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THE Michigan Troubadour

Published by the Michigan District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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Palaver
from
Pete



Recently I called Jack Oonk and rashly told him that I could handle the Troubadour seeing as he had to give it up. Much to my surprise he took me seriously so Gang, here is ol' Pete at the typewriter coming out with my first editorial no less.

First of all let me say that we plan a few additions to our fine District paper, one (as you can see from the cover) is a report from the AUTO-TOWNERS on where they have been and all their activities and travels, which should interest any member of the Michigan District. - Secondly, I have contacted a couple of men in the District to write an article on anything that they felt would help the Michigan District. With this article I invite anyone interested in writing along these lines, let's make it What You Think We Need To Make the District Grow and Prosper.

With this said I would like to state a few things which I have been just a little curious about recently. This column could be cartooned with a picture of the Michigan District asking all the members a question that would go something like this "I KNOW ALL THAT, BABY BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?" Are the chapter officers selling the singing, fellowship, fun, new acquaintances, tags, and great competition that can be had at the district and regional conventions? I don't think so. How many guys do you know that sing in a chorus contest and go home? If he does not care for Quartets or tags or fun or everything that goes with the convention then that is one thing ..BUT... if this cat does not know what goes on at one of these shin-digs then the blame falls on the members of that chapter that do know and don't think to tell this new man. I know almost any guy out there who has been around for three years has seen a new member go to a convention and be trans-fixed for weeks. All he can talk about is the guys in the red jackets who took the time to sing a song for him in some hallway and he couldn't understand why they didn't win. It is all part of what happens - let us not be greedy, let's share what we have going for us.

QUESTION: What do you suppose would happen if we had 100% attendance at Jackson at the Regional? Let's

put Jackson chapter in a bind and all show up (I think they would love that kind of trouble).

Also along this vein what about your neighboring chapter show. When was the last time you attended their show and after-glo or wondered how come they haven't been to your show recently. I certainly do not expect Niles to attend the Soo show but how about Grand Rapids, Holland and Muskegon talking a run down to Kalamazoo on February 18th. It is a great show with the AUTO-TOWNERS and RENEGADES and Detroit area,...there is a show in Windsor the same night with the FOUR FITS and the HARMONY HOUNDS. Let's take a look at what the other guy is doing with his show, - we might pick up a few ideas for our own shows, not to mention the singing, etc. See guys, when you attend someone elses show you don't have to do a darn thing but enjoy, enjoy and watch the other guy work. So let us share what we have and spread ourselves around but be careful, you may enjoy it and then where would you be?

YOUR EDITOR.....Pete Elkins

Holly Fenton Has Good Year

The Holly-Fenton Chapter is closing out a very good year. Besides members attending various shows and picnics, showing of the Chicago Contest Film by the Flint Chapter, Pontiac Corn Roast, Dearborn Spring Convention, Holland Contest and Convention, Kensington Boat Ride, our own Chapter Picnic, our chorus entering the Dearborn Chorus Contest resplendent in our new uniforms, and, climaxing this with a very successful show, we also appeared at a number of dinners, etc. We are looking for an even better year under the leadership of President Dr. Wm. E. DeHart and a very capable slate for officers for 1967.

Our annual fall show "Harmony High-Lights" last November was one of the best yet both in talent and attendance. The after-glo was a sell-out with many wanting to attend but whom we could not accommodate because of lack of room.

Our President, Vice President and Secretary are planning on attending the Officers Training School in Lansing in January and more will be there if they can make it.

Right now our chorus is planning on entering the chorus contest in Jackson in April and is scheduled to appear on a variety show for the Fenton Living Theatre Series in February.

We are sorry to loose the services of our longtime secretary, Lee Thomas. He has held this position for a long time and it will be difficult for the new secretary to fill his shoes. He just wants to woodshed to his hearts content.

Kline Sprague has retired from the Bell Telephone Company and has moved to Venice, Florida. We wish him the best of barbershopping in the Sunshine District.

REPORTER.....ART BURNETT

ADVERTISING RATES FOR THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

Full page: \$40, 1/2 page: \$30, 1/4 page: \$20, 1/8 page: \$15. However, unless copy is ready for photographing, a minimum of \$5.00 will be added for set-up or art work.



From the Pen of the President



RESOLUTIONS FOR '67 President...Eric Schultz

If you must be concerned, concern yourself with today, don't worry about the future, the future will take care of itself. How often have you heard this or some similar statement? This, to me, is a sign of complacency, a sort of willingness to accept conditions whatever they may turn out to be as satisfactory.

How much better the future would be if we prepared for it today. The future to me is a blank, an empty page if you will, waiting for us to fill in, and unless we do, it will pass us by as empty and blank as the many yesterdays we wish we could relive. We can only relive the yesterdays in memory, we cannot make them any better than they were, but the planned tomorrows can become better todays.

