

May 12

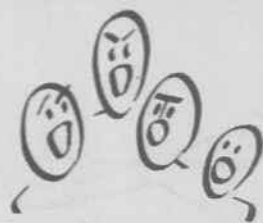


pioneer TROUBADOUR

Once a Champion



SINGING OUT



Letters To The Editor

EDITOR - THE TROUBADOR

It would seem to me that the members of the Pioneer District would be interested in another point of view regarding TOM DAMM'S report on the happenings at the San Diego Meeting.

First of all I have no intention of getting into a debate by mail with anyone on these several subjects, but there were some glaring omissions in his report that cast doubt in the minds of people and I do believe they should be brought out.

It was apparent that Tom's mind was closed to any additional information in justifying the dues increase as he stated that he went there to vote against it. There were many more good reasons given beyond postal and air travel increases, at least six other items had increases over which we had no control. The cost of living increase alone consumed more than the requested dues increase, but more efficient operation and the creation of new income sources other than dues would offset the higher costs. He stated that expenses were up 23% - he did not say that the new uniform sales program and other increases in merchandise revenue would boost the income side by a like percentage.

Tom's effort to delay a decision for six months would have cost the society many dollars in badly needed revenue. He spent most of his article justifying his minority position, of which he seemed to be very proud.

The subject of extension in England is another area needing the positive viewpoint presented. Tom says "let's take care of our chapters at home first". If this thinking is logical, then why form new chapters at all? I don't think we have the right to limit our style of music to USA and Canada. Let anyone sing it who wants to and we should see that they do it right. It was made perfectly clear that any extension efforts in England would not cost the society at the present time, and until such time that a dues structure for England is established, we cannot even speculate that barbershopping extension in any foreign country would ever cost the society. Frankly, I would like to see the day when the whole world would sing barbershop.

The matter of disseminating the financial reports in time for study is an undesirable physical problem. No one is trying to keep people uninformed--it just isn't possible to close the books December 31st, prepare the reports and distribute them sooner and do all the other work for a meeting three weeks away. I commend our staff for the fine work they do.

Debate is a useful tool in arriving at the best conclusion on any subject, but once a decision is reached, all parties should work positively toward the common goal. Continued divisiveness serves no useful purpose.

Tom and I are in complete accord on one thing - The GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT are the greatest and we are all proud of them.

CHARLES E. ABERNATHY - V.P. Treas.

RUSS SEELY

cc: Roger Lewis, Editor, The Pioneer Troubadour
Bill Warner, President, Pioneer District
Tom Damm, Int'l Board Member
Bob Johnson, Director Music Education and Services

SUBJECT: YOUR LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Russ:

Just a note to thank you for the excellent article you wrote for the March issue of the Troubadour and to let you know we can't agree more.

It just never occurred to us and just goes to show you you sometimes "can't see the forest for the trees".

We have routed your article on to Bob Johnson, and he will see that in the future quartets not renewing their registration will be referred to as "unrenewed" quartets - not "dropped" quartet registrations.

May we take this opportunity of expressing our appreciation to you for taking the time to write your excellent article and bring this to our attention.

Warmest regards.

Yours in SONG,

BARRIE BEST, Executive Director

KUARTET



KORNER

NEW QUARTETS

AIRE-MALES
Tom Pollard
15019 Flamingo
Livonia, Mich 48154
(Wayne) 141 #104

LATEST DIMENSION
Tom Weller
91 E. 21st St.
Holland, Michigan 49423
(Holland) 115 #5681

Unrenewed Quartet
Registrations

FOWLER FOUR
Lansing, Mich.

SAFE COMBINATION
Grand Rapids, Mich.

SOUNDSATIONS
Holland, Mich.

X-L's
Traverse City, Mich.

CYCLA MATES
Milford, Michigan

WHY NOT QUARTET
Wayne, Michigan

NOTE-WORTHIES
Detroit #1, Michigan

CHORD REPORTERS
Oakland Co. & Grosse
Pointe, Mich.

EXTRA

Message from JOE WOLFF.

I was pleased to learn that the generation gap has not interfered with allowing me to say a few words to you on this occasion.

I would like to work back thirty some odd years, to tell you why some of us old timers enjoyed doing missionary work for the Society. We did not resort to high pressure salesmanship in trying to promote barbershop harmony. Nor did we believe in boring our listeners with a lot of oratorical drivel. Instead, we concentrated on quartet singing to attract prospective members.

The formula worked! The more they listened to what we had to offer, the more they were convinced they could do a lot better.... They joined the Society to prove it. That, incidentally, is what the Society is all about.

Since then, we have been having fun in spite of our ups and downs, while striving to uphold our organization at a high level of respectability. We shall even do better if we don't

ON THE COVER

ALWAYS A CHAMPION . . .

And never was a statement more true than in the case of our own INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS....THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT!!!!

They've won the hearts of a Chapter, a District, and a Continent; won it as singers, as Gentlemen, and as Barbershoppers. They are, without a doubt, the best to come down the pike in a long time, and that isn't a prejudiced viewpoint - ask anyone in the Country.

AND ATLANTA ISN'T THE END . . . IT'S A BEGINNING!!!

MAY 1972

THE PIONEER TROUBADOUR

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forget that, the guiding principle governing our Society as a barbershopper's haven, is based upon faithful observance of the good-fellowship doctrine. It is of no less importance that we continue our vigilance against any misadventures or tactless acts, which might adversely affect the well being of our Society.

The resolution which I am about to present for your kind consideration, was conceived with these very thoughts in mind.

FROM: THE DELEGATES OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT

TO: ALL INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

Greetings:

The 1971 November-December issue of the Harmonizer contained a three page report on our Executive Director's surprise visit to England last September. It gave an account of BARRIE BEST'S contacts with many Englishmen in various cities, as well as a description of his offer to extend our Society's facilities with which to help organize chapters in England.

He spread his message far and wide as possible by radio, television and newspaper ads, which resulted in many personal interviews. The enthusiastic response to his exploratory efforts led to the formation of three provisional chapters. It was also reported that a repeat effort will be made in 1972, with added representatives from the administrative department. Barrie's report on the San Diego Mid-Winter Conference, however, disclosed that the Executive Committee instructed him to submit a plan to continue the project but with out cost to our Society. There was no mention of covering the cost of his last year's trip to England, until he returned, when the sum of \$600.00 was appropriated to defray some of his expenses.

