Our dear friend, Art Ripley, died of liver disease Tuesday night, September 12, shortly after Roger Holm startled the chorus by announcing he was in his final hours.

At the service, Saturday, September 16, Roger and Bruce Brede spoke fondly of Art’s involvement in the Big Chief Chorus, and a group of chorus members sang “Keep the Whole World Singing” and “Shine” at the memorial luncheon afterward at the Oakland County Sportsmen’s Club. Roger pointed out how widely known and liked Art was as demonstrated by the hundreds of friends present Friday night and at the service Saturday. He used to sign off “Thank you much.”

Art was twice named Barbershopper of the Month, in April ’05, and May, ’06. His life story is available online in the January ’04 Smoke Signals at Meet Art Ripley

AROUND THE PATCH
Describing himself as a song-leader rather than a director, Dick Johnson has announced that the chorus deserves a renewed search for a new director. President Zaven has appointed Roger Holm to chair a Director Search Committee that will also include Greg Moss and John Cowlishaw.

The BCC serenaded a small but enthusiastic audience at the Orion Township Library September 24 as part of their Fall concert series. Celebration and On The Reservation also performed. An announcement of the concert made that morning’s Detroit Free Press.

Five weeks to our Fall Show. On September 5th, Show Chairman Ron Clarke unwrapped the Show Committee’s game plan for the Fall Show. It will feature a Western range, complete with stagecoach (thanks to Terry Jamison), bales of hay, hitching post, campfire, water trough, and three professional monitors. We will be wearing western attire. Ron drew laughter and applause when he tore down a complicated sheet of choreographic directions to expose “unstructured swagger.” Roger Holm reminds us: “It really is important for all of us to turn out for these remaining rehearsals! In addition to getting comfortable singing the western songs, we need to start doing them in the intended stage setting. Hope to see a whole lot of cowboys!” Jim Owens is handling tickets. We have fewer available due to the 750-seat capacity. Dick Johnson reminds us that the deadline for program ads is October 17. Gene Downie has created chap patterns for use with about 1 ½ yards of imitation leather, available from sewing stores. Western hats are available at dollar stores and Wal-Mart.

What a fine job Wayne Cheyne did in planning and carrying out Guest Night, September 19. He was able to articulate and illustrate the components of chorus life – polecats, Valentines program, warm-ups, Doo Wop, Quartets (Celebration and 4WD sang), competition, and the Christmas chorus, all in the space of an hour. We hope to see our four guests return.
The September 6 *Oxford Leader*’s article “Barbershop Chorus sing for Tigers” is only one of sixteen articles they’ve published on the BCC in recent years that are archived at [www.oxfordleader.com](http://www.oxfordleader.com)

**MEMBERSHIP (at 58)**
- **Renewals:** Zaven Melkonian (7)
- **Pending:** Jim Troeger

**Barbershopper of the Month: September** Bob Legato for his loyalty at rehearsal, at singouts, and his steady efforts at running the 50/50 raffle.

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

**Medical:**
- Jeff Spires’s wife, Sharon, is back in the hospital. She never recovered completely from her liver transplant, due to a blood clot in a hepatic vein, and she now faces the need for a second transplant.
- Jack Teuber’s brother is quite ill.
- Tom Tailford’s father died.
- Bill Pascher is eager to attend the show, but is not yet ambulatory, as reported by Neil Braun.

**Quartet News**

**Celebration** sang Sept 10 at the Wisner Home for the Fall Festival for the Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society, and again on Sep 20 for the Golden Agers’ Senior Club at the Waterford Community Activities Center.

**Bath City Boyz** delighted us September 12, singing “Rawhide” and “Trickle, Trickle” for their audition for the Fall Show.

**Four Wheel Drive** sang September 16 for the 60th reunion of the 1946 Pontiac High School class. They also received an excellent coaching session September 23 from Todd Wilson, Tenor of the Acoustix and Marketing Director of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

**AROUND THE DISTRICT**

Al Fisk has announced that thirteen choruses and eleven quartets will compete at the Fall District competition Oct 13-14 in Kalamazoo. **Don Bazely** will be honored with his 50-year pin.

