

June 69

JUNE, 1969

michigan

troubadour



PIONEER



DISTRICT

JUNE, 1969

THE MICHIGAN TROUBADOUR

VOL. 19, NO. 6

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

BILL PASCHER
DISTRICT PHOTOGRAPHER

JAMES O. DAVENPORT, EDITOR
14243 SHADYWOOD DRIVE
PLYMOUTH, MICHIGAN 48170
313-455-0333

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

PRINTED BY THE NORTHVILLE RECORD
ART BY EDITH GAUNT

ADVERTISING RATES: AVAILABLE ON REQUEST
COPY DEADLINE: 1st OF EACH MONTH

**MAIL ALL COPY, SUBSCRIPTION ORDERS, AND BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE TO
EDITOR JAMES O. DAVENPORT, 14243 SHADYWOOD DR., PLYMOUTH, MICH. 48170**

POSTMAN:

MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES AND UNDELIVERABLE COPIES TO THE OFFICE OF
PUBLICATION: THE NORTHVILLE RECORD, NORTHVILLE, MICHIGAN 48167



Off The Davenport

There has been a saying, heard more and more each year: "See you in Harrisville". This has become an institution in the Pioneer District. What with the write-up in the Harmonizer, we'll probably be seeing more people showing up from outside of the District because Harrisville is a marvelous way to start off the Barber-shopping year in September. If it isn't on YOUR calendar, go put it on now: HARRISVILLE--ON LABOR DAY WEEKEND.

We were fortunate in being able to join some 300 others for the First Annual Memorial Day Campout at Paradise Lake, near Fenton. We plan on returning next year for this event as it is a perfect way to start our summer Barbershopping activities. Along with the Bob-Lo Moonlight, the Lansing Fish Fry, Harrisville, Boyne City, etc., we now add the Memorial Day outing to our "Don't-miss-it" list.

With this issue of the Troubadour, we turn the reins over to your new editor, Dick Van Dyke and his right-hand man, John Morris. We wish them the best of luck in this undertaking. Dick is one of the most avid Barbershoppers we have ever met, and his work on the Oakland County Chapter bulletin shows the dynamic personality he will bring to the Troubadour. We are all familiar with the artistic talents of John Morris through his wonderful cartoons and we feel the new Troubadour should be receiving some big awards with him putting it together. We would like, on behalf of the entire District, to express our thanks to this

dynamic duo for assuming this responsibility.

We would like, at this time, to express our thanks to those of you who have contributed so regularly to the Troubadour, to Bob Blough and his crew for the printing, Elaine Snow who has had to struggle with the mailing each month, the wonderful wife--Dorothy without whose devotion and hard work we would have been unable to put out a single issue, and most of all to all you great Barbershoppers who have made our efforts a worthwhile project. THANK YOU.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to change in Editor of this magazine:
All news (chapter news- columns- pictures- etc.)
and business correspondence should be sent to:

DICK VAN DYKE
30452 Westmore
Madison Heights, Michigan
48071

Change of address and undeliverable copies
should be sent to:

ST. LOUIS 1941-"JOHNNY" BUITENDORP TELLS IT

(Introduction and P.S. by Duane H. Mosier,
Co-historian)



JOHN R. BUITENDORP

"MEET ME IN SAINT LOUIE" was more than just a popular song in 1941. It was an invitation and a challenge to about two hundred dyed-in-the-wool Barbershoppers who converged on that city by the big river on July third for the third National Convention.

(International was a term that came two years later when Windsor became a member of the Society.)

It was an invitation to come for fun, relaxation and harmony in the accepted manner of that period and a real challenge to lay the foundation stones for a solid and lasting Society. They accomplished both during the four days of that historic meeting.

Formality played no part in either their singing or attire or, for that matter, in their business deliberations called only when their pipes became so rusty they had to give them a rest. It was quartet singing from first to last and many fine quartets participated that won high honors in the years to follow.

While no strict ritual of procedure was followed in the business meetings as exist today, a lot of substantial progress in getting the Society off to a good start was accomplished. Carroll Adams, who was later to become an International President and spark plug of the Society, was delegated to draw up a Constitution and By-laws, and Joe Wolff was instructed to formulate a Code of Ethics, and what a masterpiece it was. Another major accomplishment was the selection of the 1942 national convention to Grand Rapids. The Michigan delegation accomplished what the Chicago crowd failed to do in landing it. It should be pointed out that delegates, as such, were not elected or chosen by

any particular chapter or group but anyone interested in Barbershopping was welcome to go.

Among the Michigan men, and there were many who attended, was John R. Buitendorp of Muskegon Heights, better known as "Johnny". Barbershopping to him was a living passion and when he heard of the St. Louis Convention he lost no time packing his bags. It was not only what he liked but what he needed. Overwork in his successful transportation business had forced him to consult with his doctor whose advise was to get a hobby and work at it. When Johnny suggested Barber-shopping, the doctor said "Wonderful" and the die was cast then and there.

