

VOL. 8, No. 3

DECEMBER, 1956 - JANUARY, 1957

Asks Rebate Be Returned to District

Michigan To Plead At International

BAY CITY.—Faced with the prospect of being called on to increase its budget more than 200 per cent, the Michigan district SPEBSQSA renewed its efforts to obtain a full \$1 rebate from the international, at its annual meeting here Oct. 6.

Upon motion of Attorney Duane Mosier, secretary and delegate from the Northwest Detroit chapter, President Louis R. Harrington was instructed to prepare a resolution calling for the international to return to the districts the 50 cents taken away more than a year ago. The motion was carried unanimously.

Mosier pointed out that although costs might be rising on the international level, they were increasing more heavily for the districts.

Needs \$4,000 The Michigan delegates were also impressed when Treasurer Jack Klalber pointed out in making his report that the demands upon the district for the coming year would call for an additional \$4,000. If the district is to send its full quota of quartets and a chorus to the international in Los Angeles next June.

During the discussion that followed the Mosier motion the delegates expressed vigorous objection to suggestions that an increase in dues to international would be considered. "We recall," Mosier said, "that when the dues were increased to \$5 it was with the understanding the districts were to receive \$1 in rebate. Now, I understand they even want to take the other 50 cents away and that would be the final straw."

President Harrington said he would have the resolution ordered prepared in time for action at the mid-winter international at Pittsburgh next January.

Death Ends Career of Frank H. Thorne

SPEBSQSA Great Musician, Executive, Singer, Passes

By ROSCOE D. BENNETT Michigan joins the barbershop world in mourning the unexpected death of Frank H. Thorne of Chicago, past international president and one of the greatest figures in SPEBSQSA since its inception.

Mr. Thorne died at his home in Riverside, suburb of Chicago on Oct. 27, following a heart seizure. Burial was on Oct. 29. He was 65 years old. There never was a more devoted disciple of harmony for men as expressed in barbershop quartet singing than Frank Thorne. The society was the greatest thing in his life and he never missed a chance to say so.

His death broke many associations that are sacred within the ranks of the society but perhaps the greatest was that of closing an association of more than 40 years with another great barbershop devotee, Maurice E. Reagan of Pittsburgh. The Elastic Four, 1942 international champions, which Thorne founded and developed, was broken in ranks two years ago with the death of Jimmy Reagan. The other survivors remain, Herman Struble, the tenor and Roy Frisbie, the lead.

Michigan Knew Him Long Michigan came to know Thorne in the early days of the society. He had just found the movement in 1929 and 1940 and never missed a chance to go anywhere he could find men singing together in SPEBSQSA.

In 1941 Thorne made his first appearance in this district when he was asked to judge the first Michigan contest in Grand Rapids. The committee in charge thought it would be a great thing if some barbershoppers from outside would come to Grand Rapids to judge the contest. Letters of inquiry went out in Michigan and no mention of remuneration was made. The committee members almost jumped out of their clothes when the first acceptance came. It was from Frank Thorne. Then came a letter from Dr. C. J. Nelson, Maurice Reagan and Phil Embury and they were all there together with E. V. Perkins of Chicago and Judge Bob Hamp of Kokomo, Ind. It was the first tangible expression in Michigan of the terrific interest the new movement had created and the time, effort and money these pioneers were willing to devote to it.

Since then Frank Thorne was always at the beck and call of Michigan barbershoppers. In 1942 he brought his quartet, then organized a little more than a year, to the international contest staged in Grand Rapids. The Elastic Four won that championship and carried on from then through the years to become one of the immortals of the society. The Elastics sang almost everywhere in Michigan where a parade was held and there never was any quibbling about fees or remuneration. They sang for the love of it. Frank Thorne was called to this district many times as a member of various international committees and as an officer. He had hosts of friends in this district.

A Chorus Defender Michigan delegates to the inter-

Aire-Tonics of Muskegon Crowned Kings

Ludington Yearning to Join Again

LUDINGTON.—Barbershoppers coming back to this community in the near future if Lawrence Godin and a dozen associates have their way. Godin, former officer of the chapter here, made a visit to Grand Rapids recently and conferred with Cecil H. Fischer, district counselor at large, to make plans for a get-together of harmony addicts here pretty soon.

"I believe we can reactivate the old chapter," Godin told Fischer "and I am eager that we get started soon." Godin said he would make a visit here shortly and confer with those interested.

Pittsburgh Is Set For Mid-Winter

Confederates Booked To Sing For Brass Pittsburgh — Plans for the annual midwinter meeting of the international executive board will be held here as guests of the Pittsburgh chapter and the John Applesed district have been completed.

The meeting of the top executives of SPEBSQSA will begin Jan. 23 and continue through Jan. 26. Headquarters for the convales will be set up in the Penn Sheraton hotel, the old William Penn. All of the business meetings will be held here at large. Cecil, who has been the scene of many international conventions has also been provided Wednesday night, the first night of the confab, will be known as Pittsburgh chapter night. On Thursday night, Area No. 10, it which Pittsburgh is located, will be the honoring host. Friday night will be designated as the Applesed night. Saturday night is the date of the big show in Pittsburgh's famous Syria Mosque which was the scene of the 1956-57 Johnny Applesed district afterglow will be held at the headquarters hotel.

Among the extra features programmed for the convention are the women visitors on Saturday and a Pre-Show dinner Saturday evening. The big show, the closing feature of the convention, will highlight the Confederates, the reigning barbershop champions. Also, there will be the Playtonics of Ten Neck, N.J., the runnerup in the international 1956 contest. Others on the big bill are the Lima, Ohio, recalled Four who are the 1956-57 Johnny Applesed district champions; the Big Four of Chiloic, Ill., former Sweet Adelines champions; The Pittsburghers, international champions in 1945-49; the Westinghouse Four, once international medalists; the Steel City Four of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh chapter chorus.

The master of ceremonies for the affair will be John W. Brown, lieutenant-governor of Ohio. William Horison, 121 Banner Way, Pittsburgh, 1, is in charge of the tickets.



THE NEW MICHIGAN CHAMPIONS—The Aire-Tonics of Muskegon who won the 1956-57 Michigan district quartet championship at the annual district contest at Bay City. Left to right, is Bill Wickstrom, tenor; Gerry Guimond, lead; Clare Bristol, bass; and Tom Damm, baritone. The Aire-Tonics won their championship on their eighth try for a major championship. Story on Page 4.

