

pioneer

TROUBADOUR

Sept '73



by Merle Clayton

During the summer, we were saddened by the loss of two Barbershoppers who had a special place in the hearts of all of us who had known them -- Don Ferguson, and A. J. Showalter.

Because it says a lot about how we felt about them, we are printing Don Ferguson's Eulogy, given by Cliff Jorgenson. (Ed.)



Regardless of what kind of barbershopper you are, to have the most exciting, song-filled, knowledge-packed week of your life, you must attend the Society's Harmony College. Herman Dykema (Kalamazoo Chapter) and I knew we had reached Harmony College when we rolled down the windows and heard the sounds of a multitude of quartets coming at us from all directions. The 298 enrollees came from all over North America. Each man selected three subjects each of which required three hours in class every day. In addition, everyone spent the last hour of the forenoon and the last hour of the night in the massed chorus under Musical Director Bob Johnson. The last hour of the afternoon was conducted by Mac Huff who coached us in Voice Production. Have you ever sung in a 300-man chorus coached in proper vocal technique and then directed by Bob Johnson? It is a thrill that can't be put into words, but if you do it, you will understand what made O.C. Cash happy when a gang of singers got together and rang 'em.

Ten entire quartets were there to take advantage of the talents of the eight quartet coaches. The BORDER CHORDERS, Gerry Clowes (Little Albert) bari, Gene Haines, tenor, Don Bazely, lead, and Harry Shardlow, bass, of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, were the quartet attending from the Pioneer District. In addition to Herman and me, the following Pioneer barbershoppers were listed on the roster:

George Darrah	Flint
Joseph De Rosa	Maybee
Charles Drouillard	Belleville
Thomas Hegle	Rockford
Robert Jenkinson	Wayne
Patric Yacques	Algonac
Martin Zurn	Novi
John Burke	Adrian

When barbershoppers get together, singing is usually the first order of business. Worldly goods and status take a back seat. As we sing, each man carries his part, and to do this, there must be an atmosphere of sharing and caring to make the chords come out in harmonious fashion. For more than 15 years, Fergie, as he was affectionately known, or "Fergoosin", as he jokingly called himself, has shared his talents with most barbershoppers gathered here tonight. His voice was always clear and true, and he could sing with great gusto or in a soft whisper, as he chose. He had an almost arrogant pride in his ability to sing on pitch, and his facial expression often gave away his displeasure at a sour chord.

This occasion is a solemn one, to be sure. And yet, the barbershop tradition is a happy one. So to honor Don in a very special way, Bill Butler has assembled a number of his close friends to sing a few numbers. We'll hear from them now as they sing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and one of Don's favorites, "Shine On Me".

Boondoggling and woodshedding, the art of improvising a barbershop-style song, was something Don enjoyed thoroughly. If a new quartet was looking for help, Fergie was never too busy to lend a hand. I well remember my first meeting with Don. It was the occasion of my first visit to a chapter meeting. It was in his company that I first heard the clean, ringing barbershop sound as he taught me my first tag. That is all it took to sell me on the society. I recall a few years ago when we first had word of Don's transfer to Saginaw. It was like one of our family walking out of our lives. And just as we accepted his transfer then, we must reluctantly now accept his latest transfer. I regard this as moving day for Don.

When word reached me earlier today that the Gentlemen's Agreement would be with us this evening to help memorialize Fergie, I couldn't help but say to myself, "What more fitting eulogy than to have an International Championship Quartet sing the songs Don loved to hear sung well." His very good friends will honor him and his family now by singing the fitting hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness", and then the ballad "My Love Is Like A Red, Red Rose".

The barbershop society has, as you know, a code of ethics: standards which Don had not the slightest difficulty adhering to. When we speak of "going everything in our power to perpetuate the society", and "exhibiting a spirit of good fellowship", and "refraining from forcing our songs upon unsympathetic ears", Fergie carried them out to the letter. More than anything else, he followed the dictates of the code by "stimulating good music and vocal harmony to spread the spirit of harmony throughout the world" to his family, among his friends and fellow barbershoppers, and in his community.

For many years our chapter has supported the Institute of Logopedics, and our International Service Project has the motto, "We Sing That They Shall Speak". In Don Ferguson's memory, the Detroit Chapter is making a contribution to the Institute in his name.

As is our custom, we will close with the singing of the society theme song. I'm going to ask Bill Butler to assemble the chorus and lead us in "Keep America Singing", and humming the second time around for the closing.

Pioneer District Chapters: Underwrite the expense of sending your Chorus Director and Assistant Chorus Director to the next Harmony College. If they haven't been to a Harmony College in the last three years and taken Advanced Chorus Directing under Bob and Voice Production under Mac Huff, they are not up-to-date. This is the kind of expenditure that the IRS expects us to make as a non-profit educational organization.

Quartets: Start budgeting NOW and plan to attend the next Harmony College. You will get a year's coaching in a week!



