

APRIL '68

michigan

APRIL, 1968

troubadour



PIONEER



DISTRICT

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

APRIL, 1968

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Off The Davenport

While visiting our friends in Pontiac at their recent 25th anniversary party we had the privilege of once again talking with Bill Otto. We hadn't had an opportunity to see Bill in about 6 years and we were pleased when he accepted Pontiac's invitation and flew up from his home in Florida.

A man who has devoted most of his private and business life to barbershopping, Bill's words of wisdom were welcomed by all and we are going to editorialize a bit on just a few of them. Speaking of his singing ability, Bill modestly stated "I wasn't really that good." Therein lies a big key to successful barbershopping.

This editor claims to be a bass, loves to sing bass, and will sing bass at the proverbial "drop of a hat". It is important to note, however, that we don't claim to be a "good" bass. We're really "not that good".

The true fact is that most barbershoppers are "not that good". We join with three other guys without pretense and proceed to sing for the fun and thrill of barbershop singing itself. It has never been our experience to have it inferred, even, that ANYONE isn't "good enough" to sing with a quartet for the fun of it. We have time and again seen our top quartets and quartet men giving someone the thrill of singing with them. (And these boys ARE that good.)

Your editor has spent many an enjoyable moment honking out a poor bass with quartets like the Aire

Males, (Roger Craig sure wasn't in any danger), The For-Tune Tellers, etc., etc. "I wasn't really that good." Never have we been questioned on our singing ability, but never has there been any doubt about the enjoyment we derive from our singing.

It is a wonderful and common practice at chapter meetings to give a visitor or newer member the thrill of singing with an experienced quartet. This has proven to be a foolproof way of "hooking" this man. He is hooked because he realizes that here, in our great barbershopping society, he has found the fraternal friendship of all of us with the sole requirement that he "ENJOY" our hobby, even though he isn't "really that good". This MUST be one key to the success of our society.

* * * * *

One of the best District publications has, for years, been the ILLINOIS District's "Attacks and Releases". It was used by this editor in setting up format and style for our present Troubadour. The guiding hand behind "Attacks and Releases" has been Charlie Wilcox.

Charlie has been a leader in PROBE and has helped barbershop editors all over the country. It is with regret that we learn that Charlie has been retired from A & R under doctor's orders. We want to, at this time, come out with an official "thank you, Charlie".

* * * * *

You will notice, in this issue, that two resolutions will be presented before the Delegates' Meeting in Muskegon. One concerns the District sanction fee imposed on chapters presenting shows.

The other resolution concerns the name of our District--specifically that the name "Michigan District" be changed to "Pioneer District". Although this resolution will be presented under "new business", this idea of changing the name of our District was broached some years back. At that time a multitude of possi-

bilities were presented without any LARGE part of our membership in favor of any one name, with the result that no change took place.

All chapters should discuss the pros and cons on these issues and properly instruct their delegates so that proper action can be taken at convention time at Muskegon.

In order to prompt discussion, we will try to give some of the pros and cons brought out the last time a name change was brought up.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT. . . This name does not include any reference to our fine chapters in Canada.

PIONEER DISTRICT. . . This name, while indicative of our contributions to the Society has no geographical location inferred in it and can be confusing to membership from outside of our District.

HURON-MICHIGAN

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO . . . Many of these came up before, but all lacked any kind of a majority of our membership.

ETC.

Some names are colloquial or local in nature and, while not bad, do present some confusion for society membership outside of our District. The Michigan, Ontario, Mid-Atlantic, Far Western and Northeastern Districts give a good idea as to where they are located. Others like Sunshine, Seneca Land, Johnny Appleseed, Cardinal, and Land O' Lakes offer a bit of the above-mentioned confusion to some people--however this apparently has been no problem.

MICHIGAN-ONTARIO PIONEER DISTRICT as a compromise sounds nice, however don't forget that we already have an Ontario District. There will, predictably, be some sentiment toward keeping the name we presently have.

We feel it is VERY IMPORTANT that any such change be endorsed by our total District membership, hence: Please discuss this thoroughly at your next chapter meeting, properly instruct your delegates and make sure your delegates and alternates attend the delegates meeting in Muskegon where action on these issues will be taken.

* * * * *

What does one say, at a time like this? It was like being hit in the throat and chest with a rock when we learned of the death of Rayland J. (Mike) Schied April 3 after being hospitalized with a coronary.

An active barbershopper for something like 17 years, Mike served as Flint Chapter treasurer from 1951 until 1965 when he assumed the duties of Michigan District Treasurer which he held at his death.

Employed by Chevrolet for well over 30 years, Mike had been a member of Elks, Masons, Sage Lake Barbershop Chapter, two bowling teams, and the Spring Meadow Golf Club, and still found time to sing in two barbershop quartets--the Ad Libs and the Tom Cats from the Flint Chapter.

The sorrow of the Michigan District over this loss is beyond words and our hearts go out to the family of Rayland J. (Mike) Schied.

JOIN THE FABULOUS 400



BOB and RENEE CRAIG, who live in New York are still in the news. Bob's quartet has taken a district championship while Renee has taken yet another chorus up to a Sweet Adeline Regional Championship.

* * * * *

BILL ROWELL, formerly a member of the Redford and Detroit #1 Chapters and lead singer in the old "Treble-Makers" and "Sharpkeepers" quartets who moved east has been, and still is, very active in barbershopping. After moving, Bill served as Program V.P., Membership V.P. and President of the Westchester County Chapter (N.Y.). Bill has been an Area Counselor and is N. Y. Division V.P. of the Mid-Atlantic District. He has sung with the "Topkicks" and the "Footlighters" and is currently the lead in the "Mad" group, the "Notewits". Bill lives in Ossining N.Y. with his wife Judy (Sweet Ad Past Champs--the Cracker Jills), two daughters and a son.

* * * * *

One of the Wayne Chapter work-horses and bass of the WAYNE DROPS, Al Fricker is in St. Mary's Hospital following a heart attack suffered while shoveling snow on Saturday, March 23rd.

Morrie Giles--Wayne Chapter

AL SHEA GONE



Al Shea, lead of the famous BUFFALO BILLS, died Saturday, March 9 in his home in New Jersey. Al, who was only 51, died of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Made nationally famous by their part in the great "Music Man" production, Al and the "Bills" were not only great singers but the friendliest of all Barbershoppers.

Muskegon - May 3-4-5

Following the Leader

District President



KEEP IT CLEAN

Canon #2 Society's Code of Ethics: Gene Gillem

"We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such manner as to reflect credit upon Society and it's members."

This should apply to weekly meetings and chapter social events as well as our public appearances.

I was quite young (17 years) when I was introduced to barbershopping per se. I became part of this great organization when I was 20. Why do I bring up my seniority? One reason only and my point is this: does your chapter have programming that is conducive to building barbershopping in your community with the teenager in mind? We, like many organizations, need new and young blood to survive.

What is the first impression a guest of your chapter will have? Must he make his way through a bar and then wait for the meeting to start while the membership is grudgingly extracted from the bar to start the meeting--usually late? Or is he invited to "have a couple" before the meeting, leaving him wondering if this is a singing or drinking Society.

Our organization had this "black eye" for years. In fact, if the truth is known, there are still many non-barbershoppers that have the impression we are a bunch of lamp-post hangers. Let's not give them reason for this thinking. Many a person's conception of a quartet is "four guys, feeling good, in a bar, in the wee hours, trying to harmonize." In some cases, this might be a deserved conception.

It was brought to my attention just a few weeks ago that one chapter actually spent most of the evening in a joke-telling session, with jokes getting progressively worse. There is a time and place for this, or is there really? This little treatise, I know, will not stop this from happening, but if it will serve to keep some of it out of our meetings, I will feel it has helped.

This brings me to another facet of this same subject. The "fearsome foursome" that represents your chapter. Do they, within reason, live up to the code of ethics? I would like to think that each and every member of this District is serving on the ethics committee, and then this writer would not, in the future, be getting letters and calls regarding integrity of quartets and individuals in our District.

If I sound like I am on a soap box, guys, I am. Just ask yourself how you and your chapter fit into this picture. Let's make our shows and presentations such that no one will ever have to be apprehensive about bringing their sons to chapter meetings, or about selling tickets to the general public.

In summation: When planning skits, hiring emcees, working up material for quartet appearances; if there is any doubt in your minds as to quality of jokes, etc., don't use them.

