



Greetings*
of the Season

and best wishes for the New Year



pioneer
TROUBADOUR

December 1976



Fran Durham, Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman
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I want first to congratulate the chapters who sent their Logopedics Chairman, or a representative, to the Logopedics Meeting Saturday morning, October 9th at the Hyatt Regency. Congratulations to Battle Creek, Detroit #1, Grand Rapids, Grosse Pointe, Jackson, Milford, Monroe, Oakland County and Wayne. The big question is — where were the chairman or delegates from the other sixteen chapters represented at the convention?

Every chapter in the District has a Logopedics Chairman. Twenty-five of the thirty-two chapters in the District were represented at the House of Delegates Meeting which was held at the same time as the Logopedics Meeting. Letters were sent to each chapter chairman, a month ahead of time, announcing the meeting and requesting that they be present. I know there were chorus rehearsals, quartet warm ups, etc., but still nine chapters found a way to send a representative to the meeting. If they found a way, the other sixteen chapters could have found a way.

Despite the small turn out, it was a good meeting and there was a profitable sharing of ideas. The Grand Rapids Chapter deserves particular recognition. In a letter to the Pioneer District Board of Directors an offer was made to contribute, on an annual basis, a refrigerator-freezer as the District's gift to the Logopedics Auction held at the International Convention each year. Needless to say, the Board readily accepted this very generous offer. I would like to add my heartfelt thanks to Grand Rapids for this gesture.

While I am still very much concerned about the slow-down in contributions to Logopedics, \$4,058.50 was contributed by six chapters and two quartets at the Logopedics meeting. I certainly hope that chapters who had no contributions to make stayed away from the meeting because of this.

As I have emphasized before, while we are happy to accept contributions to Logopedics at the Fall and Spring Conventions, I would much prefer to see the money sent in as it accumulates. Accepting Logopedics contributions was certainly not the purpose of the meeting.

Another Logopedics Meeting will be scheduled at the Spring Convention. I would expect that it will be at 9:00 a.m. Saturday morning and will run concurrently with the House of Delegates Meeting. The Logopedics chairman should make every effort to be at this meeting. We need to get to know each other. We need to share ideas. If you can't be there, send some one in your place.

Some of you have been asking about the amounts of monies contributed to Logopedics by your chapters. Bill Fitzgerald, of International, advises me that there have been some computer foul-ups so some chapter accounts may not

be entirely accurate. I will be publishing, at the end of the year, a chapter-by-chapter breakdown as well as quartet contributions to Logopedics. Keep that money coming in! We're still a long way from the \$13,500 the Pioneer District is committed to!

Checks for Logopedics should be made payable to:

"Harmony Foundation"

and sent directly to:

D. William Fitzgerald, SPEBSQSA Inc.
 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141

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

Kenosha announces singing order for Philadelphia chorus contest

Detroit No. 1 will be singing in the 10th spot at the 1977 chorus contest in Philadelphia on Saturday, July 9, as a result of a "draw" held by the executive committee at Kenosha to determine the order of appearance.

The complete order is as follows:

1. San Diego, Cal.
2. Houston, Tex.
3. St. Joseph, Mo.
4. Rochester, N.Y.
5. Nashville, Tenn.
6. Miami, Fla.
7. Racine, Wis.
8. Cincinnati-Western Hills, O.
9. Portland, Ore.
10. Detroit No. 1, Mich.
11. Louisville, Ky.
12. Livingston, N.J.
13. Scarborough, Ont.
14. Concord, Mass.
15. Bloomington, Ill.

With the number of "veteran" choruses involved in this lineup, Kenosha comments that it "promises" to be one gigantic singing battle."

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Quartet Vignettes:

High school musical leads to promising quartet career for Personal Expression

When Ithaca High School staged the musical "Damn Yankees" in the Spring of 1975, the director asked four of his students to do a Barbershop arrangement of "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" as a prelude to the opening curtain.

Although never having done this before, Mike Bowen arranged it and the four young men who sang it became hooked on the Barbershop style.

That was the beginning of Gratiot County Chapter's Personal Expression.

Jerry MacLaren's father belonged to the Gratiot County Chapter and had some music which the quartet borrowed along with some records they played which, as the quartet puts it, "only fanned the flames."

19-year-old Mike, who sings tenor with the Personal Expression is the music man of the quartet. A sophomore at Central Michigan University, he is majoring in music. He sings in the University choir, is a member of a gospel quintet known as the Ambassadors, and directs a Methodist Youth choir.

Jeff Rayburn, the lead, is 18. He is a senior at Ithaca High School, and sings in the high school choir, Madrigals, in two church choirs and is a drum major of the high school band.

Jerry, also 18, sings the baritone and is a senior at Ithaca High, where he is a member of the high school choir, and Madrigals. He is active in church choir and plays trombone in the Ithaca High band.

Greg Brown, the bass, is 19, and is a sophomore at Michigan State University majoring in Hotel Management. He participated in the complete music program while at Ithaca High School and is currently singing with the Ambassadors gospel quintet.

Jeff Rayburn, in a summary prepared at the request of the Troubadour, puts it in the following words:

"As the summer wore on, we would practice two or three times a week and we sang for the usual local groups of Lions, Rotary, etc. We also attended the weekly Gratiot County Chapter meetings and were asked to sing at their annual parade.

"We then decided to attend the Fall District Convention in Grand Rapids where we were thrilled by being asked to sing at various Hospitality Rooms, meeting and receiving encouragement from many quartets and Barbershoppers.

"We joined the Gratiot County Chapter in January 1976 and registered our quartet in April 1976. We were named the Bi-Centennial Quartet of Gratiot of Gratiot County and sang at numerous Bi-Centennial functions throughout the county during the summer.

"The summer was climaxed by a beautiful week at Harrisville where we sang, sang and sang some more. At the end of this week we decided to enter the Fall District competition in Dearborn and knew we would need a "fifth" man if we were to achieve any success at all. We were fortunate to have Jim Gross, former member of the Gentlemen's Agreement, agree to work with us. In spite of the final results of



THE PERSONAL EXPRESSION

Gregg, bass Jerry, bari Jeff, lead Mike, tenor

Contact Jeff at (517) 875-4936
319 N. Jeffery Ave., Ithaca, Michigan 48847

the competition, leaving us in 10th place, we feel the extra hours of rehearsal and encouragement from Jim has improved us 110 percent.