SEPTEMBER

THE PIONEER TROUBADOUR

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SINGING OUT

Letters To The Editor



Dear Roger:

The last two issues of the Pioneer Troubadour have contained a resolution adopted by the Pioneer District House of Delegates last Spring in Midland, Michigan. The resolution had to do with the possible spread of Barbershopping across the Atlantic into England, and expressed opposition of the Pioneer House of Delegates.

A resolution of this nature is certainly a proper channel of communication. Its adoption placed the House of Delegates on record as being in opposition, and brought that fact to the attention of the International Executive Committee and Board.

However, this particular resolution contained inferences that our Executive Director had made an unauthorized trip to

England for this purpose, and had therefore expended Society funds without authorization. I was present at Midland at the time that this resolution was being considered by the House of Delegates, and was granted the privilege of the floor to deny the accuracy of these allegations. I verified at that time that the trip which Barrie Best took to England was properly authorized by the Executive Committee, and I believe I further stated that I had no apology to make to the authors of the resolution or anyone else for that action.

For the record, the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of June 23, 1970 contain this record: "On a motion by Ribble, second by Abernethy, the Executive Committee authorized the Executive Director to visit England, after appropriate preparation, to pursue the formation of an affiliate Barbershop Harmony organization in Great Britain." The length of the visit and the budget were handled at a subsequent meeting.

During the Midland debate on the resolution, the comment was made that Owen Cash never had expansion to England in mind. I'm quite sure that he did not, nor did he envision many of the things which make up our Society today. It's always presumptuous...and a little risky...for a newcomer like me to dig back into early history for a quote, but here's one anyway. In Keep America Singing, Deac Martin quotes Rupert Hall as saying, "It was a hobby, and we wanted the world to share our interest."

In all fairness, I feel that my response to this unwarranted attack on our Executive Director should have the same exposure as the original resolution. Therefore, I am asking that you print this letter in the next issue of the Pioneer Troubadour, so that the members of the Pioneer District will know that the record has been set straight.

Kindest personal regards,

CHORD-ially,
Dick deMontmollin
International President

[Editorial comment: You write good prose, President Dick, but we don't believe you said enough of the right things to set the record straight. Here is the resolution as it was originally published in the May Troubadour:

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

This cannot in any way be construed as an attack upon our excellent Executive Director. The real inference is that the Executive Committee may have approved an action not authorized by the International Board of Directors. Is it possible that the Executive Committee intended to recommend that the International Board of Directors authorize the trip? We are simply seeking information at this point, and are not attempting to debate about who said what at Midland or in conjunction with the letter that first proposed the resolution. Members in the Pioneer District would like to know:

1. How the Executive Committee got the authority to

allow the Executive Director to spend the money.

2. How much Society money was spent for the trip, and when it was spent.
3. If it does not cost Joe Barbershopper a cent, tell us why not. We understand that the Executive Committee authorized the expenditure of money for the trip. We assume it was from funds available. We think that "funds available" come from dues and Society merchandizing ventures.
4. The role of the International Board of Directors in authorizing expenditures and the limits, if any, on expenditures made without prior International Board approval.
5. Whether the Executive Committee has funds available from sources outside the Society, and if this is the case, what they are.
6. When the International Board of Directors ratified the action of the Executive Committee meeting of June 23, 1970.

A simple statement on each of the items above may truly help to set the record straight. Without these missing essential elements of information, the record may never be set straight.]



Wouldn't want you to think that our "RAZOR-SHARP" (elbows, at least) District President was less than totally delight with the picture of him that appeared in the centerfold of the January issue, but he did make a definite point of getting the one taken that's on this cover. We'll let you be the judge of which is best.

And for those of you that may NOT have had the pleasure of meeting him, that's WILLIAM C. WARNER, PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT FOR 1972 - -with his devilish smile that says he just milked the Bari swipe too long when singing the "Bye-O-Bye" Tag with JIM LEKANDER, TOM HINE, AND BILL BUTLER. (Rather than make you guess, that tag is printed elsewhere in this issue).

Regardless of what people like TONY SCOOROS might say about Bill, he's a very personable regular type Barbershopper. He'll sing for hours, will listen to complaints, ideas, or suggestions from most anyone, and usually has an answer for any question thrown at him. His keen mind (matches his elbows) makes him a top rate leader, and an excellent businessman. We're dog-gone lucky to have him at the helm of Pioneer this year.



ROGER'S RAMBLINGS

by Roger J. Lewis,
Editor

This issue marks the start of something new in the TROUB - - something we hope will result in improved composition and timeliness (didn't think I knew any words that big, did ya?)

On the "DATA" page, there's a new name - -MERLE CLAYTON, Co-Editor. (Merle didn't like the abbreviations often used with "Assistant" or "Associate"). Merle is well known to most of you as the District C&J Chairman, has recently retired from the service of the Federal Gov't., and volunteered to help with some of the time-consuming work involved in publishing the Troub.

Between us, we think we can get back on a decent schedule, and hope to improve content at the same time. Merle brings many other talents to the Troub, too. One of them, of course is his wife Svea, who has to be one of the most knowledgeable wives in Barbershopping. Another is a talent he's exercising as I write this article: He's writing the tag you'll find in this issue. (I could sing 3 parts for him and together we figured out the tenor.)

