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troubadour



PIONEER DISTRICT

February, 1968

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

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Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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From the
Pen of the President



...GENE GILLEM



I sit here at my desk wondering what to say, in this, my first attempt at writing a column of this type.

There are so many things I would like to touch on that it is difficult to settle on one subject.

For this issue, may I begin with calling your attention to our letters, the much laughed-at, kidded-about mis-pronounced, and dearly-loved conglomeration of letters, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

I wonder sometimes if we actually sound these letters out and evaluate each one in terms of what they really stand for; especially, the letter "E". (Encouragement) For example, at the chapter level, I think we actually discourage some quartets by discourteously talking while they are up front singing. In some cases, they are not even asked to sing. Oh, sure, we hear them sing so many times, the same songs over and over again that it becomes "Old Hat". If you will, just ask yourself this question, "What would the chapter be without our quartets?" ENCOURAGE quartets to form, let them sing, and show your appreciation by being courteous while they are singing.

One more question: how do you feel when you take a guest to one of your meetings and there is only 3/4 of one quartet there? One part is missing, and in the back of your mind, this is the time you selfishly wanted to be identified with this quartet to show your guest what the finished product could be? It should hit home then and there, if this is going on in your chapter.

Make the quartets in your chapter--be they neophyte, fun quartets or championship material--know you are glad they are representatives of your chapter. Stand behind them all the way whether they are singing in your meeting room or in a District Contest.

Let's go even further in this encouragement situation. We, very definitely, should take a long, hard look at

what happens to our District Champions after they have put in the long and frustrating hours preparing for contests. Maybe, they have competed many times before, finally making the grade.

Now, to the crux of the matter. There have been some District Champions that have literally knocked themselves out singing for numerous promotions, spectaculars, and many chapter functions around the District--in general, a lot of time consuming work, without thought to remuneration. Now, I would ask all show chairmen and respective committees to please, at least, consider your own District Champs. This will show your appreciation to this quartet and again takes us back to the word "encouragement".

You do not have to go 3,000 miles and \$1,000-2,000 for headliners every year. Look around you fellas, we have a lot of talent in the Michigan District. Your general audience, John Q. Public, couldn't care less if your headliners were from Podunk Center or New York City. To whom do we sell the majority of our show tickets?

This whole article might sound pointless to some, but to most men who have sung or are singing in quartets, I think it will ring true.

In summation, I would like to ask every one that reads this to do so objectively and take it constructively.

The Voice Box



Dear Ed:

As long as I have been a barbershopper (almost 3 years) I have never seen the figures that govern how many quartets are allowed at the International Convention from each District. We send two every year, and since there are 15 Districts and 45 quartets singing, it is obvious that some Districts get to send more than two. I'm sure it must be based on the individual district's census, but where does the break come? Eric Schultz, in his letter in the last Troubadour stated that "very soon we should have three quartets. . . instead of only two. Where does the break come???"

Also, what dictates how many representatives a chapter may send to the District Conventions?

While I'm writing, how do I go about getting something on the agenda at the House of Delegates meeting? I hope to be a delegate from my chapter, and as such can I merely bring up a subject that calls for a vote of the general assembly, or must it be put on the agenda before official action may be taken on the matter?

Thank you.

Dick Van Dyke
Oakland County Chapter

P.S. What a sense of security it creates having a monthly publication of the Troubadour.

P.P.S. Who's idea is the "PIONEER DISTRICT"? I sure do like it.

* * * * *

Dear Ed:

I recently attended the Chapter Officer Training school held in Lansing by the officers of the Michigan District. It was the first meeting of this kind that I was fortunate enough to attend, and I was certainly glad that I did. It pointed up to me and I'm sure to the other chapter officers in attendance, that the District Officers are more than willing to give up of their time for the betterment of the chapters in the Michigan District. The enthusiasm exhibited by these officers leads me to believe that it won't be too long before the Michigan District will again be the top district in the Society.

I would just like to say "Thanks" to Gene Gillem and the rest of the District Officers for making this Society of ours just a little bit better.

Bob McDermott
President, Oakland County

* * * * *

Open letter to all Michigan District Members:

I thought the membership, as a whole, should know the status and the approximate amount of monies donated to the Logopedic Service Project by the Michigan District Members since the start of the Program. By the time this article goes to press the Michigan District Members will have donated over \$11,000 to the Logopedic Cause alone, not to mention the many other worthwhile charities that we civic-minded barbershoppers help out each year.

I want to congratulate each and every one of you for a job well done. It is certainly heart-warming to know that our International adopted slogan "We sing that they shall speak" has been so universally accepted. The donations by the chapters, quartets, and even individual members have been most rewarding. Most of the money donated thus far has been through money-raising projects that chapters have undertaken on their own--and a real fine job they have done.

But the time approaches when, once more, the Michigan District will be presenting another Logopedic Benefit Show from which all proceeds, after expenses, will be given directly to Logopedics.

At this time, I hope you will forgive me if I get over enthusiastic about this Show to be held in Battle Creek on June 8, 1968. Well, here I go -- What better way could the Michigan District Barbershoppers find than to work as one big unit to produce the greatest show ever produced in Michigan (or for that matter all of International, to my knowledge). A chorus that should knock the audience off its feet--and practically every

quartet in the District should be singing on that show. We might even end up having an all night sing.

It looks like we can raise at least \$4,000 or \$5,000 on this show alone. Personally, I'd like to see this show become an annual affair. After this first year, perhaps the Director of the District Champion Chorus each year could be the Logopedic Chorus Director. And bidding for the Logopedic Show to be held in your city could be done annually at one of the Conventions.

Back to the show. The Fabulous 400 will open the show on stage--and what a sound it's going to be. After singing their numbers, they'll take their seats in the auditorium to watch the show. Then, for the finale, the Fabulous 400 will sing "Keep America Singing" from their balcony seats. (We'll be lucky if that doesn't take the roof right off the building.)

After the show's finished, there'll be Hospitality Rooms to visit and more singing. It will be a weekend you'll never forget.

I only hope I've managed to give you a little of the enthusiasm I have for this Logopedic Show. And although we're going to have a great time ourselves--even more important is the cause--deep in your heart you'll know that "you have sung--that they shall speak."

Lowell E. Wolfe
District Service Project Chairman

* * * * *

Open Letter to the Fabulous 400:

Congratulations. You are in one of the biggest (and I think it will be the best, too) Barbershop Choruses ever to be staged.

If you're like me, you can already picture the sight and sound of the Fabulous. I'll bet some of us will come away with permanent goose-bumps.

This Show should also give a big "boost" to the fun we can have at Inter-Chapter meetings, too. There may be three choruses that perform--the chorus from each chapter, then all the members of the Fabulous 400--a combination of both.

And think of the fun we'll have at District Conventions. Just wear your "Fabulous 400" hat (you'll be given this in Battle Creek on June 8). And whenever you see 3 other fellows with the same hat--you've got a quartet. And best of all, you all know the same songs.