"We have always enjoyed singing but since we have experienced the 'Barbershop Style', we have met none but the finest people who always have a word of encouragement and a smile."

The 10th place finish at Dearborn Jeff mentions, in case you missed it in the last issue, was the result of a 104-point time penalty, a costly error which kept them from making the finals and perhaps the Novice crown. That title went to another fine young foursome, Monroe's Country Estate, with a solid 6th place performance.

Thirteen seconds is a brief span of time, indeed, but that thirteen seconds in the life of the Personal Expression is one brief moment they are not likely to forget too soon. Though it brought disappointment, it also brought them closer to their fellow Barbershoppers in the form of many "words of encouragement", following the the publishing of the results. It also brought a renewed dedication on the part of each member of the quartet, and a promise to be back when the contest wars are renewed again next spring.

The Troubadour and Pioneer Barbershoppers everywhere salute the Personal Expression — four fine young men in harmony with a great future in the wonderful world of Barbershop singing.

OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER, Pioneer District
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Make checks payable to Oakland County Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

The Galaxies go to Harmony College

Question: How much Barbershop can a quartet absorb in one week?

Answer: If you had been with the Galaxies at Harmony College, you would have known.

Pioneer's '73-'74 District Champs were the recipients of a generous dosage of Barbershop schooling August 8-15 as students at Harmony College on the campus of Missouri Western College, St. Joseph, Missouri.

After months of planning, the guys from Grand Rapids put in their application eight months in advance. At first they were far down the list of quartets waiting to be accepted to the school, but as time went by, many quartets were forced to change their plans and the Galaxies were finally advised that they were "in".

The trip west was a two-day affair with an overnight stop at Peoria, Illinois, the former home of lead Bob Buffham. While in Peoria, Bob had a reunion with his old quartet, The Expressmen, and the Galaxies sang for their hosts, Mr. and Mrs. Don Sommers.

Early Sunday morning the group climbed into the 4-wheeler and headed on to St. Joseph.

Arriving at Missouri Western, they were greeted by a welcome sign carrying a friendly warning — KEEP IT BARBERSHOP! Sometime during the week some wag scrambled the sign to remind Headmaster Bob Johnson of a minor error. The sign read: KEEP IT SHARPER, BOB for the remainder of the week.

The dorms were modern, as were all the buildings on campus.

Tenor Chuck Buffham remarked that "the facilities were all less than ten years old and were as good as custom made for us."

"The food was great and walking across campus to class helped to work off some of our meals", Bass Bernie Poelman explained. The hungry Barbershoppers consumed 500 gallons of ice cream during the week, and Bari Al VanIwaarden personally accounted for a sizeable portion.

Breakfast started the day at 6:45 — that's A.M., guys! The quartet then reported for a two-hour coaching session beginning at 8 a.m., followed by another session from 10 to 12.

Each session found the Galaxies working with a different coach from the staff of twelve, covering an area necessary for the musical growth of the unit.

Lunch at noon and a browse through the Barbershop shop or the college bookstore filled the hour and a half set aside for lunch. Mealtime also was a great chance to learn more from some of the college staff — people like Bob Johnson, Mac Huff, Dave Stevens and Joe Liles.

The general session at 1:30 p.m. brought together 500 Barbershoppers under Bob's direction, going through the music that would be sung on the Saturday night show.

Two more hours of coaching followed from 2:30 to 4:30, after which came an hour of vocal technique with Mac Huff. Dinner and singing tags with three guys from different parts of the country passed the time from 5:30 until the next coaching session at 7 p.m.

At 9, another general session wrapped up the days scheduled activities and then everyone headed for the cafeteria for ice cream and back to the dorms for guess what? —



A vocal session with Burt Staffen



Pioneers at Harmony College
Will you be in the picture next year?

Right! More Barbershop harmony. In case you weren't counting that adds up to 11 hours of instruction each day.

Working with the coaches at Harmony College was like being in the Who's Who of Barbershopping. The staff included Gary Parker, Harry Williamson, Ron Whiteside, Jack Hines, Burt Staffen, Don Clause and Jay Giallombardo.

The quartet was pleased to find almost no contradiction and a degree of balanced instruction that was outstanding.

What did the Galaxies study? Would you believe everything? Vowel migration, arrangement modulation, sound, interpretation, stage presence. Without the assistance of our trusty tape recorder the end of our week would have found us in mass confusion.

The week was topped off by the Galaxies being asked to be one of the quartets to sing on the Saturday night show. Quite an honor. Apparently all that hard work paid off for the guys. They sang "Mandy, Make Up Your Mind" on the show and socked it to 'em with a Southern Medley on the afterglow.

Question: Wow, you must really have been bushed after that week, right?

Answer: Not really, because we left for home at 1 a.m. right after the afterglow, arriving in Grand Rapids at 1:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. THEN... WE WERE BUSHED!

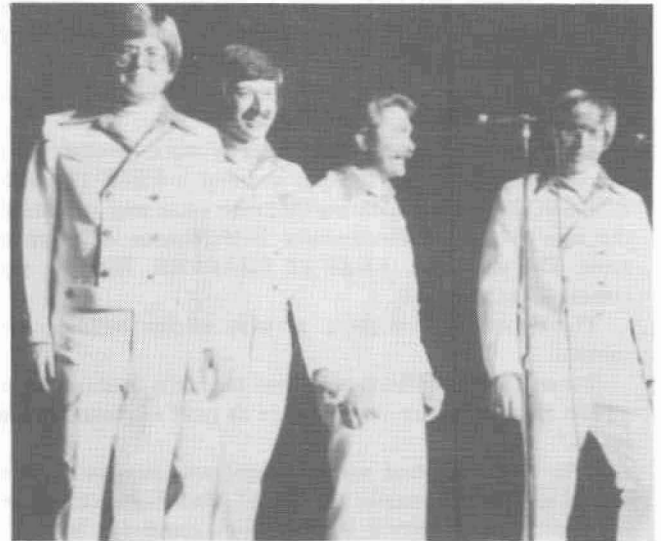
—The GALAXIES

Regents, Vagabonds, W. G. Harding Memorial 4 and Motor City Chorus on Detroit show



THE REGENTS

The 1974 International Champion Regents made one of their rare appearances at the 37th Annual Parade of Harmony, presented by Detroit #1 Chapter in Ford Auditorium, November 6. They were joined by Pioneers own 1976 Silver Medalists, The Vagabonds, and the Chapter's Warren G. Harding Memorial Four. The Motor City Chorus, directed by Thom Hine, featured solos by Sue Arabian and Walter Dorosh. Larry King was MC for this splendid show, highlighted by the presentation of the 3rd annual Marshall Wells Mr. Nice Guy award to Edgar A. "Bud" Guest, for his long career in radio and newspaper work, dedicated to the improvement of life in the Detroit community.



