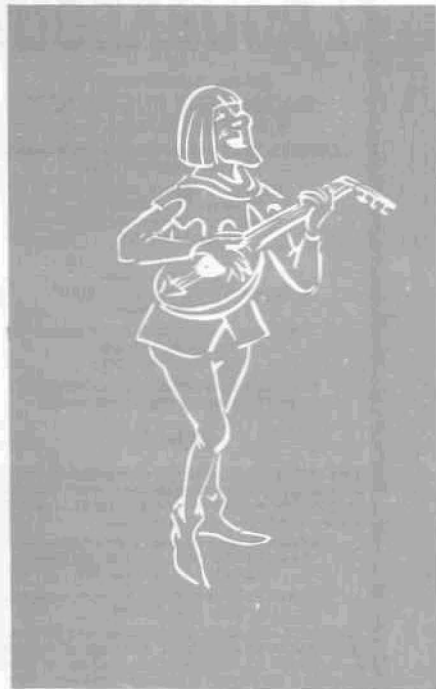


pioneer

DECEMBER 1973

TROUBADOUR



Peace

and

Harmony

MINUTES OF PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
HART MOTOR INN
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN
October 12, 1973

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Warner at 6:45 p.m. All officers were in attendance. Also in attendance were Convention Co-Chairman Dean Burrell, Troubadour Editor Roger Morris and District C&J Chairman Merle Clayton.

The minutes of the meeting of September 9, 1973 were approved as read by the Secretary.

President Bill announced that this would be a short meeting to allow everyone to attend the evening's Past District Quartet Champions' Show. He announced that a more detailed meeting would be held Saturday, November 10, 1973 at Lansing. (COTS Weekend)

Vice President Dykema presented a resolution for adoption by the Board as follows:

Resolution

Passed by the Board of Directors

Pioneer District

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

in memory of

Tom Grove


Whereas, Tom Grove has for over twenty years been associated with this Society, until his death in early 1973, this Board of Directors desires to spread the following resolution upon the minutes of the District and a copy to be mailed to his family.

Resolved, that we recognize the long and faithful service he rendered to this Society, especially as a Certified Harmony Accuracy Judge, as the baritone of the Tune Vendors Quartet (1950 District Champions), and as a member of the Niles-Buchanan Chapter.

Further, that we acknowledge the many contributions he has made to this Society through his keen musical sense and the high principles which governed his every action and decision in his judging expertise. We, his fellow associates, will miss his wealth of knowledge and will long cherish his memory.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

12 October 1973


Secretary

The resolution was adopted unanimously.

A C&J report was rendered by Merle Clayton.

Roger Morris, Troubadour Editor, rendered a short report. He was complimented by the Board on the quality of his first issue.

A written Treasurer's report was given to all Board members, and accepted as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

John T. Gillespie

District Secretary

New District officers elected at Battle Creek

The following officers were elected to serve the Pioneer District by members of the House of Delegates at Battle Creek on October 14:

PRESIDENT—Don Funk
EXEC. V.P.—John T. Gillespie
ZONE I V.P.—Doran McTaggart
ZONE II V.P.—Herman Dykema
ZONE III V.P.—Thomas Hegle
ZONE IV V.P.—Loton Willson
ZONE V V.P.—Clifford Douglas
SECRETARY—Lawrence G. King
TREASURER—George Schmidt
TROUBADOUR EDITOR—
Roger Morris
INT. BOARD MEMBER—
William C. Warner
AREA COUNSELORS—
ZONE I—Clay Jones
ZONE II—Richard Smith
Rey Peterson
ZONE III—Fran Jones
ZONE IV—Don Bazely
Warren Marsh
ZONE V—Dick Guerin

Pioneer
TROUBADOUR

Official Publication of the
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S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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PIONEER TROUBADOUR

IT CAN BE DONE

Port Huron—An example of 'encouragement,' dedication, organization and much hard work

When Sam Kennedy, Society field representative, placed an ad in the local papers in the Port Huron area announcing his intentions to hold a meeting in that city for the purpose of organizing a Barbershop Chapter, many eyebrows were raised in the southeastern sector of the Pioneer District.

By the time Sam had left town most of those eyebrows were drooping back toward a more normal half-mast, and the fruits of his mission were very much in evidence in the Blue Water Country.

Port Huron is well on its way to becoming a charter holder in our prestigious Society as a result of this bit of spadework.

It didn't just happen.

Real organization never "just happens". Someone has to make it work. But before "someone" makes it work, a lot of planning and calculation goes into the hopper.

Thus the newspaper ads, with accompanying stories; day and evening appearances on radio and TV; the splendid kickoff show that featured the Boondockers, Back Porch Majority and the vibrant Lakeshore Chorus from Grosse Pointe. And, of course, Sam Kennedy and the staff in Kenosha.

One of the first contacts Sam made was with Pat Yacques of the Grosse Pointe Chapter. The fine baritone of the Back Porch Majority was asked to become the musical director and help guide the work in its organizational stages. This proved to be a very wise choice as the work evolved.

The organizational meeting was held at the Fogcutter, a restaurant on top of the Peoples Bank building in Port Huron, Wednesday, September 26. President Bill Warner, who was invited to be on hand for the occasion, found himself pressed into service as the master of ceremonies for the event, and those present were treated to an evening of Barbershopping not soon to be forgotten.

The net result of this initial effort was the signing of 24 members who paid their initiation fees that evening.

The fledgling chapter has been granted a license, and according to Pat, hopes to charter within the year. "There is little doubt that we could not attain the 35 members necessary for chartering a chapter right away," Pat says. "However, we want to be sure it will be a sound chapter and capable of retention of its members before we take that step, and I'm sure we will make it."

One of the misgivings in chartering new chapters, of course, is the possibility of members migrating from other neighboring chapters, and thus depleting the ranks of these organizations. However, Grosse Pointe, the closest chapter to

Port Huron, has just passed the century mark in membership, and while there are a few dual members involved, the number is negligible.

"We are not dependent in Port Huron on dual membership," Pat responded to a question. "In fact, we have signed 27 men who have never sung Barbershop Harmony before."

These members come from many communities in the area — Marysville, Algonac, Fair Haven, New Baltimore, St. Clair, Yale, Richmond, and, of course, Port Huron. They range in age from 16 to 70, and included in the growing membership is one prize catch, Jack Rickert, bass, who sang with Johnny Appleseed's 1963 District Champions, The Blazers, from Xenia, Ohio.

The Boondockers, a registered quartet from Richmond, and the Back Porch Majority have joined the chapter to help give it a sound footing of experienced performers.

