

1999

MEMORIES

OF THE

FIRST CAPITAL
CHORUS



1999 EVERGREEN DISTRICT
INTERNATIONAL PRELIM AND DIVISION 1 CONTESTS



John West 50th Anniversary Celebrated

50 years, of fun & comraderie all in the name of song just keeps getting better...

By Gordon Nerland

Very, very few barbershoppers reach the milestone achieved by *John West* on Dec. 31, 1998 - his 50th Anniversary. Nearly 100 members and friends fully enjoyed the "highlight" of their evening - as John was honored, - yes a little "roasting" - and heard messages from some of his barbershop friends from the past.

Dinner guests who spoke included Mike Wilcox (who was also MC for the evening), Kenny Wigbers, Chapter President Eric Janzen, and son Mark West... Mike Wilcox read messages from Gareth Evans, Elie & Darleen Savoie, Bob Cox from Seattle on behalf of SPEBSQSA, Ted Dillistone from Campell River, plus Ontario messages from Clare McKinzey, Clare MacLachlan, and Hugh Best. Some of John's past was revealed - including his participation in 7 registered Quartets and directing 5 Barbershop Choruses and 1 Sweet Adeline Chorus over the years as follows:

Registered Quartets *Chorus's Directed*

Four Tune Hunters, Brandon
 - *Festival City Chorus, Stratford*
 Forefathers, Brandon
 - *Wallaceburg Chorus, Wallaceburg*
 Silhouettes, Brandon

 - *Queen City Harmonizers, Toronto*
 Classic City Four, Stratford
 - *Merry Men of Markham, Markham*
 Markhamares, Markham
 - *North Vancouver Chorus*
 Classified Lads, Markham
 - *Sweet Adeline Chorus*
 Memory Lane Sr. Quartet - *Langley*

Today, John directs the Church Choir at Our Lady of Fatima Parish, with wife Joan on the keyboard.

The West roots go back to Grand Junction, Colorado, where John was born and registered as a British subject, before the family moved to Brandon, Man. when John was only three. Did you know? While attending Brandon Collegiate, he excelled in track & field, winning the school championship each of his high school years and he and Joan were active in a local mixed choir, where John sang lead roles in *The Pirates of Penzance*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, & *The Red Mill*.

While attending high school in Brandon, John joined SPEBSQSA at the age of 17 (now we even know his age). One of his Ontario quartets won the Ontario District Novice Championship. He also had the opportunity to perform on the same stage with several International Quartet champions, including

Schmidt Bros., Confederates, Buffalo Bills and The Mid-States Four. In 1996, he sang at International with the Scarborough Chorus of the Bluffs, which placed eighth. John was honored as "Barbershopper of the Year", three times over the years.

Music has always been a way of life with the West Family. Wife, Joan teaches piano and organ. Surely singing in the car regularly with the family as they grew up provided the basis for their gift of singing. Daughter Barbara sings in the Peach Arch Chapter of the Sweet Adelines (which brother Mark's wife, Leslie, directs) and also sings with "Bridges" Quartet. Mark is a member of the Society, and has sung in several choruses and quartets prior to his current quartet "Vocal Works". The whole family, including Barbara's husband, Pierre, and 5 grandsons sing in the church choir.

John continues as a "pillar" of the Bass section in Langley Chorus, who are proud indeed of his accomplishments. We all are looking forward to many more years of enjoyment with John and the "sound of music" - the West Family.

CONGRATULATIONS!



"Robert: "Sally, what would you do if I asked you to be my wife?" Sally: "Nothing, I can't talk & laugh at the same time."



Awards Dinner

Saturday, January 23, 1999

6:30 p.m. Cocktails

7:30 p.m. Dinner



Master of Ceremonies..... **Mike Wilcox**

Installation..... **Byron Walton**

First Capital Chorus

Attendance and Service Awards..... **Eric Janzen**

BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year) Award..... **Danny Tryon**

Quartet Presentation - Images

Tribute to John West

Quartet Presentation - Bridges

Presentation to John West..... **David Officer**

Quartet Presentation – Vocal Works

More Singing

FIRST CAPITAL CHORUS
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

AWARDS BANQUET
Saturday, January 23, 1999

Sunrise Banquet & Conference Centre
5640 - 188th Street, Surrey
(Corner of 188th & No. 10 Hwy.)

