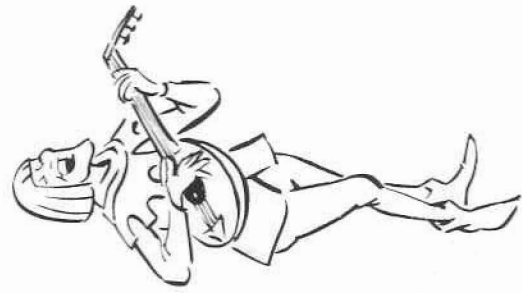


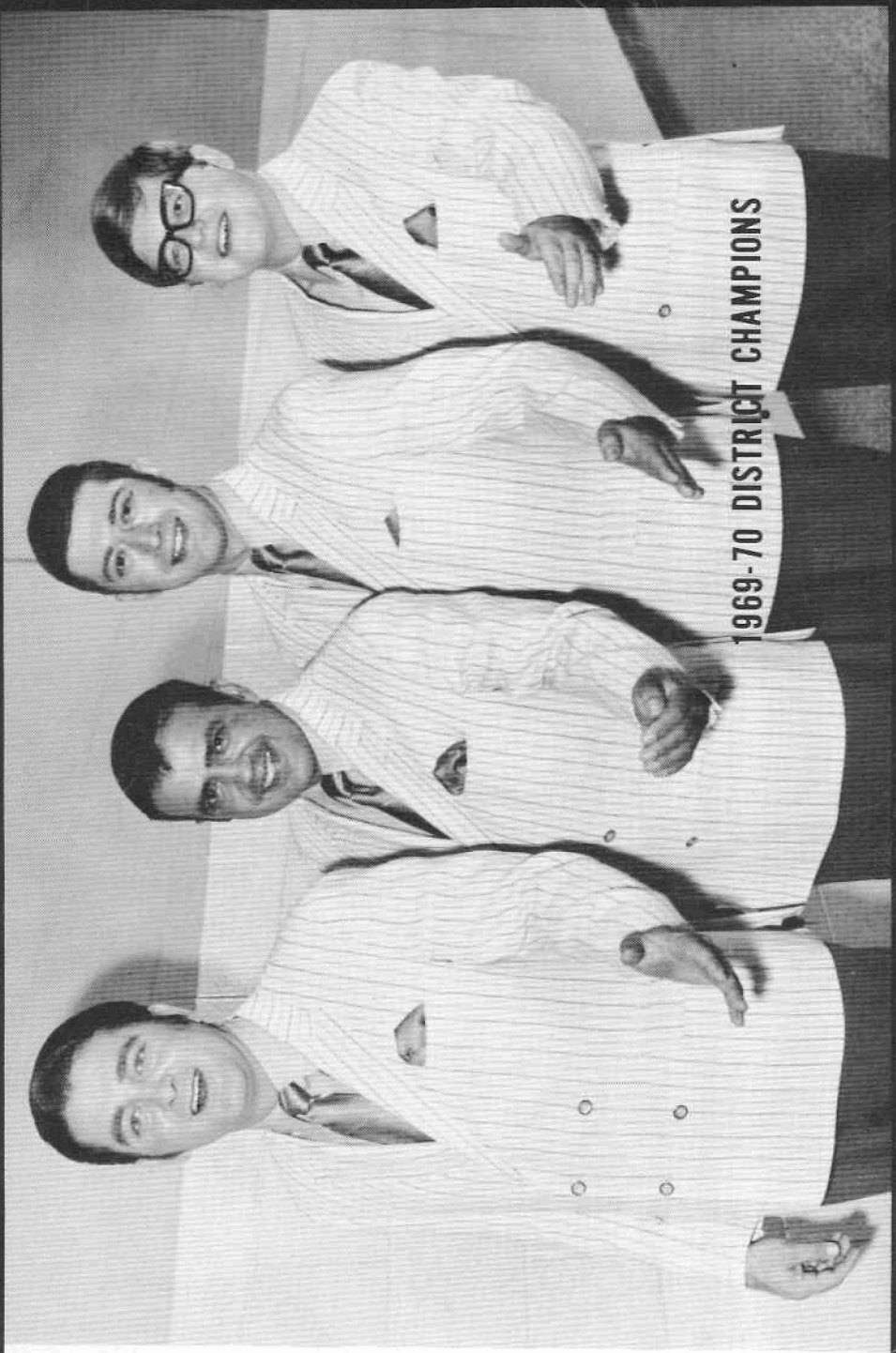
Nov 69

pioneer

TROUBADOUR



NOVEMBER, 1969



MAC HUFF'S COMING

Hang onto your hats. Mac Huff is coming from International. Mac's bag is quartet promotion and he will be doing something similar to Bob Johnson's visit, but slanted toward quartets. His schedule is as follows:

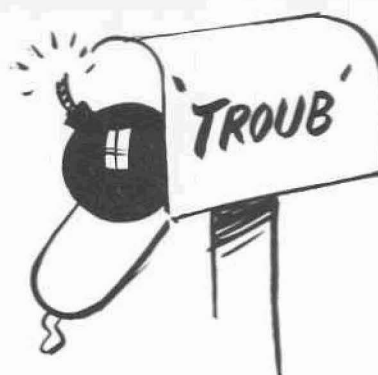
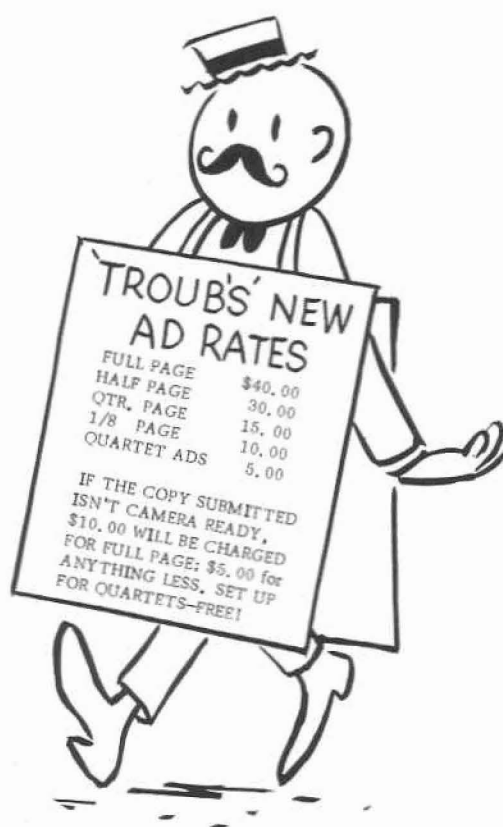
Monday, Dec. 8 Masonic Bldg,
Centerville, Michigan.
Hosts - Three Rivers Chapter

Tuesday, Dec. 9 Holiday Inn,
Bay City, Michigan.
Hosts - Saginaw-Bay

Wednesday, Dec. 10 Cedar-
ville High School, Cedarville,
Michigan.
Hosts - Les Chenaux

Thursday, Dec. 11 Salentino's
(Logan & Saginaw Sts.), Lans-
ing, Michigan.
Hosts - Lansing Chapter

Friday, Dec. 12 Pick-Fort
Shelby Hotel, Detroit, Mich.
Hosts - Detroit # 1



letters to the editor

To The Men Of The Pioneer District:

For those of you who missed it, we had a fine convention in Jackson, Oct. 10, 11, and 12. Unfortunately it was marred by those who think that the world is their ashtray. We used fourteen classrooms at Parkside High School for dressing rooms. Five teachers complained of our abuse of those rooms. Even one complaint is too many.

