

MIDLAND CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

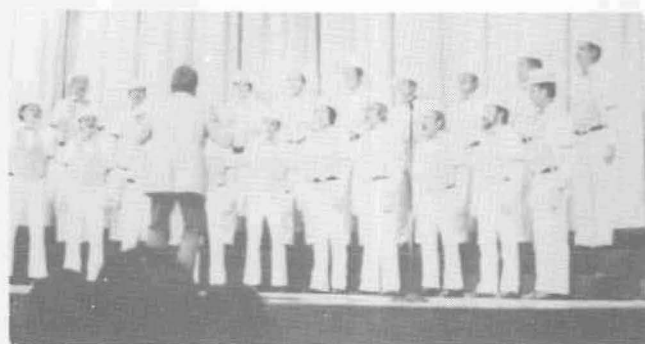


FEBRUARY 1975

pioneer  
**TROUBADOUR**



**The inimitable Sharplifters**  
... doing their thing!



**The Motormen Chorus in concert**  
Dick McHugh directing



**Pontiac's own Drop Chords**  
a real Chapter plus



**DORAN McTAGGART**  
Windsor's MC extraordinaire

## Pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

Offices in the First National Bank Building  
Detroit, Michigan 48226

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) 963-6828

Photographic Editor—Bill Pascher  
3520 Gregory Road  
Pontiac, Michigan

Printing by Slade's Printing Company  
1502 Baldwin, Pontiac, Michigan



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

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

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

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.



**Keep  
America  
Singing**

### PIONEER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF CHAPTERS - SPEBSQSA, INC. TREASURER'S REPORT YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1974

	ACTUAL 1974	BUDGET 1974	BUDGET 1975
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Per Capita Dues	\$ 3,570	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,425
Troubadour Subscriptions	3,570	3,200	3,425
Convention Income	3,232	4,000	4,000
Interest Earned	318	300	350
Miscellaneous	223	-0-	-0-
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$10,913</b>	<b>\$10,700</b>	<b>\$11,600</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
District Publication	3,207	3,000	3,500
District Directory	494	475	600
District Board Meetings	1,132	1,000	1,200
Telephone, Postage & Supplies	1,024	700	1,000
Secretarial Expense	160	240	240
International Convention Travel	700	700	700
District Officer's Travel	1,494	700	1,000
Area Counsellors Travel	547	350	500
Training Seminars	749	500	600
C & J Expense	266	300	400
Awards & Gifts	417	150	300
Quartet and Chorus Travel	1,900	1,900	1,900
International Convention Booth	311	300	200
Fees, Bonds, Insurance, etc.	137	125	150
Miscellaneous	126	400	300
Capital Outlay	-0-	100	100
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$12,664</b>	<b>\$11,140</b>	<b>\$12,690</b>
Excess Expenditures	(1,751)	(440)	(1,090)
Cash in Bank December 31, 1973	10,853		
Cash in Bank December 31, 1974	<b>\$ 9,102</b>		

### BALANCE SHEET DECEMBER 31, 1974 ASSETS

<b>CASH</b>		
General Funds - Checking Account	\$ 714	
General Funds - Savings Account	4,975	
Travel Fund - Savings Account	2,185	
Charter Flight - Savings Account	728	
Investment Bank Account - Troubadour	500	\$9,102
<b>OTHER ASSETS</b>		
Equipment (Nominal Value)		7
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>\$9,109</b>
<b>Association Equity</b>		<b>\$9,109</b>

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

## **Pontiac Parade Phantastic!**

# **Dealer's Choice, Sharplifters, Drop Chords and Motormen Chorus played to a full house**

"Bring Back Those Good Old Days" was the theme chosen by the Pontiac Chapter for its 32nd annual Barbershop Parade of Quartet Harmony presented Saturday, January 18, at Pontiac Northern High auditorium.

And the capacity house was served up an extra large slice of those Good Old Songs by the Society's 1973 International Champs, the Dealer's Choice, who sampled Pioneer District hospitality for the first time and found it much to their liking. The feeling was mutual as far as the local Barbershoppers and fans were concerned. The Dealers from Dallas received a rousing reception at the show and the afterglow.

Sharing the spotlight with this great quartet, Pioneer's own Sharplifters from Detroit No. 1, veterans of numerous International competitions themselves, gave a dazzling display of harmony and humor to completely captivate the lucky ticket holders.

The host chapter did itself proud with this parade, following a period of reorganization and directorial change, and the Motormen Chorus, with Dick McHugh at the helm, presented a solid performance of close harmony in keeping with the theme for the show.

The audience saved some of its warmest applause for the chapter's own Drop Chords, a quartet with two of the District's great old-timers in the bass and bari slots who are still very capable of upstaging a lot of us "youngsters" in the business today.

The Dealer's Choice won the gold medallion at Portland, Oregon, in their first try at the International crown. The story of their stunning feat has become a legend in the Society since that time. Success has not spoiled this wonderful foursome, nor has it altered their style to any great extent. Rather, it has brought them a great awareness of their accomplishment and the accompanying responsibility.

