



Apollo Club

1910-2010



Celebrating 100 years of Music
Centennial Souvenir Book

WENATCHEE WORLD . 5-24-81



Pictorial Past

These young men combined their musical talents back in 1910 to form the Wenatchee High School male vocal quartet. That same year they would become part of the charter membership of Wenatchee's Apollo Club which is still popular today. Harold Smith, Wenatchee, second from right, furnished this photo. He sang baritone in the group and recalls that they performed

for many school functions and at various events of the Commercial Club and Ladies Musical Club. Others in the picture are: Clois George, second tenor; Dwight Gill, bass; and Willis Poe, first tenor. All were seniors except Smith who was a junior. Smith was director of the Apollo Club from 1946-51.

The above picture appeared in the Wenatchee World newspaper May 24, 1981.

This centennial brochure was made possible through a grant by the Community Foundation of North Central Washington. The members of the Wenatchee Apollo Club, an affiliate of the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, gratefully acknowledge that support and hope that you enjoy this brief glimpse of our history and community involvement.



The Wenatchee Apollo Club

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The cover photo was taken in front of the 100 year old Wells House on the campus of Wenatchee Valley College, October 10, 2009.

FIRST QUARTER CENTURY 1910 – 1935

In 1910, the Rev. F. Stuart Hyatt assembled 14 young men to organize a group to share the joy of singing together and to enrich community life. Though Rev. Hyatt was an Episcopalian, the chorus was not affiliated with any religious group.

Charter Members – Rev. F. Stuart Hyatt, J.D. Gill, Harold Smith, Willis Poe, A.J. Dear, Clay Butler, Harold Hull, Steve Knowles, C.J. Humphrey, John Isenhardt, Clois George, and three whose names have slipped through the cracks for now.

The purposes of the new group were: to provide the opportunity for men to assemble and sing for their own enjoyment; to provide men the opportunity to develop their vocal skills so that they might perform for the public; and to provide Wenatchee and its neighbors a men's chorus that would act as an ambassador of good will for the area. These purposes remain in place today.

In Greek mythology, Apollo was the patron god of musicians and poets. He was considered the ideal of manly beauty. So, when a group of young men formed a men's chorus in 1910, it seemed appropriate to name it the Apollo Club. There are several Apollo Clubs around the world, some older than the one formed in Wenatchee, but the best information available makes the Wenatchee Apollo Club the oldest men's chorus in the Pacific Northwest.



1913 - 1914



This picture is believed to be the first "official" photo taken of the Wenatchee Apollo Club. It is likely that director O.B. Brown is in the center, and Ross Gill and Dad G (probably Gill) are noted. Can you identify others or the site of the photograph?

First Quarter Directors (years): Rev. F. Stuart Hyatt (2), O.B. Brown (15), Scott B. Prowell (3) and O.C. Woods (5)

First Quarter Pianists: Lillian Vaughn (3), Mrs. R.W. Bryant (6), Miss Carolyn Sterling (1), Ann VanHoven (1), Mrs. D.C. Bruns (2) and George Eickelberner (7) with 5 years uncertain



This 1924 official photo was taken on the stage of the Liberty Theater where most concerts of the day were performed. The theater organ, which was used for silent movies and is now in the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center's performance center, can be seen in the foreground complete with music.



Wenatchee Apollo Club 1924 – 1925

Row 1, from left – Harold Armstrong, Dr. C.H. Burkhart, Clay Butler, S.G. Pike, I.A. Dykkestén, C.J. Christopher, O.C. Woods (who became director in 1930), F.E. Gahringer, Harold Gronseth, J. Dwight Gills, F.M. Priest, Charles G. Cooper

Row 2 – Luther Jones, Clarence Snode, Forest Dew, Glen Young, Albert Ryan, Earl Nebergall, Ralph Eikenberry, D.C. Bruns, D.S. Evans, O.B. Brown (Director), Carolyn Sterling (Pianist), A.H. Mason, Martin Ryan, Ralph Curtis, Ernest Neher, William Dickson, E.V. Cavanaugh, W.S. Arnold, W.D. Slack, E.A. Erickson, H.D. Graves

Choral music was a big part of community activity in this era. At the time of this photo, O.C. Woods was the director of the 52-voice Choral Union of the Church of the Brethren at Wenatchee as well as an active member of the Apollo Club.