Cocktails 6:30 p.m. • Dinner 7:30 p.m.

Tickets - \$25.00/person





THE ROAST





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INSTALLATION OF THE 1999 BOARD



THE BOARD ENTERTAINS

THE AWARDS



BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR



ATTENDANCE AND SERVICE AWARD











IN LOVING MEMORY OF
ROSS RELYEA

LATE OF
#148 9080 198 Street
Langley, British Columbia

BORN
January 26, 1922
Cornwall, Ontario

ENTERED INTO REST
February 7, 1999
Vancouver, British Columbia
At the Age of 77 Years

FUNERAL SERVICE
Friday, February 12, 1999
At 2:00 p.m.
From the Chapel of
VALLEY VIEW FUNERAL HOME

WE LOSE A BARBERSHOP PIONEER

Ross Relyea passes away February 7th, 1999 at age 77

*Survived by: First Wife, Ann, 2 Daughters-Jo-Ann & Marnee Jane & 4 Grandchildren,
Wife Phyllis, 3 Step Children - Sharon, Doug & John & 4 Step grandchildren*

By Gordon Nerland

Forty-five barbershoppers attended the memorial service for Ross Relyea from all nearby Chapters-a fitting tribute to a "founder" of our craft in Western Canada. Ross Relyea was in his 50th year of membership, and was a Charter Member of the Vancouver Chapter in 1950. Ross showed us a SPEBSQSA book published in 1948 that lists 17 Canadian chapters -Quebec (1), Ontario (15), and Manitoba (1).

He was instrumental in helping organize other Chapters while selling funeral supplies all across Western Canada and was a member of numerous chapters before joining Langley the last few years. His dedication continued as he took on the job of Bulletin Editor for Langley, as well as organizing weekly "Luncheon sing-outs".

A long time friend, **Tucker Goodwin**, spoke of Ross as a "fun guy" - a "character"! "Ross brought a lot of fun into our lives" he stated, and went on to describe a few of his "fun experiences".

Since he sold funeral supplies, including embalming fluid etc., one of his early quartets was fittingly called "The Four Maldehydes".

At a "Harmony Hollow" barbershop weekend in the early '70s, Ross used a coffin as a prop in performing the song Bill Grogan's Goat and those who know the words to the song can imagine the humour.

A volunteer was asked to run down the aisle as a Gorilla as an introduction to a show-no doubt-the Gorilla was Ross Relyea.

Over the years, he was renowned as an M.C. "extraordinaire" and -always told his Grandchildren that he got a "standing ovation". It was not till much later they learned that he always ended his shows by asking the audience to "rise" to applaud the show.

Tucker showed us a sign that Ross gave him and which obviously he had given to some of his customers (funeral homes) stating "Thank you for Smoking!"

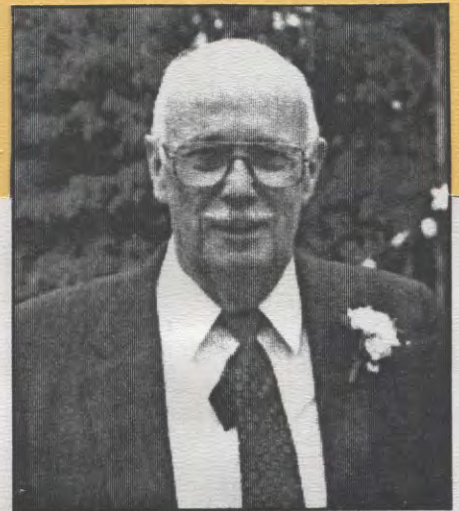
Ross Relyea was recognized many times over the years for his good work and dedication-and in 1997 received the coveted **Barry Smorenberg Memorial Award** "for outstanding contribution & service to Barbershop".

Surely Tucker Goodwin spoke for all of us when he closed with the comment "Ross brought a lot of fun into our lives. I believe that is the best legacy a person can leave".

