


BIG CHIEF CHORUS
SMOKE
SIGNALS



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

Vol. 6, No. 5, (#65)

September 1, 2006

Chiefs Perform at Comerica Park

The Big Chief Chorus performed the Star-Spangled Banner to open the ball game between the Detroit Tigers and the Minnesota Twins, at Comerica Park, Tuesday, August 8.

Forty-three Chiefs took advantage of the opportunity to sing in front of a crowd announced as 35,624. Such an old stalwart as Len Barnes said that topped his previous record by about 24,000. It also increased ten-fold Jack Teuber's count of our 2006 audience.

Most of us (at least those who remembered to bring their baseball ticket) rode the Oakland County Parks and Rec bus to the stadium, though many others came by personal vehicle, since many family and friends took advantage of the chance to see the chorus perform and see the Tigers perform for a reduced-ticket price.

This whole venture began as a thought in Ron Clarke's mind last spring. We all remember making those audition tapes in the music room of Central United

Methodist Church, when we when we had no idea we would be singing to pennant-contending team fans.

We were seated in the Section 116 box seats, just beyond 1st base. We enjoyed perfect 73° weather. It's a beautiful view at night, the green grass, the full stands, the crisp white baseball uniforms. Several fly balls came near our vicinity. The only fly in the ointment was the Tigers' loss, a 4-2 score. But it is testimony to the fans' belief in this ball club that there were almost no early exits.



Photo by Bill Eisner

AROUND THE PATCH

The **Fall Show** is at Waterford Mott High School auditorium, at 7pm. Lake Orion could no longer honor our request due to a school function. Mott has 750 seats. Dick Johnson has the **Ad Kits** ready for distribution.

The show themes have been chosen by the Music committee for 2007 (Automobiles) and 2008 (Patriotism).

A **nominating committee** has been named, John Cowlshaw (chair), Al Monroe, and Jeff Doig. The committee will be talking to members, but don't hesitate to take the initiative. Elections are October 17.

The annual **picnic** was hosted August 25 by Bob and Eileen Marshall. The weather cooperated, so that the forty-seven attendees could relax outside on lawn chairs and take rides on the Marshall float boat. Walt DeNio and Wayne



Cheyne were the chief Chief chefs, grilling hot dogs and brats. The assortment of dishes brought by members and their spice (that's the plural of spouse, you know?) was plentiful and diverse. Several pick-up quartets sang, and Dick led the chorus in Aint Misbehavin', Old St Louie, and Irish Parting Prayer. It was also the two-year anniversary of the Big Chief Chicks.

MEMBERSHIP (at 59)

New Member: Paul Smith. Welcome, Paul!

Renewals: Gil Schreiner (2), Lew Mahacek (5), Bruce LaMarte (35), Dick Johnson (37)

Pending: Zaven Melkonian, Jim Troeger

Bye-Bye: Don Sheridan.

Barbershopper of the Month: August Terry Jamison, who has been helping the show committee, sings Tenor, has joined Jackpot, and who showed his musical training by his direction of "Keep the Whole World Singing."

September Birthdays: Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlshaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Mel Parrish (13th), Dick Johnson (24th), Dave Myre (29th)

Medical: Lyle Howard had back surgery July 18. From that he has recovered pretty well. Diverse medical opinions on whether he needs a (right) hip replacement. And he fell on his right shoulder.

In Memoriam: Chris Miller, Sep 19, 2003

Quartet News

Four Wheel Drive - Cass City Classic Car Festival

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE substituted for B NATURAL, during Lyle's recovery, for a Friday night gig in Cass City (Aug 4), celebrating Classic Cars. Two blocks of the downtown were closed off, with the cars lining both sides of Route 81 from Seger St to Maple St. The quartet did the circuit twice, as well as singing for folks resting from the heat in the small park, where the food venues and kids' rides were. We estimated the crowd at 250. It was a great gig, but boy! it's a long drive to Cass City!

Four Wheel Drive - Foxtown Tigers Train

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE sang to about 200 Tiger fans as the Ilitch family inaugurated the Foxtown Tigers Train Saturday, August 5. The Foxtown Tigers Train boarded passengers at Pontiac, Birmingham, and Royal Oak, where FOUR WHEEL DRIVE and Last STOP JUNCTION DIXIELAND BAND entertained ticketholders who arrived early for entertainment and hot dogs. The \$29 ticket package included roundtrip transportation, outfield box seating, entertainment and refreshments. The event was organized by Star Trax who said it sold out in seventeen minutes.

