From Da Prez.

Chris Miller is home. He seems to be recovering well, but too slow for the BCC. We miss him and wish him a speedy recovery. Bruce Collins has done an admirable as chorus director in Chris's absence. Due to the power outage, the Executive Board met both Aug. 19 & 26. Since there are only ten Tuesdays left before the Fall Show, Nov. 8th, we canceled the Mystery Trip. We are really gearing up for the fall show. BCC members have been asked at several meetings, in Smoke Signals, and sent emails regarding letting me know of their interest in parts in the fall show. Our Show Committee met Wednesday, Aug. 27th, and began to firm up show details. Another big thank you to Bruce Collins for putting a weekly song schedule in place for the show. We expect to be 'off the paper' by Sept. 30th. Learning tapes are forthcoming. Section leaders are encouraged to have sectionals. We should try to make this year's show even better than last year's.

Volunteers are needed to run for the 2004 BCC Executive Board, see Zaven or Doc. Elections are in late October. Congratulations to our BSOM for August, Tom Ford.

Sing with feeling and expression! Pete

Joe Barbershop chorus at State Fair, Aug 17.

Ladies and Gentleman… The Pioneer Barbershop chorus, under the direction of Matt Tipton!!! Wow, What a nice public relations opportunity! Congrats to Floyd McDaniel and The Macomb Chorus for making this happen. From the time we arrived and started to warm up and various sized groups we drew a crowd. Some seventy five men sang the National anthem and O Michigan ... The real treat for me was the humming of Amazing Grace with The Zor Bag Pipes. Then about ten minutes of Pole Cats. It was Great, Guys, THANKS? Look for Photos on the website soon! Gregory P Humbel, Pioneer District VP M&PR

The 2003 BCC Picnic was a huge success. There was good food, good company, good weather, a beautiful setting, and we sang some songs. Thank you to Tom & Beth Ford for their gracious hospitality in hosting our picnic. Thank you also to Neil Braun, Walt DeNio, and Wayne Cheyne for their hard work. Call Tom for left over dogs & brats!

Pete Mazzara

Nice article on B NATURAL’s February Florida trip by Lyle Howard in this month’s Troubadour.

QUARTET NEWS

The ELDERMEN (Mel Parrish, Mike Keith, Bruce Brede and Bob Marshall) sang for the Pontiac Seniors on the City Hall lawn on Friday, August 15th at a Woodward Cruise Get-Together hosted by Pontiac Mayor Willie Payne. Rehearsal time included a luncheon sing at Mendelssohn Assisted Living Center on August 11th. The Mayor invited them back to sing at Pontiac Citizenship Day on Sept 17th.

The BROTHERS IN HARMONY (Bruce Brede, Mike Keith, Jeff Spires and Zaven Melkonian) sang at the White Horse Tavern on Friday, August 22nd in celebration of Metamora Country Days. Their rehearsal days were filled with separate luncheon performances for the Waterford Red Hat Chapter, “Goodness Gracious” on August 11th as well as the Lourdes Nursing Home on August 18th.

MEMBERSHIP (at 55)

Renewals: Pete Mazzara (4), Zaven Melkonian (4), Tom Jackson (5), Yong McDowell (8), Ross Ensign (21), Dick Johnson (34),

BSOM – August, Tom Ford, for his picnic hosting, and his work as tenor.

AROUND THE DISTRICT
Pete Mazzara and Bruce Collins

MEET PETE MAZZARA
Pete was born in Detroit in 1943 and has lived in Dearborn since he was 8. He attended Fordson High School, where he played guard and tackle on a football team which was undefeated and ranked 2nd in the state in his senior year. He graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry and biology and began teaching at Southfield High School. He also received his M.Ed. from WSU and was in the doctoral program at MSI in Administration. For twenty years, he taught a variety of courses, mostly chemistry and also drivers’ ed. He also coached wrestling, football, and girls’ track, being named Girls’ Track County Coach of the year. He finished out his career as an Assistant Principle for 13 years. During this period, Art Carinci was Athletic Director at the school.