It was no mere coincidence that two years later (1943) saw Johnny on the International Board of Directors helping to bind the Society into a still stronger organization. He had earned the right to participate through his loyal administrative ability in a cause he loved so well. Neither was it by accident that he served his fine Muskegon chapter and the Pioneer District in secretarial capacities and in 1967 was one of the first members to be elected to "Muskegon's Hall of Fame," and served for many years as Vice-President of the Sage Lake Chapter.

Upon learning that Johnny Buitendorp was one of the hard core group who invaded St. Louis, the writer asked him to record his reflections so that we might have a picture of what happened in that convention twenty-eight years ago.

Here is his account:

+ + + + +

"One of the grandest things that ever happened to me was when the doctor said "you ought to get going on a good hobby, something that will relieve the pressure of your work." I told him about this new Society called S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. which had just started to interest me but which I knew very little about. His one answer was "wonderful". I phoned "Bill" Griffith for a little more information and was not only given a good sales talk, but was invited to join his quartet in a trip to the National Convention to be held at St. Louis. I accepted his kind offer.

"We left Muskegon by car to Chicago. There we joined the Chicago Chapter in a special car attached to the train. What a time we had. The beginning of a very close friendship, individually and chapter-wise, that lasted for many years.

"At St. Louis we were assigned to the Coronado Hotel which along with the Hotel Jefferson were convention headquarters. I well remember how I flew back and forth between these two hotels trying not to miss one single event. I was fascinated beyond reason. My first impression of the friendliness of everyone really got me. I had met Carroll Adams once before, but was introduced to O. C. Cash, Joe Wolff, Frank Rice, Phil Embury and many others. I well remember how Phil Embury took me aside for a half-hour sales talk on the Society. Little did I realize then that within a couple of years I would be working with these same gentlemen on the National Board, trying hard to not only build up the Society, but to pull it through the War years and to make it a part of the War effort.

"The first night of the Convention consisted of a trip to the Municipal Outdoor Theatre where we attended a performance of the musical comedy FIRE-FLY. The second night found us on the Mississippi for

a trip on the Admiral, the world's largest air conditioned river boat. What a time we had both nights.

"The days were filled with quartet elimination contests and plain woodshedding. How fascinated I was with the new style of the Chord Busters, the antics of the Misfits, and the smooth renditions of the Barflies, Capitol City Four, Turners of Detroit, Harmonizers of St. Louis, and those one and only Pole Cats of Kansas City. The St. Louis Police Quartet's "Ol Joe" really got me and I was happy about the way Muskegon's own Sawdust Four compared with the others.

"Yes, to get the old scrapbook out and reminisce about this trip was really fun. They say there are three events in every man's life. He is born, he gets married, and he dies. I surely would have to make this trip a fourth in my life as its impact changed my whole life for a period of over 15 years, of which no single moment was ever regretted.

(signed) Johnny Buitendorp

1969, Feb. 8th"

P. S. To Johnny's interesting narrative should be added this sidelight. Perhaps it was modesty that prevented Johnny from mentioning his membership in one of the front running quartets of that era, reference being made to Muskegon's "Sawdust Four." Original personnel consisted of Raymond Johnson, Len Horton, Bill Griffith and George Hansen. On March 9, 1940 and again on March 8, 1941 they won top honors in the Michigan District contests. They made their own arrangements, with the help of Henry Klooster, changing chords until they had what they wanted. In 1942 Klooster took Ray Johnson's place as lead and Johnny took Hansen's place as bass.

An engagement brought them to Detroit. Upon arriving at the hotel a drunk asked "Who are you guys?" They told him they were from Muskegon. "Never heard of you" was the reply. Chuckling over the comment, the quartet, when called upon to sing, announced themselves as the "Unheard of Four." Sixty days later they won the district championship under that name and stuck with it. They were international finalists for two years straight.

To paraphrase a current TV commercial - "You've come a long, long way, SPEBSQSA" in thirty-one years, helped by such men as John R. Buitendorp.

A Cartoon by Joe Wolff



Chapter News

GRAND RAPIDS

Chapter Reporter:
Dick Williams

One of the reasons this chapter is so fired up is due to the hard work and inspiration started by Lou Mahacek Sr., late in 1967 and the spring and summer of 1968. Lou was our director for many years and did a fine job, but last fall due to increased business obligations he had to step down. I only hope we can get Lou back as an active member as this fellow is a real asset to our chapter and a real credit to Barbershop.

After Lou left, Fran Jones took over as director, picked up the ball, and has done a really great job in the short time he has had it. This fellow won't settle for anything less than number one.

I mentioned last month a group of five called the "Steamboat Strummers"; well, let me tell you my phone hasn't stopped ringing since the Troub came out. . . . seems there are SIX "Hams" in it, not five. I was almost made a living sacrifice to the great god of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., but fast talk and faster feet got me a reprieve.

Since the Bay City Contest, our little known, but coming on fast, quartet THE ROYAL COACHMEN took a fine second at the 1969 Boyne City Bush League Championships. Like I said, these guys are real comers.