THE VAGABONDS



Lawrence King



EDGAR A. "BUD" GUEST accepts Marshall Wells Nice Guy Award from Detroit President Thom Hine



MOTOR CITY CHORUS, Thom Hine directing and the big finale at Ford Auditorium

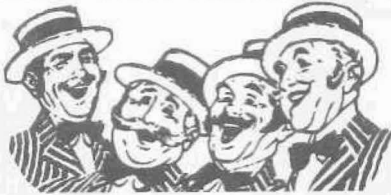
There is still some time for AIC Scholarship nominations

There is still time left to get those nominations in for the scholarships sponsored by the Association of International Champions.

Male Barbershoppers or their sons are eligible for these scholarships at the college of their choice, providing they are taking music under the school's regular courses.

See your chapter president or secretary, if you need further details or an application.

The nominations are due in to headquarters by January 15.



New officers elected to serve District in 1977

Officers elected to serve Pioneer District in 1977 are President John Gillespie, Immediate Past President and International Board Member Don Funk, Executive Vice President Doran McTaggart, Treasurer Jack Snyder, and Secretary John McClinchey.

Jack Snyder replaces George Schmidt as treasurer. He is a member of the Grand Rapids Chapter.

Division I Vice President is Clay Jones, Division II Dan LaBumbard, Division III Fran Jones, Division IV Warren Marsh, and Division V Dick Guerin.

Fran Jones is also a member of the Grand Rapids Chapter. He replaces retiring VP Tom Hegle.

Roger Morris will continue as editor of the Troubadour for the year.

The election was a part of the business of the 1976 Fall Convention in Dearborn in October.

Season's Greetings to Pioneer District members and to Barbershoppers everywhere

In this, the most meaningful of holiday seasons, Marion and I would like to take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to the host of friends who are members of the world's greatest fraternity.

In the more than 37 years we have been associated with the Society, we have enjoyed our association with the finest people to be found anywhere. We pause to give thanks for these friends, for the many blessings of life, and for the opportunity to have participated in this world of harmony.

God has blessed us with reasonably good health as we journey into our eighth decade on this earth, and for that we are thankful.

For the opportunity to harmonize in song, whether it be with quartet or chorus, and for the honors we have received during these years, we are deeply grateful.

From my early years as a member of the First Army Quartet during World War I in France, through my years with the Turners, the Police Quartet, and my association with the Grosse Pointe and Port Huron Chapters, and also with the Detroit Chapter in its embryo days, it has been a venture of great satisfaction to me. But, perhaps, the most memorable night in my lifetime came this Fall in Dearborn when Pioneer District honored me as a member of the Hall of Fame.



I have seen many changes during these years, variations of style, of music, of techniques, but I have never lost my love for Barbershop as it was sung in my youth. In our constant drive to Keep It Barbershop, I still long for the return of that pure, sweet, simple melodic style. It was great then, it is great now — and well worth encouraging and preserving.

May the Devine Creator be as kind to all of you as he has been to us, and may the holidays be everything that your hearts desire.

MERRY 
Christmas

—from the Joure's

FALL
CONVENTION
1976



GLEN VAN TASSELL AND MONROE'S FLORAL CITY CHORUS
—Photo by Gary Peck



ROLLING TONES



PATCH CHORDS



WITH THE ACTION



FRINGE BENEFIT



HARMONY HOUNDS



YE OLDE LAMPLIYTERS



CEREAL CITY CHORD COMMITTEE



WARREN G. HARDING MEMORIAL 4



GOLDEN OLDIES



SUBTLE IMPRESSIONS



VILLAGE RAMBLERS



CHORDWOODS



RAPIDARES



AT THE HYATT REGENCY

COTS well attended

Some 150 Chapter Officers were on hand at the MEA Conference Center, St. Marys Lake, Battle Creek, in November to take advantage of the offerings provided by the excellent faculty geared to helping them do a better job in administering the affairs of their individual chapters. Bob McDermott taught the Bulletin Editor's class on Saturday, and assigned them to do a story on the school. Some of these articles appear in this issue.



Quarteting at COTS contest



The "Kenosha Players" awaiting a "verdict"



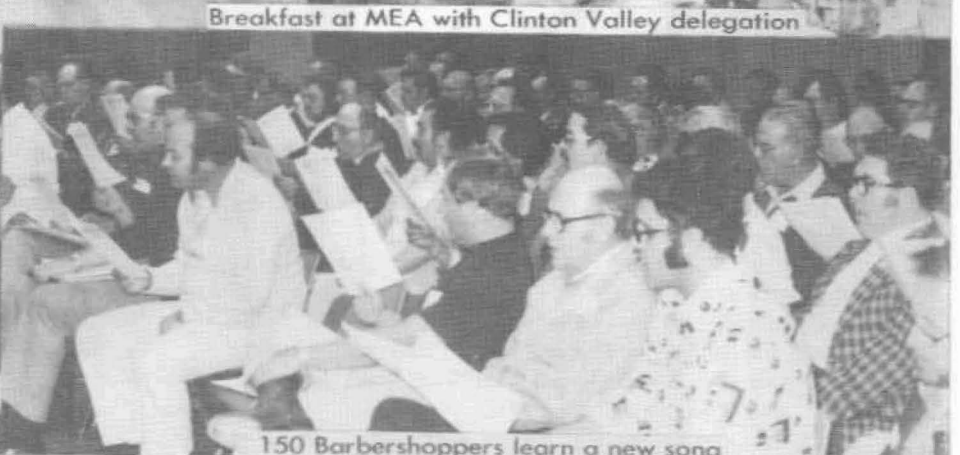
The facilities were beautiful!



BOB JOHNSON demonstrates his style



Breakfast at MEA with Clinton Valley delegation



150 Barbershoppers learn a new song

Troub editor receives 'dubious' award

During our tenure as editor of the Troubadour we have been the recipient of many compliments, sage pieces of advice, an occasional article contributed by one of our district officers, a few brickbats stained with the juice of "fox grapes", and a lot of kind hospitality extended by chapters and members alike.

