

**WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY, THE GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE CHORUS ENRICHES SOCIETY
WITH EXCELLENT BARBERSHOP MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT**

2011 - No.5 – June/July

Lougheed Mall Walkabout



On Saturday June 16th the GoF revived an old recruiting drive tool. We performed at the Burnaby Lougheed Mall, for free, with the idea of introducing, attracting and encouraging men (and boys) to Barbershop Harmony, and to come to our Tuesday rehearsals. The chorus sang at four locations around the Mall including the Food Court (rather noisy) and were ably assisted by the **Mo-Tones** quartet (**Clarence Stad, Moe Jones, Gordon Ross, Ed Arnold**). There were many fathers with family shopping for Father's Day and the new GoF Brochures and Invitation Cards were handed out to everybody who was interested.



**Mo-Tones (left to right):
Clarence Stad
Moe Jones
Gordon Ross
Ed Arnold**

Wonderful Performances

By Charlie Metzger
Thanks to **Ed Arnold** for organizing, **George Gregory** for speaking, and to **Carl Gung** for organizing brochures for us [at the Lougheed Mall Walkabout].

Thanks for all who participated as well. There were about 30 of us! Other than *O Canada*, long part of our repertoire, we sang only songs qualified by 90% or more of our members. As director, I found it artistically liberating to be working with songs we knew so well and could afford the attention it takes to really perform. This is the right direction for us to continue, gentlemen!

Let's add the rest of our repertoire to the list of 90% qualified songs as soon as possible! Some others are very close. Please work to join this group and increase the mightiness of the Mighty GoF!

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(Photos by Carl & Wendy Gung)

When Insults Had Class

(Before English got boiled down to 4-letter words)

"I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend...if you have one."

- George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

"Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second...if there is one."

- Winston Churchill in response.

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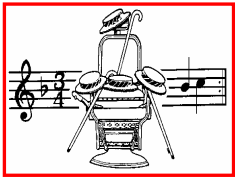
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June 2011 Down Memory Lane

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1971)

At the Anacortes Chapter show and Barbecue, the **Pacificaires** from Reseda, California were featured. They had just placed fourth at International and went on to place second for the next three years. An article written by **Ray Heller** (then of Bellingham and who went on to be employed at the international office as Manager of Communications and Public Relations) presented a proposal for a name change for the Society to make it more international. The proposed initials would be SPEBSQSI (International). Another possibility suggested by **Ron Long** (then of Langley) was SPEBSQSW (The World). **The Most Happy Fellows** were honoured by the Society at the convention in New Orleans for their USO hospital tour. What began as a

Camp out by the **Langley Chapter** at the Langley Provincial Park in 1970 had suddenly developed into what is now known as **Harmony Hollow**.

30 years ago this month (1981)

Representing Evergreen District at the International Convention, the **Lake Washington Skippers** (who merged later with the Bellevue Chapter), were applauded for their 12th place finish. What was billed as the first annual picnic was organized by **Sam Hobbs** and held at Blue Mountain Park in Coquitlam. There were a lot of games for all including a baseball game umpired by **George Metzger** who evidently rewrote the rules

20 years ago this month (1991)

Mac Collver and **David Jones** went to the International Convention in Louisville, Kentucky to play a little golf and to support **Tom** and **Mark Metzger**, **David Cotton** and **Dave Vincent** of the **Sonic Boom** quartet. The report was that they did extremely well. Dave mentioned that his first experience at an International competition was exciting, enhanced by his love of horses and his luck at the race track. The Annual Car Rally was about to begin again, **Ross'** article outlines the fun we used to have that overcame most of the frustration. In July of '91 **Larry Paterson** announced that he was leaving for Florida. We've seen him maybe twice since then.