After Boyne City, the chapter had a Stag Night and Spaghetti Dinner, Friday the 9th of April. We had to do something to keep the wives happy so they fixed the dinner.

The thing that amazes me is the fantastic turnout we had. We expected 50 or 60 and ended up with three times that. We had two choruses (Holland and Muskegon) and not half-a-dozen men, but the full shot. Look at the quartets we had: THE HARMONY HOUNDS (which by the way are going to St. Louis), THE KASUAL D's, DUNE TONES, TUNE TAILORS, SOUND SATIONS, THE BEACON-AIRES, and our own ROYAL COACHMEN.

Tom Damm, Executive Vice-President of the Pioneer District, was there, much to our delight; and, of course, had to get into the act and do a little singing. Believe me, fellows, this was one h--- of a night.

And if that wasn't enough, two weeks later (the 23rd), the chapter had a "Mystery Ride" for the burial of poor Jud Fry. The mystery being. . . where the burial was. Would you believe, ten miles out of town at a fellow member's farm. There was a regular procession of about 12 cars plus appropriate flag, etc., and enthusiastic Barbershoppers and guests. We had plenty of beer, ham and turkey, pretzels and potato chips, and a roaring fire to keep the chill off (and we needed it--you step outside that ring of warmth and your breath would freeze before it hit the ground).

This was a really fun evening of singing around the fire time, just plain good fellowship, capped off with entertainment from, (who else) the great, fantastic, fabulous, one and only "Steamboat Strummers". I had

to say that; this is what you call job security (my boss is a strummer).

Following that, the Strummers had another job playing for the Sweet Adelines and (of course) were an instant success. These guys are really sounding good.

I want to mention that the ROYAL COACHMEN are singing for the annual Antique Auto Tour and Show and will be on T. V. Man, I hope Dayrl can remember his words.)

And to our bari section--one man in particular (Bud Z)--may the wrath of the mighty Zen cause you to have a tin ear like you accuse us leads.

See you next month.

DETROIT

Chapter Reporter:
John Nieghorn

As the months fly by we find the Motor City Chorus busy with singing jobs for Thermo King at the Northland Inn, followed by an evening entertaining the old folks at the Arnold Home, and most recently the Danish Brotherhood Hall enlisted our services.

Many thanks to all of you who helped make the Detroit No. 1 meeting such a grand affair. There must have been close to 200 there, including the EVERSHARPS, the INVOICES, the HARMONY HOUNDS and the Wolverine Chorus, who all received financial help to send them to St. Louis. The Wayne Wonderland Chorus and the Motor City Chorus also took part in the gala event.

NOW is the time to mark your calendar, July 18, 1969. This is the third Friday in July, in which Detroit #1 has its (SHOW BOAT) annual moonlight cruise on the Detroit River. Get the gang together, charter a bus, and show your gal what a real old-fashioned moonlight is like on a chartered Barber-shop moonlight cruise. Booze and refreshments sold on board. See you all for a sing-song sail-along, Friday, July 18, 1969.

Among the many chartered buses that made their way to Sarnia, Ontario last Friday, Detroit #1 was very lucky to have the SHARPLIFTERS aboard their bus and sing on the evening show. The MEN OF ACCORD and the St. Thomas Chorus were splendid also. The BEAN TOWN FOUR, the EVERSHARPS, and with a little help, the PROGRESSIVE FOUR, rang a few chords. Thanks to the Sarnia Chapter for a splendid program and the delicious feed they and their wives out on for us.

To our surprise on Monday following the contest, our friends at Bonnie Brook gave us a real victory celebration, snacks and the works. Bonnie Brook is our present Monday night chorus rehearsal studio.

Just a note of thanks to our editor James Davenport for a job well done, on the Troubadour.

FLINT

Chapter Reporter:
Les Lang

May was a pretty active month for the Flint Chapter. Quad-Chapter meeting at the Wenonah Hotel, Bay City, was well attended and an enthusiastic group was dined by Pontiac, refreshed by Flint, and entertained by the BEAN TOWN FOUR, HARMONY KNIGHTS, and EVERSHARPS, plus the Timberland Chordsmen. A good time was had by all and woodshedding lasted far into the night.

International Night at Sarnia was attended by a bus load of Quad-Chapter members and those Canadians

sure know how to host a real party. There was one great big auditorium loaded with talent. Quartets and Choruses galore. Of course, we added something to the program too. What with the EVERSHARPS, BEAN TOWN FOUR and the Quad-Chapter Chorus. Bob Glover sure did a good job getting a pretty good sound out of a chorus which had never sung together before.

May 28, our last chapter meeting, was really something. Bud Carpenter did his Area Counselling, Neil Norman put on a whale of a program, we had three guests who look like very good prospects for future members, a nice lunch, four or five woodshedding quartets going at the same time, so much fun that nobody wanted to go home and most of us didn't until late. WOW.

