

Hopes High For Victors In Regional

Extension, Merri-Men, Treble Makers Winners

CADILLAC—Hopes ran high here over the last April weekend when four of Michigan's finest quartets qualified to represent the Michigan district in the international contest at Minneapolis. The performance of the four, the Extension Chords of Grand Rapids, the Treble-Makers of Detroit, the Merri-Men of Lansing and Onchords of Saginaw, was of exceptionally fine quality, according to the verdict of the judges.

The Onchords, finishing in fourth position, were named alternates. That is, they will stand on the sidelines ready to step into the breach if any of the top trio is unable to take part.

Nine Make Top
A total of nine quartets took part in the regional staged under the auspices of the Cadillac chapter. All sang twice in the afternoon and evening sessions. The show was staged in the Cadillac High auditorium and Past President Clarence Javling of Holland was the master of ceremonies. The evening show, the finals, was played before a packed house.

After the decisions were announced the star quartets appeared for special numbers, letting their hair down as it were, and giving forth with specialties that were readily accepted. Among the outstanding performances in this relaxed session was that by the Para-Duos of Muskegon, one of three entries that came from that chapter. They worked up a lark on a "Mickey Mouse" number even to the Mousetrap caps. The Aire-Tonics and the Beaconaires were the other two Muskegon quartets showing.

As the contest drew to a public falling of the quartets was announced. However, a recapitulation of the judges' score sheets at international level showed the Extension Chords in first place followed by the Treble-Makers and the Merri-Men, but the point differential was slight. The Onchords had a mishap in their evening appearance when they started a song that they had already sung in the morning session. They had to stop and start over.

Participants Experts

To the experts early in the 1956 contest was probably the most expertly contested of any in the history of the district. The quartets taking part were, for the most part all experienced and strictly on their toes. Even the five who fell by the wayside showed themselves capable of doing a good job in any competition.

The judging category that was surprising was harmony accuracy. The top three quartets were the highest of any of their categories in this department. Which was revealing as to the abilities of the men taking part. Most of the decisions made determining the place winners were in other categories, such as blend and voice expression and stage presentation.

The Merri-Men made themselves felt by their ability to make their chords ring when the occasion demanded while the Treble-Makers were in their arrangements, especially their tags. Most of these crack arrangements used by the district champions came from Men Bill Rowell, and they are especially effective.

The Aire-Tonics excelled in the judges' opinion in stage presentation even though they did place in the top four. The Onchords also gained approbation in their barber-pole suit, a costume patterned after a barber-pole, even to a gilded ball, derby hats that had been gold painted. It was also agreed among the listeners that the Beaconaires, who won the Rush league contest in Boyne City, had made a marked improvement and did well in the competition among the district's stars.

Tension Not Evident

As in all contexts of this kind tension among the singers was noticeable. In an effort to overcome this, the Extension Chords went to Cadillac without any of their repertoire prepared especially for competition. The boys held a short consultation just before going as to the numbers they would use though they expected the act before the evening tests. In the meanwhile some of a

See Hopes High, Page 4

Michigan District Renews Fight to Keep Headquarters

Early Time Assigned to State Four

Treble Makers, No. 2 On First Program

DETROIT—Two of Michigan's quartets for the international in Minneapolis will appear on the first semi-final on Thursday, June 14, according to the official lineup issued by the international office.

The Treble-Makers of Detroit will be selected to appear in the No. 5 spot of the Thursday afternoon session which is to start at 2 o'clock. The Merri-Men of Lansing make their appearance in the same semi-final in No. 16 spot. There are 20 quartets in each of the semi-final divisions.

The Extension Chords of Grand Rapids are slated to go before the judges for the first time Thursday night in the No. 15 spot in the second semi-final. From this 40, the top 15 quartets will be selected to appear in the same semi-final on Saturday night. There are 20 quartets in each of the semi-final divisions. The spots assigned were determined by lot.

There are 14 choruses slated to appear in this contest and they come from all the districts. The boys traveling the farthest are the Cascade chorus of Eugene and Springfield, Ore., the Border choruses coming at the way from El Paso, Texas, just over the Mexican border, and the Berkeley, Calif. chorus.

The choruses taking part in the contest and the order in which they will appear are as follows:

- 1—Harbors of Harmony, Plainfield, N. J.
- 2—Springfield, Mass.
- 3—Geneese chorus, Rochester, N. Y.
- 4—Cascade chorus, Eugene and Springfield, Ore.
- 5—Michigan City, Ind.
- 6—Borders Chords, El Paso, Tex.
- 7—Harpoon Harmonizers, New Bedford, Mass.
- 8—Sun Coast chorus, St. Petersburg, Fla.
- 9—Berkeley Capital chorus, Berkeley, Calif.
- 10—Capital Chordsmen, Madison, Wis.
- 11—Great Lakes chorus, Grand Rapids.
- 12—Pekin, Ill.
- 13—Berkeley, Calif.
- 14—East York, Toronto, Ont.

Top Interest In Traverse

Counsellor Reports Work Progressing

CADILLAC—According to Bill Chase, counsellor for Area No. 6 of the upper northern Michigan region, there is a high and sincere interest in SPEBSQSA and it is developing.

Pointing to the Traverse City chapter, Chase told the district here, that chapter had traveled more than 1,000 miles in the past five months to put on shows and bring barbershopping to neighboring communities.

Chase added that four members of the old Beulah chapter had joined Traverse City. "More," he added, "other members of the group are showing a renewed interest and we expect to get more members from that field. The counsellor told delegates of the chapter of organization of the group in Belaire-Alden, Elk Rapids and Roscommon were developing.



MICHIGAN'S OFFICERS—Just after they had been introduced following the annual election at Cadillac, Michigan district officers posed for a picture snapped by Curt Hockett of the international staff. Left to right, Paul Kernen of Ithaca, second vice president; Seaborn Lawrence of Dearborn, secretary; Louis R. Harrington of Detroit, president; Jack Klaliber of Grand Rapids, treasurer and Halley Dean of Muskegon, first vice president. All except Kernen were re-elected and are beginning their second terms. This is Kernen's first experience on the board.