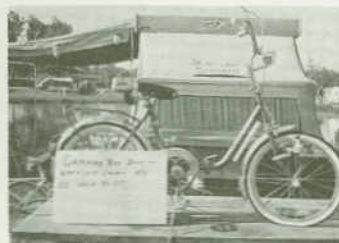


Wayne

---by Morrie Giles

Wayne started April activities off with a bang in the form of what was probably our greatest Ladies' night in recent chapter history. Cocktails from 7 P.M. till 8 P.M., dinner from 8 till 9, and dancing from 9 till 12. 45 couples attended. Can you imagine gallons of champagne and cold duck?

Latest addition to Wayne membership list is Bill Jenkinson. Bill's feelings about barbershopping were expressed thusly: "I'm only sorry I didn't do this 20 years sooner."



At our April 21st meeting the horde from Grosse Pointe Chapter swarmed in upon us bearing a huge trophy and threatening to lick the pants off us in a quartet contest. It was a long hard battle, but when the evening was over we filled them full of chili and sent them home minus their trophy. Now, some may say we won because Wayne bought the beer for the judges, but that really isn't so because these judges don't accept bribes: Who were they? That wonderful foursome called "The Sharplifters". They did 2 contest sets for us and the only word applicable is "fantastic".

Sunday April 23, the Wayne Wonderland Chorus entertained the visitors to the Artrain Exhibition in Plymouth. The afternoon was cold and windy, and the stage was outdoors, but the response was very warm. The "WeWaco" Sweet Adeline Chorus preceded us on the program and joined us for the finale, "This Is My Country". We did it in their register, and the tenors are still floating around up there some place.

Friday, June 2, Oakland County Chapter hosted the return of the traveling jug which contained money from all the chapters which were given a surprise visit during the year and made their contributions to the jug. The evening opened with community singing followed by the Lakeshore Chorus, the Motor City Chorus, and the Wolverine Chorus. Soon the Sharplifters and the Vagabonds closed out a full program. Our own district President Bill Warner presented checks to the Wolverine Chorus and the Sharplifters and the Vagabonds.

On April 29, of course, we all went to Midland where the Wonderland Chorus opened the 2nd half of the evening show. About here we must offer congratulations to the Vagabonds, the Sharplifters, and the great Motor City Chorus. Also a word of commendation to the Saginaw-Bay Chapter for a very fine contest.



Tuesday, May 2nd, the Wonderland Chorus put on a half-hour program at Mercy College as part of the annual Strathmore Roundup sponsored by the Kiwanis Club, a most enthusiastic audience of about 500 diners. When we did "Alexander's Rag Time Band", the entire group stood up to applaud.

Grosse Pointe

---by Bill Herman



You never saw a happier 36 barbershoppers, plus one really super-conductor, in your life than when they announced the Lakeshore Chorus had won second place at the Midland Spring Convention! We were really on cloud nine, or rather two. We had worked hard and felt that the performance had gone well, though we were concerned about our Casey (Kurt Kusch) hitting one of the judges with a line drive off his mighty bat. Our congratulations to the first place Motor City Chorus, with Tom Hine at the helm for such a short time, and to the other choruses whose performances we enjoyed so much. Our hats off to the SHARPLIFTERS and the VAGABONDS and we wish them all well in Atlanta. We were proud of the performance of THE ORIGINAL CHOICE, with Grosse Pointe Chapter's BOB DEMCHAK on tenor, who will be alternates for the Atlanta trip. We all wish to extend our appreciation to the Saginaw-Bay Chapter for putting on a well organized, fun-filled convention. A lot of work goes into a convention of this size and they did a terrific job.

Our program vice president must have had a crystal ball when he lined up the entertainment for our "the little show" at the Detroit Yacht Club on May 13. Pioneer District President Bill Warner introduced the Current District Champion MOTOR CITY CHORUS as well as our second place LAKESHORE CHORUS. The 1971-72 District Champs, THE ORIGINAL CHOICE, put on a fantastic performance for our huge crowd, and everyone enjoyed the antics and costumes of the HARMONY HOUNDS. Our show seems to get bigger and better each year through the efforts of people like RAY STARRETTE and his stagehands and President-Conductor RUSS SEELY who is really drawing the music and sound out of our chorus. RAY and MARV BURKE put together a surprise plaque for Russ commemorating the Midland Contest which was presented to him at the end of our portion of the show, when Russ was trying to get us to leave the stage! Thanks to all the unnamed barbershoppers and their efforts which made our show a success.

