

Society Pioneers from Pioneer District



JOE WOLFF

WILLIS DIEKEMA

MARK ROBERTS

BILL OTTO



LOU HARRINGTON

ED SMITH

JACK KLAIBER

ED GAIKEMA



CLARENCE JALVING

BOB TRACY

JAY RICHENS

GENE GILLEM

Photographed at Indianapolis Convention by Bill Pascher



August 1975



*The Happiness Emporium
is scheduled for the Jackson show
October 18, 1975*

pioneer TROUBADOUR



THE VOCAL MAJORITY—1975 Chorus Champions



THE REGENTS present trophy to HAPPINESS EMPORIUM

Joe Liles is added to Music Education staff

KENOSHA — Executive Director Barrie Best has announced the appointment of Joe Liles, San Antonio, Texas, to the Music Education and Services Department of the International office, effective September 1. Joe joins the staff as a result of the action of the International Board at Indianapolis to add a third music assistant.

Joe comes to the staff with outstanding Barbershop credentials. He has been a member of the Society for eight years and has directed the "Chordsmen" chorus of the San Antonio Chapter for the past 6 years. Joe is a certified arrangement judge and has served on the Chorus Director faculty for three years. His assignment will be Chorus Director Training and Chorus Development.

The Board of Directors also approved the scheduling of an annual District Music Directors Seminar to custom design the annual music education program for each district.

"As these two new facets of Barbershopping develop," Barrie said, "we are confident every Barbershopper will benefit in the enjoyment of his membership."

Check your arrangements before you record this one!

According to word received from music services assistant Dave Stevens, the Harry Fox Agency of New York has advised that certain parts of Society arrangement #7618, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing", may not be recorded.

"Please note that the words 'It's the real thing' and the lines: 'Put your hand in my hand let's begin today. Put your hand in my hand, help me find the way' *may not* be included in any recordings of this composition," the Fox Agency says.

The quartet arrangement published for us by BIG 3 included "Put your hand, etc." both in the intro, interlude, and measures 52 and 53 at the end. The arrangement has been revised and it is now available so that it is acceptable for recording. Request for license to record is still required, of course, from the Harry Fox Agency.

"Any of you who are singing the original, published arrangement may continue to sing it — but it may not be used in any recording," Dave says.

As of July 14, the Society no longer stocks the old arrangement, but the revised arrangement is available for sale under the same catalog number, #7618 (Show Tunes No. 18).

The recorded version of "Salute to America" will include the revised arrangement of "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing."

On the Cover

The indelible mark of the Pioneer District upon the pages of the Society's history is a matter of pride to all members of our District, where so much of this history has been written. Troubadour photographer Bill Pascher of Pontiac captured these faces on film at the International Convention. There are many others who justly deserve to be pictured here with them, not the least of whom should be our own Hall-of-Famer with the candid camera, Bill himself.

Quartet Registrations

SOUND OBJECTIVE — 6/30/76. Clifford Douglas, 6067 Northrup, Waterford, Mich. 48095. (Oakland County, Flint and Pontiac).

MEMORY LANERS — 6/30/76. Mike Bourgoin, 29673 Chester, Garden City, Mich. 48135. Wayne.

SHORE FOUR — 5/31/76. Rob Torresen, 1466 Middlebrook Dr., Muskegon, Mich. 49441. Muskegon.

EVIL COMPANIONS — 4/30/76. Harold Macklin, 5752 Reynolds Rd., Jackson, Mich. 49201. Jackson.

Directory Change

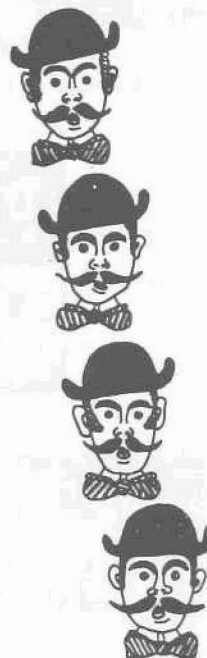
Chapters, officers and members corresponding with District Secretary Larry King are advised that his new address is 16260 Parklane, Livonia, Michigan 48154.

The Niles-Buchanan Chapter now meets in the Four Flags Hotel in Niles at Fourth and Main.

AU SABLE VALLEY—Treasurer John Tobin, 119 E. Main, Gaylord 49735. A.V.P. Richard Whitaker, P.V.P. Myrnard Weaver.

ST. JOSEPH VALLEY — Secretary George Mooney, 615 S. Clay, Sturgis 49091.

Please note these changes in your Pioneer District Directory for your convenience.



Keep
America
Singing

Pioneer TROUBADOUR



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Offices in the First National Bank Building
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Editor—Roger O. Morris Sr.
325 East Wardlow Road
Highland, Michigan 48031
(313) 887-4272

Co-Editor—Merle Clayton
77 Eldredge Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
(616) 963-4428

Photographic Editor—Bill Pascher
3520 Gregory Road
Pontiac, Michigan

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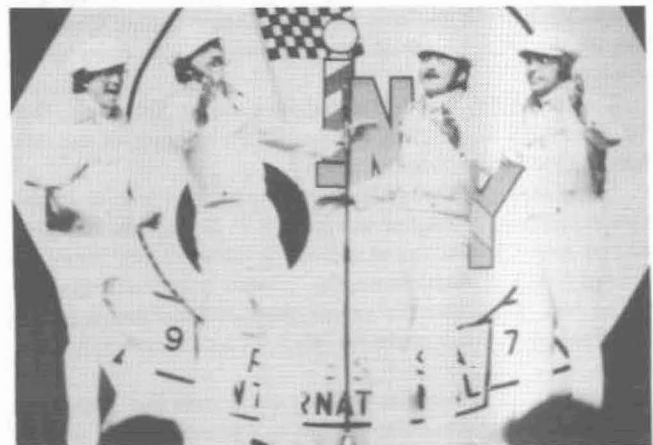
Mail all Troubadour Correspondence to Box 49, Highland, Michigan 48031. Personal correspondence may be sent to the Editor at above address. Deadlines: Chapter reports 15th of preceding month; all other copy and material by the 10th.