So it is with us who have assumed our various duties as chapter officers, committee chairmen, area counselors, district officers and yes, even as members of this society.

Let us then resolve that this year of 1967 will be a year well planned, and in doing so we will be better able to execute our various duties and to reap a more bountiful harvest of barbershopping in the Michigan District. Let us resolve to hold good wholesome chapter meetings where all members can participate and enjoy themselves. Let us resolve to hold an annual show including our chapters chorus and quartets. Let us resolve to support our united service project "The Institute of Logopedics", let us resolve to support the many district functions to be held in 1967 such as the Fifth Man, Arrangers & Chorus Directors Schools, The Internation Preliminaries, The Regional Contest, the House of Delegates Meetings, the District Board Meetings, the visits to the many chapters by our Internation Field Representative, Lloyd Steinkamp and last & what I feel is the most important resolution....Support and Co-operate with your chapter officers and committee chairman to achieve the goals your chapter hopes to accomplish in the coming year. It is by our efforts that they become a reality. It is only by planning the future together with the cooperative effort of every many in every chapter that the Michigan District of Associated Chapters can collectively achieve a full and successful year. Success will not happen by itself, it must be fully planned and carefully executed. You as a member of this society can make it so if you resolve..

+++++

Approximately 45% of the Michigan District membership comes up for renewal every January 1, and every year we lose a good number of these men, they just don't renew their membership, and if you ask them why they will tell you they have too many other things to do - or their wife is bowling on that night, or that they are just too tired after working the many hours they work, or some such excuse, and we say to them "Gee, that's too bad", or just

plain "Oh", and leave it go at that, and that is the last you see from this member. You have lost him for good.

Now you cannot make me believe that you are so naive that you believe these reasons are valid. Oh, you may accept them as valid because you don't want to believe what is really the reason for him not renewing, but let us be honest with ourselves. There are very few men who will not renew their membership in any organization if they have gotten out of it what they joined it for. Retaining membership is a 12 month effort - not just at renewal time. You just can't forget about a man for 12 months and then expect him to buy another year of the same stuff. Make every man in your chapter part of your chapters activities and plans. Find out what he would like to do in your chapter, it may be a better idea than you had. I am sure that almost every man in your chapter wants to help accomplish what your chapter has set out to do, if you make him part of it, he is entitled to it, he joined your chapter, didn't he? And when his project is completed, thank him for the outstanding job he has done - Publicly. Perhaps he would like to sing in a quartet...don't tell him to form one, help him form one. Get into the quartet yourself, or are you too busy or something yourself? You did join a quartet society yourself, remember? Let us extend the friendly hand of fellowship more often so that everyone will feel they belong. Let us employ "Pay as you go Joe" early in the year so that when January 1 rolls around you have retained another member instead of losing another member and your chapter will grow every time you sign a new member.

Look at the records compiled here for every chapter in the Michigan District from December 31, 1964 through December 31, 1966 and you will admit that we are not doing a good enough job in retaining members.

Respectfully..Eric Schultz
District President

Cereal City Finds New Meeting Place

Battle Creek Chapter has located a new place to have their meetings. Every Monday night meeting will be held at the Verona Optimist Club House on Raymond Road. An invitation is cordially extended to all interested in the preservation of barber shop harmony. Meetings start at 8:00 P.M. promptly.

* * *

Plans are presently being made for the Twelfth Annual Night of Harmony which will be at 8:00 P.M. April 29th, at the W. K. Kellogg Auditorium on VanBuren Street. Present plans indicate an exciting evening of entertainment.

* * *

The NOTATIONS, our newest organized quartet is doing a find job and making a great sound, we were proud of them in Holland at the District Convention. This fascinating four-some is comprised of Larry Swan, lead - Ken Yaw, Baritone Rom Mell, Bass - and Bob Campell, Tenor. The HARMONY HOUNDS, always a great quartet of four great showmen, are even better with their new sound. Their lead, Roger Lewis was on bass before, now Lowell Wolfe holds that spot. The other two parts remain the same, with Dick Speer as tenor and Dr. Bill Clark holding down the baritone department. Both quartets are busy with plans for our show in April, for which the tickets are presently on sale.

REPORTER.....ROBERT VANDER WALL



**NOTES FROM
THE SECRETARY**

LOUIS R. HARRINGTON

Attention now focuses on the spring convention to be held in Jackson on April 14-16, 1967. Two quartets will be chosen to represent the Michigan District in international competition in Los Angeles this summer, and the District championship chorus will be determined. There will also be a meeting of the House of Delegates. Quartet entry blanks will be sent out by the International Office to all registered quartets and chorus entry blanks will be sent out by the District Secretary's office.

* * *

District directories for 1967 have now been printed and forwarded to the International Office for mailing to each member of the District. We are informed that Tom Aardema, 581 Chippewa, Benton Harbor has replaced Robert Duncan as secretary of the Fruit Belt chapter. Please notify our office of any additions or changes since the directory was compiled.

