Th Extra rehearsal
Nov 3, F Canada Night, D.O.C.
Nov 4, Sa,7pm Fall Show, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 7, T First Christmas chorus practice, Crary
Nov 8, W Old and New Exec Bd Mtg
Nov 14, T Christmas chorus practice, Crary
Nov 17, F,7pm Awards and Induction dinner
Nov 21, T Christmas chorus practice, Crary
Nov 28, T Christmas chorus practice, Crary