

SEPT 69

pioneer

# TROUBADOUR



SEPTEMBER, 1969

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INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO  
THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. boasts a membership of 29,885 as of July 31st, and the Pioneer District claims 1404 of them. The Pioneer District is comprised of 34 Chapters, six of which are currently on associate status. This means that their membership has dropped below 25 members. The only really successful way to keep your chapter off associate status is by getting new members. The following MEN OF NOTE are doing their part:

|                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| Rod Ames             | # 1 |
| Jack Germaine        | # 1 |
| Bill Price           | # 1 |
| Bill Adams           | # 1 |
| Gene Johnson         | # 4 |
| Jack Bennett         | # 1 |
| Fred Kendall (eight) | # 8 |
| Peter Nelson         | # 1 |
| Maurice Allen        | # 1 |
| Keith Crocker        | # 2 |
| Rawleigh Gregory     | # 1 |

Do you have # 1 yet? If so, what are you doing about # 2.

# on the cover

QUESTION: What quartet was organized in February of 1967, and five short months later were judged to be the 27th best quartet in the world??? The answer, of course, is the fabulous Sharplifters from the Detroit Chapter of the Pioneer District. Their meteoric rise to International fame includes, in addition to their first International Contest, District Championship at the tender age of eight months, a return visit to International Competition where they placed 11th, and singing engagements across the country including appearances on national TV (Joey Bishop and ABC News Special) and locally on the Channel 7 Morning Show and Dwayne Riley's Feature Story on channel 4.

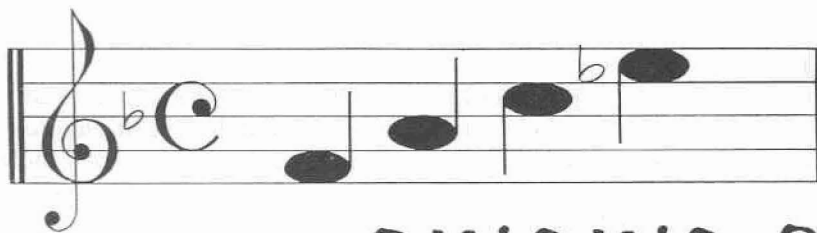
On the 15th of August, they took their unique sounds on a 21 day, 17,694 air mile, U.S.O. sponsored trip to entertain troupes in Armed Forces Hospitals in the Far East. The trip, which originated in Detroit (and included Lowell Thomas who took over bass when Mike Mudgett was transferred to St. Louis by his business) took them to San Francisco and on to the Orient for stops in Japan, Okinawa, the Phillipines, Guam, and Hawaii. Red Carpet treatment greeted them at every stop, because our Sharplifters were all commissioned Full Colonels for the duration of the trip.

According to tenor Bill Wickstrom, the hardest part of the trip was arranging their vacations simultaneously, since like most barbershop quartets, their places of employment are widely varied. Bill is an Employment executive with the U.S. Department of Labor; Lead Joe Coburn is a salesman for the Colton Company; John Seeman, who sings bari, is a business form salesman for Rotary Manifold Forms; and bass Lowell Thomas is a "coordinator" for the Marathon Oil Co.

Maureen Wickstrom, Bill's lovely wife, tells us the only thing the Sharplifters wives requested of the quartet was that they take their baths at home before they leave for Japan (and, we assume, travel dirty for 21 days.) Having been in Japan and Okinawa, Maureen, we think the restrictions are too harsh.

Why the Sharplifters didn't invite us along to "handle details" or something, is still a mystery.

IMPORTANT: All address changes must be given to your Chapter Secretary; make sure your Chapter Secretary forwards this information to International (our source of mailing labels) THIS IS THE ONLY WAY TO INSURE DELIVERY OF YOUR TROUBADOR.



## SINGING OUT, Editorially



I welcome this opportunity to lead off this new series in the Troubadour with a few words relating to our fun hobby and some of the reasons why all of us find it so satisfying to our inneregoes. Our hobby is music. We like to sing and we like to hear others sing. And thank goodness, most of our activities are built on this premise. I think that all of us at some time or another have belonged to other types of organizations where it was common to see cliquishness, social climbing, dishonest back room politics and a high degree of bickering, back biting and discord. The feelings of the more mild-mannered were not always considered when the decisions were promulgated and pushed through by the vocal minority.

I think this is the one big reason why our society has been so successful. We seem to attract gentle men with strength of purpose and character who do not want, or will they permit others to use our society for their own purposes. Our Code of Ethics dictates a standard of behavior to guide those who might be inclined to use our society and its membership to their personal advantages. We limit our administrative activity to a necessary minimum and we promote the singing of our songs as the dominant part of all of our meetings. I have yet to hear any quartet sing songs of protest. It isn't that many of us do not feel strongly about many different subjects or conditions about us, it remains that we get together, we have a single purpose in mind, that of finding the joy and the pleasure that comes from blending our voices with others who share in this enjoyment.

And while we enjoy our efforts we couldn't begin to find full expression if it wasn't for the opportunities of singing for others. Here barbershopping begins to take on its real meaning. We generate an inner pride as we give pleasure to others. The extent to which we give of ourselves through altruistic services of our time, talent and financial help can be a yardstick of what we personally gain through our association. We must never let it be said that we only sing for ourselves for if we do, our hobby dies with us.

One thing that has never ceased to amaze me over my years of barbershopping are the smiling faces in a room full of men. If you've never done so, take a look around you when a quartet perform for you, any quartet, any four men. Sure, we the barbershoppers, enjoy our hobby but never lose sight of the fact that to extend our society, we have to sing for others. This should be the target of every quartet and every chorus in our District. If most of us were to double our outside commitments, with and without fees, I'm sure we would see many new faces at our meetings, and these too, would be smiling faces. How about it? How many times have you sung out this year?

E.E. Pat Ryan

Pioneer District Treasurer

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

# chapter news

We thought it about time that the Traverse City Chapter should be heard from. On the night of June 14, 1969 The Third Annual Traverse City June Night of Harmony was held here in our fine city. The Feature Quartet was the Auto Towners and they in turn were followed by The Four Fits and The Fore-Tune-Tellers. Plus the Traverse City Chorus. There was almost a full house of over one thousand people and we are so pleased to say that Barbershop has not lost one bit of it's punch here in this Northern City.