* * *

Upon receipt of the official membership figures of December 31st from International headquarters, statements are being sent to chapter secretaries and treasurers for per capita tax payments of \$4.00. The \$4.00 per capita payment also includes the TROUBADOUR subscription fee. Payments can be made in quarterly installments or lump sums. All checks should be made payable to the "Michigan District, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.", and mailed to my office at 2361 First National Building in Detroit, Michigan 48226, for recording.

* * *

Chapter secretaries should send the Quarterly Reports to the District Secretary's office promptly when they are due and also their chapter bulletins for use in computing the Achievement Awards.

* * *

THE FIFTH MAN SCHOOL

The Fifth Man School will be held in Saginaw, Michigan starting Friday evening May 12th at 9:00 P.M. and last through Sunday noon, May 14th.

Gene Gillem of 3217 State Street in Saginaw, Michigan will be the Chairman and Contact Man.

This school could be called a Barbershop Singing School. It should be attended by Chorus Directors, Assistants, Quartet Men, Coaches, Arrangers, Judges, Officers, and any other member who is interested in improving his singing. Does that leave any of us out???

OPEN TO ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS

P.S. Exact location, etc. will follow when final arrangements have been made.

Great Lakes "Heads" For 100

Great Lakes was host to the INSOMNIACS of South Haven on Friday the 13th of January. Bad luck had its way too. Roger Valentine suffered a displaced vertebrae early in the day and fell to his knees in pain. He rallied sufficiently by that evening to make the trip to Grand Rapids, sang beautifully, and helped to make the program a huge success. (That old stuff about "the show must go on" must carry over into barbershop.)

Our chapter has been a beehive of activity. We challenged the boys at Muskegon by way of an insult regarding their ability to sing. They responded. A delegation headed by President Tom Damn came over to answer the challenge and socked yours truly in the puss with a pair of gloves. But it was all in good clean fun (wasn't it Tom?)

Time and place of the sing-off has been set at 9:00 P.M. at the Pantlind Hotel on February 10. We have an all-star quartet selected by ballot plus another brand new quartet which was started by Pete Elkins ready to battle the two groups from Muskegon.

Our chorus is hustling to learn a new repertoire for two engagements. One is on a Sweet Adeline show on February the 3rd. The girls are reciprocating engagements by singing for us at choral evening we are sponsoring on February the 24th.

Several other local choral groups have been invited to this event which originated some years back because of a pet peeve. Too often, performing groups are stuck backstage and never get to see the show in which they are participating. On our choral evening everyone gets to see the whole show.

Our membership roster is growing. Hopefully it may pass the century mark sometime this year.

The Great Lakes Chorus is rapidly regaining the size and the sound which gained it prominence in the past. We expect to give a lot of guys a lot of trouble in the future competition. Our welcome mat is always out, however, any Friday night you are in the vicinity of the Pantlind Hotel.

REPORTER.....JACK SIDOR

* * * * *

Smithonians Entertain NYC

The Detroit Yachtsmen Chorus entertained a large and receptive audience at the annual Commodore's Christmas party at the Detroit Yacht Club. The group has elected Louis R. Harrington as president this year

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Herbert entertained 60-some members of the Yachtsman Chapter at a delicious dinner at their beautiful home. The group was royally entertained by the SMITHONIANS. The chapter is concentrating on their

The chapter is concentrating on their Ladies Night show to be held March 4th at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. All barbershoppers and their ladies are welcome to attend. Tickets can be obtained by any member or at the club.

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PETE ELKINS

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The Voice Box



As Michigan District Service Chairman I feel that it is time once again for Michigan to sponsor a logopedic show or some other form of money raising project in which the whole district can participate for the logopedic cause.

As you may remember, the Michigan District on their first logopedic benefit show cleared over \$1,100, after all expenses. We felt that was not bad for our first try at something of this nature.

I feel that Michigan is on the upward swing again and with our own International Champions, the AUTO-TOWNERS leading the way as our traveling ambassadors, it should help put some extra drive in each and every one of us to accomplish some of the jobs that need doing in our district. These are truly four fine fellows who have done and continue doing a great job for Michigan.

As most of you know from reading the Troubadour and correspondence from International, we as a district are sponsoring three children at the Institute of Logopedics. I am well aware of the fine job our chapters have been doing to further the cause through donations dime-a-week mugs, charity shows, etc., but what better to unify the Michigan District then to bring together our top talent every year to show the state and country that truly Michigan barbershoppers sing that children may speak.

There was an article in the last issue of Troubadour stating the status of our children who we sponsor. After reading the article if you didn't get a lump in your throat and if it didn't make you appreciate your own children's good health and well-being, then brother, something is wrong with you.....

