

pioneer

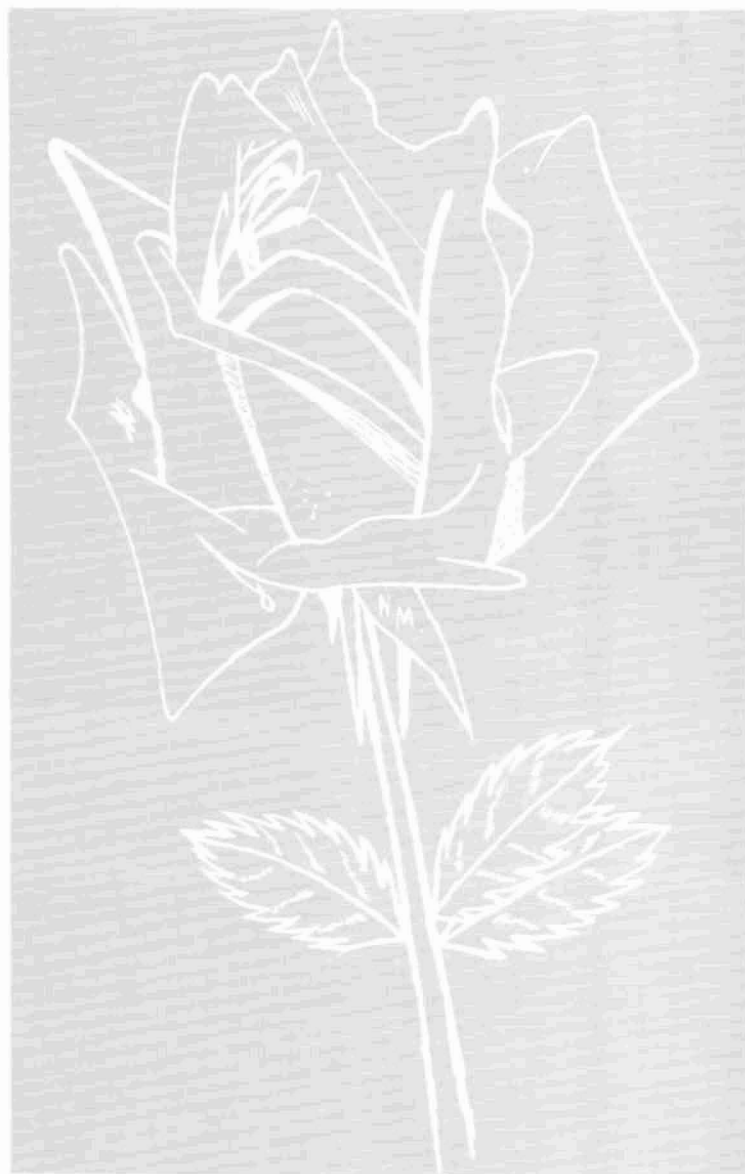
CONVENTION ISSUE

# TROUBADOUR



OCTOBER

1973



# Pioneer TROUBADOUR

OCTOBER 1973

## From the Judges' Corner



By MERLE CLAYTON

Since 1939 the Society's judging program has evolved from eight simple rules governing contest entry and song selection in the First National Contest in Tulsa, Oklahoma in June of that year down to the present time. The only judging criteria were in the minds of the men selected by the Program Committee to act as judges.

Since that time the judging has gone through several stages of categorizing and weighting. The most recent changes were to replace Voice Expression with Interpretation, and to revise the Arrangement category and its method of scoring.

This Fall all enrolled candidates and Certified Stage Presence Judges will be re-tested to result in more uniform standardization. This will help assure contestants of objective rather than subjective evaluation of their performances. Scoring will still be on a basis of 200 points per performance, and will be rated generally as follows:

Attire — from 0 to plus or minus 15.

Entrance, Exit, Pitch Pipe Technique and Applause Acceptance — from 0 to plus or minus 15.

Visual Presentation — from 0 to 170.

There HAS NOT BEEN a great change in what Stage Presence is concerned with. There HAS BEEN a change in what is scored, how it is

scored and the role of the Judge in the clinic. Another evolving change concerns the elimination of the Harmony Accuracy and Balance and Blend categories, and their replacement with one called SOUND. This has been under study since 1971. The conclusion of the study is that the overlap of adjudication factors which resulted in misunderstandings and misconceptions can largely be overcome with a sound category.

Accordingly, as of January, 1974, applications for HA and BB will be closed. Those candidates now active in those categories will be certified. In December, 1974, we will start taking applications for the Sound category. A Sound Category School will be conducted the summer of 1975 (probably in the Int'l Convention City) and first certifications will be made at the same approximate time. The Sound category will replace HA and BB following the International Contests in 1975. All of this is subject to final approval by the International Board.

The principal factors to be judged in the Sound category are:

1. COMPOSITE TONE QUALITY — the over all combined group sound produced by a quartet or chorus; the unique and characteristic sound that results from the proper blending and balancing of well-tuned voices.

2. INTONATION — singing in tune according to pitch relationships; the singing of tones acoustically related to each other through the harmonic structure.

3. BLEND — the proper phonation of sound using proper breath control and support resonators, articulators and tone placement to achieve the BLEND the Sound Judge is listening for.

4. BALANCE — the production of tone volumes at relative individual levels to produce a pleasing composite tone behind the lead voice.

5. PRECISION — the ability to sing together in the mechanical functions of precision: attacks, releases and synchronization.

Scoring will be based on a sound rating of 0 to 100 points per song in relation to an experience established mental image of the sound of an A, B, C or D performance.

The function of the Sound Judge in the clinic will be to help the contestant understand how to improve the factors that affect sound.

## About the New Troubadour

On a peaceful Sunday, just a few days prior to liftoff of the Pioneer charter flight to Portland, a phone call from President Bill Warner informed me the Board members were delighted at the prospect of having me edit the Pioneer Troubadour. Goodbye, peaceful Sundays!

Now the moment of truth has come and I sincerely hope the Board's delight is justified.