The usual woes of any chapter, a suitable place to meet and rehearse, seems to have escaped the Blue Water entry. They meet in the Elks Club, 3292 Beach road, on Wednesday nights at 7:30. According to Pat, the Elks have some 1,000 members in the area, many of whom like to sing, and he hopes to tap some of this vocal talent for his new chorus.

"Applause", the Port Huron Times Herald's fine entertainment section, had a comprehensive write-up on their newest entry in the Sunday, October 21 issue.

With a great deal of help from John Wearing, newly elected president of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, and Zone V vice president Cliff Douglas, Port Huron has been able to get a start on administrative organization. Jerry Schultz is president, Lyle Lee administrative vice president, and John Wilson is treasurer. Other positions will be filled in the near future.

Add Pat Yacques to this list as musical director and you can see that the organizational effort in Port Huron was well worth the time and the effort.

Directing a chorus would seem to tax the dedication of the most devoted of Barbershop lovers, but with a few minor exceptions it has not cut Pat's activities to any great extent with his home chapter at Grosse Pointe, where he still sings in the Lakeshore Chorus and edits the award-winning Pitchpipe, the chapter bulletin. He did serve as assistant director of the Lakeshore Chorus and as program vice president, and this must give you some idea of why Sam Kennedy wanted him for Port Huron.

Yes sir! Dr. Sam knows a good thing when he sees it!





New Champs try it on for size



Old Champs go out in style



The many moods of the Harmony Hounds



Back Porch Majority at 3 a.m.



"They sing and we do the work!"



"It wasn't THAT funny!"



"Judges CAN sing, too!"



Linda and the Herr Razors

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Pioneer District will inaugurate Hall of Fame at Spring Convention

One of the highlights of the Spring Convention slated for Traverse City April 26-28, 1974, will be the inaugural of the Pioneer District's Hall of Fame, honoring Barbershoppers who have made significant contributions to the craft and Society throughout the years.

After considerable research and spadework, Doran McTaggart, Zone I vice president, reported his findings to the House of Delegates on Sunday, October 14 at Battle Creek, and recommended the first selections be announced at Traverse City. The officers and delegates unanimously agreed with McTaggart's findings and voted accordingly.

The report, as accepted, is as follows:

"Background:

"In our district there have been many men with exceptional talents who have given many years of their lives spreading the gospel according to O. C. Cash throughout their communities and district. We seldom say 'Thank you' for a job well done. By means of a Hall of Fame, all Barbershoppers of the Pioneer District could give some small recognition to those 'Pioneers' (past and present) for the many contributions the recipients of such an award have given to their chapters, district, and Barbershopping in general. Some type of an award to say thanks seems in order.

"Proposed Award:

"A suitable scroll or plaque could be presented (even posthumously) along with a citation on the evening shows of our district conventions. A suitable feature story could be

written in the Troubadour and the recipients' names could be listed in the District Directory as a member of the Pioneer District 'Hall of Fame.'

"Two or four members could be selected annually; one or two at each convention. At first a larger number could be selected to catch up on the backlog. Names of worthy candidates along with a summary of their achievements should be sent by Chapter Boards, Executives or individual Barbershoppers to the District Board for consideration.

"The District Board would select the nominees to be honoured at each convention.

"Nominations for the Spring Convention Award must be received by December 31.

"Nominations for the Fall Convention Award must be received by June 30.

"All nominations will be sent to the District Secretary who will send resumes to all the District Board members prior to the selection meeting.

"All nominees not chosen for the current award will be retained for future consideration by the District Board.

"The Award will start at the Spring Convention in 1974."

Commenting on the Hall of Fame Award following the action of the delegates, President Bill Warner said there are many members of the District, past and present, who have contributed so much to Barbershopping, to their chapters, and to the Society. "Many of them have contributed equally as much as those of us who set here in this room today, though they may never have been a member of the Board or an officer of the District. Their contributions should not be overlooked."

Past District Champions show was a real feast for hungry Barbershoppers

Convention Chairman Dean Burrill and the officers and committees of the Battle Creek Chapter are to be congratulated for the great Past District Champions Show on Friday night, October 12, in the Cereal City.

The show replaced the usual hit-and-miss pre-glows held on Friday nights at previous conventions, and the idea was a great one. Unfortunately, while the audience was substantial and enthusiastic, it could have been a lot larger.

The Northern Hi-Lites, Vagabonds, Sharplifters, 4 Fits and Aire Males put on a splendid show for those Barbershoppers and fans who arrived in town early enough to get in on this goodie, and the Kellogg Auditorium came alive with many a ringing chord as the quartets took the stage to entertain this harmony-loving crowd who came to town to revel in their favorite music.

They were not disappointed!

The change in format was a welcome change for the better, and those who failed to arrive in town in time for the show missed out on some top-flight fun and entertainment.

Future hosts of our conventions will do well to keep alive a good thing started by the Battle Creek Chapter and hosted by the Cereal City Chorus.

Plato taught that each planet had a siren whose song harmonized with the motion of our sphere and with that of the others.

Imagine that! A Universal Barbershop Chorus!

Wayne

Let's start off by offering a whopping big "Congratulations" to Detroit's Motor City Chorus. You took the big one, guys — now we wish you all the best of luck in the super big one at Kansas City.

To recap the highpoints of Wayne's Chapter activities since the last copy was written: Our last outdoor meeting was held at Hil Andrews' farm in Farmington. Guests included members from Milford, Oakland County, and Detroit Chapters. Featured quartet of the evening was the Northern Highlights, who did a splendid job — as they always do.

On Aug. 30 the Wayne Wonderland Chorus made a guest appearance on a show sponsored by the Livonia Department of Parks and Recreation. Then, two nights later we put on our annual dinner show at Lakewood Shores Country Club near Oscoda.

The following weekend we sang for the Plymouth Fall Festival.

On Sept. 16 we wound up our summer activities with a family picnic in Hines Park near Plymouth.

Those of you who attended the convention in Battle Creek know that we have a new chorus director, but probably few of you know why. About four weeks before contest time Gordie Limburg, our director for the past 6 or 7 years announced that he was having serious health problems and would have to resign his post. Since we had always considered Gordie one of the best directors in the Society, we naturally felt quite a let-down. However, our two assistant directors, Steve Sutherland and Marv Skupski, very capably took us through the next two weeks of rehearsal while the powers-that-be scouted around for a new director, who ultimately turned out to be Bob Whitley, that dynamic basso of the Gentlemen's Agreement. We feel it to be a feather in his cap to have brought us in a close second after just five rehearsals. Wait until next April!

Incidentally, Gordie's problem turned out to be a small ulcer which, cared for properly, should be healed within a few months. He did sing with us in the contest.

Horrible Thought: suppose Wayne

Chapter Notes

Wonderland Chorus gets the reputation of being the group most likely to succeed in giving its director an ulcer!