The Pioneer District believes that the proposal to extend our organization's total program beyond the United States and Canada, cannot be justified for many reasons.

The founders of our Society clearly recognized the fact that barbershop harmony, as we understand it, is strictly an American Institution. It was organized for the purpose of preserving our heritage by perpetuating our musical folklore as indicated by its illustrious name: Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. No other place is named and we may assume none was intended.

What seems to have been overlooked is the obvious fact that there is no monopolistic control over any style of singing anywhere. Our good friends in England are, therefore, welcome to espouse the cause of barbershop harmony to the fullest extent of their heart's content.

Following discussion and careful consideration of the matter, the Pioneer District, through its duly qualified delegates in convention assembled in Midland, Michigan, on the 30th day of April 1972, resolves that:

We do not favor subsidizing any further activity on the part of our Executive Director or any members of the Administration in promoting the barbershopping program in England, and that more consideration be given to faltering chapters and the establishment of new ones, while guarding against loss of membership.

Resolved further, that a copy of this resolution be mailed to all members of the International Board and a copy be published in the Troubadour.

Respectfully submitted by,

William Schwedler
President of Detroit Chapter No. 1,
in behalf of the Pioneer-District

Chapter News

Les Cheneaux

by CHAS. E. WAGNER

With the first quarter of this new year behind us we are looking forward to a great summer and our chapter (Les Cheneaux) is starting to set the right foot forward under the able direction of our President, JERRY GABEL.

We are going great guns with a complete new look at things and several new members to the chorus. We are still a little behind on the membership but it is rapidly coming up to where it should be. To get things really going a couple of our members came up with the idea that we should have some kind of a chorus contest here in the north country and we came up with NORTHERN INTERNATIONAL CHORUS CONTEST **NICC** This will be, of course, an invitation to all northern area choruses and we will be most pleased if this can be a spur to all in the north. We expect a great deal from our first efforts and the place for the affair will be a medium of the north to be held in Mackinaw City. Our date for the first of this chorus contest will be a historical May 20, 1972.

Just recently we have had a few new members to our chorus. We welcome JIM CROSS, ROGER BARRENS, DON MEINTS, and DICK MATZKOWS. These fellows are very enthusiastically inclined and if we can match them in their quest for learning we will be doing well. Our director, BOB TRACY is very well known throughout the society and he does his best to bring the most from us. LARRY LOFDAHL Our assistant director has made much progress and we hope that he will continue to do a job that he is very well capable of doing.

We entertained our ladies twice this year already and this seems to give a little more enthusiasm to both the men and women. We have sung out to several churches in the U.P. and we are looking forward to more of this kind of program. Les Cheneaux is looking to a great parade this year and we think that this chorus contest will give a great deal more confidence to our members.

Gratiot County

by MAYNARD PEACOCK and FRED HANSON

We finally saw our last report, printed in the "Troubadour" so we figured it was time to bring you all up to date on more of our many and varied activities!!

On February 20th our chorus put on an hour program of religious music at the Ovid Methodist Church. The program included Quartets, Solos, and Duets as well as the MID-STATES-MEN CHORUS.

Then just a week later on February 28th, we sang for our supper at The Christian Church in Alma, Michigan. We invited them to come down and sing with us if any were interested, and believe it or not we picked up 2 new members. We are proud to present DAVE BISH and CLINTON HOWE to Barbershop Harmony.

Our Sing Out scheduled for March 29th for the Senior Citizens has been rescheduled for May 31 so there was a lull in activities so we could make plans for our "Auditions for Admissions" on April 24th. This is like no other, I am sure. We reserved the pool and shower at the Travelodge Motel. The Auditions were held---Yes you guessed it!!! Singing in the shower!!! We went swimming, Guests and all. After Try-outs and swimming we had a real nice program and introduced barbershopping to our eleven guests who came from Shepherd, St. Louis, Ithaca, Breckenridge, Wheeler and Merrill! They were

a wonderful group of fellows, and we are sure to get a few new members from their midst. A big vote of thanks and appreciation goes to JERRY WOLVEN our Administrative V.P. who engineered the evenings activities to perfection!

We were so excited about our "Auditions for Admissions" that we forgot to mention our Old Timers nite! This we held on April 10th and it has to be a success if it is done under the guiding hand of CARL MITCHELL, our Program V.P. We had a great crowd and were really entertained by TOM HEGLE and THE SMORGASCHORDS from Grand Rapids.

We sang for a Bowling League Banquet on May 2nd. We had fun doing it and they seemed to enjoy us too.

There will be other things going as spring turns into summer and we'll try to let you in on them in our next news letter.

Lansing

When you're hot, you're hot!

The Lansing Chapter has every burner roaring and it's paying off in rich dividends!

On Burner #1: The RANGEFINDERS with a bass, only a few weeks old--a mere babe in arms--captured the Bush League honors and brought the gaboon for the first time to Lansing. I understand tenor BILL MC CURDY, with some Sear's Elbow Grease, spent an entire week-end shining the thing up. Bari, MONTI BATES took a chisel to the inside to make more room for the generous donations to be hustled by Lead, GENE JOHNSON and Bass, ED POHL. Those guys are so enthusiastic about that old spittin' pot that they were trying to peddle second hand plugs chipped out my Monti. I understand they did sell a few plugs to the Motormen, Great Lakes and Arrow Head choruses just before the Midland Contest but couldn't convince the Lakeshore or Motor City guys of the powerful benefits therein.

On Burner #2: The VAGABONDS, who without KEN GIBSON would be out one of the finest tenors in the trade and most certainly an outstanding producer of rare humor (dry, witty and pointless) and of fantastic wisdom (we understand that never passing the 5th grade, he was promoted to teacher status). Our hats off to DENNY GORE, TONY SCOROS and NORM THOMPSON, not only for putting up with Ken but for bringing Lansing a share of the glory in the first place finish in Midland and privilege of representing the Pioneer District in the International Competition.