Further, I hope this delight will spread throughout the entire membership of our great Pioneer District and that your magazine will be all you desire it to be.

I have had the opportunity to scan the publication of each of the Society's 15 districts since Bill's phone call, and many of them are interesting, artistic and informative house organs. But, in all sincerity, I find no reason why our Troubadour cannot be the best of the lot.

To this end I am dedicated. With the help of each member, our chapter correspondents, our photographers, artists and personnel, I am certain we can attain this goal together.

The greatest fraternity in the world deserves the very best. Let's see that they get it!

Fraternally,  
Roger O. Morris, Sr.

The PIONEER TROUBADOUR  
Official Publication of  
the Pioneer District  
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.  
Offices in the First National Bank Building  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Printing by Slade's Printing Company  
1502 Baldwin, Pontiac, Michigan  
Editor—Roger O. Morris Sr.  
325 E. Wardlow Road  
Highland, Mich. 48031  
(313) 887-4272  
Co-Editor—Merle Clayton  
7 Eldredge Street  
Battle Creek, Mich. 49017  
(616) 963-6628  
Photographic Editor—Bill Pascher  
3520 Gregory Road  
Pontiac, Michigan



Mail all Troubadour Correspondence to Box 49, Highland, Michigan 48031. Personal correspondence may be sent to the Editor at the above address.

POSTMAN: Mail address changes and undeliverable copy to Box 49, Highland, Michigan 48031. Second Class postage paid at United States Post Office, Highland, Michigan 48031.

Advertising rates available on request  
Subscription rates — \$3.50 per year  
Single Copy price — 60c

Published February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Copy Deadlines — Chapter reports 15th of preceding month. All other copy and material by the 10th.

**T**HE 35th ANNUAL contest and convention of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. is now history. But the week of July 9-14, 1973 will be around for a long time in the memories of more than 7,000 Barbershoppers and their families who were fortunate to be in Portland, Oregon for this fantastic event.

The word "fantastic" may be one of the most overworked items in the English dictionary, but when you think of Portland what else can you say? And when you mix in our favorite hobby and the Biggest Show in Barbershopping, it's hard to find another word so adequate.

The weather was perfect, the music the greatest, the City the cleanest, the accommodations beautiful, the people the friendliest, and our hosts the finest.

During our week in Portland we were fortunate enough to tour many of the area's scenic attractions not on the regular convention agenda, and everywhere we went we were impressed by the natural beauty of the Oregon country with its ever-present snow-capped peaks, its mountain ranges, rivers, lakes, forests and vegetation.

Arriving on the Pioneer charter flight Monday evening, we were met by coaches to transport our delegation to the various hotels and motels assigned to us. By the time we checked in and headed for registration at the Hilton, the Mt. Hood tour was already a sellout. But those who did make the tour report some wild and chilling weather greeted them at Timberline Lodge.

Missing this tour was a disappointment, of course, but Mt. Hood was a beautiful sight from the air coming and going, and its presence, some 60 miles east of Portland, is felt throughout the area and visible almost everywhere.

Journeying into Southwest Portland Hills with friends from that city, we were treated to many of the city's beautiful homes and mansions, beautiful gardens, and broad vistas of the countryside around the city. And a taste of the excellent seafood abundant in this country!

But a car was not a necessity to enjoying Portland. Bus service was very adequate in the

city, but not a necessity, either. It was a delight to rediscover the joys of a casual walk in the city, something abandoned by most of us in the distant past.

Our motel was some 10 blocks from headquarters at the Hilton, and even though there were shuttle busses and busses by the door, we found the walk most pleasant through streets of modern, gleaming buildings, open areas, parks, fountains, and gardens. Trees and roses lined many of the walkways, with a groundcover of ivy visible everywhere.

And what really made it all pleasant to the eye was the lack of litter. Oregon has taken some strong measures against litter and many states and cities could do well to adopt similar legislation. Even what Portlanders called "skid row" was free of litter, and some of its finest Chinese restaurants were located in this area.

And speaking of Chinese food, we found it good enough to merit a second meal there — and this Barbershopper is not the greatest Chinese food fan in the world by any means!

The Wednesday tour of the Columbia Gorge country to Bonneville Dam, Multnomah Falls, and other places of interest was one of the highlights arranged by our hosts, and this one we made. The Columbia is everything we had expected and more, and the greenness of the area brought back many memories of our own native hills.

On Thursday we rented a car and journeyed down I-5 through the broad valley of the Willamette to Woodburn, Oregon, to visit friends who live in a beautiful golf-oriented retirement village in that city. Every yard in the community looked like a green, and you could use those yards for putting practice, that's for sure. This section is one of the big vegetable and fruit growing areas of the state, and the pastoral elegance of it all is enhanced by the distant mountain ranges bordering it on the east and west.

The host chapters of Mt. Hood, Vancouver and Portland are to be congratulated, along with the Evergreen District, for their splendid work and hospitality in arranging the first convention ever held in this District by the Society. They arranged so many fine extra-

## **PORTLAND — TRULY A CITY OF ROSES**

*By Roger O. Morris sr.*

- (1) Pres. Bill Warner and Vice-Pres. Don Funk give personal attention to Pioneer passengers boarding at Metro Airport.
- (2) Westbound on chartered plane.
- (3) Lots of fun aboard the plane.
- (4) Our new 'Troubadour' editor, Roger Morris, enjoying a view of the Columbia River valley.
- (5) Pioneer District Hospitality Room.
- (6) Faithful conventioners, the Dyer's of Jackson.
- (7) Society Pres. Chas. Abernathy and wife, display the carvings that he successfully bid on at the Logopedics Breakfast.
- (8) Portland hospitality is reflected in the faces of Michiganders.
- (9) Reunion in Portland, Lekander of Detroit, Schram of Allpoints U.S.A., Lickert of Florida.
- (10) Another reunion, dad Cecil Craig, and son Bob of New York area.
- (11) Musical Director Bob Johnson directs mass sing.
- (12) Five, yes five, "Gentlemen (in) Agreement." (story elsewhere in this issue)
- (13) Time for a sip with former Michiganite Jack Stephan.
- (14) The faces of pleasure during hospitality room revelry.
- (15) Rapt attention to guest quarters.
- (16) Mountains of luggage homeward bound.