There were visitors from Lansing, Cadillac, Boyne City, Manistee and as far away as the State of Calif. The After Glow was held in the Dome at The Park Place Motor Inn and was a huge success.

Note to the Auto Towners. I quote "YOU MAY REST ASSURE THAT THE BIG MOUTHS THAT WERE SO RUDE DURING YOUR SONG WERE SOUNDLY CHASTISED." End of quote.

May I also take this column to thank off the well wishers that made us feel so proud but not stuck up for speaking so kindly of our performance at Bay City. It is our honest feeling that the Bay City Chapter did a real great job in Hosting the Convention and Competition. We only hope and pray that The Traverse City Chapter can do a job for the Spring Competition in 1971 that will make all of the Barbershoppers here in the Pioneer District "Talk" about it for many many moons.

Sunday July 13th at the Yuba Park near Traverse City we held the first Outing with Boyne City, and Cadillac Michigan. Thanks to all of our good neighbors

for joining in on the fun and good harmony. We also hope that this will turn out to be an annual affair and that in the years to come that we may be able to have an outing that might well reach the proportions of the Harrisville Labor Day Weekend. Well folks we can dream can't we???

We are all looking forward to the coming visit of Bob Johnson once again in this Northern Country as he certainly perks up anyone who might be sort of resting during the hot summer months. Keep up the fine work Bob "we all love you" and your wonderful ways of teaching music to some of us Crows. Specially me.

Here is a Northern Michigan joke. Fellow says to his friend "would you be interested in buying a 1968 Henway for \$40.00?" His friend says "about two and a half to three pounds depending on its size." Ha Ha. Or what have you?

Max A. Carter

Traverse City Chapter

Just a few lines from the Three Rivers Chapter.

On June 16th, the chapter and their wives had a strawberry feed, in which the Battle Creek chapter and their wives were invited. Both groups with their chorus and quartets enjoyed a lovely songfest, which lasted till midnight.

In the matter of the S&H stamps to help furnish the rooms at Wichita, we contributed \$79.00 with the help of our guests.

We contributed \$25.00 to the Harmony Hounds to go to St. Louis for the National Convention.

Our new meeting place is the second block south of the court house in Centerville in the Mason building at 8:00 every Monday night.

George Mooney - Reporter

## Monroe Chapter

Things have been going slowly but well down here. Our boys have been visiting, sang at the Petersburg Centennial, and will sing at the Monroe County Fair August 7th. This is an annual occurrence which we always enjoy. We are well received and the audience has yet to shower us with anything but applause (I say this thankfully since we are surrounded by much produce and livestock at this fair).

Monroe enjoyed an outing at the North Cape Yacht Club as the guests of member Art Lusty and his lovely lady Lois. Those who attended had a good time and the nicest Sunday we've seen in quite a while. Arthur would be okay if he would quit climbing up on the Crows Nest to bellow Mother Machree in Bass.

We were extremely fortunate August 14th. We had a visitation by the Toledo Chapter. That included their own THE BROTHERS THREE AND ME, and the LOW FOURS. Wayne was represented by the INVOICES. Our own TWILIGHTERS were on and the climax was the group the SHARPLIFTERS. This was an unexpected night and one of the best shows I've had the pleasure of seeing. This was all arranged last minute by and for a Tired old Bass we elected as our re-director

Bob Whitledge has again undertaken the task of browbeating our chapter to the Chorus Championship. You should hear the fine sounds from Monroe if we can steal Bob's tranquilizers. HE FELL ASLEEP. We are afraid he'll fall off the stage. I know no Bari ever gave anyone an Ulcer.

Well good luck Bob and good fortune Monroe.

Ron Koshik - Reporter



## Oakland County Chapter

First things first - so - The Wolverine Chorus would like to thank everyone of you for the financial and the moral support we received to help us along the way to St. Louis. Exceptional gratitude and appreciation go to Duane Mozier, The Wonderlads, The Sharplifters, and the Detroit #1, Pontiac, Wayne, Dearborn and the Lansing Chapters. Fellows - we can't thank you enough and, when the tables are turned, we pledge our whole-hearted support to you.

Secondly; thanks go again to all who helped fill the Little Brown Jug. It costs a bundle to take a quartet to International Contests because, believe me, in a week you can learn more there, than you can, in years, at a lone chapter level. You get a chance to hear and see what fantastic talent exists within this great society of ours and, if you don't average 4 or 5 hours a day singing, you aren't really trying. Man - you stop on a corner, waiting for a light, and if there are 4, you'll sing, if you want to...

But; most importantly, it gives you a chance to develop yourself and/or your chorus. They show you how it should be done and that can fill your noggin with all sorts of valuable ideas, stuff and nonsense.

Our July meeting saw 52 of us, plus the Sharplifters and Vagabonds, welcome four new members:

Jim Brown, Jim McCatty, Harold Milburn & Jack Zook.

Each and all are great guys, workers and singers - welcome to the fold! And congratulations to their men of note.

The guys in the Far East are in for a real treat when the Sharplifters make their tour in August. Good luck guys and hurry back. Wow - what a quartet!! And just wait till you hear the Vagabonds with their new Tenor Ken Gibson, of the Lansing Chapter.

Our August meeting (Bermuda Shorts Night), featuring a visitation from the Pontiac Chapter and, again, the Vagabonds, saw about 80 of us knocking down the walls with chord vibrations emanating from all kinds of pick-up quartets formed by M.C. "Silver Fox" Tom Rafferty. I left early, 1:45, but the hall was still filled with "boondogglers" so I guess they were having a good time. Those Pontiac members could sing the shoes off Gene Gillem and brother, that's going some.

THE NEW DEADLINE FOR COPY WILL BE STRICTLY ADHERED TO:

CHAPTER REPORTS - 25TH OF PRECEDING MONTH

ALL OTHER COPY INCLUDING ADS MUST BE IN BY THE 20TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

One of the highlights of the meeting was the Legs Contest with awards given for "Hairiest", "Sexiest" and the "Knobbiest" (knees) Dig these Gems:



Sorry guys, But I can't give out names or phone numbers....

