

KEEPING THE  
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER

\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2016 - VOL.72 - NO. 2

## Paul Wigley says "It's about time"

that area Barbershoppers send a **YOUTH CHORUS** to Midwinter!

After returning from the Midwinter Convention in Reno, where I was fortunate to be able to judge both the Seniors Quartet Contest, and the Youth Chorus Contest, I have had an issue come to mind that I absolutely cannot let go.

It is clearly time that all Barbershop groups in the Twin Cities metro area come together as one. I am talking women, men, large choruses, small choruses, everyone that has been lucky enough to be a part of Twin Cities Barbershop harmony. It is simply time for us all to get on the same page on one single issue.

That issue is a Youth Chorus. There are various choruses, or combinations of choruses, that are having youth festivals at this time. All of these festivals have varying degrees of success, depending upon the true goals of those individual festivals. It is time to have one collaborative, incredible, amazing, unified, non-recruitment-oriented, non-egotistical, focused, media-saturated Youth Event. [Can you say it like it is, Paul?]

My frustration is with the fact that the Twin Cities are not represented at this Youth Chorus festival. With an incredible number of Barbershop singers, having an incredible amount of competition and community success, this area

should be able to support one of the finest Youth Chorus-es in the world. BUT, the various sponsors of all of our area youth festivals need to be willing to come together as one to make this happen.

We also have such unbelievably good high-school-choral programs in the Twin Cities! Such an abundance of well-trained high school men could yield results that would be life-changing for both the singers, and the sponsors. Add to that the availability of the incredible college/university choral programs, and you have lifted the potential still higher!

The biggest barrier to the success of a greater Twin Cities (or simply Minnesota) Youth Chorus is communication with the high-school choral directors themselves. Too often our festivals are placed on a date that is convenient for US, rather than the high school programs. Start asking high school directors when and what they would desire in a Youth Festival, in order for them to generate interest from their best singers. Let the high school directors know that this will NOT create more work for them, the students will all have learning tracks. Communicate and work with the high school (and collegiate) choral directors to make  
*Go to Wigley, Page 2 Column 3*



Paul Wigley (left) with his good friend and fellow judge, Kevin Keller, at the BHS Midwinter Convention in Reno.

Staff Photo

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
Land O'Lakes District, BHS  
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 Chicago Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423**

**Chapter Officers**

- President ..... Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869
- Past Pres..... Dan Williams 952/974-0026
- Exec. VP..... Denny Maas 952/447-8012
- Marketing/PR VPs..... Pete Jarnberg 651/765-9580  
Russ Born 406/670-2098
- VP Music /Perform..... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363
- VP Membership..... Harvey Weiss 763/439-4447
- Program VP..... Blake Wanger 414/699-4950
- Secretary..... Bill Warp 763/531-2290
- Treasurer ..... John Carlotto 952/925-0886

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*Through 2017*

- Dean Lambert..... 612/727-3909
- Matt Richards ..... 651/983-8021
- Andy Tate..... 612/825-1942

*Through 2016*

- Andy Cook..... 651/688-6459
- Andy Richards..... 651/939-9313

**Directors**

- Director..... Paul Wigley
- Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson, David Speidel,  
James Souhan

**Section Leaders**

- Tenor Section Leader ..... Rollie Neve
- Lead Section Leader. .... Gary Jacobson  
Assistant - Dan Smith
- Bari Section Leaders ..... Dave Speidel  
Assistant - Matt Richards
- Bass Section Leaders..... Jim Richards  
Assistant -. Dave Casperson

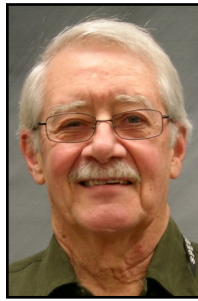
**Committee Chairmen**

- Altruistic Programs Chairman..... Denny Maas
- Audio/Visual Mgr..... Kirk Douglas
- 2016 Show Chairman..... Dave Speidel
- Afterglow Chairman..... Travis Wuttke
- Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms..... Vacant
- BOTY Party Chairman..... Dick Riemenschneider  
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- Singing Valentines..... Neal Mortenson
- Sunshine ..... Rich Ongna
- Swipe Editor ..... Bill Warp
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- Transportation Mgr..... Dick Hartmann
- Uniform Committee Chairman..... Vacant
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**From the Prez ...**

By Gordy Aumann, President

On January 15 and 16 some of your chapter leaders attended the 2016 LOL District Leadership Academy at UW-River Falls. There were specific classes for each of the officers to learn about how to perform their specific jobs and to discuss



**Gordy Aumann**

with like chapter officers how they go about their duties.

There were also classes on Ear Training, Music Category Judging (led by our own **Paul Wigley**), Generational Differences, Better Quartet and Chorus Singing, Recruiting New Mem-

bers and many more. All-in-all a very worthwhile week-end. Among the many statistics presented in the Generational Differences class was that the LOL District currently has 49 chapters with about 1600 members and a reduction to 18 chapters with 800 members predicted in the next seven to ten years.