Vagabonds are Medalists at last!

Happiness Emporium, Vocal Majority best at Indy



THE HAPPINESS EMPORIUM—Reigning Champs



THE VAGABONDS—stepping up to a medal

The Happiness Emporium waited out 20 quartets before getting the curtain call in the opening round of International competition at Indianapolis. But when the curtain came down following the annual Barbershop madness on Saturday night, the Gold Medals dangling about the necks of this great foursome from Minneapolis-St. Paul area made the wait a trivial matter as the new Champs basked in the glory and the wild, ringing applause of some 9,000 believers in Convention Center.

The meteoric rise of this popular quartet representing the Land O'Lakes District should be an inspiration to Barbershoppers everywhere, and especially to those quartets that seem to languish in the lower echelons of competition just short of the charmed circle. The Happiness guys placed 24th in Portland just two short years ago, rose to 9th at Kansas City, and came on to take the crown this year in great style.

Bob Dowma, tenor; Rod Johnson, lead; Jim Foy, bass; and Bob Spong, baritone are the Happiness emporium members, and Don Clause is coach.

Houston's Insiders, from the Southwest District, took second-place honors, with Grandma's Boys of the Illinois District getting the bronze medallions.

The Boston Common, dropping down a notch from last year, barely nosed out our own Vagabonds, who stepped into the medalist bracket for the first time at Indianapolis.

The Soundtracks, also of the Illinois District, slipped to a sixth place berth this year, followed by Far Western's Command Performance, the OK Four from Southwest, the Nova Chords from Mid-Atlantic, and the Roaring 20's from Johnny Appleseed.

Pioneer's 4-Fits gave it a great shot in their return to the competitive wars, finishing 31st. Lead Russ Seely, happy to have been on stage in such rarified air, said it all for the 4-Fits. "It's a real pleasure just to sing in such competition, but I realize that we are neither young enough or naive enough to be here. We're happy with our finish."

The Vagabonds, Pioneer's flagship in competition for many years, also expressed elation in attaining their first medals. They finished third in Harmony Accuracy and Interpretation, tied for fourth in Balance and Blend, were ninth in Stage Presence and garnered 5,670 points, only 8 behind the Boston Common, but 469 points back of the 6,139 racked up by the new Champs.

The Troub will not reprint the scoring summaries in this issue, since a full rundown will appear in the Harmonizer, which should be in the hands of the members before this issue is published.

The Vocal Majority, directed by Jim Clancy and representing the Southwest District, nosed out the Phoenician's to take the Chorus crown Saturday afternoon. The 91 men from Dallas Metro Chapter amassed the highest point total ever scored in Chorus competition — a whopping 2,155 — and grabbed the trophy in their second appearance at the International. Don Clause also coaches the Vocal Majority.

Mid-Atlantic's Dapper Dans of Harmony placed third, with Elyria's Cascade Chordsmen moving up to a fourth place spot and the Arlingtones of Illinois holding on to fifth.

Pioneer's Wayne Wonderland Chorus, the only group testing the spirit waters of an International for the first time, finished 15th.

The competition this year, as in every year, becomes more sophisticated, more difficult, and more demanding. The competitors, regardless of rank and finish, are all a credit to the Society, to their District, and to their Chapter. Wayne Wonderland, and Director Gordon Limburg gave our District a great performance in the big hall, and each member was and is a credit to Pioneer. They are a great chorus, as we all know, but there were 15 great choruses on stage in the big battle, and everyone a championship organization. The competition is simply that rough!

A new chapter for Pioneer!

Clinton Valley charters with 43 members; first show set for December 6 in Utica

How about a big Pioneer Salute for our newest chapter?

Those hard-working guys who dedicated themselves to the task of bringing Barbershop Harmony back to the Rochester-Utica area didn't give up when the going got rough. As a result we have the new Clinton Valley Chapter, chartering with 43 members, and singing like champions, everyone!

Clinton Valley has scheduled its Charter Show in Utica for December 6, and the Troub will try to have all the details in time for the October issue.

Some years ago when there was a proliferation of chapters in this area a chapter was formed in Rochester. In time, like so many others, the membership either drifted away or moved to other chapters nearby. Recent population growth in the two cities, plus the newer cities of Troy and Sterling Heights, made this a prime territory for a good, solid chapter again.

It took a lot of sacrifice on the part of men like Tom Gay and District Treasurer George Schmidt to curtail their activities with a live chapter like Detroit #1 in order to devote their time to organization. But along with veteran chorus director Stan Salter and a few other enthusiastic supporters, they made the move.

Happily for all concerned, it paid off! The district is stronger, more people will be exposed to our music, and more people will want to get with it!

An early recruit was Galen Oliver. Galen is the kind of gung-ho guy every chapter should have. Full of energy, great voice, already singing in a quartet, and not afraid to tackle the administrative chores so vital to an organization.

There were others, of course, who worked hard to make a go of the fledgling chapter. Zone V vice president Cliff Douglas and area counselor Dick Guerin spent many hours in the vineyards. Pointiac, Port Huron, and Grosse Pointe pitched in to give assistance, along with the 4-Fits, The Sound Objective, and — well, you get the idea.