Albion About Ready To Ask For Charter

ALBION.—Through the activities of Cecil H. Fischer, Michigan's area counselor at large, and the help of the Jackson chapter, SPEBSQSA is going to have a full-fledged live wire chapter in this community. A meeting of the interested was held here Nov. 12 at which time quartets and officials of the Jackson chapter with Sam Cushman, area counselor, took part. Already 20 have signed up to become charter members. Request for the charter will be made early in January at which time permanent officers will be elected. At the present Dr. Ted Davis and Dr. M. O. Rowan are serving as co-chairmen. A second meeting was held Nov. 26 at which time the Merril-Men from Lansing came to assist in the organization. At the first meeting two quartets from Jackson, one of them, the Close Notes, was made up of two chapter past presidents and two chapter past vice-presidents, Bill Boyden sang tenor, Red Show was the lead, Clarence Melchert, the baritone, and Ben Riley, the tenor. The Four Naturals from the Jackson chapter, also assisted in the entertaining. This quartet is made up of John Cosmoploy, president of the Jackson chapter at baritone, Don Klose, chapter treasurer.

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Great Lakes Chorus Wins Coast Trip

Port City Group Takes District Title

BAY CITY.—Muskegon's Aire-Tonics and the smooth singing Great Lakes chorus from Grand Rapids were the winners in the annual Michigan district quartet and chorus contest held here under auspices of the Bay City chapter, Oct. 6.

For the Aire-Tonics it was a particularly satisfying win because these lads organized four years ago and have completed eight times in district and regional competition before taking down a major prize. In second place were the Four-Bearers of Harmony, a new Detroit quartet who staged out the Beaconaires of Muskegon by a mere two points. The closeness of the contest was remarkable when it is considered that it requires close to 1600 points to qualify for second. In fourth place were the Car Tuners from the Northwest Detroit chapter. They were here by virtue of their showing the Car Tuners were rated the novice champions for 1956-57.

Great Lakes Wins No junior quartet championship was awarded this year because none of the quartets competing could qualify for the honor.

In the chorus competition the Grand Rapids bunch under the leadership of Robert Weaver had little trouble outdistancing the other four competitors. They were the Port City chorus of Muskegon directed by Bill Burgess. The Fruit Belt chorus from Benton Harbor directed by William Hansen and the Jackson chapter chorus directed by George V. Crippen and the Gratiot County chorus under the leadership of Phil Daab.

To the Muskegon chorus went the title of Michigan district champions for 1956-57. The award was made under the new rules which prevents choruses who have won a district championship during the last three years from competing. The Fruit Belt chorus won the Junior championship.

Sing Tenor, Oldies. The Grand Rapids chorus which won the international in 1952, by virtue of their Bay City showing will represent the district at the international contest in Los Angeles next June. The same chorus carried in Michigan colors in the last contest at Minneapolis. The Michigan colors in the last contest at Minneapolis. The Michigan colors in the last contest at Minneapolis. The Michigan colors in the last contest at Minneapolis.

Tune Grinders Gallant One of the most colorful and impressive performances in U.S. (Continued on Page 2)

Saginaw Host Past Prexies

SAGINAW.—One of Saginaw chapter's most memorable meetings was that held Oct. 19 when the past presidents of the Saginaw chapter were honored guests. Adding to the occasion was the presence of members of 16 quartets that have claimed Saginaw as their home chapter during 16 years of the chapter has been functioning. One of the blizzards of the evening was that accorded Gordon L. Grant one of SPEBSQSA's greats. Each past president was introduced separately and called on for a few words. Quartets sang in the interim.

Treasurer Warns Big Money Needed to Be Raised

BAY CITY.—A revealing appraisal of the financial status of the Michigan district was made here at the annual business meeting Oct. 6 in which Treasurer Jack Klalber pointed out the district needs \$6,000 to operate next year. The treasurer frankly admitted he didn't know where the money was coming from but did urge chapters to make prompt payments of the assessments when they are due. The delegates listened to the report but beyond receiving it with other reports did nothing about it. More Money Needed "Although the financial reports of the Michigan district reflect a healthy condition to date, I would like to point out that if we are to achieve our financial goal before the next international contest efforts will have to be stepped up considerably," Klalber said. An analysis of district expenses for the past few years indicates that we need a budget of approximately \$10,000 to \$12,000 for the affairs of the district. This year, because of the great distance involved to the next international, a figure of some \$5000 was common for a round trip flight. This was on the basis of a chartered flight. On regularly scheduled airline flights, it can be done for approximately \$150 per person. "Since our last district meeting, a committee has been appointed, has met, and has come up with some ideas for enriching the district coffers to aid our competing quartets and chorus. Not being on this committee, I am not aware of the complete scope of their plans. However, I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my opinion, for what it is worth, of what we as a District should plan on as financial aid for our representatives. Figures Are Big "It has been suggested that each of our competing quartets be given \$500 towards their travel expenses. In this I heartily concur. This amounts to \$125 per man. On this basis I feel we should plan on supporting the winning chorus to the extent of at least \$2500. At present international rules governing chorus contests insist on a minimum of 20 men and as most choruses more than that, the unit average per man is about the same as it proposed for a quartet man. "If we agree that financial aid to our district contestants as outlined above is proper, it is only simple arithmetic to come up with the answer that we need about \$4000 more than usual from our District this year. \$1500 for quartets, \$2500 for chorus, \$3000 for our district affairs, a \$6000 total. How will we do it? That is for our committees and you gentlemen to decide."

Old Timer Wins Song Name Contest

Songs using the name of states are highly numerous it has been revealed by a contest offered by an anonymous barbershopper. The contest sponsor put up \$100, half of which was to go to the two who could list the longest list of songs that contained the name of the state they had won to the winning member's chapter.

The winner of the first place was James F. Saunders of the Mustang chapter, and runner-up the well known "Old-Timers" quartet. Saunders named 18 songs with the state name of Kentucky. He received a personal check for \$50 and the Muskegon chapter got \$50.