We have a product to sell and it does not need smut to sell it, just good public relations.

WE SING THAT THEY SHALL SPEAK



COMING TO MUSKEGON--RALPH RIBBLE

International Treasurer, Ralph Ribble of Dallas, Texas will represent International President, Wes Meier at our convention in Muskegon on May 3 to 5.

Ribble is a long-time Barbershopper and has held nearly all chapter and district offices. He has served for two terms as President of the Southwestern District Association of Chapters which included the states of Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Louisiana.

Despite his close association with the administrative side of barbershopping, Ribble has always found time to sing. He is an active quartet man, singing baritone, and is the director of the Town North (Dallas) Chapter.

In professional life, Ribble is the Assistant Vice President of the City Bank and Trust Company in Dallas and he lives in Dallas with his wife Sally.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Grand Rapids Presidents Night Ball will not be held in the Pantlind Hotel, as all regular events are, but, instead, will be held APRIL 19, 1968 at 9:00 p.m. at the LEXICON CLUB, 209 Lexington Ave. N.W., Grand Rapids.

DEARBORN CHAPTER RESOLUTION

March 27, 1968

Because of opinions heard at District Conventions and Parades, the Dearborn Chapter Executive Board appointed a representative to formulate a resolution or motion concerning the District Sanction Fee imposed on those Chapters which give Parades or Shows. The Resolution was drafted, edited, and re-written, and finally approved by vote of our Executive Board.

The resolution appears below. We wish you to seriously discuss it with your chapter members and instruct your delegates prior to the District Delegates Meeting at the Muskegon Convention May 3-4-5.

WHEREAS APPROXIMATELY 18 CHAPTERS IN THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT PRESENT OCCASIONAL OR ANNUAL FUND-RAISING PARADES OR SHOWS,

AND WHEREAS THE 5% MICHIGAN DISTRICT SANCTION FEE ON GROSS TICKET SALES IS IMPOSED WHEN SUCH FUNCTIONS ARE PRESENTED, AND RISK OF FINANCIAL LOSS MUST BE SUPPORTED BY THOSE CHAPTERS PRESENTING SUCH FUNCTIONS,

AND WHEREAS SUCH MONIES REALIZED FROM SUCH SANCTION FEES PAYMENTS ARE DEPOSITED INTO THE GENERAL FUND TO DEFRAY DISTRICT ROUTINE AND SPECIAL EXPENSES,

THEREFORE, IT IS MOVED THAT THE SANCTION FEE IMPOSED BY THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT BE ABOLISHED, AND THE GENERAL EXPENSES TO MAINTAIN THE DISTRICT ORGANIZATION BE MET BY IMPOSING EQUAL FINANCIAL SUPPORT PAYMENTS UPON ALL DISTRICT MEMBERS OR CHAPTERS.

Thank you for your attention. Please give it your sincere thoughts so your delegates will be instructed in voting on this matter at the Delegate Meeting in Muskegon.

Bob Stone
Chapter Representative



Certain men stand out like giants in the field of barbershopping. We can be justly proud that many of these men come from our own Michigan District. Men like Cecil Fisher. Howard Tubbs, Bill Diekema, John Hill, Mark Roberts, Roscoe Bennett, Chase Sanborn, Clarence Jalving, Ed Smith and many others. Some of these truly outstanding people have passed away leaving their indelible mark on our lives, others have semi-



retired from barbershopping after years of loyal service to the hobby they loved and continue to love so well. Still others continue their efforts to bring the highest level of administrative and musical skills to the Society in general and our Michigan District in particular. Al Burgess is one of these men.

Al's accomplishments are many and varied. Consider this list of achievements: Sixteen years a member of the Muskegon Chapter; three years of membership in the Beacon-Aires quartet who were Bush League Champs and third place finalists in the Michigan District; two years with the popular Harmony-Jesters foursome (do you remember Al in that clown outfit?); director of the Muskegon "Port City Chorus" who were twice District Champs, represented Michigan at four International Contests and twice finished fourth as International Medalists; Area Counselor of the Year; District Vice President for two years; President for two years; International Board Member for two years more; winner of the Muskegon Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year Award; popular song leader and M.C. at many chapter parades and District contests; a highly active and sought-after coach of quartets and choruses. . . and . . . currently the director of the brand new Harbor Masters Chorus of Grand Haven.

It is a real pleasure to share one of Al's many fine tags with other Michigan Tag lovers. "I've Lost All My Love For You" is a song written by an old friend of Al's, Teddy Giegermann (now deceased). The song was sent to Al on a tape with ukelele accompaniment and Al turned it into an outstanding barbershop arrangement. The "Harbor-Masters Chorus" are working on it now and they love it. I know you'll enjoy this small sample of it too. It is easy to learn and sing and is written in a comfortable key.

We will all get a chance to hear the whole song soon. Here is what Al says about our newest chapter: "The new chorus here in Grand Haven is a thrill for me. I gave up the Port City Chorus only because of health. I have missed chorus directing more than you could possibly imagine. It's great to be back. Believe me, we'll be on stage in the next fall contest. We have forty men who are ready, willing and able. It is my hope and goal to help present barbershopping to the community in which I live and work. If these guys only get half the "kicks" that I've had, they'll know that barbershoppers are the greatest people on earth. The new Grand Haven Chapter is happy and proud to become a fully chartered chapter in the Michigan District and I'm sure that every member of our chapter will do all he can to see to it that MICHIGAN SINGS."

When you are in Muskegon May 3rd through 5th, make it a point to shake this man's hand and say hello. And when you do, be prepared to sing your part to this tag. Knowing Al, he won't let you get away without at least one song. It's men like Al Burgess who "Keep America Singing."

(P.S. Add a flat to the third lead note in Tony Skoorus' March Tag. There was a "Craigographical" error.)

Dunc Hannah (Oakland County) wrote our familiar arrangement of "Dear Old Girl". John Hill and Dunc collaborated on the arrangement we all know of "Mandy Lee".

Snyder Records Our Past

By Duane Mosier



L TO R: JOE WOLFF, DEAN SNYDER, DUANE MOSIER
Photo by Walter Tedrick.

Scientists tell us that nothing is ever lost, that tangible and even intangible objects and sounds are preserved though in changed forms. The writer, not being possessed of a scientific mind, but possessing a somewhat stubborn one, will not undertake to assert a negative; he cannot penetrate this mysterious phenomena, but we do know that man's genius has resulted in some marvelous inventions, one of which is a machine for the recording of sound for reproduction.

Our Society's International Historian, Dean Snyder of Alexandria, Virginia, is possessed of one of these recording instruments and is making the best possible use of it. He is the repository of barbershop memorabilia and, in addition to quantities of letters, manuscripts, and other written material, is centering to himself the thought recollections in sound of as many of that remaining coterie of barbershop greats as he can reach, who did so much in the formative years of our Society to make it what it is today.

It is a monumental task but Dean is well equipped to do a thoroughly comprehensive job. It has and will entail traveling from coast to coast, one trip of which he has already completed. It also requires telephone calls, much letter writing in making advance arrangements and final checkups to make sure that all details are completed for the local recording.

This project was approved by the International Board and in the summer of 1967 Historian Snyder set out on his first nation-wide trip. From August through the early part of December he made the following recordings: Carroll Adams and Florence Staab, widow of the late Hal Staab, in Northampton, Massachusetts; Reddie Wright in Santa Monica, California; Deac Martin, two recordings in Rocky River, Ohio; Phil Embury and Art Merrill in Chappaqua, New York; and Wayne Foor in Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania. He will undertake to reach all former Society presidents and other officers, board members, song arrangers, and any old timer who has made a substantial contribution to SPEBSQSA.

His most recent effort was made on Wednesday, March 20, 1968, when he made a detailed recording of Joseph P. Wolff of Detroit. Every Michigan barber-shoppper knows, or should know, that Joe, a Detroit

No. 1 Chapter life member and its first president, was also instrumental in organizing the district when he and a few stalwarts met at a cottage at Lake Orion and formalized it with Joe being elected president (1942-3), this being the first district to be organized east of the Mississippi. (More detail regarding his effort in this respect appears in his "Reminiscences" appearing elsewhere in this issue.) He was also an International Board member (1940-41) and drew up the Society's Code of Ethics which, with the exception of a few minor changes, remains the same today as when written. Michigan has the right, therefore, to use the symbol "Pioneer District", and Troubadour editor Jim Davenport should be commended in using it as a masthead for our fine publication. It is entirely fitting.

