Katrina

How does one confront the horror of Katrina? On the other hand, how does one avoid it? I tried to link it to this bulletin by looking at the barbershop chapters directly affected.

The fifty-one members of the Mardi Gras Chorus of Greater New Orleans have met Tuesday evenings at Delgado Community College. That site is 1/4 mile from the Superdome and _ mile from the levees of the Mississippi River. This past week, it was a refuge for the elderly Hilda Marchand, who saw a reporter taking notes and asked for help. “Can you help me get word to my son? He hasn't heard from me in days.”

The Pride of Mobile has been meeting on Tuesday nights at the local Adventist church in downtown Mobile – where flooding reached eleven feet.

Thursday, Chip Davis, a barbershopper from Baton Rouge, posted the following on the Internet:

“The biggest problem in Baton Rouge is that we are accommodating probably 100,000 to 300,000 refugees in the area. Only about 60,000 are in official refugee shelters. The others are staying with friends, relatives, churches, etc. All office space, houses, and apartments have been rented or bought up.

Things are crazy. Our infrastructure and supply chain simply can't handle this influx of people. Hopefully, these things will be worked out shortly. People are generally angry, hysteric, and desperate for life to seem normal. The Baton Rouge area population has essentially near doubled overnight.

“[By contrast] New Orleans is a different matter. Never have we lost an entire major city.”

Barbershop Harmony Society President Rob Hopkins and Executive Director Ed Watson sent out this letter:

**Fellow Barbershoppers, humanitarians and friends,**

Our hearts go out to the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the natural disaster that struck the coasts of Louisiana and Mississippi, leaving utter devastation in its wake. Relief efforts are under way, and there will be much to do over the next few months.

We are heartened that there have been many inquiries by our membership as to what we can do to aid all the unfortunate victims. While the law limits what we can do as an organization, there is no limit to the aid and assistance we can render as individuals.

As time passes, the requirements for aid will change. Rebuilding efforts will take a while to develop; in the near term, we urge each of you to search your conscience and do what you are able as an individual to immediately assist those in distress. While many would like to donate clothing, shelter, and tangible assets, the biggest need right now is for monetary donations to the American Red Cross and similar agencies trained to give immediate and effective help. Please check carefully the agencies you use for donations, and stick with those known for reputable disaster relief.

Those of you closer to the devastation may have the opportunity for more hands-on efforts. Check with your local relief agencies.

Over time, as the rescue efforts become better organized, donations of time and talents to effective fundraisers and telethons may be possible. Perhaps a portion of show proceeds may be donated. Voluntary appearances and fund raising shows are an effective way to get money to relief agencies. Blood drives are certainly a good way to get what is needed to those who need it. Check with your districts and look for ideas from your fellow Barbershoppers. As we hear good ideas from you, we will pass them along.

Barbershoppers are a most generous and kind group of life-loving folk. We are proud to be members of this organization. We will continue to help, in the most effective way possible, the victims of this most recent natural tragedy in the weeks and months ahead.

**DIRECTORSHIP**

Director Jim Troeger has received another promotion at ST. Besides being the customer quality engineer responsible for the Visteon, Lear, and Autoliv accounts, he will also be Global Customer Quality Engineer for Visteon. The
impact (of his work, his young family, and his church membership) on his directorship has led the Executive Board to relieve him of those responsibilities. “As we search for a new Director, Dick Johnson will be the leader of a Team of In-House Directors.”

We all owe Jim a tremendous debt of gratitude for his leadership over the past two years. His crisp directing, his knowledge of and experience in barbershop, his vocal skills, his vision for our future—these contributions will be forever remembered.

AROUND THE PATCH
Welcome back to Crary Middle School music room.

Dick Johnson received his 36-year renewal August 30 along with a special commemoration from Prez Pete M.

“You six ‘Man of Note’ awards is an accomplishment only a handful of BBSshoppers ever reach.

“You ARE the Big Chief Chorus!

“As President these past three years, I am eminently qualified to recognize the untold contributions, talent, and time you spend on this hobby we love so much.

“Words cannot express the thanks that all members of the BCC and the Society feel for the terrific job you do with this chapter.

“I can not even begin to list all the positions, jobs, committees, and tasks you serve on for the BCC.

“Thank you!

“In addition, you have a great ear, voice, and leadership style that makes you terrific roll model.

“Above all of this, you are a wonderful person with a loving and caring heart.

“Rexetta and the Big Chief Chorus are lucky to have you.