September will bring our annual Chapter Family Corn Roast, first Friday "fun night" meeting and chorus rehearsal every Monday - c'mon in and see us.

By the time you read this, Harrisville will be long gone but - boy - did we have a good time.

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

Jackson, Michigan

Here we are again and looking forward to seeing you all at Jackson come October ??? what ever the date, just look for the ad that is some where in the Troubador I think.

Jackson has been busy all summer long what with a job every month and the Chapter Quartets have been on the go too. What with the up and coming fall convention every member has been going strong. And I know as in the past, Jackson will have for you one BIG show that you will be talking about when the next one rolls around. What with all the jobs and members working on the fall convention it was decided by our president not to have your annual summer picnic. Well I have to close this letter and start getting ready for the trip to Harrisville and the Annual Labor Day Fun. So in closing we will look for you in October.

Joe Hubbard - Reporter



## OBSERVER



I hope all of you barbershoppers have enjoyed the summer and your vacations. It was a busy summer around the District.

The Dearborn Chapter held a fund raising, Ladies Night in June before the St. Louis Convention with all of the proceeds for the evening going to our representatives to International - The Wolverine Chorus from O.C.C., The Eversharps from the Saginaw-Bay and the Flint Chapters, The Harmony Hounds from Benton Harbor, and The Invoices from Wayne. Dearborn donated \$595.00 as a result of the evening. Also entertaining was The Motor City Chorus from Detroit, The Wonderlads Chorus from Wayne, and The Sharplifters from the Detroit Chapter, (who donated a check to all of the representatives.) The evening was topped off with a fine buffet lunch, prepared and served by Norbert and Millie Shamus. District President Gene Gillem emceed the affair.

Motor City Chorus wives helped the Chapter celebrate their 30th Anniversary in June at Dick and Kay Westbrook's home in Southfield, Michigan. It was attended by many, and Jackie Amperse set up a program of pick-up quartets, and Bill Butler directed the Chorus in a couple of songs. The wives presented the Chorus with a cake baked by Jean Butler, denoting the years with candles, bearing a miniature chorus director, barberpoles, lamp posts, musical staves, and so forth. The wives sang "Happy Anniversary" and the evening was topped off with a fine buffet lunch.

Ken Sherman (Redford) visited his daughter in Orlando Fla. recently and found a barbershopper in the form of Forrest Haynes, Bass of the MID STATES FOUR, living next door. What a pleasant surprise.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Al Eason who recently celebrated their 43rd Wedding Anniversary, partly by attending the International Convention in St. Louis.

Congratulations also, to Tom and Harriet Rafferty who recently celebrated their 25th Anniversary. They were at the Convention with their son and daughter.

Jerry Larkins, (formerly a Dearborn member and now a member of the Reseda Chapter in California) was at the St. Louis Convention. He and his wife recently celebrated their 39th Wedding Anniversary.

It was good to see Mike and Helen Mudgett (former bass of the Sharplifters) at the Convention. The Mudgetts live in St. Louis with their children.

Best wishes for a most happy marriage go to Earl "Doc" Liss and Mrs. Esther Church who tied the knot recently. Doc is a member of the Detroit Chapter and the newlyweds live in St. Clair Shores.

It is good to see Dot (Mrs. Hank) Weichman and Jean (Mrs. Pat) Ryan, both of whom were recently hospitalized, up and around again.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes to the Doug Beaver family (Bari-Bean Town Four) for the loss of their two year old son who was fatally struck by a car.

Mike Arnone recently visited Mr. & Mrs. Ben Landino in Florida. Ben, a former Grosse Pointe member, is recuperating from a recent hospital stay and would appreciate hearing from you. His address is: 7181 S. W. 10th Street, Hollywood, Florida.

Bob and Marion Wharton (former Redford Member) recently visited Steve and Audrey Vickers and other friends here.

Rush Wyman, formerly from the Lansing and Jackson Chapters was seen at the International Convention again. He's been a Society member for 29 years, and this was his 28th Convention. He's now a member of the Akron, Ohio Chapter.

Frances and George Dyer were third in line (at 5:30 a.m.) to purchase tickets for next year's Convention in Atlantic City. Over 1300 people joined in before the St. Louis Convention was over.

Convention goers were treated with a visit from Judi Ford, this year's Miss America.

The Ladies Hospitality room at the Convention was well attended. Drawings for prizes were held daily, and many new friends were made while enjoying the refreshments that were provided by the St. Louis Chapter wives.

Oakland County's hospitality room was capably handled by the Wolverine wives (known as the P.A.L. T.A.L.S.) A constant parade of quartets kept the well attended Baroque room entertained till the "wee hours."

Detroit's rain soaked Bob-Lo Moonlight cruise was a success in spite of the weather. 1200 people from around the District listened to the Motor City Chorus, the Four Fits, the Harmony Hounds, the Sharplifters, Bean Town Four, and the Chordials. The Sweet Adelines contributed the Socialites (from S.O.C.) and the Hits and Misses, a brand new quartet from Toledo.

Sing-cheerily,

Dora Vogel

309 Bellanger Road

Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan 48236

Phone - TU5-2094

## PONTIAC CHAPTER

The Pontiac Chapter maintained a busy schedule throughout the summer weeks for its<sup>1</sup> membership.

June 14th on Walters Lake was the date and the site for a fishing derby. Several members showed up with various and sundry fishing gear in an attempt to land the "big one". A fish fry topped off the days events.

Our regular meeting was June 20th, and it brought out many members in their Bermudas. It was "Bermuda Shorts Night", and such a display of knees we have never seen.

Forty some odd members and guests supported the Detroit Chapter's annual BOB-LO MOONLIGHT Cruise, traveling via Chartered Bus.

The Combined efforts of the Pontiac and Oakland County Chapters contributed towards the success of a picnic at Stony Creek Park on July 27th. Fun, games, and watermelon eating was enjoyed by those in attendance.

The first Friday in August found 15 members visiting the O.C.C. meeting.

Now, we are all set and looking forward to Harrisville and getting back to the Fall routine of B-Shopping, the greatest hobby a man can get himself involved in. Any arguments ???

Reporter - Lyle Howard

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

Detroit #1 Chapter

Is everyone as busy as we are, planning and packing for the Harrisville Camp-out, which is only a few days away?