The Commodores, however, have a fairly healthy mix of Matures, Baby Boomers, Gen-Xers, and Millenials compared to other LOL chapters, but of course we are very heavy on the Mature side. We need to continue to cultivate relationships with all age groups and invite them to join us if we are to continue to thrive. We all need to talk to audience members when we perform and invite them to experience the joy that comes from singing Barbershop music.

*Happy Birthday*

- 02/10 Kristen Lambert
- 02/12 Lou Dykstra
- 02/14 Harlan Mellem (85)
- 02/15 Dan Cole
- 02/15 Jerry Koch
- 02/21 Terry McClellan
- 02/26 Bob Dykstra
- 02/27 Dan Williams
- 03/01 Kaleb Smith
- 03/02 Rosie Glover
- 03/02 Dick Riemenschneider
- 03/05 Bonnie Black Gribble
- 03/05 Dennis T Maas
- 03/06/ Mark Bloomquist
- 03/07 Catherine Lloyd
- 03/08 Jeni Born



*Happy Anniversary*

- 02/12 Peter C & Judi Jarnberg
- 02/15 Terry B. & Linda McClellan
- 02/19 Jim & Karen McCarville (50)

**Let's put the  
capital  
"B"  
in Barbershop**

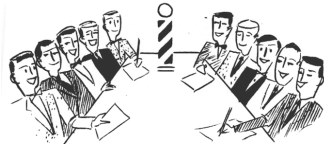
*Wigley from Page 1*

an artistic, musical ensemble that will celebrate the wonders of singing Barbershop music together.

But I need to re-emphasize my original point. ALL barbershop groups in the Twin Cities area need to cooperate and collaborate to make this happen ... which, unfortunately up to this point, has not happened. We ALL need to be leaders in this endeavor, and there can be no egos, no ownership, and nothing but a desire to enable the youth singers to have an experience that is so amazing they will never forget it. **Let's send a breathtaking Barbershop Youth Chorus to the Midwinter festival in the very-near future.**

**9th Annual  
BHS Open  
Monday,  
August 8, 2016  
SCRAMBLE FORMAT  
To Benefit  
Harmony Foundation**

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

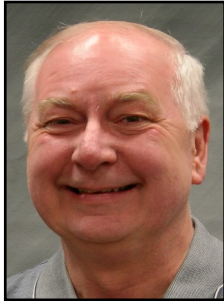


Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the meeting of January 21

• **Administration - Gordy Aumann**



New Board members, **Andy Tate** and **Dean Lambert** were welcomed.

The December minutes were accepted after one correction.

**Bill Warp**

Treasurer's report was presented.

Members authorized to handle money are: John Carlotto

- Carl Pinard
- Dick Riemenschneider
- Dan Slattery
- Dan Williams
- Travis Wuttke

Diana Pinard is also authorized.

The Board meetings will be moved to the second Thursday of the month as the Church Council will be meeting on the third Thursdays.

• **Marketing - Peter Jarnberg**

Letters of introduction will be sent to 141 Senior Assisted Living locations promoting Commodores.

**Russ Born** has formulated a *Print Media* plan for providing Commodore copy to community newspapers. Contributors must be community members.

A plan to distribute annual show flyers in the Bethel area is being considered.

• **Membership - Harvey Weiss**

There will be a Visitors' Night on the Tuesday, April 19, following the annual show on April 16.

A resolution was passed to apply for

**SUNSHINE  
HOTLINE**



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: [ddongna@usfamily.net](mailto:ddongna@usfamily.net)



**Rich Ongna**  
chapter meeting.

**Jim McCarville** had some serious issues, since resolved, following his otherwise successful cardioversion, and was able to visit the February 26



chapter membership in area service organizations like the *Lions* and the *Kiwanis* organization.

• **Music - Carl Pinard**

TC Show Chorus may use our risers on March 11 - 12.

Registration for the April 29-May 1 Spring Convention and 10,000 Lakes/Southwest Division Contests and International Preliminaries will begin in mid-February, \$50 for all events, \$20 for the chorus contest only.

The 2017 annual show is scheduled for April 1, 2017. A chairman is yet to be named and a theme selected. Dan Cole may volunteer as chair.

**Old/New Business**

A full room will be reserved for the *Way Out West Afterglow*. Two bars are planned and also a keg of good beer.

The Chorus Survey is ready to go.

\$500 was designated for the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Convention February 19-21.

A motion was carried to train at-large Board members to be back-up for the officers.

• **Next meeting Thursday, February 11.**

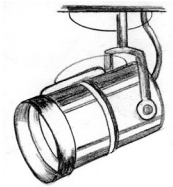
**Glenn Retter** continues to deal with his vocal-cord problem and is slated for more surgery this month.

**Kaleb Smith's** ear-infection problems have resolved and he is back on the risers.

Jim Richards reports that his daughter-in-law (son Will's wife in Washington state) suffered a brain bleed and has been hospitalized in Portland, Oregon. Prayers are certainly in order.