Let our reputation as slobs "increase" in stature and no one will put up with our conventions. It will become impossible to hold contests without the use of school facilities. That's the road we are traveling if we insist on grinding out our cigarette butts on the floor.

Among other things, our Code of Ethics states that we will not allow our music to become a public nuisance. Perhaps we should give some thought to the nuisance value of our smoking habit.

Sorrowfully yours,

Bob Dininny,
Convention Chairman

December 7, 1941! REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR?

Well, sir, you'd better pay attention to the date this year, because its also the deadline for filing your new 1970 Chapter Officers with Lou Harrington. If you miss the deadline, your District Directory will show your chapter's name followed by a big blank. We hope to have the new Directory in your hands by January 10th. PLEASE HELP.



CHAPTER REPORTS

OAKLAND COUNTY

by Bob Drabik

WAYNE

by Morrie Giles

First of all Wayne wishes to congratulate The Wolverine Chorus on winning the Regional Contest at Jackson. We thought we were pretty good, too, but the healthy margin in the score proves without a doubt that we are sending a mighty powerful chorus to Atlantic City. We'll all be rooting for you. Congratulations also to The Vagabonds for their splendid job.

Needless to say we're extremely proud of our two quartets which competed -- The "Invoices" who took second and our newly formed "Warren G. Harding Memorial Four" who came in last due to an enormous time penalty, seems they thought they were at the Jackson Raceway.

While handing out bouquets let's extend a "well done" to the Jackson Chapter for the very efficient manner in which they handled the contest.

At our first chapter meeting in October Wayne hosted a Quartet Clinic under the master supervision of Clay Jones, this clinic was Clay's own idea and designed for the sole purpose of giving constructive criticism to any quartet who desired it. This event brought quartets not only from our District, but also several from Toledo of the Johnny Appleseed District. The panel of coaches for the event consisted of some of the best quartet men in the business, -- namely Al Rehkop, Glenn Van Tassel, Bob Whittleage, Gene Schneider, and Gordie Limburg. We all learned something.

Just learned that our Wonderful Wayne Wives are planning a second annual rummage sale in November.

Plans are now being finalized for Wayne's big New Years Eve Blowout. We've arranged to take over the complete facilities of a well known bar. This affair is to take the place of our annual Christmas Party.

On Tuesday evening, October 14, The "Wonderland Chorus" put on a show at the Mayflower Hotel in Plymouth for the secretaries of the Wayne School System. What an audience, -- all women -- all ages, -- all sizes, -- all women, -- Wow

WOW!! What else can be said about a Convention like Jackson's? I've only been a member of the Society a few years but, personally, I swear the caliber of our competing quartets and choruses has improved a hundredfold since my first competition. Our gratitude to the Jackson Chapter for a job well done and congratulations go to everyone who stood on that stage in Jackson. I wonder tho, if we couldn't possibly have a few more in the spring. I really missed Traverse City and Saginaw -- both great groups of great guys.

Since my last report, we've been quite busy. Like -- we've elected a whole new slate of Officers for the coming year:

President - "The Phantom Polock"
Adm. V. P. - Fred McFadyen
Program V. P. - Jerry Spitler
Recording Sec. - Jack Teubert
Cor. Sec. - Jim Brown
Treasurer - George Ellis

Along with the AUTOTOWNERS, the Wolverine Chorus also helped the Walled Lake Board of Education "kick-off" a new entertainment series for their citizenry with "A Night Of Barbershop" on October 14th. October 16th, we sat and listened to a "human dynamo" sell Barbershop like no one else possibly could. You have to see and hear Bob Johnson to believe the stories you hear about this living legend but, when he gets done, you wonder why you don't meet five nights a week.

October 21st saw the WOLVERINE CHORUS on WXYZ-TV's Morning Show (ever try to sing and look awake at 6:30 AM?) October 23rd was the Franklin Community Church and the 27th was the Arnold Home (Old Folks). This type of job we should all try to do as often as possible -- they really appreciate it. And, of course, rehearsals every Monday eve.

In the future we have some Chapter Visitations, an upcoming show, rehearsals and Chapter Meetings on the first Friday. Our December meeting, a ladies night, will feature induction of new Officers, PAL TAL of the year award (female), the Charley DeLong Award (Barbershopper of the year) and our "Best of 69" -- an excerpt from each of our monthly chapter meetings. On top of all this goes an all-star cast of talent to entertain still further -- so -- c'mon in and see us.

LANSING

by Frank Laden

Best show ever: That's what the audience said of our 1969 Cavalcade of Quartets, held in Lansing on October 4th. How they applauded and laughed, and all in the right places. Due to the hard work of the entire chapter, the house was almost completely sold out. For the almost too good to be true department; the show was an artistic and financial success and we had fun.

The After Glow was sheer delight, a fitting nightcap to the main event. Our hats are off to Larry Horton, our Show Chairman, and Warner Dyer, our After Glow Chairman, and their committees for tasks well done. Our home talent, The FOWLER FOUR, The FUNDAMENTALS and our newest group, The RANGEFINDERS, were simply great.

Were you at the Fall Convention in Jackson? We were. Our chorus, the CAPITOLAIRES, took 7th place in the competition. We hope we sounded better than we looked because a seedier looking bunch of barbershoppers never before climbed on a stage in competition. We created a hobo jungle complete with grass, campfire, a cooking pot, crummy clothes and floppy posture as we sang "Have You Ever Been Lonely" and "Side By Side". Still don't know whether the members or the wives had the most fun.

Have you heard that the Vagabonds are topdog quartet of the Pioneer District? We're proud as punch. Our chorus director, Ken Gibson is the tenor which makes a good one-fourth of a reason why they won.

Our thanks go to the Jackson Chapter for being such excellent hosts and providing all the elements necessary to produce a successful convention.

The Chapter attended Bob Johnson night at Grand Rapids. As usual, the evening was educational and entertaining. Ladies of the Grand Rapids Chapter: your spaghetti dinner was delicious (and fattening).

Come November, the Lansing Chapter will vote for its Barbershopper of the Year and honor him at an award celebration. It's going to be tough to select ONE. We've many members deserving of the title.