In the early 1900s, riding Detroit streetcars to sporting events was customary; the Foxtown Tigers Train experience was an attempt to recreate that feeling by including period music throughout the trip. Former Tigers player Dave Rozema was on hand to greet fans as they boarded. Passengers traveled to Detroit's Wayne State/New Center station, where they transferred to Tigers Trolleys supplied by DDOT, and finished their southbound ride along Woodward Avenue to Comerica Park, while 4WD was bussed back to Royal Oak, along with the band, singing and playing and enjoying each other's music.

The event was of enough popular interest that Channel 4 and 7 were there to televise the event, and the 45-second Channel-4-edited story aired at least three times, Sat at 6pm and 11pm, and Sunday morning, with prominence to FOUR WHEEL DRIVE.

FOUR WHEEL DRIVE also competed and performed at Bush League (see story below), sang at Al's church, Chelsea Nazarene, as its Sunday evening service, and sang at a 80th birthday part on Aug 26.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Planning is proceeding for the **Fall convention**, at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel. Organizer Al Fisk reports that Tom Gentry will direct the Joe Barbershop chorus. He is a well-known arranger and will direct his own arrangement of "When There's Love at Home," made famous by POWER PLAY.

The contest web site is at:

http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/nextconvention/convention_info.htm

“We'll be choosing District Quartet Champs, International Chorus and Senior Quartet reps, Novice Quartet Champs, Most Improved Chorus (based on raw increase from last Fall's scores), and Chorus Plateau winners. Thanks to PARTY OF FOUR for volunteering to handle the sound check (as well as the Friday mike tester) duties. Oh, we have one quartet and one chorus entered in the contest so far...”

Bush League 2006 was hosted by the Gaylord Harmonie Meisters on August 18-19. Eight Quartets competed for the Bush League Trophy which was won by SOMETHING BIG! from the Lansing area. They were joined on the evening "Magic of Music" show by the second place quartet, SHARP ATTACK and third place quartet, FOUR WHEEL DRIVE. The other five quartets included BATH CITY BOYZ (with Big Chiefs Chuck Murray and Tom xxx), GENERATION GAP, HAVIN' A BLAST, LIGHTHOUSE HARBORMASTERS, and WQIT. In addition to the contest, judged by Mr. Al Fisk, Mr. Ken Fisher, Mr. Mike O'Donnell and Contest Administrator Ron Eubank, the Quartets received coaching in the afternoon from the three judges and from members of [Gene Hanover's quartet] AFTER INTERMISSION. The evening show included performances by last year's winner, BORDER CROSSING, and this year's Pioneer District representative to the International Contest, FERMATA NOWHERE. (from Erv Erickson, President, Gaylord Harmonie Meisters)



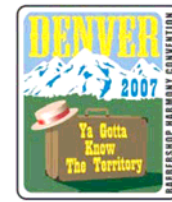
Photo by Jeff Doig

Bush League winners, SOMETHING BIG!, were excellent. Watch out for these guys in the future. Members include Don Terpe, Tenor, Jason Kerschke, Lead, Steve Warnaar, Baritone, and T.R. Gerard, Bass. Their Spring competition score of 66% placed them 6th, ahead of BORDER CROSSING and AFTER INTERMISSION, and they've improved since then.

AROUND AMERICA AND THE WORLD

You can order Indianapolis chorus and quartet CD's and DVD's from Harmony Marketplace, www.harmonymarketplace.com and expect delivery in time for Christmas.

The **Mid-Winter convention** is in Albuquerque, January 21-28, 2007. Next year's **International convention** is in Denver, and will celebrate 50 years of "The Music Man."



A **documentary on barbershop singing** is being made, tentatively called American Harmony. If you'd like view a trailer, go to <http://www.americanharmonythemovie.com/> It's about five minutes long, and was filmed over three and a half days in Salt Lake City last year. Here's a "partial post" from the film crew: "Dear Barbershoppers, We feel so very privileged to have the unique honor of making a documentary about the hobby and art form you all so dearly love. We are very busy editing our over 400 hours of footage into a 90 minute feature length film. We plan to have a rough cut sometime this fall. In Hollywood there seems to be a good buzz building about this project. We hope to make a finished film that will not only please you, the society, but also audiences in general. We hope, in turn, this will generate some much deserved exposure for barbershop. Visit our website and click on the link "Calling all barbershoppers" to find out how to make a donation.