If you don't already have your music, it should be on its way. We're mailing it promptly from the Logopedic Show Headquarters. (Our Bellevue, Michigan address.) Please note that 2 of the songs are songs that you've received as regular distribution. If you need extra copies, let us know.

We'll keep you posted on how things are going, and if you have questions, drop us a note at P.O. Box 37, Bellevue, Michigan.

See you June 8.

Lowell E. Wolfe
District Service Project Chairman

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HELP WANTED

Troub is looking for a "Feminine Observer". An active barbershopper's wife who is able to attend shows and conventions and would enjoy spreading a bit of gossip and feminine news to the barbershop wives around Michigan.

MICHIGAN SINGS

By Roger Craig

Tags, tags, and more tags.

What a tag happy bunch of barbershoppers read the Troubadour. Keep 'em coming and Jim and I will keep them going--right out to other tag lovers to enjoy.

This month we move to the southwestern part of the Michigan District to feature the favorite musical gem of the up and coming (and going strong) "Hustlers" quartet from the Fruit Belt and Niles-Buchanan Chapters. These are the men who made such a big impression at the 1967 Windsor District Contest by placing a strong third. They say they were surprised and pleased but barbershoppers who heard them say they were convinced and pleased by this fine sounding and smooth singing foursome.

Members of the "Hustlers" include Bass Ed James. Ed will be remembered as a member of the long-time favorite "Stateliners" quartet. He fills his "spare time" by directing the Niles-Buchanan Chorus when not engaged in his occupation as an accountant. Another ex-"Stateliner" is Bari Gene Seels. Gene is an Electrical Supervisor when he takes time out from quartet singing. The "Hustlers" imported Tenor Dave Hibinger from the Akron, Ohio Chapter where he sang with the "Treble Makers". He is employed as a Printer. Filling out the quartet is Lead Dick Peterson - no stranger to barbershopping. You'll remember Dick as the past director of the Kalamazoo Chorus and as a member of the ringing "Insomniacs" quartet. Dick is an Area Counselor and was twice named Barbershopper of the Year; once in Columbia, Missouri and again in the Kalamazoo Chapter. (We have it on good authority that many tags get sung in the music classes at the school where Dick is Principal.)

The "Hustlers" were organized in August of 1967--just two months before their strong performance at Windsor. If they could accomplish that much in two months just imagine what could come out of the Spring Muskegon Contest. With their enthusiasm and talent, they just might "hustle" their way right to Pittsburg.

Their tag was put together by (you guessed it) Dick Peterson. It sings well and contains a rather surprising voicing on the second to the last chord. You leads will want to go up to a "G" on the last note, sending the tenors into the stratosphere, but don't do it. That last chord rings beautifully just where it is written (and besides, tenors are hard to replace). Pull this one out of your Troub and take it to your next chorus rehearsal or chapter meeting.

Now it's your turn to share a tag with the world. Don't be selfish. Drop one or two in the mail today to Roger Craig at 24369 Hanover, Dearborn Heights, Michigan 48125. It's great when Michigan Sings.



PONTIAC PLANNING BIG SILVER ANNIVERSARY PARTY

Pontiac Chapter, top contenders in the Int'l "pro-tention" contest, are busily laying plans for a gigantic climax to a highly successful "Silver Anniversary Year". Their March 15 (Friday) meeting will be in the form of a huge birthday party, with many charter members and chapter old timers recalled for the celebration. Efforts are being made to induce Bill Otto, Pontiac Charter member and past Int'l Associate Secretary, to return from his Florida retirement and join with his many Michigan friends in a grand reunion. If he does, reports have it that Ed Bunyan will return from Racine, Wisconsin to complete another revival of the "Three Corns and a Bunyan", a great comedy quartet of bygone days.

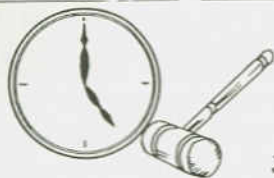
Carroll P. Adams, another Pontiac charter member, and former Int'l Secretary, now living in Vermont, will also be urged to attend.

The Michigan District's oldest quartet is being sought to share the limelight with our champs "The Sharp-lifters". Also, the "Auto Towners" are checking their busy schedule to see if they can squeeze in a Friday night date.

All District Officers are invited to attend this milestone affair, as well as a representative or two from our International office.

The "Silver Spotlight", a monthly program feature over the past year, will put the spotlight on Bill Pascher, Pontiac's only active Charter member. Former personalities who have shared this limelight included: Ed Schwoppe, who attended O.C. Cash's organization meeting in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Bill Berry, whose cottage on Lake Orion was the site of the first chapter meeting in Michigan; Lou Harrington, Michigan District Secretary; Ed Smith, Past Int'l President; Hal Bauer (see "Portrait" by Duane Mosier elsewhere in this issue), bass of the great "Clef Dwellers"; John Beaudin, Pontiac, one-time cartoonist for the "Harmonizer"; and Rawley Hallman, Pontiac, baritone of the formerly prominent "Detroiters". Many of these Society greats will be in attendance to help blow out the birthday candles.

The entire evening will be kept hilariously festive with the antics of Pontiac's master of ceremonies supreme, Whitey Ryden. And, in answer to our question to Cliff Douglas, Pontiac President: "Yes, by all means, everyone is welcome--as many as the bulging walls will allow--and the walls are those of the Bemis-Olsen Amvets Post, at 570 Oakland Avenue, Pontiac."



Minutes

EXECUTIVE
BOARD
MEETING

JANUARY 21, 1968

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Michigan District was held at the Capitol Park Motel, Lansing, on Friday, January 26, 1968. The meeting was called to order by President Gene Gillem at 8:45 p.m. Also present were vice-presidents Damm, Gillies, Ryan and Sperling, Treasurer Schied and Secretary Harrington.

The treasurer's report showed that the District

had \$7,956.46 on hand as of December 31, 1967.

A discussion was had regarding the status of several weak chapters and it was reported that Greenville is about to fold. The Chair emphasized the importance of urging chapters to be well represented at the District conventions. He announced that Bob Johnson will visit the Michigan District November 11-17 and the following schedule was suggested; November 11th--Sault Ste. Marie, November 12--Cadillac, November 13--Holland, November 14--Kalamazoo, November 15 and 16 in Detroit where a HEP School will be held. A schedule for visitations by Chet Fox of International was also announced, and the following was suggested; February 26--Big Rapids, February 27--Hudson, February 28--Owosso, February 29--DYC at Belle Isle, March 1--Milford.

A letter was read from Burt Szabo, District Chairman of the C. & J. Committee, regarding a school for judges and same was authorized for March 9, 1968.

The Board discussed a complaint that some chapters are raiding the membership of smaller chapters.