That's it for now. We wish fun and harmony to all.

TRAVERSE CITY

by Max Carter

The Local Quartet the Timbre Barons have lost their Bari "Wonderful Vince Yinger" to The Ann Arbor Area. You may rest assured that his leaving this area is our Loss and Ann Arbors Gain. Vince, we all wish you and Momma lots of luck both in Barbershop and Sweet Adelines. By the way Mrs Yinger is also a Bari and was one of the eager founders of the Sweet Adelines Quartet "The Sweet Tarts" who we feel will help to keep Traverse City on the map from the female side of "Harmony."

The new Bari of the "Timbre Barons" is Dr. Don Fraser, Chief of Staff at T.C. Oste. Hospital. After only a couple of practice sessions he filled in at the Cedarville Show for Honeymooning Pete Nelson and did a fine job of singing Lead on that fine affair.

The Baytones of Traverse City are also appearing on the Michigan Water Works Assoc. Convention here in T.C. on Oct. 23, 1969 at the Park Place Motor Inn. This event is Hosted by the Traverse City Iron Works.

The Chapter is in the process of selecting a New Director to Replace one of Barbershops Most Devoted men in the person of Al Hubschneider. Al has taken

a position with a new company and has to travel on the road almost all of the time and has had to drop his job as Director for both our Chorus and the Sweet Adelines of this city. We all miss Al a great deal and certainly wish him luck on his new line of work.

If there ever was one person who could make a man sing and enjoy Barbershopping it is our truly loveable and inspirational Bob Johnson. He visited our Chapter the evening of October 13th and with about one hundred men present I don't have to tell anyone what a night we all had. I'm certain I am not the only one who brought a new man to Barbershop that night but you can believe me when I say that my neighbor told me after the evening that Bob Johnson was one of the greatest personalities that he had ever met and he stated that Barbershopping could not lose with anyone like that around. We had Members and guests from Traverse City, Cadillac "With a Bus Load," Ste Canada, Boyne City, and Big Rapids Michigan. Again Bob thanks for coming and you may rest assured that we will be looking forward to your next visit with Baited Breath.

MUSKEGON

by Jay Smith

MUSKEGON IN "70"

Haven't you missed my friendly little reminders this summer about Muskegon hosting the International Preliminaries and District Meeting April 24-26, 1970?

We want to congratulate the Jackson Chapter for hosting a fine convention, and also congratulations to the winning Quartets and Chorus.

It is nice to have the District President back in Muskegon again after a lapse of several years. We want to congratulate Tom Damm on being elected our Next District President.

We are proud to be named Chapter Achievement Award winner in the Silver Division. It has been 8 long years since we won the award last time and that was in the Gold division.

Our quartets have been pretty busy this past summer and the Fall lineup is pretty hectic too.

The Kasual-D's sang for the first Community-Farmer dinner held this month in Grand Haven, and they also were practicing for the District contest.

The Dune-Tones sang for the Past-Master's night program at the Grand Haven Masonic Lodge October 15th.

Our new quartet, the Tri-Neighbors consisting of Dick Hester, Bari Bob Hart, Bass Tom Garzelloni, Tenor and Ken Barnhard, lead reports they also have been busy.

Just a friendly reminder there are only 175 days left till our Spring Convention. Make your plans now, to join us.

DETROIT

by John Neighorn

The Wolverine Chorus of Oakland County, under the direction of Carl Dalke, and assisted by Dick Liddicoatt, a hearty well done And to the Wonderland Chorus of Wayne, under the direction of Gordon Limburg everything coming up roses to the Vagabonds, Invoices, and Kasual D's our best in the midwest good luck . . . and then, pick yourself up, dust your-

self off, and start all over again Motor City Chorus, . . . and we did just that by after glo time. Plus a salute to Ralph Schirmer with a plaque presented by our president Larry King for



many years of outstanding service to the Chorus . . . Ralph then introduced his new bride Jean to the society . . . Gotshalls, Amperses, and Conklins were there cheering us also.

Hats off to the Jackson Chapter for a splendid convention and Lou Harrington for M. C. ing the football scores.

We received wires from the Fascinators and the Sharplifters wishing us good luck on the contest. Thanks for your support. The Sharplifters also staged our choreography.

Keep your RADIO tuned for the Lions game Nov. 9th as the Motor City Chorus will sing for the half time ceremonies (no T.V. of course).

Have you heard Dick McHugh teaching 3 other leads a new tag lately? And does Mary McHugh always walk around in her stocking feet . . . Seen John Waring using a Polish road map to find his way around Jackson. . . . Butler and King had connecting rooms where the pre-glo started . . . and Larry King has been known to retire early . . better luck next time Larry . . . Marge Waring did her usual good job of mounting our foto display . . Unlucky Luchts had a blow out while driving to Jackson, but no real damage was done, lucky Luchts. The sharp new casual shirts with the old fashioned car design belong to the Motor City Chorus and were drawn up by our own Bill Warner.

Needed more fellows like Dick Straine for the use of his studio, Gene Smith for toting risers, Winters & Salter for assisting our director, and our wives for decorating the social room.

From the pent house of the Shelby Hotel Detroit Chapter # 1 held it's monthly meeting M. C. ed by our talented Bob Winters, who tested our song title memories, by having us listen to the first few notes la la'd by him, he got a little static from some of us when some songs start the same way, in the end Wayne Kniffen and Les Marhoff sipped off as the winners with a bottle of booze each, there was a booby for the loser. Good meeting Bob.

Can it be? Another Detroit # 1 meeting of the year, check your calendar for Friday, November 21st, CANADIAN NITE we had over 200 attending last year, lets show our good neighbors a good time again at the Pick Fort Shelby.

I just returned from seeing Bob Farrington who is recovering from surgery at the Martin Place Hospital, he ouches yet but he is improving, hurry back Bob. You are as welcome as the flowers in May Wally Dorosh, Jim Heffner, Frank Heffner, Ron Gillies, Dick Straine, and Bill Taylor.

FRUIT BELT

by Tom Ferega

The 21st Annual Parade of Harmony for the Fruit Belt Chapter has come and gone. Needless to say, this years "Parade" was the biggest and the best yet. Held on September 27, 1969 at the St. Joseph High School auditorium, The "4 Fits" from Detroit, The "Citations" from Louisville Kentucky, and The lovely, charming, Sweet Adelines The "Debonaires" from Coldwater made our show the biggest and best yet. Of course leave us not forget our own chorus, The "Fruit Belt" boys, and a quartet we are mighty proud of coming from within our own Chapter, The "Quadrichords". A mighty thank you is extended to everyone who made the evening a big smash.

Dave Eddy, a fellow barbershopper from Battle Creek is included in our thank you's. Dave acted as emcee for the evening at both the Parade and also the After-Glow. We're looking forward to an even bigger and better 22nd Annual Parade.

