

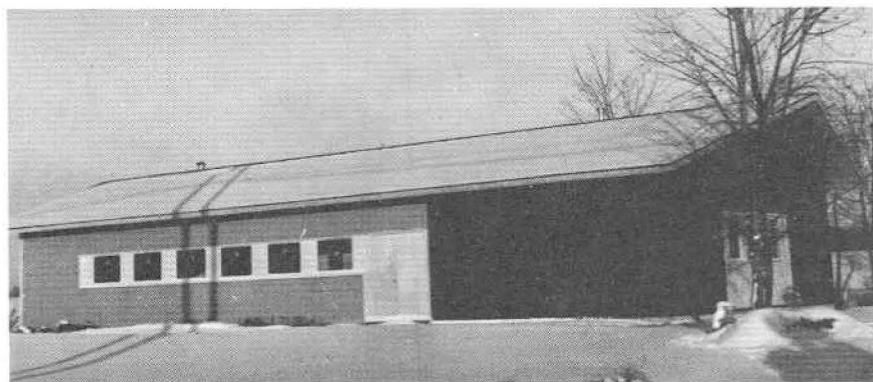
FEBRUARY 1962

michigan

troubadour



HARMONY STATION



CHORDITORIUM





February, 1962

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

Vol. 12, No. 2

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Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop

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This issue is Troub's "Building Issue" with a feature on the new, almost completed, Fruit Belt Chorditorium and the Hudson Chapter Harmony Station.

These two chapters have a home of their own. In neither case did the chapter accomplish it by "letting George do it" . . . but, rather, by every "Joe Barber-shopper" pitching in to do what he could do best to help the chapter.

The things that come easy are not long remembered, while the things that come hard are never forgotten. Strange as it seems, many difficult or unpleasant projects can be looked back on with pleasure after the project is over. You remember the time you went camping and you stood at lunch in the rain with water running off your nose into the coffee cup, how you crawled into a damp sack at night, and you didn't sleep, and in the morning all was soaked. You thought you were having a horrible time. But now. . . thinking back, you know it was an experience that has added something to your life.

How much more you remember, with pleasure, the constructive experiences, that came hard, that gave you a warm glow of pride, of accomplishment. You will always remember these and will re-experience this warm glow upon remembering.

The boys who worked so hard to make the Chorditorium or the Harmony Station a success have, through their labor, enriched their lives far more than we who meet to bend a chord once or twice a month and contribute no more.

Troub salutes, with envy, these men. May there be more chapters, with leaders, able to give their members such an opportunity.

* * * * *

Chapter billings have been mailed out to all chapters for their membership subscriptions to the Michigan Troubadour. It is hoped that these might be paid at the earliest opportunity.

Because this is a Michigan District publication, belonging to the membership of this District, such membership deserves to know the financial solvency or insolvency of this publication.

When this Editor decided to offer his services to the District, the Michigan Troubadour had been out of publication some nine months and had been appearing every two months. Troub has changed some since then and some of these changes cost money.

The present cost per issue is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$300 depending on composition, size, etc. The old Troubadour, at about \$400 per issue and being published bi-monthly, was costing slightly more than was being received from membership subscriptions. It was not far off, however, and with an occasional subsidy from the General Fund, the old Troubadour was not in trouble.

Your Editor has tried his best to keep costs down on Troub while giving a maximum of quality. All setup

is done by your Editor. The printer sets heads, photographs and prints and binds. (Might be a good time to give thanks to George Koda of Manchester Enterprise, Manchester, Michigan. A big, big kudo for the tremendous job he does printing this publication.) Your Editor receives no monetary compensation for cost of equipment, or the more than 50 working hours of time required for each publication. No mailing service is required, as your Editor puts gummed labels, obtained from International, on each copy, ties and delivers to the post office. Most art work is re-used and total cost for all art work to date has been only \$25, thanks to Toni Perfect who worked almost for nothing designing cover and column heads.

Facts are facts, however, and the fact is that ten issues of the new Troub costs about \$3000 while membership subscriptions, if ALL are paid, along with chapter advertising expected throughout the year, brings in only about \$2000--leaving the new Troubadour running about \$100 in the red each issue.

At the Executive Board Meeting in Marshall, reported on in this issue, this Editor was requested by the Board to see what could be done to cut down on the expense of this publication. This Editor would, in turn, like to put this before the membership.

Would you be interested in increased per-capita dues? Would you like to go back to bi-monthly publication? Would you like to have Troub published on cheaper paper (a saving of about \$15 per issue, if we went to newsprint fill)? What do you suggest?

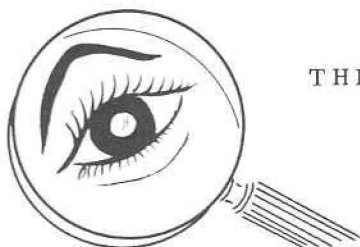
Troub is still working on the possibilities of selling \$100 worth of advertising as a method of operating in the black. If you know of someone or are yourself interested in placing an advertisement in this publication, please contact the Editor regarding this.

One more item the membership should probably know is that this Editor took this job for a period of six months in order to get this news media back into operation again. An executive committee is looking for another Editor and after the six month's period is ended, there will be a meeting with the Executive Board to determine whether the District is satisfied with this publication in ALL respects (cost included) and whether to award this job to someone else.

The Michigan District is an Incorporated body--created to give services, such as this publication, to those members within it. As a corporation, it must be operated soundly and solvently to continue. At the spring convention, make sure your chapter delegate is made fully aware and is fully instructed as to your wants. Discuss these problems at your chapter board meetings and with other members. Don't forget, two beers and a pack of cigarettes cost well over a dollar and this amount from each man would more than bail out old Troub.



WATCH FOR THE POT AT THE SPRING CONVENTION



THE FEMININE

OBSERVER

By Ellen Harrington

Barbershoppers in the Detroit area had an opportunity to enjoy the Chordettes on their recent return engagement to the Rooster-tail, where they were well received.

* * * *

Congratulations to Mrs. Arthur Waite on the birth of her grandson.

* * * *

Regret to report that C. D. Sanborn of Pontiac, Clarence Edoff of Detroit, Taylor Gingery of Kalamazoo, and Frank Corwin of Downriver are on the sick list, having been hospitalized. Best wishes for a speedy recovery. (Glad to note presence of Chase Sanborn at the Pontiac Parade.--Ed.)

* * * *

A trip to California discloses the fact that many former Michigan barbershoppers are still actively participating and giving of their talents throughout the Far Western District; Marv Brower, M.C. par excellence, West Meier, Past FW District president and member of the Aristocrats quartet, Burt Staffen serving as a chapter officer, Ray Girens and Jerry Larkins as genial tavern owners, Joe Sipots and his brother, Ray Sipots. Ray is now singing professionally in a quartet which has appeared at Catalina and Las Vegas.

* * * *

Rush Wyman, formerly of Lansing, is now president of the Seneca Land District.



BARBERSHOP ON THE AIR

DO YOU WANT TO HEAR BARBERSHOP ON THE AIR?

For some time now, Howard Tubbs has been M.C. on a barbershop harmony show on radio station WJR in Detroit. This fine station has been presenting this program at THEIR EXPENSE for us to enjoy. Do we want them to continue this or is Howard wasting his time plus much time spent by the WJR producer and the cost of valuable air time over this clear channel station?

Howard says--"In order to assure continuance of this program, the Studio must have more awareness of the extent of the listeners. Thus far only a few have written a note or card to them expressing their pleasure and requesting that the program be made a permanent part of their programming."

It is up to you--if you like it, if your friends like it, the least you can do is drop a card in the mail to Radio



Station WJR, Fisher Building, Detroit 2, Michigan and let them know. Comments on the TV Square Dance Show can be mailed to WWJ-TV, Detroit 31, Michigan.

Carry this principle on: Whenever you hear something (or read something) that you like (or don't like), let it be known. In most cases, this is the only way a radio station, a newspaper, or a magazine, has of finding out whether their ventures are a success or not. Let's leave no doubt about barbershopping in the Michigan District.

WWJ-TV (4) Detroit

The Square Dance Show on WWJ-TV, at about 11:30 each Friday evening, continues to feature Michigan District Barbershop Quartets. On February 17, see the Aire-Knights and on February 24, see the Aire-Raiders. Also tentatively following will be the Stationaires, the Suspended-Chords and other Michigan District quartets. If your quartet is interested in appearing on this TV show, contact Bill Rowell at GR 4-7765.

WJR Detroit

Harmony Hall, on WJR radio at 7:30 each Friday evening, will be featuring on February 16, the top three quartets in 1956: The Confederates, Play Tonics, and the Lads of Enchantment; on February 23, the top three 1957 quartets: The Gaynotes, The Westcoasters, and the Lads of Enchantment.

ZONAL NOTES

ROBERT TRACY Vice President Zone 4

The Cheboygan County Chapter has decided to close its books and cease to be a chapter. Apparently the area this chapter encompassed will not support a chapter for any period of time.

First, there are too many other organizations to compete with. Second, in this resort area the people are of a transient group. In the fall and winter when barbershop should flourish, this area is at its lowest ebb in population. Unless a person owns or operates a year-around business, there is no reason to stay. If they are professional people, they are usually swamped with work, and/or have their own organizations to support in the community. In any case, the number of people are too few and are spread too thin to support the organizations that now make up our community. In our case, of the 37 members we had three years ago, there are 6 left in this entire area. All the rest have moved for various reasons, mostly to find work. This doesn't mean we have lost them as Barbershoppers because most of them, I'm happy to say, have joined other chapters wherever they have settled.