Snyder had requested the writer to make the necessary arrangements, which he did at the plush hotel connected with the Detroit Metropolitan Airport. From 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. the only subject under discussion was - you guessed it - early barbershopping days. Joe's thoughts, ideas, suggestions and criticisms were fully explored by Dean propounding the questions, all of which was recorded on a tiny tape which will enter the archives of the historian for either current use, if requested, or for future generations to ponder over. It was a veritable exposure of barbershop wisdom from one who knows his subject.

Questions might well be asked such as what use will be made of these recordings, what purpose do they serve, and why go to Society expense for an object such as this? We have at the present time two so-called histories of SPEB, one covering the first ten years of the Society's life and one covering twenty-five years which, according to Snyder, is not as complete as it should be although well compiled.

These questions are best answered by the historian himself when he says: "The principal purpose of the tapes is to store up historical reminiscence and reflection for later use in compiling a 35, 40, or 50 year written history whenever the Society decides to publish a third companion volume to add to the 10 year and 25 year volumes which now exist. In the interim this material will provide grist for Harmonizer articles and listening pleasure to some of our historically minded members who may wish to borrow copies of these tapes." To the writer the purpose seems well founded and the expense justified. Banks, great foundations, corporations and even our several branches of government use tape recorders to insure lasting permanence of subject matter. Every public place in the country would be filled to capacity if people could hear Abraham Lincoln's voice delivering his great historical Gettysburg address. We now have facilities for recording unheard of a hundred years ago. Let's use them. In the years to come, perhaps 25 or 50 as Dean suggests, there may be a new generation of barbershoppers who may wonder how our Society was formed and who the old timers were who participated in its organization and development. Avenues will then be open by means of the plans herein commented upon to anyone developing such interest. It is safe to say that, unless some great upheaval should occur to destroy our Society, it will, like Old Man River, just keep rolling along. As long as there are old familiar barbershop harmonies in men's hearts their lips will not be stifled.

REMINISCING by Joe Wolff

Ed. Note: Joe Wolff prepared this article for the Pontiac Chapter which is celebrating its 25th anniversary.

It so happened that our group consisted of Glen Shields, Ed Schwope, Bill Barry, Howard Tubbs, Jim Creed, Monty Marsden and myself.

We were waiting to take our respective positions in the 1939 Decoration Day Parade. To while the time away, we resorted to a little unobtrusive barbershop-ping.

During a lull in our boondoggling session, it occurred to Ed Schwope that he had something that might be of interest. He produced a small newspaper clipping which contained a most startling announcement. I say startling, because we were more than pleasingly surprised, that at long last, there was evidence of some constructive steps being taken to further the cause of barbershop harmony. To us, it was euphoria's clarion call that dwarfed the impact of Paul Revere's ride.

It beckoned all kindred souls to rally around a group of barbershop addicts, headed by O.C. Cash, who was the founder of the SPEBSQSA. The time was at hand and the rendezvous was Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I asked Ed Schwope why he couldn't arrange to have his summer vacation coincide with this all-important conclave. My query was followed by my trying to induce him to go to Tulsa as our representative from Detroit, with hopes of getting permission to organize a Chapter under the Society's banner. With this thought in mind, Ed needed no other encouragement. He and his colleague from the state Highway Department went on to Tulsa and returned with the good news.

With no time left to lose, a few telephone calls resulted in holding our first official meeting at Bill Barry's summer cottage on Lake Orion. That's how the first Chapter of the Society was established east of the Mississippi.

Arrangements were made with the management of the Book Cadillac Hotel (now the Sheraton) to hold monthly meetings in what was then called the Founder's Room. Incidentally, I was honored to serve as our Chapter's first president.

With the word of our activities spread around to reach the true believers in barbershop harmony, and a few subtle hints dropped to the press, our attendance grew and so did our membership. It consisted of an assortment of quartet addicts, a few hackneyed professionals and some neophytes with doubtful potentialities.

Nevertheless, we plodded along with our heterogeneous aggregation, while striving to formulate an acceptable pattern for our functions. Our objective was to produce the most fruitful results for the benefit of all concerned.

Needless to say, the feature mostly favored by the majority, was to shorten the business meeting in order to devote more time to singing.

About this time, several quartets had attained a degree of proficiency, as to justify comparing their accomplishments with top-notch barbershop quality. I then suggested that our Chapter was ready to sponsor a parade of quartets, and by so doing, enable our



friends to see and hear what the society had to offer. With relatively little effort on our part, the Main Ball Room of the Book Cadillac Hotel was filled to its capacity. It should be mentioned, that fifteen or sixteen quartets, including two or three from out of town, made their debut on this occasion.

The idea of parading barbershop talent before the public had spread like wild fire; for it truly represented the aims of the society. What it really did, was to actually supplement the Society's original intent of spreading the gospel of barbershop harmony.

Prior to this time, attention was focused mostly on sponsoring contests. The parade, on the other hand, had relieved the participants of the agonizing fear of competition, linked with failure to place in the winning slots, with the possibility of being relegated to the bottom of the heap.

There were, of course, judges to contend with, and the question would arise quite frequently, as to who would judge the judges ability to judge. In the wake of this dilemma, the need for utilizing adequately trained personnel to act as qualified judges remained unsolved, along with many other enigmatic matters which had crept into our growing society.

In spite of its trials and tribulations, the Society survived--having fun, for the most part, in spite of capricious attempts made repeatedly to hinder its progress with extraneous issues, the society's basic precept still prevails. Even crass commercialization has threatened to defile the Society's pristine character--with virtually no success. (continued page 8)



MAKE MUSKEGON

IN MAY A MUST!

("Reminiscing" cont'd from page 7.)

However, I am not so sure that the best interests of the Society have been served lately, by meddling in affairs which are not germane to the Society's original intent.

At the risk of being characterized as a person who is against God and motherhood, I am referring to the introduction of fund solicitation for the cause of Logopedics. I shall not dwell at length on the subject, except to say that the Society was not organized for this nor any similar purpose. Charity, as the old axiom has it, begins at home. And, using worthy causes of any kind as the "foot in the door" approach, to guard against declining prestige in order to protect the status of the society, or, to bolster the very reason for its existence, smacks of subterfuge regardless of how skillfully the feeble attempt may be camouflaged.

If my criticism seems harsh and severe, it should be remembered that a great deal of thoughtful consideration has been given to devising ways and means with which the Society's best interest could be safeguarded. Our code of ethics, for instance, if thoroughly understood and strictly observed, can and should keep the Society on the course chartered by its founders.

Harking back to the earlier days, I wish to say that I was privileged to attend the Society's first business-like Board of Director's meeting with Carroll Adams, who acted as Secretary. He was then a member of the Detroit Chapter. The meeting was held at the Coronado Hotel in St. Louis, Mo. Many of the faithful old-timers were in attendance. It was at this meeting that most of the fundamental organizational aspects were discussed in depth. All matters that came up were given careful consideration before being disposed of and all were duly recorded.

Prior to this meeting, the Society was what might be termed as a loosely-knit organization. It lacked specifics in many areas, which could only be provided by constant supervision. Carroll Adams, experienced in the art of public relations, was the man who, at that time, succeeded in bringing some semblance of order into the administrative end of the Society.

It was at this very meeting that I submitted my copy of the code of ethics. The present code, it should be noted differs a little from my original draft because it was amended at some later date. The gist of its context, however, remains the same except for item no. 10, which reads:

"We shall render all possible altruistic service through the medium of barbershop harmony."

It would seem that under this specific item, one could find an excuse for connecting the Society with almost any extraneous cause, and that's where, in my opinion, we have strayed off our course.

As to our Society's emblem, I merely wish to say I designed it, showing a red and white striped barber pole interposed upon a gold lyre against a dark blue background. I forwarded it to Carroll Adams and he, in turn, referred it to the Board of Directors. The Board then asked Dick Sturgis, the old time woodshedder, to put a white band with SPEBSQSA on it and place it across the face of the design, and that was the end of it. That's my story and thank you for listening.

* * * * *

Chapter News

SAULT STE MARIE

Chapter Reporter:
C. Bax

Greetings from the North. The snow is finally disappearing. The St. Patrick's Day box lunch social was quite successful and we were pleased to have visitors from the Les Cheneaux Chapter. Prize for the best decorated lunch was presented to Mrs. Joan Bracey whose lunch hat was decorated in a barbershop theme. Colin Donaghue did a remarkable job as the auctioneer.

