



PRIDE PIPER

ACT II

Black Hawk Metro Chapter
Waterloo, Iowa

July/August, 2021
Issue 4

DES MOINES REGISTER'S Columnist – "Iowa Boy" CHUCK OFFENBURGER Long-time Friend of Proud Image Chorus

April 14, 2018, The Proud Image Chorus celebrated their 40th anniversary of Black Hawk Metro's charter date. More than 50 members, new and old, gathered to renew friendships, share memories and harmonize songs in that good ole barbershop style!

As we looked back over those first 40 years, we reached out to those who made a positive impact on the Chorus. In addition to past members and directors, one person stuck out in our minds, Chuck Offenburger. Chuck was a news columnist for the Des Moines Register and well-known around the state as "Iowa Boy." We invited him to participate in our 40th anniversary celebration but when he was unable to do so, he submitted the following letter. His letter provides the background to our connection and long-lasting friendship. He signed his letter, "Thanks, pals! Chuck Offenburger".



Chuck with his wife, Carla, taking a break on a past RAGBRAI. Recently posted on his Facebook page, Carla is fighting a battle with cancer and under the care of Hospice.

Chuck Offenburger
1516 310th Street
Jefferson, IA 50129

April 10, 2018

Mary Trettin & Marie Easter
Promotions Coordinators
Proud Image Chorus
611 Wildwood Road
Waterloo, IA 50702

To all the singers, past & present, in Iowa's best barbershop chorus, and to the staff and family members who have supported them...

Congratulations to you all as you celebrate the 40th anniversary of your outstanding choral organization. So much great music, and so much fun!

Let's go back 30 years ago. The tiny north central Iowa town of Bolan (pop. 16) had given so many people so much entertainment at their funky 1986 centennial. And then in 1987, the Bolan folks put on a fantastic reception when RAGBRAI's hordes pedaled through town. So, I suggested in my Des Moines Register "Iowa Boy" column that Bolan-ites should put their feet up in the summer of 1988, and the rest of us would bring a summertime party to them.

Immediately, I received a phone call from Dave Boyd and Bob Abbas in Waterloo, saying they had a singing group they wanted to bring to the party. I was thinking a quartet, and would've been thrilled at that. So imagine how excited I was to learn they were talking about the whole, 55-member Proud Image Barbershop Chorus! And you did it! You arrived in what was surely the first fancy charter bus ever driven into Bolan. And all it cost me to get you there was a keg of beer for your bus trip home. I'll never forget the spectacular outdoor concert you performed there in Bolan – in front of 1,700 people! It proved once again that, often, the best things we do in life are the things we do for nothing – for no pay. (Or in this case, it proved once again how far 55 men will go for a keg of free beer!)

The following spring, you brought the people of Bolan – all 16 of them – to Waterloo to be special honorees at your spring show. And I know that there have been many other acts of kindness and generosity that you have performed over these four decades. You have distinguished yourselves and your organization as MVPs in music, culture and community.

God bless you all and, like you did long ago in Bolan, please sing "Amazing Grace" for me.

The Pride Piper

My Dad Sings Barbershop!!

In observance of Father's Day, which was celebrated on June 20th, The Proud Image would like to recognize the father-son members who are currently singing with the Chorus. In addition to Director David Boyd and his son Eric and his son Logan, Denny Craun, Sr., and his son, Den Jr. are all current members. What a wonderful hobby to share! We would like to feature these gentlemen as we get better acquainted with each one.

DAVID BOYD, DIRECTOR

By Marie Easter

I'm so excited, I was able to go out on assignment! The first stop was at Deerwood Park, Evansdale, and guess who I found. David Boyd, or as we call him "Dave", the Proud Image fearless director. Generations of barbershop go before him, his grandfather Carl Boyd late 50's, his father Irv Boyd late 60's. They hail from the Mason City Chapter. Dave became a member of this chapter in 1979. He is married to Tami, and the father of Eric, grandfather to Logan and Mason. Hint! Do you see any other barbershoppers in the making?

Dave is retired following a 33-year career with Goodwill Industries, beginning as a volunteer, orchestrated some capital campaigns and completed his career as CEO of Goodwill.