*Another convention, another great time, a mind full of memories, of  
rhythm and rhyme, the singing was best, the revelry too, Give it a try,  
it could be for you!*  
— Bill Pascher

### **Portland—** *Continued*

curricular activities for the enjoyment of convention-goers, and it was possible to make just about every one of them if you had a ticket.

As previously noted, we missed Mt. Hood, and also the Salmon Bake, which was sold out before we arrived. The Friday golf tournament was bypassed in favor of the Probe meeting.

The women were treated to a tour of Portland and lunch on the River Queen, plus having a fine hospitality room in the Hilton.

The Barberteens had their own show going with a poolside pavilion, a trip to the Oregon coast, a picnic and dance.

There were nightly shows in the Chorditorium featuring our very finest, the Parade of Champions, Barbershop Showcase, Decrepits meeting, the massed sing with Bob Johnson in front of the Georgia Pacific building, and a myriad of other events.

But for us, we will remember Portland as a city of beauty and hospitality. Her rose gardens, the Japanese Gardens, the bustling waterfront, the busy, immaculate downtown shopping area, the Coliseum, the Lloyd Center, and the roses — most of all we will remember the roses!

Michigan Troubadour  
Roger Morris, Editor

September 7, 1973

Dear Fellow barbershoppers and wives:

My wife, Shirley, and I would like to express our sincere gratitude for all of the interest that was exhibited during the critical times following the horrifying accident that befell our son, Rusty.

Apparently you fine people pray as vigorously as you sing because, indeed, those prayers were answered when our family was not only spared a greater tragedy but also we can proudly say that Russ started school this Fall and, in fact, walked there by himself.

Thank you and God bless,  
Russ & Shir! Seely



# PIONEER PEOPLE IN PORTLAND



## CHAPTER NOTES

### Wayne

Been a long time, hasn't it? Sure seems good to be back in print again, and Wayne Chapter would like to wish the new editor, Roger Morris, the best of luck. In fact, the entire District owes him a vote of thanks for taking on the job.

During the Summer months Wayne Chapter holds its meetings out-of-doors at various members' cottages or Summer homes, with guest quartets and visiting chapters.

In September, we move back into our regular meeting hall on Hubbard at West Chicago in Livonia.

A standing invitation is open for each and everyone of you to visit us on any third Friday at 8:30 p.m.

The Wayne "Wonderland Chorus" is busy working on new numbers for our 1974 Pitchpipe Parade and getting ready for the contest in Battle Creek. During the Summer we have made several public appearances including one with the Plymouth Community Band.

In June we held auditions for admission in Northville, resulting in several new members. Oh, but why did most of them have to be basses? Aren't there any tenors or baris floating around just waiting to be picked up? (Just kidding, fellows, we're mighty proud to have you.)

We have always known that our chorus director Gordie Limburg is one of the best in the Society. Now his ability has been recognized by International Headquarters in the form of an invitation to join with several of the organization's leading directors at a symposium from which should evolve a new official chorus director's manual. Congratulations, Gordie.

Will be back again next issue. See you in Battle Creek.

—Morrie Giles

(Sorry to report the death of Byron I. Campbell, who suffered a heart attack on June 18. Former President of Wayne Chapter and Area Counselor for many years, his death has saddened our District. Deepest sympathy to his wife, Dorothy. His voice will be missed.—Ed.)

### Flint

Three cheers for our new Troubadour editor Roger Morris who will be sending the news around the District.

Best wishes for you in your new endeavor.

The Flint Chapter has had a very active summer and we are real pleased that we have had wonderful turn-outs for most meetings (45 at one). We started something new, for us, a FUN NIGHT, every 2nd Tues. of each month we have set aside as a night when we have a guest quartet, from outside our own Chapter, and just sing a lot of the old songs plus our guest quartet plus some other programs, no work on chorus numbers, just fun! A buck a head at the door covers entertainment and food and we just about break even. We are even getting guests from neighboring chapters coming over to have fun with us. (TRY IT YOU'LL LIKE IT). Also some new members!

We are looking forward to a busy

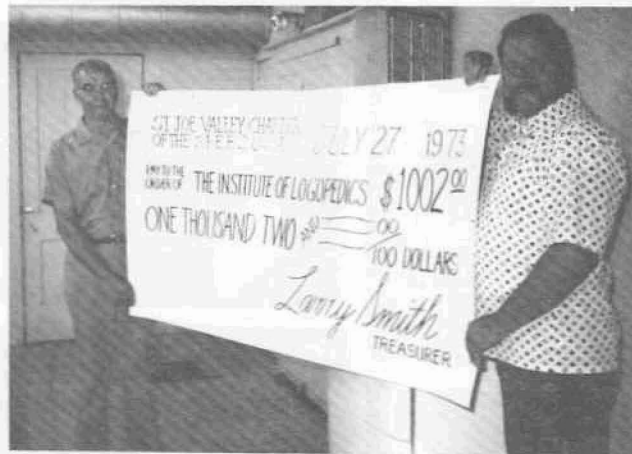
fall with: — QUAD-CHAPTER meetings on Sept. 11 and November 9 at Flint. District Convention at Battle Creek on Oct. 12-14th. A.F.A. on Sept. 11 plus another one on Oct. 23.

(Quad-Chapter meetings are by Flint, Saginaw-Bay, Holly-Fenton & Pontiac, four a year, and because of central location they will all be held in FLINT).

—Les Lang

*What's New  
(Besides Us)  
in  
your  
Chapter*

### St. Joseph Valley



**ST. JOSEPH VALLEY** — With only 24 members, St. Joseph Valley Chapter bids to become the highest per capita contributor to the Institute of Logopedics on record, with this check of \$1,002. The money was raised at the Chapter's Annual Show in April. Shown with Lowell Wolf during the presentation is Dan Luther, left, who sold ALL the advertising for the show and contributed so much to the success of the event.

