



FISCHER'S LAST MEETING — When the Michigan district board of directors met in Jackson on Nov. 12, Cecil H. Fischer, two terms district president, was presiding at his last meeting of the group he loved so well. At this session Fischer turned over the gavel to his successor, John Comtoquey. Seated, left to right, Al Burgess, Muskegon; William Hanson, Benton Harbor; Comtoquey, Fisher, Standing, Roseco D. Bennett, Grand Rapids; Chase Sanborn, Pontiac; Bob Tracy, Mackinaw City; John W. Klaiber, Grand Rapids and Louis K. Harrington, Detroit.

Boyne City Bushers Hit Snags

Novice Contests Too Popular for Accommodations

Boyne City — The Bush league barbershop quartet singing contest, one of the most famous in the land of four-part harmony is coming up, April 15. And ironically the prospects are so good and so big that it has the Boyne City chapter worried.

The chief worrier is Loton Willson, past district president, originator of the novice competition and entrepreneur diligent who has kept the thing going for years. "It's this way," Willson said, "we want every bush-league quartet in the district to come and visit us and take part. But I am afraid that the show will be overlong and the patrons will tire to such an extent they will stay away. We have been toying with the idea that maybe we will have to have an elimination session in the afternoon. We don't want that, of course, and I hope we will not have to do it."

Also, the housing proposition is getting complicated. We are enjoying more guests all the time. This year, in order that it will be done competently, we are turning this detail over to the housing committee of the Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Joseph Wolff is the boss. So even if you are a steady customer we would suggest you contact Mrs. Wolff. Her bureau has been handling thousands of visitors to Boyne City skiing areas and on April 15 this winter sport will be over."

As for the show itself, Boyne City has prepared a program that will include the Chord Counts as the feature quartet. The Auto-Towners of Detroit, champs who won last year, will be back and will sing and present the awards to the new champions.

In addition there will be the crowning of the "Bush League King," a preglow, an afterglow, dance, clinic and breakfast.

The Boyne City planning committee thinks that the later date selected will make it easier for more customers to attend the show.

Michigan Loses Cecil Fischer

GRAND RAPIDS — All Michigan barbershoppers are mourning the unexpected passing of Cecil H. Fischer, 59, for the last two terms president of the Michigan district SPEBSQSA.

A heart attack suffered while shoveling snow outside his home Dec. 23, was fatal. Burial was in the cemetery at Vernon in Shiawassee county near Durand, for many years his home.

The late president was one of the most devoted barbershop workers in the entire society. He was first introduced to the art of four-part harmony in 1943, and for more than 17 years labored hard. He had just shed the responsibilities of the exacting office of Michigan district president when he was taken. And in the interim, after he handed over the gavel to his successor, he was looking around for other things to do to help the cause of four-part harmony and fellowship among men. From the time he joined SPEBSQSA until his death, he worked.

Leaves Glowing Record

The record that Fischer leaves behind him is glowing. The district was not in good condition when he ascended to the high seat. It was down chapterwise and in members. He set his goals high and then went to work. He succeeded. At the close of business

and his life in December, 1960, Michigan's district was occupying a high position in the society's ranks. But even then he was not satisfied. He wanted more work to do.

A Thorough Musician

Cecil H. Fischer was born a musician. At the age of 4, his father Jacob Fischer gave him a harmonica and he learned to play it. Then followed studies in violin, band horns, tenor banjo, guitar and voice. He was born in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and came to Michigan in 1907 and settled in 1911 with his family in Durand. Here's where he grew up, playing on the high school football team, school band and orchestra, singing in choirs and in quartets. The last experience was the biggest of his life. From there it led him to various quartets, finally SPEBSQSA and a life's work.

The first quartet of any importance in the barbershop style category was the "Round House Four" in Durand of which Fischer spoke many times. It was made up of Bob Fair, now in Beulah, who sang the lead, Art Roussin, brother of Mrs. Fischer the baritone, Fred Nelson a boomer switchman on the Grand Trunk railway the bass, and Fischer was the tenor. From here Fischer's career took him to many places including

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Good Programs Key To Chapter Success

By DUNCAN HANNAH
President, Galesburg Chapter

Is your chapter doing a good job of planned programming? This is a more critical phase of barbershopping than many chapters realize.

Programming should include much more than asking four guys to sing. It must try to satisfy the majority of the membership over a long range and variety of situations.

Our society today has two classes of quartets. The professional-amateur and the strictly "twice-a-month-fun" quartet. Don't overlook these men. The chapter level

quartet will usually be men who want to sing and like to sing, and who know what the word barbershopping means. Use these men at the chapter level for programs, officers, committeemen and quartet promotion.

Fill Their Needs

Two premises are listed below for consideration:

1.—Ninety-five per cent of our members join our society because they believe they have found an outlet for their musical needs.

2.—They drop out of our society because this basic want is not fulfilled.

These members want to join our society. (Continued on Page 4)

Muskegon Is Ready

Ann Arbor Working Up May Show

Ann Arbor — Besides working up a chorus and doing a lot of woodshedding the Ann Arbor chapter is working like mad putting together its parade scheduled to be presented May 20.

Participants for the program have been signed and more are being added but that doesn't seem to be the biggest problem. The chapter has decided this parade must be different from all the rest and have a name of its own. To that end the committee has asked for suggestions.

Curly Warren and John Hancock are the cochairmen of the event. The program committee is made up of Gordie Meiselbach, Don Backus and The Huronaires. Hancock is also chairman of the printed program committee and Ed Libe is the ticket boss. Meiselbach, Ernie Therkelson and Newbern Smith form the publicity committee.

The important hospitality committee is composed of Don Backus, Dick Hall and Gene Oliver. Bill Wedemeyer is in charge of sound and Pete Barhydt is doing the lighting effects. Dave Gaffney is chief usher and Bob Bebbke is the housing boss. Marty Schlenker, Pete Sayre and Junior Sott are handling the afterglow.

Headlining the May 20 parade will be the Town and Country Four from Pittsburgh and the Yankee Misses, the 1960 Sweet Adelines champions. The show will be held in the High school auditorium.

Valentine Fete for Vets

"Hearts and Flowers" From Dearborn

Dearborn — For their monthly program at Dearborn Veterans hospital in February, Dearborn chapter presented a "Hearts and Flowers Show" on St. Valentines evening that filled an hour and a half with quartet, community, and chorus singing to please the filled auditorium.

Roger Craig, Dearborn's vice-president, did the M.C. work and interspersed the fast-moving program with drawing prizes of candy for the patients. The first prize though was a dozen roses sent to anyone the winner selected, anywhere in the world. Luckily for the budget, however, the winner was from Detroit.

Leonard Tampa of Dearborn chapter organized the show and was able to present the Aremalms, Michigan district champs of Dearborn and Wayne chapters, The Sweet Sioux of the S.O.C. Sweet Adeline chapter, The Step-Tones of Downriver chapter, The Scorekeepers of Northwest chapter, and Dearborn's own Foamblowers and Chordomatic chorus directed by Ex-director Roger Craig in the absence of Brother Bob.

The patients and visitors, the Hospital recreation staff, and all barbershoppers present and participating enjoyed and appreciated the program.

Plans For Regionals Completed

"Most Popular Quartet" Contest To Be Big Feature

Muskegon — Plans for the Michigan Regional quartet contest, at which qualifiers for the international contest in Philadelphia will be selected, are being rushed to completion by Muskegon chapter SPEBSQSA. Halley Dion, past district president is general chairman of the event.

Headquarters for the three-day session, April 28, 29 and 30, 1961, will be the Occidental hotel at Western Ave., and Third st.

Assisting Dion are 12 other committees. Chairmen are; publicity, Frank Scott; promotion, Ken Barnhard; sets and decorations, Andy Van Donkelaar and Jack Bennett; state manager, Tom Damm; registration, housing and reservations, Wilson Hilop; tickets, Bill Duplissis, Don Courtwright; afterglow, Claire Bristol; program advertising, R. Jack Bennett; MPQ, Andy Van Donkelaar, Joe Cantwell; ladies gifts, Wilma Bennett; ladies brunch, Joe Cantwell; reception, Bill Van Bogelen.

Registering Opens Friday

Registrations will open Friday afternoon and evening at the desk on the mezzanine floor until midnight. Saturday the registrars will be at their stations from 9 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. The information desk and announcement boards will all be on the mezzanine floor.

The Palm room, also on this floor, will be open at all times and will also be used as a hospitality and woodshed room. Contest headquarters will be in one of the sample rooms directly across the hall from the Palm room. There will be workers on duty all of the time.

One of the big features of this conclave of harmony will be the special "Most Popular Quartet" contest and award. Originally, it was planned to have the audience make the selection during the actual contest, but district and international judging authorities nixed the idea forcing a change.

Rules Changed

Due to the new judging procedures in contests such as this no name announcements of the competing quartets can be made since the judges will be facing away from the stage. The new plan for the MPQ contest calls for nominations and demonstrations to take place at the preglow Friday night in the convention room at the Occidental. The only reference to the MPQ feature that will be made at the contests will be an announcement at the prelims and balloting after the finals. Demonstrations in behalf of favored quartets will not

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Farewell To Cecil H. Fischer

In his last "President Speaks" message the late Cecil H. Fischer wrote:

"To all you fellow barbershoppers in the Michigan District, hail and farewell!

