

# The Michigan Troubadour



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## Top Brass Asks Chapter Ideas

### Plans For Nation-Wide Exchange At Louisville

LOUISVILLE, KY. — A special "Food for Thought" luncheon designed to stimulate the exchange of ideas on the chapter level, will be staged here Jan. 22, during the 1955 international mid-winter convention.

The luncheon is the idea of First International Vice President Dean Snyder. The luncheon will begin at noon at the Hotel Seelbach. Present and future chapter officers are invited.

In addition to paying for his own lunch, each guest submits a special admission ticket which is to be in the form of a "how-to-do-it" article, in enough copies so that every person in attendance can carry away a copy. For example, if a chapter officer outlines his chapter's successful program for extension, he has his one page outline mimeographed (about 50 copies) for distribution to every other attending chapter officer at the luncheon.

**Something Nourishing**  
Dean Snyder in outlining his plan, says:

"This luncheon will provide each person in attendance with a bit of proven ideas and plans which will aid in the meetings and activities of his chapter for many months to come. The toastmaster will put together a 'cookbook' of discussion and information, using these how-to-do-it recipes. The basic thought is that we can learn from each other in the improvement of chapter methods and programs."

"Remember that this luncheon is open to all chapter officers from the president right down through the secretary — at all times. Remember also that every one present must contribute an idea and have enough copies for distribution. This won't be difficult because there is someone in every chapter with facilities for mimeographing — or reproduction by ditto, hectograph, or some similar method.

**Entertainment Planned**  
"There is an old saying 'too many cooks spoil the broth.' That will not be true on next Jan. 22. The more cooks the better the barbershop broth will be on that day."

"When the 'Food for Thought' luncheon is completed, all in attendance will attend the society's semi-annual meeting of the house of delegates, and then in the evening attend a barbershop show, 'The Parade of Champions.'"

## Vikings Miss, To Try Again

### Plane Forced Down On Way To Parade

TRaverse CITY — Plans are being made for the Vikings of Rock Island, Ill., 1953 international barbershop quartet champions, to Traverse City next week for the annual Harvest of Harmony, President Bill Chase of the local SPEBSQSA chapter announces.

The Vikings, scheduled as the first quartet for the 1954 Harvest of Harmony program, did not arrive in time to perform on the main show here Oct. 2. The Illinois quartet actually reached Traverse City at 5 p.m. by private plane but a severe electrical storm was unable to land here and had to return to Grand Rapids. The Vikings then flew to Chicago and from there did not arrive until 11:15 p.m.

### House a Sellout

A sellout audience of lovers of barbershop harmony singing filled the Central high school auditorium to capacity. Funds derived from the event will be used by the local chapter to provide a scholarship to the National Music Camp at Interlochen.

The Onchords of Saginaw filled in as the featured quartet on the show and secured a hit with the piece "Harmony" in the acceptance program were the Cherry Cobblers of the local chapter, the Traverse City chapter, and the local Sweet Adelines chapter. The Banjo-Talors of Muskegon, one of western Michigan's top novelty instrumentalists, rivaled the Onchords as applause-getters.

## Set Regional Contest Date For April 30

### Detroit Engages Arts Institute For Show

DETROIT — Announcement of the awarding by the district executive board of the 1955 regional quartet contest and Michigan district annual meeting to Detroit for April 30, 1955, was made by District Secretary Louis R. Harrington at the Muskegon meeting of the district delegates.

It was announced that the finals of the contest next spring to select Michigan's representatives to the international contest at Miami would be staged at the beautiful auditorium of the Detroit Institute of Arts, the scene of many better concerts and recitals held in the Motor city. Located at Woodward and Kirby avenues, it is in the heart of Detroit's famous Art Center, a nationally known tourist attraction.

**Builds One**  
Among the buildings contained in this group are the Detroit public library, Rackham Memorial building, which houses the University of Michigan's extension, the new Detroit Historical Society Museum, and of course, Detroit's world famous Art Museum. All of the buildings will be open to visiting barbershoppers.

Henry Schubert, president of the Detroit chapter, announced that April 30, has been selected as the date of the function and that extensive plans were being laid for the entertainment of all visiting barbershoppers and their wives.

**Headquarters at Tuller**  
Headquarters will be established at the Hotel Tuller, which is located in the heart of the city on Grand Circus Park and is in close proximity to Detroit's business and shopping center. The Tuller is the site of the weekly rehearsal of the Precisionaires chorus, and the regular place of the Detroit chapter.

## Mid States To Jackson

### 1949 Champs Top Annual Parade Bill

JACKSON — The Mid States Four, 1949 international champions, have been signed to headline Jackson's annual parade of champions to be held Jan. 15 in the Jackson High auditorium.

Bill Cizek, hailed by Jacksonites as the best master of ceremonies ever, will be in charge of parading the various acts planned.

Besides the Mid States, the Aire Tonics of Muskegon, the Fort-Tune Tilters of Jackson, and the Tonal Blenders of Jackson will be featured along with the Jacksonites, the chorus of the home chapter.

An innovation is being tried here this year with the presentation of a one-act play by the Jackson Community Theater Guild, especially prepared for the occasion.

The Michigan City chorus, international champions at Washington, won the Indiana-Kentucky chorus contest recently and qualified for another try at the top spot. Evansville, Ind., was second and Owensboro, Ky., was third.

## Detroit Asks International For 1958 Meet

DETROIT — The Metropolitan Detroit Association of Chapters, which hosted the 1953 international convention of SPEBSQSA, voted to invite the parent body to hold its 1958 Convention in Detroit.

A committee will be named by President William Wales to present a formal bid to the international executive board.

## Detroit Plans Whing-Ding For February

### Metropolitan Area To Ask 14 Chapters

DETROIT — Ambitious plans for a huge rally of all present and former members are being laid by the Metropolitan Detroit Association of Chapters, which will be the host for one of the district Song Fests suggested by John Hill's Long Range Planning committee.

William Wales, president of the Metropolitan association, has announced that the rally will be held on Feb. 18, at the Tuller hotel in Detroit. Each of the 14 member chapters are planning to attend in a body. This will include the Windsor chapter, which although a member of the Ontario district, has been traditionally linked with the Detroit area since its founding.

**To Ask Membership**  
It is the plan of the MDA officers to use this meeting as a spring board for a drive to increase membership, and especially to strengthen the chapters which have been lacking in activity within the past two or three years.

In laying plans for this gathering, representatives of a meeting held in Dearborn on Nov. 12, urged all member chapters to place special emphasis on inviting men who have relinquished their membership in the Society and to arrange to renew their interest at this time.

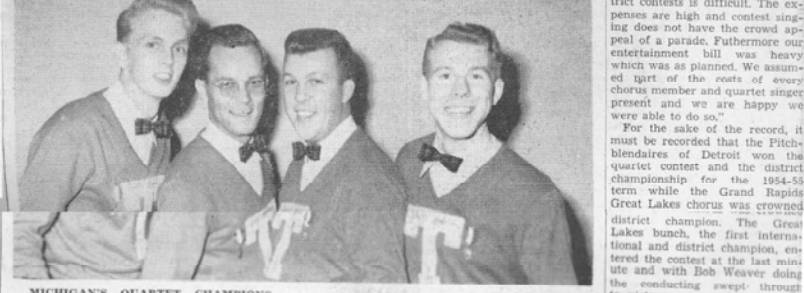
One of the features of the 1954 presentation was the separation of the Pitchblendaires of Detroit, center, Tom Tuller and the chapter section in a separate room. Quartets appeared in both rooms. More than 300 attended the past program affair.

## New Quartet Is Registered

EAST DETROIT — Ed Wetter, secretary of the East Detroit chapter, reports a newly-registered quartet for his chapter.