We try to take each one in stride in accordance with the manner in which they have been delivered.

However, the latest "honor" came in a rather unusual form.

Upon returning from a snowy expedition into the West Virginia Hills in late November, we found a cylindrical canister setting upright on the dining room table, heavily taped on both ends and marked carefully with opening instructions.

The writing on the cannister looked somewhat familiar, resembling somewhat that of the editor's brother in Indiana, who uses his left-handed penmanship in a very deliberate style. But brother Staten would have certainly put a return address on the container before mailing it, so we quickly dispelled that notion.

Being aware of the letter-bomb attacks that terrorized post offices around the world not too long ago, we quickly dunked the entire package in a tub of water, where we let it remain over night before calling in the proper authorities to defuse the missile.

The package was then carefully opened, one piece of tape at a time, revealing a round cardboard insert beneath which was a thick circle of styrafoam with a loop of string. Reluctantly, according to instructions imprinted, we slowly pulled up the string and "voila!" A TROPHY!!

Now, this was not just any run of the mill trophy, as you will note in the accompanying article.

★★★

Merry Christmas

Otto and Dora Vogel celebrate Golden Wedding anniversary

The Troub was pleased to find a letter in the mail from Otto and Dora Vogel recently.

Dora will be best remembered by our readers for her many "Feminine Observer" columns in this magazine a few years back. Otto is a 25-year member of the Detroit Chapter.

The Vogels celebrated their 50th anniversary September 5th with a dinner attended by friends at the Jefferson Colonnade in St. Clair Shores. They also celebrated at the Bell Telephone Pioneer Dance held in the Elks Club at Ann Arbor. Their gift to one another was a new car.

Dora has been the surgery route for the third time, but says she is getting around again.

The couple attended the Pioneer District Convention at the Hyatt Regency in October.

Congratulations are extended to the Vogels from the Troub and the entire Pioneer family. May you celebrate many more anniversaries in good health and great harmony.

Roger O. Morris sr. wins championship

By RUSTY RUEGSEGGER
Editor, "The Gentlemen's Songster"
Oakland County Chapter

At the 1976-77 COTS, everything was championship quality from beginning to end. From the beautiful MEA Conference Center, overlooking placid St. Mary's Lake, to the excellent staff of directors, headed up by Bob Johnson, our Society's Music Education and Services Director. Yes, even the weather cooperated. With all this going for us, it was impossible for your officers to come away with anything less than a full load of enthusiasm.

But it was after the final class period, even after the evening quartet competition that Morris, editor of the Troubadour, showed us the stuff of which true champions are made. Few among us realized that such a fiercely fought competition was to be waged. Some, in fact, had even retired for the evening. But, while others were tapering off, Roger was just reaching his peak — and when the moment of truth came — he literally blew the competition away! He was the top scorer in every category. Volume, Rattle and Rasp, Whistle and Gurgle, Overall Annoyance — he won them all! He was named the Champion by unanimous vote of the judges.

And so it is with a great deal of pride that I present this imposing trophy to Roger O. Morris Sr., Snoring Champion of Pioneer District.

After years of singing tenor, you would never expect the Old Redhead to hit such a low note!

By way of explanation, it seems that before we assumed the role of instructor at the bulletin editors class, Bob McDermott had asked each student to write an article, and said that the best ones, if they should merit consideration, might be printed in the Troubadour. Well, we haven't decided just where this one fits in, but in self-defense, we must list this as a "dubious" award!

Not many COTS instructors arrive on the scene fresh from a nights work. Most of them have had the benefit of some sleep, we presume, before traveling to these sessions. Not so with us, at any time, COTS or Convention — it's always the same story.

So, when we found ourself neatly stashed away in our cubicle in "Cell Block 99" at the MEA camp, along with a host of fellow Barbershoppers, we were dumbfounded at the prospect of perhaps spending the night in the middle of St. Marys Lake, where the water temperature was somewhat less than suitable for swimming.

We tried to do the honorable thing by giving everyone fair warning to get to sleep before we retired. The classroom became an impromptu hospitality center, where woodshedding and quarteting were practiced with a fluid flourish until the wee hours of Sunday morning. Sometime after 5 a.m., a tired, sleepy editor sneaked away from the room, leaving only one oblivious foursome to assault the exhalted Barber-shop sevenths, and called it a day.

Climbing into the top bunk in old "99", we discovered that the words were somewhat indistinct, but the humming

Down Our Way

with the Editor



sound in the quadrant was definitely a four-part dischord! The thought occurred that the set-up wasn't so bad, after all — What's one more voice in a nocturnal choir such as that? How could we be blamed for the decible level, the ungodly arrangement? Surely, this was better than being in the nifty rooms below where it was three against one! Here, the odds were more like 40-1, and on the top floor, who would know the difference?

Meanwhile, in the bunk below, marching to a different drummer, District Parliamentarian and fellow Milford Chapter member George Darrah was mutilating Bob Johnson's finest arrangements, buzzing in a semibaritone that ranged somewhere between an overtone and a boar hog's bass.

We dropped off to sleep with confidence!

All went well until the breakfast table, where we arrived on the scene late and found the topic of discussion to be the unearthly sounds emanating from Cell Block 99 during the night.

"I've never heard anything like that in all my days," one tablemate declared, being joined in a chorus of amens from the immediate vicinity. Someone added that they hoped they would never hear it again!

"Aw, that was poor old George Darrah, we confided. "He really has a problem there."

"Well, at least he snores in tune," someone else recouped. We couldn't testify to that, since we dropped off to quick to give a critique.

After seemingly getting by with this bit of buck-passing, we felt fortunate to escape COTS still in tact, but we did ponder with some concern the possibility of having to replace George as Milford's new program veep.

Alas, our ploy didn't get the results we had thought, unfortunately, we admit as we place another trophy on the shelf.

Thanks a heap, Rusty! We needed that!

Bill Butler called to tell us that Gordon Saxby is recovering from an illness at his home, 6 Palace Drive, Soo Ste. Marie, Ontario. Gord is an Area Counselor and a stalwart member of the Soo Chapter. He was admitted to the Cardiology Unit of General Hospital on October 16th, according a story in Bruce Martin's *Lock Chorder*. His wife, Fran, reported much improvement, according to Bruce. Get back in their swinigin, Gordie, Pioneer people are with you all the way!

The Troub has learned of the death of Al Singer, of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, but we do not know the details. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends.