Now is the time for the barbershoppers in Michigan to show their colors, to unite, to grab the ball and run - this is our year, fellows, let us make the most of it.

Look at what we have going for us in Michigan. This is the first time in 22 years, we have had an International Champion, and now our wonderful AUTO-TOWNERS who have shown the way to win to our quartet representatives who will be picked at our regional contest in Jackson this spring. And how about our terrific chorus that will carry the banner for us to Los Angeles, none other than The Motor City Chorus. Man, can these guys sing - the last time I heard them, I had so many goose-bumps on the back of my neck that I couldn't button my shirt. This very well could be our year for chorus champions too and I have never meant anything more seriously...so now is the year to show what can be done for logopedics.

What I need from you fellows are some ideas and a chapter to host this day of days. Maybe all the chapters of a zone could band together and host it at some central locations or something of that nature. So come on barbershoppers - you chapter officers, let us have your ideas your offers, your bids. I will guarantee to meet with you to help in any way I can, also to furnish you with a complete record of our last logopedic benefit show to help in your planning stages.

Sing-cerely,

Lowell E. Wolfe

Oakland County Plans October Show

From the looks of things around the Oakland County Chapter, this may be a year of years for barbershopping in Oakland County. OCC membership growth has been surpassing previous years - the results are evident in the expansion of the Barbary Host Chorus and in the attendance at first Friday Business Meetings.

Renewed spirit also is showing through in program planning for the chapter. Dick Van Dyke has shown himself a man of ideas in planning our monthly meeting programs. (So what if his brother is a member of the feature quartet for the February 3rd meeting. A little nepotism doesn't hurt as long as it turns up in as outstanding group as the CASUAL D'S.)

Recording Secretary, John Morris will accept the blame for the artwork on the piece sent to area chapters about OCC's coming "Leprechaun Leap". Our wives planned this one. With live dance band, free "suds" and mix, and as much entertainment as we can come up with. Bring your own hard stuff. The charge is \$6.00 per couple - 9:00 P.M. is the starting time on March 17th (St. Patrick' Day, in case your forgot), at the American Legion Hall, at 12 Mile and Rochester Roads in Royal Oak.

If the determination of the SPINTONES showed on Friday night, January 27th is any indication, we can expect to see all of them on March 17th. Norm Swanson, Dick Liddicoatt, Del Badgley and Bror Nilsson had been scheduled to sing for the Redford Chapter... however, when the heaviest snow of the winter began falling, Redford decided with was not the night for a meeting. The SPINTONES were not willing to give up. They figured all that effort preparing for Redford should not go to waste, so they headed for Windsor No luck there either!

Finally these four hardy Oakland County members uncovered a brave bunch of Barbershoppers in Ann Arbor. Snow or no snow, the Ann Arbor members were determined to hold their meeting. Worth has it that the SPINTONES had no difficulty getting through. They just strapped Nilsson to the front bumper and plowed their way through. Knowing how hard it was for me just to dig out of my driveway, I figure the SPINTONES and the entire Ann Arbor Chapter deserves our applause. That is real dedication.

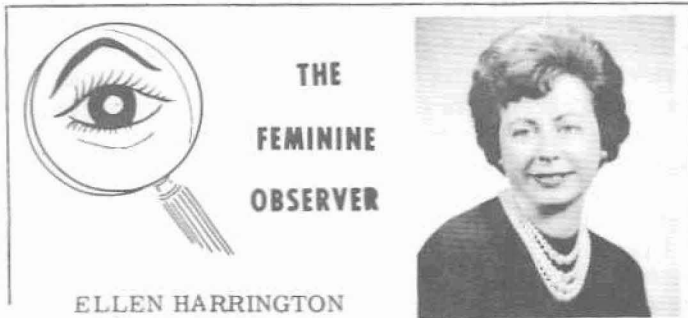
OCC's aiming for October for our first big show in years. Bob McDermott's in charge. He will be feeding us full details in coming months.

Keep your wife happy. We will see you at the Royal Oak American Legion Hall on March 17th.

REPROTER.....JOE VAUGHN

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.





ELLEN HARRINGTON

Detroit Chapter entertained the ladies with quartets, their chorus, dancing, prizes and a delicious buffet. Mrs. John Neighorn and Mrs. Lawrence King reigned as queens for the evening. Among those present were William Smith, Ray Smith, Bob Farrington, Mike Arnone, Carl Restivo, Al Rehkop, Glenn VanTassell, John Seaman, Bill Wickstrom, Mike Mudgett, Stan Salter, Hank DeVries and Messrs and Mesdames: George Acree, William Amperser, Bill Butler, Matt Calderwood, Ron DuMonthier, Norman Thompson, Gene Bulka, Tony Scooros, Dave Russell, E.E. Ryan, Ralph Schirmer, Art Schulze, Hal Bauer, Otto Vogel, William Warner, Bert West, Bob Winters, Clint Bostick, Carl Dahlke, William Favinger, R. R. Ryan and many more.