The new foursome is composed of Russ Kunath, tenor; Vince Koelzer, Sr., bass from the Clippers; Neil Westergaard, lead and Ray Smith, baritone from the three Smiths and A. Schmoor. They are now known as the Four Schmoo. They did a good first job at the Dearborn Veterans hospital for the Dearborn chapter.

# Pitchblendaires Named District Quartet Kings



MICHIGAN'S QUARTET CHAMPIONS — Here are the kings of quartet singing in their respective classes in the Michigan district SPEBSQSA for the 1954-55 term. They won their laurels in the October contest and competition in Muskegon. Top are the senior champions, the Pitchblendaires of Detroit, center, Tom Tuller and the chapter section in a separate room. Quartets appeared in both rooms. More than 300 attended the past program affair.

**President Returns**  
BAY CITY — Carl Tremblay, who a few months ago announced he would resign as president of the Bay City chapter, as the result of being transferred to another scene of work, has been returned to Bay City by his employers and is back heading up SPEBSQSA affairs here.

**Field Is Wide**  
"Park and recreation departments call upon the SPEBSQSA quartets to sing at band concerts, civic celebrations, neighborhood programs, playground functions, community center gatherings, and holiday affairs. Local recreation executives could effect affiliations with the society in much the same manner as study clubs, community choruses, and photographic clubs are embraced in the community program. They should investigate the advisability of inaugurating a local chapter as an integral part of their programs. A cooperative approach could be worked out with existing chapters to stimulate this informal hobby."

**Social Values High**  
"Many barbershoppers prefer to sing by ear. Barbershop harmony contains the elements of folk music, particularly in its improvisational character. Because of its spontaneous technique, its social values may outweigh significance."  
"Many multiple recreation departments are cooperating with local chapters of SPEBSQSA, Ingleswood, Calif., has a happy relationship with barbershoppers who meet in its recreation club. Alexandria, Va., turns over the facilities of its recreation center to the singers of the community. Houze Park Community Center in Detroit houses the regular meetings of the suburban chapter."

## Great Lakes Now Ruler Of Choruses

### Muskegon Hosts Gay Convention Contest

By Roscoe D. Bennett  
MUSKEGON — The thirtieth annual Michigan district quartet contest is now history. The third annual district chorus contest is also a thing of the past. The books have been closed, money counted, props returned and stowed away. But the memory lingers on. Something new was added to the district scene for the 1954-55 term when the Muskegon chapter, under the general leadership of Tom Damm, turned to make a "party" out of the affair, reminiscent of other "party" contests and gatherings of yesterday when fun was paramount. Before the convention was held Muskegon promised it was to be for all instead of a few; for the women as well as the men; for the erudite singers as well as Joe Barbershopper and the crowds and for the good of the society. Muskegon succeeded in all categories. Which means that a different pattern has been set with the hope that future hosts to the district contest will follow suit.

**Follows Design**  
In every way the two-day affair was carried out as designed. To begin with, for modest money, how much, has not been determined exactly, but President Halley Dion, a few days after estimated that the sum above expected was about \$500 or thereabouts of which the district will get a neat slice.

"We are satisfied," Dion said, "because making money on district contests is difficult. The expenses are high and contest singing does not have the crowd appeal of a parade. Furthermore our entertainment bill was heavy which was accounted for by the fact that part of the costs of every chorus member and quartet singer present and we are happy we were able to do so."

For the sake of the record, it must be recorded that the Pitchblendaires of Detroit won the quartet contest and the district championship for the 1954-55 term while the Grand Rapids Great Lakes chorus was crowned district champion. The Great Lakes bunch, the first international and district champion, entered the contest at the last minute and with Bob Weaver doing the conducting swept through to victory.

**Solitaires Win Too**  
The Solitaires of Bay City were crowned junior quartet champions. The junior class is that of the Solitaires of Bay City. They have competed in prior contests and have placed. The Trouble-makers of Detroit were made former champions. This class embraces quartets who have never competed before.

Second place in the quartet contest went to the Onchords of Saginaw and third place to the Sweet Singers of Muskegon. Convention Chairman Tom Damm took time out from his hosting duties to sing with the quartet and made it highly interesting.

**Mary Brower Loses Father**  
Holland — G. Marvin Brower, former Grand Rapids SPEBSQSA chapter president and past president of the Bay Western district, was called to his old home here from Santa Monica, Calif., because of the death of his father, Herman Brower, aged 91.

**Nonagenarian Dies At Holland Home**  
Holland — G. Marvin Brower, former Grand Rapids SPEBSQSA chapter president and past president of the Bay Western district, was called to his old home here from Santa Monica, Calif., because of the death of his father, Herman Brower, aged 91.

Mr. Brower was a former county clerk in Allegan and former cashier of the Brown and Co. Bank in Hamilton. He came to Holland in 1933 where he had an insurance and real estate business until his retirement. He also was formerly a general store proprietor in Hamilton and the owner of the Hope Roller mills in that area.

Besides Marvin Brower, survivors are two daughters, Mrs. Gertrude Van Zyl of Holland and Mrs. M. A. Hoff of Lake Odessa. Thirteen grandchildren and nine great grandchildren also survive.

SEE KINGS page 3

# Urges Barbershop Singing As Recreational Aid

DETROIT — Henry D. Schubert, president of the Detroit chapter as well as recreation director of Dearborn, has called the attention of the National Recreation association to the possibility of barbershop singing as an adjunct to their programs.

In the November issue of the national publication "Recreation," published by the recreation group, Schubert devotes an entire two pages to develop the idea of "barbershop singing in Recreation." Schubert points out in his article the meaning of barbershop singing, tells of acceptance, how it was developed and points strongly in the acceptance by the rank and file of people. Finally, Schubert urges that recreation departments, the country over, seek co-operation of SPEBSQSA chapters in forming and promoting this kind of singing as an informal hobby, and a part of a recreation program.

Schubert's article is as follows: "Everybody enjoys listening to barbershop quartets. What fond memories they recall of the good days when no good was entirely complete without one such close-harmony foursome. Today there is a great forward sweeping surge in our nation and Canada to revive this traditional form of American folk music.

"Since music plays such an important part in recreation, there is room for barbershop quartets in every public, private, and institutional program. Barbershop harmony points to new avenues of musical interest. Limitless in scope, songs of musical expression, it opens the door to stimulating activity for the dormant musical talents within us. It affords opportunity for creative-ness, encourages fellowship and relaxation.

**For Young and Old**  
"Recreation leaders emphasize the fact that barbershop quartet activities. Barbershop quartet harmony gives the high school boy as well as the older man a new satisfying pleasure. One never grows too old to enjoy singing. Many achieve the joy of creation through writing lyrics of songs, others by composing and arranging the music for male voices. The singers strive for satisfaction with phrases and endings embellished with fancy swipes so dear to the ears of ardent barbershoppers. Although the piano might be used to master the various combinations of notes and chords, all songs are uncomplicated.

"The uninitiated may think barbershop harmony is easy, crude, and mechanical. Actually it is complex, difficult, and more exacting than any other kind of four-part vocal music. Let the listener listen to a smooth, expert phrase with a few typical changes and aides as sung by a good barbershop quartet and compare it with that of a traditional type quartet. One soon understands why the confirmed barbershopper prefers to adjust various tonal combinations and chords to his sensitive ear. It is this departure from the conventional style of song arrangement which has accounted for the enthusiastic acceptance of this style of music.

**Social Values High**  
"Many multiple recreation departments are cooperating with local chapters of SPEBSQSA, Ingleswood, Calif., has a happy relationship with barbershoppers who meet in its recreation club. Alexandria, Va., turns over the facilities of its recreation center to the singers of the community. Houze Park Community Center in Detroit houses the regular meetings of the suburban chapter."