That responsibility is to represent this fraternity in its best light—doing the things that all of us are expected to do—and that means adhering to the Barbershop Style. Dr. Alan Kvanli, tenor; Bill Thornton, lead; Gary Parker, bass; and Brian Beck, baritone, are The Dealer's Choice. And so long as they continue to put it all together, working as they do to improve their craft, the Dealer's Choice will remain at the top of the pack—The Champs.

For the work-a-day Barbershopper in this district, watching the Sharplifters perform on this show had to bring a twinge of nostalgia and a pang of remorse.

Most of us in this category knew that we were witnessing one of the last performances of this beautiful quartet as it is currently constructed. The Sharplifters have been one of the most popular quartets in this district, and this Society, for many years. On stage presence and personality alone, they could hold their own with the best. But they have had so much more to offer in singing ability, and this can be found in the results of contest after contest.

Tenor Bill Wickstrom, bass Lowell Thomas, bari John Seemann, and lead Clay Shumard have known the sweet



**The Dealer's Choice**

1973 Champs "shape" those vowels!

taste of victory in many district contests, and have made many valiant assaults on the International crown. They have also known the disappointment of finishing out of the money, but they have suffered this disappointment with grace and dignity, and survived to come back another day and try again—a little harder.

Those at the Pontiac show expressed their appreciation in the warmest manner possible—with well wishes and ringing applause.

Pontiac's Drop Chords, featuring Dick Johnson, lead; Jack Smith, tenor; Al Maier, bass; and Rawley Hallman, baritone, have been singing together since 1969. They represent some 94 years of Barbershopping, and their ages range from 35 to 79.

The Drop Chords bridge the generation gap with solid harmony and a love for Barbershopping that has caused them to devote countless hours of singing for their chapter, Ladies Nights, senior citizens, banquets and functions of all varieties. They are a splendid example of dedication to our motto, donating all fees received to Logopedics through their chapter. They truly "Sing That They Shall Speak."

Doran McTaggart, the Pride of Windsor, did his chores as MC in the manner to which Pioneer barbershoppers have become accustomed. Cliff Douglas presided at the afterglow.

President George Van DeVelde, of the Pontiac Chapter, and his fine staff are to be congratulated on bringing this great array of talent to their city. Dick Guerin, show chairman, and his assistant, Cliff Douglas, put it all together in a grand manner. And adding to the enjoyment of the evening was the splendid scenery and overall production provided by Bill Pascher and Dick Suvanto.

It took a lot of work by a lot of people. That they did their work well explains why the show tickets were all gone a week before time, and why a lot of people were waiting in the lobby hoping for cancellations.

# THE BATTLE CREEK CHAPTER

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

proudly presents the  
**20th Annual  
Night of Harmony**

SATURDAY, MARCH 22, 1975

W. K. Kellogg Auditorium

\*\*\*\*\* M.C. DAVE EDDY \*\*\*\*\*

## FEATURING

*THE SOUNDTRACKS*

*1974 Medalists  
ILLINOIS*

*FOUR "D" MINORS*

*Current District Champions  
BATTLE CREEK*



*THE NORTHERN HIGHLITES*

*Birmingham*

*HARMONY HOUNDS*

*Battle Creek*

*CEREAL CITY CHORUS*

*Battle Creek*

*MALL CITY CHORUS*

*Kalamazoo*

\*\*\*\*\* "IF YOU'RE TOO BUSY TO SING, YOU'RE TOO BUSY!" \*\*\*\*\*

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT . . .

Eastern TV, 944 Emmett Street,  
Battle Creek, Michigan

AND

Any Member of the B.C. Barbershoppers

SEATS — \$3.00 AND \$3.50



## Profiles:

### New Zone II Veep says it with music



**DAN LaBUMBARD**

Meet Dan La Bumbard.

Dan is the new Pioneer Vice President for Zone II.

At the tender age of 33, he is the youngest member of the District's corps of officers, but he certainly is no stranger to Barbershopping, nor to a lot of Barbershoppers in Pioneer.

Dan has been a member since 1964, currently is a dual member in Jackson and Detroit, and has been a member of Saginaw-Bay. He has a solid background in administrative affairs, having served as program vice-president, secretary, president of the Jackson Chapter in 1969, three times as show chairman, and convention chairman in 1967.

All this administrative activity has not kept Dan too busy to sing, however, since he has found time to get involved in quarteting with the "Jacks 'n' Kings", "Innkeepers", "Alternators", "Gentlemen's Agreement", "Warren G. Harding Memorial Four", and the "Kampground Quartet".

Dan has also kept busy with other hobbies including the Jackson Musical Theatre, Clark Lake Players, Tecumseh Players, Jackson Civic Players, and, of course, Barber-shopping. He has appeared in "Oklahoma", "My Fair Lady", "Music Man", "Man of LaMancha" and more than a dozen other productions.

In his "spare" time, Dan is employed as a salesman for Miller Jewelers in Jackson. He and his wife, Sue, a registered nurse at Mercy Hospital, have a five-year-old son, Chad.



**TWINS?** Not really. Pioneer people do a double take whenever Veep LaBumbard of Jackson and Field Representative Tom Cogan from Society headquarters get together.

