

May
2001
Issue 6-3



Fanfare

Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its borders and beyond"



"Salute To Disney" Characters: Left to right: Porky Pig (Bill Galbraith), Donald Duck (Bill Gough), Sylvester (Tom Linden), Pink Panther (Roswell McPherson), Daisy Duck (Gord Vair), Minnie Mouse (Arnold Dixon), Mickey Mouse (Ian Cooper). Seated: Clown (Blake Hughes).

It's Over

by **Blake Hughes**
Show Program Director.

As I moved off stage and into the audience to shake hands, a wave of relief moved over me. We had pulled it off. A year of practice, hard work and dreaming was over. Except for a few glitches in the Matinee, the program ran smoothly. The comments from the audience added to the feeling of satisfaction for a job well done. However, I was exhausted. After a couple of nights of sleep, I can think more clearly and think of the many things I need to do. This includes saying thanks to the many people and groups who helped make this show the success it was. When the music committee and board chose the Disney theme, I went to see Brian and I tapped his mind. We created the basic frame to hang the show on. Brian also took the picture and information I gave him and created the advertising posters which were distributed by the members throughout the communities. Thanks Brian, I appreciate your behind the scene support.

Over the last year, I was able to work with our directors Don, John and Jim. Many meetings, weekly practices and hours of repetition helped us learn our songs well. We appreciate your dedication, even though some grumble. Thank you.

Next on list of thank you's, I would like to collectively address our advertising campaigners and ticket sellers. Your efforts made Jim's and my jobs much easier. We appreciate you tramping from business to business collecting financial support and phone calls to sell tickets. You have helped to collect a phenomenal amount of financial support. At this point, I would like to applaud a gentleman. Orval has spent a great deal of time organizing our show plan. He stepped in to take over where Bud left off in securing the school facilities. He also dealt with contracts, made arrangement with entertainers, worked with all committee chairmen, worked with directors and Harold's Angels. His support in planning the program and his computer skills made my job easier. He organized work crews, for the set-up before the show.

Editor's Report

by *John King,*
Fanfare Editor.



The Show

Well its hard to believe but winter seems to be finally over, the 6th annual spring show of the Strathroy chapter is complete and another success, the golf season has started and summer is not far away.

Now I could go on and on about what a success the April 28 show turned out to be and give credits to those who made the biggest contributions but that would just be a repeat of last May's Fanfare editorial. No, I want to leave specific individual member recognition to the show leaders this year.

I will just say a few words about the chapter members working as a team. In my opinion this was a team effort and success is always more likely when everybody on the team pulls together.

There was a tremendous amount of work done by both chapter members and Harold's Angels. I could go on and on and never cover all the detailed work done by these two groups. So rather than name individuals, lets just say we have two very harmonious groups with participants that work well together.

We received a lot of compliments for Saturday night's show. I was told it was different. The Disney theme was a good one but many people were even more pleased that we had a variety of entertainment as well as young talent from the community included in the program. I hope this approach continues in future years.

Shoes

When you are angry with someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes... then you'll be a mile away from them andyou'll have their shoes.

Perfection

"The closest to perfection a person ever comes is when he fills out a job application form"
Stanley J. Randall.

"**Midlife crisis** is that moment when you realize your children and your clothes are about the same age"

Bill Tammeus

"**Show me a man with his head held high** and I'll show you a man who can't get used to bifocals."
Morse Telegraph Newsletter.

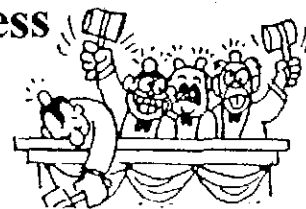
"**Its easy to identify those people who can't count to ten.** They're in front of you in the supermarket express lane."
Nashville Banner.

"**A married couple** that plays cards together is just a fight that hasn't started yet."
George Burns.

Next Fanfare Deadline:

June 13, 2001.