The second place winner was Cecil H. Fischer of Grand Rapids and the Westinghouse Four, with the help of Wife Bieky, sent in a list of 160 songs with the name of many states. He missed the terms of the contest. However, he had 13 with Tennessee mentioned and that gave him second place. He got a check for \$20.

Chapter Head Dies AMHERSTBURG, Ont.—Walter Steubling, president of the Westinghouse Four, once international medalist; the Steel City Four of Pittsburgh and the Pittsburgh chapter chorus.

The master of ceremonies for the affair will be John W. Brown, lieutenant-governor of Ohio. William Horison, 121 Banner Way, Pittsburgh, 1, is in charge of the tickets.

George Hansen First Champs Member, Dies

Sawdust City Four Bass Passes, Nov. 20 MUSKEGON.—Chapter members were grieved at recent news of the passing of George H. Woznes, a charter member and one of founding fathers of the Muskegon chapter. Mr. Hansen, retired public school system maintenance foreman and assistant superintendent of buildings and grounds, pasts he had held for 20 years prior to his retirement in 1955, died Nov. 20 at the age of 67. Widely known for his deep rich bass voice, Hansen was the bass on the Sawdust City Four, Michigan's first district champion quartet in 1939-40, and the only quartet ever to twice win the state title. The Sawdust City Four won again in 1940-41 before the present Society rule was enacted proclaiming that no district champion be allowed to defend its crown. Other members of that famous early foursome were Len Horton tenor, Ray Johnson lead, and Bill Griffith baritone. In later years following the quartet's breakup, Hansen was often called upon to entertain with bass solos at chapters meetings. Most barbershoppers who have heard George at these Muskegon meetings will claim that he had no peer when it came to reaching the low notes. He also was an active member and past president of the Cosmopolitan Male Singers.

Death Takes Gene Jenkins

Motor City Four Loses Its Tenor DETROIT.—Eugene P. Jenkins, 12174 West Outer Drive, Detroit, died Oct. 5. He was 15 years the tenor in the Motor City Four with Bill Stinson, lead, Harold Wright, bass and Phil Stinson, baritone. This was one of the oldest quartets singing together in the society. The Motor City Four helped establish the Windsor chapter singing on the occasion of their charter night.

Mr. Jenkins was a long time member of Detroit No. 1 chapter and also sang on the Ford Sunday Evening Hour while that program was on the air. Together with his surviving widow and children, his many friends and old time barbershoppers mourn his loss.

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# Michigan Shows Gain For Fourth Straight Year

## No Chapters Lost; List Passes 1,700

### Muskegon, Dearborn, Grand Rapids Tops

DETROIT—The Confederates and Buffalo Bills headlined the seventeenth annual "Parade of Harmony" by Detroit chapter No. 1. Also featured on the bill were the Cracker-Jills, second place Sweet Adeline medalists, the Reef-Blenders, comely quartet, the Treble-Makers from Detroit and Concord chapters, the Detroit chapter Motor City chorus and SOC Suburbanette Sweet Adelines chorus from Royal Oak.

Staged in the magnificent new Ford Memorial auditorium the opening of the show drew "ooohs" and "aaahs" as the gold curtain raised and revealed a stage setting of new automobiles being polished by the Motor City chorus members who were dressed in white service shop coats. Under the direction of Gil Stammer, the chorus got the show off to a fast start.

Percentage-wise the Michigan district stands eighth in the land in matter of recovery. The big four in Michigan are Muskegon, 146 members; Dearborn, 130 members; Grand Rapids, 110 members and Detroit, 104.

Other top chapters in the state are Sage Lake with 63 paid and Grosse Pointe with an even 60. Northwest Area of Detroit is among the big boys with 55 followed by Benton Harbor-St. Joe, 53, Kalamazoo and Jackson each with 52 and Oakland county with 51.

### Gain Everywhere

The membership picture internationally is not gloomy but is below expectations. At the outset, the international had visions of a membership in excess of 27,000. As of Nov. 1, it stands at 25,581 a gain of 516 over the past year. This gain can be attributed mostly to whooping increases by the Michigan district which boosted its membership by 294 and added six new chapters without a single suspension. The Michigan district added 244 members to its roster and leads the society with a total of 2989 members.

Michigan enjoys the distinction of being one of three districts that did not lose a chapter this past year. Others were Far Western and Seneca Land, Central States lost seven chapters and Illinois six while Land O'Lakes an Southwestern each dropped five.

## Traverse City Show Clicks

### Barber-O-Four, Jills Highlight Program

TRAVERSE CITY — With the Barber-O-Four and Moose Haeger heading up the show and Cracker-Jills, Aire-Tonics and Beacornales as outside talent, supported by the newly formed Paul Bunyan chorus and Sweet Adeline chorus, Traverse City chapter presented one of the most entertaining shows in its 10 endeavors, on Oct. 13.

The advance ticket sale was the highest the chapter has ever had. However, the total crowd was slightly dimmed by having to compete for show night sales with an evangelistic three-week base that drew 5,000 people for Saturday evening, Sunday afternoon and evening.

## Fischer Plans South Haven Visit Dec. 11

GRAND RAPIDS — Cecil H. Fischer, Michigan district counselor at large, has set up a barbershop pep meeting at South Haven for Dec. 11 at which time efforts will be made to stir up renewed interest in SPBSQSA there.

"I have organized the meeting at the request of Royal Zerbe who, by the way, is to me one of Michigan's finest barbershoppers even though he doesn't do much singing. He believes in it and he is willing to work."

"I have been told," Fischer said, "that the Blue Water chapter is slipping a bit and needs a shot in the arm. I am going to take down a quartet or so from Grand Rapids, invite the Benton Harbor chorus up and see what we can do to stir up the chapter there."

## Traverse City Changes Name

TRAVERSE CITY — In the belief that "Chapter No. 11" did not truly designate or do too much for the apostles of harmony in this area, the local membership decided to do something about it.

Approximately ten names were suggested by the membership and through an elimination vote came up with "Cherry Country chapter."

Incidentally, while changing names for themselves they incorporated under the new name.

So, Good Bye No. 11, Hello, Cherry Country!

## Girls, Champions and Autos Highlight Detroit's Parade

### Treble-Makers Set Pace

The Treble-Makers, 1955-56 Michigan District champions, opened the quartet portion of the show. Dressed in mint green dinner jackets, the past champions delighted with their Irish tunes.