Obituary



MOLLER, Robert (Bob) Arnold 1941 – 2011

Born at Grace Hospital in Vancouver on July 17, 1941, Bob Moller passed away peacefully at home on May 21, 2011 with his family by his side. Bob is survived by Keena his wife of 36 years, daughters Lisa (Dave) Pick of Langley and Leanne (Robert) Liggitt of Kelowna, sons Darren (Helen) Leukefeld of Sidney Australia and David Moller of Vancouver Island, grandchildren Rozina, Kashton & Ella.

A celebration of Bob's life was held at the Como Lake United Church in Coquitlam on June 16th. Bob's fellow GoF members sang "*Love at Home*", "*The Irish Blessing*" and closed the service with "*The Lord's Prayer*". John Spence, baritone in Bob's quartet the "Pension-aire", sang the C. Austin Miles hymn "*In the Garden*". At the reception Keena played a recording of Bob's beautiful bass voice as he sang "*The Johnny Apple Seed Grace*" with his quartet.

Memories of Bob Moller

By George Wakeham

I remember when Bob Moller first joined the chorus in 2001 and I heard his marvellous voice. I approached him to see if he was interested in singing in a quartet and soon there after we got together with **Ben Ong** and **Dr. Dave Anderson**. After a couple of rehearsals we formed the group "**Power Edition**" and got very good coaching from Marty Lovick.

Before long **Ger Zijnen** arrived from Holland, replaced Ben as tenor, and we changed the name to "**Fanfare**". Ger brought some refreshing arrangements with him and we set out to learn them. Bob was becoming increasingly familiar with the "barbershop craft" and he had the perfect bass for "*Don't Be a Baby*". That song along



Ger, George, Bob, David

with "*The Meanest Thing You Ever Did Was Kiss Me*" was Bob's debut at the GoF installation banquet where we performed the two songs, Ger singing lead with his Ukulele.

We often practiced at Bob's home where Keena always had some freshly baked treats (especially the yummy scones). When Ger got busy with his new restaurant, we drove out to Chilliwack for practice where he supplied the gourmet pastries he had prepared earlier in the day. I spent many an afternoon with Bob at his place for coffee as I was passing by, (always hoping for those amazing scones). We would duet together until we were satisfied. Bob learned to maximize his abilities very quickly and never gave anyone a hard time when being coached to change "this vowel or a certain voice placement, etc." He was our gentle giant.

Bob was very excited to win his first Division Seniors Championship although he would never let on as he was very reserved. He finally learned to give us a smile; it was very difficult for him, but a major breakthrough when it happened. When Ger bowed out of the quartet **Allan Pinvidic** joined us as the tenor from his traditional baritone. Bob sang in his first District competition in Anchorage Alaska. Shortly afterwards, with Bob sanctioning the move, I joined Antique Gold and Bob went on to sing with **John Spence, Wally Coe** and **Ev Smith**. They called themselves **The Pension-aires**.

I visited Bob several times before his passing; he was always cheerful, never complaining. It was my privilege to know Bob and an even greater privilege to sing with him. Bob loved the chorus and the guys in it, he was

fond of everyone. I never heard him complain about any of the fellowship. I know you're still watching down on us Bob, thanks for being a true friend, you will never be forgotten.

By John Spence

Another great voice has been stilled. Bob Moller was a member of the **Gentlemen of Fortune** and bass in the **Pension-aires** quartet until medical treatments sapped his energy and weakened his wonderful bass voice, a voice that matched his 6ft-5in.frame. The Pension-aires consisted of **Ev Smith** - Tenor; **Wally Coe** - Lead; **Bob Moller** - Bass; **John Spence** - Bari. Wally, Ev and I had sung against each other in the 60's and 70's in Ontario, while Bob was a BC 'Sabra' not discovering barbershop and his own ability until late in life when he joined GOF.



Ev, Wally, Bob, John

Wally's focus was mostly on competition and singing to a very high standard. Bob and I tended initially to go along with that. However, Ev came from years of comedy and entertainment with

the **Mello Men** (who took time out from comedy to become Ontario Champs in 1978), and he wanted to entertain, with competition as a sideline. We came around to this way of thinking rather quickly, and it influenced the music we learned, and subsequently enjoyed singing in seniors' residences. Ev played off his small stature against Bob's towering presence - he was a natural clown and Bob a great straight man.