The Decoration Day Camp-Out at Paradise Park was something else. Mother nature blessed us with lots of sunshine and fine warm weather and a nice turn out. This reporter stopped by Friday afternoon just to see what was going on and before finally getting out of there had to sit down and eat with two different parties--but then, singing out in the fresh air does give one an appetite, doesn't it? And then Saturday Night, that was a real whing ding. Pontiac is to be congratulated for a fine outing and the start of an annual affair we hope.

This picture was taken at an "Old Timers' Night" held in Flint, January 15, 1965.



Everett Mathis, Ryan Strom, Grand Wright, Guy Stoppert, Bob Murphy, John Richings, Mike Schied

These men represent nearly 200 years of Barber-shopping--all past presidents or officers of the Flint Chapter and most of them have sung in one or more quartets and have been responsible for much of the tradition of the HOBBY that we now enjoy. Altho' some of them have passed on, they certainly will never be forgotten and the Flint Chapter will be eternally grateful to them for their part in perpetuating Barbershopping.

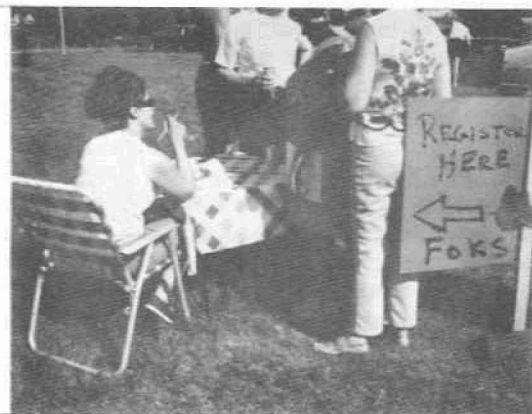
JACKSON

Chapter Reporter:
Joe Hubbard

Boy--from the looks of the write up in this "Troub" everybody had a good time at the Saginaw-Bay Contests. We had made plans to come up and make the rounds, but we had chickenpox at this house and our weekend was spent at home.

At this time, most of the ground work for the up-and-coming contests at Jackson in the Fall are well under way. When you get your Troub in September, you will find more details.

May 23 was a big night at the Jackson Chapter when seven members were given pins for "25 years of Barbershopping". The wives of the members were there to pin them. We were very fortunate to have



Betty Guerin registering Barbershop campers.



Dick Guerin, Pontiac--Receiving Trophy from Pontiac President, Lyle Howard



Registration Tent and Barbershoppers



A partial view of how it was setup. Travel Trailer Row.



Horseshoe Pitching Contest at the heat of battle. Ed Lilly of Pontiac Chapter in action against O.C.C.

MEMORIAL DAY

Pontiac Chapter's First Annual Memorial Day Weekend Camp-Out was a tremendous success, and the comment heard most often was, "We will return next year."

More than 300 Barbershoppers and their families converged at Paradise Beach Camp Grounds near Grand Blanc (with everything from pup tents to travel trailers) to enjoy this fun-filled weekend. The chords started ringing late Thursday afternoon, May 29, and the last chords this writer heard were being rung by Danny Rafferty and three other gentlemen about 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon under an umbrella three feet in diameter, out in the center of the park, in the pouring-down rain. Boy--that's Barbershopping.

A semi-formal show was presented to the campers under the formulation and direction of Johnny Wearing, and a superb job too, under somewhat adverse conditions at times. The BEAN TOWN FOUR, HARMONY KNIGHTS, CHARMANIZERS, TIMBER WOLVES, and CURB-STONE SERENADERS quartets, plus a mass barbershop chorus, made up the show which was warmly accepted by the campers. The highlight of the show was the presentation of a trophy by Pontiac Chapter President Lyle Howard to Dick Guerin. This camp-out was Dick's idea, to start the summer off in fine Barbershop style. Dick first reserved the camp area, then went to the Pontiac Chapter and talked it up. Before long he had asked and received assistance in selling this idea to all Barbershoppers from Cliff Douglas, President Lyle, and Dick's brother, Ray Guerin. These men attended many meetings of other chapters and the idea really took hold and grew.

These men prepared and printed all the signs and erected them. Thursday afternoon found them assisting the camp electrician in his final work with the end result of providing electric power to all who desired it. Gentlemen, a job well done and an outstanding Pontiac Barbershopper justly rewarded.

Pontiac Chapter has reserved this same camping area for next Memorial Day and many thanks to those who attended and made our first attempt a whopping success.

By Ed Lilly, Pontiac Chapter



Elbert Baker--Pointing to what we are here for.



Harmony Knights of Pontiac Chapter

AY CAMPOUT



Five Volunteers hand feeding John and Marge Wearing's puppy family:

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Lorraine | Jean | Denise |
| Lilly | Pinazzo | Lilly |
| Kathv | Marge | |
| Kinjorski | Kinjorski | |



Curbstone Serenaders, O.C.C. and Pontiac--Cliff Douglas singing "Sweet 16".



Bean Town Four--Saginaw Bay and Flint



Mass Chorus
12 Chapters Represented



Charmanizers Quartet, Union Lake

President Gillem there to award the pins to the members. These are the first, but as the years go on there will be others to be recognized for their services.