Then the Buffalo Bills made their first appearance of the evening and were a tremendous hit with the crowd with their wide variety of famous barber-shop songs.

Their antics which kept the audience howling, included high jinks by other members during a solo by the bass, a lampoon of Albert Einstein, and a spelling out of the word "MOTHER" by the largest and smallest of the quartet members.

## More Than 100 Dearbornites Visit Toledo

### Three Bus Loads In Surprise Trip

DEARBORN — Three packed Greyhound buses journeyed to Toledo, Oct. 26, when Dearborn chapter paid Toledo a surprise visitation. More than 100 were in the party.

Dearborn chapter canceled its regular meeting to permit about 20 members to attend. Other Detroit area members were from Oakland, Pontiac, Detroit, Grosse Pointe, Northwest Detroit and Wayne chapters.

The gang marched in singing "After Dark" as while Toledo's 35-strong chorus under Director Ralph Runyan responded with "You're as Welcome . . ." This walk-off started a thoroughly enjoyed evening.

### Quartets Sing

Toledo's Chordsmen and Four Marksmen were followed by visiting quartets as Foam Blowers, Wolverines, Dearbornites, Toledo Makers and Dearborn's Chord-O-Matic chorus; under Director Tom Needham.

Toledo's president, Tom Stambaugh, acted as emcee and did much credit for the wonderful evening is due him.

Harry Eason was Dearborn's speaker and Cracker-Jills, district wide number barbershoppers' wives so confused as to where the husbands were going—or for that matter why they were expected back," he said.

### Only Three Knew

Only three Dearborn members knew the destination; — the committee composed of President Cecil Craig, Treasurer Louis Kancel and Jerry Williams. Craig said, "We weren't sure how this surprise visitation would turn out but from the size of the crowd and the enthusiasm and well time everyone had, it is plain to see Dearborn will have more of them."

Among those present were International Associate Secretary Ken Booth, District Secretary Sae Lawrence, and Area Counselor Chase Sanborn.

The caravan left Toledo about 1:00 a.m.

## New Member Cards Ready

### Forms Will Go Out To All Secretaries

DETROIT—The new membership cards for SPBSQSA members will go out to the district secretaries of the entire society early in December.

The supplies will be ready for use for all members in 1957. Also, those who have paid their memberships for the following year will receive the new cards signed by their chapter secretary.

### Eliminate Delay

The new forms require a duplicate record of each membership card issued. The card will bear the date of issuance and copies will be sent to international headquarters. Each chapter is responsible for every card sent the secretary and accountings will be made periodically.

The new system will eliminate the weeks and even months of delay occasioned under the old method whereby every card came from International headquarters direct. Now, as soon as a member pays his dues, he receives his card, which he must insert in a piece of paper in a man's life," as Past International President Arthur Merrill expressed it.

### Confederates Star

The climax of the evening was reached with the appearance of the Confederates, expert International Champions, Costumed in authentic Confederate uniforms, the boys cut loose with the songs which have made them famous. Songs featuring the lead and lone voice were especially well-received.

### Confederates Star

For the finale, Willis Diekmann of Holland, composer and arranger of "Keep America Singing" was the guest soloist to direct the entire cast in that official song of SPBSQSA.

Presentation of the annual Harmony Award to Mrs. A. Warren Brock by Bill Bond, Detroit chapter president, highlighted the closing of the second half of the show. The Harmony Award is presented to the person who is judged by the Harmony Award committee to have done the most to foster harmony in the community. A check for \$100 is also presented to the charity of his choice.

## Wayne Mixes Things Up at Ladies' Night

WAYNE—Wayne chapter's first "Ladies Night" of the year was held Sept. 6 at V.F.W. Hall. There were 76 members, wives and guests who were entertained by the Fore-ladies of the Cracker-Jills and the Versichords.

Tom Pollard presided and highlighted the evening with a pickup mixed quartet consisting of one woman to each quartet. The seven quartets involved were given 10 minutes to prepare and were judged by a panel headed by Ed Smith.

The quartet which brought down the house clomped out front dressed in mismatched, oversized army helmets and overcoats garnered from the cloak room "Turtle" Lo Van York, Renee Limburg, Bob Mulligan and Gil Stammer sang a rousing medley of "Give My Regards to Broadway," "I'm a Yankee Doodle Dandy" with a chord-changing tag which would have been credit to the Mid-State Four. This quartet however was disqualified for singing patriotic songs. Another quartet was disqualified because Bill Bond talked too much. Another because Judy and Bill Rowell were too affectionate on stage.

The enthusiasm and Mrs. Ed Smith were awarded record albums of the 1956 Contest Winners for participating in winning quartet. Ed Smith is related to the chief judge.

Milt Dittmer, Ruben Swanson, Jim Cullen, Bill Beatie, Dave Kerley and Bud Keppeler were inducted as new members by Ed Smith.

Jerry Reid, Jim Cooney, Rube Swanson and Frank Lyons arranged the buffet luncheon.

## Clixby Clinic Creates Two New Quartets

### Also Revitalizes Pitch-Blenders

WAYNE—Aspiring Wayne chapter members are getting expert personal tutoring in barbershop music from Clixby, who has been meeting at Dale Clixby's home in Inkster, each second Thursday of the month, with a master in the art, has ample assistance from the other former Pitch-Blenders Don and Jack Golding. Two quartets and a sextet are being organized.

Jerry Reed, Dave Kerley, Marty Schlenker and Bud Keppeler are one quartet. Bill Fricker, Bill Beatie, Bud Gulfield and Dewey Cyr are the other group and both are rehearsing regularly.

### Eliminate Delay

The enthusiasm shown in these special sessions has fired Clixby and the Golding brothers to tread the sawdust trail again. They have assigned the services of Ed Lilley, tenor, and the revitalized Pitch-Blenders will be heard from in the near future.

### Buffalo Bills

The Buffalo Bills then appeared for the second time with more of their solid chording and dancing, the past champions delighted with their Irish tunes.

Representing the Sweet Adelines, the Cracker-Jills held the house in the palm of their hands with their interpretations of Renee Limburg's arrangements. Showing complete versatility, the girls nearly stole the show with their comely number, "Mountain Dew."