Asks International Board be Increased

Michigan Pleads Districts Be Represented at Top Level

DETROIT—A proposal, submitted by Michigan District President Louis R. Harrington, to amend the international by-laws so as to increase the international board of directors to include one man from each of the society's districts will be among the matters to be brought up before the House of Delegates of SPEBSQSA at Minneapolis on June 14th.

Under the present arrangement, the board of directors consists of ten men without restriction as to number that may come from any district. Several of the society's 14 districts, including Michigan, have no representative on the board while at least one district has two men.

Strongly Supported

Harrington has been a strong advocate of equal representation on the board. His position has found considerable support among the members of the House of Delegates. At present, members of the board of directors are elected for two-year terms. It is reported that there will be an amendment offered to provide for three-year terms with one-third to be elected each year.

The international nominating committee has taken official cognizance of the anticipated amendment and has prepared three different slates of nominees for the international board. If Harrington's proposal is adopted, the committee has nominated Clarence Javling of Holland for a two-year term. It has also offered his name if a three-year term is voted. Javling served as district president in 1953-54, is president of the Peoples State Bank of Holland.

Big Membership Needed

DEARBORN—Frank Trille, Dearborn chapter secretary and finance analyst, comes up with an interesting observation—it would require a membership of 800 to maintain Dearborn chapter annually if dues were the only source of revenue. Dearborn's budget is in excess of \$1,200. Net chapter profit in membership card is \$1.50 per member.

New Editor Named for Harmonizer

Curtis F. Hockett Joins Headquarters

DETROIT—The Harmonizer, SPEBSQSA's official publication, has obtained a new editor. He is Curtis F. Hockett of Detroit. The new editor also holds the position as director of public relations for the society. He was appointed at the Denver meeting of international.

DETROIT—Detroit chapter No. 1 will again sponsor its annual Moonlight cruise on July 21. This event has been billed as the oldest, established Barbeshop Moonlight cruise in the society.

The boat leaves the dock at the foot of Woodward at 8:30 p.m. sharp.

Following the formula set last year, entertainment will be informal. Twenty-five quartets are expected to be on hand, and as they wander around the boat, they will stop and sing for anyone who asks them. For those who like their entertainment a little more on the formal side, a quartet will perform every hour on the hour on the bandstand. The rest of the time will be devoted to dancing in this area.

Chorus To Sing

The Precissioners Chorus of Detroit chapter No. 1 will also be on hand to entertain. And because everyone likes to join in the act, there will be plenty of gang singing and bondooing in every available corner. Tickets are priced at \$1.50 per person and may be obtained by writing to Bob Hundt/o Radio Station WJII, Fisher Building, Detroit 2, Mich.

COMING EVENTS

- June 23, Cheboygan parade and Charter night
- July 20, Detroit Moonlight Excursion
- July 25, Blue Water Festival, South Haven
- Aug. 18, Oscoda County Festival, Mio
- Sept. 29, Gratiot County parade
- Oct. 6, District Contest and meeting, Bay City
- Oct. 13, Traverse City parade
- Oct. 13, Detroit parade

New Plans Go Before The Board

LaGrange Insists Offices be Moved

DETROIT—Michigan district opposed to the plan before the international board of directors of SPEBSQSA to move international headquarters from Detroit to LaGrange, Ill., is going to Minneapolis for the international convention to present a new idea in the hope of keeping the headquarters in Detroit.

Duane Mosier, past president of the Northwest chapter, is heading a committee with William Favinger and Ray McCalpin, drafting the new proposal to be submitted to the board.

In the meanwhile, the special committee at the international level headed by Jim Martin, international board member, has prepared a report bearing four major points urging the LaGrange site be accepted.

Michigan City Acts
Michigan City, Ind., already has presented its new offer to the international. A special delegation laid its plan before the board when it was in executive session in New York recently.

It looks as if the shifting of the international from Detroit is going to be one of the most explosive issues confronting the international at this time. Mosier, Favinger and McCalpin the Michigan committee, is going to the international loaded with statistics and suggestions, plans and figures. William J. Bond, past president of the Detroit chapter and a member of the Martin committee, is also preparing a report urging the headquarters be left in Detroit.

Another alternative is presenting itself in the form of a suggestion, that the "expiring" lease at Penke-lav, in Detroit, be renewed, with certain stipulations for remodeling. It was reported that the owners would consider a renewal.

Mosier Outspoken
Mosier fired the first gun in the Michigan campaign at the annual district meeting in Cadillac. He went to that gathering loaded for bear with a resolution that was vigorous in tone. After presenting it, delegates asked that it be referred to the board for their consideration. This was done and the resolution was passed. Copies of the resolution were sent to all international officers and society publications.

After returning home, Mosier went into a huddle with Favinger and McCalpin with the result that architect's drawings were prepared by McCalpin showing the final, a design of a functional building that would suit all purposes of the headquarters staff. This was made after inspections of the present headquarters building with the workers. The drawings were submitted to contractors and estimates of the cost prepared. With this ammunition Mosier prepared the international headquarters plan, a monthly publication of the Cadillac division. Prior to that he was editor of the "Defiance Leader", plant publication of the Central Foundry division at Defiance, Ohio.

The new Harmonizer editor is a graduate of Anderson, Ind. High school. He also attended Washburn college, Crawfordville, Ind. He is 22 and lives at 831 Covington Dr., Palmer Park.

Hockett's appointment brings the international headquarters staff to 13 full-time employees. The new budget provides for addition, at clerical help to bring the staff to 15.

Submits Resolution
After the delegates' meeting, the Detroit attorney expressed himself even more vigorously. "We, the members of the society," he declared, "were not apprised of the contemplated action of the board but take the headquarters from Detroit until we, at least in Michigan, read it in the Troubadour. Then we found out that the board had already decided to go to LaGrange and purchase a building. We, all of us, in the society, are interested in our international headquarters and particularly so if it is going to be a personal shrine." He said mildly then say "we were kept in the dark."

Champs to Officiate
JANESVILLE, Wis.—The Janesville chapter chorus, international champions for 1955-56, will be honor guests at the chorus contest and medallist show at Minneapolis. The Janesville bunch will do the honors for the new champions when they are announced.

See New Plans, Page 2



TO BE PRESIDENT—Rowland F. Davis of New York, who has been nominated for the presidency of SPEBSQSA for the coming year. Davis, an engineer with A. T. and T. in New York, is being elevated from a vice-presidency to the top, succeeding Arthur Merrill of Schenectady, N. Y.

