

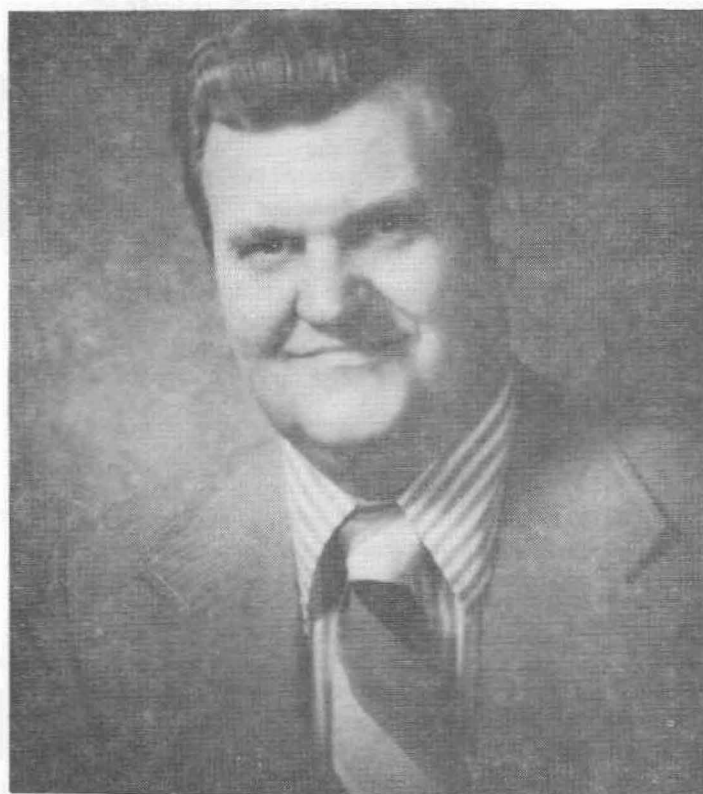
Convention Issue



AUGUST 1974

pioneer TROUBADOUR

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DON FUNK
Pioneer President

A Working Judge At An International

by Merle Clayton

The question has been asked, "What does a Judge do at an International Convention such as the one at Kansas City?" He does pretty much as other barbershoppers for the first few days, but starting with Thursday morning his schedule is different. Svea and I arrived at the Muehlebach Hotel in KC along with the rest of the Monday Charter Group. After getting our room, we picked up our pre-registration materials, got our tickets properly stamped, purchased our registrations for next year, and then migrated over to the sales area where we purchased a number of items and ordered the recordings for this year. Then we circulated and renewed acquaintances with barbershoppers from all over the United States and Canada.

After checking with International C&J Chairman, Burt Szabo and others of the C&J Committee and official panels, we then pursued Convention activities along with the others, ending with the Association of International Champions Show Wednesday night. On Thursday morning there was a general session of all the Certified Judges and Judge Candidates attending the Convention. The International C&J Committee were present, and each of the Category Specialists who make up the Committee reported on his Category. Don Clause, serving as Sound Category Specialist, reported on the Sound Category and plans for the first Sound School to be held after the Contest next year. (Applications for HA, BB, Sound and Stage Presence are closed for the time being. We will announce when Sound and Stage Presence are again open in the Troub.) After the General Session we broke into groups and met by categories. The Harmony Accuracy and Balance and Blend Categories met together to participate in more intensive discussion of the Sound Category. The category meetings ended at 11:30 a.m. The members of both the Quartet and Chorus panels met for the usual Judges' Luncheon and Briefing after which the Quartet Panel reported to the Auditorium for the Quartet Briefing and work.

On Friday morning the fifteen District Associate Contest and Judging Chairmen met for breakfast and spent the balance of the morning working on details related to program administration and Judge Candidate Training.

On Saturday morning most Judges were ready to "sleep in" and some did — until nine or ten o'clock. The Inter-

national C&J Committee and the Sound Committee, however, had work sessions, and so were up early. In the afternoon, those of us on the Chorus Panel reported to the Auditorium and, after the Chorus Directors' Briefing, took our places in the "pit". After signing the fifteen forms, checking our pencils, filling glasses with ice water and adjusting lights and eye glasses, M.C. Joe Schmitt settled the audience and then came the spine-tingling, tension building words, "Representing the Illinois District, under the direction of Doug Miller, The Arlingtones!" And so it went for fifteen contestants and then the announcements of the placements.

After the contest, friends, well-wishers, acquaintances and others asked the now routine, "Didja pick 'em?" And we gave the equally routine answer, "You bet, and very well, too."

After the Quartet Finals Saturday evening we went directly to the Motor City/Pioneer Hospitality Room for the usual quartet visitations. All too soon it was time to close up. Sunday dawned bright and hot (102 degrees at nine o'clock) and then to the airport and the flight home. We were a quiet bunch on the plane for the week's activities had drained us.

The singing this year topped anything I have heard in the past ten years of International Contests. We in this District should feel only great PRIDE in the performances of The Motor City Chorus, the Sharplifters and the Vagabonds. The singing IS good in Pioneer, and the competition is getting tougher.

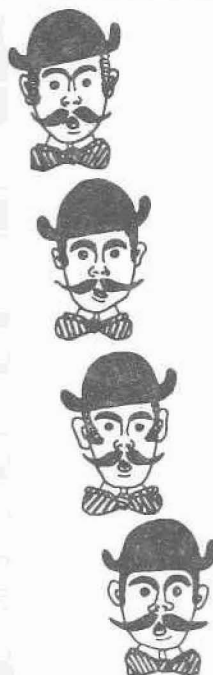
Say It Isn't So!

According to an article in Bill McCurdy's Lansing chapter publication, Pioneer is losing one of its most popular quartets. The Bean Town Four, of the Saginaw-Bay and Flint Chapters is calling it a day.

It is difficult to picture our district without these loveable clowns of harmony. They have entertained us so well and so long. Their demise will leave a big void in our ranks, but we know they will continue to serve their chapters and district as they have for so many years.

They are truly one of the greatest comedy quartets in the Society and their devotion to the promotion of Barbershop Harmony stands as a splendid example for all of us.

Thanks a lot, gang. We will miss you!



Keep
America
Singing

Pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

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FALL 1974 CONTEST & CONVENTION

- ★ GREAT COMPETITION
- ★ BEAUTIFUL CLEARY AUDITORIUM
- ★ CANADIAN HOSPITALITY
- ★ SUPER SINGALONG
SIT DOWN DINNER

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN: ANDY McCANN
3111 DANDURAND, WINDSOR, ONTARIO



"Come on south to Canada this fall and join in the fun!"

CONVENTION '74

A dynamic Society in action

The 36th annual convention of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. has now been relegated to the archives of the Society, along with all the other great conventions which preceded it.

For those of us who have had the good fortune to attend and participate in these conventions there may be some relative debate as to which one has been the most memorable. But for those involved in the behind-the-scenes action (and that's where the convention really is!), this year's edition hosted by the Heart of America chapter at Kansas City will go into the record books as one of solid accomplishment that will continue to bear fruit for many years to come.