You never really know what's going to happen as a result of a barbershop program--turns out that not so long ago a man by the name of LEE GEORGE heard the LAKESHORE CHORUS in performance, liked us, and on May 12 we wound up singing at the Utica High School Auditorium with the Utica Civic Orchestra, which the same Lee George conducts! We sang an intermission show between performances of the orchestra (our mighty Casey struck out for the first time in memory) and then Lee and Russ conducted the orchestra, chorus and the Utica High

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The Four-in-Legion

JIM BRISLER
419-594-2216

GENE GUFFEY
419-267-2654

LOWELL APPLIGATE
419-642-8196

Chorale in a stirring rendition of "The Impossible Dream" which was almost impossible for our chorus when the lights in the back of the auditorium were turned out in the middle of the performance! The combination of orchestra and barber-shop chorus must have set some sort of a barbershopping first.

We honored the "not-so-old" and the new at our Chapter meeting May 19. Our congratulations to loyal barbershoppers RUSS KUNATH and VINCE KOELZER who were awarded twenty-five year pins. In addition, twelve new members are extended a hearty welcome by Grosse Pointe Chapter: Joe Borneman, Dan Bulbuk, (Who already is responsible for two new members!!), Jerry Gougeon, Tom Hopp, Hank Luczinski, Sylvester Mazur, Milt Medel, Gerry Palazola, Gerry Poirier, Dick Schlottman, Jerry Schultz and Jack Slamka. You're as welcome as the flowers in May and our Chorus is sounding better and better with the addition of these fine new voices.

The Mount Clemens Newcomers Group invited the LAKESHORE CHORUS to entertain at their meeting at the Clinton Gables on May 23. The Newcomers are all women and included several Sweet Adelines. I've never sung before a more appreciative group and it was the perfect example of a chorus "turning on" an audience and the audience inspiring the chorus and conductor to even better barbershop sounds.

Niles - Buchanan ---by Dan Shelles]

Time certainly has a way of rushing by when you're busy, and May was no exception. It seemed like there was something going on practically every day!

Probably the two most noteworthy events were those on which we collaborated with the Fruit Belt Chapter--a float for the Blossomtime Parade in St. Joseph-Benton Harbor (see article elsewhere in this issue), and a concert in Berrien Springs. The float for the Blossom Parade was strictly for fun. Were we surprised when we found out that we won something! It just goes to show something or other!

The joint concert was held in Johnson Auditorium of Andrews University. This was one of a series of events sponsored by the county Jaycee chapters to raise money for a Rehabilitation Center for the handicapped; all local money will be supplemented by matching Federal grants. Anyway, we had all of the Gateway groups on stage (ever see 7/8 of an octet?Ooops, I mean a double quartet!), the Phidavonics, the Gateway Eight, and the Gateway Chorus. Fruit Belt furnished the Quadrichords and the Fruit Belt Chorus, and our extra added attraction was the Rondolaires, a quartette from the Coldwater Sweet Adeline Chapter. All these girls are veterans of Sweet Adeline Competitions, and they have quite a good thing going for them. This same group "backed up" our February show and appeared at our After-Glo. They placed second in the Sweet Adeline Regional competition this spring and should be on their way to great things. A great big "thank you" for helping us on both occasions!

Probably the biggest thrill of the evening wasn't really recognized by the majority of the audience, but by the men in the almost-fifty voice combined chorus. We put together three or four songs we both knew and my, oh my, but that was nice! So, although the audience was smaller than we would have liked, it was an enjoyable evening for choruses and audience alike....Who knows what may come of it??

Linda and I were sooo sorry to have missed the Send-Off show up Lansing way, and good luck to everyone who was "sent off." We'll be down in Atlanta rooting for all of you!

Keep smiling...it makes folks wonder what you've been up to.

QUARTET



KORNER

BAR SINISTERS
Roy Tipton
72 S. Howell St.
Hillsdale, Mich. 49242

NEW QUARTETS

VOICE QUAD
Robert Wisdom
13934 Woodmont
Detroit, Mich. 48227

FOUR-GONE CONCLUSION
George Kelchner
P.O. Box 373
Jackson, Mich. 49204

"WHY DOESN'T OUR QUARTET COMPETE?"

Gee--Whizz! I can give you several reasons why we don't. Just for starters, we haven't been together very long. Also we only organized to sing for our own enjoyment. Then again we don't have the time. And besides, those other guys sound too good for us. If you think we are scared in front of our chapter, what would we do at a contest? Why, we don't even have a coach. Oh! we used to compete but we are busy singing jobs and have no time to prepare for a contest. Besides, it was kind of dumb to be beaten by some of those new quartets.

I have heard these excuses given and have also given some of them myself in my 7 years as a society member and 3 years in a quartet. However, I know from my limited experience that none of these are valid reasons even though I may like to use them. We also know there are some legitimate reasons why a quartet can't always compete. But the excuses for not competing should never be used. I have not had the chance to hear all of the fine registered quartets in our district, so I depend on the contests to provide this opportunity to me.

You may say, "So what." Well, as I was bringing by quartet directory up to date, the thought occurred to me there are 34 registered quartets in the Pioneer District with only our champs, the "G.A." not eligible to compete. There are 4 others not eligible for the fall contest. That still leaves 33 for spring and 29 for fall. So why should we only have 10 to 15 quartets in competition?