Rowland Davis Is Nominated

New Yorker Selected to Pilot SPEBSQSA for Coming Year

DETROIT—Rowland F. Davis of New York will be the new president of SPEBSQSA succeeding Arthur Merrill of Schenectady, N. Y., according to the report of the nominating committee that will be submitted to the international convention in Minneapolis.

The nominating committee consists of Ed Smith of Wayne, Jerry Deeler of Evansville, Ind., and James F. Knipe of Cleveland, Ohio. All are past international presidents.

Davis moves up to his new position from a vice-presidency. Joe Lewis of Evansville, Ind., another vice president, will be first vice president, and Robert Irvine of River Forest, Ill., will be the second vice president. Mark Roberts of Groesbe Pointe is being returned to treasurer for a second term.

In the engineering field, like his predecessor Merrill, Davis comes to the presidency of the society unusually well equipped for the job before him. He has been a barbershop singer from college days on and was one of the first to take to SPEBSQSA when it invaded the New York area some years ago.

It was in 1947 that the new president-designate joined the Manhattan chapter and ever since has been an indefatigable worker. In 1951 he was elected to the international board and in 1953 was chosen second vice president.

The new barbershop chief is a native New Yorker. He attended the University of Cornell and then went on to Cornell university where he was graduated with a degree in electrical engineering. He is now one of the top engineers of A. T. and T. in charge of the engineering matters relating to the design of new telephone apparatus and switching arrangements ordinarily used at the customers' premises. His work doesn't end there. He is also in charge of the introduction of such new apparatus and equipment into the operating plants of the Bell system.

One year after joining the Manhattan chapter, Davis was elected president and served two terms, through 1950. He was also elected to the board of delegates.

Report Completed
The report of the nominating committee this time was a very

completed one due to the fact that effects are being made to change the lineup on the international board. A resolution, introduced by Michigan, calls for the membership of the board to 14 districts, one each from the 14 districts. As it now stands the board consists of 10 members with no restrictions as to the district they come from. As the board now stands Land O'Lakes district has two members on the board. See Rowland Davis, Page 3

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Carroll Adams Recuperating After Attack

Is at Home after Heart Disturbance

BENNINGTON, Vt., — Carroll P. Adams, retired international SPEBSQSA secretary and past president, is recovering at his home here from a slight heart attack suffered April 30 here.

At the moment, Adams is doing some work, but a very little, under the supervision of his physician and Mrs. Adams. As an example, he was restricted to writing one postal card a day. Under the treatment, he is responding well and expects to be as good as usual within a few weeks.

Carroll's indisposition occurred after he had returned from serving on a judging panel at a Northeastern district preliminary contest. He drove to Manchester, N. H. after the contest and then to Bennington. Before going home he went to his office in the church where he is secretary to do some work. While he was there he felt the attack coming on, phoned Mrs. Adams, who called a physician and ordered him to the hospital.

A few weeks stay and he was permitted to go to his home.

Albion Chapter Returning to Society

Minutes of the 1956 Michigan District Annual Meeting, April 28, 1956

12 Sign Up And 15 More Ready to Go

Organization Meeting Is Set for June 11

ALBION — Another chapter is to be added to the roster of the Michigan district before 1956 is very much over. It is the revived Albion chapter and is being formed under the sponsorship of Cecil H. Fischer, area counselor at large, and the Grand Rapids chapter.

At the present time a preliminary organization meeting has been held with 12 men already signed up and 15 more on the lists. In the meanwhile, more are being recruited with the hope that the final organization meeting, scheduled for the Parker Inn on June 11, will be attended by 40 or more.

Hugh Simmons, a veteran barbershopper who used to sing tenor in the old 4-a. m.'s, has been elected temporary president, and Charles Averill, member of the old Albion chapter, was made secretary. These were the only officers chosen for the preliminary organization.

Certain To Go

The revitalization of the Albion chapter was accomplished by several visits by Fischer and the mailing of 35 postal cards to men whom it was believed would be interested. Returns were received from 27.

"We are certain that Albion," said Fischer, "will be safely in the fold within another month or so. The men who have met with us so far are deeply interested and enthusiastic and mean business."

"We followed the usual pattern of setting the men up with a membership card, and then we merely by telling them what the society has to offer and then doing some singing on our own. It wasn't long before we had several quartets going and one of them especially sounded very good. I think Albion is going to be one of the society's staunchest before the year is ended."

"At the June 11 meeting we hope to sign up enough men, collect the necessary dues and make formal application for the charter," Fischer concluded.

ROWLAND DAVIS

(Continued from Page 1) while some five other districts are not represented at all.

The nominating committee, in preparing its report, took into consideration the pending legislation before the house of delegates and named alternate slates to comply with the provisions of the new laws, should they be enacted.

For membership on the board the nominating committee named five who are included on all slates, Dick Svanoe of Chicago, Duane Hart of Michigan City, Fred John M. Ward of the Johnny Appleseed district, Hilton Hove of Ontario and Floyd Strong of Central States. This quintet will go on the board no matter what additional names are added.

Names Added — If the board is increased to 14, complying with the proposal made by Michigan, the following will be added: Lou Laurel of Southwestern, Clarence Jalving of Michigan, Kenneth Phinney of Seneca Land and L. A. Pomeroy of Mid-Atlantic. To provide for a routine of terms these directors would be chosen for two-year terms and seven will be elected each year. But, in order to establish the first board, it is necessary to elect two of the above-named to one-year terms. Those designated for one-year assignments are Phinney and Pomeroy with George O. Pranspie of the Northeastern district.

Should the convention decide that terms of the directors shall be extended to three years with one third of the membership being elected each year, it was suggested by the committee that Svanoe, Hart, Ward, Hove and Laurel be given the three-year terms, and Jalving, Pomeroy, Strong and Phinney be elected for two years.

The nominating committee also took into consideration another suggestion that is coming up, that two additional vice presidents be added. Nominations for these posts, should the idea be accepted, are John Salin of New York and O. B. Falls, Jr., of Schenectady.

MUSKÉGON—The health of the Aire-Tonics failed again. After Tom Dagain had recovered from an extended sickness and the quartet went back to work filling all dates, Tenor Bill Wickstrom, fell by the wayside with a step infection that laid him low for a couple of weeks. Several engagements had to be cancelled. Bill expects to be back in harness within a short time.