We have decided to consolidate in this zone; that is, have four good healthy chapters instead of many small ones. The 25-member rule has forced us to do this. On the whole, we have lost three chapters, but only a few members because we believe in concentrating on the individual.



quartet news

The Holland Windmill Chapter announces the termination of one of the Societies most popular quartets, The Chord Counts. For the past five years, the Counts have been one of the busiest foursomes in the Society, singing barbershop parades from one end of the country to the other. They twice represented the Michigan District in International competition, placing 23rd in Columbus in 1958 and 13th the following year in Chicago. In the fall of 1959, they were crowned Michigan District Champions and also in 1959 were given the great honor of singing the "President's Serenade" in Washington D. C. In February of 1960, they sang the ten-day Florida "Grapefruit Circuit", a dream of most quartets.

Chapterwise, the Counts have been tireless in their efforts to build the Holland Windmill Chapter. For the past four years, members of the quartet have served as president. They were instrumental in the success of the 1959 Michigan District Quartet Contest which was held in Holland and considered to be one of our District's best. One member directs the chorus, while another is coaching a high school quartet and one has, for the past year, been emceeing his own weekly barbershop show called the Round Sound.

We of the Windmill Chapter, along with barbershoppers all over the country, will miss the sound of "Jimmy Brown" and the members of the Windmill Chapter would like to say simply, "Hats off to the Counts for a job well done".



THE CHORD COUNTS

ESPRIT DE CHORDS (Utica-Rochester)

Have appeared on Bob Maxwell's Show on Saturday, January 20. They are sad to relate, however, the loss of their lead, BILL CUTLER, whose job with Chrysler Corporation will be taking him to Newark, Delaware in April. The Wilmington Chapter's gain will be an unmistakable loss to the District. Here's an opening for a good lead.

SHARPS-A-CHORDS (Three Rivers)

Look out all Bush League contestants--the Sharps-A-Chords could be a dark horse at Boyne City. They are rehearsing, have future engagements, and will, without a doubt, make a real good showing.

POPS A CHORDS

(Wayne Chapter)

A new quartet from Wayne deserves some press. Organized early last fall, these fellas really ring the chords. Personnel includes John Purcell, tenor; Bill Bailey, lead; Jim Alexander, bari; and Mike Mudgett, bass. These boys have done church jobs, sung at Northville Sanitorium, and made many chapter visitations. They are looking forward to their parade debut on the Wayne show. You will hear much more from and about--The Pops A Chords.

THE 4 FITS

(Grosse Pointe)

The "4 Fits" had an interesting engagement recently. They sang for a meeting of the F.B.I. They were introduced as: Marv (Killer) Burke, Ray (Nitty) McCalpin, John (Capone) Prost, and Russ (Baby Face) Seely. This is the fun of barbershopping--getting out and seeing people enjoy themselves. TRY IT. The "4 Fits" will be on the Bud Guest Show Thursday, February 8 at 7:00 p.m. WJR.



THE AIRE MALES

HATS OFF TO THE AIR-MALES

For years it has been said that quartet members become so pre-occupied with quartet activities that they neglect their chapters. It seems to us that in the past few years, quartet members in Michigan have proved this to be false. We would like to use as an example the Aire-Males, who are past district champions and twice represented us in the International Contest. We all know the many hours in rehearsals it takes to keep a quartet active and this quartet has not slacked off one bit since their championship year. In spite of these quartet hours, this group has turned its greatest effort to service in their own chapters. We think this is the only quartet in Michigan history to have two current chapter presidents in the same quartet. They are also very strong supporters of their chapter choruses and supply the very talented chorus director of the Dearborn Chord-a-Matic Chorus. The quartet is currently up to their ears in special plans for their own Dearborn and Wayne Parades.

We would like to tip our hats to the Aire-Males, who prove once again a quartet can get behind its chapter as much as the chapter gets behind them.

The Membership of Wayne and
Dearborn

HUDSON CHAPTER'S HARMONY STATION

Taken from article by Fred Nofziger
Staff writer, The Toledo Blade,
Toledo, Ohio.

Gone was the click of the telegraph, the shouts of "All aboard," and the lantern signals winking in the darkness. Trains continued to rumble past the darkened, gray stone building but they no longer huffed to a stop, the hiss of escaping steam from the waiting iron giant greeted no passenger.

Once the hub of railroad passenger activity, the New York Central depot in Hudson, Michigan, stood silent for four years--a monument to the past.

Then, late in the summer of 1960, lights again shone through the soot-stained windows. Interior walls were turned from a smoke-blackened hue to freshly painted, pastel colors. The waiting room, with its plain wooden benches, was transformed into a meeting room for the Hudson Barbershoppers.

The group had leased the depot from the New York Central System with the thought of eventually purchasing the building. Negotiations were carried on while

E. A. VandeZande was chapter president and a very favorable lease was acquired.

Donating their labors to the interior decoration project, the 52 members have given nearly 900 man-hours of their time. The scrubbing, sanding, painting, carpentry, plumbing and rewiring has been done by members, among them carpenters, attorneys, dentists, farmers, bankers, educators, merchants, barbers, industrialists and policemen.

Amid the whirr of power tools, the buzz of hand saws and the pounding of hammers, strains of impromptu harmony often could be heard.

Where the train schedule-board once stood, there is a piano; the wireless has been replaced by a coffee urn, and the ticket office is a complete, modern kitchen. As E. A. VandeZande says, "If the group feels like putting on a shrimp and ham dinner, it puts on a shrimp and ham dinner and has a ball in the process." The Hudson Chapter also has the right to sub-lease the building to other community groups.

The Hudson Chapter began in Hudson when 25 men got better acquainted through a mutual interest in music. The chapter serves the Adrian, Addison, Hudson and Hillsdale area.

HUDSON BARBERSHOPPERS NEW HOME

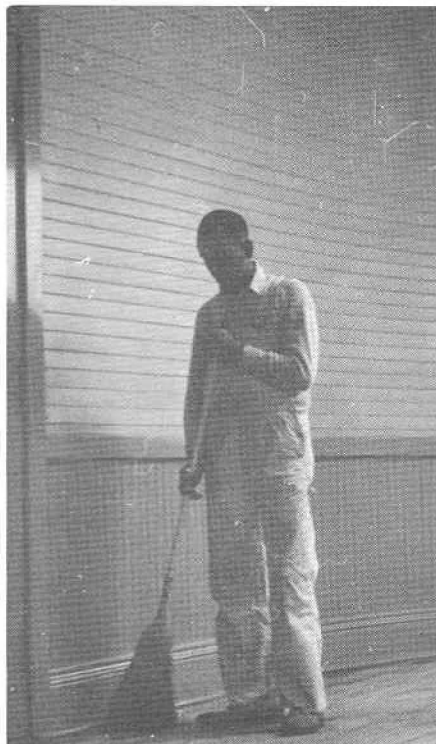
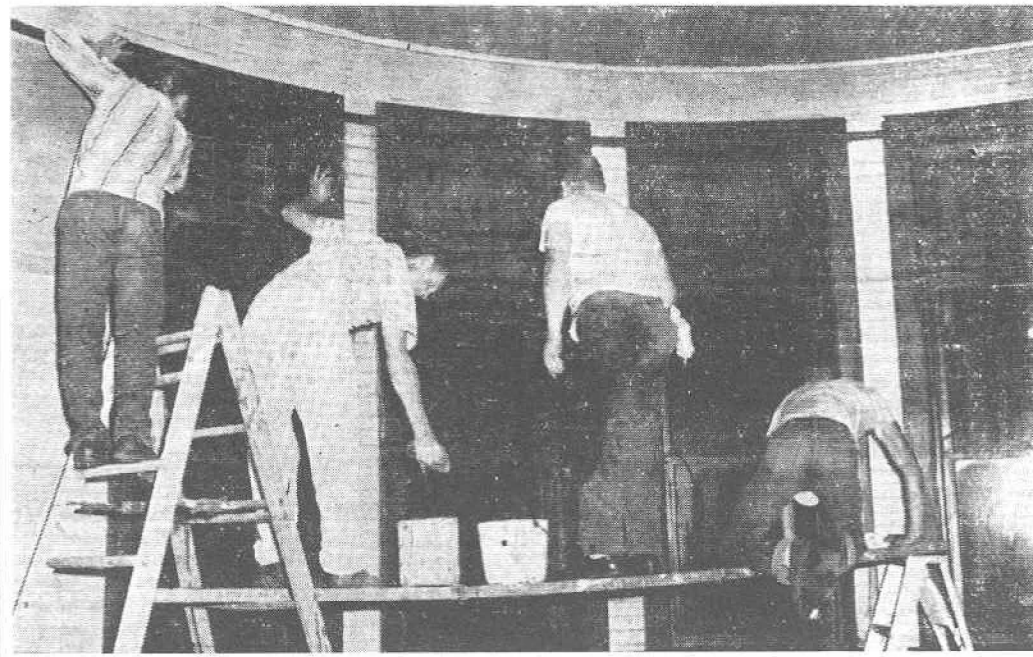


OLD NYC DEPOT GETTING READY FOR NEW ROLE IN COMMUNITY



WHERE 'ALL ABOARD' HAS GIVEN WAY TO 'HEART OF MY HEART'
Exterior of former New York Central System depot in Hudson, Mich.