### Candid shots of our District Officers

The Troub was on hand to snap a few random shots of our busy officers before attending the Pontiac show.



**DON FUNK**, District President, gives his report to Board members (from left) Dan LaBumbard Zone II Vice-President, Treasurer George Schmidt, Don, IBM Bill Warner, and Warren Marsh.



**WARREN MARSH**  
Vice-President Zone IV



**LARRY KING** Secretary,  
and Field Rep. **TOM COGAN**



**JOHN GILLESPIE**  
Executive Vice-President



**THOMAS HEGLE**  
Vice-President Zone III

The District's Board of Directors took advantage of the premiere appearance in Pioneer of the Dealer's Choice to convene at the home of Treasurer George Schmidt in Bloomfield Hills.

Zone V V-P Cliff Douglas missed the meeting to prepare for the show. Doran McTaggart Zone I V-P, is pictured on page 2.

**Come Alive in '75!**

# Saginaw-Bay cranks up machinery for Spring Convention in Midland

***that's where it's at  
for Pioneer this year  
—Midland, April 25-27***

Veteran convention-goers in the Pioneer District, and just about anyone who attended the Spring of '72 affair in Midland, can tell you that the Center for the Performing Arts in that city is just about one of the finest facilities for our purpose to be found anywhere.

Quartet and Chorus participants who have competed on that stage can not forget the splendid acoustics, the dressing rooms and the rehearsal rooms provided by this beautiful, comfortable center.

For the people who must spend their time out in the seats, in front of the stage, the comfort and the acoustics double the pleasure of the Barbershop Sound and insures uninterrupted listening at its finest.

That's where it's at again this year — Midland in the Spring, April 25-27, and the same Chapter that hosted the great convention of '72 will be doing it all over again in '75!

President Frank Bateson, Convention Chairman Rick Meldrum, and the hard-working staff of the Saginaw-Bay Chapter are leaving no stones unturned to make this an even bigger and better convention this year — and when Saginaw-Bay goes all out to do something, things happen!

"Come Alive in '75" is the theme they have selected for this one. The Convention committee has been doing its homework! Now it's up to every chapter in Pioneer District to get busy and do their part.

Let's have every chapter in the District represented at this one. It's not impossible, you know! There's really something for everyone at a Pioneer convention: board meetings, house of delegates meetings, quartet and chorus contests, Hall of Fame, woodshedding, hospitality rooms, and just plain old hospitality!

One thing there will not be this year, however, is an afterglow. But don't let that fret you, for there will be hospi-

tility rooms, and more time to visit them; more time to really get acquainted with all the fine people in this great District.

Headquarters in Midland will be at the Holiday Inn, where those who have not taken advantage of advance registration may get their convention credentials and tickets.

Consult the accompanying ad in this issue for further information.

All-events registrations this year are \$9 per person. There is no price break for competitors except for those who register before April 1. Registrations received before that date can obtain an all-events badge for \$8.

There are camp ground facilities available in the Midland area for those who prefer them, but the Troubadour has not been advised of locations at this date.

The District Board meeting will be Friday, April 25 at 7 p.m., with the House of Delegates meeting Sunday, April 27, at 10 a.m. Contest schedules, including briefings and clinics are printed in the accompanying ad, along with hotel and motel accommodations and rates.

Convention Chairman Rick Meldrum may be contacted by writing him at 1203 Oak, Essexville, Mi. 48732, or phone (517) 895-5410.

For advance registrations, write Jack Ware, 3340 Canterbury Dr., Bay City 48706.

Housing chairman is Len Johnson 3339 S. Glendale Circle, Bay City 48706, (517) 686-3724. Tom Peil also serves on the housing committee and is ticket chairman. He can be contacted at 305 Sherwingo, Bay City 48706, (517) 684-2832.

Other committee members are Secretary, Tom Roozenburg; Treasurer, Chuck Fulks, General Contest, Robert Glover, and Hospitality, Dave Donnelly.

## PRE-REGISTRATION

☐ Competitor @ \$9.00  
(Before April 1, \$8.00)

☐ Non-Competitor @ \$9.00

I will arrive ☐ Friday, April 25, ☐ Saturday, April 26 (Check one). Please reserve ☐ single rooms and/or ☐ double rooms.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