“Yours in Harmony,

“Pete Mazzara”

Showtime: November 5th. Our show songs will be: Goodnight Sweetheart, Goodnight; Hello Mary Lou; In My Room; In The Still Of The Night; Something; and Under The Boardwalk. Don't Blame Me is still a tentative 7th song.

The theme for next year’s show has been chosen; it will feature Disney. Two Disney songs that we will be practicing, perhaps for Spring contest, are “Zip-Ah-Dee Do Dah,” and “When You Wish Upon A Star.”

Jim Troeger has been web-master. Another is now sought.

QUARTET/ENSEMBLE NEWS
Lyle Howard reports that on Aug. 19th B NATURAL performed in a gospel sing for the community in a downtown park in Oxford. The event was put on by the Oxford Free Methodist Church, of which Tom Tailford is a member. Tom also performed with a group from the church, singing bass, no less.

B NATURAL sang August 27th for a 28th wedding celebration, eliciting this sweet response: “Thanks guys; you made my wife’s dream come true. It was something I have always been meaning to do, and am so glad I was able to find your group. Your voices are beautiful together, and your professional presentation is wonderful. Thanks again for making it come true, Mike.”

CELEBRATION BS Quartet sang a six-song set for the staff and customers at the Silver Lake Big Boy on August 11th in hopes of getting a Show Ad. Particularly well received were God Bless America, Honey Lil’ “Big Boy” and, yeah, Kitty Kitty.

The Off The Reservation Ensemble is preparing for the Annual BCC Show with twice a week rehearsals and an off-site September Overnight Retreat on Lake Huron with ten guys. Four rehearsals will be mixed with four restaurant singouts and some quartetting too.

From Bruce Brede:

What a great week we had! About a dozen guys Tuesday with Neil Braun who may join us, and is considering the Retreat, as well as Freddie McFadyen who may join us for the Show.

Then yesterday, at Mike Keith's, we had seven guys with a mix of two basses, one lead, three baris and one tenor. Under Dick Johnson's leadership, we have “Mood Indigo” well along and are well into “Fortune in Dreams.” At the Retreat we should have time to polish off “Sittin' on Top,” “It Had to be You,” “Dream A Little Dream,” and “Lida Rose” too.

MEMBERSHIP (at 58)

Renewals: Lew Mahacek (4), Zaven Melkonian (6), Dick Johnson (36)
September Birthdays: Greg Moss (8th), John Cowlshaw (10th), Neil Braun (13th), Mel Parrish (13th), Dick Johnson (24th).

Barbershopper of the Month, August: Al Monroe. Al was selected for his valiant, extra effort in attending our rehearsals and singouts from afar. He goes beyond the call of duty and, besides, he is a tenor!

Recovering: John Cowlshaw’s wife, Corinne, from lumbar re-fusion surgery.
AROUND THE DISTRICT

Lansing is celebrating its 65th anniversary! (yes, they started in 1940), with a gala cabaret dinner show, Sunday, September 11, at Lansing’s Holiday Inn South, 6820 S. Cedar.

The Holland Chapter of the BHS is celebrating its 60th anniversary September 16 & 17 in a big way. All BBShoppers (individuals, quartets, or choruses of 8 or more) are invited for either the 16th and/or the 17th. There will be a song contest, lots of singing, a pig roast, and lots of fun. Interested persons can contact Art Lane, Holland Chapter Anniversary Co-Chair at 269-857-2781 or artlane@wmol.com.

The August 2005 Grosse Pointe bulletin, The Pitch-Pipe, reports that Russ Seely and John Wearing have become 50-year members of the Society. They have also been singing in a quartet together for forty-two years, having formed 4Fits in 1963.

Although sixteen quartets had expressed an interest in Bush League, September 30 and October 1, the prospective attendees are low enough to have invocation a desperate plea from the Gaylord organizers that the 55+ year tradition is about to die because of apathy, despite the teaching quartet being POWER PLAY.

The Lansing quartet, SIDEKICKS, won the Mixed Quartet contest at Buckeye, this year, with T - Jessica Thompson, L - Teresa Fuller, Br - Mike Hansen, and Bs - Brian Dunckel. PARTY OF FOUR also competed in the Male Quartet contest.

AROUND THE WORLD

Our Barbershop Harmony Society website has received a facelift. If you haven’t been there lately, click in on www.barbershop.org

The 60th Sweet Adelines International convention was scheduled for Oct 4-8, 2005 in New Orleans. They are now seeking another location.

