

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 31 – 1998 Golden Anniversary

The **Alexandria Chapter** had abundant reason to make 1998 a golden year of celebration. Winning the chapter's fourth gold medal in Atlanta provided tangible confirmation that the chapter deserved its year of proud recollection.

Mike Everard and **Gary Smith** led the effort for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration that would include the writing of a chapter history and a sequence of commemorative events and displays.



At the Presidents' Ball in February, "Golden Stars" were awarded to seven people who had made innumerable, significant contributions to the growth and development of the Alexandria Chapter:

- **Dean Snyder**, Founder and International Historian;
- **Gene Barnwell**, Co-Founder and First Director;
- **Wilbur Sparks**, Mr. Barbershopper;
- **Bud Arberg**, Mr. Barbershop Craftmaster;
- **Geri Geis**, Artistic Director and Choreographer;
- **Scott Werner**, Golden Director and Quartetman;
- and **Maxine Millard**, Number One Fan.

The final anniversary event was the Reunion Weekend and Show in September. Many former chapter members had been located and invited to attend the reunion, as well as sing in the Saturday night show.

On Saturday afternoon our reunion family gathered at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria where the walls of the main ballroom were lined with 33 panels depicting the chapter's fifty-year history, displays of chorus uniforms, and items for fund-raising auctions that helped defray reunion costs. This fun-filled weekend was concluded at T. C. Williams High School with the Fiftieth Anniversary Show, "Once In A Lifetime, Maybe," that traced the music eras of each director and the growth of the chorus from 20 to 120 men.

Six past quartets (**Nova Chords**, **Friendship Fire Company**, **Riverside Assembly**, **Alexandria's Ragtime Band**, **Copyright '86**, **Varsity Club**) and four present quartets (**Four Man Vocal Band**, **Reminisce**, **The Bay Rum Runners**, **Premiere**) appeared on the show.

Bud Arberg directed a small chorus representing the '40s.

Dick Whitehouse directed a somewhat larger chorus of the '50s and '60s.

Scott Werner directed the chorus of the '70s and '80s.

Mike Wallen directed the chorus of the '90s.

The 1998 International Chorus Champions then performed their contest set and the popular "Director's Lament."

Finally, President **Alan Wile** presented framed gold medals to **Dean Snyder** and to **Walter Latzko**, the arranger of our gold medal ballad, "In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning/Always."

Harmonious Tagline:

In 1999, the Alexandria Chapter published its monumental 50-year history—***Breathless Moments: The Alexandria Harmonizers, 1948-1998***, dedicated to the memory of **Dean Atlee Snyder, Sr.** (April 8, 1903 - May 7, 1999).

“Here’s health to the future, a sigh for the past. We can love and remember and have hope to the last. And looking ahead to vistas untold, If there’s a song in our hearts, we will never grow old.” - Dean Snyder