

Nov '68

NOVEMBER, 1968

michigan

troubadour



PIONEER



DISTRICT

NOVEMBER, 1968

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

VOL. 18-NO. 9

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

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APPLICATION TO MAIL AT SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE RATES PENDING AT NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN
PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCEPT DURING JULY AND AUGUST
SUBSCRIPTION RATES: MAIL SUBSCRIPTION, PAYABLE IN ADVANCE: \$2.50 PER YEAR.
SINGLE COPY PRICE: 25 CENTS PER COPY

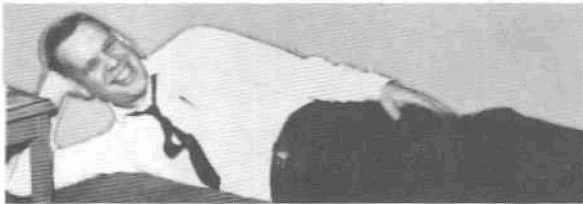
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ART BY EDITH GAUNT

ADVERTISING RATES: AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
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PUBLICATION: THE NORTHVILLE RECORD, NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48167



Off The Davenport

We won't say we're mad because we really aren't, but. . . wives, did your husband happen to bring home an extra, beat-up, and ragged bow tie?

We were singing with a rather famous quartet in some Canadian's motel room in Monroe at something like 4:00 in the morning. (They couldn't seem to sing on key without their bass though we tried to help with our fine bass voice.)

It seems we made some rather casual remark. Suddenly we were brutally and viciously attacked. All we could see was a mustache, a beard, and some smiling Irish eyes.

Maybe we deserved it, but we're going to look out for those Canadians' rooms next time.

Lest anyone misinterpret the above, we want to say that four great guys, otherwise known as the FOUR FITS quartet, gave us a never-to-be-forgotten thrill in Monroe. Four guys who have given this thrill to many a Barbershopper during their travels around Michigan. Thanks, fellows. (What key was that, Russ?)

* * * * *

We've got to pass along kudos to four other great guys at this point--namely the SHARPLIFTERS, Pioneer District Champions for the past year. These guys have traveled all over the District, giving a thrill to many. Who'll ever forget their rendition of "Winchester Cathedral."?

At this point, we must point out an almost obvious similarity between these two (and many other) quar-

tets. These fellows love to sing, they are "HAMS", they'll break up their "combination" to give someone else (we've had the honor many times) the thrill of singing with them, AND they are a bunch of terrific guys. Now, let anyone ask you "why be a Barbershopper?"--with guys like this in our fraternity, we have a ready answer.

* * * * *

Speaking of what great guys we are, how about talking about Logopedics for a minute. The Battle Creek Chapter has for 2 years put on a Logopedic Benefit Show. Under the leadership and inspiration of Lowell Wolf (lots of luck in Florida, Lowell), this chapter has worked hard, learned a lot, and provided thousands of dollars toward the support of "our" children in Wichita. They have pledged their help (see Letters to Ed.) to any other chapter who will carry on, this year, this project. May we suggest the "Detroit #1" chapter. With a chorus like they have, with a director like Bill Butler, with SUPPORTING chapters like Wayne, Dearborn, Oakland County, Windsor, etc., around the area; with the tremendous facilities of Detroit like Ford Auditorium and Cobo Hall; the heck with only Fabulous 400, why not a 1000-man chorus. Sing the "old" ones boys, and we'll give the public the thrill of their life. How about this, we'll DO IT. O.K.?

* * * * *

As much as we've enjoyed doing the "Troubadour" work some years back and for the last year, and as much as we look forward to the next year, the local chapter needs more support, the kids need more of their Mommy's and Daddy's time and we can't help but feel there are other men in this District who could enjoy the THRILL of editing the Pioneer District's "Troubadour". There is a lot of responsibility and time involved (let's not kid ourselves), but this is far from a thankless job. We feel we have over 3000 true friends, and how many people can say that. We will continue to publish the "Troubadour"

through June of next year. This, we feel, gives plenty of notice. We'd like to work with the new editor on the May and June issues for an "easy take over". Come on someone you CAN do it and you'll REALLY enjoy it.

(Based on experience, I'd like to make a suggestion: If you know someone who you think might enjoy and be capable of this job, talk to him; let us know. Whoever takes over this job will have a crew of very wonderful, dedicated, and hardworking people--like Bill Pascher, District Photographer, and Dora Vogel, our Feminine Observer.)

May we talk about another volunteer job at this time? This, the PIONEER DISTRICT has, what might very well be considered, the greatest amount of talent of ANY District in the Society. Our leadership (executive) is undisputed. (Just read Duane Mosier's articles if you are unsure on this point.) We are leaders in another area also--Tags. The Pioneer District has for years pioneered "tags". Remember the Detroit Taggers? Roger Craig? Here is a man, who as head of the "Michigan Sings" column, has served our District well. He has had to drop this activity and "Troub" is looking for a replacement. We guess you've noticed -- no tag this month.

Deadline is the 1st of the month all you "Troubadour" contributors--let's get with it.

Thanks to the untiring effort of Ted Verwey of the Windsor Chapter and to many others such as Duane Mosier, we are undeniably and definitely (by proclamation of the Delegates of this District) the "PIONEER DISTRICT" and 'tis PROUD WE ARE.

The 1970 Spring Convention was awarded to Muskegon and the Fall Convention for 1969 will be held at Jackson. This should be a good one. Our Spring Convention will be next in Saginaw, April 25-27.

Don't forget C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officers Training

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946, JUNE 11, 1960 AND OCTOBER 23, 1962 SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR.

Published monthly except July and August at Northville, Michigan for October, 1968.

The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: James O. Davenport, 14243 Shadywood, Plymouth, Michigan 48170.

The owner: THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT OF S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Inc. (Secretary: Louis R. Harrington, 2361 First National Bldg., Detroit 26, Michigan 48226.)

Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: NONE

Average number of copies of each issue of this publication sold or distributed through the mails or otherwise to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceeding the date shown above was 1672.

School) will be held in Lansing (what a perfect central location) on December 7. Send your new officers for sure. Make sure your new officers attend this.