**Remember:** Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.

**Commodore  
Spotlight**



**Russ  
Born  
is that ...**

bass-singing cowboy from Red Lodge, Montana, who began Barber-shopping with the Commodores in 1969. In the later 70s he moved to the Treasure State where he now lives with his wife, Jeni, except when his job as a medical-device rep requires them to pack up the van and hit the trail to service his clients.

Needless to say, Russ wins the man-mile award each time he arrives at our chapter meetings. In spite of his erratic attendance Russ is usually well prepared with his music.

The Borns have been long-time supporters of the Society's *President's Council* and Russ wears his "I Sing" button at all times. I would not be at all surprised if he might even wear it to bed. (We'll have to ask Jeni.)

# Chord Candy #141

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister

According to Wikipedia, St. Valentine's Day is observed on February 14 in many churches around the world for the Christian martyr, *Valentinus* who, according to legend, was put to death in Rome for performing weddings for soldiers who were forbidden to marry during their service.



In the Chicago area, St Valentine's Day is remembered for the brutal Prohibition-Era massacre that day in 1929, by the Bugs Moran gang, of seven mob associates and a mechanic of the rival North Side Irish gang.

The day was first associated with romantic love in the life-circle of Geoffrey Chaucer in the High Middle Ages, when the tradition of courtly love flourished. In eighteenth-century England, it evolved into an occasion in which lovers expressed their mutual love by presenting flowers, candy, and sending greeting cards. In more recent years lovers have hired Barbershop quartets to do the job for them by serenading the objects of their affection with four-part harmony! This month's Chord-Candy-tag offering by an anonymous arranger is an effective delivery device for the expression of your love and devotion to your own lady-love or on behalf of someone else's. Enjoy!

**Jim Richards**

1 2 3 4 5 6

I want you for mine, my own Val-en- tine I want you to be my sweet

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

heart, I want you to be my love. Be my love, be my love.

**The Minneapolis Commodores**  
Proudly Present:

**WAY OUT WEST**

**Saturday, April 16, 2016**  
*ONE Show Only - 3:00 p.m.*  
Benson Great Hall - Bethel University

## The Brigade and other stuff!

By Dave Speidel, Ass't Director and NPHB President

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Northern Pines Harmony Brigade is almost upon us, and many of your fellow Commodores are participating again and some for the first time. We hope that many of you will come for the show, as



Dave Speidel

we have a great line-up of entertainment. *St. Croix Crossing* will be attending, having just earned their 2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive silver medal at the recent Midwinter Convention in Reno. Besides singing well, they are a very polished, entertaining group.

You will get to hear more than just a couple of songs from the young men's *Basses Wild* group that graced our Christmas show stage, and of course we always enjoy hearing the *Now and Then Singers* from Lakeville North High School. Tickets are only \$10 – cheap at twice the price for this quality entertainment.

On a completely different note, I just read a very long expose' by **Ev Nau** on Facebook. **Ev coincidentally will be our MC at the Brigade Show.** I've attached the link [see below] for anyone who might be interested in reading it. I mention it for two reasons. First, it does seem to express some of the same sentiments of the *Elephant-in-the Room* crusaders. It is a very frank discussion about where our Society is headed by a renowned 40 plus-year member. Secondly, Ev brings up some great memories of "how it used to be," and the people, events, and fun- times gone by.

Going on 40 Barbershopping-years myself, I remember some of those traditions with fondness. Is it too late to bring back some of that fun? I remember the *Mystery* bus trips—the whole chapter loading up on a bus

and heading somewhere, usually another chapter meeting—or perhaps connecting up with another chapter to take the same mystery trip—having pick-up quartet contests, with tag singing and the like.

Pranks were commonplace and we laughed like there was no tomorrow. I remember the chapter meeting afterglows where half or more of the members would show up! I remember the annual-show "After-Afterglows," where we went to a chapter member's home, sang with the guest quartets " 'til the cows came home" and then had breakfast in the wee, wee hours before heading out the door!

I remember when the Division and District Contests were much more than just competition—with men singing any place they could find a corner and when almost every chapter hosted a hospitality room. Very few guys showed up just to compete, pack up and go home. Ev is point-on with many of his observations.

He once told me at another Brigade's convention that the Brigade concept reminded him of what Barbershop used to be. Perhaps this is why I enjoy the Brigade concept so much. It brings back some of those memories. I hope that everyone will read his message, and you might also enjoy some of the replies from some other Barbershop notables. It's great to be a "Brigader" and a *Commodore*!

<https://www.facebook.com/ev.nau/posts/10206760058692316>

**NPHB**  
**An eXtreme**  
**quartetting experience.**  
**February 19-21, 2016**  
**Crowne Plaza Hotel**  
**Plymouth, Minnesota**  
**Saturday Evening Show**  
**Open to the public**  
**Saturday, February 20**  
**7:00 p.m.**

## LITTLE WHITE MARBLE

By Diana Pinard, A-Commodore's President

How often could it happen that in a weekly drawing from a bag of 50 blue marbles and one white marble, the last marble remaining is the white marble?