For while Joe Barbershopper and his frau and friends were taking in all the sights and sounds of the convention, the executive officers and their committees were in daily sessions conducting the critical business of our Society so essential to the future of Barbershopping and to every one associated with this great hobby. What goes on in these sessions? Here's a sample:

- As a result of an ongoing membership survey the International Board voted to initiate a Society-wide public relations program beginning this October, with funds voted for 1975. The membership survey was conducted by Bill Kane of the Marin, California chapter, a San Francisco marketing research expert. Bill had approached John Krizek, chairman of the International Public Relations Study Committee, prior to last year's Portland convention, expounding his ideas on such a survey, and anyone who heard John's presentation at Portland can tell you how he laid the business of promoting our Society upon the shoulders of every member in a most inspiring manner.

One out of each seven members was sent a questionnaire developed to get a picture of the average Barbershopper. Even though the self-addressed stamped envelope was not enclosed due to an oversight, the number of Barbershoppers who filled out the questionnaire and returned it to the committee at their own expense was well above the average. The results were surprising to many of us, and thanks to those people who participated, we now have a rather sound picture of our membership.

The data tabulation was handled by Society headquarters staff in Kenosha. An external survey recently conducted by a committee headed by Terry Clarke, the fine bass of the Boston Common, and a public relations pro in his own right, is adding additional valuable information to this report as we look toward future expansion of the fraternity.

This splendid piece of work conducted by John Krizek and his committee at little or no expense to the Society has provided us with an important insight that may prove to be one of the most valuable instruments in our history. Now the Board has provided the committee with some seed money to conduct this program at the next logical level. While we can expect results, there can never be a conclusion — our work is never done in Barbershopping, and we can all be thankful for that!

- The Board has awarded the 1978 convention to

Cincinnati. This should be welcome news to the Pioneer membership. Along with next year's bash in Indianapolis, these two nearby happenings should provide the opportunity for every Barbershopper in the district to get a taste of that "heady wine" called "The International".

- A bequest from the estate of the late Charles Hecking, long-time Illinois District member, in the vicinity of \$50,000 inspired the Board to establish a "Harmony Foundation Trust Fund", headed by Bob Gall.

Bob, a past International President, also served as Heart of America's General Convention Chairman. The old saw about "asking a busy man" continues to ring true in this Society. Wes Meyer is the new Foundation vice president, and Wilbur Sparks is secretary-treasurer.

- Two important actions regarding dues came out of Kansas City's deliberations. The first authorizes a 50% reduction in dues for senior members of 10 years or more who have attained age 70, if the member applies for the reduction. Effective January 1, a new dues structure will be established for full-time students under the age of 23. The Board is recommending that chapters and districts take similar action.

- A companion action authorized headquarters to end acceptance of applications for Life Membership, and they are no longer being issued.

- The Board, in a day-long session, named new officers for 1975, and once again the membership can rest easy in the knowledge that our affairs will be well administered in the coming year.

Dick Ellenberger, Schenectady, N.Y., is our new president. He will be ably assisted by vice presidents Plummer Collins and Sam Aramian from Pennsylvania and Arizona, and v.p.-treasurer Roger Thomas from Racine, Wisconsin. On their ascension, current prexy Leon Avakian will become our immediate past president, naturally.

In commenting on the foregoing elected staff, the *12th Street Rag*, official convention publication saw "one obvious musical problem". "Gents," the Rag said, "please be advised that you have elected five baritones and one lead!"

- The Board, in other action, finalized details for official affiliation of the British Association of Barbershoppers (BABS). Don Amos, chairman of BABS, attended the convention and will present the proposed affiliation to his clubs on his return to England.

- A study was approved to determine if there is a market for our recordings outside of our own sphere of fans. This study will be made this fall to decide if the great records we produce are marketable in "today's montage of musical slush". The media of television seems to be best suited for such marketing, giving maximum exposure to the greatest sound in music.

- The Bicentennial of this great nation is rapidly approaching and the Board has adopted a resolution urging all Barbershoppers everywhere to support and participate in this milestone of history. It should be a natural for our own brand of Americana.

Continued on page 13

Regents attain crown in their finest hour

Determination, dedication, four great voices and a lot of hard work are the ingredients that carried the Regents to the pinnacle of the Barbershop world in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium on Saturday, July 13.

Never out of first place from their initial appearance in the quarterfinals, this fine quartet from the Wilmington, Del., West Chester, Pa., and Cherry Hill, N.J. chapters of the Mid-Atlantic District gave a solid performance in every category to win going away before a sell-out crowd of cheering fans, who left no doubt as to the popularity of the judges' choice.

It was the fourth time in competition for the new champs, who have finished third in two previous tries, after placing a distant 31st in their maiden appearance at New Orleans in 1971.

Harry Williamson is tenor, Joe Mazzone lead, Ron Knickerbocker bari, and Hal Kauffman bass for the new Gold Medal winners.

The Pacificaires of the Far West District, perennial bridesmaids in the Internationals, once again laid claim to being the most experienced silver medalists in Barbershop-ping as they bowed to the onrushing quartet from the East.

The Boston Common continued their advance toward the top, moving a notch from 4th to 3rd with a strong showing in stage presence and interpretation.

The Insiders of Houston, Southwestern District, who finished 15th in 1972 and then didn't make the show in Portland, were one of the contest's big surprises as they vaulted into 4th place with a well-balanced effort in every category to become medalists for the first time.

Rounding out the top five were the Soundtracks from Arlington Heights, Illinois District. This quartet finished 15th in 1971, moved to 6th in 1972, lost ground in Portland last year, and came back strong to join the medalists in 5th place this year. Pioneer fans, disappointed in not seeing our own Vagabonds move into the charmed circle, cheered the selection of the Soundtracks and lead Joe Coburn, a former member of the district and long-time favorite here.

The Vagabonds and OK-4 exchanged places this year in the 6 and 7 spot, with our great guys gaining the nod over the crowd-pleasing clowns from Oklahoma City. A close analysis of the scoring summaries reveals a lot about the type of performance the Vagabonds rendered in Kansas City. Pioneer is proud of this beautiful quartet, finishing only 39 points out of the medalist bracket. That gives you some idea of just how tough the competition really was at Kansas City.

Our Sharplifters, despite their excellent offerings, failed to make the cut this year, slipping to 22nd. It was a tough contest!

Thoroughbreds 4th win unprecedented

Always a threat from any position, the Louisville Thoroughbreds broke out of the starting gate at Kansas City from the No. 3 spot this year to take an early lead in the International chorus competition and were never headed as they raced for the finish line and the winners circle for the fourth time.

The footing was really not all that easy for the Cardinal silks, but with the advantage of two experienced jockeys like Jim Miller and Joe Wise the entry from the Bluegrass country established themselves as the favorites from the outset of the race and staved off some very tough competition along the way.

