

APRIL 1976

pioneer

TROUBADOUR



The Gentlemen are calling it a day



Did we put our money where our mouth is?

The following is a listing of Chapter and Quartet Contributions to Logopedics in 1975.

As you can see, only 5 of our 32 chapters did not contribute to Logopedics. This is a significant increase from our 1974 year end report. The Harmony Foundation Service Award did, I feel, stimulate giving this year. Eight of our chapters will be receiving plaques at the House of Delegates meeting in Lansing for contributing \$10 or more per member on a per-capita basis. Congratulations to Battle Creek, Detroit #1, Fruit Belt, Grand Rapids, Holland, Jackson, Oakland County and St. Joseph Valley. Wait until you see these plaques! Every chapter will want to work towards earning one next year.

What's happened to our quartets? Only 7 of our 42 registered quartets contributed to Logopedics. Congratulations to those that did. For those who are not contributing may I ask that you do so? You should be supporting Logopedics, as a quartet, even though you may be contributing through your chapter.

Each District is being asked to increase giving by 20% in 1976. If each District does so, we will go over the \$2,000,000 mark in contributions to Logopedics before the year is over. This is well worth striving for. Come on Pioneer, let's do it!

CHAPTER DONATIONS

Chapter	Donations	Per Capita	Chapter	Donations	Per Capita
Alpena	—	—	Lansing	\$177.00	\$ 4.82
AuSable Valley	\$ 81.52	\$ 3.70	LesCheneaux	35.00	2.18
Battle Creek	1,135.00	*29.10	Milford	10.00	.30
Boyer City	37.00	1.27	Monroe	333.33	6.94
Cadillac	187.00	5.19	Muskegon	28.00	1.47
Clinton Valley	15.00	—	Niles-Buchanan	200.00	4.87
Detroit #1	1,256.74	*12.20	Oakland County	1,613.00	*13.44
Flint	178.00	4.23	Pontiac	411.00	8.22
Fruit Belt	680.00	*17.43	Port Huron	34.00	.79
Grand Rapids	1,392.00	*21.75	Saginaw Bay	50.00	1.66
Gratiot County	200.00	4.65	Sault Ste. Marie	—	—
Grosse Pointe	250.00	2.15	St. Joseph Valley	358.00	*14.91
Holland	210.00	*11.66	Traverse City	—	—
Holly-Fenton	—	—	Wayne	606.30	5.88
Hudson	189.00	5.40	Windor	—	—
Kalamazoo	110.00	2.03			
Jackson	935.20	*16.70	GRAND TOTAL		\$10,712.09

*Will receive Harmony Foundation Award

QUARTET DONATIONS

Aire-Males	\$100.00	The Michlanders	\$10.00
For-Tune Tellers	313.00	Square Root	50.00
Galaxies	100.00	Ye Old Lamplighters	10.00
Harmony Hounds	125.00		

Pioneer TROUBADOUR



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and sent directly to:

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Acknowledgements will be sent to contributors
and a record of the contribution sent to me.

Division One will host Send-Off at Warren Fitzgerald Friday, May 21

Division 1 Vice President Clay Jones and his staff have been working hard to finalize plans for the big International Send-Off Show, which promises to be the biggest Pioneer Push-Off of them all.

Warren Fitzgerald High School, 9 Mile and Ryan Roads, in the city of Warren, Michigan has been selected as the site for the show, with the curtain time at 8 p.m. Friday, May 21.

Fred MacFadyen of the Oakland County Chapter is the general chairman. Fred may be reached at 313/293-8178, or write to him at 15018 Murthum, Warren, Michigan 48093.

The show will feature the 1976 District Chorus Champs to be chosen at Lansing April 24; the Warren G. Harding Memorial 4, The Classmates, Northern Hi-Lites, the Vagabonds, and the Gentlemen's Agreement.

Also featured will be the San Francisco-bound Motor City Chorus from Detroit #1 Chapter, and a mass chorus from all the chapters in Division 1.

Don Barrett, director of the Wolverine Chorus, is the music chairman, and Tom Pollard, Wayne Chapter, is ticket chairman.

You can order tickets by mailing the coupon provided in the ad printed in this issue. Division one chapters also have tickets available through the following chapter ticket chairmen:

Oakland County, Gene Harrington, 313/857-3696; Grosse Pointe, Sully Mazur, 313/527-9660; Windsor, Den-

nis Cave, 519/969-2290; Milford, Skip Book, 313/685-2788; Detroit, Ray Campbell, 313/563-6413; and Monroe, Wilbert Mathes, 313/269-2668.

Don Adams, general chairman, and the Grosse Pointe Chapter members are arranging a big after glow at the Balkan Banquet Hall, 24116 Van Dyke near 9½ Mile Rd., five minutes from the Fitzgerald auditorium.

Balkan Hall will seat 700 people and the \$4 admission charge will include a buffet lunch, coffee, beer and setups. BYOB.

The cost of sending the Motor City Chorus and our three quartets to San Francisco has been estimated at between \$32,000 and \$40,000. Pioneer District is committed to provide \$9,000 of that amount. Consequently the District Travel Fund will have to depend on the Send-Off Show to raise in excess of \$4,500.

The Fitzgerald Auditorium will seat 1,456 people, providing an income of \$7,280 if every seat is sold, and making a net of approximately \$6,000.

A premature leak of information indicated the Send-Off would be May 14th, but this date did not coincide with the Vagabonds' and the G.A.'s schedule, making it necessary to shift the date to the 21st. The February Troub had printed the earlier date based on this information.

Bill Wickstrom will be the master of ceremonies.

Get your ticket order in early to avoid disappointment, and let's make this event an overwhelming success.

Gentlemen's Agreement will take final bow in Traverse City June 19

By MAURIE ALLEN
Traverse City Chapter

The Gentlemen's Agreement will appear for the last time on June 19, 1976 at Lars Hockstad Auditorium in Traverse City, Michigan. We in Traverse City share everyone's sadness that these truly great champions have found it necessary to discontinue quartet activities, but we're proud to be planning a production which will be a fitting one for their final performance.

Realizing that our's is not just a commitment to our chapter to produce a memorable evening, but it is also a commitment to our District, our Society, and most of all, to the Gentlemen's Agreement, we are working very carefully and closely with the G.A. to make sure that their countless friends in our Society will be made a part of this tribute, schedules permitting.

I'm sure we've all had an opportunity in the past to have had some personal contact with one or all of these GENTLEMEN and can understand why they command such respect and admiration throughout the Society. Consequently, our committee is not surprised with the overwhelming response to this Tribute to the Gentlemen's Agreement. We are planning this evening with the same intensity and detail as was used in our convention planning and we're confident that the results will be equally gratifying.



GENTLEMEN'S BARITONES — Greg Backwell, left, and Jim Gross followed Glenn Van Tassell in the bari spot.