"For the past 30 months it has been a distinct privilege and certainly a great pleasure to have been one of you, to have worked with you and for you. It is with mixed emotions that I write this final column as your district president. There is a big feeling of pride in our accomplishments, a humble thankfulness, when, in retrospect the wonderful cooperation I have received from everyone is a shining light. . . . We have sung together, laughed together, shared our joys and our sorrows, our moments of pride and verily, occasionally a wholesome argument, but never has the team lost its faith."

And thus spoke Cecil H. Fischer, only a few weeks before he was taken from us. Nothing that has been said or written in eulogy since then could better speak for him. We today share a sorrow alone. We, as a team, have the faith and we in retrospect can be thankful we have shared a great experience with him.

The Michigan district has suffered a heavy loss. Never in the history of this society has any district been led by a man so dedicated as Cecil Fischer.

To us now considering what is in store for us we might well reflect on the words of President Kennedy in his inaugural address spoken only a short time after we laid Cecil Fischer to rest: "Ask not what the country can do for us; rather, ask what you can do for your country." That was Cecil Fischer's attitude. He did not ask what the society could do for him. Rather he asked what he could do for the society. His deeds were many. His career of labor and dedication for SPEBSQSA was perhaps a little brighter than most of the 28,000 associated in our society over the land even though it was achieved in the confines of one district.

Fischer believed in barbershopping among men as a "way of life." He often said so. His work, his singing, his thinking and his expressions seemed to confirm it. His voice was clear and strong and it spoke truths even in the highest circles of our society and in his own chapter meetings. It spoke only of barbershopping and what it meant to man. And those who heard knew well this man was a true gospeller. And never was he asking anything but what he could do for his society.

Certainly we all realize that he carried on this life's work, this devotion, not without sacrifice. He spent time, many, many hours in travel and society work when he could well have been talking with customers of the hats he was selling for a livelihood. He devoted many hours poring over correspondence when he could have been poring over other writings that might have been more productive financially. He spent many, many dollars of his own money when he could well have been spending it on himself. He burned up many, many pounds of human energy that might have been burned in behalf of other causes. There were many times when this man, this friend, this fine leader, this fine fellow member, singer and worker would wave a good



A word from Mrs. Cecil V. Fischer.

Dear Barbershoppers and Wives: I feel that writing our thanks to you via the Troubadour is our only way of reaching all of you.

We are very grateful for your many telegrams, cards, letters, heart contributions, flowers and gifts of money. We wish, also, to thank the Extension Chords for their beautiful songs; the food that was brought in when we were too stunned to plan; the quick help of Robert Walker, Jack Klaiber and Roscoe Bennett . . . and the pall bearers. (We started a list of honorary bearers but it became so long that we eliminated it.)

Human frailties being what they are, quick death is still a shock but God was kind to save him from a lingering illness, your good friend and my husband of thirty-eight years.

Possibly the good principles, for which he argued and worked, will still be an inspiration for all.

"Blek", Suzanne, Stewart, Dean and Clare Fischer.

Friend Bill Favinger bespeaks words of praise.

Dear Editor:

I want to compliment you on the fine job you did on the November and December issue of the Michigan Troubadour. Many times in the past you have favored yours truly with nice articles and write ups pertaining to my activity in barbershopping, but this issue was so outstanding in so many ways even though I was not mentioned in any way, shape or form in this issue, I want you to know how sincerely I appreciate the work you are doing in this department.

The Troubadour is about the only way that the "Mr. Barbershopper" or the "Grass Root of Barbershopping" can get a clear cross section view of what is happening not only locally in barbershopping, but on a national or a state-wide scale, and that is what appeals to me so much in our whole organizational set up.

You know that I agree with you 100 per cent in the top-heavy organizational program in barbershopping from the top clear down to the bottom.

I just wanted to take this opportunity to express to you my appreciation for that wonderful job that you are doing. It is a thankless job I know, but it is one that is most important and I sincerely hope that we can continue to have your valuable knowledge in putting this medium together, and continuing it to "Mr. Barbershopper" in Michigan.

Please accept my grateful thanks for all that you have done in the past and things that I hope you will do in the future.

Most sincerely yours,
Wm. L. Favinger

Pontiac Show Lures Big Crowd

Pontiac — They turned them away at the door when Pontiac chapter staged its annual "Holiday of Harmony" here Jan. 21. All of the tickets were sold a week in advance but still barbershop lovers milled around the gates trying to get in. Some of the late comers did.

The program was headlined by the Playtonics of Teaneck, N. J.

night at some barbershop function to which his sense of duty had called, when he was so exhausted that fears were felt for him.

Truly Cecil H. Fischer was one who asked only not what can the society do for me, but what can I do for my society. . . . And he did it.

The President Speaks

Gentlemen, I begin my year as your district president with as heavy a heart as it is possible for one man to carry. Our district has suffered a very tragic loss in the death of our beloved Cecil Fischer, a man who will not be soon forgotten by anyone who knew him. I am grateful to have that opportunity, to not only have known and worked with Cecil, but to have known him long enough to understand his ideals, his constant concern for Joe Barbershopper and above all else, his untiring efforts towards the betterment of our wonderful society. We, as well as Cecil's family, will sadly miss this dedicated man.



Since the Dearborn convention, I have been extremely busy in preparing the program which I sincerely believe will move the Michigan district well up among the best districts in our society, if not to the very top. First, because of the new zonal set-up, many changes had to be

inaugurated in the area counselor duties. I speak of the area counselor first because he will be THE man more than anyone else to make the program click. He will be the liaison man with the answers to your every question. I deeply request that your chapter utilize the knowledge your area counselor can give you to improve your programs, your membership, your attendance, your retention and the promotion of top quality quartet and chorus singing. These men have really been hand picked from your area for their ability and willingness to see the job done right. They are not "spies" for the district under any circumstances. They only want to observe, suggest and assist your every endeavor.

The zonal vice presidents will be in charge of all the area counselors and chapters in their zone and by virtue of this, through the area counselors' frequent visits to the chapters in his area, will be acutely aware of any problems or troubles that might arise in any chapter; and consequently, be able to deal with it promptly. In other words, the chapters are responsible to the area counselor, the area counselor to the zonal vice president and he to the district executive board and myself.

After several years of observing, questioning and listening to what makes the top chapters click, I can pinpoint the whole thing into one answer. It is the only answer in every single case: "Proper indoctrination of guests and new members, and planned programs." I mean indoctrination from the minute the guest appears at the chapter meeting—by every member present—until he says good night. He must be made to feel that we are proud to have him present, to keep him singing and also, each member should personally introduce himself and see that the guest never stands alone even though he did not bring him to the meeting. And the programs must be of long range layout—at least a year—with the chairmen (two suggested for each meeting) assigned when the program is planned so they will know well in advance when their turn comes up to conduct the program. This is successful planning. This is what makes a chapter tops. Use it and watch your chapter grow. Now let's fire the 2,000-member gun for 1961.

Gentlemen, I hold in high trust the office to which you have elected me. I will do my very best to warrant that trust. It is also quite natural that the new president relies upon the past president's wisdom and suggestions. I will not have this chance in person. But I am also positive that wherever Cec may be, he will be with all of you, as he will be with me, whenever we need him.

Toronto Gets 1963 Contests

Milwaukee — The 1963 international convention and contests will be held in Toronto, Ont., and not Boston as originally planned. It was pointed out that the new Boston hall, Prudential Center, will not be ready at that time.

The 1965 convention was voted to Boston over a bid by Chicago. Chicago immediately submitted a bid for 1966.

The schedule for the next five years is, Philadelphia 1961, Kansas City, 1962; Toronto, 1963; Memphis, 1964; Boston, 1965.

Gross Point chapter chorus has new songs and new costumes. Eyes are set on the district contest next October.

They were supported by the Aire-Males, the Michigan champions, the Autotowners Curbstone Serenaders, Merri-Men, PHDs, and Key Knights and the Sweet Sioux of the SOC Sweet Adelines chapter. The Revlonaires, the Pontiac chorus under the direction of Rawley Hallman scored a hit.

Bill Rowell, president of the Detroit chapter, presided as master of ceremonies. The event was conducted under the general chairmanship of Jerry Leroux, the chapter president.

Studies Achievement Award, Point Setup

DETROIT — A full study and possible revision of points awarded will be made shortly by the 1961 district achievement award committee consisting of Louis R. Harrington, Robert Tracy and William Hansen.

Instituted eight years ago, the achievement award contest was inaugurated for the purpose of encouraging chapters to regularly and fully report all of their activities. The failure of many chapter secretaries to file quarterly reports with the district secretary results in their chapters not being credited with points for various activities of which the committee has no knowledge. It is from the activities as reported in these reports and also from checking chapter bulletins which are received by the district secretary, Lou Harrington, that the committee compiles its figures.

Members Gain Points

Other credits are earned for gain in membership while points are lost for a decrease. Credit is also given for sponsorship of new chapters and the sponsorship of district contests, conventions and other functions. The compilation was based upon the period of May 1 to April 30 up to this year, but commencing this year will be on an annual basis coinciding with the terms of chapter officers.