HUDSON HARMONY STATION

MEMBERSHIP BUTTONS ARE POSTED BY VOICES

L to R: James Rozelle, Russ Scott, and E. VandeZande

JOE BARBERSHOPPER SPINS A YARN

By Richard V. Barrie

The following is not a Mother Goose Tale:

Once upon a time, not so very long ago by cracky, there were a flock of happy barbershoppers happily ensconced in their not-so-ivory third floor tower clubroom in St. Joseph, Michigan, when along came a wrecking crew and, first thing you know--no more third floor. This was somewhat dismaying to our songbirds who really felt, in barber-shopping, there's no place like home.

During the next three years, they scratched their collective craniums over this perplexing problem, a durned dilemma demanding diverse and devoted digging within their wide-ranging desires for a suitable solution. Matter of fact, while they were enjoying the hospitality of the Benton Harbor Elks during this time, they thunk up some of the dangdest ideas you ever did hear. Then, by golly, somebody remembered that, way back thru the yesteryears, some of the ancient and respected early-day members of the chapter had bought a lot. Not just a dinky, two-bit hunk of old Mother E, mind you, but an honest to goodness chunk of terre firma 200 feet by 400 feet long. Well sir, there was only one thing these chord-belters could do with a piece of real estate like that-----Yep, you guessed.

Now, the first problem in having a building of your own, natcherly, is to have a name. After all, what's a dream without a name? "Harmony Hall" was a natural, but-----some Kenosha Karolers had already seen the alliterative beauty of this cognomen, and of course used it. Well, the name had to fit; it had to relate to its purpose, it just had to reflect Barbershopping, and sooooo-----the Fruit Belt Chorditorium was born.

Now, you know that, in democratic societies such as ours, there's only one way to accomplish the business at hand. Yep-----form a committee. Fruit Belters are no exception, and it wasn't long thereafter that the dream commenced to take shape. It just so happened that providence was waiting for this historic moment, and there and then delivered a new member whose quiet, but spectacular talents were normally utilized by one of the world's great appliance manufacturers as chief of advanced industrial design. By jimminy, you wouldn't think that an artist could be an architect (and singer), but this one was. A few hot nights at his drawing board, and, whaddaya know-----a complete set of Chorditorium blueprints evolved. They were so good, mind you, that when the time came to submit them for a registered engineer's approval (little matter of the building code, y'know) they were accepted with hardly a change.

Lemme see----oh yes, when did construction start. Musta been long about late April or May that these merry warblers converted themselves into surveyors, rodmen, stump pullers, ditch diggers and such. They wasn't anything this gang wouldn't tackle. Nossir----need a ditch? Dig it. Need a footing? Build the form and pour it. Need a foundation wall? That's easy (it sez here)-----just order up a flock of blocks, mortar and sand and go to work.

Come the hot nights of summer, and guess what the crew was doing. One of 'em borrowed a consarned contraption that packs sand, and just about vibrates the teeth outen your head to boot. For weeks, it seemed, they was a'sloshing in the mud but when the job was done, they had the hardest packed sand base ever was for a cement slab floor. And, when the pour day finally arrived late in July, sixteen yard of Prime Portland became the Chorditorium floor.

The second of September saw the sticks go up. Uh huh, on that day the first wall frame was erected. Wal, things really got moving then, I'll tell you. The sheeting went on, then the pre-built trusses, then the roof deck; row after row of black shingles followed, then grey and brown aluminum siding (doors and windows were already in by then). Every week-end saw at least some of the mob on the job.

Are they in there yet, ye ask. Wal, not quite, but even as I'm telling this, the work goes on. Two overhead gas furnaces have been installed and by the time you hear this epic, the interior ceiling and panelling will have been started. Oh no, don't fret m'fren. They'll be using their cozy clubhouse one of these days-----soon too. And guess what---

Every pitch-pipe blowing Joe Barbershopper in the Society is going to be welcome to really put the Chord in Chorditorium. I mean it--that's what it's for.

Hmmmm--I spose that's about the end of this yarn. I was going to tell you the names of the blokes who've made this project their pet effort over these long months, but I reckon you haven't got time to hear about every member of the Fruit Belt chapter. If you really want to know 'em, drop by some evenin. Let them tell you how easy it is (HAH).

Well, that's about it. Why'nt ya drop by at the Chorditorium dedication on April 29 when you're at the Spring Convention? Don't worry about the rafters-----they're pre-stressed for boomin, beltin chords. S'long.



Wheeler-Dealer Maury Humphrey (left), Bari with the old Overtones, pleads economic stress as barber-shop booster Gene Alden begs for at least a few dollars to cover cost of Chorditorium well and pump he has just installed.



Howard (Hoss Cartwright) Schaus, Bass with the Fruit Belt Chorus, slings a little dirt during construction phase of Chorditorium foundation wall. Block layer Al Tincher, Bari, on the right ducked just in time.



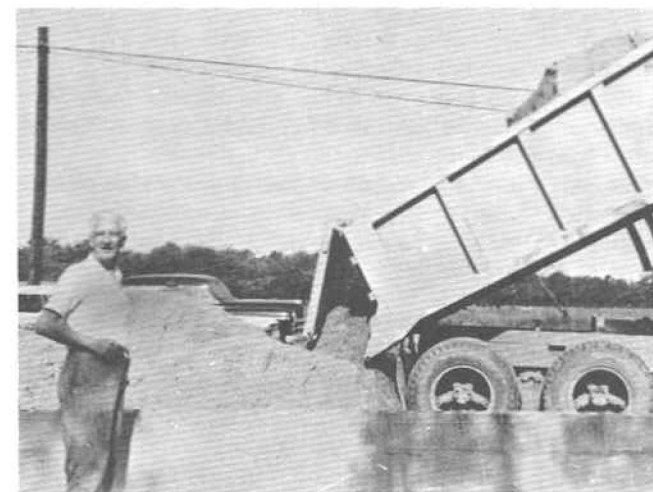
Bass Bob Biasi argues that the level is off, not him. The Chorditorium is fairly level despite 1962 Fruit Belt Chapter President Biasi's masonry talents. Mortar dauber on left is Lead Gail Russell.



1962 District President Bill Hansen works up muscle tone mixing mortar for block foundation wall of Chorditorium in July, 1961. Idler on left supervising "Mortar Bill" is Tenor Jim Merrifield.

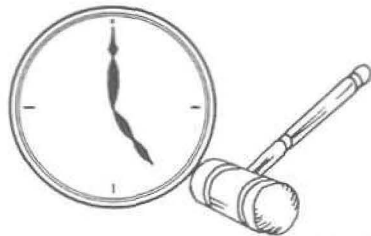


How to get a club hall--free labor, of course. Members of Fruit Belt Chapter heave to with a will on Chorditorium construction in summer, 1961.



Fruit Belt Chapter charter member, Joe Bulley, Bass of the old Overtones, supervises dumping of fill sand inside Chorditorium foundation, July, 1961.

(Photos by R. V. Barrie)



Minutes

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

A meeting of the Michigan District Board of Directors was held at Marshall, Michigan, on Saturday, January 13, 1962. President William Hansen called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. Also present were John Comloquoy, Al Burgess, Duncan Hannah, E. A. VandeZande, John W. Klaiber, Louis R. Harrington, and James O. Davenport. Roscoe Bennett was a guest. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived as they had been printed in the Troubadour. The Treasurer's report showed \$6,561.47 on hand as of December 31, 1961.

The president announced that it would be his policy to have the chapter secretaries forward all copies of the Chapter Activity Reports, which are designated for the District President, direct to the zonal vice presidents.

The secretary then indicated that he was in receipt of the nominations for Area Counselors from Vice Presidents Burgess, Hannah, and VandeZande. The Chair then instructed the secretary to telephone V.P. Tracy and ascertain his nominations.

The Chair then reviewed certain aspects of the functions of the Public relations Committee and its part in promoting Harmony Week and creating a greater interest in the Michigan District's activities. It was suggested that public relations publicity be conveyed through the columns of the Troubadour.

The District budget, as presented by the Finance Committee, was approved.

Editor Davenport then reported that the Michigan Troubadour finances were practically exhausted, and that the Board should consider some plan of financing the publication.

The matter was tabled until the next meeting of the Board. The Board, however, appropriated the sum of \$500 to be turned over by the District Treasurer to the Michigan Troubadour fund.

A general discussion was then had regarding the promotion of barbershop quartet and chorus shows at Fairs and other similar functions. The President indicated that he will write to Roger Craig, the chairman of the committee, and inquire as to what publicity or cooperation the committee requires.

The Chair also inquired as to the Board's reaction to a suggestion that areas be reduced to a maximum of four chapters, thereby enabling Area Counselors to work more closely with their respective chapters.

The Chair also broached the subject of holding an administrative school and a District Harmony Education Program offering a training ground for chapter and District officers. It was suggested that classes for chapter presidents and secretaries might be more effective if they were held on a zonal basis.

It was pointed out that there has been very little opportunity for chapter presidents, Area Counselors and District Officers to become acquainted, and a motion was made that a reception be held for chapter presidents, Area Counselors and District Officers at the Spring meeting at Benton Harbor. This motion passed.