Board's Business



- Music Director contract and letter of agreement between the chapter and Donald Pyper has been renewed on the same terms and conditions for a second year.
- Music committee meeting is scheduled for March 28. Music for 2002 show may be decided.
- Overhead projector for teaching music being considered.
- West Williams Public School performance on March 22 was well received by an enthusiastic audience.
- 8 p.m. start time for wed. night meetings becomes effective May 2.
- One telephone call received from membership advertisement in the London Free Press.
- Vair and King have completed their audit of the 2000 chapter financial records.
- Bill Stanley has resigned from the chapter.
- Membership survey responses to be consolidated by Roswell McPherson.
- March 9 Retreat for 2002 show at Strathroy Community Christian School.
- 2002 show ...April 6, 2002 at Strathroy Community Christian School.



It's Over

(Continued from page 1)

For many months he ran organized show committee meetings and kept everything rolling. I could go on and on, but will just say at this time, Thanks Orvall!

Working on the sets is a job that I enjoyed doing. There are several reasons why. I enjoy this activity. I had two excellent committee members. Bob Fennell and Les Campbell made the job more enjoyable and also created the set shape I needed. A special Thank You goes to Eunice Fennell for the tasty luncheon.

The gentlemen who spent a large part of Friday setting up the sets, chairs and decorated the entrance appeared to enjoy the day. Thanks.

During our show several men went above and beyond in wearing costumes. A special thanks to members who wore special costumes. Arnold, you have shown us a side of you we didn't know existed! Thanks also to the rest of the members for putting the effort into creating costumes. The variety and many colours made our stage look impressive.

A special thanks goes to Courtney Fox, Rod Culham, Mark Gough and the Needham School of Dancers. Their variety of talents helped to broaden the field of arts in our show. They were certainly better to look at than many of us.

My thanks also goes out to the chapter quartets Rural roots and Fourthwith Sound. They took the extra songs to sing which reduced the load on the

chorus. Their efforts helped to make our show the success it was. Thank you for all your hard work and extra hours of practice. "Cornerstone" was a big asset to our show and they were also entertaining.

After the show the chorus members pitched in and the clean up went quickly and smoothly. Thanks fellows for all the work.

My last group to thank needs no introduction but rounds of applause. Harold's Angels are with out a doubt the best. Their work backstage, ushering and help with the clean-up was wonderful. The meal they served between shows was excellent. Thank you also for your work for the afterglow. It's said that behind every good man is a good woman. Our chorus can vouch for that. Thank you ladies for everything.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you who helped from singing to jobs mentioned above. If I missed mentioning you or your group, I apologize. Your work and efforts helped to make mine easier.

Bow Tie

If you happen to find an extra black bow tie with your uniform, please call John King at 245-0762.

"THE 'PYPE LINE"

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SINGING CELEBRATION OF THE VOCAL FEDERATION

by

Don Pyper
Chorus Director.

It is with a great deal of pleasure and pride that I tell you that the show was great and your efforts were even greater. There was no doubt in my mind that you were fully aware of the significance of each of the songs in this wonderfully challenging show package. It was a challenge to convince the audience that we were really excited about the Disney style of show with its fanciful theme and youthful appeal.

Well, I guess we're all younger in spirit than we think. You did an excellent job of convincing each other and the sell-out crowd that this package was just plain fun. At one point, while the lights were shining in my eyes, I had a twinge of nostalgia in my thoughts as Rural Roots were telling us about wishing upon a star. I was so proud of the fact that we do present to our community an honest to goodness family entertainment show.

It would appear that the retreat concept really works well in the preparation of the show package. You are to be commended for supporting that event so well. The show package was carried off as if we actually knew what we were doing. We even got well into the spirit of the game. Thank you for making this work.

The dancers certainly added a youthful touch to the show and did a fine job of telling their story. It appeared that they really enjoyed this experience. Needless to say, it was obvious why Mark Gough wasn't able to get permission to do some of his material. He's too good at it. You can see where John gets his talent(s). Courtney Fox could have a career in singing. Such expression and tone control was truly enjoyable. Thanks to Courtney and Mark for rounding out this show with style and grace.