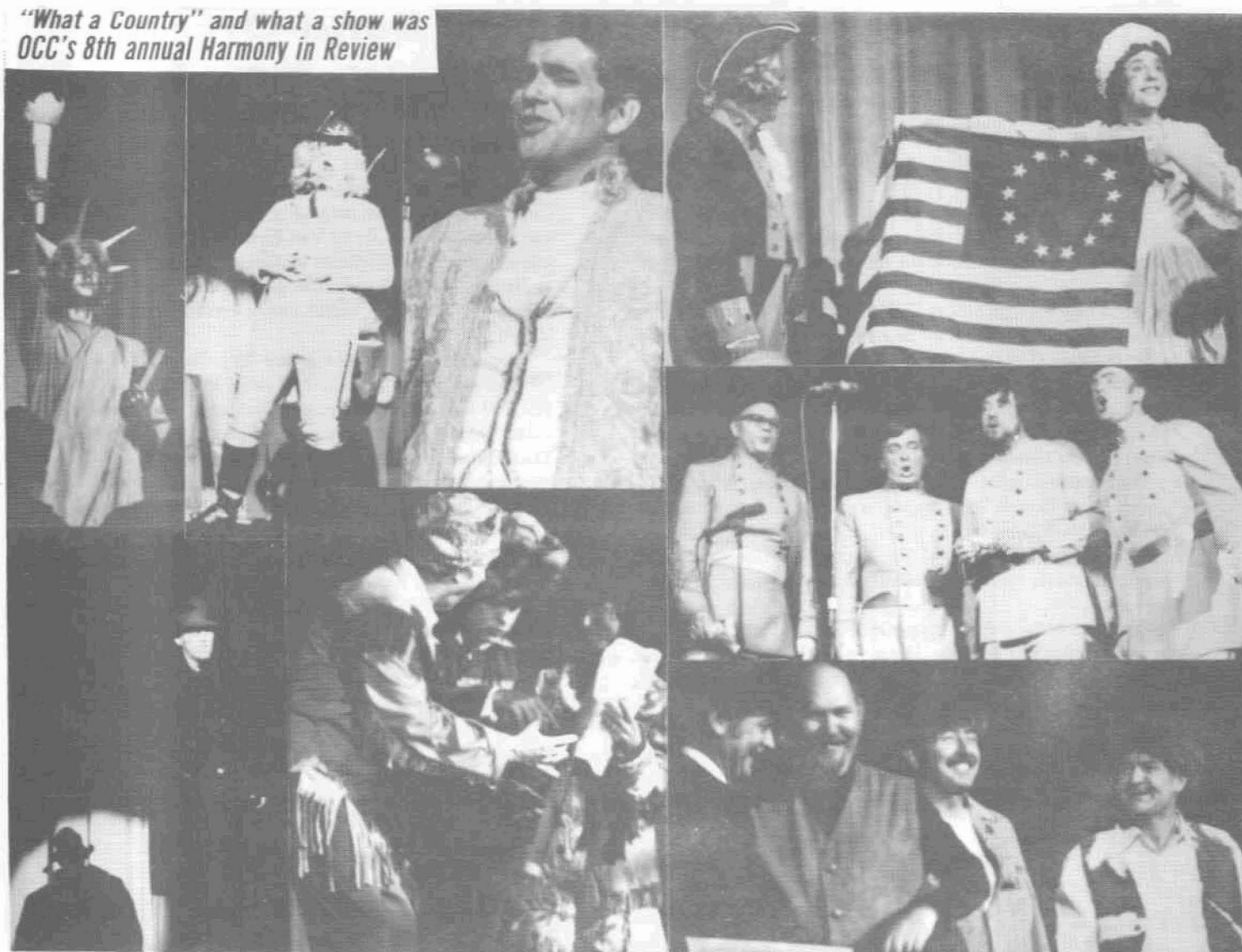
In addition to the Gentlemen's Agreement 1, 2 and 3, which chronologically includes Glenn Van Tassel, Greg Backwell, and Jim Gross; the International Medalists Vagabonds and our Cherry Capital Chorus will be featured.

Requests for tickets for this special "Tribute to the Gentlemen's Agreement" should be directed to:

JIM FEGAN, Kewadin, Michigan 49648.

All seats are reserved. Ticket prices are \$4.50 and \$3.50. Make checks payable to Traverse City Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.-Q.S.A. Reservations will be accepted immediately and tickets will be forwarded by May 10, 1976.

***"What a Country" and what a show was
OCC's 8th annual Harmony in Review***



One of the lightest and most entertaining shows we have witnessed in many seasons was Oakland County's 8th Annual Harmony in Review, February 20-21st at Warren Fitzgerald. The theme was "What a Country", and the Wolverine Chorus, taking advantage of it's many fine quartets, gave us a history lesson like we've never had before! The spoof and truth was all a part of the chapter's salute to the Bicentennial, with help from their own 5th place Medalist Vagabonds, Pioneer's Champion Classmates, and The Sound Objective. Director Don Barrett had his charges up for this one and the crowd loved every minute of it. The work of the make-up personnel was fantastic!



Quartet Vignettes

Close up with The Classmates

By MERLE CLAYTON
Co-editor, Pioneer Troubadour

Hail the 1975-76 Champs!

Since winning the Pioneer District Quartet Championship in Grand Rapids, The Classmates have been busy with rehearsals and performances.

Just in case you have not had the opportunity to become personally acquainted with the members of this great foursome, here is some pertinent information on each one.

Bob Glover, baritone, lives in Saginaw with wife, Rosemary, and two children. Bob is a pharmacist and works long hours at his profession when he isn't singing. An active member of the Saginaw-Bay Chapter, Bob has sung with the Cross Towners, Key Rings and past District Champion Eversharps. He also sang lead with the Ringmasters and has directed the Saginaw-Bay Chorus. He also has been a Bush League Champion with the Eversharps. Bob has held several chapter offices, including president, and has been cited as the Barbershopper of the Year.

Bass Len Johnson lives in Bay City with his wife, Margie, and son. Len is a corporate accountant with Morley Brothers in Saginaw. He has been in a District Champion Quartet twice previously — first, with The Eversharps and then with The Original Choice. In addition, he has sung with the Delta Aires, Key Rings and Cross Towners, and has also directed the Saginaw-Bay Chorus. Further, Len has sung in four

Bush League Champion quartets. Among chapter responsibilities, Len has served as treasurer, administrative vice-president and he, too, has been cited as Barbershopper of the Year.

Tom Peil, lead, lives with his wife, Nancy, in Bay City. He is a licensed electrician and works with his dad in the family-owned business. Tom previously sang with The Ringmasters, and then served in the Army for two years. While in service he sang tenor in a quartet in Colorado. After his honorable discharge from the Army, Tom joined the Classmates in time for them to win the Bush League Championship. Tom has served as a board member and sings in the Saginaw-Bay Chorus.

Jim Johnson (not related to Len), tenor, joined the Classmates in July. He lives in Battle Creek with his wife, Julie, and four children. Jim is a sales representative with Commercial Equipment Company. Before coming to the Pioneer District, he sang with the Accents, The Lakeshore Harmony Four, and The Rare Blend quartets in the Cardinal District. Jim is an involved member of the Battle Creek Chapter, sings with the Cereal City Chorus, and is the administrative vice-president.

Long one of Pioneer District's busiest and most popular quartets, since winning the District Quartet Championship in Grand Rapids The Classmates have been even busier with rehearsals and performances.

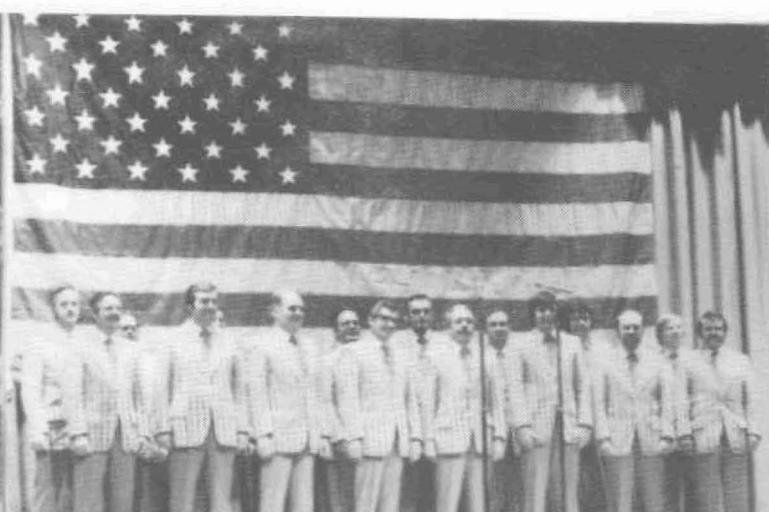
THE
CLASSMATES



DISTRICT CHAMPS get pointers in stage presence from Coach John Seeman.



Bob Glover, bari; Len Johnson, bass; Tom Peil, lead, and Jim Johnson, tenor.



Pontiac show features Innsideers, Schizo Phonics and Drop Chords

Valentine Day is a time for sweethearts and lovers, and there was enough of both for everyone at Pontiac's 33rd Annual Parade of Quartet Harmony February 14. The Innsideers, 2nd place Medalists from Dallas, joined the Schizo Phonics from Illinois District, and Pontiac's own Drop Chords to provide some great harmony for the evening. Dick McHugh and the Motormen Chorus added a big dimension to the program at Pontiac Northern High. Bill Pascher and his crew created another masterpiece for the stage setting — one of the best we have seen anywhere.

DETROIT NO. 1 CHAPTER S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Inc.

Presents

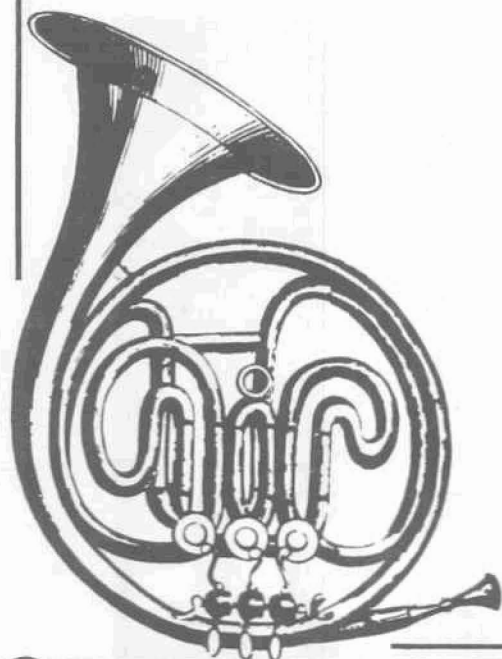
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Elsie Upton, 26630 Glendale, Redford Twp., Mi. 48239 — 313-533-2645 (After 5 p.m.)

