



The For-Tune Tellers — 1950-1975

See pages 10-11



February 1976



*Time is short for
reserving your seat
on Pioneer flights
to San Francisco*

pioneer
TROUBADOUR

Oakland County Chapter announces officer changes

Recording Secretary Jack W. Teubert of the Oakland County Chapter has informed the Troubadour of the following changes in that Chapter's administration and requests that we revise our records accordingly.

Dean N. Madsen replaces Raymond G. Wright as Administrative Vice President. Dean lives at 14481 Houston Avenue, Apt. 5, Detroit, Michigan 48205. His business phone is 313/224-4205 and the residence phone is 313/527-3059.

Dick VanDyke is the new Program Vice President. Dick's address is 30452 Westmore, Madison Heights, Michigan 48071. His business phone is 313/588-8000, ext. 44. The residence phone is 313/585-4331. Dick replaces William S. Schwedler in this position.

In Detroit Call
(313) 455-5455

In Jackson Call
(517) 787-2347



14050 Brougham Court, Plymouth, Michigan 48170

E. LESLIE MARHOFF • D. EDWARD LABUMBARD • J. FRANKLIN REID • J. EDWARD CONN

Pioneer TROUBADOUR



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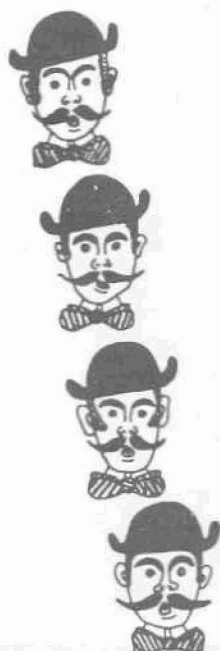


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Keep
America
Singing



JOHN'S JOTTINGS

By JOHN GILLESPIE
Pioneer District President

I would like to share with you in this first article two of the goals that your District Board hopes to accomplish in 1976, both of which have been adopted in order to strengthen what I consider already to be one of the finest Districts in this great Society of ours:

1. Increased Membership. We all know that the enjoyment we get from our Chapter programs and chorus rehearsals is in direct proportion to the number of men we have participating. To this end, we have as a goal a net increase in membership in our District Association of Chapters of 10%. I think you will agree that this is a modest goal to attain, averaging only a net growth of five or six men per Chapter.

2. Strengthening of our District's Musical Program. Our District Director of Musical Education, W. D. "Bill" Butler, is hard at work developing a program designed to offer each and every one of us the opportunity to more thoroughly enjoy a better musical experience. He will be assisted not only by the experienced music men of our own District but also by key music men from adjacent Districts and International staff.

I feel that I am very fortunate this year to be able to serve with the dedicated men you have elected to your District Board. We pledge to do all that we can to see that these goals are met; but we need the support, participation and involvement of each and every member of our District. I'm sure that we can count on all of you!



THE SOUND OBJECTIVE



THE GUYS WITH AN IDENTITY PROBLEM

Clinton Valley lives it up!

There's Nothing like a great show to launch a new chapter into orbit

Those rowdy, slap-happy guys who assemble in the Crystal Room at the Colonial Lanes in Utica every Wednesday evening are not a bunch of bowlers closing in on the league title — they are just Pioneer District's newest Barbershop Chapter gone slightly ape over the success of their first show.

They packed Utica High for their first one, sold out the afterglow once, expanded the capacity and sold it out again; filled the program with 11½ pages of ads, and are still intoxicated by the sounds of praise and acceptance that greeted this first endeavor.

With a lineup going to bat for you such as the Clinton Valley Chapter presented, how could you miss?

President Tom Gay and the charter members were presented the official charter papers by Pioneer President Don Funk during the program, with Bill Wickstrom as master of ceremonies — a big plus right from the start.

The program opened with the Chapter's own Motor Mugs, who changed their name to the Variety Pack only to learn that both names have been registered previously. (Now, that's an identity problem!).

Stan Salter directed the Clinton Valley Chorus and demonstrated to the fans that his guys can sing Barbershop Harmony with the best of 'em.

The Sound Objective came from Pontiac, Flint and Oakland County chapters to join in the fun — only fitting that they should, since they have been of so much assistance in getting this Chapter moving. And the Sound Spectrum, 2nd place finishers in District competition at Grand Rapids, gave the show a touch of Chapter pride. CV's Galen Oliver is a member of the Sound Spectrum, with other members belonging to Port Huron and Grosse Pointe.

Thom Hine and Russ Seely of the 4-Fits joined in the half-time festivities to direct the community singing following the Charter presentation.

The musical highlight of the evening was The Vagabonds, current 5th place International Medalists from Detroit, Oakland County and Lansing. Barbershop fans in the audience were unanimous in their opinion that The Vagabonds never sounded better. Certainly, their appearance on this charter show presented Barbershop in its finest light and should do much to encourage residents of the Clinton Valley area to join in the fun and harmony of this new chapter.

Clinton Valley has reached the 50-member plateau in one short year and is reaching toward higher goals. We don't know what they've been drinking in the Valley, but we hope they never sober up!



DON FUNK presents Charter to TOM GAY



THE VAGABONDS



THE CLINTON VALLEY CHORUS

THE SOUND SPECTRUM

April 23-25, in Lansing!

Pioneer Spring Convention will mark beginning of new contest format

Pioneer District members will find a bit of remodeling has been done around the old Barbershop when they gather on the banks of the Red Cedar in Lansing next April for the Spring Convention and International Preliminaries.

As a result of planning that has been in the works for some five years, the quartet prelims have been moved from Saturday morning to Friday night at 9 p.m. This reshuffling will bring about some other changes in the routine of the convention, but should cut down on the hectic pace that has marked the contest sessions prior to this time.

The Board of Directors will meet at 2 p.m. Friday to start the week end activities. The quartet prelims will follow at 9 p.m., the House of Delegates meeting will convene at 9 a.m. on Saturday, and the chorus contest will follow at 1:30 p.m. Quartet finals will start at 8 Saturday evening, and everyone should be able to relax and enjoy the hospitality rooms when it's all over.

The convention headquarters in Lansing will be at the Ramada Inn, South Pennsylvania at I-96, and all contest sessions will be in the auditorium at Lansing Eastern High School.