If you've never experienced an evening with Bob Johnson, you don't know what you are missing. Bob visited the Fruit Belt Chapter the night of October 15th, and I don't think anyone, including our guests from Niles, went away that even-

ing without the greatest enthusiasm ever for our Society. His way of teaching, his words about Barbershopping, his personality makes any barbershopper want to sing out "all night". Pat Carnahan our President, along with Bob Duncan, Ron Leatz and myself enjoyed dinner with Bob Prior to the evening of barbershopping. The four of us enjoyed a "bit of refreshment" with dinner. . . . Bob did not. . . . cause he said this was a nite he had to work. . . . and lo and behold. . . upon the evening beginning, Mr. Johnson announced he was on "sabbatical" leave, and was with us only to have fun. If Bob works as hard every other day as he did this evening with us, on "sabbatical" leave, it's no wonder we look forward to his returning any time his agenda will allow such a visit. Thanks Bob, for a great, and highly-inspirational Barbershop evening.

Thanks to all Pioneer Barbershoppers for reading this article. Come visit us any Wednesday evening at the Chorditorium in Benton Harbor. You'll always be welcome.

BATTLE CREEK

by Roger Lewis

Biggest news just has to be the Jackson Contest. We were button-busting proud to have THREE QUARTETS entered - - - THE BURRILL BROTHERS, THE MILLIONAIRES, and THE HARMONY HOUNDS, who finished 15th, 10th, and 4th, respectively.

Looks like we might even have four quartets in the Spring Contest - - - We're about to sign up a new tenor (right now we have 3 tenors and 3 active quartets) (and in case any tenors are looking for someone to sing with, come on over) (wouldn't mention any names, but hope Al Rehkop reads this).

Our Chorus finished tenth with 27 choruses tied for eleventh spot. (well, so they didn't enter) except for time penalties, we'd have pulled into 8th place. (We received thank you notes from Jackson and Lakeshore.)

Right after the first of the year we're going to be ready for some chapter visits - - - you visit us or vice-versa. Keep us in mind.

The first Monday in November we're having the Steamboat Strummers down from Grand Rapids - - - Looks like lots of fun.

In December we're looking forward to a possible visit from the NILE-LATERS. The HOUNDS visited Niles on October 21st and had a great time.

If you're around Battle Creek on Mon. drop in at the Optimist Club on Raymond Road and sing with us.

THREE RIVERS by George Dieffendorfer

I guess Three Rivers is going to have to start the 1st Troub. letter of the fall with an apology. Our chapter did not have a single representative at the contest in Jackson.

Our chorus fell short of the 20 minimum and at the present time we have no organized quartets.

Things are looking up tho.

The chapter journeyed to Kalamazoo Tuesday the 14th, and sung in a group directed by Bob Johnson. That gave us a shot in the arm. Also we are singing in the dedication of the Masonic Hall in Centreville October 25th.

December 8th we are hosting Mac Huff from int. and he is going to put on a quartet clinic for the chapters of this area.

Our show is about set for March 14, 1970. I think we have enough things planned to keep the chapter active. And maybe next year we can make that contest.

Our new meeting place is the Masonic Hall in Centreville. Two blocks south of the court house.

See you some Monday night.

NILES BUCHANAN by Bob Thomas

The Niles-Buchanan Chapter has just returned from one of the most enjoyable week ends in quite a few years. The Chorus Contest was a new adventure for nine of our twenty six men. The first contest is always the most exciting. Our sixth place in the contest was to our satisfaction. . . . considering that a few months ago we did not even have a regular meeting for about ten weeks.

We have our show in February, then the contest in the spring. We understand we have an open challenge from Holland to see who beats who out of first place.

We accept that challenge with the sixty five man chorus we expect to have by then. 25 plus 40 equals sixty five. That's just six plus new men a month we need. Get to work men, bring those new members in.

Congratulations to the Vagabonds and Wolverine Chorus. They did a very fine job.

We would like to thank the Harmony Hounds for about four hours of real fine entertainment Tuesday, October 21st. What a night that was!¹

HOLLY-FENTON by Art Burnett

After a slowdown, this chapter seems to be coming to life again. If the attendance would pick up more, we would be able to do more. True, some of our members have to work the second shift, but there are others who could attend the meetings if the spirit moved them.

The rummage sale was a success as was the combination Ladies Night, Box Social and Halloween Party. We are sure everyone had a time of their life at the party. It was a continuous uproar from the start to the finish. We even had a visit from Jed Clampett and Granny of the Hillbillies in the persons of Jay Welch and his wife. But, the big surprise was the appearance of the Reasonaires from Pontiac. They put the icing on the cake.

Our officers elected for 1970 are: Ryan Strom - President, Jay Welch - Adm. Vice President, Jack Stevens - Pro. Vice President, Art Burnett - Secretary, Marvin Carpenter - Treasurer and Board Members - Grant Wright, Bob Strom and Harold Annis. Delegate - Dr. William Bischoff. Our Chorus Director will be Dan Goodearl. Bulletin Editor will be Grant Wright with Art Burnett as Associate Editor handling Bulletin Exchanges with other chapter.

PONTIAC by Terry Ermoian

Pontiac would like to devote the majority of this monthly column to recognize one of our neighboring chapters. "Oakland County." Since they don't like blowing their own horn, we would like to do it for them.

Any chapter who accomplished what they did at the District Convention in Jackson, Mich. must be recognized and admired by all chapters and Barbershop-

pers.

How is this for a long list of Achievements:

(1) District Quartet Champions "The Vagabonds" (not only a fantastic sounding Quartet, but four great guys) Thanks for your Pontiac Visitation. We appreciated it. And you are always welcome here.

(2) Wolverine Chorus. 1st Place Chorus Champions (Great Sound and what enthusiasm) Special recognition to Carl Dahlke and Dick Liddicoatt.

(3) Chord Reporters. 7th Place District Finals and Junior Quartet Champs. (Keep up the Good Work.)

(4) \$750.00 Logopedics Donation.

(5) Gold Award for Protention (678 Points)

Hats off to a great Chapter and a great bunch of Guys. Well done. Pontiac Chapter and the Society are very proud of your achievements.

"Coming events at Pontiac."

Nov. 11th, 1969 (Tue) Pontiac Hosts Quad Chapter Meeting (Details of actual meeting place to follow under separate cover). (All are welcome).

Nov. 7th, 1969 Visitation to Maumee Valley, Ohio Chapter. (Bus Trip)

Nov. 21st, 1969 Pontiac's Millionaires Night Party (Ladies Night). (All proceeds to Logopedic's)

"Special Note" We would like to pay special tribute to Lou Harrington who has served as District Secretary, and for his devotion to the Society as a whole. We all appreciate your efforts, and we wish you continued success in all your future endeavors.

Pontiac's Special Recognition to Lyle Howard who is finishing his term of office as President of the Pontiac Chapter. We of Pontiac appreciate his efforts, and we will all miss his humorous bulletin the "Pow Wow" paper.