## Battle Creek Will Host Fall Convention Oct. 12-14 October 12-14

By now most Chapter officers and members have probably received their call to the Fall Convention and District Contests to be held in Battle Creek October 12-14.

If not, here are some items gleaned from a letter from Convention Chairman Dean Burill in his recent mailing.

Those planning to attend the Saturday competition only might do well to give some thought to arriving Friday evening in time to make the big Past District Champions show which the Cereal City Chorus has lined up for Pioneer Barbershoppers at 8 p.m. in the Kellogg Auditorium. Dean states this show will replace the usually luke-warm Pre-Glow, and promises to offer Entertainment Plus!

If Dean intended to keep this a surprise package, he made a mistake in including a flyer with his letter, and we're going to cut you in on what you'll be missing if you don't make it. The flyer says featured quartets will be the Northern Highlights, the Vagabonds, Sharp-lifters, 4 Fits and the Aire Males.

Now that should be enough to whet the musical appetite of any harmony lover, and the admission (not included in the registration package) is a very reasonable \$2.50.

The Conventions and Contests are always a great affair, so tune up those voices, send your quartets and choruses, get in on a piece of the action even if it's just a chance to wood shed with the guys or to pull for your favorites. But do come to Battle Creek in October and enjoy Pioneer's greatest!

Headquarters for the Convention are at the Hart Motor Inn, and contests will be held in the Kellogg Auditorium. Tickets purchased for individual events separately amount to \$10.50, not including the Friday night show. However competitors can get the package rate of \$5 and non-competitors \$7. If you wish to pre-register, send your name, Chapter, and fees (check, please) to Lowell Wolfe, Rt. 2, Wall Lake, Delton, Mich. 49046. Please state if you are a contestant, or not. Use the registration form mailed to you, if you have it.

Following is the schedule of events:

### October 13, 1973

- 7:45 a.m.—Judges Breakfast and Briefing, Hart Motor Inn
- 9:00 a.m.—Quartet Briefing, backstage Kellogg Auditorium
- 9:30 a.m.—Quartet Semi-finals, Kellogg Auditorium
- 12:00 noon—Judges Luncheon, Hart Motor Inn
- 1:00 p.m.—Chorus Directors Briefing, backstage Auditorium
- 1:30 p.m.—Chorus Contest, Kellogg Auditorium
- \*4:30 p.m.—Chorus Critique, Kellogg Auditorium
- 8:15 p.m.—Quartet Finals, Kellogg Auditorium

### Sunday, October 14, 1973

- 9 a.m.—Quartet Critique, (as assigned), Hart Motor Inn
- 10:00 a.m.—House of Delegates Meeting, Hart Motor Inn
- \*If Chorus Contest concludes before 3:30, critique will be held at 4 p.m.



## A Little Bit Off the Top

By BILL WARNER

It's just like I was saying to someone the other day — "Boy, it seems like only yesterday we were choosing the quartets in Lansing for the International competition and here we are in Portland!"

Time has a way of slipping by because here we are back from Portland and ready for Battle Creek and the Pioneer District Fall Convention and Portland is now a pleasant memory.

First let me extend sincere thanks both from myself and the entire District to Roger Lewis and his good right hand, Merle Clayton, for all the time, effort, and hard work they put forth during his tenure as Editor of The Troubadour. Unfortunately, circumstances beyond Roger's control interrupted his efforts on the last few issues and led to his reluctant resignation. When you see him, do me a favor — shake his hand and tell him "thanks".

There is one among us who will soon know and appreciate the time and effort involved and I'd like to thank him for assuming the post and "welcome him aboard" — our new Troubadour Editor — ROGER MORRIS. We look for great things to happen with Roger at the helm!

We have another new-comer to our District administration. At a Pioneer District Board meeting in Battle Creek on September 9th, the board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Zone III Vice President Del Doctor due to increased business pressure. Del's sage counsel and versatile voice will be missed on the board. Fortunately for Pioneer and Zone III in particular, a good man was waiting in the wings and the board voted to install Tom Hegle from the Grand Rapids chapter as his replacement as Zone III V.P. Congratulations, Tom, and "welcome aboard."

Our thanks to all of those chapters who have tried and used "Auditions for Admission" so far this year. It has been proven that this is an effective means of spreading the gospel of Barbershopping as well as acquiring new members. If every chapter could add 10 new men to its roster by the end of the year we would meet that magic 1,600 number. Remember — the difference between 2 and 3 quartets as our quota for international competition rests squarely on you and is based on membership as of December 31.

One final note — Election time is here so get your slate of chapter officers elected and make arrangements for ALL of them to attend COT school in Lansing the week-end of November 10-11. Try it — They'll like it!

Look forward to seeing each and every one of you in Battle Creek — ON STAGE!

Sing-cheerily,  
Bill Warner  
District President—I.B.M.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1973

KELLOGG AUDITORIUM

BATTLE CREEK

## Past District Champions Show

**NICE  
AND  
NEW  
ON  
FRIDAY  
NIGHT!**

featuring

NORTHERN HILITES  
VAGABONDS  
SHARPLIFTERS  
4 FITS  
AIRE MALES

**SHOW  
STARTS  
8:00 P.M.  
ADMISSION  
\$2.50**

SPONSORED BY THE "CEREAL CITY CHORUS" — HOSTS OF THE 1973 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION

### **PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION PACKAGE** **GET YOUR HOUSING RESERVATIONS AND REGISTRATIONS IN EARLY!**

OCTOBER 12-14, 1973

For room reservations  
(first come, first served)  
write to:

**JOHN DAVIS**  
*Housing Chairman*

**HART MOTOR INN**  
31 North Washington  
Battle Creek, Michigan  
49017

SEND THIS PRE-CONVENTION REGISTRATION  
FORM, WITH YOUR CHECK, TO:

Lowell Wolfe, Route 2, Wall Lake, Delton, Michigan 49017  
FEE: CONTESTANT, \$5; NON-CONTESTANT, \$7

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Contestant: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(If more than one, list on separate sheet.)