The quartet was the foundation upon which our society was originally built, and a quartet can only improve by full participation. There is just something about competition that brings us back from sloppy habits of singing, to performances that we can be proud of. Just by attending a judge's critique after a contest, you are gaining important information that you can't get from any other source; and it's free. Plus it keeps you on your toes. Just ask the Gentlemen's Agreement, the Vagabonds, the Sharplifters, the Harmony Hounds, the Original Choice, or any quartet that has consistently competed.

We all agree that each chapter member should be regular in his attendance at chapter meetings, and a board member must attend all meetings, if possible. So it is that competing is one of the obligations we have to our wonderful hobby as quartet members.

Not everyone can finish first or last, but the experience we gain is invaluable. Competition can do one very important thing for any quartet. It will help you to sing better. Isn't that what we all want? Yes, and may I add that the "Bush League" contest is still a great starter. See you all on stage at the next contest. Come join the fun.

Bill McCurdy
Range Finders

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET **THE BEAN TOWN** SAGINAW-BAY DETROIT - FLINT

RON FRED DOUG BOB

CONTACT: FRED KIENITZ, 5338 FLORIDA DR., SWARTZ CREEK, MICHIGAN PHONE 655-8694

The new CONTEST TECHNIQUE HANDBOOK has been sent to every registered quartet and musical director of each chapter. All newly registered quartets will also receive the Handbook on a complimentary basis. It contains essential material without the reams of detail in the C&J Manual. Other members can purchase the Handbook at \$1.25. Order it from International Office, stock number 4083. The Handbook has been published for a three-year period - May 1, 1972 - 1975, and updated materials will automatically be sent to all subscribers, quartets and musical directors as it becomes necessary. In 1975 the Handbook will be republished and distributed on the same basis as now. The Handbook is the brainchild of Past International President Wilbur Sparks. Why don't you drop him a note of appreciation? His address is 6724 North 26th St., Arlington, Va. 22213.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

...by Bill Pascher

Twenty-nine years of barbershopping has given me a lifetime of precious memories and a wealth of friends, two unsalable commodities that have become the privilege of many men in this unique Society of ours. This realization came to me again during a visit to California in April, when I was reunited with 3 longtime friends, all former Detroit are members.



Left to right, you will notice Ket Goodwin who was a Detroit Chapter member beginning about 1946; Bob Wharton, who was an outstanding bass during his many years with Redford; Bill Wales, also from Redford, who is continuing his reputation as a great master-of-ceremonies, and myself.

Goodwin, who is still a Detroit area resident, was visiting with Wales at his home in Reseda, where they were reminiscing about the days when they sang together in the "Tune Smiths". Do you remember?

Wharton is residing in Los Angeles.

This picture was taken at the home of Wales' daughter, Romaine, where my wife Evelyn and I were the guests of honor during a beautiful evening high above the San Fernando Valley

Naturally, the talk centered around barbershopping and the differences between great California choruses, and great Pioneer woodshedding. Believe me, these guys are pining for the good old days in Michigan when fun and fellowship were the ways of barbershopping, and work was something you did between Friday night meetings. Do you remember?

Holly - Fenton

-Grant L. Wright

Saturday, August 5, we reserved the stern-wheel, double deck cruiser for a two hour trip around Kensington Lake, with our wives and guests. Guests came from Flint and Pontiac including the Curbstone Serenaders. Our Chapter's annual family picnic is planned for August 27 at Roger Toonder's home on Runyan Lake.

Our next quad-chapter meeting will be in Flint on Sept. 12. As of this date, August 1, we are making plans for a Holly-Fenton hospitality room at the fall convention in Flint. Look for us and be sure to drop in and say "Hello".

PLEASE NOTE: Correction in place of our meeting: Street names are wrong -
 Tuesday - American Legion Hall
 Walnut and Roberts Sts., Fenton

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



ORIGINAL CHOICE
 A Barbershop Quartet From
 The Saginaw Bay Chapter

Bob Demchak, Tenor - Jim Gross, Baritone - Len Johnson, Bass

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

THE BIG PURPLE THING

"That great big purple thing" was the way Vic Vigansky described the business end of the float entered in the 1972 Blossomtime Parade under the joint auspices of the Fruit Belt and Niles-Buchanan Chapters.

The parade, which climaxes a week of festivities in the Twin Cities area, is often described as one of the largest in the country and usually attracts in excess of a quarter of a million spectators along the two-and-a-half mile parade route. Each year's parade has a theme which ties in with the overall festivities; this year's theme of "Good Old Days" was too fitting to resist. So, Ron Neff, President of Niles-Buchanan and Darl Williams, President of Fruit Belt, got their collective heads together and an idea came forth.

Through connections in the Fruit Belt Chapter, a sponsor in the person of Gersonde Equipment Co., Inc. (the local International Truck dealership) was secured. Since the combined membership of the two chapters is somewhere around 75, and the aim was to move as many members as possible, it became obvious that no average run-of-the-mill float and convertible arrangement would be practical. So, Gersonde's resources enabled us to secure the services of a rather huge tractor (International, of course) to pull a 40-foot "lowboy" trailer.