SECOND QUARTER CENTURY 1935 – 1960

The Wenatchee Apollo Club was disbanded in the fall of 1941 due to World War II, but was revived again in the fall of 1945 after WW II was over. Charter member Harold Smith was instrumental in getting the club going again, and Arthur Newman was recruited as the new director.



Wenatchee Apollo Club 1947-1948

Row 1, from left – Myrtle Wetherald (Pianist), John Brown, Jim Jensen, Richard (Dick) Seeley, Dean Gordanier, Gaye Wilson, Harold Smith (director), John Miller, Cal Wetherald, R.L. (Pete) Peterson, Linn L. Goodman.

Row 2 – Ivan Eustace, Don Isenhart, Jim Kavanaugh, Bob Borden, Glen Vanderpool, H.W. Vincent, Gerald Christie, Chuck Smith, Horton Rochelle.

Row 3 – Tom Olson, Kirby Davis, Boyd Davis, Kyle Davis, Unknown, Elton Henderson, Stuart Delaney, Chuck Yerington, John Adams, Reuben Sparks, Glen Woods Sr.

The soloist in the above picture was 8th grader Gaye Wilson, now Mrs. Mark Tischer, living in Arizona. Harold Smith was her mentor at the time and featured her in the '48 spring "home" concert.

GERRY CHRISTIE



1958



2009

Our longest-singing member, Gerry Christie, believes that the first out-of-town concert was at Manson around 1947. He recalls the spring 1948 concert at Waterville presented a special challenge. "They were building the new road because of the flood. We drove as far as we could and hiked for about a mile, and the people of Waterville came and picked us up. We gave the concert and did the reverse trip back. We sang 'Climbin' Up the Mountain' on our hikes."

Gerry tells another story about one time that John Miller sang a solo during a concert break. "Johnny was a little guy with a 48-inch chest that sang bass. When he got a bucket of air, he got a bucket of air! He started out his song pianissimo and gained volume through the whole song. When he got to his last note, it was fortissimo. John had a spring clip bow tie on, and when he hit that note the tie went "ping" and flew clear out to the second row of the audience. Needless to say, he brought the house down."

Second Quarter Directors (yrs): O.C. Woods (pre WW II) (7), Arthur Newman (2), Harold Smith (5), Gale McManus (1), George Low (5) and James Simmons (2)

Second Quarter Pianists: Miss Carolyn Sterling (?) & Mrs. Edith Burns (pre WW II) (?), Miss Jean Marie Olsen (2), Betty Jean Smith (1), Myrtle Wetherald (3), Eugene Dolman (6), Shirley (Shadbolt) Hedges (later Killion) (1), and Joy Henderson (2)



Wenatchee Apollo Club 1958-1959

Row 1 (from left) – Joy Henderson (Pianist), Orville Herr, Bob Mulligan, Leonard Steiner, Mervin Elmer, Everett Henderson, Roy Chittick, Don Danner, James Simmons (director)

Row 2 – Duane Steele, Cal Blackburn, Bruce Campbell, Dick Sanford, Don Isenhardt, Chuck Yerington, Reuben Sparks

Row 3 – Jim Eakin, Jim Kavanaugh, Gerald Christie, George Batterman, Ed Sand, Horton Rochelle, Rollin (Pete) Peterson, John Miller



THIRD QUARTER CENTURY 1960 – 1985



Wenatchee Apollo Club 1961-1962

Row 1 (from left) – Janet Otto (Vocalist), Bob Morrison, Harold Ottosen, Earl Bushnell, Ray Taylor, Bruce Campbell, Jack Hasley, Don Isenhart, Rollin (Pete) Peterson, Joy Henderson (Pianist)

Row 2 – Margaret Reich (Vocalist), Bob Mulligan, Bob Ormsby, Arnie Stevens, Jim Eakin, Eugene Betz, Bill Patrick, Everett Henderson, John Miller, Chuck Yerington, Edward Sand (Director)