Following is the list of chapter officers elected for 1974: Jim Swisher, pres.; Lew Koppitch, adm. and mem. v.p.; Clay Jones, v.p. programs; Todd Bredin, treas.; Steve Sutherland, corres. secy.; Mike Clayton, recording sec.; Dick Call and Bob Collins, sgts. at arms, and Hil Andrews, chorus mgr.

And may Wayne Chapter wish all of you and yours a pleasant Holiday Season. —Morrie Giles

Lansing

Gee! It's been so long, we don't really know where to start. So guess we'll just try to hit the highlites of our own chapter bulletin.

The big event of this year was the Pioneer District Chorus Championship which our own Capitol City Chordsmen won this past spring here in Lansing. It required lots of hard work by the members and our great director, Ken Gibson. Because of this honor, the chorus has had more sing-outs than ever before.

Our spring auditions brought eight new members into our chapter. Thanks to Rod Preuss for a great job.

Needless to say, we are very proud of our Vagabonds and their 7th place finish at Portland. Also, we are happy for our other favorite quartet, the Sharplifters for their strong finish.

The Bush League saw a fine new quartet, the Classmates, take top honors in a field of stiff competition. Our own Used Parts finished 6th in their first try. May we say, for shame on our District when the Bush League can attract more quartets than our district contest. We have been at Boyne three times and can say it is a great event.

A retired chapter quartet put their duds back on for a one nite stand at the Portland Sun Theatre for the Civic Players Guild. Yes! the audience responded to the Range Finders in great fashion.

Then came your reporter's first visit to Harrisville. We made the trip along

with the Used Parts, and what a tremendous week. You would have to be there to believe it. Along with the Bush League, this event is in a class all by its self. We highly recommend both of these events.

A big THANK YOU to the Battle Creek Chapter for a fine District Convention under difficult conditions. We thought the housing was handled in a tip-top fashion. Yes, and what a thrill it was to see the excited look that flashed across the faces of the Galaxies as it was announced that they were the new District Champs. It couldn't have happened to four finer gentlemen. The other quartets made them earn the title. Lansing's Used Parts finished 6th after a 4th spot in the morning. It was their first district contest.

Our annual Show was another great success, thanks to the Vagabonds, Sharplifters, Air Males, Used Parts and the Capitol City Chordsmen.

The highlite of the chorus sing-outs this year has to be the program they put on for the Community Chest Kick-Off dinner here in Lansing. They were awarded a standing ovation.

It has been a real busy and rewarding year for Lansing. It has come to a close too soon. However, a real Hot-Shot group of officers have been elected for 1974. Pres. Ed Pohl, Member VP Warner Dyer, Program VP Rod Preuss, Sec. Bill Kocher, Treas. Lou Deni, Music Director Ken Gibson and Bulletin Edior Bill McCurdy are chafing at the bit and are rarin' to go.

Our chapter has been visited by some real top talent this year. Reese Olger has brought in the Vagabonds, Galaxies, Air Males and the Northern Highlites in that order. Real listening pleasure.

In closing we must say that we are very proud to be the home chapter of our 1974 district president. We here in Lansing know Don to be the hardest worker and sincerest Barbershopper around. We know he will make a great president. Best wishes, Don, and take good care of yourself in your travels. We will try and give you all the help we can. Happy Holidays to Roger Morris, his charming wife and all the District from the Lansing guys.

—Bill McCurdy

CHAPTER NOTES

Grand Rapids

Seems like it has been quite a while since we have had a news item in the Troub, so will let everyone know that Grand Rapids is hale and hearty.

A bunch of the guys got together, with Jack Sidor as their leader, and began a renovation of our meeting place. Part of a partition was removed to make room for our anticipated growth.

We had a great time at the Contest and Convention at Battle Creek. As we have all heard before "We sang loud and lusty, but not loud enough nor lusty enough to win." We were, however, very proud of our own Galaxies, who came home the new District Champions. These fine fellows have worked very hard to attain this and we are all very happy for them. They are anxious to sing, so get together with their contact, Al VanIwaarden; 1483 54th Street, Grand Rapids 49508.

We had a guest night on October 16th. We used the "Sam Kennedy" format as suggested in a recent Harmonizer. We hosted many new and potential Barbershoppers — even some Tenors — and are now in the process of following up to see that we do a little "Sign 'n up"!

On October 27th our Chorus motored to Saugatuck, where we sang for the Women's Guild (an annual event for us and one much enjoyed by all). After the singout, we hurried back to our meeting room where we held our election. Paul Robinson is our President (2nd term). Al VanIwaarden was elected Adm. VP, Gerry Boomers, Sec. and Fran Jones, Treas. We are expecting great things from Jack Sidor, who was elected Program VP. We can expect some good things happening this coming year. We have some real "doers" on the Board, so we can expect things to happen.

Our Director, Chuck Buffham, has laid some new music on us and we are starting to put it together. Chuck really came home from the HEP School all fired up and ready to go.

Our new officers were inspired at

the COTS in Lansing the weekend of Nov. 10th and 11th.

The Grand Rapids Chapter extends a standing invitation to anyone to attend our meetings every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Lexicon Club, 108 Lexington, NW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. —Bob Lovell

Holly-Fenton

We were all very pleased to receive our new Troubadour last month, and we add our congratulations and best wishes to our new editor. Thanks and best wishes to our retiring editor.

Holly-Fenton Chapter is back on a regular schedule, meeting every Tuesday night at the American Legion Hall in Fenton. The welcome mat is always out, so anytime any of you are in the neighborhood stop in for a visit.

We have had a couple sing-outs at convalescent homes recently, took part in our JCs annual Bavarian Festival and now are busy learning new numbers for our annual show in May. More about our show in future issues.

A Christmas party is planned for Dec. 11 with some outside entertainment. Our new officers will be installed at a party on Jan. 9, 1974.

Grant L. Wright

Muskegon

The Port City Chapter has been on the busy side for several weeks, and your correspondent would like to let you know some of the things we have done, along with some things coming up in our future.

On October 19th we held an AFA at Penney's which proved to be well worth the effort, and another one is being planned for the near future. The Stereo Tones a Sweet Adelines foursome, entertained at our Ladies Night, presenting several new numbers for everyone's enjoyment.

Henry Malmquist hosted the Nov. 7 Board meeting, where several plans were discussed for future activities, after which Barb served a fine feast.

Del Doctor has accepted the '74

Show chairmanship, with Henry Malmquist as co-chairman.

Several members were in attendance at the Grand Rapids Bum's Night on Nov. 9, where the new district champs, The Galaxies, and the Used Parts performed. Grand Rapids helped us with our auditions and their assistance was much appreciated.