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## Dearborn Hosts Trio of Chapters

DEARBORN — Toledo (Johnny Appleseed), Windsor (Ontario) and Detroit chapter visited Dearborn chapter Nov. 9, with 117 barbershoppers in attendance.

International was represented by Curtis F. Hockett, and Associate Secretary W. L. (Bill) Otto. For the Michigan district was President Louis Harrington and Secretary Seaborn Lawrence.

Among visiting quartets were Four-Bearers of Harmony, Detroit, and Chordsmen, Commodores, Marksmen and We-Three of Toledo.

### Chorus Sing Together

Chorus of Detroit, Dearborn and Toledo (27-strong) each sang several numbers and united in a tremendous finale led by Detroit Director Gil Stammer.

Jack Ford emceed Toledo's portion of the program and the secretary only recently was released from a six weeks hospitalization. Present were presidents Ernie Keyz (Bowling Green, Ohio), Bill Bond (Detroit), Tom Stambaugh (Toledo), Joe Rouffler (Windsor) and Cecil Craig (Dearborn).

Really sensational, however, was Carl Murphy of Toledo who rendered several piano numbers . . . while standing on his head with his back to the piano and smoking a cigar. "It's true — he did it."

### Craig Wants More

Dearborn President Cecil Craig stated, "We should have these affairs more often. It seems the more chapters you have at a visitation the more talent, enthusiasm, singing and fun there is. Anyway, I'm sure grateful to Toledo, Detroit and Windsor for making the event truly enjoyable for everyone — including Dearborn members."

Past-president Jerry Larkins acted as Dearborn's program director. Excellent refreshments were provided by the "Kitchen Krew" under Chairman Frank Schultz and Norbert Shamus.

## Dearborn Doings

### Mike Laako Repeats as Golf Champion at Annual Tourney

DEARBORN — The chapter's golf champion, Mike Laako, repeated against 83 other golfers retaining his crown with a slizzling 74 at Dearborn Country club. Competitors were Sabe Lawrence, Hans Johnson, Frank Trilix, Bill Garstang, Vic Favier, Cliff Holston, George Hamilton, Harry McKee, Curly Schroeter, Leonard Tappa, and Ed Smith.

Following dinner at the club the evening was devoted to songs, singing, and refreshments.

### October's Boondoggling Contest

October's Boondoggling contest was closely contested. In fact, so closely, the scribe hesitates to name the winners. There are yet several quartets who protest they were "robbed" . . . which gives these events the "look" of real

## Brower-Jalving Have Reunion

HOLLAND—Clarence Jalving, international board member, has returned from California where he attended various barbershop functions and the American Barbers Institute. High point in the trip was a reunion with G. Marvin Brower, formerly of Grand Rapids, now a resident of Santa Monica, Calif.

Jalving reports that with Brower he attended a meeting of the Palos Verde chapter and "enjoyed a mighty interesting evening."

## Muskegon's Gals Start New Chapter

To Join Adelines; Tom Damm Directs

MUSKEGON—Well, it looks like that well known Muskegon enthusiasm for barbershopping has caught on with the women. After years of hearing hubby extol the virtues of barbershop good fellowship and fun in barbershop singing, the lady of the house "wants in" and is taking steps to assure the equal rights of self-participation.

It all started when several wives of local chapter members talked things over at the chapter's Halloween party Oct. 25, and their findings, plus the urgings of their husbands and a promise of co-operation from the Muskegon chapter, convinced them of the value of starting a Sweet Adelines chapter in the Port City. And so it was that five enthusiastic young women, the Mesdames Richard Bent, William Wickstrom, Charles G. Thomas, Peter Poll and James Duff arranged for the first meeting of the group.

Grand Rapids Helps

Twenty women attended that first get-together Nov. 1 to hear two charter members of the Grand Rapids Sweet Adelines chorus, Mrs. William Wickstrom and Mrs. James Beugelin, brief the group on society aims and goals and discuss affairs of organization and affiliation. Temporary officers named were: Tom Damm, chairman, Agnes Wilde, secretary, and Doris George, treasurer. Board members chosen were Maureen Wickstrom, Marilyn Benton, Barb Duff, Jane Ann Dobb, Helen Dion, Nala Nelson, Margie Bristol, and Vera Ferguson. Permanent officers will be elected when rules are set and the chapter receives its charter.

At the present time the group number is about 29 and a chorus has been started with Tom Damm of the Aire-Tonics acting as temporary director.

## Holland Sings on Civic Show

HOLLAND—Holland's Windmill chorus under the direction of Francis Hodgson has a prominent place on the stage at a gala musical celebration here Dec. 13 for the purpose of raising money for a community bandshell in Kollen park.

Bands and other musical organizations of Holland are taking part in the enterprise with the Windmill chorus one of the features. The sum to be raised is \$10,000. Already Holland chapter has made contributions to the fund.

## Contest Fund Is Growing

GRAND-RAPIDS—The international contest fund through which Michigan district hopes to defray expenses of a chorus and three quartets to Los Angeles is growing, says Treasurer John W. Krieger.

To date the fund and source of money are as follows:

Bay City Raffle	\$ 113.00
Wied Construction Co.	2.00
Russell V. Leon	2.00
Millers Shoe Repair	2.00
Walter H. Chamberlain	2.00
Wanmaker's Barber Shop	2.00
H. Williams Scott	2.00
Thos. H. Shuler	5.00
Holland Chapter	72.00
Vinitae Chapter	64.00
Saginaw Chapter	130.00
Griest County Chapter	78.00
Transferred from Percy Jones Hospital Fund	427.86
Total	911.86

## No Bids In For Regional Convention

Site and Sponsor Sought For Event

DETROIT—Site and sponsor for the 1957 regional chorus and quartet contest are problems confronting the Michigan district executive family.

So far not a single chapter has offered to take the big show that will determine three quartets and a chorus who will be called upon to compete in the Internationals at Los Angeles, Calif., next June.

The 1967 district convention agenda has been awarded to the Cherry Country chapter at Traverse City for Oct. 19.

President Louis R. Harrington was informed that the Metropolitan association of chapters in the Detroit area are considering making an offer for the regional bid as yet no formal action has been taken. The contests are due to be held the first week in May.