Every competitor must register, as usual. Early registration will get you an all-events ticket for \$8. After April 1 that same ticket will be \$9, with individual sessions pegged at \$4 each.

Don Funk, convention and housing chairman, is the man

to contact. Write to him at 1451 Harvard, East Lansing, Mi. 48823, or phone 517/393-3447 (business); 517/332-2160 (home).

The District has reserved the entire capacity of the Ramada Inn both Friday and Saturday, so let's fill it up.

Let's get our Bicentennial into full swing with a big attendance at Lansing!

Great Lakes Invitational will feature 4-Statesmen, Front Office 4, Citations

That busy bunch of guys over in Grand Rapids believes in keeping the pot boiling with great Barbershop entertainment.

After giving us a splendid Fall Convention, they went about preparing for the Great Lakes Invitational, which will be in the Civic Auditorium Saturday, April 10.

The 8 p.m. program will spotlight the Four Statesmen, past International Champions; the reigning Queens of Harmony the Front Office Four from Lansing, and The Citations, from Louisville.

Of course, the Great Lakes Chorus will join in the show along with Director Bob Buffham, assisted by Fran Jones.

The afterglow will be at the Wyoming National Guard Armory on 44th Street.

WAYNE CHAPTER

presents its

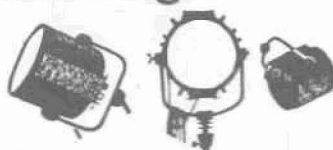
1976 BICENTENNIAL PITCHPIPE PARADE



"WHAT A COUNTRY!"

☆ **THE O-K-4**
from Oklahoma City
The Funniest Quartet Ever!
3-Time International Finalists!

— featuring —



☆ **THE SOUNDS of MUSIC**
1974 Sweet Adeline Champions
International Queens of Harmony!
from Dayton, Ohio

☆ **The Memory Laners**

☆ **The Keepers of the Key**

March 5-6 at 8:15 p.m. Our Lady of Mercy High School

29300 11 Mile Road at Middlebelt

TICKETS \$4

FARMINGTON, MICHIGAN

Your Singing Hosts — THE WONDERLAND CHORUS

Directed by Dave Caldwell and Steve Sutherland

1974-75 REGIONAL CHORUS CHAMPIONS

FIRST PIONEER FRIDAY NIGHT QUARTET PRELIMINARY CONTEST



LANSING CHAPTER

WELCOMES

YOU TO THE

1976 PIONEER SPRING CONVENTION

APRIL 23-25, 1976

IN LANSING

YOUR HEADQUARTERS MOTEL

PENNSYLVANIA AVE. - DIRECT ROUTE
TO EASTERN AUDITORIUM

RAMADA INN

SURROUNDING AREA MOTELS

HOLIDAY INN SOUTH
6501 S. Pennsylvania
(517/393-1650)
(At I-96 Interchange)

HOWARD JOHNSONS MOTOR LODGE
6741 S. Cedar
(517/694-0454)
(At I-96 Interchange)

AMPLE DINING NEARBY

AMPLE FREE PARKING

RAMADA'S FAMOUS
MATADOR ROOM BAR

1000 RAMADA DRIVE
(S. Pennsylvania & I-96)
(517/393-5500)

FOR ROOM AND HOSPITALITY
RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

DON FUNK
1451 HARVARD ROAD
EAST LANSING, MI. 48823
PHONE: 517/332-2160
OFFICE 517/393-3447

IN MASONIC AUDITORIUM JUNE 4

'Bach to Barbershop' will feature Gentlemens Agreement, Vagabonds, Motor City, Bowling Green Symphony

Area Barbershoppers are in for a rare treat Friday, June 4 when the Detroit No. 1 Chapter hosts the Bowling Green State University Symphony Orchestra, the Gentlemen's Agreement and the Vagabonds in a concert at the Masonic Auditorium in Detroit's Moslem Temple.

The 8 p.m. performance is titled "Bach to Barbershop . . . a Symphony in Harmony, and tickets are scaled at \$4, \$5 and \$6. The symphony orchestra will open the show, followed by Pioneer's two great representative quartets and the San Francisco-bound Motor City Chorus. The quartets, chorus and symphony then will combine in a concert certain to bring a new high in excitement to all Harmony lovers.

Emil Raab, director of orchestral activities, will conduct the Bowling Green Symphony. Mr. Raab is no stranger to this work scored specifically for our form of entertainment, having conducted the same work in North Carolina.

Bob Whitledge will be directing the Motor City Chorus at

Masonic Auditorium. Bob needs no introduction to Troubadour subscribers, nor to the music involved in this concert. The great bass of the Gentlemen's Agreement and his quartet have appeared in the same program with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra and the Long Beach Symphony, both under the direction of John Head, who scored the music.

The evening is planned as a fund-raiser to help defray expenses for the Motor City Chorus to the July contest and convention.

This program is not to be confused with the International Send-Off show, which will be held in Troy, Michigan May 14. More will be forthcoming on the Send-Off show, which will also feature the Gentlemen's Agreement, the Vagabonds, the Warren G. Harding Memorial 4, and the Motor City, Wayne Wonderland and Wolverine choruses.

For ticket information to "Bach to Barbershop", write to Elsie Upton, 26630 Glendale, Redford Township, Mi. 48239, or call after 5 p.m., 313/533-2645.