Row 3 – Warren Eikenberry, Jerry Koch, Cal Blackburn, Ed Faust, Newton Hamon, Norman Meyer, Vern Christensen, Jim Hargis, Hugo Hakola, Martin Roys

Row 4 – Jim Kavanaugh, Emerson Marr, Wilfred Mahy, Gerald Christie, George Batterman, Ivan Eustace, Mervin Elmer, Reuben Johnson, Jim Taylor, William Reich (Police Chief), H.E. (Pinky) Miller

Somewhere in the middle '60s Jay McMullen asked if he could record the "home" concert, and the club was thrilled that he wanted to do that. He sold tapes of those recordings to members. His son-in-law, Richard Zornes, took over in later years, and the Apollo Club bought the masters of all those recordings. In recent years, the Club has hired recordings made of the concerts.

In 1971 the first stereo recording was made, and copies were sold for \$3.50. There are still some vinyl discs of those "good old days" floating around, but finding a way to play them is becoming a challenge.

Long-time director, Ed Sand, tells of the beginnings of the International Choral Festival (ICF). "The International Festival got started with the Apollo Club's 50th anniversary. There had been a few get-togethers before, but not anything that was done every year. It was all male choruses to start with and included Yakima, Pendleton, Moses Lake, Omak and Trail, B.C. Soon many male choruses disbanded, and in the late '60s, Naramata (B.C.) Community Singers was asked to join as the first mixed choir. We lost more male choruses, and Naramata invited other Canadian groups until Apollo was the only U.S. group included. As the years went by, we got more U.S. groups again and dropped some Canadian groups until we now have a balance of U.S. and Canadian choruses."

During this quarter century The Wenatchee Apollo Club participated at two World's Fairs: Century 21 at Seattle in 1962 and Expo '74 at Spokane in 1974.

The Century 21 venue was outdoors, and rain squalls cut the program short, but the group found a restroom (with great acoustics) to finish their concert.





Wenatchee Apollo Club 1974-1975

Row 1 – Joy Henderson (Pianist), Edward Sand (Director)

Row 2 – Ray Dahl, Jim Eakin, Ellson Miller, Irving Irish, Elton Henderson, Reuben Johnson, Everett Henderson, Jerry Briggs, Gene Hampton, Dewey Braaten, Don Danner, John Miller

Row 3 – Floyd Hall, Clarence Schopp, Doug Simon, Harold Ottosen, Bill Patrick, Ivan Eustace, Marvin Forney, Jim Taylor, Phil McColley, Bob Mill, Rollin (Pete) Peterson

Row 4 – Fred Stanfield, Bruce Brown, Jim Kavanaugh, Gerald Christie, Jon Vognild, Walt Jefferson, Russell O'Keefe, Hugo Hakola, Joe Gjertson, Terry McKee, Fahey McKee, Jim Kaiser

Third Quarter Directors (yrs): Edward J. Sand (16), Earl Norwood (1), Dale Welsh (2), Richard Lapo (1), Gene Huber (1), Sam Smith (1), Jim Baum (1) and Dan Jackson (2)

Third Quarter Pianists: Joy Henderson (13), Carlton Petit (1), Marilyn Jones (1), Dana Sisson (later Sundahl) (4), Monica Harle (1), Terri Wahl (later Rappe') (4) and Terrie Zamzow (later Sharp) (1)

FOURTH QUARTER CENTURY 1985 – 2010



Wenatchee Apollo Club 1986-1987

This photo was taken on the grounds of Expo '86, the World's Fair at Vancouver, B.C. The venue for the performance was the Expo Food Court, so many, many fair attendees were treated to "Lunch with the Wenatchee Apollo Club."