Len Johnson called to remind us the Spring District Convention will be hosted by Saginaw-Bay at Midland, April 22-24, and not at Kalamazoo's Miller Auditorium, as was erroneously printed in this column in the October issue. Sorry about the mix-up, Len! We are looking forward to the great facilities at the Midland Center for the Performing Arts in April, as well as the trip to Kalamazoo in October.

The old year passes, the New Year is upon us, and we start into another year at the helm of the Troubadour.

It has been a pleasure, and sometimes our despair. We realize that there is still a long road to travel to bring the publication up to our own prescribed standards. And we are sure that many of you would like to see it take a different direction from the present format.

The time spent in production — we are talking about the physical production — leaves very little time to devote to creative writing, which, on our part is about nil! Too much of what you read is still ground out by one person, the editor.

We hope to see more contributory articles in 1977, and not just from our officers and committeemen. We have a lot of interesting information in District Chapter bulletins, a lot of great writers who are not writing, and a dearth of information flowing into the Troub mailbox. Keeping Pioneer informed is everyone's business. It's too big a beat for one reporter.

From the hearthside at the Morris homestead, your editor and wife Alice send our warmest greetings of the season to Barbershoppers and friends everywhere. It is our most humble desire that peace and harmony reign in your hearts throughout the coming year.

Four members inducted in Pioneer Hall of Fame



Wally Joure, Mike Arnone and Bob Walker

Pioneer District inducted four new members into its Hall of Fame at the Fall Convention in Dearborn.

Wally Joure, Port Huron and Grosse Pointe, Robert Walker, Grand Rapids; Mike Arnone, Detroit, and Leonard Field, Jackson are the latest members to be so honored.

Mr. Field's award was accepted by Dan LaBumbard, District Zone II Vice President.

Congratulations to these four deserving members, who join a growing list of Pioneers that have given much of their time and talents to Barbershopping and to this District.



CHAPTER NOTES



DEADLINES: All material must be received by the 25th of the month preceding publication

Au Sable Valley

Congratulations to our new chapter officers. They are Lyle Ames, president; Dick Manley, AVP; Bill Greene, PVP; Bob Dittman, secretary; John Tobin, treasurer; IPP Bob Hamp; and board members at large Dick Whitaker, Harlow Sly and Earl Whaley. The installation dinner will be held at the Arrowhead Inn in Grayling at 7 p.m., January 22, 1977. Presentation of the 1976 "Barbershopper of the Year" will also be made at that time.

Recent chapter activities include performances at the Grayling Rotary Minstrel Shows and at a senior citizens dinner in Houghton Lake. We also had a great evening of fun, fellowship, and song with the Alpena Chapter and the Chordwoods quartet. Their visitation and an AFA were combined for a truly exciting event.

It became necessary to replace Lyle Ames as 1977 Milltown Festival chairman when he accepted the nomination for chapter president. Bill Greene and Rawleigh Gregory have volunteered to take over as co-chairmen. Bet we will hear a lot about Cheyenne and Monroe from these guys, but they will do a great job! They have secured another outstanding MC for the July 30, 1977 Festival of Harmony — Doran McTaggart!

As we look forward to a new year in 1977, it is a fitting time to recall some of the highlights of 1976. Not one, but TWO successful AFA's headed by Greg! A "first of many" Milltown Festivals of Harmony guided by Moe Weaver and Lyle Ames, with willing help from all chapter members, judges, MC's, stage hands, competing chapters, and show quartets. A word of thanks to retiring board members Wayne Kelly, Rawleigh Gregory, and bulletin editor John Graham. A "tip of the topper" to Musical Director Rod Ames and pinch hitters Don Probst, Don Jackman, Art Headlee, and (even) Bob Hamp!

—Earl Whaley

Wayne's Al Fricker joins '20 Man Club'

Another Pioneer Barbershopper has joined the ranks of those sponsoring 20 members in the Society's Man of Note program.

Albert J. "Al" Fricker, Wayne Wonderland's Mister Personality, is sporting a diamond studded tie-tac as a result of having sponsored those 20 members, and has that 20th gold note to complete his framed collection.

Al becomes the 38th Barbershopper in the Society to reach this milestone.

Congratulations, Al, Pioneer people are mighty proud of your accomplishments.

Detroit

Christmas has come early to Detroit #1, with Santa bringing a badly needed gift to us in the form of CLAY SHUMARD, our new chorus director. We're proud that a man of such enormous talent and energy has elected to share his time and experience with us. We hope we can prove worthy of such leadership.

The Motor City Chorus, proud of its win at the Hyatt and of the success of its 37th Parade of Harmony, has been learning several new songs, getting used to the "hands" of our new director, and preparing for our annual performance for the Plymouth Home of Human Development. In addition, we will be singing our "Bach to Barbershop" set with the Allen Park Symphony Orchestra on January 16, and celebrating Ladies Night on January 28.

We are especially proud of the showing the three quartets from our chapter (2½, really) put on at the Hyatt. The FOREIGN POLICY, the GREAT LAKES EXPRESS, and the WARREN G. HARDING MEMORIAL FOUR are largely comprised of Barbershoppers who are key members of Detroit #1. Congratulations guys, on a super job.

May all of you have the merriest of Christmases and happiest of New Years.

—Chuck Simmons



Wayne

First of all, let's all congratulate the Motor City Chorus for the splendid job they did at the Fall Convention. We do wish them the very best when they go to represent the Pioneer District in Philadelphia next summer.

On November 15 Wayne Chapter hosted it's annual "Past-Presidents and Old Timers" night at our meeting hall in Livonia. This has come to be perhaps our biggest social affair of the year. Past presidents and old time members from back in the original charter days all the way through the present time were honored.

Immediately preceding this affair the Wonderland Chorus entertained the elderly citizens at Presbyterian Village in Redford Township. This has been going on annually for about 10 or 11 years.

Friday after Thanksgiving a mini-chorus of Wayne members sang on a float in the City of Wayne's Bi-Centennial celebration.

Ladies night and installation of new officers will be on December 11, also at our regular meeting hall.

President-elect Jim McLane will head the 1977 slate of officers to be installed. Jim Swisher will be administrative v.p., Bob Vanderford program v.p., Frank Maton corresponding secretary, Pete Anderson recording secretary, and Paul Millis and Herb Hebner will serve as sergeants at arms.

On November 12 we held an Auditions for Admission program at Westland Mall and succeeded in getting seven new men to turn out at chorus rehearsals.

