

JOSEPH BENJAMIN BROWN JR

“Buddy” Brown visited the Chordsmen at the invitation of his old friend Richard Millard. They had attended New Hanover High School together and were a couple of the favorite pupils of Miss Price, the chorus director. Buddy and Richard (a couple of basses in those days) would often be called upon to sing alto or tenor to strengthen the weaker parts. Buddy is a born and raised Wilmingtonian and has the admirable characteristic of speaking his mind plainly.

After Buddy had attended his first meeting, I asked him what he thought of the experience. He said “I am a really good singer and I am blown away that there are twenty five guys in that room that may be as good as I am!!” I think he was being generous. Buddy has a good voice and maybe even more important, he has a good ear. He has the tools to be a great barbershopper.

The Brown family has resided in Wilmington for generations. His dad was a professional boxer and fought in Madison Square Gardens as a teen ager. Best to remember that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree. His mother is a registered nurse. His family moved a bit while Buddy was in elementary school, living in Miami, FL and Fayetteville, NC but they returned to Wilmington for junior high and he did all of his high school at New Hanover. He played both football and baseball for New Hanover and of course sang in the chorus (because it was an easy class). He says his real interest those days was girls. The Brown family also had a daughter and Buddy's sister is also a registered nurse. She just attended her first Chordsmen show and thought it was great. She was particularly impressed with our director.

After high school he went to work for GE where their testing had indicated an unusual mechanical aptitude. He worked in the nuclear fuels area for GE. This career had a short life and he found himself at Fort Hood, Texas wearing khaki colored outfits. He later served at Fort Jackson and returned to Wilmington when he was discharged. Upon returning, he went to work for Du Pont and married Candace, also a native Wilmingtonian. They have a daughter, Claudia.

In the 1980's he decided it was time to cash in on his mechanical aptitude so he enrolled in Cape Fear Community College to specialize in heating and air conditioning. He is a licensed air conditioning technician and has had his own company. He is currently with Lincoln Harris Air Conditioning. He does some traveling for them but is home most nights.

Singing has always been part of Buddy's life. He did the vocals for three different country bands and eventually took up the guitar. He was a member of a church band that did extensive entertaining at Wilmington nursing homes and he completely supports the nursing home gigs that are accomplished by the Cape Fear Chordsmen. With all of this talent and capability it is to

be expected that you would find Buddy in the Baritone section on Tuesday night. Drop by and ring a chord or two with him.

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