Meet the Patch Chords

One of Pioneer District's newest entertaining quartets is the Patch Chords from the Lansing Chapter.

After a year of experience, these four guys are putting it all together.

Mr. Bassman, Doug Pearson, is the public relations director at Motor Wheel Corporation in Lansing. Doug has been an active Barbershopper for about four years. He joined the Lansing Chapter as the result of an A.F.A.

The newest and youngest Barbershopper is tenor Mike Johnson, an industrial engineer at Motor Wheel. Mike has the unique experience of singing in a registered quartet just three weeks after visiting the Lansing Chapter. He became a member two weeks later, last April. The timing was perfect for Mike, since the quartet's former tenor, Bill McCurdy moved to Alma and had to bow out. But it also speaks highly of Mike's talents. This 240-pound canary can really lay it in there.

Baritone Don Horton, a successful Realtor for LeValley Realty in Owosso, has been Barbershopping for about 10 years. Don sang in the Shy Guys quartet and then raised his own quartet at home. The Little Shavers were coached by Dad and performed many times in Owosso, Lansing, Grand Rapids, and Houghton Lake before hanging it up. The highlight of the Little Shavers' career was singing on the same stage with the Gentlemen's Agreement in Lansing in 1970. A real promoter of our craft, Don is now coaching a high school quartet in Owosso called the Tennage Tonics.

The old timer in the Patch Chords is lead Gene Johnson. Gene is an engineering draftsman for the State Highway Department. Gene has sung lead in many quartets — The Acousta-Chords, Fore-Some, Fundamentals, Rangefinders and Used Parts, just to name a few. Besides singing, Gene also collects Barbershop arrangements and record albums as a hobby.

The Patch Chords have something in common with the District Champion Classmates. Each quartet has two Johnsons in the group, though none of them are related.

In the last six months the Patch Chords have been busy making a name for themselves in the Lansing and Owosso area. Dressed in their flashy patchwork sport coats, they have entertained on Channel 6-TV, the Chuck Drake party line show on WITL radio, vaudeville shows, wedding receptions, Christmas parties, sidewalk sales and numerous banquets.

Their selections of "Sara Jane," "Mister Bassman" and "On Top of Old Smokey" add lots of comedy to their fast moving show routine.

The Patch Chords also take their Barbershop singing seriously. They have attended quartet clinics and are coached by that knowledgeable retired chairman of judges, Merle Clayton from Battle Creek.

In addition, the quartet has appeared in three contests. They finished 9th in Midland last Spring. A second place trophy was theirs at the 1975 Bush League Contest in Boyne City. And in Grand Rapids last fall they stepped up to the finalist spot, finishing 7th.

So these are the Patch Chords, four great guys always ready to ring a few chords and meet new friends.

Don Horton is contact man for the quartet. You can write Don at 649 N. Saginaw St., Owosso, Mi. 48867, or call him at home, 517/725-900; business 517/723-6707.

THE PATCH CHORDS



at quartet clinic in Lansing



Doug Pearson, bass; Don Horton, bari; Gene Johnson, lead, and Mike Johnson, tenor.

The Traverse City Chapter
proudly presents . . .
a Tribute to

The
**GENTLEMEN'S
AGREEMENT**

featuring SIX GREAT GENTLEMEN . . .

LAST TIME TOGETHER ON STAGE

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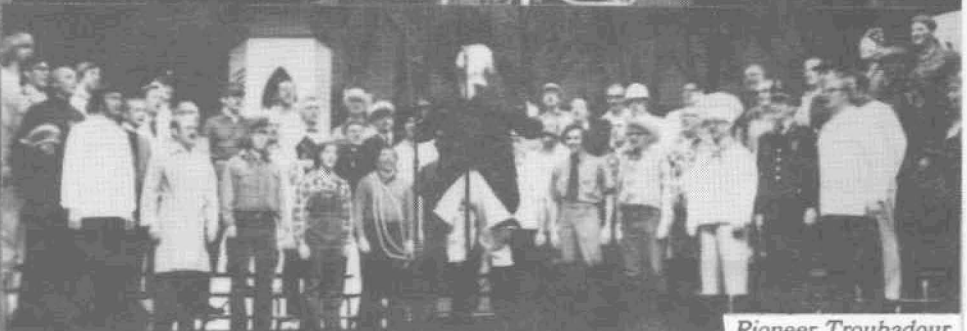
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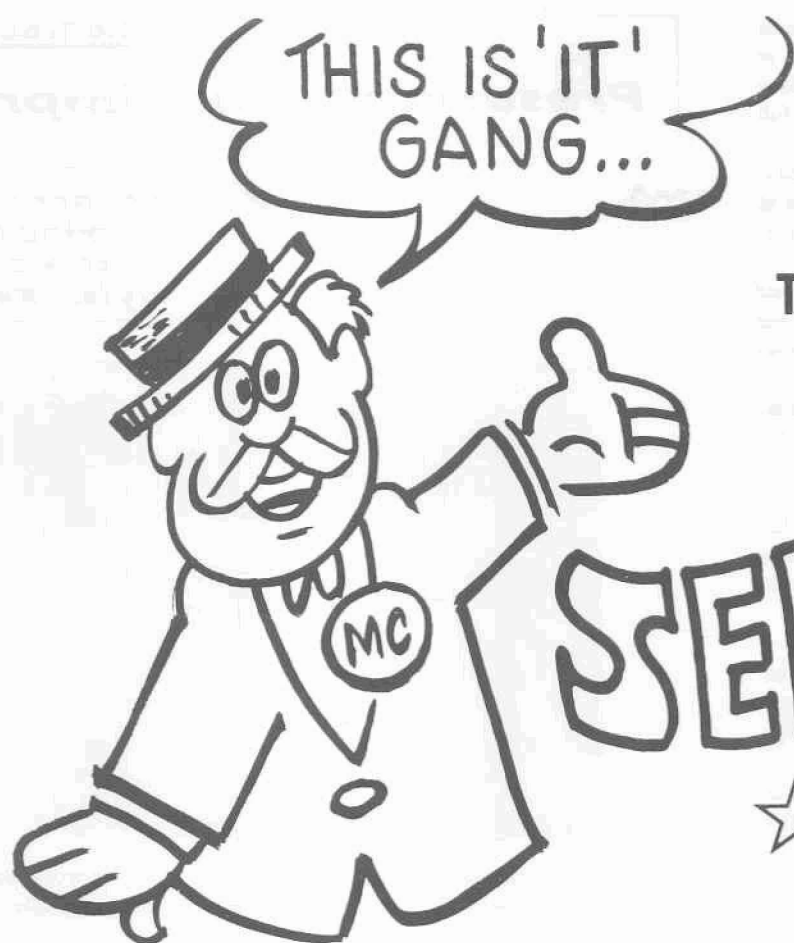
Yogi Bear says "Hey, Hey, Hey,
I Love the G.A.!!!
SPECIAL CAMPING RATES FOR G.A. WEEKEND!
Contact Jim Smith, 4050 Hammond Rd.,
Traverse City, Michigan 49684



Wayne's '76 Bicentennial Pitchpipe Parade continues a proud chapter tradition

Wayne Chapter fathers like to boast they "have never put on a bad show!" We can vouch for that, but has anyone ever put on a bad one? The two-night sellout at Our Lady of Mercy in Farmington March 5-6th certainly conforms to chapter standards, as the Wonderland Chorus produced a great evening of harmony. Headlining the show, which also used the "What a Country" theme, was the OK-4 from Oklahoma City, and The Sounds of Music, 1974 Sweet Adeline champs from Dayton, Ohio. Joining them were the chapter's Keepers of the Key and The Memory Laners, along with Two Fours on the Floor, Wayne's award-winning octet. Dave Caldwell and Steve Sutherland led the elaborately-costumed chorus through a lengthy repertoire of songs that must have set a record for time spent on the risers and aching feet! But the audience loved it and said so with a standing ovation near the end of the show.





The INTERNATIONAL

SEND OFF Show

— featuring —

1976 Pioneer District Chorus Champions*

Warren G. Harding Memorial 4

The Classmates

The Northern Hi-Lites

The VAGABONDS

and the Gentlemen's Agreement

with the Motor City Chorus *and*

a Mass Chorus from Zone 1 Chapters

Warren, Michigan

*To be determined April 24 in Lansing

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Preserving and improving

"We are not changing style. Keeping it the same. We are not trying to change style. In fact, we are trying to keep it the same style. Keeping it the same style."

When Mac Huff came to Pioneer District for a series of visitations in February the Troubadour sat in on a session at Holly-Fenton and later visited with Mac in Lansing where the Quartet and Coaches Workshop and Clinic was in full swing.