NAME _____

CHAPTER _____ CONTESTANT: YES _____ NO _____

(If more than one, list on separate sheet, your badge is your ticket to events)

MAIL WITH CHECK FOR FEES TO: REESE OLGER, 208 MAC, EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

REGISTRATION - ALL EVENTS \$9.00

EARLY REGISTRATION PRIOR TO
APRIL 1, 1976 \$8.00

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS:

Quartet Preliminaries \$4.00
Chorus Contest \$4.00
Finals \$4.00

NOTE: ALL COMPETITORS MUST
BE REGISTERED



FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1976

1:00 P.M. Registration - Ramada Inn
2:00 P.M. District Board Meeting - Ramada Inn
7:30 P.M. Judges Clinic - Ramada Inn
8:15 P.M. Quartet Briefing - Eastern High School
9:00 P.M. Intl. Preliminary Quartet Contest -
Eastern High School

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1976

9:00 A.M. House of Delegates - Ramada Inn
9:00 A.M. Quartet Preliminary Elimination
Critique
11:00 A.M. Chorus Directors Briefing - Ramada Inn
1:30 P.M. Chorus Contest - Eastern High School
Chorus Clinic (immediately following Contest) -
at Eastern High School
8:00 P.M. Quartet Finals - Eastern High School

SUNDAY, APRIL 25, 1976

9:00 A.M. Quartet Finalists Critique - Ramada Inn

ALL CONTESTS AT EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

PIONEER CHARTER FLIGHT TO SAN FRANCISCO

The PIONEER DISTRICT CHARTER FLIGHT to the 1976 International Convention in San Francisco ---YOU BET --- SAN FRANCISCO is well underway! The CHARTER is available for any BONI FIDE MEMBER OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT -- (and members of his immediate family -- residing with him -- per CAB Regulations). The member must have held membership prior to January 1, 1976 --- in order to be eligible for this CHARTER. NEW MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBER GUESTS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PIONEER "GROUP" RATE AS DESCRIBED ON REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FORM. The CAB has become very conscious of the regulations, and therefore, "ID" must be provided should it be requested.

PIONEER CHARTER WILL DEPART DETROIT METROPOLITAN AIRPORT --

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1976 (Approx. 10 A.M. -- exact time will be confirmed to all travelers).

PIONEER CHARTER WILL DEPART SAN FRANCISCO ON--
SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1976 (Approx. 11 A.M.)

NOTE!!!! ALL TIMES WILL BE CONFIRMED AS E.D.S.T.

PIONEER CHARTER WILL BE ----

AMERICAN AIRLINES 707 -- seating 173 (Charter).

LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED -- both ways.

As in the past we have calculated the fare based on 80% occupancy, also a 10% increase in fuel factor has been added. This of course means -- every additional person seated over 138, will make a substantial refund available, WHOOPS, forgot, Ground Fare from terminal to main hotel and back to Air Terminal is also included. FOR ANY OF YOU YET SKEPTICAL, the charge will be \$225.00, BUT should there be NO increase in fuel,

no increase in Ground Transportation, AND ALL 173 SEATS ARE SOLD...THE CASH REBATE.. WILL BE APPROXIMATELY \$65.00...THAT'S RIGHT.. \$65.00 ...THAT MEANS YOU WILL GO FOR APPROXIMATELY \$160.00...IF...IF...IF YOU FILL UP THE SEATS....SO TALK IT UP....AND REMEMBER NEW MEMBERS AND FRIENDS CAN GO ON THE "GROUP" FLIGHT...SEE REVERSE SIDE.....

Please notice that the due date for full payment is May 1, 1976 with application and \$50 due March 1, 1976.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILLING OUT APPLICATION

Use only one form for several persons residing at the same address. Each member must fill out a separate form for his own family unit. (Note: qualified family members may go on the flight even if the member himself does not).

READ the government regulations regarding eligibility (shown on the reverse side of form).

PRINT or TYPE the information on the form (except the members signature).

IF you desire confirmation, include a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

MAIL completed form with check or money order to:

DON FUNK
1451 HARVARD ROAD
EAST LANSING, MICHIGAN 48823

Pioneer Charter Flight					Make checks payable to: Pioneer Charter Flight	
PASSENGERS					CHECK or M.O. ENCLOSED----	
last name, first name, init.	Member	Wife	Child	Parent	\$ _____ partial payment \$50 each.	
					PARTIAL DUE- MARCH 1, 1976	
					\$ _____ complete payment \$225.00 each.	
					◇ COMPLETE PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER THAN MAY 1, 1976. ◇	
I hereby attest that the above named persons are qualified to participate in this charter flight according to the CAB rulings shown on the reverse side of this form. I further attest that I am a member of the _____ Chapter of the Pioneer District.					signature of member	
					street address	
					city & state	
					phone	zip
<input type="checkbox"/> Please confirm. I have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope. ()						

PIONEER GROUP FLIGHT

PASSENGERS

last name, first name, init.

	Member	Wife	Child	Parent	Other

I hereby attest that the above named persons are qualified to participate in this charter flight according to the CAB ruling shown on the reverse side of this form. I further attest that I am a member of the _____ Chapter of the Pioneer District.

☐ Please confirm. I have enclosed a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Make checks payable to:
Pioneer Charter Flight

CHECK or M.O. ENCLOSED-----

\$_____ partial payment
\$50 each.

PARTIAL DUE --MARCH 1, 1976

\$_____ complete payment
\$250 each

COMPLETE PAYMENT IS DUE NO LATER
THAN MAY 1, 1976.

Signature _____

Street _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Phone: (____) _____ Zip _____

☐ Non-Member

Now, as was stated on the reverse of this sheet, (CHARTER FLIGHT) PIONEER HAS A "GROUP" FLIGHT ALSO FOR SAN FRANCISCO, 1976 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. This flight has been secured for those who have to be in San Francisco for early Tuesday meetings, for those who have come into our wonderful Society since December 31, 1975, AND CANNOT RIDE THE Charter and for those folks who want to be a part of this wonderful hobby but who are not members and cannot travel under the CAB CHARTER REGULATIONS.

PIONEER "GROUP" FLIGHT -----

AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 105Y

LEAVES DETROIT METRO - MONDAY, JULY 5, 1976

at 12:22 P.M. (EDST)

ARRIVES SAN FRANCISCO 3:18 P.M.

LEAVES SAN FRANCISCO - SUNDAY, JULY 11, 1976

at 8:45 A.M. (Breakfast & Snack Served)

AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT 92Y

ARRIVES DETROIT METRO 3:59 P.M.

COST OF THE GROUP -- INCLUDING Ground Transportation and Possible Fare Increase \$250.00

Should no rate increase occur, a rebate of approximately \$35.00 may be expected. This group must consist of a minimum of 40 persons, currently 80 seats are being held.

THE FOLLOWING EXCERPTS ARE FROM THE CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD REGULATIONS - PART 207

Sec. 207.45 Par. (d)..... Every person identified on the attached list is (1) a bona fide member of the chartering organization, and will have been a member for at least 6 months prior to the starting flight date, or..... (4) is the spouse, dependent child, or parent of a person described hereinbefore and lives in such person's household.....