I was so glad that we were all able to sneak back and watch the "CORNERSTONE" of comedy. They truly are a smooth operation when it comes to bouncing so much material off little BOB (spelled with one O). This was a great show and the efforts of so many made it so. I encourage each one of you to show people that you truly enjoy this style of music and performing by inviting them to join the troupe.

By the time this is read, you will know that we had five excellent potential members at our guest night on May 2, 2001. If we get to work on getting about

ten more good singing members, I am convinced we'll be dangerous. Thank you again so much for doing such a great job of achieving "ownership" of the songs we sing. It really makes a difference.

Next year's show will be on the theme of the music of Irving Berlin. I think you're going to love the music. The music is in and will be under schedule probably the same night that the "FANFARE" is distributed.

In summary, I wish to thank Harold's Angels for their support of our singing as well as Rural Roots and Fourthwith Sound for adding the finishing touch to an enjoyable experience for all of us.

What a team effort!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
What a show.!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SING-CERELY.....

*At Right :
Minnie Mouse (Arnold Dixon)
Struts her/his stuff for the
Disney show*



Coming Events

- May 30.....7:30 p.m. sing-out at Sprucedale.
- June 1-3.....Harmony College North University of Guelph.
- June 20..... 7:30 p.m. Strathmere Lodge.
- July 1-8.....International Convention-Nashville.
- Aug. 18.....Vocal Majority and Acoustix in Concert-Toronto.
- Sept. 12.....Guest Night.
- Oct. 26-28.....Fall Convention-Brantford.
- Oct. 28.....Parkhill United Church Anniversary 11 a.m.
- Feb. 23, 2002.....Host ..Western Division Novice Contest.
- March 9, 2002.....Retreat.....SCCS.
- April 6, 2002.....2002 Show...SCCS.

WE GET E-Mail

Hi John, from **Barry Done**

In my article entitled "**All In All I'd Rather Be Playing Golf**", seen in the March issue of Fanfare, the last paragraph of my article did not come through on the e-mail. That paragraph is as follows:

On our way to the stage, amid solemn prayer, two more odd things happened—I'd forgotten which songs we were doing and I recognized the early-warning signs of a major coronary--breath was only coming in short gasps! Right then we were announced, and out we went.

"Ten Feet" started out well, but even though it was a short song, about half-way through I began a noisy, uncontrollable imitation of Thumper the rabbit, "yep", my left foot took on a life of it's own, only perhaps to be outdone by an even-more intense shaking in my left leg---great, now Elvis had shown up, it was getting crowded on that stage!

Not having properly prepared, I had no sharp object to open an artery with, so in the very best tradition, I nodded my readiness and we began our next song, of course with my two new pals, Thumper and Elvis.

Escape down the stairs to the back of the hall while struggling to breathe and restart my heart, things took a turn for the better---the cavalry arrived. A few chapter members and their wives who congratulated me and lied, saying how well they thought I had done---a white lie to be sure, but God bless them, it did the trick and I was back.

A later announcement that we placed third meant much less to me than the earlier encouragement and support of our group and I learned what Barbershopping was all about and really understood, for the first time, our "oft-repeated" refrain IT'S GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER.

Congratulations to our VLQ, three cheers to Gord Vair for organizing the quartets and on a personal note, a heartfelt thanks to the three brave souls who kindly risked much walking out on stage with a rookie [and his two new pals]---you guys are Aces!

Would I do it all over again?
(Does Pinocchio have a wooden leg??)

Ontario Barbershoppers

from **Brian McDougall.**

After four great years filled with music and laughter, the St. Thomas Chapter Show on May 5th will be the final performance of The Wave.

The fun and camaraderie within a quartet is something every barbershopper should have the opportunity to experience and this quartet had a wonderful chemistry that gave us that and more.

As we each look forward to new challenges, we also look back at the incredible support from our 4 chapters (London, Sarnia, Seaforth & Strathroy) and want to thank them for their support of the quartet and of each of us individually.

Many thanks to everyone across the District for their applause and encouragement.

