

APR 70

pioneer
TROUBADOUR



BOB GALL
1969 International President
SPRING CONVENTION KEYNOTER



APRIL, 1970



letters to the editor

Dear Ed:

The contents of the article "Heritage of Harmony", superbly written in the January issue of the Pioneer Troubadour by the District Co-Historian, Duane H. Mosier, gave me a great deal of pride.

The tremendous value of the fact that the chartering of the Windsor Chapter on March 24, 1944 made our Society "International" has been proved a thousand fold. (Ontario District was started with the chartering of subsequent chapters).

In digesting the contents of above article, may I be permitted to make a few observations.

The Windsor Members must realize the importance of the spade work done by the first Executive Committee, headed by "Charter President" Bob Jones; and the fact that the Windsor Chapter is referred to as "one of the Society's stable and outstanding chapters", certainly presents a tremendous challenge spells: "Build and Grow".

If the Windsor Chapter has been able to contribute in a small way to the success of the Pioneer District, we are grateful; but the shoe actually fits much better on the other foot.

Windsor Chapter hosted its first District Contest in 1960, one and a half years after transferring to the then Michigan District. In addition to District Contests hosted in 1962, 63, 64, and 67 our Chapter has enjoyed visitations, encouragement and assistance from "District Brass" and many Chapters and Quartets from "North of the Border". (The latter being only mythical in Barbershopping).

It was perhaps a bit of "Crystal-Ball-Gazing" on the part of the late Harold Podvin, former Board member and Chorus Director, when he tried unsuccessfully to induce the Windsor - Amherstburg - and the Leamington Chapters (Ontario's three Southernly Chapters) to join the Michigan District

con't. on page 2

Notice of House of Delegates Meeting, April 24, 1970

The Spring meeting of the Pioneer District House of Delegates, will be held at the Convention Room of the Occidental Hotel, Muskegon, Michigan, on Friday evening, April 24, 1970 at 9:00 P.M.

On Saturday, the International Prelim quartet contest will be held at the Muskegon Michigan Theater beginning with the preliminaries at 9:30 A.M., with the finals at 8:00 P.M. A chorus contest will be held at 1:30 P.M., to determine our 1970-71 Pioneer District Chorus champion.

Chapters desiring to present any matters for consideration by the House of Delegates should forward these matters at once to the District Secretary.

Chord-ially,

William C. Warner
District Secretary



Coming Events

SEND REQUESTS FOR PARADE CLEARANCE TO:

William C. Warner
23531 Meadowlark
Oak Park, Mich. 48237

April 11, 1970	Saulte Ste. Marie Parade
April 11, 1970	Flint Parade
April 11, 1970	Battle Creek Parade
April 18, 1970	Gr. Lakes Invitational
April 24-26, 1970	Int'l Prelims & District Meeting - Muskegon
May 2, 1970	Holly-Fenton Parade
June 6, 1970	Windsor Parade
June 22-27, 1970	Int'l Convention, Atlantic City
October 3, 1970	Fruit Belt Parade
October 9-11, 1970	District Meeting & Contests, Windsor



The material contained in this editorial does not necessarily reflect either the attitudes or opinions of the Troubadour, its staff, or the Pioneer District's Board of Directors. It does, however, display the American right of free speech.



by Doran McTaggart

Most of our Society's members have participated in their chapter's chorus but how many have had any quartet experience? By being an active chorus member we are perpetuating the "Barbershop sound" but what are we doing to ensure that the "Barbershop quartet" is not facing extinction? Is the vast expenditure of seemingly unlimited funds by the television and the motion picture industries making amateur singers such as we obsolete?

I, personally, feel that too much emphasis is placed on the finished product rather than the benefits which can be derived from the means to that end.

If you have the talent, desire and time, and can find three other men who have the same endowments, then go right ahead and reach for the top. Our competitions offer a great challenge to the type of quartet just mentioned. The standard of excellence needed to be a "competitive quartet" is high and so a better than average quartet can benefit greatly by participating in this type of activity.

There should be ten times more quartets in our district than we see at our contests.

I feel these foursomes divide themselves into two categories. The first group is a "chapter quartet" who enjoy each other's company, have a better than average sound, but are not able, for various reasons, to devote the time necessary to be a competitive quartet. They are the backbone of their chapter-singing in shows, sing-outs and various other community events. They really are the grass root Ambassadors of Barbershopping in their community.

The last type of quartet is the one in which everyone can participate. This is really the "novice quartet". Four men who enjoy singing and when they "lock one in" they know it. Each man has been one-fourth of that tremendous chord. Sing several good

chords in a row and you are hooked. To me this is the magical substance that has kept barbershoppers renewing their memberships for years. If a man has not experienced this, he is missing the boat and is a potential drop-out. It is this type of truly amateur quartet that O. C. Cash had in mind when he started the whole ball of wax. Male voices singing in tune can provide rich rewards for those who get involved and take part in quartet work.

Our Society is big enough for all three types of quartets. Start today as a novice group; pull out a couple of good arrangements; buy a bottle of throat spray -- and tomorrow -- you can be a real asset to your chapter, district and Society.

Involvement is a must. Let each of us really get the best we can out of our hobby. Find three other guys and Keep America Singing (in quartets).



in the mid-fifties, The latter two Chapters regretablely have folded, and in this writer's opinion the same fate might have befallen the Windsor Chapter, had it not been allowed to receive the benifits of the true Barber shopping Spirit of our great District.

Where do we go from here? By their attendance, all Pioneer District members will witness the answer this question when Windsor hosts its sixth Contest and Convention on Oct. 9 and 10th, 1970.

Keep Singin'

Ted Verwey
Windsor Chapter

Dear Editor:

I disagree. At least in part.