Title 18, U. S. C., section 1001. Whoever, in any matter within the the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States, knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up by any trick, scheme or device a material fact, or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations, or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing the same to contain any false fictitious or fraudulent statement or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

THE BATTLE CREEK CHAPTER

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

proudly presents the

21st Annual Night of Harmony

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1976

W. K. Kellogg Auditorium

★ ★ ★ M. C. DAVE EDDY ★ ★ ★

FEATURING

— A BiCentennial Show —

“SALUTE TO AMERICA”

Headlining

THE BOSTON COMMON

*THE CLASSMATES
THE FOUR D MINORS
CEREAL CITY CHORUS*

*THE HARMONY HOUNDS
THE MILLIONAIRES
SWEET ADELINE CHORUS*

Tickets available at . . .

Eastern TV, 944 Emmett Street, Battle Creek, Mi.

and

Any Member of the B.C. Barbershoppers

Seats — \$3.00 and \$3.50

For-Tune Tellers keep it Barbershop with the emphasis on Entertainment

"One night, twelve long years ago, at a Jackson Chapter meeting in the Hayes Hotel, four 'cherubic' faces entirely strange to the entire membership, walked in and asked if they could listen and maybe sing a couple songs for us."

Thus began an article in the January, 1963 Troubadour by past-president John Comloquoy, Jr.

"Those 'kids' piledrivered their way through four numbers with not a dis-chord, a quiver in their knees or one single flaw from beginning to end . . . the membership age limit in the Jackson Chapter dropped that night to include 'cherubs,'" the article continued.

Jackson has never regretted the youth movement, for those four "cherubs" went on to become one of our District's greatest entertaining quartets, The For-Tune Tellers, who have just marked a 25-year milestone in the year gone by.

The quartet on stage that eventful night in the Hayes Hotel had Sam Cushman at tenor, brother Tom Cushman singing lead, Everett Queen baritone, and Bud Knorpp bass. Tom and Everett switched parts before Everett left the quartet to become basketball coach at Royal Oak Dondero High School.



THE FOR-TUNE TELLERS--then

Bud Knorpp, Everett Queen, Tom and Sam Cushman

That's when Red Shaw stepped into the picture and the foursome that we have all come to know and love so well in this District began to make its mark.

Their first engagement, not so humorous at the time, was a radio broadcast from a funeral home in Hudson, Michigan. They knew only two songs — neither of which were exactly the Sunday type. Today, the For-Tune Tellers can draw from over 200 songs in their repertoire without hesitation.

While the gentlemen from Jackson have given the contest route a whirl in the distant past, this never has been quite their forte. They were Junior Champs one year, but never knew they had received this accolade until after they had returned home.

There was one occasion when they received trophies for a second-place finish, but found out a day later that the scores were added wrong and they had finished third by one point! They promptly forwarded the trophies to the Onchords with congratulations and returned to doing their thing — entertainment!

"That's their bag," says Marie Knorpp, and they have fun doing it".

Marie is the charming wife of bass Bud Knorpp. When you start talking about this quartet, you immediately find that you are really talking about an octet. The four girls married to this quartet are its most avid fans. No quartet could ever sing and clown its way through 25 years without a lot of support from wives and family, and this one has had it from the start.

Sam and Elaine Cushman, Tom and Gerry Cushman, and Bud and Marie Knorpp are all graduates of Manchester High School, while Red and Mary Shaw are graduates of Jackson High.

Sam, Tom and Bud were members of the same football team at Manchester, an indication of just how long these guys have really been together.

The wives will tell you that these men have included their families in whatever they did. This, they say, is what makes them one big happy family and contributes so much to the longevity of the group.

Some years ago they bought a bus. The children were small then, and all had a hand in fixing it up. They took out the seats and replaced them with couches and other equipment to make it comfortable for all to travel together.

The Tune Tellers readily admit they cannot keep up the pace that has carried them through so many years, and there has been some talk about retirement — even some talk that



. . . and NOW

Bud, Tom, Red Shaw and Sam
—madness in Milford

they have hung it up. Many times they have gone to work with only one or two hours sleep, or none at all. But, from talking to the guys and listening to some of the things they are still doing you wonder if they will ever actually hang up the pipe.

Red (the thought has never occurred to ask his given name) is the member with the most seniority in the Society. He is employed in the advertising department of the Jackson Citizen Patriot. The Shaws have two daughters, Diane and Debbie. Diane has a daughter and a son, and Debbie has a son. Other than being a grandfather, Red enjoys golfing and snowmobiling when time permits.

Sam owns Cushman Real Estate. He and Elaine have a daughter, Karen, and two granddaughters. Sam likes to bowl and golf when not working or singing.

Tom owns A.B.C. Reproduction. He and Gerry have a daughter, Marsha, and two sons, Tom Jr. and Kent. The younger Tom has a daughter and two sons. When not practicing his baritone, Tom interests himself in sailing, writing or golfing.



A label in Sam's coat says 1912!

Bud has 36 years with Ford Motor Company, and is currently involved in the prototype program. Bud and Marie have a daughter, Charla, who also has a daughter; and two sons, David and Kevin. The Knorpps raise standard bred horses, and Bud completes the foursome on the golf links.

Last September the Jackson Chapter held a family night that turned out to be a surprise party for their favorite quartet. Barbershoppers and friends turned out from all over the District to honor four of the greatest guys to ever grace a stage.

Pioneer President Don Funk experienced a great deal of difficulty while trying to keep the crowd down to an uproar 'til the Vagabonds arrived with the guests of honor in tow. But finally the doors opened, the flashbulbs popped, movie cameras whirled, and into the hall came the flabbergasted For-Tune Tellers like lambs to slaughter.



QUADRASWAMIC SOUND???

Their wives and families were standing by the head table as the quartet was besieged with hand-shaking, back-slapping well wishers who jammed the aisles to express their sentiments.

On stage, Jackson's Evil Companions began the entertainment, followed by Monroe's Special Delivery.

The Soundmasters, 1949 fourth-place International medalists from Lansing, added a tribute of solid harmony, as did the Merrimen, another great quartet from Lansing's past, back together once again.