* * *

Pontiac's show was enjoyed by an overflow audience that raved about the RENEGADES and William Pascher's stage setting. Enjoying the event were Ted McDonald, Rawley Hallman, Messrs. and Mesdames: Whitey Ryden, Jerry Lerous, Cliff Douglas, Ed Lilly, Terry Fraser, C.D. Sanborn, William Warner, Larry King, Pat Ryan, Bill Butler, Bill Amperser, Louis Michael, Bill Grumbly and many others.

* * *

Pontiac's show was enjoyed by an overflow audience. Congratulations to Dr. and Mrs. William Bischoff of Holly-Fenton on the birth of their daughter and to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Malecki of Dearborn on the birth of their son.

Les Lang Flint Chapter President in '67

Our December chapter attendance was very good considering the holidays and some pretty bad weather.

On December 13th the meeting was held in Les Lang's recreation room and we were honored by the appearance of the CROSS-TOWNERS quartet from Saginaw.

December 28th the meeting was held during a snow storm but many of the members braved the storm to attend the meeting.

What happened in January? Well... on the 7th COTS School was held in Lansing - the 14th was our installation of officers and ladies night with the guest quartet the HARMONY-KNIGHTS. The 21st was the Pontiac Show. We held our regular meetings on the 10th and the 24th with some different features in our programs.

What does February have in store? February 7th there is a Tri-Chapter meeting at Holly-Fenton

So HOORAY for 1967 - it does look as if we are off to a good start.

About the new chapter president Les Lang. He joined the Flint Chapter in May of 1962 and was appointed chapter bulletin editor and reporter in July of 1963. 1965 saw him

elected a chapter director and 1966 membership Vice President.

Les sings tenor and is well known in the area as the guy who shows up at nearly every area affair and many visits to other chapter meetings.

He was the "Honored Barbershopper of the Year" in 1965.

His hobbies are singing, golf and bowling and he was the captain of the 1960 All Star Bowling Champs.

Les is a member of the Elks and Lions Clubs, Genesee Sportsmens, State & National Societies of Public Accountants, U. C. T. & Probe.

He and his wife Irene have three sons, Bob and Larry are married and Garry is with the 4th Marines in Viet Nam

When he is not out singing he may be found behind the presidents desk at Argus Business Service or Management Consultants Inc.

Flint Chapter has a very active January with the Holly-Fenton installation of officers, Saginaw Chapter installation of officers, Flint installation of officers which was also a ladies night.

Ron Gillies, Area Counsellor, performed a very credible ceremony. Sim Andrews Ray Goodall, Neil & Irene Norman, Ron & Norma Gillies decorated the hall real pretty. Ray Goodall & Jim Scott set up a nice lunch. Hank Lanford & Mick Boggs handled the refreshment tickets. John Gilbert & Gerard Wrice handled the refreshments. Nearly everyone, plus several wives pitched in on the cleanup. Bill Channon was the chairman of the affair. Neil Norman was the emcee - nicest party ever.

We held two regular meetings which were very active and it looks like Flint is off for another good year. February promises two regular meetings with very good programs and a Tri-Chapter Meeting to be held jointly with Holly-Fenton & Saginaw.

March has a couple of regular meetings plus the Paddys Day Thaw at Bay City on March 19 and the Pontiac Woodshedding Contest on the 31st of March.

Ron Gillies was a very surprised and speechless recipient of the "Barbershopper of the Year" award at the installation of officers on January 14th.

REPORTER.....LES LANG

Jackson Meets At Elk's Lodge

Our regular chapter meeting of Friday, January 27, was canceled because of the deep snow. In fact, we have changed meeting places from the Hotel Hayes to the Elks Lodge at 310 Mechanic St. Drop in for a visit--regular meetings on the second and last Friday evening of the month--the chorus meets the other Fridays.

All had a wonderful time at Ladies Night, January 21, and during festivities, our 1967 officers were installed.

April 1, the chorus puts on a package show for the Elks in Albion, Michigan.

Preparations for the Michigan District Spring Convention have been moving along successfully. Jackson is planning the best convention ever--get your quartets and choruses in shape. See you in April here in Jackson.

REPORTER.....ED HILDEN

Looking Up

Burt Szabo

All judges and candidate judges will be notified of a Judging Seminar to be held in Lansing in late February or early March. Plan to attend. This seminar will consist of category discussions in general and discussions of fine points within the categories. I hope there will be two or three quartets on hand to act as guinea pigs for the judges and candidates. Of course, the seminar will be open to any interested barbershoppers in the Michigan District.