It was suggested that an inventory be obtained of the personal assets owned by the Michigan Troubadour, also a financial statement from Pete Elkins for the time he acted as editor. The balance of the meeting was devoted to plans for COTS to be held the next day.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

LOUIS R. HARRINGTON,
District Secretary

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

Due to an unsettled labor situation existing at the Penn Sheraton Hotel at Pittsburgh, the International Board at its January meeting voted to transfer the 1968 International Convention from Pittsburgh to Cincinnati, Ohio, and changed the date to a week later, July 1 through July 6, 1968. The Netherland Hotel will be headquarters. This will be the first time that the International Convention will be held in the Queen City. The contest events will be held on July 4-5-6, 1968. Formal announcement will be made in the next issue of the Harmonizer and full details will be forthcoming from International. Any members pre-registered will be able to cancel if they can not attend on the new dates providing they do so prior to March 15th.

* * * * *

The COTS held at Lansing on January 27, 1968, was without doubt the best ever held in the Michigan District. Over 70 new officers attended the day-long sessions at the Capitol Park Motel. The faculty was headed by District President Gene Gillem and included Vice-presidents E.E. Ryan, Ron Gillies, Emerson Sperling and Tom Damm, Counselor Bill Warner and your District Secretary. Subjects covered included chapter administration, finances, taxes, International and District dues, reports and various chapter problems. The morning session was devoted to a general discussion attended by all present while the men in attendance were divided into groups during the afternoon.

* * * * *

District directories for 1968 are now in the hands of the printer and will be mailed to every member in the District. It is unfortunate that chapters were delinquent in electing and then forwarding the names of their 1968 officers according to schedule. It is hoped that

all chapters will hold their annual elections in October as required by Chapter By-laws and that the 1968 secretaries report the results of the elections to the District Secretary promptly so that the directory will be out by January 1st.

* * * * *

It is not too early to start planning for your chorus entry for the 1968 Spring chorus contest at Muskegon, May 3-4, 1968. Entry blanks for the contest may be obtained from the District Secretary's office.

Zonal Notes

ZONE 1
Pat Ryan



The whole Detroit Area is alive with Barbershopping. Our Oakland County Chapter is readying its fine chorus to represent the Michigan District at Pittsburgh this summer. It will be Pittsburgh if the now four-month old hotel strike is ended before that time. Rumor has it that Cincinnati might be an alternative site but since the rumor hasn't been confirmed, I'm making all my plans for Pittsburgh.

The Dearborn and Wayne Chapters are getting their choruses ready for their coming shows with extra "outside" activity. Reports have it that most Chapter Officer Installations are now completed for '68. Everything locally points to a great year in our corner of the state.

The Zone One Association of Chapters got off to a flying start with a planning meeting at Tom Schull's lakeside home. Short advance notice held down attendance but those of us who were there came up with a meeting plan for the next meeting planned for February 21, to be held at Ralph Schirmer's Music Hall, 14830 Fenkell, in Detroit.

This meeting will see the election and installation of new officers for the Association, the approval of a statement of purpose now being readied, a review of a proposed adoption of a local service project in addition to our continued support of the Institute of Logopedics, and a coordinated effort to further reduce the conflict of dates for planned chapter activities.

All Zone One Chapters are urged to send their Presidents and Program Vice-Presidents to this meeting. Immediate Past-Presidents are also invited. Bring your ideas. We want to make 1968 go down in history as the year that our Zone really made a big contribution to the success of barbershopping in Michigan. Our Association is meant to be a unifying body where chapter plans can be discussed and given support and assistance.

Last year saw the development of increased chapter cooperation in the area of inter-chapter visitations. As a result all of us had a lot more fun from our hobby. Most any meeting will be a better meeting when you have a guest chapter in attendance.

So long for now until the next report.

Troub Presents

A

Profile on "HAL" Bauer

A Real Barbershopper

by

Duane H. Mosier
District Co-Historian

Many of you know him casually, many of you know him as you know any fellow barbershopper, and some as a top-notch bass in any quartet where he happens to sing, but to know Hal Bauer and his many achievements, which cover almost a life span, you must sit down and start to talk barbershopping and the first thing you know those two hours will seem like a twenty-minute chat.

His exploits carried him into the field of professional stagecraft in male quartet singing limited only in space by the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the waters of the deep South. This, of course, was long before our Society was born, but in the period of our national life when barbershopping was in full flower. There were not enough good quartets to go around. The demand was terrific. Every organization planning a program wanted a male quartet. Theaters and vaudeville houses were a natural field for that kind of entertainment and the good quartets had no difficulty securing a contract.

B. F. Keith, the vaudeville kingpin of the early twenties who had theaters in many of the large cities of the country, was quick to realize what the people wanted. In 1925 he arranged a contest in his Temple Theatre on Monroe Street, Detroit, for any quartet that cared to compete. During the week of October 14 the contest was staged, the winner to go to Cleveland to compete in a regional contest, then on to New York where the finals were held, the winner to receive a one-year contract to sing in all his theaters. Local competing quartets were The Temple Quartet, The Sunset Four, Michigan Electrotpe Quartet, Clark and Jackson Quartet, Metro Harmony Four, Wayne County Four, Fourth City Four, and the Wolverine Quartet.

The Metro Harmony Four were chosen the winners by the Detroit newspapers whose music editors were the judges. Shortly after the contest, Bauer, bass, together with Ed. Pazik, lead, Otto Schultz, tenor, and Tom Davison, bari, comprized the quartet. The quartet remained at the Temple for a week entertaining the



twice-a-day crowds at this popular theater. The Metro, having a top rating among quartets, had no difficulty among the billing agencies in securing contracts with the Keith, Western Vaudeville, and Orpheum circuits, and, in 1920 and for the next four years, Hal was behind the footlights as a professional, sharing the stage with all the big-name vaudeville actors whose names he can recite by the score.

Bauer's introduction to our style of close harmony came at about the end of the first World War and through a Canadian. "I was just a kid then with a violin hooked up to a small band playing for dances and any place where we could pick up a dollar; another member of the group, Dick Bertrand, who lived in Amherstburg, Ontario, was a captive barbershopper who sang in a quartet styling themselves THE FOUR OF US. Needing a bass, Bertrand induced me to fill that spot which I did without any urging. THE FOUR OF US soon became a popular quartet whose services were in constant demand. The dance band died a natural death."

Barbershopping in parts of Canada during that period was on a par with the states in popularity. Many people have the impression that barbershopping in Canada is of recent origin, but Canadians took to close harmony singing soon after SPEB was organized. Many fine chapters have developed in the several provinces and have made great contributions to the progress and success of the Society.

One of Hal's early ventures in quartet singing was with the Fourth City Four when he was twenty-two. With him were Gordon Rose lead, Clarence Spears tenor, and Clarence Truax bari. The quartet hung together for eight years and became one of the most sought after quartets of the day. Their excellent work took them all over Michigan and into many states. They sang with famous name bands, locally with Jean Goldkette's and Del Delbridge's on their programs and on occasion over the air waves of Radio Station WXYZ.

Hal admits that he has sung with so many quartets he cannot remember all of them but does recall the first quartet after becoming a SPEB member. The

cognomen by which they were recognized was "The Four Mugs" personned by Glen Kilpinger tenor, Mike Evans lead, Carroll Adams bari, and Bauer on the heavy end.