As of March 1, 1956 there are 18,402 paid up members in SPEBSQSA. There were 25,005 members in SPEBSQSA at the end of last year. The goal this year, April 27, 1956, which will be a new all-time record.

The regular annual meeting of the Michigan district was held at the Northway hotel at Cadillac on April 28, 1956. President Louis R. Harrington called the meeting to order at 2 p.m. John Hill led the assemblage in singing "Son of the Sea" and "Mandy Lee." The roll call showed that President Harrington, Vice-presidents Don Wright, Halley Dion, Treasurer Jack Klaiber, Secretary Seaborn Lawrence, Chief Area Counselor Loton Willson, and Area Counselors Chase Sanborn, Gordon Grant, William Chase, Peter Pell, Frank Brown, Alvin Olson and Cecil Fischer were present. Thirty-one chapters were represented at the meeting. Clarence Jalving, a past district president, gave the invocation.

The minutes of the district meeting held at Jackson on Oct. 21, 1955, were read and approved as were the minutes of district board meetings held Jan. 21, 1956 at Detroit, Feb. 18, 1956 at Grand Rapids and March 10, 1956 at St. Joseph.

Edwin S. Smith, past international and district president, gave an inspiring keynote address, entitled "To Barbershopping Worthwhile." He commended the society to a building which at the start had no plans or specifications but which is now assuming stature and although still in the building stage, has a course set. He stressed the fact that they are a service organization, aiming at what we give not what we get, and that our objectives should be culture, service and fun. He was given a rousing vote of thanks by the delegates.

Treasurer Klaiber reported a balance on hand of \$2,324.49. He emphasized the fact that the time for the district to become self-sustaining is at hand. He reported that the following sanctioned fees are up: Grafton county for 1955, Jackson district contest, Detroit, Bay City, Fruit Belt, Grand Rapids and Dearborn.

Secretary Lawrence gave his report and stressed the importance and wisdom of incorporating chapters to avoid personal responsibility. He also reported on plans for the achievement award to be announced at the fall meeting and urged chapters to submit their reports promptly.

Harley Dion, vice president in charge of membership reported that all chapters are in good standing with a membership of 1,800 members.

Don Wright, vice-president in charge of public relations reported that he considered this a most important committee, stated no chapters had requested help. He advised the assemblage of the death of Roy Harvey, former Muskegon member, and past district and president of international board member, who had moved to Florida. It was moved and seconded that condolences be sent to Mrs. Harvey.

Joe Jones, chairman of quartet advisory committee, reported quartets should be organized from the chapter level and reported on the methods various chapters are using to encourage the formation of new quartets, such as novice contests in Boyne City, East Day, Area 3 and Detroit's marathon contest. Recommended sufficient consideration be given to chapters for formation of the quartet in compiling the Achievement Award.

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live board in voting to remove international headquarters from Detroit to Grange, Ill. The Mosier resolution proposed the change and urged the international to reconsider and to keep the headquarters in Detroit where it always has been.

Mark Roberts spoke on the district constitution and recommended its passage. The Constitution was adopted.

Duane Mosier moved that writers reports be placed in the district secretary in sufficient number, by the person presenting them, for distribution among the chapters at the annual meeting. This was carried.

President Harrington reported on the state of the district and on his travels throughout the district during his tenure. He remarked that one question of passing or eliminating chorus competition will be brought up at the international convention at Minneapolis and that a change in the make up of the international board of directors is also anticipated.

It was moved and seconded that each of the three qualifying quartets from Michigan be given \$100 to help delay their expenses.

The meeting was turned over to Edwin Smith who acted as chairman, and Clarence Jalving, Chairman of the Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers.

President—Louis R. Harrington
Vice President—Halley Dion
Vice President—Ray Lantz
Treasurer—John W. Klaiber
Secretary—Seaborn F. Lawrence
It was moved and seconded the the nominations be closed and the secretary instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. After some discussion, the motion was defeated. Chairman of the quartet invited additional nominations for president. There were none, and Louis R. Harrington was re-elected unanimously. Don Wright was nominated as secretary and elected president. A secret ballot was cast, and the tellers reported, Dion, Lantz and Kernen were elected as vice-presidents. There were no further nominations for secretary or treasurer, and nominee Lawrence and Klaiber were unanimously re-elected.

It was moved and seconded by Mark Roberts, secretary and carried that the new by-law under the new constitution adopted at this meeting include the same provision as the former one on nominations from the floor.

John Hill was again appointed to arrange the Michigan district

board of the district. Seab shot a two over par 38 on an upper Michigan course a recent week-end. Associate Editor Klaiber got himself a neat 52 and was satisfied. Seab weighs 135 and Klaiber a stout 206. Their drives were in exact reverse in yards.

Those worrying about the finances of the district and the Troubadour are a bit perturbed over the fact several chapters are slow in paying the obligations. For example, treasurer Jack Klaiber says, "there are some chapters who have not paid their subscriptions yet and they are more than a year overdue. On the other hand there are chapters who have overpaid their subscriptions forcing me to do off-balance act of returning checks. The subscription fee is 50 cents per member is very nominal, in fact, it is far below what I would like to see. Those chapters who have not paid up would recognize the fact they are doing the district harm. Also as treasurer of the district, personally I would like to see prompt payment of sanction fees. We are in the black but we do not have much money to fool around with, and here we can not afford to wait too long."

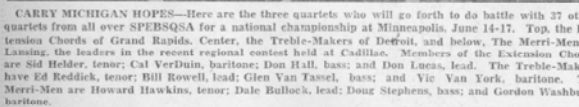
Ye editor is out of the hospital, he said, "There has been too much fooling around down there and I think myself with the help of the Grand Rapids chapter can do something. Anyway, I'm going to give it a try."

One of our most energetic correspondents, Bill Wickstrom, has been laid up and therefore there is a paucity of news from Michigan's biggest chapter in this issue. Bill expects to get back on the job before long.

When it comes to golf Seaborn Lawrence, the secretary, is tops among members of the executive

board of the district. Seab shot a two over par 38 on an upper Michigan course a recent week-end. Associate Editor Klaiber got himself a neat 52 and was satisfied. Seab weighs 135 and Klaiber a stout 206. Their drives were in exact reverse in yards.