The Michiana Metro chorus had **HOT TOPIC**, the Sweet Adelines 2003 Harmony Inc. Queens of Harmony, from Indiana, in their fall show, and recommends them for other chorus shows.

The **Kalamazoo chorus** has a new director, a new CD coming out this November: “The Roads We've Traveled”, and a new name – Kalamazoo Barbershop Chorus, replacing the Mall City Chorus.

The **Great Lakes Sweet Adelines Chorus** received a full page coverage in the Twist section of the Detroit Free Press for the week of Sept. 10-16.

**Rochester’s** show, “In The Good Old Summertime,” is Saturday, Oct. 28, with guest quartets, **THE ALLIES**, and Sweet Adelines’ Spotlight.

**Herm Baker** has passed away. This Grand Rapids chorus member had hosted thirty-two Great Lakes Chorus Annual Corn Roasts, backyard picnic and pickup quartet competitions.

**AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD**

**Men in Black** has survived another round of competition in the Star Tomorrow contest, and will move on the next round. Check it out at: [www.startomorrow.com](http://www.startomorrow.com)

An Australian barbershop chorus, **THE BLENDERS**, performed at the Memorial Service for **Steve Irwin** (the Crocodile Hunter) Sept 20.

Lynn Hauldren, Ph.B. (Phenomenal Baritone), posted a message on the Harmonet that a biography of **Johnny Mercer** details his early membership in a quartet:

"We sang so many quartet songs that I was constantly hoarse. None of us had heard of keys, and, as my boyhood soprano was just changing, I was forever straining for some high trumpet effect on 'Behind the Clouds' or taxing it to the limit on 'You Tell Me Your Dream.' It was always two octaves out of sight.

“Mercer wrote the lyrics to literally hundreds of great songs, such as “Lazy Bones,” “That Old Black Magic, “Autumn Leaves,” “Too Marvelous For Words, “Satin Doll,” “Glow Worm,” and “Goody Goody.”
The first-ever Buffalo Bills Era Contest will be held in conjunction with the Midwinter Convention in Albuquerque.

“Experience the excitement of “chord worshipping” the way our pioneers did. Woodshed your own arrangements of a Public Domain song. You’ll understand why the barbershop “bug” spread like wildfire throughout the 50s and beyond. “This is another exciting way to enjoy your barbershop experience and a great way to start out the “Year of the Music Man” the Society has chosen as its theme. We hope you’ll join us for our first ever Buffalo Bills Contest. “Judging will be carried out in the five categories used at that time: Harmony Accuracy, Balance and Blend, Voice Expression, Arrangement, and Stage Presence.”

Bill Hanna, of Hanna-Barbera, died this month. He was a member of the VALLEYAIRES Chapter in the San Fernando Valley, California. Hanna-Barbera released a record in 1966 titled The Flintstones in S.A.S.F.A.T.P.O.G.O.B.S.Q.A.L.T (Stone Age Society For Aiding The Preservation Of Good Old Barber Shop Quartets ... And Like That) The quartet that sang on the recording was called The Neanderthal Notables, all members of the VALLEYAIRES. The recording had both story, with Fred and Barney, and singing. The songs were: The Water Buffalo Song; Sweet Adeline; Wait ’Till The Sun Shines, Nellie; Ida; Bring Back Those Good Old Days; My Gal Sal; Alexander's Ragtime Band. The front artwork Showed Fred and Barney with two other men with handlebar moustaches, one sitting in a stone age barber chair, and of course a red and white striped pole.

Big Chief Jeopardy #11 (How did you do?)
1. Answer: He wrote the $750 Minigrant from the Michigan Council for the Arts that funded half of Linda Liddicoat’s coaching. Question: Who is Gene Downie?
3. Answer: He has sung all his life, from soloist on WEXL as a kid, to bass in THE LAST GOODBYE. Question: Who is Mel Parrish?