On Burner #3: The Capitalaire Chorus--who a year ago in Traverse City contained members who wondered why we should compete and thought twice about scratching. We've come a long way, baby! The ingredients, to name a few: auditions, the capable and enthusiastic leadership of President MC CURDY, the past and continuing support and effort of past-president DON FUNK, the competent directing of tireless KEN GIBSON, and above all--the willingness of each chapter member to pitch in and do his part when needed--whether to sing in the chorus at a sing-out or take down our new risers or loan another nameless guy his chorus jacket because of an absent-minded blunder. We left Midland one HAPPY CHORUS--with the silver award for the best chorus among the small chapters and a third place finish in the chorus competition! Our hats off to Midland for the fabulous center and true hospitality!

On back burner #4: The RANGEFINDERS again, who by the narrowest of margins missed a spot on the quartet finals but won the hearts of the audience as the "Miketesters". With their quality, they won't be kept down next fall or spring. And they're always tops with the Chapter.

The CAPITALAIRES did a job just before the contest for the East Lansing Lions Club at the fashionable Starboard Tack. The audience response to "Lady Love" and "Forgive Me" gave us an idea that something might happen in Midland. GENE

JOHNSON, draftsman with the Highway Department and Lead with the RANGEFINDERS, thrilled the audience with his golden-throated rendition of "Til We Meet Again". Lead MIKE STRAUS has installed a smelling salt dispenser in his left crutch to spray on all fair ladies who happen to swoon when Gene does his thing.

The Chapter is planning another audition for June, most likely at the Meridian Mall on the East side of the Lansing Metropolitan area (in Okemos). Preparation for the Fall contest should be very interesting, and threatening to all other chapters!

Lansing's part in Barbershop week produced a glowing proclamation by Lansing's mayor and a picture with the Chapter President MC CURDY and HAROLD MAC ATTEE to add to our memorabilia.

Niles - Buchanan

Well, March and April have come and gone, and it seems that I managed to blow the March article. Sorry 'bout that!

We've been busy, though. Contest-type rehearsals aren't usually fun and games, especially when the director (brilliant though he may be) is suffering the added irritation of recovering from knee surgery. Funny that I should mention the contest.... It just worked out that there were too many personal conflicts to permit enough guys to commit themselves to singing on Saturday, so we didn't come. Just you wait....

We've all made numerous appearances, the largest being a benefit for the cancer fund staged by a Niles sorority. This occurred during barbershop harmony week, the chorus, the octet, and the Phidavonics sang, and we were treated to a specially made and decorated birthday cake. The octet (in spite of what TOM DAMM said about octets, we can't shake the name) and the Phidavonics appeared on the Muskegon chapter's show for the benefit of the Oceana County Cancer Fund. The show was held in Hart, and we all stayed in a cabin and a trailer on a river about 20 minutes from there. I think I found where we stayed on a map, but driving there under dark of night make it difficult to be sure exactly where we were going!

Coming up, we are working with Fruit Belt chapter on a float for the Blossomtime Parade, and we're planning a joint presentation under Jaycee sponsorship for the benefit of our county's proposed sheltered workshop.

Then, too, we've got the whole chapter pitching in to assist with our membership program. Auditions for Admission or whatever, we'll try to have a report in next time. So, in spite of my personal silence, things are movin' and singin' and ringin' in Gateway-land.

Our 1973 show chairman, ROGER ANDERSON, has been doing lots of listening and asking, but he's not talking yet. We'll hear the good word on our February, 1973, show in good time I'm sure.

Since this is being written immediately following our arrival home from Midland, the impressions of the weekend are still very fresh.... The fine singing... the gracious hospitality and fine organization of the Saginaw-Bay chapter... the fun and fellowship with the finest men anywhere. One question, though--how come the only Barberpole Cat I saw all day Saturday was mine? I'd appreciate being able to sing with you guys, but I'm not particularly quick about picking up tags. Those Barberpole Cat songs give us a common ground of course, maybe you're all trying to tell me something!

We of the Niles-Buchanan chapter are sorry that tenor DICK HEMPHILL has had to take a job which will require him to be on the road most of the time. It really hurts when half your tenor section leaves. Maybe he can schedule his traveling so that he's in town on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. HA! That's what I've been trying to do--schedule my appoint-

ments around by barbershopping, and I haven't been particularly successful! Any tenors around interested in relocating Like in the Niles-Buchanan area?

It was good to see you in Midland... and just you wait until Flint! Congratulations to all the victors...we (Linda and I) will see you in Atlanta to cheer you on! Keep smiling...

Muskegon

Our regular February Spebsquaw meeting was an outstanding evening, culminating in the crowning of the 1972 Spebsquaw. MAGGIE BORTON, the 1971 "Fair One", transferred the Crown to VIRGINIA KENDALL, who will hold forth for the year 1972.

Ginny is the fifteenth queen. As is the custom, a registered quartet in the Chapter selects the Queen on the basis of her service to the Chapter in aiding and abetting her husband in his favorite hobby. No one is aware of the Queens identity until the announcement and crowning ceremony.



Our March meeting was Guest Night and FRANK MATECUN out guested everyone in the Chapter. He brought the St. Michaels all male choir - 20 Men, who not only added to the over all sound of the evening but also entertained with a few numbers. JOE MISCH, an early ardent Muskegon Barbershopper is their conductor and his reminiscing about the early days was interesting.

A Quartet Contest organized down to the judging of stage presence made the night complete.

April 21st found the Muskegon Chorus putting on a package show for the Hart and Shelby Cancer Fund in Hart, Michigan. TOM DAMM was the M.C. and the program included:

The Port City Chorus, directed by AL BURGESS
The Gateway Eight - The Niles-Buchanan Octet
The Phi-da-Vonics from the Niles Buchanan Chapter
The Muskegon Kasual D's and
The Uke-A-Lo-Fi's

When we consider the distance and time given over to community service by the Phi-Da-Vonics and the Gateway Eight (Niles Buchanan) we all realized that we were stringent in our giving. This display of "the best in Barbershopping" leaves a lot to be desired on the part of many of us. The Muskegon Chapter wishes to publically express our appreciation and thanks.

