

KEEPING THE
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER
**** A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIALE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE ****

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT

JUNE 2014 - VOL. 70 - NO. 5

In for a "penny's" worth...

Out with the 2014 BOTY

Rod Vink—acclaimed for his skills and dedication!

Sunday morning, June 8, dawned bright, sunny, and warm, heralding a day of laughter, camaraderie, anticipation, an evening repast, and, hopefully, an element of surprise for the soon-to-be-named Minneapolis Chapter's 2014 Barbershopper of the Year.

The site of the celebration was the Crystal Lake Golf Club in Lakeville, festivities to begin with a 5:00 p.m. social hour. Almost precisely at 6:00 p.m. Master of Ceremonies **Dick Riemenschneider** called the meeting to order and after a few introductory remarks introduced BOTY Party Chairman **Dan Cole** who warmly welcomed all of our ladies to this annual event, telling them that these functions are in great part meant as a small token of thanks for allowing their men to take part in this oft-seemingly, near-24/7 hobby of ours.

Dan then proceeded to introduce the several ladies who have done so much for the Minneapolis Chapter through the years. With glowing words, in no particular order but starting with **Diana Pinard**, Dan briefly spoke of the contributions each of the ladies had made throughout the past year—a formidable feminine force (excuse me, Rollie, please) complemented by, **Carol Smith**, **Sheila Cole**, **Marge Riemenschneider**, **Kathy Ortenburger**, **Marilyn Jacob-**

son, **Becky Wigley**, and **Judy Olson**.

Then it was **Gary Jacobson's** turn—to lead the assembly in *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*. But, count on Gary; no way was this to be a simple rendition (even with pronouns intact). No, siree! The men actually had to gaze into the eyes of their sweethearts while singing the old traditional number. Can you imagine that? How many men, do you suppose, actually perceived their sweethearts' eye colors for the first time ever. But Gary wasn't through. He sweet-talked the amused ladies to sing the song while peering into their men's peepers. Leave it to Gary to add an impromptu spark to the proceedings.

Next came a moment of reflective silence for those Commodores who moved on to the Celestial Chorus in the past year, including three past-BOTYs: **Ed Peterka - 1964**, **Harold Ulring - 1969**, and **Merrill Miller - 1989**.

New members of the Commodore family were introduced: lead **Ralph Nordquist** and his wife, **Carol**, and baritone/assistant director, **James Souhan**, and his lady, **Kelsey Eckstein**.

The Commodores' fine friend, the Technical Director of Bethel University's Benson Great Hall, **Keri Baker**, and *Go to BOTY, Page 2, Column 1*



Bonnie & Rod

"A Night to remember!"

BOTY from Page 1

wife, **Jonell**, were warmly welcomed particularly by past show chairmen as well as Judy Olson and Carol Smith, those who have worked closely with Kerri at our annual Bethel shows.

Following the well-deserved acknowledgement of our directors and their guests; **Paul** and **Becky Wigley**, **Gary** and **Marilyn Jacobson**, **Dave** and **Linda Speidel**, and **James Souhan** and his guest **Kelsey**, the Reverend **Dave Wall** invoked a mealtime blessing as all were seated for dinner.

During dessert five lucky ladies were awarded door prizes, gift cards to various stores and restaurants. Taking home the prizes were **Kelsey Eckstein**, **Sarah Hartmann**, **Jonell Baker**, **Cheryl Vinson**, and **Nancy Dillon**.

The evening's entertainment was provided by **Engineer Paul [Howe]** from the *Choo Choo Bob Show*, a local children's TV show broadcasting out of St. Paul. Mixing bits of interesting railroad history with a number of guitar-accompanied classic railroad vocals, Howe offered a welcome, though non-Barbershop, interlude. (Check the *Choo Choo Bob* website



The Vink family from left to right: daughter, Caitlin; Bonnie; Rod (with the hardware); and daughter, Star. Their son and brother, Corry, in Chicago, was unable to get away for the celebration.



This beautiful plaque is another of the long line of Commodore awards created by Mr. Jim Jackson. The wood is lightly-stained cherry, the "penny" copper-like metal, with the text and graphics being laseried. Jim works with virtually anything; stone, metal, wood. You name it. He may be contacted by e-mail at jimmy@lazurus.biz.

for video clips of Rod Vink's *Easy Listenin'* quartet, performing on the show.)