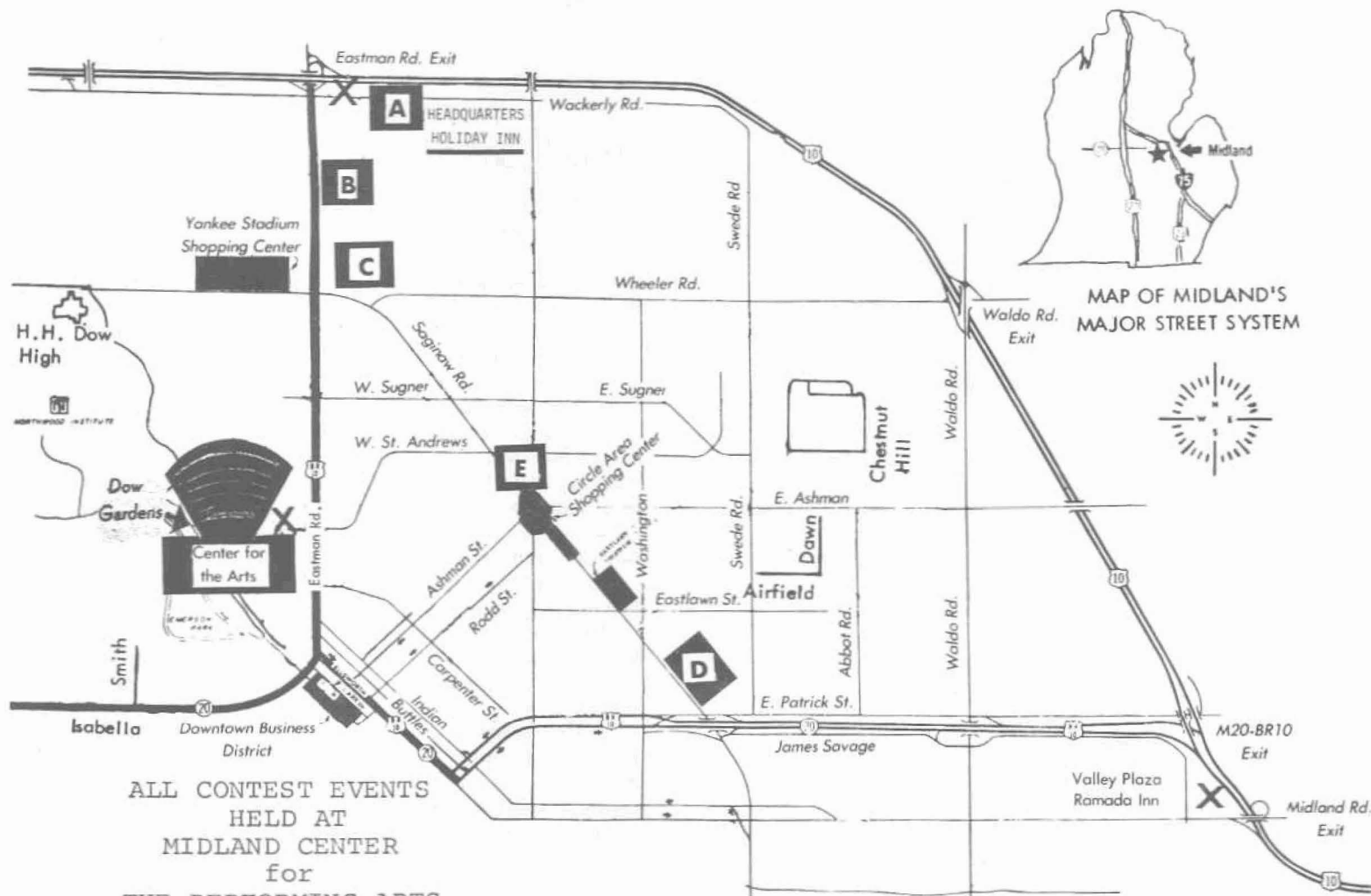
Mail to: JACK WARE, 3340 Canterbury Drive  
Bay City, Michigan 48706

Hotel and Motel rates are based on prices in effect at time of Convention scheduling.  
Prices may vary to reflect the current economy.

# "Come alive in '75"

## MIDLAND SPRING CONVENTION

APRIL 25, 26, 27



ALL CONTEST EVENTS  
HELD AT  
MIDLAND CENTER  
for  
THE PERFORMING ARTS

### FRIDAY, APRIL 25

7:00 DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

### SATURDAY, APRIL 26

9:00 QUARTET BRIEFING  
9:30 QUARTET PRELIMINARIES  
10:00 CHORUS DIRECTORS BRIEFING  
1:30 CHORUS CONTEST  
4:30 CHORUS CLINIC  
8:30 QUARTET FINALS