The Uke-A-Lo-Fi's also deserve special mention for their contribution to an outstanding program.

All arrangements for the show were handled by LOUIS SEGUIN. The program was his reward for a job well done.

May 19th - Muskegons 31st Annual Parade of Quartets lined up as the greatest in our history. Not only the GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT but also the AVANT GARDE were on the show. All hands were kept busy assuring every one of the finest night of Barbershopping to be had anywhere.

Milford

by DON SHERIDAN

HAPPINESS IS.....

NOT COMING IN LAST PLACE IN CONTEST

It didn't just happen, a lot of work and time went into climbing out of last place. Special thanks goes to all the guys who came out every week to sing at rehearsal, to those who came back to help round out some sections, to TOM SHULL and KING PAGE, and especially to MARTY ZURN our director who spent many hours with us to try and pound some musical knowledge into our heads. If it sounds like we won 1st place we really didn't, but having been the doormats of the chorus competition for so long, it's just great to be out of last place.

Our congratulations go to Detroit Motor City Chorus for taking the big prize and to the rest of the choruses which finished (which was most of the choruses) ahead of us.

Congratulations also to the VAGABONDS, SHARPLIFTERS, and ORIGINAL CHOICE great performances by all, one of Milford's new chorus members couldn't believe these guys would still be singing at 3:00 AM in the hospitality rooms. (You've got to love it to do it!!)

Many thanks to the Saginaw-Bay area Chapter for a great convention, a lot of hard work went into this venture (even the weatherman co-operated) and what a place to sing. Milford will remember Midland for a long time. It gave us a moral boost that we needed.

Milford has been working for and looking forward to singing out for the Senior citizens of Walled Lake and for a 500 Unit Trailer Park (looking for new members) where we will sing to a live audience and also on a closed circuit TV to shut-ins.

We are anxiously awaiting our new uniforms from International and hope that they will be a stimulus to getting new members.

I will close by saying it was nice to see old friends at the convention and we will be looking forward to seeing old friends and making new friends in Flint in the fall.

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America



ORIGINAL CHOICE
A Barber Shop Quartet From

The Saginaw Bay Chapter
Bob Demchak, Tenor - Jim Gross, Baritone - Len Johnson, Bass

Contact
BUD CARPENTER, Lead
2244 W. Caro Rd., Caro, Mich. 48723
Telephone: 673-4926

Wayne

by MORRIE GILES

Our March 17 chapter meeting saw the wearing of the green, and the orange, and the red, and the purple, and just about any other color or hue you could mention. Since barbershoppers are a conglomerate bunch, you may well expect anything on St. Patrick's Day - or any other time.

M.C.'s for the evening were the recently re-activated "AIR MALES" those of you who saw our parade this year know that these guys haven't lost one bit of their ability to hold an audience.

Numerous guests were on hand that evening, including BOB CRAIG, former director of the Detroit Chorus, who now resides in New Jersey. BOB, ROGER, and CECIL CRAIG, along with Tenor

BILL WILCOX formed a quartet for the occasion known as "3 Craigs and a Crab". Also in the spotlight were the "UNCALLED FOUR" who are Wayne's representatives at E.M.U. And, of course "THE WAYNE WONDERLAND CHORUS" showed the guests just why they were 1971-72 District Champs.

The Wayne "PITCHPIPE PARADE" for 1973 will star the greatest champions in barbershop history, - "THE GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT". Really now, you old timers, can you recall any group that could captivate and hold an audience as well as they? And the comedy spot will be filled by the "OK 4" from Oklahoma City. These guys are not only comedians but excellent singers, having placed 14th in International Competition.

The "WONDERLAND CHORUS" is working hard keeping the polish on the old repertoire, and at the same time starting at least one new number each week. Our "OILERS", GORDIE LIMBURG and MARV SKUPSKI, just WON'T LET US GET RUSTY. Chorus jobs, both paid and gratis, are projected on into the summer.

LAST CALL; all you golfers, duffers, divot diggers, etc., if you're interested in entering Wayne's June 16 Golf Outing please contact president BOB MIQUELON, 11310 Hubbard, Livonia, or call GA1-6132.

RON OULETTE, our man in Pittsburgh, made his annual trip to attend our March show at Henry Ford High School. Ron moved to Pittsburgh several years ago but still retains his Wayne membership. What's the word I want, - LOYALTY?

READY FOR HARRISVILLE?
HOW ABOUT THE FALL CONTEST?

Kalamazoo

by CARROLL STANDER

Your's Truly slightly overshot the weather and over played his hand, while working on the cottage Good Friday. So I'm writing this column from Bronson Hospital, recuperating from Pneumonia.

It really hit suddenly, all at once my breathing was short and labored, so we hurriedly packed up and took off for Kzoo. A-OK now, probably get out sometime this week.

Mar. 28 the chorus was busily practicing for contest when bed-lam hit the stairs down to our meeting room, lo and behold, there was Jackson in force. Bearing gifts??? Yes, we've got it! "The Little Brown Jug" from O.C.C. so sweat you neighbors! Eenie, Meenie Etc. We made arrangements immediately with our hosts, SCHWARZ HAUS and moved into the Gas Light Room to better handle the crowd.

Our newest quartet (no name yet) were "Mike Warmers", HAROLD RENO Lead, BOB MOON Tenor, PAUL WEELDRYER Bari and GEO MC CUBBIN Bass, did a fine job but in vain as they stayed "Cold" and "Dead" except when you walked across the carpet and touched it. What a bite!

The chorus serenaded each other, then our KEYTONES with CHUCK WILSON filling in for their absent lead. We took a break for "Tea and Crumpets". The FORTUNE TELLERS topped the evening.

We also got a good "Round Robin" going and also a few mixed JACK-KAZ woodshedders (sorry, couldn't resist that).

Mar 24 (Fri) we bussed to Benton Harbor's Annual Smelt Fry held at their chord-i-torium. I don't know how they do it, but every one gets better. All you guys who missed this have only your selves to blame. We had twenty four bus riders plus three guys that met us there, and it was really great. Thanks B. H. for having us.