Wayne Chapter wishes you all the very best in 1977. Come visit us any 3rd Friday at Rosedale Gardens Civic Association clubhouse, 9611 Hubbard, Livonia.

—Morrie Giles

Grand Rapids donates refrigerator-freezer for Logopedics auction at Philly

The Board of Directors, in session at the Fall Convention in Dearborn, was pleasantly surprised when Fran Jones, president of Grand Rapids Chapter, addressed the meeting.

"Each year, Fran said, the Board of Directors of the Pioneer District, along with the other 14 district boards, are diligently in search of ideas for an article to be auctioned at our annual International Convention for the benefit of our service project, the Institute of Logopedics.

"It is the desire of the members of the Grand Rapids Chapter #4 to alleviate this arduous task by offering, for your consideration, as a gift of this chapter, to be used as a Pioneer District item . . . in Philadelphia, a 14-cubic foot two-door refrigerator/freezer."

The refrigerator/freezer, having a retail value of approximately \$400, will obviously stimulate interest at Philadelphia, according to Fran. "It is a product of Michigan, within the Pioneer District. We have an 'uncle' in the refrigerator business."

A special nameplate is being designed and will be submitted for approval at the Midland Convention in April of 1977. The unit will be shipped at no charge to the recipient, directly from the manufacturer to the freight terminal nearest the location of installation within the continental limits of the United States. The recipient will have a choice of four colors: coppertone, avocado, harvest gold and white.

A non-functional model, with the special nameplate, will be shipped to Philadelphia for display at the Logopedics booth. This model will be scrapped at the conclusion of the convention.

In presenting this generous offer, Fran said, "It is our hope that this contribution from the Grand Rapids Chapter will establish a precedent, which will relieve the Pioneer District of the expense and time involved in the selection of a raffle item each year."

The District Board expressed its appreciation to Fran, Chapter Logopedics Chairman Bernie Poelman, and the Grand Rapids Chapter in accepting this fine contribution.

Oakland County

Oakland County had a visitation early in November with the Grosse Pointe Chapter. The trophy we had won their last year got misplaced. We were sure we would win the contest, so we didn't bother to bring it. You guessed it — we lost!

Our annual Ladies Night is on the third of December. Dick Van Dyke has really lined up a big night for our ladies. To start things off, "The Front Office Four", 1975 International Queens of Harmony; "The Great Lakes Express", second place quartet in the District, and last but not least, "The Personal Expression".

On December 8, the Wolverine Chorus is singing at the Arnold Home. December 15 they are singing at the Detroit Historical Society, and at Beaumont Hospital before Christmas. On December 20 the Chapter members and their spouses are invited to the Stroh Brewery Strohaus, for a tour and a bit of fellowship and fun.

—Cy Pelican

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

Hello again for December. Since this will be my last chance to talk to many of you until next year, I want to say "Thank you" to everyone that participated and helped make our first year in this new concept of 'Music Education' for all Barbershoppers a very successful one.

Believe me, gentlemen, after attending a four-day weekend in Kenosha with the International Music Staff and the other fourteen DME's, we had one of the finest and more successful programs in the entire Society. I don't mean to say by that statement that I was great. I feel that we have the finest Music Education Committee working with me; so thank you, Merle Clayton, Glenn Van Tassell, Dan La-Bumbard, and our newest committee member, John Wenzel. A big 'Thank you' to our District President John Gillespie, and the entire District Board and Area Counselors. Also a special thank you to John Morris, Roger Lewis and Ron Neff.

More and more our District membership is beginning to realize that there is something for every Barbershopper in our Music Education Program. However, I might add, if you don't attend the HEP Clinics you will be missing a great amount of knowledge and improvement in our great hobby. We're providing the opportunity, but you are the one that's "gotta wanna' do it", (that means you can study coaching, chorus directing, basic music principles and knowhow, section leading, arranging, and just plain learn how to sing better.

SO, let's make 1977 a bigger, better, more fun year than ever, and start off by marking these dates on your calendar so you can plan to attend:

Joe Liles—February 14-18, chapter visits.

Mac Huff—March 14-20, with a weekend quartet and coaches clinic and workshop the 18-20.

Joe Liles—May 16-22, with a HEP school for chorus directors, assistant chorus directors, section leaders and chorus coaches, the 20-22nd. Bob Johnson will be part of the faculty along with Joe for the weekend.

Mac Huff—August 19-21, quartet and coaching clinic and workshop.

Dave Stevens—September 12-23. Chapter visits with an 3-level arrangers school the weekend of 16-18th. This will be beginning, intermediate and advanced, with a top faculty assisting Dave. All will be members of the International College of Arrangers.

I wish you and yours the Merriest Christmas, with the true meaning of that celebrated day uppermost in mind, and the Happiest and most Successful New Year.

Expansion Fund activity picking up

According to the latest word received from Society headquarters at Kenosha, there has been a slight, but encouraging improvement in contributions to the Expansion Fund.

"Though we can't report a surge of money flowing in to the Expansion Fund (moneys to be used to purchase our new building, Harmony Hall West), contributions from both individuals and chapters are beginning to trickle in as a result of President Plummer Collins' letter to every member late last month," says a news release.

We are reminded that this is our Society and our building . . . our contributions NOW will enable the Society to wipe out this debt with reduced interest payments.

The trend seems to be toward a contribution of about \$10 per man to get the job done in a hurry, but Kenosha will welcome contributions of any amount from members, chapters, and friends. If your chapter has a fund coordinator, why not contact him before he contacts you? Let's burn the mortgage on this one before the inflationary interest rates burn us.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, Michigan October 8, 1976

The meeting was called to order by President Gillespie at 12:35 p.m.

Directors Present: All Directors were present.

Also Present: Troubadour Editor Morris, DME Chairman Butler, REX Chairman Warner, C & J Chairman King, International Vice President-Treasurer Hills, A/C Neff and Grand Rapids Chapter President Jones.

The minutes of the previous meeting had been mailed to all Board Members and Committee Chairmen, hence the reading of same was waived. On a motion by Funk, supported by LaBumbard, the minutes were accepted as written.

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed by Treasurer Schmidt, covering the nine months ended September 30, 1976, showing a cash balance of \$5,203.00. The apparent confusion over the mid-year dues increase was further clarified by the Treasurer and President Gillespie.

