

July '66

ROBT L MILLER
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michigan

troubadour



**AUTO
TOWNERS
WIN
IT**



THE Michigan Troubadour

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Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop
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Jack W. Oonk, Editor

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Member of PROBE

A long hard battle was won in Chicago July 9 with the crowning of the Michigan District Auto Towners as the new International Quartet Champions. Methodically this foursome has fought the necessary battles to now reign as champions.

It takes a lot more than a half dozen good arrangements, sung well, to win the coveted title of Society champions. Clint, Al, Carl and Glenn proved themselves in every necessary field, putting forth a little something extra. They reaped their due reward in Chicago. The endless nights away from home, the long practice sessions, the thousands of miles traveled must all seem a little more worth while to this tired but happy foursome.

It's bursting with pride that Troubadour tips its hat to the Auto Towners for a job well done.

Michigan District President Shultz Congratulates Auto Towners

Chicago, Chicago, that wonderful town and what a wonderful convention. Chorus competition like you have never seen before. Quartets, the best from the 15 districts, but the Auto Towners from our Michigan District were not to be outdone. From the first time they walked on stage at the Arie Crown Theatre in their gold dusters, caps, goggles and black driving gloves and blended their voices as only the Auto Towners can, giving their best to the song written and arranged by our own Al Rehkop, "In My Brand New Automobile"; everyone knew that here was a quartet not to be denied.

Quartet after quartet was eliminated until only ten finalists remained with the Auto Towners still in the running and the finals underway. Tensions grew, with every quartet giving its all. When it was finally all over and the Rascals drew the number two spot everyone knew that the winners had to be our own Auto Towners. With a standing ovation and cheers the Auto Towners came out of the wings to be congratulated by the retiring champs, the Four Renegades. Things blurred somewhat for the next couple of minutes, but after wiping the tears away everything seemed clear again as it did to over 5000 barbershoppers and their wives. The Auto Towners were the 1966-1967 International Quartet Champions.

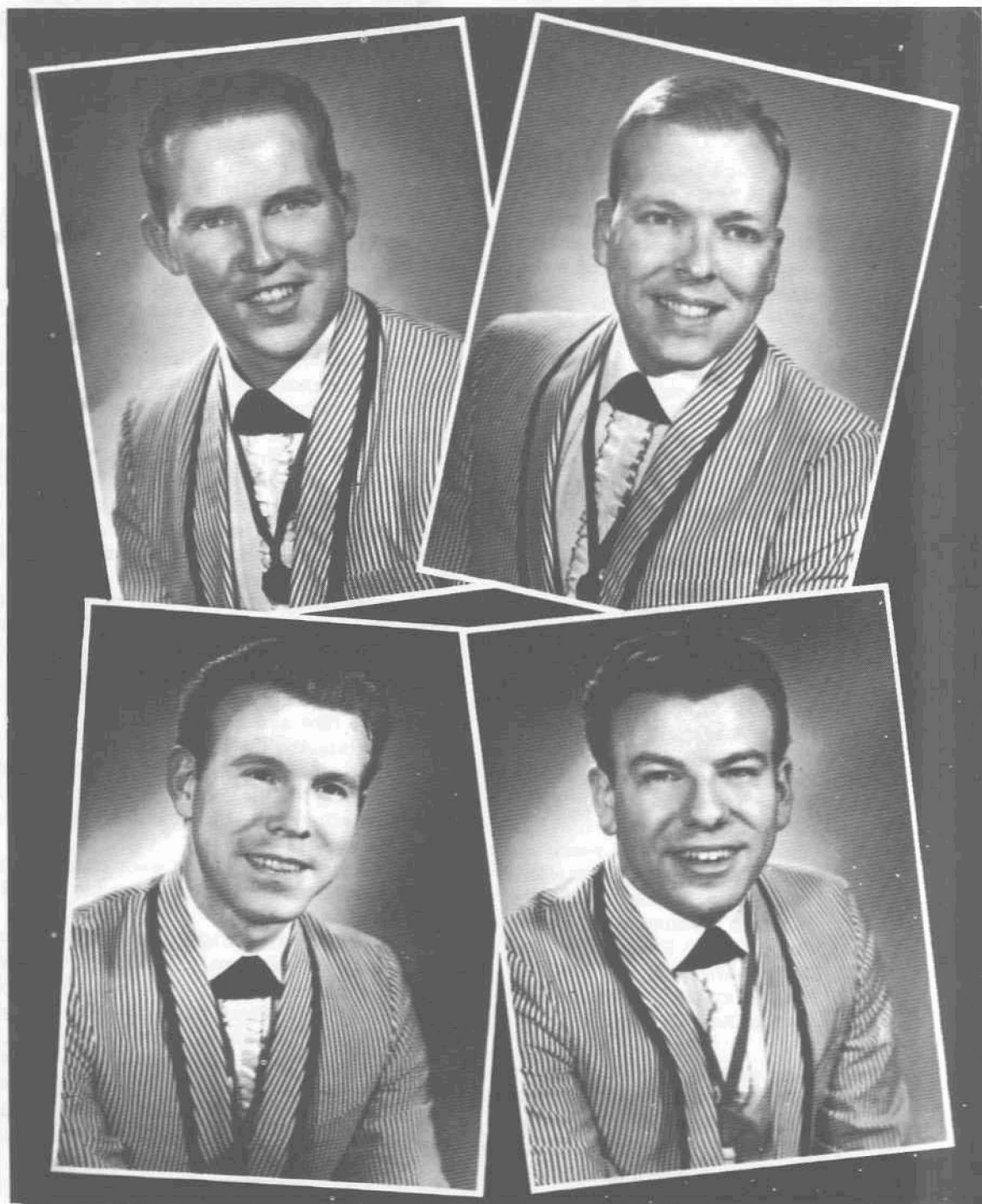
The Michigan District can be justly proud of the Auto Towners for bringing the championship to the Michigan District. Not since the Harmony Halls have we enjoyed this honor.