Dave sings a mean lead, sang in the Favorite Sons quartet formed in 1979, won CSD in 1980 and made two trips to International. Gary Eliason, bass from Clear Lake, and a familiar name to all of us, Paul Wigley, bari who was student teaching in Mason City, and Kevin Linsicum, tenor, sang with Dave. A sidenote, there was a reunion in 2020, celebrating 40 years ago.

Dave attends PI board meetings as Director, since 1982. His memories are many and wonderful; standing out front and center, winning CSD twice, and going to International as a large chorus. PI has also won five trophies for small chorus competition. Even though the Chorus has sung for hundreds of performances, the one that really stands out for Dave is singing the National Anthem at a Walnut Ridge School basketball game; the chorus and spectators were electrified.

And another highlight, winning CSD in 1987, especially with Jim Bagby directing the Kansas City Chorus. Dave loves the fellowship of the chorus, in addition to camping, golfing, and fishing.

His favorite song "Little Pal" is a generational favorite handed down by his grandfather and dad who used to sing it to Dave.

A music degree from UNI goes with Dave, using his left hand had Piano Proficiency, played French horn, A's in conducting, and was a voice major, I would say quite a pedigree.

I'll end with this, when Jerry Easter brought Steve Klawonn to a PI rehearsal, Steve looked at Dave and said, "You were my student teacher at Evans Jr. High, in Ottumwa Iowa when I was in the 8th grade chorus." So, there you go!

I feel privileged to know this guy, and be his friend, who has been in my life for at least 40 years. Somewhere in my home there are pictures of Jerry and Dave at conventions over the years. David Boyd, our talented and dynamic director of The Proud Image Chorus!



The Boyds - Eric, David, Logan (seated) - June, 2021

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Eric Boyd, Son of David

By Marie Easter

My next assignment brought me back to Waterloo and a great conversation with Eric Boyd.

When Eric isn't singing or quarteting, you can find him as a delivery driver for Martin Bros. for the past six years. He is married to Charise, and the father of Logan and Mason. Charise is a strong supporter of Eric singing barbershop.

He was introduced to the barbershop style of music by, you guessed it, his grandfather and father. Eleven years ago, Dave was his sponsor.

A lead singer not only in chorus, but also in his quartet, D.A.T.E. Nite, which is Eric's first quartet. And he loves this experience as well. He also finds time to be involved in the administrative arm of PI, has served as board member at large, and this year he is membership chairman.

Of course, he has favorite memories and songs. Little Pal and Gospel Medley stand out. In 1985 at five years old, he was on the show, wearing his pajamas, sitting on a little bed hearing a bedtime story before prayers, while the chorus sang Little Pal, I was privileged to see the DVD of this, which still brings a tear to my eye.

Eric has developed life-long friendships through this barbershop experience. Eric also finds time to fine tune his Bar-B-Que skills, fishing and shooting pool.

He feels blessed with his involvement in membership. He loves being a part of the PI growing numbers and wants to see it continue!

Logan Boyd, Son of Eric and Grandson of David

By Marie Easter

And I'm still in Waterloo and going to visit with the fifth generation of Boyd barbershoppers.

Next up is Logan Boyd, son of Eric.

Logan is 14, a student at Valley Lutheran and Peet, and will be going into the 9th grade this fall. This teenager also likes PE, history, football, golf, track & field. After

all of this and singing, he has started working at Village Inn on Ridgeway on the weekends.

He has had a strong interest in barbershop singing with dad Eric and grandpa Dave since he was seven years old. One of Logan's fondest memories is sitting on his dad's lap at a rehearsal at Valley Lutheran. Logan sings bass, and favorite songs are "Little Pal" and "Old Man River."

Piano lessons are on his docket as well. And when he isn't singing or learning music, he enjoys working on cars, woodworking and video games.

Goals right now include spending time with Dave and Eric.

