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HOT STUFF!

[This issue of the Surfside Announcer is dedicated to the memory of Dick & Gail Nickel. The content of the submissions are whatever the authors have provided. Other than correcting spelling or adjusting punctuation, no alteration has been made by your Editor. The articles from friends and family appear in the order they were received. Ed.]

- **FROM YOUR BOOKING CZAR:** You've been doing great, but keep looking for more singouts! Civic organizations, churches, etc. Have them contact me if they are interested! We are still looking for new dates for the blood drive singouts. Thanks, **Myron**
- **FROM OUR DIRECTOR:** I hope we can perform at rehearsal on Tuesday. It is time for the Big Show. Are you guys ready? I hope so. I believe I will have 25 people coming from my church. My numbers are rising. How about you guys? Let's keep at it. Let's fill that house. Let's go with no music in hand at rehearsal. I believe I am at that point. I am expecting all of us to be off the page. I don't need to say anything else. You have heard it all. Just short sentences in this article so I will sign off for now and I will see you Tuesday ready to go. Thanks, for your hard work and I hope you are getting ready to have some fun. If you don't have fun this weekend, then you have missed it. Please have a lot of fun this weekend, that is what we have been working towards all year. Thanks, **Art**
- **FROM YOUR MUSIC & PERFORMANCE V.P.: LAST WEEK,** last opportunity to get it perfected. **Are you off the paper COMPLETELY?** Are you ready to PERFORM our show, to SHOW OFF to our audience? If you still need work on any particular song, or any particular phrase or notes, let's get this cleaned up tonight. Don't be afraid to ask questions. **We Must make this show a Wonderful One.** We must give it 110% of our abilities. We all know we MUST grow to continue. A GREAT SHOW may stimulate Membership Growth. Let's Give 'Em a Show they'll Never Forget. Thanks, **Bob**
- **ASK THE BOZ: Name Withheld asks:** Did we bring this upon ourselves? Did this occur because we weren't learning our words? Will we get back to singing songs with words?
Dear N.W., My answer to your questions are probably, maybe and I really don't know (but maybe if you promise). I understand your questions however. A semi-careful perusal of some of our tunes uncovered these data: "Earth Angel" contains "do" 3 times and "wah" 14 times. "Put Your Head On My Shoulder", "du" 168 times. "Breaking Up...", "Come-a" 16 times, "a-Come-a" 3 times, "down" 36 times, "doo" 22 times and "be" 12. "Good Night...", "doot", tenors 25, basses 57 and "doo" tenors 10, bases 61. "Witch Doctor", "oo", 16, "EE" 8, "AH" 16, "Ting Tang" 4, "Bing Bang" 10, "Walla" 16. Please, don't hold me to these numbers, I grew tired. **The Boz**



Gail Nickel 1937-2009 Dick Nickel 1934-2009

- **FROM YOUR EDITOR:** To say this comes as a shock to those of us who knew them, would be understatement of the first order. Gail had been very ill for some time but this is unbelievable. Dick was our Chapter President for two years and was solely responsible for me getting into Barbershop. I was doing a morning radio show in 2000 and I saw an ad in the local paper for Singing Valentines. I called the number in the ad and got Dick on the other end. We talked about the program and I invited his chorus to come and sing Valentines on the air. We crammed as many Barbershoppers as we could into that small studio room and had a lot of fun. After the show, we talked about singing and he invited me to a Chapter meeting the following Tuesday. I was doing a talk show and we covered the local city council meetings, mostly on Tuesdays. Dick was going to a gym across the street from the station and every Tuesday he would come across and pound on the window of the studio and ask me if I was coming that week. This went on for months [relentless was his middle name] until one Tuesday there weren't any meetings that needed coverage and I finally went to a meeting. During the break, his quartet [The Music Channel] took me aside and taught me my first tag [Sleepy Time Down South]. After hearing that sound, I was hooked and the rest is history. I'm sure we'll be hearing more stories about the guy we used to refer to down here as "Mr. Eyebrows." We had a Chapter meeting that night and though he's been singing with Jacksonville for past couple years, it was hard to get into the mood to sing. One thing about Barbershop, though, it can lift you up from almost anything. I'm still stunned.
Christopher



