

EDWARD H. BURDICK III

Ed Burdick and his wife Bonnie spend a few weeks each summer at a summer community in Northfield, MA. Northfield has its roots as a Chautauqua and still has much of the charm and educational thrust associated with these pleasant summer gatherings. That is why we have missed Ed for much of the summer. He is back with us now and rapidly coming up to speed. Last Tuesday night, Larry invited Ed to be one of his “listeners” as Larry was working with the Chordsmen on a new song. Ed says this was a great experience giving him the opportunity to “hear the sound, hear the improvement, and see the spirit” of the Chordsmen. He said he did not appreciate what the sound really was, nor sense the “spirit”, while standing in his position in the chorus. He believes everyone should have the opportunity to be a “listener”.

Ed was born in Chicago to Edward II and Jane Burdick. Ed’s dad was a creator and manufacturer of Dioramas. His mother was a model and he has pictures of his beautiful mother assisting in the sale of appliances. When Ed was a toddler, the family moved to Larchmont, NY, a community that would be “home” to Ed until he retired and moved to the charming city known as Wilmington. Ed’s mother played the piano and, much to Ed’s dismay, she insisted Ed would take piano lessons. This turned out to be an unsuccessful attempt to instill some musical talent into an unenthusiastic boy.

Ed was educated in the Larchmont School system. He enjoyed track, running the 440 and recording times of 58 seconds. Now that’s smokin’! He says he has slowed a bit and it now takes him a half hour to walk his dog the mile around Landfall Lake. He sang in the high school glee club, an activity that he also pursued when he moved on to Cornell to continue his Education.

At Cornell he studied Mechanical Engineering. He enjoyed Cornell although he had to seriously bear down on the studies. He says there were many opportunities for distraction but he persevered and graduated with a BSME. He entered the automotive business taking a position with the Budd Company in Philadelphia.

While vacationing on Fire Island, one of his buddies arranged a blind date with a young lady that he had known for many years. Bonnie had lived in the same neighborhood in Larchmont and had been a year behind Ed in school but they had never dated. By this time Bonnie was a school teacher in Larchmont, a community that is certainly the center of gravity for the Burdick family. They were married and moved to Detroit with the Budd Company where Ed was a customer contact engineer calling on GM, Ford, Chrysler and American Motors.

Ed is not dumb. Two years in Detroit convinced him it was time to “get out of Dodge” (no pun intended). He went to Harvard and got his MBA, then worked briefly for Air Reduction before being recruited to work for the Rockefeller family which he did for the next 30 years.

The Burdicks have two sons who have provided seven grandchildren and they all live in the Larchmont area. Ed also has a sister living in Maine and a sister living in Florida. As long as he can keep the seasons straight he has a pleasurable built-in vacationing program right within his family.

Ed did not participate in any organized singing from the time he departed Cornell until he joined the Chordsmen which gave him some trepidation about his ability to participate at our level. Many Chordsmen helped to put him at ease and Ed has a very pleasant voice and a good ear. You will find Ed in the lead section every Tuesday night. He knows his music and makes a fine contribution to the Chordsmen. He has learned the Polecats and likes to sing them. Why don't you come a little early or grab him at the break and sing one with him?