Our next Board meeting is Dec. 5th at the Black Angus, 7:30 p.m. The next chapter meeting is Dec. 18th at the Lithuanian Club at 8:30 p.m., and will feature Past Presidents night and installation of '74 officers.

The January chapter meeting has been moved to the 22nd, due to the fact New Years falls on Tuesday this year. —Henry J. Barrs

Pontiac

Lotsa' things happening at Pontiac.

New slate of officers, with Bill Hoofnagle guiding the fortunes of the chapter for the coming year, presiding over a very capable Board, and with the assistance of a fine bunch of officers.

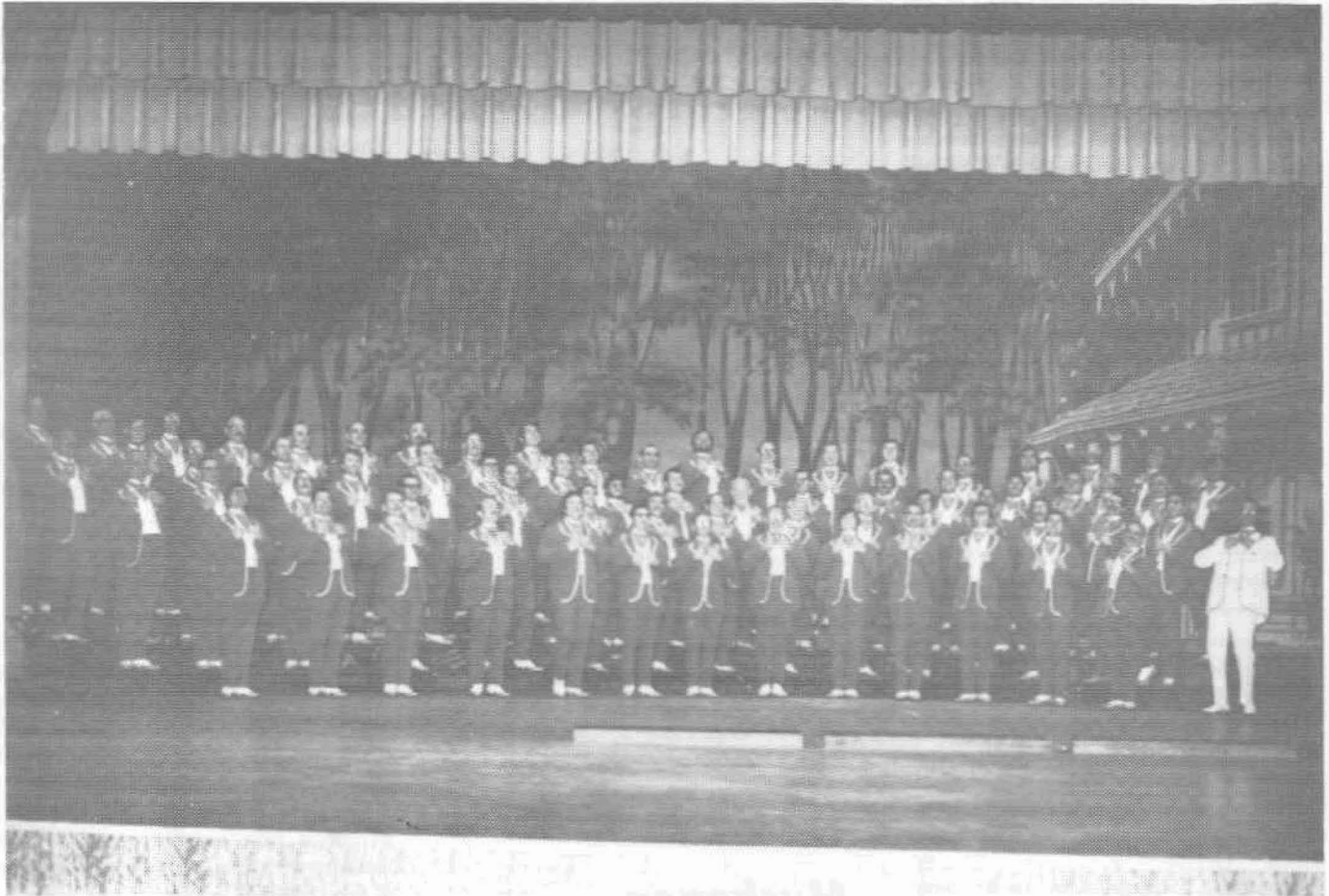
The big Halloween party on Oct. 27, on a rainy evening, saw a good turnout, with many guests, and plenty of good music, food and refreshment — plus wild costumes!

Auditions for Admissions at Morey's saw a fantastic turnout from the Pontiac gang. Over 35 members there, and perhaps as many as 11 possible new members.

The Chapter presented Bill Pascher (Troub photographer) with his 25 year pin, and Ray Guerin received the Past Barbershopper of the Year plaque. Bill Guerin and Ed LaDucer were inducted as new members. Congratulations, men!

Pontiac is getting ready for its big show on Feb. 9. "Hoof", Pete Peters, and the after-glo committee's Ed dePoorter and George Van deVelde are doing the heavy duty, so when you are called to give a helping hand, do just that. —Dick Guerin

Detroit No. 1 is District Chorus Champion and will represent Pioneer District in the 1974 International Chorus Competition in Kansas City, Missouri.



Motor City Chorus repeats as District Representatives to International contest

Detroit No. 1's Motor City Chorus, 12th place finishers in Portland this year, will get a chance to improve their standing at Kansas City next July as a result of their performance at Battle Creek in the District contest.

Motor City won the nod of the judges in a close victory over the Wayne Wonderland Chorus.

Tom Hine's dapper songsters rode to victory with their interpretations of "How's Every Little Thing in Dixie", and "Smile and Make Believe". Wayne Wonderland finished 75 points off the pace with "So Long, Sally" and "Dixie Medley".

Wayne made its first appearance in competition under

the direction of Bob Whitley, who replaced Gordon Limberg just three weeks before contest time. Gordie, who's 1971 chorus took the District championship, heeded his doctor's advice and is taking a well deserved rest from the rigorous chores of a demanding job.

Grosse Pointe's Lakeshore Chorus, with Russ Seely back at the helm, edged the Cereal City Chorus from Battle Creek, directed by Larry Swan, for the third spot.

Kenny Gibson's Capitol City Chordsmen, winners of the District contest at Lansing in April, came in fifth.

A resume of the official scoring is printed for your perusal.



Galaxies are '73 District Champs; Four "D" Minors win Junior crown

The Galaxies, Grand Rapids Chapter's contribution to Pioneer District, moved up a notch from the morning semi-finals to capture the top spot in the quartet competition Saturday evening, October 13 in the W. K. Kellogg Auditorium at Battle Creek.