On March 17 our chorus sang for the Cancer Society's kick-off campaign. Some of our members will be singing in the Fabulous 400 Chorus and we are certainly looking forward to singing along with the rest of you guys that will make up the chorus. Can you imagine, 400 guys. "Wow"--what a sound that should be. On March the 11th we traveled to Cedarville, Michigan and joined the Les Cheneaux Chapter for a regular Monday night meeting. Bob Tracey is doing a very good job of directing their chorus. One observation: his beard gives him a real distinguished look as director.

Our chapter will be represented at the Bush League Contest--see you there.

ANN ARBOR

Chapter Reporter:
Jack Bush

It's been a busy, fun-filled March for us. On the March 5 meeting we had a surprise--about halfway through the evening we packed up and moved to sing a few before the Ann Arbor School Board. And they seemed to like our sound.

Then on the 19th, we played host to the Milford Chapter. With eighteen of our men and twenty-two guests ringing chords, you can believe we had a real blast.

Finally on the 26th, we went to Milford again, this time in a joint visitation with Wayne Chapter. And again a ringing time was had by all.

Thanks especially to Jim Davenport for the fine bulletin publicizing the meeting on the 19th--it brought out a lot of the old timers.

OAKLAND COUNTY

Chapter Reporter:
Dick Van Dyke

The first of what we hope will be many Pre-Boyne Contests was held at O.C.C. under rather adverse conditions, but a good time was had by all, as the saying goes. The contest was won by the HARMONY KNIGHTS from the Pontiac Chapter. It was unfortunate, indeed, that winter decided to take just one more fling on our contest night. We hope that it was its last. It's time now for the green scene, and I couldn't be happier.

It is also time for O.C.C.'s fund-raising "CENTS FOR CINCI" show. There is still time to get a gang together and come to see the AUTO TOWNERS, the SHARPLIFTERS, the CLOSE CHORDERS, the CHORD JESTERS, the WOLVERINE CHORUS from O.C.C., and the MCTOR CITY CHORUS from the Detroit Chap-

ter. The show date is April 26th, and will take place at Warren Fitzgerald High School. It's worth the \$2 donation just to see the high school. It is nearly acoustically perfect, and it seats 1500. We still have a seat for you. Contact Jack Teubert (1-313-LI9-4280) for tickets. If your calling for more than 10 tickets, we'll pay for the call.

DETROIT YACHTSMEN

Chapter Reporter:
Lou Harrington

The Detroit Yachtsmen chorus on March 16th sang at the annual blessing of the Great Lakes fleet which marks the opening of navigation. This is the third time in four years that the group has appeared on this program.

GRAND HAVEN

Chapter Reporter:
Tom Schuler

Success. Grand Haven is now fully chartered and the Harbor Master Chorus has one entertaining show to its credit. And to the quartets that wowed our near-capacity audience, a sincere thanks for giving Grand Haven a great example of the best in Barbershopping.

The stage was set with large barberpoles on either side and signs welcoming one and all to "Doc's" barber-shop. Our neighborhood barber and emcee was Dr. Dave Seibold who sat in his rustic barber chair, dressed in true 1890 manner, and engulfed the audience throughout the evening with his side-splitting humor. For the benefit of those attending a barbershop show for the first time, the KASUAL D'S entertained with some excellent traditional harmony. They were followed by the hilarious HARMONY HOUNDS, and Battle Creek may well be proud of this group's fine singing and great comedy. The SHARPLIFTERS of Detroit certainly showed everyone why they were Michigan's number one quartet. As fine a combination of humor, professionalism and harmony as you will ever find. One sad note, a member of the EXTENSION CHORDS came down with a bad case of laryngitis the day before the show. The quartet came anyway, hoping to make the show, and tried but at the last moment felt that they could not put on "their type of show". It is a tribute to them that they tried, and then stayed on for moral support. Also, it was the first time in over five years that they were unable to go on. After seeing their work on the Archway T.V. special, "Keep America Singing", late in March, we certainly missed them.

For our chorus, the highlight of the evening came as Bob Hart, our Area Counselor; Tom Damm, our Zone V.P.; and Gene Gillem, Michigan District President made the charter presentation to our chapter president, John VanStraut. We enjoyed having these men with us, and as John said, "we owe a great deal to Tom Damm and our sponsoring chapter in Muskegon". Much credit should also go to our director, Al Burgess, for molding the chorus and giving so much time and effort to bring this sound to Grand Haven. As many of you know, Al is a past District President, and a real asset to barbershopping.

To all of you who traveled so far to attend our first show, a big thanks. We hope to see many of you at the International Preliminaries in Muskegon, May 3-5. Our 70-man chorus would welcome any of you barbershoppers at our weekly meetings--Mondays 8:30 in the Grand Haven Community Center.

FLINT

Chapter Reporter:
Les Lang

Flint enjoyed March with lots of activities, Wayne Show, Visitation to Holly-Fenton Chapter, Bay City Paddy's Day Thaw, Pontiac Silver Anniversary Party, Pontiac Woodshedding Contest, four chorus practice sessions and two regular meetings.

The chorus is shaping up nicely and we have some public appearances scheduled for this spring. Flint is singing again.

We have a real array of talent appearing on our show April 20th. It promises to be the most hilarious event we have ever produced, or for that matter ever heard of, or seen. Anyone wishing to join us in a lot of laughs, come on over.

April promises to be some more of the same as March and we hope to be soon in the position to promote barbershopping in a big way in Flint.

At Pontiac on March 29, 1968 Flint won the Carroll P. Adams, Bennington Trophy. This trophy was originated by Carroll P. Adams back in 1957 in an effort to promote quartet singing on a woodshedding basis. Any chapter in the District may compete, except Pontiac, and as it is based on the percentage of chapter attendance and participation, and held annually at Pontiac, they felt it would discourage other chapters from competing. It is usually well attended and as many as 25 quartets have appeared in one evening competing for the title of best lead, best bass, etc. They have a guest quartet who usually are the judges.



The quartet winning the 1968 Best Quartet awards were: Lead, Bill Bischoff, Holly-Fenton Chapter; Bass, Ron Sawdon and Bari, Ron Gillies, Flint Chapter; and Tenor, John Smith, Pontiac Chapter. Pontiac can compete individually for best voice, but not for the chapter award. Also not more than 2 from one chapter, or 1 from a registered quartet can sing in the same quartet.

SAGINAW-BAY

Chapter Reporter:
Bill Dolezel

Our St. Patrick's Day Program was a grand success due in large part to the fine performance by the Sharp-lifters. They gave the program a brightness and beauty that was sufficiently contagious to assure everyone's enjoyment of the entire show. We really appreciated hearing and seeing these four fine guys.

At this writing we are looking forward to the Bush League Contest in Boyne City. Saginaw-Bay will be represented by two quartets; the famous BEAN TOWN FOUR and the BAY TONICS. The latter group recently

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED
FOR MUSKEGON?**

reorganized with Ted McDonald on lead and Randy Meldrum singing baritone.

Our meeting place in Bay City, where we held chorus rehearsals on alternated Tuesdays, is no longer available to us, so we will be meeting at the Bancroft Hotel in Saginaw each Tuesday until a new meeting place in Bay City can be obtained.

We were very fortunate recently when our Chapter program featured the SAFE COMBINATION from Grand Rapids. These guys gave us a show that would be difficult for any group to top. Mere words cannot adequately express our appreciation to them.

Our program nights are normally held on the second Friday of the month; however, since the second Friday of April falls on Good Friday, it has been decided to hold the April program on the 19th. Visitors are most welcome anytime.

MONROE

Chapter Reporter:
Ron Koshik

Down in the deep south of the Michigan District we've been working to build a real ringing chorus. Many of us are fairly new to Barbershopping, but after competing in Windsor, we feel we're coming along fairly well.

Our chapter went with the Wayne Chapter to visit Toledo a while ago. We had a rousing time, as usually happens in our fine Society.

We in Monroe are fortunate to be under the direction of Bubb Riggs once more. We are grateful to Bubb. Without him, our annual show wouldn't have gone as well as it did. Bubb is a real Barbershopper and more of us should have just a part of his dedication and loyalty to the Society and its members.