The following is the basis of the existing achievement award system:

	Points
New chapter sponsorship	200
Annual chapter show	10
Host to district quartet, regional preliminary or chorus contest	100
Host to barbershop elite chorus entry in district contest	100
Quartet entry in district or regional contest	50
Host to Interchapter activities or "Whing-Ding"	50
Quarterly report submitted (each)	10
Chapter bulletins, per issue (Copy must be sent to district section)	5
Chapter report in district bulletin	10
1. Gain or loss in membership (plus or minus) member	5
2. Bonus on 10 percent increase based on international record (final report only)	50
3. Achieving district quota	15
4. Quartet gaining international finalist rating	50
5. Quartet gaining district medalist rating	25
6. Chorus gaining district medalist rating	50
7. Chorus appearance at international contest	200
8. Chorus gaining international medalist rating	75
9. Chorus appearance at hospital or charitable institution	25
10. Chorus — other gratis public appearances	15
11. Quartet appearances at hospital or charitable institution	10
12. Quartet appearances — other gratis public	

Northwest Shifts Dates and Site

Detroit — Northwest Area (Detroit) chapter is back in its old meeting place at the Rouge Recreation center on Spinoza drive two blocks north of Warren Ave.

During the past year, meetings were at the K. of C. club rooms on Lesure on Wednesday evenings. This night of the week did not prove acceptable as many members had other activities scheduled for that evening. By unanimous vote, Monday evening was chosen. The K. of C. however, could not offer facilities for Mondays, hence the move. Regular meeting nights at the Recreation center will be the second and fourth Monday nights at 8 p.m. Chapters and guests will be warmly welcomed at any meeting.

The Recreation center is the old Charles Sorenson mansion on the wooded banks of the Rouge river, given by him to the city when he left the state.

appearances	5
13. Organized quartets re-registered at international	5
14. New Quartets registered at international	10
15. Outstanding community	

service (determined by committee), maximum	200
16. Expansion fund, percentage of quota paid	100
17. Expansion fund, percentage of quota pledged	100

Michigan Loses C. Fischer

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Flint and he always was singing in a quartet.

Joins Grand Rapids

It was in 1940 that business took Fischer to Grand Rapids. Two years later the International contests were held in Grand Rapids and Fischer heard them. In April of the following year, 1943, Fischer visited the Grand Rapids chapter and that was it.

Only a short time intervened before Fischer was in a quartet. It consisted of the late Dwight Packard, Frank Haight, Robert H. Walker, later the district president and Fischer. It sang for a short time when Packard decided to quit and Robert Carpenter took his place. This was the Travelers, four traveling salesmen. Three of them were pallbearers at the funeral of their boss. Two years ago Grand Rapids chapter honored Fischer with a "This is Your Life" night and the Travelers sang.

Always a chapter man, Fischer was one of two men who served three terms as chapter president. G. Marvin Brower was the other. Fischer succeeded Brower. There were no jobs in the chapter that Fischer evaded. He served on the board more than 10 years. He was chairman of the Great Lakes Invitational several times and more, was the ticket selling chairman many times.

Barbershop Worker

Barbershopping at all levels he had a brief term on the international board. He was on many committees for the district and finally he was elevated to the presidency. It was here he made his greatest sacrifices, his greatest effort, and gained his greatest glories. There isn't a chapter in this district that President Fischer has not visited and there are many chapters that are in existence today because he organized them or directed their organization and lent a helping hand when distress arose.

So intense was Fischer's effort in behalf of making Michigan grow and be great that it was reflected in the work of all officers, all chapters, quartets and choruses. Hardly ever did the district president call on a Michigan quartet to lend a helping hand, a charter night, a Ladies night, an organization meeting and other events, that his request was not fulfilled. And these quartets often made sacrifices to give their president a helping hand, traveling across the state, through bad weather or giving up time when it might have been more advantageous to turn down the request. This feature of the Michigan district quartets was one of Fischer's greatest delights. Many, many times he spoke about it and there have been occasions when tears dampened his eyes in the telling.

Michigan district has lost one of its most dedicated men of a host of dedicated men who have served the district and the society and brought it to its present high place.

Plan Hawaii Trip

A group of Chicago barbershoppers is recruiting an array of barbershoppers from Illinois, Michigan, Lan'O'Lakes, Central States and Indiana-Kentucky to fly to Honolulu to visit that chapter. The flight leaves March 26 and returns April 7. The fare is \$429.80 round trip from Chicago. Chuck Snyder, 438 Crescent Blvd., Lombard, Ill., is accepting reservations.

Muskegon Is Ready

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be permitted until the regular singing sessions are over.

Rudy Hart, international treasurer and famed director of the Michigan City chorus, has been invited to be master of ceremonies at the finals.

District President John Comolquoy will preside at the preliminaries. The annual Dr. S. E. Duplissis award will be made at the finals. This award goes to the Muskegon chapter member who by individual effort has contributed the most to the welfare of the Muskegon chapter. This award came about by action of the chapter board in 1959 when it sought to honor Doc Duplissis for heroic work in helping raise money to send the Port City chorus to the international in Chicago. Joe Cantwell was the winner in 1960.

"The afterglow," says Chairman Dion, "will be held at the hotel and will be limited to an audience of 500. Tickets will be available to patrons in the following order, SPEBSQSA members and wives; Sweet Adelines and escorts and guests."

Dion Makes Appeal

"We in Muskegon are confidently expecting one of the largest regional contests the Michigan district has enjoyed in years," Dion continued. "Barbershopping is on the rise and there are more quartets around than ever before and we have a nice share of them in our district."

"We look for some fine singing because this contest is like an "open" tournament. There are no restrictions as in the district contest. Anybody can sing and anybody can win. Some of our veterans quartets like the Aire-Males, the Merrimans, the Statelmers, Autotowners will all be here. The singing should be terrific. Every year the best quartet work done in competition is in the regionals."

"We in Muskegon have spent many, many hours in planning and working to make the venture typical of true Muskegon hospitality. We have done our utmost and now we hope all barbershoppers in the district visit us."

Get Rooms Early Says Chairman

Muskegon — Regional headquarters are at the Occidental hotel for the three days of the contest, April 28, 29 and 30, but Chairman Halley Dion urges those who contemplate attending to make reservations early. The Occidental is also host to a bowling tournament in town at the same time.

"We have been assured of accommodations," Dion said, "but to be safe it would be well to make reservations early."

The rates quoted for this SPEBSQSA event are as follows:

- Single — \$4.75 to \$6.
- Double — \$6.25 to \$8.50
- Suites — \$12.50 to \$30.
- Extra cots — \$2.50

"MUSKEGON'S A NATCH QUARTET MATCH"

FOR A

Michigan Regional

CONVENTION & QUARTET CONTEST
April 28, 29, 30, 1961

A Weekend of Harmony and Fun

- ★ Full Time Woodshed Room
- ★ Pre-Glow—Featuring M.P.Q. Nominations
- ★ Michigan Delegates Meeting
- ★ Ladies Brunch
- ★ Quartet Preliminaries
- ★ Quartet Finals—Balloting for M.P.Q.
- ★ A Great Second Half Show

Featuring:

- MOST POPULAR QUARTET WINNER
- MICHIGAN REGIONAL QUARTET Representatives to Philadelphia
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Hudson Is District Honor Chapter

Wins Gavel For Best Membership

International Award: Is Rated Third In Nation

HUDSON — The hard cold figures on file at international headquarters in Kenosha, Wis., testify to the fact that Hudson chapter is the International Honor Chapter of the Michigan district. Besides the figures, the chapter has a new engraved gavel at its headquarters building here. The gavel came from international headquarters and was formally presented to President E. A. VanderZande by John Comloquoy, Michigan district president. There were 90 members and guests present when Comloquoy made the presentation.

Third to Society
The district president pointed out that Hudson now rates third in the nation with 88 per cent gain in membership and a 100 per cent renewal during 1960. It was on this basis that the gavel was won. However, at the present time the Hudson chapter has a 90 per cent renewal for 1961 and there are six waiting to join up.

International Secretary Robert G. Hafer in his notification letter said, "It is our hope that as each chapter meeting is opened with this gavel, each member will be reminded of the increased fun and fellowship which has come to him from the increased number of fellow harmonizers surrounding him. We hope too, that as the gavel chatters each meeting it will do so on a note of determination to continue to grow in harmony."

Schmitts Persuaded By Holland

Holland — Past International President Clarence Jalving and Bill Diekema went to the mid-winter in Milwaukee to get talent for the annual May Tulip Time show here. They did the "impossible."

They persuaded the Schmitt Brothers, announced retired, to promise to show up again in Hol-

Name Joe Jones As Keynoter

Detroit — Michigan's Joe Jones, chairman of the international contest and judging committee, has been selected to make the keynote address at the international convention in Philadelphia next June.

"Of all the honors bestowed upon me by the society over many years this one tops them all," said Joe.

Many honors have come to Joe Jones over the year including presidencies of two of the most important chapters in the society, Manhattan of New York and Detroit No. 1. He has been on international boards and committees for nearly 20 years and has been one of the most prolific baritone singers in the society. He has sung in a dozen or more quartets and finally he has been serving a two-year term as C&J Chairman.