The Merri-Men, long-time antagonists and friends, joined the Tellers in an octet to do some of the swinging, rollicking songs, much to the delight of everyone.

Even "Flaming Mamie" got into the act as she was escorted on stage, much to Red's chagrin and amidst a roar of laughter. Mamie decorated the For-Tune Tellers with large, over-sized medalions, a present from their chapter.

Grosse Pointe, out on a mystery trip, fielded 35 men on stage with some great chorus singing.

The Four "D" Minors district champs from Battle Creek, saluted the guests in song, and The Vagabonds made it a memorable occasion for everyone in the finale.

Pioneer hasn't seen a party like this one for a long time, and may never see one again. How many quartets other than the Schmidt Brothers stay together 25 years?

All this came just before the October 18 show in Jackson High, which featured the current International Champs, The Happiness Emporium, in a Silver Salute to the For-Tune Tellers. Even the tickets were printed on silver stock.

The December Troub covered this show. One of the big surprises of that evening was seeing the For-Tune Tellers on stage in those sparkling white uniforms with the silver span-gles and the top hats and canes. Not bad for a supposedly-retiring quartet, but the kind of class we have come to expect from an act that has been 25 years in the making.

Chapters, quartets, officers and friends throughout the Society, along with Governor William Milliken and President Ford, sent letters and telegrams of congratulations and these letters were placed in an album which was presented during the show.

The smoothly polished, subtle sophistication and great timing of the For-Tune Tellers is a hallmark of entertainment in Barbershop harmony and comedy that only experience can bring — like 25 years of togetherness doing what you like to do best. That's Barbershop! And that's Entertainment!

*Plan Now To Attend
One of the Great Traditions of the
Pioneer District*

The BOYNE CITY CHAPTER'S Thirtieth Annual *BUSH LEAGUE*

— Featuring —

BOYNE CITY'S SNOW BELT CHORUS
in a Super Salute to the Bicentennial

The 1975 BUSH LEAGUE CHAMPS

POINTE FOUR

*and, for the icing on the cake . . .
The Great Music and Entertainment of*
THE SOUNDTRACKS

**PUT THE
DATE ON YOUR
CALENDAR NOW —
MAY 1, 1976**

Afternoon Contest
Evening Show

1:30 P.M.
8:00 P.M.

Boyne City High School



GET THOSE QUARTET ENTRIES IN NOW

**FOR TICKETS AND INFO—
CONTACT: ED THURSTON
BOX 2640
BOYNE CITY, MI.
49712**

Bush League '76 Entry

Quartet Name
Chapter
Lead
Tenor
Baritone
Bass

(No Entry Fee)

Bill Warner learns who friends really are as No. 1 lays it on!



When Bill Warner received a call from Kenosha asking him to trade COTS assignments with another instructor who "could not make it" on the assigned week end, he was only too happy to oblige.

This would give an opportunity to participate in the roasting of old buddy Bill Butler on December 5th — and who would want to miss out on an opportunity like that?

So, Warner came to the party and took his place with the panel at the head table, meanwhile honing his axe to a keen edge, no doubt.

Behind the table, perched on an easel, was a picture of Butler, the "Man of the Moment". Beside Warner, on either



flank, was seated a panel of distinguished and capable Barbershoppers and Motor City Chorus Wives.

When Butler was ushered to his seat at the table, wife Jean (who, with a devious mind and the help of the chorus wives, had planned the whole caper) remarked that the seating was all wrong, and that Warner and Butler should exchange chairs.

Meanwhile, back at the easel, the picture of Butler was turned to the wall (a slight improvement), and on the reverse side was a picture of Warner with a red "bullseye" overlay.

Somewhat later, when it became obvious, even to Bill Warner, that he was setup for an evening of lambasting, the fireworks began.

One by one the panel took potshots at our outgoing IBM, with such remarks as "a funny thing happened to me on the way to Kenosha", etc.

A poetic Marge Dugan regaled the gathering with her explanation of the Society's acronym: "Some People, Especially Bill, Should Quit Singing Altogether".

Don Funk, heir-apparent to Warner's IBM mantle, found it rather awkward and somewhat difficult to express his

"true" feelings about his predecessor. Les Marhoff, Don Smith, Larry King, Ruth Kinjorski, Bob Rock, and Bill Wickstrom (we must have missed someone) all twisted the needle before throwing another dart at the bullseye-picture.

Bill Wickstrom left a lasting impression when he stated that "Warner is the only guy I know who can take a shower without getting his feet wet!" And something was said, somewhere in the evening, about a volleyball — which keeps bouncing back into the the chapter bulletin whenever Warner's name is mentioned. Frankly, the correlation skips us somehow!

The charming and much maligned Nell Warner was given the final spot at the mike before the rebuttal, and she gave some insight as to what life is like as the spouse of a driving Barbershopper possessed with ambition.

Most of Bill's retorts were lost in a large white handkerchief which covered his face. It was difficult to tell whether or not he was waving a surrender flag or just blowing his nose.

All in all, it was a great evening of fun and food, not all at Bill's expense, naturally.

The likeness of the "Man of the Moment" perched on the easel proved too tough for most of the darts that were thrown at the bullseye-clad image as they caromed about menacingly and fell to the floor. But that's our Bill Warner, a tough administrator, a tough Barbershopper — so tough, in fact, we hear the chorus has kicked him out of the baritone section.

And where do you go from there?



BILL WICKSTROM. Ads a Compliment

Alpena's Chapter Show scheduled for May 15th

Secretary Reg Phillips of Alpen's Thunder Bay Chapter writes to ask that we publicize their show date, May 15, in the Troubadour.

The Troub is happy to oblige, Reg, but we could have used some more details, like who's on the show, where it's being held, etc.

Regardless, from experience we know that the men of Thunder Bay don't think small, and Barbershoppers and fans can count on a great show in Alpena. They know what hospitality means in the North Country!

Perhaps we can have more details in time for the April issue, but interested persons can write Mike Froggett, c/o Froggett Jewelry, Alpena, Michigan 49707 for more information. We're sure "Froggy" can supply you with all the dope . . . err, information!