We all had solos and used them to vary the straight barbershop program and hold audience interest. Ev sang his corny but ever popular "*Sarah*"; Wally was learning "*Solamente Una Vez*" (his Spanish was execrable although I heard some Filipinos comment favourably on one occasion); as the only Quebecer, I sang the French part of "*The French Song*"; and Bob sang "*The Johnny Appleseed Grace*".

Dilbert's Rules of Order

#47: The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.

Thoughts on the Mighty GoF

By Charlie Metzger - Posted on groupanizer 15 June 2011



I see a least two choices that lead, in general, to being a member of a Mighty GoF.

The first option is to assess the potential and the trends, to see them as encouraging evidence, and to believe.

This act of faith, founded in evidence and enthusiastically held, leads inevitably to changes in attitude and action. We begin to see that others too are important facets of the Mighty GoF and are

therefore more worthy of respect and high regard that we had, perhaps, considered before.

We consider that perhaps 30 minutes a day, when we can manage more without adversely affecting the others in our world, is little enough and could be an even greater and more enjoyable commitment from time to time. We begin to make our practice time, at chorus and away, more focussed and intent. We begin to use our skills more and more consistently, building the habits of mind and body that lead to excellence.

The second option turns this process on its head and begins with action.

We act as if the Mighty GoF were just as wonderful as we would want it to be, and become part of the group that makes it so. We "act as if" and open ourselves to evidence that we are becoming what we want to become. Of course, evidence for and against anything is very dependent on where we stand. We can choose to see progress or lack of it, depending on what evidence we give the most weight. The chord is always tuned and not tuned to some extent. The phrase is always flowing or not flowing to some extent. People both attend and not, apply themselves and don't, participate or won't to some extent. Obsessive participation can be pathological. Profound disinterest is clearly a waste. A balance must be found, but greatness is found in a balance weighted towards your active belief in the importance of a goal. Those who attain collective greatness do so because the weight of their intention is directed towards the common goal to a more significant degree than others. I believe that is where the intention of most GoF members lies.

The Annual General Meeting

By Peter Lissett



The AGM tends, by tradition, to be pretty short. However, this year's (on June 14th) was a bit longer with discussion as to the disposition of the Ian McGillivray Legacy Fund.

Chorus members were reminded that the fund was to be used for coaching and education for the benefit of the Chorus, and the usage of that fund was to be to a maximum of \$5,000 per year, according to the original motion passed by the board of directors last year. There is some pressure to use some of the funds to subsidize the annual retreat to include some room and board costs. The motion does not include those. However, the board of directors could rescind the original motion or otherwise modify it at their discretion. To me it seems very short sighted to follow this path as the fund would quickly disappear.

One item in the 2010 financial report that didn't seem to raise any questions was the operating loss of a little over \$3,000! This year, the operating loss is projected to be \$6,000. Clearly, the chorus can't operate on this basis for very long. The income streams that we used to enjoy a few years ago are no longer there. For example, the gaming commission funds of \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year, the Christmas Show used to net \$6,500...and so on.

The venue for the Christmas Show, on December 17th, has been changed to the James Cowan Theatre which is less expensive than the Michael J. Fox. We can hope for a better financial return from this enterprise this year.

Happenings & Reminders

Random & Visiting Quartets

The most recent quartets (chosen by Charlie) to entertain us at break were: ***Ezzy Does It*** (Ezra Parker, Gerry Borden, Gar Discher, Wilf Martin) with "Only You"; ***Doctor's Choice*** (Arthur Loyie, Jim Lohnes, Byron Walton, Al Alain) with "Only You" and ***The Royals*** (Leroy Pattison, John Van Zanten, Peter Lissett, Bill Martin) with "Nevertheless". And visiting us were some old GoF members: **Rick Morrison, Doug Walton, Allan Pinvidic** with **Mac Matheson** in ***The iTones*** singing "Java Jive".