Our chapter has gotten International Recognition on Logopedics. They sent a letter to our Pres. STU BENEDICT expressing their curiosity as to How we can "Kick In" so much. Made us feel wanted.

Detroit

by JOHN NEIGHORN

Detroit Chapter No. 1 recently sang for the Arnold Home and has several jobs including the Grosse Pointe Little Show on the 13th of May, the Detroit Police Dept.... Fuzz-o-rama and the Lansing send off show for the Atlanta International Convention bound quartets and chorus competition.

Speaking of all you can eat....delicious Kentucky style fried chicken, served by famous Colonel Shamus...plus our Kentucky Colonel Knowles costume quartet contest with badges, hats, flags, and prizes to quench any man's thirst. The judge was none other than our new director, TOM HINE, who heard the right pitch from the one quartet out of ten entries which won the contest. Our best baritone, BILL BUTLER, won the best dressed colonel award...a Kentucky chicken reject.

Midland will be remembered for having hosted a fine convention indeed the weatherman must have been bribed, but so what, it was beautiful, beautiful Midland.

Cheers to the great VAGABONDS and the SHARPLIFTERS who displayed to perfection the winning style we will need in Atlanta. And it seems the ORIGINAL CHOICE have a "pie in the sky" eye out for that special place.

Now we have RUSS SEELY of the Lakeshore Chorus, who danced his guys into second place while no ones lookin, but...we'll be watchin for you!

Who, but the mighty KEN GIBSON of the Capitolaire could get the silver award and 3rd place before he sits down comfortably

And now a pitch of the pipe to our own director of 7 weeks, TOM HINE, we express our thanks for leading us to the big 1st place standing in the Pioneer District Competition, The Championships....may I add a note of sincere gratitude to our own best baritone BILL BUTLER for finding such a capable replacement.

Detroit Chapter No. 1, held it's auditions for admissions on Monday, May 1st & May 8th at the Southland Mall which added several members to our chapter. Our members worked long and hard arranging quartets, having runners escort prospective singers to the auditorium, from there they were placed according to voice range. We then closed with usual chapter meeting procedure, Keep America Singing....

Remember JULY, that's the month of the Detroit No. 1 annual moonlite cruise....Friday July 24....bring your gal but not your booze, it's available on the boat. Here is a chance to take off your feet and rest your shoes.

The Motor City Chorus Wives had their annual rummage sale at the Ferndale Community Center on Saturday, May 6, where you pick up the bargains that you bring back next year!!!!

Holly - Fenton

by GRANT L. WRIGHT

By the time this article appears in print our 13th annual Harmony Highlights show will be history. Headliners at our show were: the present District Champions: THE ORIGINAL CHOICE, previous Champions, THE VAGABONDS and featuring the Flint Sweet Adelines Chorus. About 70 people from local convalescent homes and shut-ins were honored guests, with transport with transportation and escorts furnished by local citizens.

We will be concentrating on an audition for admission campaign to build up our membership. The next quad-chapter meeting will be held in Bay City hosted by the Saginaw-Bay Chapter.



BOB KNOWLES, KARL RESTIVO, KEN STEWART, NELS GOTSHALL

Jackson

by BOB DININNY

Jackson Chapter, 23 men strong, presented the Oakland Traveling Jug to Kalamazoo Chapter on March 28. At least they didn't get it at the last minute. That jug is a great idea, Oakland Chapter. We greatly enjoyed being visited by Grosse Pointe and equally enjoyed laying it on Kalamazoo.

April 1 saw us celebrating a Ladies Night. Where did Sam Cushman get all those crazy games we played?

The chapter was busy during April with sing-outs in Leslie and Marshall along with a package show in Michigan Center. Alas, we didn't sing-out in Midland.

As this goes to press, we are getting ready for an Auditions Night late in May. Even bigger news is that plans are underway for our Annual Show on October 28 which will feature the fabulous GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT.

If you are ever faced with a grisly weekend, why not come to Jackson on Friday night and put the blues away with some great barbershop. We'll sing a song with or for anybody.

Grand Rapids

by PAUL ROBINSON

Hats off to the SAGINAW-BAY Chapter for a fine contest weekend in Midland and our congratulations to all the big winners: THE VAGABONDS, THE SHARPLIFTERS, and the fine MOTOR CITY CHORUS with new director TOM HINES. What a great job!!!

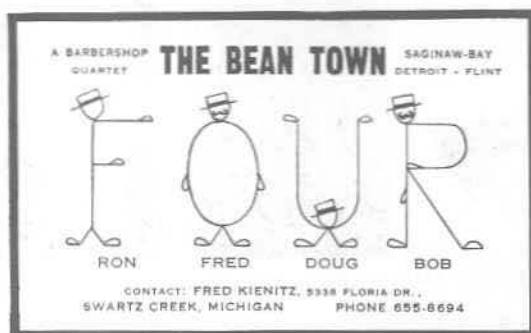
Also congratulations are in order for one of our favorite quartets THE RANGEFINDERS for winning the BUSH LEAGUE, and to our own GALAXIES for their close second place finish. Wait'll next year, they say. Did they say that?

We are losing a fine member - BOB BUFFHAM a former lead with the EXPERIMENTALS and with the SOUNDSATIONS. BOB is moving to Peoria, Illinois and has already visited with the PEKIN CHORUS. These guys had better hold on to their tags tightly when BOB shows up. He is said to have one of the larger tag collections in the society.

Since our last edition we have had our 29th ANNUAL GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL which again was quite successful. A special thanks to another fine job by SHOW CHAIRMAN JACK SCHNEIDER. Jack says it's easier every year. We were most happy for the fine entertaining job turned out by the 4 NUBBINS - GRANDMAS BOY'S - VAGABONDS - FORGETMENOTES and the GREAT LAKES CHORUS.

GOLFERS WANTED - Plan now to attend the Annual GREAT LAKES OPEN to which we hope to attract a lot of golfers and barber-shoppers from this end of the state. It is to be held at LINCOLN GOLF COURSE on Sunday, JULY 16th. There are fine prizes to be won, a pot-luck dinner afterwards and some fine quartets to sing (maybe even the SUNTONES).