Our annual show was, we understand, well received. We feel we did a good job using St. Patrick's Day for a theme. The AUTO TOWNERS and the CLUBHOUSE FOUR really made the show. They were in fine voice and the comedy of the CLUBHOUSE FOUR was in good taste and well enjoyed by all.

Monroe's own TWILIGHTERS also appeared and did a fine job. They are shaping themselves into a nice quartet with a bass who, just a while ago, was singing on the other end of the chord. We wish them well in the future.

We have hopes of competing with the chorus in Muskegon. We should win there. Then we are preparing for the Fall convention. We'll be poor hosts and win then also. Sorry. Come on down anyway--it should be fun.

Well, we hope we won't have to wait til then to see some of you fine fellows. Come on down any time. You're always welcome.

GRAND RAPIDS

Chapter Reporter:
Jack Sidor

The Great Lakes Chorus is undergoing a rebuilding program under the direction of Lou Mahacek with the assistance of Tom Gregory and Fran Jones, the former Greenville Chorus director. We've suffered a large turnover of seasoned singers whose occupations have pulled them into other pursuits. Ah., but all is not darkness, friends. We have the nucleus of another great chorus coming on strong. With a couple of sing-outs behind them and the Great Lakes Invitational immediately ahead, we're working hard--extra rehearsals and all that jazz--to be brilliant.

By the way, have you heard about the 25th Annual Great Lakes Invitational yet? (Our show on April 20th)

It will feature four headliners, the GALA LADS, AUTO TOWNERS, ROAD RUNNERS, and the ROARING 20's.

Tickets are available from Bob Jeltema who lives at 2193 Airway Dr., NE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505 or phone him 363-1232; also ask him to include you on our next year's mailing list for a show that will feature a parade of stars second only to the International finals.

This year, being our Silver Anniversary, will be feted in an inordinary manner. Starting with a special dance, the President's Ball on Friday night the 19th, we'll follow up the show with a couple other events of special magnitude--the Woodshed and the Marti Gras--on the 20th. The Woodshed has been a highly successful event for many years and remains basically the same, but chairmen Ed Berry and Gerrit VerVeer have a couple of gimmicks up their sleeve to make it another winner.

The Marti Gras is the brain-child of Lou Mahacek who has enlisted the aid of Lou Jr., Don Phillips and Bill Stoddard, also Joe Quint and some others to make a dance into something memorable. Complete with colorful balloons, streamers, confetti, peanut shucks and a cabaret setting, the Marti Gras will also feature a---well, that's Lou's secret. Come on over on the 20th and enjoy yourself. Our Invitational Chairmen, Ken Childs and Jim Horton, assure you of having a big, fine time.

LES CHENEAX

Chapter Reporter:
Chas. Wagner

New faces are enlightening our regular meetings with some fine voices being cultivated to barbershop harmony and the time grows near to the big date for our chapter when we, in conjunction with the Les Cheneaux PTA, will be staging our first concert. This, of course, will be in effect with the assistance of our sponsoring chapter of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. The date for this is April 20.

Many of our group have received much enthusiasm and it was a great boost to be able to attend the Bush League Contest at Boyne City. Never has there been a more thrilling experience for those of us who are new to barbershopping.

We would like to welcome Bob Shaberg, John Duncan, and Carl Walent as new members to our chapter and we are looking forward to having fine fellowship in barbershop harmony.

For the past month it has been the practice of our director, Bob Tracy to pick a quartet each week to sing a tag before the chapter. The practice has been working well and many fellows who once thought that they could not get up before a group, are now veterans and are looking forward to the next time when they can get together.

Our chapter, although very new, has been making steady progress and the selection of songs is greatly expanding. This is due to the great directing and push of Bob Tracy who finds time to travel close to a hundred miles each Monday to lead our group.

Until next month when we hope to have more good news, we say: Don't B[#], don't B^b, just B⁷.

The first Michigan quartet to win International Championship were the Grand Rapids' Harmony Halls.

MILFORD

Chapter Reporter:
Norman Kingstad

It seems that the Troubadour is getting response from the Michigan District Chapters that is somewhat phenomenal. It could be a contributing factor to making this district one of the most outstanding in the country. The credit should justifiably go where it rightfully belongs, Jim Davenport. Good job, Jim.

The last show of the season, March 16, was outstanding. The CLOSE CHORDERS, EVERSHARPS, and the CHORDIALS from Toledo received the usual Milford enthusiastic response for a job well done, and the CHANTONES, a Sweet Adeline quartet from Utica-Rochester, ably filled out the program along with the Milford Chorus. District President Gene Gillem honored us by his presence and said he was impressed by the Milford audience.

Interchapter visitations have been the order of the day (last one to Ann Arbor) and more are scheduled soon. Look for us to surprise you one day, or better still, come to the American Legion Hall in Milford on any second or fourth Tuesday night. We'll be there.

MUSKEGON

Chapter Reporter:
Jay Smith

ARE YOU REGISTERED? Register now for the big Spring District Convention to be held in Muskegon, the Port City, May 3, 4, and 5.

February, the heart month, has passed and our 11th

The fourth Tuesday, incidentally, is always fun night.

Milford has been working very hard too in preparing for the second annual Mini-Chorus Contest to be held in Milford on May 10. Many chapters have already indicated they would be participating, but all entries will be welcome.

The rules will be slightly more stringent this year, as we will limit each man to singing in only one chorus. The chorus may consist of not less than fifteen nor more than twenty men including the director. In a chapter having one director, this director may direct the other choruses in his group as long as the total number of men does not exceed twenty. One competing song will be sung.

If further information is desired, write or call Ed Nealer, Secretary, or Irv Melville, President. It would be helpful to know the number of choruses participating, but being a Friday night, we assure any qualified chorus they will have the opportunity to compete if we have to stay all night. See you at the Mini-Chorus Contest on May 10.

annual SPEB-SQUAW night was held on the 23rd. The honored queen chosen was Mary Jo Courtright, wife of Don Courtright, chapter treasurer. Mary Jo was chosen by the DUNE TONES. Six of the past ten queens were in attendance.



SPEB-SQUAWS

LEFT TO RIGHT: MR. BOB HART, MRS. ANDY VAN DONKELAAR, MRS. MEL STRUTHERS, MARY JO COURTRIGHT (THE NEW QUEEN), MRS. JACK BENNETT, MRS. WAYNE HAMILTON AND MRS. LOUIS SEQUINS.

The evening's entertainment was provided by the Allegro's, a group from Mona Shores High School, with instrumental back up. This group sings modern Luboff arrangements. Mr. Larry Gray is the director. These sixteen boys and girls put on a terrific show. The Port City Chorus sang, as well as the KASUAL D'S and the DUNE TONES. The DUNE TONES deserve a bouquet of Orchids for the fine evening.

The convention committees are busy as beavers getting things well on the way for the best convention ever

to be held in Michigan. Be sure you are registered for this big event. Housing forms can be found on another page.

Don Courtright has assured us that he will have plenty of A.P.C.'s and aspirins on hand for the Sunday morning aspirin breakfast.

Get your reservations in now as time is drawing near. Take Route 96 West, Route 31 North and South to Muskegon where THINGS WILL BE GREAT IN '68.

* * * * *

MUSKEGON IS A MUST



BOYNE CITY

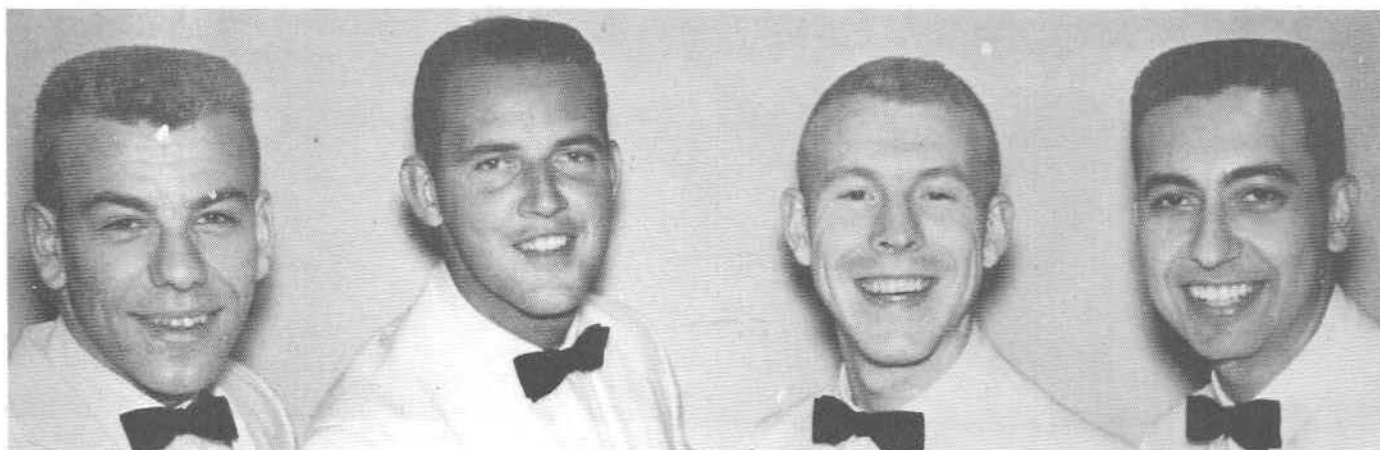
Chapter Reporter
Dick Wheeler

Since this is being written a few days before the Bush League Contest (time and editors wait for no one) you'll have to watch next month's edition of the Troubadour for the results. Unless, of course, you were there.