In a fine display of consistent performance, the Galaxies edged the Four "D" Minors of the host chapter, and overcame an early lead taken by the Ring Masters from Saginaw-Bay who finished third.

The Four "D" Minors were also named as the 1973 Junior Champions and Traverse City's Last Call won the Novice championship.

In winning the '73 crown, our new District Champions collected a total of 1971 points, an improvement of 108 over their showing in Flint last Fall where they finished fifth as the Northern Hi-Lites dazzled the District with their great sound to lock up the title.

Terry Huyge is the tenor of the Galaxies, Chuck Buffman, lead; Al Van Iwaarden, baritone, and Bernie Poelman, bass.

Congratulations to our three new District Champions, and to all the fine quartets who participated at Battle Creek.

A complete scoring summary printed in this issue tells the official results.

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY
Pioneer District
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN • OCTOBER 13, 1973
DISTRICT QUARTET CONTEST

(Preliminaries)

Rank	Quartet	Song No.	1		2		Stage Pres.	1		Prev. Pts.	Net Total Score	1		2	
			Harmony Acc'y		Balance & Blend			Interp' tation				Arra' ment		Time, Seconds	
1	Ring Masters		124	118	108	102	113	112	269	6	13	965	130	115	
2	Galaxies		100	109	114	106	104	110	304	3	4	954	125	117	
3	Four "D" Minors		116	115	100	101	108	117	256	1	9	924	103	140	
4	Used Parts		94	93	108	104	109	111	240	10	6	875	133	128	
5	Latest Edition		101	100	94	99	110	113	250	6	1	874	123	122	
6	Back Porch Majority		95	101	101	99	96	110	257	9	5	873	132	147	
7	Last Call		106	106	105	97	100	99	252	3	-2	866	122	125	
8	Innocent Bystanders		85	83	94	88	100	99	244	2	1	796	129	121	
9	About Four		88	89	85	91	97	98	245	-13	1	781	134	140	
10	Circuit Breakers		96	90	88	80	93	98	225	10	-1	779	139	124	
11	Herr-Razors		85	88	83	93	86	88	203	0	-2	724	134	138	

(Finals)

1	Galaxies		118	119	112	118	120	128	301	3	-2	954	1971	150	126
2	Four "D" Minors		124	122	99	99	119	127	287	4	-1	924	1904 ^a	120	171
3	Ring Masters		111	120	105	108	104	108	277	-2	6	965	1902	152	154
4	Last Call		106	105	102	100	109	112	261	0	2	866	1763 ^b	126	145
5	Back Porch Majority		84	80	99	99	116	108	278	1	12	873	1750	122	137
6	Used Parts		89	86	97	102	112	112	280	0	-6	875	1747	130	148
7	Latest Edition		83	75	100	90	110	100	270	7	6	874	1715	148	146

(a) 1973 Junior Champions (b) 1973 Novice Champions

CHORUS CONTEST

1	Detroit No. 1		140	141	144	138	144	142	318	8	10	1185	107	162
2	Wayne		124	121	130	128	144	144	306	-2	14	1110	112	148
3	Grosse Pointe		125	126	123	118	117	111	287	0	-32	975	117	163
4	Battle Creek		114	114	112	104	106	118	284	4	9	965	132	155
5	Lansing		114	113	109	108	106	112	256	-1	8	925	148	126
6	Kalamazoo		129	125	106	112	95	107	211	-9	6	882	124	129
7	Grand Rapids		113	100	99	94	97	99	204	6	2	814	143	106
8	Saginaw Bay		113	104	96	86	114	110	185	1	-1	808	133	161
9	Niles-Buchanan		92	91	82	75	94	95	226	-4	5	756	130	158
10	Cadillac		99	95	90	74	91	91	197	0	-7	730	112	145
11	Monroe		93	85	91	87	94	94	175	-3	-15	701	145	121

The Panel of Judges

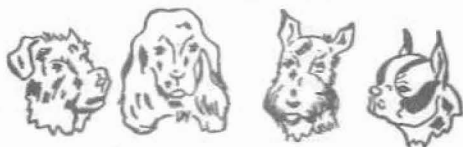
		District
Chairman of Judges	Edwin Gaikema, Grand Rapids, Michigan	Pioneer
Harmony Accuracy	John R. Reid, Windsor, Ontario, Canada	Ontario
	Herb Juneau, New Lisbon, Wisconsin	Land O' Lakes
Balance and Blend	James Beutel, Park Ridge, Illinois	Illinois
	William Fitzgerald, Kenosha, Wisconsin	Land O' Lakes
Interpretation	Dan Waselchuk, Green Bay, Wisconsin	Land O' Lakes
	Kenneth Warner, Newark, Ohio	Johnny Appleseed
Stage Presence	Jack Hines, Pico Rivera, California	Far Western
	Denis St. Denis, Mt. Prospect, Illinois	Illinois
Arrangement	Warren Haeger, LaGrange Park, Illinois	Illinois
	Russell Foris, Elmhurst, Illinois	Illinois
Secretary	Charles Nasser, Michigan City, Indiana	Cardinal
Assistant Secretary	Steven Jacobs, Kenosha, Wisconsin	Land O' Lakes
Timers	Lawrence G. King, Detroit, Michigan	Pioneer
	Gene Gillem, Saginaw Bay, Michigan	Pioneer



CHECKING THE RECORDS at sign-up of new members and collecting the \$5 fee. Far right is Jerry Schultz, President of the new group headed for license.



28 PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS of the new Port Huron Chapter at the first organizational meeting singing their first barbershop harmony under the direction of Pat Yaques.



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

Larry Swan "Yips" Tenor Lowell Wolfe "Howls" Bari
 Roger Lewis "Barks" Lead Ron Mell "Growls" Bass

	8:00 to 4:30	AFTER 5:00	WEEKENDS
Roger Lewis	965-0557	Bark Loudly	Bark Louder
Larry Swan	965-7297	962-0380	962-0380
Lowell Wolfe	964-9431	623-2548	623-2548
Ron Mell	781-3901	962-4446	962-4446

(Area Code 616)

P. O. Box 1471, Battle Creek, Mich. 49016

If all else fails, call city dog warden



A Little Bit Off the Top

By BILL WARNER

A "farewell to the troops" always seems to be the most difficult thing to prepare. Suffice it to say that the past two years as your District President have been most rewarding. No, I don't intend to resurrect all of the old cliches nor is there time or space to go back over all the "remember when's." I do want to thank each and every member of the district for the support he has given me during this time. I can't recall anyone refusing to put forth that little extra when he was called upon.

A special thanks to the Pioneer District Board and Area Counselors for their help. Without them and their untiring efforts, nothing could have been accomplished.