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Area Governors: 1-Detroit, East Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Hamtramck and Mt. Clemens-Joseph Blong... 2-Dearborn, Northfield, Redford and Wayne-Harold Sepull... 3-Holly-Fenton, Midland, Oakland County and Pontiac-Clinton Sanborn...

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Sound Movies for Chapter Work

In this particular period our growth in Michigan and following upon the new project of "preserving" chapters and the extension committee's efforts for new chapters, Don Wright's Harold Sepull interestingly urges that an education program promulgated, either on the international or district level, using the tools of motion pictures and sound movies...

Already the international has a plan of audio education for quarters which is being rapidly developed. It will serve a useful purpose in assisting quarters, new and old, to acquire singing practice. Of course, we are interested in quartet building...

Better Planning for Business

Some complaints that the business meeting at the district convention and contests in Muskegon was too short and hurried have been audibly recorded. Although the Business Affairs of the district were most correctly done there are members who feel that some of the decisions were not the result of a careful study and discussion.

The President Speaks

In as much as my past articles have been in part critical, I think time to throw a few bouquets at deserving people and chapters. First the ladies (Bless them) without their help and co-operation we would have few chapters and members. Do you realize there are some who don't particularly care for the singing but encourage their men to go and have fun, and attend while being bored, so as not to spoil hubby's fun?

Didn't Muskegon do a super job on the convention? It was perfect and shows what a participating chapter can do. Then there is Gratiot county, a small town of 1000 people, and they did it. I think 90 per cent of the chapter was there.

I am happy to report that Bob Hafer has told me our membership now stands at that of last year, so any increase we get now will be on the profit side of the ledger. You chapters that have not met your quota will count that much more on your achievement award. We are on the move, lets continue!

I would like to mention an incident that happened at Manistee. The chapter wrote to Muskegon for a couple quartets to come in and sing there a little on every day? It chartered a bus and took the whole chapter up. That is co-operation with a capital C, it is what made Michigan great once, and will again.

In regards to obtaining our increase in membership. In the words of Bob Hafer, "Michigan district can easily qualify four quartets for the international for next year with a little more going for Dec 17. Wouldn't it be fine to again have three quartets sent from Michigan? Again let me stress we want quality not quantity, but I know there are plenty of singers and music lovers who can be induced to join our great society."

Pell Heading Pontiac Boasts Great Lakes New Quartets

Named Chairman For Spring Event GRAND RAPIDS - Peter Pell, secretary of the Pell Quartet, will head up the annual Great Lakes Invitational to be held here the weekend of April 16.

The regular fall meeting of the Michigan district was held at Muskegon, on October 9, 1954 at the Occidental Hotel. The meeting was called to order by President Loton Willson at 1:30 p.m. Officers present included Loton Willson, president; Clarence Javing, immediate past president; Don Wright, Seaborn Lawrence and Tom Gove, vice-presidents; John W. Klaber, treasurer; and Louis R. Harrington, secretary.

The pattern suggested here is not new to SPBZSQA. It has been done for years on the international executive level. Some of these committees met for several days and the president arrived at a decision and prepare a report. As a result most of the legislation enacted on the top level has been well considered. Everyone knows, whether they agree with the results or not, that it has been thoroughly discussed and all elements carefully weighed which carries a lot of weight.

The Feminine Observer

District Convention High Spot Of Gala Autumn Song Season

By ELLEN HARRINGTON

Muskegon was a mecca for barbershoppers who gathered there for the district quartet and chorus contest and meeting. The gracious Fort City hosts spared no effort to entertain visitors and planned special events for the entire weekend. The men gathered for a preglow jam-boree on Friday evening, while the women were entertained at a card party, vying for the most attractive aprons that were given as table prizes.

CONVENTION WIVES ENTERTAINED - Muskegon Chapter entertained the wives of the visiting barbershoppers at luncheon at the beautiful Pontaluna Country Club where they were presented with bouquets and souvenir boxes of chocolates.

A gala afterglow was held at the Occidental hotel following the finals of the contest and the Tag breakfast Sunday morning where everyone donated special gifts provided for the occasion. Hosts were Mr. and Mrs. Tom Danno, Mr. and Mrs. Halley Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Len Horton, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Dupliss, Mrs. and Mrs. A. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hood, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Lund, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Garner, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sorenson, Bob Traetz, Fritz Neumeister, Mr. and Mrs. William Griffith, Bill Wickstrom, Ed Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Allen, Warren Richards, Lowell P. Nelson, Francis Van Eiler, Dr. and Mrs. E. J. B. Chilis, Ackerville, Versil Olson, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Peth, Jack Rounds, Mr. and Mrs. Duane Mosler, and her mother Mrs. Arthur Waite, and Mrs. Edward Lilly.

In addition Mr. and Mrs. Bill Otto, Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pascher, Al Maier, Mrs. Arthur Waite, Ken Sherman, Frank Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Grant, Bill Ahrens, Dick Lee, Earl Keith, Ed Peltsch, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Gibbs, Mr. and Mrs. Al Meade, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lucht, Bill Williams, Bart Straffen, Mr. and Mrs. Buck Wynant, John Meason, Steve Vickers, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Decker, Mr. and Mrs. Doyle, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Vogel, Ed Hoffman, Matt Calderwood, Tom Cairns, Walt Brightwell, J. B. Chilis, Louis Mitchell, John Perry, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McIntosh, Bob Franke, Pat Ryan, William Duco, Bill Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Heale, Ron Beck, Dale Mooney, Dale Munson, Dick McNeil, Cliff LeBlank, William Derby, Edward Hoyer, Philip Dab, Leroy Lake, Harris Burman, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Boyd, Ed Reddick, Bill Rowell, Glenn Van Tassel, Vic Van Nye, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sinton, Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Turner, Charles Kesterke, Ken Lawrence, James Bowling, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Klaber, Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Konkle, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Galkema, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pell, Fischer Miller, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Fisher, Bob Wren, Tom Muskin, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Derby, Mr. and Mrs. Lynden Wright and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Davenport, Bert Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burrell, Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Dupliss and Mrs. Len Horton were co-chairmen of the luncheon. The hostesses included Mesdames Halley Dixon, William Griffith, William Van Bogelen, Elvira Oks, William Ellis, Earl Weaver, K. Ber, J. Aken, Vala Donakelar, Louis Seguin, Harold Bobb, William Kood, A. Martin, Robert Lund, Allan Bangham, Jim "Toole", W. Hamilton, John Bishop, Tom Damm, John Eulendorf, Clarence Bristol, and Miss Nora Dratz and Miss Laurence Chinski, the Occidental hotel.

lovely fall mum corsages with orange and black ribbons to carry out the Halloween theme which prevailed in all the decorations, including clever black and orange barbershop poles designed by Mrs. Victor Favier. Several door prizes were presented following the dinner. Between dance sets, the couples were entertained by the Wolverines, Dearbornaires, Foam Blowers, and a husband and wife quartet led by Mr. and Mrs. Tom Wheeler.

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# Wilson Names New District "Preservation" Committee

## Jim O'Toole Heads Help Department

### Will Aid Faltering Chapters In Michigan

BOYNE CITY — A new district committee, the preservation committee, has been named by Michigan District President Lon Wilson. This new group will have as its primary duties reorganization of old chapters, securing chapters in distress and taking definite steps to keep all chapters alive.

The idea was born at the last district meeting in Muskegon when reports of several Michigan chapters in distress were heard.

Named on the committee were Jim O'Toole, Muskegon, chairman; Paul Preston, Clare; Ed J. Dalving, Holland; and Wendell Ferby, Ithaca.