Those worrying about the finances of the district and the Troubadour are a bit perturbed over the fact several chapters are slow in paying the obligations. For example, treasurer Jack Klaiber says, "there are some chapters who have not paid their subscriptions yet and they are more than a year overdue. On the other hand there are chapters who have overpaid their subscriptions forcing me to do off-balance act of returning checks. The subscription fee is 50 cents per member is very nominal, in fact, it is far below what I would like to see. Those chapters who have not paid up would recognize the fact they are doing the district harm. Also as treasurer of the district, personally I would like to see prompt payment of sanction fees. We are in the black but we do not have much money to fool around with, and here we can not afford to wait too long."



Detroit Host To Neighbors

Association Visits At April Meeting

DETROIT—At the regular April meeting of Detroit Chapter No. 1, Detroit was visited by members from all the chapters in the area. The occasion was the annual election of a new association president.

Aire-Tonics Idled Again

MUSKÉGON—The health of the Aire-Tonics failed again. After Tom Dagain had recovered from an extended sickness and the quartet went back to work filling all dates, Tenor Bill Wickstrom, fell by the wayside with a step infection that laid him low for a couple of weeks. Several engagements had to be cancelled. Bill expects to be back in harness within a short time.

As of March 1, 1956 there are 18,402 paid up members in SPEBSQSA. There were 25,005 members in SPEBSQSA at the end of last year. The goal this year, April 27, 1956, which will be a new all-time record.

Barney Campbell, Wayne chapter member and retiring president, conducted the meeting and introduced the officers from the various chapters attending.

Michigan District Returns Official Family to Office

Harrington Re-elected President

Paul Kernen, *Ithaca, New Vise President*

CADILLAC—With one exception, all officers of the Michigan District returned to office at the annual election here April 28.

Paul Kernen of the Gratiot County chapter was chosen vice president replacing Don Wright of Hudson, for the lone change in the executive board.

Louis B. Harrington was re-named president while Loton Wilson holds over as immediate past president. Harrington is the first president to be chosen to serve two terms in a number of years.

Other officers are Halley Dion of Muskegon and Ray Leatz of Fruit Belt chapter, vice president; Seaborn F. Lawrence secretary and John W. Klaiber Grand Rapids, treasurer.

Kernen comes to the official family from an extended experience as one of the main forces of the Gratiot County chapter. He has served the district membership for the district and is a past president of his home chapter.

All of the new officers held a special meeting for the last week-end of May at which time President Harrington outlined his plans for the coming year. Foremost on the agenda is the decision to make a membership drive in the district membership committee. The official family will hold its next meeting at the Blue Water chapter festival in South Haven in July.

New Officers In

GROSSE POINTE — Lou Waley has taken over as new president of the Grosse Pointe chapter. His associates in office are: vice president, Harold S. Lewis, the secretary, Chuck Geary; treasurer, Gordon Ross; keeper of the mugs, Russ Soley; historian, Mark Roberts. Dick Stephenson and W. J. Woy were elected district delegates.

Regional Notes

CADILLAC—Jack Spitzer, publicity chairman of the regional, arranged for the television program, "What Goes on Here?" devoted to SPEBSQSA the night before the contest. The half-hour program was conducted panel style with Marty Whelan as moderator and Louis B. Harrington, Loton Wilson, Gerald Eley and Elmo Crawford as panelists. The Gratiot County Gentlemen sang two numbers on the show illustrating the barber-shop style of harmony. Filmed clips of a rehearsal session of the Northwest Michigan chorus under the direction of Bill Butler were shown.

A ladies luncheon was held at the beautiful Sun and Snow with approximately 50 in attendance. The "Merri-Men" entertained the ladies and paid special tribute to Mrs. Gordon Linburn, who arranged their new hit number, "Matilda." Following the luncheon, the ladies shopped at the Cadillac shop owned by Mrs. William Wickstrom.

Mrs. William Wickstrom, wife of the Area-Ten's popular tenor was very unhappy about missing the contest because of a case of measles.

Area Counselor John Comloquy of Jackson arrived just as everyone else was checking out. On his way to Cadillac following a fishing excursion to Boyne City, his car was forced into a ditch to avert an accident. Fortunately, there was no damage. But it was necessary to have the car pulled out of the ditch by a wrecker. John lamented that the fish didn't even bite.

A delegation of Barbeshoppers traveled to Lucas for Sunday church services where the Extension Chords sang.

Al Maier New Redford Boss

REDFORD — Al Maier is the new president of the Redford chapter and will take office at the June meeting. Bill Rowell, of Treble-Makers, is the vice president. Harold S. Lewis is the secretary. Roy Crites will handle the finances and Bill Wales will be delegate to the district, with Duke Dine as alternate with Bob Wharton.



THE MICHIGAN ALTERNATES—Should anything happen to any of the three quartets selected to represent Michigan at the international in Minneapolis, here are the boys who will fill the gap: the Onechords of Saginaw. They finished fourth in the Cadillac regionals. They are William Ahrens, tenor; Jack Kane, lead; Ed Pietsch, baritone; and Dick Lee, bass.

"Culture, Service, Fun, That's Us!" says Keynoter

CADILLAC—Ed Smith, past international president of SPEBSQSA, past district president and one of the society's greatest vocalists and workers gave the keynote address at the Michigan District convention here April 28, a big hit when he declared and proved that Barbeshopping is distinctly worth while in the contemporary key note address.

Using a theme he had dwelt upon in an address before the international in 1938, Smith brought home point after point demonstrating that the movement of which he is a part has a definite place in the American way of life. "Our motto is 'Keep America Singing'," Smith declared. "But if we were to adopt a slogan it would almost have to be 'Service with a smile.' So there you have it! Culture service and fun, that's us! These are the attributes inherent in this movement. Those are the objectives that are worthy of our talents and our efforts. They are the purposes that dignify our household and give it character. These are Smith's complete address follows.

Mr. President, and Fellow Barbeshoppers: If I were to dignify the talk that I am about to give today with a title, I would entitle it "Is Barbeshopping Worthwhile." So I would like to explore this whole matter with you—I'd like to examine it, and try to pin it down. I'd like for us to find out if we can, whether this amazing project of ours is worth the expense of acquiring it. We are here just a bunch of good fellows pursuing a will-of-the-wisp.