The AUTO TOWNERS

NEW

INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS





Clinton R. Bostick

Clint, a native Detroiter was born August 1, 1930. His first championship was All City track star in 1949 while attending Mackenzie High School. There he dated and started a life time of singing duets with Bobbie Gambrell whom he married in October, 1952. Their musical children consist of three daughters; Krista 12, Rebecca 9 and Amy 5. Their only son, Matthew, is 7.

In his spare time, Clint plays short stop for the Dearborn Post Office League who have been the League champions for the past four years.

Clint's musical career began during high school days when he sang with the Don Large "Make Way for Youth Chorus". In 1951, he and four other young people from the chorus formed a quintet known far and wide as the Spellbinders. Two years later they joined the WJR radio staff and became the featured singing group on the Bud Guest "Guest House Show". Renee "McKay" Craig was the female soloist and it was through Clint that Renee met Bobbie and the Cracker 'Jills, International champions of Sweet Adelines, Inc. for 1957-58, were formed. This twist of fate resulted in Clint and Bobbie being the only husband and wife to become International champions of the two Societies.

While singing with the Spellbinders, Clint joined the Michigan Madcaps U.S.O. troupe. In 1954 they travelled 54,000 miles in three months touring Korea and Japan. The Armed Services voted them the second best troupe to entertain in the Far East. The winning troupe was, "Kids From Home".

After this tour the Spellbinders sang for two years with Patti Paige as the Paige Five Singers for her television series. Their other network television commitments included thirteen weeks each with Vic Damone and Tony Bennett. Seventeen weeks singing at the Palace Theatre in New York City with the Rainbow Girl herself, Judy Garland, was one highlight in their career. Another highlight was doing the pilot film with Dick Van Dyke for the Dick Van Dyke Show.

"A barbershop understanding wife who encourages and shares your enthusiasm" is Clints recommendation to anyone wishing to sing with a competing quartet. His formula for being a GOOD performer is "Having the desire to please an audience and taking pride in doing something well". This certainly seems to have been the right formula for him.



Carl Dahlke

Carl was born in Port Hope, Michigan, June 30, 1935 and moved a year later to Hazel Park where he later attended Hazel Park High School. He majored in Math and Physics at Highland Park Junior College and Chrysler Engineering. He now is a draftsman for Wettlaufer Eng. Co. in Warren, Michigan.

Carl and Carolyn Lucas were married in July, 1955. Their two sons are Eric 8 and Carl Jr., 6. Their daughter Alice is 4.

After barbershopping, Carl relaxes with his hobbies which are tropical fish, chess and photography.

The day before Carl's marriage his brother-in-law talked him into the Sophisti-Chords and one week later he became a full fledged barbershopper. That same year this quartet competed in Boyne City and placed fourth in the Bush League contest. He also sang with the Dynamics, whose highest achievement was 3rd place in the District. Three separate attempts in Regional competition gained their highest placement of fifth.

Besides being the "shy" and "humble" bass of the Auto Towners he directed the Chordomatic Chorus (Chapter of Champions) to the Michigan District championship in 1965. This was Carl's first directing effort.

Carl also comes from a musical family. His grandfather played the tuba and bass viol for the Queens Navy Band of Great Britain and the Henry Ford Band.

This talented member of the quartet has done much of the arranging for the Auto Towners and now, with the coordinated efforts of Al they will probably rise to even greater heights.

On his free evening each week Carl offers his knowledge to other quartets, one being the up and coming Close Chorders.

In 1964 he worked right up to Regional competition time with the Trebleshooters, of the Detroit chapter, when they placed second behind the Auto Towners and qualified to represent the Michigan District in the International competition at San Antonio.

Carl says, "Everybody starts somewhere. Don't look at the champs and feel you can't ever be there. After reading the copy printed here you will realize we all started as unknowns. Primary and most important you must

continued next two pages

have sound. In order to attain a good sound, balance and blend is the basic fundamental, assuming you already have harmony accuracy".

Each of the Auto Towners has words of wisdom to offer competing quartets. The first work from each of them proclaimed the importance and necessity of having a "fifth man" or a Lyle Pilcher as a coach.

"If he thinks close to your basic concepts of barbershop-ping...ABIDE BY HIS DECISIONS. If his ideas seem too far afield and you find disagreement within the group, HE is the wrong man for YOU".



Alvin E. Rehkop

Al, being the only single member of the Auto Towners, was born March 4, 1928, in River Rouge, Michigan. He attended the Dearborn Community College and the Detroit Business Institute and later became Auditing Supervisor for National Steel.