Now that the holiday season is past and the new year is well underway, many quartets and choruses are beginning their preparations for the Spring Contests in Jackson in the month of April. I wish I could say that most quartets and choruses are starting preparations for these contests, however it is a sad fact of barbershopping life in the Michigan District that most of our quartets and choruses do not enter the contests. The 1966 Michigan District Directory listed 44 quartets. Only 10 quartets actually competed in Holland at the last contests. Allowing for a few past district champs and some quartets who are no longer active, this means that over two-thirds of the quartets in the District did not enter that contest. Why should there be so many quartets who do not care to enter contests?

I am sure that some quartets from the eastern part of the District might say "It's too far to travel to Holland for a contest". These same people might think nothing of traveling just as far to go fishing or bowling. How far is "too far"? With a highway system such as we have in Michigan, it is possible to make the drive in less than three hours. I recall contests I have judged in other districts where quartets and choruses traveled five or six hundred miles to sing in a contest simply because they enjoyed singing and looked forward to seeing and hearing other quartets and choruses. In addition, I believe these contestants felt that they owed something to their chapters and didn't want them to not be represented in the contest.

I have heard quartets say, "We aren't good enough to win". Although the idea of winning (championships, contests, games or whatever) has infiltrated and now appears to dominate almost every aspect of social and recreational endeavor, I cannot believe that this philosophy should be allowed to dictate our Society's activities. Sure we have contests to select quartet and chorus winners, but since when has the winning of a contest become so all-important that those who might not win shouldn't participate. If the Society is to endure as a singing organization then the emphasis must be placed on singing for one another and for the public with the contest idea less important, if not secondary. But, I digress. If there is enough chapter spirit in the hometown and if the chapter attends the convention to give their support to its quartets, then I expect the quartets will compete and in addition, the chapter will compete as a chorus, whether they are good enough to win or not.

"Aw, those clinics don't help." Or, "Those judges know who will win before the contest". Could it be that some of us have thin skins and don't want to be told that a little practice might help us sing better, that we sing a little sharp or flat, or that we should select songs more suitable to our capabilities? Every barber-shopper naturally feels that his quartet or chorus is the greatest and doesn't want anyone to suggest other wise and yet, any of us will accept constructive criticism in other activities. We all want to bowl better or to play better golf, and down inside, we all want to

sing better. To sing better is to have more fun singing. And I should like to emphasize at this point that I feel the Society is still and should remain a singing-fun organization. What better way to learn than to hear others sing and to receive the comments from the contest judges who are really trying to encourage better singing. If judges do not encourage better singing, or do not know how to criticize constructively then they shouldn't be judging contests.

I guess the best reason for singing in a contest is - it is fun. We all joined this organization to have fun singing - - so why not sing every chance we get?

The Jackson Chapter is going all out to stage one of the most interesting conventions this spring with several new innovations. Located near the population center of the district there is no reason why this convention should not be one of the best attended. And the number of competing quartets and choruses should be greater than in recent years. Will you be there?

By the way, if you have not tried woodshedding Morton Downey's 1931 hit, WABASH MOON, better give it a try. It is a natural for barbershop. Any music store will have it in stock or be glad to order it for you.

REPORTER.....BURT SZABO
(Kalamazoo)

No The Lansing Chapter

No, the Lansing Chapter is not dead and to prove we are not even dormant, read on -

First off we would like to brag about our Annual Cavalcade of Quartets featuring the BUFFALO BILLS, MERRI-MEN, SPAR-TONE-AIRS, AGING FOUR and the Lansing Chapter Chorus directed by Tony Stornant. The show was a sell-out and an overflow crowd attended our after-glo. It has been said you cannot please all the people all the time, but we came pretty close to it. October 21, 1967 is the next one.

We elected the following officers for 1967:

President, John Hamilton
Executive Vice President and Show Chairman,
Ken Gibson
Administrative Vice President, Ray Smith
Program Vice President, Harold McAttee
Treasurer, Les Collins
Secretary, Bob Meyers
Immediate Past President, Reese Olger

a very good group.

We managed to scrape together \$50 for Institute of Logopedics and \$100 for Mooseheart Endowment Fund. The chapter had not decided on the amount of a forthcoming donations to Logopedics from our show proceeds, but it will be considerable.

Our chapter chorus has performed for the Fowler Conservation Club, City Hall Girls' Club, Stanley Home Products Convention and Holland District Convention. Our MERRI-MEN, AGING FOUR and FOWLER FOUR quartets have also been pretty busy on their own. We invited twelve surrounding chapters to our Gay Ninties' Night on December 5th and the Michigan weather did not let us down -- it provided the "Great Ice Storm of '66" on December 4th, however, our members came through with a lot of guests and nothing went to waste.

"Have Bus - Will Travel". The Lansing Chapter now has its own bus and as soon as the new paint dries we will be around to see you - so drop us a line to let us know where the action is.