Diana Pinard

That's exactly what happened at the close of the January 19 Minneapolis Chapter meeting. For 25¢ each, prior to chapter meetings, members have the opportunity to buy tickets for a chance to draw the white marble that week and perhaps win the accumulated money in the pot, minus, of course, 25% for the *Youth In Harmony program*. At meeting's end a ticket is drawn for the right to pick for the white marble and hopefully to win the



Lucky Lance (rt.) shows off his newly-won largesse to the drawer of winning ticket, Steve Hardy. *Staff Photo*

And whos ticket was picked for the 51st draw? Who else but **Lucky Lance Johnson's**.

Moreover, in true Commodore spirit Lance footed the bill for the beer (and maybe a little pizza) at that evening's Afterglow at the *Richfield American Legion Hall*.

Thank you, Lance!

**Support**  
**Harmony**  
**Foundation**



# 2016 Midwinter Convention

## Peppermill Resort Spa

### Reno - January 26-31, 2016



Judy Olson with her long-time friend, Brian Beck, three-time International Quartet Champion (including the Seniors) arranger, Society icon and Hall of Famer (and son-in-law of Renee Craig). *Staff Photo*



Dick Staedt (left), a member of the Appleton, Wisc. Chapter, has long been involved with Youth In Harmony programs. In 2006 he was inducted into the LOL District Hall of Fame.

Randy Klopffleisch is a 56-year Society member having joined the Commodores in 1960. He left Minnesota for California in the late 1970s but continues to be a dual-member Commodore.

He and Dick are the only two *Youth Chorus Festival* sponsors for the LOL District. *Staff Photo*



*Vintage Mix*, the Shoppach quads left to right with an old codger (ctr.): Kelsey, Julia, Anika, and Ian. You will be able to see them in Stillwater in April at the Croix Chordsmen's annual show. *Staff Photo*



Commodore Harvey Weiss (ctr.) flanked by the 2015 International Quartet Champions *Instant Classic* from left to right: Bari Kohl Kitzmiller, Bass Kyle Kitzmiller, Lead Theo Hicks, and Tenor David Zimmerman. *Harvey Weiss Photo*



From left to right: Russ and Jeni Born and Stephanie and Randy Klopfleisch. The Borns and Klopfleishes are avid supporters of the Harmony Foundation, the Klopfleishes also helping to underwrite the Youth Chorus Festival. *Staff Photo*



The Wildcat Harmonizers, favorites of the Saturday Evening Show audience, are from a small school in New Jersey. The young man far left in the front row, blind from birth, learned to read music by Braille. He has perfect pitch, identifies chords by their sound and rarely misses a performance move. The singer second from the right in the back row sings baritone and has a three-octave range. See and hear them do *Mary Lou* on UTube. *Staff Photo*



*Social Insecurity* from the Evergreen District stunned the audience of the Seniors Quartet Contest when an anomalous third leg suddenly appeared on the baritone, a leg that could dance with one or both of the others.

Although they did not make the top five, they were quite entertaining, giving the audience many laughs and a tongue-in-cheek inking of the results of heavy radiation exposure. *Jeni Born Photo*



Joe and Kay Liles are seen here with our own Jim Richards (rt.) at an intermission. (Sorry, Ebie.)  
Joe, since I have known him, has always had a warm smile and a firm handshake for me. Besides, he assured me that he reads every issue of the *Chord-Inator* from cover to cover. (Now that makes over a dozen who admit reading the Minneapolis-chapter bulletin.) *Staff Photo*



*Judy Olson Photo*

**TOUGH JOB IN THE PIT ...** a day in the life of the Society's Music Category Specialist  
Seated comfortably in his deluxe ergonomic, orthotic judging chair Music Category Specialist Paul Wigley adjudicates another stirring contest at the Saturday *Youth Harmony Festival*. Out of necessity to conserve strength for Saturday's Seniors Quartet Contest these special chairs were provided for all members of the judging panel. However a special monitor had to be appointed to prevent anyone from nodding off. At least Mr. Wigley seemed alert throughout both contests.



*Harvey Weiss Photo*



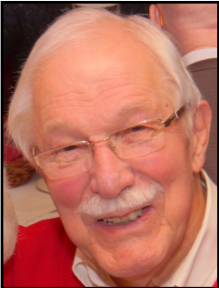
*Staff Photo*

*St. Croix Crossing* (left to rt.): Tenor Randy Lieble, Lead Dan Heike, Bass Jared Hoke, and Bari Steve Hardy, earned their second-consecutive silver medal in this year's Senior Contest. Shades of the (but then much younger) *Boston Common*. Persistence and faith, gentlemen?