Jim Clancy, Director of the Vocal Majority, will be leading an “Ireland Barbershop Tour 2006” on August 13-21, 2006. The tour has room for 90 and 40 barbershop family and friends have already signed up. Check it out at www.tlcTours.com

MEET GENE DOWNIE

Gene was born in 1937 in northern Michigan, in Lincoln, just northwest of Harrisville, (site of the annual Harrisville Barbershop gatherings), where the family owned a farm. Gene was the oldest of eleven kids, six boys and five girls. When Gene was sixteen, the family moved south, and Gene graduated from Berkeley High School. He then attended Western Michigan University where he received his B.S. in Industrial Education. Within three weeks, he was drafted, spent a year in Korea, and was discharged just before the escalation in Vietnam.

He began teaching Industrial Arts at Pierce Middle School in the Waterford school system. After nine years there, and the concurrent receipt of a M. Ed. from Wayne State University, he was appointed Assistant Principal. He spent ten years at Mason Middle School, and then became the Principal of Crary Middle School for thirteen years. In 1998, he retired, having spent thirty-six years in education.

Gene met Deanna in a bowling league for schoolteachers. Deanna was an elementary school teacher. They have raised three kids, and have eight grandchildren.

Gene has an athletic history. He began wrestling in high school (in the 145 lb division). At Western he wrestled in the Mid America League, in the 127 lb division, against the likes of CMU, Notre Dame, and the University of Chicago. That strength showed to advantage during the chorus golf outing last year.

Beginning in 1991, he has had four angioplasties. The last, a quadruple bypass in 1997, hastened his retirement, but preserved his present health. However, he has been hampered this summer by a pinched lumbar nerve and a painful right leg.
Deanna has had her own health issues, with a hip replacement surgery and vision loss that require Gene’s caretaking skills.

Gene grew up on the farm listening to country music, then moved to pop when he moved to the city. In college, he discovered classical music. He hadn’t heard of barbershop until a Pierce secretary, Yvonne Barnes talked of her husband Len’s involvement.

Gene’s early singing experience consisted of a 4-H Club leader asking him not to sing at meetings, because his voice was changing. So it was not easy for him to assent when his old friend Walt DeNio invited him to a rehearsal in 1996. When he joined, as a Lead, in 1997, the Big Chief Chorus was down to sixteen members. As the chorus grew under Chris Miller’s directorship, Gene took on the position of chorus manager, and then the presidency for four years (1999-2002).

Gene and Walt formed the Chieftones with Bill Holmes on bass and Don Denoyer on Tenor, which the chorus was able to enjoy for over two years, until Don’s illness and death.

Gene’s other hobby is woodworking. He really got into intarsia, the making of decorative pictures by laying pieces of various natural woods into groundwork of solid wood. He has made a number of pieces that served as gifts and presents to his grandchildren. And of course the chorus has profited from his woodworking skills in his work on scenery for our shows. This began when the chorus resurrected shows in 2000, and will culminate in his biggest effort to date, the six and a half foot high jukebox that he has worked on all summer for our fall 2005 show.

**Summer Picnic**

As Joan Cheyne wrote, it was an “outstanding Big Chief Chorus picnic so many of us enjoyed at Tom and Beth Ford’s lovely lakefront home August 19. Many thanks again to Tom and Beth!

“What a great turnout of guys and gals! There were so many ladies who were new to the Chicks (though not necessarily new to BCC or barbershopping), we nearly ran out of official Chick nametags. We were happy to welcome Jeannette De Vries (Fred), Susan Ford (Doc Mann), Sharon Howard (Lyle), Alice McFadyen (Fred), and Sandra Northey (John). We hope to see you all at lots of future Chick activities.

“The food was outstanding, as always, with so many compliments from our appreciative guys. In addition to the usual delicious variety of dogs & brats, salads, baked beans, deviled eggs, sauerkraut, relishes, and desserts, Sandi Northey and Barbara Holmes brought broccoli salads that had us all wishing for the recipes. Special thanks to our high-spirited Barbara Workman who honored the Chicks by bringing a First Anniversary cake! (She says her "Chick with Attitude" T-shirt is available at signals.com.)

“Even the weather cooperated. As the day wore on it cleared enough so we could actually spend time outdoors!

“Then there was the music – always that wonderful barbershop harmony! The night couldn’t have been complete without enthusiastic offerings of many of our favorites. A highlight was the beautiful rendition of Lida Rose by several Chiefs and our own very talented Eileen Marshall. (We have no trouble understanding why her Sweet Adeline Chorus excels at nationals!) It has been suggested that the Chicks have a special song to call our own.”