Fresh from our recent COT school in Lansing, I know, with the training provided there, chapters in our district will be stronger than ever.

So — on to 1974. Things in Pioneer should be ever onward and upward. To each and every member of the Pioneer District — A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sing-cheerily,

Bill

Besides — you aren't getting rid of me that easy. You've just elected me to a two year term as your International Board Member so I'll still be around!

Genius is ten percent inspiration and fifty percent capital gains.



WAYNE HAMILTON NIGHT—The Muskegon Chapter gathered at the Lithuanian Club on July 17th to honor Wayne Hamilton, chapter secretary for 13 years. Jack Bennett, standing, presented Wayne with a hand-engraved name plate for his White Lake Cottage as a token of appreciation from the membership.

God Bless Our Baritones Smilin' vs.^{or} Frownin'

By DUANE H. MOSIER
District Historian

(Permission given by Prentice-Hall Inc. Englewood Cliffs, N.J., PUBLISHERS OF 'Deac' Martin's Book of Musical Americana, from which the following quotations are used.)

It is important that you four troubadours of harmony should be able to identify the part you sing without stepping on the toes of your nearest neighbor.

In case you are unable to do that or are uncertain as to whether you are singing tenor or bass or somewhere in between, these few simple guide lines are here jotted down to enable you to identify yourselves.

If you are the sophisticated kind you will find your help in the CYCLOPEDIA of MUSIC and MUSICIANS, but, if you are just a plain barbershopper Joe you will get all the nourishment you need from DEAC MARTIN'S MUSICAL AMERICANA.

The writer stresses the baritone part because he agrees with O. C. Cash that we are the two greatest baritones on earth. There could be some difference of opinion there but we will not argue the point. Starting from right to left or left to right as you prefer:

LEAD (Cyc) "The seventh note of a scale, since it tends toward the eighth note or tonic, being only a semitone removed from it in pitch.

(Deac) In a quartet somebody must carry the tune, and this job is tossed to the lead. He usually can't sing anything else, and would have to be called the "load", which he sometimes is any way. Some lead singers are broken-down tenors. The main requirements for a lead are a good pair of bellows and memory for words. He should be able to hit the melody note right on the schnozzle, but this point doesn't seem to bother him too much. To keep him happy, the lead is given most of the solo parts (He's the only one who knows the words). There are more leads in a society chapter than pimples on a duck. The melody carrier is considered the key Joe in any quartet, except by the tenor, baritone and bass.

BASS (Cyc) The deepest of the male voices, the normal range of which is from about E an octave and a half below middle C, up to E or F immediately above the same note.

(Deac) Every quartet needs a bass to give a deep mellow body to the brew. Bases are too old to sing baritone. Others are too smart to try. Some bases sing awful low, and others just sing awful. You can generally spot a bass by his roving Adam's apple. Bass singing shouldn't be encouraged. It doesn't have to be.

TENOR (Cyc) The name given to the highest natural adult voice (male). In early times this voice held or kept the plain-song, hence the derivation from "teneo" (I hold). Counter tenor is a very high tenor, usually a falsetto.

(Deac) The tenor is frequently referred to as the "top" tenor because he so frequently blows his top. Tenors add lightness and counteract the coarse rumble of the other three voices. Good tenors are as hard to locate as a quart of Old Crow at a church convention. They have to be handled with silk gloves (a stout two-by-four will do also). Tenors come in two sizes, either very fat or very skinny. You have to be born a tenor — they can't be developed from common stock.

BARI (Cyc) The male voice intermediate in compass between the bass and tenor, often combining the weight of the first with the lyrical pliancy of the second.

(Deac) Lest a sensitive bari be offended by "unharmonious", let me interject at once that the baritone part is the cream in the coffee, the topping for the parfait, the indispensable part. It fills in to produce the ultimate in four-part harmony satisfactions. Sung alone, a bari part seems as unrelated as the parts of a small snake that have just traveled through a power mower.

When blandly inserted with restraint into three other singing parts, bari crowns the chord structure. In Pittsburgh one time I told a member that he sang the best bari I never heard. He still repeats that compliment. It was not backhanded as the uninitiated might infer.

When some character discovered that a well rounded fully packed chord contained four notes, the baritone entered the picture. Being the last one in, he was handed the missing note that nobody else could sing. It may lie between a low gurgle and a high squeak. A bari must have vocal chords with a hydramatic shift.

Most baritones are patient and self-effacing citizens, with a far away look. The bari keeps on only by the realization that the quartet would sound incomplete without him. He is sustained by the thought that, when he loses his grip, he can always become a bass.

from Int. Pres. Chuck Abernethy

Dear Roger—

Nice looking Troubadour — you're off to a good start as editor.

Leon Avakian will be surprised when he finds out the girl in picture #7 on page 5 is my wife! Actually, it's his wife, Ruth, posing with me. I donated the carving and Leon paid \$235 for it.

It's smart to make an error here and there in any publication. You find out who reads it and it makes good copy getting it corrected.

Best to you—
Chuck

Ed note: Thanks, Chuck and a beautiful carving it was too. If errors will do it I'm going to be one smart barbershopper!



Some well-worn Used Parts

God bless our baritones— *Continued*

Science has never been able to determine how or why anyone starts singing baritone. Some believe that it's because he fell out of his cradle — on his head. The name baritone is derived from the Latin "baro tonum" meaning "bats in his belfry". You don't have to be a crackpot to sing bari, but it helps.

A successful bari must be a consistent optimist with faith that he'll be able to fit into the next measure, a songbird in search of a perch, a regional shepherd in search of the lost or strayed. He's in charge of the missing-notes department and, usually, he's jealous of anyone who finds that missing note before he does."

So now, having identified yourself with the part you sing, combine your voices off there in the corner and blast away with "Daddy Get Your Baby Out of Jail".

P.S. You will gain a wealth of barbershopping information and solid enjoyment reading 'Deac' Martin's Musical Americana. Every barbershopper should have one.



from Hugh A. Ingraham,
Director of Communications—Kenosha

Hi Rog:

Congratulations on the October issue. A real nice job. Needless to say, if there's anything we can do to help here at the international office, please "sing out".

Sing-cheerily,
Hugh

from John B. Cullen, past Int. President—

Dear Roger

If the rest of the editions of 'Pioneer Troubadour' continue to be as good as your first one, I'll have to agree with your statement — that it can be the *best* in the land — It's work — but worth it. Thanks for keeping me on the mailing list.

—John

Thanks, John and Pioneer sends best wishes for your continued good recovery.

Letter to the Editor:

It seems to me that our great organization has too many men who have been president of their chapter, their district, or even the International, who after reaching the top have let our Society down by becoming inactive in all Barbershopper activities. Oh sure, you may see them at the annual shows, but not at district conventions or even at their chapter meetings.