### Wilson Explains

In making his appointments, President Wilson told the committee, "the purpose of the committee is self-explanatory. Call on faltering chapters, advise them, keep the district informed as to progress and needs. If you think a chorus and a couple of quartets are needed to pep up the group, call on some chapter for help, or notify your district officers."

"In plain words doctor the patient before it dies. To start with there are several who have only a few weeks before their charters expire. Call on the area governors for assistance. The main thing is to keep the chapters we have. Then any new ones that come into the fold will be profiting. Our membership is now growing so if we have these ailing chapters it will help besides keeping many barbershoppers who really like it."

### Works Himself

Before appointing his committee and outlining its purpose President Wilson himself moved to Manistee, right after the district meeting. He made two trips to the chapter, studied the situation and made suggestions that should help to restore this chapter, formerly one of the district's best.

"I found that Manistee has 28 members," Wilson explained "but they don't seem to attend on meeting nights. For instance, when I asked help from Muskegon who responded by sending the entire chapter with quartets and chorus there for a meeting, there were only 15 regular members and six guests from Manistee. Muskegon ran this meeting just as if it were home and it was interesting. Chairman Jimmy O'Toole picked out a random quartet, held gang singing, directed the Muskegon chorus and then held a question and answer session concerning Manistee problems."

"Out of this meeting came the suggestion that meetings be held only once a month instead of every week at Manistee had been trying to do. A chorus is well under way. Plans were made to lead the chapter on buses and bring this to Muskegon for the second district Winter Dine there Dec. 3. Cadillac will be asked to join."

## 'Smitty's Shack', A Shrine To Barbershopping And Harmony

GRAND RAPIDS — "Smitty's Shack" as it is affectionately known to western Michigan barbershoppers is entering upon its thirteenth year of existence carrying on its tradition as a symbol of the preamble of the code of ethics of SPEBSQSA.

This spot of harmony, located on the estate of Warren L. Smith, 74-year-old charter member of Grand Rapids chapter, is unique. Diligent search of the records to date show no other such institution as that which stands in the woods back of the Smith home at 4785 Eastern Av. S.E. on the outskirts of the Farmville city. Everything in it declares, "the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old-fashioned vocal quartet harmony."

Twice a month members of the Grand Rapids chapter and their invited friends gather at Smitty's just after the hour of sunset for a good time. There are no formal meetings and there never have been. There is no presiding officer nor any attempt whatsoever of organizing formal quarters. Everyone sings wherever he can find three others of similar mind and adjustable voice and the meetings last and last into the small hours of the succeeding day. Presiding officially only as general boss is Warren Smith.

### Has Three Rooms

As essentially constituted the "shack" consists of three rooms, each 20 by 20 opening into each other in the form of an L. It started with one room, the original little shack that stood on the Smith place as a catch-all for tools and what have you. With the help of volunteer labor, principally members of Smith's original quartet, the Round House Four, three of whom are now dead, this one room was converted into a "clubhouse." A bar was built across the back. A stove, sink, refrigerator, and chairs were installed. Tables were built and an old railroad station port-bellied stove supplied the heat. Then the barbershoppers gathered on the off nights each month. The chapter met the second and fourth Fridays of each month. The shack held forth on the first and third and thus it has been ever since.

Soon the lone room first called the "Owl club" was not big enough and an addition was built, a little platform upon which the quartets could stand when singing and showing off was constructed. Member Tom Earle took an old piano from his home and donated it to the shack. It is still there. Member Gordon Hall, in the meat shop business, found a furnace which was efficient and usable and donated it. No blue interior decorator ever had a hand in trimming up the interior of the hall of fame. It is strictly man made and designed solely for the barbershoppers no matter where they come from. Although there may be a bit of formality to the Cosmopolitan room, the other two are strictly the product of barbershopping history and probably would give any interior decorator a big pain in his vocal chords, but to Grand Rapids barbershoppers and Warren Smith it is all beautiful.

### Other Room Built

But this one addition was not enough. At the time the Cosmopolitan, one of the better known Grand Rapids quartets, was in high spirits, voice and enthusiasm were at a peak. The Grand Rapids' most proficient builders, Peter and Smith got together and started a third room, to be known as the Cosmopolitan room. Again with volunteer help from the members of the chapter this addition was completed and neatly finished in cedar complete with a fireplace. It is the "parlor" of the shack and on meeting nights when the temperature is below normal there's always a brisk



—Troubador Photo  
A COLORFUL SHRINE FOR HARMONY — Nestled in the woods of the suburban home grounds of Warren L. Smith just outside of Grand Rapids is "Smitty's Shack," the home of Grand Rapids barbershoppers for some 14 years. The upper left picture shows the main room, the original, with its wall interestingly and picturesquely decorated with posters, pictures, newspapers and everything else pertaining to barbershopping. Note the little stage whereon quartets are supposed to perform. Also the Plaso with the recently enlarged picture of the Great Lakes chorus on top. Upper right is a view of the "Shack" in its woodland setting. Lower left is the "San Francisco Bay room" wherein the eating, as well as singing is done mostly. Note the members gave of their ideas freely and planned their work. It took the meeting at the downtown hall to confirm it all.



—Troubador Photo  
Warren L. Smith

fire blazing with barbershoppers sitting talking and harmonizing. Led by the owner, attics were ransacked and furniture of all kinds, several davenport, many easy chairs, straight chairs, electric lamps and rugs were uncovered and took their proud places in this shrine of harmony.

No blue interior decorator ever had a hand in trimming up the interior of the hall of fame. It is strictly man made and designed solely for the barbershoppers no matter where they come from. Although there may be a bit of formality to the Cosmopolitan room, the other two are strictly the product of barbershopping history and probably would give any interior decorator a big pain in his vocal chords, but to Grand Rapids barbershoppers and Warren Smith it is all beautiful.

### Walls Decorated

The walls of the first room, the entry room, are completely covered with barbershopiana. There are posters of all kinds of quartets taken over the years. There are newspaper clippings dated as far back as 1940 telling tales of the male harmonizers. There are pictures of scores of quartets taken over the years. There are newspaper clippings dated as far back as 1940 telling tales of the male harmonizers. There are pictures of scores of quartets taken over the years.

### Smitty a Cook

Smitty, who is something of a cook, has so arranged the facilities in this room, that he prepares food, maybe bean soup, spaghetti, and meat balls, chili, franks, hamburgers and sometimes stew-pie dishes, like oyster stew, in sufficient quantity to take care of the whole crowd which may range from 20 to 50 or more.

### Big Help In Old Days

Back in the early days when the Grand Rapids chapter first was getting under way times were rough," said Roscoe D. Bennett, first president of the local chapter. "During the war we had no place to meet regularly except in an old hall over a hardware store. But we had Smitty's shack always during those times and it was here that most of the work that led to establishing a successful chapter was at least inspired."

### Winners Chosen

Chosen winners after parading past the judge's reviewing stand were Bill Wickstrom, Pontiac; Chinski, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Mart Bomer, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Gar-

### Three to Wed

This occasion marked the final appearance of one group and the debut of another. It was the last performance by the Melodettes who are breaking up because of the coming marriage of three of the girls. However, another feminine foursome from Grand Haven, The Harmonettes, stepped in with surprising ability for their first public appearance to take their place in the hearts of local barbershoppers.

### Oldsters' Roundup

SAGINAW — Saginaw chapter rounded up all of the old quartet of chapter history, or plans of them that were left for its Oct. 6 meeting feature. The oldsters picked up here and there and made a big night of it. As a result five new members were sired the same evening.

### Pontiac

PONTIAC — Exhibiting two newer quartets, the Key Finders and the Mad Hatters, Pontiac chapter paid a visit to the Detroit chapter last Oct. 15.