As requested, here are two recipes:

**Sandi Northey’s Broccoli Salad**

Mix together:
- 3 Qt (12 c.) broccoli
- 1 c. raisins
- 1 c. diced red onion
- 1 c. peanuts

Mix together:
- 3 _ c. Hellmann’s Mayo (24 oz jar)
- 1 c. sugar
- 6 T. tarragon vinegar

Use approximately half for the salad, store the rest.

**Rexetta Johnson’s Tomato Salad**

- 2 to 4 ripe tomatoes
- 1 to 2 cucumbers
- _ onion
- 1 celery stalk
- Red, green, and yellow pepper

Chop it all so it is bite-sized.

Put all into a bowl and cover with Zesty Italian Dressing (Kroger brand is best.) Let it set 3 or 4 hours (overnight is best).

**BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ**

*Author: Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.*

1- Where does the term barbershop harmony come from?
2- What were barbershop's two major showcases from the 1880's through the 1930's?
3- What caused barbershop's demise as a major form of popular music?
4- Why was barbershop harmony important to George Burns, Bing Crosby and Al Jolson?
5- What was the influence of Black Americans in barbershop's formative days?

Answers at end

**Teaching Rockers How To Holler** (from a local magazine)

A self-described “connoisseur of screaming,” Melissa Cross is a cheery, red-haired, classically trained 48-year-old voice teacher with a peculiar niche: she caters to the most extreme segments of the metal, punk, and hardcore scenes, teaching performers how to growl like grizzlies, bark like pit bulls, and bellow...
EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING August 10, Excerpts from Bill Holmes, Secretary

In attendance at the residence of Curt Holmes of White Lake, MI: Pete Mazzara, Wayne Cheyne, Zaven Melkonian, Jack Teuber, Roger Holm, Dick Johnson, Ron Clarke, Gene Downie, Jeff Doig and Bill Holmes.

The chapter received a letter of thanks from the Oakland County Parks and the Huron-Clinton Metro Authority for our donation for the Special Parks Districts Forum held on June 7-10, 2005. Those signing the letter were Pecky Lewis, Timothy Nowicki, John Hertel and Dave Moilanen. These individuals are the CEO’s of the four Metro Parks.

The chapter secretary wrote Jennifer Lloyd, daughter of James Younger (who passed away) to thank her for her thankful response and contribution to the chapter. A letter was also sent to Pastor Harvey Frye of the Oxford Free Methodist Church to thank him for the copy-machine.

The secretary ordered ten Polecat Songbooks for Ted Prueter.

Treasurer Dick Johnson’s report showed a balance of $6,193.18. Dick was asked to arrange for Ron Clarke to be able to sign financial records in case of an emergency. Dick was also asked to select a person to train for his position as treasurer of the chapter.

Wayne reported receiving much material from Kenosha. He is reviewing potential announcements for a publishing campaign for guest night. The board voted to budget $400 for these efforts. Plans for guest night will include Polecats, Tags, Songs and Quartets.

Wayne gladly reported that attendance for the last three rehearsals was 42, 43 and 44 compared to 28 or so last year.

Roger Holm, music committee. A group of mixed voices from the Clarkston High School will sing on the Show. Plans for the 2006 Fall Show will include the Disney theme. The committee recommends coaching with Gene Hanover on Saturday, 9-24-05, for half a day and a coaching session with Al Fisk be held in October. Jack Teuber will be providing a list of our upcoming singouts. The board approved a budget of $300 for Jack’s efforts in selecting publicity for the show. The board again saluted Jack for the great job he is doing in his position.

Ross and Jim are working on the flyer that will be sent out. This is in addition to Dick’s flyer. Jeff Doig will follow-up on the progress of completing that flyer.

Pete referred to a sponsorship letter that he and Doc Mann reviewed together. It contains various options for the bank to consider whether it could sponsor to the tune of $1500 or $3000.

Jeff Doig reported tryouts by the Quartets and the Ensemble (OTR) will be held in front of the chorus and the music/show committee on October 4th and/or October 11th. Quartets expected to sing are Four Wheel Drive, Jackpot, B Natural and a pick-up quartet.

It was noted that Gene Downie is building a Jukebox for the show and is doing a great job.

Zaven Melkonian reported as chair of the nominating committee. Pete, through a random drawing selected Dick Johnson and Wayne Cheyne to be in charge of the Officers Induction & Awards Dinner to be held on November 18, 2005. The board saluted Dick for the great job he did last year. Pete reminded those involved in preparation of the Christmas Singouts to start working.