After touring the various classes being conducted by some of the Society's premier coaches, we had the good fortune to set down with Mac and Bill Butler and the following interview resulted.

Troub: Mac, most of our members know who you are and what you do in the Society, but with so much turnover in our membership, few of us know anything about your background. Could you tell us something about yourself?

Mac: I started Barbershopping 22 years ago in Evansville, Indiana. I was fresh out of college, choral major, quite interested in music, and somebody invited me down to a Barbershop chapter.

I had seen some Barbershop choruses and quartets — for instance, when I was in college (I went to school at Indiana State University in Terre Haute), and they had a chorus there. You might remember Carl Jones, Bill (Butler).

Carl Jones sang in one of the old quartets and he was a phenomenal guy — a phenomenal Barbershopper, and he was one of the big Barbershoppers of the day. He invited me down to the chapter a few times, but I was like most college guys . . . I was so busy!

I sang in a Barbershop quartet in high school, and sang in one in college. I was in one — I just didn't belong to the Society until I got out in 1955 and joined Evansville.

I fell in love with it, of course, and after I was there a month they made me chorus director, which I thought was kind of early. But they were disenchanted with what was going on and down on the directorate. I directed my chorus for a long time, sang in a number of quartets, district champions with the Funtastic Four, and went to International a few times. But I migrated to judging and became an arrangement judge, was an arrangement judge for a number of years.

I got very interested in coaching and writing materials. We had a very difficult time getting across some of these basic techniques. The things that are available right now in the Society, we were teaching 15 years ago. The only people that were listening were the Thoroughbreds and people of this nature.

Troub: Ed Gentry, perhaps?

Mac: Ed and I developed these things back about 15 years ago. It's an interesting story. Ed was a salesman, and he was an engineer, very interested in the science of sound, but he knew absolutely nothing about voice and music per se. This was my bag — vocal techniques and the whole bit.

So he said, "let's put these things together. We ought to prove one against the other, somehow." And we started working — nights! We spent a lot of time developing techniques, developing rules and this is when it all happened — back then.

These balance rules that are now in my manual are also taught in the C and J program, the whole bit. When we first developed those, we couldn't even get the C and J program to listen to them.

The new chorus manual picked it up — they picked up the same rules, the whole bit. But these rules were developed then, with science in mind, vocal techniques in



mind, and they became rules — truths, that we work with. We evolved with these things, began to mature musically.

I think our biggest problem in the Society today has been the same problem for a number of years — finding ways of

"... our biggest problem in the Society today . . . finding ways of singing together better."

singing together better. When you break it right down, that's what we are doing. We are not changing, we are not trying to change the style — in fact, we are trying to protect the style. Keeping it Barbershop! That's been our whole thing this past year. So from that first day when we started trying to find ways of singing together better we started developing these techniques. And it's kind of hard to understand, for there are many, many techniques.

You get into the area of diction, for instance, of how to sing words — how to sing words together; how to make words, themselves, singable so they become music. And how to balance sounds so that voices that are lower and less audible can be heard; how the voices that are higher and more audible can be backed off so they are not so overbearing to the sound. So that one thing happens — the emergence of the melodic line — that pure, simple melodic line is heard, is enhanced.

And this is difficult, because when an audience hears a good quartet sing, they hear this thing that sounds like there is no effort at all. This melody just soars. But that quartet is working with a lot of rules, a lot of techniques they have learned and practiced just to get this one thing across.

When it looks easy, it's like Bing Crosby. When he sings

Preserving and improving the Barbershop Style

"We are not changing, we are not trying to change the style—in fact, we are trying to protect the style. Keeping it Barbershop!"



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it looks so easy. And Perry Como, and Sinatra — Sinatra's a good example. Because this guy works harder on interpretation than any singer has ever worked. He's been written up in journals on interpretations. Such a fantastic talent in this area.

"This is what we are trying to do—bring this thing to the average Joe Barbershopper."

But my choice, as far as wanting to do something for the Society, was in cleaning this thing up so that it wasn't a seat-of-the-pants type of thing. We could take an average Joe who wanted to sing in a quartet, that maybe didn't have all the savvy, wasn't exposed to some of the good quartets of the day, or just didn't know anything, and he could take a few basic techniques and produce a sound that was not only pleasing to the listeners around him, in the shows and what-not, but also win contests with it. This is what we are trying to do — bring this thing to the average Joe Barbershopper.

The big quartets will take care of themselves. They will either hire the most expensive coaches, they will fly people in, they'll fly to them. But what about those guys out there in the boondocks?

We have a couple of quartets here, Bill. They love it just as much as the Gentlemen's Agreement love theirs. And they are not exposed to as many people, but they are exposed almost as many times. The Gentlemen's Agreement, one of the better quartets in the Society, will sing maybe on the weekends — two times.

These quartets will sing at the civic club, the PTA, the Kiwanis, maybe a couple of times a week and then sing in the chorus once or twice a month. So the exposure may be

ur visits Mac Huff

ng the Barbershop Style

inging, we are not
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ying to protect the
it Barbershop!"



it looks so easy. And Perry Como, and Sinatra — Sinatra's a good example. Because this guy works harder on interpretation than any singer has ever worked. He's been written up in journals on interpretations. Such a fantastic talent in this area.

**"This is what we are trying to do—
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not to as great a number of people, but the number of times, yes — and they need to do a lot of singing.

Sometimes it's a loosing proposition — it becomes a problem of hitting them awfully hard and awfully fast. One of the first revelations that I ever learned, is that when you walk in and have great things to tell a bunch of guys and you tell them, and you walk out after the meeting's over and you hear four guys back in the corner, and it's terrible.

They are belling and singing out of the side of their mouths, and you say, "Gosh, didn't you hear anything I said tonight?" But one guy did. And you left that seed — one man — and he began to work. When you come back the next time, you see some improvement — slight, but you see some improvement.

I think the best example of this — I saw some guys yesterday in a coaches training class. I was in Vancouver, way up in the northwest, and we had a quartet to stand up, and I had never seen this quartet in my life, and they stood up and sang just beautifully. Balanced nice, good diction, interpretation, the whole bit.

I stopped them afterward just to chat, and I said, "You fellows know something. You just don't stand up and do that — at least without me knowing that you are district champ or prelim champ or something." And they said, "Oh yes, that's our coach over there."

They pointed to a fellow who's been to Harmony College, to a number of coaching sessions, schools like this. You see, from one seed, where you plant that thing, comes four other guys you have no direct contact with. In fact, just indirect contact. That's what makes you feel better.

And also, another thing, which is the most amazing, pleases me so much. At Harmony College this summer at St. Joe, one of the fellows who is coming to Harmony College this year is a man named Dr. Van Christie. His great-grandfather, or grandfather, was with the Christie Minstrels — started the Christie Minstrels. Not the *new* Christie Minstrels.

He's a retired man, now, and lives in Santa Barbara, one of the leading vocal teachers in the United States today. He has written many of the books — I use one of his texts, *Expressions in Singing*. He said in the past five years he has noticed an improvement in vocal techniques in Barbershoppers to a point where he's interested. He's working. He's coaching a quartet out there.

Well, the past five years is when this thing started working.

I told Bob Johnson one thing I wanted to do is try to improve the vocal techniques of the entire Society to a point where you guys are singing prettier, singing better, under more control — where it doesn't sound like they're calling hogs or something. It sounds like music! And the effect of this now is evident, because this man is interested in it; because he is hearing this. So, we are quite ecstatic about this turn of events.

But as far as I'm concerned, the thing that got me in is my love of Barbershop. The thing that keeps me there is my love of Barbershop. Regardless of what happens, that renewal is going back to your room whether you are elated over the evening or disappointed — it makes no difference. The next morning you wake up and ask yourself, "Why am I doing it?"

Because I love Barbershop!"

*Saginaw-Bay holds St. Paddy's Day Thaw
with a Bicentennial touch*



Saginaw-Bay got a jump on the Irish with its annual St. Paddy's Day Thaw March 13 in Pulaski Hall. The cabaret-type affair featured the Sound Objective, The Classmates, the Warren G. Harding Memorial 4, and the Timberland Chordsmen directed by Len Johnson. Always a good singing chorus, the Chordsmen surprised us this year with a lot of new faces. Now they are not only singing great, they are singing with a lot of men on the risers. They wound up their portion of the show with a flag-waving salute to the Bicentennial. The show was followed by a fine dinner and dancing to a good live band with music for everyone. Jim Gross, chorus director was on the West Coast with the Gentlemen's Agreement, leaving Len with the duties. (Is there anyone in that chapter that can't direct a chorus?)

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(Payable to NATS, St. John's Episcopal Church)

Fran Durham visits Institute of Logopedics

When Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman Fran Durham visited the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kansas on February 26, he was given an excellent opportunity to observe the fruits of our efforts in behalf of the people at the speech and hearing center.