Letters of invitation were sent out, visitations made and received, a big AFA in May that netted 10 new members to put them over the top, and a lot of encouragement and support from Barbershoppers in general.

Pioneer's buttons are bustin' with pride at the good news — a real shot in the arm for all of us. Our hats are off to Clinton valley!

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for Friday 8 p.m. performance
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- ★ Michigan Banjos

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Grand Rapids plans innovations for Pioneer's Fall Convention

Comedy Quartet Contest scheduled for Friday night; Zone II party and big dance will add new zip

By JACK SIDOR
Convention General Chairman

Many Barbershoppers may not be aware that the Fall Convention will mark the end of certain Pioneer District traditions. The Friday night preglow, Saturday morning quartet prelims, and two categories of contest judging will cease to be. These deserve some kind of farewell salute. They're gonna' get one.

The Grand Rapids Chapter has taken a long hard look at every aspect of the typical convention. We're going to create one that is so-o-o inviting, and different, and memorable that every chapter will be worrying about the poor guys who missed it. (Both of them.) Mass appeal like this isn't easy on a limited budget, yet it's the kind of challenge we like. Already, we've thought of a number of ways to add zest to the things we cannot change; how to eliminate certain bi-annual bug-a-boos; and introduce some new and novel fun-things to our district.

For instance, do you get just a little weary of hearing, "No tape recorders or flash cameras are permitted???" We've done something about this. (Hoo-boy!)

TAPE RECORDERS AND FLASH CAMERAS ARE WELCOME at the Friday night Comedy Quartet Contest which the Grand Rapids chapter is putting on as a little show during dance breaks.

DANCE? Why sure! Somebody told us the gals, who sit patiently and listen to the same tag sung twenty-seven times (and still wrong), might like to be involved for a change. But guys, this is one dance we guarantee you're gonna' love if only for the laughs.

We're setting time back about 25 to 30 years to recreate the sights and sounds, and even the smells of those jukebox days and Sock Hops to the music of Tommie Dorsey, Duke

Ellington and many others. Along with your favorite beverage there'll be soft drinks, malted milks, and popcorn — which you may toss at our Friday Night Judges if you don't agree with their obviously half-blind, half-deaf decisions.

Elsewhere, on the hotel mezzanine there'll be a comic pose photo booth with proceeds going to Logopedics; there'll be a special party sponsored by Zone Two, and the International store will have another display; and there's more — much more.

We'll be sending your chapter president the specifics in the next few weeks, like the costs of tickets and how you can have a heck of a good time on a low budget in G.R., and how a chapter with only a few chorus members may compete and try out the new catagory of judging called Sound.

Our contest auditorium and headquarters hotel are across the stree from each other, connected by tunnel in case of lousy weather. There's plenty of parking — free for the guests of the hotel. And between the two buildings we count enough large rooms so every chorus will have it's own warmup and dressing room. Naturally, we expect that thinking-type leadership is already moving to a phone to reserve their room at the Pantlind so that it may also serve as a hospitality room. (We got ours!)

The mayor, the press and television, and the whole town, in fact, will be alerted to the presence of our district Barbershoppers. We want all of them to come and see what a great hobby this thing called Barbershop Harmony really is.

Once they see so many smiling faces and hear those wonderful chords, we think they'll get the idea.

SEE YOU IN GRAND RAPIDS
OCTOBER 10-12, 1975



Jack Sidor and Larry Swan pause at Indianapolis and discuss upcoming Fall convention



What's coming up next?



Bill Ottoe chats with Evelyn Pascher

Willis Diekema

Bob Johnson



The Regents crown the new Champs



Monument Circle was a sea of Barbershop faces



A seat at last!



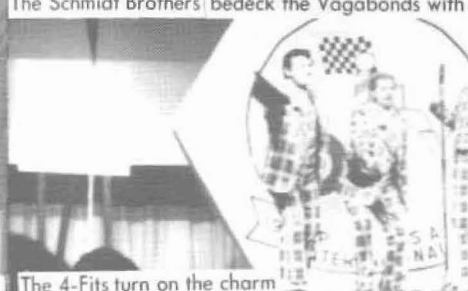
The Schmidt Brothers bedeck the Vagabonds with



WE WON! WE WON!
Vocal Majority member lets go



After the singout the show still went on



The 4-Fits turn on the charm



ABC cameraman



Drayton Justus



Al Rehkop

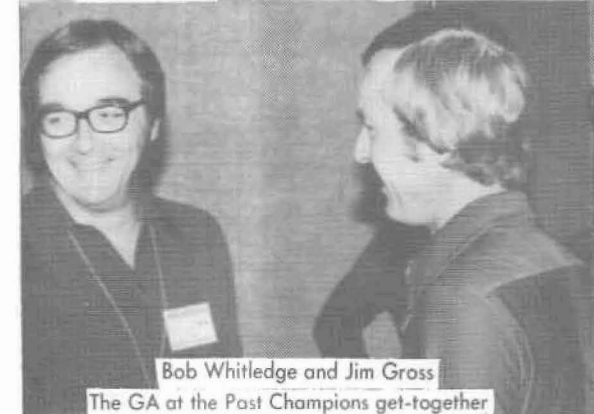


The editor's wife, Alice, shares a hearty laugh with Wally Joure



Mike Burgoin trys a smile

Tom Pollard



Bob Whitedge and Jim Gross

The GA at the Past Champions get-together



Clint Bostick drops in



Gordie Limburg



How do we

Convention '75



Bob Johnson



The Regents crown the new Champs



McTaggart at large



You parked on the STREET, Jo



A seat at last!