Two Barbershopping groups have advanced in **national popular talent contests**. Last year's collegiate champion, MEN IN BLACK, is in the second round of NBC's *Star Tomorrow*. Hear them at <http://www.meninblackquartet.com/> And the Sweet Adelines quartet, A CAPPELLA GOLD, has won the national Oreo cookie jingle contest and its \$10,000 prize. Now they'll head to Hollywood to record an Oreo radio commercial that will begin airing nationally early next year. <http://www.acappellanews.com/archive/001278.html>

Big Chief Jeopardy #10 (How did you do?)

1. Answer: Diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma (Issue #10)
Question: Who is Len Barnes?
2. Answer: His first three dates with his wife were: a flight to Marshall's Win Shulers for dinner, a flight to Bay City Brown airport for banana splits, and a flight to Mackinac Island. (Issue # 31) Question: Who is Walt DeNio?

3. Answer: Five of their six gold-medal-winning songs (in Louisville) were written before 1915, albeit in powerful new arrangements, and all four members have qualified with AHSOW on all four parts. (Issue # 39)
Question: Who is GOTCHA!?

Big Chief Jeopardy #11 (Try these)

1. Answer: He wrote the \$750 Minigrant from the Michigan Council for the Arts that funded half of Linda Liddicoat's coaching. (Issue #11)
2. Answer: Elvis, Ed Sullivan, and Frank Sinatra. (Issue #32)
3. Answer: He has sung all his life, from soloist on WEXL as a kid, to bass in THE LAST GOODBYE. (Issue #40)

MEET AL MONROE

Al was born in Pontiac, the second of five children. The family lived on the near north side, where his father was a materials inspector at Pontiac Motors, and his mother a Nurses' Aide at St. Joe Hospital.

Al was in the first class at Pontiac Northern High School, graduating in 1961. He immediately began working at Pontiac Motors, first as press operator in pressed metals, then in car assembly, then as a polisher. He moved into the skilled trades, apprenticing in the foundry as a journeyman pipefitter. He then joined a quality systems team, with which he spent his last seven years traveling to assembly plants all over North America.



In March, 1998, he had quadruple bypass surgery and decided to retire. However, this first retirement bored him, and he began working at Arbor Drugs in Clarkston. His new interest led to self-study and licensure as a Pharmacy Technician in 2002. After moving to Grass Lake in 2003, he was hired by the University of Michigan Hospital pharmacy, from which he and Gari have both just retired. This time, he doesn't expect to be bored – the time is right and he has this new barbershop hobby.

He met Gari at a dance put on by the Pontiac Business Institute where Gari was a student. They were soon married and just celebrated their 42nd wedding anniversary. After living for years in the Waterford-Clarkston area, they moved, in 2003, to Grass Lake to be nearer their three daughters – Shelley lives in Grass Lake, Julie in Chelsea, and Carrie in Battle Creek. The girls have had five children, one deceased. Six-month-old Chloe is the youngest grandchild.

Al's interest in singing began in high school. He sang in the a cappella boy's choir. He was a pirate in the "Pirates of Penzance," and he had the role of King Kaspar in "Amahl and the Night Visitors." After graduation, he sang off and on in church choirs. In 2001 he responded to Zaven's invitation to join the Christmas chorus. He thought it was fun and became hooked from the beginning. Although he had always sung tenor, the falsetto/head voice singing was new to him. He got his quartet feet wet with Bruce Brede. In 2002, after tenor Chuck Barrett's departure to Wisconsin, Al joined FOUR WHEEL DRIVE.

When Al moved to Grass Lake, he left the Big Chief Chorus and sang for a year with the Huron Valley chapter. However, the decline of that chorus and his continued involvement with FOUR WHEEL DRIVE have brought him back to Pontiac-Waterford, necessitating a 140-mile round trip drive each Tuesday night.

In 2001, Al had a slight stroke, with symptoms of dizziness and ambulatory weakness. It did not prevent him from participating in the Fall show, much to his doctor's horror, but did require carotid artery surgery. He continues to monitor his blood sugar level.