It took no urging for Bauer to become a chapter member, and in the fall of 1943 he joined the Oakland County Chapter. One of the oldest chapters in the Society, it shortly attained a membership of 302 topping even the Manhattan Chapter of 298. "We met in several places during the early years," relates Bauer, "but it took a big hall and we had the biggest we could get, the Elks Temple at Woodward and Nine Mile Road, and even if half the members turned out, most of them had to stand." Imagine that now. In that period and the few years following, the District could boast of 60 chapters with total membership of 5000.

Hal has always been an Oakland County Chapter member and still carries a card indicating his affiliation. He has held the various offices of Secretary, Vice President and President, sung in various chapter quartets and choruses and always a real booster for Oakland, in fact for all chapters and the Society.

For years he was a member of a quartet that scored second place twice and third place twice in International competition. This famous quartet was THE CLEF DWELLERS manned by Duncan Hannah lead, Dick Wiseheart tenor, Bill Johnston bari, and Bauer bass. Bill later moved to Kansas City and his place was ably filled by Ed. Easley.

The crowning achievement of Hal's barbershop career came in August 1951 when Jerry Beeler, former International President, contact man with the Army in arranging entertainment for G. I. s stationed overseas, sought the services of the Clef Dwellers. It did not take Wiseheart, Hannah, Easley and Bauer long to be on their way. It was a golden opportunity for real, down-to-earth service for a lot of homesick young men who needed morale building.

In speaking of the emotions in the minds of the quartet, Hal says "We were fearful that the young G.I.'s would not accept our kind of music. We went over to Germany primarily to teach and organize quartets and choruses. We were sure they wanted the jazz type of music, but to our happy surprise it was just the opposite. They fell for barbershop music hard--they could not get enough--always more. Of course, we did entertaining too in all the bases where we stopped. During the month we were there we organized 40 quartets and 6 choruses. I felt it was the most rewarding service I ever did during all my barbershopping years."

There came a time, of course, when Hal realized that a hobby did not pay the rent or buy bacon and eggs. He would not give up his favorite hobby but he would get a job, buy a home, marry and enjoy family life. To work for one company 34 years proves that he was an asset to Sealtest Foods, the kind of man they wanted to hang onto. He started as he expected on a delivery route leaving dairy products at the homes of customers, but not for long. A year later he became supervisor of routes and in 1939 was advanced to Branch Manager of the growing food company, rapidly expanding into all areas of Greater Detroit. In 1950 he was advanced still further to become Assistant Sales Manager of Institutional and Industrial Accounts, a position he held until his retirement on May 31, 1967. Such a long tenure with one company proves his interest and

devotion to duty and to his employer. Hal's family consists of his gracious wife Jessie whom he married on August 2, 1929, and two daughters, both of whom are married. He is granddad to their children.

What conceptions would a man have who has been immersed in barbershopping for upwards of fifty years? Hal has an answer:

"It's the greatest hobby any man can have. With me it is a way of life. There is nothing that can bring men closer together. It is a common denominator that recognizes neither rank nor station in life. Rich and poor alike can rub shoulders in any quartet because music is a universal language that everyone understands. If the harmony we sing could be transplanted into the hearts of every man, there would be no war. There would be peace on earth and a lot of good will."

Chapter News

MUSKEGON

Chapter Reporter:
Jay Smith

We are well into the New Year and after the holidays things are back to normal.

The Muskegon Chapter's two quartets were on the road this past month. The Kasual D's were in Lansing on the 15th and the Dune-Tones traveled to Grand Rapids on the 26th.

January 16th, we held our monthly chapter meeting. The Mona-Shores High School Boys Chorus were our guest. These sixty-three boys under direction of Mr. Larry Gray did an outstanding job. They will be ushering the District Convention Contests.

February 23rd we will be meeting with our wives and selecting our SPEB-SQUAW of the year. Muskegon extends its congratulations to the "O.C.C." PAL TAL queen.

The convention committee is busy organizing for the big Michigan District Confab in May. We hope you are all planning to attend.

There is always an open invitation for you barbershoppers to attend our meetings at 8:30 p.m. the first and third Tuesdays at the Occidental Hotel. Drop in and say hello.

ANN ARBOR

Chapter Reporter:
Jack Bush

Once again we have managed to squeak into a new year with enough men to hold our charter--but now something new has been added.

Under Dick Webber's direction we are trying WEEKLY MEETINGS. Every Tuesday night, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., the chorus practices in the Chorus Practice Room (Rm. 330) at Tappan Junior High School in Ann Arbor. This has worked out so well we have added two new members since the first of the year--and lured back one or two of our former members. Anyone coming over is welcome to drop in and sing with us.

On January 23rd a delegation of nine men from Ann Arbor visited the Milford Chapter--and had a real blast. Those guys are wonderful hosts. The Sharp-

(cont'd. on page 9)



WE SING THAT

Mich. Dist. LOGOPEDIC BENEFIT SHOW

JUNE 8, 1968

BATTLE CREEK, MICH.



THEY SHALL SPEAK

CONGRATULATIONS ! ! !
YOU QUALIFY TO SING IN A

FABULOUS 400 MAN CHORUS

. . . Just imagine yourself in a 400 voice chorus under the direction of Bob Johnson, our Society's International Director of Music, singing on one of the biggest shows ever produced in Michigan. Best of all, you will be singing arrangements of songs you have learned in advance, especially for this occasion. WHAT A THRILL ! WHAT A SOUND !

Sound like a pipe dream?

It's not! Let me explain.

On June 8, 1968, Michigan's 2nd Logopedic Show will be staged. It will feature a 400 voice chorus (hereafter referred to as the FABULOUS 400) under the direction of Bob Johnson, comprised of Michigan District members. (Like you). This great event, probably one of the biggest shows ever presented in Michigan (and certainly featuring the largest chorus) will be held in Battle Creek, at the W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Send in your registration (see separate sheet) and your fee of \$5.00 (to cover expenses of music, mailing, printing, etc.) This also includes the cost of your ticket to see the show.

BUT ACT NOW ! The chorus must be limited to THE FIRST 400 REGISTRATIONS RECEIVED (by postmark) and judging by the reactions we are seeing to the idea, practically every Michigan District member will want to be in this select chorus.

NOTE: At this date there is still room for a few more. So Hurry!

There'll be activities planned for the ladies, so plan to bring her along. She won't want to miss this great show, either.

WOW

YOU AIN'T HEARD NUTTEN YET

A show without Quartets really isn't a show, is it? So here's what we propose:
Want to HEADLINE the biggest show in Michigan? Impossible? NO ! ! !

THE FABULOUS 400



MICHIGAN IS FIRST AGAIN

The show is being opened to any Quartet eligible to compete in Michigan contests (must be registered, etc.). Bids are being accepted from Quartets that want to appear, but the bids are on a rather unusual basis - -

Send in your bid, not quoting a fee, but instead telling us how much your Quartet will donate to Logopedics for the honor of singing on this great show. All funds received will be presented directly to Logopedics in the name of your quartet!

