

JUNE 1963

michigan

troubadour



THE AUTO TOWNERS

Clint Bostick Carl Dahlke Gleen Van Tassell Dominic Palmieri



THE NOTERIES

John Zinnikas Bernie Smith Gordon Limberg Al Rehkop



THE AIRE MALES

Dale Clixby Roger Craig Tom Pollard Bill Wilcox

Member of PROBE

PIONEER



DISTRICT

June, 1963

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

Vol. 13 No. 6

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June. . . after this issue Troub takes a two-month vacation. We don't mean a vacation from barber-shopping (who wants one) but, rather, a vacation from the work of barber-shopping. However much this editor will be relaxin', there are a bunch of guys who won't be relaxing. . . the Auto Towners, the Noteries, and of course, the Dearborn Chord-o-matic Chorus. We're all rootin' for you guys. . . go on to Toronto and show 'em how we in the Michigan District can sing.



* * * * *

A man, certainly one of the best known men in our Society today, submitted a letter of resignation to International President Wayne Foor in the middle of May.

Director of Public Relations Curt Hockett stated in his letter "It is with deep regret that I write this letter. . ." We must say that, as a Society, it is with deeper regret that we hear of Curt's resignation.

When an organization gets a truly valuable man on its staff, it is always faced with the problem of keeping such a valuable man. In a large corporation a huge paycheck is sometimes able to do the trick, but in our Society this is impossible.

Fortunately (especially for an organization such as ours) some of these "great" men sacrifice the huge salary they could be getting elsewhere for the pleasure of helping a project or series of projects progress to successful conclusions. Such was the case with Curt Hockett.

Curt has transformed the old Harmonizer (operating as a deficit) into an International publication (operating at a profit) envied by many. He has literally "lived" barber-shopping since 1956.

Curt feels that the new International budget has put his budget at such a low figure he cannot continue to do his best for our Society. Due to this and other reasons he feels almost equally important, Curt has accepted a position as Assistant Public Relations Director in another organization.

Certainly we all wish Curt, his wife and five children lots of luck and wish to express our heartfelt thanks for all (t)he(y) have done for our Society.

* * * * *

We've heard reports of a few barbershoppers who REFUSED to purchase tickets for some events at our last convention in the belief that competing chorus members didn't have to pay. Come on you guys, everyone pays.

Beginning in September, Troub will feature a new serialized story on "THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT AND ITS MEN OF HARMONY" by Mark P. Roberts. We have some of the copy now and it is very well written, interesting, and exciting. What a marvelous history this Michigan District has.

Some thoughts to think about this summer:

You can't sell Barbershop without "SINGING".

A successful chapter needs "ACTION". . . Chapter activities, Inter-chapter activities; more public appearances.

Are we making the best use of the talent we have on hand?

Don't waste the talent and experience of our older barbershoppers. . . get them interested in our up-coming "Over 50" quartet contest.

Re-vitalize our old members (drop-outs) (A) because old feelings can be aroused again and (B) because he can instill in the chapter a real feeling of "PRIDE" through education of past history.

Our membership card can be considered a "ticket to sing". It is a very real privilege to hold this card.

What a shame that a great quartet like our own Aire Males will be unable to compete in International competition this year. Let us, as a District, profit from this mistake and see that something like this never happens again.

Have a nice vacation.

MICHIGAN SINGS

By Roger Craig

You all know Bill Hansen, Michigan District President.

You all know Bill Hansen, Director of the "Fruit Belt" Chorus of Benton Harbor.

Now if you have not met him already, let me introduce you to Bill Hansen, arranger.

Many of our Society's members can be typed as various kinds of people: quartet man, chorus man, crow, officer, worker, listener, etc. Bill Hansen fits all these categories and our District can be justly proud to have such a talented guy at the top. (You're not really a crow Bill.)



The "Fruit Belt" Chorus has won top Michigan honors twice and both times Pres. Bill was the "arm waver" out in front. His chorus also performs some of Bill's own compositions and sometime you may hear the Benton Harbor Chorus sing his latest; an original called "Old-fashioned Way." The June Tag of the Month is to "Down By The Riverside" as arranged by Bill and sung by the "Fruit Belt" Chorus. After a little Wagnerian warm-up the original theme swings in and closes with a gang of good chords. Those final nine (count 'em) swipes are dandies.

If I may interject a little personal note here, I would like to extend a huge "thank you" to all the many Michigan District members who have voiced their support and good wishes to the Dearborn "Chord-O-Matics" Chorus. Michigan is the greatest District in the Society and the "Chord-O-Matics" will give it all we've got to prove it in Toronto. If you are in Toronto for the convention, come on up to the Dearborn Room at the Royal Hotel on Saturday night and we'll have a Michigan Ball. (P.S. Bring your best tag with you and we will prove to all who care to listen that MICHIGAN SINGS.)

LIGHT UNDER THE BASKET

By Bill Smyth

ACCEPTING THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAPTER OFFICERSHIP

Why Were You Invited to Serve the Chapter & the Society?

Does the Chapter want you on its board because you are a "good Joe" or because you have an important position in the business world?

How were you approached for the job? Did someone say "It will be easy pal" or "This won't require too much of your time"?

Let's dispose of the first question. If the Chapter board meetings consist of nothing more than a few staff reports and entertainment, then obviously they want you only as a figurehead. But if the Chapter is a progressive, hard-working outfit and the board meetings are real accomplishments in managerial skill, then I'm sure they want you for your skills and talents.

If someone said "This will be easy pal" or "It's not going to take much of your time", then you had better be asking some basic questions and getting some truthful answers. This means they are afraid you will shy away from anything that looks like hard work. They hope to interest you after coaxing you to accept an "easy job" as a chapter officer. You are unlikely to have a satisfactory relationship with people who think you are so lazy or so jealous of your time that they must trick you into sharing the load.

Just why does the Society think you will be useful? They probably want you for your talent. People in volunteer society work today are wiser than they used to be. They seldom approach anyone for devious or stupid reasons. They need influential spokesmen. They need expeditors to help get things done and speed up operations. They need fund raisers. They need steersmen who know the problems of the job. They need organizers. They need policymakers. They need virtually every skill used in running a business plus many others.