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



Mac Huff will hold Quartet and Coaching Workshop Feb. 27-29

Plans are now finalized and the Coaching Faculty set for the first Quartet and Coaches Workshop and Clinic for 1976. This is being held February 27 thru 29 at the Olds Plaza in Lansing, Michigan, with a starting time of 8 p.m. the 27th. These sessions are open to all quartets, registered and non-registered, or four guys just thinking about it. Individual members who are interested in getting into coaching quartets should have a good ear and some musical background and knowledge of what the Barbershop Style is all about.

Needless to say, members of the District who qualify as above are most welcome and are urged to attend and participate. We badly need qualified coaches in this District, both for quartets and choruses, so those of you with talents in this area will get a lot of knowledge and experience if you will attend this Clinic.

The cost per person is \$48.75 double occupancy, or \$60.40 single. This amount includes two nights lodging, full breakfast, lunch and dinner Saturday, full breakfast Sunday and your \$5 registration fee.

During Joe Liles' visit in March there will be a Chorus Directors Workshop and Clinic held at the Olds Plaza, March 19 thru 21, 1976. Probably the same room and meals along with the registration fee will be in effect for that Clinic. There will be one big difference however, and that is that this is a legitimate Chapter expense.

Every chapter should have at least their chorus director in attendance at this Clinic. I would like to suggest that you also include an assistant director, and anyone who is interested and qualified to attend as section leaders.

It is going to be one of our goals to develop more qualified chorus directors in the Pioneer District (We sure need them). If you will search and listen, you may be pleasantly surprised to find men within your chapter who have this ability but are too timid to step up and say "I can direct a chorus". All they need is the proper training and experience.

Since the beginning of this year I have had several requests to visit with various chapters and assist them with some of their musical goals, as well as some of the problems in the musical life of the chapter.

Gentlemen, I personally would really like to do this, but there are some facts we must face. The District budget does not include funds for this type of assistance, nor does my personal pocketbook allow it. There just isn't enough money available. Therefore, at least for this year, any visitations of this nature will have to be funded by the chapter or chapters making a request such as this.

So, till next time we meet, have fun in this great hobby — and KEEP IT BARBERSHOP!!!

Mac Huff's schedule for visitation, February 23-29, 1976 in Pioneer District:

- Feb. 23—Detroit #, Host
Detroit, Wayne, Oakland County, Windsor and Monroe
American Legion Hall, 4211 Maple, Dearborn, Mi.
Contact: Bill Butler (313) 721-4747
- Feb. 24—Grosse Pointe, Host
Grosse Pointe and Port Huron
St. Marks Church, 14510 E. Seven Mile, Detroit, Mi.
Contact: Don Adams (313) 775-0002
- Feb. 25—Holly-Fenton, Host
Holly-Fenton, Flint, Milford, Pontiac and Clinton Valley
V.F.W. Hall, N. Leroy, Fenton, Mich.
Contact: Bill Bischoff (313) 629-5238
- Feb. 26—Saginaw-Bay, Host
Saginaw-Bay, Gratiot County
Pulaski Hall, 1401 S. Grant, Bay City, Mi.
Contact: Jim Gross (517) 684-4005
- Feb. 27-29 at Quartet and Coaches Workshop and Clinic at the Olds Plaza in Lansing, Michigan.

Frank Bateson is awarded 20th "Man of Note"

The Troubadour, officers and members of the Pioneer District extend congratulations to Frank Bateson, Saginaw-Bay's hard-working recruiter and Barbershopper for having sponsored 20 new members into Society membership.

The following letter, dated January 22 of this year, was forwarded to Frank from Society headquarters:

Dear Frank:

It's certainly a pleasure for us to write this letter on behalf of the entire Society to congratulate you in the achievement of sponsoring your 20th member in the Society's Man of Note program.

Your No. 20 tie-tac to complete your collection for your frame and the diamond studded tie-tac for you to wear signifying your being a "20 Man Sponsor" have been forwarded under separate cover for presentation to you at an appropriate time.

You're only the 34th Barbershopper in the Society to join the exclusive "20 Man Club".

Again, Frank, heartiest congratulations and wear your diamond studded tie-tac with much enjoyment and pride.

Yours in SONG,
Barrie Best

Executive Director

**Lansing
is where
it's at
in the
Spring**



**Plan Now
for the
Greatest Show
in District
Barbershopping!**

Jones Jamboree un-Jangled!

'Sugar Pops' cop tops

By DAN SHELLES
Niles-Buchanan Chapter

The weather was great, the setting was fine, and the company was fun — except that there could have been more of it.

The "First-ever" Jones Jaunt came off with relatively few problems. After some concern Friday, due to an early rain, the weather was about perfect and a dozen or so of us had a ball doing the family camping thing. While the facilities won't put any luxury motels out of business, they were quite adequate (that's the first time this writer has used sanitary facilities of that type that didn't develop an offensive odor).

There were ten quartets representing some half-a-dozen chapters — mostly from Zone II — entered in the modified Quartet Jamboree competition. The committee decided that the ten competitors would sing a double round, with the winner being decided on the basis of total scores from both the afternoon and evening rounds.

The Saturday afternoon program was opened by the Phidavonics of the Niles-Buchanan and South Bend, Indiana Chapters as mike testers. Each competing quartet then sang two numbers from the Quartet Jamboree list, with only the first being judged.

The evening round consisted of one song from each quartet, plus a show from some surprise — to them — guests while the judges compiled the scores. The Arlingtones — Illinois District's standard bearers to the International, and current Fifth Place Medalists — just happened to be taking a mystery bus trip, and they just happened to be at Jones, complete with director Doug (Soundtracks) Miller. Anyway, they did a fine job as a part of the evening show — even managing to get a quartet, the Guys next Door, into the act, and they were enjoyed by all.

About this quartet contest: since the major goal was to encourage quartet development, scores weren't published, but quartets were ranked, with the "Sugar Pops" from Battle Creek landing in first place. As Roger Lewis said — "Between us we've some 65 years of quartet experience, and this is the first time we've (any of us) ever won. I guess you could say that it's the first time in 65 years that the judges got it right!"

Speaking of judges, we'd like to extend a rather large thanks to John Gillespie for serving as secretary of the distinguished panel; to Don Lang, a newly certified judge in the Sound category; and to three of Jackson's "Evil Companions" — Bob Simmons, Bob Folk, and John Zarnecki — for judging in Arrangement, Interpretation and Stage Presence respectively.