# The Glory Days of Quartetting

By Bob Dykstra, *Curmudgeon-at-Large*

I joined what is now called the Barbershop Harmony Society in 1953 during what many of us recall as the "Era of Quartets." Arthur Godfrey, for example, employed as regular members of his "Little Godfreys" both the



Bob Dykstra

*Mariners*, a male quartet, and the *Chordettes*, a female quartet, who initially sang primarily barbershop harmony. Jack Benny featured his *Sportsmen Quartet* and Fibber McGee countered with the *King's Men*. Other well-known quartets on the radio and in the recording studio included the *Maple City Four*, the *Green and White Quartet*, the *Four Freshmen*, the *Crew Cuts*, the *Four Lads*, and the *Ames Brothers*, just to name a few. The *Wheaties Quartet* ushered in an era where companies came to be represented by quartets.....the *Leinenkugel Four*, the *Westinghouse Quartet*, and the *Ewald Golden Guernsey Quartet*, for example.

I was reminded of all this a few years ago when the Hut Four Quartet, which sang from 1953 through 1971 got together with their spouses for their annual Christmas party. Bob Spong, long-time tenor of the Hut Four, brought along a little black book in which he had meticulously kept records of our singing engagements from 1957 through 1964. We were amazed by how many gigs we sang back then and how different that experience was compared to quartets of our ilk today who often struggle to get their music before the public. As an illustration of the latter point I checked out the performance schedules of two recent Land O'Lakes Dis-

trict Quartet Champions on their respective websites. One quartet lists five shows from July 2015 through October 2016. The other is scheduled for three shows during the period April 2016 through October 2016. No doubt both performance schedules will expand as time goes on but allow me to make a comparison with quartetting in the "old days."

Let me preface the data I'm about to present by stating that the Hut Four was not a perennial top ten international competitor. In fact, we never achieved that pinnacle of success (although we did finish eleventh in 1959). We were crowned Land O'Lakes District champs in 1958 and had some favorable publicity during our army days quartetting by appearing on national television a few times. But we were not that different from many barbershop quartets of the day and I'm sure many of them would not be surprised by our performance schedule.

So here goes. From 1957 through 1964 the Hut Four sang 453 *paid* performances or an average of 56.6 shows per year.....an average of more than one *paid* show per week. This number does not include the Minneapolis Chapter show, any charter shows for newly-formed chapters sponsored by Minneapolis (of which there were many), nor any Society competitions. The lowest number of paid gigs during that period was 48, the highest was 64.

In 1958, the year during which we first earned the right to compete at the International Contest, as well as the year we won the district contest, we sang 27 chapter shows, one of which was for a Sweet Adelines group. Sixteen of the shows were in Wisconsin, seven in Minnesota, two in Iowa, one in Upper Michigan, and one in Canada. And remember..... this was before freeways came along and we drove to most performances.

We were also booked a lot by agents and for a number of years belonged

to whatever the appropriate union would have been at the time. And good old compulsive Spong entered into his little black book every job we sang, every song we sang on any given show, and any attempts at humor that were included in our performance. This was useful information because we sang many chapter shows numerous times. He also listed our quartet repertoire during the period which included 52 songs.....only 10 of which we sang in B-flat. (I'm not sure what that means).

A number of reasons come to mind for such a busy quartet schedule. (1) Quartets were very popular at the time. (2) A chapter show in the fifties was literally a parade of quartets as choruses sang only a few numbers, so chapters typically hired multiple quartets. (3) So many small towns back then had a Barbershop chapter, many of which don't exist today. (4) International gold medalist quartets at least part of the time during this period had their performances booked by the International Society during their gold medal year and the established fee was sufficiently low that it enabled chapters to hire other quartets in addition to the top-of-the-line star attraction. (5) Quartets in general charged far less (even considering inflation) because they tended to live in the same community, thus making travel to shows and rehearsals less costly, and they paid comparatively little or nothing for music, coaching, and arranging compared to today. (6) Quartets tended to stay together longer than they do today so they became more visible to chapters and others.

In retrospect, I'm glad I was young during the period I've just described. And I'm doubly glad that all members of the Hut Four married women who allowed us to pursue this wonderful hobby of ours to the fullest extent. There were no divorces among members of the quartet (believe it or not), although we did curtail our schedule considerably when children came *Glory Days from Page 9, Column 1*



# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Barnstormed Baritone,

(Resumed from last issue)

*"Maybe if I walk a bit," he thought, "my mind will clear." Finding the reins, he started to lead the horse farther down the road. Each step revealing a new ache. Not the ache his heart felt after seeing the fresh face of*



**Jim Erickson**

*the Dean's daughter in his dream-state. That was an especially poignant pain. Still this physical pain was considerable. And after all that had happened, the only good luck he had had this night was no bones were broken.*

*At least not yet! For just as he regained some sense of what had happened and where he was, to his startled surprise he came nose to nose with....*