Whatever it turns out to be, you are getting it because you are in, and how great are its potentialities. I think that few of us realize. As I gaze across the panorama of our lives, I am reminded of a purely fun-loving group of fellows to the splendid organization that is forming before our eyes today. I am immensely heartened with the progress that is being made, and I am humbly grateful for the incidence of my association with it.

I appreciate that it is difficult for us sometimes to realize the extent of our progress. It is a natural thing for us to wonder whether our efforts are producing the results to which we aspire. A few years ago I drove to Colorado with a gentleman from Michigan who had both of his legs amputated when he was nineteen years old. He told me that he had lain in a hospital bed for five years and that only way he could tell whether he was getting any better was to look back a year. The improvement of a day, or week, or month was not noticeable. I am sure that if we look back across the years of our society with that sort of perspective, we will see that we have progressed. We will find that we have been building ourselves quite a "house."

What they Wore and Sang At Cadillac Regional

Extension Chords—Brown suits, white shirts, brown and white striped ties; "Holla" "Old Gang of Five," Brown jackets, "Blue trousers," "Waiting for You, Baby," "Angel Eyes."

Treble Makers—White trousers, shirts, sweaters with red "T" and "M" on them, "My Blue Suede Shoes," "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," "Light blue dinner jackets with black lapels, white carnations, black trousers;" "Was Only an Irishman's Dream," "When I Lost You."

Gratiot Gentlemen—Blue plaid sports jackets, solid blue trousers and bow ties; "Bye Bye Blackbird," "Suppino." Same attire as the other quartets. "Old Songs—Sweet Sixteen melody," "Kathleen."

Para-Duets—Yellow sport shirts with black stripes and black trousers; "Ain't She Sweet," "Wait Til the Sun Shines Nellie," "Sweet Georgia Brown," "Yona," "Bescon-aires," "Pink" jackets, white shirts, blue trousers and ties; "Dream Train," "Time After Time," "Light olive jackets, red trousers;" "Till Tell the World It's Yours," "Home."

Onechords—Black corduroy jackets, light gray trousers, plaid shirts and bow ties. "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," "The Christmas Song," "The Christmas Tree," "The Christmas Spirit," "The Christmas Eve," "The Christmas Day," "The Christmas Night," "The Christmas Morning," "The Christmas Afternoon," "The Christmas Evening," "The Christmas Year."

What they wore and sang... "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas," "The Christmas Song," "The Christmas Tree," "The Christmas Spirit," "The Christmas Eve," "The Christmas Day," "The Christmas Night," "The Christmas Morning," "The Christmas Afternoon," "The Christmas Evening," "The Christmas Year."

Dearborn's Own Show A Big Hit

Home Talent Scores In Song Production

DEARBORN—A near packed auditorium welcomed curtain call for Dearborn's eleventh annual show—a combination of a parade of quartets and old-time music.

The fast moving, near-professional production had on-stage members of 15 quartets and 15 vocalists, and 15 soloists. The show was a success, and the audience was enthusiastic.

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BARBERSHOPPERS
MOONLIGHT CRUISE
Michigan's Unique Summer Event for Men and Women

Meet and Sing with Your Friends
sponsored by
DETROIT CHAPTER, No. 1
SPEBSQSA

FRIDAY EVENING
JULY 21, 1956

20 TOP NOTCH QUARTETS
GROUP SINGING - DANCING
REFRESHMENTS

BIG CHARTERED STEAMER
LEAVES BOB-LO TERMINAL,
FOOT OF WOODWARD AVE., DETROIT
PROMPTLY AT 8:30 P.M.

TICKETS \$1.50

Available at Dock or from Chapter Members

Up state chapters get tickets while they last from Bob Hund, c/o Radio Station WJR, Fisher Building, Detroit 2, Michigan.

Would Set Up New Quarters or Quartet Promotion

Committee Urges Offer For Chapter

Chairman Suggests Incentive Program

CADILLAC — Recommendation that the Michigan district turn to leading all component chapters into quartet organization and stimulation through a district wide competition for a new award, were contained in the quartet promotion committee's report to the Michigan district meeting here April 28.

Joe Jones, chairman of the committee, suggested that quartet promotion was a chapter matter primarily but the district had a hand in it also to the extent of promoting the competition, chapter awards and encouragement.

Sets Up Plan

The report, signed by Jones and other members of the committee, Ed Smith, Bill Diekmann, Harry Sander and George Deater, stressed its suggestion for a new achievement award for quartet work only.

"We recommend," the report said, "that a district award be made annually to the chapter with the most organized quartets in proportion to its membership."

It is extremely difficult for the district committee to be held responsible for the organization of quartets among our many chapters. Quartet organization is the district's responsibility rather than the district level. It is the responsibility of chapters to stimulate the organization of quartets within their individual membership.

Belongs To Chapters

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Saginaw's Singing President Bares All To His Members

Over in Saginaw Bill Ahrens, the energetic and enthusiastic tenor of the busy Onchords, has been elected president and Bill is really taking hold.

Ahrens is a singing tenor and one who will come up with a top note with anyone at any time. But more than that, he is a serious minded barbershopper. He believes that only through the SPBSQSA and barbershop singing associates can he get all he wants out of his hobby.

With that in mind Bill sat down and wrote a long letter to all the members of the Saginaw chapter when he took office. In it he poured out his soul, as it were, but through it all there was so much common sense and so much that applies to every chapter, that the Troubadour believes it a sort of classic for the district.

Runs By Clique

"As to the running of the chapter it has been said that we are run by a small clique. That is absolutely correct. We are run by a clique and that is so in every other club. In every organization there is a group of men willing to take over and do the work. If you don't like the way things are run join the 'clique' and get your own ideas across. In other words, all that is necessary to join the 'clique' is voluntary enlistment. We would welcome you with open arms."

"This coming year we have what I feel is an outstanding board of directors. They will run the affairs of the chapter so as not to take up valuable chapter meeting time with routine business. All board meetings will be held in the chapter bulletin and I cordially invite any member who would like to attend to be with us and give us your views and ideas. Naturally, only the official directors and officers will vote on any issue, but if nothing to offer that could not be found in a dozen other organizations. Therefore I feel that our board should be successful must be a SINGING chapter."