While we are recognizing people, let us not forget the fine work that Jim Davenport has done on the Troubadour over the years. And we will look forward to working with Dick Van Dyke in the coming years.

We will be looking for you at the Lansing Fish Fry in June, and if we miss you at Lansing, we'll look for you at Harrisville on Labor Day Weekend.

Until then, keep singing in tune or out of tune, I'll look for you.

GRATIOT COUNTY

Chapter Reporter:
Maynard Peacock
Fred Hanson

It is hardly because Gratiot County never sings out, or has a visitation, or goes visiting other chapters; it is because the first of the month comes around too soon to get the copy in.

The Gratiot County Chapter is doing things. Let us blow our horn a little: On April 16 we headlined the Gratiot County Association for Retarded Children's benefit variety show. A real worthy cause and quite a successful show for them. On May 12 we had 17 members present at a tri-chapter meeting with Cadillac and Big Rapids up at Big Rapids. Our MELLOW FELLOWS quartet made a real good appearance there. The PAST PRESIDENTS FOUR presented several numbers with a borrowed tenor.

We really enjoyed ourselves up in Big Rapids and welcomed the opportunity to meet the fellows from Cadillac. Our "Hymn-Singers" group presented a program at the United Brethren Church at Ashley. Just this week we enjoyed another of our annual "Old Timer's Night" programs. . . We had a wonderful time and our thanks and appreciation go to the MERRI MEN from Lansing who came up with some real fine entertainment.

How great it was to sing in competition at the spring convention. Watch out for Gratiot County. . . we shall return. . . at the next contest, for we only have one direction to go. . . UP.

FRUIT BELT

Chapter Reporter:
Ron Leatz

Well, the efforts of our April Guest Night paid off again. This time the new bass is Jeff Rae. Welcome aboard Jeff.

As stated in other issues of the Troubadour, we had our sing fest with the National Campers and Hikers Association, and we thought that was all the extra activities for the month. Well, it seems the Oakland County Chapter's "Little Brown Jug" dropped in on us May 21, thanks to the Muskegon Chapter. By the time you read this, Kalamazoo will have had it, and I think it will be headed for Pontiac (June 6) to deliver it home.

On July 4 we will journey to South Haven (remember that chapter, old timers?). By the way, you young guys that cannot seem to make it to the meetings every week; Ted Schrock, age 85, is at rehearsal with the others from South Haven every week. Don't ever say you are too old for Barbershopping. (Sorry to get carried away.) For the second year we will be in the Blueberry Festival, and this year it is also the

Centennial. As for a musical group, we took place in the parade last year and had a few kids in high school bands mad at a bunch of "old" men, but a lot of fun for us and everyone.

Since Mr. Lou Harrington has approved our parade date, but not informed the Troubadour: a reminder-- September 27, St. Joseph High School, the FOUR FITS, Detroit's DEBONNAIRES, and headlining our 21st annual show, from Louisville, Kentucky-- THE CITATIONS.

Remember, we are home Wednesday nights at our Chorditorium. Stop in and ring a chord.

PONTIAC

Chapter Reporter:
Lyle Howard

The Wenonah Hotel in Bay City was the site of the year's second Quad-Chapter Meeting. Members from Saginaw-Bay, Holly-Fenton, Flint, and Pontiac Chapters were captivated by the musical renditions from the EVERSCHARPS, BEAN TOWN FOUR, and HARMONY KNIGHTS. Several guest directors (????) coaxed ringing chords from the 60-some odd in attendance with expertise.

During the break, dignitaries from each chapter made plans for the next Quad-Chapter Meeting to be hosted by Flint September 9.



At Pontiac's regular May meeting, Terry Fraser was awarded the chapter Service Award. Terry is without a doubt a deserving recipient. He has held the offices of Chapter President, Treasurer, and Secretary. He is at present an Area Counselor. Going above and beyond the call to aid in the success of chapter endeavors is commonplace for this year's choice of the committee headed by Leon Frayer shown presenting the award to Terry.

Coming up in June is Pontiac's Bermuda Shorts Night. If you have an inner uncontrollable desire to show off your knobys, Pontiac is the place--June 20th is the date. We'll be "seeing" you.

*NOTE: New rules do not allow passengers to take food or refreshments aboard—
They will be available on board the boat.

DETROIT CHAPTER No. 1

presents its

ANNUAL MOONLIGHT BARBERSHOP CRUISE

- ★ *Harmony under the stars*
- ★ *Planned Program*
- ★ *Dancing!*
- ★ *Dancing!*
- ★ *Dancing!*
- ★ *Boondoggling Galore!*
- ★ *Quartets on every deck!*
- ★ *Refreshments Aboard**

GET A GROUP TOGETHER

GO SAILING AND SINGING!

Only \$2.50 per person

FRIDAY, JULY 18th

BOAT LEAVES BOB-LO DOCK (Foot of Woodward in Detroit)

8:15 P.M. SHARP

Write for Tickets — E. Upton — 14830 Fenkell, Detroit, Michigan 48227
Include Self Addressed-Stamped Envelope.