He met his musical wife Hermine in high school; they married in 1965 and have 3 kids and 3 grandsons. During his leave of absence from the chorus this summer, he helped their daughter move to Schaumburg, IL, and his son got married in Lake Geneva, WI.

Pete’s dad loved music, teaching himself guitar and harmonica, playing records by Louis Prima and other big band leaders, and he loved to sing pop music around the house. But except for a little bit of chorus and accordion-playing as a child, Pete hadn’t had time for music himself. Then Pete and Art’s Southfield High School friend Leo invited them to Christmas parties where they met Chris Miller and his irresistible sales’ pitch. Five years ago, after retirement, they started attending the chorus. Pete still loves the memory of the drives from Dearborn, playing a version of “Name That Tune,” amazed at Art’s unbelievable memory for words.

In his off time, Pete enjoys fishing, everything about it – planning it, doing it, remembering it. His father-son trip to Houghton Lake in early June has been a tradition for 20 years. He has a 14-ft aluminum boat that gets him into nearby lakes, and enjoys fly-fishing when he has the opportunity to reach trout streams.

He really enjoys the fellowship in barbershop singing. “Lots of really nice guys.” He sees himself as a chorus singer, rather than a quartet singer, at this point in his “confidence-game.” And he surely will be playing a large role in the upcoming fall show.

Audio files available in MP3 format
Jack Baird, renowned Society arranger, has made available his very extensive library of old recorded music. Jack has recorded all of the vinyl disks that the Society owns. Originally they were on reel-to-reel tape, but they are now available on the Society web site in MP3 format. “I did it so we would library copies of the sounds of barbershop from the beginning of recorded history to today,” Baird said. “I don't think it should just be forgotten.”

The files go back to the very first days of recorded music -- 1894 and run up through 1972. While they make for very interesting listening, the files are extremely valuable as archival material.
high-energy dancers! Somewhat amazingly, it was not too loud! This special experience featured excellent instrumentalists (trumpet, drums, sax, bass, keyboard), and VERY energetic performers! Suffice it to say that they were a high-energy delight! They were great singers, thankfully NO RAP, including one barbershop rendition of Coney Island Baby! Their music spanned the gamut from classical (just a little), to current pop. They also served our lunch, accompanied with great fanfare and much laughter.

On Aug. 13th, my wife and I attended the monthly lunch meeting of the Northern Michigan GM retirees club at Boyne Highlands Resort in Harbor Springs, and were treated to a performance of the Young Americans. This is a group of 25 or so kids, age about 17 to 20, that sing, dance, play instruments and act crazy in general. They also served our lunch, accompanied with great fanfare and much fun! Their music spanned the gamut from classical (just a little), to current pop (thankfully NO RAP), including one barbershop rendition of Coney Island Baby! Suffice it to say that they were a high-energy delight! They were great singers, excellent instrumentalists (trumpet, drums, sax, bass, keyboard), and VERY high-energy dancers! Somewhat amazingly, it was not too loud! This special lunch-time performance was about an hour long - which we understood was about half of their regular dinner time performance (it's hard to imagine that they'd have the energy to do a two-hour performance)!

They have been doing this at Boyne Highlands for several years, and they are there all summer. The organization was started in 1962, is headquartered (where else) in southern California. For more info, their website is: www.youngamericans.org.

All in all, it was great entertainment, and definitely encouraging to see a group of highly talented and motivated teenagers perform in this skillfully programmed, positive and high-level way! It was a lot of fun to be there!
Roger Holm

**Sweet Adelines - Spirit of Detroit**

Hi John, I'm not Bob but I sing barbershop, too! Could you plug our show - Sweet Adelines - Spirit of Detroit Sings 2003 on Saturday, Nov. 1 at the Ford Dearborn Community Arts Performing Center, Dearborn. 2 shows - one at 3 p.m. and the other at 7:30 p.m. Evening performance features Max Q with Tony DeRosa, Greg Clancy, Jeff Oxley, Gary Lewis. Advance tickets are $15 and of course I will have tons of them.