Joe was a keynoter at the Southwestern district convention last November. What he said there and how he said led to the international's invitation.

Good Programs Key To Chapter Success

(Continued from Page 1)

society and remain in our society. Therefore, part of programming must be a serious consideration of the new members' place in our chapter.

This includes the following:
1.—Make sure he is known by a sufficient number of your members, and that they are made aware of what part he wishes to sing.

2.—Use him at the chapter level, not some day but right now. Doorman, kitchen duty, phone service, carrying music, etc. Make him work. It is often too easy to say "Joe" did it last year, he can do it again. Work at bringing your new members into the fold. Now—let's sing!

Teach 'em Songs

Are you teaching your members to sing? Not tricky arrangements, but solid barbershop. Our society has a vast fund of this type of material available to us if we will only use it.

Bring in a guest director to teach a song to everyone. A quartet man to teach an intro: or a

land. Then the indefatigable pair lined up the Mid States Four also. For good measure they have the Merri-Men and the Chord Counts and the Windmill chorus besides the Banjo Tainers from Muskegon.

tag. A guest quartet to teach something they like to sing.

Use your own director if you have one, or appoint one to make this phase of barbershopping a regular part of your meetings. This is important, because you cannot have a tag or impromptu quartet, or actet, unless the fellows at least know a few songs.

Every month you can come up with something to whet their musical appetites. Guest singers, special pick-up groups, novel methods of getting all members singing. Again, our society sends our officers reams of material on this part of programming. You officers must read this material.

Variety Essential

A program committee insures against a good program format being run into the ground.

Variety is the spice of barbershopping, as in everything else, and let's not forget it. Plan 12 good meetings a year, good social service activities and chapter visitations, and keep after your members to make them understand you want and need them to participate.

Barbershopping is unique. It is fun; it is well accepted by the public. If your chapter is not growing, the fault lies at your own doorstep. Tune up your pitchpipe and do something. Don't just stand there—SING!

"Most Popular Quartet" Rules And Procedures

MUSKEGON — Here are the rules and procedures of the "Most Popular Quartet" contest that will feature the Michigan district regional contests here April 28, 29 and 30:

1. **Eligibility** — Any Michigan district quartet that is registered at international headquarters and has duly entered the 1961 Regional Elimination contest — No special registration necessary for M.P.Q. Contest.

2. Voting:

- Any person registered at the convention is entitled to one vote. (Registration deadline 5 p.m. - April 29, 1961)
- Each chapter shall appoint or elect a delegate at large who will occupy the seats (2) provided (reserved) at the finals contest.
- The chapter delegate-at-large will cast the votes of the registrants from that chapter.
- Chapters may split total vote but not more than three ways.
- The secretary of the election shall determine the number of eligible votes for each chapter and shall post the list on the bulletin board at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 29, 1961.
- Muskegon chapter shall have a vote count equal to their registration or the registration of the largest visiting chapter which ever is smaller.
- The actual balloting by roll call of chapters will take place immediately following intermission at the evening finals.
- The secretary shall read the names of the chapters alphabetically, stating the number of votes eligible. The chapter delegate-at-large shall rise, state his name, the name of his chapter and the vote of his chapter.
- The secretary shall read the roll but one time. Any chapter that does not vote during the roll call loses its vote.
- The tellers will total the votes and the quartet with the largest number of votes shall be declared the "Most Popular Quartet" in the Michigan district.

3. Preliminary Procedures:

- The Muskegon chapter will assign one member to each Quartet, registered in the Michigan district. His duties will be:
 - Contact his assigned quartet and try to get their commitment to enter the regional contest and also the "Most Popular Quartet" contest.
 - Explain and clarify all the rules and regulations of the contest.
 - Work with the quartet's "Campaign Manager" to make the best possible showing at the contest.
 - Act as host to the quartet for the entire weekend.
- Each Quartet after being contacted by the Muskegon chapter pitch-man and deciding to come to Muskegon shall then pick themselves a campaign manager whose job it shall be to garner pledges of support from their own as well as chapters all over the district.
 - This can be accomplished by any means devised by the manager.
 - It is suggested that the campaign manager and his quartet visit as many chapters as possible to gather votes.
- Each quartet shall have the opportunity to bally hoo for votes at the Pre-Glow.
 - Each quartet shall be permitted to appear on the pre-glow.
 - Each quartet supported shall be allowed to demonstrate at the pre-glow.
 - It is hoped that the Campaign Managers will plan to have their quartet represented at the pre-glow with an appropriate demonstration.
 - Rules for these demonstrations will be given to the campaign manager as soon as he is known.
 - Other demonstrations will be allowed in the hotel as long as they are kept in good taste and do not disturb guests.
 - Pitches and small demonstrations will be permitted at the Ladies Brunch.
 - No demonstrations etc. will be allowed during contest Sessions.

Awards:

- The Muskegon chapter will present to each member of the winning quartet a suitable trophy plus a trophy for the quartets home chapter.
- The winning quartet will have a featured spot on the second half of the show.

ANN ARBOR HARMONY PARADE

F TOWN AND COUNTRY FOUR
E Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
A Second Place Medalists
T 1960 International Contest

U THE YANKEE MISSES
R International Champions 1959-60
I Sweet Adelines, Inc.

N THE MERRI-MEN
G Michigan District Champions 1953

G THE FOR-TUNE TELLERS
Comedy and Harmony

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1961 — 8:00 P. M.

ANN ARBOR HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
(Opposite U of M Football Stadium)

All Tickets RESERVED
MAIN FLOOR SEATS
Front Center \$2.50
Balance \$2.00

BALCONY SEATS
Front Rows \$2.00
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Order Your Tickets — NOW —

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Dear Sir:

Please send me _____ tickets
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Ladies Night Big Success

Ann Arbor — They came from far and wide this year to attend the Ann Arbor chapter's "Ladies Night" and no one was disappointed.

Mel Laginess from the Downriver chapter, subbing for District Veep Chase Sanborn who came down with a flu bug started the show off with a brief tribute to the late Cecil Fischer.

The New Ann Arbor chorus under the direction of Gordon Meiselbach disproved right at the start that it isn't necessary to have a bunch of old pros in order to be successful.

After Gordy's crew there followed an array of quartets including the A Squares and the Huronaires for Ann Arbor, the Four Tune Tellers from Jackson and then added the king to the cake with the Michigan district champions, the Aire Males.

District President John Comloquoy came down after a hectic day of travelling to induct the 1961 chapter officers. Incoming President Don Backus along with Secretary Jim Davenport, Treasurer Dick Weber and V.P.s Sumner Maule and Tom Shill were inducted.



JOE WOLFF

Yesteryears Recalled On Program

Muskegon — A new gimmick in chapter programs was tried out successfully here by the new Program Vice President, Andy Van Donkelaar. Andy came up with a "remember when" night and the high spot was the reading of selected chapter minutes over the years from 1939 on. Songs appropriate to the years were included in the program.

Joe Cantwell was installed for a second term. Other officers were Vice Presidents Andy Van Donkelaar and Frank Byrd, Secretary Claire Bristol, Treasurer Don Courtright and Historian Gerry Gusmond. New members of the board elected were Dr. S. E. Duplissis, Richard V. Benton, Al Burgess, Jack Bennett, Herb Allen and Harold Dobb.

Membership report showed eight new members and the chapter pressing steadily upward towards the 100 mark. The Port City chorus gave out with the new numbers

Singing First for Busy Tenor

London, Ont. — Greg Backwell of this chapter, tenor for the Knighthawks, sixth place international finalists, has resigned as president of PROBE. He has been replaced by Dick Hansen of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The Knighthawks are to busy, Greg explains. They will appear on Grand Rapids Great Lakes Invitational, April 8.

which they used to win the district championship last October, "That Old Gang of Mine" and "Now I can Cry Since you've Gone". Gang singing and quartets rounded out the big night.

Probably the most impressive event was a tribute to the memory of Cecil H. Fischer, past district president. All stood as Gerry Guindom read a short eulogy and the society's code of ethics with the Port City chorus humming the society's song, "Keep America Singing".

The Niles-Buchanan chapter has a new bulletin. It is called "Tune Topics" and is edited by Laverne Nevill.

STARS OF "Music Man" BUFFALO BILLS COME TO TOWN

MARCH 4, 1961

Lincoln Park High School — 8:30 P. M.
LINCOLN PARK, MICHIGAN
on Champaign Street
(Between Dix-Toledo Highway and Fort Road)

DOWNRIVER CHAPTER

— Proudly Presents Its —

2nd Annual Parade of Harmony

FEATURING:
STARS OF "MUSIC MAN".....BUFFALO BILLS
SWEET ADOLINES, International Champs....CRACKER JILLS
MICHIGAN DISTRICT CHAMPS.....AIRE MALES
— PLUS OTHERS —

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One of the Great Honors

Nominate Joe Wolff For Hall of Fame

By Duane H. Mosier

If the international board of SPEBSQSA ever sets up a barbershop hall of fame, Joe Wolff of Detroit will be eligible candidate for a plaque way up front.

Every great organization which has grown into lasting stability has had its groundwork laid by a few men devoted to its cause, willing to work and plug for its success. Such was the beginning of our society, fathered by an idea and nurtured into strength and standing by a coterie of consecrated barbershoppers in 22 short years.