After the introduction of all of the past BOTYs in attendance, the 2014 Barbershopper of the Year presentation got underway. The skit, (that could have been called *Workin' On the Railroad*) the brainchild of **Marge Riemenschneider**, was hilarious. The cast of three performed superbly; **John Carlotto** as the conductor, **Mark Ortenburger** as the engineer, and **Dick Riemenschneider** as the sound-effects man.

At the "final" stop **Rod Vink** was officially tapped and accoutered with a bright blue, be-ribboned badge and a beautiful commemorative plaque signifying that he was a most worthy recipient of the Minneapolis Chapter's 2014 Barbershopper of the Year Award.

Welcome, Rod, to the group. But as venerable Commodore icon and deceased past-BOTY, **Bruce Church-**

ill, used to say, "Congratulations, man, but now your chapter work is just beginning!"

However, for Rod there will be no difference. He will just motor along as he always has, tackling and beautifully finishing task after task without missing a beat.

Well done, Rod, Mr. 2014 BOTY!

**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**

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David Speidel	
James Souhan	

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Bari Section Leaders	Dave Speidel
	Assistant - Pete Villwock
Bass Section Leaders.....	Jim Richards
	Assistant - Dave Casperson

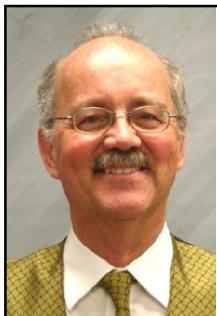
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On the road to better singing

By Paul Wigley, Director

In this article, I just want to give you all some basic things to do that will help keep your voice in shape while you are at home on your own!



Paul Wigley

These basic things to play with (at least I always like to think of this as *vocal play time*), will help get rid of vocal tension, extend range, extend endurance, and make your singing free and effortless.

The first exercise, most basic, is simply to speak on ‘ah’ and slide down like a sigh. While doing this, gently move your upper body, keeping physical freedom. Now, say a breathy *ah* and slide down in pitch. Then say a stronger voiced *ah*. Say a loud *ah*; say a softer *ah*. Take notice of what you feel physically when making all of these different sounds. The goal is to keep freedom in your vocal production—and freedom in your entire physical presence.

Now, sing ONE pitch on an *ah*, move your head around, move your shoulders around, stay loose! As you sing your *ah* feel your tongue just hanging loose in the bottom of your mouth (let it just hang there.) Move up one half-step higher in pitch, and keep the feel of relaxation in your neck, shoulders, head, tongue, etc. Keep moving up by half steps until you begin to feel the very slightest tension anywhere...then STOP!

Next, simply slide on pitch from high to low, using *ah*. Keep moving your head and torso as you do this. The main goal is to phonate without feeling any physical tension. Your breath stays free, your shoulders, neck, head all stay relaxed and free, and you simply slide from high to low pitch without any worries about accuracy. You are just making sounds with your voice with no

Words from the Top

By Dan Williams, President

Denny Maas, Altruistic Giving Chair



One of the things we would like to do this year as part of our altruistic purpose is to support the KARE 11 Blood Drive on Tuesday, July 22 from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. We will support it in two ways: one by asking members to give their blood at the drive and two, by singing for those giving blood.

Two Commodores, **Jim Richards** and **Harvey Weiss** have given a total of 54 gallons of their blood. **Bill Ward** discovered he was blessed with having a high platelet count and a rare type of platelets in his blood that are safe to be used with children and infants who have cancer. He donates these platelets about 20 or 30 times each year. Each donation takes about three hours hooked up to a special

Go to Top, Page 3, Column 1

judgment about good or bad! Continue this sliding exercise with an *ee* vowel, again going from high to low.

Finish your workout by singing any easy (i.e. not with a wide range) song on an *ah* vowel. Just slide from pitch to pitch, and feel what is happening physically as you move around from higher to lower pitches. Move your head, shoulders, torso, etc. And—*do not judge your sound!* It’s vocal playtime!