The Crauns - Den, Jr. & Denny, Sr. - June 2021



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DENNY CRAUN, SR., Charter Member

By Mary Trettin



It was at the anniversary show of the Proud Image Chorus, April, 2019 that this barbershopper was presented an award created just for him; Outstanding Accomplishment and Service for His Unselfish Devotion to the Ideals of Barbershop Harmony Singing, His Continuing Support of The Proud

Image Chorus and its Activities and Promotion of the Craft of Barbershop Singing. This is Denny Craun, Sr. in a nutshell, a rather large nutshell, but nonetheless, a nutshell!

From the very beginning of The Proud Image Chorus, Denny has held every position on the board, except treasurer, including president six times. He was introduced to barbershop singing in 1978 when Jerry Silver, former charter member, invited him to a guest night. He even remembers the date, June 20, 1978! Over the past 40+ years, he has sung lead, bass, and continues to sing baritone. He was presented the coveted Barbershopper of the Year award two times over his tenure with the Chorus.

He has been married to his wife, Linda, throughout his barbershop career. Linda's undying support of the Chorus has helped make it possible for Denny to enjoy this thing called barbershop! They have two grown children, son, Den Jr, who is now a member of the Chorus and sings with his dad on the risers, and daughter, Lori. They have three grandchildren. Denny worked as a horticulturist for Allen Hospital and Plant Services for UNI before retiring more than ten years ago. In addition to the countless hours Denny has devoted to the Chorus, whether he is singing, compiling a list of songs to sing at contest or on show as a part of the Music Committee or setting up risers, he enjoys golfing, bowling and is an active member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church where he grew up. Denny began singing in chorus in high school and in his church choir at Our Savior's when he was only twelve where he continues to sing today. He sang baritone with his quartet, Daze Gone Bye for more than 30 years before becoming a part of his new quartet, At Last. He is also a part of the local, vocal band, The Doo Wops.

Denny's most memorable experience was winning district competition in Kansas City in 1980. The chorus

hoped to place in the top five and winning the competition is still one of his favorite memories. Denny loves being a part of the chorus. Singing the baritone part is not the most pleasing to listen to without the lead, bass and tenor! Thank you, Denny Craun, Sr., for you are an exemplary member of the Proud Image Chorus!



Central States District Contest Champions, 1987

Den Jr. and Denny Sr.

DEN CRAUN, JR., Son of Denny Sr.

By Mary Trettin

Den, Jr. was about ten years old when the Proud Image Chorus was formed. His dad, Denny, Sr. was a charter member. Junior really didn't know any other lifestyle than being the son of a barbershopper! After Den Jr. became a member, some of his first memories included rehearsing choreography for hours for the shows in 1985 and 1986 in Dave Boyd's basement. Den cherishes the fact that he was able to sing and win district contest with his dad in 1987. The songs were "Girls Medley" and "St. Paddy's Day Parade." He loved it when the crowd went wild as the vests came off during the Irish song! This was prior to his six-year induction into the Marines where he served as a cook much of the time on ship. Being a part of the Marine Corp allowed him to travel to beautiful parts of the world, such as the Mediterranean Sea and Panama.

Den has been married to his wife, Pam for nearly 25 years. They have two children, Kayla and Daniel. For the past five years, Den has been working for the United States Postal Service, which has included serving as trainer. Den is currently Communication VP of the Proud Image Chorus and was previously Board Member at Large. He loves the comradery he shares with men young and old. He remembers when one of the charter members, Fred Christen, who was about five feet tall and weighed almost 150 pounds would greet Den, with "Hi there, Small Man. Den Jr. would come back with "Hi there, Big Man." Fred, along with Bob and Jerry and other members made a big impact on Den and feels they have all formed positive role models for him.

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When Jr. is not singing barbershop, he enjoys listening to music of many genres, such as jazz, big band and classic rock. What can you expect, when you grow up the son of a baritone?!