Joseph P. Wolff was one of the most consecrated.

A small newspaper item in June 1939 coming out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, triggered the beginning here in Michigan. It mentioned something about O. C. Cash, a lawyer of that city, getting some of "the boys" together to sing the old barbershop songs and that the idea might spread. It caught the eye of Ed Schwoppe of Michigan who loved close harmony as well as the next man. He promptly showed the item to Joe. Joe suggested that Ed write to Cash to find out more about it.

An Expert Organizer

Upon receiving detailed information, Joe, being an old army man and knowing something about organizing, promptly got on the phone. Result? About a dozen roll - ribbed harmony lovers met at Bill Barry's cottage at Lake Orion the following Sunday afternoon.

Detroit No. 1 chapter then and there became the first organized chapter east of the Mississippi with Wolff becoming president (re-elected the next year) with Howard Tubbs vice president, and Glen Shields secretary. If a treasurer was needed, which we doubt, his name is not forthcoming.

Some newspaper publicity dropped the hint that it was not a closed corporation and if others liked to sing the old songs the meeting place would be the Book-Cadillac hotel. The ranks soon filled. The idea rapidly spread to Flint, Lansing and Grand Rapids where Troubadour editor Roscoe D. Bennett spearheaded the chapter.

"Mr. Barbershopper" Joins

In September of the same year a new member joined Detroit No. 1 Chapter, a man now known the length and breadth of the barbershop world as "Mr. Barbershopper." His name? Carroll P. Adams.

In 1941, after becoming international vice president, Adams and Wolff went to St. Louis to a midwinter meeting. It was not a large meeting as meetings now go, but an important one, solidifying what had been accomplished and detailing the groundwork for further accomplishments. Joe recalls some of the stalwarts in attendance and names among others the late Frank Thorne, Phil Embury, O. C. Cash, Joe Stern, Maurice Reagan, Jay Perkins, Dr. Rathert, and Dr. Nelson.

"It was apparent to everybody," recalls Wolff, "that looseness was creeping into the chapters and the organization was getting blamed for it. We were getting a lot of men who were not barbershoppers — who cared not so much for good harmony as for a night out, and the strings had to be drawn. So he wrote a "Code of Ethics" which should be the gospel of all good barbershoppers, a code of conduct for members to follow. It remains today almost verbatim as when written.

An Idea Man

Wolff also provided the idea for the society emblem as to lyre, ribbon, initials, etc. which idea was passed along to Dick Sturgis of Atlanta, Ga., who did the actual layout. He also proposed having chapter sponsored

entertainments called "Parades" which has since been universally adopted.

Fathered District

With chapters established in Flint, Lansing and Grand Rapids as well as his own and more in the offing, Joe was instrumental in forming these chapters into a district unit, the pioneer district of the society. The four presidents of the several chapters made up the district board. Guy Stoppert was then Flint's president, Ed Schwoppe, now of Mt. Clemens, was the Lansing president, and Roscoe Bennett was the president at Grand Rapids. Joe was then president of Detroit. How it has flourished over the years is history.

Wife Helps

Constantly by his side giving help and encouragement during all his busy years was his wife Vicki. As tersely expressed by an old-timer who knew them well: "Two of the most familiar figures in barbershopping anywhere in the land were the Wolffs, Joe and Vicki. It seems even now that when we recall the good old times we had, Vicki was always in the picture and a pretty picture she made — quiet, gracious and, above all, interested."

Joe's deep, rich, booming bass voice was a joy to hear in any quartet. It had maturity and strength, well modulated for any measure that came up, fully capable of taking care of itself. Asked how many quartets he had sung in, he promptly said, "Oh, about a thousand, but the four I remember best were the Big Four with Hugh Ward tenor, Leroy McKinney lead, and Bob Weil bari, one of the early quartets, then followed "The Harmony Hounds" with Jim Creed tenor, Mark Robert bari and Mort Gittelman lead. The more recent were the Ambassadors with the late Monty Marsden lead, Carlton Scott tenor, and Joe Jones bari, and "The Detroiters" with Tim Weber tenor, Al Eason lead, and Rawley Halleman bari."

Engineering Authority

In May 1930 Joe was appointed commissioner of the department of Buildings and Safety Engineering of the city of Detroit by Mayor Bowles where he served continuously under succeeding mayors for 28 years. He had general supervision and control of construction, alteration and maintenance of all buildings and structures, including inspection of elevators, plumbing, drainage, smoke control, etc., an important and necessary service in the health and happiness of a great and growing city population. He retired from city service in the summer of 1958 but, because of his expert engineering skill and knowledge of public housing, was called upon the following December by the United States government through the International cooperation administration to go to Chill to advise and consult with authorities of that country in its big building program. He returned to Detroit on March 1, 1959.

Feeling that he had earned the right to some needed recreation, Joe and Vicki spend their summers at their lake lodge near Grand Marais in the Upper Peninsula where only the "biggest ones" get away.

Many Barbershop Memories

Listening for two educational hours in a cozy breakfast nook in the home of Joe, built nearly 40 years ago on East Outer drive ("then pretty well out") to the trials, tribulations and successes of our great society, coming from a man whose memory is well stocked with names and details, was like reading "Who's Who in Barbershopping." Reminiscing some what but always with an eye to accuracy,

Joe would on occasion call out "Vicki, who was that bari I sang with in the Big Four quartet?" Vicki would promptly supply the missing link.

He recalls the incident when he was singing bass with a quartet at the Book-Cadillac when a brush, eager baritone stopped the song to remark "Get yourself another note, young man." Joe growled, picked up where he left off, and finished the song.

Although he has been out of active participation in society affairs for a while, it is clearly evident that Joe has a nostalgic yearning to meet up with three other guys and pop some of the old favorites wide open. As expressed by an intimate friend "Joe was one of the original 'take your best holds and go' basses we ever had. He could and probably still can harmonize with any three men in the world and that includes Mr. K."

Supremely Dedicated

Asked to sum up his ideas on barbershopping and its achievements, Joe recorded the following colorful thoughts:

"Although the name of our Society contains a 'tongue-in-cheek' connotation, the precept as set forth in the illustrious title, transcends by far this flamboyant aspect. To those of us who have been privileged to participate in the activities of the society during the past years, it has been an incomparably enjoyable experience. To say that the society can be justly proud of its contribution to our people, and especially to the younger generation, is to put it very mildly.

"Through proper organizational efforts, the society succeeded in consolidating the talents of the old-time melody lovers who believed in preserving our lore of folk songs in the form of colorful harmony and free from dissonances. It has opened a vista into the realm of Orpheus to those who have dedicated themselves to the search for smoothing chords with which to perpetuate our type of harmony.

"I am pleased to be counted as one of the beneficiaries of the time honored 'swipe' exchanging custom which, in my opinion, is still the society's greatest asset. It has enabled me, on countless occasions to revel in the sweetest songs that ever tickled an ear drum."

Those of us who have come into the society in more recent years owe more than we can repay to those devoted barbershoppers such as Joe Wolff who unselfishly and without thought of reward did the pioneer work to put SPEBSQSA where it is today.

We are grateful to them for giving us an organization where fun, good fellowship and harmony are a tonic to life's intangible assets, where a free and easy spirit of camaraderie exists, and where we can make a date with our chapter instead of our doctor.

Lansing on Way, 80 Per Cent Members Back

Lansing — Lansing chapter is on its way with a new set of officers. Already the membership boasts about 80 per cent renewal and is going fast.

The new president, Orrin Hamilton, the bass of the Lansingers is being supported in office with John Noland, membership vice president; Warner Dyer, program vice president; Dobald Funk, secretary; Thomas McKinney, treasurer.

One of the major projects at hand in this chapter is a participation with a TV study group at Michigan State college delving into barbershop music as a program feature for a chain program.

International Denies Lower Charter Limit

MILWAUKEE—Michigan's plea to the international powers that minimums for charters in SPEBSQSA be lowered from the present figure of 25, got short shrift at the final mid-winter convention here. The vote to deny was carried with only one dissenting vote, Michigan's Louis R. Harrington.

The Johnny Applesed district also submitted a resolution concurring in the Michigan resolution to reduce the minimum. Not even the Johnny Applesed representative voted for it.

Harrington, instructed at the Michigan district convention in Dearborn, as well as by the executive committee of the district meeting in Jackson, to work in behalf of the resolution's adoption, made a brave fight at the board meeting but was overwhelmed. Harrington drafted the resolution that was presented, as district secretary.

The voting delegate from this district explained that the resolution was first presented with that from the Johnny Applesed district to the executive committee. That committee recommended to the international board that they be ditched and they were.

A second resolution from Michigan asking that the dues be set at \$7 per capita with a \$1 rebate to the districts was laid aside because the board is making an exhaustive study of the dues situation following the rejection of the Member Benefit Plan. The board expects committee reports and recommendations from the Long Range Planning committee at the Philadelphia convention. There will be no alteration of the dues situation this year.

To Keep Jamboree

Milwaukee — The SPEBSQSA Jamboree, always one of the bright features of international conclaves will be held in Philadelphia. The international board voted here to reduce the big show but stage it Friday afternoon instead of the morning.

The quartets that participate are those who have been eliminated in the preliminaries. They are relaxed and usually put on their best stunts and songs at this affair.