Have you seen your personal "Promotion Kit" including bumper sticker, purchased for you for a cost of \$900 of your District monies--ask your Chapter Secretary.

Congratulations to District Secretary, Lou Harrington, who was presented an Honorary Doctorate of Law Degree at the University of Detroit.

From the
Pen of the President



...GENE GILLEM



First, I would like to state how much I appreciate your confidence in me, and my re-election to a second term as President of the Pioneer District. I would like, also, to thank you for re-electing the District Board as presented, including the addition of Don Funk as a Vice-President. He will certainly be an asset, I am sure.

Due to the addition of an Executive Vice-President, in the person of Tom Damm, I feel we will be able to do a much more thorough job.

We have great plans for the Pioneer District for this coming year. It will take every member, and, of course, each chapter officer, area counselor, and District officer doing his assignment to the best of his ability.

The 1969 membership goal for each District in our Society will be a 5% increase, both in membership and in chapters. The membership increase will be based on figures as of December 31, 1968. The increase in chapters should come about by licensing and chartering the appropriate number of chapters.

My extension plans, subject to additions and possible changes, are as follows: Charters at Cadillac and Midland. I hope to see licenses at least at Alpena and Houghton Lake, with ultimate charters at latter locations during 1969.

I hope to see frequent visits by area counselors and District Officers to chapters assigned to them in their respective areas and zones. We, as your Board, will work diligently toward this end, I will assure you.

We will continue to publish the "Troubadour", keeping in mind, we will have to be finding a new editor by June 1969--that is, if Jim Davenport can be replaced. We do feel this is the District's most important media of communication. Every chapter should keep this in mind and see that the chapter reporter gets his material to Jim Davenport religiously for each issue. It's your magazine, fellows.

As we are all aware by now, I am sure, Saginaw-Bay Chapter is hosting the Spring Convention April 25-26-27. This will be held either in Saginaw or Bay City. There will be more information on this in successive issues of the "Troub."

("From The Pen of the President" continued.)

We will be conducting a C.O.T.S. School in Lansing at the Capitol Park Motel December 7th beginning at 9:30 a.m. and concluding about 4:00 p.m. This will be for all in-coming officers taking over in January. Let's make this even more successful than last year by both attendance and participation. We can all learn from these sessions even if only by the simple exchange of ideas.

Schools I would like to see offered this coming year are: H.E.P., Arrangers School, C. & J., Chorus Directors School, and Quartet Coaching, etc. None of these are set as yet. Frankly guys, the response to some of these in the past was very discouraging and in the end did not merit the time and effort put forth publicizing them. Some of them had to be cancelled at the very last minute. These are some of the services offered by your District and the International and should be taken advantage of by every member.

A very important facet of this hobby of yours and mine is the judging of quartets and choruses. This is what it is all about, ultimately--that is, to people interested in competition. My point, without a long dissertation, is "we need judge candidates very badly in this District--all categories".

I don't know how to broach the next thing on my

mind. It has to do with membership; acquisition to retention. Are we doing a good selling job?

The prime reason for our very existence is singing. Are we recruiting for the sake of getting bodies to fill our chapter rolls to retain our minimum membership figure, and at the same time forgetting we are a singing organization?

First, when approaching a prospect, let him know what he is buying--if I may use this term. How do you do this? Take him up to a few meetings; let him hear, participate, get acquainted and after a few meetings make up his mind if this is for him. Don't, let him join and a few weeks later lose him. Let him know what is expected from him and what he can expect in return.

This is a very touchy subject to some Chapters, I know. There are numerous and sundry reasons why a man becomes a member of our organization.

In essence, what I am trying to say is--Let's be more selective when we are asking a man to join us. A better informed prospect is a better chapter member and hence the protention and retention takes care of itself.

SEE YOU IN BOYNE CITY AT THE BUSH LEAGUE CONTEST.



**DISTRICT
CHAMPIONS
15
YEARS
AGO
:
:
:
CAN
YOU
NAME
THEM?**

Chapter News

ANN ARBOR

Chapter Reporter:
O. U. Know

After a bit of floundering around and changing meeting places a few times, the Ann Arbor Chapter has "started over again". We now meet EVERY MONDAY NIGHT, 7:30 p.m. at the AMERICAN LEGION, in Ann Arbor.

We are woodshedding up a storm and having more fun than ever. We are seeing old faces back again and can those boys sing 'em.

Newly elected officers of the Ann Arbor Chapter for 1969 are: Jim Davenport--President; Jack Bush--Secretary; Al Schrader--Program V.P.; John Hancock--Membership V.P.; Sam Sturgis--Treasurer.

A big welcome to Ann Arbor to Don Courtright -- Muskegon's loss is Ann Arbor's gain.

How about some of you fellows dropping in to see us any Monday Night--we're not hard to find. The American Legion is right on Main Street a couple of blocks from the U of M. Stadium. Lots of parking in back. We'll be down in the basement. Come on and ring some with us.

WAYNE

Chapter Reporter:
Morrie Giles

Wayne wishes to offer sincere congratulations to Oakland County for the splendid job done in winning the chorus contest in Monroe, thereby again becoming the Pioneer District's representative at the International Contest next summer. We predict they will

place higher even than at Cincinnati.

Question:-Why are so many new (and old) quartets afraid to get their feet wet by competing in a contest for a start? Perhaps the same question could apply to several choruses throughout the state. I can remember Wayne's first appearance at a contest; we came in 12th.

And we were proud of it, too.

No one in Barbershopping will ever laugh because you came in last, and the judges--"ogres" that they are--will sift out the good from the bad and tell you what to do to improve. Very few quartets or choruses really expect to win the first time out. It takes a bit of experience. Perhaps the main exception to this would be the SHARPLIFTERS, and even they had experience with other groups before.

On October 27, Wayne Wonderland Chorus participated in the half-time show for the Detroit Lions-49'ers football game. Guess we weren't quite good enough because Detroit lost 14 to 7. We'll try again on November 17 against the Minnesota Vikings.

The Wonderland Chorus auxiliary had to postpone their rummage sale because of conflicting dates at the sale-site. It will now be held on November 29th and 30th at the Credit Union on Harvey St. in Plymouth. Save your pennies and bring out the family for some real fun and excitement browsing through their large collection of fabulous items such as "best cellar" books and 50-cup coffee urns. Oh, yes--there will also be a bake sale in conjunction.