Don't forget our big show . . . Ford Auditorium Nov. 1st

FOUR RENEGADES

FOUR NUBBINS

MOTOR CITY CHORUS

SHARP LIFTERS

ORIOLE FOUR

FOR SELECT SEATING — ORDER TICKETS NOW. \$4.00, \$3.00

Ford Auditorium - 965-0430

or write

E. Upton - 837-6210

E. Upton — 14830 Fenkell, Detroit, Michigan 48227

Include Self Addressed-Stamped Envelope.

MUSKEGON

Chapter Reporter:
Jay Smith

Another summer is upon us and we are getting ready to close down our desk for two months.

We will be busy Barbershopping, even tho' we will be on vacation. We plan to practice each week this summer if everything goes right.

May was a busy month as we had a quartet represented in the Bush League. We traveled to Grand Rapids for our Area Whing-Ding. Grand Rapids did a bang up job putting on this event. We also traveled to Benton Harbor presenting the Fruit Belt Chapter with the brown jug.

We are going to have a membership night June 17. Fish and all the trimmings are on the dinner menu.

Since this is the last Troubadour our friends Jim and Dorothy will edit, we all want to say thanks for a good job.

We want to congratulate Dick on his appointment and promotion from reporter to editor. We will be looking forward to receiving the Troubadour again in September.

Well, yours truly has two things to say before closing shop. Have a good and safe vacation, and for the last time 'till September, my friendly reminder: 329 DAYS TO GO 'TILL MUSKEGON IN '70."

BATTLE CREEK

Chapter Reporter:
Merle Clayton

The Battle Creek Chapter is holding a "Harmony Hounds Night" on June 14 at the Elks Temple to help the Hounds with expenses when they attend "International." Our own chapter quartets will be augmented with a host of guest quartets. Tickets are \$2.00 per person, and we's like to see a lot of the Hounds' District friends present.

FLASH Our radio program "Keep America Singing" is on at a new time on Saturday nights: 10:05 to 10:30 p.m. on WBCK, 930 on your dial. Keep your announcements and comments coming into Dave Eddy. They should be addressed to "Keep America Singing", Dave Eddy, Radio Station WBCK, 390 Golden Avenue, Battle Creek, Mich. 49017.

Those of you who missed the Memorial Weekend Camp-Out missed a lot of fun and a singing-packed weekend. Look ahead right now, and mark your calendar for next year. Attend the Second Annual Pontiac Camp-Out. Thank you, Pontiac Chapter, for a tremendous weekend, and our special thanks to Cliff Douglas and Dick Guerin who welcomed us in.

BOYNE CITY

Chapter Reporter:
August Stolt

Congratulations to the new Bush League Champs, the BEAN TOWN FOUR. They won what we think was one of the biggest and toughest contests ever held in Boyne City. A big thank you to all the fine quartets that made the Bush League of 1969 such a great success. Also a special thank you to our emcees, Tom Damm (at the show, Ron Gillies (at the contest), and Gene Gillem and Bob Tracy (who handled the quartets at the afterglow).

The Last Straws and the Strand Brothers were terrific and very well received by the audience. Also on hand to sing a few songs and present the new champs with the B. L. Trophy were the HARMONY KNIGHTS.

All in all, a very successful contest and show, made possible by the cooperation and participation of

all concerned.

The Snow Belt Chorus is looking forward to a very full summer with a sing-out on Monday Night (June 2) for the Eastern Stars, and on Sunday (June 8) we will sing at a all-music church service in East Jordan.

A quartet consisting of Ross Renwick, tenor; August Stolt, lead; Arne Hegerberg, bari; Devere Middleton, bass; and introduced by Lou Harrington as the BOYNE AIRS spent a very enjoyable evening at Boyne Mountain Lodge May 22 entertaining at the annual Judge of Probate Convention. Our host Lou Harrington treated us very royally. Thanks again, Lou.

WAYNE

Chapter Reporter:
Morrie Giles

Now that our illustrious editor's tenure is coming to a close, it seems most befitting that we all stand and shout, "Well done, Jim Davenport." And while we're at it, let's not forget that Mrs. Jim took time out from her many tasks to assist in getting the paper to the printer on time.

Although I have received no official notification, the jungle drums have it that Dick Van Dyke will take over in the Fall. We who spread the dirt promise to get the copy to him well before the deadline, and do whatever else we can to make his job a little less demanding. After all, the poor guy is entitled to a little singing time, too.

At chorus rehearsal the week following the contest, the Wayne Wonderland Chorus was raided by the wonderful Wonderland wives who brought along coffee, cookies, and a huge cake bearing the legend, "We loved you guys in Bay City." We think we're pretty lucky, even if we didn't win.

On May 4, we did a double performance at the Wayne-Ford Civic Hall at an Organ Fund Benefit. We were schedule for only one appearance, but the response from the audience was so great that we were asked to wait around an hour or so and sing again. It seems that many of the crowd were receiving their first exposure to real Barbershopping and some just couldn't quite believe it.