Here's how the Quartets will appear on the show. The Quartet bidding highest will headline the show. The 2nd highest bidding Quartet will appear 2nd from last and so on. The amount of time allotted on the show will be somewhat proportional to the amount of the bid.

All bids will be sealed, and will be opened by the Michigan District Board at their March meeting. (Deadline for sending bids, March 1, 1968.) The minimum bid acceptable will be \$40.00 (only \$10.00 per man) money will be due not later than May 1, 1968.

This show should be the biggest money-raising event ever presented in the Society. We raised over \$1,100.00 on the last show and are looking forward to bigger and better things this time.

One final note. The Chorus participation is completely separate from Quartet participation. One does not automatically put you in the other and vice-versa. If you aren't already in the Chorus, you should be - - send your registration today.

So, you fellas get your heads together - - figure out a bid, and send it right in.

PUT YOUR BID IN AN ENVELOPE, MARK IT "SEALED BID FOR LOGOPEDIC SHOW" THEN PUT THIS INSIDE ANOTHER ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:

Louis R. Harrington
District Secretary
2361 First National Building
Detroit, Michigan 48226

P.S. Say:—You fellows who aren't registered as a quartet, should get registered. Now. You might (Headline) the first show you ever sang on.

See other side for Fabulous 400 Registration Form.

Housing Request.

Show Ticket Request.

HURRY HURRY HURRY

GET THOSE REGISTRATION FORMS IN NOW!

FABULOUS 400 REGISTRATION FORM

To: Bob Dixon, Chairman
 FABULOUS 400
 P.O. Box 37
 Bellevue, Michigan 49021

Yes, Bob . . .

. . . I want to sing in the FABULOUS 400 on the 2nd Michigan District Logopedic Show. Here's my \$5.00. Send me my music to learn.

I sing _____ (tenor, lead, bari, bass). If necessary to balance the chorus, I could sing _____.

I (do) (do not) plan to be at the 1968 International Convention in Pittsburgh (we might plan to perform there.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

.....

HOUSING REQUEST

Tell Roger Lewis, Housing Chairman, that I'll need a room.

	June 7	June 8	Hdqtrs. Post Tavern	2 Blks. Hart Hotel	3 Miles Holiday Inn
Single Bed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Double Bed	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Twin Beds	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

.....

SHOW TICKET REQUEST FORM

Tell George Hurt, ticket chairman, to send me _____ tickets to see the show at \$2.50 each. (All seats reserved, first come, first served.)

Note: Your own chorus registration covers your ticket. This request is for tickets for your wife, mother, dad, uncles, cousins, friends, etc.)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

lifters were there to judge the pickup quartets and you should have heard the riotous rulings. We ended up with a score of 4. They followed with their own songs-- and we kept them on for many encores. We really went home singing.

JACKSON

Chapter Reporter:
Joe Hubbard

Here we are in the new year and things are happening already. The talk right now is the BIG SHOW that the Jackson Chapter is getting under way. In addition to this show, the chapter has a package show to put on for the Kiwanis at Jackson High School. In March there are two package shows to put on (maybe three) just before the show in April.

Let me tell you about this show that is coming up on April 6, 1968. All you music lovers take note of this date as this is one night you will talk about for days to come. Heading the show will be the Club House 4 from Louisville, Ky. There will be other quartets that we don't want to mention at this time. So mark this date on your calendar: April 6, 1968. Come and see what you would have missed if you stayed home. The tickets can be ordered right now from Glenn Loveland Rt#3, Albion, Michigan 49224, so get those orders in the mail today. Don't say "we'll just drive down and buy them at the door" because they may be sold out, and I sure would hate to have YOU miss the show.

Think back to the show in Wayne last spring, and tell me you didn't care for the Club House 4, and I'll not call you a music lover. The tickets are \$2.00 per person, a small fee for a night of fun and song.

I forgot to mention in the last Troubadour that Dick Simpson is our new Area Counselor. When they want a good man for a job they sure know where to get them.

Now don't forget, if your chapter wants to come a-calling, we are always home. If you want to plan ahead, you can write our Program Vice-President, Ivan Bruder, 1219 S. Bowen, Jackson, Michigan 49203.



BARBERSHOP ON THE AIR

The Battle Creek Cereal City Chapter would like to report a favorable response from the "Close Harmony Time" pre-recorded tapes received from Harold Parry in Des Moines, Iowa. For thirteen weeks the people in and around the Battle Creek area were able to enjoy barbershop harmony at its very best. Our chapter was fortunate to have prime time on a local radio station, the sponsor had a few words to say immediately before and directly after our 5:00 to 5:30 p.m. program during which we had five or six minutes for local chapter news announcements and inviting prospective members to our meetings. The cost of the tapes is very reasonable when considering the publicity we received. The Battle Creek Chapter heartily endorses this project for any chapter interested in Public Relations.

Robert Vander Wall
Battle Creek Chapter

O.C.C.
PRESENTS

THE PRE-BUSH CONTEST

(formerly Utica-Rochester's)

Quartets who have finished third or better at the District level may not compete.

1st PRIZE- \$50

ENTERTAINMENT BY

• **The SHARPLIFTERS**
CURRENT MICHIGAN DISTRICT CHAMPS;

AND BY

• **The TANTALIZERS**
CURRENT REGION #2 SWEET ADELINES CHAMPS

LADIES INVITED

DOOR FEE \$1.50 (includes food at midnight)

BEER & SET-UPS
AVAILABLE

K. of C. HALL
2299 W. 12 MILE
BERKLEY

MARCH 22, 1968 9:00 P.M.

SAVE \$2.00 BY REGISTERING NOW.

THE..... AGREES TO
quartet name
ABIDE BY THE RULES AND RESTRICTIONS AS
ESTABLISHED BY THE PRE-BUSH COMMITTEE,
AND BY THE DECISION OF THE JUDGES.

Signed:.....
for the quartet
SEND WITH \$4.00 to: DICK VAN DYKE
913 BERNIE LANE
MADISON HEIGHTS
MICHIGAN 48071

OAKLAND COUNTY

Chapter Reporter:
Dick Van Dyke

Looking back, 1967 was a good year for O.C.C. We ended the year as the largest chapter in the District and somewhere in the top ten across the country; chapter meeting attendance was up 37% over 1966 according to our statistician, Bob Drabik; our chorus went from 36 (fall of '66) to 64 members in Windsor, and from second place to first place and will represent the Michigan District in Pittsburgh. The chorus, formerly known as the BARBERY HOST, has voted to change its own name to the WOLVERINE CHORUS so that the good folk from around the country will be able to associate us with Michigan rather than the Barbary Coast.