Big Chief Jeopardy #12 (Try these.)
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)
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)
3. Answer: He arranged BCC’s first annual golf outing at Tanglewood Golf Course in South Lyon. (Issue #41)

MEET TERRY JAMISON

Terry Jamison was born in Royal Oak, the third of six children. His father had come to Royal Oak from Indianapolis in the late 1950’s to join the GM Tech Center. After two years at Royal Oak Kimball High School, Terry followed his older brother and sister to Great Lakes Christian College in Canada for his last two years of high school (which included students from 27 different countries). This school was big into sports, especially soccer and hockey, and Terry played left wing and backup goalie on the soccer team. Not only has Terry played soccer, but later he coached and refereed in the Royal Oak city leagues.

When Terry graduated in 1978, he worked briefly as a draftsman before enlisting in the Navy. His job as Operations Specialist was on a gunboat destroyer in the Caribbean in 1979, during the Sandinista overthrow in Nicaragua. When the chance opened for a carrier-assignment at the end of that year, he transferred to the USS Kitty Hawk. With a grease pencil and a board, he kept track of all airborne aircraft within a 500 mile radius of his carrier.
As a member of the 2nd and 6th Fleets he traversed the Atlantic and Mediterranean, with shore leaves in Sicily, Italy, Spain, and Crete. During the Iranian takeover of the American embassy in Tehran, his carrier was stationed in the Persian Gulf where the helicopters left his carrier deck for the abortive American rescue attempt. He became E-5 Petty Officer, 2nd Class.

Then a crisis occurred. Terry had an allergic reaction to a typhoid shot and was unconscious for nearly a day. His blood pressure soared to 210/180 and he was airlifted back to the U.S. and processed out. That brief blemish on his health record has continued to plague him.

Back in the U.S. Terry enrolled for a year in Rochester College while he waited to get into the automotive field. He began working in job shops, bouncing from employer to employer in vehicle design work. His specialties have been Instrument Panel, Consoles, and Doors. For the last six years, he has worked for Plastitech in Auburn Hills as there data coordinator, but he hopes to leave the automotive field, and he has been taking correspondence courses in Gun Repair from the Professional Careers Institute.

Terry met his wife Patty in 1982 at Michigan Christian College. They have two children, 18-year old Adam and 16-yr old Amy.

When the Navy wouldn’t allow his return on medical grounds, he joined the Army Reserve. That brought him to Granada in October, 1983, four days after the assault on Granada. Terry was responsible for the inventory of captured weapons, and his report is contained in the 1984 federal report on “Soviet Military Power.”

That experience led to an eight-year link to the U.S. Naval Institute, a civilian outfit, for whom he did analytical work as a part-time junior analyst, which, in turn, led to his involvement with President Reagan’s Peace Through Strength program, for which he received the Medal of Merit, a U.S. ceremonial flag, and the satisfaction of participating in the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In 1985, he joined the Confederate Air Force. A group of WWII veterans, appalled at the destruction of military aircraft, bought surplus aircraft, and when the federal government objected, formed a nonprofit corporation with that moniker. By the time Terry joined, they were the 13th largest air force in the world and owned 143 aircraft with 8000 members including 500 pilots. Terry helped them as a military historian and was also certified as a flight engineer in B17s, B24s, B25s, and the B 29.

From 1986 to 1992 he worked part time with the Unlimited Radio Network as a studio engineer feeding radio stations on the network race reports, and doing live radio broadcasts of the final race for the unlimited hydroplane boat races.

About 1993, Terry’s interests shifted again when friends tapped his passion for military history and he got involved in the civil war re-enactment movement. Since that time, he has averaged a dozen events a year (weekends, April to October). He has also been in three movies, Sharpsburg, Gettysburg, and Gods and Generals, and has done the civil war combat series for the History channel. The first of October, he will be in Kentucky, (chasing Yankees back north where they belong).