Row 1 – Jess Montoya, Charles Root, Tom Lindsay, Chuck McHaney, Ot Kintner, Joy Henderson (Pianist), Edward Sand (Director), Jack Kennedy, Everett Henderson, Conard Petersen

Row 2 – Virgil King, Jack Asher, Donn Creger, Reuben Johnson, Marvin Forney, Arne Hagerup, Britt Ransford, Phil McColley, Tom Sellers, Walt Jefferson, Lynn Heminger

Row 3 – Jim Kavanaugh, Gerald Christie, Norryce Mentzer, Dave Swanson, Russell O'Keefe, Ivan Eustace, Dick Sanford, Jim Taylor, Hugo Hakola, Brian Sand, Rick Ruffle, Bob Mill, Ron Schuster



A highlight of the 1995-1996 season was participation in an International Choral Festival at Missoula, Montana. The Apollo Club members submitted an audition tape with their application, and were fortunate enough to be invited to the 5-day event in July, 1996. Other choruses were from Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Hong Kong, South Korea, New Zealand, Poland, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand. A children's choir from Missoula and the Wenatchee Apollo Club were the United States' entries. Despite the fact that some of the international groups were professional, many comments indicated that the United States had been very well represented. The club was very glad that Charlie Ward had read about the Missoula festival in his dentist's waiting room and that he had promoted the idea of participating to director Ed Sand and to the entire group.

In 2000, Club Director, Edward J. Sand was inducted by the Washington Music Educators Assn. into their Hall of Fame. The award gives recognition for exceptional support, inspiration and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of music education, both public and private, in the state of Washington.

At the end of a two-year renovation of the Washington State Capitol building at Olympia, the Wenatchee Apollo Club was invited to sing in the rotunda for the reopening celebration in January, 2005. That rotunda is a huge space to fill with music, but the marble walls, steps and columns do not absorb sound, but rather let it bounce and reverberate. Then, in the Chamber of the House of Representatives, following the flag salute and opening prayer, the Apollo Club sang "Washington, My Homeland" and "Roll On Columbia" before the new members were seated.

In 2006, the Wenatchee Apollo Club was granted the honorary Living Treasure Award by the Wenatchee Valley Museum and Cultural Center, which has bestowed the award on local arts organizers and community volunteers since 2002. Past recipients had all been individuals, so this was the first such award to an organization.

Shared concerts with harpist Bronn Journey highlighted a funding opportunity. Journey had CDs of his music available for purchase, and he was willing to sell Apollo Club CDs also, but we had none. Soon we had CDs produced, and the income from those sales has allowed the funding of many scholarships. The Apollo Club presents scholarships to young men who demonstrate an interest in pursuing advanced education in the field of music. Students or graduates of high schools in Chelan, Douglas, Okanogan or Grant counties are eligible to apply. Scholarships are named in honor of long-time members of Apollo Club. In 2009, scholarships were awarded honoring Gerald Christie, Hugo Hakola and A. Bert Christianson.

Fourth Quarter Directors (yrs): Edward Sand (18), Cary Sand (2), Tim Meyer (5)

Fourth Quarter Pianists: Joy Henderson (16), Teri Rappe' (9)

A centennial banquet, May 14, 2010, will honor all present and former Wenatchee Apollo Club members, directors and accompanists. The gala event will be held in the grand ballroom of the Wenatchee Convention Center. The public will be invited to attend.



Wenatchee Apollo Club 1988-1989

Row 1 – Tom Lindsay, Jess Montoya, Charles Root, Bob Smith, Bob Goodman, Elton Henderson, Norryce Mentzer, Joy Henderson (Pianist), Cary Sand (Director), Dave Swanson, Kneel Welch, Everett Henderson, Cliff Clare, Jack Kennedy, Conard Petersen

Row 2 – Chuck McHaney, Hank Flores, Lynn Heminger, Gary Myrene, Donn Creger, Ron Sturtz, Reuben Johnson, Otho Kintner, Dick Sanford, Marvin Forney, H.E. (Pinky) Miller, Hugh Evans

Row 3 – Jack Asher, Maury Rogers, Jim Kavanaugh, Gerald Christie, Jerry Koch, Charlie Ward, Ivan (Slim) Eustace, Russell O'Keefe, Jim Taylor, Rick Edwards, Hugo Hakola, Phil McColley, Ron Schuster

Roster of Centennial Edition of Wenatchee Apollo Club

Director – Tim Meyer, Assistants, Edward Sand and Larry Henderson

Pianist – Teri Rappe'