Some of the talents a man is expected to have and use in fulfilling the Chapter officer's job are basically the same as those he uses in business life: (a) a talent for picking men, (b) organizing, (c) analyzing problems, (d) finding and implementing solutions, (e) motivating others to work loyally and well, and (f) measuring and controlling results.

Your business flair and methodology are certainly not your only assets in Society work. Let's face it, your influence is important too. Every volunteer social organization has to keep striving for public acceptance. Therefore, you will be expected to watch for opportunities to use your influence. Sometimes this means knowing whom to telephone when the group needs something. Certainly it means speaking up if the group is misunderstood or criticized by people you know. And it usually means getting some of your friends into the fight.

Influence? Yes, of course. Pressure? Absolutely not. Any organization is weakened when people are high pressured into helping. People don't work well or give their best for an organization they dislike and they don't speak well for it either. But if you work and talk for an idea you believe in, your spark will jump to your friends. They



are probably men with similar talents. Perhaps you can persuade some of them to join you.

Let's summarize at this point. Why were you asked to serve? Because the organization needs the ability and influence you have shown. That is the most usual and most probable explanation. If you find this is not the explanation, your withdrawal may be better for you and for the organization.

What's In It For Me?

We all know people who participate in service clubs and civic organizations who measure their labors by how much their business will be fattened or how high up the social ladder they will climb. Through some mysterious law, whoever aims at building up a grand image of himself while going through the motions of helping others is likely to harm himself. The people in the stands may cheer him on but the gang on the team will soon take his measure on the playing field.

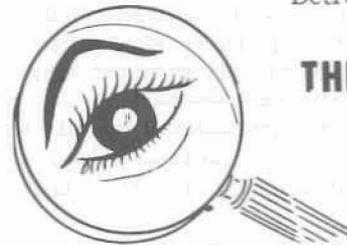
The short work week is here to stay. This means there is more leisure time now than ever in the history of America. What do we do with this time? August Heckscher, director of the Twentieth Century Fund wrote "Men and Women have attained leisure only when they recapture in their free time something of what in their happiest moments they find in work -- the satisfaction born of having mastered manageable things, the realization that comes from moving in an element where one feels instinctively at home".

In other words, as you become more adept at your unpaid Chapter jobs, they become more fun. You get no applause or gratitude, but you don't mind. The principle is the same as in any other do-it-yourself hobby or sport. Your growing skill and results are reward alone.

More will follow on this subject in the next issue.

Please send comments or suggestions to:

William G. Smyth
8124 Hartwell
Detroit 28, Michigan



THE FEMININE OBSERVER

By Ellen Harrington

Boyne City's 17th annual Bush League Contest, with the 4 Fits of Grosse Pointe and the Banjo-tainers as headliners, was an entertaining event as well as a contest to promote new quartets. Hosting the event were Jim Blessington, Robert Werkema, Dud Ruegsegger, Mr. and Mrs. John Schmittiel, Mr. and Mrs. Don Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Loton Willson, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Mihulka, Mr. and Mrs. Arne Hegerberg, Kise McCoy, H. Parrott and a number of other workers.

Among the participants were Bob Craig, Cliff Jorgensen, Bob Whittedge, Stan Salter, Hank Devries, Gordon Dubrul, Ray Strachan, Norman Dake, Stu Palmer, Bill Alexander, Lou Glashower, Glen Jones, Bob Zernoer, Jack Lovell, Chris Berry, Tom Venus, Fran Jones, Jerry Meade, Norm



Lantry, Tom Severs, Lavonne Zelmer, Victor Vigansky, Phil Pierce, Herb Benjamin, Bob Glover, Gene Gillem, Emil Franz, Webb Scrivnor, Fred Kendall, Alvin Martin, Russ Seely, Ray McCalpin, Marv Burke, Bob Demig, Frank Beatty, Bill Crumbley, Earl Keith.

Enjoying the promising new talent were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Tracy, Burt Szabo, Cliff MacLean, Bill Hansen, John Comloquoy, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Gaikema, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Sanborn, Mr. and Mrs. Mel Holderness, Mr. and Mrs. Bart Tillich, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Konkle, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Elderkin, Mr. and Mrs. William Wickstrom, Mr. and Mrs. Byron Dodge, Mr. and Mrs. William Wilder, Mr. and Mrs. John Wearing, Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Derby, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Washburn, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Elkins, and many more.

* * * * *
 Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Pohto of Wayne on the birth of their daughter.
 * * * * *

SINGING OUT



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In the event that shrill noises irritate your ear drums, then break out the cotton balls and get set for a little horn blowing.

The event was the eighth annual "Night of Harmony".

The recipients of praise (long overdue) are the members of Battle Creek's Chapter 10, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

I hasten to explain, at this point, that this show was NOT a lineup consisting of past and present International champs. A show of this type would be a Barbershopper's Utopia, but very hard to come by. So, Battle Creek did the next best thing. They planned a show with guest quartets combined with local talent that offered something for everyone present.

We might say, "Isn't this basic procedure in setting up a show? Isn't this what we find in the suggested show material offered by our Society?"

Why, then, the special praise?

Because this was not the FIRST show, but the EIGHTH in a row that this chapter has presented with this format. They offer, in my estimation, a Barbershopper's show designed to please the public. Their show is planned to move on a definite schedule and their standards are always high. At no time, during the past eight years, have they allowed an emcee or anyone else appearing on their show to say or do anything that would be in bad taste or would reflect poorly on the Society. This show is designed for family entertainment, which is apparent in the fact that their audience has grown from the first show to the present near-capacity crowd of over 2,000. An audience comprised of all ages.

There are many benefits this chapter has realized as a result of good showmanship and past reputation. It demands respect from the other public service organizations in the community. The news media and radio stations are willing to give much of their own services when they know that the event they are advertising is of a high

standard.

Yes, the Barbershoppers of Battle Creek have sold their community on "Barbershopping".

But, they've worked hard to do it.