For the last twenty years, he has given talks to high school students on World War II air power or the Civil War. He arrives in a period uniform which jumps out at the students and enlivens their otherwise drab history book.

Terry has quite a library, with several hundred books on military history, and tons of magazines, (Arm Forces Journal, Naval History etc.) He has the complete eight-volume set of WWII Airpower, the confidential report for American airmen on survival techniques and Nazi air abilities.

In 1993, Terry graduated from the Police academy and served with the Madison Heights Police department as a Reserve Police Officer till 1996.

Terry is active in Church of Christ and currently a member of the Otisville church, north of Davison.

As a youth, Terry sang in high school choruses and in the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus. When MDYC sang Coney Island Baby, Terry wanted to do more singing like that, but didn’t know where to go to make contact with such music until years later. Terry had sung gospel songs in pickup quartets with Fred DeVries in the Royal Oak Church of Christ, so when Fred invited him to our guest night one year ago, Terry came. After he sang “Let Me Call you Sweetheart” in a pickup quartet, Dick Johnson said, “Now we got ourselves a Tenor!”

He has been solid ever since. In fact, when his daughter went through major medical problems at the beginning of this year, the chorus was a major release valve for him. He may have bottled up his feelings, but singing with the chorus really helped. Now he is the tenor in Jackpot and is learning to ease himself into the softness of head-voice singing. He views barbershop as a passion that will stick.
Sound and Music (the eighth in a series by Bruce Brede)

"NOW HEAR THIS...good hearing is very important for good singing. We're
told to listen to the guy next to us, to cup our hand to hear ourselves and to listen
to the director (which actually has little to do with hearing). But who tells us we
might have a hearing problem with ear wax buildup.

Here are some key facts and corrective action to consider before our Annual
Show. Ear wax buildup is normal and has nothing to do with poor hygiene. But
we do brush our teeth (not one of our five senses) daily while ignoring our ears
(an important one of our senses). Ear wax can build up enough to approximate
hearing with ear plugs.

If you suspect a buildup problem because you frequently ask people to repeat
what they've said or there is a slight foul odor, you may be hearing, and singing,
at less than optimum. Before going to your doctor, put one or two drops of wax
softener (over the counter at drug stores), mineral oil, baby oil or glycerin in each
ear. Lie there on your side for ten minutes while it gurgles downward. Turn over
and let it drain onto a tissue. Then wipe the outer ear canal with a soft cotton
swab. If you see brown wax residue on the swab or tissue, repeat the process
until the residue is clear. Now the other ear!

If you don't have success but suspect a problem, you may want to consider ear
irrigation, vaccum or wire-loop removal by a professional.

Just a couple words of caution! Do not push your luck by inserting the swab into
the inner ear for better cleaning; a damaged ear drum is worse than wax buildup.
And, importantly, do this several days before a Show or gig because it may take
some time for the softeners and oils to drain and clear.

Of course, if you don't want to hear the guy next to you, leave the wax in or even
transfer the wax from other ear!"

New Member Primer

What is Barbershop Harmony? (Adapted from the Barbershop
Harmony Society web site)

The Barbershop Harmony Society is devoted to promoting, preserving, and
enjoying a special form of harmony known as barbershop. But what makes a
particular song or arrangement "barbershop-able"? What's the difference between
barbershop and doo-wop, jazz, madrigal, and other a cappella music?

Technically speaking, barbershop harmony is a style of unaccompanied
singing with three voices harmonizing to the melody. The lead usually sings the
melody, with the tenor harmonizing above the lead. The bass sings the lowest
harmonizing notes and the baritone provides in-between notes, either above or
below the lead to make chords (specifically, dominant-type or "barbershop"
sevenths) that give barbershop its distinctive, "full" sound.