A general discussion was then had regarding District

finances, and it was decided that the entire question should be brought up at the Spring meeting before the House of Delegates, and that the entire membership be advised of this fact through the columns of the Troubadour. It was pointed out that in order for the District to support a District publication, assist quartets and choruses in traveling to conventions and conduct its normal business, it will be necessary to find additional funds in view of the fact that the International rebate to the Districts has been completely abolished.

The secretary then reported that he had received an inquiry relative to the eligibility of the Detroit Chapter chorus to compete in the District Chorus Contest at Benton Harbor next April. This query was brought about by the fact that because of the change in Michigan's chorus contest dates, the Motor City Chorus will have reigned only approximately seven months. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to permit the Motor City chorus of Detroit, current District champions, to compete in the 1962 District chorus contest this Spring.

It was decided to hold the next meeting on March 17, 1962, in the vicinity of Battle Creek.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
LOUIS R. HARRINGTON
District Secretary

HIGHLIGHTS

By Roscoe Bennett

Marshall--District President William Hansen and District Public Relations Chairman, William Rowell, are not satisfied with the SPEBSQSA image as it is now presented in the Michigan District. Hansen has it in mind to get over to the public this year a clear, exact picture of barbershopping to all elements possible in Michigan male living.

This was revealed at the regular meeting of the Michigan Executive Board at Win Schuler's here Saturday, January 13. It came in response to a question in Rowell's letter of acceptance as chairman of the Public Relations Committee: "What do you want specifically for me to do above all else?"

The discussion led by Hansen that followed was illuminating with virtually every member of the Board coming up with the assertion that all public relations efforts in the past have not been satisfactory because mainly they concentrated on trivia, special events, single quartets, single choruses, contests and the like while the overall image of the Society and what it actually is has been overlooked. "There are many who still believe", said one director, "we are a howling foursome around a lamp pole at midnight and most certainly we are not that."

Vice President Al Burgess of Muskegon told the group that he has been working up a 40-minute lecture complete with slides and demonstrations that he will give from time to time to such male gatherings as Rotary clubs, Exchange clubs, church male clubs, and similar groups that invite him. "Already", he admitted, "I have ten appearances lined up and I expect that I will get many more."

Burgess said he planned the lecture to show his listeners, no matter who they are, that barbershopping is a hobby and an avocation for men and one that can make a man's life fuller and richer. "I'm telling them how the Society was organized and how men like to sing. The fact is that barbershop harmony came a long time before SPEBSQSA. The organization of the Society followed barbershop harmony singing by many years. Four men singing together is almost a fundamental for men. I'm explaining how easy it is, how good it is, and how big a community force our hobby actually is." Burgess said he had much help compiling his slide file and his material from members of his own chapter.

The public relations committee which Rowell heads up has two other members: Matt Calderwood and Bill Bond, two of the most highly respected and successful advertising men in the Detroit area. Both are members of the Detroit Chapter No. 1.

"I feel", Hansen said, "that we are equipped beautifully to do this job. I know that this committee can organize a program, set a goal, and attain it better than any public relations group in the entire International Society. I feel also that the better we get the truth over, the easier it is to get members. I'm certain Rowell and his group will make a big step this year."

Concurring in the plan and adding to it were E. A. VandeZande, Vice President; Secretary Louis R. Harrington; and Dunc Hannah, Vice President.

* * * * *

Steps were taken by the Executive Board of the Michigan District to set up instruction schools for chapter presidents and secretaries. These schools will be four in number, one in each zone and directed by the zonal vice presidents. The idea was strictly that of District President William Hansen.

"We have 40 chapters in the District", he pointed out, "and there are 40 secretaries and 40 presidents, most of them quite unfamiliar with the processes of their office. That is as it should be because new blood and new men are taking part more and more in our District."

"To my mind there is no better way to get an efficient job done, for the chapter, for the District, and for the International, then by properly instructing men on the chapter level. Everything in our society depends on the chapter."

There was a suggestion advanced at the meeting here to conduct the school on a District basis, all presidents and secretaries meeting in two big groups at a central point. Upon the insistence of the President, it was decided this was too big and too expensive, involving too much travel at this time. "Let's try it on the zonal level first and see how it works", he said.

The zonal vice presidents will organize each meeting, provide instructions, educational kits, forms, and blanks as needed. The zonal vice presidents will also set dates for their gatherings and submit them to the District President.

"This whole thing won't amount to much", Hansen added, "unless we get 100 per cent out. One who wins an election as chapter president or secretary has accepted a definite job and responsibility. He has been thrust into a position wherein he is to serve his fellow chapter-mates. He's not just winner of a popularity

contest. We expect every man to do his duty and foremost in that line is to learn what is expected of him and how he can best do it."

* * * * *

District Treasurer Jack Klaiber dropped a bomb at this regular meeting of the Executive Board: "We are on our way to bankruptcy", declared Klaiber while Board members gasped.

"Last year at this meeting I reported we had about \$8,800 in our treasury. This year I am reporting we have about \$6,000. Next year it will be less than \$4,000 if we continue the present operation at the same pace."

The reason? "Simple", said Klaiber, "our expenses are running ahead of our income. This year, our budget, which is a marvel of simplicity and optimism, shows that we are planning on again spending more than we expect to take in. It used to be that we received \$1 from International rebate. Then the International cut it down to 50 cents and now it is cut to nothing. We are trying to publish the Troubadour at less than the prescribed \$1 subscription fee; we are trying to assist quartets and choruses to attend the International Contests; we are staging our own contests at a much reduced profit. Our sources of revenue are inexorably being choked off."

"We have made a try to save our competitive face by means of a package show that produced about \$1,000 last year at the Michigan State Fair. This is earmarked however for travel fund. And it looks as if we must dip into reserves again to get our quartets to the big contest again this year."



MICHIGAN DISTRICT EXECUTIVE BOARD

L to R: Pres. Hansen, "Troub" Davenport, Vice-Pres. Hannah, Secretary Harrington, Treasurer Klaiber, Vice-Pres. Burgess, Past Pres. Comloquoy, and Vice-Pres. VandeZande.

Discussion that followed--in a gloomy mood--indicated that those in charge of finances must come up with a new gimmick.

This gimmick was indicated as being a request for an added assessment of each member in the District to be voted on at the April Convention in Benton Harbor.

It was suggested during the debate that an added District dues of as much as \$4 might be necessary. This figure did not meet with approval of President Hansen. Secretary Harrington came up with a plan for asking for \$3 and others, disagreeing, said the operation might be successful on as low as \$2 or even \$1.

"What we must do", Hansen said, "is to get the facts together. Then prepare it as an item on our District meeting agenda. In the meantime, I want every chapter to discuss it and instruct its delegates as how to cast their votes. I want discussion on the chapter level and then worked out and voted at the House of Delegates. This will mean, of course, that every chapter must see to it that its complete slate of delegates is present at Benton Harbor."

CHICAGO

The high and mighty of barbershop quartet singing, ranging from International President Lou Laurel down to the least of the corps that runs S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. affairs, saw something different here tonight when they attended the first Chicagoland Barbershop Harmony Festival in the plush and spacious Arie Crown Theater at fabulous McCormick Center.

First, there was a master of ceremonies, a radio personality, Eddie Hubbard, equipped with a ukelele and as a final climax there was a "barbershop queen"—pretty, petite, and lovely Anida Johnson of Chicago. Eddie made his appearance at the start and comely Miss Johnson made hers at the finish and between them was inserted one of the best programs of barbershop performers that could be gathered in all this land. Topping the show, the object of concentrated listening by most of the huge audience of 5,000 or more, was the International Champion Quartet, the Sun Tones from Miami, Florida. Sharing the quartet honors were the Baytown Four from San Francisco and the Saints from the Los Angeles area. Then, there were the fine singing Renegades of the big Skokie Valley Chapter of the Chicagoland area who did as well as anybody with fine arrangements and excellent blend.

The Sun Tones, definitely the champion quartet of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., did what was expected of them. They sang well and confidently in spite of the fact a faulty two-microphone sound system was not co-operating, and they drew prolonged applause. The Baytown Four didn't get to the field of activities here until the show was almost over. Plane trouble, fog and schedule changes, accounted for their tardiness, but that didn't deter them from displaying talent and ringing tones that demonstrated why they were International Medalists. The Saints "I've Got a Fortune in Dreams" was in true barbershop tradition and demonstrated clearly that ringing chords and sharp arrangements are the same in the western area of this continent as they are in the east, south, and north.

Probably the outstanding feature of the Chicagoland show was the performance of three fine choruses: the 1959 International Champions, The Pekin Chorus; the West Towns Chorus of Lombard, Illinois, 1961 International Medalists; and the Arlingtones of Arlington Heights. The arrangement of the program permitted all three to sing generously and each, somewhat in the competition atmosphere, gave forth with vigor and finesse. The Pekin group even sang "Lone Prairie" in honor of President Lou Laurel. As a final number, the three choruses, the Chicagoland choruses and the quartets—more than 400 voices—(plus Miss Barber-shop) gave rousing renditions of "This is My Country" and "Keep America Singing".

This Chicagoland show, the first of its magnitude in the Chicago area in some years, was widely attended. There were representations from downstate Illinois, quite a few from Michigan and the Cardinal Districts, as well as Land O Lakes. It was a hark-back to the old days when barbershoppers and listeners took in virtually all of the major productions. The Chicago

Association took this venture upon itself to fill in the vacancy left when the International Board voted to do away with the mid-winter meeting show. Now, this important business meeting is held at headquarters in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and no show is programmed.