The Schmidt Brothers bedeck the Vagabonds with medallions



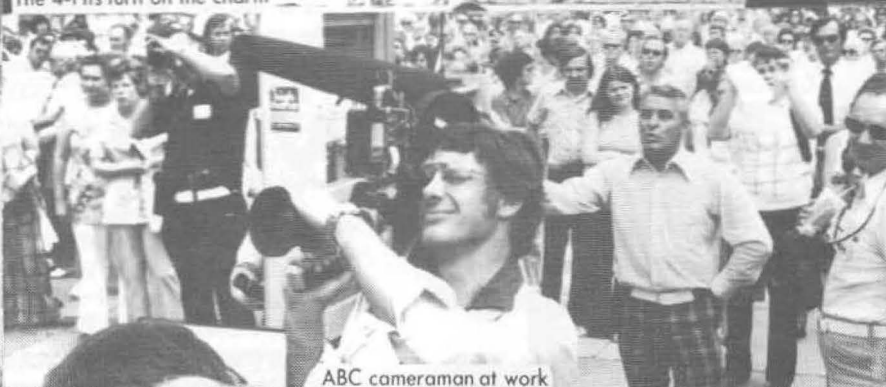
The 4-Fits turn on the charm



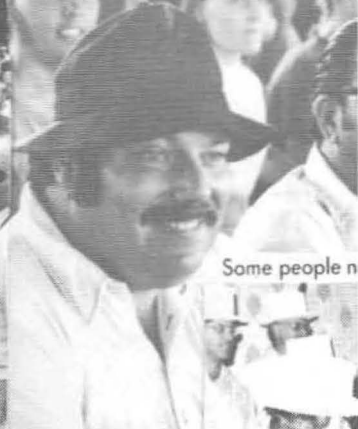
It don't r



still went on



ABC cameraman at work



Some people n



Alice, shares a hearty laugh with Wally Joure



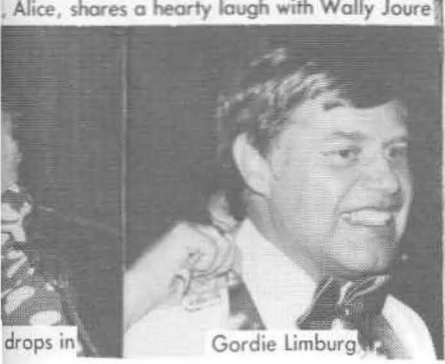
Mike Burgoin tries a smile



Tom Pollard in the ready room



Never mind my hat is my tie on straight!



drops in

Gordie Limburg



How do we look?



Al Fricker turns on

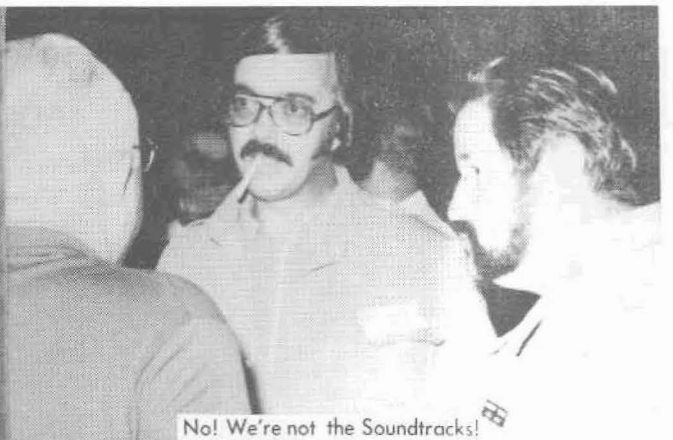




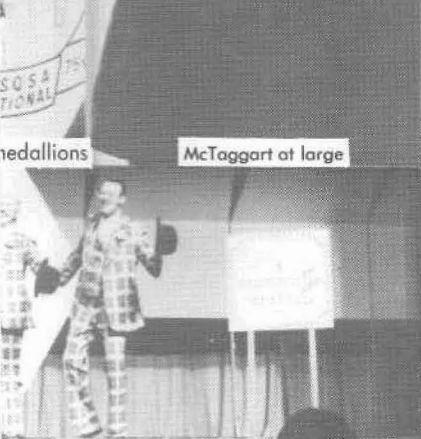
McTaggart at large



You parked on the STREET, John?



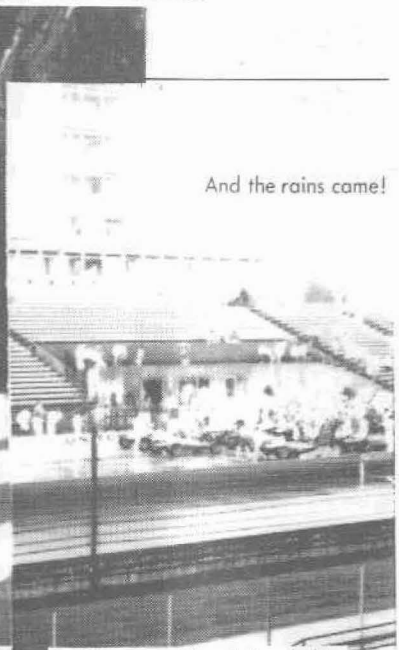
No! We're not the Soundtracks!