IBM Funk explained the International official stand on games of chance, lotteries, etc. They are not permitted. He also pointed out that the gambling laws of the State of Michigan render some illegal. Editor Morris was requested to print an article to this effect in the Troubadour. IBM Funk also announced that because of the proximity, there would be no charter flight arranged for the 1977 International Convention in Philadelphia. Group flight arrangements will be made, however.

EVP McTaggart reminded the Board that the new District Convention format would run through the 1977 Fall Convention. A decision as to whether or not we continue this format will have to be made after the 1977 Spring Convention so that those chapters bidding on future conventions can plan accordingly. It was pointed out that the dates for the 1978 Fall Convention should be October 13-15, not October 6-8 as printed in the 1976 Directory. Field Representative Cogan's itinerary was reviewed and it was noted that it may be changed somewhat to include the Oscoda extension program.

The Division Vice Presidents' reports were distributed in writing. DVP Jones commented on the District's bid for the 1981 International Convention for Detroit and displayed the kit developed with the cooperation of the Detroit Convention Bureau.

REX Chairman Warner distributed a written report and further commented on extension plans for the Oscoda area.

C & J Chairman King commented on his written report emphasizing that one of the main objectives of the committee will be to interest more members in the judging program. He also announced that Milford, Pontiac, and Windsor choruses would not be competing in the afternoon contest as previously indicated. He also announced his recommendation for the 1977 DAC & J Committee, consisting of Don Lang, Robert Mulligan, and Merle Clayton.

DVP Marsh inquired as to the possibility of establishing chorus contest categories. While there is the provision for the Silver Championship in the Spring District Chorus Contest, DVP Marsh was asked to expand on his

Clinton Valley changes chapter meeting nights

Merle D. Brazelle, ebullient editor of "The Valley Voice", house organ of the Clinton Valley Chapter, has asked us to remind Pioneer people that the CV Chapter has changed its chapter meeting nights to the 2nd Friday of the month, with chorus rehearsals still being scheduled for each Wednesday.

"Old Lum" says the former meeting night of the 4th Friday kept bumping into too many holiday weekends, created too many problems.

The friendly, growing chapter has found a home in the fine quarters of the Shelby Community Center, Ryan Road at Auburn, in Utica. The welcome mat is always out for visitors, and if you bring a friend that will make it even better.

The Friday change will become effective in the month of January.

The Troub editor can attest to the geniality at the center, having made a recent visit for a night of harmony and enjoyment.

proposal and present it to the January meeting of the Board.

Troubadour Chairman Morris reviewed the activities of his office and indicated that a District Probe Booth was in the planning stages for Philadelphia. He suggested that a bulletin editors' class be held in conjunction with the District COTS. On a motion by DVP Hegle, seconded by EVP McTaggart, the motion was passed to sponsor aforementioned school.

DME Butler reviewed his written report and indicated that Joe Liles would not be conducting the HEP School as originally announced, but would be replaced by Ray Danley of Toronto.

In the absence of Logopedics Chairman Durham, President Gillespie reviewed his report which indicated that Logopedics contributions were running behind last year. The Logopedics Spectacular held in Battle Creek netted approximately \$100.00.

Under unfinished business President Gillespie announced that host chapter, Kalamazoo, will be holding the 1977 Fall Competition at the Western Michigan University Auditorium.

President Gillespie announced that George Darrach, an attorney from the Milford Chapter, has accepted the appointment as District Parliamentarian.

Under new business it was determined that the Troubadour must publish the minutes of the Board of Directors Meetings and the House of Delegates Meetings as they are approved, and in their entirety as determined by previous Board action. Editor Morris indicated that a business manager for the Troubadour would be most helpful in getting billings out to advertisers. Billings are current as of this time.

President Gillespie distributed information showing a breakdown of all other districts' formulas for District/Chapter sharing of convention profits. After considerable discussion the motion was made by DVP Hegle and seconded by DVP LaBumbard that commencing with the 1978 Fall Convention, the distribution of convention net profits will be split 40%-40% between the district and the host chapter with the remaining 20% reserved for the District Travel Fund for choruses and quartets competing at International Contest. Motion carried.

It was announced that the location of the Chapter Officer Training School scheduled for November 13-14, has been changed from Lansing to the MEA Conference Center near Battle Creek.

The Grand Rapids Chapter donated a new refrigerator-freezer to be raffled at the Logopedics Breakfast during the 1977 International Convention in Philadelphia. A motion was made by DVP LaBumbard, with a second by DVP Marsh that the Board accept the gift of the Grand Rapids Chapter. The Board accepted.

DVP Hegle proposed that Candidate Judges be reimbursed by the District up to \$50 whenever they practice judge outside the District. Upon a motion by Funk with a second by LaBumbard, it was agreed by the Directors that the matter be referred to the C & J Committee, with further action being tabled until the January Board meeting.

President Gillespie introduced International Vice President-Treasurer Hills who brought greetings from the International Staff and made a plea for funds for the building project in Kenosha.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ John M. McClinchey
John M. McClinchey
Secretary, Pioneer District

Which part is the hardest?

By CHUCK SIMMONS

Editor Detroit No. 1 "Chapter Chips"

For years, Barbershoppers have argued about which of the four parts is the hardest to sing. In their efforts to support their "claim to fame", the tenors point to the exceptionally high notes they must hit so softly, the baris talk about the wild intervals their part always takes, the basses point out the huge quantities of air required to push out those bottom notes, and the leads explain the pressures of establishing dynamic levels, meter and pitch for the other three parts. This observer, while attending the Bulletin Editor's class in the COTS school held in Battle Creek over the November 13, 1976 weekend, finally found the answer.

As part of the festivities for that school each of the classes was asked to get a quartet together to sing in the annual COTS quartet contest. I was asked to coach the Bulletin Editor's quartet and in that capacity helped with notes, dynamics, phrasing, etc. — all of the things you can possibly work on in three ten-minute rehearsals. When the quartet finally did their thing on the contest stage, they performed

admirably, far exceeding the obvious limitations of their coach. I was extremely proud of them.

The hardest part? LEFT OUT. Any member of this great Society of ours who has worked closely with his buddies feels a twinge of regret whenever he has to watch rather than perform. Coaching is better than nothing, but sure isn't as fun as being one of the guys producing those sweet sevenths.

There's only one way to avoid getting stuck with the hardest part, and that's to get involved with quarteting — even if it's nothing more than informal woodshedding sessions following your chapter meetings. When you do this, you'll be surprised how much simpler the job of singing any of the other four "easier" parts becomes.