**YOUR BADGE IS YOUR ADMISSION TICKET TO EVENTS**



## Chapter Notes

Pontiac



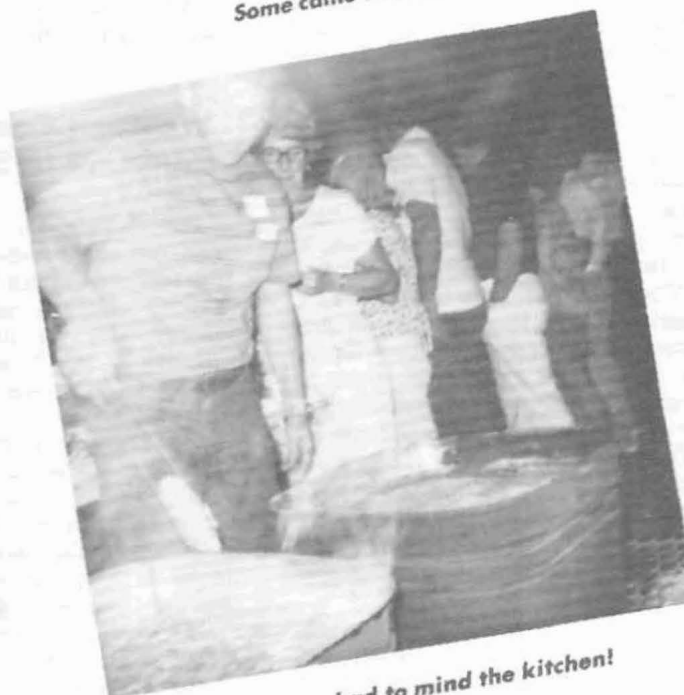
Some came to sing the "Old Songs" . . .



Some came to ring a tag . . .



and some came to eat and drink . . .



But someone had to mind the kitchen!

And there was something for everyone at the big Korn and Kielbasa feast when the Pontiac Chapter put it all together on Sat., August 18. All this and the Sharplifters, Northern Hilites and the Back Porch Majority, too!

## **CHARTER FLIGHT—**

### **First Cabin All the Way**

Someone once said "Getting there is half the fun!"

Taking everything into consideration, including the terrific accommodations, the great harmony enjoyed, the weather, scenery and hospitality, 50 per cent might be a bit too large a slice of the fun to be apportioned to "getting there."

But to those Pioneer District Barbershoppers who traveled with "Captain" Don Funk to Portland on United Charter Flight 5642, getting there and back in such grand style was really "First Cabin" all the way.

Our harmony buffs gathered at Detroit Metro at 11 a.m., Monday, July 9th, boarded the DC8 at 12:25 (after filling the North Terminal with the "Old Songs"), and were wined and dined royally as we winged our way westward to Oregon. Our glide-path into Portland International brought us along the beautiful Columbia River Gorge, with Mt. Hood on our left and Mt. Adams and Mt. St. Helens on our right rearing their snow-capped heads in defiance of a glistening afternoon sun.

Touchdown came shortly after 2 p.m. PDT, and we were met with busses to transport us to our various hostels. The early afternoon arrival gave us time to check into our quarters, get registered, and, for some of us, time to take in opening day events.

When the Big Show was all over, Portland International began to look more like a staging ground for an air invasion as delegations from all over the Society began boarding charter flights for the trip back home.

Good old Captain Don kept his crew informed all the way, and we were detoured to the Air Freight Terminal to the east of the main passenger terminal, where our Friendship was waiting for us.

Since the Pioneer Charter was not the only one departing from the Freight Terminal, there was a brief game of musical chairs as we shifted and reshuffled our luggage before passing it across the fence to be loaded aboard the big bird. Captain Don was busy checking out the manifest during most of this maneuvering in the hot sun, but everything worked out for the best, and hardly a soul noticed

that we were not subjected to the usual security check as we climbed the ramp to be welcomed aboard by our splendid crew.

If we had said the weather was perfect on our flight westward, we would have used up our best adjective to describe the flight home. Lifting off at 2:45 PDT, we moved eastward up the Columbia and across the Rockies and plains without a cloud below us the entire route. Crossing Lake Michigan the sun began to go into its twilight ritual and the shadows lengthened into the edge of dark as we gently bit the giant tires into the runway at Metro. By 9:30 p.m. we were deplaning, and seven wonderful days were just a memory.

But to our executive vice president, and to all those who worked so hard and so long in planning this wonderful flight for Pioneer, we cannot express our gratitude in terms of justifiable amplitude.

All we can say is "Thanks, Don! It was magnificent!"

### **Western Continentals Bow Out in Style**

PORTLAND, Ore — Friday, July 13, was indeed an unlucky day for the Barbershop Fraternity! It was also a day of surprises as the Convention headed into the nitty-gritty of its schedule — the business of selecting the 1973 championship quartets and choruses.

The Barbershop Showcase on Friday afternoon in the ballroom of the Hilton seemed to be the focal point for most of the action.

It was during this wild, mad-cap matinee performance that the audience was stunned by the Western Continentals' casual announcement that this was their last show.

With the packed house hanging on to every ringing chord, the Continentals gave what was perhaps one of their greatest exhibitions of the showmanship of which champions are made. And now they were telling an unbelieving audience of harmony buffs

(Continued on back cover)

### **Gentlemen's Agreement— A Change in Personnel**

PORTLAND, Ore — Before a sell-out audience of Barbershop fans attending the Barbershop Showcase in the ballroom of the Portland Hilton, Glenn Van Tassell, baritone, announced his retirement from the Gentleman's Agreement, Pioneer District's 1971 International Champions.

With all the dignity and poise we have come to associate with these marvelous, wonderful voices; the GA came on stage, thrilled the 1,550 lucky ticket-holders with two of their favorite selections, and in one swift, emotionally charged moment, Glenn made his announcement, said farewell to the GA and his fans, and introduced his replacement before leaving the stage.