Whenever he can steal a few hours of free time you will find Al at his summer place on Crystal Lake in Northern Michigan. Here is where many of his arrangements, well known throughout the country, are analyzed and polished for the Auto Towners.

Floyd Holloway is the man responsible for Al becoming interested in barbershop style harmony and joining the Dearborn chapter in 1951. A long time friend, Floyd was the first person Al thought to call from Chicago when the Auto Towners became our new champions.

This very capable tenor voice has been heard over the years in several popular Michigan quartets. Al's first competing quartet was the Wolverines who were Michigan District Champions in 1953. They competed Internationally at Detroit in 1953, Washington in 1954 and placed ninth in 1955 at Miami, Florida.

Al joined the Sharpkeepers and became a district champion once again in 1957. The three years following, they competed in Columbus, Minneapolis and Dallas, where they were eliminated after the first session in each competition.

In 1963, Al competed with the Noteries, when they won the district championship and at the International contest in Toronto.

This veteran of ten years of International competition says, "Becoming an International champion is not easy. It

takes hard work and perseverance. Find the right combination of voices as well as personalities. The backing afforded by the Michigan District was a strong personal incentive to attaining this goal. I felt an intense desire to please my friends."

In March of 1965, with competition time just a few weeks away, the Auto Towners found themselves without a tenor. Al's previous quartet experience more than qualified him to fill the vacancy. The following year his talent as a composer was needed by the quartet when the search for a fresh song to carry through the automobile theme, for the competition in Chicago, proved fruitless. Al says, "I was determined to compose something to fit the need and with vintage automobiles running around in my head, a song was born." We will all recognize this as one of his better compositions, "In My Brand New Automobile".



Glenn Van Tassell

Glenn born January 3, 1935, in Laurens, New York, moved to Binghamton, New York at the age of thirteen. There he attended North High School where he was active in theatre, music and sports, being awarded letters for track and football. Glenn majored in Business Administration at the University of Detroit and he is now in Production Control for Chevrolet Central in the General Motors Building in Detroit.

In May of 1955 Pat Little consented to be his bride and she and Glenn are the proud parents of two lovely daughters; Jonica, age 6 and Heidi who is 4.

Glenn inherited his musical talents from his parents, who were both professional choir singers. His older brother (he has one sister and three brothers, of which he is the youngest) is an instrumental music teacher in Los Angeles, California and has played in symphonies all over the world.

Gordon Whitcomb, a member of a church choir in Binghamton taught Glenn some barbershop chords and soon had him interested enough to join the Binghamton chapter in 1951.

During his fifteen years as a member of the Society

Glenn has sung with many quartets, He was with his first quartet, the Wolverines, for eight months and during that time they represented the Michigan District in Washington D.C. and placed twenty first. His next quartet, the Treble Makers, were district champions in 1955 and in that year they were the fifteenth place finalists in Miami, Florida. The following year they dropped to nineteenth place in Minneapolis.

In 1957 the Combust-A-Chords lost Glenn to the army after placing twenty eighth at the International contest in Los Angeles. During his two years with the army Glenn toured Europe for four months with the Special Services doing solo and group work. He also sang for several months in a group with Roy Dean, the bass of the Short Cuts, from Miami, Florida.

After his discharge from service Glenn wasn't idle long. He was soon searching for three other voices to form a new quartet. In March of 1960, after singing the baritone part for years, Glenn found himself the lead of the Auto Towners. At that time Dominic Palmieri was singing tenor and it was he who suggested Carl Dahlke as a bass. Glenn knew Clint as a professional singer and gambled on him as a barbershop baritone. This combination gained the quartet many honors. Among them are: Bush League Champions in 1960, Second Place District Champions in 1960, District Champions at Jackson in 1961 and the following International placements: 16th at Philadelphia in 1961, 9th at Kansas City in 1962, 8th at Toronto in 1963 and 6th at San Antonio in 1964. At this point in their career, Al joined the quartet and helped them to gain a fourth place medal at Boston in 1965.

For other quartets seeking this title, Glenn has this to offer. "You must have a FOUR way commitment as a quartet. Unified goal is the keynote here. Don't underestimate yourself or your abilities. Dig in and keep trying."

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Ann Arbor Hosts Zone 1 Association Meeting

On Friday, July 29, the Ann Arbor chapter will host all members and their guests of all chapters in the Zone I of the Michigan District in a gala sing blast of a meeting at German Park on Pontiac Trail, northwest of Joy Road.

Carloads of members from such chapters as Monroe, Wayne, Milford, Dearborn, Detroit #1, Oakland County, Grosse Pointe, Detroit Yachtsmen, Utica-Rochester, Pontiac, etc. will be arriving early in the evening to demonstrate a uniting of talent and energy which will ultimately make it possible for us to host an International convention in our zone.

In the months following this first get-together, chapter host duties will move through all of the chapters on a once a month basis.

The potential of an association such as this is quite obvious. In addition to fostering better inter-chapter cooperation, promoting more barbershop interest in the zone and increasing the enthusiasm among our membership, its common goal of hosting an International convention will encourage a united membership participation.