To Help Boys

Milford — Milford chapter is going to do something about baseball in that community. Plans are now being worked out whereby the chapter is to sponsor a big community parade with all of the proceeds going to the boys for play next summer.

It's a Fact—A quartet of young Mormon ministers singing non-competitively at a national contest introduced "Mood Indigo" to barbershopping.

The Feminine Observer

Windsor Ladies Night Party A Gay Affair

Windsor chapter, with its typical enthusiasm and sense of fun and fellowship, staged its annual Ladies Night recently. Being staged prior to the holidays, a Christmas theme lent a decorative touch and warm glow to the festivities. The chapter's paneled meeting rooms provided an ideal background for garlands of greenery and the traditional tree with multi-colored lights and bright touches of red. Another delightful touch were the many, attractively wrapped door prizes.

The receptive audience was well entertained by a Sweet Adeline quartet as well as the "Metro Chords" of Grosse Pointe, "Tic-Tac Tones" of Oakland County, the "Vocal Chords," the "Aire Knights" of Windsor in a very hilarious skit, and the Windsor chorus featuring beautiful Christmas carols. The program was ably presided over by William Favinger. Mrs. Favinger accompanied her jovial husband and received many compliments on her stunning hat.

Gordon Meiselbach traveled from Ann Arbor for the event. Others enjoying the festivities were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Seely, Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Geyer, Dr. and Mrs. Earl Sanders, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Antaya, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bonnett, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Alliet, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Eberwein, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Prime, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Rouffer, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. John Nash, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Leader, Mr. and Mrs. Don Snyder, Mr. and Mrs. L. Grundy, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Atherton, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Bilton, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Dufour, Mr. and Mrs. Art French, Mr. and Mrs. Andy McCort, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strong, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Ryan, Mr. and Mrs. Al Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Andy McCann, Mr. and Mrs. John Ford, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Menard, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Stinson, Bill Fleming, George Young and Ted Vervey.

During the course of the evening, several new members were inducted into this growing chapter, and guests were very much impressed to observe that following the official induction, while the new members were still standing on the platform and being serenaded by the chapter, the individual chapter members stepped up and shook hands with the new members to welcome them. This friendly gesture, which is an innovation of the Windsor chapter, typifies the true barbershop spirit. Since the chapter's affiliation with the Michigan district, it has demonstrated boundless enthusiasm for every undertaking. They



Ellen Harrington

Incorporate, Says Lawyer-Secretary

Editor's Note — Due to the unfamiliarity of many of our chapters and officers of the liability laws, the protections available and the safe conduct of society affairs, Secretary Louis R. Harrington, is herewith presenting a summary of the legal aspects of incorporation as it affects our chapters and members. Obviously the secretary urges that all chapters incorporate.

By LOUIS R. HARRINGTON

A corporation is an artificial person, created by law, its liability in tort or contract being limited to the assets of the corporation. The individuals who, under the law, constitute the corporation, have no personal liability or responsibility to third persons. The individual who engages in business unprofitably finds that his personal assets are subject to business debts; that a judgment against him, arising out of a business transaction or the negligent act of his agent or servant, may be satisfied out of whatever he has laid by in the attempt to establish a competence for his family. The negligent act of his agent, or the improper exercise of authority delegated to his agent, may involve and even deprive him

of the savings of a lifetime.

Prudence Requires It

The prudent man, therefore, apprehending the hazards of business, incorporates. When two or more persons are engaged in business as partners, each is liable to the full extent of his personal wealth, for the obligation of the partnership.

When a voluntary organization such as SPEBSQSA promotes an activity, in the promotion of which claims in tort or contract arise, each member of that association is liable. The corporate form has been devised to protect the personal assets of those who constitute the corporation. The liability is fixed by law, and limited to the assets of the corporation. Remember that incorporation does not eliminate financial responsibility or financial liability but it relieves the individuals of that liability, and limits the satisfaction of claims against that organization to the assets of the corporation. In the light of the law, the corporation is a person, separate and distinct from the persons who constitute the corporation.

Protect Assets

For the protection of the assets of individuals who are barbershoppers, many chapters have incorporated and others will, from time to time do so. SPEBSQSA international is an incorporated organiza-

tion. It is necessary, therefore, that the chapters should first advise international headquarters. Consent having been given, an agreement is then executed providing for the working arrangement of the chapter corporation and the international corporation. All the information necessary to guide your procedure will be furnished upon request by District Secretary, Lou Harrington, who is an attorney.

When chapters are presenting parades or other entertainments in the course of which some entertainer or spectator might sustain, an injury that may be made the basis of a claim against the chapter, a generous jury might go to town with some member of your chapter who happened to have the money.

If you had not already incorporated, it would be too late to protect your individual members then. Incorporation does not change the liability; it limits the liability to the individual.

The wisdom of operating under the corporate form cannot be questioned.

New Book Coming

Holland — Bill Diekema says the twelfth "Songs for Men" book is in preparation and should be available at the end of March. The book has been in preparation for 18 months.

Death Take Fruit Belt Member

Benton Harbor—George Sawatzki, 43, a charter member of Fruit Belt chapter, died unexpectedly in Mercy hospital here on Jan. 8. Sawatzki was admitted to the hospital in the morning and died in the evening.

Sawatzki was a past president of Fruit Belt chapter and had long been associated in many SPEBSQSA activities. Members of the Fruit Belt chapter attended the funeral in a body.

15th Annual

BUSH LEAGUE CONTEST APRIL 15th

Where else but at —

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Can you find —

1. Michigan's most beautiful country;
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3. Michigan's friendliest hosts;
4. Michigan's best harmony,—huh?

PLUS —

Michigan's finest Quartets (This includes ALL that we know — and some that we don't) — And WE GUARANTEE that EVERYONE will get a chance to sing till they're hoarse.

-Quartets Get Entries In Early-

Housing Chairman: Mrs. Jos. Wolff, Boyne City, Mich.

General Chairman: Loton Wilson, Boyne City, Mich.



Famous Song Recalled — Dr. Dudley Vernon, right, receiving the F bass pipe from Dr. Robert B. Pierce, pastor of Metropolitan church, when Albion college dismantled the old chapel organ upon which Dr. Vernon composed the music for the famous song, "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi."

Dearborn Doings

Holiday Fete Attracts High Grade Singing

DEARBORN — More than 200 Dearborn chapter members, wives, and guests crowded the annual Christmas - Ladies Night meeting to see and hear a top-notch barbershop entertainment program.

Backed by the "Detroit Taggers" and assisted by Bill Rowell, Bob Craig sang "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer" in his chipmunk falsetto in the opening skit that set the pace for the evening.

Craig then handled the program which featured Sweet Adeline champs, the Cracker Jills and the Yankee Misses. The Auto-Towners who won second place in last fall's district contest sang with Bari Clint Bostick's wife, Bobbie, sitting front row center. She'd been away and hadn't heard them before.

The Sweet Sioux of the S.O.C. Sweet Adeline chapter did their usual fine job, and the Detroit Taggers of Dearborn and Redford chapters sang a couple of new tags and one song all the way through.

But the Michigan district champions, the Airmales, captured the audience from their entrance, singing carols up to the stage and under a stage prop street lamp, dressed with coats, mufflers, and caps to complete an effective

scene. Roger Craig read passages from the Nativity to the background of quiet carols by the other three quartet members, Tom Pollard, Dale Clixby, and Bill Wilcox. Their exit, again singing carols through the audience, left a true "good-will-to-men" atmosphere with everyone.

A yet-un-named quartet of Bob Craig, Bill Smythe, Bill Rowell, and John Shanahan sang five familiar songs, but with words from other songs in a crowd-pleasing contest for all the ladies present. Eighteen of the ladies (with some help, it is believed, from spouses) named all five tunes and had perfect scores. But when all were seated up front with no coaching possible, the gal with the most discerning ear proved to be Mrs. Elmer E. Koenig, who won the grand prize with the only second perfect score.

The evening was interspersed with audience singing and the appearance of the Dearborn Chordomatic chorus led by the new director, Bob Craig. Bob has done a fine job of learning the chorus numbers and is continuing brother Roger's successful direction style.

Norm Shamus and his "Kitchen Krew" set out a hot buffet dinner to close the formal part of the evening.

Redford's Ladies Night Was Gay and Musical

DETROIT — More than a hundred Northwest Area (Detroit) chapter members, their wives and guests enjoyed the chapter's annual "Ladies Nite" in December in the beautifully decorated new banquet room at Gregar's Pickwick house on Grand River at Cintas Drive. The season's motif was carried out in floral pieces and table designs.

President Phil Stinson's committee, chaired by John Zinikas assisted by Jim McClelland, Ken Jesion, and Percy Flowers, went all out to make the evening the success it was. Ross McClelland emceed the program. After group singing led by Jack Round, in which the women were heavy contributors, Northwest's 1961 officers were inducted into office by Howard Tubbs in an impressive ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Tubbs were honored guests.

As past international board member and charter member of Detroit No. 1, Howard prefaced the induction by reaching into his

20 years' wealth of material to tell the crowd what barbershopping has meant to him. He later pleased his listeners with his fine rendition of "Old Black Joe" to the humming accompaniment of his fellow barbershoppers.