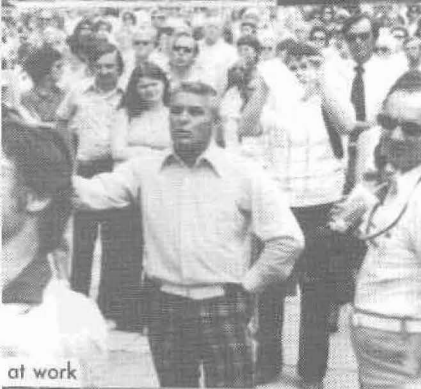
medallions



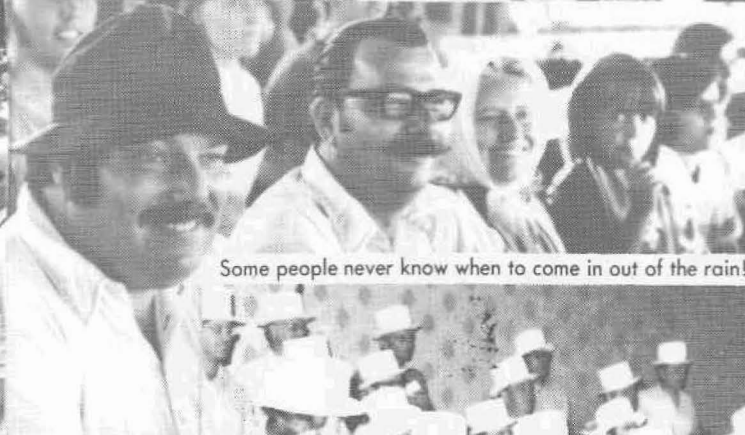
It don't rain in Indianap'lis?



And the rains came!



at work

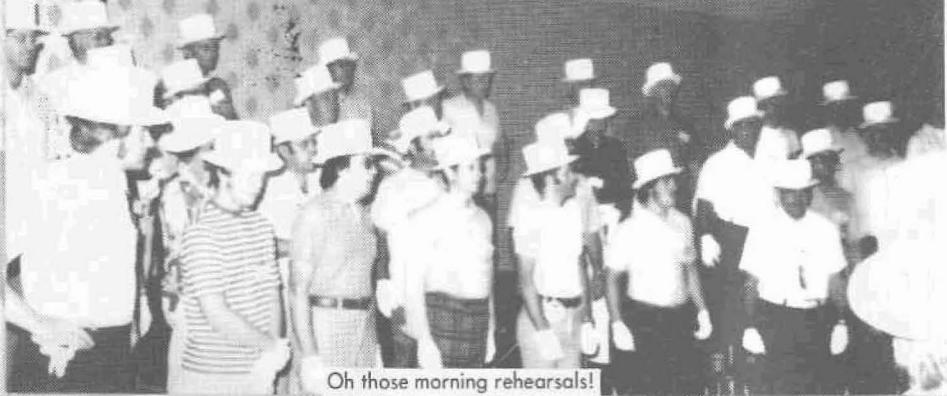


Some people never know when to come in out of the rain!

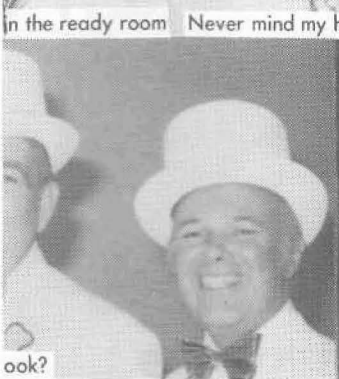
And the crowd heads for shelter



in the ready room Never mind my hat is my tie on straight!



Oh those morning rehearsals!



ook?



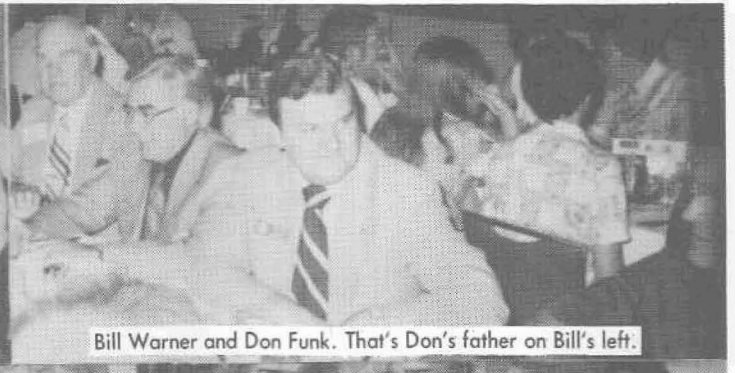
Al Fricker turns on



In the dressing room with Wonderland Chorus



Grand Rapids was well represented



Bill Warner and Don Funk. That's Don's father on Bill's left.

Logopedics Breakfast



Head Table



The M&M duo made it all the way from Grand Rapids



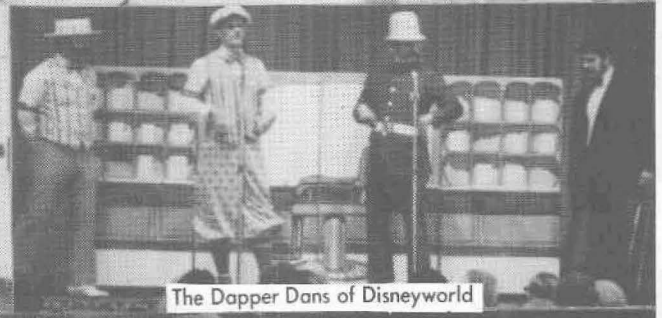
The Institute 4(?) waiting to go on



JAD's Steve and Harriet Hanrahan



Giving the big crowd its money's worth!

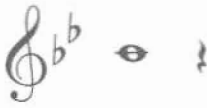


The Dapper Dans of Disneyworld



Bill Pascher discusses camera angles with the Dans

Austin Combs of Daytona Beach enjoys a laugh with the Dapper Dans



CHAPTER NOTES



Gratiot County

There is nothing like it in the whole world — to set here at the desk writing this article for my favorite magazine and at the same time be listening to my favorite music over the stereo — which is Barbershop, of course.