This being the last report until September, may Wayne take this opportunity to wish all of you a happy vacation time. Just don't get lax about attending summer meetings and chorus rehearsals.

Once again, let me throw out my annual challenge to all chapters in the District. Wayne has every intention of bring home the Harrisville Trophy for the third time, and permanently. This reporter once again offers to furnish lollipops to any chapter who takes the trophy away from us. Or, better yet, I'll send the lollipops to the kids at the Institute of Logopedics in the winning chapter's name.

Our 3rd Friday meeting was cancelled this May so that Wayne could attend the big send-off meeting which Detroit hosted for the District's three International-bound quartets and the Wolverine Chorus. At this meeting Wayne was formally presented with the Octet Championship Plaque.

At our May 21 chorus rehearsal, we were treated to a visit from the Livonia Bentley High School Male Chorus. They sang for us a varied group of selections including two Barbershop numbers, and received a standing ovation from us. We also sang for them, and in all probability will get a few recruits from their ranks sometime in the next four or five years.

LANSING

Chapter Reporter:
Frank Laden

The Lansing Chapter had a busy May and it was the kind of busy we like to be. Our month started off on the 5th when Monty Bates emceed a Talent Night, the like of which we hope to repeat, annually. Of the chapter members who attended, most responded to Monty's invitation to perform.

Besides the various modes of harmonizing, we had readings of poetry and prose, homey guitar plunkin, pantomime, harmonica puffin, piano pounding and interludes of just plain nonsense. Do you know, we even had a one-man-band? One of our quartets, the OWOSSOIANs, sang for us and an added pleasant surprise was the appearance of a guest quartet, the MERRI MEN, Lansing's harmony singers of long standing.

The low point of the evening was reached when the musical classic (?) "Feet" was rendered (and we do mean torn apart) by Ken Gibson and Gene Johnson in the form of a kazoo duet. There is a firm understanding in the chapter that any future edition of Talent Night will not include a repeat of this.

All of the talent provided fun and that was the name of the game.

On the Friday before Mothers' Day, May 9th, our chapter held a Ladies Night, emceed by our Program Vice President, Don Horton. We had a full house of handsome women and enjoyed a varied two-hour program which included audience participation. Our fine quartets, THE FOWLER FOUR, FUNDAMENTALS and OWOSSOIANs sang for the ladies, and a visiting quartet--Oakland County Chapter's VAGABONDS, rounded out the musical treats. The party included refreshments, a bar and music for dancing.

May 19 was the date of our Past Presidents' Night. The evening began with a dinner for the former presidents and then a program was given in their honor emceed by our President, Willis Wood. The past presidents of the chapter added their inputs to the evening by singing some woodshed and by relating human interest stories of happenings in the early days of our chapter. The Lansing Chapter began in an organizational meeting held in 1940 and of the group of former presidents who attended the reunion, two were charter members. These gentlemen are Harold McAttee who is Chapter Historian and Loren Colton. Loren received a standing ovation when he arrived at the reunion. He is 87 years old and, according to his own words, "Going on 90."

On May 24, the Lansing Chapter Chorus and the FUNDAMENTALS participated in the annual show of Lansing's Sweet Adelines. Some twenty minutes of the program was provided by members of the chapter. Headliners of the show were the Cracker Jills, International Queens of 1957, and the Four Renegades, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Champs of 1965. Many of us also attended the after-show party.

The month of May saw the kick-off of M & M which stands for MEYERS' MEMBERSHIP drive. Robert Meyers, our Administrative Vice-President, plans to swell our ranks with a membership contest which will last until October. It's an all hands working party.

On June 2 don't look for us at home. We'll be on a mystery bus trip visit to a nearby chapter. We meet every Monday, 8:00 p.m., at Celentino's Restaurant-Lounge in Lansing. The welcome mat is out.



FEMININE OBSERVER



We are all glad to hear Kit Goodwin is at home recuperating from recent throat surgery. Seems Kit has been doing all of his singing with pad and pencil the past couple of weeks.

* * * * *
Congratulations and a most "Happy Marriage" go to W. Carlton Scott from Birmingham, Michigan and Mrs. Anna Morrow from Detroit. They were married April 26 in St. James Episcopal Church in Birmingham, Mich. Carlton is a member of the Pontiac Chapter.

* * * * *
Detroit Chapter #1 is celebrating their 30th year in the great society of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

* * * * *
Proud parents of a fine baby boy are Ray and Marlene Bartkowski. The baby has been named John Patrick. Ray is a member of the Oakland County Chapter.

* * * * *
Doris Gillem, wife of District President Gene Gillem is recuperating at home after recent surgery. We all wish you well, Doris.

* * * * *
Saginaw-Bay Chapter members showed their appreciation to their wives, who belong to the chapter's women's auxillary, for all their help in making the recently held convention the success it was. They took their wives out to dinner at "Schweitzer's North" restaurant. Everyone who attended enjoyed the evening very much. Judy Meldrum is assisting Doris Gillem, president of the auxillary, while she is recuperating from surgery.