REPORTER.....BOB MEYERS

Jackson Hosts Spring Convention

The Jackson Chapter had a very active, productive and enjoyable 1966. Much credit is due our hardworking '66 officers and our enthusiastic membership, so.. a sincere thanks to the outgoing officers:

President Dick Simpson
Membership Vice President, George Dyer
Program Vice President, Dan LaBumbard
Secretary, Glen Loveland
Treasurer, Leo Rudloff

Also a public "thank-you" to Chorus Director Sam Cushman and to Ed Hilden the chapter bulletin editor and Troubadour reporter. It is results that count and I understand we are now the second largest chapter in the Michigan District. Guess we owe a vote of thanks to our two active registered quartets,...the perennial favorites, the FOR-TUNE TELLERS and the lovable (?) NOTE-ABLE FOUR.

The TUNE TELLERS will be featured on Kalamazoo's annual show February 18th. They will be "sandwiched" between two up-and-coming supporting quartets known as the AUTO TOWNERS and the FOUR RENEGADES. Now, this will be a "ham sandwich" that barbershopping gourmets will not want to pass up. Skip the diet and skip to Kalamazoo on February 18th.

We had 40 to 45 men Christmas caroling December 22nd. Wouldn't normally bring this fact up but we were pleasantly surprised when Chuck Sherwood, Bert Szabo and two other gentlemen (sorry..I don't have their names) from Kalamazoo joined us that night. After four stops we ended (as usual) at Rudloff's house for some delicious food and fellowship. Thanks for coming over, Men, and come back.

January 21st was Ladies Night and On February 4th the Jackson Chorus puts on a package show in Hartland, Michigan. I believe the REMINIS-SIRS quartet will be with us that night. On February 9th, we help the Jackson Kiwanis Club with their lecture series and on March 11th we plan to be well represented at Wayne's unique show put on completely by the Thoroughbred Chorus.

Jackson welcomes Michigan District's newest chapter, Big Rapids and Traverse City. Keep active and you will keep growing. Come to Jackson whenever you can and especially to the Spring Convention in April.

And....a challenge to all chapters---Get your choruses and quartets in shape and plan on a terrific time in Jackson April 14th through April 16.

REPORTER.....ED HILDEN

Pontiac Dreams "Silver Showboat"

The Pontiac Chapter's 24th Annual Holiday of Harmony held January 21st at the Pontiac Northern High School, thrilled a sell out audience for two and one-half hours with the kind of talent that will certainly be remembered around these parts for many a moon. Emceed jointly by Paul Eberwein of Windsor Chapter and Russ Seely of Grosse Pointe Chapter, the curtain opened on a 1900 era carnival scene with 21 members of the Pontiac Chapter on stage as carnival workers singing a medley of six songs directed by four different men. From this group the Pontiac Chapter quartets, - the REVELAIRES and the HARMONY KNIGHTS sang an additional two songs each.

The second half of the show saw the CLOSE CHORDERS,

our current Michigan District champs doing an admirable job. The FASCINATORS (a Sweet Adaline quartet from Windsor) singing their lovely best and the FOUR RENEGADES, our past international champs doing their great routine and receiving four encores and then a standing ovation from a capacity house

To round out a wonderful evening of barbershopping the after-glo held at the Waterford C. A. I. Hall was also a sell-out and the RENEGADES were nearly the last to leave the hall. I needn't tell you barbershoppers what a time that was.

To sum up the whole affair fellows, if you missed it we at Pontiac are sorry and we would like to put you on put you on notice to get your tickets early for our chapter's 25th anniversary "SILVER SHOWBOAT" in January '68.

REPORTER.....ED LILLY

Wayne To Host "Teen-Age Night"

Enthusiasm, optimism and action are apparently paying dividends judging from the turnouts at our meetings.

We do our best to see that every individual gets a chance to sing and never allow a guest to feel left-out. It is expected that membership retention this year will be the highest ever. This, coupled with the new members we have been signing should bring up to approximately 70 our membership by December.

Do Wayne reports always sound boastful? Well, we feel proud of our chapter and want the whole Michigan District to share our enthusiasm for the future. Any of you fellows who live in our neck of the woods are invited to drop in on any of our chapter meetings and see what we mean. We meet the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month at Hawthorn Valley Country Club, Merriman Road at Warren Road.

We have even more cause to feel good. We have been averaging 32 to 37 men at chorus rehearsals. Now, that may not sound like much to some of you larger chapters, but it was just a short while ago we felt fortunate to have 20 guys show up. We may not win the contest in Jackson next month but we are sure going to have alot of fun trying.

May we take this opportunity to thank the Michigan District for it's response to our early ticket sale for our 1967 "Pitch Pipe Parade". We were sold out long before show time. Now everybody knows what a championship chorus sounds like.

How many of you chapters have sponsored a "Teen-Age Night"? That is what we have coming up very shortly. All high schools in our vicinity will be invited to send their quartets or choruses. After all, these kids are potential barbershoppers.