The Minneapolis Commodores continue to show incredible improvement with vocal technique. This is shown clearly by the improvement in our singing as an ensemble! Set a goal to improve YOUR individual sound, and we all grow musically together! What better way to share our talents! Thanks to all of you for your incredible work, and for your unsurpassable friendliness!

Top from Page 2

anaphaeresis machine.

Jim, Harvey, and Bill came to the realization long ago that without volunteers willing to share their blood and platelets, there would be no supply for those whose lives need them. If you have never given blood or donated in the past, we are asking you to consider giving at the KARE 11 Blood Drive. If you are interested in being a platelet donor, contact Bill Ward for more information. We are also looking for Commodores who are available to sing on July 22. We would like to create a festive atmosphere for those donating blood.

Anyone interested in coordinating this activity for the Commodores, please contact either **Denny Maas** or **Dan Williams**.

On another subject do you remember when you started to sing? Do you remember the first time you experienced the Barbershop sound? Do you wish your participation had begun earlier in your life? Well, here's your opportunity to invite local students to the **2015 Twin Cities Youth In Harmony Acappella Festival**. Plans are under way for the festival to be held February 7 at the Washington Technical Magnet School, St Paul. Music educators have been sent a "Save the date!" card to post on school calendars.

I attended most of last year's festival. It was so exciting to watch the kids slowly overcome their inhibitions and fear of embarrassment while learning a new song. It wasn't long for small groups to sing a tag or two. Obviously the kids liked to sing, and they could ring chords! Throw in choreography and they're hooked!

You can help, too! Spread the word. Tell your family, friends and neighbors, anyone who might be connected to music education who would be interested in attending. Information will be available at the festival's website tcacappellafestival.org.

Anyone interested in getting involved with the festival contact **Dan Cole** or **Dan Williams**.

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: **952-829-7009**

Email: ddongna@usfamily.com

Romana, Jim Jorgenson's wife, is in North Memorial Hospital being treated for pneumonia as well as having a



Rich Ongna

variety of tests because of difficulty breathing and a low oxygen level.

The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Grace Jahnke** and her family in the passing of **Paul**. Paul, a transfer from the Minnetonka Chapter a few years ago, was an enthusiastic bass-singer.

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.

Happy Birthday

06/10 Bob Duncan (65)

06/12 Rod Hall

06/12 Jim Richards

06/14 Bryan Langren

06/19 Paul Swanson

06/21 Kevin Huyck

06/27 Lloyd Mikkelson

06/27 Bob Spong (80)

07/06 Ben Hancock

07/09 Bill Ward (55)

07/09 DiAnn Zimmerman

SUPPORT HARMONY FOUNDATION

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the Meeting of May 15

- Treasurer's report and April minutes accepted.



Bill Warp

- Approved use of credit cards for on-site member registrations

- Approved sending of altruistic purpose monies to Harmony Foundation.

- Approved giving new members *Barberpole Cat* training CDs.

- Chorus contest qualification will require all participants to sing in an octet. There will be no strict attendance requirements.

- Chorus will be split into three mini-choruses at selected rehearsals to more easily allow individual coaching.

- Decisions pending on selection of altruistic endeavors.

- Dick Riemenschneider will be working with the Board for grant writing.

Happy Anniversary

06/12 Bill & Jean Warp (20)

06/14 Chuck Gribble & Bonnie Black

06/16 Joe & Violet Bifulk (35)

06/21 Ben & Lynnay Wanggaard

06/22 Ken & Rosie Glover

06/26 John & Char Carlotto

06/27 Rich & Dianne Ongna (50)

07/01 Denny & Sharyn Maas

07/05 Carl & Diana Pinard

07/07 John & Catherine Lloyd

07/07 Jeff & Lisa Sansgaard

WELCOME ABOARD!

Ralph Nordquist and his wife, Carol,



live in Minnetonka. Born in Wayzata and finishing high school in Hopkins, he went on to Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina. Ralph is a semi-retired contractor.