Northwest's own quartet, The Scorekeepers, with Larry Winchester lead, brother Bill tenor, Bob Mueller bari, and Ted Robbins bass, again charmed the crowd as they always do on their fine balance and blend of many old time favorites. They thought they had put one of their melodious, oft-sung songs to sleep, but the folks still insisted on "Lida Rose" and as soon as the pitch chord was sounded they were off again responding to the requests.

Guest quartet was "The Chorduroys," four men from three chapters, personelled by John Wearing tenor, Bernie Smith lead, Marv McClary bass and Mel Holderness bari. Although assembled recently, they have worked

hard under the coaching of Howard Tubbs and do a finished job.

Prizes Distributed
Two delightful features of the evening were the solo work of Northwest tenor Chet Stempson, singing the old barbershop favorite "Down By the Old Mill Stream," and the ever popular Christmas carol "Silent Night" by Mrs. John Downey, both to a massed chorus humming background. Mrs. Downey is soprano soloist at Bushnell Congregational church.

Many varied door prizes were distributed and every woman received a favor. Favors and prizes were furnished by Fred Collins, Chet Stempson, Ross McClelland, Jim Sandry, Jack Downey, Jim McClelland, and Joe Fockens.

Officers installed for the coming year were Phil Stinson president, Marc Graber, membership vice president, Theodore Robbins program vice president, Jack Downey secretary, William Winchester treasurer, and Duane Mosier dele-

How A Song Is Born

Composer of "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" Watches Smoke Curl from Pipe

By DUANE H. MOSIER
DETROIT — How does a composer go about it to write a piece of music? Does he wait until his soul is wafted into the right atmosphere? Can it be that the inspiration comes immediately following a great victory or possibly a defeat? Or does he sit down at the keyboard with a general theme idea and work on it until satisfaction is reached for the effort? There are probably as many theories as there are people to advance them. This is the story of the birth of a song.

The song is one of the old barbershop favorites — "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" — sung very often whenever four harmony-minded fellows get together. This famous college song, now nearing its fiftieth birthday, composed by Dr. F. Dudley Vernon, always has been and will remain one of the top barbershop quartet numbers.

Music His Life
It all goes back to 1911-12 when Dr. Vernon, native Detroit and presently organist and choir director at Metropolitan Methodist church in Detroit, was a student at Albion college. Music was a great part of his makeup. He has spent most of his life at the keyboards of organs and pianos. As a boy of 16 he was organist at the Martha Holmes Memorial church in his native city. After high school he went to Albion. During his first year he was pledged to the Sigma Chi fraternity and in his second year became an active member. There he formed the friendship of one of his fraternity brothers, Byron Stokes, who had a talent for writing both prose and poetry. While watching the smoke rings curl from his pipe, Stokes had a dream of his ideal girl and struck off the words of the "Sweetheart" song. One day he handed the lyrics to his musician friend. We'll let the composer tell what happened:

"While practicing one day on the old chapel organ I put the words of the song before me and within an hour I had written down the melodic line of the song."

"It was sung around the local chapter for a while even becoming known around the entire campus. So many people wanted copies of the song that my brother Dick arranged to have 500 copies printed, which we sold for 25c per copy. We sent a copy to each of the Sigma Chi chapters around the country. From this, many others seem to take to the song and we found we were having the copies printed by the thousand. In time it got out of hand for us and we sold the song on a royalty basis to The Melrose Publishing Company of New York who have published the song ever since."

"Personally I have been quite overwhelmed at its success. Never did I think that day at the old chapel organ that the notes

I was jotting down would be so internationally known."

Has Universal Appeal
The song has been played and sung in many foreign countries. It is still one of the best sellers of popular music according to the publisher. "I originally wrote the music in 4-4 time," said Dr. Vernon, "but after it was sold to the publisher it was converted into a three-quarter time waltz song."

Upon leaving Albion College Dr. Vernon spent four years in New York continuing his musical studies at the Julliard School of Music and LaForge studios, following which for a year he became accompanist for a team of vocalists on the Keith vaudeville circuit. He then in 1927 settled down in his chosen work as organist and choir director of the First Methodist Church in Jackson, Michigan, where he continued as such for twelve years, at the same time becoming head of the organ department at Albion College, a post he released only two years ago to devote full time to his work at Metropolitan. His ability and leadership is proved by his twenty-five years of continuous service to one of the largest church congregations in the State of Michigan.

Faculty Member
During the summer months Dr. Vernon is on the faculty of the Bay View Summer University and Music School in northern Michigan where concerts are given Wednesday and Sunday evenings by faculty members. His own Sigma Chi has honored him with its highest award, "Significant Sig", which reads — "This medal is awarded to F. Dudley Vernon for his achievements which have brought honor and prestige to the name of the Sigma Chi Fraternity," and in 1949 Albion College conferred upon him an honorary degree of Doctor of Music. About two years ago his Alma Mater dismantled the old chapel organ upon which young

Vernor, her famous son, had played as a college student. As a memento, something to remember the old instrument by, the music department sent to Metropolitan the F bass pipe, recalling that the "Sweetheart" song was written in the key of F. Metropolitan had it properly mounted with a clock installed and presented it to the composer. Presentation was made by Dr. Robert B. Pierce, its minister, with appropriate ceremony.

Wrote Other Songs
He has written and published two other fraternity songs: "I'm Glad I'm a Sigma Chi" and "The Fellowship Song"; also a secular song "The Girl I Love" (Melrose Co.) and several unpublished secular and sacred songs. The "Sweetheart" song takes its place beside the old "Heidelberg" song and "Halls of Ivy", all top-notch college barbershop numbers.

Whenever hoodnoddlers get together and harmonize on "The blue of her eyes and the gold of her hair" they can give Dr. Vernon a silent "thank you" for giving to us barbershoppers a melodious song we like to sing.

Coming Events

(Requests for parade dates and sanction fee payments should be sent to: District Secretary Louis R. Harrington, 2361 First National Bldg., Detroit)

- Feb. 4, — Niles Buchanan
- Feb. 11, — Kalamazoo
- Mar. 4, — Downriver, Wyandotte
- Mar. 11, — Flint
- Mar. 18, — Three Rivers
- Mar. 25, — Battle Creek
- Mar. 25, — Wayne
- Apr. 6, 7, 8, — Grand Rapids
- Apr. 9, — Hudson Parade, Sunday at 2:30
- Apr. 15, — Bush League Contest, Boyne City
- Apr. 22, — Dearborn
- Apr. 29, — Regional, Muskegon
- May 19, — Holland
- May 20, — Ann Arbor
- May 21, — Branch County, Coldwater
- June 3, — Utica
- Aug. 12, — Cheboygan-Mackinac
- Sept. 23, — Blue Water, South Haven
- Sept. 30, — Gratiot County
- Oct. 6, 7, 8, — District Contest, Jackson
- Nov. 4, — Detroit

Huronaires In Demand

Ann Arbor — Through November and December the Huronaires, district novice champions, were the busiest quartet in Michigan — at least their record shows. They sang 17 different engagements.

Included were such as Mercywood hospital, Veterans hospital; State Hospital at Milan, and the University of Michigan Foreign student party. Besides this they visited Fenton, Lansing, Wayne, Hudson and Wyandotte chapters.

Grand Rapids Chapter No. 4 Presents THE 18th ANNUAL GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

Entire week-end of traditional Grand Rapids style barbershopping with headquarters in Hotel Pantlind
ON THE SHOW . . .
Nighthawks, London, Ont. Gay-Nineties, Montevideo, Minn. PhD's, Muskegon Great Lakes Chorus and others

- WEEK-END ACTIVITIES ARE . . .**
- Presidents Nite and Chapter Meeting—Friday Nite, April 7
 - Pre-Glo Saturday, 3:00 P.M., April 8
 - Main Show Saturday, 8:00 P.M., April 8
 - Woodshed Saturday, 10:00 P.M., April 8
 - Barbershop Ball Saturday, 10:30 P.M., April 8
 - Aspirin Breakfast Sunday, 10:30 A.M., April 9

All-Events Book (except main show) \$5 per person
Main Show Tickets: \$3 — \$2 — \$1
For All-Events Books and Tickets contact:
Dr. Roy Wesscott
400 Washington St.
Lowell, Michigan
For Hotel Reservations contact:
Pantlind Hotel
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Big Great Lakes Show Set

Gay 3-Day Program Signed Up

Nighthawks Among Quartets: Chapter Prexies to Be Dined

Grand Rapids — Grand Rapids Chapter No. 4 is planning for its Eighteenth Annual Great Lakes Invitational barbershop feature which will be held on the week-end of April 7, 8 and 9.

Chairman Ted Wietke says the show is to be one of the finest and the events for the entire weekend will be in true, traditional Great Lakes style.

The Annual Junior Quartet Contest will be staged in the Hotel Pantlind Thursday as the opening event.

Headed up by two of the younger members of the chapter, Jack Randall and Ken Kyburz, this event will attract high school quartets from the Michigan area. Traditionally, the winners of this event will sing on the main show in the Civic auditorium and there receive their cup and a check for \$200 to be spent only for uniforms. "There will be lots of good quartets competing and we should have one of our best contests this year," reports Randall.