Hospitality Rooms  
Open following Finals

### SUNDAY, APRIL 27

10:00 DISTRICT DELEGATES MEETING

### —A— HEADQUARTERS:

Holiday Inn  
140 ROOMS

SINGLE \$16.00, DOUBLE \$24.00

### —B—

Pines Motel  
10 ROOMS

SINGLE \$8.00, DOUBLE \$15.00

### —C—

Gateway Motel  
50 ROOMS

SINGLE \$9.00, DOUBLE \$14.00

### —D—

Executive House  
90 ROOMS

SINGLE \$13.50, DOUBLE \$18.50

### —E—

Circle Motor Court  
10 ROOMS

SINGLE \$7.00, DOUBLE \$8.00

1975 PIONEER  
DISTRICT OFFICERS

**President Don Funk**

1451 Harvard—East Lansing, MI 48823  
A/C 517 Bus. 393-3447 — Res. 332-2160

**Immediate Past President William C. Warner**

23531 Meadowlark—Oak Park, MI 48237  
A/C 313 Bus. 542-5564 — Res. 545-8873

**Executive Vice-President John T. Gillespie**

712 Newgate Road—Kalamazoo, MI 49007  
A/C 616 Bus. 345-2135 — Res. 343-4188

**Vice-President, Zone I Doran McTaggart**

890 Buckingham—Windsor, Ontario, Canada  
A/C 519 Res. 948-0637

**Vice-President, Zone II Dan LaBumbard**

1113 Greenwood—Jackson, MI 49203  
A/C 517 Res. 787-2347

**Vice-President, Zone III Thomas Hegle**

315 Summit St.—Rockford, MI 49341  
A/C 616 Res. 866-2786

**Vice-President, Zone IV Warren Marsh**

205 S. Lake Dr.—Cadillac, MI 49601  
A/C 616 Res. 775-5334

**Vice-President, Zone V Cliff Douglas**

6067 Northrup—Waterford, MI 48095  
A/C 313 Res. 623-1102

**Treasurer George Schmidt**

563 Sedgfield Dr.—Bloomfield Hills MI 48013  
A/C 313 Bus. 963-4920 — Res. 333-7721

**Secretary Lawrence G. King**

15403 Artesian—Detroit, MI 48223  
A/C 313 Bus. 963-4920 — Res. 836-6815

**Troubadour Editor Roger Morris**

325 E. Wardlow Rd. Highland, Mi. 48031  
A/C 313 Res. 887-4272

**International Board Member William C. Warner**

23531 Meadowlark—Oak Park, MI 48237  
A/C 313 Bus. 542-5564 — Res. 545-8873

## Society loses a great friend with passing of Marshall Wells

Pioneer District and the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., has lost one of the most ardent boosters of Barbershop singing with the passing of Marshall Wells, Saturday, January 18 in Sinai Hospital, Detroit.



**MARSHALL WELLS**  
**WJR's Farm Editor**

Marshall, 68, was farm editor for WJR, Detroit, a post he assumed in 1945, one year after he joined the station, and his "Town and Country" program from 5 to 6:30 a.m. six days a week became an institution throughout the Midwest area and neighboring Canada.

The Town and Country show featured the latest in farm and agriculture information, livestock and market reports, and Marshall's favorite music gleaned from the recordings of the Society's finest Barbershop Quartets.

He was the recipient of numerous awards for his contributions to agriculture and was honored by special resolutions in the United States Congress and the Michigan Legislature. Marshall also received an honorary degree from Michigan State University. He was presented the first annual "Nice Guy Award" in a recent meeting by Detroit No. 1 Chapter, an award that will no doubt be renamed to honor his valued and lasting friendship with that chapter.

Marshall was a native of Dubuque, Iowa. He was a resident of Birmingham, Michigan.

He is survived by his wife, Kathryn; two sons, Tobin and Ben, and a daughter, Marcia. A memorial service was held on Wednesday, January 22, in St. James Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

Barbershoppers will miss his friendly voice and his presence. The mike has been stilled, but somewhere the chords are still ringing, and the warmth they generate somehow helps to keep alive the spirit of this kind and gentle man. Our sincerest sympathies are extended to his family in this hour of their greatest loss.

### PRE-REGISTRATION

☐ Competitor @ \$9.00  
(Before April 1, \$8.00)

☐ Non-Competitor @ \$9.00

I will arrive ☐ Friday, April 25, ☐ Saturday,  
April 26 (Check one). Please reserve ☐ single  
rooms and/or ☐ double rooms.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: JACK WARE, 3340 Canterbury Drive  
Bay City, Michigan 48706

Hotel and Motel rates are based on prices in effect at time of Convention scheduling.  
Prices may vary to reflect the current economy.



## Wayne

Seems like Wayne somehow or other failed to have a report in the last two issues of the Troubadour. Copy deadline for chapter reports is supposedly the 5th of the preceding month which often makes the news somewhat out of date by the time it reaches you. However, many times you have read reports which by the very nature of their content, definitely had to be drawn up later than the 5th of the preceding month. Based on this, I held back one report in order to cover contest results. So, I missed it. But why didn't it get in the next issue?

Gee, Roger, is my copy so bad that it had to be completely edited out?

But that is gone by, and the important thing now is the Wayne Show on March 7 and 8. We expect a sell-out for both nights despite the current economic squeeze. We take pride in the knowledge that we have never put on a bad show and each year strive to surpass the previous one.

This year's show will carry a different format in that the theme, "Songs for All Seasons", will run through the 2nd half also, including the finest quartet in the District. An added feature this year (and perhaps a first for Barbershop parades) will be the appearance of Michigan's championship choral group from Livonia Bentley High School. This is the same group that challenges the "Wonderland Chorus" to a song battle each year. We guarantee they'll bring you up straight in your seats at the very first note!

Our "Wonderful Wayne Wives" are going all out with projects to raise funds to send us to Indianapolis. One such deal will be a real old fashioned auction sale complete with barn and professional auctioneer (for free).

Should any of you in nearby chapters have any unwanted usables (not your mother-in-law) just contact any Wayne member and we'll be glad to pick them up.