Numbered among the listeners were Mark Roberts of Detroit, International Treasurer; Clarence Jalving of Holland, Past International President; Jack Klaiber, Michigan District Treasurer; and Roscoe Bennett of Grand Rapids, past Troubadour editor.

ACTION

Public Relations
Clinic

Bill Rowell, Director

Troub begins a new column. Here will be published suggestions and ideas for you and your chapter to better represent us all to the non-barbershopping public.

What has your chapter done, what have you done that has proved successful in the way of public relations? (An example: See what Al Burgess is doing in the Muskegon area---Muskegon Chapter News in this issue)

Let us know, so other men and other chapters might benefit from your experience. Drop a letter describing same to: Bill Rowell, 27880 Peppermill Road, Farmington, Michigan, or phone Bill at GR 4-7765.

SPRING CONVENTION

Plans for the Spring Convention on April 27 to 29, in Benton Harbor, are rapidly developing according to recent word from the Fruit Belt Chapter, hosts for this year's contest. With a mysterious "Watch for the Pot" theme, the convention committee has established prices, program and place.

A full program of eight different activities has been set (watch for full announcement in Troub's March issue). Of course, Ladies events are in the works.

To assist every member of the District with early planning, the following price set-up is announced:

Quartet Preliminaries.	\$1.50
Chorus Contest.	2.00
Saturday Evening Quartet Finals	2.00
After-Glow.	1.50
Total	<u>\$7.00</u>

All-Events tickets covering the above: \$4.50 (Save \$2.50)
Quartet Contestants. \$3.50

A new rebate system for chorus contestants will be used this year. For all competing chorus members, (excluding quartet contestants) who purchase an all events ticket for \$4.50, a \$1 rebate will be made by mail to the member's chapter. To qualify for the rebate, the chapter will have to file at convention headquarters before April 29 a list of members who appeared on stage. All competing choruses should appoint a man to handle this detail RIGHT NOW. Chapter secretaries will be advised of further details by mail.

Chapter News

NILES-BUCHANAN

Chapter Reporter:
Vic Vigansky

The new Niles-Buchanan Chapter officers have done a fine job during their first month in office. It appears as though we'll have a fine year of activity. Vern Nevill, President; Jerry Mace and Gene Seals, Vice-Presidents; Phil Pierce, Secretary; Dick Wurz, Treasurer; and Bernie Greene, Sgt. at Arms, are leading the way for us.

Two package shows and a snowy pancake supper were the highlights of January. February 17 brings the Mid-States Four and the Merri Men to our town to participate in the 5th Annual Festival of Harmony.

March will find the Gateway Chorus again on the package show circuit and also involved in a minstrel show with the Niles Elks.

Having made the decision against competing at the District Contest in April will not keep the Gateway Chorus from the convention. They are going to give their buddies in the Fruit Belt Chapter a helping hand in staging the convention and contest and have accepted an invitation to appear on the evening show.

They are hoping that every eligible chorus will be in there pitching to win and to make this Regional Convention really go.

NORTHWEST DETROIT

Chapter Reporter:
Duane H. Mosier

Notwithstanding icy roads, Northwest Area (Detroit) Chapter was host to twenty-eight members of the Oakland County Chapter on January 22. Program Vice President, Marc Graber, welcomed the visitors and introduced the numbers. Barbershop harmony was in the air for two and a half hours with only a ten-minute break. The recently organized Pops-A-Chords quartet from Wayne Chapter with Bill Bailey, Lead; John Purcell, Tenor; Jim Alexander, Bari; and Mike Mudgett, Bass, were also guests and sang several well-performed numbers.

Northwest's quartet with Bill Winchester, Tenor; Larry Winchester, Lead; Bob Mueller, Bari; and Ted Robbins, Bass, received hearty applause on their bell-ringing numbers. Gordon Limberg directed the Oakland County Chapter Chorus. "Gordie", with his thorough knowledge of barbershopping, is shaping up the four parts into a fine singing chorus. Their numbers were greatly enjoyed. Concluding the program, Northwest Chorus, under the direction of Jack Round, sang two of their old favorites. With several potential member guests also participating, total registration was 60. Topping off the evening, sandwiches, coffee, cake and ice cream were served. Northwest is scheduled to return the visit in April.

OSCODA COUNTY

Chapter Reporter

Meeting the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month at the Legion Hall in Mio, the Oscoda County Chapter reports lots of woodshedding going on. Let's stop in and join these boys if we're in the area.

PONTIAC

Chapter Reporter

WOW, what a show Pontiac had. With every ticket sold out, the crowd in the new Pontiac High School Auditorium were treated to some of the very best in barber-shop entertainment.

The Town and Country Four from Pittsburg, Pa. gave a superb performance, as did the For-Tune Tellers from Jackson--who, in addition to keeping everyone in stitches during the show, proved a show stopper (ever find that bug?) at the After-Glo.

To you that didn't get tickets early enough to catch this show, must go the keen disappointment of missing an excellent program.

SAULT STE. MARIE

Chapter Reporter:
Ted Spry

News from the "Hottest Chapter" in the Michigan District.....

Possibly there are some in the district who are not aware that Sault Ste. Marie, Ont. is now a chartered chapter. If they are not aware of this at present, it will not be long before our presence will be felt by all. Licensed in March 1961, chartered in December, 1961 with 26 members, we boast a chorus and two organized quartets. The chorus is at the stage where it is able to do community service work and made two such appearances during the month of December.

We might at this point issue a warning to all Michigan District Chapters. It is our intention, to have not less than 50 members by the end of 1962 and this figure will be increased to a minimum of 100 by the end of 1963. (Grand Rapids please note). It is also our intention to have a chorus capable of giving any chorus a run for their money by competition time come 1963. There you are gentlemen. Heed our warning and pull up your socks. We have a lot of vim and vigor up here in the North.

Future plans for the chapter call for a ladies night in February and a charter night in May, which will be in the form of a parade.

THREE RIVERS

Chapter Reporter
Jerry J. Wright

The Three Rivers Chapter is getting their annual show in motion. Set for either May 19 or May 26 (not decided as yet) the committees are all set up and plans are being made. Troub will probably be getting bulletins regarding this project from publicity man, Paul McDonald.

Looks like the Three Rivers Chapter is getting to be quite a family affair. . . . Family in Ca-hoots include: Arnold and Warren Alexander - - - father and son
Gerald and Richard Earl - - - brothers
John Foerster and Larry Drew - - - father and son-in-law
Dan Luther and Bob Mader - - - Uncle and nephew
George and Jerry Wright - - - father and son

UTICA - ROCHESTER

Chapter Reporter:
Dan Davey

On February 10, the Utica-Rochester Chapter represented S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. at the Utica-Rochester Sweet Adelines Annual Show, "Carnival of Harmony". Both the Sweet Adelines and the chapter got a lot of publicity, all good, concerning this event.

HUDSON

Chapter Reporter:

E. A. VandeZande

The Hudson Chapter held its Ladies Night on January 31. It turned out to be a multi-purpose evening, beginning with a steak dinner. The program, under the direction of vice-president Bill Price, was opened by the Hudson-Aires: Clyde Donaldson, tenor; Harold Volkert, lead; Charles Goll, Bari; and Bob VanAukem, bass. These four fellas are all past presidents of the Hudson Chapter and following their performance, the evening was dedicated in their honor and each received a gift from the chapter.

The ever popular For-Tune Tellers from Jackson and the Irish Hills girls Chorus aided the local quartets and chorus in providing a tremendous evening of entertainment for the 130 people attending.

On January 20 and 21, the Hudson Chapter showed the local area public a great variety of talent through a hometown minstrel show. Band, instrumental soloists, End men, Interlocutor, dancers, poets, as well as quartets and chorus, from the Hudson Chapter entertained more than 800 patrons during the two-night run.

LANSING

Chapter Reporter:

Roger Huntington

Now is the time to drop in on a Lansing Chapter meeting. All regular meetings (each Monday eve.) are being held under a new format designed to give everyone maximum opportunity to get in a maximum amount of singing.

Each bulletin ("The Woodshedder", published once a month) by the Lansing Chapter now contains a full-size calendar of activities. This is a real help in remembering up-coming activities.

On March 5, Lansing departs from barbershop for one evening to hold a chapter talent show. Anything goes on this evening except barbershop.

Some chapter notes: "Butch" Henderson is checking with city newspapers to aid in chapter membership drive; "Speed" Gladfelter has been appointed chorus librarian; Lansing Chapter goes for the "Woodshedders Guild"; and the chapter is investigating the possibility of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. signposts for town highways.

DEARBORN

Chapter Reporter:

Chapter President Roger Craig has announced the new motto: "Dearborn, the Chapter of Champions". A look at the new 1962 chapter directory shows why. Dearborn Chapter (# 27) Quartet Champions: Wolverines 1953-54, Sharpkeepers 1957-58 Aire-Males 1960-61 and Auto Towners 1961-62 and the Dearborn Chord-o-Matics Chorus took Junior Champs 1958-59, District Champs 1959-60, and Medalists 1960-61 and 1961-62.

The Dearborn Chapter also won the Class A Achievement award in 1952-3, 1953-4, 1957-8, and in 1958-9.