I wanted to tell you that it will be show time in Gratiot County in two short months. That's right! On Sept. 27th the Midstatesmen Chorus will present its 29th Annual Parade of Quartets and show with great headliners such as the Top Hats from Hartford, Connecticut, and the Galaxies from our own Pioneer District.

The show will be of a Southern theme complete with a large plantation house and a white haired, white bearded colonel. A lot of work is going into this year's show to make it bigger and better than last year's. We even have WFYC, the local radio station, playing some Barbershop to get the public primed for the show. We have a boys' quartet that is being coached by one of our chapter members. These boys, if they stick together and become registered, are going to be pretty tough competition one of these days.

Another one of our chapter quartets, the Flatland Four, is planning on going to Grand Rapids in October for the District competition. Things are really hot here in Gratiot County as we get ready for the show. So, "Ya'll come, now heah?" to Alma on the 27th of September to see and hear a great show.

—Ron Chaffee

Cadillac

The Mackinaw Trail Chorus will hold its annual show on October 4 in the Cadillac High School in Cadillac.

Doran McTaggart will be our master of ceremonies.

—Richard K. Cronk

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Wayne

First things being first, the Wayne Wonderland Chorus would like to thank the entire Pioneer District collectively, and certain chapters individually for the support given us both financial and moral on our trip to Indianapolis. We had hoped and expected to score better than we did but it just didn't turn out that way. The only explanation we can offer is, "We did our best, but it apparently wasn't good enough."

Since Troubadour Editor Roger Morris was on hand to cover practically every phase of the contest, I'll try not to step on his toes and give you a brief resume of the Indy happenings from Wayne's standpoint.

We stayed at the Airport Ramada Inn on the southwest edge of town, about 20-25 minutes from downtown and the convention center. Some of us arrived on the scene Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday, but the majority got there Wednesday amidst a torrential rainstorm. In fact, we even drove through water running across the road and right into people's homes. The scheduled Indy-type races for the Barbershoppers benefit were washed out.

Wednesday evening many of us attended the "Parade of Champions", featuring the greatest of the past quartet champions.

Thursday morning found us all up bright and early with rehearsal starting at 9 o'clock and continuing until 11:30. Then lunch, and off to convention center for the quartet quarterfinals. Back to Ramada Inn by 5:30 for a bountiful buffet dinner for Wayne members and families. Then off once more to convention center for more quartet contest. When that was over, everyone from the Pioneer District returned to the Ramada Inn for the District "Pep Rally" which featured a rapid succession of quartets, speeches, jokes, etc., along with assorted snacks and punchbowl. This broke up about 2:30 a.m.

Friday morning rehearsal began at 10 o'clock and ended at noon. Friday afternoon was "free", with many lounging around the pool, while some went back to town for the big Thoroughbred chorus show. Friday nite most of us got to bed fairly early.

Saturday morning we were up, breakfasted, and downtown by 8 o'clock for a 10 minute stint on the stage. Then back to our hotel for more rehearsal and coffee, followed by makeup and dressing. 12 noon we boarded a chartered bus for the trip downtown (oneway). By 1:26 we were on stage. We thought we did rather well, but the judges didn't agree. Finished about 4:30 then back to Ramada to change and eat, then back to town for the quartet finals.

Sunday we headed back home, determined to start fresh for the Fall contest.

Once again, thanks to you all for your support.

—Morrie Giles

Convention reflections

What can you say about an International Convention that someone hasn't said better?

As most all of you know by now, the Happiness Emporium earned the Gold Medals at this year's quartet contest with an electrifying performance that put the new champs in the lead from the opening round. The decision of the judges was a popular one, and the crown is in great hands.

The Vocal Majority took the Chorus honors back to Dallas Metro on its second try in competition, and 14 other district representatives said "Wait 'til next year!"

For Pioneer Barbershoppers, the big news was the fifth-place finish of our Vagabonds. Ken Gibson, Dennis Gore, Norm Thompson and Clay Shumard did us real proud on the big stage at Convention Center and they have the medals to prove it. This beautiful quartet always has a big following at International. The way our guys can keep you hanging on to every note of each song is a thing of pure beauty. Congrats, Vagabonds, and on to greater things — like gilding those medals with a touch of gold, for instance.

And how about those 4-Fits! 31st may not sound so hot to some people, but that's a mighty lofty spot when you consider all the quartets that started out in the Spring prelims. And it isn't all bad for an International when you consider that these seasoned veterans banged heads with 44 of the Society's greatest! Singing only two songs, they still racked up 436 points in stage presence alone! Wow!

Sure it was hard to swallow that 15th place finish for our Wayne Wonderland Chorus. In competition of this caliber, however, it is best to bear in mind that every chorus on stage is a champion and each one regardless of finish, brings honor to the respective districts.

Gordie Limburg and the Wonderland band ran headlong into some of the stiffest opposition ever encountered at an International. As the only "rookie" chorus on stage, we thought they sang beautifully. Perhaps the luck of the Irish just ran out on them.

While attending these conventions in the capacity of district editor, we have made it a habit, when possible, to bunk down with the majority of the district's contingent. That means, of course, that we spent most of our time at Indy with the Wonderland Chorus in the Ramada Airport Inn.

We were on hand for morning rehearsal, the Pioneer pep rally, the dressing room and warm-up at Convention Center, and right up to the time they left for the stage door.

In fact, we almost missed seeing Wayne's performance due to the order of appearance and the restrictions on entering and leaving the hall during competition. There are no special privileges for district editors at conventions and contests, other than those enjoyed by virtue of being a Barber-shopper.