An "association of chapters" is not a new idea. Probably most of us have heard about the Chicagoland Association of Chapters and their annual mid-winter meeting. Utilizing its larger potential of personnel and funds, they invariably attract the tops in barbershop talent and crowds of people that provide a fantastic publicity boost for all member chapters.

reporter: james o. davenport

SCORES OF INTERNATIONAL QUARTET QUARTER-FINALS, SEMI-FINALS AND FINALS CONTESTS - 28TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1966

RANK	QUARTET	VE	ARR	HA	B&B	SP	TOTAL	PENALTY	PREV. POINTS	GRAND TOTAL
1	Auto Towners	432	450	434	467	470	2253		4564	6817
2	Four Rascals	406	469	444	468	457	2244		4479	6723
3	Four Statesmen	410	479	441	452	426	2208		4387	6595
4	Golden Staters	427	422	427	460	461	2197		4319	6516
5	Sundowners	416	454	428	441	414	2133		4276	6409
6	Too-Deas	388	416	429	434	410	2077		4192	6269
7	Four-De-Matics	380	450	408	389	492	2119		4124	6243
8	Orlando Four	384	355	400	422	412	1973		4200	6173
9	Checkmarks	414	398	400	435	423	2070		4042	6112
10	Far Westerners	341	370	364	379	408	1862		3978	5840
11	Rhythma Counts	372	383	378	404	414	1951		1975	3926
12	Pacesetters	358	387	389	393	429	1956		1945	3901
13	Hallmarks	378	415	395	422	379	1989		1868	3857
14	Easternaires	346	297	385	410	421	1859		1980	3839
15	Wayfarers	374	375	344	373	377	1843		1912	3755
16	Hat Four	365	321	396	366	359	1807		1905	3732
17	Roaring 20's	346	361	340	350	397	1794		1928	3722
18	Dignitaries	315	428	337	337	384	1821		1863	3684
19	Main Street Four	330	353	377	391	401	1832		1837	3669
20	Southern Aristocrats	323	379	340	395	367	1804		1797	3601
21	Western Continentals	360	331	337	330	424	1782			1782
22	Rocket Tones	342	322	342	395	371	1772			1772
23	Adventurers	351	398	314	347	361	1771			1771
24	Sunshine 4	352	337	321	376	380	1766			1766
25	Jubilaires	353	354	354	370	322	1753			1753
26	Roadrunners	352	416	303	337	334	1742			1742
27	Vigortones	356	385	320	332	347	1740			1740
28	Circle 4 Four	361	371	303	355	344	1734			1734
29	Citistations	338	369	307	335	374	1723			1723
30	Varieties	300	358	307	351	376	1692			1692
31	Gladstones	334	403	261	320	357	1675			1675
32	Four Encores	351	345	335	345	332	1708	50		1658
33	Barbershops	335	358	274	335	347	1649			1649
34	Par 4	336	327	291	320	372	1646			1646
35	Bay Shore Four	302	343	326	344	318	1633			1633
36	Astro-Nauts	304	346	320	336	324	1630			1630
37	Foremen	324	333	298	325	347	1627			1627
38	Continental Four	327	338	310	323	322	1620			1620
39	4-Fits	321	323	312	313	317	1566			1566
40	Four Closures	282	289	273	313	338	1494			1494
41	Evergreen Moonlighters	268	292	285	319	300	1464			1464
42	Woodmen	294	294	229	314	268	1419			1419
43	Midtown-aires	205	319	241	275	305	1405			1405
44	Fanfare	295	266	243	284	304	1392			1392
45	Rogues Four	261	275	233	263	334	1366			1366

SCORES OF INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST 28TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION - CHICAGO, ILLINOIS SATURDAY, JULY 9, 1966

RANK	CHORUS	VE	ARR	HA	B&B	SP	PENALTY	TOTAL
1	Thoroughbreds	442	469	459	494	519		2383
2	Depper Daps	412	463	446	453	476		2250
3	Chordsmen	417	442	443	472	468		2242
4	Coastmen	379	436	413	457	434		2119
5	Sun Harbor Chorus	391	423	398	433	462		2107
6	Southern Gateway Chorus	357	431	429	459	420		2096
7	Arlingtones	404	408	405	432	429		2078
8	Chorus of the Bluffs	390	417	398	428	443		2076
9	Lake Washington Skippers	357	387	406	406	403		1959
10	Foxy Expressmen	373	389	373	413	410		1958
11	Minneapolis Commodores	324	377	392	407	429		1929
12	Poughkeepsie New Yorkers	300	389	377	386	477		1929
13	Run-Damentalis	351	394	368	405	405		1923
14	Atlanta Peachtree Chorus	350	395	403	399	374		1921
15	Port City Chorus	269	323	312	333	330		1567

IMPORTANT: All address changes should be given to your chapter secretary. Make sure your chapter secretary forwards this info to International (source of our mailing labels). THEN you can be sure the Troubadour will be mailed to the correct address.