In school he played trombone in the band and orchestra and also has done solo work on the "bone." In addition

Chord Candy #122

by Dr. Jim Richards, *Der Tagmeister*

The late Lou Perry, fondly referred to as "The Tucson Troll," was classically tutored in music by a teacher who recognized Lou's natural aptitude for music. Lou, a child of the great depression, could not afford lessons, so his mentor tutored him anyway. Lou was introduced to Barbershop when he attended a meeting of a chapter that met in the Lenox Hotel in downtown Boston. The group was struggling with an old song and the leader was pounding out each of the parts on the piano. Lou was perceptive enough to see through the noise created by the struggling singers and to see the genius of the art form. He became hooked. The *Four Rascals* and *Boston Common* were strongly influenced by Lou's mentoring and strong singable arrangements. They all became fast friends. All of Lou's arrangements combined the elements of both elegance and simplicity and always maintained respect for the composers' works. This month's Chord Candy is the tag to what is believed to be one of Lou's arrangements. It has all of the characteristics. If any reader has proof to the contrary please let me know.

One of the hallmark characteristics of Barbershop harmony is the use of the "swipe." A swipe is the use of two or more notes tied together and sung on one syllable. This tag shows how the swipe can enhance the forward motion of the music toward the ultimate resolution to the tonic in the last measure. (If that Eb is too low for the Bass in Measure 1 try pitching it up a half or whole step.) Enjoy!

The musical score consists of two staves of music in common time, key signature of one flat (C major), and treble and bass clefs. The top staff (Treble) starts with a quarter note followed by a eighth note, then a quarter note, then a eighth note, then a quarter note, then a eighth note, then a quarter note, then a eighth note, then a quarter note. The lyrics for the first section are: Let me be a child once more. Measures 5 through 8 continue this pattern. The bottom staff (Bass) starts with a quarter note followed by a eighth note, then a quarter note, then a eighth note, then a quarter note, then a eighth note, then a quarter note, then a eighth note, then a quarter note. The lyrics for the second section are: Back in Ba - by Land, Ba - by - Land. The score concludes with a final measure ending with a bass note and a colon, followed by the word "land."

Ralph has sung in church choirs along the way. He has had an attraction for Barbershop having attended numerous programs and productions in the last six or seven years. He will join the peerless Lead Section.

Joe Bifulk after a long hiatus has returned to the Commodore fold. He and his wife, **Violet**, live in Apple Valley.



A native of St. Paul, he graduated from St. Thomas Academy and then ob-

tained a BA degree from St. Mary's University in Winona. Joe is a technical writer and process analyst.

He is an avid singer and a member of *Phi Mu Delta*, a professional music fraternity. His resume includes many years of church choir and membership in the *Minnesota Valley Men's Chorale*.

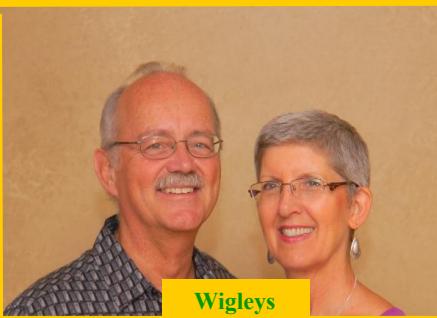
Scuba diving, *improv* and working with ceramics fill the remainder of his spare time.

Joe will add mightily to our vaunted Lead Section. (Not a bass? That's just too bad!)

Jim Richards



Jacobsons



Wigleys



Speidels



Riemenschneiders



Vinks



Kelsey & James

Ladies Night & Awards Celebration...

and a wonderful time
was had by all !

Staff Photos



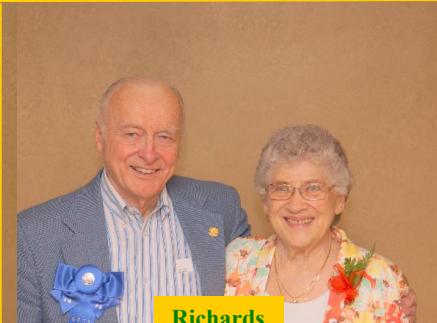
Coles



Pinards



Spongs



Richards



Ashleys



The special ladies of the evening left to right: Becky Wigley, Marilyn Jacobson, Judy Olson, Marge Riemenschneider, Sheila Cole, Carol Smith, Diana Pinard, and Kathy Ortenburger.