It was great to see so many Pioneer people at this convention. Our district was well represented, and we are sure that the people attending for the first time will want to be on hand for the next one. Frisco should be a meeting place for a sizeable group of district Barbershoppers next year, if advance registrations are any indication.

Troub photographer Bill Pascher and your editor split up some of the lens chores since it is almost an impossibility to cover everything that happens of consequence at one of these big bashes.

Bill and his wife, Evelyn, were among those caught in the cloudburst at the Speedway which cancelled most of the great program planned for convention goers.

Doran and Margaret McTaggart were also victims of the big drench that poured 3.45 inches of rain out of the leaden Hoosier skies. The Speedway was more suited for the Gold Cup races than for the 500-type cars after this record storm.

Speaking of Pioneer's representative to the MC corps, it was the general consensus of those in our far-off corner of the Center that Mac did a great job of breaking the ice at the initial quartet session. That lead-off spot is not an easy slot for any MC, and especially for one attending his first International.

We did not arrive on the scene in time to take in the Brown County tour, or the Connor Prairie Village, but those who did enjoyed two great outings. The Teens were kept busy with their own programs, as usual, and the ladies found the tour of the Hoosier capitol city of great interest.

The Barbershop Showcase was sensational, and the Past Champs show was a real knockout. The Regents, Dealers Choice, Suntones and the Gentlemens Agreement thrilled a great audience that included the governor of Indiana, who was introduced from the floor.

The Chorditorium, as usual, was the center of post-contest activities each night.

But for us, as for President Don Funk and IBM Bill Warner, the business of the convention occupied a great deal of our time.

The PROBE workshop with Fred Steinkamp as moderator was a worthwhile innovation, and a lot of common problems were discussed. We made a suggestion to the chair that a similar workshop should be set up for district editors, since our common problems are somewhat different from those of chapter bulletin editors. Since the workshop was in two parts the other being for public relations personnel, it was impossible for those of us who wear both hats to set in on both sessions.

The PROBE meeting the following day was well attended and the members heard reports from John Kriezak, chairman of the PR committee, as well as from John Daley of the PR firm handling Society matters.

Jerry Dee Easter took top honors with his fine Chord Crier published for the Waterloo-Cedar Falls, Iowa Chapter. Jack Teubert editor of Oakland County's Gentlemens Songster took the 9th place spot, and Bob Rock finished 11th with the Detroit #1 Chapter Chips publication. The Troub salutes both of our entrants for a splendid showing.

Our thanks goes to Hil Andrews, Jim Swisher and Gordie Limburg, along with so many others of the Wayne Chapter who extended their courtesies and encouragement while in Indianapolis.

The pep rally was a big evening for Pioneer, with the Harmony Hounds, the 4-Fits and a hoarse foursome from Louisville known as the Citations who came just to pay their respects to a great bunch of Barbershoppers. The Wayne wives went all out on the hospitality bit to add another dimension to the rally.

Of course, those four zaney guys who call themselves the Warren G. Harding Memorial Four were on hand, also, with their own brand of "Barbershop Harmony".

In fact, the WGH-4 was in evidence all over town, and we almost succeeded in getting them on network TV, but

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All aboard the Frisco cable car



Fred Steinkamp of the "Note-wits" conducted PROBE workshop



Pioneer people check in at registration desk



Don Clause, coach



Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, just another high note!



No commercials, please!



John Seeman and Lowell Thomas



President Ellenberger



Hugh Ingraham and Lloyd Steinkamp



Jim Miller at Pioneer pep rally



PR man Jerry Doley was busy man at the singout

Anyone seen Don Webster?

Pioneer Troubadour

???

See you in Grand Rapids in October
Details on page 2.

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Details on page 2.

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MORE DETAILS OF THE FALL CONVENTION OCTOBER 10, 11, & 12
MAY BE FOUND ON PAGE 5 (Gee! Thanks, Roger)

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL PANTLIND HOTEL 187 MONROE AVE. GRAND RAPIDS
BETWEEN LYON & PEARL STREETS

CONTEST AUDITORIUM GEO. WELCH CIVIC AUDITORIUM 227 LYON ST.
ACROSS FROM THE PANTLIND

QUARTET PRELIMINARIES CONTEST - SATURDAY OCTOBER 11, 9:15 A.M.

CHORUS COMPETITION (INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARIES) 1:15 P.M.

QUARTET FINALS (DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP -PIONEER) 8:15 P.M.

TICKET PRICES: \$3.00 FOR EACH THESE THREE EVENTS

ALL-EVENTS PASSES AVAILABLE TO CONTESTANTS (ONLY) FOR \$8.00
until the deadline date SEPTEMBER 15, 1975

PREREGISTRATION: DAN SCHNEIDER
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GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. 49505

threatening skies prevented the cameraman from getting sufficient light following the mass singout at Monument Circle.

Monument Circle, by the way, was closed to traffic for the first time in history to accommodate the Bob Johnson special. The TV and radio coverage was much in evidence, not only at the singout, but at convention functions throughout the week. The newspapers gave us fine coverage, including a page one picture and an editorial welcoming us to the city.

The Logopedics breakfast found a large contingent of district members present. \$7,000 was raised for the Institute, and the Dapper Dans of Disney World were back, along with some singing representatives from Wichita to delight the sold-out affair.

If any one word could epitomize the 1975 Convention, it would be "record". There were records set almost daily. A record crowd for the singout, a record attendance in the auditorium where they had to bring in extra seats for the quartet finals, a record number of registrations, and a record number of advance registrations for next year's convention. These were only a part of the story.