Holding a turn-of-the-century ear trumpet in the accompanying photograph, Fran compares it with a modern hearing aid worn by young Eric, a hearing impaired youngster. Dr. Roy F. Ray, Institute administrator, said that hearing and speech problems have been recognized for many years. Yet today, one of every ten Americans has a serious communications handicap. Ten million people have speech and language problems.

A member of the Oakland County Chapter, Fran, along with the 14 other district Logopedics chairmen attended a three-day seminar to learn more about the services and programs provided for the communicatively handicapped. The Logopedics chairmen serve as liaisons between the Institute and their districts in providing information and encouraging fund raising projects. The 300 patients at the Institute of Logopedics are from 31 states and four foreign countries. About 130 children, many of whom are multiply handicapped, live at the Institute and another 150 commute daily for



FRAN DURHAM, District Logopedics chairman (right), learns about the old and the new at the Institute of Logopedics from Dr. Roy F. Ray, administrator, and Eric, a patient from New York.

classes. Since 1934, the Institute has served over 38,000 individuals. That's slightly more than the some 37,000 members of our Society, which adopted the Institute as its International Service Project in 1964.

With the theme, "We sing . . . That they shall speak," Barbershoppers have raised \$1.5 million during the past 12 years. Annual contributions are now \$250,000 and growing each year.



THE NORTHERN HI-LITES — Bob Demchak, tenor; Dave Caldwell, lead; Lee Hanson, bass, and Bob Wisdom, baritone.

"A Barbershop Quartet"

Northern Hi-Lites exemplify versatility, harmony and great entertainment

Since the Northern Hi-Lites were formed in 1972 they have earned themselves a spot as one of the top Barbershop quartets ever to come out of the State of Michigan.

They are past Pioneer District Champions and three times have distinguished themselves as the alternate quartet to represent the district at the annual International competition.

Pleasing audiences of young and old alike, they tastefully mix show tunes and ballads with comedy and contemporary selections. They are well known as an extremely versatile entertainment group and are equally at home in front of thousands of people or just a few; in Detroit's Ford Auditorium or the local V.F.W. hall. They have performed for organizations large and small, for private parties and receptions, for church services and wedding ceremonies.

Each of the four members contributes to the arranging of their songs and two of them have sung in other district champion quartets in addition to the Northern Hi-Lites.

Their lead, Dave Caldwell, is currently directing the Wayne Chapter chorus. Lee Hanson, bass, is a past chorus director, having taken the Memphis, Tennessee chorus to the district champion level. Bob Demchak, tenor, is a past chorus director in his own right and baritone Bob Wisdom is in the process of becoming a quartet and chorus coach.

Combined, the four members of the Northern Hi-Lites represent over sixty years of activity in the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

The members come from the Oakland County, Detroit #1, and Grosse Pointe Chapters.

Bob Demchak and his wife Ginger (Moose) have two daughters, Holly, 16, and Heather, 14. Bob sings tenor with the Northern Hi-Lites. He began his affiliation with Barbershopping in March of 1969 with the Grosse Pointe Chapter where he maintains membership.

Bob has been associated with several quartets in the past including the Upper Crust, the C-Farers, the Car Tunes and the 1971 Pioneer District Champions, the Original Choice.

As with many Barbershoppers, Bob's musical training has been limited although from his exposure of singing the Barbershop style he has found a penchant for arranging music in four-part harmony. Bob's work has carried him through several of the auto-related industries, and he is presently employed as a prototype layout inspector with an independent certification company. The Demchaks reside in Warren.

Lead Dave Caldwell began Barbershopping in 1962 by joining a quartet before actually becoming a member of the Society. It became the nucleus for the Fostoria, Ohio Chapter of which Dave became president. He sang in several quartets and while with the Four Winds, had the honor of being voted the All-District Lead. He was director of the Bucyrus, Ohio Country Gentlemen Chorus for two years and upon moving to Gainesville, Georgia, became an assistant director for the Atlanta Peachtree Chorus.

After moving to Birmingham, Michigan, Dave became the assistant director of the Oakland County Wolverine Chorus and spent a year and a half searching for the right blend of voices which was to later become the Northern Hi-Lites.

Dave is now the director of the Wayne Chapter Chorus. He's known as "Doc" and is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, associated with DePorre Veterinary Hospital in Birmingham.

Dave and Barbara Caldwell have two children, Cathy and Doug. Cathy is a student at Michigan State and Doug is attending the Leelanau School at Traverse City.

Bob Wisdom, the baritone of the Northern Hi-Lites is in his 27th year as a Society member, but likes to add the four years he sang bass with his high school quartet, the Pastels. When a member of the Toledo Chapter, he sang with the Glass City Four, both before and after his stint in the service.

During military service he was a regular attendee of the Anchorage, Alaska Chapter meetings. His work with Michigan Blue Cross has moved him frequently and he has been an active member of the Pontiac, Lansing and Detroit #1 Chapters. In early 1972, the Voice Quad from the Detroit #1 Chapter formed with Bob as bass and earned the title of 1972 Pioneer District Novice Champs. The Northern Hi-Lites lost baritone Clint Bostick due to a job transfer and their search for a replacement ended in early January, 1973, when Bob eagerly agreed to sing with the 1972 District Champions.

Bob and wife Marcia have a daughter Shelly, 19, who is a sophomore at Western Michigan University.

Lee Hanson, bass, began Barbershopping in 1962 while living in Cincinnati. He joined the Clermont Clippers Chorus of Batavia, Ohio, and directed that chorus in 1965.

In 1970 he moved to Memphis, Tennessee where he joined the Dixie Cotton Boll Chorus and with three others, formed the Spellbinders quartet. They won Novice and 2nd place district trophies in the fall of 1970, were quarter-finalists at the International competition in New Orleans in 1971 and won the Dixie District Championship that fall.

Lee also directed the Cotton Boll Chorus to the District Championship in the Spring of 1972.

After being transferred to Detroit, he joined the Wolverine Chorus of the Oakland County Chapter and sang with them on the International stage in Atlanta in 1972. Then, as bass of the newly-formed Northern Hi-Lites, won the Pioneer District Championship that fall.

Lee lives in Birmingham, Michigan. He is married to the former Janet Good and has three children, Linda, 19, a sophomore at Michigan State, Katrina, 12, and Eric, 10.

Few, if any, district's have such a strong and capable quartet waiting in the wings to get a chance at International competition. Pioneer is indeed proud of the Northern Hi-Lites!

Notes from the MusEd Director



W. D. "Bill" Butler, *Director Music Education*
33748 Pawnee Drive Phones: Res. (313) 721-4747
Westland, Michigan 48185 Bus. (313) 383-3450

Since the last issue, two of our three planned clinics with International staff men have been held. Both were simply fantastic and very productive, as well as fun.

If you were one who missed them, just talk to any of the quartets, coaches or candidate coaches, directors or section leaders that did attend. I'm convinced you won't want to miss the next one.

Here are some suggestions for your use at chapter meetings and rehearsals, and they're not all mine — most of them come from experts.

Woodshedding, another one of our chosen goals for 1976, is not dead, but rather has been lying dormant in a lot of our chapters for the past few years. Woodshedding is a great chapter activity both as a group activity and also as a quartet activity.

Group woodshedding can be fun if it's done properly. The first problem that must be resolved is the acquisition of good woodshed tunes. The Society answered this problem some time ago and published two sets of woodshedding tunes: *Woodshedding Gems* (6368) and *More Woodshedding Gems* (6369). These are excellent vehicles and are fun to sing.

The next point to consider in group woodshedding is the actual procedure. The following procedure will provide excellent results if it is adhered to:

1—All singers should sing the chosen tune in unison at least three or four times (the key may have to be lowered somewhat to accommodate the lower voices).

2—Have the leads sing the melody and the words while the rest of the singers improvise some very basic harmony while observing these three basic rules:

- a. After assigning each part a beginning pitch, encourage them to stay on that pitch until they absolutely feel compelled to move.
- b. When the singer feels compelled to move, encourage him to move the shortest distance possible.
- c. To assist the singer in the hearing of the implied harmony of the melody, ask him not to sing the words, but rather an oo sound.

3—Sing the song again, and permit all singers to sing the words and also permit the harmony voices to improvise the harmony, they feel, as freely as they wish.

* * *

Chunks of unproductive time in chapter meetings can sap the energy of the men, kill momentum of a great Barbershop evening and create unhealthy chapters. Some of these chunks are represented by the following diagnoses:

DIAGNOSIS—The handing out of music during rehearsal Time.

Prescription: It helps to have a prepared folder of music for each man or at least music set out for him to pick up when he arrives. Manilla folders are handy and economical. Write the order of songs on a chalk board to save more time.