Troub learns the Dearborn Show (featuring the Town and Country Four from Pittsburg, Pa.) tickets are almost sold out so if you haven't got yours when you read this, you'd better get right on the phone and cross your fingers, and hope Roger or Ticket Chairman Bill Smyth can find some for you. (Bill's phone is 846-6215 or 393-3224)

MUSKEGON

Chapter Reporter:

Gordon W. Gunn

In an expanded public service-public relations program, the Muskegon Chapter has several new activities underway and scheduled. Al Burgess, Michigan District Vice President, and the Port City Chorus Director, has spoken before one, and is scheduled to speak before other service club audiences. His speech is entitled "Introducing S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.". He tells the story of barbershopping as Al really knows it. His chief aim is to dispell the notion that barbershopping means four drunks under a lamp post. Wayne Hamilton, Bill VanBogelen, and Muskegon's president Andy VanDonkelaar, accompanied Al on his first visit to the Grand Haven Kiwanis meeting on January 23. They passed out the Society's booklet bearing the same title as the speech, as well as other material procured from the International Office. There was, of course, much singing, and it is reported that the program was enjoyed by all.

Al will appear before the Grand Haven Rotary Club on February 19, and the Muskegon Exchange Club in the near future. Inquiries from other groups are being received almost daily.

The Muskegon Chapter and the Muskegon Musicians Association will sponsor a musical variety show on June 30, opening night of the Greater Muskegon Seaway Festival. The Port City Chorus, various bands of the Musicians Association, and a national headliner will appear on the program.

Holland extended a challenge to the Muskegon and Grand Rapids Chapters for a quartet and chorus contest on February 8. Muskegon accepted, ready to do barbershop battle and eat chicken.

February 23 will be Ladies Nite in Muskegon. Several quartets and the Port City Chorus will entertain and dancing will follow a buffet luncheon. Red roses, a crown, and much honor will be bestowed upon Muskegon's "Spebsquaw" of the year on this evening. The Spebsquaw is chosen annually in Muskegon by the quartet in charge of that evening's program. This year the W.A.R.B. elairs will select the wife of a Muskegon barbershopper who has made the greater contribution and sacrifice to the success of the Muskegon Chapter during the past year. The Spebsquaw's identity is known only to the members of the quartet until the moment of crowning.

President Andy VanDonkelaar has announced several new appointments. They are: Tom Damm, constitution committee; Mel Struthers, Doorman; Al Burgess, Inter-chapter Relations; Bill VanBogelen, Achievement Reporter; and Mart Bomers, Historian. Bill VanBogelen is Area 8 Counselor.

GROSSE POINTE

Chapter Reporter:

Ken Smith

On March 3, Grosse Pointe Chapter will be holding Ladies Night at St. Clair Shores Recreation Center, 7 p.m. Theme: Hawaiian. A fun-filled evening of food by Chuck Geyer, refreshments, entertainment by quartets and the Grosse Pointe Chorus, music to dance by Jack Hagan and his orchestra (our scouts report they are terrific), plus door prizes. All this for \$5 per person. For table reservations, contact Henry Wilson, Tu. 2-7970.

JACKSON

Chapter Reporter:
Ray Bair

January 12th was the first meeting under the gavel of the new President Charles Sherwood and if it can be used as a yardstick of things to come, we can expect great things in '62.

The "Stationaires" from Hudson were on hand to lend their support to a very melodious evening. The surprise of the night came when the "Friars" from the University of Michigan dropped in on their way to an engagement.

January 26 was Ladies Nite and Las Vegas or Reno had nothing on Jackson on this night. A "Harold's Club" party for the ladies turned out to be one of the most enjoyable parties in quite some time. Hundreds of thousands of dollars of bogus money was parlayed with just as much enthusiasm as the real Harold's Club ever encountered. Party Chairman and Past President Phil Weisgerber presented prizes to the lucky ladies with first prize being a "\$728,000" salad bowl going to Mrs. Marsden (Corkey) St. John. Chuck-A-Luck, Black Jack, Roulette, Darts, Dice--in fact the works--in a setting of "Harold's Club" atmosphere, with all the props, kept the early evening moving at quite a pace. Dancing and a buffet lunch followed at which time Jackson's pride and joy, "The For-Tune Tellers", gave out with entertainment in their inimitable fashion. It was really a night to remember.

At the January Board meeting it was decided that our Spring Show would again be in conjunction with the Rotary Club to support the Crippled Children's Camp. Last year, some \$2,000 was turned over for this worthy project.

Jackson announces its slate of officers for 1962:

President Charles Sherwood
Membership Vice-President Richard Lane
Program Vice-President Ray Bair
Secretary Henry Moorehead
Treasurer Leo Rudloff

The Jackson Chapter would like to thank Mel Holder-ness, for driving so far on a very bad night on December 29 and for so gracefully installing the new officers for 1962. Mel did a wonderful job and helped brighten the meeting with his presence.

DOWN RIVER

Chapter Reporter:
Mel Laginess

The Down River Chapter is really showing some of that old Barbershop sparkle. The "Fall Out Four" did a fine job programming the January meeting, their new bulletin is one of the sharpest in the District, and everyone attending a Down River Chapter gets lots of chances to bust a chord with the boys. The Aire Raiders from the chapter can be seen on WWJ-TV about 11:30 p.m. on February 24.

FRUIT BELT

Chapter Reporter:
Bob Biasi

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET--The Fruit Belt Chapter moves into its new Chorditorium (see story this issue) on APRIL 4.

The Fruit Belt Chapter holds a Valentine Party for wives and gals on February 14. Here is an interesting thought:

"Boredom is responsible for more absenteeism, according to one survey, than all other causes. Any work bores a person if he is not convinced what he gets out of it, in satisfaction, is worth the effort."

DETROIT

Chapter Reporter:
Howard Tubbs

Detroit Chapter holds its ANNUAL OLD TIMERS NIGHT FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16 at the Union Hall, just south of Eight Mile Rd. on John R.

The Detroit Chapter cordially invites all Barbershop Old Timers to their regular meeting at the time and place shown above and by Old Timers we mean members of 15 years or more of continuous membership in the Society.

The evening will be devoted to fun and entertainment by and for the Old Timers and also to honor one of Detroit's real Old Timers whose name will be revealed during the course of the evening.

While this notice is directed particularly to the Old Timers, all Barbershoppers will be welcome in order to help us in our plans for entertaining the men who helped to start the Barbershop tradition and have continued to aid in its growth.

BLUE WATER (South Haven)

Chapter Reporter
Bob Van Zandt

Blue Water Chapter's new president, Jim Davis, got the year off to a flying start when he, and his fellow officers, successfully presented, with the help of our Sweet Adelines, a Get Together night at the local Elks' Club, on Saturday night, January 20.

The Niles-Buchanan Chapter came to South Haven in force and put on a top-notch show which captivated the 175 guests who attended. The Stateliners, Four Bards, Buccaneers, Niles Sweet Adeline Chorus, and Barry Borsts' comedy routines were all enthusiastically received.

Our own Insomniacs, chorus, and Sweet Adeline chorus rounded out what proved to be an entertaining and rewarding evening for everyone.

This is the first of a series of free programs designed to stimulate an interest in barbershopping in our area. (A very good example of S.O.S.--Ed.)

In addition to Jim Davis, our new officers include Dick Kelly, Immed. Past President; Dennis Fritz, Adm. Vice President; Harland Quinn, Program Vice President; Dick Burrows, Secretary, Jack Fortier, Treasurer; and last, but by no means least, Roger Valentine, chorus director.

We are looking forward to a year of successful progress from this enterprising and capable group.

**This Valuable
Advertising Space
Could Be Working
FOR YOU!**

WAYNE

Chapter Reporter:
Al Fricker

Wayne Chapter is all wrapped up with final arrangements for the 1962 Pitch Pipe Parade, the BIG show. Tom Pollard is general show chairman and put together the greatest package of entertainment Wayne has ever presented. Many new members (Wayne had 71 men as of December 31st) are helping to make this a memorable event.

Some of our newer members have also jumped into administration, as the following new officers indicate: Dale Clixby, President; Al Fricker, Immed. Past President; Mike Mudgett, Program Vice President; Bill Beattie, Admin. Vice President; Clint Whitney, Chapter Secretary; Adrian Brothers, Recording Secretary; John Linehan, Treasurer; Jerry Reid, Chief Sgt. at Arms; and Tom Pollard, Chairman of the Executive Board.

Our new Chapter Chorus has lost its original director, Jack Golding, due to relocation. Jack's fine ability and pleasant patience got the group off and running last year, and we view his departure with regret and great appreciation for a sterling job. Good fortune still smiling, we happily obtained Tom Steel as our new director. Tom, of Detroit Taggers fame, has stepped in and kept the chords ringing for us. His excellent ability will be on display as the chorus shows off at the Pitch Pipe Parade.

Mike Mudgett has ideas churning with his program committee that just will not quit. Included are Chapter "chestnut time", visitations, "home" and "away" mystery trips, cottage chord caucas'es, four new members in a new octet each month, etc. Nuf sed?

One closing thought. Have you ever heard the magnificent Bobby Bostick sing Dream of Love, with Lida Rose in the background done by the Aire Males? Well, this is a part of the first act of Wayne's great, "really big shew". See you there?

REDFORD

Chapter Reporter
George Cox

The Redford Chapter hosted a visit from the Windsor Chapter on January 26. M.C. for the evening was Wayne President, Dale Clixby. Calories were provided by Lee Bartlett and George Cox. Steve Vickers took charge of the liquids for the evening. Making his official debut as Sergeant-at-Arms was Mickey Parcels.