I think that you and John are doing a wonderful job with the Troub and receipt of same is one of the high points in our household - for both my wife Jane and myself. We read almost every word, including the covers and, for the most part, find it very interesting. I think it's great to read what other chapters are doing throughout the entire District and tend to wince a little when I think that some of this material may come under the cutters knife.

Me - I say nay.

Bob Drabik

P.S. - I also think it deplorable that we lost our third International representative quartet and I can't see any substantial reason for it, outside of laziness. One thing for sure, we can't blame Frank Bateson - I wonder if we can help him.

KORTET & KORUS KORNER

The Harmony Hounds, long time District favorites, are on their way to the Orient for the U.S.O. The popular comedy Quartet has been selected to entertain the troupes in Hospitals and service men's clubs in Japan, The Phillipines and Guam. They will depart from Battle Creek on the 11th of May, and their trip will take 17 days.



HARMONY HOUNDS

Organized 10 years ago, the Hounds have gained popularity by entertaining audiences with their own brand of comedy and barber-shop in several states and Canada. Last year they represented the district International Competition in St. Louis, and finished in the quarter finals.

They follow closely on the heels of the Sharplifters, who made the trip last August to the Orient.

The Eversharps, 1968-69 District Champs are reorganized with BILL BISCHOFF singing Tenor. All other quartet personnel remain the same

The Bean Town 4 have taken on Ron Gillies (Pioneer District's Executive V.P.) to replace Bud Carpenter who had to quit due to work commitments

The Chord Reporters are still looking for a new Lead

Quartets who have already filed to enter the Muskegon District Contest are: The Sharplifters, The Kasual D's, The Barons, The Bean Town 4, The Nile Lateres, The Eversharps, The Gentlemen's Agreement, The Vagabonds, The Ring Masters, The Invoices, The Sound Sations, and The Royal Coachmen.

Choruses already entered are Holland's Windmill Chorus, O.C.C.'s Wolverines, Lansing's Capitalaires, Grosse Pointe's Lakeshore Chorus, Wayne's Wonderland Chorus, The Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids, The Cadillac Chorus, The Gateway Chorus from Niles-Buchanan, Muskegon's Port City Chorus, and the Traverse City Chorus.

Detroit's Motor City Chorus current champs and therefor unable to compete, will be represented at the convention by 25 of it's stalwarts O.C.C.'s "International Bound" Wolverines have a commitment for a chartered plane to Atlantic City. Any one requiring space on the plane should contact Bob Drabik.

CHAPTER REPORTS

WAYNE

by Morrie Giles

WINDSOR

by Ted Verwey

Windsor members were saddened by the news of the passing of Bro. Barbershopper, C. D. "Chase" Sanborn, Pontiac member, past International Board Member, Chairman and Member of District Committees. He was a real booster and friend of the Windsor Chapter over his long years of Barbershopping, and will be missed by many. One minute silence in his memory was observed at our February meeting. May he take his well earned part in ringing Eternal Chords. Our deepest sympathy goes to his lovely wife, Ruth.

Highlight of our Pre-Christmas Ladies Night party was the awarding of the "Mr. Barbershopper" Annual Award to the most outstanding member during the past year. It really surprised none of us that Ken Bilton was announced as recipient of this coveted award. Ken has given of himself to the betterment of our Chapter, not only as president for the past two years, and his stint in 1961 and '62, but as long as he has been a member.

Our own "Merri - Madics" Quartet has been chosen to take "the place of the Buffalo - Bills" in the Windsor - Light - Opera Association production of "The Music Man". Those shoes are hard to fill but Fred Sorrell, Bill Strong, Doran McTaggart, and Paul Eberwein are the boys who can come close to it. They will strut their stuff on May 8 and 24 and 6 dates in between, and at the same time will make use of the Golden Opportunity to plug their Chapter and Society. Who knows they may be even tempted to register in Kenosha?

How is this for selling our No. 1 Hobby? Mac Henderson, 1969 Secy., brought Dennis Cave to a chorus rehearsal, who in turn brought out John May. Both men were initiated together in Dec. At our board meeting on Mar. 4, the applications for membership were approved of: Ray Myers and Hank Garrick. Welcome on board, all of you fellows; and thanks to those ambitious sponsors.

Be prepared to meet Sun Parlor Chorus in Muskegon in competition. We rehearse every Tues.

Please note: Our fun-night is on the third Friday each month at Norton Palmer Hotel. However, this night is flexible. If you are making plans, please contact our Program V.P. Andy McCann, 3111 Dandurand, Windsor 21, Ont., Phone 519-969-6949.

We of the Wayne Chapter feel an acute sense of pride and a most gratifying thrill of accomplishment after our latest, and perhaps greatest, show on March 7th. The auditorium was sold out weeks ahead, and the show came off with out a hitch. The performers were perfectly atuned to the theme of the evening and the audience could not have been more receptive had we paid them \$10 a head. Furthermore, the afterglow went off in much the same manner. A big vote of thanks to all those who worked so diligently to make the evening the success that it was.

Also, may we offer our sincere apologies to those of you for whom we were unable to secure the tickets for.

Don't know how many of you guys are early risers but Marshall Vells features a barbershop quartet or chorus several times a week at 5:50 A.M. on W.J.R. Detroit. He recently entered into a rather lengthy dissertation on S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. and The Institute of Logopedics. Gave our organization quite a boost.

New group earns claim to fame. The "Wayne Beaus", eight very brash characters, set out to earn fame and glory for themselves and Wayne Chapter by entering the International Octet Contest held in St. Thomas, Ot. Well, it seems they didn't quite make first place, but they did take second. What's more, they stole the honors at the afterglow. We're rather proud of them.

This reporter has been harassed and threatened to no end for the past two months. When I listed the Chapter Officers I inadvertently omitted the name of our perennial Treasurer, John Linehan. This omission I now take this opportunity to rectify so that Big John will not foreclose my mortgage. Actually, he has been our Treasurer for so long that I'm afraid we just take him for granted.