On a rainy, rainy day, Detroit #1's Moonlite Cruise was a great success, thanks to all of the out-of-towners who faithfully showed up.

Beautiful Camp Dearborn was the site of our annual family picnic. From 8:00A.M., brunch till past sunset, the big and little kids had a big day.

Reporting,

John Nieghorn

# GET YOUR SPIRITS UP!!

## TRY A JACKSON "CHORDIAL"

**A Mixed Drink? . . . . No, A Mix of Harmony Available in Jackson, Oct. 10, 11, 12**

**Don't Drink It, Pour It In Your Ears!**

**HEADQUARTERS — Hayes Hotel**  
**CONTESTS — Parkside High School**

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>TICKETS:</b> | <b>QUARTET PRELIMS — \$1.50</b> |
|                 | <b>CHORUS CONTEST — \$1.50</b>  |
|                 | <b>QUARTET FINALS — \$2.50</b>  |
|                 | <b>AFTERGLOW — \$1.50</b>       |
|                 | <b>ALL EVENTS — \$6.00</b>      |

**For Tickets and Room Reservations:**

**Bill Boxden**  
**104 N. Blackstone**  
**Jackson, Mich. 49201**





## letters to the editor

### An Open Letter to Pioneer District Barbershoppers :

It's tough to know just where to start when we try to express our thanks to all of you for the support given to us as we went to the 31st International Convention and Contest in St. Louis. The financial help and the moral support given us by numerous Chapters and the individuals was greatly appreciated. To know that so many people in the PIONEER DISTRICT were behind us kept the "Hounds" tails wagging happily.

To walk onto that stage Thursday night and hear the applause and cheers from all of the Pioneer District Barbershoppers made us feel right at home. (Well, perhaps except for the knocking knees.)

While in St. Louis, we were fortunate enough to appear on KMOX radio at 10:15 for 15 minutes live performance on Wednesday morning in St. Louis. Noon Wednesday found us performing at the Visitor's Center in the Post Office and in the afternoon we were filmed by Charles Kurralt of CBS-News. (To our knowledge it's never been shown on TV.) Thursday afternoon we appeared on Channel 5, KSB-TV in color.

Thursday night, of course, was our appearance in the contest. We were pleased to place 39th the "first time out" at an International Convention. (We hope it's not the last.) And, we were surprised to discover that only 80 points (out of a possible 3000) would have moved us up 7 places.

We had the opportunity to perform Thursday and Friday nights on the Chorditorium, and Friday we had the privilege of singing for the Past International Presidents and their wives on the Becky Thatcher Riverboat. (It sank the next day.) Saturday night found us making the rounds of the Hospitality Rooms and we finally quit at 4:30 A.M. "dog-tired."

Our trip was certainly a "howling" success. We felt it a great honor and privilege to represent the Pioneer District, and again wish to express our thanks to all.

Yours in "Dog-gone" harmony,

THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Dick, Roger, Larry and Ron

Dear Ed,

As the years fly by I find myself right in the middle of old age and I think of that latin phrase Tempus fugit and Semper felix (always fortunate to be alive) and so I figure now is the time to mark my calendar to celebrate our 50th anniversary (golden wedding), come September 16th 1969. One of the grandest things that could happen to us was when the doctor said "Keep him singing he can live to be a hundred" and to the wife, "with your sharp ears you won't miss anything."

To some of the youngsters I might mention the Metro 4 who sang over the Red Apple Club Radio program. The INTER-CITY 4 (before Barbershoppers were organized), who made trips to Royal Oak, Port Huron, Clawson, and Pontiac, for one night stands. I am proud to be on the Grosse Pointe "Lake Shore Chorus." Also with the 19th Century 4. When you add the number of years of harmony you'll get very close to 285 years.

Oh I forgot to mention that Loretta and I have 13 grand children, and two great grand children, "Oops" I am getting old. We are the parents of 3 girls and a boy.

And so I come to the end of my bragging with these words, Sin-gu omnia vincit, which means "singing overcomes every difficulty."

Writing to you on the impulse of the moment I am sure in your kindness you will remember,

Meinrad and Loretta Braun

Grosse Pointe Chapter and Auxilliary.

The Wolverine Chorus  
Oakland County Chapter  
Oakland County, Michigan

We of the Wolverine Chorus would like to express our thanks for the support given us as representative of the Pioneer District at the recent International Chorus Contest in St. Louis. Special mention should be made of contributions to our travel fund by the following:

- The Pioneer District
- The Dearborn, Detroit, Pontiac, Lansing and Wayne Chapters.
- The Sharplifters and Wonderlads Quartets
- The PAL TALS (Oakland County Wives)
- Duane Mosier, one of our Chapter's oldest members

Members of the Chorus were also gratified by the number of men from other Chapters in the District who attended the Convention and cheered us on. We feel proud to be a part of such a fine District.

Fran Durham



**PLAN A BUS TRIP NOW - BRING YOUR WIVES - JUST  
55 MINUTES FROM THE DETROIT BRIDGE VIA  
EXPRESSWAY - TO THE 1st ANNUAL**

**INTERNATIONAL - ONTARIO - MICHIGAN  
NOVICE QUARTET  
CONTEST**

**SPONSORED BY  
CHATHAM CHAPTER, NOV. 8, 1969**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Quartets that are less than 2 years old
- Quartets that have never competed at District Level
- Choruses must be directed by Assistant Chorus Directors only

**— TROPHIES**

**— QUALIFIED JUDGING**  
(Certified or Candidate Judges)

**For Further Information Write:**

**FRANK SYSEL  
R.R. 4  
CHATHAM, ONTARIO**

# BOARD NEWS

August 15, 1969

## PIONEER DISTRICT

By action of the District's Board of Directors, we now own two Logopedics films. The first, of course, is the narrated by Art Baker and has been seen across the District by almost everyone. The second is a new film which was narrated by comedian Bob Newhart. Both films are excellent for presenting to service organizations (Lions, Rotary, JayCeers, Church groups, etc.) They can be obtained by contacting Service Project Chairman Bob Dixon, 403 S. Main Street, Bellevue, Michigan, 49021.

