

Longmont, Colorado's Barbershop Voice



Join Us Mondays at 7PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1303 S. Bross Lane

Paul West named Barbershopper of the Year

Longmont barbershoppers and their wives started off 2012 with a bang, half a dozen varieties of chili, tables full of salads, side dishes and desserts at the installation of the new officers, the crowning of the new BOTY and the Bonus Bux Auction, all at St. Stephen's meeting hall on January 7.



Paul West, at right, receives BOTY honors from Dave Waddell.

Dave Waddell, BOTY for the past year, lost no time in conferring the latest BOTY honors on a long time barbershopper who has been an pivotal part of Longmont barbershopping for way more than 25 years, **Paul West**. "He makes sure all the audio and video materials the chapter needs get made" said Dave. "He also sees that the important information gets put on the chapter website as soon as it's needed. What a webmaster we have."

Gene Melick was honored by all his fellow barbershoppers for his years of service to the board, his outstanding advertising sales, and for running the barbershop bux program for many years.

When the votes of the members and guests were tallied, the chili champion was **Mac McWilliams** who got to bask in the adulation of his chili pot peers. **Debbie Montante** spent her birthday at the chili dinner, and was surprised when her husband **Joe** led the group in Happy Birthday.

When everyone was comfortably full, our favorite auctioneer, **Shawn Miller** (aided by his son Taylor, his wife and his mother-in-law), arrived to conduct one of the strangest auctions new members have ever had the privilege of spending their bonus bux at. Going price for many of the classier items on the block was well over six hundred thousand bux.



RMD executive VP Kevin Pape (at left) swears in Longmont's 2012 officers.

Hey, don't forget

Jan 14 Annual planning session Feb 3-4 RMD Harmony College April 14 Longmont spring show



What could be better than to end the Christmas season with the first barbershop event of the new year, the chili dinner with all its great eats...



**...and that really crazy bonus box auction
where the bidding gets wild
and the gifts are unique, to say the least.**

Board Meeting

condensed from secretary Keith Watson's minutes

The December 6 board meeting was called to order by president **Jim Hopper**. Also present were **Jack Gibbs, Bob Plass, Gene Melick, Bob Reed, Keith Watson** and **Jim Schoemer**.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted.

Trifold advertising brochure – the draft is ready. Gerry Swank is in charge of getting it printed. Hopper will talk with Swank. We will print 150 brochures now.

E-mail program – Gibbs has been working on this. The program is not working as well as expected. Gibbs spent Thanksgiving weekend working out the kinks. 344 of the patron list with valid addresses went through (out of a total list of 411). There were no unsubscribe messages received.

Christmas show – We need to secure a BMI license. Watson will call Dick Stark and get the license. We discussed logistics of movement between the chorus and Take Note guest singing group. We will secure an emcee from outside the chorus. Waddell will have 500 programs printed.

Plass reported that several “delinquent” members have indicated that they will not be renewing. We are now at 59 members.

The 2012 Planning Session is January 14 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Duane Bosveld will do the installation of officers. Each member of the board between now and the planning session needs to ask members what they want to see happen this next year.

Waddell reported that the Milner family provided \$50.00 for quartets that sang at Emil's birthday. The check has been turned over to Reed.

There was discussion of whether we wanted to

have a coaching session for the chorus at Estes Park. Consensus was that we would not since our director would not be able to be present.

Schoemer suggested we send Gene Melick a thank you for all his years of service on the board.

The meeting was then adjourned.

High Notes says, “Thank you, contributors.”

by Gil Norris

We went all-electronic back in 2005. That made **Harry Hoffman's** job a lot easier and saved him the copying, stamping, post office side of getting the news out.

We published every month in 2011 though some months could have had fatter issues. Fifteen of us members contributed an article (some wrote a whole lot more), so that we had a lively, varied cross section of personalities represented. We filled 1,140 column-inches with entertaining stories and photos in those twelve issues. That's 95 column-feet, *almost a third of a football field!*

These are our writers for 2011: **Jerry Brumm, John Coffin, Jack Gibbs, Mike Hemphill, JR Homan, Jim Hopper, Jack Kinney, Ben Long, Gil Norris, Bob Plass, Bill and Kay Sachs, Gerry Swank, Dave Waddell, Keith Watson** and **Paul West**.

It's fun to see your point of view represented in print and read by some *pretty darn influential* barbershoppers. It's easy, too. Just e-mail it to the editor and that's it. If you are an officer, or on a committee, or your quartet has done some significant singing, and you are not listed above, please take ten minutes and tell us what's happening. We hope to see lots of new writers in 2012 and lots more news from the old guys. Since many barbershop wives became active in the chapter's finances, maybe we'll get to hear from them directly in these columns.

Emil Milner 1945 - 2011

Emil Milner, truly one of the good old guys of Longmont barbershop, passed away at age 66 at the Life Care Center in Longmont in early December. He and Emil were “almost brothers,” said Dave Waddell, as he broke the news to the chapter, the two having quartetted together for decades. Dave wrote an article about his friend for the High Notes back in 1986. Here it is:

“Every chapter in our Society has those people who keep the chapter alive and well through their dedication and commitment. In Longmont, we have such a person. Let me tell you of this person's life.



Dave, Emil (seated), James and Jim delivered Singing Valentines by the dozen.

“On December 2, 1945, in the small town of Belleville, Kansas, a little boy was born who was destined to become one of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.’s ‘biggest’ supporters of barbershopping. Emil Milner was one of four children in his family. He had two brothers and a sister. His family soon moved to Scandia, Kansas where he attended elementary school and later started high school. He was active in sports and

participated in basketball and football. Of course, Emil is the first to admit that when you go to those little Kansas schools everyone participates in sports just so they can field a team.