On St. Patricks Day the Wayne Wonderland Chorus sang two separate engagements. The first was for a P.T.A. group and the second for a St. Patrick's Day Party complete with Green Beer. Tremendous crowd. Probably one fourth of them had some claim to being Irish.

We were just informed by the powers that be, that the month of April will see Wayne visiting at least 3 other chapters, one such visit being a mystery trip. So secret that even the bus driver won't know where he's going.

On March 20, Wayne visited Grosse Pointe

Chapter. Unfortunately this reporter had to work, but I understand it was a real gasser. Guess Grosse Pointe doesn't have anything but gassers anyhow. Thanks fellows; looking forward to having you visit us.

For the record: As of April 1 my address is 14045 Shadywood Drive, Plymouth, Mich. 48170.

See you all at the contest.

DETROIT

Larry King

The Detroit Chapter is proud to claim another member with 30 years of membership in our Society: Mike Arnone. Merry Mike is known to Barbershoppers everywhere as one of the best basses around and as a long time member of the Progressive Four. He is one of our most faithful attendees at chorus rehearsal and chapter meetings. Congratulations, Mike.

Because of the resignations of two officers, necessitated by the time they must devote to their jobs, John Wearing and Nelson Gotshall have been elected Administrative V.P. and Program V.P., respectively.

The Motor City Chorus has been making appearances in the geographical extremes of the Detroit Area. On March 7 we sang on the Utica-Rochester Sweet Adeline show, with the Utica-Rochester Chorus, the Tantalizers and the Quarter-Notes. The girls had a fine show, playing to a near-capacity house. On Monday, March 16, the chorus appeared at the Wyandotte Hospital and the Wyandotte Yacht Club. Both of these appearances were arranged by our new Chorus Manager, Bill Taylor.

Although the Motor City Chorus is not eligible to compete in the 1970 District Chorus Contest, the Chapter will be well represented in Muskegon as spectators and as supporters for our boys, the Sharplifters. The competition for International quartet representation should be one of the best in years and no Pioneer man should miss it.

DEARBORN

by Bob Stone

Our regular meeting in March went off in fine style . . . It was one of those evenings that pass quickly because everyone participated, had a fine time, enjoyed Chef Shamus's special Clam Chowder, and about six groups wound up getting kicked out of the corners while doing tags and general woodshedding right up to closing time. We used a "Funny Bones" game in which each member of the pick-up quartet selected a card that instructed him to make contact with his partner during the song. Bill Klein with his Shin Bone connected to Al Maier's

men of  note



Look at that Bateson go. He's trying to restock our depletions single-handed. We'll run his mug-shot every month if this continues. C'mon guys, he's not that good looking.

Jim St. Amand and Dale Schroeder each have number 7, which causes smiles to fall upon one's face. St. Amand joins Carl Dahlke, Dick Van Dyke, and Bill Norton to give the chapter edge to O.C.C. with 4 new members in February. February's list:

Emerson Sperling	2
LeRoy Lake	2
Gerald Frantz	1
John T Gillespie	1
El Segar	1
Robert Moll	3
Carl Dahlke	1
Dick Van Dyke	4
Bill Norton	1
Jim St Amand	7
Terry Ermoian	4
Bruce Mulligan	1
Frank Bateson	15
Raymond Sikkenga	1
Arthur Mould	1
Dale Schroeder	7

Knee Bone while Al's Thumb Bone was connected to Bill's Nose Bone was quite a sight. Prizes from George Hoke's Gag Bag went to ALL singers, including \$1's worth of beverage tickets.

Our next up-coming regular meeting is due on the 2nd Friday in April on the 10th with VP Ed Conn promising another Surprise type program. Come on down.

Sorry we didn't get up your way on Mar. 15, Fergy, to present the Octet Contest plaque to your Saginaw-Bay County Chapter but our Officers promise to do the Deed at Muskegon at convention time.

Dearborn was hit again the worst way

when long-time member and friend Elmer C. Koenig passed away on March 1. He was First String Baritone for many years with The Foamblowers quartet and was an enthusiastic participant as a Barbershopper and Chapter Officer. He contributed a great deal to Dearborn Chapter and to the lives of those who knew him. He is missed.

HOLLY-FENTON

by Grant Wright

Our chorus has made two public appearances recently and is now working diligently towards taking an important part in the show scheduled for May 2nd at the Fenton High School auditorium. Featured will be the Four Tune Tellers, the Chalk Dusters from Canton, Ohio and the Sweet Adeline Chorus from Flint. Admission will be \$2.50 per person and tickets will be available at the door. Because of limited seating capacity, our afterglow will be limited to show personnel, local chapter members and their wives only. We would like to see you at our show.

HOLLAND

by Jack Essenburg

Klomp. . . Klomp. . . Klomp the Dutch are marching. . . but they already know that.

One of our quartets, the Soundsations, composed of Bob Bos, Bob Tubergau, Bob Essenburg and Tom Weller took top spot at the Pre-Bush League contest. They have been making several local appearances and also working out with the chorus. We wish them all the best at Boyne.

Our other quartet, the Tune-Tailors, did not enter in competition but also has been kept busy with engagements and chorus activities

On Friday, March 13, a pretty rough night (weatherwise) the Holland chapter was pretty well represented at the Grand Rapids St. Patrick party. We appreciate such invitation and many thanks for the wonderful hospitality.

We are now doing a little double time at the club rooms getting ready for our Tulip Time show. Reports are that ticket sales are real lively, even at this early date.

Remember "May time is Tulip Time in Holland Michigan" and our show is May 15th. . . See you then.

GRAND RAPIDS

by Dick Williams

MARCH MADNESS IN APRIL?

You bet. Boyne City April 4th, the Great Lakes Invitational April 17, 18, and 19th and the Muskegon Convention the following week, April 23, 24, and 25th. WOW. What a fantastic month.