Blue Water Fete Is Set

South Haven Hosts Officials July 27

SOUTH HAVEN — Blue Water chapter will play host to District Convention at the American Legion and the executive board and area counselors at its annual week-end song fete here July 27 and 28.

The local chapter has arranged a prelude to take place on Friday night with entertainment in the form of a musical. Saturday morning will be given over to golf on a fishing or sightseeing. A board meeting is called for one o'clock Saturday afternoon. The local Saginaw chapter is assisting in the entertaining.

A dinner will be served on the lawn of the American Legion club at one o'clock following which the annual quartet program will be held.

Royal Zerbe, in charge of the affair, says he has received assurance that he will be able to get over to the fete. Zerbe is asking that reservations be forwarded him as quickly as possible.

Early Morning Bath Routs Harringtons

SAGINAW — As a guest of the Saginaw chapter at its recent "Parade of Harmony," District president Lou Harrington and his wife, received unexpected extras from their hotel reservation.

Better Singers Are Needed Study by Dearborn Reveals

DEARBORN — Dearborn chapter, already No. 2 in the district and one of the largest in the nation, is not satisfied with being just that.

Looking ahead, officials of this group have been studying ways to increase membership but more recently they have turned to the study of how many 'old timers' with new and more difficult arrangements and more polished presentations.

"The 'average-voice' guy (and besides he has no experience with barbershop) is becoming ever more short-lived in barbershop. He usually dies within a year or two, resigns."

"The obvious conclusion is that more emphasis must be placed upon better voices and singing knowledge and ability. It's every scale-up the voices of professional singers come with constantly being 'sounded-out' songs, which, incidentally, requires SPBSQSA to lesser quality members to be sounded-down the arrangements to better include the 'average' voice."

Using Publicity

At the present time, Dearborn is resorting to a publicity campaign of its own, getting into industrial publications such as Great Lakes Steel, Ford Motor News and the like, and also bulletizing the news.

'Best Yet' Crowd Says of Holland's Tulip Show

HOLLAND — "The best yet" was the verdict of the capacity crowd which took all available seats in Civic Center for the 10th annual Tulip and Barbershop Quartets, sponsored by the Holland SPBSQSA chapter. It is now the third year that this popular event has been a part of Holland's tulip festival.

Much of the enthusiasm — and contentment — was due to the superb performance of Master of Ceremonies Joe Schmitt of Two Rivers, Wis., a master among emcees whose patter was well paced and whose jokes were just right.

And when Joe was joined by three of his brothers for the grand quartet presentation, everything was "righter" than right. As expected, the smooth delivery of these international champions of 1951 was received with even greater enthusiasm (if possible) than the preceding six quartets, the crowd's rapturous applause and rounds of applause.

Getting the biggest laugh of the evening was the "Big Four Quartette" of Chillicothe, Ill., four Sweet Adelines champs. This group, which had just given their usual selections with some down-to-earth humor which the audience enjoyed no end. Their outfits of green skirts, white satin blouses and hats with flowers, provided quite a picture.

A surprise appearance by the "Junior Misses" of Peoria, Ill., was particularly welcomed by the crowd. The girls, in their usual plaid pinafors with yellow blouses.

May Change Membership Card Plan

Submitting an extended report to the international at the annual convention at Minneapolis.

Present methods of issuing the membership cards, a system involving two years ago, has not met with universal approval. In fact, some of the criticism has been sharp.

Study Other Organizations

Pomeroy in preparing his committee report has made an investigation of many national and international organizations, such as the Lions, Kiwanis and Rotary clubs as well as many minor organizations.

Onchords Star On Store Show

Help J. L. Hudson's Big Birthday Party

DETROIT — On April 2, the J. L. Hudson Co. big Detroit department store, celebrated its seventy-fifth anniversary and the Onchords from Saginaw were there to help in the celebration.

Billied as "...singing songs of yesteryear" the Onchords started at 9:30 in the morning when they were outfitted in 1880s costumes and continued through until 7:30 at night. The original idea was to have the boys sing in the aisles but the Saginaw foursome drew such large crowds that they had to climb up on top of showcases to be seen and heard.

Sanborn Heads Detroit Group

DETROIT — Results of the election of the Metropolitan Detroit association of chapters comprised the 14 chapters in the Detroit area, were as follows: President, Ed Sanborn of Pontiac, vice president, Ray Smith of East Detroit, treasurer Ken Sherman of Redford and secretary Frank Pollard of Oakland County.

Muskegon Chapter Honors Charter Member Saunders

MUSKEGON — The April 13 meeting was reserved by the Muskegon chapter for a very special affair, the occasion of honoring its most faithful member through the years, Frank James Saunders. More than 150 members gathered back to the early days of its founding here.

PRESENTS FIFTH ANNUAL Michigan Songfest SATURDAY, JULY 28, 1956 1:00 P.M. UNTIL 7:30 P.M. LEGION HOME, SOUTH HAVEN, MICH. SMORGASBORD - 6:30 PROGRAM - 8:00 Pre-Glow - Friday Eve, July 27

Blue Water Chapter

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West State Areas Join

No. 8 and No. 9 now Five-Chapter Group

MUSKEGON — Combination of two western Michigan areas, No. 8 and 9, into one to be designated No. 8, has been achieved, with Jimmy O'Toole of Muskegon being named counselor.

The object of the consolidation, made by District President Louis R. Harrington, at the request of the two areas is to provide a closer relationship between the five chapters included in the two areas.

Old No. 8 district consisted of five chapters, Muskegon, Holland, while No. 9 had three, Grand Rapids, Lowell and Ionia. It was felt that by uniting, the areas could pattern activities over the year much like the Metropolitan association of chapters of the Detroit area and provide for wider attendance.

O'Toole announces he is making contacts with each of the chapters involved with an idea of promoting activities.

Korean Buddies Have Reunion On Show Stage

At the Great Lakes Invitational an interesting episode occurred last stage. While the Extension Chords were performing, Jimmy Saez the lead of the recording stars The Hill-foppers, was standing back-stage watching and listening to their renditions. Suddenly he exclaimed to Prexy Tiggelman standing near by, "Say, I know that guy standing out there. He's from where."