**WE SING...
THAT THEY SHALL SPEAK!**



Flint

by LES LANG

The Flint Show on April 8, 1972 was a smashing success. The Valley-Four-Gers from Elgin, Illinois, making their first appearance in this area, sure put on a crowd pleasing performance, current Illinois District Comedy Quartet Champs, they are not only funny, they are great harmony singers too.

The Flint Chapter has had several Auditions For Admissions and are growing quite rapidly, last report from International placed us at 58 members on stage for our show Chorus and expect to have a similar amount at the District Competition in Midland. Of course being mostly new we lack experience in public appearance but we are in the process of doing some singing out this summer and look out next fall when we have the Convention in Flint.

At our show the BARBERSHOPPER of the YEAR award was presented to BILL SHANNON, who, as president in 1970 & 1971, built the Chapter from 19 to 46 members. This is the second BOTY that BILL has been presented with. The other time was in 1964, in fact the first BOTY award made by our chapter.



B.O.T.Y. 1971

BILL SHANNON

Holland

by SI KROL

Never mind sending Nadar to Holland. We're still alive and kicking in this Dutch Community. The Board of Directors this year consists of the following men: President, BOB TUBERGAN, Membership VP-NORM BREDEWAY, Program VP-BOB VAN INS, Treasurer-SI KROL and still Secretary-CARL BOS. The other Board members are, DALE HOFMAN, JACK ESSENBURG, CHET OONK, BOB BOS, & TOM WELLER and TOM DAMM.

We still meet every Monday nite at 8:30, on the third floor of Hansens Drug Store, in the middle of the block on 8th St. Our Director is the Esteemed TOM DAMM from Spring Lake.

Our latest or newest Quartet is the THE LATEST DIMENSION. They are: DALE VAN LANGEVELDE-Bass, AL WALTERS-Bari, TOM WELLER-Lead and FRED SCHUTMAAT-Tenor. These guys are something. By the time this letter is received by you men OUR Quartet will have competed at the Bush League at Boyne City. And I guess they are going to Midland. They should win hands down.

Our TULIP-TIME SHOW this year was on May 19, 1972. The Quartets that helped to make this a success this year were the following: NO-1. THE CRACKER JILLS, No-2. THE SOUND

TRACKS, No-3. THE ORIGINAL CHOICE, No-4. THE LATEST DIMENSION, No-5. HOLLANDS OWN WINDMILL CHORUS under the able direction of Mr. TOM DAMM. There how's that, Roger?

Grosse Pointe

by BILL HERMAN

It's been great to see the turn-out of new and prospective members at our chorus rehearsals since our Macomb Mall auditions. Your new faces and voices are most welcome and we hope you will find barbershopping as rewarding an experience as we have. Three of our newcomers joined us for our Annual Quartet Contest with Wayne Chapter and, although we didn't win the contest, a good time was had by all and our thanks to the Wayne singers for their hospitality.

We went the full route on April 10 when Grosse Pointe Chapter's LAKESHORE CHORUS sang for the East Side Shrine Club. Our newly-found fifth director, KURT KUSCH, again came to the rescue and conducted a fine program for the Shriners at the Italian-American Hall near City Airport. Kurt discovered some excellent singers as he conducted group singing and some of them joined us in some wood-shedding afterwards (I don't think I'll ever forget the little man in the red fez). We wound up the evening at a local pub where some hearty members of the St. Joan of Arc choir joined us in several rounds -- of song!

PAT YACQUES will be succeeding HANK DEVRIES as program VP and HANK DEMARS, in turn, will take over Pat's position on the Board. We hope HANK DEVRIES will be able to participate as fully as he would like to real soon; in the meantime, I know Pat and Hank DeMars will do a bangup job.

We're looking forward to a visitation with Oakland Chapter in June, at which time the famous "Traveling Jug" will be broken open for use at the International Competition in Atlanta.

Oakland County

by JACK CLARKE

One disadvantage of a long-lead publication such as the Troubadour is attempting to write six to eight weeks into the future so the reader can relate this material to what is actually happening at the time it is read rather than at the time it was written.

This is not too difficult when we're reporting on chapter activities, details of which we know ahead of time. We know there will be a Ladies Night in April so we write it up in February, ex post facto.

But when we're talking about the International Contest that little writing device doesn't work. By the time anyone, except Roger Lewis and the printer, reads this the Wolverine Chorus will either be (1) on the way (2) in or (3) on the way back from Atlanta. And attempting to say in early May what the first week in July will bring or what our emotions will be, is beyond the capability of any scrivener, regardless of the techniques available to him.

Suffice it to say that on July 5 the Wolverine Chorus will get on that plane as well-prepared to represent the Pioneer District as is humanly possible. We're going to give it our best shot. And we'll be in good company with the VAGABONDS and SHARPLIFTERS who we know will be carrying that same dedication to their contest.

May 5 -- Chapter meeting. Past Presidents and Oldtimers. Former directors GORDIE LIMBURG, DUNC HANNAH, and DICK LIDDICOATT led the grey beards through some of the golden oldies. Also a raft of quartets, ROLLING TONES, CURBSTONE SERENADERS, HARMONY SHAVERS, MUSIC LADS, and pickup quartets of OCC veterans.

May 23 -- Wolverine Chorus participated in Royal Oak's Michigan Week program.

OAKLAND COUNTY

- June 2 -- Chapter meeting. Return of the fabled OCC Traveling Jug for the benefit of the VAGABONDS and SHARPLIFTERS. Both groups plus the ORIGINAL CHOICE were on hand, along with visiting members from the Wayne, Detroit, and Grosse Pointe chapters, and the chapter holding the jug.
- June 16 -- Wolverine Chorus participated in Wolverine Raceway's annual "Good Old Days" event.
- July 5 -- Great iron bird off to Atlanta.
- July 8 -- ????????????????

CONTACT:
WES DORSEY
166 CLEVELAND AVE.
DEFIANCE, OHIO 43512
419-784-4233



The Four-in-Legion

JIM SHISLER
419-594-2210

GENE GIFFY
419-267-3654

LOWELL APPEGATE
419-542-8196

NOTICE

FROM: KENT KORDSMEN
TO: All barbershoppers of the Pioneer District.