In closing, may we thank the three or four hundred guests who visited us at our Hospitality Palace in Monroe. You were most welcome and you didn't really have to bring all those extra six-paks. Look us up at the next contest.

BATTLE CREEK

Chapter Reporter:
Merle Clayton

SURPRISE--SURPRISE--SURPRISE--

That is what Monday night, October 28 turned out to be for Lowell and Betty Wolfe. We had a Ladies Night and Visitor's Night to honor Lowell and Betty for their many years of devotion to Barbershopping in Battle Creek. Lowell is a charter member of our chapter, and his lovely wife was the spark plug and founder of the Battle Creek Sweet Adelines.

Nearly every able-bodied chapter member was present to wish them a fond farewell. The Wolfes are moving to Florida early in November. We shall miss them. Lowell has served his chapter and District well over the years. He has twice been Vice-President and twice been our Chapter President. He has been District Service Chairman, and had a big part in organizing the two Logopedic Shows held in Battle Creek. Thirteen years ago he was a member of The Modern Knights in the then-new chapter. Later, he joined the HARMONY HOUNDS, first as lead and then later switching to bass.



The festivities opened with everyone singing "You're as Welcome As The Flowers in May" as Lowell came through the door. President Bob Dixon called us to order and explained to Lowell what was happening and then introduced Bill (Doc) Clark, retiring bari of the Hounds, as program emcee. After some gang singing led by our Chorus Director, Ron Mell, and Joan Blankenship, Sweet Adelines Director, the new Harmony Hounds sang and then presented Lowell with a chubby statue. Next, we heard from the Cereal Belles, and finally from the Burrill Brothers.

Tony Scooros made the trip all the way from Detroit to return Ron Mell's shoes which somehow got left in another room in Monroe. (There may be a story there for someone who is nosey.)

The For-Tune Tellers from Jackson, who have had a continuous golfing, eating and singing challenge going on with the Hounds over the years, sang several of Lowell's favorites. To show their concern for Lowell's future with the Florida hippies, they presented him with what can only be described as a unique string of love beads. Doc Clark could hardly keep his eyes off them. Look out, you hippies.

The Alternators, yet another Jackson quartet, sang and presented Lowell with a medallion inscribed "The Great White Whale". Lowell responds to that term since it has a link to one of their routines.

President Bob presented Lowell a certificate of paid dues for five years, so he will always have a home chapter to visit here. Lowell also became a Life Member of the Society last January.

The formal part of the evening ended with singing "Keep America Singing" and the serving of coffee and sweet rolls. Then came the woodshedding. If you don't know Lowell Wolfe, either you haven't been a Barbershopper very long, or you haven't been in the Pioneer District very long. Good luck, Lowell and



Betty, and we'll meet you again in St. Louis.

* * * * *

Wow--what a contest and convention in Monroe. We learned a lot and had a lot of fun. Those quartets. Those choruses. Now, let's get behind the Wolverine Chorus and help them bring home the big one from St. Louis.

We are rightly proud of our "new" HARMONY HOUNDS who came up as Novice Champs. They finally proved they CAN sing without instruments. The "old" Hounds will probably have made their farewell show in Detroit by the time you read this.

Election of officers occurred on October 21, with the following results: John Ausbury--President; Stan Wojda--Admin. V.P.; John Davis--Program V.P.; Glenn Parrish--Treasurer; Dick Spear--Secretary; Bob Dixon--Immediate Past President. Board Members are: Keith Crocker, Dick Smith, Doug Swan, Ray Robinson, and Larry Swan.

OAKLAND COUNTY Chapter Reporter: Dick Van Dyke

NOW IS THE TIME FOR YOUR CHAPTER TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO SING AT OAKLAND COUNTY'S PRE-BOYNE CONTEST. It'll be in April next year, and it's open to all quartets that are eligible to sing in the BOYNE CITY BUSH LEAGUE CONTEST. First prize in the contest is again \$50.00 with the stipulation that the quartet that wins must go to the Boyne City contest or forfeit the money. It's a Ladies Night as usual, and the participating quartets' wives will be admitted free. Keep those cards and letters coming in, folks.

O.C.C.'s Harmony in Review was a smashing "talent success", although it wasn't the monetary success we had hoped for. THE CHORD REPORTERS from O.C.C., THE KASUAL D's from the Muskegon Chapter, THE FOREFATHERS, and the fabulous AVANT GARDE made it so, along with the S.O.C. Suburbanette (Sweet Adelines) octet - the Suburbanotes, who added some feminine charm to the program.

O.C.C. has elected its 1969 Board of Directors which will be as follows: Fran Durham--President, Dick Van Dyke--Program V.P., Jim St. Amand--Membership V.P., Bob Miller--Corresponding Secretary, Jack Teubert--Recording Secretary, George Ellis--Treasurer, and Members-at-large--Ron Cole, Bob Hann, Ben Jones and Dave McMillan. With the exception of three men, the board is composed of brand new men. All of the men elected, however, are specialists at their respective offices, and O.C.C. is looking forward to another good year.

The WOLVERINES are "proud as punch" to be selected again as the Pioneer District Representatives to the International Contest next year. Detroit's Motor City Chorus really pushed us, and we really feel privileged to be selected. We promise our best effort in St. Louis.

MUSKEGON Chapter Reporter: Jay Smith

Greetings from the Port City.

To all of you unfortunate Barbershoppers who did not attend the Fall Convention in Monroe, this past month,



**Scoot Your Copy
to "Troub" by the
First of the Month**

this is to serve notice that Muskegon will do it again.

That is, we will host the 1970 Spring Convention. I know we still have the Spring 1969 Convention at Saginaw and the International at St. Louis and the 1969 Fall Convention in Jackson before the great one to be hosted by Muskegon in 1970, but just wanted you all to be prepared for another great Muskegon Convention.

We want to congratulate the Wolverine Chorus for winning the right to represent the Pioneer District once again. Also congratulations to THE EVERSHARPS for winning the District Finals.