Groupanizer!!

Have you updated your information on Groupanizer??

- Attendance
- Song Learning Status – that's if you intend to qualify.
- Going to the Retreat or not? Going to District or not?
- Read the blogs lately?

District Convention Registration

The 2011 Evergreen District Convention will be in Spokane, WA on September 30 – October 2. The Mighty GoF will be there in force so make sure that you get your Hotel bookings done early and your Registration (All Events) before the Early Bird deadline – Aug 31st.

Headquarters Hotel is the DoubleTree City Centre (\$99) and there are others nearby. For all the information go to: www.pagesofharmony.org and click on “District Contest 2011” in the top tool bar on the right. There are links to the hotels, Spokane map and the registration form. There is a \$5.00 discount if you register on line at: www.brownpapertickets.com/ref/44276/event/159149

Remember that everybody on stage **must** have an All Events registration. If you have any problems or questions ask Laurie Dye, Ray Fallan or Harry Gray. **Have you marked your District attendance on groupanizer?**

Christmas Show

Mark your calendar for the 2011 Christmas Shows which will be at a new location this year. Matinee and evening shows will be at the **James Cowan Theatre**, Shadbolt Arts Centre, 6450 Deer Lake Drive, Burnaby on **Saturday December 17th, 2011**. As usual, rehearsal will be at the theatre on Friday night.

Annual GoF BBQ

Gentlemen: **Our "3rd Annual GOF BBQ"** will be on **Saturday July 16, 2011, from 2:00pm** until you all leave!! Byron & Marg have offered their home again for this year's event: **20650 - 102B Ave., Langley, Phone: 778.689.9337**. (Directions are on the groupanizer blog). This will be a pot luck event again this year with each person bringing their own meat to be BBQ'd and an extra dish to be shared with others. **BYOB!!**

Please notify Byron & Marg if you **will or will not** be attending and what pot luck dish you will bring to share. We will provide buns, butter, pop, paper plates, plastic utensils, cups, napkins, ice, condiments, baked potatoes & chips. Weather permitting we will have a camp fire later in the evening!! Please bring some chairs. We will have some games available - Volley Ball, Croquet, Bocce Ball, and Horse Shoes. If you have a favorite game, please bring it along.

In Harmony, Byron & Marg Walton

Puns for Educated Minds:

#25: A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons. The stewardess looks at him and says: “I’m sorry sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger.”

Comment #77 by Bill Gibbons

“The less you know about singing lead, the more attractive it is.”

Deadline for the next issue is August 9, 2011

CALENDAR

2011

July 3-10 International, Kansas City, MO
July 16 GoF Annual BBQ
July 22-24 HCNW Tacoma, WA
July 31 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
Jul 31-Aug 7 Harmony University, St Joseph, MO
Sept 2-4 Harmony Hollow, Mt Baker, WA
Sept 9-11 **Chorus Retreat**
Sept 28-Oct 2 PanPacific Convention, Brisbane
Sept 30-Oct 2 **District Convention** Spokane, WA
Oct 10 Thanksgiving
Dec 17 **Christmas Shows**

2012

Jan 17-22 Midwinter International, Tucson, AZ
Feb 14 **Valentine’s Day**
Mar 30/31 **Division I Convention** Abbotsford
April 6 Easter
June GoF Cabaret TBA
July 1-8 International, Portland, OR

Internationals

2013 Toronto, Ontario
2014 Las Vegas, Nevada
2015 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
2016 Nashville, Tennessee
2017 Minneapolis, Minnesota
2018 Orlando, Florida
2019 Salt Lake city, Utah



**Who sang tenor? (left to right):
Bert Paquet, Alex Leung, Dave Whittier
Dave Meehan**