Constable Coins. The good Constable was a man of scant law enforcement authority. Or any other kind. Oh, he was a pretty good man as many simple men can be, but in his mind he knew he was one who held the county together. And the locals were all in on the game he unwittingly played and smilingly treated him with great faux respect. Along with a heaping portion of small town affection. But behind the simple façade, there lurked an uncanny ability to track just about everything in town and nearby countryside. He sensed who was living just outside the law, who was secretly unfaithful, and who cheated in so many other ways. Like the local judge whose wife knowingly watched him

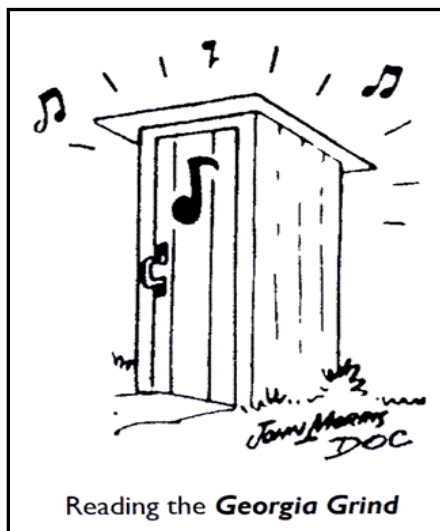
## Glory Days from Page 8

along. But I remember those busy days with fondness and regret that too many of today's quartet participants get so little opportunity to experience the thrill of singing for the world's most welcoming and receptive assemblages....the Barbershop audience.

walk down the sidewalk for what was just a short, quiet-street stroll to pay a frequent visit to his awaiting, secret lover.

Too, towners all knew what he was up to but chose to overlook the respected authority's dalliance. And since Constable Coins gained a smattering of respect himself from associating with the judge when dealing with offenders, he was one of Constable Coin's favorites.

Always keeping a "motherly" eye on his other favorites, he noted that Doc had left town just the way a doctor would answering the call of the Hippocratic oath. In a focused hurry. Coins. Excuse me! Constable



Reading the **Georgia Grind**

Coins, took note but didn't give it much of a lingering thought.

You know, "Coins" preferred to be called by the respectable title, "Constable." To help project a veil of authority surrounding the Village Constable badge where, in fact, there was little behind the veil except dust, cobwebs, and an aching longing to be respected. A little. But behind his back, and sometimes to his front, to his chagrin, he was nicknamed, "CC."

So CC was polishing his silver badge when it slipped from his hand hitting the gritty floor. It was sure to be scratched. All CC could feel was horrors. He bent and snatched the six-pointed, mirroring badge and closely examined it for what was

sure to be scrapes. It was then, in that tiny mirrored badge, that he caught a glimpse through the window of the frightening, soot-black wall cloud about to explode.

Wall clouds! If you looked in one direction, all appeared sunny, still, and pleasantly serene. All it took was a turn to the opposite, though, to face a black-as-evil, roiling cloud spreading across the horizon. Simple brute force. His hair standing stiffly erect on the back of his neck, CC dashed to Doc Hardy's office to see where the good doc might have been headed.

There he learned and putting one and one together, cringed at the danger he knew was about to erupt. Cringed for a second or two only and then lurched into his buggy and raised a whirlwind of dust as he sped out of town. The wall continued to roll toward him and it was then he began to smell the storm. Kind of a heavy smell, dampish, maybe a tinge of acridness you can almost taste. Like the sharp, putrid smell that insults your nose with each mucky, boot-sucking footstep when sloshing through a duck slough. Like the kind of storm smell that has become a part of you from your very first one. And the strange, dimming light. The sickly greenish-yellow light seen just before a terrible storm hits. The bile before the storm. Once experienced, never forgotten.

CC had no idea where Doc Hardy might be along the road, but he knew enough to just head out with the hope of finding him. CC didn't have a plan to save Doc Hardy. Maybe he didn't need saving. Maybe he was just facing a good soaking or would find a barn to ride out the storm. But CC's instinct told him to keep searching, damn the storm. So on he drove, mindful that the loud thunder and blinding flashes increasingly spooked his horse.

Nearing Devil's Corner, he shuddered at what lay ahead. He well knew the mysteries of that bend in the road. The death and injury that was mired in the road's folklore there. And the *Go to Grind*, Page 10, Column 1

*Grind from Page 9*

stories that could never be confirmed, but haunted locals even on sunny clear summer days. Entering the yawning mouth of the bend, he saw a wet, dazed, bedraggled lump of a person leading a horse. Not the Doc's buggy, CC wondered who might be out in this mess leading a horse. Then, slowly, he realized he had seen that horse before, and the puzzle pieces began to fit. It sure seemed to be someone that looked vaguely like Doc. And then, there he was. Stunned, limping, tired, and a face as blank as a schoolhouse slate.

It wasn't until CC was face-to-face, and nose to nose, that Doc's mind seemed to register the concerned face he was looking at. What didn't register was the startle and surprise, as Doc's face took its own sweet time to react. Trudging back to some kind of reality, his mind seemed to hesitantly begin to let go of the entrancing coma entanglement with the Dean's daughter. "What was her name?" Ah, I guess it didn't matter her name. He just yearned to hear her tantalizing call once again, "Hi Mr. *Hardly*, cat got your tongue?"