The board will pay for COTS registration ONLY. Rooms are on your own. Dick Johnson will direct the chorus at the Sep. 14 & Oct. 11 singouts. Barbershopper of the Month is Al Monroe.

This board meeting made BCC history. It was the shortest board meeting ever, one hour and 39 minutes.

Executive Board Election, Tuesday, October 18th.
THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE BALLOT FOR THE EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18th:

President.................................................................Zaven Melkonian

Vice President Chapter Development...............Wayne Chene

Vice President Music & Performance...............Roger Holm

Vice President Marketing & Public Relations......Jack Teuber

Secretary.............................................................Bill Holmes

Treasurer.............................................................Dick Johnson

Member At Large.................................................Ron Clarke

Member At Large.................................................Bruce Brede

FINALE NOTEPAD

A reminder that we can circulate copies of music in PrintMusic Finale that are readable and playable on your computer, if you have the FREE Notepad software. For more information about Finale NotePad, and to download it, go to: http://www.finalemusic.com/notepad/
Answers to this month's history quiz:
1- Barbershops, first in England, then here, were places of extemporaneous, amateur music making since Elizabethan times. A song written in 1910 and entitled [Mister Jefferson Lord] "Play That Barbershop Chord" iced the cake.
2- Minstrel shows in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, thereafter, vaudeville.
3- Radio, more so than any other factor. For the first time in human history, radio brought affordable and widely available entertainment into almost every home. This led to the rapid demise of vaudeville shows, barbershop's most important venue during the first third of the twentieth century.
4- They began their show biz careers as professional barbershop quartet singers.
5- The influence was immense, but this is a give-a-way to all of you scholars who read the lengthy article on the history of barbershop harmony in the August 2001 of the Harmonizer.

Note: All unattributed articles and photos are by John Cowlishaw

CHAPTER LEADERSHIP
Director: In-house Team, led by Dick Johnson
President: Pete Mazzara
(313-563-4026)
Past President: Gene Downie
VP: Chapter Dev: Wayne Chene
VP: Music and Performance: Roger Holm
VP: Marketing & PR: Jack Teuber
Secretary: Bill Holmes
Treasurer: Dick Johnson
Members at Large: Ron Clarke, Zaven Melkonian
Chorus Manager: Art Carinci
Music Team: Holm, Johnson, Doig, Ensign, Melkonian, Murray, Prueter, Troeger
Bulletin Editor: John Cowlishaw
Music Librarian: Ted Prueter
Singing Valentines: Ross Ensign
Polecats: Zaven Melkonian
Quartet Development: Bruce Brede
Sunshine (Chaplain): Walt DeNio/Bill Dabbs
Uniforms Manager: Ron Clarke
Tape/CD Librarian: Ross Ensign
YMIIH: Ron Clarke

Calendar
Sept. 6, T  BCC Rehearsal, return to Crary
Sep 7, 9  UCanSing ads in USA Today
Sept. 13, T  UCanSing Guest Night @ Crary MS
Sep 14, W, 2pm,  Singout, Woodward Hills, 39312 Woodward Ave, Bloomfield Hills, Class C uniform
Sep 14, W  Exec. Bd. Meeting, Gene Downie’s
Sep 17, F, 5pm  Big Chief Chick dinner at the Golden Buffet of Oakland, 5630 Dixie Hwy, Waterford, (248) 623-8585
Sep 20, T  BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Sep 27, T  BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Oct 4, T  BCC Rehearsal, Crary
Oct 11, T, 12:30  Singout, Pontiac Musicale, Central United Methodist Church, 3882 Highland Rd, (M-59), Waterford, Class B Uniform
Oct 12, W  Exec. Bd. Meeting, Dick Johnson’s
Oct. 18, W  Election of Officers 2006
Oct 20, Th  Big Chief Chick Lunch (or tea) at the Fairlane Ford Mansion in Dearborn
Oct 21-23  Fall convention, Pioneer District
Nov 5, Sa, 7:30  Fall Show – Jukebox Classics – Clarkston High School
Nov 7, M  Canada Night hosted by D.O.C.
Nov 9, W  Exec. Bd. Meeting, Roger Holm’s
Nov 15, T  Christmas Chorus begins
Nov 18, F  Officer Induction & Awards Dinner

A little boy got lost at the YMCA and found himself in the women's locker room. When he was spotted, the room burst into shrieks, with ladies grabbing towels and running for cover. The little boy watched in amazement and then asked, “What's the matter, haven't you ever seen a little boy before?”