Olsons



Engineer
Mark Ortenburger



BOTY Party Chairman
Dan Cole



2014 BOTY
Rod Vink



Master of Ceremonies
Dick Riemenschneider



Conductor
John Carl;otto

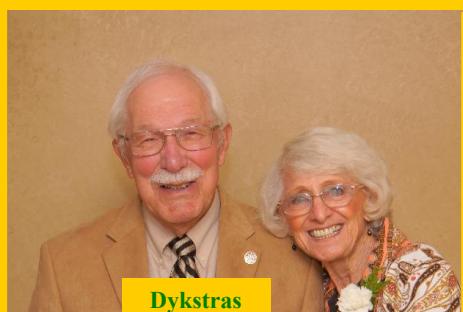
Crystal Lake Golf Club-June 8, 2014



"Here we are! The end of the line..."



...with a quartet of happy passengers!"



Dykstras



Rod

Engr. Paul



Diana P.

Dan C.



Carlottos



"Good night, all!"



Blake Wanger

May Guests



Darrell Egertson - former Commodore and recent Bloomington member and bari in the *Random Sample* quartet.



Wes Honkomp—a friend of expatriate Commodore **LeRoy Zimmerman**. He is a lead singer.



Jim McCarville—a friend of **Doc** and **Judy**. He sings bass. Jim's wife is a member of the **TC Show Chorus**.



Andy Richards—**Jim's** son, is an accomplished guitarist. He sings lead and looks forward to chording with Dad and Matt, his son.



Matt Richards—**Jim's** grandson is a drummer of note and a baritone of all things (like grandpa started out). [Matt looks like front-row material to me - Ed.]



Thurm Slack—is a *Minnetonka Clipper* icon who perhaps may be enticed to start a new career with the Commodores. We'll see.

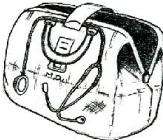


Joomin Huang - is a friend of **James Souhan**. We hope that Joomin will keep visiting us. The invitation is always open.



At the Minneapolis Chapter meeting on Tuesday, June 10, the Commodores were visited by **David Calland**, Director of Development for the Harmony Foundation> David gave us a stirring update about the burgeoning youths chorus program. David (ctr.) is pictured here with (left to rt.): President's Club member, Russ Born; Director Paul Wigley; David; past Society president, Jim Richards; and chapter president, Dan Williams.

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

In the late spring and early summer mainly in Iowa, Missouri, and Illinois, the *Brood III cicadas* swarm, rising literally by the millions, from the earth in which they had been metamorphosing

Hardin Olson since the last swarm 17 years previously. Thus begins the short mating season accentuated by the mating calls of the males creating a cacophony often up to 90 decibels, day and night, for five to six weeks.

That was our welcoming fanfare when Judy and I arrived in Des Moines to spend the Father's Day weekend with my son, Matt, his wife, Kelly, and our grandson, Jack.

Highlighting the trip was a visit to the downtown Farmers Market that is quite reminiscent of the Minne-

sota State Fair with all the offerings except a midway. The Market operates every Saturday throughout the summer and I tell you that it is well worth a visit to Des Moines.

On a more serious note, while surveying the crowd at the market I noticed a tall good looking, well-built gentleman and his wife wheeling a baby stroller. As he drew near, I was shocked to see that he was walking on two state-of-the-art artificial legs. As I approached him he turned and I said, "I would like to shake your hand." He took my offered hand and after a moment said, "Thank you." I was struck dumb, but as my friends will testify, I maintained my composure (as I always do) and just watched as the happy family melded into the crowd.

I can't be sure but the odds are that this sinewy man arrived home from the Middle East without his own legs. Disabled vet or no, either way he is a hero.

We had a fine time in Des Moines and plan to return often to take in all that that wonderful city has to offer. *We even survived the cicadas!* (We don't expect a repeat in 17 years.)

The Gadfly... Revisited

By Dale Lynch. The Gadfly

I know ... I know I hear you!

Was he gone?

How did this happen?

Where's the Editor? Geez, he wins a prize for this rag and right away he runs off to the golf course and Judy [Olson] has to cover for him!



Dale Lynch

Well, all that is the loose chatter of a couple of old baritones who never really tried to understand the Gadfly in earlier years, and who had my free pass to put the Gadfly aside and work on their choreography.

Ta-Da! As unveiled in a few thousand lines below, there is a good reason – for this one column – to name it for a new Gadfly era. I call it “Waiting for Wallenda.”