## Muskegon Hallowe'en Party Attracts Crowd of 300 Plus

MUSKEGON—A capacity crowd of more than 300 members, wives and friends enjoyed a most successful Halloween masquerade party at Shurline Auditorium on Oct. 24. A row of lighter pumpkins on the stage added to the atmosphere as the evening's festivities featured singing and the traditional costume parade.

Program Chairman Bill Hislop emceed proceedings calling upon Bill Griffith to lead the throng in community singing. Then followed selection by the Parade Duetts, Beacon-Aires, Port City chorus, Hy-Tones and the Aire-Tonics. Every group was well-received, but the and of the Jly-Tones and the Hallowneish Anne Boleyn number which has become a classic with the Aire-Tonics, had the crowd in the aisles.

Trophy Presented

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the district trophy, won by the Aire-Tonics at Bay City, to the chapter. Tom Damm handed over the trophy to chapter president Harold Dobb. The Port City chorus the Beacon-Aires, and the Muskegon chapter were also acknowledged for their awards won at this year's district convention and contests.

## Mr. Whiskers Says Chapter Takes Option on Hockett

Uncle Sam Calls Harmonizer Editor

DETROIT—Curtis F. Hockett, assistant international secretary and editor of SPBSQSA's official magazine, the Harmonizer, is going to spend a couple of years with Uncle Sam as a member of his armed forces.

As Curtis expressed it, "On Nov. 10 I received word that the United States army will be picking up my option for the next two years, effective Dec. 1."

Secretary Robert Hafer said nothing had been done to obtain a replacement for Hockett. "We probably will close up ranks here and get temporary help on the Harmonizer while Curt is in the service," he said. "Of course we expect him to be back with us after his hitch."

Hockett is also the secretary of the Association of Bulletin Editors. A replacement probably will be made at the January meeting of the editors.

## Muskegon Hallowe'en Party Attracts Crowd of 300 Plus

A host of unusual and funny costumes were in evidence throughout the evening. Among the more ingenious were a hill-billy couple, Siamese (twin) cats, black face couples, Indians, cowboys, hoboes, old-time couples, men dressed as women, ghosts and devils. A parade of costumed entries wound past a judge's reviewing stand as winners were selected in three major categories. After a hasty huddle, delegate from Grosse Pointe and Mr. and Mrs. Francis Wilde announced their decisions to be Melvin Kamp and Mrs. Jack Bennett chosen best dressed couple, Mrs. William Rawlins dressed as a hobo as the funniest boy, and Tom Damm as the funniest girl. Damm, arriving late, stopped the show with his garrish flipper get-up.

President Dobb commended Bill Hislop and Ed Goulet for their handling of arrangements and officially closed the evening's program. General woodshedding followed refreshments.

"Though I hold an international office I can do more good for the society as a chapter worker than I can in any other capacity. I have always believed that and I have always tried to be active in my chapter affairs as I possibly can be. If we have good workers and good chapters we will have a good society all the way through."

Roberts appeared at the Michigan meeting in a dual capacity, delegate from Grosse Pointe and official "observer" from the international.

## Area 8 Called

HOLLAND—C. C. Wood, program chairman of Area 8 has sent out notices that the Holland chapter will be host to a get-together of the area on Jan. 11 in the Warm Friend tavern. This is the third of such gatherings since the organization of the area. Previous meetings have been held in Grand Rapids and Ionia.

## GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

"The Greatest Show in Barbershopping"

APRIL 5-6-7

- ☆ Confederates
- ☆ Buffalo Bills
- ☆ Big Four
- Plus -

- ☆ Aire-Tonics
- ☆ Extension Chords
- ☆ Merri-Men
- And -
- ☆ Great Lakes Chorus

Mark those dates to meet your friends in GRAND RAPIDS!

# Metrical Seeking 1957 International Contests

## Other Big Cities Bid For Event

### Chicago, Cleveland, Philadelphia Ask

DETROIT—One of the important bits of business to be transacted at the mid-winter meeting of the international executive boards in Pittsburgh will be the selection of the 1959 convention site.

This is of great interest to the Michigan district because Detroit is making determined bids for the big event. Others trying for the conclave are Chicago, Cleveland and Philadelphia. Jerry Becker, past international president, is chairman of the convention site committee.

DETROIT is urging that it be considered because with the new Ford Memorial auditorium located downtown and within easy access of a great number of hotels, it believes it can handle the affair better than any convention has ever been handled and that includes those that Detroit has hosted.

## To Revive Old Kent Contest

### Grand Rapids — An effort to revive the old Kent County Quartet championship is being made by the Grand Rapids chapter this month, the period when Cecil Fischer is president.

Fischer, poring over the membership list, found that the chapter had just eight tenors who were active in regular singing quartets. So he ordered each of them to get a quartet, train it and then compete at the Dec. 14 meeting. There are complete Appropriation prizes and the title, "Kent County champions" will go to the winners.

Wayback when Fischer was bass singing actively with the Travelers that foursome won the Kent county title and has never been beaten since. There was only one contest.

## Wayne Chapter Host to Wives

WAYNE—Wayne Chapter held its second "Ladies Night" of the season Dec. 6. Chatter members of the chapter who worked so diligently in its formative years were honored at this meeting.

Ed Smith was Master of Ceremony, assisted by Hooper Arthur. Former members of the chapter and their wives received special invitations.

## Mystery Trip Leads Chapter To Neighbor Holly-Fenton

DETROIT—Pioneering in Michigan district novel entertainment, Northwest Area (Detroit) chapter on Oct. 2, put on a real "Mystery Night" that is John Zinnikas, program chairman, did. Members had been instructed to be at a certain parking lot at 7 p.m. They were there, all of them, piling into a bus with no knowledge whatever of their destination. Zinnikas had kept the secret locked so well that even the driver had to be told where and when to turn. After an hour and a half of winding and twisting through a maze of unidentified highways, members found themselves at the headquarters of the Holly-Fenton chapter, which is in Holly, Michigan. The trip was led by the familiar "You're as Welcome as the Flowers in May."

After greetings, President Philip C. Jackson of the H-F chapter took charge and the show was on. The host chapter presented its songs, directed by Doug Swartz,

## Wild Form Quartet Just To Pep Sugging Chapters

GRAND RAPIDS — Robert H. Walker, past district president, is setting about to organize himself a quartet with just one purpose in mind — to sing at all chapter meetings to which they can get invited.