The emphasis these days seem to be on "Doing your Own Thing." Well that is

exactly what Pontiac will attempt to do this coming year. The have a young, creative, aggressive Board who promises nothing short of miracles for this coming year. With the backing they need from the Pontiac members in getting totally involved in their chapter. I think these miracles can happen. They plan two meetings a month. 1st Wed. of each month (a fun night) with plenty of singing for everyone and less chair warming. Music will be available for Boon-dogging or serious work quartet or chorus wise. Reduced rates at the door. So support your chapter. A happy Barbershopper is an involved Barbershopper.

The second meeting a month will be our regular meeting night. Same as usual. We will try and have two guest quartets per meeting.

The whole secret is backing from all chapter members, we have a lot of great activities planned this year. Make it a point to make these events and make Barbershopping your "bag."

I personally guarantee that once you ring a chord you will become totally involved in the thing you "Love and Live for" Barbershopping.

And this is what is called "Doing your Own Thing."

JACKSON

by Joe Hubbard

Back to normal I think. After the District Meet. Congratulations to the Vagabonds for winning the District Quartet Finals, and to the Wolverine Chorus for placing first. Now don't you other Choruses give up, because I feel that The Wayne Wonderland Chorus gave The Wolverine Chorus a run for their money. And if the Wolverines don't keep on their toes Wayne Wonderland may just push them off the top round.

The Jackson Chorus has some jobs coming up in the next two months so I don't think that we will get much of a rest. Red Shaw, our fearless leader, has some changes that he will be making to improve the Chorus.

We have had our election of officers for the coming year. President, Leo Rudloff; Membership V. P., Tom Cushman; Program V. P., Bob Sullivan; Secretary, Jim White; Treasurer, George Tripp.

We finally made it. Here is our first and the beginning of our participation in the Pioneer Troubadour.

The Cadillac Chapter of Barbershoppers is becoming more actively engaged and more known to all in their area. We are being called upon to sing for many of the local events. Just recently, the Chapter sang in chorus for the "Cadillac Music and Arts Festival". Also, two of our own quartet groups from within the chapter demonstrated their talent.

In addition to the community event, the Chapter sang out in chorus for the Cadillac Order of Odd Fellows at a Special Western Circuit get together. The audience at the lodge was very receptive to our choral and quartet singers. Twenty-four of the Chapter members participated in this sing out.

The Cadillac Chapter takes great pleasure in announcing the addition of Earl Gautenbein to its group. "Earl" who recently transferred from Detroit was a former member of the Oakland County Chapter and we would like to let the Oakland County Chapter know that we now have "Earl" back in the fold.

On October 13th, the Chapter journeyed by bus to Traverse City to see and hear Bob Johnson, our respectable International Music Director. Twenty-two of our Chapter Members went along on this trip and needless to say, a wonderful time was had by all. It is always a great pleasure to be in the midst of such able direction and enthusiasm such as our own Bob Johnson puts forth. We also would like to take this opportunity to thank the Traverse City Chapter for their kindness in permitting us the use of the Traverse City owned bus for the trip.

Our Chapter will also announce in our subsequent reports on our special show which is now being tentatively planned for March 7, 1970.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



from the 'TROUB'

HAROLD D. WRIGHT AND THE CRUISE

by

Duane H. Mosier
Co-Historian

Many barbershoppers of the old school will regret to learn of the passing of Harold Wright who died on August 22, 1969 at the age of 72 at his farm near Jackson.

Although he retired from active barbershopping some years ago, he will be remembered by many of his old friends in the district, particularly in the southeastern Michigan chapters during the many years he was an active member in Detroit Number 1 Chapter as a dynamic leader. He was chapter president in 1945-46 where he did much to put his chapter to the forefront in activities and keep it there.

Harold was born in the small rural town of Gaines in Genesee County not far from Flint on January 27, 1897 where he spent the first twenty-eight years of his life. Finding no inducement to remain there where job opportunities offered small picking he went to Detroit in 1925 where the "Help Wanted" ads filled the columns of the papers. It did not take him long to land a job with Dodge Brothers Corporation in the traffic division, where he remained for many years until his retirement in 1959. Through ambition and application to his work he became manager of that division, even after Dodge became a member of the Chrysler organization.

His work as traffic manager gave him close connections with the railroads, boat lines and truckers in keeping the Dodge cars moving to their destinations. His success can be measured by the nearly three and one-half decades the company kept him on the job.

Like most men he had a hobby. Singing was one of them. Hunting and fishing were others. Early in life, even at the ripe old age of fourteen, he was lending a rich bass voice to the choir in his church. His great desire to sing carried him to Albion College where he studied under one of the professors of music for a year. Even years later when he went to Detroit his talent was employed as bass singer and soloist in the choir in Nardin Park Methodist Church, one of the city's largest churches, located on Chicago and Grand River Avenues.

Barbershopping was a contagion spreading across the country and many chapters were following the lead of Detroit No. 1 in seeking charters. It did not take Harold long to discover that here was a hobby where he could give full measure to his melodious bass voice. He offered no resistance when asked to join Detroit No. 1 in 1942. It was a membership he thoroughly enjoyed.

Wright's crowning achievement, perhaps, after the gavel of leadership was handed to him by his fellow members in 1945, was the chartering of a boat for a moonlight cruise on the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair. The idea struck him hard and he worked hard on the idea. The thought fathered the desire to fill one of the big steamers with barbershoppers from all over the state, with quartets giving vent to their harmony as long and loud as they wished. It was not an easy job, but he did it. Here is where Harold's work as traffic manager was put to a new test. He knew the boat people well but it was not an easy sell. Their boats were in constant demand and doubt was raised as to the success of the venture. Would the people respond and would it pay off? Committees were set to work. From the papers found among Harold's effects there is convincing proof that the cruise was a decided success. The big three-deck steamer PUT-IN-BAY was chartered for the night of June 12, 1946. Finzel's fine band was engaged for dancing. The boat was filled with barbershoppers, their wives and guests and a great evening of fun and music enjoyed. And Quartets?? You count em.

Six quartets from Detroit No. 1 cut loose on their best brand of harmony. While names were not connected with the photos in the advertising, most of the quartet members can be identified:

THE HARMONY SHAVERS (Bill Favenger)
THE VELVETONES (Bob McGrath)
THE DETROITERS (Al Eason, Joe Wolff, Rawley Hallman, Tim Weber)

Pontiac's THREE CORNS AND A BUNION (Eddie Bunyan, Bill Paschar, Bill Otto, Ralph Flickenger)
Windsor's CANADIANAIRES (Harold Podvin, Tom Hart, Roy Clark, Earl Wood)

THE PROGRESSIVE FOUR (Glenn Bennett, Lyell McKerrel, Carl Restivo, Mike Arnone)

THE TEPEE BROADCASTERS (from Tecumseh, Michigan)

Ann Arbor's FOUR OF DIAMONDS (Chuck Taylor, Bert Bertram, Frank Fletcher, Stu Gould)

Con't. inside back cover

Con't from inside back cover

national Representatives from The Pioneer District - The Wolverines from Oakland County, directed by Carl Dahlke. They are returning for the third consecutive year to International.