We all miss him, but Ross Relyea has left a permanent, positive imprint in our memories -and a feeling that he made the best of each of his 77 busy and rewarding years. He brought much joy to all who had the special pleasure of knowing him.

Rest and Sing in Peace Ross !

"There's a new support group for compulsive talkers. It's called On-and-On Anon."



Ross Relyea

March 1999

Regular Features...

The Board Room...

- Presidents report
- Board reports

Chapter Officials

On the Risers...

- Chorus Director: Mike Wilcox
- Co-Director: Danny Tryon

Remember When...

- Neil Hamilton

This is My Life...

- Profile of members

Membership Notes...

- Gregg Smith

Update...

- Coming events

Birthdays...

- David Officer





Dear Bacher shoppers,

Just want to say Thankyou
for your wonderful support
and musical contribution to
Ross's funeral service.

Your singing was a great
tribute to Ross and was much
appreciated

Thankyou again
Phyl Kellysa

From: Ted McAlpine <mcalpinet@simcoe.net>
To: David Officer <dofficer@direct.ca>
Date: Thursday, March 11, 1999 1:25 PM
Subject: CAPITAL COMMENTS - "TRIBUTE TO ROSS"

David,
I received a copy of the bulletin today, thank you so much.
Certainly it was a wonderful writeup by Gordon. Thank him for me, will you?
I'm proud to have been a member of The Four Maldehydes with Ross as we
continually buried Bill Grogan's Goat many years ago. I will miss him.
Sincerely,
Ted McAlpine



PRESENTING
BILL STEVENS
WITH LIFE
MEMBERSHIP





Office of the
Principal
Phone 533-1285

Uplands Elementary School

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 35 (LANGLEY)
4471 - 207A Street, Langley, B.C. V3A 5V8

February 9th, 1999.

LANGLEY CHAPTER SPEBSQSA
15499 VICTORIA AVE.
WHITE ROCK, B.C.
V8B 1H6

Dear Sirs;

It was a wonderful surprise to find out that your members collected \$ 750.00 dollars for the children who attend the d/Deaf & Hard of Hearing classes at Uplands Elementary School. Mrs. Parsons and other parents have taken the initiative this year of raising money which will then be used to buy an audio and visual communication system which will allow the d/Deaf students to view announcements while others are able to hear them.

This is particularly important in light of all the Emergency Preparedness in which all schools in Langley are participating. We see the importance of communicating with all of our students, and find that in cases of emergencies, we often rely on the sound system. This leaves our d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing students at a disadvantage.

On behalf of the students enrolled in this program, I thank you for your generous donation!

Sincerely,

Kirsten Ulmer
Principal, Uplands Elementary

Friday, February 5, 1999

Capital expense

Greg Smith and Dave Olsen presented a cheque of \$750 on behalf of the First Capital Chorus to Uplands Elementary



School principal Kirsten Ulmer and Rhonda Parsons. The funds will help supply TV monitors to enable school intercom announcements to be interpreted for Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program students. The project, initiated by Parsons, will require \$3,000. Donations may be made to Langley School District (phone 534-7891), designating the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program of Uplands School.



The Langley First Capital Barbershop Chorus

First Capital places second

Last year, the Langley First Capital Barbershop Chorus set a goal to be the most improved chorus in division 1 of the Evergreen District.

The contest was held in the Chandos Pattison Theatre in Surrey on the weekend of March 27. There were 41 singers, their families and friends, brought down the house when it was announced that they made their goal . . . but that was quiet compared to the noise when it was announced that they placed second overall in the competition.

They sang two songs. First, under the direction of Danny Tryon, was "Danny Boy" and then Mike Wilcox directed "That's an Irish Lullaby."

First place went to New Westminster, then Langley, Bellingham, Victoria, Vancouver, Nanaimo, Chilliwack, Anacortes and Vernon.

Music directors Mike and Danny were very proud of the chorus winning second as well as the most improved trophies, among very tough competition.

The Alaska Chorus made a bid for the 2002 Convention. Langley President, Eric Jansen, said, "this would be a fabulous trip to take and I would like to make it one of our objectives to compete at this convention."