The Penninsulaires of the Far West District made a valiant attempt to head off the galloping Thoroughbreds, going to the whip in the Harmony and Accuracy stretch, but losing ground in interpretation and stage presence.

The HEP-groomed Vocal Majority, of Dallas, Texas, an upset winner over the Houston Tidelanders in the Southwestern prelims, edged toward the front in interpretation, but gave ground in balance and blend and stage presence, and fell back to finish with show honors, just ahead of the Montclair Chorus from New Jersey, which finished another length ahead of the Arlingtones of Arlington Heights, Illinois.

The Thoroughbreds gained the lead in choreography and showmanship as they swept the stage presence category, as well as balance and blend, and grabbed the top arrangement score with "Here Comes the Show Boat" and "Sweet Roses of Morn".

Pioneer's out-manned Motor City Chorus found the going tough from the outset and fell back to finish 14th in one of the classiest fields ever to grace the International.

Louisville's first win was also in Kansas City, as Bill Banner led them to victory in 1962.

They came back to repeat at Chicago in 1966 as Wise and Miller gained their first sweet taste of the winner's circle, and added to their honors again in St. Louis.

After Tom Gentil's Big Green Singing Machine danced across the horizon to edge them out of first place at Portland last year, it was obvious that the name of the game had changed and every chorus in Kansas City would be well groomed in choreography. The Thoroughbreds accepted the lesson and did their homework well. They were busier than the \$2 window on Derby Day in the old hometown as they pranced and danced to their unprecedented 4th garland of roses at Kansas City.

See you in Windsor Oct. 11-13

MUSICAL
ENTERTAINMENT
BARBERSHOP STYLE

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CHURCH**

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HARMONY**

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OCT. 5, 1974**

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6th PLACE 1974 INTERNATIONAL FINALISTS

★ **SHARPLIFTERS**

1974 INTERNATIONAL QUARTER-FINALISTS

★ **NORTHERN HI-LITES**

1974 DISTRICT ALTERNATE INTERNATIONAL REPS

★ **THE FRONT OFFICE FOUR**

(SWEET ADELINES) 1973 REGION 2 CHAMPIONS

★ **WOLVERINE CHORUS**

1974 PIONEER DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

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Please send _____ Tickets at \$2.50 each

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1,000 seats available — order tickets early to avoid disappointment!

Wayne

The big topic of conversation now, I'm sure, is "Contest". The thrill of the International has not yet passed and the upcoming district competition in Windsor is giving us all something to shoot for. Each chorus or quartet is trying for that little something extra which they perhaps didn't have last year.

Double-scheduled rehearsals are the order of the day for most groups, to be interrupted only by the Harrisville bang-up. We have set rehearsals for Harrisville and also one at home for those who cannot get up there.

Pity the poor wives of those guys who belong to both chorus and quartet. Hold off, girls, it'll slow down after October.

During the summer months the Wonderland Chorus has performed at various functions including a homecoming festival in Dexter and an "Old Times" celebration at the new cultural center in Plymouth. For several promotionals and sidewalk sales we have supplied mini-choruses and strolling quartets.

Who says good music doesn't have curative powers!? Bob Miller, one of our stalwart basses was rushed to St. Joseph's Hospital recently with a heart attack. While in the intensive care unit he played his Barbershop tapes much to the delight of patients and staff. Occasionally a live quartet would sneak in to liven things up. Within 4 weeks he was back at chorus rehearsal, and even went to K.C. for the International.

Over the July 4 weekend a sizeable representation of the Wayne Chapter, went on a camp-out at Jellystone Park, near Traverse where they sang up a storm. The owner of the park is Jim Smith, a former Wayne member. (He's a baritone, in case you're in the area and need one). This group plans to repeat the trip next year. Maybe it could snow-ball into another Harrisville.

Incidentally, how many of you are going to Harrisville?

With the coming of September we'll be back in our regular meeting hall at 9611 Hubbard in Livonia. For information call 525-0370.
— Morrie Giles

Holly-Fenton

Due to the doubtful blessings of "Urban Renewal" our Chapter has lost its meeting place, the American Legion Hall, where we have met for many years and so have no regular meetings scheduled for the balance of the summer. As of this date, we are planning a farewell meeting at the Legion Hall on July 16 and have invited the entire Flint chapter to meet with us. Three of our members and their wives are attending the International Convention in Kansas City.

We felt our show was a success and we entertained more than 100 people from local convalescent homes as our guests.
— Grant L. Wright

CHAPTER ELECTIONS Must be completed by October 15

COTS SCHOOL
Lansing Olds Plaza
November 9-10

Send-off Show was great!

When the moment of truth arrived and the crowd began to filter into the cavernous Miller Auditorium on Western Michigan University's campus in Kalamazoo Saturday, June 8, Pioneer Exec. V.P. John Gillespie heaved a sigh of relief for the first time in months.

John and the officers and members of the Kalamazoo Chapter had put many months of hard work and effort into the planning and advance publicity for the International Send-Off Show without much visible evidence of success. The advance ticket sales just hadn't materialized.

With numerous graduations in surrounding colleges and high schools scheduled for that week end, a big house was beginning to seem only a remote possibility. Radio and TV spot commercials saturated the market in getting the message out to the public, but still the ticket sales had gone slow, even to district Barbershoppers from other areas.

Despite the optimism of his fellow board members and their words of encouragement, John was obviously sweating this one out.

A sprinkling of rain did nothing for the pall of apprehension that seemed to hang over the busy members of the host chapter as showtime approached.

But when John turned his car up the drive toward the auditorium a faint smile crowded the worried look from his face as he began to search for a parking spot. "This doesn't look so bad at that," he remarked.

Once inside the beautiful hall, the gloom lifted like a soaring jet as the house began to fill up rapidly. Barbershopping in Kalamazoo was not dead, after all!

Doran McTaggart acknowledged John's introduction as Master of Ceremonies for the evening while John returned to his seat in the auditorium and the entertainment began.

Glen Van Tassell and the Wolverine Chorus, fresh from capturing the District championship at Traverse City, captivated the big audience as they got a taste of the great acoustics of this auditorium.

The Northern Hi-Lites, '74 alternates to the International, gave the crowd the first sample of solid quartet music



Kalamazoo Chapter accepts checks from Glenn Van Tassell of Oakland County, Tom Hegle, Grand Rapids, and Merle Clayton, Battle Creek — contributions from the respective chapters to the Send-off fund.

and showmanship, followed by the Sharplifters and their own beautiful brand of Barbershopping.

Tom Hine and the Motor City Chorus thrilled the fans with their big sound, presenting the songs prepared for the International Contest in their repertoire.

And the Vagabonds topped the evening off with a dazzling display of harmony that left the faithful yelling for more.

At the big afterglow across town on the campus of Nazareth College there was much more. Cardinal District's "Jokers Wild" came from LaPorte, Indiana to join in the evening's entertainment, and the huge crowd on hand erased the last vestige of anxiety from John Gillespie's face.

Nothing succeeds like success!