The “Flying Wallenda’s” troupe is famous. The name is synonymous with walking high wires across Niagara Falls, across 5th Avenue, and leaping from the grasp of one family member hanging by his knees into the hands of another in a similar dangle.

Breath-taking, right? Athletic, no question for the young and muscular. And now Whether he likes it or not, also for the Gadfly. The signs are there.

Do you remember, **Mary [MacLaughlin]** and I five or six years ago were on hiatus for a couple of weeks in January at Mary’s place in Pompano Beach? I survived and wrote at the time about very high winds in the parking lot at the Target store, about the large plastic bags blown by those winds into and around my legs and that I was about to be slammed to the concrete. The Gadfly learned to fly that day. Mustering all

the agility taught to me by **Gary Jacobson** at early-evening rehearsals, I launched straight into the air, twisted hard and landed not-so-gracefully, but smiling, on the soft center aisle of the Target Center grass, jamming my right shoulder, but not breaking anything. I thanked the Lord and Gary, and I’m not kidding, accepted the admiring comments of fellow shoppers who asked how I managed to pull that off. Truthfully – I don’t know!

Fast forward, if you will, through the next few years when I was singing reasonably well, the Commodores were singing great and my skills on the golf course were trampled by galloping macular degeneration (my descriptive adjectives not

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yet accepted by the AMA, nor recognized by Chuck Guthrie and the Rochester Chapter where I captured the long-putt award two years in a row.) My editor and Jim Richards had to testify to my failing eyesight before Guthrie handed me the awards – candy bars – one for each year. It was **Hardin's [Olson]** and **Jim's [Ellis]** reputations that secured the victory award the first time, and Jim stood off the doubters the second. Jim told those Rochester guys that I never, never carried a hand-mashie in my golf bag. (That is true, at least through one “never”)

The Gadfly has principles on the golf course.

As everybody in the Highway Patrol will attest, they never see me driving anymore. Just can’t cut it...don’t read the signs, can’t judge the distances. I still can drive a golf cart, however, and see fine. Mary has a cart at her lake place up north. We haul sprinkler hose around on it, and carry bird feed and patio furniture and other stuff every day. And evenings we drive a little ways down a sort of service road for all the lake people; drive a few feet, stop to chat with old friends, count the grandkids, that kind of thing. Mary usually drives because she knows everybody and every house and cottage.

So a couple of weeks ago, we were loafing along, driving as I just said, and Mary starts her turn around to head back. Oh! She is going to be too broad on the circle, misses the break and goes off the little road smack dab into a big, solid, tree that’s been on that lakeside longer than we have. I flew out my side of the cart, and since it was a little down-hill, I didn’t touch the ground for I don’t know, six or seven feet. It was the Target store parking lot – Deja Vu all over again, as Yogi Berra liked to say – except I had no control at all as my right shoulder hit the ground. Mary picked up twelve stiches along her right shin bone.

Two registered nurses, 25-year friends of Mary’s, rushed from their adjoining houses and drove us to a near-by hospital. Mary is fine, my shoulder is sore, but not broken. Hurts just like the Pompano Beach Target fandango except this time at Lake Miltona. I flew farther than I was able to jump at the Target parking lot.

P.S. You maybe can’t take much more of the excitement of this saga. So, whether the Wallendas are interested or not, I think I’ve figured a way to make a solid-something out of my already demonstrated capability to survive in the world of flight. After all I AM THE GADFLY!

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Busted Baritone

OK! I guess the time has come. Some-



Jim Erickson

where along the line in every human endeavor someone gets busted for engaging in an activity that he (or she) would rather not have exposed. Some of those activities are of little consequence. Like saying that you didn't eat that last cookie, or that you weigh less than you do. Maybe that you weren't really ogling that great looker but just had a crick in your neck. Come on, dear reader, I suspect even you have indulged in something that might best be kept in the dark. Yes, even you! But what about me?