On September 30, 1972 at 8:00 P.M. the Chatham Chapter of the Ontario District will host the International Night at the Chatham Kent Armouries.

This will be the first year that Chatham has undertaken to host this event. We along with the other chapters of the Western Division have chosen this date because a Saturday will allow you ample time for travelling. (In the past we feel we were rushing you. As you know, to finish work and attend this occasion by 8:00 P.M. was practically impossible. Not to mention you had to leave a little early so you would not arrive home too late.)

This will be an International Night to remember. We hope you will all attend and help make this one of the biggest and best events of the year. With everyone's co-operation we are sure this can be done.

Your Hosts
KENT KORDSMEN



BILL SCHWEDLER, BUTLER and BILL WARNER

BILL BUTLER Hangs Up His Pitchpipe.....

How can you give up doing something you really love doing?

This is the question asked of W. D. (Bill Butler when he made it known he was resigning as director of Detroit's No. 1 Chapter, Motor City Chorus.

This wasn't an easy decision for Bill to make after leading this famed chorus for nine years, but sometimes a guy takes a look at his health, job and family and realizes they all have suffered a little as a result of his dedication to the chapter and chorus.

At the helm of the Motor City Chorus, he has piloted the group to two (2) District Championships and taken the chorus to two (2) International Contests, not to mention the several local accomplishments to their credit.

To resign wasn't a snap decision on Bill's part, because it has been known by many of his close friends in the chapter for some time and when his mind was made up to relinquish the directorship, his heart also went with it.

First, the big challenge that faced him was to find the right guy suitable for the job, since he wasn't about to turn this chorus he loved so well over to just anyone.

After extensive looking and searching for the guy he could put 'up front', he found Tom Hine, then he moved into the baritone section of the chorus and left the directorship to Tom, a long time Barbershopper.

Tom has previously been associated with the West Towns, Skokie Valley and Akron Choruses. He also sang with the "Midnight Oilers" and Akromatic Quartets.

He is extremely capable and has quickly taken the Motor City Chorus into stride and now his sights are trained on the contest in Midland.

In a brief ceremony to show appreciation for his long outstanding service, Bill Butler was presented a plaque by the Chapter President, Bill Schwedler, on behalf of the Chorus, following their regular Monday night rehearsal.

Tom then rolled up his sleeves and put the chorus through its paces. I think the smile on his face said to all the guys....Right on!



Pontiac Chapter members returning from happy vacations are NORM & MARY ELLEN SCHRAM from Mexico, JERRY & HANK GEYER from Florida, also the VAN ACKERS, THE DOBBS, THE GOTSCHALLS from Phoenix Arizona and PAT & ED DE POORTER from Hawaii.

Our sincere sympathy goes to the LEROY MC KINNEY family on his recent death, he was a Grosse Pointe Chapter member.

Its good to see RUTH (MRS. JOE) KILEY up and about again after recent surgery.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery is wished for MIKE TARN who recently had surgery.

Oakland County Chapter recently held their "Ladies Night" at the K of C Hall in Berkley. M.C. for the evening was NORM THOMPSON. The barbershop Plaque, Month award was given to CHARLEY WILCOCK. Induction of new officers took place, code of ethics was read by BOB MC DERMOTT, inductions of new members was given by Chapter President JOHN MC CLINCHY. The film from the New Orleans Convention was shown, quartets that entertained were Sweet Adeline quartets, the "HARMONY HUGGERS" who just recently joined S.O.C. Suburbanette Chapter and the Regional Champions the SONG PIPERS from the same chapter, the VAGABONDS quartet and others plus the Oakland County Chorus directed by CARL DAHLKE. A raffle took place with the proceeds going to Logopedics, prizes included Barbershop records and a bottle of cheer to lucky number holders. PAT HOEMKE prepared and served a fine Chinese Lunch, the evening was enjoyed by all with good fellowship and more singing.

Oakland County Chapter members wives the "P.A.L.T.A.L.'S" recently held a meeting at the home of PAT HOEMKE'S making final plans for their May (dance extravaganza) of the year, profits to go to the Atlanta Ga. travel fund.

BILL & EVELYN PASCHER returned from a pleasant trip to California, where they celebrated the 58th Wedding Anniversary of Bills parents, they also visited former Mich. Barbershoppers including BILL & GOLDIE WALES, BOB & MARION WHARTON, DON & ROMAINE MAZER and others.

If anyone found a sport coat at the Holiday Inn in Midland, the owner is BOB WHITLEDGE, bass singer in the "GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT" quartet (Int. Champs).

The Sweet Adelines of Midland Chapter did an excellent job working at the auditorium dressed in various colored pastel shades (pant suits,) also the hostess chapter wives did an outstanding job working at the registration desk. Among those were SHIRLEY SHOWALTER, RUTH FRANZ, SWANIE SYULKOWSKI, CAROLYN MILLER, PAN SECAR, MARGIE JOHNSON, LOIS MUELLER, CARLEEN BEAVER, MARCIA BATISON & others.

A fine Pre Glo was held friday evening at the Holiday Inn & an afterglow at the Armory where more singing was enjoyed with quartets singing. Many hospitality rooms were beautifully decorated where beverages and goodies were served. Pontiac Chapter also served coffee & donuts, credit goes to BEA & JERRY HOCKEY and many others, mainly the Chapter.

Traverse City served their famous grape & cherry juice & goodies, & also gave away a beautiful wall clock to the lucky name drawn from the rooms registration box.

Ardent workers for the District Convention in "Flint", in

Midland.....

The Gods of Barbershopping were smiling with favor over the Pioneer District Spring Convention in Midland. Perfect April weather, magnificent new auditorium, and wonderful headquarters facilities. You should have been there!

The enthusiastic crowd was comfortably seated, looking first (Pic 1) at M. C. Dick DeMontmollin, Int'l Pres., perched high over the side of the stage, and then (Pic 2) at the competitors as they witnessed perhaps the finest parade of talent in Pioneer history. YOU should have been there!