International Night is Friday, September 27

International Night, a long time favorite with area Barbershoppers, promises to be another smash night from the lineup of quartets that have committed to show, from both the Ontario and Pioneer Districts.

London, Toronto and Chatham are a few of the participating Ontario District chapters, and all of the Zone One chapters and Zone Three chapters will be sent specific information on the evening by the newly chartered Port Huron Chapter, which is co-hosting the event with the Sarnia Chapter.

In past events there has been as many as 400 guests attending this special evening of fellowship between Barbershop brothers of two great nations.

See you all in Sarnia at the Dante Club, Friday, September 27th.



LaPorte, Indiana's Jokers Wild at Send-off afterglow

A black and white portrait of a man in a military uniform, likely a general, with a name tag and a small emblem on his chest.

The Institute of Logope following the traditional Satur the last morning of the convey the Muehlebach Hotel.

In a departure from the usual practice, the various districts were placed in the Barbershop Shop where they could purchase raffle tickets and where a drawing was provided for each of the districts.

Pioneer donated two beautiful stereo speakers to the cause. drawing at the breakfast, was the subject of some very lively discussion. The Society's great auctioneer, Rushmore, S.D., chapter. Took the top dollar at these auctions.

Among the objects going autographed books by Ham available, which went to S timekeeper for the contests. I former President of the Unit \$280 for the matched set.

A hand-hooked rug replica by a Land O' Lakes member beautiful work of art was accepted as a "commercial", according to the

Highlight of the breakfast was the performance by 35 children from the Institut de la Musique, a quartet, who charmed the audience with a variety of vocal music. Two young women attending Washington State University graduate work in speech therapy were awarded Scholarships provided by the Washington State Chapter brought the house to its feet with their performance.

Just listening to these boys running through your mind that speak when they entered the sweat and tears went into bring was enough to swell the Barbershopper who has completed the Service Project.

Dr. Roy F. Ray, Institute assistant Karen Brown, were in convention with their Multinational related to Institute activities breakfast gathering during the

8

Logopedics breakfast results in over \$5,000 for Institute



TED TARRANT
auctioneer supreme

The Institute of Logopedics is some \$5,700 richer following the traditional Saturday morning breakfast held on the last morning of the convention in the Grand Ballroom of the Muehlebach Hotel.

In a departure from the usual routine, gifts donated by the various districts were placed on display during the week in the Barbershop Shop where convention goers were able to purchase raffle tickets and deposit them in fishbowls provided for each of the district prizes.

Pioneer donated two beautifully matched custom-crafted stereo speakers to the cause. These gifts were awarded by drawing at the breakfast, while other donations were the subject of some very lively bidding conducted by the Society's great auctioneer, Ted Tarrant of the Mount Rushmore, S.D., chapter. Ted is a master at squeezing out the top dollar at these auctions.

Among the objects going for the big green were two autographed books by Harry S. Truman, the last two available, which went to Steve Jacobs of Kenosha, a timekeeper for the contests. Steve, an avid follower of the former President of the United States from Missouri, paid \$280 for the matched set.

A hand-hooked rug replica of the Society emblem, made by a Land O' Lakes member was the top fund raiser. The beautiful work of art was accomplished during the "Viking's commercials", according to the donor.

Highlight of the breakfast was a lengthy performance by 35 children from the Institute, including a Barbershop quartet, who charmed the large gathering with a wide variety of vocal music. Two of the three directors were young women attending Wichita University and doing graduate work in speech pathology on O. C. Cash Scholarships provided by the Harmony Foundation. They brought the house to its feet with "Supercalifragelistic . . .!"

Just listening to these beautiful children, the thought running through your mind that many of them couldn't even speak when they entered the Institute, and how much blood, sweat and tears went into bringing them to this point in life, was enough to swell the proud hearts of every Barbershopper who has contributed to our International Service Project.

Dr. Roy F. Ray, Institute administrator, and his capable assistant Karen Brown, were on hand throughout the convention with their Multimedia presentations and a booth related to Institute activities. Dr. Ray addressed the breakfast gathering during the morning.

The Dapper Dans of Disneyworld added their great harmony and comedy to the program. These Society enthusiasts put on quite a show and extended an invitation to every Barbershopper visiting Disneyworld to drop by and ring a chord. They mean it, too! Bub Thomas contributed hours of his time and talent during the convention drawing caricatures of conventioners, and then contributing the \$3 donation for each drawing to the Logopedics kitty. An example of his work may be found in the editor's column in this issue.

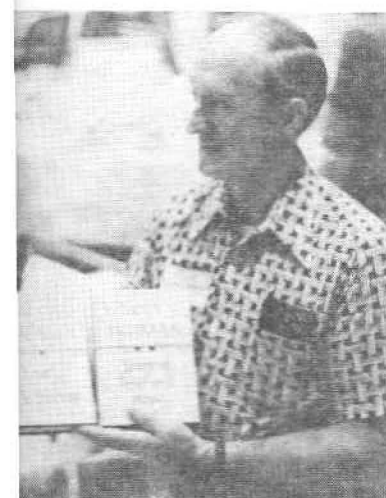


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DR. ROY
Logopedics A



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Steve Jacobs of Kenosha bid \$280 for the autographed Truman books

Breakfast results \$10 for Institute

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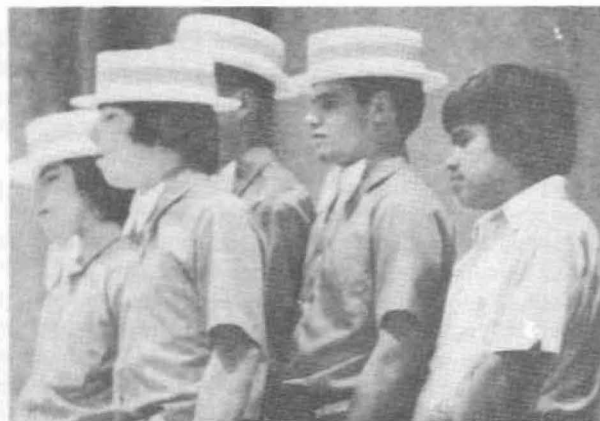
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and then contributing the \$3
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The Many Faces of Logopedics . . . in Concert

DR. ROY F. RAY
Logopedics Administrator

KAREN BROWN
Dr. Ray's Assistant



Pioneer District Chorus Directors' School

by Merle Clayton

The first Chorus Directors' School held in the Pioneer District in recent years concluded Sunday, June 23 at the Olds Plaza in Lansing, Michigan. The three-day school featured as instructors Tom Gentil, Director of the 1973 International Champion Southern Gateway Chorus of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Douglas Miller, Director of the 1974 Fifth Place Medalist Arlingtones, of Arlington Heights, Illinois. Doug also happens to be a former District barbershopper who moved away.

The thirty-five participants represented sixteen of our District Chapters. Two additional men sat in as auditors on Saturday.