The mainstay of their chapter is their chorus, continually increasing their program of community service work. Each year a portion of their show proceeds go for music scholarships at the local college. The chapter now boasts two quartets. The reorganized "Harmony Hounds" and the "Nu-Tones" and a third in the making.

Not too bad for a chapter of less than forty active members in a city of less than fifty thousand.

I am aware that in our District there are many chapters whose name could be substituted here, and, although the statistics might differ a little, the credits would remain the same. Why did I choose this chapter?

Because, for several years it was also my chapter. A relationship of which I am very proud. But, one can't boast too much about one's self even though the desire for recognition is a human trait. So, this letter has been unwritten until now, when I can write it objectively from my new home two thousand miles away.

In closing, I would like to add only one comment: I'm sure that every Barbershopper in the District would like to join me in saying "Derbies off" and "Well done, Battle Creek", for promoting an image of our Society which makes one proud to belong.

Respectfully,

Ron Atkins
 1140 Hoffman Road
 Prescott, Arizona

Dear Sir:

Four or five words often do replace that one small deed that you could easily do. This is the reason for the three most widely used expressions---"I am too busy"---"I don't have the time" and "I am too tired" since this is the polite way of saying that "you are not interested" because there is nothing in it for you and why should you do it?

Most of us must be repaid immediately for anything that we do or else we won't do it. One seemingly insignificant act for another is more powerful than all the words in the world---since it benefits the receiver, you benefit and also the onlookers benefit.

If everyone had to get paid for every kind act they performed, there would be none since the action would lose its value and be placed on a commercial basis--cold and meaningless. It's pleasant to remember that "give and it shall be given unto you a thousand-fold" in personal satisfaction, health, happiness and peace of mind. Since actions do speak many times louder than words, we would rather "see" a sermon than hear one any time.

Talk is the cheapest commodity we have and lame excuses are still the best way out in this world. A busy person is the only one that has the time to be considerate.

Sincerely yours,
 Bud Starwas

Dear Editor:

I could not resist any longer the overwhelming urge to tell you that -- in my humble opinion -- you are doing an excellent job with the Michigan Troubadour.

I thoroughly enjoy reading it and believe it to be unexcelled as a District publication.

Most chord-ially,
 Rowland F. Davis
 Past International President

HAVE A SPREE IN '63



OCTOBER 11 - 13, HOLLAND, MICHIGAN

The first day of the trip was spent in Holland, Michigan. The group arrived in the morning and checked into the hotel. The first activity was a walk through the town, which was very scenic. The group then went to the beach and enjoyed the view. The second day was spent in Grand Haven, Michigan. The group went to the beach and enjoyed the view. The third day was spent in Holland, Michigan. The group went to the beach and enjoyed the view.

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by A Dearborn Chapter Member

The Dearborn "Chord-o-matics" Chorus is FINALLY going to Toronto. It seems like five years since that thrilling moment last October when District Secretary Lou Harrington proclaimed from the stage of the Cleary Auditorium in Windsor, "The Michigan District representative to the 1963 International Chorus Contest to be held in Toronto, Canada is The Dearborn "Chord-o-Matics". The applause was deafening as 41 old-fashioned bathing suit clad chorus members, grown men acting like little boys at a circus, ran up and down the auditorium aisles shouting and shaking hands with anyone near them. Two very excited bathers ran up on the stage displaying a huge banner reading, "DOWN BY THE SEA, JUST YOU AND ME, IT'S TORONTO 63." All of the boys from Dearborn celebrated the success. Celebrated? You never saw such a celebration (unless you visited the Dearborn room at the Windsor Convention). Many well-wishers came up to chorus members with words of congratulations and encouragement and this comment was not too uncommon: "I'm sure pleased for you guys. I'll bet you've worked hard on this for weeks." The comment was true. We had worked for that moment for weeks. . . . about 286 weeks to be exact.

The "Chord-o-matics" success at Windsor did not reflect a few rehearsals, or a few weeks rehearsals, or a few months rehearsals; but five and one half years of planning, rehearsing, costuming, competing, winning, losing, arguing, traveling, financing, struggling and above all else having FUN. Let's go back to November, 1957 when the Dearborn Chorus was fast approaching the Christmas season with three engagements to sing and NO director. A couple of years before, a young fellow had joined the chapter but had not been too active because he was finishing his studies in music at college. A group in the chorus got together and asked him to be the new chorus director. He agreed to help temporarily but only until a replacement could be found. Roger Craig has been looking for a replacement ever since. After the Christmas season and a successful Chapter Parade was completed, Roger looked for something else for the chorus to prepare for. A few chorus engagements each year and one chapter show were not enough to sustain interest, enthusiasm and quality. He approached the chorus with an unheard of idea at Dearborn: District Chorus Competition. There were quite a few skeptics in the group and especially since the convention was to be held in Kalamazoo that year. But after some fast talking and a lot of enthusiasm worked up by men like Hal Coughenour, Bob Stone, Cec Craig, Hal Sepull, Elmer Koenig, Lou Kapczi and Vic Favier, the boys decided to take the plunge.

They rehearsed many long Tuesday nights through the summer of 1958 and bought trousers, shirts, ties, shoes and light blue jackets. Then they were on their way to Kalamazoo. Wonder of wonders, they came in fourth but were named District Junior Chorus Champs. Easy? No sir. Four "Chord-o-matics" were in a serious automobile accident on the way to Kalamazoo and were hospitalized. Stan Robbins and Norm Shamus missed the contest and still show scars from the tragic event, but get this: also in the accident were Lou Kapczi and Sam Vasiu and upon release from an Ann Arbor hospital they borrowed a car and drove to Kalamazoo. The curtain opened on the Dearborn Chorus and it was plain to see that there were exactly 19 men and one director on stage (the minimum number for competition) and two of the men had fresh bandages on their heads and legs. (Lou Kapczi held onto Cec Craig during both songs so he could stand up.) That is barbershopping at its best.