Looking ahead we can see nothing but good things to come. Since we're going to Pittsburgh, we will be trying to raise money. Several functions are being planned such as a fund-raising show the 26th of April with the CLOSE CHORDERS and THE AUTO TOWNERS as our headliners, a dance on the 30th of March sponsored by our beloved ladies auxiliary--the PAL TALS, a millionaires party in May, and again this fall we will be featuring the SUNDOWNERS from Chicago on our October 26th show. We are expecting around 60 to go to Pittsburgh.

Our immediate future portrays a couple of contests aimed primarily at forming new quartets. First we'll have our GREENHORN QUARTET CONTEST that was so successful last year. It will be at our regular chapter meeting the first of March. Twenty-two days later we'll have the PRE-BOYNE CONTEST that has been a success for the Utica-Rochester Chapter for so many years. (Please see ad elsewhere in this issue for pertinent information.)

Rules for the Greenhorn Contest are simple--no registered quartets allowed, any combination of voices may sing as long as three of the quartet are members of the Society, sing in as many quartets as you like (at a cost of \$1.00 per man per quartet). Half of the total entry fee will go to The Institute of Logopedics, and the other half will be given to the winning quartet. The quartet that wins must accept the first prize and must register the Quartet name and enter the quartet in the District contest in Muskegon in May. (Rumors that Carl Dahlke is looking for a new quartet for this contest are not true.) Our judges for this contest will again be the CHORDIALS from the JOHNNY APPLESEED District (Bob Whitledge of Monroe is their bass) and the CLOSE CHORDERS will emcee the night. If you plan to come that night--plan to be entertained. . . . but more important--plan to sing. See you there.

THREE RIVERS

Chapter Reporter:
G. Dieffenderfer

The members of the Three Rivers Chapter were happy to receive their issue of the "Troubadour" and to know that it will be coming every month. And, Jim, I promise to get the news to you as fast as we make it.

Things are really looking up for us. We finished the year with 32 members, which is the first time in almost 20 years that we have hit the 30 mark.

We have a fancy new meeting place above the bank in Constantine.

Here are a few of the activities coming up for us in the near future: We will visit the Elkhart, Indiana

Chapter on February 12. March 16 is our big ladies and guests night which actually takes the place of our show. Em. Sperling, our Zone V.P., paid us a visit last month. . . he reminded us of the District Contest in May and so we are looking into the possibility of chartering a bus and motoring to Muskegon.

If any barbershopper gets stranded in Constantine (why else would you be there) on any Monday night, be sure to drop in.

SAGINAW BAY

Chapter Reporter:
Bill Dolezel

The recent round of Officer Installation parties have provided some great fun for us with the Bay Tonics appearing at Gratiot County; the Bean Town Four at Flint; and the Eversharps at Holly-Fenton and Traverse City. Our own Installation Party at Frankenmuth featured the Close Chorders who were eminently superior in sound as usual.

At this writing a mystery bus trip has been planned and will be executed on February 2nd. Bud Carpenter of the Bean Town Four along with Pete Norling, have arranged this bust so we in the Chapter are half expecting to wind up in some hitherto unheard of place where the fun we anticipate will be most unique.

Plans are now final for a benefit performance by our chorus and quartets to be given in cooperation with the students of Saint Stevens High School in Saginaw. The proceeds from the show will help to elevate the living conditions of a near-destitute family to a more nearly acceptable level. A mighty busy man added the promotion of this project to his loaded schedule on behalf of our chapter. How can you beat a guy like Gene Gillem?

Annually in Bay City on St. Patricks Day, a parade is staged by local groups. Now, you well know that March 17th can be depended upon for miserable, cold weather-- sooo -- we local barbershoppers, recognizing that a party is the best way to thaw out after witnessing or participating in such a parade, have arranged our fifth annual party. Shure, twill be held at the Village Hall in Bay City on March 17th at about 5:00 p.m. Please join us if you can. Wear green, and Chairman Moe Weaver will buy one.

LANSING

Chapter Reporter:
Reese Olger

Lansing Chapter swung into the New Year with installation of officers in an impressive style by Tom Damm, Michigan District Vice-President. Officers for the new year are President Gene Johnson, Secretary Bob Myers, Treasurer Willis Wood, Program V. P. Ed Bennett, Membership V.P. Ray Smith. Appointed as chapter board members are Les Collins, Homer Winegardner, La Mott Bates, Don Funk, Ken Gibson and John Hamilton. Harold McAttee, Chapter Historian, and Reese Olger Chapter reporter. The evening was topped off with the great sounds of the Kasual D's. In from Jackson were the InnKeepers. Also entertaining were several woodshed quartets from the chapter. Sure was a great way to start the new year.

New members added to our list include Doc Durfee, Dave Johnson, Cameron Hoxic, and John Longstreth.

Our program chairman is busy planning some interesting meetings and some visitations to other chapters. Sounds like we are going to use our big blue bus this year.

PONTIAC

Chapter Reporter:
Ed Lilly

Pontiac Chapter's 25th Annual Parade of Quartets, held January 20th at Pontiac Northern High School, thrilled a capacity audience for two and one-half hours with solid barbershop harmony and a high variety act. The scene was set at dock side, down in the deep South, as a side wheeler was taking on passangers for a trip up "Ole Miss." The curtain opened with Dunc Hannah as emcee and the Pontiac Chapter "Merry Motor Men" Chorus singing several songs of the old South under the direction of Rawley Hallman and Bill Pascher. The HARMONY KNIGHTS quartet added their talent with a solid arrangement of "The Old Henry Clay". The TANTALIZERS, Sweet Adeline Champions sang their lovely best and demonstrated to all why they are the champs. Chicago's own MIDNIGHT OILERS with their excellent arrangements, built around string instruments wowed the house with many old favorites done in excellent style. Then to center stage came the FOUR STATESMEN, our current International Champions, four great guys with style and grace singing in flawless harmony, certainly a credit to our Society and our show.

The After-Glo, also a sell-out, progressed well into the early hours, with the same acts performing again. When emcee Whitty Ryden called the STATESMEN to stage center to close the after-glo program, they received a standing ovation as a final gesture of approval to our champs and four great guys.

* * * * *



Int'l Champs, the "Four Statesmen" at Pontiac's 25th Annual Parade "The Silver Show Boat"

PONTIAC SHOW SCENERY OUTSTANDING

Bill Pascher, of the Pontiac Chapter, is without a doubt a scenery expert. The people who attended our show will attest to that. All of the scenery on stage was designed, built, and erected under the meticulous guidance of this man. The amazing part of this job that he undertakes every year without even being asked is that the designing, building, and painting is done in his one and one-half car garage. Bill has just completed his twenty-fifth show and every year the job he has done has been more outstanding and beautiful than the previous year.

We at Pontiac, Chapter, Officers and men alike, would like to use this short space in the Troubadour to thank a tall man in our chapter--Bill Pascher.