The theme of the float, "The Birthplace of Barbershop Harmony", complete with barber chair, wash basin, bathtub, Mirror waiting gents, and the other appointments of an old-time barber shop, was easy enough to do, but the regulation that the motive force had to be either a convertible or decorated had us stymied for a while. Do you have any idea of the SIZE of one of those tractors? Finally, all other suggestions notwithstanding, it was decided to disguise it as a shaving mug, complete with brush and handle sticking out.

Obviously, the size of the project ruled out just any garage, so we had to use a barn at the fairgrounds in Berrien Springs - some 15 miles from the parade's step-off point. The float was built...driven in...rebuilt (literally)...and boarded with Fruit Belt and Gateway barbershoppers singing the entire parade! From the advance publicity in the paper, we weren't sure whether we were in the line up or not. Would you have known who the SFTPAEQBOS or the SPAEBQSA was? Even the "official" Blossomtime program called us the SFTPAEQBOS! Guess we'd better get on the ball and do some more publicity around here, but WE thought EVERYONE knew who the SPBBSQSA is!!

The final result of our activity was that the float won first prize in the Clubs, Lodges, and Civic Organizations category. We were pleased!

There were so many individual contributions to the total effort that someone would surely be left out if a list were attempted. Probably no one would object, though, if we tipped our toppers to the two Presidents, Darl and Ron, for their insistence in forging ahead at all costs. Thanks, fellows, and let's begin to think seriously about next year.

Dan Shelles.

CHAPTER OFFICER TRAINING SCHOOL

Nov. 11.



ments and membership increases on an International basis. a dialogue between Board members and the International President took place, including comments relating to our Executive Director's English trip and the recent International dues increase.

President Bill Warner announced that he had received a written bid from the Grand Rapids Chapter to host our Fall, 1974 convention. V.P. Doctor was requested to determine from Grand Rapids the latest date that they must have notice of acceptance.

The Treasurer's report for the three months ended March 31, 1972, showing a balance of \$8,091.82 was presented by Treas. King. The report was accepted as read.

President Warner announced that there will be a short special meeting of the Board immediately following the International Send-Off Afterglow on May 26, 1972.

The next regular meeting will be held on June 25, 1972 in Lansing.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 A.M.

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING
Midland, Michigan
April 30, 1972

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Warner at 10:15 A.M.

The Invocation was given by International Board Member and Immediate Past President Tom Damm.

The minutes of the House of Delegates meeting of October 10, 1971 were accepted as read by Secretary John T. Gillespie

Zone reports were presented by the Zone Vice Presidents. Essentially the same reports as outlined in the April 28, 1972, Board Meeting minutes were presented, with the exception of Zone IV V.P. Max Carter who was unable to attend this meeting, and the inclusion of Zone V V.P. Bud Carpenter's report. Bud, along with Area Counselor Cliff Douglas, commented on the recent activities of the Chapters in this Zone.

Executive V.P. Don Funk requested that all Delegates carry back to their Chapter Secretaries the request to file their Chapter Quarterly Reports timely. He reported the itineraries of Chet Fox and Dave Stevens when they visit our District in May and June, respectively. Don also announced the District's May 26th International Send-Off Show and requested Chapter bids for the 1974 and 1975 District Conventions.

President Bill Warner read the January letter received from Bob Drabik, our elected District Treasurer, who regretfully submitted his resignation due to moving from the District. President Bill announced the Board appointment of Lawrence G. King as District Treasurer to complete Bob's unexpired term.

International Board Member Tom Damm briefly reported on the activities of the Mid-Winter International Board meeting. His report of this meeting has been previously published in The Troubadour.

President Warner introduced International President Dick deMontmollin to the Delegates. Included in President Dick's comments were reports on the Society's increased membership due to the Auditions program; the Institute of Logopedics and the funds raised by the Society for this worthwhile cause; and the "Young Men in Harmony" program being developed by our Society.

President Warner announced at this point that he would welcome Chapter Logopedics Contributions. The following Chapters made donations:

Detroit No. 1	Oakland County
Saginaw-Bay	Pontiac

The delegate from Gratiot County stated that he had been requested by his Chapter to inquire into the possibility of a Chapter maintaining its District affiliation but dropping its International association due to the amount of its International dues. President Warner responded that this is not possible but that he can appreciate the comment and the reasons for its being made. He further commented that without our International office our Society per se would undoubtedly disintegrate; that although dues have increased over the years, so has the cost of all goods and services; and that we receive numerous benefits from our membership in the International Society.

The Chair recognized Delegate Duane Mosier of the Detroit

Chapter. Delegate Mosier introduced Detroit Delegate Joe Wolff, commenting on his long service and many accomplishments with respect to our District and Society. Delegate Wolff read a preamble to a resolution submitted by Chapter President William Schwedler on behalf of the Detroit Chapter, and then introduced the resolution to the House of Delegates as follows:

"The Pioneer District, through its duly qualified delegates in convention assembled in Midland, Michigan, on the 30th day of April, 1972 resolves that:

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

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

A motion was made and seconded that the resolution be adopted. The Chair then called for discussion.