Here's a run down on the Great Lakes weekend. Starting Friday April 17th is our pre-glo kick-off dance in the Ballroom of the Lexicon Club for all members and guests. This will feature a 24 piece dance band plus some fine quartets; the HARMONY HOUNDS, KASUAL D's and our own ROYAL COACHMEN, and possibly a sneak preview by the Chorus.

Also we will give the awards to the leading ticket sellers, announce the "SWEETHEART" and her husband for the Great Lakes weekend and have the winning inter-chapter quartet announced. This will be the quartet that will sing with the MARK IV's at THE AFTER GLO.

Saturday the 18th is a very busy day with the greeting of the quartets for the show that night, making them comfortable and introducing them to their hosts, making final preparations and putting the final touches into the songs and staging for the evening performance.

The highlight of the afternoon though, will take place with dinner in the old world atmosphere of the Cypress Cellar in the Pantland Hotel, with the Mark IV's, Sharp lifters Salt Flats and Strand Brothers. They, in turn, will serenade the "Sweetheart" of the Great Lakes weekend. For the lucky gal this moment has to be one of those very special times to be treasured forever.

That evening, exactly at 8 P.M. the lights will dim, the curtain will rise and on with the show.

So settle back, close your eyes and slowly drift back to that era when life moved at a more leisurely pace and presto, you're in the golden days of yesterday, when the sweetest sounds in the world floated pleasantly from the corner barbershop into everyones heart.

After the show the "AFTER GLO" will be held in the new and beautiful Grand Valley Armory just 10 min. from downtown and plenty of FREE PARKING.

Hear again, the Mark IV, Saltflats, Sharp lifters and Strand Brothers, only this time with an intimacy and reckless abandonment that can be found only in a carefree and fulfilled "After Glo". Just \$2.00 per head so if you want a weekend of excitement, filled with good fellowship and harmony come on over the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Weekend. After the "After Glo", Hospitality rooms will be in the Pantlind Hotel.

Sound great? You bet. So get your best gal

and we'll see you the 18th.

As you might have guessed from my article the Grand Rapids Chapter is "now". We are more on the move than ever before - more people doing more things, singing a lot more, and better. You hear that Holland We have more new members, a new attitude and enthusiasm, better and stronger leads, right Tom? No longer are we content to watch the other side of the state take all the marbles. If there are any doubts ask anyone who has been to our chapter. Ask Grand Haven, Muskegon, Holland, Battle Creek and others. We are out to make it rough on all you other chorus's. We want number one and we may surprise a few of you.

I think now it is only fitting to mention the names that have worked and worked hard to make our Chapter as fine as it is.

President: Jim Horton, Secretary: Tom Venus, Treasurer: Jack Schneider, Program V.P.: Jack Sidor, and Admin. V.P. Paul Robinson. Director: Fran Jones, and also Bill Schumacher, Ed Berry, Em Strong, Don Phillips, Tom Hegle, Herm Baker, Ken Harr, Bill Wild Sr., Phil Wright, Bernie Poelman, Sam Burgess, Em Sperling, Walt Lawrence, Curt Morse, George Woodbridge, Bob Jeltema, Vally Arins, Bob Gibson, Bob Lovell, Wally Graham, Al Van Iwaarden, Daryl Roche, Elmer Jirtle, Bob Gerdes, Gale Graham, Dick Alverson, Jordan Bosma, Bill Pratt, Nick Waitkunas, Ed Northhouse, Dan Decker, Jake Toorenaar, Bill Stoddard, Roy Vebster, and Larry "THE WONDER" Humphry, also Bill Meyer who is back with us again.

These are the backbone of the Chapter, the unsung hero's, the best bunch of guys in the world, Barbershoppers, God bless every one of them.

See you at Great Lakes and in Muskegon.

LES CHENEAUX by Chas. Wagner

It has been a couple of months since this reporter has taken to the typewriter and the news from this chapter is a little behind the times but with the following words we will try to give an up to date account of the chapter happenings.

To be real truthful the chapter has not been the most active in producing chapter outings and many of the members are kind of dormant with the same routine each week. All of us like to sing but the incentive to go ahead is a little behind. Just in this month alone was the first time that the chapter sang out in ages and that was at the Mac-

kinaw City High School -- Choral Festival which was a lot of fun for the fellows that participated. Comments from the citizens of the Mackinaw City area were very good by the magic sound of barbershop harmony and they enjoyed the Les Cheneaux Chapter very much. Following the sing out the group of barbershoppers went to a place where they could sing to their hearts delight and there were those who heard them sing and enjoyed the showmanship of the group and their harmonizing.

April 11 is the date for the Soo Chapter show, Highlights In Harmony, and the Les Cheneaux Chapter, directed by Bob Tracy will perform for the show and will also have a couple of numbers of their own. This has given the Les Cheneaux Chapter another goal and they are anxious to get into the picture of singing once again. We are also scheduled to sing at the Pickford Presbyterian Church on Saturday April 25th.

Getting back to the vital point --- we sang with the Soo group in a practice session and with the number of barbershoppers that therewere present, some forty voices, both directors Bob Tracy and Don Bazely were pleased with the results.

The summer months are rapidly approaching and the Les Cheneaux Chapter is looking forward to their annual show which will be a good one this year with the number of new songs that we are learning. This show is scheduled for August and it will surely be a good one with the way that the Chapter has been working in the past years.

We would like to welcome Bill Neuman into the group as a new member and it sure was a pleasure to have Rod Ames in our practice and a participant in the Soo show. Rod, going to Ferris Institute has been singing down there and enjoys barbershopping more than ever.

Several visitors have attended our chapter meetings and we are looking forward to some new members in the near future. . . We welcome them with open arms.