Greg Backwell, former tenor and many-time medalist with the Night-hawks of London, Ontario, joined the GA on stage and the show went on in the finest of Barbershop tradition.

Glenn's departure from the Society's most popular quartet came after more than 23 years of membership in the organization, nearly 20 of which have seen him active in competition. During this time he has been twice in the winner's circle.

The resulting commitments have consumed an enormous amount of his time and energy.

In making his decision, Glenn cited family considerations, his new position which requires considerable travel, and a desire for a chance to rest. He will continue to be active however, in quartet coaching, chorus directing, and in contest and judging work.

(Ed's note: Glenn has already made his presence felt in the District, working with neighboring chapters on various techniques, and we understand will be in the future of the Oakland County Chorus.)

Greg Backwell is a most able replacement, and his performance with his new associates has been well received. He is well known for his ability as an arranger, director and performer. His selection assures the quartet's continuing quest for quality and harmony will not be neglected.

The Pioneer District and its members extend best wishes to Greg and the Gentleman's Agreement.

## **Southern Gateway Rolls To Chorus Championship**

As most any 5th grade school kid can tell you, Johnny Appleseed was a legendary character from our pioneer days who roamed westward across the Alleghenies and traversed the broad Ohio Valley planting apple trees. Pushing into the wilderness beyond the frontier, far beyond the protection of the various forts and settlements, Johnny ventured into a land known only to the Indians, the wild game, and a few hearty explorers.

He was a man bent on a mission, this Johnny Appleseed, and the thoughts of beasts and savages were not a part of his makeup. Wearing his multi-purpose pot atop his head, with the handle always pointed to the rear, Johnny went about his task with a song in his heart, planting his trees in the fertile soil and establishing himself in history as a true man of good will.

Now we don't claim that Johnny Appleseed was a Barbershopper, but somewhere in the southern foothills of the Ohio Valley, Johnny's spirit, like his apple trees, must be bearing a harvest in harmony. And we'd bet a bite out of our last Golden Delicious that old Johnny's high tenor is floating around up there somewhere in that Big Green Singing Machine's ringing sevenths!

And while Johnny's choreography, we are told, left something to be desired as far as the Indians were concerned, one can't help but wonder if he had anything to do with teaching Director Tom Gentil that routine he used to bring down the house in Portland's Coliseum!

No, the Southern Gateway Chorus didn't come out of Cincinnati's Western Hills wearing pots over their heads—but they did look sharp in their straw boaters, sans-handle, with the green and white striped gartered shirt sleeves, white gloves, and all.

And they did give quite an exhibition of the old soft shoe, straw hat and cane bit. But what they did best was sing! Oh, how they sang! Even the most partisan Barbershopper in the great hall, pulling for his or her own local favorites, grudgingly had to admit — this was **THE CHORUS!**

And wasn't it nice of the judges to agree with our selection, for a change?

The Louisville Thoroughbreds broke the ice as the number one contestants and, living up to their name, gave us a touch of class and elegance that makes one proud to be a Barbershopper. They also gave the following 14 quartets something to shoot at, and none but the gentlemen from Western Hills were able to overtake them. The Tidelanders of Houston gave it a great try, but had to settle for third, followed by the Sun Harbor Chorus from San Diego, and the Arlingtons; of Arlington Heights, Ill.

But from curtain-up, the Big Green Singing Machine captured the audience with their crisp, precise execution and dynamic sound, and then put the frosting on the cake with a sparkling display of stage presence and danced their way right on in to the winner's circle.

Old Johnny must have been smiling out there somewhere . . . The Southern Gateway Chorus, and that

fabulous Roaring 20's quartet. No wonder they named our neighboring District after him!

Wonder if Johnny ever planted any apple trees in Michigan or Ontario? After all, we are the Pioneer District!

### **New Society Champs— The Dealer's Choice**

Jumping into an early lead in the afternoon quarter-finals, Dealer's Choice of the Dallas Metropolitan Chapter in the Southwestern District continued to impress the judges and pile up the points which eventually carried them to the 1973 Quartette Championship of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. at the Coliseum in Portland, Oregon on Saturday, July 14.

The new Champs made history in the Society by becoming only the fourth quartette in its 35 years to capture the crown on their first try.

In accepting their gold medals from the retiring champion Golden Staters, Dealer's Choice gave much credit to the staff at Harmony Hall and to the HEP school which they attended last year in Wisconsin.

Personnel of Dealer's Choice are Al Kvanli, tenor; Bill Thornton, lead; Brian Beck, baritone, and Gary Parker, bass.

They put it all together in Portland before a stunned audience, with a trio of performances that brought them high marks in every category.

Congratulations, Dealer's Choice, and best wishes for a long and successful reign!

The new Champs were elbowing their way past some first class company on the way to the top, nosing out the Pacificaires of Reseda, California; the Regents of Mid-Atlantic District; Boston Common, and Far Westerners of Whittier and Riverside, California.

The OK Four, 1972 finalists and stars of the Wayne Chapter's fine show in Farmington this Spring, finished in 6th place, a notch above our own wonderful Vagabonds. A lot of Pioneer Barbershoppers held their breath when the Pacificaires were named in the second spot, feeling sure the Vagabonds had grabbed the brass ring. But this was not to be, despite their strong finish.

Other finalists were Saturday's Heroes, Illinois District; Roaring 20's, Cincinnati Western Hills; and the Soundtracks, Arlington Heights, Illinois.

Detroit's splendid Sharplifters (16th) moved up 19 spots to finish in the top 20 for their first time and were great favorites with the audience in the Coliseum. Tenor Bill Wickstrom gave us all a scare when he boarded the plane suffering a sore throat, but that fresh Portland air must have done the trick for Bill — he came through loud and clear.

So congratulations again, to the Vagabonds, the Sharplifters, and to all those who participated. Champions, all!

# Down Our Way

with the Editor

A skeptical oldtimer at Kitty Hawk, observing the antics of the Wright Brothers, scratched his head and said: "It will never get off the ground!"