Wayne has finally joined the Century Club with 103 members. The last addition was Bernie Smith who transferred back to Wayne after leaving a few years back. Unfortunately, Bernie recently suffered a heart attack, but was doing well at last report.

Hurry up, Bernie. We need you.

—Morrie Giles

(See "Down Our Way", pg. 11)

Greetings from Gratiot County! As the 1975 Show Chairman for Gratiot County Chapter, I thought I would take it upon myself to let the District know that we're still alive and growing stronger.

At first I was going to list our activities of 1974, but that would be too lengthy. So, I'll let you know about our 27th Annual Parade of Quartets and show that was held in Sept. of '74.

Under the direction of our new Chorus director from Montcalm Community College, and a lot of plain hard work from the guys in the chorus, the show was a complete hit. The new Alma High School Auditorium was packed in and there were people standing in the aisles.

Of course, this wouldn't have been possible without the Harmony Hounds; the Northern Hi-lites and the Golden Oldies, all from the district. They all sounded just great.

That's all for now.

—Ron Chaffee

## Holly-Fenton

Since our old meeting place, the American Legion Hall is now torn down we are meeting at the Hotel Fenton each Tuesday night.

Although we are now on associate status we have an enthusiastic group of officers, who will be installed at our formal installation on Tuesday January 21. David Lonsbury will serve another term as president and Fred Kienitz, Flint Chapter, will be installing officer.

The meeting will be preceded by a dinner with wives and friends of the chapter invited, entertainment by a guest quartet.

We are making plans to have a "Show-glo" instead of our annual parade this coming spring, exact date not as yet known.

Because of the time lag between reporting and publication of the Troubadour, we will have to let other chapters know about these events by direct mail as soon as our plans are completed.

—Grant L. Wright



To The Editor:

I am writing you this letter to let you know the dissatisfaction of the Battle Creek Chapter regarding the coverage of the recent Pioneer District Championship Quartet, 4 "D" Minors of Battle Creek.

We were very disappointed in the fact that the Troubadour just mentioned their victory. These fellows have worked very hard for this honor for the past few years. We did not write immediately after the October issue feeling a feature article would follow. There was no follow up article. The thing that really hurt was the fact that your feature article and picture on the cover of the October 1974 was about the Galaxies, the 1973 Champs.

The members of the Battle Creek Chapter believe the Troubadour owes the 4 "D" Minors an apology and a lead story.

What can I do, as president, to get more Battle Creek news into the Troubadour? We enjoy the publication but seldom read about our own activities.

BASS-ically

(See "Down Our Way", pg. 11)

Raymond Sikkenga

## Spring Convention in Midland

*that's where it's at  
for Pioneer this year*

—Midland, April 25-27

## Saginaw-Bay

Installation of chapter officers for 1975 was held at the Carling Brewery in Frankenmuth on 1-10-75. The installation was well attended by approximately seventy-five members and guests, and it was a highly successful evening. We were greeted with warm hospitality by a gracious Carlings staff, and the brewery provided an excellent luncheon. Gene Gillem, past District President and international board member did a fine job as installing officer, and entertainment was provided by the Classmates. This may be a good time to publicly thank Cliff Douglas who has honored us as installing officer so many times in the past. A private party was arranged by Bill Dolezel at the East Bay Village in Essexville following the installation.

A group of avid Saginaw-Bay barbershoppers journeyed to Pontiac on 11-15-74 for the quarterly Quad-Chapter meeting. Bill Pascher was our emcee for the evening, and he smoothly conducted the mass chorus through several numbers. We were entertained by four quartets including the Back Porch Majority and our own Classmates, and a representative chorus from the Oakland County Chapter, directed by Carl Dahlke. Oakland County was there by coincidence to pass along the little brown jug. Food and beverage were terrific, and woodshedding abounded everywhere. Thanks to Pontiac for a nice evening. Next meeting is set for 2-04-75 at Holly-Fenton to be followed on 5-23-75 at Saginaw-Bay.

We are proceeding with planning and organization for the 1975 Pioneer District Spring Convention. Everything is moving along smoothly. All Pioneer District members will receive detailed information through the Troubadour, as well as personal flyers as the date of the convention draws nearer.

Auditions for admissions were held in our chapter on 11-14-74, 11-21-74, 12-5-74, and 12-12-74. We have been successful in obtaining five new members to date whose talent looks promising, including a young brother combination of lead and tenor. Program VP Bob Glover is initiating a Barber Pole Cat Quartet promotion to get these new men, as well as some older members involved in quartets. Another AFA is planned following the spring convention. The organization, including advertising will be assumed by our Admin. VP, Len Johnson.

Dave Donnelly, 1975 chairman of our annual St. Paddy's Day Thaw reports that a combination Barbershop/Dinner Dance format is planned. This year's event will be held on 3-15-75 at the K. of C. Hall. For those of you who would like to take your best girl out to dinner and dancing, with some barbershop entertainment thrown in, plan to be there. And for all you singers out there, there will be plenty of opportunity for some solid woodshedding. Ticket price including dinner, entertainment and live music will be \$5.00 per person.