* * * * *

A SONG IS BORN

Some ten months ago, the Pontiac Chapter started

thinking about our upcoming twenty-fifth birthday as a continuously chartered chapter. Suggestions and ideas were exchanged by the general membership and officers as to what we would do in preparation for this historic anniversary. Fortunately, we at Pontiac are very proud to have in our chapter many good hard workers and loyal barbershoppers, and one outstanding man. Outstanding in any way you evaluate him. Untiringly hard chapter worker, devoted quartet man, chorus director, and song arranger. Little did the chapter know that this man was working at home on an arrangement of a song. The newly re-organized and re-named Pontiac "Merry Motor Men" Chorus which he directs was going to learn this song just as quickly as they could, and to the best of their ability because this was to be their very own, written and arranged for and about Pontiac Chapter by a Pontiac Chapter member. The song "It's Our Silver Anniversary Year", under the direction of the arranger, Rawley Hallman, was sung for the first time to the public by the "Merry Motor Men" Chorus on our Silver Anniversary Show, January 20th. The Chorus did a flawless job in rendering this song as a capitol accomplishment to our own Rawley.

DETROIT #1

Chapter Reporter:
Dick Barron

During the past holiday season, the Motor City Chorus, together with the Dearborn Chapter Chorus, made its annual carolling tour which this year consisted of visits to the Veteran Hospital in Dearborn, the Plymouth State Home for Retarded Children, the Oakwood Hospital in Dearborn and the St. Joseph's home for the aged. It was a most gratifying experience for all involved.

Our annual Ladies Night festivities took place this year on January 19th with Bill Warner as emcee. Our gals really enjoyed their night out, especially the 28 lucky ones who went home with the door prizes. We enjoyed tremendous success with headliners like the Four-Fits, the Wonder Lads and our current Michigan Champions, the Sharplifters. Our Michigan District Vice-President E.E. "Pat" Ryan, also a member of this chapter, was present to install the new chapter officers.

Our future activities include a fund-raising drive for the Oakland County Chorus and participation in the Battle Creek Logopedics Show. We are also pointing toward the coming Spring Convention in Muskegon.

DETROIT YACHTSMEN

Chapter Reporter:
Lou Harrington

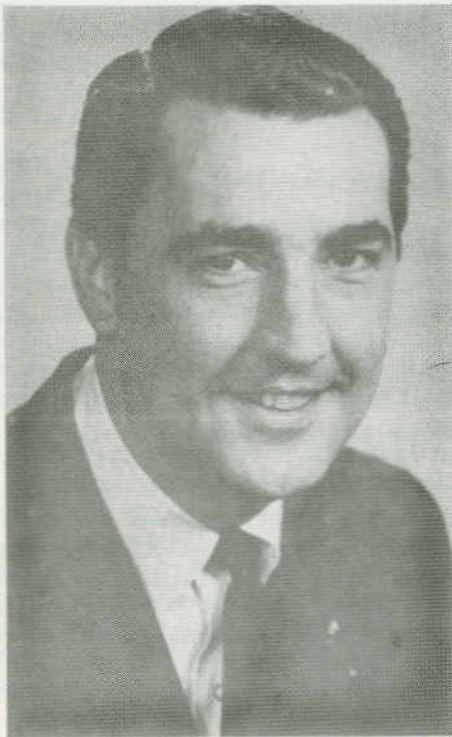
DYC members and their ladies were the guests of President and Mrs. S. Edward Hebert at their Grosse Pointe home on January 25th. Following cocktails and a buffet dinner for 60 persons, the group was entertained by the Auto Towners. Bobbie Bostick joined the past International champions in their rendition of "Lida Rose." Commodore and Mrs. Daley of the Yacht Club were guests.

On March 9, 1968, the Yachtsmen will hold their annual Ladies Night program at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle and on this evening all facilities of the luxuriously-appointed clubhouse will be made available to the Yachtsmen, which includes the dining room, the grill and the ballroom. The program begins at 9:00 p.m. and will feature the Wonderlads, the Four

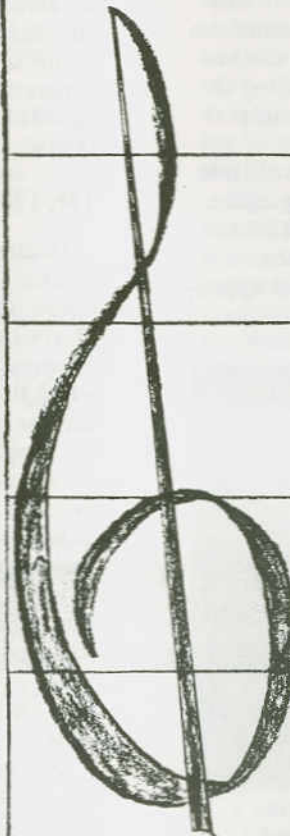
DEARBORN CHAPTER SPEBSQSA, INC.

PRESENTS

23RD ANNUAL HARMONY PARADE



WXYZ'S DAVE DILES, M.C.



INTERNATIONAL CHAMPS
AUTO-TOWNERS

COMEDY SPECIALISTS
MIDNITE OILERS

SWEETHEARTS
CHI-LARKS

DISTRICT CHAMPS
SHARPLIFTERS

PAST DIST. CHORUS CHAMPS
CHORD-O-MATICS

Saturday, February 24, 1968

8:15 p.m.

EDSEL FORD HIGH Rotunda Dr. & Pelham
DEARBORN

\$3.00 Donation

CALL DICK CRIST @ 941-3665 or CLAY JONES @ 721-1841 for TICKETS

AFTERGLO AT ELK'S LODGE - 25000 MICHIGAN AVE.

Fits and the Yachtsmen Chorus. The formal program ends about 10:15 after which the audience will enjoy the club's facilities which includes dancing. All barbershoppers and their ladies are invited, but tickets must be obtained from a member of the chapter. Tickets are \$2.00 per person and can be obtained by calling Lou Harrington at 961-6047.

The group meets every Thursday evening and all barbershoppers are invited to attend the sessions.

On Thursday, February 29, 1968, Chet Fox of International will make a visitation and all Detroit-area barbershoppers are invited to attend.

WAYNE

Chapter Reporter:

The Wayne Chapter will be holding their Annual Parade on March 2, 1968. The title or theme is "Just Clowning Around". Headlining the show are the "Salt Flats" from Salt Lake City, Utah. The present Michigan District Champions, The Sharplifters; The Left-Overs, a Sweet Adeline quartet composed of past champions of S.A.; The Chordials, from Toledo, Ohio, a new and exciting group from the Johnny Appleseed District; and the Wayne Wonderland Chorus under the direction of Gordie Limburg. The show will be held at the John F. Kennedy High School Auditorium on Greenfield Road in Detroit. Contact Tom Pollard for tickets at 313-427-5527. Believe me this show is always a sellout, so get your tickets as soon as time permits.

GRAND RAPIDS

Chapter Reporter:
Jack Sidor

Hello again from the greater Grand Rapids, greater Great Lakes Chapter. It's a solid feeling to see the Troubadour back in circulation and Davenport up off the couch making with the words. Nice going Jim, we missed you buddy.

We're still operating at the same stand every Friday night at the Pantlind Hotel. The chorus is doin' dandy under Lou Mahacek, making a number of appearances and working at putting together a new package show.