I can't believe these men have lost their love for Barbershop singing. I am sure all of you men received lots of help from fellow Barbershoppers during your terms of office. You are now not doing your part in Preserving and Encouraging Barbershop Singing, and the Society. You are failing your chapter and district by not giving of your experience and support.

I know after serving that many of you are tired, and perhaps feel you have done your part. However if we are to build a better Society, we need all the cooperation we can get from every Barbershopper.

If you are one of these men that I speak of, won't you get involved again with your chapter. Give some of your time to strengthen your chapter. We have too many chapters in the Pioneer District that are a long way from being up to their potential. In fact too many are close to associate status. Let's all give our District President Elect, Don Funk, our backing, and make the Pioneer District THE GREATEST, as it once was.

I am sure that this problem is not unique to our district alone, but in every district of our Society. So let us all do what we can to make our Hobby the Greatest because that is what it is.

Loton V. Willson
Vice President Zone 4,
Pioneer District

Down Our Way



with the Editor

Thank you very much

To the many, many barbershoppers and friends who have been so kind as to comment on the October issue, for the praise and the criticism, the warm applause, the pat on the back, the open doors wherever we have gone in representing the Troubadour, your editor says thank you, very much. You are the greatest encouragement in the world, and we hope to live up to all your expectations to the fullest.

For those who asked, or those who didn't, the floral art work on the October cover and the overlay in the Portland story were the work of the editor's son, Rog jr., or Neil as he is known to the family. He is another example of barbershopping bridging the generation gap. Though not a barbershopper himself, he rarely misses an opportunity to make a good show, and recommends our form of entertainment to his friends when the opportunity arises. We hope to use his artistic talent as much as possible, and invite anyone having similar contributions to make to do so.

Pioneering around the district

October and November have been two busy months for the editor and wife, harmonywise. The Troubadour conestoga has traveled somewhere in the district almost every weekend.

Of course, we were in Battle Creek for the big fall convention, and the hospitality bowl in the Cereal City was brimming with more goodies than some of those well-advertised products in that city. From the Board of Directors' meeting and dinner in the Hart Motor Inn on Friday evening right on through the Sunday House of Delegates' meeting, the host chapter did a splendid job on the arrangements, and under some very trying circumstances at times. Our hats are off to them, and many thanks.

The following weekend found us in

Lansing, enjoying the Capitol City Cavalcade of Quartets, which featured the Used Parts, Aire-Males, Sharplifters and Vagabonds, as well as the Capitol City Chordsmen.

The buffet before the show was a splendid affair, and our thanks to Don Funk and his crew for the invitation. We lingered on for the great afterglow in the Armory, enjoying the company of the district's board members and their wives, along with the fine crowd of barbershoppers and guests who attended. Thanks, Lansing. You really know how to put it all together!

At the Battle Creek affair, the wife accepted an invitation to Pontiac's Halloween dinner-dance at the Metropolitan Club. The evening was wet and chilly, but the atmosphere inside was warm and exciting enough to dispel any thoughts about the weather. The five-piece dance band provided some wonderful entertainment and songs in a style that warms any barbershoppers heart. But in all fairness to the guys in the band, it must be most difficult to perform for a group like ours, what with all those quartets and voices out there ready to make their own entertainment at the drop of a hat.

The evening went all too quickly for us, even though the wife opted for a weekend in West Virginia with her family, leaving your ed as a single for the night. The Back Porch Majority produced some great sounds in the barbershop style, and even the musicians appeared to be caught up in those ringing chords. And those wild costumes! Wow! Hospitality in Pontiac is always a beautiful thing.

On Saturday, Nov. 10, we journeyed with a party of 10 to the Ford Auditorium in Detroit for No. 1's 34th Annual Parade of Harmony, where the main attractions were the O.K. Four, the Vagabonds, and Saturday's Heroes. What a line-up!

It's not every day you can find the 6th, 7th and 8th place International finalists on one card — not to mention the wonderful Motor City Chorus.

For anyone who might entertain the thought that barbershopping is dead — or that Detroit is dead, for that matter — an evening in Ford Auditorium at a Motor City show will knock that theory into the old cocked hat in a hurry.

The riverfront complex in Detroit offers some splendid facilities, with well-lighted parking underground and on the surface, and easy access to the auditorium and Cobo Hall, where the afterglow was held in a beautiful setting on the third floor overlooking the busy Detroit River. The turnout for both affairs was great, and the music the finest. Where else can you set and listen to your favorite harmony and watch the giant ocean freighters gliding by your window?

Friday, the 16th, was Past President's night at the Wayne Chapter, and an excellent chance to mingle in an informal atmosphere with one of the district's most ebullient chapter organizations.

Exec. vice president Don Funk was scheduled to preside at the awarding of the Past-President's plaque to outgoing chapter president Bill Hitt, and honor the many past president's who were in attendance. Don was delayed for an hour in New York when his flight did not take off on schedule, however, and area counselor and Wayne member Clay Jones did the honors.

The beautiful plaque was first presented to Wayne's first president and former International President Ed Smith, who then presented it to Bill Hitt, with a few appropriate remarks.

A 25-year member of the Society, Ed said "Barbershopping is the finest thing ever to hit this country. It has been good for America, it has been good for its people, and it has been good to me." He pointed out that, although he has held similar positions in many organizations, the button on his lapel is the only one he wears — the emblem of the Society.

It was a pleasure to be in such splendid company. The Back Porch Majority, continuing to get around on a busy schedule, led off the evening's program and then departed to make the installation meeting at Grosse Pointe. The Mitten State Music Company wowed their male counterparts with some fine arrangements of the old songs as only the Sweet Ads know how to sing them. And the Oakland Counts came on strong to finish the "skilled" part of the bill.

Bob Miquelon, always the congenial

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

host, handled the MC chores with his usual dexterity — with one exception! Some of those tag quartets drawn from the poker deck just didn't quite measure up to the standards of director Bob Whitledge. It's going to take a little bit of work to knock off the rough edges, Bob, but we know you can do it.

With the spirit that is evident in the Wayne Chapter, the district can look forward to some great things, and great sounds coming out of the Wonderland Chorus.

The Nov. 24 Ladies Night show in our home chapter at Milford was another sellout with the Vagabonds the Bean Town Four and the Classmates and the Huron Valley Chorus enjoying the always-enthusiastic barbershop fans at the Legion Hall as much as fans enjoyed the entertainers. President-elect Don Funk and his wife came from Lansing and were joined by Zone I Vice President Doran McTaggart from Windsor and his wife. Area Counselor Clay Jones and Mrs. Jones were also on hand and Clay blended his baritone voice with the chorus to get credit for an assist.