For several weeks, now, and for some of you for several months, there have been times when we felt the same way about the Troubadour. But it's lift-off time, at last, and hopefully we will soon be airborne on schedule. And once this thing does fly, we hope to keep it flying, right on schedule.

It hasn't been easy, but then again it hasn't been all that difficult to find things to write about for this, our first issue of the Troub as its pilot. What has been critical, of course, as I'm sure our predecessor, Roger Lewis, can tell you is finding the time to set down and put it all together.

And mentioning Roger Lewis the District owes him a debt of gratitude for his efforts under some extremely trying conditions to keep this a viable publication. We know he will miss being editor of this magazine but we hope he will still be a contributing factor in its future.

This has been a busy summer, both in Barbershopping and in our personal affairs. There was the Spring Convention in Lansing, and the wonderful trip to the big one in Portland, and now getting ready for the competition in Battle Creek — not to mention a Chapter that never misses a weekly rehearsal, small though our own Milford Chapter may be. And trying to keep our monthly Chapter Bulletin informative and on schedule can also be a test of one's inventiveness.

Toss this into the "salad bowl" with keeping up the homestead, working for a newspaper that decides to move into a new plant in another section of the metropolis, seeing your entire crop of grandchildren move to Florida with their mother and dad, and . . . well, you begin to get the picture.

So when we were approached about taking on still another labor of love for our favorite fraternity, it was only natural that there should be some procrastination and some soul-

searching and meshing of the mental gear box.

Being a printer by trade, one of the first things to be considered was to procure the services of a printer to publish the Troubadour in keeping with the lifestyle of the International Typographical Union, an organization to which we have belonged for some 25 years. This was accomplished in due time when the Slade Printing Company of Pontiac submitted what we consider to be a reasonable estimate, and we hope the association will be a profitable and enjoyable one for all concerned.

One of the prime concerns facing us with this first issue, other than trying to get it out on schedule (whatever that schedule is at this time) was the fact that there was so few people who knew of the change in editorship, and even fewer who knew where to reach us.

Of course, Rog Lewis has cooperated to the fullest extent in forwarding pertinent information to us, helping to get the equipment moved, etc. But there has been so much of it to sort out, to try to sift through what has been published and what hasn't, or what should be published and what shouldn't.

So, to all you Chapter scribes in the District, if we didn't get anything in from your Chapter this time, our apologies. What few Chapter Notes we have received we will publish, and we promise to give you your full due when you send your copy to us for the next issue.

We are considering some format changes, and you will note some differences in what you have seen in this issue. One of the changes is in the frequency of publication. President Warner and the Board, in trying to get the publication moving again, voted to change the Troubadour to a six-month-a-year basis, coming out on the months when the Harmonizer is not published. We hope you will like this format, though you will not receive as many issues as before.

We request that you send all correspondence, art work or photographs, advertising material, etc., to Box 49, Highland, Mich. 48031. This is the Troubadour's official address. If you desire to contact the editor by phone, our number is (313) 887-4272, and don't be afraid to call at any hour of the day. Since our work keeps us away from home from 11 p.m. until 8 a.m., we are not averse to answering the phone at any other hours.

Your suggestions, articles, features, ideas for improvement — all are welcome and invited, of course. This is your magazine, and we want it to be all you want it to be.

Merle Clayton has consented to work with us with his multitude of talents, and we are happy and fortunate to have him on our side. Bill Pascher of the Pontiac Chapter will keep his camera in operation wherever he finds Barbershoppers gathered together. We were lucky enough to be able to share our Portland experiences with Bill and his wife, Evelyn, and enjoyed every minute of it. The pictorial highlights of the International Convention in this issue are a part of that experience as Bill saw it.

## Some Things You Didn't See In The Troubadour—

There is much catching up to do, so excuse us if we seem a bit wordy. It's our nasty nature!

For instance, the Spring Convention back on April 27-29 in Lansing.

The Lansing Chapter did such a great job for us, and we would be remiss, even at this late date, if we didn't acknowledge it with our thanks. The Capitol City Chordsmen, gaining momentum every time we see and hear them, proved to be a "poor" host — they saved the championship trophy for themselves. But then, they deserved it! And then Director Kenny Gibson joined his Vagabond cohorts to grab another medal, and assure himself a trip, along with the Sharplifters, to Portland.

The Northern Highlights, last Fall's winners in Flint, finished behind the Vagabonds and Sharplifters at Lansing, giving Pioneer District a lot to look forward to in the future.

The Motor City Chorus was on hand for the evening show, and joined the winners in a crowd-pleasing performance that left the audience hungering for more.

The afterglow in the Olds Plaza was great, the Chapter hospitality rooms were busy into the wee hours of morning, and a tired but happy bunch of Barbershoppers began to drift out of Lansing late Sunday morning. Congratulations, Lansing! You were beautiful!

Then there was the Boyne City Bush League Contest in April, just prior to the Convention. A quartet called the Classmates took that one, if we recall. (Haven't we seen some of those guys around somewhere before?) And the



afterglow at Boyne City was something else, again. Barbershopping and Dixieland? What a combination!

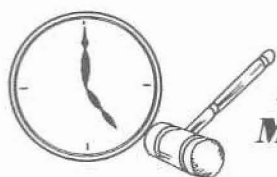
And then there was Portland in July! Our Vagabonds in 7th, the Sharplifters 16th, and the Motor City Chorus 12th. Ah, Pioneer! You have much to be proud of!

And just as soon as Tom Hine can learn a few dance steps and teach them to his songsters, you can bet that Motor City will climb right on up that ladder!

Yes it's been a busy summer of Barbershopping. The big send-off show in Ford Auditorium, Detroit's bob-Lo moonlighter, the Crowley, England Barbershop Club in Monroe in August, Wayne's wonderful show back in the Spring, an evening of corn, kielbasa, beer and harmony with neighboring Pontiac, and so many, many more. How lucky can one guy be?

See you in Battle Creek!