MAC HUFF visits Holly-Fenton



SOUND SPECTRUM at quartet clinic

DIAGNOSIS—Long verbal explanations.

Prescription: Make ONE clear, simple statement that gets to the essence of the problem or task at hand. Follow it immediately by activity of the group in trying to solve the problem or to accomplish that task. ONE instruction at a time works best. And, they know that they missed the note so they don't need a sermon, nor do they need a complete list of sins.

DIAGNOSIS—Discussion of a problem by a few while group sits idle.

Prescription: Though an unforeseen emergency may require such action, *Good Preparation* will almost completely eliminate the need for it. If the occasion arises, however, and no immediate obvious answer is available, quickly move to something involving the whole group and wait until break time or later for discussion and possibly a wiser decision will be made.

DIAGNOSIS—Working on a song too long.

Prescription: When you reach a point of satisfactory accomplishment in a portion of the song it may well be a perfect time to quickly move to another song. DON'T BEAT IT TO DEATH! Twenty (20) minutes is a maximum. More than that is an over dose. You may reach a great peak in 5 minutes and feel a learning experience has happened, then you should leap to another song. Partake of at least 5 songs per hour. Any less could result in apathy.

The health of your chapter is serious business and you may be the doctor that it needs.

2nd annual Jones Jaunt and Quartet Jamboree is set for July 16-18 with an ambitious schedule

What is so rare as that weekend in August 1975? — except, maybe, the 2nd Annual Jaunt to Jones, Michigan this coming July 16-18. The combining of our favorite hobby with free camping and a novice quartet jamboree was a real winner last year. It promises to be even greater this year as we can experience, first hand, the Bicentennial spirit in "Everybody's Old Home Town" — Jones.

Friday, July 16 will be a day for setting up camp, doing some woodshedding, family fun and rallying around the campfire. Camping facilities are primitive with electric hook-ups, water and porta-jons.

Saturday will be devoted to the jamboree and contests with registration for the Open Runoff starting at 8 a.m.

Quartet briefing and the Open Runoff will follow at 8:45 and 9 a.m.

Registration for the Jamboree prelims begins at 12:30 with the prelims set for 1:30 followed by the big Niles-Buchanan package show.

There will be time for everyone to visit "Everybody's Old Home Town" in Jones before registration for the finals at 7 p.m. The finals get under way at 8 p.m. and the show will be topped off with guest appearances by choruses and registered quartets in attendance.

At 11 p.m. there will be a Fireside Sing-Along and you are encouraged to bring your guitar, combs, spoons, kazoes or whatever.

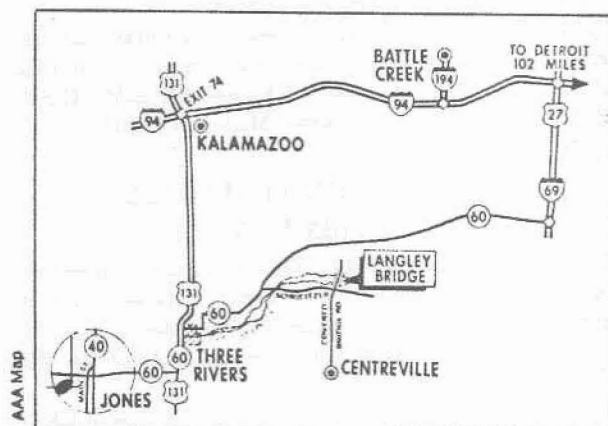
Sunday is reserved for rest and relaxation, more woodshedding, horseshoes, softball or just counting sheep.

A fee of \$1 will be required of each quartet participating in the Division II Runoffs or the Open Runoff to defray cost of the trophies presented to each member of the first three finishers in the Jamboree Finals. A special traveling trophy will be presented to the quartet whose presentation is judged most unique and/or humorous. Participants in both the prelims and finals are eligible for this award.

Ribbons will be awarded to all participants, and each quartet member participating in the Jamboree Prelims will receive a free pass to the Jones attractions — a \$4.50 bonus.

There is no charge for camping or admission to the performances. Donations will be encouraged to defray the costs incurred, with excess funds going to Logopedics.

Should the gods not favor Barbershoppers on Saturday (we'd say those were fightin' words had we not heard of Harrisville '75!), the contests will be moved to Sunday. If Jupiter Pluvius is still angry Sunday the competition will be moved inside and the show will go on, rain or shine!



A rather elaborate set of rules governs this affair, so we suggest you contact Jerry Davies, 210 Ironwood Drive, Niles, Michigan 49120 for full details. Jerry's phone at home is 616/684-3439, or call him at the office, 683-0720.

Division II has scheduled runoffs as follows:

Monday, May 17 — Niles-Buchanan vs. Kalamazoo in Centreville, hosted by the St. Joseph Valley Chapter. Tuesday, May 18 — Battle Creek vs. Jackson vs. Hudson in Jackson's First Congregational Church. Tuesday, May 25 — Fruit Belt vs. St. Joseph Valley in Niles, hosted by N-BC.

We're looking for a good turn out, so if you're sure about coming, drop us a note and we'll make sure you have a prime campsite. Address all correspondence to Jerry Davies at the above address.

So you have received your new District Directory? —well here's some changes

Pioneer District Secretary John M. McClinchey informs us that the new 1976 directory has inadvertently omitted the Chordwoods from the quartet roster.

Please add this fine foursome from the Alpena Thunder Bay Chapter to your directory for consideration. The Chordwoods may be contacted by writing to Bruce Vanden Bosch, 630 Thunder Bay Ave., Alpena, Michigan 49707, or you may call Bruce at 517/354-3732.

The listing for the Troubadour editor as found on page 6 of the new directory is correct. However, the listing on page 11 under the P.R.O.B.E. committee is incorrect. Please note that the editor and chairman of the P.R.O.B.E. committee resides in Highland Michigan — not Highland Park.

Quartet Changes

The following quartet changes for Pioneer District have been forwarded to the Troubadour by Robert D. Johnson, Director of Music Education and Services.

New Quartets

MASTER KEYS — Richard Metz, 6940 Darby Rd., Ida, Michigan 48140, Monroe 160.

Unrenewed Registrations

GOLDEN OLDIES BACK PORCH MAJORITY

Changes

THE VAGABONDS — Clay Shumard, 11331 Buffalo, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

EVIL COMPANIONS — Robert Simmons, 5525 Wolf Lake Rd., Grass Lake, Michigan 49240.

WANTED—2-3 one-way charter or group flight tickets to San Francisco. Call collect (517) 263-7093.

Busy Jackson Chapter joins local Rotary Club in benefit for Logopedics, Crippled Children

The Jackson Chapter is extending an invitation to all Barbershoppers and fans to join them for a big Quartet Jamboree Friday, May 14 in Parkside High School auditorium.

The Jamboree, featuring Grandma's Boys from Illinois District and the Harmony Hounds from Battle Creek, is a joint venture of the chapter and the Jackson Rotary Club to benefit the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kansas, and the Crippled Childrens Society of Jackson.

Tickets for the benefit are \$4 each. You may purchase tickets, or a patron ad by sending your money and information to Dan LaBumbard, Jackson Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., 1113 Greenwood Avenue, Jackson, Michigan 49203.

Public Television stations show Kansas City film

Channel 56, Detroit's Public Television outlet, filmed the 1974 International Convention at Kansas City as part of its Festival '76 celebration during the month of March.

Other Public stations in the state also carried the film recently.

The Troub editor was invited to a press preview at Channel 56's studios and enjoyed a pleasant visit with the fine people who staff this station.

We hope that our members have written letters of appreciation to the stations carrying these telecasts. In behalf of the Pioneer District, we wish to express our thanks.

The BBC documentary captured the spirit and flavor of the convention and contests in splendid fashion.

**We
get
letters!**



To the editor:

"What's in a name?" as Shakespeare once said. Well, when the name is Roger, like yours, and I use the name "Rog" for my billing as you see in the enclosed ad, and one of your writers botches it up on page 13 of the last Troubadour, a correction or two is due.

The "dope . . . err, information" that you want is as follows:

Our Annual Night of Harmony of the Alpena Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc., will be held May 15, 1976 in the Alpena High School Auditorium. The quartets performing will be the Harmony Hounds, the Chordwoods, the Timbre Tones, and the Carriage Trade. Price for tickets has not been decided, but they can be obtained by writing the chapter. A Turn-of-the-Century Vignette and a 1950's Spoof will add a change of pace to the program.

I hope another article in the Pioneer Troubadour will state these corrections, and one chapter secretary can rest easier.

Bari-truly yours,
"Rog" Phillips

Thanks for the cx, Rog. The writer that botched it up was your editor, who needs a change in bifocals. Somehow, our proofreading is suffering, also.—Ed

CHAPTER NOTES

Battle Creek

The Cereal City chapter hasn't been heard from too much as of late, due to our lack of someone to do the reporting. We hope that this will be rectified in the near future, and that we will have a current report each month.