Our quartets are pretty active with us and with others too. (Any of you guys seen Pete and the Safe Combination over your way?) The Rafter Ringers have a couple new routines, including their version of the Auctioneer Song which is a big winner. Archway Cookie Company has the Extension Chords flying just about everywhere. Have you heard their album?

The other sixteen (give or take ten) quartets have seen moments of glory with us. We've seen the Pitch Pipers, Presidents, and the Drifters and a couple of new attempts called the Buffalo Bobs and the Spoilers. And from outside the chapter we were fortunate to have the Hustlers of Niles over for our Christmas Program (Ladies Night). In January, the Dune Tones of Muskegon and the Four Fits were here to brighten our programs. I understand from Ed Northouse, our new program chairman, that the Bean Town Four are coming here in February.

Our membership is hanging on at about ninety (trying for that big "C"). We were sorry to hear that our northerly neighbors at Greenville voted to disband. A great bunch of guys.

Our new president, Jack Schneider, is waiting to shake your hand when you can make it and tell you all about the big day coming in April. That's when we hold



Recuperating at his home from a coronary suffered about two months ago is James G. Sandry, one of the charter members of old Northwest Chapter. Upon dissolution of the chapter, Jim joined Detroit #1 Chapter. He is a dedicated barbershopper, rarely missing a meeting. Jim and his wife and daughter spent the month of September touring many of the European countries - Duane Mosier

The "Hustlers" brightened Christmas for three children of the late Paul Green, a member of the Niles-Buchanan Chap. Christmas Eve they decided to try and "fill their stockings" for they were sure Mrs. Green could not provide some of those little extras. Having only been organized since August, their "kitty" wasn't purring too well, but there was enough for an expression of love for "little people". This is what makes barbershopping worth while.

our annual parade at the Civic Auditorium. This year again is another all-champion show--our 25th anniversary show by the way. It will feature the Gala Lads, Auto Towners, Roaring 20's and the Road Runners. How's that for a line-up? Reserve that date (April 20) for sure, but join us any Friday in the meantime.

LES CHENEAUX

Chapter Reporter:
Chas. Wagner

For some time enthusiasm has been growing toward barbershop harmony in the Eastern Upper Peninsula of Michigan since the formation of the Les Cheneaux (licensed) Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.. As a matter of fact, we have been organized since June '67.

Under the most capable direction of Bob Tracy of Mackinaw City, our chapter has made steady progress and each week Bob is gracious enough to travel across "Big Mac" and another 40 miles to direct our group. At the present time we have 33 paid members and are hoping to reach the magic number by next June to receive our charter.

Captain Clifford MacLean, our president, is the man responsible for our organization and "Cap" is unceasing in his efforts to make our chapter grow. With the support of the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Chapter, as our sponsoring chapter, we have had fine fellowship, with each group holding a "Wing Ding" in the past few months and frequent visits to each community.

Even though we are new and have not yet become a competing chorus, we are making progress and have "sung out" on a couple of engagements in our area trying to interest more men in Barbershopping. The latest was at the Pickford Lions Club on January 18 and we are hoping that some of those fellows will get the bug and join us.

Plans to attend the Officers Training School in Lansing were regretfully canceled due to illness, but we are looking forward to the next session with hopes that several members may attend.

For those who may be traveling in the Eastern Upper Peninsula, we meet every Monday evening at 8:00 p.m. in the Les Cheneaux Community School, Cedarville, Michigan.

ON THE COVER

You have to consider yourself among the oldtimers this District if you can recall the last time a quartet rose to the top of the heap as rapidly as our current Champions, the Sharplifters. Officially only a year old this month, this group registered with International in February, 1967. Within the short space of two months they were acclaimed co-winners in Regional competition at Jackson for the right to represent Michigan in the International Contest at Los Angeles. Then just three months later, operating in that rarified atmosphere of Big League competition, this foursome sang their way up to 27th place in the nation. Last October in Windsor, after only 8 months, they placed first in District competition to win the coveted title of Michigan District Quartet Champions.

The formation of the Sharplifters was brought about through a coalition of members of several earlier quartets. In this case the three foursomes involved were the Tuneabouts (tenor), The Motor City Slickers (lead and baritone) from Detroit Chapter, and the Tone Criers (bass) of Wayne. The end result represents a nicely balanced combination of experience and youth. Singing tenor is Bill Wickstrom, the "old man" of the group and a 23 year member from Muskegon by way of Dearborn whose singing experience includes such groups as the Pitch-Blends, Aire-Tonics (1956-57 District Champs), Occasional Four, Auto Towners, Tuneabouts, The Port City, Dearborn Chordomatic and Motor City Choruses. Lead Joe Coburn is a 3 year member (Motor City Slickers and Motor City Chorus). Bari John Seemann has been barbershopping 7 years with the Toledo, Dearborn and Detroit Chapters (Conchords, Sing Sing Four, Motor City Slickers, Toledo and Motor City Choruses). Bass Mike Mudgett is a 9 year member and a two-time Wayne Chapter President (Happy Humdingers, Tone Criers, Wayne Wonderland Chorus).

As might be expected, the Sharplifters have been mighty busy these days. Quartet chronologer Bill Wickstrom reports that the quartet averages three nights a week for rehearsals and singing engagements. Add to this another evening for chorus rehearsals and you can see how much time these guys devote to this hobby of ours.

Perhaps their greatest thrill to date, outside of winning their first two District contests and singing in International competition, has been their two appearances on national television on the Joey Bishop Show and ABC Evening News Program during last July's Los Angeles Convention. Other highlights during the quartet's brief existence have included radio and television appearances in Detroit and an 11-day engagement at the Michigan State Fair last August.

Latest word has it that the Sharplifters are already hard at work preparing for the Spring Contest in Muskegon. They are fully aware that they must hurdle this all-important contest barrier if they hope to attain their next big goal, International Semi-Finalists.

KEEP AMERICA SINGING

ROYAL D ZERBE
204 CLINTON ST 103
S HAVEN MI 49090

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER

Coming Events

(Requests for parade dates and sanction fee payments should be sent to: District Secretary Louis R. Harrington, 2361 First National Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich. 48226.)

February 24, 1968	Dearborn Parade
March 2, 1968	Kalamazoo Parade
March 9, 1968	Detroit Yachtsmen's Ladies Ladies Night
March 16, 1968	Monroe Parade
March 23, 1968	Battle Creek Parade
March 29, 1968	Grand Haven Charter Charter Party
April 6, 1968	Bush League Contest Boyne City
April 26, 1968	Oakland County Fund-Raising Show
April 20, 1968	Great Lakes Invitational Grand Rapids
April 20, 1968	Flint Parade
May 3-4-5, 1968	International Preliminaries Muskegon
May 11, 1968	Niles-Buchanan 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
September 28, 1968	Gratiot County Parade
October 5, 1968	Fruit Belt Parade
October 5, 1968	Lansing Parade