Just a parting reminder: Enthusiasm begets enthusiasm So let's brag up your own chapter.

Boast-A chordingly

REPORTER.....MORRIE GILES

Mall City Has Busy February

The Mall City barbershoppers are hard at work mastering the new tunes and brushing up on the old ones, preparing for our annual parade on February 18th. The parade is to feature the AUTO-TOWNERS, FOUR RENEGADES and FOR-TUNE TELLERS.

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Our new program vice-president, Chuck Sherwood is certainly getting us off to a rousing start, the Friday after our show, February 24th, we have planned a TALENT? Night. Anyone who has ever played an instrument or even looked at one in a store window will be displaying their individual and exceptional talent.

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On February 11th, we sang at the County Center Building for the Consumers Power Credit Union. This was a repeat performance from previous years and it certainly is rewarding to sing for such an enthusiastic audience.

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It sure would be nice to see the ground again, possibly by the time we see you at Jackson's Spring Contest this 34+ inches of winter white stuff will disappear, see you there.

REPORTER.....GARY BROWN

Mark March on Your Calendar

Here we go again into a new year with a new set of officers, a new chorus director, a new approach to barbershopping (for us) and brighter hopes for a healthy flourishing chapter. Our new chapter officers for '67 are:

President - Duane Peltier
 Membership Vice President - Bill Isaacs
 Program Vice President - Floyd Albert
 Secretary - Bob Baylis
 Treasurer - Cy Pelican
 Chorus Director - Bill Hathaway

These guys have so much enthusiasm and ambition for Utica-Rochester that it is bound to rub off and make the chapter go like '67 (if you will pardon the cliche).

If our December meeting was any indication of our potential for the coming year, it should be a honey.

We invited the Utica-Rochester Sweet Adelines and their husbands to help us pack the hall and share the fun... and fun we had... to wring and I mean "WRING" the chords we had some of the best quartets in the district,...namely THE FOUR FITS, THE TREBLE SHOOTERS (in harness together again), THE HARMONY KNIGHTS (watch them), a new family quartet from Milford THE RICHTONES, and three fine sweet adeline quartets, THE TANTALIZERS, THE CHOMOTONES AND THE CHANTONES. TO top it off we heard from the Sweet Adeline Chorus and our own Clintonic Chorus. We have a reputation for good chow at these chapter meetings and this night was no exception. WOW - WHAT A MEETING.

The Utica-Rochester Chapter is planning to host its 5th Annual Quartet Contest on March 10th, 1967. Mark this on your calendar, Fellas. The quartet in your chapter may be our "67" Novice Winner. - The rules are simple, the prize is considerable (\$50.00) and the fun you will have is tremendous. Flyers with all the particulars will be sent to all chapter officers soon.

REPORTER.....JIM ST. AMAND

Sault Has New Chapter Reporter

By the time this goes to press we will be over a month behind in our reporting. Our many thanks go out to our able Secretary, Frank Murphy, who has handled this chore for so long and so well. December was a very busy month here with sing-outs at Christmas Parties and Charity Balls, etc., and highlighted by our annual Christmas Party which was a howlin success. Did I say howling? Excuse me fellas. It was a great month for barbershopping but marred by the illness of one of our most faithful and popular members, Bruce Martin. As of this writing Bruce is still in the hospital and our prayers go out to Bruce for a speedy and complete recovery soon. We miss him very much.

At one of our sing-outs for the Canadian Institute for the Blind, we were more than pleased to receive an application from Doug Leavens, a young chap who is blind. He has an exceptionally fine voice and is employed by Algoma Steel Corp. as an I. B. M. programme computer. We hope he will enjoy his association with our chapter as much as we enjoy our association with him.

January started off well with a spaghetti supper prior to our first meeting of the year. Many thanks to Art Bodley and his committee, not forgetting Betty B. who prepared the main course, also to Jerry Clowes, our Fines Master. He does a good job. Last week we sang out for the Cancer Society, where we were very well received. The month of January was also highlighted by the installation of new officers. To our retiring officers, our thanks for a job well done--to our new officers, bigger and better barbershopping in 1967.

REPORTER.....CEC. BOLITHO
 Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, Canada Chapter

Coming Events

April 1, 1967	Muskegon Parade
April 8, 1967	Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Flint Parade Rapids
April 14 through April 16, 1967	International Preliminaries in Jackson
April 29, 1967	Battle Creek Parade
May 6, 1967	Bush League Contest in Boyne City
May 12 through May 14, 1967	Fifth Man School
July 3 through July 8, 1967	International Convention in Los Angeles
July 21, 1967	Detroit Chapter Moonlight
August 11 through August 13, 1967	Arrangers School
September 9 & 10, 1967	Chorus Directors School
October 13 through October 15, 1967	District Convention, Windsor