Performance Etiquette by Music VP Dan Bogart

Gentlemen,

After getting the performance etiquette pointers last week in practice, I thought it appropriate to put them in the newsletter and add a few:

- When getting ready to sing, lean just slightly forward on the balls of your feet. When everyone does it, it's a cool visual that gives the audience a sense of anticipation.
- When singing, stand with your outside foot (if you're on the right side of the risers, that's your right foot; the left side, left) slightly ahead of your inside foot.
- Don't lock your knees; keep them slightly bent.
- If at any time you feel you need to sit because you're getting weak or light-headed, please do so. We don't want anyone to fall over.
- No matter the venue--outdoor or indoor--keeping yourself hydrated is very important. Drink plenty of water starting a few days before the performance, but especially the day before and the day of.
- When the pipe is blown, that is the signal to focus on the director.
- Don't let your eyes wander during a song—it will stand out.
- During a song, keep your eyes focused on the director, no matter where he goes.
- When a quartet is singing, be focused on them. Stand at parade rest. Feet should be shoulder-width apart and one hand is grabbing your other closed hand in front of you at your waist. And do not applaud, cheer, or whistle for the quartet. Let the audience do that.
- Be expressive when you sing, especially with your face, but use your whole body. If the song is a happy song,

make sure the audience sees you smile. If it feels like you're overdoing it, you're probably getting close to doing just enough.

· Attire for most non-show performances is red PI polos, black pants, and black socks and shoes. For UNI performances and a select few others, we wear our purple shirts instead of the red. For shows, it's our black tux, red or blue tie, and white shirt ensemble, black socks, and black shoes. Until next month, Keep On Singing!



At Last By Jeff Morgan, Bass

The Proud Image Chorus's newest quartet, At Last, formed in the fall of 2019. After rehearsing a few times and considering several names (including the Four Decades, as current members are in their 40's, 50's, 60's and....older), the group settled on the name of the Mack Gordon and Harry Warren classic made famous by singer Etta James – At Last – though we joke that the real reason for the name was to make it easy for our lead to remember who we are.

Al Ferden sings lead. Al is a long-time member of the Proud Image, including the years a decade or so ago when rehearsals consisted of a handful of singers, and has sung on show quartets, but At Last is his first official quartet. Al is semi-retired, but keeps busy laying tile for friends of friends. Rehearsals typically take place in Al's basement or garage, and we're grateful for the patience of his wife Doreen and curiosity of his cat, Sam.

Singing tenor is Steve Klawonn, who also serves as President and Assistant Director of the Proud Image. Steve joined the Proud Image when he moved to the Cedar Valley to pastor the Price of Peace Lutheran Church in Evansdale, where the chorus rehearses. Steve has a rich and long barbershop history that includes directing multiples choruses. Previously, Steve sang in the Extraordinaires out of Ottumwa.

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Our baritone is Denny Craun, Sr. Denny is retired from work at both UNI and Allen Hospital, and is another long-time member of the Proud Image. For the Chorus, Denny typically blows the pitch, organizes the music, develops the riser charts, creates song charts for shows, and regularly reminds chorus director Dave Boyd of the first word of every song. Denny sang for many years in the Daze Gone Bye quartet.

Newest to both the Proud Image and the world of barbershop is bass Jeff Morgan, who joined the PI in 2018 at the invitation of fellow bass Dan Bogart. Jeff teaches physics and science education at UNI. Although he has previously sung in church choirs, he is still busy learning what things like “the edge” and the “barbershop seventh” are.

Proud Image Director Dave Boyd has coached the quartet during several of our rehearsals, helping us work on singing approach, balance, vowel formation, breathing and many other technical elements that we hope take our foursome to a new level of singing and performance. We appreciate his ear and advice.

In the realm of odd trivia, we recently realized that Steve is 11 years older than Jeff, Al is 11 years older than Steve, and Denny....well, Denny would like everyone to know that he is NOT 11 years older than Al!

At Last has been busy building a repertoire of quartet songs that Al remembers all of the words to, and now, fully vaccinated, looks forward to upcoming opportunities to perform around our community. If you are interested in having At Last perform for you, contact Denny at (319)415-5927 or dcraun13@gmail.com or Steve at (641) 680-1073 or poppastorklawonn@gmail.com.



Chapter Updates From Around the State of Iowa:

Algona - Algona has resumed rehearsals, as virtually all are fully vaccinated. They are concentrating on three summer church sing-outs to reintroduce barbershopping back into the communities.