A delegate from the Wayne Chapter moved that the resolution be tabled. Motion was seconded by the Jackson Chapter delegate. After a lengthy discussion, the Chair called the question regarding the motion to table the matter of the Detroit Chapter resolution. The motion to table was defeated.

President Warner then called for a vote on the motion to adopt the resolution. The motion to adopt the resolution passed.

President Warner recognized Bob McDermott, Chairman of the District International Convention Committee, requesting that our District Chapters submit items of interest to him to be used at our International Convention booth.

President Bill called upon Dick Guerin, a delegate from the Pontiac Chapter. Bill congratulated the Pontiac Chapter for placing third nationally in the Society's PROTECTION program.

Treasurer King presented a financial report for the three months ended March 31, 1972. The report was accepted as read.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
John T. Gillespie
District Secretary

MINUTES OF PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
Lansing, Michigan
May 26, 1972

President Bill Warner called a special meeting of the Pioneer Board to order immediately following the International Send-Off Show Afterglow for the purpose of discussing the allocation of funds to our International competitive chorus and quartet representatives.

Present were: President Bill Warner; Immediate Past President Tom Damm; Executive Vice President Don Funk; Vice Presidents Dick Simpson and Del Doctor; Secretary John Gillespie. Absent were Vice Presidents Tom Pollard, Max Carter and Bud Carpenter and Treasurer Larry King.

Executive V.P. Don Funk and V.P. Dick Simpson announced that a preliminary accounting of the proceeds of the International Send-Off Show indicated an excess of revenues over expenditures of approximately \$2800. The Board also was reminded of the amount of \$1900 budgeted for distribution to our International Contest chorus and quartet representatives.

After lengthy discussion, it was moved, seconded and passed with one abstention, that the following allocation of District Funds be made to our chorus and quartet representatives:

Chorus	\$1,500.00
Two Quartets	700.00 Each

The balance of the proceeds from the International Send-Off Show of approximately \$1800 is to be deposited in the International Travel Fund as authorized by the Board in their April 28, 1972 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
John T. Gillespie
District Secretary



VOICE PRODUCTION

by MAC HUFF

HOARSENESS

Doctors agree that hoarseness does not necessarily imply a state of infection, but they have observed that quite frequently this and often voice changes can be due to unresolved emotional conflicts or fatigue.

The larynx reacts to stress just as many other parts of the body do. Emotional problems tighten the vocal cords, and this tightening alters the volume and pitch of their sound waves.

Thus, the human voice continually reflects our various states of happiness, sorrow, worry, rage and frustration. A joyful feeling permits the voice to ring. Grief may reduce it to a whisper.

Constant rage and tension may cause the voice to become harsh and shrill.

Total loss of the voice has often occurred in a perfectly normal larynx that is paralyzed by acute anxiety.

It is my opinion that through proper vocal use the larynx becomes the healthiest member of that part of the anatomy. Thus it can fight off germs more readily than other less developed parts of the body.

PERFORMING WHEN SLIGHTLY ILL

Managers of professional athletes do not like for them to perform when they have a slight cold.

What is a singer to do? "The show must go on" is a bad tradition. When such risks are taken the results are usually very costly.

The reasons can be deduced by common logic.

- (1) The whole condition is abnormal.
- (2) In order to compensate for the deficiency, the singer very often begins to employ incorrect vocal techniques. Many voices have been ruined because of this.

Aside from the personal harm, a big reason a singer should not perform under such circumstances is that the people who have paid for their tickets are entitled to the singer's very best, not the product of a sick body and voice.

Many throat experts suggest the following remedy for a sore throat condition:

- (1) Stay in bed for 48 hours.
- (2) High protein diet - consume generous portions.
- (3) Plenty of fruit juices.
- (4) Stop smoking.
- (5) Avoid talking.
- (6) No singing.

Do not become dependent on cough drops, lozenges, sprays and other throat aids. The majority of these items tend to affect the throat adversely. In addition to minor colds, most sore throats are brought on by strain and fatigue. Complete rest is the best remedy for this condition. If a sore throat condition persists a singer should see a physician immediately.

The voice is a marvelous and precious instrument and should not be abused.

VOCAL DEFICIENCY

The throat, like all the other parts of the body, is standard

equipment. One must be able to (1) understand this equipment and (2) learn how to manage it correctly. Most often the difference lies in #2, not #1. No two voices are any more alike than any two faces.

CAN ANYONE BECOME A GREAT SINGER?

Whoever is endowed by nature with ample musical talent can learn to sing correctly if he is willing to pay the price. The price is not money. It is simply physical control of the body by the mind.

MUST A SINGER LOSE HIS VOICE WITH ADVANCING AGE?

When the body (throat) is young it can produce beautiful sounds effortlessly. The older the body becomes, the more it changes - for the worse sometimes. The key to good singing is breath support. Without it there is little hope for a long vocal life. With proper care the voice should be the last thing to go.