While we are handing out laurels, we don't want to overlook the Monroe Chapter for a fine convention.

The first of October we held our annual election of officers. The following men were elected: Dr. Paul Borton--President; Fred Kendall--V.P. Membership; Jack Bennett--V.P. Program; Board Members--Andy Van Donkelaar and Henry Malmquist.

The 25th of October, we held our first Ladies Night of the new season and we were entertained by the Ale-Wives--a local Sweet Ad quartet, the HUSTLERS, and also Muskegon's own KASUAL D's and our new quartet, the SHORELINERS.

JACKSON Chapter Reporter: Joe Hubbard

Jackson Chapter--the active Chapter. . . . A Ladies Night that was very successful (combined with Sweet Adelines and husbands), several shows (one at the "Friendly Home" for elderly women), and more shows being planned yet.

A new quartet has been formed in the Jackson Chapter. They haven't decided on a name yet but we think they should call themselves the "Reversibles" as three of them can sing two or more parts each (at the same time? Ed.)

The Jackson Chapter is on the lookout for a new chorus director as Sam Cushman, who has worked with us for a long time, has just too many "irons in the fire" now and must bow out of this activity.

SAGINAW-BAY Chapter Reporter: Bill Dolezel

September was a big barbershopping month in the Saginaw-Bay Chapter starting with that great weekend in Harrisville and running through a dandy Area party in Flint where we were pleased to see a goodly number of our friends from Pontiac who have expressed a desire to be included in future events of this kind. We are more than happy to welcome them.

Our chorus sang another church job; this time at St. Stanislaus in Bay City; and the performance was received with great enthusiasm. We now get more requests to do this kind of work than we can reasonably handle. It is proving to be a good method to promote barbershopping, as we continue to pick up guests at our meetings as a direct result of this exposure.

Busy is the word for all our people at this writing. We are preparing for our show and, with the fall contest in the immediate offing, we are finding precious little time for anything else.

Pioneer District folks will soon be hearing a new sound from the EVERSHARPS who now will have Jim Gross singing lead and Bob Glover moving to baritone. These men are working hard and sound just great.

HOLLY-FENTON

Chapter Reporter:
Art Burnett

We are back on the beam again after a rather slow summer due to vacations, etc. Our Annual Boat Ride on the lake in Kensington Park was very well attended. Our Annual Picnic at the Tyronne Sunken Gardens was a success although some were kept away by the cool weather.

Due to the action of the Fenton Living Theater scheduling an appearance by the Christie Minstrels on the day following our 11th Annual Show, we had to cancel the show. We can't compete with that outfit.

The Quad-Chapter meeting in Pontiac will see a goodly number of our fellows on hand. There should be a large crowd from both Flint and Saginaw-Bay.

At this date we haven't been able to find a Chorus Director to replace Gordie Robinson who moved to Grand Rapids. Dan Goodearl, our assistant director, is working with us until we can find a replacement. We lost two good leads. Jack Fentz moved to Schaumburg, Illinois, and Dick Wood to Rochester, Michigan.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Jack Stevens and his family on the loss of his father who passed away October 20th.

MONROE

Chapter Reporter:
Ron Koshik

Down in General Custer's old hometown, it's like the Little Big Horn after it was all over. All the Bar-

bershoppers have left and all we have left are the echoes of many busted chords that rang through our town. Among those echoes are also the echoes of the cheers for our new champs--THE EVERSHARPS and The Wolverine Chorus. These two groups gave us a real treat in competition and we wish them lots of luck. St. Louis will have a real treat when the Wolverine Chorus lets loose.

We should also congratulate and pat the rest of the competitors on the back. They put a lot of time and effort into the competition and a fine job they all did, too. There were pretty good sounding quartets up there and how the judges do it, I'll never know. I would pick them all.

THE SHARPLIFTERS relinquished the trophy to THE EVERSHARPS and also put on a show that was dear to the hearts of Barbershoppers and non-Barbershoppers, alike. We expect to see and hear more of these fellows in the future.

It was a lot of fun to watch Monroe Convention Committee Chairman chasing our members, roping them, and dragging them off to their varied duties. Really, they didn't fight too hard. The convention was a total chapter effort. Surprisingly, we thought that it was a very good effort. We know there were a few disappointments and inconveniences, but they were not due to any lapses by our Chapter members. We apologize anyway and hope you all enjoyed yourselves.

Our girls--we can't forget to thank them. These fine young ladies continue to show us guys how we can't get along without them. They refused to quit working even when they were relieved. They kept things moving like we men probably wouldn't have. Thanks again and we love you all.

HEY, would the fine Barbershopper who borrowed the hand mike at the H. J. Motel please tell us where in the world he put it. It was lent to us by one of our benefactors across town and is sorely needed. We've looked

A NEW COMPOSER AND A NEW SONG

by Duane H. Mosier

In the mine run of life's experiences it seems that a certain amount of frustration plays its part. No one escapes not even barbershoppers, so I'm told. But to that special breed of mankind, that is, that breed known as Barbershoppers, there is a sure remedy. All you have to do is harmonize and you'll find your frustration will vanish into thin air.

If you don't believe it, get three other guys to join you and learn the new song "A Bit of Corn" composed and arranged by that mastercraftsman, Barbershopper deluxe -- Joe Wolf. The piece is not as corny as the name might imply. It contains a philosophy particularly suited to barbershoppers, but equally adaptable to anyone outside the sacred guild. Who can find any fault with these lines?

"The best plan to follow that never goes wrong

Is trading frustrations in for a song."

It's a "priceless experience", says Joe, and he is right.

The melody is not difficult to learn and Joe has seen to it that those ringing chords are placed in the right spots.

A new composer and a new song have made their appearance on the horizon of Barbershop lore. All his long life in the hobby that Joe loves best he has aimed at doing things for the benefit of the Society. His accomplishments cannot be appraised without remembering that he and three or four others organized the first five chapters in Michigan which became the nucleus of the Pioneer District; that he wrote the Code of Ethics for the Society, and designed the emblem we proudly wear in our lapels. Offices to which he has been honored have been many during his long years of Barbershopping. Through it all, Joe has been a strictly quartet man, although he recognizes the value of a chorus to a chapter. He does not always agree with some of the Society's policies, but he rides with them. His thoughts, ideas and efforts have always been to make S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. a bigger and better Society.