Gripping through the Chorus Contest was, the greatest drama was reserved for the Quartet Contest on Saturday night. For the Barbershop Quartet Contest is something akin to the World Series, a Political Convention, The Academy Award Dinner, Barbra Streisand on stage, and a Horowitz Concert all rolled into one. Thunderous applause, tension saturated silence, tear stained sentimentality, moist handed suspense. . . Eight quartets, 32 men, survivors of some 17 quartets who competed earlier for the right to be here. The culmination of many hours of rehearsal, a brief four to six minutes on stage, two songs, the probing eyes and ears of 10 judges, and now the results: In eighth place - The Nile-Laters from the Niles-Buchanan Chapter, in seventh place - The Chord Reporters from O.C.C. in sixth, a new quartet from Saginaw-Bay called The Ring Masters, fifth place went to The Bean Town Four from Saginaw-Bay and Flint, fourth place to Battle Creek's Harmony Hounds, third to the Kasual D's from Muskegon, and in second place, four tremendously happy, yet somewhat disappointed young men, The Invoices

from the Wayne Chapter.

But there can be only one winner, and the judges, two in each of the five categories, selected The Vagabonds from the Oakland County and Lansing Chapters as the 1969-70 Pioneer District Quartet Champions.

Like most barbershop quartets they have little in common except a love of barbershop harmony.

Dennis Gore who sings the lead is a Computer Programmer for the Chrysler Corporation; baritone Tony Scooros is the owner of Anscor Incorporated, a Manufacturer's Rep.; the bass, Norm Thompson, is a salesman for Anscor, and Ken Gibson, The Vagabonds newly acquired tenor, is a Musical Consultant for the Holt Elementary School System. If you regularly attend your chapter meetings, you will probably see The Vagabonds in the coming year. We're sure they're going to be great district champs.

Sunday morning, after the goodbyes we said, we were left with great memories of a full weekend of harmonizing and the realization that it's only a short six months until the contests in Muskegon when we'll all gather to do it all again.

See you there????

Wolverine Chorus Oakland County



1970 INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

CONTEST DIRECTOR Carl Dahlke CHORUS DIRECTOR Dick Liddicoatt ASS'T. CHORUS DIRECTOR Norm Thompson



OBSERVER

ZONE 1

by Dora Vogel

309 BELANGER ROAD
GROSSE PTE., MICH.
48236

Grosse Pointe, Dearborn, Detroit,
Redford, O.C.C., Windsor, Wayne,
Ann Arbor, Monroe, Milford, Pontiac



Congratulations are certainly in order for Gene and Maxine Seals, they are busting with pride to announce they're grandparents twice in the past month, both are girls. Gene is a member of the Nile-Laters quartet from Niles.

Talent just seems to run in some families, like the Gibson's, Kenny is director of Lansing Chapter Chorus and his wife is director of the Lansing Sweet Adeline Chapter Chorus. Ken is also a member of our new Pioneer District Champions the Vagabonds.

Hawaii bound for the Sweet Adeline convention, hosted by "Diamond Head" chapter are, Frances and Max Duckworth, Max a Jackson Chapter member, also Larry and Mary Winchester from Oakland County Chapter. They are also visiting friends and relatives in California.

Marge and Al Singer from St. Clair Mich. recently took a most interesting trip to Alaska, via train and boat, Al is a Grosse Pointe member.

Gene and Doris Gillem recently moved to Frankenmuth I hear they are most pleased with their new location.

Visiting Lee and Ronnie Thomas, was their daughter Katie Mathews from Thousand Oaks California. Lee is a Holly-Fenton Chapter member.

Barbershoppers and their wives are most generally willing to help out in need, as did Grant and Elizabeth Wright getting out the Holly-Fenton bulletin in the absence of their regular editor Art Burnett.

Gordon Masters formerly from Holly-Fenton Chapter moved to Florida (near

Orlando) where he intends to go into the appliance repair business. "Good Luck Gordon."

Holly-Fenton Chapter held a Rummage Sale recently also a combined "Halloween Ladies Night" and Box Social in October. Ryan Strom was chairman. The Ladies brought the box lunch and ate it with whoever bought it.

Anniversary "Good Wishes" go to Ray and Nola Goodall, also Del and Joyce McDonald from Flint Chapter.

Flint Chapter feels "Lady Fortune" struck their chapters as they have a new chorus director Ron Grow of the Mt. Morris school system. Fred Kienitz has offered his services too and soon hope to be ready for chorus sing-outs and their up coming show scheduled for April 4th, Fred Kienitz is show chairman, the talent will include quartets as Road Runners, Bean Town Four, Sharplifters and Vagabonds.

Congratulations to Tom Damm and his first Lady, Esther as our new Pioneer District President, and all the other officers on their positions.

Jackson "Chordial" Pioneer District Fall Chorus and Quartet Convention was well attended and the contests were held in the beautiful Parkside High School auditorium. Hayes Hotel was Hdq. Jackson Chapter members done a commendable job in handling all events also pre-glo and after-glo. Chapter members wives who did such a fine job at the registration desk were as follows, Mary Simpson, Bede Comloquay, Helen Breitmayer, Thelma Ganong, Katy Preston, Jo and Karma Sheriff, Mrs. Tripp, Lynn Heitzman, and Mary Wuserbu. I surely wouldn't have wanted to be a Judge in the Contest. Choruses and quartets were great, also the costuming. Jim White, Louis Harrington and Gene Gillem were Master of Ceremonies for the various events. 11 Choruses and 17 Quartets were in competition.

Detroit Motor City Chorus wives in their cheering section wore Red and White striped capes lined in blue and automobile pins fastened on their capes. Wayne Chapter ladies wore Green and Beige dresses with print chiffon scarfs, Oakland County ladies wore Blue Jackets and white pleated skirts.

There were many hospitality rooms with quartets entertaining. Motor City Chorus wives decorated theirs with barber poles

and large crepe paper roses and had a large sheet cake, decorated that read "Our Champs" on it, which was served to guests also beverages.

Oakland County displayed a large banner in their room reading Oakland County with their own insigna on it made by capable Mary Winchester. Other chapters entertained guests also.

Please send news articles and bulletins. I'm sure I will find news in them to share with others.

ZONE 3

by Ardy Jeltema

2193 AIRWAY DR., N.E.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN
49505



Gratiot County, Lansing, Big Rapids,
Grand Rapids, Grand Haven, Holland,
Muskegon

Grand Rapids did another fine job of entertaining their ladies. Our second annual Gay Nineties Box Social was held the 26th of September at the Lexicon Club, costumes and all. I sure am glad the styles have changed. Can you imagine going swimming in long socks, long pants, high necklines, and long sleeves? What a way to go.