First Tenors –Dan Firth, Jack Asher, Bruce Brown, Francis Delgado-Nelson, Dennis Engel, Steve Firth, Walter Gerdes, Lynn Heminger, Skip Laney, Charles Munson, Dan Riggers, Angel Saavedra, Ron Yates, David Serles, Rob Swearingen

Second Tenors –Gary Myrene, Lawrence Barry, Don Border, Richard Casey, Gerald Christie, Donn Creger, Jack Gavin, Larry Henderson, Terry Lillybridge, Chuck McHaney, Dick Monroe, Ken Napiontek, Lynn O'Keefe, Bill Parker, Gerald Rappe', Joel Romero, Bill Schettenhelm, Jim Telford, Elmer Wall, Bill Young

Baritones –Ray Johnston, Len Anderson, Ivan Bowman, Jon Cook, Dale Crouse, Michael Drollman, Bob Firth, Don Hainline, Bill Johnson, Roy Johnston, Merle Loudon, John Lumsden, Dan McConnell, Tim McCracken, Norryce Mentzer, Norm Meyer, Raymond O'Brien, Bill Patrick, Josh Schoenwald, Travis Schoenwald, Dave Swanson, Jim Volkmann, Charlie Ward, George Yeager

Basses –Arnold Buchholz, Rick Blackburn, Tom Black, Tom Brannon, John Brockwell, Carl Campbell, Perrin Cornell, Rick Edwards, Larry Epperson, Virgil Ferguson, Keith Henning, Bill Meyer Jr, Jerry Michael, Bill Osborn, Conard Petersen, Gayle Pinkston, Ed Sand, Mike Schoenwald, Tom Schwartz, John E Scott, Bruce Watts



Wenatchee Apollo Club 2007-2008

Row 1 – Conard Petersen, Norryce Mentzer, Jess Montoya, Bill Patrick, Elton Henderson, Teri Rappé (pianist), Tim Meyer (director), Dave Swanson, Bill Parker, Don Border, Dick Monroe, Dan Firth

Row 2 – John Brockwell, Bill Johnson, John Scott, Jerry Michael, Don Hainline, Ray Johnston, Robert Hanson, Bill Young, Gerald Rappe', Ron Yates, Walter Gerdes, David Serles

Row 3 – Virgil Ferguson, Rick Blackburn, Bill Osborn, Tom Schwartz, Tom Brannon, Roy Johnston, Dale Crouse, Norm Meyer, Elmer Wall, Jack Reade, Angel Saavedra, Dan Riggers, Chuck Munson

Row 4 – Arnold Buchholz, Mike Schoenwald, Bill Meyer, Jr., Gayle Pinkston, Ed Sand, Terry Lillybridge, Mike Drollman, Charlie Ward, Jon Cook, Larry Henderson, Bruce Brown, Donn Creger, Ken Napiontek, Jack Asher, Lynn Heminger



This is the Wenatchee Apollo Club dressed up in their red, white and blue tux shirts in 1976 to help celebrate the bi-centennial of the United States.

Row 1 – Scott Burgess, Don Whitworth, Ellson Miller, Marvin Forney, Edward Sand (Director), Irving Irish, Terrie Zamzow (Pianist), Reuben Johnson, John Miller, Bill Patrick, Howard Bumgarner

Row 2 – Jim Eakin, Bruce Brown, Ray Dahl, Chuck McHaney, Unknown, Bob Mill, Elton Henderson, Jim Flint, Arnie Stevens, Don Danner, Unknown

Row 3 – Floyd Hall, Tim Russell, Doug Simon, Otho Kintner, Skip Laney, Jim Morgan, Terry McKee, H.E. (Pinky) Miller, Gene Hampton, Gary Loomis, Dewey Braaten, Hugo Hakola

Row 4 – Walt Jefferson, Gerald Christie, Jim Kavanaugh, Gilbert (Gib) Edwards, Jon Vognild, Rick Ruffle, Joe Gjertson, Russell O'Keefe, Fahey McKee, Phil McColley, Jim Taylor