OUR QUARTET IS GOING TO

SING

IN THE OCTOBER DISTRICT CONTEST
IN HOLLAND

QUARTET NAME _____

CONTACT MAN _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CHAPTER _____



The Oakland County Traveling Jug returned home June 3, 1966 via Greyhound bus and the "goats" name to be inscribed on the jug as the last chapter holding it is Niles Buchanan. Thanks fellows for forwarding it, even though you couldn't turn out en masse for the 190 mile trip to our chapter meeting. The jug's contents of \$109.50, which was \$13.00 short per audit, was enriched by \$50.50 from OCC, making a total of \$160.00, or \$80.00 for each quartet: the Auto Towners and the 4-Fits. A history of the jug's journey is as follows:

<u>Presented to</u>	<u>By</u>	<u>On</u>
Windsor	18 OCC Members	5-28-65
Jackson	21 Windsor	6-11-65
Battle Creek	20 Jackson	7-12-65
Lansing	19 Battle Creek	8-16-65
Gratiot County	20 Lansing	11-15-65
Greenville	15 Gratiot County	1-3-66
Grand Rapids	12 Greenville	1-28-66
Holland	19 Grand Rapids	2-21-66
Muskegon	10 Holland	3-15-66
Fruit Belt	? Muskegon	4-13-66
Niles-Buchanan	* 24 Fruit Belt	5-3-66
Oakland County	0 Niles-Buchanan	6-3-66

After Windsor received the jug they reduced the probability of receiving the jug a second time by promptly getting it out of the Detroit area, so, strange as it seems, the other 13 metropolitan area chapters didn't have an opportunity to donate, which includes the chapters represented by the quartets going to Chicago. However, Grosse Pointe, co-owners of the 4-Fits, tried their hardest to get the jug by having a surprise visit to Oakland County. After explaining it didn't work that way, we had one of the best meetings of 1965, as Grosse Pointe came with their Glee-men Chorus, 19th Century Four and their resounding voices. As for the other Detroit area chapters, you will get the jug next year, as the Los Angeles convention is further away and the quartets will need more money.

I am sorry to notice that my barbershopping alma mater held the jug for three months before passing it to Gratiot County. The sooner it is passed the sooner you will have fun by the surprise visitation and the more money you will gather for the quartets. The chapter holding the jug the shortest time was Windsor, who held it for two weeks. As for who traveled the furthest to pass the jug, it looks like a toss-up between Muskegon and Windsor. The Fruit Belt Chapter had the largest representation in passing the jug.

Next year we are going to change one rule by stating that the jug may not be presented to any chapter more than once. This will prevent the jug from staying in the metropolitan area and encourage out-stage visits. I would like to thank the district barbershoppers for their support of this program and for their contributions to help our competing quartets.

In closing, I would like to quote a sentence from Vic Vigansky's report in the May Troubadour where he speaks

of the surprise visit paid to Niles-Buchanan by the Fruit Belt chapter: "These chapter visits are terrific and certainly turn a routine evening into a riot." Watch out for the jug next year...barbershopping is on the move in Michigan.

Dick C. Liddicoatt
Chapter President
Oakland County Chapter

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From the Pen of the President



Once again I stress the urgency of good leadership, for without it your chapter and the entire district is in trouble. Let us not just take things as they come...Let Us Plan Ahead. Let each and everyone of us look at our own chapter to see where you are going.

First, do you know what members are up for membership renewal right now? Have you personally talked to them? Has your chapter signed new men to offset those who will not renew, or have moved from your area? How close is your chapter to becoming an associate chapter with the possibility of chapter revocation?

Is there co-operative effort in your chapter to achieve some goal or purpose or is it just drifting along without anyone at the helm? Is your chorus director doing a good job? Does he have the co-operation of the entire chapter? Is it possible that perhaps that you are going to lose your chorus director in the near future? Have you made plans for someone to take his place? What is your chapter doing about quartet promotion? Has your chapter registered a new quartet in the last six months? Is your chapter planning on competing in the fall convention?

Does your chapter have reliable men on the nominating committee selecting capable men who will be able and willing to become your next years officers?

Has your chapter contributed anything to the affairs of your community? Has your chapter offered your services to any worthwhile organization? Has your chapter participated in chapter visitations? If so...how many members attended? Has your chapter contributed anything to the Institute of Logopedics for this current year?

I could go on and on, but as leaders of your chapter, ask yourself these questions and then do something about it. Get the entire chapter together and together move forward. You can not stand still. You must move either forward or backward.

Seventeen chapters in the Michigan District have less members today than as of May 31, 1965. Are you one of those chapters? If so...what are you doing about? Do you have a problem? Do you need help? Have you contacted your area counselor or zone vice president for help?

Please let me know.



Rafter Ringers Win Bush League

The Rafter Ringers were organized in January, 1964 with tenor, Tom Elderkin; lead, Larry Humphrey; baritone, Bob Lovell and bass, Jim Horton.

This quartet began singing up through the P.T.A. circuit with many appearances at Sweet Adeline and barber-shop chapter meetings, including Greenville, Holland, Muskegon, Ionia, Lansing and package shows by the Grand Rapids chapter. They sang on WOOD TV for the St. John's orphan's Christmas party and several other benefit programs.

They entered their first competition in Grand Rapids in the Regional contest in April 1965 ending in seventh place. Then in May 1965 they entered the Bush League at Battle Creek and placed third. This year at Boyne City the Rafter Ringers became the 1966 Bush League Champions.

The competition was very close among several very fine quartets. Grand Rapids was proud to have three quartets entered in the contest this year. Besides the Rafter Ringers were the Dapper Dudes and the Four Drifters with many of the wives and friends from Grand Rapids to back them up.