An aside, our director LeAnn Hazlett and her quartet, SPOTLIGHT is competing at International in Phoenix on Sept. 15. They placed 3rd in Int. last year so they have a good chance of winning top spot. Wouldn't that be something if we had POWER PLAY and SPOTLIGHT as International winners? Bruce LaMarte's wife, Dodie, sings with MUSICALITY and they placed 10th last year at Int. We are full of top winners!
Y'нал come and see us!
Thanks.
Eileen Marshall

**How to get on Pionet**

Pionet is a wonderful community communication link within the Pioneer district. Participants receive emails from the other 300 or so members of the Pionet. It’s simple to join. Just go to the Pioneer District homepage, http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm, and click on Pionet in the lower right corner.

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes (from Jeff Doig, edited)**

**July 10th, 2003**

**In attendance:** Chris M., Irwin M., Jeff D., Gene D., Walt D., Dick J., Chuck M., John Smith.

**SECRETARY AND TREASURERS REPORTS:**

**Dick’s Treasurer’s Report:** Available funds as of 07/10/03 $6,052.55
Program VP update: Guidelines for John S. the idea is to keep things moving. The typical agenda is only a guideline and can be modified. It’s between Smitty and Chris to work out if Chris needs more time.

Music Committee: Tuesday July the 8th Smitty, Mike Fry, and Bruce had a meeting of the music committee. It has been brought to the board’s attention that some quartets representing the chapter need help in the form of coaching, and training. The Music Committee will get together and decide what to do to assist these quartets. The board has decided that all quartets will have to qualify annually. The Music committee has agreed to retest for approval to represent the chapter at a time of their choosing.

Ensemble: Dick J. has not done anything because of mixed feelings with the chorus. The board has mixed feelings as well. (Sticky Wicket). The board is tabling the Ensemble discussion. Request to the Music Committee please come up with what they want to do with an Ensemble and quartets.

Fall Show Update: The board would like to secure a contract with Power Play for the show at $1,800.00. Gene will check on ASCAP. Also we need to get with Clarkston and talk to Peterson.

Chapter Shirts: Gene needs to talk to Ron Clark, who is on vacation.

State Fair: Motion by John S. for the chapter to give $100.00 dollars toward the booth and rental of space at the fair.

Coaching for chorus: On hold; the Music Committee will play it by ear.

Nominating Committee: Doc to appoint a committee.

VP Chapter Development & Membership:

The quarterly report has been sent to Russ Seely. Attendance has been waning as of late. From 42 to 31 members.

Christmas in July Plan for next year: Doc would like to do patriotic music. (The Patriotic Chorus) Start the end of May for Music and Advertising. Doc will have a plan for the next VP.

DIRECTORS COMMENTS:

Chris mentioned that Bruce Collins had a full scholarship to harmony collage. He would also like to encourage more quarteting. In an effort to get off the music quicker Chris will try to keep the chorus informed on what music we will be working on a week ahead of time.

BSOM for July: Bob Legato

Chapter Executive Board

Officers:
Chorus Director: Chris Miller   (248-960-5101)
President: Pete Mazzara   (313-563-4026)
Immed. Past President: Gene Downie
Chapter Dev: Doc Mann

Chairmen:
Associate Directors: Dick Johnson, Bruce Collins
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
Grants: Dick Johnson
Historian: (open) JC’s bulletins

Music and Performance: J. Smith, M. Frye
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

Calender

Sept 2   BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Sept 6   Grosse Pte show: My Big Fat Italian Chorus
Sept 9   BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Sept 16  BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Sep. 18th  Exec Bd Meeting, Jeff Doig’s;
Sept 23  BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Sept 26-28  Bush League
Sept 30  BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Oct 9    Exec Bd Meeting, Pete Mazzara’s
Oct 17-19 Pioneer Distr. Fall Convention, Battle Creek
Nov 1, Sat  Sweet Adelines Spirit of Detroit’s show
Nov 3, Mon  Rehearsal, Clarkston High School
Nov 8, Sat  BCC Fall Show, Clarkston High School
Nov 13   Exec Bd Meeting, Dick’s Kroger Store
Jan 3-4  COTS, Lansing
Jan 25-Feb 1 Midwinter Convention, Biloxi
Mar 26-8, 2004 Spring Singing Retreat, MacMullan,
June 27-July 4 International Convention, Louisville, KY