Al and Gari's present home was largely self-built with his son-in-law and local contractors. It is in the sub-suburbs of Jackson, providing Gari lots of rural roads on which to ride her motor scooter with the Super Granny license plate.

Al's love of music includes show tunes, 50s-60s music, and country music. He also has a ham radio (advanced class) license (check out Al's license plate).

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

"If you want to be good to your heart, stick with slow music, says Peter Sleight, M.D. of John Ratliffe Hospital at the University of Oxford, England. Sleight

monitored subjects as they listened to music and found slow tunes induced heart-healthy drop offs in breathing rate and blood pressure."

Dave Monroe suggested we need to do a better job of orienting new chorus members. In the coming months, I'll include some information on chorus uniforms, polecats, barbershop theory, repertoire, and etiquette. Please help me out with your contributions.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING August 9, 2006 (Excerpts from Bill Holmes)

Meeting at Zaven's residence, all present except Pete Mazzara.

Minutes were approved as distributed.

Dick Johnson's treasurer's report: current balance is \$14,430.

Wayne Cheyne submitted the application of Paul Smith for dual membership which was approved. The guest night on September 13th is being planned and Wayne will have songs including Christmas songs for the rehearsal. The Christmas list of guests should be used to invite guests for that evening. Wayne will prepare a letter for the invitation.

The Music Committee is reviewing themes for next year's show.

Ron Clarke reported that our Fall Show will start at 7:00 p.m. Ron reported having access to a covered wagon, and all the accessories for the show have been secured.

The deposit for the Spring retreat will be sent after the Fall Show is completed.

The Barbershopper of the month: Terry Jamison.

The Induction Dinner will be held November 17, 2006.

SPECIAL EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING August 22, 2006 (Excerpts from Bill Holmes)

President Zaven Melkonian called a special meeting with the Board and the Music Committee at the Lookout Lodge following rehearsal on August 22, 2006. Present were: Dick Johnson, Roger Holm, Bruce Brede, Ron Clarke, Wayne Cheyne, Ross Ensign, Terry Jamison, Jeff Doig, Bill Holmes, and Tom Jackson.

The purpose of the meeting was to answer three questions articulated by Roger Holm, Chair of the Music Committee, about our Mott reservation.

Q1- Is four hours on the show night (6 to 10) enough time reserved? Ans. No, need six hours.

Q2- How long do we need for rehearsal on Thursday night? Ans. Three hours.

Q3- Would we like an extra rehearsal on Tuesday, Oct. 31? Ans. Tentatively, No.

Roger will coordinate a meeting at the Mott High School for interested parties.

Letters to the editor:

"Hi Guys, I was wondering if you could help me out. I am looking for work in Michigan and am trying to network into companies that have outside sales reps or account managers. I know a lot of you are retired, but you never know who knows who. I have resume formats and a marketing plan that should help show you what I have been up to the last 25 years. The marketing plan has a list of companies, that are just some of the companies I have identified and are not the only ones by far. If you know anyone, or have any ideas, I would love to hear from you. Thanks in advance for your help. Ted Vick, 248-672-9044, tvick01@comcast.net"

"(Tom, How's everything out on the west coast?)

It's actually starting to seem like home. I still refer to the place in Clarkston as home often though. We have done a lot of unpacking arranging and rearranging and rearranging " " " ". There are still a few things in Clarkston (mainly in the garage) and I am still returning approximately once a week to mow the lawn so the place shows well. It costs less for the gas than if we paid to have it done and it is a chance to do some fishing. Tell the Chiefs I said Hi. Tom Ford"

"John, Thank you for keeping me on the "Smoke Signals" mailing list! Every time I receive a new issue it brings a smile to my face thinking that once again news of my friends in harmony has made it to my mail box.... I am hoping to make a visit in the near future to say "hello" to everyone. Ron Arnold"

Bertil B. Cederleaf, 1917-2006

"Dear Friends, I am sad to report that Dad passed away on July 31st, 2006 in the hospital. He fell and broke his hip the end of June, probably as the result of another stroke. He had hip replacement surgery a few days later, but developed complications (pneumonia and sepsis) that are common in the frail elderly in his condition. Dad turned 89 years old on July 21st. Marsha and/or I were with him in the hospital 24/7. He retained his wonderful positive spirit and sense of humor through it all and slipped away peacefully over the last couple of days. Sincerely, His Daughters, Carolyn Orthner, and Marsha Cote"