HOW PERFORMANCE IS AFFECTED IN LATER LIFE

- (1) Additional weight in the abdominal region - (More for the diaphragm and other abdominal muscles to lift.)
- (2) Lack of exercise; the muscles in the body become weaker.

The singer should always:

- (1) Be mentally aware of what support is, and think about it continuously.
- (2) Experience the feeling of smoothly applied support without vocalizing whenever he has a moment to spare.
- (3) Vocalize by means of support along, assuming the correct posture and relaxed state. In this case lower the diaphragm as far as possible for capacity breath and retain this tension through the attack, which is accomplished by a gradual upward thrust on the part of the abdominal muscles.
- (4) Keep a sharp lookout for signs of interference from other muscles.
- (5) Seek the assistance of a qualified teacher who is familiar with these concepts and regularly check for faults.
- (6) Avoid singing songs until muscle memory is well established.
- (7) Eat and sleep properly - exercise until a state of relaxation is achieved.
- (8) Should not despair - should not give up.



men of  note

Keep America Singing

ED	THURSTON	2
RICHARD C	BARRON	3
JAMES C	GOUGEON	2
PATRICK	YACQUES	6
JOHN	NIEGHORN	1
LARRY	HORTON	3
HAROLD	MC ATTEE	1
HAROLD	HOOFNAGLE	1
DEAN	FISHER	4
CLEM	PERSIK	2
MARTIN	ZURN	3
CHARLES	MILTNER	1
RICHARD C	SPOSITO	1
TIM	CAMPBELL	2
BILL	WHIPPEN	5
JERRY	REED	2
J DAVE	CAREY	3
BILL	SCHUMACHER	3
ROGER	BOYER	1
CARL	MITCHELL JR	2
E A	VANDE ZANDE	6
JUDD	LEWIS	3
ROBERT W	BREITMAYER	2
KENNETH J	RYSENGA	3
DICK	VAN DYKE	7
ELLIS C	ALBRECHT	1
LEO	NORLING	5
PAUL	SHELDON	4
ALLAN	FICKES	2
DEAN R	WINKELMAN	1
RICHARD K	CRONK	3
NELSON	GOTSHALL	2
WILLIAM J	TAYLOR	3
RENE	LE BLANC	2
W D	BUTLER	9
CHARLES K	GIBSON JR	2
RAY	STARRETTE	2
RUSSELL	SEELY	9
DAN	BULBUK	2
RICHARD	HARRINGTON	3
GEORGE	MC CUBBIN	2
HERMAN	DYKEMA	2
J EDWIN	POHL	3
DONALD	FUNK	4
JOHN	LONGSTRETH	2
JOSEPH	DEAN	1
RICHARD	GUERIN	2
HARVEY L	MILLER	1
JOHN	MIRQUELON	4
CECIL C	ELMONE	1
ANDY	MC CANN	4

JAMES DUGAN
20736 MARY I 08
TAYLOR MI 48180

SECOND CLASS MAIL

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER

Coming Events

COMING EVENTS

SEND REQUESTS FOR PARADE CLEARANCE TO:

John T. Gillespie
712 Newgate Road
Kalamazoo, Mich. 49007

As of June 30 the Pioneer District has 30 Chapters and 1491 members in good standing. We have gained in the past year, but so have the other Districts. As of June 30, there were 33,920 members in the society.



SEPT. 23, 1972	GRATIOT COUNTY PARADE
SEPT. 29, 1972	MILFORD ANNUAL MINI CHORUS CONTEST
SEPT. 30, 1972	FRUIT BELT
OCT. 13-15, 1972	FALL CONVENTION, FLINT
OCT. 28, 1972	LANSING CHAPTER PARADE
OCT. 28, 1972	JACKSON CHAPTER PARADE
NOV. 4, 1972	DETROIT PARADE
FEB. 3, 1973	MONROE PARADE
FEB. 17, 1973	NILES-BUCHANAN PARADE
MARCH 3, 1973	WAYNE CHAPTER
MARCH 9-10, 1973	OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER PARADE
MAR. 31, 1973	BATTLE CREEK PARADE
APR. 7, 1973	BUSH LEAGUE BOYNE CITY
APR. 27-29, 1973	DISTRICT CONVENTION LANSING
MAY 5, 1973	GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL
JULY 20, 1973	DETROIT MOONLIGHT CRUISE
SEPT. 29, 1973	FRUIT BELT
OCT. 12-14, 1973	DISTRICT CONVENTION BATTLE CREEK
NOV. 3, 1973	DETROIT PARADE
APR. 20, 1974	GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL
MAY 4, 1974	BUSH LEAGUE BOYNE CITY
APR. 5, 1975	GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL
APR. 12, 1975	BUSH LEAGUE BOYNE CITY
APR. 3, 1976	BUSH LEAGUE BOYNE CITY
APR. 10, 1976	GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

February 10, 1973 Pontiac Chapter
April 14, 1973 Three Rivers Chapter