*~~~~~*



## Board Minutes

Following are excerpts and condensations from the minutes of District Secretary John T. Gillespie at the Lansing House of Delegates meeting in April, and the Board Meeting in Dearborn on June 23.

Under normal conditions these minutes would be printed in full in the Troubadour. However, since nothing is normal about this current publication, the Board has given permission to summarize these minutes in the interest of time and space, to meet the current deadline.

### MINUTES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

Lansing, Michigan  
April 29, 1973

Meeting called to order by President Warner at 10:10 a.m.

Oct. 15, 1972 minutes accepted as published in Troub.

President reported on resignation of International Board Member Tom Damm, and President Warner's election by Board to fill unexpired term.

Zone reports were presented by Zone V. Presidents, including chapter activities, AFA, shows; etc.

Exc. V.P. Don Funk reported on coming visits of Society staff members Dave Stevens and Sam Kennedy. He asked delegates to urge Chapter officers convey all mailings of District and International activities to members.

Pres. Warner addressed delegates, discussing goals of Society Pres. Abernethy, and Society programs. Also stressed need for Chapter officers to pass information and communications on to members and keep communications open, including publishing of monthly bulletin.

Secretary Gillespie presented awards to Herm Dykema, '72 Area Counselor of the Year; Lansing Chapter, Silver Division, '72 District Achievement; Grosse Pointe Chapter, Gold Division, '72 District Achievement; and 25th Anniversary plaques to the Fruit Belt Chapter and the Hudson Chapter.

Oakland County delegate inquired as to status of codification of District By-Laws and their availability. Pres. Warner said he would contact committee and request this work be completed and copies made available to all Chapters by next Delegates meeting.

Detroit delegate called for a method of rapid communications to Chapters in emergency situations. President said he would appoint committee to devise such a system, and handling problems of sickness and distress.

Detroit delegate also requested delaying setting date for Charter Flight until after Fall District Convention so that winning chorus might be consulted, since they constitute bulk of the flight.

President said date for current flight was set July 7th of last year, saving \$400. Flight date was based on survey of those taking prior flight. Reasoning of delegate has merit and will be taken under advisement.

Pres. Warner, questioned by Oakland County delegate on status of the Troubadour, announced that Editor Lewis has found it impossible to devote necessary time to publication and had resigned as Editor at April 27th District Board meeting. He will publish the remaining issues for this term. District is seeking new editor, requests applications.

Logopedics contributions accepted from Big Rapids, Pontiac, and Oakland County Chapters.

Treasurer King's report for period ending March 31, 1973 shows revenues of \$4,205; expenditures of \$3,568 and cash balance of \$10,899. Report accepted as read.

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

### MINUTES OF PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

June 23, 1973

Meeting called to order by President Warner at 2:45 p.m.

Reports of zone vice presidents covering activities and status of chapters in their assigned zones.

V.P. Dykema reported St. Joseph Vally's donation of \$1,002 to Logopedics during visit by Sam Kennedy.

V.P.'s report many chapters working on A.F.A.'s to build up membership.

Erec. V.P. Don Funk said attendance at Lansing Spring Convention was somewhat disappointing, in his opinion due to small number of chapters competing. Convention netted \$2,200.

President Warner suggested all Chapters be contacted and asked to submit proposal if interested in hosting International Send-Off show in 1974. All profits go to Send-Off Fund, but all expenses are paid from show's proceeds.

Board unanimously accepted Roger Morris, Milford Chapter, as editor of the Troubadour.

Treasurer King's financial report showing excess of revenues over expenditures of \$670, accepted.

Unanimously agreed to follow formula for distribution of Send-Off funds in accordance with action of November '72 Board meeting.

V.P. McTaggart reported lack of response from Zone V.P.'s on "Hall of Fame" award. Board agreed to delay presentation until 1974 Spring Convention.

Exec. V.P. Funk will meet with Traverse City Chapter for clarification on proposed budget for '74 District Spring Convention.

C&J Chairman Merle Clayton commented on shortage of judges in our District. Also covered the coming changes in judging rules with balance and blend and harmony and accuracy being replaced by a Sound category. He said the District should consider budgeting funds for the training of judges. Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

## Keep America Singing

### Coming Events

Send requests for Parade Clearance to:  
John T. Gillespie  
712 Newgate Road  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007

1973

#### SEPTEMBER

29 Fruit Belt Parade  
Gratiot County Parade

#### OCTOBER

12-14 DISTRICT CONVENTION—Battle Creek  
20 Jackson Parade  
20 Lansing Parade

#### NOVEMBER

3 Detroit No. 1 Parade  
10-11 COTS School—Lansing, Olds Plaza  
1974

#### FEBRUARY

22-23 Oakland County Show

#### MARCH

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

#### APRIL

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

#### MAY

4 Boyne City Bush League Contest

#### 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.

STEPHEN SUTHERLAND 106811  
2870 OAKDALE DR 141  
ANN ARBOR MI 48104

Second Class Mail

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER

### Western Continentals

that this was the last roundup, despite the cries of "No, no!"

But with the transfer of Phil Foote, who is now in our own Pioneer District, the transportation problem became too critical, and rather than continue the struggle, they hung up their spurs!

With this unfortunate circumstances still creating a stir in the crowd, the Gentleman's Agreement came on stage, and promptly hung another shocker on them with the announcement of the retirement of baritone Glenn Van Tassell.

And thus, the splendid Barbershop Showcase became a victim of Friday 13, and a lot of unhappy news.

But while it lasted, the newest addition to convention spectacles as a Showcase lived up to its name. Here's hoping the show continues in next year's convention at Kansas City — but without the shockers!



**MOVING THE TROUBADOUR** — Not in the semi! Actually, the changing of the guard was accomplished on a Friday evening when Roger Lewis carted the Troubadour's worldly possessions to Ann Arbor and transferred them from his Caddy to Rog Morris Jr.'s Pinto Squire! The semi? It just happened to be in the viewfinder of the Troubadour camera as the new Ed. traveled north on U.S.-23.