The "Chord-o-matics" came home pretty proud of themselves. They had won District honors their first time out and were already making plans for next year. 1959 came and off to Holland went 25 members. After the contest, home came 25 delighted men with the title of Michigan District Chorus Champs and a trophy to prove it. Of course, they had only finished third to win it but that did not take the shine from the trophy. (You will remember that those were the years of the combined Regional and District Chorus competition when some very confusing goings-ons produced two chorus winners, one District Champ and one International Contest representative. Thank goodness those days are gone.)

Two contests and two trophies. Pretty good for beginners. Now how about that Regional championship and the trip to the International Contest. The men had some secret ambitions to make the Dallas trip when they went to Holland but now they were in earnest about the trip to Philadelphia the next year. That's all that was talked about that year, "Let's go to Philly." The "Port City" chorus had evidently been thinking about the same thing because the following year, 1960, (right at home in Dearborn) Muskegon walked off with first place and the 30 voice Dearborn Chorus slipped back to fourth. Well, you can't win them all and there is always next year. Besides, we really wanted to go to Kansas City more than Philadelphia.

So after many months of practice, with the battle cry of "off to K.C.", the 35 "Chord-o-matics" traveled to Jackson in 1961 for their prize. We got rid of the "Port City" boys this time but we forgot all about the red-hot Niles-Buchanan Chorus. Muskegon was a close second and Dearborn a fairly close third. Back to the drawing board.

What do you have to do to come in first in this District? The powers-that-be at Dearborn took a long, hard look at their last four contests and came up with some startling information. Every loud, fast and flashy song they had sung in competition had scored higher than their ballads. "Port City" and Niles-Buchanan had "stage-presented" the Dearborn boys right off the stage in past contests. The winning choruses always had a unique, colorful costume. (Another small detail was not overlooked. You have got to sing better than any other chorus.)

Roger took Dearborn's strongest asset (fast, solid arrangements) and strengthened their biggest weakness (costuming and stage presence) and went to work. "By the Sea" came first, and the bathing suit theme came to life. Now how about another song. We really should show the judges that we can sing ballads too but how do you sing a ballad fast, loud and flashy? If there was an answer Dearborn found it by singing "By the Light of the Silvery Moon" as part ballad, part soft shoe and part (you should excuse the expression) "gut-buster".

You need "make-up men" in this league. Bob Rock, Bill Smyth, Dick Frankhart and Eric Schultz turned out to be artists at this business but the crowning glory was a real "professional" mustache, beard and side-burns man, Dominic Palmieri. From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 41 "Chord-o-matics" lined up in the hottest, smallest dressing room at Cleary Auditorium in Windsor as Bob, Bill, Dick, Eric and Dom worked feverishly over them transforming them into authentic looking bathing beauties of 1905. Gee, the contest has already started and we haven't even rehearsed yet. The Windsor man backstage says we can't sing in the dressing room because it can be heard on stage. We are on in 10 minutes. What'll we do?

Quick, let's go outside on the lawn. We do and find we're attracting more attention from Windsorites than a Buckingham Palace Guard. We don't care. We need some last-minute brushing up. We need to check our stage

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presence at least once before we sing. We need more time. We need . . . too late. The stage manager runs out the side door and says, "Hey, where have you been? You're on next." On stage go the "Chord-o-matics" SCARED STIFF. Five and one-half years' labor are wrapped up in two songs that last 6 minutes. It's over. We WON. We're on our way to the International Contest at Toronto. Easy? Not very. Fun? You bet.

Will we do our best at Toronto? After five and one-half years of preparation we are sure going to try. If you are in the audience in Toronto, clap a little harder or whistle a little louder when the 53 "Chord-o-matics" are announced to sing. They'll need all the support you can offer.

Chapter News

NILES - BUCHANAN Chapter Reporter: Vic Vigansky

We in the Niles-Buchanan Chapter want to thank the staff at "Troub" for a job well done this past season. Take a good breather this summer and come back strong in September.

The Gateway Chorus hosted the ladies on May 25th. This was quite an evening complete with cocktails, steaks, and barbershopping. The event was held at the Brandywine Country Club in Niles.

A month ago this reporter remarked that a major problem in our chapter was the fact that we had no registered quartets. This problem, if it really is a problem, is resolving itself. The past 30 days has seen the organization of two quartets and with official registration of one of them. The second quartet plans to register within a few days. This latter quartet is temporarily known as the Opium Lighters--and--like the name--WOW. The other quartet, the "Bucksters" registered in time for the Boyne City contest and surprised themselves and the chapter by placing fifth--and a fifth would have been welcome to combat those contest shakes.

We are anxiously awaiting the end of the school year. This will occur before this goes to press which means we will have obtained our bus, painted it, and -- beware -- we may be enroute to your chapter at this moment.

To those of you competing in Toronto--pull out the stops and give 'em all you got.

FLINT Chapter Reporter: Ron Gillies

The Flint Chapter has been carrying on for nearly four months now without the services of our chief executive, Neil Norman, who was fortunate to receive a promotion, but who, consequently, was transferred to second shift. The best of luck to Neil and we hope he will be back barbershopping in the near future.

Recently we were entertained by a high school quartet from Grand Blanc. These boys, who received their inspiration from Ron Sawdon, our Program V. P., had only been practicing about three weeks when we heard them and they sounded mighty good. These fellows are only tenth graders so we'll be keeping an eye on them and watching for better things to come.

We have a quartet within the chapter again after a famine of about one year. The four are Art Winkles, Bill Dunlap, Stew Gates and Dwight Hammer. As yet these fellows haven't revealed a name.

A Mystery trip has been planned for June 28th. by Ray Goodall. The Holly-Fenton Chapter is joining us for this trip to ? ? ?. We're all looking forward to a swell time and a full bus load. Ray has been working on this one for a long time, so it must be a long trip.

Bob Murphy has been chosen as our annual show chairman again. Bob certainly must hold some kind of a record for this post. Always does a swell job and we can expect Bob to give his all for the 1964 show.

A couple of summer outings are in the planning stages. One primarily for the little people and one just for the big people.

The Flint Chapter, too, is suffering from lack of members--a problem which does not apparently make us unique, but one which does cause a great deal of concern.