Helping Doc into what remained of Verling Truldahl's barn, CC covered both with barn chaff as best he could and the sodden two waited out the rest of the storm. With hastening deep sleep, Doc again found himself back in his old medical school days. His painful, matted, blood-seeping gash took him back to a time he did not like to recall. A time when he suffered a wound from a fight soon after he started medical school. Of course Doc was not the only one on campus to note what a fascinating woman the Dean's daughter was. Cold cadavers were the only human bodies at school that did not react to her intriguing presence. But one student, an upper-classman, decided he was the heir apparent to winning the prized female. It never occurred to him that she might not return his feelings. Not, that is, until he overheard how she teased the blabbering freshman. "Hi, Mr. *Hardly*." From that moment, Ben Starkly

# Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor



Hardin Olson

Before I proceed with this month's ruminations I want to thank Paul Wigley for his timely piece on Page 1 of this issue. The magnitude of near-immediate post-contest follow-up required of a Category Specialist following a Barbershop contest (may I say two contests) is daunting to say the least. In spite of his current commitment Paul came through on time with his column—neither did I have to beg nor grovel.

\*\*\*\*\*

With that said there were 19 sponsors of the *Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival* at the Reno Midwinter BHS Convention each providing \$10,000 in support of the young singers competing in the Festival. Of those 19, two have LOL connections, **Dick Staedt** and his wife, **Dawn**, from Appleton, Wisconsin, and **Randy Klopffleisch** (an expatriot Commodore) and his wife, **Stephanie**, currently living in California.

\*\*\*\*\*

I know that many of our readers go

knew whom his competition was and what he had to do to halt this flirtation in its tracks. "With all haste," as he might have said. So Ben's cunning mind, hot with smoldering anger, connived to lay out a plan to...

*(To be continued.* Perhaps! See if I get any Valentines.)

As a Barbershop Singer, be sure to wear your name badge. It will help us identify you if you faint from standing on the risers too long. Remember to keep recruiting and hold fast to that which is good. And take heart, *Georgia Grind* pursuit marches on.

immediately to the *Georgia Grind* when the latest *Chord-Inator* arrives but I hope you all will also have read Paul Wigley's challenging front-page article about building a Twin-City-Area *Youth Chorus* to compete in a future Midwinter competition—a task relying on the combined energy and effort of all the area BHS chapters.

Obviously there are area chapters that choose to go their own separate ways and do their own things but there is precedent in the Twin Cities for such an exercise. About 20 years ago Fargo was hit with an unusually heavy flood in which the Fargo Sweet Adelines lost everything, music, costumes, risers, you name it. They were devastated.

Wanting to help their Dakota sisters, representatives from the area Sweet Adeline and some of our Society chapters formed a committee to formulate a plan. It was decided to try to find a venue for a fund-raising concert. Someone suggested the *Mall of America* and lo and behold the mall management said yes (at no charge).

Quartets and choruses of the participating chapters provided the entertainment and when the show was over donations amounted to over \$10,000. Needless to say the Fargo Sweet Adelines were overwhelmed at the unexpected but most welcome help.

*The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday (TFLBTMOT)* already provides a weekly inter-chapter luncheon forum where area Barbershoppers gather to report various goings-on in their respective chapters. Furthermore TFLBTMOT has been sponsoring the annual BHS Open at the Elk River Country Club that together with money from the "Block the Minneapolis Chapter Report Fund" raised \$9,000 last year for our Society's *Harmony Foundation*.

With better publicity for the open a total of \$10,000 could be easily raised and we could sponsor our own Youth Chorus. This money would not be lost to the Foundation but sent through it

Go to **Bag**, Page 11, Column 1

*Bag from Page 10*

to be designated for Youth Festival promotion and support.

Let's all think positively and get together to get this done for the benefit of the young men but also for maximizing the amity and camaraderie of our Barbershop community.

\*\*\*\*\*

Most would agree that the annual BHS Midwinter Convention is the best Barbershop value going: fine guest quartets and choruses, exciting contests, all in a more intimate venue than the summer International.

Two highlights were particularly memorable for me and I am sure for many others in attendance. The first was the Keynote Address by **Corey Hunt**, bass of *OC Times*, the 2008 International Quartet Champions. Singing virtually in diapers at home and later in church, his non-singing parents somehow introduced him to Barbershop. He loved it and joined the Society at the age of eight. From then on with his life's philosophy of, "Take a chance! What's the worst that can happen, What's the best that can happen?", it has been one success after another obviously in Barbershop but in many other ways.

Corey's saga of his fortuitous meeting with Nevada governor-candidate Brian Sandoval, telling him about *OC Times* and asking him for a job was a *chance* he took. Sometime later Governor-elect Sandoval's office called asking *OC Times* to sing at the inauguration and also offering Corey a job. Currently Corey is the Governor's liaison to the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. From the "biggest little bass in the Barbershop Harmony Society" to roaming the halls of the Nevada State Legislature, it's been quite a journey. Who can predict what might happen when next you take a *chance*.