Probably the most distinctive facet of barbershop harmony is the
phenomenon known as expanded sound. It is created when the harmonics in the
individually sung tones reinforce each other to produce audible overtones or
undertones. Barbershoppers call this "ringing a chord." Singing in a quartet or
chorus and creating that "fifth voice" is one of the most thrilling musical
sensations you'll ever experience, leading to goosebumps the size of golf balls.

You can hear lots of barbershop online. Check it out at:
www.barbershop.org/listen.

It is important to note, however, that the Big Chief Chorus, like most
barbershop choruses, sings other kinds of music. We have especially enjoyed
singing Broadway, doo-wop music, and now Western music in our Fall show.

What is the Barbershop Harmony Society? (Adapted from their
website)

With 30,000 members in the U.S. and Canada, the Barbershop Harmony
Society is the world's largest all-male singing organization.

It is comprised of more than 800 choruses and 1800 quartets throughout the
U.S. and Canada. Eight affiliated organizations around the world add another
3300 members to the count, and the 33,000 members of female groups such as
Sweet Adelines International and Harmony, Inc. bring the total number of
barbershop singers to nearly 70,000 worldwide.

The present name was adopted two years ago, from S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A
(Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing
in America).

What is it like to sing barbershop?

“In a memorable, fast-paced, 12-minute video, barbershop singers tell how
the hobby strengthens their family and community life.
http://www.spebsqsa.org/web/groups/public/documents/native/id_059143.axs

What is the Pontiac-Waterford Big Chief Chorus?

Each Barbershop chapter is organized, affiliated, has legal status, and has an
executive board that guides the chapter. Each chapter has a chorus and a number
of quartets.
The Pontiac chapter was organized in 1943 by a group of engineers at the GM Truck and Coach Engineering Center. The sole surviving charter member is Bill Pascher.

The chapter has waxed and waned over the years. When it moved its rehearsal site out of Pontiac, it added Waterford to its name. During the early 2000’s, under Chris Miller’s directorship, it grew greatly. Its present size is 58 members.

Its stated Goals are: Fun, Fellowship, and Good Singing. This is accomplished at weekly practices, at many singouts, at its Fall show, and at District-wide competitions.

How do I choose a voice part?

The melody is usually sung by the Lead. The Bass provides a solid underpinning, recalling the tonal center (1st) or 5th, as the Lead carries the melody. The Tenor harmonizes above the Lead, and the Baritone generally harmonizes with some in-between note that doesn’t “double” with another singer.

Many singers enter the chorus as Leads, since they feel more comfortable singing the melody. As the singer develops the ability to hold a harmonic line, he should consider trying one of the other three parts.

The required range for Tenors is from about a B below middle C to B above middle C, but in order to do so, most tenors sing the upper part of this range in falsetto or head voice.

The range of Leads is from D below middle C to F above (but using head voice in the upper range).

The range of Baritones is from two A’s below middle C to E above.

Note, however, that the Tenor and Lead notes are written one octave higher than they are sung (and in the treble clef).

In addition to range each part has different personalities. The Lead must be especially good at selling the song, with his presentational skills. The Tenor must be willing to sing most of the time in head voice. The Bass must be solid, like a tuba. The Baritone must have extra musical skills to handle the sometimes odd notes he is given to sing.

Once you have chosen a part, you can develop the skills necessary to sing that part well. The section leaders stand ready to provide musical guidance.

Furthermore, check out:
http://www.barbershop.org/web/groups/public/documents/pages/pub_singing_skills_home.hcsp

How do I join?

Enrollment forms are available from the Vice President for Chapter Development, after attendance at three weekly rehearsals and a voice-range check by the officers. There is a $10 application fee, $87 national dues (for 2006), and $20 district dues, for a total of $117. The $10 local dues are waived for the first year.

What uniforms will I need?

The Big Chief Chorus has defined three dress codes.

Class A Uniform: Black tuxedo coat ($89), pants ($35), and black patent leather shoes (good used, $24) all paid for and owned by the chapter, plus red vest ($22.50), formal dress white shirt with black studs ($20), jeweled collar button ($4.75), and black sox.