Truly this was one of the greatest Bush League contests ever.

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Jackson-Dearborn Fling Nets \$23.50 For Logo

Friday, May 27, Dearborn, the "chapter of champions" visited Jackson. What a bang-up time was had by all.

Passing the hat, \$23.85 was collected for logopedics at the tri-chapter meeting in Jackson on May 9 with Battle Creek, Lansing and Jackson. Treasurer Leo Rudloff forwarded this money along with a \$250.00 gift from the Jackson chapter. Thanks to Battle Creek and Lansing for a wonderful evening and right here we will tell the district to support the Lansing Fish Fry on June 24.

The month of June will have been a very busy month for the Jackson chapter with visitations at Milford and Pontiac and three singing jobs for the chorus and quartets. It is good for the chapter to be busy even though many will be going on vacations.

Keep Singing.

reporter: ed hilden

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Gillem Praises Boyne City Bush League

How does one even begin to describe this week-end at Boyne City? First you might mention atmosphere, second the acceptability of our type of fun by the citizens of this area, third the opportunity it gives new quartets to compete and be criticized. I believe every new quartet in the Michigan District should try to compete at one time or another in this contest. To the individual or quartet neophyte barbershopper I say, "If you have not been to Boyne City, you have not been."

On behalf of Loton Willson and the Boyne City Chapter I would like to thank everyone and every quartet that competed and for attending and making this the successful week-end it was.

Just a few words to try to express gratitude to a quartet that has ingratiated itself in the Michigan District in the last two years by very commendable public relations and of course, the most important, their singing ability. I am referring to the fabulous Road Runners.

They, I understand, are talking about Boyne City Bush League Contest all over the Cardinal District and very soon we might find its counter-part in that district.

Boyne City chapter and the Bush League, over the years, have done more to promote and encourage quartets than any other function.

I would like to say, at this time, everyone was very sorry to hear that Ellen and Lou Harrington were unable to attend this year as Lous was ill. As you all probably know, Ellen Harrington always writes these columns and as I lack her eloquence in expressing a very vivid picture of those in attendance and the happenings I will close with a very vehement, "See you next year at the Bush League."

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Greenville Visits New Big Rapids Chapter

The Greenville chapter has visited the Big Rapids group a couple of times the past few weeks. They have received their license from International and will be chartering soon. The Big Rapids chapter is made up of some 38 serious barbershoppers. You will be hearing from them in the near future. Better yet, stop and pay them a visit. They meet every Monday at 9:00 at the Elk's Club in downtown Big Rapids.

On June 4, the Greenville chorus entertained the Belding High School Alumni at their annual banquet. Future engagements include an appearance at the Montcalm County "Spud-tacular" in August the the chorus contest in Holland this fall.

Once again we are trying to hatch a quartet in Greenville. Our newest foursome includes Rev. Elmer Katterjohn, bass; Fran Jones, baritone; Eldon Hansen, lead and Bob Hansen, tenor.

We are delighted at the honor bestowed on our chapter president, Dr. S. L. Anderson. Stu was named "Michigan District Area Counselor of the Year," at the House of Delegates meeting in Dearborn.

The "Harmonizer" made mention of several father-son memberships. We have a few ourselves: Orrin Wood and son Jack, Al Vining and son Chuck, Eldon Hansen and son Bob, Joe Wildner and son Joe Jr., plus Frank Mattison and grandson Karlton Geiger.

The Greenville chapter will meet every Monday at 8:00 during the summer in the chapter room furnished by our sponsor, the Commercial State Savings Bank. Stop and ring a chord with us.

reporter: bob hansen

Pictures Courtesy of Mel Struthers — Bush League Participants



Murphy Expounds On Sault Travel Troubles

The Dearborn contest was enjoyable and all our fellows who attended certainly appreciated the excellent caliber of barbershopping they heard. The older barbershoppers of the chorus had always told me that the Michigan District was the HEART of barbershopping. After that contest I am convinced of this.

One of our newest and a true barbershopper to our group had the good fortune to win an automobile for a week, thanks to his lucky wife Violet. When you get that car Cecil, I think we all deserve a ride in it.

When the chorus competition was over and the after-glo all burned out, our chapter headed back home. It was then that I realized, after pounding the pavement of I-75 for this, how far Sault Ste. Marie is from the rest of the district. The distance one way from Detroit to the Sault is 342 miles. This alone poses a big problem to our chapter. Good barbershoppers do not mind traveling long distances to contests as they will certainly find them rewarding, however, the time and finances involved might prevent even a devoted barbershopper from going to these events.

Due to distance there is also a communication problem up here. Our faithful Zone President Gene Gillem finds it a little difficult to get up to see us as much as he might like, as did Bob Tracey.

The main problem that the distance presents is the fact that it is too difficult for us to get together with other chapters in our district. When we do we have a great time as we did at Boyne City, but usually it is too much driving for just one night. Also, we don't get to hear the other choruses and quartets from the various localities. This makes competition difficult because we have very few outsiders to give us constructive criticism. Cliff McLean, stage presence judge, comes up when he can from Cedarville and does a good job of helping us out in this respect.