The chorus put a lot of work into the new music of the Society's "Salute to America", for our annual show at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium. The show, scheduled for March 27, will be a matter of record by the time this is printed. The 3rd place International Boston Common headlined the package along with the Cereal City Chorus, Harmony Hounds, Four D Minors, and Millionaires, all local quartets.

We tried the package on a smaller audience at Woodrow Junior High in February. This is an annual affair that we do jointly with the current 8th grade class. All proceeds are split down the middle. Our share, which we should be near the \$200 mark and will go to the Building Fund at International as a Chapter donation.

At this writing, we are enjoying quite a few guests at our meetings and hopefully will turn all of them into members. The enthusiasm and talent they have are certainly welcome and could make Battle Creek the one to watch at District this Spring. Hope to see you all there in April

—D. L. Burrill

Boyne City

Boyne City has been extra busy since my last report. We made our annual Christmas visits to the Grandvue Medical Care facility at East Jordan, and the Litzenburg Place (apartments for the elderly) where the occupants served us with cookies and coffee. The chorus was greatly appreciated at both places.

We held a Ladies Night, in conjunction with installation of officers at Anthony's Inn. The officers were installed by Area Counselor Fran Sanborn of Traverse City, who did a fine job.

Since Christmas we have been working our heads off on new music for the Bush League, which is May 1st. Ed Thurston, who is chairman of the event, is doing a fine job organizing all the details to make it another bang-up Bush League; our 30th. Quartets should send their entry to Raymond Speltz, Box 1135, Boyne City, list names of members and part they sing. Our feature quartet this year is the Soundtracks, who were 6th place at Indianapolis, and I am sure you will love them. Headquarters will be Anthonys Inn, formerly Dilworth Hotel.

I am departing for the Sunny(?) West tomorrow. The Ski people love the snow, but I am ready for a change.

—Loton V. Willson

Au Sable Valley

Our ever-optimistic new president, Bob Hamp, assures me that yes, we *will* have something PRINTED IN THE TROUBADOUR during this bicentennial year!! (Did not put any money on it, however.)

Some exciting activities coming up. Of particular interest is an invitational chorus competition which we will be hosting in the fall. Sort of a "bush league" for small choruses. More details later!!

Other scheduled items include performances at the mushroom festival at Harrison, Gaylord's Alpenfest, and Milltown at Grayling. Will also have an AFA, probably in May.

Our thanks to the Harmony Helmsmen, Graylords, Music Man quartet, and Al Piggot for a most enjoyable installation night. Congratulations to Dick Manley, 1975 "Man of the Year".
—Earl Whaley

Detroit

January is historically Detroit No. 1's month to host their annual Ladies' Night and this January was no exception. Over 75 couples were present for an evening full of fun, fellowship, food, dancing, and Barbershopping. Entertainment was provided by the Warren G. Harding Memorial Four, the Four-Fits, the Four Lyres, and the Motor City Chorus. The highlight of the evening however, was provided by Pioneer District President John Gillespie who inducted our 1976 officers and then announced that our Barbershopper of the year was Rene LeBlanc and that the Lady of the Year was none other than Rene's wife, Rose.

In February, the Motor City Chorus sang for the Ridgeway Ontario Kiwanis Club, hosted our umpteenth Octet Contest (Detroit No. 1 finished 1st, Wayne 2nd and Oakland County 3rd), and were honored to have Mac Huff conduct an enlightening craft session in our rehearsal hall. We were additionally honored by a visit from Hugh Ingrahm, S.P.E.-B.S.Q.S.A.'s Director of Communications, who presented a Century award to Detroit No. 1.

March brought the O'Frothingslosh Auction Quartet Contest with Logopedics coming out the winner as usual; a craft session with Joe Liles; and continued preparations for the San Francisco contest and a heavy schedule of "performances".

We're looking forward to April when the Motor City Chorus will journey to Lansing to enjoy *watching* the Spring Contest as out-going District Champs and then singing on the evening show. We hope to see all of our Pioneer District friends there and wish all who are competing good luck and lots of overtones.

Much of our time is being spent preparing for two fundraising shows that will help defray the expenses we will incur on our trip to San Francisco. The Pioneer District Send-off Show will be held May 21st at Fitzgerald High School in Warren (9 Mile and Ryan). It will feature the Warren G. Harding Memorial Four, the Vagabonds, the Gentlemen's Agreement, the Motor City Chorus and those choruses from Division One who elect to participate. Plans which are now being finalized indicate a good chance of having a 300-350 man massed chorus to round out the program.

Our "Bach to Barbershop" concert will take place on June 4 and will be a unique treat for both Barbershop and sym-

phony fans. The concert, which will be held in Detroit's Masonic Auditorium, will feature the Bowling Green University Symphony Orchestra, the Vagabonds, the Gentlemen's Agreement, and the Motor City Chorus. We hope all of our friends are planning to attend these two excellent programs.

By the way, since Oakland County has graciously agreed to reschedule their "Jug Night" to June 11 to remove the conflict with our "Bach to Barbershop" show, Detroit No. 1 has cancelled its normal June Friday night activity and has asked our membership to support Oakland County's "Jug Night". We hope that other chapters will support this fine program, too.
—Chuck Simmons

Flint

It has been a long while since any news on Flint Chapter has appeared in the Troubadour. Well, we are still alive and singing the old songs, but of late, maybe with a little more enthusiasm. The reason for the renewed vim and vigor is the fact that we are starting the new year with a fresh new slate of officers (three of whom attended COTS) and new men sitting on the Board of Directors, with bright and positive ideas.

This we have coupled with the renewed chorus direction of Fred Kienitz. Fred (of tired ankles fame) has agreed to help us in the directors capacity with the assistance of Jack Lyons through our annual spring show, which is set for April 10, 1976, at the Davison High School in Davison, Michigan. The after-glo will be at St. John's Parish Hall, also in Davison. We have a good show lined up this year with Pioneer District's current champs, "The Classmates", along with the "Four Fits" from down Detroit way and the Sweet Adelines championship quartet, "The Sound Stylists."

Plans are being made for many singing performances this year with new and different chapter activities and visitations scheduled. Our "Flint's Tones" quartet has just returned from the quartet coaching clinic which was held in Lansing and they really could not say enough about how great it was. The staff was tops, of course with guys like Mac Huff, Merle Clayton, Glen Van Tassel, Ed Webber, Ron Whiteside, and others, how could it be anything other than tops?

Bill Butler was in charge of the clinic and the guys claimed he really outdid himself this time. It is going to take time and hard work for everything that was covered to sink in, but we are all looking for the best in these four promising guys.

We are planning to hold an audition for admission around the first of May and really get our chapter growing and going again, as it should be.

Our Administrative Vice President, Lee Gross, will be heading up this event and it will undoubtedly be a successful one. Lee has also lined up a "singing performance" (that does sound better, Bill Butler!) at the Eastland Mall in Flint on May 21st which will even put a little of that green stuff in our chapter treasury.

We are fortunate to have many talented and dedicated men like Lee in our chapter and with everyone pulling in the same direction, and the same goal in mind — "A better and busy chapter in '76" — we will have a great year in the Flint Chapter.
—Gary L. Wilber

CHAPTER NOTES

Holly-Fenton

The Holly-Fenton Chapter has been meeting regularly at the Hotel Fenton but is now changing its meeting place to the Fenton Township Civic Community Center which is on Long Lake Road north of Fenton.

We recently held a very successful "Show-Glow", at which the Sound Spectrum, Classmates, and Sound Objectives were featured. Also appearing were the Liberty Belles, a Sweet Adeline Double Quartet; the Ransom Notes, and the Holly-Fenton Lakelanders Chorus. We now have twenty-four (24) paid-up members and at least one likely prospect. We should be off associate status even by the time this issue of the Troubadour comes out. Also, we are definitely going to have a newsletter.

—George R. Darrah

Muskegon

We are happy to announce that we have three new members. We would like to welcome Don Wood, John Simpson and Harold Smith to the Muskegon Chapter.

The installation of officers was held on Jan. 27 and officiated by Jim Horton, area counselor from Grand Rapids. At this event several quartets from Grand Rapids and Muskegon displayed their abilities.

As of last September, we have acquired a new meeting place at the Pontaluna Elks Club of Muskegon. We truly are well received here and we thank the Elks.

Our plans for the future include a week end in Baldwin. This is an annual event.

Our chorus, as a public service, has volunteered to sing at several nursing homes in the Muskegon area in February and March.

—David Abbgly

Oakland County

Oakland County is on the move . . . under our new director, Don Barrett, who is doing a super job with the chorus. We just finished our bicentennial show, "What a Country". This was a real fun show, lots of spoofing, good songs, comedy, and a lovely "Statue of Liberty".