Chapter Presidents, please note . . . if your Chapter has 49 or less members, you are entitled to one delegate to the House of Delegates meeting; if your membership is between 50 and 99 you are entitled to two delegates; if you have a hundred or more, you are allowed three. The house of delegates meeting will again be on Friday night of the Convention week-end.

There was some discussion of lengthening the convention to a full three days. This would allow the Delegates to the Convention to participate in the regular activities. What do you think????

Bids will be taken at this Convention for the Fall, 1971 Convention. Has your Chapter ever bid on a Convention? It's time you did!

Letter To: Gene Gillem, Pioneer District President

Hi Gene!

In gathering the information for my June 6th memo to you regarding "Lee and Rich", it appears that I was on the receiving end of some wrong figures for the total contributions received from the Pioneer District during the month of May. I gave you a total of \$1,400.00 as being received during the month of May, whereas the correct total should be \$1,150.00.

This will change the Pioneer District's May 31st suspense account reserve balance to \$3,503.15. Deducting the back payments of \$3,420.00 from this amount will leave a balance at this time of \$83.15 rather than the \$333.15 as shown in my memo.

My apologies for the error.

Warmest personal regards.

D. William Fitzgerald

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

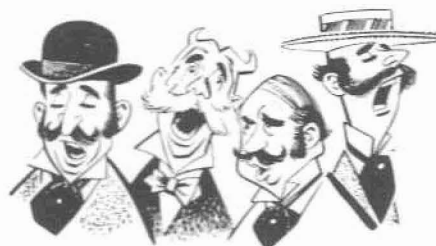
Gentlemen:

It is with great pride the Nominating Committee presents the following names, to be placed in nomination for the respective offices for the Pioneer District for the year 1970.

|  |  |
|--|--|
| District President   | Tom Damm<br>18148 Lovell Rd.<br>Spring Lake, Mich. 49456                 |
| Immediate Past Pres. (Per By-Laws)   | Gene Gillem<br>902 W. Ardussi<br>Frankenmuth, Michigan                   |
| Vice President Zone # 1  | Tom Pollard<br>15019 Flamingo<br>Livonia, Mich. 48154                    |
| Vice President Zone # 2  | Richard Simpson<br>4726 Birchaven Rd.<br>Jackson, Michigan 49201         |
| Vice President Zone # 3  | Don Funk<br>1451 Harvard Rd.<br>East Lansing, Mich. 48823                |
| Vice President Zone # 4  | Clifford MacLean<br>P.O. Box 371<br>Cedarville, Michigan                 |
| Treasurer  | E.E. "Pat" Ryan<br>743 N. Melborn<br>Detroit, Michigan 48128             |
| Secretary  | William Warner<br>23531 Meadowlark<br>Oak Park, Michigan 48237           |
| Administrative Asst. & Counsel   | Louis R. Harrington<br>2361 First Nat'l Bldg.<br>Detroit, Michigan 48226 |
| Troubadour Editor (Not Elected)  | Dick VanDyke<br>30452 Westmore<br>Madison Heights, Mich. 48071           |
| International Board Member<br>(To be elected for a 2-year term)<br>(1970-1971) | Gene Gillem<br>902 W. Ardussi<br>Frankenmuth, Michigan                   |

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Schultz  
Chairman



## ST. LOUIS CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The Mark IV continued their march through the medalist ranks - which started with third place in 1967 in Los Angeles - and sang their way to the International Championship for 1969 as well as into the hearts of nearly 6,000 barbershoppers and their families registered for the 31st Annual Convention and Contest.

The Eversharps jumped up to 34th in their second try, and The Harmony Hounds and Invoices finished 39th and 44th, respectively, in their first attempts.

The Louisville Thoroughbreds became the second chorus in the Society history to win the International Championship for the third time. The only other three-time chorus Championship winner was the Pekin, Ill. Chorus.

The Wolverine Chorus from C.C.C. finished 13th.

The Pioneer District's entry in the P.R.O.B.E. Booth Contest placed a strong third, thanks to an active Committee composed of Chairman Bill Warner, Bob McDermott, Bill Pascher, E.E. Pat Ryan, and Del Badgley. Special thanks goes to John Morris who did all of the art work for the booth.

To bring the Official Quartet Contest Rules into agreement with actions taken by the Board in the past year, Article 6 of the rules dealing with "good standing" was revised to read:

"All members of competing quartets shall be members of the Society in good standing of their home chapters. Members of a quartet who have paid full dues to their Chapter shall be considered in good standing whether or not the chapter has forwarded payment to the District or International. To be eligible for competition, quartets shall be registered with the International Office. Quartets containing members belonging to two or more chapters in different districts must specify on their registration from the District in which they wish to compete, and quartets whose members are members of chapters located entirely within one district must compete in that district's contests. No quartet may compete in more than one District and/or International Preliminary Contest per year."

The new Logopedics film-the second produced by the Society and the Institute collaborating together - was previewed by the Board and District Presidents and a joint meeting of the Executive Committee, Service Committee, District Presidents and District Service Chairman. All agreed the film was outstanding and would be of great value to every chapter as a public relations tool in their community as well as among service clubs. The film was directed and pro-

duced by Lou Sisk of the Pittsburgh Chapter, script written by staff member Hugh Ingraham in cooperation with John Kincheloe and the staff of the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita. Comedian Bob Newhart, a friend of the Institute and now barbershopping, donated his services to narrate the film.

A new convention feature, a "Comedy Quartet Show" premiered Friday afternoon in the Kiel Opera House, where nearly 1,500 barbershoppers were kept in stitches by the Merry Mugs, Midnight Silers, Dignitaries, Four-Do-Matics and Knumb Notes. The audience was unanimous in its desire to have this type of show repeated each year. All proceeds will go to the Old Songs Library. The Decca Record Company recorded the Comedy Show and copies of the recording may be ordered from International Headquarters for \$1.00.