Tiggelman told him it was Don Lucas, the tenor. Then it all came back to Jimmy. "I Saez and Lucas were serving in the Korean theater at the same time. Both men had formed and entered barbershop quartets in content sponsored by the armed services. Both quartets were finalists, but Lucas' quartet won the championship.

Neither had seen the other since that time in Grand Rapids. Needless to say, when Saez's stint on stage was over and he met Jimmy in the wings there was a great deal of back-slapping and re-basking of events that took place in their Korean careers.

The Cardinals of Madison, Wis., put on a smooth performance in their red coats and black trousers. Their special number was a brand new arrangement of "Oh Macdonald Has a Farm."

The Extension Chords of Grand Rapids, featuring Don Lucas of Holland as lead, and "Sweet Adelines" of Two Rivers, Wis., were dropping out, and/or are progressively becoming 'crowds'. But why?

The Merri-Men of Lansing, wearing yellow coats and gray trousers, were good at contrast, at times "good and loud" and then "soft and sweet." Their song, "Umbrella Man" and "Five Foot Two."

The gladdest outfits of the evening were the Onchords of Saginaw whose barber, polo striped outfits outside even the barber poles on the stage setting. The best piece was a George M. Cohan number, but their emcee made it clear they were barbershoppers, not imitations of Uncle Sam.

Community singing at intermission was in charge of Paul Schmitt.

District Finances table with columns for district name and amount. Includes sections for 1955 and 1956 Sanction fees for Parades and Per capita dues.

Expenditures table listing various expenses such as Music expenses, Pictoblendares, and District officers' meetings.

JOHN W. KLAIBER DISTRICT TREASURER

Troubadour Finances

Annual Financial Statement of Michigan Troubadour May 1, 1956

Annual Financial Statement of Michigan Troubadour table showing income from advertising, subscriptions, and other sources, along with expenditures.

Voice Box

Enclosed herewith, please find a check for Two Dollars for which please enter the two following subscriptions, via—John Strasser, P. O. Box 19, Carlton Hill, N. J. ...

Bay City District Contests

Executive Board Sets Fall Meet

Select October 5, 6, 7 Dates For Convention Awarding of the 1956 district fall convention to Bay City and the planning of district objectives for the coming year...

Bay City was awarded the fall convention with the dates set for Oct. 5-7. The annual district quartet and chorus contests will be held in conjunction...

It is the first time that Bay City will host district convales. In making the award, district executive board recognized the rapid strides made by the chapter during the past two years...

Bill Ahrens Saginaw Boss

Ochords Tenor New Chapter President SAGINAW — Bill Ahrens, the dynamic tenor of the Ochords, has taken on more work...

Dearborn Doings

New Officers Train To Take Over Jobs

DEARBORN—Chorus appearances in April and May; Dearborn Veterans Hospital, WJB Bud Guest radio broadcast, Detroit chapter, Ford Motor Plant American Legion auxiliary annual meeting...

Visited Detroit chapter April 20 with about 30 members. Praised it "Bill Bond Night" honoring Dearborn member Bond, now serving his second term as Detroit president...

New officers for 1956-1957: President Cecil Craig, vice-presidents Larry Altweis and Bob Stone, secretaries Frank Trille and Bill Garstang...

Barbershop Triumphant in Brush with Pros

GRAND RAPIDS — A daring innovation in barbershop entertainment was tried this year by the Grand Rapids chapter in featuring a professional modern quartet as its headliner for the annual Great Lakes Invitational show, April 13-15...

Michigan Mourning Death of Roy Harvey

MUSKOGON — The shocking news was received in Muskogon on April 28 of the passing of one of the most revered men in our society, Roy S. Harvey, of Madras Beach Fla., formerly of Muskogon.

Muskogon Chapter Great Dies Of Heart Attack In Florida

ROY HARVEY In September he was again honored by the Muskogon chapter when they held "Roy Harvey" night where he was inducted to read many of the humorous minutes of the meetings that he recorded when he was chapter secretary in 1944-1945...

Northwest Chooses Worker

DETROIT — Everything was peaceful and serene in Middle-town, Ohio between Dayton and Cleveland, Ohio, on the eve of the close of World War II and might have stayed that way had not a small hurricane in the person of L. A. (Pom) Pomeroy strayed off course and visited the town of Fate where he was to be inducted to direct the chorus...

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Willson Re-appointed

DETROIT — Realignment of boundaries and the reduction of the area in the Michigan District to 12 was approved by the district executive board at a meeting held May 26. The change was recommended by the chapters involved...

Reduce Counselors; Willson Re-appointed

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District Contests

Michigan Cuts Area Boundaries

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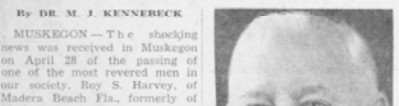
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WILSON — In his report to the district meeting, the Boyne City worker, said, "I am disappointed with the co-operation of this district advisory committee. With the exception of four men I have had no answer to my requests for opinions or various subjects."



ROY HARVEY

Feminine

Mr. and Mrs. Herm Dykema, Mr. and Mrs. Don Barrett, Mr. and Mrs. George Binham, Cliff Snyder, Al Singer, Clarence Joly, Mr. and Mrs. Gil Bugh, Mr. and Mrs. Don Young, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Schirmer, Mr. and Mrs. John Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Warren, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McDonald and daughters, Royal Zerbe, Al Olson, Ed Boyd, Bill Chase, Mel Gee, Elmo Crawford, Otto Bahles, Don Wright and daughters, Ray Hall, Bob McGee, Pauline and daughter, Mrs. Earl Keith, Harold Cougenour, Bill Wickstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Goumard and Mrs. and Mrs. Clare Bristol who were on their way to Olan's Corners.

Willson Disappointed When Advisory Committee Flops

CADILLAC—Loton Willson, chief counselor of the Michigan district and chairman of the district advisory committee, a group of all past district presidents, is disappointed that he will not believe that the advisory committee would be one that functioned and would produce some good results. However, it hasn't worked out that way.

Five Years A Director

For 3 years Round has served the Northwest chapter as chorus director, and has served as board member in 1954, 1955 and now as chairman.

Then Made Captive

Jack Round, newly elected president of the Northwest chapter, Detroit, was the one made captive by Pomeroy and barbershopping.

Wilson then went on to say that area counselors should keep in closer contact with chapters an their work as well as report to the chief board once a month.