Truly a great Barbershopper with a heart as big as the body it carries.

— A BIT OF CORN —

BARBERSHOPPER'S VIGNETTE

By JOE WOLFF

Slow and easy

As we tra - vel a - long life's chal - len - ging way, chal - len - ging

way, Al - ways re - mem - ber to brigh - ten each day, brighten each

day. The best plan to fol - low that nev - er goes wrong is

tra - ding frust - ra - tions in for a song, 'tis a

price - less ex - pe - ri - ence to just im - pro - vise and

Well, hardly ever. ☺

ff f

find - ing a way - to ha - ar - mo - nize

Then - n - n - n
Then - n - n - n
Then

lest we be re - miss, now hear this:

f a tempo *rit.* *pp very slow*

Re - vel in chords that knock out dis - may with

f a tempo *ff* *f*

S P E B S Q S A.

ff

LABOR DAY WEEK-END at HARRISVILLE



What started out, six years ago, to be a small gathering for a 3-day Labor Day weekend at Harrisville State Park, has now turned into a week-long outing for 700 (plus) men, women, and children of Barbershoppers" and "Sweet Adelines" alike.

Earliest arrivals (pic #1) were Bror and Joni Nilsson, O.C.C.; and John and Marge "Pussycat" Wearing. Not far behind came Wendell and Jean Derby, (pic #2) of Gratiot Co. Chapter, caught relaxing in front of their camper.

In the next few days there were streams of campers, tents, and trailers, pouring into the Park, and naturally it didn't take long to find the beach (pic #3) which continued to be a popular place throughout the week.

Morning chores finds the face scrapers crowding around the facilities (pic #4), in this case definitely not a barbershop. And of course, nightfall brings out the revelers as that singing gang from Saginaw-Bay divide up into foursomes, the BEAN TOWNERS (pic #5), and the EVERSHARPS (6). Naturally, all of the night life was not indoors as we catch the SMITHTONIANS (7) around the red embers of Red Shaw's campfire.

Later in the week, Oakland County Chapter held a well-organized Fishing Contest for the kiddies, (pic #8) and what a time they had, even little Dickie Van Dyke (9) caught a trout. He didn't get into the prize winner's line up (10) however, as he was disqualified on account of size.

Nothing but enjoyment shows on the faces of dozens of people (11) as they watch the performers at the O.C. Friday night chapter meeting. Saturday O.C.C. challenged all comers to a horseshoe match, losing chapter to pay \$25.00 to Logopedics Fund. Well, Wayne and Saginaw-Bay each came out on the short end, and the winners (12) Mike Drabik and Joe Kiley congratulate each other.

Campfires were everywhere (13) and no one was in more demand than Don Cowles & Co. who seemed to have an

with the TRAVELING TROUBADOUR PHOTOGRAPHER

— BILL PASCHER

endless variety of endless variety songs.

Saturday night is party night at the Vet's Hall as all the quartets get a chance to show off, but none get more enjoyment than the 19th CENTURY FOUR, Grosse Pointe (14). On the right is Ben Landino, who designed and built the Int'l Champion Quartet trophy that is awarded to the winners each year. Ben now lives in Hollywood, Florida, but never misses the Harrisville Week-End.

Sunday afternoon is Show Time in the Vet's Park for the townspeople, and literally hundreds turn out to applaud an array of talent that could not be assembled for a Parade for less than \$3500--Ten male quartets, four ladies quartets, four men's choruses, two ladies choruses. But first, chicken dinners are shaping up (15), and this foursome is inspecting the goodies. Caught with chicken feathers on their faces are Sanborn, Pontiac; Gillem, and Ferguson, Saginaw-Bay; and Miller, Ann Arbor.

The mass chorus rehearses backstage (16) as Bill Butler directs. As always, about twice as many showed up for the performance.

Now it's Big Tent Time. And those zany FOR-TUNE TELLERS, Jackson (17) are caught with their pants almost down. Oakland Co's coming on four, the CHORD REPORTERS (18) are locking one in, while the WONDERLADS, O.C.C., and the CHORDIALS, Wayne (19) seem to be entertaining each other.

And last, but not least (20) the "Traveler's Trophy", awarded to the member who travelled the farthest to Barbershoppers' Weekend, in this case Norm Swanson -- former O.C.C. member, now living in Davenport, Iowa. I guess I was given the honor of presenting the trophy, just because I made the trophy. You want to present the trophy next time? Good--YOU make it.

Well--Keep Smiling, you're going to get on camera yet. Maybe in Harrisville in 1969.

Be SING-ing ya-



(Monroe Chapter news continued.)

high and low and simply have no idea where it could be.

Well, we're taking a week of rest and then we'll prepare for the Holidays, our February show, and next year's contests. We'll catch you big boys yet.

We had chapter elections and next year our officers list as follows: John Metz--President; Ron Koshik--V.P. Admin.; Paul Stotz--V.P. Program; Gordie Sauer--Secretary; Tom Morgan--Treasurer; Bill White--Chapter Program Chairman; Wilbur Matthes and Glen Schoonover--Directors; and Bubba Riggs--Chorus Director.

These officers are dedicated to continue the building of a great Monroe Chapter with integrity, honesty, and a love for what our Society stands for--especially the letter "E".

FLINT

Chapter Reporter:
Les Lang

There have been lots of activities in this area this fall and the Flint Chapter has been active in all of them.

Tri-Chapter meeting at Flint, Lansing show, Saginaw show, District Convention, Regular meetings, Saginaw Visitation, Pontiac Halloween party.

November will see a Quad-Chapter meeting at Pontiac. Flint Sweet Adelines' Mens Night, regular meetings and chorus practice.

October 22 was election night and the following are officers for 1969:

Neil Norman--President; Denny Gore--V.P. Membership; Jack Lyons--V.P. Program; Jim Scott--Secretary; Ray Goodall--Treasurer; Gerard Wrice--Immediate Past President; Bob Murphy and Bill Griffin--Directors; and Les Lang--Director and Bulletin Editor. Above officers will be installed at a Ladies Night on January 11, 1969 at our regular meeting place--Croatian Hall--with a guest quartet or two.