Thanks to Troub for another fine year. We in Flint will be looking forward to the next issue come September.

BATTLE CREEK Chapter Reporter: Bob Campbell

On June 10th, the Cereal City Chapter inaugurated an incentive award program which we called the "Big Ten Plan" designed to make Battle Creek Chapter No. Ten reeeelly big, with the emphasis on quality.

The "Big Ten Plan" makes awards available to any chapter member who works to improve our chapter and it features a beautiful travel trophy plus a personalized plaque for the Barbershopper Of The Year.

Due to a conflict in schedule our chorus director has had to step aside and our assistant director, Merle Clayton, has agreed to assume the duties. We wish him luck with all this chorus talent (?).

Also this month we have more new news. We have a new quartet. How about that? They call themselves the What-Notes, that is if it's O.K. with International Headquarters. They may be new, but they're getting experienced fast. Among other jobs, they were part of the entertainment at the "Miss Battle Creek Pageant".

No more news but happy singing vacation time and see you all in Toronto.

JACKSON Chapter Reporter: Ed Hilden

Almost 100 Barbershoppers from Hudson, Lansing, Ann Arbor, Coldwater and the host Chapter of Jackson met at the Hotel Hayes on May 31 for a real Wing-Ding.

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Laul. Len Field then inducted a brand new tenor, Jim Brake. The meeting then was turned over to our own contribution to Barbershopping, Chuck Sherwood, who emceed the Wing-Ding.

The first quartet, the Arborlads did a bang-up job, and one Jim Davenport was carrying at least 25% of the load.

Next heard were the L. J. Four with Orrin Hamilton (What a lineup they were). Lansing scores again.

The For-Tune Tellers squired some of the guests through a couple of old chestnuts in order to give them a bit of barbershopping background. This grand old quartet always does a good job.

Woodshedding all over the joint made it tough for the uninitiated. The "Second Quartet" from Jackson composed of Ken Preston, tenor; Bill Bayden, bari; Dick Smyson, bass; and Ed Hilden, lead (Bob Breitmeyer subbed) sounded good and they are still looking for that outstanding name for registering.

Sam Cushman lead us in a gang sing and how Sam can do it. The response was terrific.

Breaks were frequent enough to keep Hank Moorehead and Frank Sinisgalli a hopping.

A pick-up quartet (H. Moorehead, tenor; E. A. Vande Zande, bass; Gordon Meiselbach, lead; Lloyd Carter, bari) rendered "Tell Me You'll Forgive Me"--and no one did.

Three Rivers came through with a new quartet. . . The Keypickers (?) composed of Lloyd Carter, bari; George Dieffenderfer, tenor; Jerry Earl, bass; and Harry Kampe, lead. They did a swell job.

The Jackson Chorus, under the direction of Sam Cushman, sang three selections, then the Wing-Ding ended with all present singing our theme song "Keep America Singing". Lloyd Carter from Three Rivers lead the singing.

Lunch was set up and it appeared that most of those present hadn't eaten supper. The buffet was delightful as set up by the Hotel Hayes. A very successful Jackson Wing-Ding--we had a ball.

DETROIT

Chapter Reporter:

E. Tenor

There's a new quartet in Detroit's corner. "The Detroiters": tenor Bob Boint, lead Cliff (Bob) Jorgensen, bari Bob Craig, bass Bob Whittlege. Rumor has it that the boys did right well at "Boyne". Good luck and happy chording.

Detroit's regular meetings are still as great as ever. If you happen to be in the neighborhood of the Wolverine Hotel on a third Friday of the month, do stop in and bust a ringer with the boys. Good food. Good harmony. Good fellowship--good night, what more could you ask for?

Our next regular meeting will be held at the Cliff Jorgensen home, 25650 Circle Drive, Southfield. B-B-Q and refreshments. Incidentally, it happens to be a Dearborn visitation. Word is that this should be a real high-light in Detroit's barbershop year.

Never heard fina than the job the Motor City Chorus did at Dyna, Dyna Inn that is. Arrangements were made by Detroit's own smiling Mortician Bob Mulligan. Hope the Kiwanis enjoyed our music as much as we did singing for them.

Incidentally, tickets are now on sale for Detroit's Moonlight. Be sure to buy your ticket early. It looks like a going thing. Make sure that it doesn't get going without you. The steamer leaves the foot of Woodward Ave. at 8:30 p.m. July 19, 1963.

WINDSOR

Chapter Reporter:

R. L. Ryan

On March 24th, 1944 in the Hotel Norton Palmer, the President of the newly formed Windsor Chapter, Bob Jones, accepted the charter in the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. With the issuance of the charter, the Society became International and from here began the Society's growth in Canada. The Windsor Chapter then sponsored chapters in Amherstburg, Leamington, and London Ontario.

Somehow during the years this original charter was lost. In March of this year, Ted Verway arranged to have International Headquarters issue a new charter. On April 5, 1963, Bill Hansen attended our meeting and presented the charter to President Don Bennett. This was a very memorable day in the history of Windsor Chapter thanks to Ted and Bill.

The Sun Parlour Chorus made its annual visit to the Essex County Sanatorium on April 18th, thus celebrating International Harmony Week.

BLUE WATER

Chapter Reporter:

Bob Van Zandt

Once again, it is time to extend an invitation to the District to come to our Summer Festival and District meeting. This event is again scheduled for the last Saturday in July, the 27th. Come early, stay late, and bring the family. Last year the weatherman really threw us a curve, but even the all-day rain failed to dampen the enthusiasm of all who attended. A hot supper will be served and with just a little help from the weatherman we can almost guarantee that it will be well worth your while to be at the Vet's Club in South Haven on July 27th.

WAYNE

Chapter Reporter:

Owen McGill

First of all, let me apologize for not having the Wayne Chapter report in last month's issue. I know all in the District missed it.