### Recent Visitors

Mrs. Carroll P. Adams was the recent house guest of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Fecteau and was entertained by many of her friends. Carroll was unable to make the trip because he was busy organizing the Community Chest drive in Bennington, Vt.

### HUDSON

HUDSON — Don Wright, in boasting about the 36 members signed now. It represents a 50 per cent increase. Don boasts boasting about the 36 members

## Muskegon Chapter Holds Gay Halloween Costume Party

By BILL WICKSTROM

MUSKEGON — Once each year we are given an opportunity to shed the cloak of our inhibitions and let ourselves go, and that time comes at Halloween.

On that day we can release suppressed desires and act as silly as we have often wanted to a year long, and it really doesn't matter, because with those masks and crazy get-ups, nobody knows who we are anyway.

### Sing Under Water

A probable society first was recorded during the gala affair when barbershop harmony was heard for the first time under water. The effect was achieved by having the quartet boys for apples while they sang, with each bobbing singly so as not to interrupt the rhythmic flow of the harmony. A prize went to the group which did the best job of singing and still captured four apples. The chapter judges tended to discount an occasional vibrant gargle which temporarily destroyed all semblance of harmony accuracy and balance and blend.

### Winners Chosen

Chosen winners after parading past the judge's reviewing stand were Bill Wickstrom, Pontiac; Chinski, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Mart Bomer, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Gar-

## JACKSON PARADE

Sat., Jan. 15th  
H.S. Auditorium - 8:15 P.M.

Featuring  
● Those Madcap-MIDSTATES FOUR

Supported by:  
● THE AIRE-TONICS  
● FOUR-TUNE TELLERS  
● TONSIL BENDERS  
● JACKSON CHORUS

With the added assistance of:  
The Jackson Community Theater Guild

All seats \$1.50 Contact: Clarence Melcher  
1127 Mound Ave.  
Jackson, Mich.

## 10th Annual DEARBORN PARADE "Country Style"

Barbershoppers:

This is a "REMINDER" that Dearborn's "Old-time Country Style" Parade of Quartets and Chorus will be held on Saturday, February 19th.

Each year our "Plot" differs. This year we take you back many years to the period of old-fashioned Country Barn Dances. Something entirely NEW!

Complete details in the February issue of the Troubadour.

Our Policy? Utmost fun, and a grand-time or your money refunded.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW because we would love to have you come.

Information and Tickets

FRANK TRITTE  
29113 Michigan Ave., Dearborn

# Michigan Tapping High on National Membership List

## Three District Chapters Rated Among First Ten

### Saginaw's Gain Nation's Best; Muskegon is in Five Leaders

DETROIT — Michigan district SPBSQSA today stands among the nation's leaders in the matter of memberships collected and standing of individual chapters, according to figures from the international office.

At the moment, Michigan has 1645 members paid up to the end of the current year and 366 of these are paid up until the end of 1955 which is more than any other district can show.

Last year period, the Michigan district had 1593 members, which shows a healthy increase.

**Saginaw Tops All**  
To Saginaw chapter goes the distinction of showing the greatest growth in the nation over the last 12-month period. Last year at this time Saginaw had a mere 26 members. To date it has 61 members and 60 of these were paid up through all of 1954, all of which is giving Gordon Grant a big glow of pride. The increase percentage-wise is 134 per cent, the greatest in the nation.

More glories are taken by the Michigan district through its largest three chapters, Muskegon, Dearborn and Detroit. Muskegon leads the list with 127 paid up and 71 of these are paid through 1955. Nationally, Muskegon stands fifth in chapter membership.

Manhattan, which covers New York City, leads with 251 members. Dearborn and Detroit, with 124 each according to the official figures, are in the top ten nationally.

The Michigan membership list:

	Paid to 12-31-54	Paid to 12-31-55
Ann Arbor	1645	366
Bay City	31	
Benton Harbor	38	32
St. Joseph	38	32
Bozette City	30	2
Charlevoix	22	
Dearborn	124	
Detroit No. 1	124	27
Dowagiac	27	
East Detroit	38	1
Grand Rapids	71	5
Grand Rapids County	42	
Greene Pointe	78	6
Hamtramck	22	9
Holland	54	16
Holly-Fenton	25	3
Hudson	36	
Ionia	22	1
Jackson	54	29
Kalamazoo	40	20
Lansing	27	15
Lowell	20	
Ludington	9	
Manistee	26	
Marcellus	20	
Milford	27	1
Mt. Clemens	27	
Muskegon	127	71
Northwest Area (Detroit)	57	
Oakland County	21	1
Oakland County	21	
Pontiac	36	1
Westland Area (Detroit)	44	22
Sage Lake	43	43
Saginaw	61	60
Sault Ste. Marie	28	
Shawnee County	27	
South Haven	27	2
Three Rivers	20	4
Traverse City	35	1
Wyandotte	42	
Ypsilanti	23	

### Starts Fund Drive

LANSING — Lansing's hardest working quartet, the Merri-Men, were feature performers at the kickoff dinner of the Lansing Red Feather campaign and they kicked it off with vigor, earning heavy applause. Of course, the Merri-Men donated their services.

### CHORUS JACKETS

FOR SALE — Fruit Belt chapter has 50 coats, green with orange lapels for sale.

### CONTACT

KENNETH LAWRENCE  
R.F.D. 1, Box 268  
Benton Harbor, Mich.

Sizes mostly 38 to 42. A few larger.

## Oakland County Cabaret Lures 200

DETROIT — Oakland county chapter's annual cabaret style Ladies night was a gay and gala affair, featuring the current district champions, Pitchblendaires of Detroit, Key Finders of Pontiac, Bel Aires of Grosse Pointe and N.W. Detroit, the Treblendaires of the Sweet Adelines, and Harmonica virtuoso who was an instant hit with the receptive audience.

An added treat was provided when radio star Renee MacKay joined her husband, Gordon Lamber.

Hannah led the group in a number of songs. A buffet luncheon was prepared and served by Lenore Lilly, Eleanor Pollard, Rita Goulet, Peg Gantenben, Elaine Hannah and Jean Kingsbury.

Among the 200 in attendance were Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wiesheart, Mr. and Mrs. William Bond, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Cixby, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Golding, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Burrell, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Lindsay, Dick Den Boer, Mr. and Mrs. Zinnikas, Mr. and Mrs. Don Golding, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Pollard, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Tubbs, Al Maier, Mrs. Arthur White, Mr. and Mrs. Chase Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pascher, George Danie, Mr. and Mrs. Rawley Hallman, John Beaudin, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Vogel, Bill Rowell, Judy Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Neoddy, Mr. and Mrs. Tony Chiodo, Dale Rice, Louis Sturges, Ed Cannon, Bob McGrath, Ed Swanson, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Osburn, Frank Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lilly, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Gantenben.

## Editor Gets Travel Bag

### Also Praise Words From District Boss

By LOUIS R. HARRINGTON  
Public tribute for his outstanding work as editor of the Michigan Troubadour was paid Roscoe D. Debauch at the district meeting at Muskegon when President Loton Willson presented him with a travelling bag in the name of the Michigan district. A resolution adopted by the district executive board citing the tireless efforts put forth by Bennett in building up the Troubadour into the society's finest publication was read by Willson at the Saturday night concert at the Michigan theatre before some 1800 barbershoppers and friends.

Although the Troubadour was the first District publication to be put out regularly for circulation among its membership and made its appearance some six years ago, it was not until Bennett took over the editorship in June 1952 that the paper appeared in its present format. It today ranks among the finest fraternal publications in the country.

Bennett, who has served as sports editor of the Grand Rapids Press for many years, is a veteran newspaperman. After his graduation from Johns Hopkins University at Baltimore, Maryland, he worked on several prominent newspapers.