### RECORD ORDER FORM

Mail to: SPEBSQSA  
P.O. Box 575  
Kenosha, Wis.  
53141

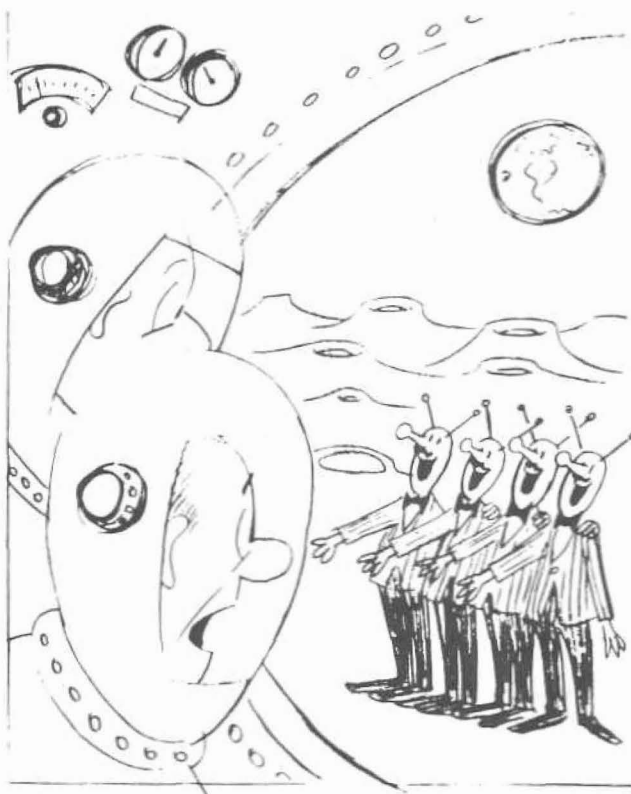
Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the cost of \_\_\_\_\_

recordings of "BARBERSHOP BOFFO" at \$4.00 per record.

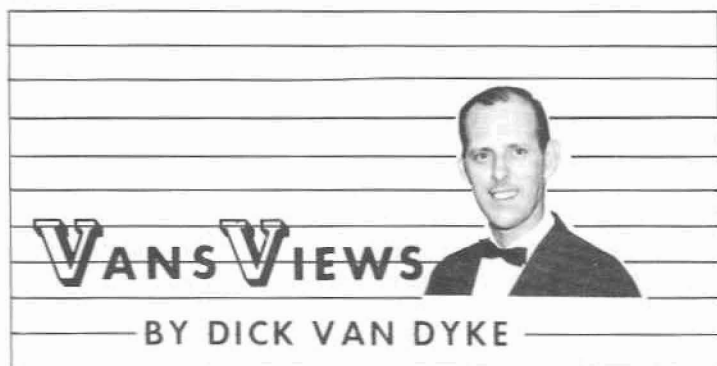
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OR PROV \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



"THE SPEBSQSA. WILL FLIP!"



The important thing, of course, is that someone took over the TROUBADOR!

Jim Davenport has done his part (with masses of help from his charming wife - Dorothy) and he deserves a rest (in addition to a vote of thanks.)

As to the general format of the magazine, it needs exactly nothing to continue the success that was pre-built into it by the likes of Oonk, Davenport, et al. There are new ideas with any change of personell, and, with your help we'd like to incorporate these ideas into what we already have and make the Troubador one of the Society's good ones.

One thing we think will be an improvement is the use of a P.O. Box for mailing purposes. The box number will always be the same as the current year (this year the box number is P.O. Box #1969, Madison Heights, Michigan, 48071.) Please note, also, that the quality of the paper on which the Troubador is printed is of a better grade.

Our new deadline for Chapter reports will be the 25th of the preceding month, and all other feature articles must be in by the 20th of the preceding month. This will help to insure an early delivery every month. Please know that chapter reports receive top priority, and will be printed in their entirety; however we ask that you try to limit your chapter reports to two typed pages. (If you've got more than that to say, you're just not editing your copy properly.)

Just a few words about the "SINGING OUT EDITORIALY" column . . . there are absolutely no restrictions as to whom may write an editorial. If you've got a gripe about something or a criticism of someone, or you wish to throw bouquets, send it in, and if it's clean, and not derogatory, we'll print it. We try to stay about three months ahead of schedule.

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO  
THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

#### Quartet and Chorus News



It's common knowledge, of course, (and our feature story) that the District's popular SHARPLIFTERS went overseas to entertain the troupes for the U.S.O. (see "ON THE COVER" article, page one.)

The pride of the Muskegon Chapter - The KASUAL D'S have been busy this summer. In addition to a couple of appearances on W.K.G.R.-TV in Muskegon, they sang for a Republican fund raising dinner on Friday the 13th in June which was attended by many outstanding dignitaries from the National political scene. On Monday night following, they sang their way into the hearts of the gathering for the annual MISS MICHIGAN CONTEST. . . . Rough duty, fellas!

Roger Lewis, of the zany HARMONY HOUNDS tells us that the Pioneer District Directory lists the wrong contact man. Change your Directory to read:

Roger J. Lewis, 405 Boyes Dr.  
Battle Creek, Michigan, 49017. (Phone 616 - 962 - 9839).

The VAGABONDS of Oakland County have taken on Ken Gibson of Lansing as their new tenor. Ken replaces Jack Stephan who was transferred by his business to Ohio. (Jack by the way, spent some time in the Hospital recently under a surgeon's knife. He has been discharged and is on an extended leave of absence now in Cleveland while he undergoes further tests.) The VAGABONDS are working diligently toward the Fall Contest.

Del Doctor, the rotund bass of the Kasual D's, is back directing the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS.

Al Burgess, that rotunder, ex-Port City Chorus Director, is directing the new Chorus of the GRAND HAVEN CHAPTER.

Bob Whittleage, the un-rotund ex bass of many fine District Quartets, is back once again directing the FLORAL CITY CHORUS from the Monroe Chapter.

It looks like we'll have another good chorus contest in Jackson next month.

What quartet do you sing in?? We'd like to hear about your activities. Does your chapter have an active chorus? What has it done for the "Encouragement" of Barber-shopping? Let us know.



1969 Pioneer District Quartet Contest

The Monroe Chapter's ANNUAL MINI-CHORUS CONTEST, which is by now almost a tradition, will be at the American Legion Hall again this year, and if you haven't sung in this one, you're missing a big night.