The second highlight was hearing **Deke Sharon** at a *Harmony University* class when he spoke on *How to make Barbershop music go viral*

and later when he emceed the Saturday Evening Show. Deke, according to *Entertainment Weekly*, is known as "The father of contemporary a cappella" having arranged over 2000 a cappella charts. And, indeed, he founded the *Contemporary A Cappella Society of America* (or CASA) in 1991. More recently he has been the music director and arranger for the two *Pitch Perfect* films and for a third one to be filmed this year.

In 2009 Deke was the behind-the-scenes arranger, coach, and music director for the first a cappella reality-show competition, *The Sing-Off*. The next year he returned as one of its producers as well as continuing to arrange and direct the likes of *Pentatonics* and *Home Free*.

Somewhere along the line Deke was introduced to Barbershop and since has become a leading proponent of our art form (Recall his article reprinted on Page 8 of the January 2016 issue of the *Chord-Inator*).

For his efforts on behalf of the Society, Deke, prior to the Saturday Evening Show was awarded an *Honorary Lifetime Membership* in our Society

*Editor's Note: During my research for this article I ran across the etymology of the word "music". It is from the Greek μουσική (mousikē) meaning "The art of the Muses."*

\*\*\*\*\*

Two youth groups at Reno were particularly remarkable, one, a mixed quartet from Milwaukee called *Vintage Mix* composed of quadruplets and another a group of eight young men ages eight to fourteen from Quentin Township School in New Jersey called the *Wildcat Harmonizers*. They were audience favorites at the Saturday Evening Show. Look up both groups on Utube for a real treat.

\*\*\*\*\*

A highlight of the Thursday Night was a performance by the AISQC (Association of International Senior Quartet Champions) Chorus. Stand-

ing amidst the group, having had to master six songs for the evening, was Barbershopper *extraordinaire*, our own **Jim Richards**. **Bari Bob Griffith** was not in Reno this time but I'd almost bet that **Tenor Mike Stump** and **Lead Merrill Miller**, the rest of the 1990 Champions, *Grandma's Beaus*, were somewhere listening.

\*\*\*\*\*

One convention after-thought, I don't believe that Reno is the best place for a convention in January. We had four inches of snow departing from Reno.



## Letters

*Editor's Note: Following is a copy of an internal memo from LOL District Secretary Arv Zenk forwarded to Commodore, Bob Ostergaard. David is David Mills, Chairman of the Society's Contest and Judging Committee.*

David,

We had a very good discussion at our District Board meeting in January about what we can do to make our conventions and contests more attractive to everyone. And we also discussed what might be done to attract new members.

A member of the Minneapolis Commodores, Bob Ostergaard, published an article in their monthly bulletin (attached) and we felt it might have merit to be considered at the Society level. I don't think we can say that our [LOL] District endorses any specific changes, but there was general agreement by our Board that we want the Society to understand concerns raised in this article are real and we would like someone to consider possible changes to alleviate these negative perceptions.

The board decided that you would be a good contact to make the initial review, and to present the concerns raised, at the appropriate level in the Society. Thank you for agreeing to review this and I would appreciate any feedback you might have.

**Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor**  
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**1st CLASS  
 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

All copy and photos herein without a byline as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of those of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

*Neither shared with the Girl Scouts nor dumped by the Sweet Adelines.*

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Chapter Quartets**

- BOMP
- Dan Cole.....612/940-4554
- CHORD SMASH
- James Estes.....612/237-3234
- EASY LISTENIN'
- Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384
- HOT COMMODITY
- Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325
- RING IT ON
- Andy Richards.....651/639-9312
- MINNESOTA GO-4's
- Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- RANDOM SAMPLE
- Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737
- SWYPE
- Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)
- Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

**To:**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- March 5, 2016, Saturday, **Food Shelf Performance - Hopkins, Minn.**
- Thursday, April 14, 2016 - **Tech Rehearsal**
- April 16, 2016, Saturday, **Annual Show and Afterglow**
- July 19, 2016 - **Lake Como**
- August 16, 2016 - **Minnetonka District Level**
- April 29-May 1, 2016 - **10,000 Lakes/Southwest Division Contests and International Preliminaries, Nicollet (Mankato)**
- October 21-22, 2016 - **2016 Fall LOL District Convention International Level**
- July 3-10, 2016, **International Convention, Nashville, Tennessee**

**2015 Barbershopper Of The Year**  
***Rich Ongna***

**Commodores and others \* contributing to this issue.**

- Gordy Aumann
- Jeni Born\*
- Bob Dykstra
- Jim Erickson
- Hardin Olson
- Judy Olson\*
- Rich Ongna
- Bob Ostergaard (David Mills\*)
- Diana Pinard\*
- Jim Richards
- Dave Speidel
- Bill Warp
- Paul Wigley
- Harvey Weiss



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