Of course those lunch boxes were filled with all kinds of goodies. I'm sure all of the gals fixed their special recipes. I didn't hear any complaints from the guys. You should have seen those fancy lunch boxes. The gals must have put a lot of time into them.

A great evening of entertainment was enjoyed by all. The guys from Holland paid us a surprise visit. Not every chapter drops in with two quartets to sing for you. The Tune Tailors and The Sound-Sations did a great job, and when the eight of them sing together, it's almost like a chorus. Our own special favorites, The Great Lakes Chorus and The Royal Coachmen were at their best. (We're a little prejudiced.)

The highlight of the evening was our special guest from Muskegon, Mr. Ernst Beebe, a Hypnotist. He kept the whole audience in a state of hypnosis, just watching, for an hour and a half. No one wanted to leave, he was so interesting. He found a couple of good subjects, so they tell me. Don't knock it til you've tried it. Take it from one who knows. It was fun and an unforgettable experience.

By the time you read this, Jackson will be over and done with. Not every-

one can be satisfied with the outcome, but I'm sure all will have had a memorable weekend. I know I did.

Contests have always been fun, but each one seems to be more so. (Less and less sleep tho.)

That delegates meeting on Friday nite leaves some wives without anything to do. How about asking three other girls to play bridge? It works.

How about those contests.¹¹ Who ever thought they'd walk into an auditorium and hear our District Champs, The Eversharpes, as mike testers. What a way to start a contest.

I'm sure all the fellows enjoy those cheering wives in the audience. With straw hats, pom poms and all that noise, they know we're there. (Ha Ha we got an extra cheer in there, with that broken stage curtain.)

I talked to some of the gals from Holland, Lansing, and Muskegon, and was glad to see such a big group. Any of you gals from our zone that I don't know, give me a hello at the next contest. I'd like to meet more of you.

They pulled a sneaky on me. I said I'd write a report for Grand Rapids, and then they tell me it's for all of Zone III. So send me your news items, girls. I'll do my best.

ZONE 4

by Janet Carpenter

2244 W. CARO ROAD
CARO, MICHIGAN
48273

Boyne City, Traverse City, Cadillac,
Les Cheneaux, Sault Ste. Marie, Holly-
Fenton, Saginaw, Flint

The Contest is over, but who has time to feel let down? The pace of Chapter Shows and parties is building toward the holidays and it's "Honey, where's my cummerbund?" or "Hurry up, we have to practice before the show" or would you believe "You've ironed the wrong shirt - it's the white with the red ruffles not the red with white lace."¹

But speaking of the Contest, WOW!¹ What a time we had. Gene and Doris Gillem's hospitality room was visited by nearly everyone including Swannie Szutkowski, Lois Mueller and Jean Roozenburg, wives of some of the Ring Masters. Their lead Tom Peil's girl Joan Stevens and his parents were down to cheer for them. The wives of the Bean Town Four, Carlene Beaver, Janet Carpenter, Pat Deming and Joan Kienitz

accompanied their husbands as they entertained. Our Zone Veep Ron Gillies and his wife Norma also enjoyed the festivities.

Lydia Johnson and Marsha Bateson went along with their hubbies when the Eversharps sang at the Lansing Show. Also attending were Gene and Doris Gillem.

Rick and Judy Meldrum of the Saginaw-Bay Chapter have a new baby named Brian Joseph.

Recently the Flint Chapter had their annual Ladies Night. It was a huge success with pink remembrance corsages for the ladies, dancing, prizes and entertainment by the Bean Town Four. Among those enjoying the dance music provided by the Banjo All-Stars were Neil and Irene Norman, Ron and Norma Gillies, Ray and Nolla Goddall, Les and Irene Lang, Fred and Joan Kienitz and Doug and Carlene Beaver. Around midnight we all feasted on a supper arranged by Carol (Mrs. Larry) Anderson and Irene Norman.

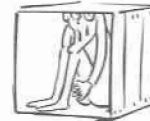
The next Tuesday night the Holly-Fenton Chapter held a combination Box Lunch Social and Masquerade Party for their wives. Everyone had a great time and made some money for their chapter by auctioning off the box lunches. Entertainment was provided by the Reasonaires from Pontiac and an impromptu local quartet who called themselves the Bavarians. Jay and Xenia Welch won one of the costume awards dressed as Laugh In's Gladys and her "Dirty Old Man." The other award went to Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Strom who were described as a pair of very sexy hippies.

The Saginaw-Bay Auxiliary held a Tupperware party last month. This month they are busy getting ready for the Chapter's Show October 25th. Come one, come all.

KORTET & KORUS KORNER

The double panel judging system employed at the Jackson Contest evidently paid off. Seventeen quartets entered the Contest to form the biggest field in recent memory. They finished like this:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| VAGABONDS | 2783 |
| INVOICES | 2710 |
| KASUAL D's | 2566 |
| HARMONY HOUNDS | 2505 |
| BEAN TOWN FOUR | 2325 |
| RING MASTERS | 2323 |
| CHORD REPORTERS | 2317 |
| NILE-LATERS | 2242 |
| ROYAL COACHMEN | 1098 |
| MILLIONAIRES | 1048 |
| SOUNDSATIONS | 1043 |
| TUNE TAILORS | 1035 |
| FOR-TUNE TELLERS | 1027 |
| "C" FARERS | 997 |
| BURRILL BROS. | 882 |
| RESONAIRES | 849 |
| WILLIAM G. HARDING MEMORIAL FOUR | 749 |



MY QUARTET
LOST

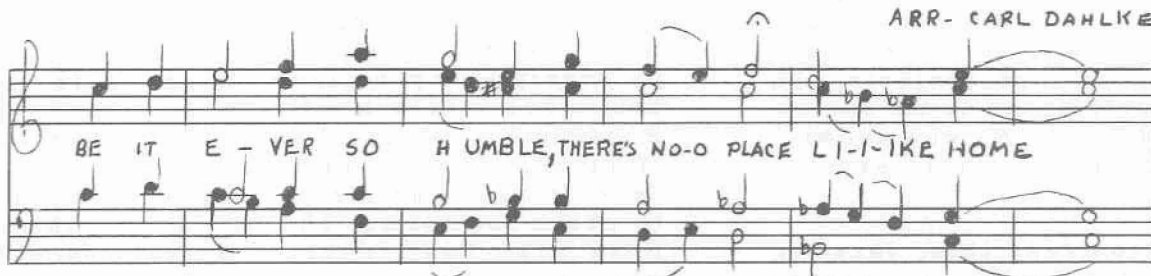
THE CHORUS CONTEST -

| | |
|------------------|------|
| WOLVERINES | 1497 |
| WAYNE WONDERLAND | 1393 |
| MOTOR CITY | 1346 |
| HOLLAND | 1131 |
| GREAT LAKES | 1098 |
| NILES BUCHANAN | 1091 |
| LANSING | 1082 |
| JACKSON | 1034 |
| LAKESHORE | 993 |
| BATTLE CREEK | 988 |



FROM THE MUSICALLY FERTILE MIND OF CARL DAHLKE COMES THIS LITTLE GEM, "BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME". JUST WAIT UNTIL YOU BARIS AND LEADS TAKE THAT SPINE TINGLING, ORGAN-LIKE RIDE IN THE LAST TWO BARS OF THE TAG. THE TENOR HAS THE LEAD ALL OF THE WAY, AND THE BASS WILL WANT TO SING A "B" NATURAL INSTEAD OF A "B" FLAT IN THE NEXT TO LAST MEASURE. HIT HIM IF HE DOES!!!