"I would like to have a group," Bob explained, "that could go anywhere within reasonable distance just to help out singing programs at singing meetings. I would like a quartet that could make it a practice to go to towns where there is no organized barbershoping and show the natives what it is.

**Fun At Singing**  
"The best fun in the world, to me at least, and I believe to any barbershopper, is singing. It does not matter particularly how good we are but just how much good we can do. When I was singing actively, everybody in our quartet, Frank Haight, Bob Carpenter, Cecil Fischer and myself would drop anything we were doing, even getting up from the dinner table if necessary to go out and sing when we got an invitation. That was living. It was surprising how many invitations we received. We didn't bother much about contests when we did compete many times. We just wanted to sing and the music to our ears was the applause we got after a number.

**Could Go Good**  
"Thinking it over after all these years, I believe that some of the

## Up-state Show Travels Afar

### Cherry County Men Visit Many Towns

TRAVERSE CITY—The Cherry County chapter of Traverse City traveled nearly 1100 miles from Traverse City to visit 14 chapters in interchapter visitations, their own package shows in the area and bid fair to a repeat performance. The show was staged as a benefit to raise funds for the furthest of American Legion baseball in this community.

The current district champions, the Confederates, this quartet has been booked for this show for two full years.

Also on the bill are the famous Buffalo Bills and the Big Four quartet. The latter, former Sweet Adelines champs, and now one of the most sought after quartets in the barbershoping world.

The current district champions, the Confederates of Muskegon, have also been signed as the Extension Chords of Grand Rapids and the Merry Men of Lansing, international finalists at Minneapolis.

## Port City Chapter Helps Boys Program

MUSKEGON—More than 500 persons attended the Muskegon Holiday package show held at Muskegon High School auditorium Nov. 8. Presented in co-operation with the local American Legion, the show was staged as a benefit to raise funds for the furthest of American Legion baseball in this community.

The program presented a wide variety of attractions featuring entertainment, novelty, dance and dramatic acts. The talented array of performers included the district champion Port City chorus, the Para-Dets, third place winners, the Sweet Adelines, Michigan district champions, the Aire-Tonics, the pantomime Hy-Tones, accordion soloist Joe Horvath, and a dance team, Joe (Mr. Bones) Jacobs, and adagio duo, and Muskegon's Shirley Swanson, Miss Michigan of 1956, who gave her dramatic presentation, "The Cliff," a performance which won her the best talent award in this district. The American pageant at Atlantic City.

An enthusiastic audience called each act back for encores, and a grand finale brought all performers on stage once again for an all-cast chorus of "Keep America Singing" as the curtain closed. Chatter members, wives and friends were the guests of Legion members for an impromptu affair at the post clubrooms after the program.

Committee members working on program arrangements included Dick Benton and Harold Dobb, chairman; Herb Allen, Bill Hinson, Andy Vandankelaar, Wayne Hamilton, Al Burgess, and Bill Wickstrom.

## Great Lakes Invitational Show Set Up

### Confederates, Bills Are Headliners

GRAND RAPIDS—Plans for the annual Great Lakes Invitational three-day barbershop celebration, April 5, 6 and 7 are being worked out under the general direction of Peter V. Pell, the chapter president.

The high light of the show will be the appearance of the current international champions, the Confederates. This quartet has been booked for this show for two full years.

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## Raise Funds For Baseball at Muskegon

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## Two To Pittsburgh

DETROIT—Michigan's representatives at the international mid-winter board meetings in Pittsburgh, Pa., were District President Louis R. Harrington and International Treasurer Mark P. Roberts.

## Champ Aire-Tonics Mourn They Can't Compete Again

MUSKEGON—Now that they have won it—the Michigan district championship—Muskegon's Aire-Tonics are not so sure they like it.

The truth is the Aire-Tonics just love contests of any kind, win, lose or draw. Since they have won the 1956-57 title for the Michigan district they can't compete any more for that crown.

All in all, the Aire-Tonics are just now the 1956-57 title for the Michigan district they can't compete any more for that crown.

Tom Damm, the Aire-Tonics baritone and who, by the way, has been a competitor in 13 contests, sums it up this way: "We have never regretted the many contests entered but not won. We cherish the laurels that have been given us but we will miss future district contests when we can not compete. We like to sing that way. We sing for the fun of it."

## Started in 1952

The Aire-Tonics, who won rather handsily at the district contest in Bay City, met for the first time as a troupe on Nov. 12, 1952. Immediately they adopted the name, Aire-Tonics, and shipped up a couple of numbers

to sing at the next chapter meeting, Nov. 20, eight days later. On Dec. 8 they had worked up five numbers and got their first jobs at two Muskegon club banquets and then they registered with the International. That important document was dated Dec. 23, 1952.

The Michigan champions are one of the very few district quartets to have survived four full years without a change in personnel. The same boys that met that first night, Bill Wickstrom, tenor, Gerry Guimond, lead, Tom Damm baritone and Clare Bristol were the ones who were crowned at Bay City.

The Aire-Tonics have achieved a great measure of success in singing for the general public because of their accent on showmanship, correct enthusiasm and poise, as well as good harmony are their principal aids in selling the public on barbershop music.

So far, exclusive of chapter functions, the Aire-Tonics have sung 248 public performances, 33 of them in eight cities, to an estimated total audience of just over 105,000 people. They have traveled 15,750 miles singing in the Midwest during four years as a quartet.

Third Muskegon Champ  
This group is the third Muskegon quartet to win a district title since the tonics were inaugurated 17 years ago. Aire-Tonics brought the crown back to Muskegon after a 13 year absence.

Other Muskegon quartets winning district laurels were the Sawdust City Four 1939-40 and 1940-41, and the Unheard of Four 1941-42.

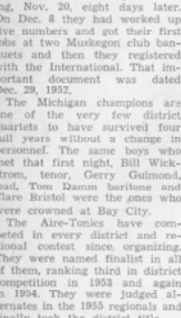
During its four-year struggle to reach the top, the Aire-Tonics quartet has grown in stature and popularity. They were judged as discouraged and disband as many quartets do when success in contest competition does not come quickly. Much of this loss of confidence can be attributed to the boy's attitude toward barbershoping in general. They organized yearly duties for their chapter and the district during the past four years. They've donated their services on many occasions for district functions, chapter banquets, and to help fellow and struggling chapters put on their annual shows. They were the only quartet to attend all six district banquets during 1954-55.