“In 1961, at the age of 16, Emil moved to Longmont with his family. Here he attended and graduated from Longmont High School. After graduation he decided to see the world, so he joined the Navy for three years. Upon returning from the Navy, Emil was introduced to Gloria who was soon to become his wife. To this marriage was born a son, Brian.

“The story goes that as a child Emil would come to Longmont from Kansas to visit his cousin. Many times while the two of them played, a little girl would show up to play with them. Of course Emil showed absolutely no interest in girls at that age. (*My, how things change!*) It just happens that the little girl was Gloria.

“Emil is presently employed by IBM, having joined the company in 1966. In 1970, the barbershop bug hit him and he has been active ever since that time. Emil has held every office at the chapter level except Program Vice President at least once and some offices for two or three times. Currently, he is serving as the Rocky Mountain District Division 3 Vice President. Emil has been very active in communicating with all the chapters within this division and has written more Activity Reports than all of the other four DVPs combined. Just during the past few months, he has been laying the ground work for getting the newly licensed Fort Collins chapter started.

“All barbershoppers can take lessons from him when it comes to commitment and dedication to our hobby. Unless he is ill or out of town, Emil will be at the meetings and singing performances. Emil does do other things beside barbershopping. He recently got involved in personal computers at work and has become quite proficient in using them. He likes it so much that he just bought *two* of his own. (*One for each hand I guess.*) He spends a lot of time playing with them and has joined the PC Club at IBM. In addition to barbershopping and computing, Emil loves fishing and is a devoted family man.”



Longmont Times-Call



**What a joyful time to be a
barbershopper - we get to put on
Christmas concerts...**



... and we get to make the kids and the older people laugh when Rudolph appears and when our comedy quartets change the words around. For those who can't get out much any more, we bring the Christmas spirit to them.

Christmas singing is the most fun

Caroling, Caroling, now we go.....

WOW ! What a busy month. Let me try to express the great sense of pride and accomplishment I feel. You guys are awesome! I don't believe there is another chapter in our great BHS Society that does as much community service in any given month. I fully embrace the Longs Peak tradition of trying to sing for every senior center, assisted living center, and nursing home in town. Throw in the annual show at the Mountain States Children's Home and our own, two day, annual Christmas Show, and you have a pretty hectic schedule. The next time you see JR Homan, shake his hand and thank him for coordinating and scheduling another successful Longs Peak Christmas season.

Thank you to all who came out despite snow, ice, and sub-freezing temperatures to brighten the lives of so many appreciative audience members. The reward of seeing the smiles, toe tapping, hand clapping and all those folks singing along is all of the pay we need. Good thing, because it's all the pay we get. Thanks also to our quartets for covering the smaller venues, and on the days and nights that we couldn't get the entire chorus together.

For me, the season had several memories worth sharing.

- 1) Getting to sing for long time chorus member Emil Milner a couple of days before he passed. Heaven's Harmony Choir gained one great lead.
- 2) Thanks to the chorus members for making this year's Christmas Show memorable, and thanks to Bruce for making it unforgettable. Bruce, the next time you'd like to be in the front row, just talk with the Music Team. No need to dive off the second riser step.

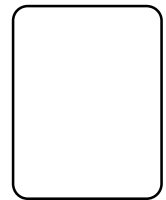
(I spoke with Bruce last week. He's a bit embarrassed, but suffering no permanent damage.)

- 3) My fondest memory of the season came on Wednesday December 14th. Sterling Silver quartet had a performance at a nursing home in Aurora. The very helpful woman at the front desk tried to direct us to "the other tower" where the carolers were singing. We informed her that it was just the four of us and we were invited to sing in the dining room for our bass' mother-in-law. The show went well, and as we were leaving the lovely woman at the front desk asked "how our show went". We asked if we could sing her a song. We did a fair job on Jim Clancy's Silent Night, and she sobbed and hugged us. She told us that her house was always full of barbershop music growing up. "Her father sang Barbershop". We asked if we might know him and she said her dad was Wendell Heiny. Wendell was the tenor in the 1955 championship quartet – The Four Hearsemen.

You never know who is listening and how much it means to them. Please get together with three other guys, learn a couple of songs, and sign-up for Singing Valentines. You'll have far more fun making your own memories than reading about mine.

Jack Gibbs

high notes
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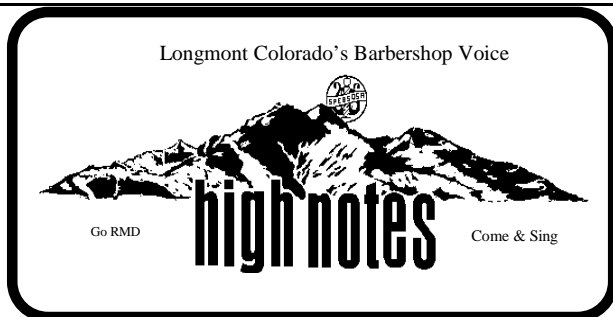


**It's Great to be a
Longmont Barbershopper**

Please deliver to:



Our mission: "We provide each member with enjoyable experiences through continuous improvement in our singing, performing, and entertaining in the barbershop style."



The High Notes is published monthly for the enjoyment of Longmont's barbershoppers and its content may be shared by fellow Barbershop Harmony Society (used to be SPEBSQSA) members. Please send your comments, material for inclusion and other chapter bulletins to the editor:

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