Class B Uniform: Navy Blue blazer with chapter crest, heather gray pants and musical chapter tie (totaling $79.95), with white dress shirt, black sox, black dress shoes, and red pocket puff.

Class C Uniform: Blue monogrammed collared polo shirt ($25), gray pants, black sox and shoes.

These items may be purchased at Harwood Inc, 908 W. Huron, just west of Telegraph in Waterford.

Useful websites
www.bigchiefchorus.org (Home of our chapter, maintained by Jeff Doig)
www.barbershop.org (Home of the Barbershop Harmony Society)
http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm (Home of our Pioneer district)

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING September 20, 2006

Excerpts from Bill Holmes’ minutes.

All present except Pete Mazzara. Guests – John Cowlishaw and Jeff Doig.

John reported on behalf of the nominating committee (Doig and A. Monroe) that almost all members had been contacted, with most present officers willing to continue, and many new members expressing willingness to serve. The board expressed its appreciation.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were approved. The secretary reported: 1) reserving the dates for our Fall Show the first Saturday in November up to the year 2010; 2) securing insurance coverage rider on our policy for the Waterford Mott High School which will be presented to the school by Roger Holm; 3) notifying the Society and the District of the passing of Art Ripley; and, 4) receiving Show Clearance and BMI/SESAC License from the district for our
show performance of November 4, 2006. Zaven requested the secretary contact Roy Gurney to participate in the Standing Ovation Program.

Dick Johnson’s treasurer’s report, indicating a balance of $15,539. Dick was again urged to select someone to work with him on the financial aspect (treasurer) of his office. He said he is currently considering such action. The board considers it high priority that Dick have a trainee.

Wayne Cheyne reported four guests on Guest Night, most of whom showed interest in the chapter. The board echoed the commendations by the members, noting the great job, the variety and the inclusive coverage of the presentation in the package he presented for the members and guests.

Roger Holm reported the chorus needs to buy five of the songs we will be singing in the show. He has already been receiving requests for Christmas singouts. Bruce Brede also identified dates and interested parties for this activity.

Jack Teuber reported on our singout at Orion Township Library. He noted the chorus will be mentioned on WMUZ 103.5 at 6 pm Sunday.

Ron Clarke reported making an executive decision to not renew our mailing permit. It can be renewed whenever the chapter deems necessary. He is looking for some help for receiving tickets and such duties before the show. He priced a backdrop for the show which would cost $180. Ron distributed pictures of the “covered wagon” which will be used on stage for the show. Bruce noted the Chicks will be making centerpieces for the Cast Party.

The Board authorized Jim Owens, Dar Johnson, Bill Nevaux and Tom Jackson to receive money on behalf of the chapter.

Regarding the Director Search Committee, Zaven will appoint a chairman of the committee and may also name the members of the committee in consultation with the chairman. The Board’s consensus was that such effort should only be handled by our chapter members although outside persons may be contacted for leads. Dick Johnson will continue as Lead Director until a new director is hired at which time Dick will be named as an Associate Director.

Bob Legato was named Barbershopper of the Month. His loyalty at rehearsal, at singouts and his steady efforts at running the 50/50 raffle were some of the noted reasons for honoring him.

Roger emphasized that with the passing of Art Ripley, we need assistance in handling and moving the risers, especially someone with access to a truck or trailer and others to assist in the lifting.

Art and Chris and Smitty and Don Denoyer and Bob Woodward in Heaven:

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
Oct 3, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Oct 10, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Oct 11, W Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm, Wayne Cheyne’s home
Oct 13-15 District Convention, Kalamazoo
Oct 17, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary, Election of Officers
Oct 24, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Oct 31, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
Nov 2, Th Extra rehearsal
Nov 4, Sa,7pm Fall Show, Waterford Mott H.S.
Nov 7, T First Christmas chorus practice
Nov 8, W Old and New Exec Bd Mtg
Nov 17, F,7pm Awards and Induction dinner