Not since the last big war has there been an invasion like the one made on Lansing. There were skirmishes on many fronts and, when the smoke had cleared and the din of battle had quieted down, I'm sure the Auto Towners, Noteries and Aire Males and the Windmill Chorus from Holland had captured the hearts of all who heard them. I'm sure they will stand ready to defend the Michigan District in the Big Bout to come. Congratulations to all from the members of Wayne Chapter.

The Wayne Wonderland Chorus, which we feel did an outstanding job, certainly will be back and trying for all they're worth at Holland in October.

Today I heard the fish story to top them all: Our esteemed chapter President Mike Mudgett, who was fortunate enough to take a trip to Florida, landed a 7-foot sail fish after a long arduous fight--"Believe it or Not".

Our congratulations go out to Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Pohto on the new addition to the family.

Our condolences are sent to Bill Butler. Bill was involved in an automobile accident and sustained facial injury. Hope you're feeling well soon Bill.

Our heartfelt thanks to Burt Szabo of the Lansing chapter and all who worked so hard with him in putting on the convention and contest. A heap of praise for a job well done. A tremendous time was had by all. That's all from Wayne for now.

DEARBORN

Chapter Reporter:

Ed Conn

New policy at Dearborn. All chapter business will be conducted before 9:00. From then on we will spend the rest of the evening in fun and song. Guaranteed. So come early, stay late, have a good barbershopping time.

Dearborn, truly the "Chapter of Champions" is all a flutter, like a new bride. International competition is just around the corner and much planning and work is yet to be done. The chorus (under the whip of Roger Craig) is rehearsing with props and every effort is being made to be in top form by July 6th.

The past month has been fun filled for the Dearborn Chapter members. The Chord-o-matic Chorus performed at the District Quartet Competition in Lansing. We sang our show tunes (By the Sea, By the Light of the Silvery Moon) and three others. Everyone had a good time. Dearborn was well represented in the quartet competition, placing one, two, three (with a little help from our friends at Wayne). The Auto Towners, Noteries, and Aire Males were magnificent.

May 10th was our regular monthly meeting. Our prez

Bob Weaver MCed and everyone got into the act at some time or another during the night. Shamus food topped off the evening and we all left the hall with a light heart and full stomach.

The following Friday we visited the Downriver Chapter, and the turnout was good. The friendly people to the south showed us a good time. The chords were ringing all through the night.

NORTHWEST DETROIT Chapter Reporter: Duane H. Mosier

Northwest Area Chapter was happily surprised at its regular Monday night, May 27th, meeting when the Curbstone Serenaders quartet from the Oakland-Pontiac Chapters dropped in to furnish a wealth of fine barber-shop harmony. Although previously unannounced, they were made doubly welcome by Northwesters. The Serenaders are the 1962-63 District Champs, an honor justly deserved. Organized in 1955 with Ed Lilly lead, Bob Marshall tenor, Cliff Douglas bass and Tom Rafferty bari, these good barbershoppers, by persistent application, have worked their way to the top. They do not propose to hide their talents under a bushel but rather share them with other barbershoppers who delight in their kind of harmony. Their objective is to visit every chapter in the district before the end of the year. Who could ask for anything more from four men who give so much of their time for the enjoyment of others?

On a former occasion Northwesters and their wives enjoyed the harmony of four young women, two of whom were daughters of Tom's and coached by him in the four part style of barbershoppers.

Northwest regrets the passing of one of its cherished members, Howard Hartness, who died May 21 in Harper Hospital following a long illness.

Public appearances by The Scorekeepers with Bill and Larry Winchester, Ross McClellan and Ted Robbins have kept them busy circling dates on their calendars. On April 5 they entertained a church group at Hope Lutheran Church; April 27 at the Findlader Lodge; May 12 they sang for the Senior Citizens Bowling League and their wives at Redford Inn; on May 14 for the American Railroad men's wives; on May 20, together with the chorus, they entertained the DeMolays and their parents at the Ionic Lodge; and two nights later participated in a program for the Detroit Edison Junior Achievement group. This kind of activity is the best advertising the Society can offer to a public fast become barbershop conscious.

GREENVILLE Chapter Reporter: Bob Hansen

The Area 8 picnic, sponsored by the Greenville Chapter is set for Sunday, July 14, 1963 at Townsend Park (near Grand Rapids). This is to be a potluck picnic to include the entire family of all the barbershoppers in Area 8. (Grand Rapids, Holland, Muskegon, Ionia, Alma-Gratiot County, and Greenville.) Starting time is set for noon on Sunday.

Greenville will be meeting every Monday night throughout the summer. Come visit us when you are in our area on Mondays. Meeting time is 8 p.m. in the Community Room over the Commercial State Savings Bank.

Our first representative to the Bush League Contest, the Coppertones, were one of the ten finalists. Quartet members include, Francis Jones, lead; Tom Venus, tenor; Jerry Meade, baritone; and Norm Lantry, bass. Fran Jones has just been appointed assistant chorus director for the Greenville Barbershop Chorus.

MUSKEGON

Chapter Reporter:
Halley Dion

Letters have been sent out to Grand Rapids, Greenville, Holland, Ionia, and Gratiot County to attend our area 8 and 10 Annual Wing-Ding Thursday, June 20, at the Occidental Hotel in Muskegon.

It is a gathering that our chapter looks forward to and draws many outsiders. Tom Damm is program chairman and we know he will come up with a wonderful program.

The Muskegon Chapter manned our S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. booth at Muskegon's annual Home Show at the L. C. Walker Arena in April. Sponsored by the Exchange Club, the show ran six nights and drew about 11,000 patrons. Many barbershop albums were sold and inquiries were many.

HOLLY - FENTON Chapter Reporter: Art Burnett

Instead of letting up on activities during the summer months, we are going to keep right on going. This month we have two special events. The Pontiac Chapter will visit us and we will join Flint Chapter on a Mystery Bus Ride. They won't tell us where we are going--only that it will take us about an hour and a-half to reach our destination. Sounds like a lot of fun and we're going with them.

We are looking forward to the Pontiac Chapter visit with great expectations. They roll out the red carpet for us and we'll do the same for them. We'll return the visit in August.