To Fete Prexies

Traditionally, the president of Chapter No. 4 will host all chapter presidents from the Michigan district on Friday evening. Tom Elderkin, Grand Rapids chapter president says, "We expect to have the majority of all chapter presidents here as our dinner guests at the Pantlind Hotel. Our goal here is to talk over mutual problems and also just get to know each other better."

According to Chairman Wietke, Grand Rapids is the only chapter in SPEBSQSA to conduct this type of event and says, "Each year our president feels this event of being host to every Michigan chapter president is the highlight undertaking for the entire year."

To Hold Meeting

Friday night at 9 p. m. the Grand Rapids chapter will conduct its business meeting and have as its guests the many barbershoppers who come early to take in the complete week-end of events. "Also, we will have a lot of good quartets

singing that evening," says Wietke. The other events for the weekend include a gala Pre-glo on Saturday afternoon starting at 3 p. m. "This year," the committee reports, "we intend to start the pre-glo at a later hour (3 p. m.) in order to allow time for out-of-town guests to be there."

The main show in the Civic Auditorium will begin at 8:00 p. m. Saturday. Some of the quartets ap-

pearing are the Nighthawks, sixth place winners in international competition, the Gay-Nineties from Montevideo, Minn., and the Ph.D's from Muskegon. The great Lakes chorus is now in regular Friday night rehearsal preparing for this big event. There will be more.

Following the main show a separate woodshed and dance will be held in the Pantlind hotel. Jack Klaiber, who has regularly taken

charge of the woodshed says, "You've got to get to the woodshed early to get a seat."

The week-end at Grand Rapids is not complete until after the original Aspirin breakfast held at 10:30 a. m. "People tell us that our breakfast is like going to the main show, because you see nearly all the quartets again and besides you can bid quartets and friends good-bye.

Nighthawks Well Traveled



The Nighthawks who will feature Grand Rapids Great Lakes Invitational were formed in March of 1959. Shortly after getting together, they won the right to represent Ontario district in the international in Chicago, where they became quarter-finalists.

They again represented Ontario at the international in Dallas, Tex., in June of 1960, finishing sixth.

The Nighthawks have sung in many cities in the United States and Canada but their vocal efforts have not been confined to this continent. In May 1960 they

flew to London, England, as guests of T.C.A. and the Canadian War Correspondents association. While in London they had the honor of singing before Prince Phillip and reached a vast audience by singing on B.B.C. radio and television.

Lansing Loses Jackson Roaring On Its Way

Lansing — Lansing chapter is mourning the passing of John Bridenbaugh, tenor of the Aging Four and one of the chapter's hardest workers.

Bridenbaugh, 58, was stricken with a heart attack while at work at his office at Oldsmobile Feb. 3. He leaves his father, widow and one daughter.

JACKSON — Sparked by a revival of the chapter chorus under the direction of veteran Francis Hodgeboom, Jackson chapter is going full blast shooting for a 100 per cent membership renewal and a boost in membership to 75.

Hodgeboom's presence has meant the addition of more than a half-dozen old members. A new program under the direction of Richard Lane, program vice president, has added to the interest of

the members. "We're really on our way," says President Jack Weisgerber. "Of course the chorus interest is high and helping a lot. But we also are outlining a long range program for chapter meetings; making them more interesting and luring them to become one of us. Already we are doing a fine job, but we will do better.

We are not un mindful also that in October Jackson chapter enter-

Detroit 8 Tops Octet Tourney

Chlorin-Eights Feats 11 Other Singing Groups

Dearborn — Detroit chapter's mass attack with four octets entered, not only outnumbered but outsang all competition and won the top two places at Dearborn chapter's Fifth Annual Michigan District Octet contest on Feb. 10.

District Champs, Airemales, did their usual fine job of M.C'ing the show, but were without Dale Clixby, their sick bari.

Judged in all categories except stage presence and time, Detroit's chlorin-eights sang "Mandy Lee" and "Yona from Arizona" to out-point Detroit's Sul-Eights and Dearborn's Vee-Eights who won second and third spots respectively out of the 11 octets competing.

Judges Are Stars

An All-Star cast of judges, Joe Jones, Mark Roberts, Carleton Scott and John Smith, sat down front at the crowded hall and determined the winners by standard techniques. Bob Mulligan did the secretarial job without benefit of adding machine.

Besides Detroit and Dearborn, octets were entered from Wayne, Oakland county, Redford, and Pontiac chapters.

Detroit was awarded possession of the Dearborn sponsored plaque for another year, with President Bill Rowell accepting from President Eric Schultz.

Get Awards

All members of the top three octets received individual commemorative certificates with the judges and Dearborn officers signatures attesting to their accomplishment.

But the crowd at the hall, numbering about 130, enjoyed the entire evening and especially so when Norm Shamus' "Kitchen Krew" put out a sauerkraut and kolbase meal. Of course the loyal boondogglers stayed on and were swept out at closing time.

tains the district contests and convention and we will be ready. Above all we are going to shoot for the chorus championship.

Official Minutes Michigan District Board, Jan. 7, 1961

A meeting of the Michigan district board of directors was held at Marshall on Jan. 7, 1961. The meeting was called to order at 1:30 by President Comloquey. Also present were Vice-presidents Sanborn, Burgess, Hansen and Tracy, Treasurer Klaiber, Editor Bennett and Secretary Harrington. The board paid silent tribute to immediate past president Cecil Fischer who passed away last month.

After approving the minutes of the last board meeting, the members heard the report of the district treasurer. It showed that as of Dec. 31, 1960, there was in the district general fund \$5,443.52 and \$806.21 in the quartet and chorus travel fund. There was also \$529.69 balance in the Michigan Troubadour account. The report was approved. A discussion was then had relative to continued financing of the Troubadour and also regarding the collection of the subscription fee, which is now \$1.00 annually per member. It was further decided that from this date forward the district president is to be the editor-in-chief with Roscoe Bennett as editor and John W. Klaiber as business manager.

The Chair then called attention to the fact that the district board should forward another name to the international nominating com-

mittee for consideration for a position on the international board in 1962-63 in view of Fischer's demise. It was voted to submit the name of Robert H. Walker as the third nominee. The secretary was instructed to forward Mr. Walker's name to the committee.

The budget committee then submitted its report and an extensive and exhaustive discussion took place regarding various items of income and expenditure. During the course of the discussion, it was voted that each zonal vice president should be empowered to reimburse his area counselors in connection with mandatory assignments, and that the zonal vice presidents should be reimbursed for mandatory expenses. In further considering the budget, the board voted to continue the policy of not reimbursing or financing travel and expenses of the district's representative on the international board of directors. The budget as finally adopted is appended hereto.

The subject of charging contestants at regional and district quartet and chorus contests, which had been tabled at the November meeting of the board, was then considered. Again a thorough and lengthy discussion of all aspects was had. The discussion concluded with the motion, which passed, that the

topic of admission fees of contestants be stricken from the record, and that the matter be referred to the convention committee of each contest for settlement on an individual basis.

The president then announced that his committee assignments and area counselor designations had not as yet been fully completed but that he will finish this task shortly and make his announcements.

The question of clinics for choruses and quartets was then brought up. A motion was made and passed that such a committee be appointed to arrange for such a program, and the president appointed Al Burgess to be chairman.

A report of the activities of the district show committee made by Vice President Sanborn revealed that further action of the committee is now handicapped by the fact that a brochure has not as yet been produced but that the same is in the process of being prepared. With such a brochure, the committee will be in a position to promote the show advantageously.

The question of the travel fund and the allotments to be made to the Michigan district representatives to Philadelphia in June, 1961, was then brought up for considera-

tion. It was suggested that the president write a letter personally to all chapters urging their co-operation in contributing to the said travel fund. It was decided, however, that the district board should go on record as to its recommendations at this time. A motion was then made, and passed, that the board recommend to the house of delegates an allowance of \$200.00 to each of the competing quartets and \$1,000.00 to the competing chorus who will represent Michigan in the international contest at Philadelphia in June, 1961; said monies to be paid out of the district travel fund, and that any deficiency in the fund be paid out of the general fund.

Vice President reported that at the zonal meeting with his chapter presidents several questions were asked, including a request that the schedule of points allowed by the achievement award committee be again published in the Troubadour, and that the said committee consider the advisability of setting a quota for all chapters and recognizing the attainment thereof with some suitable award. They also suggested that achievement should be judged upon quality and not quantity. The said conference also requested consideration of the appointment of two judges in each

category at our district contests and the advisability of securing all judges from out of the district. The district board referred these requests to the achievement award committee and to the contest and judging committee respectively.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,
LOUIS R. HARRINGTON,
District Secretary
MICHIGAN DISTRICT BUDGET
January 1, 1961 to
December 31, 1961
Anticipated Income

Per Capita (1700 members)	\$ 850.00
Parade Sanction Fees	1,350.00
Income from Regional & District contests	1,000.00
Total anticipated	\$3,200.00
Expenditures	
Michigan Troubadour subsidy	\$1,500.00
Presidential expense	350.00
Secretary's expense: (includes stationery, office supplies, phone, postage, printing, awards, etc.)	800.00
Executive Board meeting expenses	150.00
Area Counselors and Vice Presidents' expenses	400.00
Total	\$3,200.00