JACKSON by Joe Hubbard

Hi Ho everybody. Well we are back, not that we went any place. Although we do plan on going to Hudson when Bob Johnson is there. And of course we will show up at the Hudson show on April 12, then on May 22 Dave Stevens will be in Jackson (can somebody tell me sho this guy is?) We'll look forward to his being here.

I see by the bi-weekly letter that the Fortune Teller's are in charge of the show that

will be coming off on Sept. 12, 1970. You know the last time they had the show some poor mail man was looking for a Mrs. Johnson - she had ordered a small plant and he was trying to find her. I wonder if he ever did? More about the show as the time gets near. The chapter has done four singing jobs since our last report, most of them were for a good cause (Cancer Fund) for one of these jobs we do not make anything, as we feel that the cause and service that it gives is well worth our time.

This will be it as I want to be sure to get it in the mail before the mail stops all together. That is another axe that I'd like to grind sometime.

GRATIOT COUNTY by Maynard & Fred

On February 24th we put on a very nice "Package Show" for the Annual meeting of the Ithaca Chamber of Commerce. They were a very appreciative audience and we enjoyed doing it for our "Old Time Barbershopper" Paul Kernan who was program chairman for the event.

One of the extra bonuses of our ladies night on February 23rd was the very last thing on the program, when 13 Saginaw-Bay Chapter men presented us with the OAKLAND COUNTY TRAVELLING JUG. We recovered nicely though, and peddled up to Cadillac on March 16th to leave it with them ----and we had 20 men there, too. Thanks, fellows for a real nice turn out for this event.

We have just begun a real zaney contest in our chapter. Our membership chairman, Gran Colthorp, has us divided into 3 teams: Captain Jerry Wolven Section A; Captain Harvey Hunter, Section B; Captain Maynard Peacock, Section C. Points will be given for a variety of activities, such as attendance at meetings, sing-outs, quartet practices, etc. The Capper-Offer will come in May when the losing team puts off a feed for the Chapter. We hope to see some extra guests and perhaps even a few new members as a result of this friendly feud.

On March 24th we entertained a crowd of four or five hundred people at the Gratiot County Bean Smorgasbord. It was held in the Alma College Gym and I'll have to admit we were upstaged by a bevy of would be Bean Queens. Very Nice.

It looks as if we will have a real nice turn out next Monday night when we invade the Lansing Chapter and have a go at the Great Bob Johnson. Lansing here we come.

We are looking forward to OLD TIMERS

NIGHT which Program Chairman, Bill Derby has set up for April 13th. I trust you will all dig back in your memory bank and invite some former member or just anybody as a guest. I'm sure Bill will have a good program, so it will be up to us to provide the guests for the occasion.

We have a sing-out date set up for April 24th and don't forget the Spring contest in Muskegon on April 25th.

MUSKEGON by Del Doctor

Ladies Night February 27th was a very special day in the life of Mrs. Al Martin (June) as she was chosen as the 1970 S.P.E. B.S.Q.U.A.W. of the Muskegon Chapter. The choice was made by the Dune Tones Quartet in which June's husband is the Bass. Needless to say the choice was long overdue as this couple has been on the scene with the Muskegon Chapter for many years. Congratulations June. Chairman for the event was our fantastic Dick Hessler.

The S.P.E.B.S.Q.U.A.W. evening as a whole was a BIG SUCCESS as we were entertained by the Top Hats, (whistling navels you know), The Uke-a-lo-fi's (Dick and Clyde Hester), the John Hill Singers (with lot's of modern chords), the Dune Tones (who picked our Queen), and the Kasual D's who were fresh back from Florida. What more can be said for a tremendous evening of entertainment. Oh yes, we had those famous U.S. 31 Barbeques with all the trimmings for our lunch afterward. Wish you could have been there.

The March 24th meeting was back to the regular meeting basis as it was STAG. We were entertained by the PRE-BOYNE winners the SOUNDSATIONS from the Holland Chapter. They have really progressed and sound great. Along with the Soundsations we heard three Quartets picked out of the group for a contest. Lots of fun came out of this a Dick Hester, Tom Damm, and Del Doctor were chosen to judge the contest. You would have had to have been there to appreciate the comments by the Judges. The Kasual D's were also on hand for the evening along with the Sweet Adelines Chorus from Muskegon who sang some fine arrangements. A good time was had by all and provided by co-chairman Bob Hart and Hank Plantenga.

We are all looking forward to the Convention because of the fact that we can again fellowship with our friends of like interests. Plans are finalized by our co-chairman Ken Barnhard and Jack Bennett and they say that you will have a ball. See you all April 24-25-26, ya hear?

OAKLAND COUNTY

by Bob Drabik

We had a show - WOW, did we have a show. Aesthetically and financially, an unprecedented success, for us. Our sincere thanks go out, again, to the BEANTOWN FOUR, the VAGABONDS, the HARMONY HOUNDS (good luck on your trip guys), and the SHARPLIFTERS for a job well done. The crowd has been raving about you ever since and are asking for tickets for next year's show.

The Pre-Boyer Contest saw several quartets "having at each other" with the SOUNDSTATIONS, who came all the way from Holland, emerging as the victors (see below) - Congratulations guys.

Our thanks to the judges: MARK ROBERTS, KEN GIBSON, BILL PASCHER, and CARL DAHLKE, the Secretary, CLIFF DOUGLAS, the VAGABONDS (feature for the evening), and TONY SCOORAS for a fantastic job of MC'ing. You know, a lot of people don't realize how hard your District Champs work but, if you read the Chapter Reports, you'll see they've hit almost all of the Chapters we have. I don't know how they cover as much ground as they do, but I think they, and their wives, deserve a mountain of praise for the great job they're doing.

The belated Pontiac Woodshed was another successful night and we're proud to say that one of our members, CURT SEELEY, sang lead in the winning quartet. Hey, Lickeert, how about getting together for next year?