The Warrior Four, a fine quartet of young men from Walled Lake Central, gave an excellent accounting of their barbershop style as surprise guests of the Chapter. For the fans, and the Warriors, it was a night to be long remembered.

And from the editor and the Troubadour staff a warm and friendly wish for Barbershoppers everywhere that this Holiday Season will be all that you hold dear in your hearts.

Quartet Changes

The GRAYLORDS, of Gaylord, Mich. and the AuSable Valley and Les Cheneaux chapters are our newest registered quartet in the Pioneer District.

The following quartets did not renew their registrations for the coming year:

The SMORGASCHORDS Grand Rapids; KEEPERS OF THE KEY, Wayne Mich.; RICOCHETS, Gratiot County and VOCAL GENTRY, Traverse City.

A. Lyle Ames, P.O. Box 124 Gaylord 49735 is the contact man for the Graylords.

DECEMBER 1973

Chapter Notes

Boyne City

The Boyne City Chapter has lost another most valued Barbershopper. Ted Speltz who has served our Chapter as Treasurer for so many years suffered a Heart Attack which was fatal.

Ted was not a long time member in years, but has been one of the most faithful, dedicated Barbershoppers that our chapter ever had. He loved the Barbershopper style of music and mentioned many times that he wished he had become a Barbershopper before. He made up for that by attending every chapter meeting, serving in every way when called upon, and enjoyed attending other chapter events, shows, etc. He never missed a Great Lakes Invitational, and bought every quartet record that came out.

We are proud to have been a part of his Happy Moments, and glad that he lived to see his son Ray, become a member of our chapter and to be elected our new secretary. We will be very fortunate to find another treasurer to take his place who will be as dedicated to every detail.

The Boyne City Chapter, the Pioneer District, and the International has lost a great Barbershopper.

—Karl Mueller, pres.

Milford

It's one week later and I do believe the chords are still ringing in the American Legion Hall in Milford. It all started November 24th when the Vagabonds, the Bean Town Four and the Classmates descended upon us en masse much to the delight of the Milford Ladies Night crowd. Milford was pleased and delighted at the young high school quartet from Walled Lake, the Warrior Four, and they let us know the emphasis is on youth as they did a fine job.

The Vagabonds were just super and it was plain to all just why they are International Finalists. We wish them all the luck in competition. They already have the talent to take them to the top. The Bean Town Four wowed the crowd as they have for the past ten years, and the Classmates were just short of sensational. They will be trouble for other quartets in coming contests.

Saturday read like who's who in Barbershopping as Milford's guests included Don Funk, Doran McTaggart, Clay Jones and Glen Van Tassel. (That doesn't happen to be a quartet but I'm sure we all agree there is TALENT there also.)

As a member of the Milford Chapter I would like to compliment Roger Morris (our Troubadour editor) on the fine job he is doing and he says "Things will get better". I don't know how but if Rog says so it will. Congratulations from all of us at Milford — we're proud of you! (I hope he prints this!)

Milford Chorus and Pontiac Chorus got together last Wednesday and our chorus director, Marty Zurn got a wild look in his eyes as he finally directed more than 12 or 13 guys and could really hear some chords ring. Talking about who's who in Barbershopping, we were pleased to see Phil Foote (bass from the former International champion Western Continentals) attend the practice and renew some old friendships.

I would like to, at this time, wish all fellow Barbershoppers the Merriest of Christmases and the Happiest of New Years from the Milford Chapter of Barbershoppers. —Don Sheridan

J. Edward Conn is new Life Member

J. Edward Conn Detroit No. 1 Chapter, has been presented with his pin and credentials as a Life Member of the Society, according to information received from Barrie Best, executive director.

Congratulations Ed, and many years of happy harmonizing!

Wayne Pollard dies in motorcycle accident

The Wayne Chapter was deeply saddened by the sudden death of Wayne Pollard, son of Tom and Gloria Pollard, on October 26.

Wayne's motorcycle was forced off the road by a motorist.

Tom and Gloria were in Washington, D.C. attending the Sweet Adelines international competition at the time.

The Pioneer membership extends its deepest sympathy to the Pollard family.

Coming Events

Send requests for Parade Clearance to:

John T. Gillespie
712 Newgate Road
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

—1974—

FEBRUARY

22-23 Oakland County Show
23 Niles-Buchanan Show

MARCH

1-2 Wayne Chapter Show
30 Battle Creek Parade
16 Kalamazoo Parade

APRIL

6 Flint Parade
20 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—
Grand Rapids
26-28 DISTRICT CONVENTION—
Traverse City
27 Holly-Fenton Show

MAY

4 Boyne City Bush League Contest
25 AuSable Valley Show

OCTOBER

11-13 DISTRICT CONVENTION—
Windsor
19 Lansing Parade

NOVEMBER

9 Fruitbelt Chapter Show—
Benton Harbor

—1975—

MARCH

22 Battle Creek Parade

APRIL

5 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—
Grand Rapids
12 Boyne City Bush League Contest

OCTOBER

10-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION—
Grand Rapids

—1976—

APRIL

3 Boyne City Bush League Contest
10 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—
Grand Rapids

Chapters are requested to get Parade Clearances and dates approved for all public events your chapter expects to hold in your area. Do it well in advance EACH YEAR or even up to five years in advance. This will help to avoid conflicts with talent and audience pull.

Keep America Singing

STEPHEN SUTHERLAND
2870 OAKDALE DR
ANN ARBOR MI 48104

106811
141

Second Class Mail

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER

from John R. Davis,
Battle Creek Show Chairman

Dear Roger:

I just finished reading the October issue of the Troubadour, and wish to compliment you as our new Editor. I started reading the issue last Friday, but got caught up in the activities of the Convention which was held here in Battle Creek, so am just now finishing all fourteen pages. Fantastic first issue!

The Battle Creek Parade date for 1974 is March 30, not March 13, as listed in the Coming Events column. Congratulations again on a great first issue!

Sincerely yours,
John R. Davis

Notes from Don Funk

A District Chorus Directors School will be scheduled, probably in late January or early February. Watch for notification by mail from Merle Clayton.

Chorus Directors and assistants, or those interested may be sent to the school as a legitimate chapter expense.

The District Coaches Clinic will be held in Lansing directed by Mac Huff, March 15, 16, 17.

Area Coaching clinics will be in Detroit, March 18; Benton Harbor, March 19; Traverse City, March 20; and Sault Ste. Marie March 21.

It is not too early to plan to attend the Boyne Bush League in May, 4-5. This is one of the district's big events and should be a must on your list.

Also the District Convention which will be held in Traverse City, April 26, 27, 28 should be one of our finest. Plan now to have your quartets and choruses ready to participate.