As a result of his work in his present post, he is recognized as one of the nation's leading sports authorities.

One of the pioneers in barbershopping in Michigan, Bennett has been one of the bulwarks of the Grand Rapids chapter. He was a member of the SPBSQSA international board in 1941-43, and has served in various other capacities on both international and district committees.

**Looking To Niles**  
DOWAGIAC—Dowagiac chapter SPBSQSA has invited and taken in former members of the now defunct Niles chapter. They are being added to the Dowagiac roster with an idea of forming a nucleus for reactivating the Niles chapter in the future. A committee designed to form new quartets in the chapter is at work.

Ray Laetz presided as chairman of the evening and the Overton and Kesterkeys of the home chapter provided the bulk of the quartet singing. One quartet from Grand Rapids made up of tenors only, with Eddie Galkema of Harmony Halls fame, singing bass and Pete Pell singing baritone was a big hit. Another hit number was the Great Lakes chorus singing under the direction of James Dowling, the director of the Fruit Belt chorus. More than 50 were in the Grand Rapids party.

## Barbershopping's Biggest Best Blowout!

# Great Lakes Invitational

APRIL 16, 1955  
GRAND RAPIDS

you'll never forgive yourself if you miss it.

Reservations — Write  
Dr. Glenn F. Smith  
1404 McKay Tower  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

## Editor's Notebook

The job that we have in getting together this publication was lightened much this time by the reappearance of Harold E. Sepull of the Dearborn chapter on the scene. Not only is Harold a prolific dispenser of words but he also has a nose for news, which is vital in this business. It was Harold who got together the Dearborn's "Dorkus thinsamabob" this time which was breezy and informative. Also he dashed off a couple of other stories scattered in this edition with the Dearborn dateline.

Our "Feminine Observer," Ellen Harrington, the Troubadour's society editor, battling for recognition of the distaff element in the Michigan district has on several occasions sought to have included in this newspaper, a picture showing some of the feminine life of the district as it pertains to the various district functions. The Troubadour editors at first shied away from this idea solely on the old fashioned idea that nothing feminine should ever be included. But Ellen has prevailed. She has shown the error of the old ideas and the editors have capitulated. Solely on her own she got the picture of the women's luncheon at Pontiacuna county club in Muskegon and it is being published in this edition. Readers can expect more "social" pictures in the future which leads us to recall the old saying, "never underestimate the power of a woman."

What this newspaper needs more than anything else right now is some good snappy stories about quartets. Recording chapter and chapter news is vital. Also news about individuals, parties, and everything else all go to make up a paper that might be interesting. Almost every quartet, however, has had experiences that would make good reading. Not long ago Eddie Galkema of the Harmony Halls quartet gave a lot of information about the experience of that famous group. Sure, they did more than most quartets because they were at it longer and in high places. But no quartet, no matter how newly formed or how old, has lived without interesting experiences. We know because we have set around and listened to them. It is a reasonable sense of modesty perhaps would keep some from telling their tales but that shouldn't be. This editorial department would waver that a shoop about the quartet experience of almost any quartet in our district would bring a tear or tingle to any reader of the Troubadour. Aig there could be laughs. So why don't someone come up with some quartet tales!

The next issue of The Troubadour is due on Feb. 1. That means deadlines are Jan. 15. However, since there is a lot of setting coming up shortly with holiday feasting and a midwinter meeting, it would be swell if our correspondents got in their copy early. That is don't wait until the last minute and then bury the editorial department with hot stuff. Send it in as it happens. This will lighten the burden and also better insure it being published.

For the sake of the record the first year of The Troubadour is from July 1 to July 1. It was not changed to correspond with the international because it gave the Troubadour three issues extra to members whose international cards have expired. The Troubadour management believed this the wisest course because through the publication it could keep up stimulating old members to renew their membership. So all your subscriptions run from July to July.

Since the district convention and contest in Muskegon, our president, Loton Willson, has been so busy commending people that he has been neglecting his furniture business—almost the members of the Grotto county chapter, a competing chorus and four quartets, bought forth a letter to Wendell Derby in Ithaca. "I want it on the record," Loton wrote, "that the Muskegon chapter and you are to be commended for the excellent job you did. I couldn't possibly find a flaw."

Pontiac — The Pontiac chapter, holds two quartet school meetings each month teaching parts to the newer chapter members.

Dunc Hannah, well known musical lead of the many-time medalist Clet Dwellen, four-part singer, European traveler, arranger for the Pitchblendaires, the new district champions and board member of the Oakland county chapter, has been signed as director.

## Great Lakes Chorus Reveals All At Fruit Belt Meeting

BENTON HARBOR—Members of the Fruit Belt and Blue-Water chapters received a first-hand lesson in what it takes to make a championship chorus at the Nov. 19 meeting here. The occasion was the visit of the Grand Rapids chapter, with its Great Lakes chorus and director, Bob Weaver, to the Fruit Belt chapter. Due to the dear season, two teeth extractions and the flu, the three Grand Rapids chapters supposed to make the trip couldn't function. What members of them was there sang freely, however, in other quartets.

The hit of the evening was the chorus show. Director Weaver told the group they would stage a rehearsal as it is done in Grand Rapids and would then proceed to sing. The rehearsal started with a couple of the members late and boos from those on time followed. Then came a vocalizing session, a review session and a reading of a new number. The chorus actually dug out a new number for the occasion, reading it for the first time. From then on, in easy stages, the chorus moved to its usual repertoire.

Ray Laetz presided as chairman of the evening and the Overton and Kesterkeys of the home chapter provided the bulk of the quartet singing. One quartet from Grand Rapids made up of tenors only, with Eddie Galkema of Harmony Halls fame, singing bass and Pete Pell singing baritone was a big hit. Another hit number was the Great Lakes chorus singing under the direction of James Dowling, the director of the Fruit Belt chorus. More than 50 were in the Grand Rapids party.

## Old Fashioned Barn Dance Dearborn's Parade Theme

DEARBORN — Plans are feverishly progressing with a parade-theme returning many years to the period of old-fashioned, entry-making "old-style" country barn dances" on Feb. 19.

It is Dearborn's policy to each year entirely change the plot, settings, songs and characters. What would a barn dance be without the opposite sex? Hence the members are competing with one another to play the female impersonations.

Laughs Too Frequent  
Show Director Arne Olkoken must surround one problem: Quote Olkoken: "Look, you fellows, we can't have you laughing outright at our 'women.' Smile, that's alright, but cut-out the loud laughs. You'll spoil the show."

Judging from the script and theme this year's event could well surpass any parade yet conducted.

The show will be in two-parts, the first half will depict the country barn dance with songs, dancing, novelty acts, and the usual whoopee associated with them. The second-half will be the parade of top-notch quartets. Dearborn's chorus will participate as characters at the occasion. Songs will be appropriate.

Ticket Sale On  
Quartets Chairman Harry Eason promises many outstanding quartets.



GRAND RAPIDS HELPS PATIENTS — Dr. H. D. Ireland, center, medical director of Sunshine hospital in Grand Rapids receives a \$300 check from Frank Tiegelman, left, chairman of the community services committee of the Grand Rapids chapter, to be used to help needy patients obtain dental and optical necessities. Jack Klaiser, right, chapter president, smilingly looks on.

## Bayns Glasses and Teeth for TB Patients

GRAND RAPIDS—Grand Rapids chapter No. 4 SPBSQSA has increased its work this year in assisting needy patients at Sunshine hospital here who are confined with tuberculosis.

A \$300 check to provide optical and dental care for needy patients at Sunshine recently was presented to Dr. H. D. Ireland, medical director.