On May 1 meeting is the annual Past Presidents night. All past presidents are most welcome and we'll have some prizes for some of you so make it if you can. The 4-FITS will headline the evening and that one and only RUS SEELEY will M.C. so you can imagine what a time will be had by those attending.

June 5 is the date for return of the BROWN JUG for the benefit of our International representative quartets. If you end up with the jug, please plan on attending; if you plan on winning the District Contest, please plan on attending; if you want a real great time, please plan on attending.

Speaking of the District Contest, from the sound of the chapter reports, it looks like the best I've ever attended and we're really looking forward to it - hope you are too.

If you're in the area April 18, plan on the Boardwalk Ball. \$4.00 a person is a good investment for a fun-filled evening.

LANSING

by Bill Keiser

Hi, gang. Sorry we missed you last month, and we'll try not to let it happen again. Lansing has too much happening, harmony-wise, to let it happen.

Bob Johnson night on March 30th was just tremendous. Guests were invited, of course, and with the turnout from the suburbs, our little ol' meeting hall was straining to hold everybody. For those few of you who couldn't make it, Bob was in rare form. If every chapter could have a chorus director like International's Singing Cyclone, we'd all be champs. By the time we broke up, not only had we learned a song, but we were thoroughly convinced we could all read music. What a guy.

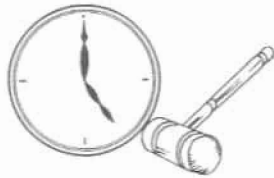
Gay Nineties Night was another great night of singing and entertainment recently, thanks to the contributed talents of the Tune Tailors from Holland, our own Range Finders and Fowler Four, and, of course, the VAGABONDS. We invited some local men who had shown their interest in our music by their faithful attendance at our shows, to come on down and sing with us, and, as a result, we can now include Arley Nelson, Elmer Melberg, Joe Dean, and LaVern Davenport as Lansing chordbusters. We promised ourselves 70 in '70, and by gosh, we're gonna make it. Thanks, suburbs, for your help.

Say what you will about the ladies' "interference" with our Society, we LOVE our newly formed ladies' auxiliary. Under the leadership of our First Lady, Sandy Horton, these gal did most of the work in both of the afore mentioned programs and left the fun to us. I guess we kinda overlooked them in the spirit of the evening, so I'd like to say thanks now from all of us who went home with full stomachs and a warm glow.

Correction of a previous announcement. The Lansing Chapter's fish fry at the Ingham County Conservation Club was previously announced for June 5. Due to a conflict, we have had to reschedule it for June 12. We hope you can reschedule on such short notice and that we'll see you there. Don Horton, our District Vice President in charge of the Fried Fish, promises the best shindig ever seen in these parts.

That's about all for this month, except for a word of warning. We're going to Muskegon and we're going to WIN. But never fear, bighearted Lansing hasn't forgotten you. Be sure to stop by the Lansing Chapter Hospitality Room and we'll cheer you up again.

See you in Muskegon.



Minutes

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

March 15, 1970

A meeting of the Pioneer District Board of Directors was held on March 15, 1970 at Inn America in East Lansing.

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by President Tom Damm. Present were Tom Damm, Ron Gillies, Dick Simpson, Don Funk, Tom Pollard, Pat Ryan and Bill Warner. Also present were Troubadour Editor Dick Van Dyke and John Morris.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved as read. A Treasurer's report was read and approved as read.

Secretary Warner advised the Board that the copies of the District Directory had been sent to Kenosha for mailing to the District members on March 9th.

President Damm read several items of correspondence directed to the Board. A discussion was had regarding the establishment of District Convention and Contest dates. In order to prevent conflicts and to establish uniformity. International Hdqs. had suggested a schedule for all Districts with the Pioneer District dates being set for the 4th weekend in APRIL for the spring convention and International Quartet Preliminaries, and the 2nd weekend in OCTOBER for the fall convention and District Quartet contest. The Chorus competitions would remain the same, with the International rep chosen in the Fall and the District Champs in the Spring. It was duly noted that these dates were the same weekends that had been traditionally used in the District and the President was directed to advise Kenosha that we would be happy to continue.

A discussion was had on the use of International COTS this year. The Board was advised that reaction from members attending the January COTS in Lansing was very favorable. The Board was somewhat disappointed in the attendance. It was decided that due to the expense of International COTS, the District Officers would again be used as instructors this year. A motion was made and seconded to set the date for this year's COTS for December 6, 1970. Motion carried.

Exec. VP Ron Gillies reported on the coming visits by Bob Johnson and Dave Stevens. Schedule for Bob Johnson was cleared as reported last meeting and that for Dave Stevens showed:

May 11th LES CHEN
May 12th CADILLAC

- May 13th SAGINAW-BAY
- May 14th BATTLE CREEK
- May 15th GROSSE POINTE
- May 16th ARRANGERS SCHOOL IN THE DETROIT AREA - LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED
- May 18th DETROIT
- May 19th TECUMSEH
- May 20th NILES BUCHANAN
- May 21st HOLLAND
- May 22nd JACKSON

A discussion of the coming visit of Chet Fox, International Field Director, established the following tentative schedule established:

- Mon. 5-4 REDFORD
- Tue. 5-5 DEARBORN
- Wed. 5-6 LANSING
- Thur. 5-7 CADILLAC
- Fri. 5-8 TRAVERSE CITY.

Reports from Zone VPs:

Zone I - TOM POLLARD reported that after extensive work on the part of Area Counselor BOB MILLER and himself, all attempts to revive the Ann Arbor Chapter have proved fruitless. To date none of the 6 remaining members will assume any responsibility for chapter office or do anything to help continue the chapter. After extensive discussion, it was moved and seconded that the Pioneer District request International Hdqs. to revoke the Ann Arbor Charter. Motion carried.

No serious problems were reported elsewhere in the district.