Our road signs are here and will be erected soon, probably before you read this. They can be found on M-87 and Fenton Road near the village limits and on US-23 Expressway at both the Owen Road and North Road exits.

We received another new member last month and hope he will not be the last one in 1963. Looking forward to some more citations.

LANSING

Chapter Reporter:
R. Wilkins

Time to get together again by mail. Since I last visited with you folks, a lot of things have happened. The Auto-Towners had an engagement in Lansing so they stopped and spent the night here from 11:30 on.

We have signed two new members on our rolls, one is Reese Olger--a real life barbershopper, sells haircuts and all. I understand he is our first real clipper. The other one is not a new man in the organization. He is Louis Bean--a renown bari who used to sing with the Merri Men. So good to have these men among us.

We are trying some advertising through matches and place mats at points where people gather that might be interested. We are also placing an ad in the Sunday T.V. section of the paper.

During Harmony Week we had four groups go to hospitals and sing. They sure enjoyed it. Wonder why it isn't done more often?

The convention is over and things are getting back to normal once again. We wish to thank everyone who helped out in this great task. It takes so many. A great thanks to Burt Szabo for his tireless effort. Also we want to thank everyone who attended.

Our picnic is going to be on June 28th at Grant Woods Park from 4:30 till when. Hope to see our members and guests there for some good singing. Burdette Bottom is in charge.

Will sign off and the best of all to everyone.

DOWNRIVER

Chapter Reporter:
James Maxwell

Barbershop harmony was emphasized in the Downriver area Saturday night, May 11th, as the Chapter kicked off what members feel will be an annual event, the "SUPER-GLO", a combined show and afterglow.

What a show. What a time the capacity audience had. A unique stage setting consisting of a very large street lamp post (the Super-Glo symbol), a street corner sign denoting the location of the hall, encompassed by a simulated wrought fence and several barber poles, was represented a typical corner where you'd expect to find a quartet singing years ago.

Prior to the entertainment, a generous buffet dinner was served. To quote a famous Frenchman, Olg Repus, "Les buffet was magnifique and zee Mam-Zelles were oo-la-la." Seriously, though, the musical program was superb. In an attempt to use the superlatives, which are deserved, we would have to turn to "Webster" for the proper terms.

The barrel-chested (?) guys comprising the chapter chorus initiated the musical portion of the program, under the leadership of Arne Oakenen. The chapter quartets: the Air-Raiders, and the Chord-Tones also had an opportunity to demonstrate their talents.

The bevy of beauties who make up the Downriver Sweet Adelines (we're married to some of them) were excellent and sang before a very enthusiastic audience. Love those gals. They are directed by Mel Laginess.

Generosity prevailed all evening as the Curbstone Serenaders, Michigan District Champions, the Noteries

of Dearborn, the Wonderlads of Utica-Rochester, plus those everlovin' Mam-Zelles of S.O.C., donated their time and fine talent to this gala event.

The Noteries public appearance was scintillating and the electrified audience pin-drop quiet when this quartet sang their rendering of "Harbor".

The Wonderlads were wonderful and teased the audience with their humor as well as their excellent song choices.

The Curbstone Serenaders strolled on stage and serenaded the filled house with some songs from their outstanding repertory.

The Mam-Zelles thrilled the audience with their charm as well as with their songs. Actually they wouldn't have had to open their mouths to have been a hit.

Bill Wales, the master of ceremonies, kept everyone in stitches with his timely quips, and had the house roaring in laughter at the story of "Rindercella and the Prandsome Hince".

Certainly this shows that a good time was had by all. Speaking for the entire Downriver Chapter, we would like to thank the fine quartets previously mentioned and Bill Wales for their generous contribution to our show. Also, we would like to say thank to Bill Butler, our area counselor, for his presence at the fete and the "morale" boost we got from it.

You'd better keep your eyes and ears trained on the Downriver Chapter. Anything is liable to happen and probably will.

(A beautiful job of reporting, Jim; let's make this kind of contribution a regular thing. Ed.)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CHASING
AROUND
WITH

CHASE SANBORN



Though there will in all probability be comments expressed by others in this issue on the subject of our District sending only two quartets to the Toronto Contests, the writer cannot refrain from doing likewise. To state that it is a shame is putting it mildly. Many members are of the opinion that delinquent payment of first quarter per-capita billings to headquarters was the sole reason for the action and may express criticism over the chapters involved. Such action will not be of benefit to the District nor to the unfortunate Aire-Males. The facts are that most of us in the Michigan District are at fault and should have done our part in preventing the incident from occurring. A decline in District membership between December 31, 1962 and February 28, 1963, from 1571 to 1249, a loss of 222 members, denotes the primary reason for our misfortune. With the large majority of Michigan District members carrying the December 31 expiration date on our card it is common knowledge that there is negligence in the required action to renew these memberships. Many members are tardy in paying their dues to renew these memberships, some chapter secretaries are slow in submit-



ting reporting cards to Kenosha and some chapter executives committees are remiss in not following the status of their members so as to alleviate delinquency. Let's not put the blame on any chapter or individual for this unfortunate experience. In lieu of this let's get on the ball, do our part to prevent this from ever reoccurring. If we pay our dues promptly, encourage our chapter officers to perform their duties, assist in increasing the membership of our chapter and request that our District Officers promote a membership drive we will never again have to apologize to the Aire-Males.

Chapter officers are reminded that the third song in the free music is now available from headquarters for each member. Music Activities Director Bob Johnson is working diligently to provide fine arrangements in this series and we are remiss if we do not take advantage by singing these songs in our chapters.

Members in the District who have not made plans to attend the International Contests, July 4 - 6, in Toronto are not only depriving themselves of a barbershop ball but will miss the opportunity to lend the much needed support to our fine competitors, the Auto Towners, Noteries and Dearborn Chord-O-Matics Chorus. Some registrations for the large screen closed-circuit TV room are still available and it has been common for years that extra tickets are offered for sale by holders in the hotel lobby due to last-minute changes in plans for reasons of illness, business responsibilities, etc.