Well, I have been around the block a time or two, but it was a small town block. Even so, I'm not about to tell you my deep, dark secrets. At least not now! Not in a famous, hugely circulated publication such as this. No way. But I have been asked...Let's stop right here! I haven't been asked. Not politely, not rudely, not nothin'! I have been told outright by our legendary editor, **Dr. Hardin Olson**, (Bona Fide holder of his authentic Dr.-designation certificate that he received from some Louisiana outfit named, "Drs Ȑ Us."). Told that after almost ten years of seeking the origin of the Georgia Grind, it is well past time to deliver on my research. It's kind of like having a grant to do something and when the grant is about to run out, it's produce or die. Well, fat chance I have gotten, or will ever get, a dime for all the pearls of wisdom I have dispensed. But as an act of "unconscious uncoupling" I am finally going to part with what knowledge I have gleaned just for you, my faithful reader.

Where to begin. "It was a dark and stormy night..." No, it really began with a song. About ten years ago, the

Commodores performed the song, *At The Ball, That's All*. In it there was a lyric, "Do a little jiggle with a Texas Tommy wiggle." Although many wondered what the heck a Texas Tommy wiggle was, many more just sang the lyric and from the musical anesthesia of the rest of the song, blanked out on the wiggle. Maybe Doc Hardin would be willing to reprint that epic-starting article which was the parent of my articles under the later named *Georgia Grind*. Maybe not. Whatever the case, here is an excerpt from that article originally entitled, *Texas Tommy Wiggle*. (Pardon the intrusion before the excerpt, but the Texas Tommy was a couples dance style



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

in the early 1900s)

"Tommy," by the way, was a slang term [particularly in the English army] for a trench or foot soldier in the 1800-1920s, and the song title could be describing a Texan soldier. A "Texas" Tommy was a female prostitute who worked the trenches and/or walked the streets in the early 1900s. One description of the basic dance steps said that during the breakaway you should do the "Georgia Grind" and wiggle the hips, (the woman dancing provocatively [for the man] and a few improvised steps) and you have the Texas Tommy.

Now, I suppose you want to know

what a "Georgia Grind" is. I'll save that for later when you've had a chance to settle down from day-dreaming about the "little jiggle with a Texas Tommy wiggle!"

So now you know when the Georgia Grind articles started about 114 months ago. And where my article heading came from. But, that doesn't tell you much of anything about what the "Georgia Grind" was and what my research has turned up. By the way, **Rollie Neve** is the only person I know who learned the Texas Tommy Wiggle as a young man and danced it to the loudly-uttered sighs of the young flappers present. Sighs, most especially when he did the Grind sequence of that scandalous dance. Or were flappers of a different era? Anyway, his connection to the heralded Georgia Grind (I'm referring to my articles here) goes way back to the period they now talk about as "in the day." Granted, some "days" which are "in" are earlier than others. But I regress. [He said it, I didn't.]

So, with that brief preparation, I am finally ready to make the Big Georgia Grind REVEAL. You have to know that this has not been easy. Just assembling the information and footnotes has been an arduous task. And the emotional toll from the unwanted unhitching has been like that of a cowboy who finds it necessary to put his faithful steed (I was going to use "cayuse" but that refers to a feral or low grade pony. Who knew?) out of its misery. And moving on, on foot. I think it was Benjamin Franklin who said, "It's lonely in the saddle since my horse died." Yeah, I can commensurate. I'll have to look that word up, 'cuz it just doesn't sound right-close enough for now.) [It's commiserate, Jim. Thank you!]

An aside here, I sang with the official Harmony Brigade the last two years and as luck would have it, I met a fellow singer from Georgia. I just couldn't wait to ask him if he had ever heard of the Georgia Grind. Ask I did. And received one of those

Go to Grind, Page 11, Column 3

LETTERS

Hardin, I will not be attending the BOTY dinner.

Do thank you for sending me the Chord-Inator. Read it all as soon as I get it. Sorry to say I don't know a lot of the names anymore—and also reading of the ones leaving us.

We have a new couple living here, **Thurm and Joyce Slack**. The name kept bugging me until it finally came to me. I asked if he had been in Barbershopping and he replied, "Only for about 55 years." They are both bridge players so I see them. That's my hobby.

Apply the \$20 [enclosed] to postage.

Thanks,

Eunice Hamre.