We're aware that long lists of thank-you's don't make for the most interesting reading, but we're just so grateful to all of those — to use a trite term — really super folks that helped us get this thing off the ground that we have to acknowledge as many as we can.

The competing quartets: We've mentioned the Sugar



See related pictures on page 16

The Niles-Buchanan Chapter sponsored the first annual Jones Jaunt last August at Jones, Michigan. The Barbershop Festival featured an Open Novice Quartet Jamboree in "the Good Old Days Town", with free campsites available to Barbershoppers. The affair ran from Friday through Sunday. This year NB-C will try it again with a somewhat reduced schedule. The Troubadour is pleased to present the accompanying story and pictures recently received. We hope to get earlier coverage on the next one.—Ed

Pops from Battle Creek. Second was Mid-Year Clearance from Kalamazoo, and third was Polecats Quartet from Niles-Buchanan. Others, not in order of finish were: Ladies Disagreement from Kalamazoo, Forgetables from Fruitbelt, Tang-Tongues from Niles-Buchanan and Lansing, Four Leads from Fruitbelt, The Long and the Short of It from St. Joe Valley, Handker-Chiefs from Lansing and Niles-Buchanan, and Four-of-a-Kind from Niles-Buchanan. Thanks by the bunch and bushel to the Davis family — to Jerry for being General Chairman, to Beth for letting him and for supporting the project, and to the kids for being the most efficient set of "Go-fers", ticket handlers and what-have-you that we've ever seen.

A special mention has got to be made of Harvey Hoffman and the rest of the Jones people for their outstanding cooperation and for securing Sound Systems, Inc., of Butler, Indiana (have you ever heard or seen a Country musician get turned on to Barbershop?).

So, we had a ball, and from all the feedback we've got, so did everyone else that came. We only lost a nominal sum, so we're going to try to do it again in 1976, and try for bigger and better things. This year, all activities are scheduled for one day — Saturday, July 17th — with a rain date for Sunday, July 18th. Camping is again free for Barbershoppers and a barbeque is to be added . . . so practice those Quartet Jamboree songs, and keep those dates — July 17 and 18, in mind and plan on another jaunt to Jones to get un-jangled!

Jaunt to Jones was un-jangling



CHAPTER NOTES

Detroit No. 1

December was eventful for Detroit No. 1. There was a potluck dinner early in the month where a "celebrity roast" was held, the celebrity being none other than the infamous Bill Warner.

Close on the heels of this outstanding and, I might say, humorous evening, came a series of holiday singouts including Detroit's eighth annual appearance at the Plymouth Center for Human Development, bringing Christmas happiness to the less fortunate children there.

In the middle of the month Detroit No. 1 and Grosse Pointe held their annual quartet contest, and although each Detroit quartet came prepared with a beautiful song and a carefully prepared sign announcing who they were, Grosse Pointe carried the day.

The last major Barbershop event for Detroit No. 1 in December was a night of caroling arranged beautifully by Bob Mulligan and participated in by about forty hardy Barbershoppers. The caroling, which centered around convalescent homes and the homes of long-time Barbershoppers, was enjoyed by all, in spite of the flat tire on the bus.

Well, January starts a new year and brings with it a lot of work to prepare for competition in San Francisco and to raise the money for the trip.

Speaking of raising money for the trip, anyone in the District interested in hiring the Motor City Chorus or a mini-chorus to perform should contact Harold Kendall at 453-0472.

—Don Smith

Niles-Buchanan

An interesting note on our "N-B C" — We've got a letter on file from the National Broadcasting Company which was in response to a request for banners, etc., which we could use at conventions. They informed us that their trademark was too highly prized to permit such. We are now wondering if we shouldn't hit them again since they have changed their corporate image — then again, with the controversy, over who really does "own" their new symbol, maybe we'd better hold off — they might want it back!

The Chapter has just passed a "Policies of Operation" which a number of the fellows have worked very hard to compile. We realize there's a long way to go, but it should assist us in clearing up some of the confusion over what a "chapter" is and is not.

Presently, we are at work on what we consider to be a SUPER SHOW written by John Mosher of our Chapter. Although based on the International's Salute to America, it was reworked by John so that we could handle things. Although John doesn't sing in the chorus (says the "Service" fixed that!) it's great to have a fellow around with his kind of talent — especially now that we are calling our "Singouts" "Performances".

The N-B C was saddened this year by the loss of Art Pullen who had been a member of the original Niles Barbershop Chapter before the N-B C came along. During much of his membership, Art was plagued with TB, but over the last two years was very regular in his involvement.

Vic Vigansky of the "Phidavonics" quartet has just begun to move around after major surgery, so it looks as if the group will be retired for awhile (if a quartet can be said to retire).

Our president, Bob Demler, just returned from COTS in Indianapolis! No, N-B C doesn't plan to join the Cardinal District (even though we are only five miles away). Bob's son was married the day of Pioneer's COTS so he decided on goin' where it was warmer.

I'd better sign off since I've gotta' get some PR materials out on the Show. Am happy to see the "SWIPES" column in the Troubadour as well as the information from District officers and committees. —Ron Neff

What's New in Your Chapter?

Saginaw-Bay

Since last September our chapter has been rebuilding. We are concentrating on getting the older inactive members active again and also recruiting new ones. We are especially pleased that several high school fellows have recently joined. But we believe there should be no generation gap in Barbershopping. We are after male singers of all ages.

We feel very fortunate to have Jim Gross as our director. Jim has been directing the chorus since last September.

We have sung several times since last Fall. In September we participated in an all-city singout which included all of the Bay City high school choirs. During the holiday season we sang three programs: one for the Bay City Retirees Club, one for the St. Maria Goretti Ladies Club and one for the club members at Pulaski Hall, our landlords.

The highlight of the year was our Installation of Officers Program on January 10. This consisted of a dinner, refreshments, entertainment by the Gentlemen's Agreement and The Classmates as well as our Chapter Chorus. It was a program open to the public and we had a sellout house, more than 300 people.