* * * * *
Speaking of the convention--some of the ladies who worked so hard at that event were not mentioned in last month's article. These hard workers included: Swannie Szutkowski, Connie Dolzel, Diane Donnelly, Marcia Bateson, Doris Gillem. Again, all the ladies deserve a big "thank you".

* * * * *
A new baby girl has arrived at the McTaggart's. Most proud parents are Doran and Margaret. The baby was born May 19th, weighing in at 9 lbs and 9 oz; named Heather Louise. Doran is the chorus director of the "Sunparlour Chorus" of Windsor, Canada Chapter. (And a heck of a good bulletin editor too.--Ed.)

* * * * *
"Try, try again as the old saying goes and you will succeed". This happened to Olga Thomas, wife of Lowell, new bass singer in the SHARPLIFTERS quartet. After 20 years of trying to drive a car and 6 permits, she finally got her driver's license. Congratulations goes to Olga for proving that women don't give up easily.

* * * * *
The Grosse Pointe Chapter recently held their Barbershop show in the ballroom at the Detroit Yacht Club

KEEP AMERICA SINGING

ROBERT MILLER
576 DE SOTO 141
YPSILANTI MI 48197

on Belle Isle. Many folks came early to have dinner. Before the show, my husband Otto and I had the pleasure of having dinner with Mark and Isabel Roberts, celebrating Isabel's birthday. It was a beautiful sight, looking out of the dining room windows, over the water and the boats moored there.

At the show a nice welcome was given to all by Chapter President, Don Adams. Master of ceremonies, was Paul Eberwein from Windsor Canada Chapter and a job well done. Paul has conducted Barbershop radio programs playing fine records for our enjoyment.

Grosse Pointe's "Lakeshore Chorus" sang several numbers under that very able director, Russ Seely. They were all nattily dressed in black and silver coated tuxedos. The Four-Fits (Grosse Pointe's own chapter quartet) entertained; also the Sharplifters quartet from the Detroit Chapter. Feminine entertainers were Windsor, Canada "Sweet Adelines" quartet, the "Fascinators". This quartet happens to be the "mothers" of 19 children. Their husbands are all Windsor Canada Chapter members. The quartet was beautifully attired in black lace over blue metallic dresses and silver shoes. Quartet personnel are Lorna Fox, Dolores Foreman, Mary Ann Cassan and June Long. The stage for the show was adorned by the large traveling shaving mug, recently won by Grosse Pointe Chapter; also their own chapter's smaller authentic barberpole, plus an authentic 21" tall replica of a Pitch Pipe Trophy made out of wood, which had been presented to Mark Roberts at a chapter meeting a short time ago with his inscription on it. It's an interchapter traveling trophy between Grosse Pointe and Pontiac chapters.

* * * * *
John and Marge Wearing's family has "increased" by beagle dog "Lady" gave birth to her first litter. They are part beagle and part cocker spaniel and they had to be delivered by caesarean section.

Mother "Lady" has abandoned her offsprings, and "Little Red Head Marge" has the chore of keeping these little pups bottle fed and bathed every 4 hours around the clock. I'd say she makes a mighty good Mother, with all her patience and work. Needless to say, the rest of the Wearing Family are enjoying the little pups too. Motor City Chorus wives held their meeting at the Wearing's home recently and those that helped feed the pups during the meeting were Judy Kniffen and Mary Ann Coburn.

* * * * *

The Troubadour is taking a two-months vacation, so here's hoping you all have a pleasant summer and vacations. It will be back come September, so please send me news articles anytime by August to appear in the September issue. Send me your chapter bulletin and flyers on your chapter shows where ladies are invited.

Sing-Cheerily, Dora Vogel, 309 Belanger Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, 48236 TU 5-2094.

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.)

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| June 24-28, 1969 | International Convention St. Louis, Mo. |
| July 18, 1969 | Detroit Chapter's Annual Moonlight Boat Ride |
| September 20, 1969 | Tecumseh Chapter Parade |
| September 27, 1969 | Gratiot County Parade |
| October 4, 1969 | Lansing Chapter Parade |
| October 10-12, 1969 | District Annual Meeting and Contests, Jackson |
| October 25, 1969 | Saginaw-Bay Chapter Parade |
| October 25, 1969 | Sault Ste. Marie (Ont.) Parade |
| November 1, 1969 | Detroit Chapter Annual Parade |

ON THE COVER

A horseshoe pitching contest. We can consider it a symbol of things to come. It started in Harrisville when Pontiac came out second best in a "Pitch for Logopedics". On Memorial Day, winners Cliff Douglas and Dick Guerin pitched the Pontiac Chapter up into top spot. We wonder what will happen in Harrisville. Some people will be spending the summer practicing, eh Oakland County, Wayne, etc., etc.?

The winners, Dick Guerin and Cliff Douglas of Pontiac being congratulated by the losers, Norm Hoemke and Bill Manioni of O.C.C. L. to R.: Norm Hoemke, Dick Guerin, Cliff Douglas and Bill Manioni.