Des Moines - They have been meeting in-person at Grandview University since last Fall. They just completed a virtual annual show which is now being edited and should be out in late summer. They are in discussions

with the Sweet Adaline chapter about a joint Christmas show.

Cedar Rapids - They are meeting Tuesday evenings at the Scottish Rite Cathedral in person with about 20 guys attending. They are planning to create a joint chorus with Iowa City and perhaps Davenport which will compete in Lawrence under the direction of Chad Knipfer. Most of their singers have been vaccinated and their plan is to continue meeting in person. They are working with the Old Capitol Chorus to do some inner chapter activities. They will perform in person for the Tribute to Heroes in June.

Sioux City - Paul Roberts reported that they started rehearsals in February with 15 singers but are still maintaining social distancing and wearing masks. They are scheduled to sing the National Anthem at six ballgames this summer, will perform at three area churches and two arena football games. Next week they will be performing for Barbergehtti, a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. They are not planning to attend contest in Lawrence KS in October.

Denison - Bob Brockhoff said it has been a year since the Denison chorus has been together. Up until that time, we had been operating as a mixed chorus with eight Society members and five women singing with us. It was the hope that operating as a mixed chorus would help us grow. There had also been discussion of giving up our chapter charter if there was no growth.

They are going to have a meeting and will invite all past members to get together and discuss rejoining the chapter. SUX and DSM chapters offered to help with the event if possible.

International Contest will be VIRTUAL. It will take place June 30th – July 4th. Check out the details at: [Barbershop Harmony Society](http://BarbershopHarmonySociety.com).

Fall Contest – Lawrence, Kansas

Exciting times right around the corner. Plans are in the making to have a safe fall CSD convention in Lawrence, KS. What can be better than to gather with barbershoppers across our district, fall in love with all of the sweet chords that we will hear. This is the time to make your plans, put a few coins away for traveling and dream about the great experience ahead.

We look forward to seeing you in Lawrence KS, October 7-10, 2021. It will be much fun!

The Pride Piper

If you weren't at the River Place Plaza, downtown Cedar Falls Saturday afternoon, you missed a great performance by The Proud Image Chorus!



LADIES CORNER.....



Several ladies of The Proud Image Chorus met on May 13th via zoom to get acquainted and chat! The plan...Let's get together again!



The next event will be a **Ladies Only Picnic** at the home of Marie Easter on Monday, June 28th at 6:30 p.m. Please bring hors d'oeuvres to share and your own drink. Umbrellas are

optional! ☺ Please email marie.easter@gmail.com or mytrettin@hotmail.com if you would like to attend and for more information.

*PLEASE NOTE:

The deadline to submit articles for the September/October Issue of Pride Piper Act II is August 15th. We encourage members to submit newsworthy articles by contacting:
Marie: 319-231-9488 or marie.easter@gmail.com
Mary: 319-239-1510 or mytrettin@hotmail.com.

**Rehearsals are Tuesdays @ 7pm
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
4031 Lafayette Road, Evansdale
Contact Eric Boyd at 319-504-4645
with questions or if you would like
more information.**

**CELEBRATING THE RED, WHITE & BLUE!
PI TO HOST GUEST NIGHT!! JUNE 29 – 7 PM**



Men, in the Cedar Valley who love to sing, are invited to Guest Night at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 4031 Lafayette Rd., Evansdale. If you have sung in high school, church choir or even in the shower, please join the Chorus on Tuesday, June 29th for a fun-filled evening! Learn a tag, meet new friends and get a chance to sing with this award-winning a cappella Chorus! Please call Membership VP, Eric at 319-504-4645 for more information!

*****THE FINAL TAG***** Many of you may know or remember a favorite barbershop tag...."To Reach the Unreachable Star!"

Just as in barbershop music, a tag is a dramatic variation in the last section of a song; this last section will be dedicated to updates on chorus members! Let us know if you have a "note" you would like added to this newsletter.

*Sending prayers and get-well wishes to member Don Lubbert and Sue Dehl, wife of member, Tony Dehl, who are both recovering from recent surgeries.