Jack Klaiser, chapter president and Frank Tiegelman, chairman of the community services committee, made the presentation. For several years the chapter has presented checks for dental care but this is the first time it has enlarged the sum as earmarked it for optical aid as well.

Jacob Van Vessem, hospital patient service director, explained "We take care of all tubercular treatment of patients, but the patient's own responsibility. Some times patients who need glasses or dental work have no means to pay for them. The barber shop help is great in these circumstances."

Incidentally the Grand Rapids chapter makes life brighter for the patients in other ways through the years quartets and the Great Lakes chorus have given free performances at the hospital.

## Dunc Hannah Leads Chorus

DETROIT — Oakland county chapter is going to have a chorus and it is going to be a good one according to deep laid plans of the members.

Dunc Hannah, well known musical lead of the many-time medalist Clet Dwellen, four-part singer, European traveler, arranger for the Pitchblendaires, the new district champions and board member of the Oakland county chapter, has been signed as director.

Dunc is already at work.



# Boyerne City Chapter Selects Date For Bush League Contest

## Mid-States To Head Up Gay Program March 26

### Double Afterglow And Clinic Are Planned For Annual Show

BOYNE CITY — Anticipating the largest attendance and entry list in its history, Boyne City chapter is making plans now for its annual Bush League contest to be held here next March 26. Last year all facilities of the city were taxed to the utmost when the Mid-States Four topped the bill to three barbershoppers from all parts of the district. This year the Mid-States will be back as well as a number of other participating quartets to add to the festivities.

### Williams Is Chairman

Chuck Williams has been named general chairman for the event and is meeting with his aides constantly. The contest itself will be held in the high school auditorium.

Williams is planning a long list of activities, the program beginning early in the day. The Mid-States, who arrived only a few minutes before the program was slated to begin last year, have promised to be on hand early. "We didn't realize how big and important this contest really was," they informed Chairman Williams.

Already several quartets have notified Chairman Williams they are on hand to compete. They are the Fun Addicts of the Grand Rapids chapter, The Country Gentlemen from Ithaca, Treble-Makers from Detroit and the Fort-Tue Tellers from Jackson.

### 1954 Winners Sign

"Among the non-competing quartets that have declared their intentions to attend are the Aire Tonics of Muskegon, The On-guard of Saginaw, The Solitaires from Bay City, last year's winners, the Bellaires of Detroit and the always faithful Pitch Pipers from Grand Rapids who will be making their eighth annual appearance. Peter Pell of Grand Rapids, who boasts a perfect nine-year record of attending, is also to be on hand.

"In order to take care of the contest it is planned to use two of the big rooms in the Hotel Dilworth, splitting the program in two parts. Also in order to permit more free singing time at the annual Sunday morning breakfast, Chairman Williams is planning a part of the annual quartet clinic to be held Saturday night.

## Novice Contest Set For Feb. 12

### Holly-Fenton Host To Area 3 Event

PONTIAC — The second annual Area No. 3, novice quartet contest has been booked for Feb. 12 in the Penton High school auditorium. It was announced here by Chase Sanborn, Pontiac Chapter SPSBQSA secretary. The contest has been booked originally for Feb. 26. The Holly-Fenton chapter will act as host.

Regular international judging rules will be followed. An effort is being made to attract a larger number of competing quartets than last year when nine vied for top honors.

## Toledo Hosts Detroit Group

DETROIT — Detroit chapter was guests of the Toledo chapter on Oct. 29 at a ladies luncheon. Fourteen souls traveled the elements to journey to the neighbor state. They were Mr. and Mrs. Otto Vogel, Bob Frank, Henry Schubert, Ralph Schirmer, Chuck and Elaine Orburn, Bill and Goldie Wales, Betty Spits, Clarence Edoff, Mr. and Mrs. Art Schulze and John Perry.

They were treated to a fine evening of harmony including the Glass City Four, The Commodores, The Four Winds, The Toledo chorus and an up and coming Sweet Adelines quartet, the Noletates.

# Detroit Parade With Varied Quartets Scores Hit To Explain Michigan's Contest Trio

DETROIT — Detroit chapter staged its 15th annual parade at Detroit's Masonic Temple before a large crowd. The show opened with song leader Thomas F. Needham leading the audience in song. President Henry D. Schermerhorn gave the welcoming remarks.

The Precisionaires, Detroit's 32-man chorus, opened the program with "The Old Songs" and "Honey" under the direction of John K. Smith. Clad in navy blue business suits, the group made a distinguished appearance against the velvet backdrop and Gay 90's lanterns and posters that adorned the stage.

The quartets sang before an attractive Gay 90's street scene, and the Treble Makers of the Detroit-Redford chapters and current Michigan district novice champs, looked very colorful in bright red sweaters. Their renditions of "Kathleen," and "When Day is Done" were well received.

The Wolverines of the Dearborn chapter, past Michigan district champions, sang "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines Nellie," "I'd Climb the Highest Mountain," and "Smile," medley, and were very popular with the audience.

The Pitch Blendaires of the Detroit chapter, current Michigan district champions, in their colorful green and yellow outfits, displayed their championship style.

"Apple Blossom Time," "Building a Sailboat of Dreams," "Alexander's Rag Time Band,"

## Dearborn Pats Muskegonities

### Passes Resolution For Contest Job

MUSKEGON — Muskegon chapter, host to the 1954 annual Michigan quartet and chorus contest, passed a resolution at its work by the Dearborn chapter in the form of a recently passed resolution by that group.

Gerald B. Larkins, Dearborn president, in addressing the congratulatory message to Muskegon praised President Halley Dion for the work of his chapter, pointing specifically to the places enjoyed by the Dearborn group. The resolution was placed upon the Muskegon chapter's permanent records. It is as follows:

WHEREAS, Muskegon chapter of Michigan, SPSBQSA, did undertake and successfully conduct an OUTSTANDING Thirteenth Annual Michigan District Quartet and Chorus Contest on Oct. 9, 1954; together with the fall meeting, pre-glow, after-glow, member's wives entertainment, musical and sundry other pleasurable events and activities held in and in behalf of all barbershoppers in Michigan, and,

WHEREAS, Such perfection could not have resulted without much help and WORK from a considerable number of Muskegon's members,

WHEREAS, BE IT RESOLVED: Dearborn Chapter No. 27, SPSBQSA, do hereby congratulate Muskegon chapter for providing a long-to-be-remembered event does hereby acknowledge and congratulate Muskegon chapter for its splendid achievement.

Gerald B. Larkins, President Frank B. Trittle, Secretary

Unanimously approved; executive committee, Nov. 3, 1954

once we were not wanted any more. We were crowd pleasers. It looks to me if you don't place, one, two or three in a place, one, two or three of those don't show up until about 11 p.m. I hope it's just the early fall pick up, because otherwise I'm going to be greatly disappointed until I get back to GOOD Ann Arbor chapter again!

Chuck Thatcher Crown Point, Ind.

### Women Champs Star

The Big Four of Chilliothe, Ill., International champs of the Sweet Adelines, delighted the audience with their Gay 90's costumes and robust tones on such numbers as "You Must Have Been a Beautiful Baby," "Heart of My Heart," "Oh Baby Mine," "A Good Man Is Hard to Find," and eliminated their appearance with the beautiful, "I Believe" as arranged by Bob Haeger and combined with the Barber Q Four.



DETROIT'S HARMONY AWARD WINNER — Mrs. W. Louis Boyington, Detroit chapter and George Mathews, president of the Detroit Junior Board for outstanding community work, at the annual Motor City parade. Mrs. Boyington is being presented the trophy by Henry D. Schubert, right.

## Detroit Chapter's Harmony Award Goes to Busy Woman

DETROIT — A Detroit idea, born in the mind of Chapter Member Bill Bond, to recognize annually an individual whose services in the community might otherwise go unrecognized, through presentation of the Motor City Harmony Award, was carried out successfully this year with a woman winning it.