Nevertheless, it certainly would be pleasant, inspiring and in barbershop fashion, educational if we could drop in on another chapter or they could drop in on us for a night of chordial fellowship and inspiration.

Maybe I am rationalizing, but when I think of Sault St. Marie, #158 International Chorus, I think of an active chapter. We placed 11th out of 12 places but I say, "So what, Rome wasn't built in a day." Considering the above problems, I feel that we are doing very well. We can certainly improve, and we are going to. Our group is small, but per capita in Sault Ste. Marie, I feel that the membership is large compared to certain barbershopping cities.

Needless to say, I salute the Sault and chorus director Don Bazely and the 21 who put us on the map at Dearborn. Well done men.

We sang for the charter night of the Sault Harmonaires (Sweet Adeline chorus) on Saturday, June 4. It was a fun filled meeting and a pleasure to see such an enthusiastic group of ladies working so actively. Our chorus director Don Bazely is also their director.

The Sault Shriners know and appreciate good singing. That's why we entertained their guests on June 11. We were happy to sing for such a receptive group of people.

reporter: franklin murphy



Saginaw Plans October 27 Parade

Since last writing, I have a lot of news from good ole Saginaw. First, our H.D.M.P.S. (membership incentive point system) is working very well in this chapter. Frank Bateson won it last quarter. I fully intend to give all and sundry a runn for their monney this quarter.

Saginaw is planning their first parade since 1959. Date is October 27, 1966. Place is Saginaw High Auditorium. The talent is a secret as yet.

Our new president, Bill Doelzel, is doing a very fine job this year, of course with the aid of a very strong board.

We had another tri-chapter get-together with Holly-Fenton and Flint a short time ago with about 100 in attendance. Our president, Bill Doelzel, was presented a beautiful plaque naming him Barbershopper of the Year for Saginaw. A complete surprise to him and well deserved.

Frank Bateson has received his fifth Man of Note award together with the beautiful display case from the International. He has it over the mantle and boy is he proud of it. He has every right to be, because if every man would just bring one or two members into this organization of ours if could grow just as president Eric Schultz is trying so very hard to make it do.

We have two organized quartets in our chapter with the third being talked about. They are the Key Rings and Crosstowners. The third has no name but they are at the tag singing stage.

The Timber Land Chordsmen, Earl Keith directing, appeared on channel 5 two weeks prior to the Dearborn convention and have not stopped hearing about it...all good. This same chorus placed fourth in Dearborn and have all intentions of taking a first in Holland...see you there.

The Key Rings were unable to compete in Boyne City due to work schedules. They tell me, "Watch out next year!"

The Crosstowners consisting of Ted McDonald-lead, Herb Benjamin-tenor, Bill Doelzel-baritone and Emil Franz-bass did compete and came out with highest score before a time penalty. They were seven seconds short.

Both of these quartets are talking about Holland now so I guess time will tell.

In closing, I would like to ask any or all of the chapters in the Michigan District to try to get together with one another more often and don't just stay in your own zone but come accross and see us sometime and more important if you get the chance, don't forget our international neighbors in Sault Ste. Marie, they sure feel left out of things.

reporter: gene gillem

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Detroit Pays Compliments To Fergusons

Our chorus was completely taken by surprise the other night during rehearsal when the door opened and in walked all our wives, wearing coffee and donuts plus a beautiful gold cup engraved, "To Our Champs Detroit #1" and a bouquet of flowers which was presented to Bill Butler. When our gals sang their own word to "I Had A Dream Dear", I could see tears in the eyes of many of our stalwart members.

Our hats come off and our hearts go out to the grandest bunch of gals to ever boost a barbershop chorus.

It is with regret that I report one of Detroit chapter's strongest and most loyal boosters is leaving us. Yes, Don and Grace Ferguson are moving to Saginaw, due to Don's company's need of his talents in that area.

Don has been a loyal and hardworking chapter member for as far back as this reporter can recall. He is not content to be just a member. Don gets involved and his love of barbershop harmony shows in his face when he hears those chords ring hard and true. He is never too busy to lend a helping hand, whether it be a chore to do, or helping a quartet iron out a bad chord.

The WonderLads tell me Don gets full credit for their solid new song and we, the Four Fits, are extremely grateful to Don for allowing us to use his "River Shannon" number, which has developed into one of our most requested numbers.

I, personally, will never forget the job the Four Fits contracted to do and at the last minute both Ray and Marv could not make it...so Don sang lead, Russ sang baritone, Marv McCleary (our buddy) sang bass and yours truly on tenor. Our show was so well received that we decided to drop in on Milford. It was a grand evening.

All of us are going to miss both you and Grace very much. We wish you good luck on your move to Saginaw. Our great loss is their gain, because to us you are Mr. Barbershopper.

The chorus is proud to be Michigan District Champions and are now preparing new numbers for the go in Holland. We plan to support Holland in every way and we hope every other chapter will give it full support. The Flying Dutchmen are great hosts and I know they will have many grand surprises in store for us.