Our chapter quartets, The Innocent Bystanders, With One a-Chord, That Good Old Gang, and The Square Root, did a fine job.

The headliners were the International Medalists, The Vagabonds, who just get better and better. Our 1975 Pioneer District Champions, The Classmates, and the 1975 Pioneer District Novice Champions, The Sound Objective, were also featured. What a Show . . .

Dick Van Dyke, our Program Vice President, has the monthly Friday Fun Nights going great guns, having the meetings planned well in advance. This month was the Green Horn Contest, and as always, proved to be lots of fun in the true Woodshedding Tradition.

If you want to have fun and lots of singing, come to the Oakland County Chapter meetings.

—Cy Pelican

Saginaw-Bay

We conducted a very successful AFA in February. We gained between 10 and 15 new members, which shows that an AFA will not fail if the suggested International procedure is followed. Our membership is now between 45 and 50.

March 13 we held our annual St. Paddy's Day Thaw which consisted of a Barbershop show and dance followed by a late lunch. We had excellent entertainment by The Sound Objective, The Warren G. Harding Memorial 4 and The Classmates, as well as our chapter chorus.

We enjoyed a very informative and entertaining evening February 26 when Mac Huff visited our chapter.

There have been some changes in our board since our February news article was written. Al Shepherd is our new AVP replacing Dick Mueller. Bob Deming is our PVP replacing Leonard Johnson. Dave Szutkowski and Leonard Johnson are board members.

We have six singing jobs scheduled between April 1 and June 20. At present we are spending one hundred percent of our time on our contest songs.

The Classmates have been busy singing around the area — in Grayling for a community program, in Flint for the Flint Chapter show and the Battle Creek Centennial. They also judged the Pre-Boyne contest sponsored by the Oakland County Chapter.

—Don Miller

Wayne

Our big 2-night show was a complete success in every respect. The house was filled to capacity both nights and we feel safe in saying once again that Wayne Chapter has never put on a bad show. It was quite a thrill to have the audience rise to its feet for a standing ovation after the final number.

Once more Dale Collins designed a superb setting of the highest professional quality, and the script and continuity was written by Tom Pollard.

Under the guidance of our directors, Steve Sutherland and Dave Caldwell, the Wonderland Chorus has developed a new sound upon which we hope to improve as time goes on. We also are continuing our bi-weekly sessions with Dr. Jerry Smith.

A few days after this writing Wayne is hosting the annual quartet contest with Grosse Pointe. Maybe those bums won't win this time??

On Friday, March 12, Wayne held an auditions program at Westland Shopping Center resulting in five new men. On March 26 we had an engagement at Briarwood Mall in Ann Arbor.

Recently the Wonderland Chorus received some favorable mention in the "Contact 10" column of The Detroit News after we agreed to put on a show for the shut-ins at Hendire Convalescent Home in Plymouth. The date for this program has just been postponed 'til May 4 due to the flu scare.

We are now working extra hard on our contest numbers for the Spring Contest in Lansing. After that we will appear on the International Send-Off Show and repeat our Bicentennial show for the Northville Rotary Club in May.

If you can't visit us at our regular meetings, at least come see us in our hospitality room at Holiday Inn in Lansing.

—Morrie Giles

Down Our Way

with the Editor



When we started writing for the April issue of the Troubadour, right after putting the February version to bed, we had every intention of getting it in the mail before the Spring Convention. Sometimes, the best laid plans of mice and mortal come acropper of some unexpected pitfalls, and that's about what happened to us.

While we realize that it is results, and not excuses, that count, we must apologize to our chapter correspondents who are bound by a deadline on the 15th of the month prior to the month of publication.

We have never set an exact date to get our material on the press, nor do we intend to do so. However, we have managed to get in the mail during the month shown on the cover, and that leaves room for the flexibility required to best serve the needs of the District.

For the benefit of these chapter reports, we are moving the deadline to the 25th of the month prior to publication, hoping this will enable them to better report their news. We will get around to changing the dates in our inside mast next issue. This same deadline will apply to other materials as well. We hope this will be satisfactory to all concerned.

By the time most of you receive this month's publication the Spring Convention will be history and we will know what quartets will be representing us in San Francisco.

With thanks to the Vagabonds, Pioneer will have three quartets representing us this year. The Society, in an important rules change this year, decided to let those districts having medalist quartets from the previous year send an extra quartet to the big one. The Vagabonds still must qualify at Lansing, of course, but once this requirement has been met, they will be given a bye and thus Pioneer will have its three entrants.

Since the Happiness Emporium can not compete further, and this editor has been informed by the Boston Common that they will not be competing this year, that means there are only two quartets left in the competition at Indianapolis that finished higher in the standings.

The prospects for the Vagabonds in the big gold rush never looked better, and our hopes run high for this fantastic quartet.

If there is anyone in the district that hasn't heard by now, the Gentlemen's Agreement will be hanging up the pitchpipe at Traverse City on June 19. More details on this can be found elsewhere in this publication.

In Grand Rapids at last Fall's convention, Bob Whitledge told us of their pending retirement while we were enjoying a bit of antics by the 4-Fits in the Oakland County Chapter hospitality room following the contests.

Needless to say, everyone in the district, and the Society,

for that matter, will be saddened by their departure from the Barbershop scene. Thousands of us feel this is the finest quartet the Society has produced, and certainly the most exciting. We know of no other group that can fire up an audience from the opening pitch to the last tag like our Gentlemen. The consistent great showmanship and quality of their music has set a standard for all quartets and we are deeply indebted to them for this legacy.

This has been an extraordinarily long season for one weary editor, yet it has been enjoyable to the extent that we have been privileged to enjoy so many great shows and performances, both in and out of the district. We have also met many new fine faces in every chapter where we have visited, and regret that time and travel limitations have not permitted us to visit every chapter. This we would love to do.

We traveled to Lansing to catch some of the flavor of the great coaching clinic that Bill Butler and Mac Huff conducted there. Pioneer quartets were exposed to some of the greatest coaching available anywhere, and those who participated reaped the benefits.

We did not get to make Joe Liles' visit, and consequently, we missed getting to meet Joe and get acquainted.

From reports we have received, however, it was a great session for our chorus directors and assistants, plus the others who were in attendance.

There is still time to enjoy a lot of Barbershopping in the district before the summer hiatus.

On the heels of the Spring Convention comes the Boyne Bush League's 30th revival. Kalamazoo has a show schedule May 1, also. Alpena has it's annual show on the 15th, and the big Send-Off show at Warren Fitzgerald will provide everyone an opportunity to see and hear some of the best talent we have, Friday, May 21.

Then, on June 4, the "Bach to Barbershop" show comes to Detroit's Masonic Temple. This will be the first time for this format in our district, and will feature the Bowling Green State Symphony Orchestra, along with the Motor City Chorus, the Gentlemen's Agreement, and the Vagabonds. See the ad in this issue for details. For those not too familiar with the location of the Temple, it is located at 2nd and Temple Avenue, near downtown. Coming in from the north on the John Lodge expressway, business I-696, you can take the Grand River exit, stay left at the top of the ramp and take Temple for a short distance. Temple becomes one-way at this point, so you must turn right one block and back left one block, then left again to the Masonic Temple. There is lighted parking in the area.

Of course, the Troub will be in San Francisco in July. And we might even make Detroit's Boblo Moonlight for the first time this year. But that will be difficult, if we are to be in Traverse City the next night for the tribute to the GA!

Then there's the St. John's Autumn Harmony festival at St. John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak September 24-25. This is the third year the church has gone Barbershop, and they pack the big sanctuary every year. No wonder — with talent like this year's Star Spangled Harmoy is featuring they can't miss. The show headlines The Vagabonds, The Front Office Four (the current Queens of Harmony), the Harmonica Men Trio (6th place in world competition), and the ever-beautiful Oakland County Wolverine Chorus.

WJR's award-winning Mike Whorf will narrate this special Bicentennial presentation.

Coming Events



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Parade Clearance to:
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Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

—1976—

- MAY—
1 Bayne City Bush League
1 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
14 Jackson Chapter benefit
14-15 Holland Chapter Show
15 Alpena Chapter Show
21 International Send-Off, Warren

- JUNE—
4 "Back to Barbershop", Detroit
19 Tribute to GA, Traverse City

- JULY—
5-10 International Convention, San Francisco
18 Detroit No. 1 Moonlight Cruise
24 Les Cheneaux Chapter Show
31 Au Sable Chapter Show

- OCTOBER—
8-10 District Convention, Grosse Pointe
23 Jackson Chapter Show
30 Fruitbelt Chapter Show

- NOVEMBER—
6 Detroit No. 1 Parade

—1977—

- JANUARY—
22 Pontiac Chapter Show

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.

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