The rules are simple - no more than 20 men in each chorus, and no less than 15. This is your chance to prove to the world that you are a chorus director. No person may sing in more than one chorus. The date of the meeting is September 12th. Each chorus must present two songs.

Are you singing in the Contest in Jackson next month? If so, and you haven't yet filed your application, feel free to cut out the form that applies and return it to Lou Harrington by the dates listed.

MICHIGAN DISTRICT CHORUS CONTEST

Chorus Entry Blank

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

Please enter the \_\_\_\_\_ chorus in the forthcoming contest.

We agree to abide by the rules of the contest, as stated, and to accept the decision of the judges as final.

Our director is: \_\_\_\_\_

Our Chorus contact man is: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (For the chorus) \_\_\_\_\_

(All entries must reach the District Secretary's office by September 20th.



Preliminaries: 10:00 a.m.

Finals: 8:00 p.m.

Parkside High School - Jackson, Michigan

Saturday, October 11, 1969

Entrants will be classified by committee into Senior, Junior or Novice Division based upon quartet's past experience and record. (Novice quartets are those who have never competed before, Junior quartets are those that have competed, but never placed; all quartets are eligible for Senior honors.)

\*\*\*\*\*

QUARTET ENTRY BLANK

(All entries must reach the District Secretary's office by September 25th)

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

Please enter for competition in the 1969 District Quartet Contest the following barber shop quartet as listed:

Name of Quartet \_\_\_\_\_

Has this quartet ever competed in a contest previously? \_\_\_\_\_

Tenor \_\_\_\_\_

Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Bari \_\_\_\_\_

Bass \_\_\_\_\_

The above quartet members are eligible for competition and are bonafide members, with dues paid up, of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, and we will, without protest, abide by all decisions of the judges.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(for the quartet)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.



MARK ROBERTS - Barbershopper

by

Duane H. Mosier

Co-Historian

To that great galaxy of time-thinning dedicated barbershoppers who in the early years of our Society did so much to get the organization on its feet and moving, profiles on some of the old timers may have a similar ring. It is natural that they should. They were men of unlimited interest, devotion and energy who gave the best that was in them in promoting the objectives of SPEBSQSA. How they succeeded we well know. How much we owe them is difficult to evaluate.

In a membership as large as ours it is obvious that a turnover would be quite constant. Many newer members might wonder what makes the Society click. Glimpses into the personalities and efforts of many of our district pioneers may help answer the question.

Over the past several years, through the medium of the Troubadour, we have tried to picture such stalwarts as Carroll Adams, Joe Wolff, Bill Favinger, Tom Needham, Cecil Roger and Bob Craig, Phil Stinson, Hal Bauer, Johnny Buitendorp and the late Roscoe Bennett, to whom the district owes so much. Many more can and should be added to fill the scroll.

We are here adding to this lusty list the name of Mark P. Roberts of Grosse Pointe. His name stands high in achievement. His many years of continuous service to the Society make him stand alone. Now retired and enjoying the usual activities of his Grosse Pointe Chapter, which he organized many years ago,

he can reflect with pride and pleasure on his long association with the International and District organizations he did so much to foster and perpetuate. His roots always have been and still are deeply imbedded in barbershopping. His legal background served him well for 18 years in helping frame the legal structure of the Society and secure for it exemption from the Federal Income Taxes.

Mark's first real inspiration in male quartet singing originated in France when he and three of his pals formed a quartet during World War I, all members of the 13th Marines. This taste of close harmony returned with him to his land of birth and has remained throughout his life. Leaving his native Indiana in the Mid-20s he went to Detroit where he secured employment with the city as a mechanical engineer in the Building and Safety Engineering Department where he remained for 33 years until his retirement.

In 1939 Ed Schwoppe and Harold Gibbs returned from Tulsa, Oklahoma, (where they had attended O. C. Cash's "revival" meeting) with glowing reports of a new singing society known as SPEBSQSA. In retaliation of the governments many alphabetical agencies, Cash determined to out-letter them all and so stuffed in as many words as he could think of to make a society name. It has stuck to this day. As soon as the word got around chapters began popping up like toad stools, but Detroit took the lead and Mark was among the first to sign on the dotted line. Such old timers as Howard Tubbs, Joe Wolff, Monty Marsden, Glenn Shields, Bill Barry, Jim Creed, Charlie Hawkins and Mark Roberts formed the nucleus of the first chapter. Lansing, Flint and Grand Rapids followed in that order. Within the new two years the disease has spread to Muskegon, Saginaw, Jackson, Caro, Traverse City and Oakland County.

In June of 1940 at the invitation of Joe Wolff, Detroit's first president, other chapters, few tho they were, met with Detroit, and out of that meeting the Michigan District was formed, the first district (now the Pioneer) east of the Mississippi. Carroll P. Adams became the first President.

In the same year Grand Rapids initiated what has become known as their annual Invitational Parade. Eighteen quartets responded. Muskegon's Saw Dust Four took high honors, but we do not know the system of selection, certainly not the sophisticated point system as we have today.

Mark's time was not all taken in administrative affairs. He loved his barbershop singing as well as any man and saw to it that his baritone voice mingled with the voices of three other men in many quartets. His two earliest quartets were the Detroit Turners (Creed, DeWolfe, Roberts and Wolff). The Turners were International Finalists in 1942.

In the Mid 1940s Michigan District was riding the crest in Society affairs. We could boast having 65 chapters and a membership in excess of 3,000. Our

quartets were among the best, winning finalist honors 2, 3, and 4 years in succession in International contests. Detroit area had 12 strong chapters, and Mark was elected president of the Metropolitan Association. He with Tom Needham organized the Metropolitan Detroit Chorus.

At the May 1950 district contest held in Midland he was elected District President. He must have campaigned hard. Using all the political know-how at his command he promised in his platform "No dues, a guaranteed increase formula, a tenor procurement program that would provide forever all the "high C" lyric tenors we would ever need, and a District championship for every quartet." Who could lose on such a platform? He has served his District in other committee capacities as well, including chairmanship of Contest and Judging, Laws and Regulations, and Nominating.