MINUTES OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING DEARBORN, MICHIGAN October 9, 1976

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by President Gillespie. After the invocation was offered by IBM Funk, EVP McTaggart led the assembly in the singing of "The Old Songs."

Sergeant-At-Arms George Dyer declared a quorum present.

Information packs containing reports from the Vice Presidents, Treasurer, Committee Chairmen and minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to those delegates in attendance and individually reviewed.

The minutes of the previous meeting were presented by the Secretary and accepted as read.

Treasurer Schmidt reviewed his distributed report for the nine months ended September 30, 1976, showing a cash balance of \$5,203.

IBM Funk reported on International By-Laws provision against gambling, lotteries, etc., as requested by President Gillespie. He also pointed out that such activities are indeed against state law. He again emphasized the importance of gaining an ASCAP license whenever a performance is given where the general public is charged an admission fee.

Newly-appointed Parliamentarian George Darrah further clarified the Society and State of Michigan's stand on gambling.

EVP McTaggart indicated that A.I.C. Scholarship applications should soon be in the mail to the individual chapters with deadline for filing same with the District Secretary by January 15, 1977. Field Representative Cogan's fall itinerary was reviewed.

The reports of each Division Vice President, having been included in the information packs, were waived. However, each DVP was available to expand on his report and clarify any questions from the floor.

DVP Jones reviewed the bid that has been submitted to International regarding the hosting of the 1981 International Convention in Detroit.

REX Chairman Warner stated that his written report covered his activities and commended the Area Counselors for their perseverance in encouraging the "non-renewals" to reinstate.

DME Butler reviewed his report and further detailed the HEP School to be held December 4, 1976, at Battle Creek.

President Gillespie reviewed the written report of Logopedics Chairman Durham who was conducting a Chapter Logopedics Chairmen meeting concurrently with the House of Delegates meeting. President Gillespie accepted contributions from the Pontiac and Traverse City Chapters. The Grand Rapids Chapter was commended by the Chair for their generous donation of a refrigerator-freezer to be raffled at the Logopedics Breakfast at the 1977 International Convention in Philadelphia.

District Historian Lou Harrington was introduced from the floor.

Under unfinished business EVP McTaggart presented a bid from the Lansing Chapter for the 1978 Spring Convention. EVP McTaggart moved that the Lansing bid be accepted, A/C Piggot supported. Motion carried. A bid for the Fall 1978 Convention from the Grand Rapids Chapter was also presented. EVP McTaggart made a motion that the bid be accepted. Delegate McCurdy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

A/C Neff inquired as to the disposition of by-law changes passed by the House of Delegates in April of 1975. The by-law changes were forwarded to International as reported in the October, 1975 House of Delegates' meeting. President Gillespie agreed to contact the International Office regarding this matter inasmuch as no reply has been received.

Under new business, President Gillespie announced that the '77 Chapter Officer Training School will be held the weekend of November 13, 1976, at the MEA Conference Center near Battle Creek. This is a change from the previously announced location in Lansing, made necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. It was also announced that the District would sponsor a Bulletin Editors' School in conjunction with the COTS.

Delegate Rawleigh Gregory, AVP of the Au Sable Valley Chapter, introduced a resolution to wit:

WHEREAS: COTS in the Pioneer District, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc., is in conflict with, or impinges upon big game hunting season in Michigan; and

WHEREAS: this prevents many businessmen who are officers of Subordinate Chapters from attending without serious detriment to their economic well being; and

WHEREAS: many members who are hunters are forced to decide whether to go to COTS or go hunting;

THEREFORE, be it RESOLVED by the House of Delegates of Pioneer District, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.:

THAT the Chapter Officers' Training School for Pioneer District shall not be scheduled between the calendar dates of November Tenth and December First of any calendar year following 1976.

It was resolved by the House of Delegates that the Pioneer District recommends to International that the Pioneer Chapter Officer Training School not be scheduled between November 10 and December 1 after 1976. The motion was made by Delegate Gregory and supported by Delegate Carson. Motion carried. The Secretary was instructed to inquire of International if the Pioneer District could possibly trade dates with another district so as to avoid the conflict as cited in the aforementioned resolution.

President Gillespie reminded the Delegates that the Michigan Annual Report must be filed by the respective chapter secretaries annually with the State of Michigan under the provisions of non-profit organizations. This report must be filed by October 1 of each year.

The report of the Nominating Committee was presented by Chairman Funk. Upon a motion by A/C Horton and a second by Delegate Warren, the recommendation of the committee was accepted and the District Officers for 1977 were elected by a unanimous voice vote.

International Vice President-Treasurer Ernie Hills spoke briefly to the assembly and extended his greetings from the International Board of Directors.

Larry Swan of the Battle Creek Chapter was cited by the Chair for having sponsored his twentieth member into the Society, only the thirty-sixth member of the Society to do so.

Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ John M. McClinchey
John M. McClinchey, Secretary
Pioneer District



Send requests for
Parade Clearance to:
John McClinchey
606 Woodcrest
Royal Oak, Michigan 48067

Coming Events

—1976—

DECEMBER—
4 Clinton Valley

—1977—

FEBRUARY—
4-5 Monroe Chapter Show
5 Pontiac
12 Lansing
25-26 Oakland County Chapter Show

MARCH—
4-5 Wayne Chapter Show

APRIL—
4 Hudson
15 Kalamazoo
16 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids
Flint Chapter Show

MAY—
14 Bush League Contest, Boyne City

SEPTEMBER—
24 Gratiot County

NOVEMBER—
5 Detroit
30 Au Sable Valley Chapter Show

—1978—

APRIL—
1 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids

MAY—
6 Bush League Contest, Boyne City



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Mid-Winter registrations are brisk

KENOSHA — (PROBE) — Obviously many are planning Florida vacations to coincide with our Mid-Winter Convention the last weekend in January (Jan. 27-29, 1977), as the registrations are arriving at a pretty brisk pace. Remember, housing forms will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration form. These housing forms must be received by the hotel no later than January 1. Also, tickets will be assigned according to registration so the sooner you get yours in, the better seat you'll receive.

Remember, too, that some great tours are being arranged by the Society. Complete details concerning the activity-packed Mid-Winter can be found in the Nov.-Dec. HARMONIZER along with a registration form.

Pioneer District's Silver Medalist Vagabonds will be a part of the program at Orlando.



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