After the contest, the quartets were anxiously waiting backstage (Pic 3) for the Judges decisions that would send two of Pioneer's finest to represent our District in Atlanta come July. The announcers voice finally rang out . . . "The Sharplifters"- Detroit Chapter (Pic 4) and four happy singers rushed out to receive their accolades. One more to go - - and four equally happy minstrels (Pic 5) congratulate each other as they hear . . . "The Vagabonds O Oakland County - Lansing". It was a moment to be proud of, as teh popular decisions were met with enthusiastic applause. You really SHOULD have been there.

IF you HAD been there, you could have joined in the fellowship below the motel Balcony (Pic 6) or woodshedded with on of the many groups in the motel corridors (Pic 7). Your face would have shown your happiness, as do the faces of Traverse City (Pic 8) during a break at the Afterglow. You might even have been lucky enough to have met our affable Pres. Dick, as he circulated among the many hospitality rooms (Pic 9), charming everyone with his warm southern personality.

Not to be outdone, Pontiac Hospitality was proven by appreciative guests as the crowd in (Pic 10) to hear the parade of talent, not the least of which was the "Rolling Tones" (Pic 11). Our District Pres. Bill Warner, and Vice-Pres. Don Funk, were guiding Int'l Pres. deMontmollin from room to room, (Pic 12) and many impromptu tryouts were evident along the way.

Sunday Morning the House of Delegates fills up with bright and shining??? representatives (Pic 13), and they were thrilled by the stirring message delivered by Pres. deMontmollin. Part of the business-at-hand was the presentation of generous contributions to the Institute of Logopedics (Pic 14) by Chapters (l to r) Detroit, Pontiac, Oakland County, and Saginaw Bay.

Pontiac Chapter Pres. Dick Guerin was warmly contratulated by District Pres. Bill Warner (Pic 15) for having led his Chapter to third place in the International Protention Contest . . . another award for Pioneer.

Well, maybe you WILL be there next time, and I'll be seeing YOU through the eye of a camera.

'Til Then . . . keep smiling



BILL PASCHER

October were IRENE & LES LANG, who had Barber Poles and a large key on display and handed out large lapel buttons with a musical noted key on its face, reading (The Key, Flint, Oct. 72)

Traverse City Chapter members sold white car license plate frames reading Pioneer District, Keep America Singing printed on them, proceeds going to Logopedics.



Keep America Singing

ROBERT MILLER
576 DE SOTO I 41
YPSILANTI MI 48197

SECOND CLASS MAIL

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER

SUMMER TRAVEL GUIDE



THE FIFTEEN DISTRICTS OF S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

SUMMER TRAVEL GUIDE

Here's the first edition of the Summer Travel Guide. We'll print more on this in the next issue. For locations, see last page.

- ① **CAMP OUT - JUNE 16-17-18.....**"Deer Camp" Lake Mendocino, Ukiah, Calif., on Rt. 20 - 3 miles East of US 101. Sponsored by the Ukiah Chapter. Camp Grounds and other space available for trailers and pickup campers. Swimming - boating. Admittance - \$1.00 per Barbershoppers. Contact: Jerry McFarland, 2200 Twining Rd., Ukiah, Calif., 95482
- ② **FAMILY "FUN IN THE SUN".....**Campout - Storm Lake, Iowa, July 28-29-30. Sponsor: Buena Vista Chapter. Campgrounds and trailer park. Motels available at \$10.00 per and up. East side of Storm Lake off Rt. 71. Contact: Lou Sharp, RFD 2, Storm Lake, Iowa., 50588
- ③ **"13th ANNUAL MUSCONETCONG PICNIC".....**1 day - July 29, 1972 - Lou & Emil Gansereit, Rt. 31, Oxford New Jersey. Private grounds located in foothills of the Pocono Mountains on the Jersey side, 16 miles from Delaware Water Gap. Highway well posted - Police will direct those attending picnic. Sponsored by the Musconetcong Chapter. Grills, swimming pools available. Bring food, tables & chairs. Adults, \$2.00, children (over 6) \$1.00. Contact: Emil Gansereit.
- ④ **CARDINAL ANNUAL DISTRICT PICNIC.....**August 5 & 6 - Brown County State Park, on Rt. 46 between Nashville and Columbus, Indiana. Sponsored by the Cardinal District. Campgrounds - Modern Lodge - Ramada Inn close at hand. \$1.00 per carload Park entry fee. Contact: Keith Rarick, RRA, Nashville, Indiana 47448.
- ⑤ **"OTTAWA CAMPOUT".....**August 11-12-13, Glenwood Farms, Marseilles, Illinois. Sponsor, Ottawa Chapter. \$1.00 entry fee non-campers. \$1.00 registration fee for campout. Campgrounds \$3.00 - \$3.50 per day per unit. Motels available approx. 8 miles from campgrounds. Contact: Henry Wallen, 536 Catherine, Ottawa, Illinois 61350.
- ⑥ **"LABOR DAY JAMBOREE".....**September 2-3-4, Sheraton Beach Hotel, 19400 Collins Ave., Miami Beach, Florida. Contact: Harry Goldstein, 3296 Pamarito, Coral Gables, Fla. 33134.
- ⑦ **"HARRISVILLE CAMPOUT".....**September 2-3-4, on Lake Huron, Harrisville, Mich. Sponsor: "SPONTANEOUS". Campsites, motels and hotels available. Contact: Russ Seely, 15563 Chestnut, East Detroit, Mich. 48021.
- ⑧ **"4th ANNUAL DETROIT LAKES OUTING".....**Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes, Minn. Sponsored by Detroit Lakes Chapter. September 22-23-24. Package price approx. \$12.00 per head which will include lodging, show and afterglow tickets, a Saturday noon buffet and Sunday Brunch. Contact: Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes, Minn.
- ⑨ **"3rd ANNUAL BARBERSHOP CAMPOUT".....**August 18-19-20, Fantasyland Park, #12 Highway, Brooklin, Ontario. Sponsored by the Oshawa Chapter. \$10.00 per family - includes Park admission, campsite fees, registration, Saturday night show and barbeque, childrens activities and prizes. Motels 5 miles away - \$10.00 - \$14.00 per couple - children \$1.00 - \$2.00. Portion of registration fee will be refunded if you use motel. Contact: Harry McKew, 1050 Ronlea St., Oshawa, Ont.