A report from Troubadour Editor DICK VAN DYKE suggested that Reporters and Bulletin Editors be included in COTS this year.

VP DON FUNK was asked to investigate the cost of equipment to reduce the size of print for the Troub to effect a printing savings.

PAT RYAN presented a committee report on P.R. at the Atlantic City Convention. A motion was made and seconded to appropriate \$200.00 for P.R. and Hospitality at the 1970 International Convention at Atlantic City.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

BILL WARNER
District Secretary



FOLLOWING the CHAMPS

1969



the VAGABONDS

The champs, as previously mentioned, are rather quiet during April. They have scheduled only two functions (The Pal Tals of O.C.C. Boardwalk Ball, on April 18, and the Flint Show on April 11) for the month. All other available time is set aside for warm-up for the Muskegon Convention, April 24-26.

They get right back in the thick of things in May, however. They already have scheduled

- May 2 - Grosse Pte. Show
- May 8 - Dearborn Chapter Meeting
- May 15 - Holland Show

Any wonder how they got to be champs?

Contact man for the quartet is Tony Scooros phone 313 - 549-4958.

ATLANTIC CITY PREVIEW



JOHN MORRIS
"I BEEN SICK"



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

Milford Chapter recently held a "Ladies Night," each lady was delightfully surprised when she was presented a corsage.

Enjoying a vacation to Mexico recently were Norm and Mary Ellen Schram.

Congratulations and Best Wishes for a happy marriage to Virgil Duke and his bride Della.

A speedy recovery is wished for Bill Wales who recently underwent surgery. The Wales now reside in Reseda Calif.

Congratulations to Maureen Wickstrom who is the replacement (bass) in the Tantalizers (Sweet Adelines) for retiring Lee Macon.

Motor City Chorus, directed by Bill Butler recently sang on the Utica - Rochester Sweet Adeline show.

A "Happy Marriage" to Leo Doran and his sweet wife Doris.

Detroit Chapter Chorus wives are planning a rummage sale to be held May 23 at the Ferndale Community Bldg. 400 E. 9 Mile. Rd.

O.C.C.'s Dan Rafferty (Red Fox) enjoyed a trip to Calif. recently.

Our heartfelt condolences go to Arvilla Koenig and family on the recent death of her husband Elmer, a Dearborn Chapter Member.

Bill and Evelyn Pascher are leaving for Calif soon to visit.

Oakland County Chapter recently held a Pre Boyne Bush League quartet contest. This event was also attended by the ladies.



Let's 
 "Sing the 
 in the 
 Spring" 
 in 
 MUSKEGON
 APRIL 24-25-26
 1970 PIONEER DISTRICT
 SPRING CONVENTION

Featuring
 The "STRAND BROTHERS" HARMONICA TRIO

- CONTESTS AT -
 THE MICHIGAN THEATRE
 25TH 9:30 A.M. - QUARTET PRELIMS
 1:30 P.M. - CHORUS CONTEST
 8:00 P.M. - QUARTET FINALS

- TICKET RESERVATIONS -
 ALL EVENTS TICKET --- \$6.00

Price breakdown:
 Pre-glow-----No charge.
 Quartet Prelims-----\$1.50
 Chorus Contest-----2.00
 Quartet Finals---Reserved Seat---- 3.00
 " " Reserved Seat----- 2.50
 " " General Admission- 1.75
 After-glow----- 1.50
 All events tickets include the \$3.00 evening
 chow seat. General admission is upper balcony.
 For advance tickets write to:
 Mr. Henry Malmquist
 3594 Michael St.
 Muskegon, Mich. 49444
 Get your reservations in early as this will be
 a very large convention.

- HEADQUARTERS -
 THE OCCIDENTAL HOTEL
 FRI. NITE - 9:00 P.M. PRE-GLOW
 SAT. NITE - 11:30 P.M. AFTER-GLOW
 REGISTER - 6:00 P.M. FRI. NITE

- HOTEL - MOTEL ACCOMODATIONS -
 For your reservations at either Hotel or Motel
 please write direct to your choice.
 Occidental Hotel 387 W. Western Ave. Muskegon,
 Occidental Hotel Rates: 49440
 Single--\$6.00 to \$10.00 Double--\$8.00 to \$16.00
 2 room Suites--- \$25.00 Hospitality Room \$10.00
 Downtowner Motor Inn 381 W. Muskegon Ave.
 Rates: Single-\$11.00 Double-\$15.00
 Room with 2 double beds \$15.00 + \$4.00 ea. per.
 Holiday Inn 3450 Hoyt Muskegon Hts., Mich. 49444
 Rates: Single--\$11.50 Double--\$14.50
 Double room 2 beds \$17.00 Rollaways \$2.00 each.
 Seaway Motel 631 Norton Ave. Muskegon 49441
 Rates: Single--\$9.00 Double--\$11.00
 Double room 2 beds \$14.00 Rollaways \$2.00 each.
 For help with your housing needs write:
 Mr. Wm. Duplissis 1371 Getty St. Muskegon 49442
 Remember APRIL 24-25-26 in MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN

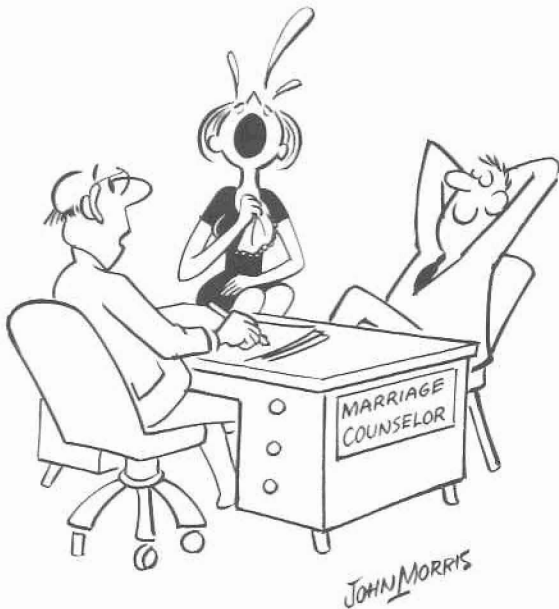


In the spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of Barbershop- ping. No, that's not what we wanted to say - - - wait; it just came to focus All roads lead to Muskegon.