With publication of the Troubadour being interrupted for the months of July and August to allow a breather and a little vacation for the editor, it is in order that we extend wishes to Jim and his charming wife for a happy vacation season and congratulations for their very fine efforts in providing us with the greatest District publication.



NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

by Sec. Lou Harrington

Once again we wish to call to the attention of all chapters that the vote on a new name for the District will be on the agenda for the Fall meeting of the House of Delegates this October. At the Spring meeting held at Lansing, the House of Delegates voted approval of the suggestion to change the name from "Michigan" to one more representative. Suggestions include Pioneer, Water Wonderland, Michigan-Windsor-Soo, Ambassador, Michigan-Ontario, Michigan-Pioneer, Blue Water, Michigan-Blue Water, Great Lakes-Pioneer and Michigan International. We urge all chapters to place this matter before their membership and instruct their delegates as to their preference.



* * * * *

It is not too early for all chapters to begin consideration of men to be elected to the various chapter offices this Fall. Each chapter president should have named his nominating committee prior to this date. Elections of officers for 1964 are mandatory in October under the Uniform Chapter By-Laws.

* * * * *

Under the chairmanship of Don Lucas, the Holland chapter is busily engaged in making preparations for the Fall convention to be held October 11-12-13, 1963. We urge everyone to reserve that date and make plans to attend.

A "Seniors Quartet" contest has been proposed as a feature of the District contest in Holland to promote, develop and encourage organized competition among men over 50 years of age in an effort to renew their interest and activity and maintain membership. This project is headed by John W. Klaiber and bulletins have been sent to current chapter presidents to ascertain the extent of interest. Each chapter should assign one of their members to line up interested parties and contact Jack Klaiber, 4821 Division, N. W., Comstock Park, Michigan.

No Rest For The CURBSTONES

The Curbstones have been busy since last October what with a baritone moving, a bass working odd shifts, and what not.

As a point of programming, however, we have endeavored to make as many chapter visitations as we possibly could along with our regular Civic Shows, Barbershop Parades, Ladies Nites, charity programs, etc. Some of those visited were: Windsor, Northwest, Pontiac, Milford, Downriver, Dearborn and Jackson.

Earlier this year we were determined to visit every chapter in the District, but, as you may well expect, this soon became a physical impossibility. Nonetheless, we still feel that a goal of this nature should be the goal of every recognized quartet. It not only helps to create and cultivate a more solid attitude toward barbershopping by

Following the Leader

By now everyone should be aware that our District will be represented by only two quartets at the International competition in Toronto. The reason behind our loss of one quartet boils down to this:

By President Bill Hansen



On the basis of reported membership and per-capita dues remitted to the International office on or about the last day of March, 1963, our District became eligible to enter three quartets in International competition. A re-determination of quartet quotas for all Districts was held at International headquarters on May 6, 1963, on the basis of per-capita dues remitted to headquarters by the close of business, May 5, 1963. At this time our District suffered the loss of one quartet because several chapters failed to remit dues by the deadline.

There is nothing to be gained by identifying those chapters which were delinquent. I am sure that all of those concerned realize that they were responsible for dashing the hopes of four swell guys - the Aire-Males.

What has happened to our District in this regard must never happen again. I sincerely hope all of us realize that a lesson has been learned - the hard way.

* * * * *

Plans are steadily progressing with regard to the quartet contest for members of age fifty and over, and, I am becoming increasingly encouraged by the favorable comments concerning this contest.

I recently received correspondence from Joe Troe, Detroit, who wished success for the contest on behalf of the "Senior Harmonizers" of Detroit. According to Joe, the "Senior Harmonizers" can boast of total longevity in the amount of 274 years. Is there a quartet in the District which can top this figure? If so, let's hear from you.

I urge each of you, regardless of age, to get behind this contest and thereby insure that it will be an outstanding success. A bit of sincere encouragement, at the right time and place, will work wonders.

the chapter members and their guests, but it gives the participating quartet a "shot in the arm" to be able to work and sing with brand new members in the Society.

Needless to say, we were disappointed but resigned to the fact that we could not all arrange our time off earlier last month because of job commitments to compete in the International Elimination Contest at Lansing. Contrary to any misleading or misinterpreted conversation which may exist, the "Curbstone Serenaders" are still in the business of bustin' chords for the Chapter, District, and Society. May we take this opportunity to congratulate and relay our best wishes to the Auto Towners and Noteries who will represent our District in the International Contest in Toronto next July. Also we would like to commend ye olde Editor on doing such a fine job of reporting.

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.)

July 2 - 3, 1963	INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, Toronto
July 19, 1963	Detroit Moonlight Excursion Boat Ride
August 17, 1963	Oscoda County Parade
September 21, 1963	Blue Water Parade, South Haven
September 28, 1963	Fruit Belt Parade
September 28, 1963	Gratiot County Parade
October 11-13	DISTRICT CONTEST, Holland
October 19, 1963	Lansing Parade
October 26, 1963	Oakland County Show
November 2, 1963	Detroit Chapter Parade
December 7, 1963	Holly-Fenton Parade
February 15, 1964	Niles-Buchanan Parade
March 21, 1964	Battle Creek Parade
April 4, 1964	Great Lakes Invitational Grand Rapids
April 18, 1964	Muskegon Parade
May 8 - 10, 1964	REGIONAL CONTEST, Windsor
June 6, 1964	Utica Parade

KEEP AMERICA SINGING

FROM
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT
OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA
INCORPORATED

To

ROBERT L. MILLER 156
576 DE SOTO
YPSILANTI MICH



ON THE COVER

Three great quartets--all should be competing in Toronto:

AUTO TOWNERS: International finalists last year, recording stars. . . Chord Records' next release, and International champions this year ???? Good luck.

NOTERIES: Four wonderful pros who have in no time at all developed a blend of sound, arrangement, and stage presence that should make them top contenders in Toronto. Good luck.

AIRE MALES: Alternates to Toronto. These four fellows, using Roger Craig's wonderful arrangements, have been tops in entertainment, not only in the Michigan District but all over the country. Their polished performance will probably be sadly missing (for the first time in some years) from International competition this year.