—Tom Roozenburg

## Quartet Changes

Bob Johnson, director of Music Education and Services, has informed the Troubadour of the following quartet changes:

New Quartets: the METROCHORDS, Jim St. Amand, 1940 Cass, Berkley, Mich. 48072, Oakland County Chapter.

Changes: 4-FITS, Russ Seely, 791 N. Oxford, Grosse Pointe Woods, Mich. 48236.

## Grosse Pointe

Last year's officers are now history and what a fine year of barbershopping they gave us. Our hats are off to each one who did his part so well.

Our new chapter officers installation dinner meeting was held in November and was a huge success with entertainment by the Lakeshore Chorus and three of our own quartets.

Some of the new officers for 1975 are:

President	Kurt Kusch	Secretary	Sterling Berry
Exec.			
Vice-Pres.	Carl Uridge	Music Dir.	Russ Seely
Prog.		Chorus	
Vice-Pres.	Russ Seely	Manager	Don Adams
Treas.	Bill Brower	Keep. of Mugs	Wally Pfunk

Grosse Pointe Chapter had six men in attendance at COTS school this year. Was your chapter represented? They all came back full of ambition and rarin' to lead us on to greater things.

Our shining hour this Christmas season was on December 15 when the chorus (49 of them) visited various nursing homes and even a convent to bring Christmas cheer to all. I'll say this, I'm sure most of the guys got a spiritual uplift from this experience. Our public thanks goes to Mr. Mike Gaskin of Taylor and Gaskin Inc. who donated the use of a 50 passenger bus to transport us to the various nursing homes.

At our final meeting of the 1974 season we hosted Detroit Chapter for our annual quartet contest for the Jos. P. Wolff trophy. This year our chapter stressed quality. We got both quality and quantity as our guys came thru to beat Detroit and regain the trophy we lost to them last year. It was our largest fun meeting of the year with 108 men competing. This year our winners were the "Howling Pointers" with George Van DeVelde, tenor; Hank DeVries, lead; Hal Seely, baritone; and Bert West, bass. Second and third places went to the "Grosse Exaggerations" and the "Red-Ees."

A big thanks to the quartet from Wayne Chapter who served as the judges — they were Clay Jones, baritone; Dave Barke, tenor; Mike Bourgoin, lead; Gene Beaty, bass. Our thanks also to Lyle Lee president of Port Huron chapter who served as secretary.

A Happy New Year of barbershop singing to all.

—Sully Mazur

## Pioneer COTS schedule set for next 10 years

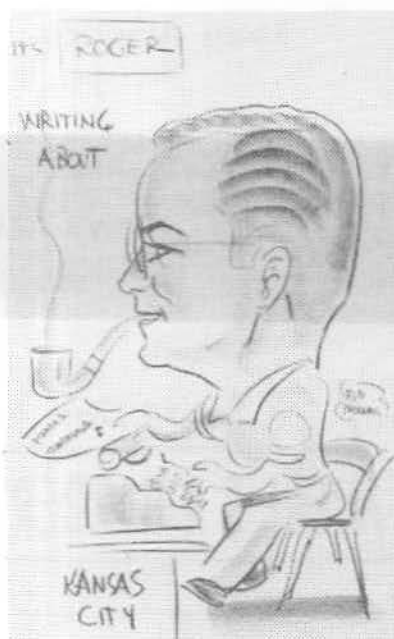
Chapter officers and members will be interested in the schedule announced recently by the International for Pioneer District's Chapter Officers Training School (COTS) which covers the next ten years.

The 1975 school for officers elected to serve in the following year will convene November 15-16 of this year. Other sessions, all scheduled for November, are: 1976, 13-14; 1977, 12-13; 1978, 18-19; 1979, 17-18; 1980, 15-16; 1981, 14-15; 1982, 13-14; 1983, 12-13; and 1984, 17-18.

So there you have it. Plan early to send your elected chapter officers to COTS and take advantage of the dividends in administration this excellent training provides for your organization!

# Down Our Way

with the Editor



Now and then, we get a little feedback from our readers — most usually from one or two of our Chapter reporters, and occasionally from one of our Chapter officers. This issue we seem to have it from both categories, so we will try to answer the complaints involved.

Our good friend and correspondent Morrie Giles of the Wayne Chapter seems to have come up short an article following the Windsor convention, according to his report in this issue. Morrie, old buddy, we don't know what happened on this one ourselves, since we have not been able to find the article in question. It's not the quality of your copy, Morrie — Wayne is lucky to have you on the job. We hope the Troub's coverage of Wayne's accomplishments at the Fall Convention took some of the sting out of the loss of your missing report.

While commenting on your remarks, we would like to call to every reporter's attention the inside masthead where the deadlines are printed. It is not the 5th of the preceding month, but the 15th when the deadline falls for Chapter reports.

Why do some reports have information on later events than the 15th? The Troub policy is to be as accommodating as possible. Some months we get little or no correspondence from our chapters. Then we start making up the magazine, get everything comfortably laid out, and — bam! In comes three or four reports, apparently for the next issue, rather than the current one. We don't like stale news, either, so if we can possibly work it in without a major overhaul, we do so. Sometimes we find it to be much needed copy, and therefore it becomes a matter of convenience to us.