*Editor's Note: Eunice's husband, **Bill Hamre**, was a longtime Commodore and past BOTY. Together, the Hamres initiated our chapter's nut-sales program that has been carried on under the aegis of the late **Don Milton** and his wife **Doris** and currently by **Dick Riemenschneider** and his wife, **Marge**.*

Thurm Slack, a former Minnetonka Clipper and member of the New Day Quartet with Commodores **Tom Hallin**, bass, and **Jim Erickson**, baritone. has been a recent visitor at the Minneapolis Chapter meetings.

And finally, kudos to Eunice for supplying the capital "B" in Barbershopping and contributing to the Chord-Inator postage fund.

Barbershop is alive and well in "Small Town" USA.

Sitting having coffee and doughnuts after our 9:00 a.m. service on May 11 at First Lutheran Church in Cresco, Iowa, one of the gentlemen sitting across from me asked me if I played golf, I said I did at one time, but gave it up to sing with The Commodores Barbershop Chorus, a 24/7 hobby.

The next Monday our doorbell rang. **Connie [Ashley]** answered it and a fellow named James Dean said, "Is **Bill Ashley** here?" She said "Yes." "I understand he sang with the Commodores" he replied. We started a more in-depth conversation about the Commodores. He has more than heard of them. He said about 25 years ago a small contingent from the Commodores came down and sang on their annual show. They are the LeRoy Forty Milers Chorus. They don't compete any more but have a ball singing out at churches, nursing homes, etc. They have about 20 or so singing members all in their late 70s and early 80s. One is 90.

I went down to their meeting last Monday. They welcomed another

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

"baritone" with open arms. They only have one. I told them not to depend on me too much; that's the reason I don't sing with The Commodores any more, can't sing baritone if you have an inferior hearing problem. I will not be a liability to any chorus or quartet.

We have been attempting to get settled here. It will take time to move from a five-bedroom home into one that is a Bed and Breakfast. We finally gave in and got a small dumpster which is filling up. There is a city-wide garage sale in June. Hopefully we will get rid of more "stuff".

Connie and I are coming up for BOTY/Ladies Night so will see some of you then.

Miss the camaraderie that the Minneapolis Commodores generate and the love that goes with it.



Grind from Page 8

Blank stares like the one when you ask your brother-in-law, "Who drank the last bottle of my favorite beer?" Yeah, I thought you would know what I was talking about. So I explained that it was part of an early last-century dance routine. Even blander stare. It seems to me that asking a Georgian about the Grind would be like asking a Minnesotan what an eel-pout was. Everyone from Minnesota knows that! Or they will when it starts being served along with Lutefisk at the new Vikings Stadium.

Time to do a word count. Oh mercy me, I am bucking up against Dr. (?) Hardin's editorial space limits. Sorry about that. Well, you got a start, anyway, on the way to the BIG REVEAL. Next time, like the ping pong player in the nudist colony, everything will be exposed. 'Til then, keep making that Barbershop Bucket List, keep recruiting and hold fast to that which is good.

Come down – the rates are reasonable and with full breakfast – Connie's a great cook!

Bill and Connie Ashley

Editor's Note: It was wonderful to see the happy couple at Ladies Night. Bill had a nightmarish health situation not long ago. The Lord has since given Bill (and Connie) every reason to smile.

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MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
 Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
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*Neither shared with the Girl
 Scouts nor dumped by the Sweet
 Adelines.*

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- June 26, Thursday, **Coon Rapids Dam Summer Series, Coon Rapids**
- July 16, Wednesday, **Summer Concert Series, St. Louis Park**
- July 20, Sunday, **Lake Harriet with TC Show Chorus**
- August 4, Monday, **Centennial Lakes**
- August 11, Monday, **BHS Open, Elk River Golf Club**
- August 12, Tuesday, **Como Park**
- November 2, **Lakeville**
- December 7, Sunday, **Christmas Show with TCSC**
- December 9, **LDS Food Shelf Performance, Lakeville**

District Level

- October 24-25, **Fall Convention, Rochester**

International Level

- June 29-July 6, **International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada,**

2014 Barbershopper Of The Year
Rod Vink

Commodores and others *
contributing to this issue.

Bill Ashley
 Jim Erickson
 Eunice Hamre *
 Dale Lynch
 Hardin Olson
 Rich Ongna
 Jim Richards
 Dan Williams

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