Redford Chapter President, Tom Steel, in addition to his duties as president and being a member in the, much in demand, Detroit Taggers, is now donating time to direct the Wayne Chapter Chorus. Redford officers for 1962, in addition to President Steel, are: Vice-Presidents: Paul Parcels and Larry Glueck, Secretary: Dick Pettibone, Treasurer: L. Roy Crites, Recording Secretary: Tom Sharpe, Sergeant-at-Arms: Mickey Parcels, Delegates: Al Maier and Tony Scooros, and Bulletin Editor: George Cox.

GRAND RAPIDS

Chapter Reporter:
D. A. Konkle

Grand Rapids Chapter is working toward another great "Great Lakes Invitational" for April 7. A little advance scoop on prices this year: Tickets remain the same--\$3, \$2, and \$1, with \$1 tickets unreserved. The registration fee has been reduced to \$3.50 and includes a package deal covering admission to the Friday Nite Presidents (\$.50), the Pre-Glow (\$1), The Woodshed (\$2) and the Harmony Bawl (\$2). This amounts to \$5.50 worth of tickets for \$3.50.

S I N G I N G

O U T



(Note: Here are just a few of many fine letters sent to Troub. Your editor wishes to express heartfelt thanks to all for this encouragement and wishes he could print all of these letters. Space, however, makes this impossible.--Ed.)

Dear Editor:

The new TROUBADOUR scores high in stage presence, Harmony accuracy, Arrangement, Balance and Blend and Voice expression.

Best wishes and continued success.

Harmoniously,

Charles E. Lesswing
Seneca Land District
"Smoke Signals" Editor

Dear Editor:

I don't recall having written to you prior to this time, with a great big "pat on the back" for the appearance and the readability and the news worthiness of the new format of the MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR. Here it is, at any rate.

As an oldtime Michigan District "Barbershopper", I have a vital interest in all of the doings within the District, and the issues, since you started taking over as Editor, have afforded me a great deal of enjoyment in reading.

Keep up the good work.

Chordially,

W. L. Otto
International Headquarters
Kenosha, Wisconsin

Dear Editor:

My heartiest congratulations on the new "Troubadour".

It is not an easy task for anyone to pick up where Roscoe Bennett left off, but your first edition is an excellent follow up.

With Bill Hansen in the driver's seat, and you with the "Troubadour"; it looks like the Michigan District is headed for a good year. I was with Bill last weekend in Kenosha for the District President's Educational Forum, and I think he is going to make a good District leader.

Good luck, and keep up the good work.

CHORD-ially

Joseph M. Jones
International Vice- Pres.

Dear Editor:

It is a pleasure to again receive the Troubadour. After the retirement of our good friend Roscoe Bennett, who has always done such a fine job of getting the Troubadour out, I am sure that not receiving the Troub for a while was a disappointment to all members in the District.

The membership of the District should be very happy that someone is willing and able to take on the responsibility of seeing that the Troubadour is again published and again rated one of the best of the barbershop publications.

You have asked for the co-operation of every chapter, every member, to see that you get the news of chapter events. This I hope they do so that it will be unnecessary to continue the column on the back page, (Troubadour Hasn't Heard From). Our chapter president told me he has appointed a publicity chairman, and that they were going to send chapter events to you.

As my son (Charles A. Zerbe), who re-enlisted in the Naval Air Force last January has a permanent address now, I thought it might be better if the Troubadour was mailed direct to him instead of coming here. That way he may get it sooner and he enjoys reading every issue. This I am sure of.

If at anytime I can help you in anyway, (without interfering with our chapter reporter) please feel free to let me know of your wants. I will do the best I can for you.

In closing let me say, I enjoyed reading every thing in the last issue and will be looking forward to receiving the next one.

Sing-cerely yours,
Royal D. Zerbe
South Haven, Michigan

AN OPEN LETTER TO NEW QUARTETS:

Without an organized and registered quartet, an individual chapter is lacking a most vital inspiration to perpetuate, not only the Society, but the chapter activities. Therefore, each new quartet introduces a potential for new members and increased activity. The preceding is generally accepted and I feel it necessary to offer advice, however important it may seem from a four-year member, especially to the newly organized quartets.

"Don't be discouraged when you are rated low in a contest--even when it's much lower than your expectations." In a sense, there is a fine line between number 1 and number 100 in a contest--Both quartets rehearse regularly--both pursue the same harmonious goal--both sacrifice and finance to get established and both think they have good sound, arrangement, and their own particular type of stage presence.

What thin line decides the winner? It's just a matter of natural blend of voices, the nervous system, and above all, the past experience of hearing the close harmony. When you add a total to include stage presence, its simple--be natural and have a good time as you do when you rehearse.

As a final summary, a quartet has to believe they're good to sing before an audience. When they place low in a contest, it demolishes all their self-confidence. It's not simply a case of "a poor loser". It's a case of thinking, "We're not as good as we thought we were". Whatever the effect, don't let it break up these fine losing quartets. They're vital to our Society's existence. Even the judges would be more than glad to hear you sing another time and thoroughly enjoy it.

If you're organizing a quartet or getting ready for a contest--think about setting the world on fire. If only the match burns and nothing else ignites, be prepared to find a new fuel for your next opportunity--You're still better than good.

Jerry Wright
Three Rivers Chapter

AN OPEN LETTER

To all chapters:

This is an old theme, but a good one. Good themes bear repeating. The theme can be phrased in the question, "Why have a chorus?"

I believe that the Niles-Buchanan Chapter is rather typical of all chapters in our District and Society. We have approximately 35 members and 8 of these members are in active quartets. This is a small percentage of our membership. We probably would all like to be in a quartet but for many reasons we are not. We are not content to merely listen to our quartets, but want to participate. This, I believe, is the reason we have a chorus.

I stated that it was my belief that ours is a typical chapter. There are some chapters who do not have a chorus or at least do not compete in chorus contests. This puzzles me. There is so much enjoyment in singing in a chorus and a real thrill to be had in competition. Woodshedding with three or thirty other fellows is fun, but cannot be compared to the thrill of singing in an organized chorus tuned to competition level.

Our type of music requires neither professionals to sing or to direct. If we all realize this, we should all realize we can all be in a chorus that has that "good" barbershop sound. The opportunity is present for all of us.

The Gateway Chorus has voted against competing in the forthcoming District Chorus Contest. We realize that taking this action may make us appear either very conceited or very insecure in our current position. We are very proud to be your International Representatives and feel we have earned that right. We are not entering the District Contest in the hopes that this action will encourage more of the District's fine choruses to share in the thrills awaiting them in Benton Harbor. Will you be in a chorus at the District Chorus Contest in April?

From The Gateway Chorus--may the best chorus win.

Vic Vigansky
Gateway Chorus Reporter

INTERNATIONAL
NEWS



CHASING
AROUND
WITH CHASE SANBORN

Troub regrets to report that International Representative, Chase Sanborn suffered a heart flare-up recently and had to spend some time in the hospital. Doctors say this was brought on by the excessive amount Chase drove himself and he must take it slower for a while.

Chase is out of the hospital now and he hopes to be back reporting for International in the near future. All in the District, and Society, wish Chase the fastest recovery and the best of health. ED.

LET'S TALK ABOUT MAKING SOME MONEY

by Joe Griffith

Borrowed from the December, 1961, issue of
SIPS, Sunshine Information Press Service,
St. Petersburg, Florida. (in part)

(According to facts brought to light at the recent Michigan District Executive Board meeting, this District must face up to the fact, at the Spring Convention, that something must be done to provide operating expenses for the District. Many Districts have solved this problem by adopting a per-capita dues. Should the Michigan District also adopt this means of revenue? To help us in making this decision, Troub offers the following article. ED.)

. At the Fall Conventions almost every district voted large District Dues assessments to fulfill the District's obligations. The FW District, who led-off several years ago with a \$4.00 per capita increased their assessment another \$1.25 -- Southwestern increased theirs to \$6.00, UNANAMOUSLY. We must realize the SUNSHINE District faces exactly the same type problems.

OK. . . . WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM ?? We hope, not from the individual members. Each chapter will be billed \$1.00 for each member on its roll at the end of each quarter. We hope you elect the CHAPTER ACTION method of raising this money. Put your hobby to work for you for a change.

IT'S POSSIBLE, whether you live in a community of 10,000 or 10 million. The success depends on your ingenuity and your degree of enthusiasm. MONEY WON'T COME BEGGING - you must go look for it. The current Champs from Dundalk have proved you can dig it up. They sang, literally for their suppers many times last year. . . . and got so good they won the Championship. (The dues at Dundalk, our largest chapter which is filled with financially pressed guys, is \$20.00 per.)

FIRST STEP - LET THE WORLD KNOW that you are looking for work. Tell the newspapers, clubs and organizations and convention-minded folks who are prospects for good entertainment.

CHORUS ENGAGEMENTS - the easiest way for your chapter to make money. SING for that approximate \$132 the average SUNSHINE Chapter will need for dues.

What do you charge? You must feel your way, but charge what the traffic will bear. A package show will bring in anywhere from complete charity to a couple hundred bucks without strain.

Perhaps your area never has conventions which are always good bets. But you have civic club installations, church banquets, business meetings, etc. DON'T BE AFRAID TO ASK.