ARR- CARL DAHLKE



QUICK!!! SOMEBODY
BLOW A "C"!!!!



MOTOR CITY FOUR (See photo - Gene Jenkins, Bill Stinson, Phil Stinson, Harold Wright)

THE FOUR SHORTIES (Al Johnson, Larry Christian, A. F. Zelano, E. R. Corbin)

Was it a success? Ask anyone who was there. Total receipts from sale of tickets amounted to \$1,746.30; Expenditures were \$910.00; with net proceeds to the chapter treasury of \$834.30, part of which was contributed to the Veterans in Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek.

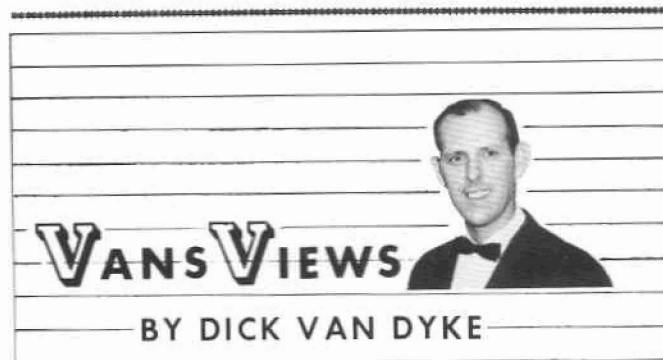
Thus, on June 12, 1946 a chapter institution was born which has since become an annual event. Beginning in 1950 this cruise has been under the guiding hand of chapter member Arthur Schulze.

Harold was also enthusiastic in fostering the establishment of the annual chapter parade of quartets which has also become an institution. Ever since the Ford Auditorium was built, the big show has been held there. His great love for quartet singing was satisfied when he and the Stinson brothers and Gene Jenkins merged their talents in the Motor City Four. This quartet was securely tied together by strands of close harmony for over ten years. They were in demand for all kinds of functions and gave freely of their time and talents. In April 1944 when Windsor across the water had qualified as a chapter, Carroll Adams, National Secretary, tucked a chapter in his pocket and gave the nod to the Motor City Four to follow him. They entertained the Windsor brothers and after Adams handed the charter to the president, Bob Jones, a new chapter was born and SPEBSQSA became International in scope.

Following Harold's retirement he and his wife Inez, whom he married in

1924, moved to their 217 acre farm near Jackson to fish and hunt and raise cattle. This congenial enterprise continued for about five years when their close relationship was severed by the untimely death of his wife. For the past several years he was a man alone except for the able assistance given by his brother Ed of Livonia and his sister Pauline Olson of Ann Arbor, one of whom visited him each week. His constant companions were his two dogs, ten cats and fifty-five head of cattle.

The name of Harold D. Wright must be embossed on the scroll of barbershoppers who did so much in the early years to make SPEBSQSA the great society it is today.



I am not clever enough with words to adequately describe a barbershop convention. Not many people are; but perhaps the most apt description was rendered by an A.B.C. announcer as he offered this definition of the 1966 International Contests in Chicago's McCormack Place (rewritten to fit the district level):

They call it The Pioneer District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, and a packed auditorium sat and listened to the finest quartets and choruses in the district as they competed for the top honors. The chorus selected will represent The Pioneer District in International Competition next June in Atlantic City; the winning quartet will serve as the 1969-70 Pioneer District Champions.

The chorus contest saw 10 of the districts finest choruses harmonizing for top honors. When the rafters had stopped ringing from the finely tuned chords, The Great Lakes Chorus from Grand Rapids was in fifth place, The Windmill Chorus, Holland in fourth, The Motor City Chorus from Detroit in third place, The Wonderland Chorus, Wayne, in second; and the winners - the 1970 Inter-

Published by the Pioneer District of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.
Inc. with offices in the First National Building, Detroit,
Mich. 48226

Keep America Singing

Editor - Dick Van Dyke
Art and layout - John Morris
Advertising rates - available on request
Subscription rates - \$2.50 per year
Single copy price - 25 cents
Copy deadline - 25th of prior month
Published Monthly except July & August
Photography - Bill Pascher
Mail all pertinent correspondence to:

Dick Van Dyke
The Pioneer Troubadour
Box 1969
Madison Heights, Michigan 48071

POSTMAN:

Mail address changes and undelivered copies to the
above address.

Second-class postage paid in Detroit, Michigan

men of note

The membership of The Pioneer District is on the rise once again. Let's try to keep it up. Remember, the number of quartets we send to the International Contests next summer is dictated by the district's percentage of the society's total membership. As of September 30th, the society's membership was 31,752 scattered through 722 chapters, and the Pioneer District's portion was 1464, an increase over August of 22. Part of the reason for the increase is the following men of note:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Norm Silvernail | 2 |
| Gerry Gabel | 1 |
| Bob Bos | 1 |
| Bob Vanins | 2 |
| Bob Essenberg | 2 |
| John Brenner | 1 |
| Ed James | 2 |

Do you have yours yet? ? ?

ROBT L MILLER
576 DE SOTO 156
YPSILANTI MI 48197

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER



Coming Events

Requests for Parade clearance and sanction fee payments should be sent to: Louis R. Harrington, District Secretary, 2361 First National Building, Detroit, Michigan, 48226.

- February 28, 1970 Oakland County Parade
- March 14, 1970 Three Rivers Parade
- April 4, 1970 Bush League, Boyne City
- April 11, 1970 Battle Creek Parade
- April 18, 1970 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids
- April 24-26, 1970 International Preliminaries & District Spring Meeting, Muskegon
- May 2, 1970 Windsor Parade, Windsor, Ont.
- June 22-27, 1970 International Convention, Atlantic City
- October 9-11, 1970 District Annual Meeting & Contests, Windsor, Ontario
- April 17, 1971 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids
- April 23-25, 1971 International Preliminaries, Traverse City
- October 8-10, 1971 District Contest