The following obituary was published in the Chicago Tribune on 8/2/2006:

“Bertil B. Cederleaf, our loving father, grandfather, uncle and friend passed away peacefully July 31, 2006, from complications following hip replacement surgery. Bertil was born in Woodstock, IL on July 21, 1917, to Swedish immigrant parents, Ida Johansson and Bernhard Cederleaf. He spent his childhood in Chicago, and was a 1935 graduate of Lane Technical High School. He moved to Pontiac, MI in 1939, where he began his life long career with General Motors Corp. (G.M.). In 1941 he married his high school sweetheart, Lucille Alesi, of Chicago. Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bertil enlisted in the US Navy and served as an Aviation Mechanic in the South Pacific. After the war he and Lucille returned to Pontiac where Bertil resumed working for G.M. and his education, graduating in 1951 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering from what was then General Motors Institute (now known as Kettering University). Bert and Lucille raised their two daughters in Pontiac and later Orchard Lake MI., where they were members of Our Lady of Refuge Catholic Church. Bert retired from the G.M. Technical Center in Warren MI. in 1974. Music was one of Bert's life long avocations, starting as a violinist in his youth and as a director and member of many church choirs and choruses over the years. Bert and Lucille enjoyed many years of retirement travel, particularly wintering at their second home in Ft. Myers, FL. Bert is preceded in death by his wife, his parents, his step father Gus Lofgren, his sister Dorothy Cederleaf and his sisters-in-law, Maria Alesi and Josephine Provenzano. He is survived by his two daughters, Carolyn (Helmuth) Orthner and Marsha Cote; and grandchildren Andrea Orthner Wrobel (Jeffrey), Michael Orthner and Regina Cote; he is also survived by nephews Nicholas, Charles (Marilyn) and Joseph Provenzano; great-nieces, great-nephews and cousins in Sweden. There will be a visitation Friday, August 4, 2006, from 4 to 9 p.m. at the Drake and Son Funeral Home, 5303 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL. A Funeral Mass will be held Saturday Morning at 10 a.m. at St. Gregory the Great Church in Chicago, followed by his interment at Oak Ridge Cemetery. Info. 773-561-6874.”

Buckeye Invitational (from Bruce Brede)

On August 17 thru 20, we attended the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio. Highlights included a 300 person male/female chorus of junior and senior high school students who had attended Harmony Camp at OSU, as well as competition for Barbershop Harmony and Sweet Adelines choruses and male, female and mixed quartets. Quality evening entertainment was provided by FRED, MAX Q, GOTCHA, REALTIME and the local SINGING BUCKEYES and ALLIANCE Choruses. Bruce got to sing “Sweet and Lovely” as well as “Down Our Way” in a tag quartet at a bratfest in the downtown Santa Maria Park. Buckeye is in its 18th year and is less serious, less formal and more fun than International, and most years, it’s a lot handier and less costly.

Joke

I don’t have a good joke to contribute this month. But that doesn’t matter; the emotional, physical, and respiratory benefits can be achieved just by ajocular laughing. This is a term I just coined to refer to laughing without anything funny to laugh at. Try it. Just start a “hah-hah-hah” rolling out, and it will self-perpetuate, building and building, til tears are rolling down your cheeks.

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

- Sep 5, T Chorus rehearsal returns to Crary
- Sep 12, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
- Sep 13, W Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm, Dick Johnson’s Kroger Store
- Sep 19, T Guest night, Crary
- Sep 24, Su 2pm, Orion Twp Library, 825 Joslyn Rd, Class B
- Sep 26, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
- Oct 3, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
- Oct 10, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
- Oct 11, W Exec Bd Mtg, 7pm, Wayne Chene’s home
- Oct 13-15 District Convention, Kalamazoo
- Oct 17, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary, Election of Bd members
- Oct 24, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
- Oct 31, T Chorus rehearsal, Crary
- Nov 4, Sa, 7pm Fall Show, Waterford Mott H.S.
- Nov 8, W Old and New Exec Bd Mtg
- Nov 17, F Awards and Induction dinner