Topics the instructors highlighted included qualifications of a Director, his relationships and responsibilities to other Chapter officers, song teaching methods, goals, song selection, conducting skills and techniques, learning principles, problems of amateur singers, development of a song, rehearsal programming and techniques, unison concepts, professional development and, finally, the practical application of all the theory discussed. Tom and Doug did an admirable job of team teaching, and then they divided the group for the practical application sessions. Every man present who chose to directed the group to which he was assigned. Doug, Tom and the others who made up the groups offered comment on the practicer's effectiveness and gave on-the-spot practical suggestions for improvements. The first man to register Friday evening was Jack Lyons, Flint Arrowhead Chorus Director, Eleven Directors, five Assistant Directors, and nineteen "other" Joe Barbershoppers attended. It was noticed that a number of these were former Directors and active Section Leaders. Grand Rapids sent the largest

representation, eight. Dale Hansen of Boyne City worked his regular shift and then drove down in time to participate in the Friday Evening Session. Ed Haines worked his full shift Friday and drove practically all night, arriving in time to join in with the Saturday morning session. He drove all the way from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario! He stayed awake for all the rest of the sessions, too.

Among the quotes and testimonials I heard and remember (because I wrote them down as they were being given) were the following:

"Boyoboyoboy! I thought I knew something about chorus directing, But I've learned about a lot of things I didn't even suspect."

"So that's how to teach a song quickly."

"Now I know what to do with the guy who won't soften down and sings everything at top voice."

"I had no idea there were solutions to some of my technical problems."

"When is the next school? I don't want to miss it, and I want more of my Chapter men to attend!"

There were other positive comments heard, but they were too numerous for me to copy let alone remember. The consensus at the final evaluation on Sunday morning was that we had received full value for the time and money spent by the District, by Chapters which sponsored their members, and by those who financed themselves. If you feel that YOU would attend a Chorus Directors' School at the COTS meeting in November, sit down right now and drop a line to President Don Funk, 1451 Harvard, East Lansing, Michigan 48823. In any event get it to him on or before September 30 so we will have half a chance to get an instructor.

Detroit

The Kansas City convention is now history, but the memories will remain clear and keen! The 4-Fits started us off in grand style at Metro airport by ringing some solid ones, leaving no question as to why we were there! In competition, Pioneer District was superbly represented by the Vagabonds and the Sharplifters. The Vagabonds took another big step toward the top moving up to 6th place, and you'd better believe those steps get awfully tough up in that area. The Sharplifters just missed the semi-final cut, finishing 22nd, and exhibited blue ribbon character by swallowing their disappointment and being on the risers for chorus rehearsal early the next morning. Their appearance ignited a spontaneous and extended ovation from Motor City Chorus demonstrating our affection for our champs!

What can I say about the chorus competition? Guess I just said it — competition! Competition at a level of excellence which is almost unbelievable! Motor City Chorus was well prepared and sang well, but 13 other choruses were better! Those Thoroughbreds were just great! A lot of people deserve special tanks for helping us to do our best: Tom Hine, our talented and patient leader who's the main reason we've been to Portland and Kansas City; John Feldman, premium chorus manager who makes sure everything falls into place; Bob Loose of the Grove City, Ohio chapter who coached us in sound and interpretation — we'd have won if we could

have assimilated just half of what he laid out for us; Marsha Parker, the talented gal who created our stage presence and coached our execution; Don Funk, who gets all our votes for being the greatest trip chairman ever; and our prez Rene LeBlanc, who, in addition to a million other things, found time to create a beautiful district booth display at Kansas City, with a big assist from our friends from Oakland County chapter.

The annual Bob-Lo Boat Moonlight Cruise was a tremendous success both entertainment-wise and financially. One big reason was the Lakeshore Chorus from Grosse Pointe chapter, who sold some 400 tickets and then joined Motor City Chorus and a raft of quartets in entertaining the heck out of the 1650 aboard — an attendance record for recent years.

CHAPTER HONOREES: BOB Roek, editor of our "Chapter Chips" which was judged 14th in international competition. ART SCHULZE and CARL SHEFFER, our "Barbershopper of the Month" for July and August respectively. These "youngsters" are two of the truly beautiful people of our chapter who make every Monday night fun for us all.

COMING EVENTS: Our annual parade, November 2, Ford Auditorium, featuring the Boston Common (who placed 3rd at Kansas City), the Roaring 20's., the Sharplifters, the 4-Fits, and of course Motor City Chorus. Don't miss it!

— Tom Gay

Gentlemen's Agreement wows 'em at Parade

The Parade of International Champions is generally the first organized Harmony event at the convention giving the buffs an opportunity to really warm up to the Barbershop spirit.

This year's show filled Municipal Auditorium on Wednesday evening to hear the Schmitt Brothers, '51; the Golden Staters, '72; the Dealers Choice, '73, and the Gentlemen's Agreement, '71.

It is always a great thrill to hear these former Champions and to watch the reaction of the audience as it warms to the magnificent harmony so dear to us all.

The Golden Staters opened this year's show with a great performance of solid Barbershop that really primed the pump for the following quartets. It was also their swan song as a group and the crowd was reluctant to let them go.

The fabulous Schmitt Brothers from Two Rivers, Wisconsin never fail to charm the spectators with their music, warmth and good humor. The talent in this family foursome is awesome. Their love for our music, the obvious pride in their family legacy, and the devout dedication they exhibit are an inspiration to everyone who has come under the spell of their charm.

But it was the men from Pioneer who really zapped this year's fans from the moment they walked on the stage. The wild applause of the crowd left little doubt about the continuing popularity of our superb Champs, the Gentlemen's Agreement. To swipe a Madison Avenue cliché, it seems that Barbershoppers "expect more from the GA, and they get it!"

"Kansas City Star" tipped them on their ear, and the "12th Day of Christmas" finished them off, but good!

The Dealers Choice topped off the evening with a format of Riverboat harmony and narrative that seemed very much in keeping with the style of the reigning Champs. For most of us present, it was the first real chance to hear and observe the pride of Dallas since they stunned the Society at Portland last year in their first try at International Competition.

It was obvious the fans liked what they heard!



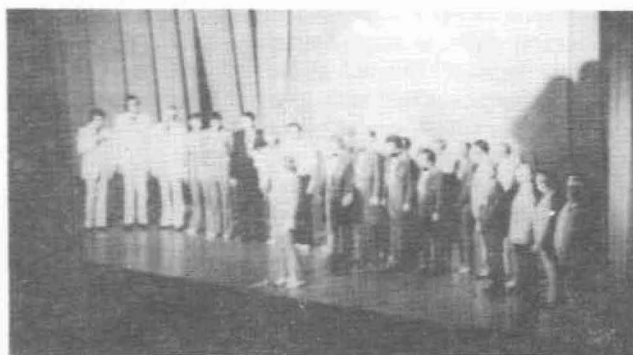
The Gentlemen's Agreement



The Suntones



The 4 Statesmen



A stage full of Champions



The Schmitt Brothers

A Little Bit Off the Top

By **DON FUNK**
Pioneer District President

Much has passed since I last entered into verbage for the Troubadour. Much Barbershopping that is, the issuance of the May and June Troubadour — the fantastic Spring Convention in Traverse City, and do they know how to Host a Convention . . . WOW. Then the International Send-Off in Kalamazoo, an unplanned trip to Alpena with the long awaited Charter, June 28 and June 29 On to Les Cheneaux for their show. (And let me tell you about Chapter cooperation, with the Saulte Ste. Marie guys helping out on the chorus). I think Alpena will begin participating in more zone and District affairs. Then the International in Kansas City . . . Well that's another story . . .

Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday — Meetings all day . . . Somebody realized the concern that the District Presidents have in the operation of the Society with regard to International, District, Chapter, and individual members . . . well, anyway we have many hours of discussion regarding many matters. Some of the recommendations bore fruit when presented to the International Board, which President Leon had asked that we sit in on.

Then there was getting to the Bus Lines on Monday and Wednesday evening to go to the airport to meet the Pioneer Contingent, and hoping everyone and everything made it ok, and not too many problems.

The Pioneer membership should take their hats off and say thanks to Rene LeBlanc, Bob McDermott, and all the others who put together the PIONEER Display. It was CLASS, and showed planning, and a lot of hard work. One of these days someone is going to come up with a standard set of Judging Rules for the Displays, then all will know exactly what criteria applies. Thanks again to everyone working on that project.

I know it's past history now and probably all of you have heard the outcome of the Quartet and Chorus Contests, however, take a good look at the competition, then imagine what GREAT SOUNDS can be heard, then say — I've got to get to Indianapolis in 1975 so I won't miss hearing it again. That's right, All of the PIONEER representatives did us proud. Again, remember all of the Quartets and Choruses getting to International are WINNERS — that's right they are all winners . . . There were 1,170 men competing in the Chorus Contest, that's about 75 per.

Now for next year, WE WANT THAT THIRD QUARTET! and the only way to get it is to make those individual Chapter meetings so well planned that each member can't wait to bring a friend down to the meeting. Hey guys if you are having that much fun, why not share it, don't leave the other guy out in the dark about BARBERSHOPPING. Look what Wayne, Battle Creek, Grosse Pointe, Gratiot County are doing, it proves men who can sing want to be asked . . . and after asking them . . . make sure you have something to offer them. DON'T KNOCK IT IF YOU HAVEN'T TRIED IT. . . BUT PREPARE AND DO IT RIGHT!!!

PLAN ON ATTENDING COTS, NOVEMBER 9-10, LANSING OLDS PLAZA.

If you've been there before you now know the way, see you in Lansing.

Let's try to keep the momentum up and running. From what I hear the trip to England by the Monroe Chapter and the HarmonyHounds was a tremendous success. Now I hope we can get everyone as active in the Pioneer, and continue that wonderful spirit.

Met Tom Cogan again in Kansas City, (he was on our COTS faculty last Fall, and will be in Pioneer the week after Labor Day. I hope that Grand Rapids and Battle Creek have continued their plans to promote a Chapter in the Hastings area.

Guess this is about it for this issue, REMEMBER all elections must have been completed by October 15, 1974. Let's get a commitment from these officers to Attend COTS, in fact it should be mandatory. This will give each officer the latest information and tools to make his year a better one for his Chapter membership and himself.

SEE YOU ALL IN WINDSOR.

President Leon S. Avakian Will Be At Windsor Fall Convention



Ruth and Leon Avakian at President's Ball

Leon S. Avakian of Asbury Park, New Jersey, International president of our Society, will be Pioneer's Fall Convention representative from the International at Windsor, Ontario October 11-13.

President Leon's appearance at the Big Bash in Sun Parlour country puts the icing on the cake for what should be one of the best Fall roundups this District has sponsored. He is a long-time Barbershopper (since 1950), and has just about touched all the bases (careful with that word!) when it comes to things administrative in this organization.

Leon and Ruth Avakian have two sons. When he is not taking the Society pulse, or ringing a tag, he spends his time as a consulting engineer. This will be the first opportunity most of Pioneer's members will have to meet the Avakians, and take it from your editor, you're gonna' like 'em! (Never met a Barbershopper I didn't like!)

So get yourself registered, get that request for housing in to the Housing Bureau — the address is printed in this issue — and join in the fun this Fall. The National Traveller Hotel is headquarters, at 675 Goyeau Street.

Convention Chairman Andy McCann and his staff have lined up a great time for all of us, including a great chicken dinner in Cleary Auditorium's banquet room Saturday evening at 6:30. That Canadian hospitality is brimming with goodies, and your portion is there just for the taking.

Port Huron



John Lynch, Pt. Huron's first non-charter member, and Mark Older, the chapter's second Man-of-Note, are surrounded by "Tune-by-4's" tenor Dennis Phelan and lead Brian Kaufman on the left, and bari Bruce Young and Bass Tom Lindsay on right. John was sponsored by Dan Wilcox (not shown), son of Bill Wilcox of the Aire Males.

After a fantastic weekend at the Spring Convention we settled down to business as usual, starting with the induction of two new members, John Lynch, sponsored by Dan Wilcox (son of the Aire-Males tenor) and Rob Joyner, sponsored by Mark Older.

We have a fun night scheduled for Aug. 7th, with Sarnia and Flint invited. Of course, Grosse Pointe will be there.

The Tune By 4's will be strong competition for this falls contest, as they were selected to attend HEP School.

See you all in Windsor.

— Pat Yacques

Grosse Pointe

Since we've become a century chapter, communications within the organization have become more important than ever. We have now established a chain telephone information distribution system. All the telephone numbers were published in our monthly newsletter showing who was responsible for calling who. Now the whole chapter can be reached and only several calls are required by each group leader. It is working.

We had our yearly quartet contest with Wayne Chapter and our guys brought home the Seely trophy. That marvelous new comedy quartet the "Tune By Fours" with Dennis Phelan tenor, Bruce Young Bari, Brian Kaufman lead, Tom Lindsay Bass, was voted the best quartet for Grosse Pointe.

Early in June we hosted the Port Huron Chapter at Grosse Pointe. The Port Huron members were presented with their membership certificates amidst a beautiful ceremony. Grosse Pointe Chapter voted to give Port Huron our risers and they responded by donating \$50.00 to Logopedics in our name. The world can't be all bad.

Late in June, Grosse Pointe participated in the mini chorus contest at Pontiac and again Grosse Pointe came out on top. Now if we can only do it at the big show in Windsor. . . Seriously though, our chapter has grown so rapidly that if you're a member over two years, you are an old timer. When all of those fresh new voices start to sing out, Grosse Pointe Chorus will be a contender at every convention.

This year our chapter will sponsor two men to HEP School. Every member who has attended in the past has come back raving about it. This is a school that really puts it all together for barbershoppers.

— Sully Mazur

Quartet Kapers

Kenosha reports the registration of six new quartets in the Pioneer District and one unrenowned foursome. The new quartets and pertinent data are as follows:

TUNE BY FOURS — Dr. Thomas Lindsay, 68265 Main St., Richmond, Mi. 48062, Grosse Pointe and Port Huron chapters.