DETROIT

Chapter Reporter:
John Wearing

Congratulations to our International Representatives, the "Wolverine Chorus". Your long hours of practice and rehearsals under the direction of "The Miracle Worker of Harrisville", Carl Dahlke paid off. Our best wishes are with you in St. Louis and many of our Detroit #1 members are planning to be there to cheer you on.

This year in Monroe we enjoyed one of the finest quartet contests we have had in years with at least five quartets in very close. The EVERSHARPS from Saginaw-Bay had to make some last-minute changes due to the loss of their baritone, so Bob Glover switched from lead to bari and a young new fella stepped into the lead spot. Their presentation to the judges put them in first spot as our new "District Champs". Our own WONDERLADS did a great job and we are justly proud.

We wish to announce results of our election of officers for 1969:

President, Larry King; Admin. V.P., Bob Winters; Program V.P., Bill Amperse; Corresp. Secty, Jack Champagne; Recording Secty, Bob Knowles; Treasurer, Dick Barron.

Matt Calderwood, Ralph Schirmer, Art Schulze and Bert West are on the Board of Directors.

On November 15, our annual CANADIAN NIGHT gathering will take place at the Pick Fort Shelby Hotel in downtown Detroit. Program Chairman Bill Wickstrom and his Co-Chairman, John Seeman, have informed us that much talent has been obtained and a great evening of song and surprises is in store for everyone. . . . See you there.

SINGING OUT

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

The Troubadour I read each month from cover to cover and get to know many of my old friends over again. Recently I read you had three old members whose combined ages was over 200 years; if you knew about me, it could have read over 300 years. Next December 3 I will be 87 and get out to our chapter meetings now and then when some of the brothers pick me up as I do not drive any more. And it's a bit hard for me to get around with my cane and lame legs.

I have been a member, (a charter member) of Chapter #2 since its inception in 1938.

Three or four years ago Chapter #2 bestowed upon me a life membership--also presented me with a fifth of Old Grand Dad (my favorite) and some very fine cigars and also a certificate by the board (framed) which hangs on the wall in my office.

Many of the older members will remember me and my black overnight bag calling on my patients with a bottle of Old Grand Dad, Sunday morning after our conventions. Cy Perkins and his wife Polly; Bill Wild

and his lovely wife, Fran; Joe Wolf and Vicki; Gordon Grant and wife; Birney Abbott, Judge Widen and many, many others. The biggest convention, at least the most vivid, was at the Morrison Hotel in Chicago. At our Afterglo, my job was to round up the quartets, and as they appeared Birney Abbott would announce one song, one encore, one drink--next quartet.

The After Glo broke up at 3 a.m. and breakfast at 10 a.m.

The Grand Rapids Chapter has put on some wonderful shows when the Harmony Halls, the Pitchpipers, the Mid-State Four from Chicago were in full swing. I note this chapter honored Bill Wild on his 75th birthday recently--Happy Landing, Bill.

My wife, Bess, who is three months younger, and I are still together; but do not attend the conventions any more as we cannot stand the late night hours. However, we plan to go to Florida this winter for a couple of months and this will undoubtedly be our last trip south. We have many friends there who have been urging us to come, but we will anchor in Tampa and visit them from there.

We also plan to visit the east side of the state and headquarter in Hollywood and visit our friends from there, and return home by plane sometime in March. Our home is always open to anyone wishing to call, at 820 W. Lapeer St., Lansing, Michigan.

Sincerely, Bess and Loren Colton

To the Editor:

Never was I so shocked as when I read the September Troubadour to find out that the House of Delegates' Meeting would be open for delegates only--a closed meeting. For years we have stressed that Joe Barber-shopper attend the Delegates' meeting so he could see his elected chapter delegates and District Officers in action. It is easy to criticize these men, but when the rank and file can see for himself the problems and difficulties facing our District Officers, he then can appreciate the dedication of these same men.

How can a man (other than a delegate) who may aspire to become an area counselor, zone vice-president or any one of the other district officers ever hope to become aware of what these jobs entail without experiencing first hand the business of the District?

If the facilities were not large enough, surely in the scientific age in which we live some form of audio-visual equipment could have been utilized. Our International conventions make use of closed circuit TV. Could we have not used an auxiliary speaker system in a couple of extra rooms to allow interested Barbershoppers to at least hear the proceedings?

Our District lost a little pride because of this decision. Our "Pioneers" must have had a restless night or two. Even the American eagle drooped its head slightly and the Canadian beaver pulled its tail in between its legs.

I pray that this decision will never be repeated. The Pioneer District took a step backward and we'll need to take a giant step to get us back to where we should rightfully stand.

Doran McTaggart, Windsor Chapter.

Dear Fellow Barbershopper:

During the past few years, the Michigan District has had two Logopedic Benefit Shows. The money that we have raised on these two shows--over \$4,000--is one of the things that has kept Michigan "on the map" in relation to the other Districts in the Society. And aside from the money, anyone who participated in either of these shows had a whale of a time.

As far as I know, there is no Logopedic Benefit Show being planned for the next year. And as Michigan Barbershoppers, I'm sure that both you and I would hate to miss even one year. I'd hate to see a small child be deprived of the privilege of speech, simply because we have not taken advantage of every money-raising opportunity. Don't you agree?

But, Logopedics is not the responsibility of the District Board; or another Chapter; or your own Chapter Board. It's YOUR responsibility and it's MINE, too.

Perhaps you're wondering what you can do about it. Here are just a few ideas:

1. Talk up your local Chapter's projects for Logopedics at your Chapter and Board Meetings.
2. Honestly and sincerely consider hosting a Logopedics Show in your area. Think of all of the reasons why you CAN do it.
3. Get in touch with the Pioneer District Board and volunteer YOUR help.
4. Wherever a Logopedic Show is held--YOU help support it.

And this is just the beginning. You take it from here. Speaking for myself, and I'm certain I can also speak for the Battle Creek Chapter, we will help a host chapter all we can. We know some of the things that have worked here in Battle Creek on the two previous shows. We've made some mistakes, too. We've encountered some disfavor. Maybe we can help you avoid some of these same pitfalls.