PACKAGE SHOWS are made up of the chorus and a quartet or two. No quartet? (why) Borrow one from a nearby chapter. Remember, your hobby is a worthwhile charity too. Explain your need and the folks will understand your fee.

MINSTREL SHOWS provide good wholesome entertainment and will not interfere with your annual Barbershop Show. Kenosha has minstrel show scripts which have

been put on all over the Society to raise funds. It doesn't mean too much work and will not give the public an overdose of Barbershop harmony. (how could you?)

EVER THINK OF A PARTY AS PROFITABLE.

Well, they can be in more ways than one. First you have the enjoyment of the party itself. Secondly, parties can make money. Everyone has to eat so throw a "pot luck" type and charge everyone at least 50 cents for the privilege. Every couple would pay one man's dues for a quarter. Bring in your non-Barbershopping friends and that tenor from the church choir too. You'll be surprised to learn after a couple weeks that you've benefited in a third way - you'll soon start having new members. Think, four parties a year could pay the dues.

A DIRECTOR I KNOW used to sweeten the "kitty" every now and then by playing a follow-the-leader game called "YOU WATCH ME OR IT'LL COST YOU", and if you failed to follow his purposely different directions, like cutting-off at the unexpected place. . . 10 cents for the Kitty. Gets you to watching the Director by gosh. Then, I got driven nuts one night when any conversation in the chapter cost 10 cents a crack during the regular rehearsal period. We've had "John Doe" nights where everyone had the same name. . . anyone using the correct name (guests excepted) paid a fine. It's FUN to make money this way and it serves a purpose too.

IF YOU'RE REAL LUCKY maybe you can sell your services to a TV station for the 1st Country Bank's big anniversary show or Easter Parade or something. The larger firms in your area are always good suspects for real entertainment. BUT DON'T GO OFF HALF-COCKED. . . . NOT EVERY CHAPTER IS READY FOR SUCH PERFORMANCES. If your group is not ready, please don't get the boys all hepped up on a commercial performance. You can kill a good thing very easily.

ELIMINATE SOME REGULAR COSTS. You'd be surprised how much money you can MAKE by simply not spending it. Chapter Bulletins are all important, but they don't HAVE TO COST YOU VERY MUCH. We have one Sunshine Chapter which gets a Federal Saving & Loan Assn. to print and mail their bulletin, furnishing the paper, stencils and postage. All for an unobtrusive ad on the bulletin. Others have sold regular ads on the sheet to help defray costs. How about trading Show Program ads for services. You could develop new ad customers this way. Don't pay to have your uniforms cleaned, trade the best cleaner an ad. Your father was probably a horse-trader. What's wrong with you?

GREEN STAMPS. . . or any other kind can often times substitute for the cold hard cash. Dundalk needed a truck to carry its risers for 180 men. They got together with the Green Stamp people, told them their problem and soon had an agreement to purchase the type truck required in exchange for 500 books of Green Stamps. Dundalk promptly asked every newspaper, radio and TV station to help them collect the stamps. They got their truck and a bank who regularly sponsors the Chapter had the truck painted to match the chorus. You'll never know where help will come from until you ask.

WANT TO TRY THE HARD WAY? OK, just bill your members for the increase.



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

by Sec. Lou Harrington

Among the highlights of the recent Board meeting, the minutes of which will probably appear elsewhere in this issue, was a discussion on how the District could best assist the chapters in promoting our Society. An administrative school and District Harmony Education Program offering a training ground for chapter officers was proposed.



It was decided that the subject of District finances would be brought up at the Spring meeting before the House of Delegates inasmuch as it will be necessary for the District to find additional funds in order to support a District publication, assist quartets and choruses in traveling to conventions and conduct its normal business, especially in view of the fact that the International has abolished the rebate to the Districts.

President Hansen requests all chapter secretaries to send the copies of Chapter Activities Reports, which are designated for the District president, direct to their respective zonal vice presidents.

Chapters are reminded that membership cards must be at the International Office by Wednesday, February 28, 1962 to determine the quota on how many quartets each District will be allowed to have competing in the International Quartet Finals in Kansas City next June. Quotas are based, as you know, on membership of each District in relation to the total membership reported as of March 1, 1962.

Jackson chapter reports that the District contest was a financial, as well as artistic, success and that the Hotel Hayes Manager felt that our group was the best behaved group that had been in the hotel in some time.

Following the Leader

By President Bill Hansen

Each of you should now be aware of what faces the

Michigan District relative to the matter of finances. It is distasteful for the incoming officers to start the year with such a problem, however, we would be remiss in our obligation to the District if we did not recognize the problem and bring it to your attention.

There are many reasons why our District must maintain a sound financial structure. One of the most important relates to the need of providing services which, if accepted, will benefit each member either directly

or indirectly. There is a need in our District for a series of semi-annual forums whereby appropriate officers of all chapters meet for the purpose of exchanging ideas and considering the adoption of those ideas and programs which will benefit the majority. I like to believe that all Barbershoppers in Michigan want to share their respective successes and problems. This can be done and should be done.

I had hoped to institute such a program during 1962 with the expense of same being borne by the District treasury. Needless to say, I will not make such a proposal to the District Board in light of our financial picture.

If not already accomplished, your zone vice presidents will soon be announcing the dates and locations of their respective forums. I am hopeful that all chapters will cooperate in the matter of defraying expenses of their respective representatives who are willing to give of their time and effort.

There are many possible approaches to our financial problem. Per-capita assessment of chapters or of the individual are only two such possibilities. I am personally aware that many of the Districts, including Sunshine, Far West, and Southwestern, utilize the per-capita assessment system. No one can deny the excellent spirit and success of each of these Districts.

I appeal to each of you to approach our problem with an open mind and attempt to come up with a constructive idea. This is no time to blame anything or anyone. Let's get together and provide the solution which will result in the emergence of a unified and stronger District.

I am confident the discussion of this matter at our Spring Convention will provide many constructive approaches to our problem.



WAYNE CHAPTER

PRESENTS:

1962 Pitch Pipe Parade THE BIG SHOW

FEATURING

THE NIGHT HAWKS

(London, Ontario, Canada)

3RD PLACE INTERNATIONAL MEDALIST — DECCA RECORDING STARS

THE ESCAPADES

(CHICAGO, ILL.)

Current Illinois District Champions

THE AIRE-MALES

(Wayne & Dearborn)

International Semi-Finalists
Past Michigan District Champions

WAYNE DROPS

(Wayne, Michigan)

TV's LATEST FIND

FOR-TUNE TELLERS

(Jackson, Mich.)

4 WACKY WARBLERS

POPS-A-CHORDS

(Wayne, Michigan)

THE NEW SOUND, AROUND

AND

THE
WAYNE CHAPTER CHORUS

TOM STEEL — DIRECTOR

ADDED FEATURE:
"THE FOUR DOUGHBOYS"

(PARIS, FRANCE)

SATURDAY, MARCH 3rd, 1962

Wayne Memorial High School — 8:15 P.M.

\$2.00 Per Person

AFTER GLO: \$1.50

FOR TICKETS WRITE OR CALL: AL FRICKER

10,000 SELTZER RD., LIVONIA, MICH. GA 1-0820

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Coming Events

Requests for parade dates and sanction fee payments should be sent to: District Secretary Louis R. Harrington, 2361 First National Bldg., Detroit 26, Michigan.

February 17, 1962	Niles-Buchanan Parade
February 17, 1962	Dearborn Parade
March 3, 1962	Wayne Parade
March 17, 1962	Battle Creek
March 24, 1962	Flint Parade
April 1, at 2:30 p.m.	Hudson Parade
April 7, 1962	Great Lakes Invitational Grand Rapids
April 27-29, 1962	Regional Contest, Fruit Belt
May 5, 1962	Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Charter-Parade
May 5, 1962	Muskegon Parade
May 12, 1962	Bush League, Boyne City
May 18, 1962	Holland Parade
May 19, 1962	Ann Arbor Parade
June 9, 1962	Utica Parade
June 20-24, 1962	INTERNATIONAL CONTEST Kansas City, Missouri
September 15, 1962	Blue Water, South Haven
September 29, 1962	Fruit Belt Parade
September 29, 1962	Gratiot County
October 5-7, 1962	District Contest, Windsor
November 3, 1962	Detroit Parade
March 23, 1963	Battle Creek Parade
April 20, 1963	Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids

KEEP AMERICA SINGING



ON THE COVER

HUDSON HARMONY STATION--

The Hudson, Michigan Chapter saw the opportunity . . . an abandoned railway station. Without a need for enormous amounts of capital, the chapter obtained a lease and by inaugurating a fix-up program have a home that they and the Michigan District can be proud of. What sits vacant and inviting in YOUR area?

NEW HAVEN FOR FRUIT BELT CHAPTER--

The Fruit Belt Chorditorium, conceived by Barbershoppers, and dedicated to the perpetuation of four-part harmony and the fellowship it creates, proves the versatility inherent in a group of men whose love of music raises high their goals of achievement. Located at 2180 S. Union Avenue, Benton Harbor, the 98 ft. by 70 ft. structure will soon be in constant use by the builder-members of this Southwest Michigan chapter. Wheeling and dealing throughout the past year, the hard working songsters have managed to erect this graceful building with a minimum of cost and a maximum of effort. Preservation of Barbershop Quartet Singing in this area is assured with the introduction of the Chorditorium as a home for Barbershopping.