A repertoire of 40 songs has been compiled, ranging from strict barbershop to progressive modern harmony and running the gamut of Bach, barbershop, boogie, and pop. Practically all of their numbers are self-arranged with special emphasis placed on original chord progressions and voice placement giving the quartet a unique sound all its own. The Aire-Tonics have achieved a great measure of success in singing for the general public because of their accent on showmanship, correct enthusiasm and poise, as well as good harmony are their principal aids in selling the public on barbershop music.

## Extremely active and always ready to sing at the sound of a key pitch, the Aire-Tonics have performed yearly duties for their chapter and the district during the past four years. They've donated their services on many occasions for district functions, chapter banquets, and to help fellow and struggling chapters put on their annual shows. They were the only quartet to attend all six district banquets during 1954-55.

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## Midland Charteed—Here's Chemical City Chapter President Earl Keith, center, receiving from International Secretary Robert G. Hafer, left, the charter for the new Midland chapter. Looking on approvingly is District President Louis R. Harrington.



MIDLAND CHARTERED—Here's Chemical City Chapter President Earl Keith, center, receiving from International Secretary Robert G. Hafer, left, the charter for the new Midland chapter. Looking on approvingly is District President Louis R. Harrington.

## Troubadour Chem City Chapter Gets Its Charter

### Midland Officially On Society Roster

MIDLAND—With a paid up membership of 33, the Chemical City chapter was presented its charter here on the night of Oct. 29 with barbershoppers from all over Michigan in attendance.

The reactivation of the Midland chapter was completed after two years of work on the part of Gordon Grant and aides from the Saginaw chapter, which is the sponsor.

There were guests from Bay City, Gratiot county Saginaw, MI. Pleasant, Grand Rapids and Detroit. The official presentation was done by International Secretary Robert G. Hafer. Earl Keith, president of the chapter accepted the charter.

Midland has two active quartets, the Sing-Sing Singers and the Interludes. The Sing-Sing Singers at one time was one of the most active and sought after comedy quartets in the middle west. The Interludes were district champions in 1949-50.

## Chordial Four Sings

LANSING—The Chordial Four, a song-loving quartet of the Lansing area, were featured at the Lansing chapter meeting at the home of Paul Kern, district vice president on the eve of the Detroit chapter meeting.

The big show on Saturday featured the quartet, the Sweet Adeline International Champions, the Quartettes, The Notables of Kansas City, Mo., was elected international president for the coming year. Mr. Meyer was also chairman of the judging panel for the contest. Peter Jim Davenport, Ken Saundry and Bill Rowell.

## Two To Pittsburgh

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## Why Quartets Duck Contests, Told Frankly by Absentees

Why was the entry list at the district quartet contest at Bay City so small?

The answer received did not make it crystal clear why the general aversion. There were a variety of reasons cited ranging from a homesickness to the Michigan-Michigan State football game. However there was a trend noticeable in all replies—contests are now too complicated, the judging too severe and the amount of preparation too fast for most of them.

No Time For Practice  
Said one: "Barbershoping a contest means lots of practice and we are not able to spend that much time in the summer. Another is that the crystal clear judging arrangements. We saw at the last Rush League contest and were knocked down excessively by the judges."

Another quartet which didn't show declared that barbershoping is getting too fancy and only a few can take part successfully, so what's the use of trying?

"It is believed by many," the spokesman of this quartet said, "that our standards are too high today. There are but a very few men capable of being a member of a quartet that has a chance in the international contest. Old fashioned barbershoping is being out to a modern trend. Unless you have extraordinary arrangements, a few persons and exceptional voice talent you don't have a chance in competition. In too many cases singers are losing interest because of the professional-like trend of today.

"Our international judges have reached a point where their rules are so strict that they are capable of scoring well with the panels. Generally speaking we have reached a level where good barbershoping arrangements are not enough but rather it takes a fancy dressed, precision group with modernistic arrangements. What we are getting or secret. It definitely is discouraging dozens of quartets from any thought of competition."

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## Wayne Plans May Parade

WAYNE—Encouraged by the success of the "Harmony Howl" last May, Wayne chapter is planning a parade for next spring, according to Jerry Reid, chapter secretary.

"People are still talking about the professional quality of our last show which is a credit to the quartets who participated. On the basis of the goodwill created and the experience gained, our next show should be equally as successful." The date is set for Friday night, May 3.

## Chapter Secretary Tells of Big Event

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## Jamboree Dead But Spirit Lives

CHARLEVOIX—The old labor Day Jamboree at Charlevoix is dead, as a dole but the spirit lives on.

A group of Grosse Pointe chapter members and their wives have decided to bring the spirit back to this scenic shrine over the last holiday period.

On Sunday morning four of the sisters organized the Charlevoix Congregational church choir. They were Bert Escott, Steve Rich, Fred Clerger and Hal Reinhardt. Other of the visitors were in the congregation.

## Barons Satisfied

On the other hand, one quartet was entirely satisfied with everything in spite of the fact it didn't compete. This was the Barons of Detroit. They were so satisfied they couldn't get together often enough to polish up on our songs. I know I am safe in saying there's no trouble in this world that can't be solved by a little more singing.

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## Damm Record Complete

Tom Damm, baritone is 28, married, and father of three girls. He attended Northwestern University for a time and is now a junior partner in the family pattern manufacturing firm. Tom's record in SPBSQSA is a unique one. Since joining in 1948, he has never been without a quartet and has completed in district competition 12 times, the last 11 of those times consecutively. Quartets he has sung with include the Note-Ordies 1948-49, the Chordials 1949, the Fourbars and Romaine Wales.

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## Bristol A Builder

Clare Bristol is 29 years old, married and the father of two children, a boy and a girl. Clare is a veteran of World War II service with the Army Signal Corps in the Pacific theater, and is now the purchasing agent for the General Telephone Co. of Michigan. He has been active for the last 13 years. He received his initiation into the Society in 1945 after having obtained some previous experience with the group with Damm and Martha Lou Harper (now a Columbia recording artist) and a vocal singing trio known as the Queen of the Jesters. Bristol was also a member of the Fourbars for two years.

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