The 1954 Harmony Award went to Mrs. Louis Boyington who immediately responded by accepting the \$100 cash that went with the plaque, to establish a fund known as the Harmony room, in the Brightmoore Community Center. The center is now under construction.

Mrs. Boyington received the prize at the annual Motor City parade staged by the Detroit chapter. Presentation was made by George Mathews, first vice president of the Detroit Junior Board of Commerce and Detroit's "young man of the year," with Henry D. Schubert, Detroit chapter president.

"Far Community Worker" In thinking up this award, Bond said, "We felt that it was time that we, as barbershoppers, registered ourselves directly in a contributory capacity to the community. Thus, an individual whose services might otherwise go unheralded and the community both would be favored. The award, with the passing of years, would take on stature and would be an event of prime interest."

Through consultation with numerous civic organizations, are made to a committee composed of prominent citizens, international SPSBQSA secretary, Detroit chapter president and well known barbershoppers. The committee screened these nominations, submitted on the basis of such services, political, music, international, charitable and everything else. Mrs. Boyington was an unanimous choice.

Bond explained that the award will be an annual affair and a feature of Detroit's annual parade.

In examining Mrs. Boyington's achievements in community work, he found that she had been on the board of YWCA for five years, champions. The On Chords of Saginaw finished second and the Aire Tonics of Muskegon were third. The junior championship was won by the Solitaires of Bay City, after a novice championship by the Treble Makers of the Detroit and Redford chapters. The Great Lakes chorus topped the eight competing choruses and won the right to represent Michigan in the International contest at Miami in June. The Windmill chorus of Holland was named as best of the society. A district chorus of Muskegon was third and the Dowagiac chorus was fourth.

Attention: Hack Saw and File Mils! You're sure to sell 'em fast just before our big shows ...

GRATIOT COUNTY CHAPTER Where can you go to escape it? We're always there, 2nd and 4th Mondays Alma American Legion Hall

MUSKEGON CHAPTER Sharfline Auditorium Muskegon Wholesale Co. E. Laketon Ave. and Crescent Merrick Every 2nd Friday and Every 4th Thursday

KEEP HOLLAND Home Recreation Center 7601 Spina Drive First Wednesday 8:15 P.M.

AMERICA SINGING

The Precisionaires then rendered "Aurora Lue," "Great Smokey Mountains," and the program concluded with all the quartets and chorus in a stirring rendition of "Keep America Singing" under Needham's direction.

A novel introduction of the quartets was made by Joe Jones in the form of telephone conversations from the sidelines.

During the course of the evening, the Detroit chapter presented Mrs. W. Louis Boyington with a scroll and a check for her favorite charity in behalf of harmony because of her many selfless works. The Motor City award was presented by George Mathews, first vice-president of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, who is considered Detroit's district president in Detroit Dec. 3 and 4.

International President Berne Simmer has called all 14 district chiefs to Detroit for a two-day session with him. The session will be in the nature of a conference with each of the district chiefs airing problems and giving solutions they have worked out.

Also, President Simmer is directing the conference in all phases of district and chapter work so that the executive may return to their district and spread the gospel among home chapters. It is the first time such a conference ever has been held in SPSBQSA. An agenda has gone out to the president and the response so far, in the international office reports; indicates a full attendance.

One of the features of this meeting will be the discussion of innovations that have been tried in various districts and found to work. One of these, widely reported, has been the Michigan idea of three champions. President Loton V. Wilson will lead the discussion.

Started in 1918 The senior, junior and novice idea was conceived first in Grand Rapids for the 1948 district contest when Ed Smith was president. The rules then declared that all quartets entered could compete for the senior championship since the judges would score only once. However, the quarter for judging purposes, were classified. A senior four was one that had competed and had won a title in competition. A junior was a quartet that had operated but had not placed and the novice division was made up of quartets that had never competed before on the district or international level.

The idea worked in 1948 because there were 26 quartets in the competition.

## Coming Events

- Dec. 4—Holiday of Harmony, Pontiac
- Jan. 15, 1955—Jackson Parade
- Feb. 12—Kalamazoo Serenade
- Feb. 18—Dearborn Chapter show
- Feb. 26—Area 3 Novice Quartet contest, Oakland County
- March 5—Dowagiac, Parade
- March 18—Muskegon Parade
- March 26—Bush League Contest, Boyne City
- April 4—Manistee Parade
- April 16—Grand Lakes Invitation—Grand Rapids
- April 26—Regional contest, Detroit
- May 7—Lansing Parade
- August 20, 1955—Oscoda County Festival, Mio

## Karla Kerlikowski Weds Jerry Warren

ST. JOE — Miss Karla Kerlikowski, daughter of Karla Kerlikowski of the Benton Harbor-St. Joe chapter, and Jerry Warren, married here September 18 to Jerry Warren of St. Joe.

The wedding reception was featured by the appearance of the famous Chicagoans quartet giving a barbershop tone. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Osborn of the Detroit chapter, SPSBQSA.

## Michigan Chapter Directory

- BLUE WATER CHAPTER** Hosts to You Every Year at the Blueberry Festival Meets: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays American Legion, South Haven
- BOYNE CITY** Is vacation land all year long and Bush League land every March. We train the future champs. Every Monday at Dilworth's Hotel
- CHORDS** go by Hear the CHORDS go by HOLLAND Here's to You, Old Timers ... from DEARBORN You're always welcome! 2nd Fridays at American Legion 4211 Maple Street
- DEARBORN** You're always welcome! 2nd Fridays at American Legion 4211 Maple Street
- EVERYBODY** is a foreigner in HOLLAND ... except Dutchmen and Barbershoppers. Join us 2nd and 4th Mondays Old Fellows Hall, North of Michigan Ave.
- WAYNE, MICHIGAN** Home of the "Barons," the "Pitchmen," and the "Questionaires" and the "Versichords"
- SHAWASSEE COUNTY** Chapter President lives in Durand; Secretary lives in Owosso and we meet in Currama, Damms Dime Store 2nd and 4th Tuesdays (Confusion, ain't it?)
- TRAVERSE CITY** The Gem of God's Country Meets every Tuesday at Elks Club
- DETROIT CHAPTER No. 1** Tuller Hotel Third Friday 8:30 p.m. You are welcome
- WE** want a friend of yours! SAGINAW 1st and 2nd Wednesdays Saginaw Savings & Loan Bldg. 219 S. Michigan Ave.
- GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER** Painted Hotel 2nd and 4th Fridays 8 o'clock — Chorus 8 o'clock — Chapter Dr. Glenn F. Smith, Sec'y CH 3-3111
- LUBINGTON** The Friendly Fort City Our population is proof of more "Hello's" than "Alohas." 2nd and 4th Tuesdays National Bank Bldg.
- WE** Warn You! You'll Like Us in MANISTEE Every Tuesday — Elks Club
- Not** the style of our hair. But a place where music fills the air, is MARCELLUS Every Monday — Carl's Cupboard
- Meet** us: "Down by the Old ... MILFORD ... Stream" 2nd and 4th Tuesdays Teas-Canteen 225 N. Main St.
- MT. CLEMENS** where the elite meet to eat, take a bath and have a song with us. American Veterans Club 1st and 3rd Fridays
- OAKLAND COUNTY** Meets for all My Dwellers, including the Chapter! Meets 1st Fridays 2679 W. 12-Mile Rd. Berkley
- DOWAGIAC CHAPTER** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at THE BOWERY Under the Krozer Store
- LANSING CHAPTER** invites you 2nd and 4th Tuesdays Hotel Olds 8:30 p.m.