No, it just won't come. Perhaps it's better stated, simply, the Spring Convention is in Muskegon, and Bob Gall, 1969 International President will be in attendance as Convention Keynote Speaker.

Gall, an Independence, Missouri bowling alley proprietor and long-time barbershop- per (21 years), is bass in the popular Merry Mugs and served many times in various of- fices at both chapter and district levels (twice as President of the Central States District Association of Chapters which in- cludes 7 states).

The chorus and quartet competitions are shaping up fast as what could be the biggest we've ever had. Wait; it just came to us . . the phrase we're searching for When in Muskegon, do as the Romans do Well, anyway, beware the Ides of April . .



"EVER SINCE HIS CHORUS DIRECTOR TOLD HIM TO SAVE HIS VOICE, HE WON'T SPEAK TO ME!"

CONVENTION NEWS

ATLANTIC CITY FLIGHT SCHEDULE SET

The flight scheduled for Pioneer District Barbershoppers has been firmed as follows

- Lv. Det. - June 24, 10:00 A.M.
Arr. Atl. City at 12:30
- Lv. Atl. City - June 27, 10:00 P.M.
Arr. Det. at 10:45 P.M.

The \$63.00 total fare includes Transportation to and from your Hotel in Atlantic City.

Due to monetary commitments by O.C.C., your reservation should be in by April 6th and must be accompanied by 10% of the total cost (\$7.00 each); an additional 40% (\$25.00) by April 20th, and the balance by May 15th (\$24.00). The fares are based on a full plane (89) and may be adjusted upward if the plane isn't full; however, a filled aircraft is anticipated.

Reservations will be made in the order in which they are received by: Bob Drabik, 1455 Eton Rd., Birmingham, Mich. 48008. (PHONE 313-646-6598)



"EVEN OUR CAT WAS ORGANIZED A QUARTET"

WHAT DOES BARBERSHOPPING MEAN TO YOU?

HERE IS A CHANCE TO EXPRESS YOURSELF
I WANT 1000 ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION —

WHY DO WE HAVE SUCH A LARGE MEMBER-
SHIP TURNOVER IN OUR SOCIETY?

There must be many reasons.

Society records show that at the end of the first ten years (August 1948) we had close to 25,000 members; in the next 20 years an increase of only 8,000 members; Michigan had 69 chapters with 3,000 members (Oakland County chapter had 300 members). Over half of our 69 chapters are now dead. In 1969 we had 1,482 members - we are now down to 1,310 - Why? Let's find out. You have your reasons.

Use the attached card and express yourself. You don't need to sign it unless you want to, but indicate your chapter; Please.

Your Answers will be classified and a report given in a subsequent issue of the Troubadour.

Fill it out NOW and return it as soon as possible. Maybe it will provide some answers as to how to increase membership.



The card below is for
your convenience

FILL OUT BACK,
CUT OUT AND
MAIL



PLACE
6¢
STAMP
HERE

DUANE H. MOSIER
16196 HARLOW
DETROIT, MICH. 48235

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CHAPTER REPORTS - 25TH OF PRECEDING MONTH
ALL OTHER COPY INCLUDING ADS MUST BE IN BY THE 20TH OF THE PRECEDING MONTH

Keep America Singing

ROBERT MILLER
576 DE SOTO
YPSILANTI MI 48197

THE PIONEER TROUBADOUR

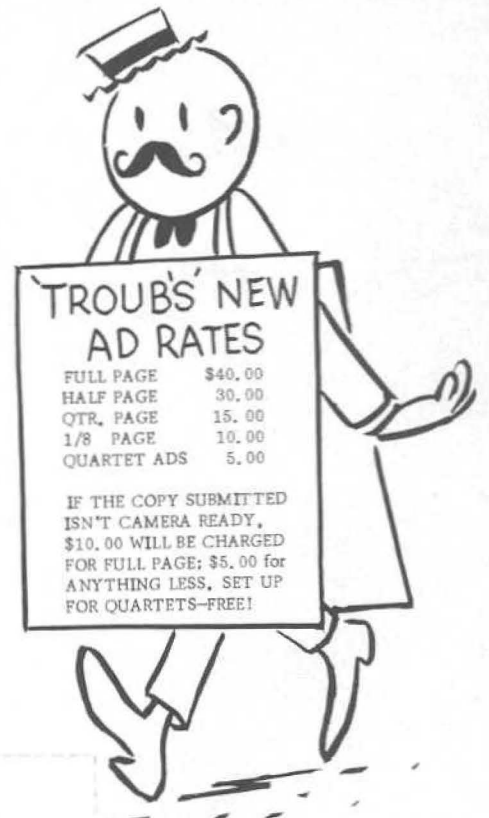
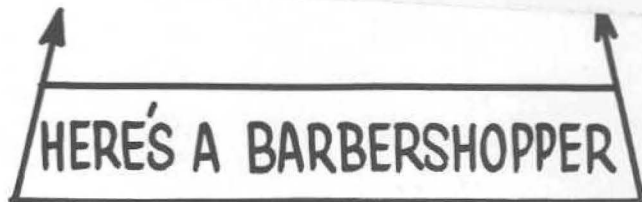
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NAME _____ CHAPTER _____

YEARS OF MEMBERSHIP _____

HAVE YOU SUNG IN A QUARTET? _____ CHORUS? _____

YOUR COMMENTS _____

TEAR OUT AND MAIL TODAY