But just for a moment, forget about the good that we can do for Logopedics by having another benefit show.

Think instead of the FUN you'll have.

Ask anyone who sang in the Fabulous Chorus last year what sort of weekend they had. They'll tell you it was better than all other Barbershop Weekends and Conventions rolled into one. The thrill each man felt was a "once in a lifetime" experience.

When the last chord of "Saviour Again to thy Dear Name We Raise" faded away, there was hardly a dry eye on the stage--or in the audience either.

And the moment of silence that followed the last note of "This is My Country" left you with a "choked up" feeling inside. And you've never heard "Keep America Singing" the way it sounded with eleven quartets on stage and over 250 men in the balcony. The auditorium "rang" for a full 30 seconds after we cut off that last note.

Don't you want to try it again? I do.

Will you sing (and work) so they shall speak?

Very sincerely, Roger J. Lewis

MONROE CONVENTION as seen by Dora Vogel

Monroe Floral City Chapter hosted a fine Convention and it was well attended. A great contest was held. I, myself, enjoyed it all and made many new friends. As I've said before--tap me on the shoulder and introduce yourself to me. Better yet, give me some news for my column in your Troubadour.

There were several lovely ladies working at the registration desk (wives of Monroe Chapter members) that made all feel welcome and each registrant was given a folder including a large paint paddle--compliments of Saginaw-Bay Chapter--to remind all of the coming Spring Convention to be held next April 25-26-27. The following rhyme was attached to the paddle:

WHAT'S STIRRING?

Something is stirring in Saginaw-Bay;
Soon we'll have a winner to lead the way.
Conventions come and conventions go;
But Saginaw-Bay has a really BIG show.
So when you begin to stir as Spring rolls around,
Join in the fun and let harmony abound.
Use this stick to enthuse your Chapter,
'Cause here's one you'll remember a long time after.

SPEBSQSA, Inc.
Saginaw-Bay Chapter 1-35
Bancroft Hotel
Saginaw, Michigan

"SING AND SWAY WITH SAGINAW - BAY"
APRIL 25, 26, 27

The folder also included a sheet of music, "You're As Welcome as the Flowers in May"--or October compliments of Monroe Chapter. The Bean Town Four quartet from Saginaw-Bay had a large container filled with jelly bean candies for all to help themselves to, at the desk. (I prefer the black ones, myself.)

Many parents brought their children to the contest and they all seemed to enjoy it. Many, seeing their parent in the contest, contributed to the cheering.

I'm sure many of us had to look twice to see whether we saw the right person. Among those having the new look with mustaches, goatees and beards were Bob Winters, Russ Seely, Bill Wickstrom, George Adams, Pat Ryan (not E.E. Pat, that is).

The quartets all did a commendable job singing as well in the choruses in the contest. All were colorfully and natively dressed and sounded great.

The following did fine jobs as Master of Ceremonies:

Tom Damm--Quartet Preliminaries
Eric Schultz--Chorus Contest
Gene Gillem--Quartet Finals

The winning chorus was the Wolverine Chorus from Oakland County, directed by Carl Dahlke. They will represent us at International next year. The winning quartet was the Eversharps from Saginaw-Bay Chapter. The Eversharps thanked Don Ferguson for coaching them into Pioneer Dis-

trict Champions. The Sharplifters quartet presented them with trophies--and also the Pioneer District Champion Trophy.

I'm sure the Sharplifters will always be champs in our hearts and they gave a wonderful performance with their western songs--clad in white cowboy suits, hats, boots, holsters. . . . in other words, the works. Black lighting and fluorescent silhouettes really produced interesting effects. Of course, Bill Wickstrom performed with some of his favorite antics and stories. I'm sure we all enjoyed their District Champion performances this past year.

Many of the various chorus members' wives did some cheering for their favorites. Wayne Chapter wives wore all-alike dresses, smartly styled, green with a beige panel insert down the front and a print chiffon neck scarf. They waved green and white pennants after the chorus sang.

Oakland County wives wore white dresses with pink polka dots and waved pink and white pom poms after the chorus sang. Their dresses were indeed pretty.

Report of Ways and Means Committee

Committee appointed to study the present 5% show sanction fee with the potential of finding some alternative method of raising finances. The Committee appointed is as follows:

Ralph G. Schirmer, Chairman - Detroit
William Whippen - Monroe
Don Courtright - Muskegon
Jack Schneider - Grand Rapids

The above committee did not meet in person, but the chairman talked to each one of these men by telephone and discussed the problem.

The 5% sanction fee is levied on the chapters that put on a show and take it upon themselves to send the 5% of gross to the District Treasurer. Many of the chapters do not put on shows, but do put on other money raising, tax-free affairs; such as, chapter meetings where refreshments are sold, ladies nights where admissions, food, and beverages are sold, raffles, and such. The following are alternative methods which could be used to raise funds:

- (1) Increase the membership dues, and have each chapter remit to the District.
- (2) Levy a fee against each chapter based on their per delegate membership.
- (3) Increase the fee on shows and levy it on the net proceeds of the show instead of the gross income, such as the 5% fee is now levied. This would protect chapters whose shows have little or no profit.
- (4) An overall tax could be levied on each chapter on its gross receipts, less the monies each chapter receives from dues and other assessments made directly to the members, such as chorus uniforms. This tax would work something like the state sales tax in that it would be levied on gross receipts from (a) meeting door receipts (b) refreshments sold (c) ladies nights (d) picnics where charges are made (e) boat rides (f) shows (g) raffles (h) all other money-raising projects. If desired, an exemption could be allowed. Each

chapter would report their gross receipts, less a small exemption, which the District would set. The exemption could relieve the low-income chapters from paying any tax.

(5) Plan #3 and Plan #4 could both be levied in variations.