Here is a brief history of the Bush League Contest. The first few years it was pretty much a local affair,

the first one in 1946 being won by the Charlevoix SATURDAY NIGHTERS. The next two were won by Boyne City foursomes: the BOYNE-AIRS and the BOYNE MOUNTAIN AIRS. After this, the downstate quartets recognized a good thing and have dominated the competition ever since.

Two quartets that used the Bush League championship as a springboard to greater things were the EXTENSION CHORDS



and the AUTO TOWNERS. If you belong to a quartet that "ain't never won nothin'" the Bush League is tailor made for you. Who knows how many groups with their latent talent there are waiting to get started? Getting quartets started on the road to fame is the purpose of all our efforts.

The last five years the winners have been:

1963	4-FITS	from Grosse Pointe
1964	WONDERLADS	from Utica
1965	ESPRIT-DE-CHORDS	from Detroit
1966	RAFTER RINGERS	from Grand Rapids
1967	EVERSHARPS	from Saginaw
1968	?	

That question mark for 1968 will be explained for those who read this column in next month's issue.

SPRING CONVENTION MAY 3-5

THINGS WILL BE GREAT IN '68'

MICHIGAN DISTRICT

SPRING CONVENTION

MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN - MAY 3-4 and 5

To Be Held At

THE MICHIGAN THEATRE

HEADQUARTERS IN THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL RIGHT ACROSS THE STREET

EVENTS: May 3 – Registration opens 5:00 P.M. – Hotel
 – House of Delegates 8:00 P.M. – Hotel
 – Pre-glo – 10:00 P.M. – Hotel

May 4

Morning – Quartet Prelims – 9:30 A.M. – Theatre
 Afternoon – Chorus Contest – 1:30 P.M. – Theatre
 Evening – Quartet finals – 8:00 P.M. – Theatre

HEADLINING – THE FOR-MOR MADISON, WISCONSIN
 – THE EXTENSION CHORDS – GRAND RAPIDS
 Later – After-Glo – 11:00 P.M. – Hotel
 Much later – Woodshedding – Fun and Games

MUCH MUCH LATER or MAY 5, if you prefer – Aspirin Breakfast – 8:30 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. – Hotel
 Quartet – Clinic – 9:30 – Hotel

LADIES HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN AT ALL TIMES

Woodshedding Room Open At All Times

TICKETS: ALL SEATS RESERVED FOR THE EVENING SHOW
 (Early Requests get the best seats)

ADVANCE TICKET SALES FOR ALL EVENTS TICKETS ONLY

Delux All-Events Tickets \$6.00–Economy – Upper Balcony Unreserved \$5.00

CONTACT: Hank Plantenga, 419 S. Lake, Spring Lake, Michigan 49456 PHONE: 842-1508

SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER NOW AS TICKETS ARE GOING FAST

HOUSING: There are several motels in the area in addition to the Occidental Hotel. We request that you write directly to the Hotel or Motel of your choice. However, if you want assistance in locating housing contact: Mr. R. Jack Bennett, 807 Garber Rd., North Muskegon, Michigan 49445 Phone: SH-4-0172 For your information we are quoting room rates at the Occidental Hotel and two of the motels.

		Single Occupancy	Double 2 Persons	Twin 2 Persons	4 Persons	Distance from Theatre Across the Street
Occidental Hotel Third & Webster	(economical and convenient)	\$6.00-up	\$8.00	\$10-12.00	\$16.00	
Downtown Motel Muskegon & 4th	(deluxe and close)	\$10.00	\$14.00	\$16.00	\$18.50	3 Blocks
Holiday Inn Motel Seaway Dr. at Hoyt	(deluxe–7 minutes away)	\$10.50	\$13.00	\$15.50	\$19.50	3 Miles

FISH FRY

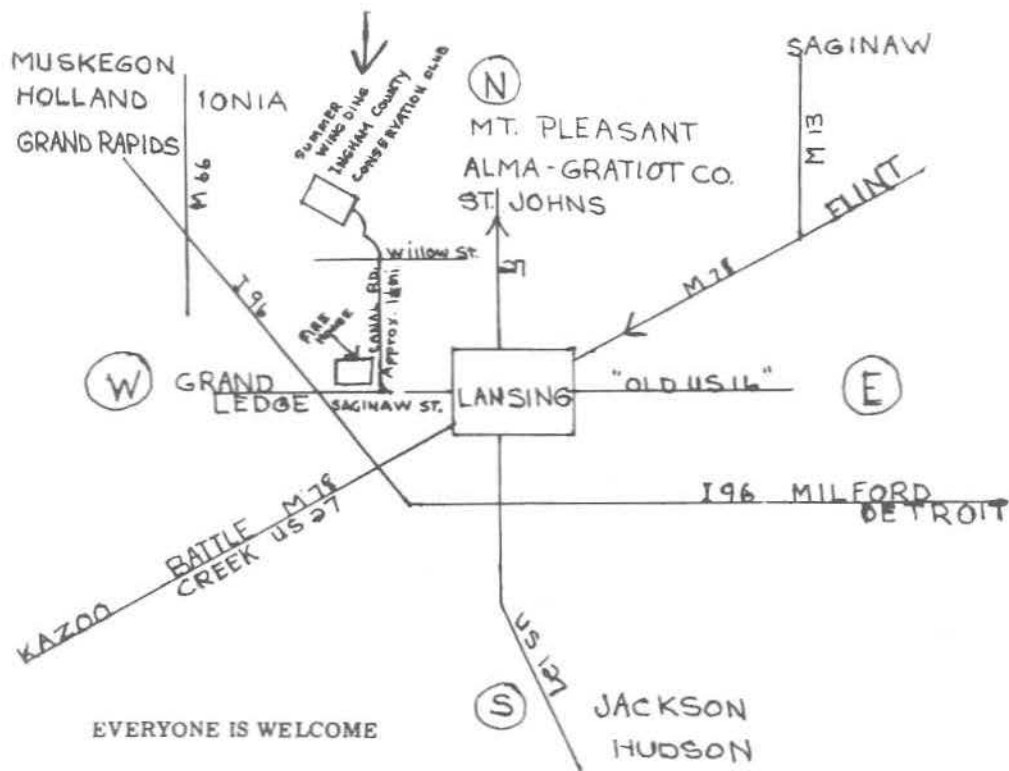
WILL BE

JUNE 21, 1968

BUFFET FROM 7:30 PM UNTIL ?

Chorus *and* Quartet Contest / APPROPRIATE TROPHIES
EVERYONE INVITED!

Ingham County Conservation Club



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Ed Schwoppe, perennial chapter secretary of the old Mt. Clemens Chapter (some 14 years) became the first Michigan man to become a member of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. when he attended the first formal convention in Tulsa, Oklahoma, chaired by our founder, Owen C. Cash.

He returned home after being elected National Vice President and aided in forming the Detroit # Chapter--the first chapter east of the Mississippi--and from there Barbershop has spread and spread and spread.

WAYNE

Chapter Reporter:
Morrie Giles

When we put on a show, we try always to top all previous shows. So far, we feel that we've succeeded without exception. Our last "Pitchpipe Parade" on March 2 brought enough favorable comment, both verbal and written, to make us wonder whether we haven't already reached the pinnacle.