- **FROM BILL HIBBERT:** What a surprise when Dick Nickel showed up at a Chapter Meeting. While I didn't remember him, he remembered me from our home town of Wilkinsburg, PA. I had gone to High School with his brother Joe, but Dick was about 3 years behind and we'd never met. But we had a chance to reminisce as he stayed with us those years, becoming President of the Chapter and coercing me into becoming Director for a while. Dick's job had been in Sales with a silica sand producer who also had sand pits located on the railroad for which I worked. And so we had another point of conversation as they had been a very good customer and we had been a very good transportation provider. When I handled ticket sales for our shows, I could always count on Dick to be one of the top sellers. Again his sales training showed. His terms as President were among our most successful and it was sad to have him leave us. But he'd told me many times that he needed to be in Chorus that had a chance at International. I'm glad he got that chance in Jax. I also knew Gail's brother George Baxmeier very well, but as she was so much younger, never knew her until this time in Daytona. It was sad to see her ailment grow worse. I'm glad we all had the chance to know Dick and Gail. We certainly need people with his energy and good humor. (Remember how he always started his report time at rehearsals with a joke?) Shirley and I will sadly miss and always remember the both of them. **Bill Hibbert**, Surfside Chorus
- **FROM DAVID PARKER:** Dick Nickel was one of the finest men I have known in or out of my 25 years in barbershopping. Not only was he always ready to take on virtually any task that needed doing, but, of far greater importance, he did it with the same smiling personality that earned him a front row position in both the Metropolitan and Big Orange Choruses where I knew him. Although Dick shared his increasing concerns about Gail over past months, he still maintained the wonderful sense of humor and genuine interest in others that favorably impressed everyone he met. He was a uniquely charismatic personality that will be fondly remembered by his fellow singers as a man we would like to have still with us. **Dave Parker**, Parker Associates Real Estate Development/Marketing Consultants, 14500 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, Florida 32250
- **FROM DEBORAH NICKEL:** Hi Christopher - I am Lee Nickel's daughter - Dick & Gail's niece - my name is Deborah Nickel. I just want to say that my memories of my aunt and uncle will always include how much my uncle adored my aunt. Aunt Gail was a lovely woman, so Uncle Dick's adoration is understandable. I will also remember Uncle Dick's sense of humor - he could sure do a mean Jack Nicholson impression! Thank you for honoring the memory of Dick & Gail. It's so important that the quality lives that they led are not overshadowed by the traumatic way that they passed. Sincerely, **Deborah Nickel**
- **FROM BILL RAGUSA: Round is a Shape!** Forever the "Jokeman" of the Music Channel, Dick was always thinking of new and creative ways to entertain the audience. He always came to quartet rehearsal with a new joke line for us to play off of. I was usually the dissenter because I wanted to be the quality-singing quartet that entertained. But he always managed to talk me into performing a joke, even if it poked fun at myself. Yes, Dick is the one that got me to say the line "Round is a shape" when Ken would feed me the line that he thought I wanted to "get in shape." A rehearsal hardly ever went by without some talk of golf. Usually it consisted of a recent outing with Gail or some Plantation

Bay friends. Sometimes it was talk about how much of a hard time Gail had getting around the course with her ailments hindering her. Whatever the topic of conversation, Dick always talked with passion about his hobbies. He loved his Golf, he loved his singing and most of all, he loved Gail! I will always remember the concern on his face when he talked about this ailment or that ailment that Gail was going through. You just knew that the love for Gail was stronger than the love he had for any of his hobbies. The memories of singing and performing with Dick and with The Music Channel will live in my memory forever. I cannot express in words the joy I had every time we performed together. To the Nickel family, I pray that you find solace in knowing that Dick and Gail are together for eternity. **God Bless You Dick and Gail & RIP. Bill Ragusa, Tenor- Music Channel (v2)**



- **FROM RICK MORIN:** The attached picture was taken when the Metropolitans performed on the USO show in Jacksonville on November 4, 2006. This picture was taken with our MC, and special guests. In the front row, (l-r) was our emcee, Mr. & Mrs. Mickey Rooney, and Ed McMahon. Dick is in the 3rd row, located between Mickey Rooney and his wife. **Rick Morin**
- **FROM JOSEPH NICKEL:** My brother, Dick and I were two years apart. We were very close in growing up, often doing many things together. As adults, we both found and loved Baritone and Barbershop. When he finally went with his chorus to International I knew the rush he felt since I went there also with the Bryn Mawr Mainliners. Dick loved our craft as much as I did. My heart wants to think in Ballad but I know I must remember him in the up-tune style that was always Dicks. He was one funny guy. Let's remember him that way. ---- **Joe Nickel**
- **FROM LEE NICKEL:** I am the oldest living member of the Nickel clan, my name is Leo. Our father died at only 39 years of age. Dick was five years younger than me, and in some ways I think he looked up to me and I looked out for him. I taught him how to ride a two wheel bike and I loaned him my pride and joy, my 1952 Oldsmobile 98 convertible to take to his prom, but I made him help to wax it before. Boy! Did I trust him! We and our wives became very close in later years; we had a lot in common so much so that even his and our first three children were (are) girls. Both of us were salesman and we told each other little lies and stories about our tough big sales. He (they) were so much fun to be with, just ask my kids, his customers, and all his friends. Dick and Gail will be much missed, but we can be glad that they no longer are in pain and we pray that they are now in a better place. **Leo(Lee)& Mary Nickel**
- **FROM TIM WALTON:** To Laura, Linda, Janet and all of the rest of the Nickel Family: Dick and Gail will be missed by all of us. I shall always remember Dick's greatest loves; his wife Gail and all of his family, singing Barbershop and playing golf. I'm not sure I can ever remember seeing Dick without a smile on his face. He was a showman who adored being in front of an audience. His wit and humor was infectious and he was always ready to share a story with everyone, whether it was in person or through an email. Dick and Gail shall live on in our collective wonderful memories of them and though their three daughters and their grandchildren. We shall certainly miss both of them, but we are all better off having known them. **Tim Walton, President, Big Orange Chorus**

- FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MISSED IT:** The Memorial Mass for Gail & Dick on Saturday, May 9, 2009, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bunnell, was a fitting conclusion to the week none of us could grasp. With the portrait [shown at top of Page 2] of Gail & Dick next to the altar, the service included readings from family and friends followed by eulogies from daughter Laura and Tom Decker. There was a huge turnout of their friends from Plantation Bay along with a large contingent from the Jacksonville Big O Chorus, where Dick realized his dream of a District Championship, and friends from Surfside Chorus in Daytona Beach. The guys from Jacksonville sang "America The Beautiful" and "Taps." Many of the attendees had no idea "Taps" has words. The renditions were excellent and we could hear Dick's Baritone in the overtones.



After the mass, most of the friends and all of the family gathered again at the Plantation Bay clubhouse for a buffet luncheon. Many of the Jax members had other commitments so we weren't sure there were enough voices to sing. The Plantation folks really wanted to hear more Barbershop. When we found a Tenor, we discovered we had no Baritones. I guess it was fate, sort of like flying a Missing Man formation since we were missing one of our favorite Baritones. Tim Walton and I got pictures of what could be called an Afterglow even without the singing. Here are a few. If anyone wants them, I can pack them into an archive and email them to you.



Before

During

After



Family Members

In closing this tribute section, Dick's older brother wanted to add this information:

"I should have remembered to also tell you the both Dick & Gail will be interred in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., a date yet to be determined. I'm not sure if you or any of the others knew that. I will be glad to advise you when I know more if you would like. Thank you again, and please thank all the others for their help and support." **Lee Nickel**

Visit the Legacy Guestbook: <http://tinyurl.com/Gail-and-Dick-2009>

- **FROM YOUR SHOW CHAIR: We need help** for the show in the front of the house. We need any wives that will man the lobby, sell tickets- get door prize tickets processed - and usher. **We will need about 4-5 wives PLEASE!** Thanks, **Ned**
- **PICNIC NEWS!** The picnic will be on **Saturday, May 30, 2009**, at Earl's condo. There is a sign-up sheet for quartets and quartet wannabes. You will be competing for valuable prizes, especially the coveted Dick Miller Memorial Trophy! Be thinking about what delicious side dish you will be bringing. **Myron**, Picnic Committee
- **NEXT BOARD MEETING:** The next Board meeting will be **June 2nd** in the D.S.C. Choral room. We will begin at **5:30 P.M.** Have something for the Agenda? See a Board member. All members are invited to attend Board meetings. Agendas, minutes and other reports are available in the Members Only section of Chapter web site: <http://www.surfsidechorus.org>.
- **SPRING SHOW SONGLIST: May 16, 2009, at 2 p.m.**
 1st half in order of performance: 1 - '50s Medley, 2 - Hello Mary Lou, 3 - Under the Boardwalk, 4 - In My Room, 5 - All I Do Is Dream, 6 - Firecracker quintet, 7 - Firecracker quintet, 8 - Witch Doctor, 9 - When I'm 64, 10 - Breaking Up is Hard to Do, 11 - Yesterday, 12 - Shaboom, 13 - In the Still of the Night, 14 - Goodnight Sweetheart. Our soda shop set will be plenty long enough to fill the 1st half of our show and take us to the intermission.
 2nd half Firecracker for 25-30 minutes. This gives us about 25 minutes or so. Here goes: 15 - There's No business Like Show Business, 16 - Alexander's Ragtime Band, 17 - Simple Melody (quartet), 18 - Shenandoah, 19 - I Love That Old Barbershop Style, 20 - I Believe, 21 - This Is My Country, 22 - Battle Hymn Of The Republic, 23 - God Bless America.
- **MAY BIRTHDAYS:** Karl Von Richthofen - **5/15**; Allan Hoyer - **5/26**; Ed Love - **5/30**
- **JUNE BIRTHDAYS:** John Scifo - **6/19**; Don Teasdale - **6/25**
- **JULY BIRTHDAYS:** Myron Menaker - **7/4**, Bill Hibbert - **7/17**, Christopher Baker - **7/26**, Tony Fortune - **7/27**, Bob Stump - **7/29**
- **UPCOMING CALENDAR: [Clip and Save]**
 - **May 15** 1 pm DSC Show rehearsal
 - **May 16** Noon Spring Show & Afterglow at Olive Garden on US 92
 - **May 30** 1 pm Picnic....Earl's Condo
 - **Jun 18 - 20** Sunshine Sizzle Orlando, FL
 - **Jun 29** - July 5 BHS International Anaheim, CA
 - **Sep 4 - 7** Labor Day Jamboree Crystal River, FL
 - **Oct 2 - 4** Fall Convention Jacksonville, FL

[DEADLINE is Monday BEFORE 6 PM for this sheet. Call or email Christopher FUN-290-3452.]