However, we still like it in the mail by the 15th!

Then there is the matter of the Battle Creek President's letter, and we will try to answer it in kind:

Thanks for your letter of Jan. 21, on behalf of your Chapter and the 4 "D" Minors, Ray.

The Troub, too, is disappointed in the coverage given our fine District Champs for this year. While we realize you have some very valid points in your letter, and that it is results, not excuses, that count, there are certain circumstances which keep us limited in the scope of our coverage.

As editor, reporter, business manager, mailing clerk, and part-time photographer, layout man, advertising artist, corresponding secretary, etc.; etc.; we try to touch all the bases. But all these positions being filled by one and the same person, makes it difficult, if not impossible, to do so — and more especially, when you don't know where all the bases are in the first place.

In the case of our newly crowned District Champs, we not only lost sight of the *bass*, we couldn't find a whole quartet!

While one red-faced editor sat in Cleary Auditorium watching the Four "D" Minors walk off with the marbles, his trusty camera was locked up in the Milford Hospitality Room, to which he did not have a key!

Picture taking at conventions is a real chore at best, what with no formal sessions provided for such things, no strobes or flashes allowed in contests, and no up-front facilities for district editors, either. (We are not privileged characters, nor should we be!) We take them where we can get them. The trouble with the Four "D"s is these bashfully modest guys are so darned elusive that once we had ransomed the camera we never caught sight of them again. The hour being late following the evening quartet finals, and Sunday morning spent in the House of Delegates meeting, the Champs got out of town without a chance to say "watch the birdie"!

A week later, in Lansing for the big show there, we contacted a member of the quartet, apologized for not having had a chance to interview them or get a picture, and requested an article and publicity shot to be mailed to the Troub for the next issue. We're still waiting. When we get it, we'll print it.

As to the Galaxie picture and write up, these four gents are one of the few quartets in the entire district who have taken the time to fulfill an invitation extended by the Troub editor to all District groups — send us a photo, give us a fact sheet, or a write up, and we'll try to work it in.

The October cover was saved for pictures of the new champs, even though we did not know who they were at the time of layout. The Galaxie picture and story had been on hand for several weeks, and when we failed to get the photos at Windsor, we moved their picture to the cover.

Normally, the October issue should have gone to press prior to the convention, but was held up for this purpose.

As to part II of your letter, and this goes for all chapters, what you can do as president to get more news in the Troubadour is very simple. Get a reporter to write it up and send it in. We'd love it!

This editor has made three trips to Battle Creek in the last year and a half, and hopes to make the fourth to see your next show. We have tried to give Battle Creek a fair shake, and in looking at past issues, we think we have.

If we haven't, there are 32 Chapters in this District, and some of them have hardly received a mention, much less a visit from us. While we love music, we may have to face more of it than we are prepared for on our limited budget!

Keep those cards and letters coming, folks!

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF  
THE PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
OLDS PLAZA HOTEL  
LANSING, MICHIGAN  
November 10, 1974

The meeting was called to order by President Funk at 12:30 PM. Present were Funk, Douglas, Gillespie, Hegle, LaBumbard, McTaggart, Warner, Willson and Area Counselors Guerin and Seely.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the treasurer's report were not read because of the absence of the secretary and treasurer.

April 12 and May 17 were suggested as dates for the Send-Off show, subject to the availability of the auditorium in Jackson.

The schedule of visits by the field representatives from the International Office during 1975 were announced as follows:

Tom Cogan: January 7 through 18; April 28 through May 2;

September 29 through October 1; October 20 through October 31.

Dave Stevens: February 24 through March 1

Mac Huff: September 22 through September 27

Board members were asked to consider the effects of dividing the district convention proceeds on other than a 50-50 basis on future conventions for which bids have not been accepted.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lawrence King  
District Secretary

Keep America Singing

STEPHEN SUTHERLAND 106811  
2870 OAKDALE DR 141  
ANN ARBOR MI 48104

Second Class Mail

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER!

—1975—

**FEBRUARY—**

8 Monroe Chapter Show  
15 Niles-Buchanan Show  
22 Windsor Chapter Show  
28 Oakland County Chapter Show

**MARCH—**

1 Oakland County Chapter Show  
7-8 Wayne Chapter Show  
22 Battle Creek Parade

**APRIL—**

5 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—  
Grand Rapids  
5 Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Show  
12 INTERNATIONAL SEND-OFF SHOW  
Jackson  
25-27 DISTRICT CONVENTION—  
Saginaw-Bay at Midland

**MAY—**

3 Boyne City Bush League Contest  
31 Au Sable Valley Chapter Show

**JULY—**

18 Detroit No. 1 Moonlight Cruise

**JUNE—**

23-28 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION  
Indianapolis, Indiana

**OCTOBER—**

10-12 DISTRICT CONVENTION—  
Grand Rapids  
18 Jackson Chapter Show

**NOVEMBER—**

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



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

—1976—

**APRIL—**

10 GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL—  
Grand Rapids

**MAY—**

1 Boyne City Bush League

**JULY—**

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.