With that in mind, we have already begun to make plans for next March, and if enthusiasm, optimism, and action mean anything, we'll still come up with a winner. And why not? Don't we have the best writer in the whole Society---Tom Pollard?

Now that the show is behind us, the Wayne Wonderland Chorus is working toward the fall contest. As RETIRING DISTRICT CHAMPIONS, we wish to extend a hearty "thanks" to all those who have received us so warmly during our appearances through this past year and wish the best of luck to all competing choruses in Muskegon on May 4th.

At our March 15 meeting we were vibrantly entertained by the Dearborn-Downriver Sweet Adelines. Those gals really put themselves into each song as though there would never be another one.

Our annual Pot-Luck-Square Dance on March 22nd turned out to be more of a sociable get-together, since the blizzard caused the caller to have an accident, preventing him from arriving.

On March 26th Wayne paid a visit to Milford Chapter for a most relaxing and fun-filled evening, and chow too. Next month they're coming to visit us. Sorry, fellas, no chow.]

At the time up this writing, it is still in the offing, but on March 30th, Wayne Wonderland Chorus and the Metro-D Chorus (Sweet-Adelines) are putting on a band benefit show for Garden City West High School. This show will also feature several fine quartets.

That's about it for now, except once more to remind you--boast about your chapter. If you don't, nobody else is likely to. Put your chapter on the map of enthusiasm and keep it there.

GROSSE POINTE

Chapter Reporter:
Jimmy Olsen

Seeing a Grosse Pointe column in the Troubadour again will no doubt come as a surprise (pleasant, we hope) to many in the Michigan District. Among the surprised will be every member of the Grosse Pointe Chapter but one.

The 1968 Officers of Grosse Pointe Chapter are: President Larry Reed; Membership Vice-President Lou Herman; Program Vice-President Hank Demars; Secretary Mark Roberts and Treasurer Paul Johnson. These are the men who are steering G.P.C. toward a

bigger and more harmonious 1968.

On Feb. 13 a chartered bus with 32 G.P.C. members aboard sped through the night toward Flint. After we had assembled outside the Flint Chapter chamber doors, we entered en masse singing our chapter theme. So began an evening of harmony and fellowship which can be experienced only through membership in our Society. Flint Chapter proved to be perfect hosts and welcomed us with every hospitality. Being slightly imperfect guests, we passed to them the O.C.C. traveling jug. Let's fill it for our District reps in Cincinnati.

Grosse Pointe's annual Ladies Night took place at the Hillcrest Country Club Feb. 24. The main ballroom was filled with 350 G.P.C. friends. Our chorus started the show and sang better than ever to an attentive audience. Then came the showstoppers--THE 4-FITS. These gentlemen (John Wearing, Russ Seely, Ray McCalpin, and Marve Burke) embody everything a barbershopper can hope to be. They are fine entertainers and great barbershoppers, and they are Grosse Pointe's own. Our long-time member Jim Jackson was presented with an award as G.P.C. Barbershopper of the Year. Endless thanks to Earl Sanders and his committee.

The first and third Fridays of each month have been seeing growing numbers in the Alger Post V.F.W. due to G.P.C.'s great enthusiasm but also in large part to the captivating culinary capers of Irv Devore's caloric caprices.

The chorus is taking on a new image and a new sound. Dick Brouckaert has promised to be more severe in his criticism and more cautious in his praise. Regular singing dates are coming in and our policy of singing for singing's sake is keeping us busy. The highlight of the year is the annual singout for the Macomb County Association for Retarded Children. They didn't disappoint us this year. We were again rewarded with their warm smiles and applause.

LANSING

Chapter Reporter:
Reese Olger

GONE FISHING--that is where all the chapter members are, out pulling in those whoppers for their annual Fish Fry, to be held on June 21st. Be sure to make this event for a great evening of woodshedding, eating and FUN.

Our chapter has changed its meeting place. We are now meeting at Celentino's Restaurant, which is located on W. Saginaw at N. Logan. We meet every Monday night at 8:00 p.m. in the basement. We kicked off our first meeting at Celentino's with a guest quartet from Grand Rapids, THE RAFTER RINGERS, who did just that.

On March 2nd about 20 of us "bused" down to Wayne for their "Show of Shows". Our heartiest congratula-

MUSKEGON

tions to them for a job very well done indeed.

On March 25th, before our meeting, the chorus entertained at the Michigan School For the Blind, and were most warmly received. Also on the program were the FOWLER FOUR, the FUN-DO-MENTALS, and a quartet from the school that is coached by our own Ed Bennett.

The chapter chorus is working hard now to be ready to really pitch in there at Muskegon. So look out for the "bus bunch".

Say. All you Barbershoppers -- lend an ear. Keep Friday, October 4 open for an all barbershoppers night (wives and sweethearts included). This is a first for the Lansing Chapter. I'm not going to keep you in suspense for very long -- just long enough to tell you that the details will follow later -- Here's the deal: A NIGHT WITH THE SIDEWINDERS. The 1964-65 International Champions from California will be headlining this exclusive night. Now, they will also be appearing on our regular parade Saturday, October 5, when they will be joined by the FOR-MOR quartet from Wisconsin. Don't, and I repeat, don't let anything stop you from being with us on Friday, October 4.

We are happy to announce that the SONG-MASTERS with Howard Hawkins, tenor; Burdette Bottom, lead; Homer Winegardner, bari; and Harold McAttee, bass are back together again. They tell me they are working hard to get the tonsils back in shape for that great sound that was only theirs.

Our first meeting in April, we are hosting the Westphalia German Glee Club, so are looking forward to another ringing night of music.

Watch out for this "bus bunch", we may pick on YOU next.

PONTIAC

Chapter Reporter:
Ed Lilly

The Pontiac Chapter recently experienced another highly successful Woodshed Contest for the coveted Carroll Adams Bennington Trophy. The contest, attended by 87 barbershoppers from the southeastern area of Michigan, was won by the Flint Chapter, who were able to come up with enough members participating in the quartet contest to snatch the trophy away from the Redford Chapter. Redford has won the trophy more times than anyone can remember and they vowed before the evening came to a close to reclaim the trophy next year. The individual championship quartet awards were won by John Smith of Pontiac, tenor; Ron Sawdon and Ron Gillies of Flint, singing bass and bari; and Jim Bischoff of Holly-Fenton Chapter singing lead. Pontiac's own Harmony Knights will officially present the Bennington trophy to the Flint Chapter officers at the Flint show afterglow, April 20.

HOLLAND

Chapter Reporter:
Bob Birce

Guess the old adage, "It pays to advertise", still holds true, so this here's an "advertise". The Holland Chapter is still very much on the map and if you don't believe it, drop in on the third floor of Hansens' Drug Store on Thursdays around 8:30 to find a chord-filled room.

The chorus has resumed practicing under the able direction of the very capable Del Doctor of Muskegon. When Mike Lucas resigned because of business reasons, we dwindled to a very meager non-singing few.

Now that we have a director, we have added several new members and have acquired a new quartet -- the TUNE TAILORS with Dale Van Langevelde, bass; Al Walters, baritone; Dick Harrington, lead; and Bob Peterson, tenor.

The officers for the year are Bob Essenburg, President; Hank White Jr., Membership VP.; Bart Tillitt, Program V.P.; Al Walters, Secretary; and Bob Peterson, Treasurer. They have been doing a swell job and we know they will continue to do so.

The chapter is getting ready for our twenty-second annual PARADE OF QUARTETS. Every year comes spring, comes tulips, comes Holland's Barbershop show as an important event during the Tulip Time Festivities. This year's show on Friday, May 17th, will feature the KASUAL D'S of Muskegon, the HARMONY HOUNDS of Battle Creek, and a headliner for which negotiations are still in process. The Windmill Chorus will also perform and tickets are available from any of its members. See you all in Holland at the Tulip Time show.

FRUIT BELT

Chapter Reporter:
Tom Ferega

The Fruit Belt Chapter heads into Spring, 1968 with much enthusiasm. We still meet each Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in our (and the local bank's) Chord-i-torium on Union Street in Benton Harbor. Any barbershopper is always welcome.

Thus far in 1968 our chorus has performed for the March of Dimes, The Southwestern Michigan Oil Heat Institute, The Eau Claire Blossom Festival queen contest and a local high school's athletic awards banquet. Coming up in May we will be singing for a local church's Father and Daughter Banquet and Memorial Services for the V.F.W.