Friday, April 2, 1999

THE LANGLEY ADVANCE NEWS



Langley's First Capital Chorus found perfect harmony at the recent International Preliminary Barbershop competition.

■ Music

Singers win

Barbershop harmony singers from all over B.C. and the Pacific Northwest gathered together last month, and Langley's entry hit a high note.

The annual Division One and International Preliminary contest was held at the Chandos-Pattison Auditorium, and saw nine choruses and 17 quartets compete.

Langley's First Capital Chorus, made up of 40 men under the direction of Mike Wilcox and Danny Tryon, won the hearts of the audience – as well as two honours – with their performance of "Danny Boy."

Gord Harris, a member of First Capital for 25 years, said it was the first time since 1982 that Langley placed second, and the first time ever that they were presented with the Most Improved Chorus Award.

Mike Wilcox's quartet "Images" placed second in the Division One quartet championships.



Congratulations!

Hurray for you!

Belated congratulations
on your success in the
recent S.P.E.B.S.O.S.A. Competition.
It would be an exciting time
and very gratifying in your
achievements

In Harmony
Peace Arch Chorus
Sweet Adelines Int'l
(by Dorothy Hays)

April '99

PRACTICING FOR CONTEST



SATURDAY RETREAT



RELAXING IN DRESSING ROOM





THE WARMUP



THE HARDWARE



The Langley First Capital Chorus presents

"Swing & Sway beside the Bay"

A FUN SOCIAL EVENING OF DANCING

Featuring

Alexander Browne and his Romantic Swing Orchestra

Saturday evening, April 24 from 8 p.m. to midnight
Star of the Sea Hall, 15262 Pacific Avenue, White Rock

Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks and Coffee will be available.
Light refreshments will be served.

Tickets only \$12.50 per person (no, it's not a misprint - they really are only \$12.50 each!)

For tickets call Don at 531-5969
or Malcolm at 533-1440 or 534-1441



**Come celebrate
the return of
Big Band Music**

THE SWING BAND





THE HOST





GROUP ON STAGE



THE CHORUS ENTERTAINS





PLANNING HOW TO SPEND THE PROFITS

27

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27

GUEST NIGHT





ONE MAN SHORT

ONE SHORT MAN



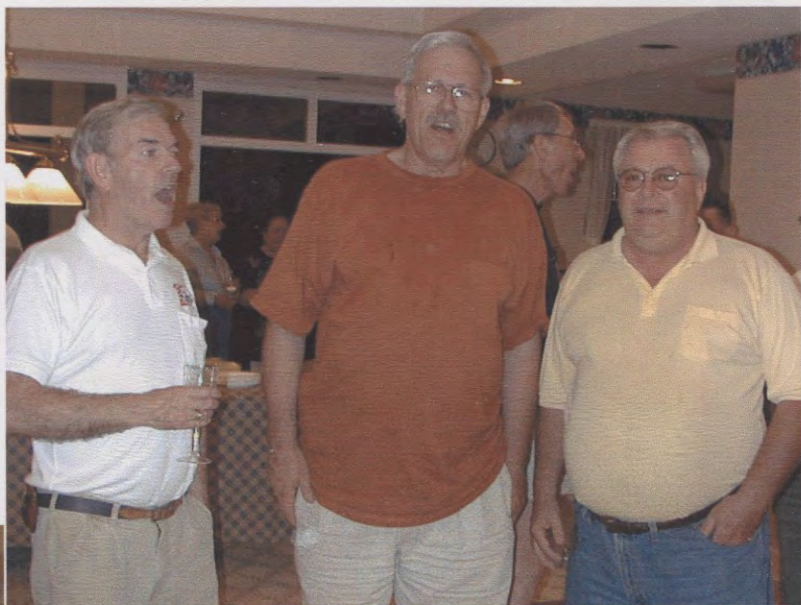
STILL
ONE MAN SHORT

FORT LANGLEY
SINGOUT



OTTER CO-OP SINGOUT





Chorus Song & Drink

Can't get any better than this...