Plans are underway for our 2nd annual family picnic at Camp Dearborn the first Saturday in August. More on this later.

reporter: john wearing

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Monroe Chorus Sings Church Concert

The Monroe Floral City Chapter did themselves proud May 22, 1966 by presenting a concert of hymns in the Presbyterian Church in Monroe. The chapter received many complements for the fine presentation that they made. The chapter has been preparing for this concert for a couple of months. A climax to all this practicing, a visitation was made May 20, 1966 to the Detroit chapter in the Fort Shelby Hotel. Oakland County and Utica-Rochester also was present. A great time was had by all. There was a quartet contest with many entries, in which the members of different quartets were mixed up making enjoyable entertainment. The judging was done by the Detroit chorus director, Bill Butler. Featured quartets were: the Mellow-Aires of the Monroe chapter and the

Close Chords of the Detroit Chapter. This unity of harmony put the Monroe Floral City Chorus in the right frame of mind and mood to do a great job with the concert of hymns.

This chapter is planning on this type of concert each year with the help of the Council of Churches in the Monroe area.

The Monroe chapter is on the move. It has a number of singing engagements for the month of June. To start off our June activities is a visitation to the Utica-Rochester chapter. By the line up of entertainment being provided, this chapter will be there with bells on. Next on the agenda is a singing engagement for Carleton, Michigan home-coming. In August the Monroe chapter will sing at the Monroe County Fair.

On Monday, June 20, the chapter had a very pleasant surprise visit from Toledo. One of their promising quartets dropped into our meeting and entertained Monroe with some of their exhilarating songs. After the meeting there was a lot of woodshedding while refreshments were being served.

On Monday, June 27, the Detroit Motor City had a mystery trip with the Monroe chapter as their destination. Monroe sang some of the old favorites after which the Motor City Chorus honored us with their superb rendition of their favorite numbers, under the very capable direction of Bill Butler. Both the chapters then learned some tags from some favorite quartets. The hosting chapters program chairman for the evening was the very talented Steven Cawood. The evening was then concluded by the serving of refreshments. A very good time was had by all.

Friday, July 1, Detroit sponsored a big blow out to raise funds for our representatives to go to Chicago to the International. The Monroe chapter had a good showing at this blow out. Detroit is also sponsoring the Moonlight Cruise this coming July 15. The tickets are going fast... if not already gone. Again Monroe chapter is expecting good representation.

The Monroe chorus will be singing on the free stage at the Monroe County Fair on August 3. If you want to hear real barbershopping, come out and give a listen. Bub Riggs, our director, will do everything in his power to put on a good show for everyone. Don't forget that date...August 3 at the Monroe County Fair.

reporter: Paul R. Parker

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Muskegon Presents Piano To Handicapped

In good barbershopper fashion and with the best interests of the community and children in mind, the Muskegon chapter presented a new piano to the Western Michigan Center for Handicapped. The enclosed picture shows our president, Bob Hart presenting it to the happy director of the center, Kurt Hollander. This was presented during our annual show.

To back our local quartets at the Bush League contest a group of the Muskegon chapter went along to Boyne City and had a grand time.

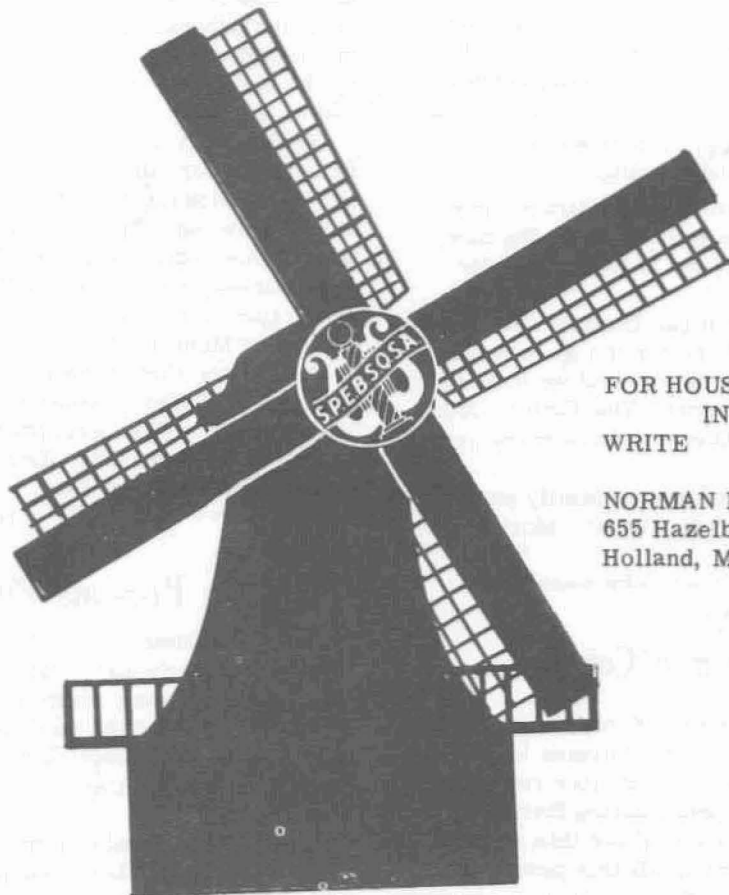
Our hearty congratulations to the Rafter Ringers of Grand Rapids, the new Bush League Champions. We are very proud to have the second place winners right in our own chapter. The Kasual Ds, with Dave Lollar back on his feet (with the help of two special sticks) did a fine job and captured the runner-up spot.

reporter: mel struthers

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