We have four guys comprising the QUAD-RI-CHORDS, a quartet the Fruit Belt Chapter is mighty proud of. They've been kept quite busy singing for various functions too. Art Rutz, lead; Herb Marschke, tenor; Gus Reeves, bari; and Bernie Sackett, bass. Keep in mind, the boys are not free, but they're reasonable.

We've been getting spot announcements on our two local radio stations each week. The Whirlpool publication "The Daily Whirl" has been running a free ad for us, and we're planning a little publicity with pictures in our local newspapers during Harmony Week, April 14th.

We've visited the Niles-Buchanan Chapter recently and been visited by the Grand Rapids' RAFTER RINGERS. VP Emerson Sperling brought 'em down and we sure enjoyed having them.

As you probably knew, our former director Bill Hanson now resides and sings Deep in the Heart of Texas, (Bill still carries his Fruit Belt membership) and our new director is Tom Ferega. Tom's a relative newcomer to Barbershopping, but he's known as Mr. Show-biz. A former entertainer-singer, Tom has been in broadcasting the past 15 years. He's known to the local radio audience as Tom Ferren.

Our '68 show date is set for October 5th. We'd love to see as many of you as can make it. 8:00 p.m., St. Joseph High School Auditorium. Oh yes, we also put out a monthly "News Note" and it always ends this way: "Keep in tune.....it's better on the ears."

MEN OF NOTE

for March, 1968

Clayton L. Jones	Gordon Limburg
Malcolm Campbell	Burt Szabo
Lawrence King	Richard B. Johnson
Robert Weeks	James Lekander
Jack Essenberg	William J. Vasko
Bob Vonins	Terry Ermoian
Donald M. Day	Harold Daane
Garry L. Curtiss	Donald Fraser

★ ★ ★

1967 INTERNATIONAL CHAPTER AWARDS-- MICHIGAN DISTRICT

Banner Chapter	Pontiac	(Also 10% gain and 90% retention)
Honor Chapter	Wayne	(Also 10% gain and 90% retention)
Distinguished Chapter	Three Rivers	(Also 10% gain and 90% retention)
90% Retention	Gratiot County Grosse Pointe Jackson Milford	
10% Net Gain	Gratiot County Saginaw Niles-Buchanan Windsor Monroe	
Protention	Oakland County (3rd place in plateau 5) (1st prize in Michigan District)	

SINGING OUT

Letters To The Editor

Our Membership:

What can I say to impress you that will make you aware of the importance of your chapter chorus' participation in the Fabulous 400 showing, in Battle Creek on June 8, 1968? Can I appeal to your personal pride as a barbershopper to help make this event a successful one or would it be better to appeal to you on the basis that all proceeds from this second Michigan District Logopedics Show will be donated to the Institute in the name of the Michigan District or would it be better if I remind you of the thrill you would receive when the 400 voices sing out under the direction of Bob Johnson? Or how about just plain proving that the Michigan District can do something constructive for the benefit of someone other than ourselves.

Whatever reason appeals to you or doesn't appeal to you, can you in good conscience refuse to take part

in so worthy a cause. Even if you don't agree with every phase of this project, the fact remains we have pledged our District to the support of certain children at the Institute and so it is our responsibility to raise enough money to support them for the coming year. What better way can this be accomplished than to have a united effort by all the choruses and quartets of the Michigan District participating in one grand and glorious show? A show that will leave the rafters ringing and the audience singing long after we have left the Kellogg Auditorium and will also put a song in the hearts of those parents and children we have pledged to help. Is it too much to ask your chorus or your quartet to give one day for this cause? Bids are still being received. Don't delay. Contact Bob Dixon, Chariman, Fabulous 400, P.O. Box 37, Bellevue, Michigan 49021.

Eric Schultz
Immediate Past President
Michigan District

NOTICE OF ANNUAL SPRING MEETING OF HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Notice is hereby given of the annual Spring meeting of the Michigan District House of Delegates to be held on Friday, May 3, 1968, at the Occidental Hotel, Muskegon, Michigan, beginning at 8:00 p.m.

Agenda for said meeting:

1. Call to order at 8:00 p.m.
2. Opening Song
3. Invocation
4. Seating of Delegates
5. Establishment of Quorum
6. Welcome by Host Chapter
7. Minutes of Previous Meeting
8. Minutes of Board of Directors Meeting.
9. Treasurer's Report
10. Reports of District Vice-Presidents
11. Secretary's 20th Anniversary Report
12. Report of President
13. Keynote Address of International Representative
14. Reports of Committees
15. Old Business
16. Convention Bids
17. New Business--
 - (a) Resolution of Dearborn Chapter to abolish District sanction fee on parades and shows and imposition of equal financial support payments upon all District members.
 - (b) Resolution presented by Windsor Chapter to change the name of the Michigan District to Pioneer District.
18. Election of First Vice-President. (Nominating Committee recommends that this selection be deferred to the annual Fall meeting at which time all 1969 officers will be selected.)
19. Announcements
20. Closing of Meeting

LOUIS R. HARRINGTON
District Secretary

COUNCILOR OF THE YEAR AWARD TO EMERSON SPOFFORD

Eric Schultz, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported on the difficulty of finding a nominee for the office of Executive Vice President and suggested that the selection of a man to fill this post be deferred until the Fall meeting of the House of Delegates.

A communication was read from Burt Szabo regarding a school for judges in the District. The Board voted that the matter be submitted to the Budget Committee for study.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 p.m.



SEE U THERE

ON THE COVER

Headlining the May Convention show in Muskegon are the FOR-MORE from Madison, Wisconsin. This quartet organized in 1948, soon after the foursome graduated from East High School. They have sung together continuously since then--and that is a record among the Society quartets still active. They can also boast of being a quartet that doesn't use a pitchpipe.

During 20 years of traveling, the FOR-MOR quartet has sung in 20 states and several provinces of Canada and has appeared on over 1000 barbershop shows. The group has sung in almost every city in the Land o' Lakes District, of which Madison is a part. Their impersonation of the Ink Spots and of musical instruments have made them a hit wherever they go.

They have appeared in Muskegon four times before and have sung around the Michigan District ump-teen times. The impossible sounds of Elwood, and the inane absurdities of his brother Kenny (Davidson), superimposed on the vocal gymnastics of Harry Nesberg and Don Ring, make this group a "once in a lifetime" combination never to be forgotten.

When the "last dog is hung" in Muskegon on May 4th, you can bet the deepest rope burns of all will be on the FOR-MOR quartet from Madison Wisconsin.



Muskegon Chapter will be on the air waves Saturday, April 27th from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Through the cooperation of Radio Station WKBZ, Muskegon and Del Doctor, Chairman of the Convention Publicity Committee, we will be broadcasting and playing barbershop records for two hours. All barbershoppers in Muskegon area should tune their radios to 850 for convention news and barbershop music.

The KASUAL D's will be on TV channel WKZO in Kalamazoo on April 9, 17, and 30th to publicize the Michigan District's Spring Convention and will also appear on Channel 54 in Muskegon occasionally with additional publicity.

Jay Smith--Muskegon

Have you seen the television special, "Keep America Sing" in your area yet? The Archway Cookie Co. is using this tape as a test of public reaction to a possible regular barbershop TV show. Watch for it and send in your comments. I love their commercials, too, by the EXTENSION CHORDS, as well as the rest of the show which features our International champs, the FOUR STATESMAN.

Jack Sidor--Grand Rapids

KEEP AMERICA SINGING

ROBERT MILLER
576 DE SOTO 141
YPSILANTI MI 48197

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER

Coming Events

April 20, 1968	Great Lakes Invitational Grand Rapids
April 20, 1968	Flint Parade
April 26, 1968	Oakland County Fund-Raising Show
May 3-4-5, 1968	International Preliminaries Muskegon
May 11, 1968	Niles-Buchanan Parade
May 17, 1968	Holland Parade
May 25, 1968	Sault Ste. Marie, Canada Parade
May 31, 1968	Windsor Parade
June 8, 1968	Logopedics Benefit Show Battle Creek
June 15, 1968	Traverse City Show
July 19, 1968	Detroit Moonlight
September 28, 1968	Gratiot County Parade
October 5, 1968	Fruit Belt Parade
October 5, 1968	Lansing Parade
October 12, 1968	Saginaw Parade
October 18-20, 1968	District Contest and Convention--Monroe