BARBER SHARPS — Bill Schwedler, 27245 Shagbark Dr., Southfield, Mi. 48076, Detroit #1.

NOTE ABLE FOUR — Ken Preston, 8462 N. Shore Dr., Clark Lake, Mi. 94234, Jackson chapter.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT — Jack Edwards, 3299 Beacham Dr., Pontiac, Mi. 48055, Pontiac chapter.

CHORDWOODS — Bruce Vanden Bosch, 630 Thunder Bay Ave., Alpena, Mi. 49707, Alpena chapter.

THE HARMONY HELMSMEN — Elbert Ford, 11138 West Bay Shore Dr., Traverse City, Mi. 49684, Traverse City chapter.

The Familiar Feeling, Holland chapter has not renewed its registration at this date.

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

Must be completed by October 15

COTS SCHOOL

Lansing Olds Plaza

November 9-10

Convention '74 *Continued from page 4*

• A new expanded music program is also in the mill and the Board has approved its design. This program will create the need for a new musical field man in the future.

Kansas City, as many of us know, is often considered the birthplace of Barbershopping, since it was in the Muehlebach Hotel that Owen C. Cash met co-founder Rupert Hall in the lobby and the idea that swept the nation like a prairie fire was born. A plaque is prominently displayed in the lobby of the hotel commemorating the event. The International Convention was held in Kansas City in 1952 and 1962, as well as 1974. When we return again, this growing metropolis of the Heartland will have a new arena and convention center nearly doubling the present capacity, and complementing the fantastic Truman Sports complex recently constructed.

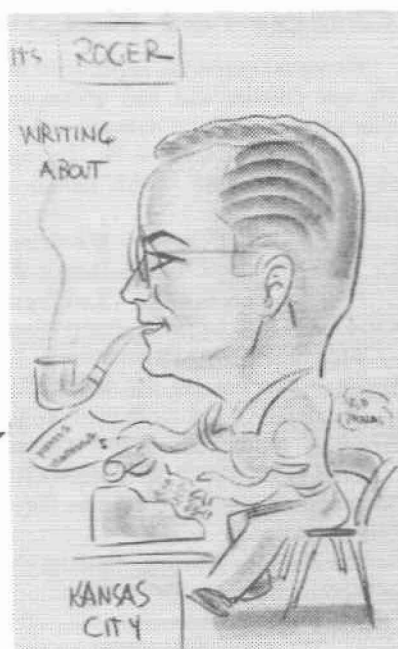
Bob Gall and his chapter gave us a great convention and they can be justly proud of their city and their accomplishments. Thanks to all of them, the business of the convention was made a lot easier for everyone. This is never a task for the weak of heart.

The contests will be covered elsewhere in this issue of the Troubadour, but it is appropriate that we all stop and reflect on the tremendous amount of work that goes into a successful convention, whether it be district or International. While most of us are out on the town, having a great time and enjoying the best that Barbershopping has to offer, the Society's business is being ably and competently attended to by a bunch of hard-working guys who are the real unsung heroes of our fraternity, and they deserve all the thanks and credit that we can give to them.

See you in Indianapolis in '75 for "The Greatest Spectacle in Barbershopping!"

Down Our Way

with the Editor



Time is such a fleeting thing!

August as the month may be, the leaves will soon turn to flame and another Fall convention will be upon us comes October.

Here we are in the midst of trying to report to you the events that transpired at the International Convention in July at Kansas City and we find that we must also write of the upcoming events to be held in Windsor October 11-13.

These are the times when an editor dreams of the luxury of having a staff of talented contributing reporters! Ahhh, ecstasy!

Snapping back to reality, however, the events of June and July may not have been so numerous but they have been momentous, and we would like to share a few of these with you.

Of course, our simple ramblings do not begin to reflect all the things that have been going on in our district and the Society, but they are the experiences in which time and good fortune have permitted us to participate. Here's hoping some of the Chapter scribes have covered some of the others.

The highly successful Send-Off show at Kalamazoo, as reported elsewhere in this issue, proved to us that it can be done outside of the Detroit Metropolitan area — even if it does take a lot of work and worry. The district owes the entire Kalamazoo Chapter a big vote of thanks for putting it all together. The Chapter is better for having done it, and certainly the district has benefitted.

The Board meeting held in conjunction with the Send-off show was quite lengthy, recessing for the show and afterglow, and concluding its business in the wee hours of Sunday morning with breakfast at the Gillespie home. Thanks to Betty and the help of the wives, we were able to get much accomplished, including the selection of several names for the Hall of Fame to be announced in Windsor.

Once again Pioneer convention-goers owe a big debt of thanks to our hard-working President Don Funk for his tireless effort in arranging transportation to and from the International. The logistics involved in moving such a sizeable

contingent of people is quite staggering, but Don has the know-how and experience, and the results are obvious to all of us who have gone on these flights.

Don had to be in Kansas City on Sunday, but Bill Warner managed to get us all rounded up in time for the TWA flight on Monday. Don, your editor and the John Neighorns were on hand at Kansas City International to greet the Motor City Chorus on their arrival Wednesday evening on the Braniff flight.

The chorus, practice risers, and one balky PROBE display booth were all eventually loaded aboard two chartered buses, arriving in town with little room to spare before the Parade of Champions show.

The heat in Missouri was the "other" big topic of conversation throughout the week, and especially in the lobby of the Muehleback, where the air conditioning was conspicuous by its absence.

However, the Motor City songsters were quartered at the Hilton Inn, some ten blocks removed from headquarters, where the living was easy and the pace of life a bit more leisurely. Transportation to and from headquarters remained a problem throughout the convention.

b # b

The Elyria Cascade Chordsmen shared the Hilton with Pioneer's representatives and we had a good opportunity to get acquainted with this fine chorus which copped 6th place in its first outing. Director Glenn Gibson and coach Glenn Van Tassell can be very proud of this wonderful group of men who many veteran conventioners felt should have placed even higher.

The courtesy extended to your editor by Glenn and his men at the end of their early-morning pep rally in the Hilton will not soon be forgotten.

The deep-down sense of pride and love of fellow man that comes with being clasped in to an embracing circle of swaying men as they vibrated the room to the strains of "Keep America Singing" is an accolade that will live in this editor's heart forever.

Of such is the caliber and class of our Society, and if you have never attended an International you have one big treat in store for you.

The Heart of America Chapter left no stones unturned in planning this great convention. The Hallmark Tours were sell-outs from the very beginning. The Crown Center complex compelled you to come back again and again. If Detroit's Renaissance Center measures up to this, and we understand it will be even greater, we have much to look forward to in our district.

The River Quay area was the center of attraction for many Barbershoppers, and a visit to this ancient section of the city was enough to tell you why. It is a whole 'nother world!