A dip of the well-worn checkered flag is in order to the wonderful Indianapolis Chapter and the Checkmates who were everywhere, helping Chairman Tom Genung and the Speedway gang in extending that Hoosier Hospitality all over the place. Also, a big thank you to the members and wives from the Lafayette and Columbus, Indiana Chapters who were on hand to give a big assist to our hosts and the 8,407 registered visitors.

Now comes Grand Rapids in October, and Pioneer should see chorus competition like it's never seen before. There is a spirit being kindled in our midst that bodes well for our district and Barbershopping in general. That one coveted prize which has eluded our members through the years, the Chorus championship, is still waiting to be claimed. Surely Pioneer Barbershoppers can sing with the rest of them, and just as surely that trophy will be claimed. Could this be the year?

Down Our Way

with the Editor



Digressing from the convention, if we may, we would like to speak of matters closer home.

It has been our pleasure to be district editor during the last three conventions, and sometimes it has been our frustration. This editor is an alumnus of one of the country's best journalism schools and a printer by trade. It has been our privilege to edit our own chapter bulletin, to serve as a judge in district bulletin competition, not only for our district, but for many other districts. We have judged bulletins in every category — there are four — were asked to serve

in 1974 as Syntax and Grammar judge on the International panel. We declined an invitation to serve in the same capacity this year due to personal obligations. Judging bulletins and writing critiques preempts a lot of time. It also has certain rewards, of course, not the least of which are the many fine comments and bulletins received from editors around the Society as a result of the critiques.

The purpose of these contests and critiques is to improve the quality of our publications. It is not to downgrade the exhaustive efforts of our editors, who need all the encouragement they can get. Rather, it is to point out the flaws and try, by our critiques to help the editors produce a finer product. We have something to sell and we should merchandise it in the most polished and skilled manner of which we are capable.

We should all remember that each of us are Barbershoppers first. We joined the organization to sing and to enjoy!

Whether it is a chapter, or a district publication, we know the time consumed in publication is considerable. The pay is even more fantastic!

But we are not looking for monetary rewards. It is enough just to be of service.

When it comes to the Troubadour, we are never satisfied with the end product. We could pick a dozen flaws on any given page and still miss some. (We goofed the cutlines on the Soundtracks and the Harmony Hounds last issue, even though we went to press with them in the right spot!)

Some district publications have business managers to take care of such things as billing for ads, mailing lists, etc. Some have divisional correspondents. Some are fortunate enough to have printers who do the mailing. The Troub has none of these.

To put it point blank, we grow tired of putting out a whole issue without the help of our members. Sure, we have chapter correspondents, bless 'em, and we wish we had one from every chapter.

But where are all those creative minds who are so capable of contributing splendid articles on crafts, administration, history, personalities, etc.?

The Troub belongs to our members. It should not be a one-man publication, or one person's viewpoint. Even if we had so much time, it still would be a one-sided affair.

Criticism? We welcome it, printed or unprinted. It's the nourishment that makes us grow, keeps us on our toes, and gives us a desire to do better.

It has been suggested that we do some articles on chapter meetings, internal affairs, board meetings, etc. The suggestions are well taken in this quarter, and we certainly wish we could find the time to attend these affairs in every chapter of the district. But even if we could, the expense would be almost prohibitive. Our budget just doesn't allow for that kind of expense. Printing and mailing costs incidental to publication are the only expenses we have turned in to the district treasurer. If you have checked the treasurer's report in the last issue, you readily can see those expenses are more than enough to expect the members to bear.

What is the solution? Simply this: each chapter should make an earnest effort to get an informative report to us when the occasion merits such a story. We will make every effort to print those things of general interest to our members. Your cooperation will make this a representative magazine.

Detroit's Moonlight Cruise another big success

The Old Henry Clay never had it so good!

It is doubtful that the Henry Clay ever carried so many passengers at one time, and almost certainly it's decks never rang with so much good Barbershop music as did the annual Moonlight Cruise on the Bob-Lo this year.

The Detroit #1 chapter hosted its 35th annual Bob-Lo cruise July 18 on the Detroit River, with 1,702 harmony lovers on board to enjoy the music of nine quartets and three great choruses.

The quartets included the 4-Fits, quarterfinalists from Pioneer District at this year's International. The Wayne Wonderland Chorus, also a Pioneer representative at Indianapolis, joined the Grosse Pointe Lakeshore Chorus and the Motor City Chorus of the host chapter to make it a great evening.

In spite of the threatening weather, it was a pleasant outing for everyone, and the rain held off long enough for a great evening of dancing and Barbershop Harmony.



The Warren G. Harding Memorial Four entertains while 1,702 enthralled fans listen.



Not all the quartets that entertained were part of the scheduled show. Ken Stewart, Jim Dugan, Chuck Mills and Frank Heffernen, all of the host chapter, add their harmony to the evening.

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The evening wasn't all Barbershop. There was time for dancing, too.

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—1975—

SEPTEMBER—

27 Gratiot County Chapter Show

OCTOBER—

10-12 District Convention, Grand Rapids
18 Jackson Chapter Show

NOVEMBER—

1 Detroit No. 1 Parade
15-16 COTS—Lansing

—1976—

JANUARY—

17 Lansing Chapter Show
31 Niles-Buchanan Show

FEBRUARY—

7 Monroe Floral City Show
14 Pontiac Chapter Show

APRIL—

10 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids
23-25 District Convention, Lansing

MAY—

1 Boyne City Bush League

JULY—

5-10 International Convention, San Francisco
18 Detroit No. 1 Moonlight Cruise

OCTOBER—

8-10 District Convention, Grosse Pointe

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.