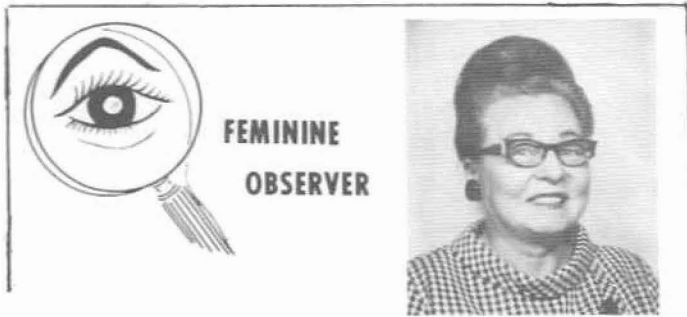
It is the committee's recommendation that a tax be levied on all gross receipts as in Plan #4, which would offset the 5% sanction fee. The percent tax levied could be easily changed from time to time by the District to suit the need. The District could have the chapters report their gross income quarterly, semi-annually, or yearly.

In summary, a gross receipts tax (Plan #4) could be easily reported by chapter officers, and thus be easily collectable by the district. As the Districts' need for funds vary, the percentage or the exemption could be raised or lowered. A tax such as this would be fair, in that all chapters would be participating instead of just a few.

The percentages established for a tax should only be set after a combined meeting of this committee and the finance committee.

Respectfully submitted,

R. Schirmer



Sorry to hear Lou Wally and his lovely wife, who are retired now, are moving to Clearwater, Florida soon. We surely will miss them and hope they enjoy their new location and enjoy retirement. Lou is a member of Grosse Pointe Chapter.

Joe and Mary Anne Coburn are expecting a visit from the stork. Mary Anne says she hopes Joe will be there for the happy event this time. Last time he became a father he was singing in a contest or show and missed it. Joe is the lead in the SHARPLIFTERS quartet--former District Champions.

Congratulations to Sandra Linde and Vern Fitzpatrick on their engagement. Vern is from Windsor, Canada. I heard they celebrated over a bottle of champagne in Detroit and then drove most of the night to Alpena, Michigan where the Arthur Linde's (Sandy's parents) were vacationing to tell them the exciting news.

Here's hoping Mark Roberts is feeling better after his recent illness.

Hank and Dorothy Wiechman are proud to announce the birth of their first grandchild named Robert Mathew. The parents are Sandy and Robert Wiechman

who reside in Lansing, Michigan. Dorothy and Hank say, "It's the most beautiful baby in the world". Isn't that a good way to feel? I'm sure all parents and grandparents all feel the same way about their children.

Marion Wharton was hospitalized recently in Los Angeles, California. She is the wife of Bob, formerly a member of Redford Chapter, who now resides in California. Hope you are on the mend by now Marion.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Dick Liddicoatt and family on the recent death of his mother.

Condolences to Mrs. Flora Eastman and family on the death of her husband, Paul. He was a member of Detroit Chapter and a member of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. for more than 25 years. He first sang with the Detroit Metropolitan Chorus under the direction of Tom Needham.

Lowell Thomas and family have moved to a lovely home on Grosse Isle. Do hope they enjoy their new location.

The Detroit Yachtsmen Chapter members have a new chorus Director--Ed McCarthy. They meet at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Congratulations, Ed.

A speedy recovery is wished to Charles (Bud) Knorpp who recently had a bout with pneumonia. Bud is the bass singer in the well-known "For-Tune Tellers" quartet from Jackson, Michigan.

Wayne Wonderland Chorus recently sang at a Lions football game. A fine performance, directed by Gordon Limburg.

Ruth and "Chase" Sanborn have kept in touch with Bill and Goldie Wales. Bill is at home resting and looking real good in a recent photo. The doctors have decided that Bill does not have T.B. now, but that he does have some type of infection in the lungs. He is now resting and building up strength for a future operation. Bill and Goldie would like to hear from all their other wonderful friends here in the District and Goldie promises she will answer all letters and cards mailed to: 19109 Calvert St., Reseda, California 91335.

"Chase" Sanborn has also been in touch with Carroll P. Adams and he has forwarded on a copy of a guest editorial submitted by Carroll to the Montpelier, Vt. Times-Argus newspaper. A letter written 20 years ago by Dr. Ed Spalding to Carroll was included in the article entitled, "How Does It Feel To Be 80 Years Old?"

Please send me news about things that are going on in your chapter. I'd like to cover all in my column from time to time. I'll be looking in my mail box and listening for the phone. Sing-Cheerily, Dora Vogel, 309 Belanger Road, Grosse Point Farms, Michigan 48236 TU 5-2094

ON THE COVER

WHAT'S IN A BARBERSHOPPING CONVENTION?

SINGING-- Here are the AUTO TOWNERS with appreciative audience, as usual, on Friday night.

BUSINESS, of course, and on Friday eve there is the Delegates' meeting (2nd pix from top) with the District Board of Directors election. (1969 Board shown in next pix.)

AWARDS are a big part. Achievement Awards (bottom pix) shown by Del Bagley of Oakland County Chapter holding the Gold Award and Mike Bourgoin of Wayne Chapter holding the Silver Award.

(Photos by District Photographer--Bill Pascher)



1969 PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Gene Gillem 1929 Carman Drive Saginaw, Michigan 48602
1ST VICE-PRES.	Thomas A. Damm 18148 Lovell Road Spring Lake, Michigan 49456
VICE-PRESIDENT ZONE #1	William Warner 23531 Meadowlark Oak Park, Michigan 48237
VICE-PRESIDENT ZONE #2	Emerson Sperling 2655 Lincoln N.W. Grand Rapids, Michigan 49504
VICE-PRESIDENT ZONE #3	Don Funk 1451 Harvard East Lansing, Michigan
VICE-PRESIDENT ZONE #4	Ron Gillies 6062 Springdale Grand Blanc, Michigan
TREASURER	E. E. "Pat" Ryan 743 N. Melborn Dearborn, Michigan 48021
SECRETARY	Louis R. Harrington 2361 First National Bldg. Detroit, Michigan 48226

KEEP AMERICA SINGING

ROBERT MILLER
576 DE SOTO 141
YPSILANTI MI 48197

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, Michigan 48226.)

November 23, 1968	LES CHENEAUX CHARTER NIGHT Cedarville
November 30, 1968	Holly-Fenton Parade
December 7, 1968	C.O.T.S. -- Lansing
April 4, 1969	Pre-Boyne Contest Oakland County Chapter



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