The visit to the Truman Library in nearby Independence was a pilgrimage for this writer, having worked in the famous campaign of 1948. The simple beauty of the Truman home where Bess still resides, the clinical simplicity of the architecture of the Library itself, the great storehouse of history repositied there, the auditorium and museum of mementoes — All were a sobering replay of those critical days of our lives. But perhaps the greatest memory-jogger of all was the sizeable display of political cartoons, both com-

plimentary and otherwise. More than anything else, they serve as a reflection of the great sense of humor of this simple man who was perhaps the greatest advocate of "telling it like it is!"

The Barbarteens had their usual share of activities, including tours to the stadium complex, boat rides, and outing at Trail Town for a Western Day, and the Family Day at Worlds of Fun park.

The women were kept busy with their own hospitality room and special events designed to give them some diversion from the constant din of woodshedding and shop talk.

And all this wrapped around the contest sessions!

Perhaps the Society has never experienced such a high level of competence as was presented at Kansas City. Certainly, in the minds of most Barbershoppers in attendance, the competition in both the quartet and chorus divisions was the stiffest it has ever been.

One of the questions heard in this quarter most often has been to the effect: "What happened to Motor City?"

Nothing happened to Motor City — that's what! They sang their hearts out and gave a beautiful performance, and you'd better believe that and be proud of them. They were simply outmanned in this day of the big chorus — caught up in the swirling tide of some high-performance competition. There wasn't one bad performance in the entire show from start to finish. Our guys were great! The judges thought 13 other outfits were better, and we accept this decision. But the crowd loved them, and we loved them, and this is where it counts. We were proud to have them represent us among the Society's finest. They didn't disappoint us.

The same holds true of our Sharplifters, one of the most personable quartets ever to step on a stage. They have gone to the well for Pioneer so many times, and they have never brought us anything but honor and great listening pleasure. They have attained great popularity in the Society, and if you don't believe this, just check the number of invitations they get to sing before various organizations during the week of the International. This year was no exception. On Monday, alone, they sang before the Sertoma Club luncheon at noon, and followed this with a performance at Metcalf South in the Mall.

The President's Ball was another great occasion, honoring our popular chief exec, Leon Avakian, and his lovely wife Ruth. It was an evening of fun and dancing, along with — what else — some great Barbershop Harmony. Pioneer was well represented by its own President Don Funk and wife Marty, IBM Bill Warner and Nell, the Lou Harringtons and many others.

The Chorditorium was jammed nightly and the new format for the appearance of quartets there seems to have worked smoothly enough to merit further compliance. The Suntones, 4 Statesmen, Schmitt Brothers and the GA were among those appearing on the night for Champions. Just how much free entertainment can you ask for?

Rene LeBlanc, despite the problems of getting it there, displayed a beautiful exhibit for Pioneer among the PROBE booths. Its uncluttered simplicity struck us as being everything a display should be — easy on the eyes, informative and in good taste. While Rene and his hardworking committee didn't figure in the top three, we think the judges goofed this one.

Pioneer wasn't completely shut out, however, as Bob

McDermott's fine "Gentlemen's Songster" tied the Scarborough Quoter-note for 3rd place in the International Bulletin Contest.

Your editor served as a judge in Layout and Composition for Johnny Appleseed District this year, and was also named to the International panel in the Syntax and Grammar category, and has been asked to serve in the same capacity next year. Far West has extended an invite to judge Layout and Composition in their district next year, also.

Speaking of judges, our own Merle Clayton was among those in the pits for the Chorus Competition at Kansas City.

And then there was the Vagabonds! What else can we say about this flagship quartet of the Pioneer District? We don't have to tell you — you know they were beautiful! We were behind the curtains when the OK-4 waited in the wings to go on stage. Our guys followed them into the ready room. What a contrast in style, not only on but off stage as the realization that there is "no tomorrow" rested upon the shoulders of each foursome.

The usually calm, cool quartet from OK City seemed anything but to us — maybe it was our imagination. They jostled each other, much in the fashion of a football team warming up prior to game time, bumping the rotund tenor Ken Witten with their shoulders from place to place — patting their faces with the resin bag (or was that an ice pack?).

Uptight? Pressure!

As they mounted the stage, the Vagabonds slowly came into the waiting area, visibly unexcited, confident and competent. Only they can tell you their feelings. This intangible commodity is something that can't be read on the surface.

Perhaps it was this difference in the pits that caused a transposition in the order of finish from last year. The main thing is that the Vagabonds have taken another step UP toward the magic circle of medalists and are definitely knocking at the door. All of Pioneer land can be proud of these gallant warriors!

Election of officers scheduled for October 13th House of Delegates meeting

The Fall meeting of the Pioneer District House of Delegates will be held at the National Traveller Hotel in Windsor, Ontario on Sunday morning, October 13 at 10 a.m.

Among the items of business will be the election of officers for 1975. The nominees are president Don Funk; exec. vice president, John T. Gillespie; Zone I vice president, Doran McTaggart; Zone II, Dan LaBrumbard; Zone III, Tome Hegle; Zone IV, Warren Marsh and Zone V. Cliff Douglas. George Schmidt has been nominated for Treasurer and Lawrence G. King, secretary.

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

The District Quartet Preliminary contest will be in the Cleary Auditorium at 9:30 a.m., Saturday, October 12, and Chorus Competition will be at 1:30 p.m.

Paternal Pheasant Fowls Philly Flight

Mid-Atlantic District's charter flight for Kansas City, scheduled to carry 180 Kansas City-bound songsters, ran afowl of a nesting Pheasant that chose one of the plane's jet engines as a family abode.

The picky Pheasant delayed the flight for seven hours!

The Barbershop concert in the terminal lasted until a replacement plane arrived — 7 Hours!

Could this be a new record?

JOKERS



Jerry Kissinger

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Coming Events

Send requests for Parade Clearance to:
Lawrence G. King
15403 Artesian
Detroit, Michigan 48223

—1974—

- SEPTEMBER—
28 Gratiot County Show—Alma
- OCTOBER—
11-13 DISTRICT CONVENTION—Windsor
19 Lansing Parade
- NOVEMBER—
2 Detroit No. 1 Parade
9 Fruitbelt Chapter Show—
Benton Harbor

—1975—

- JANUARY—
18 Pontiac Chapter Show
- FEBRUARY—
8 Monroe Chapter Show
22 Windsor Chapter Show
- MARCH—
1 Oakland County Chapter Show
8 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
22 Battle Creek Parade

- APRIL—
5 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—
Grand Rapids
- 25-27 DISTRICT CONVENTION—
Saginaw-Bay
- MAY—
3 Boyne City Bush League Contest
- JULY—
18 Detroit No. 1 Moonlight Cruise
- OCTOBER—
10-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION—
Grand Rapids
- NOVEMBER—
1 Detroit No. 1 Parade

—1976—

- APRIL—
10 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—
Grand Rapids
- MAY—
1 Boyne City Bush League
- JULY—
18 Detroit No. 1 Moonlight Cruise
- NOVEMBER—
6 Detroit No. 1 Parade

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 avoid conflicts with talent and audience pull.