This all led to higher honors for him. He was made a member of the International Contest and Judging Committee. He must hold some kind of record. He has judged in 13 International contests and was one of only 17 members, society-wide, who were certified to judge all categories. Add to this astonishing accomplishment the many times he has judged in district contests and it proves he is thoroughly indoctrinated in barbershop harmony. Add to these activities his time spent as chairman of International Laws and Regulations Committee, International Treasurer (1956-58), first Secretary-Treasurer of the Harmony Foundation which he organized, and the 18 years he has given as Legal Counsel to the Society and you have a lifetime of loyal devotion to a cause in which we are reaping the benefits. That answers in some measure the question "What makes the Society click?"

Listed in the district Directory for many years under the Committee heading "Historian" appears the name Mark Roberts. The name appears where it should be. We can think of no one who knows the history of the Michigan District from its birth through all the succeeding years better than Mark. He has made a deep and penetrating study of such an interesting subject. Beginning with the September 1963 issue of the Troubador and running for nearly a year Mark wrote a series of articles under the mast-head "The Michigan District and Its Men of Harmony." Every barbershopper should read them. The older members will find pleasure reviewing them and members who have joined their chapters since that year will find them a wealth of knowledge not found in other places. Troubador editor Dick Van Dyke has found them so full of interest and inspiration that he plans on reprinting all the articles in succeeding issues of the Magazine. To miss a single one will be your loss.

The high esteem in which Mark is held by his own chapter is evidenced by the honors he has received. In 1962 he was presented with a certificate and medal proclaiming him a life member in the Grosse Pointe chapter and as recently as last May,

as the accompanying photo indicates, the chapter was presented with a trophy upon which was inscribed "Mark Roberts Trophy" which goes to the winner of the annual inter-chapter quartet contest between the Grosse Pointe and Pontiac Chapters.

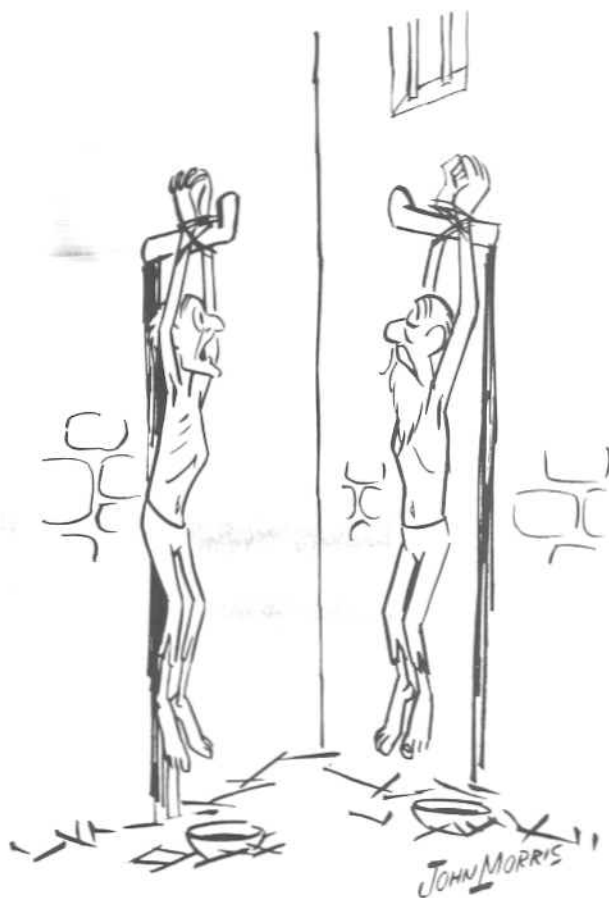
Regarding his long and satisfying activities in the Society, Mark sums it up this way:

"It has been a wonderful and satisfying experience. I consider myself an extremely fortunate man to have been privileged to meet and sing and work with these people who call themselves barbershoppers."

The Society is fortunate to have had him.

(Editor's note - Starting with the October issue, we will reprint the articles written by Mark Roberts some years ago that appeared in the Troubador.)

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.



"I WAS CAUGHT TALKING AT A CHAPTER MEETING WHILE THE QUARTETS WERE ON."

INTERNATIONAL'S BOB JOHNSON IS COMING TO THE PIONEER DISTRICT, OCTOBER 13TH.

Bob Johnson, the greatest "chord salesman" in the world, has planned a visit to the Pioneer District. The Week of October 13th thru the 18th has been set aside, and Bob's itinerary is as follows:

October 13, Monday      Zone IV Traverse City,  
Contact Pete Nelson - 616-946-5335.

October 14, Tuesday      Zone II Kalamazoo, Con-  
tact Ward Bost - 616-381-7633.

October 15, Wednesday      Zone II Benton Harbor,  
Contact Pat Carnahan - 616-637-1853.

October 16, Thursday      Zone I O.C.C., Contact  
Fran Durham - 313-272-0892.

October 17, Friday      Zone III Grand Rapids,  
Contact Jim Horton - 616-538-1744.

October 18th is tentatively scheduled as a Chorus Director's Clinic in Lansing, depending on the response from the District's Choruses. You will be (or have already been) contacted by your Zone Vice Presidents.

Bob Johnson is the Director of Music for the International Society, and it has been said that after one of his visitations, you wonder why you're not having Chapter meetings twice a week. It's a real experience singing with Bob, and it behooves us all to try and attend his meetings. Next month, we'll print all of the pertinent information as to meeting halls, time, etc..



"THIS WILL COST YOU POINTS!!"

## Keep America Singing

ALBERT FRICKER  
30881 NYE CT 141  
LIVONIA MI 48154

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.

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| October 4, 1969     | Lansing Parade                              |
| October 10-12, 1969 | District Contest, Jackson                   |
| October 13-18, 1969 | Bob Johnson Visits Pioneer District.        |
| October 25, 1969    | Saginaw-Bay City Parade                     |
| November 1, 1969    | Detroit Parade                              |
| April 11, 1970      | Battle Creek Parade                         |
| April 18, 1970      | Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids.     |
| April 24-26, 1970   | International Preliminaries, Muskegon.      |
| October 9-11, 1970  | District Contest, Windsor                   |
| April 17, 1971      | Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids.     |
| April 23-25, 1971   | International Preliminaries, Traverse City. |
| October 8-10, 1971  | District Contest                            |
| April 8, 1972       | Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids.     |
| April 28, 1973      | Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids.     |