The Wave Thoughts of a Volunteer

from **Janice King**

My duties involved working as a backstage usher and organizing the performers from the Needham School of Dance.

As John King's daughter, I have been a guest at many of the Strathroy barbershop shows. Once again, Rural Roots, Fourthwith Sound and the Vocal Federation did an outstanding job at keeping my toes tapping. It was especially enjoyable watching the show from the BEST seats in the house, having a laugh with some of the barbershoppers, keeping the Needham dancers in line and enjoying a tasty meal.

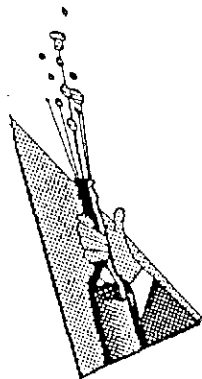
Two nice additions were Courtney Fox, who has a wonderful voice, and Ed the MC who was hilarious.

Thanks to everyone involved for a warm welcome, hard work and dedication.

Chapter Birthdays

May 19
May 14
May 27
June 16
June 16
June 20
June 24
June 29

Enid Gough
Garnet Snelgrove
Frank Knoll
Bud Jackson
Bill Galbraith
Sylvia McDougall
Jim McDougall
Audrey Hughes



Chapter Anniversaries

June 4
June 19
June 20
June 21
June 25
June 30

Don & Mary Nisbet
Keith & Paula Campbell
John & Jeanne King
Ted & Jiggs Gough
Bill & Carol Stanley
Bud & Stella Jackson

STRATHROY CHAPTER

Western Division - Ontario District - SPEBSQSA
Home of the "Vocal Federation"
The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519)264-2856
Past President	Jim McDougall	(519) 245-0843
Treasurer	Les Campbell	(519) 245-0359
Secretary	Orval Allen	(519) 641-0331
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
Music V.P.	Blake Hughes	(519) 264-1245
Program V.P.	Bill Gough	(519) 245-2244
Performance V.P.	Arnold Dixon	(519)294-0128
Communication V.P.	Bud Jackson	(519) 245-5747
Board Mem. At Large	Roswell McPherson	(519) 245-1711
Board Mem. At Large	Ian Cooper	(519) 287-9902

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Gord Vair
Attendance Recorder	Hugh McCutcheon
Historian	Ernie McFwen
Nominating Committee Chairman	Jim McDougall
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Ian Cooper
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Co-Chairman	Orval Allan
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	John King
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Music Team

Music V.P. - Blake Hughes
Chorus Director - John Gough
Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
Chorus Director - Don Pyper
Librarian - Arnold Dixon

Section Leaders

Tenor - Ernie McFwen
Lead - Bob Howlett
Baritone - John Gough
Bass - Jim McDougall

We Sing.....That They Shall Speak--- Speech, like song, unites the voices of children and men in common understanding. Like singing, speech is easily learned by some; for others special effort is required.

WEB SITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation
www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/

Ontario District- www.ont.spebsqsa.org

Barbershop International- www.spebsqsa.org

Ashow
www.ahsow.or



Meeting at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets in
Strathroy - Wednesday Evenings at 8:00 pm

Vision Statement

The Strathroy Chapter will provide the opportunity for men of all ages to blend their voices in the unique style of barbershop harmony singing and will provide wholesome musical entertainment to people of all ages throughout this and neighbouring communities wherever our services may be desired.

Mission Statement

- To Realize our vision, the Strathroy Chapter will:
- provide the means for men to participate in and enjoy the singing of barbershop-style harmony, both in chorus and quartet singing.
- Provide for its membership an organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements or by "car singing".
- Develop members vocal talents and performance abilities so that each time they sing together, they perform at the best level possible.
- Provide an atmosphere and programs which result in a high level of camaraderie and social benefit to members.
- Be a community leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music in our schools and our communities by singing barbershop music for schools, churches and social events.
- Enrich the lives of the less fortunate people in our communities by singing barbershop music for senior citizen homes, nursing homes and hospitals.
- Initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects, especially those projects which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charity, Harmonize For Speech.

Fanfare

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