Members of our 1976 Board and other Chapter Officers are as follows: President Charles Fulks, Corresponding Secretary Bruce Mulligan, Recording Secretary Eric Mel-drum, Treasurer Carl Secor. Board members Rober Glover, Alwyn Shephard, Timothy Keyes, Robert Loomis Sr. Area Counselor Doug Beaver, Logopedics Chairman Raymond Walsh, Chorus Chairman Jack Ware, Librarian Robert Reisinger, Past President Frank Bateson, Chorus Director Jim Gross and Chapter Reporter Donald Miller.

At present we are conducting three sessions of auditions for membership. We are also firming up plans for our annual St. Patty's Day Thaw which will be held March 13 at the Village Hall in Bay City. This is an evening of Barbershop entertainment and a dance (with a band) followed by a late lunch. All Barbershoppers and friends are welcome.

We are working hard on our contest songs and looking forward to the Spring Convention. —Don Miller

Wayne

Wayne's 1976 Bicentennial Pitchpipe Parade, "What A Country", will be presented March 5th and 6th at Our Lady of Mercy High School in Farmington.

Along with the headliners, The O.K.-4, and The Sounds of Music, will be The Final Edition, The Memorylaners, The Keepers of the Key, and everyone's favorites, The Aire-Males — plus, of course, the Wayne Wonderland Chorus.

We take pride in the knowledge that we have never put on a bad show and strive to make each successive performance just a bit better than the last. Therefore we are working hard to make this a memorable occasion.

At the same time we are also working on our contest numbers for the Spring Convention.

In May we are under contract to do another Bicentennial Show in Northville under the sponsorship of the Northville Rotary Club.

Sandwiched in between all this activity we manage to include a few singouts (sorry, Bill Butler) at rest homes and convalescent centers, so you can see we are somewhat busy.

In the last report I mentioned that we had retained Dr. Jerry Smith as voice coach. Some of us have been singing for a good many years and thought we knew a fair amount about what we were doing. But after a few sessions with Dr. Smith we found out why contest judges didn't always agree with us. Would you believe that in the first two sessions we did nothing but breathing exercises? Maybe we'll learn something.

Congratulations to Bill Butler on his appointment as Music Education Director. We'll all respect his wishes and never use the term "singout" again.

Come see our show in March if you can, and we'll see the rest of you in Lansing in April. —Morrie Giles



Quartet Registry

The January report from Director of Music Education and Services Bob Johnson lists the following information:

NEW QUARTETS—

ROLLING TONES, James E. Lekander, 8620 Sequoyah, Clarkston, Mich. 48016 (Oakland County)

RAPIDAIREs, Richard K. Cronk, Sr., 705 Cherry Ave., Big Rapids, Mi. 49307 (Cadillac).

YE OLDE LAMPLIGHTERS, Luke Lennon, 2091 Surry Ave., Schoolcraft, Mi. 49087 (Kalamazoo).

FRINGE BENEFIT, Jack Sidor, 1483 Three Mile NE, Grand Rapids, Mi. 49505 (Grand Rapids).

UNRENEWED REGISTRATIONS—

GRAYLORDS, AuSable Valley and Les Cheneaux, Mich.

LATEST EDITION, Kalamazoo and Fruit Belt, Mich.

POINTE FOUR, Grosse Pointe, Mich.

HERR-RAZORS, Oakland County, Mich.

KAMPOUT KUARTET, Detroit, Lansing and Jackson, Mich.

CHANGES—

DUNE TONES, Bill Van Bogelen, 16600 Robbins Rd., Lot #25, Grand Haven, Mich. 49417.



CHAPTER NOTES



Clinton Valley

Well, let me tell you about a bunch of guys who are still "up" after completing their charter show. The place was almost filled and the applause — well, it's still ringing in our ears. We appreciated all of the fine comments from you Barbershoppers and those of you who came to see the show.

We were all delighted with the singing of the Vagabonds, the wonderful songs and comedy of the Sound Objective, the nostalgic songs from the Sound Spectrum, and our own witty Variety Pack. The chorus sang two numbers, "Alexander's Ragtime Band", which even included a little choreography, and "Old Pair of Shoes", which was done under a black light with Gary Birdwell doing a creative dance to the melody.

The afterglow was the best that this reporter has been to — more great entertainment and good food. The Sweet Adelines graciously helped us out in the food department. We sure would have liked to have heard them sing — but, maybe next year! Our tentative date for next year's show is December 4, 1976, if you would like to plan ahead.

We had quite a bit of feedback at our show from future Barbershoppers. Sure, we signed them up but we're like Elsie the Cow, wanting to do better, so we're going to have an "A for A" on the last Friday in January. I think our members want to push our membership over one hundred by next year and, you know, by this ole reporter's eyes and ears, they will do it.

Before I turn off, the whole gang wants to wish you the best for the new year. —Chuck Paine

Grosse Pointe

Grosse Pointe has been active as usual and has been involved in a great many activities since the last report in the Troubadour. The summer months, never a period of "doldrums" in Grosse Pointe, saw the Chapter taking advantage of summer for picnics, singouts, helping out on the Bob-Lo Moonlite, and many other civic and community affairs.

Chorus members experienced a tremendously warm response at the annual St. Clair Shores Lion Club Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7. This event hosts visually handicapped persons in the St. Clair Shores area. Approximately fifty members of the chorus sang their hearts out. This also is what Barbershopping is all about — bringing joy, warmth, and love to others through song.

Sterling Berry and Ted Keller attended Harmony College in August and have been sharing the "pearls" of Barbershop craft with the Chapter. The Chapter was very proud of the 4-Fits and their effort at "Indy". They are always "first" in our hearts at Grosse Pointe.

With the nip of autumn in the air the tempo changed and

attention was directed to the fall competition, chorus and chapter organization and planning for the year. Grosse Pointe is very appreciative of the leadership of Kurt Kusch who met the challenge of the period without a chorus director by aggressively and positively assuming the responsibility of taking the chorus to Grand Rapids and competing with the best. In addition to the competition, he has led the chorus in their other performances and programs. Well done Kurt!

The following 1976 officers were elected last fall and were installed on Chapter Officers Installation Night (COIN) Nov. 7. COIN Night is one of the evenings when the ladies share in the fellowship of Barbershop.

1976 Chapter Officers: President Don Adams, Exc. V.P. Bob Rancilio, Program V.P. Ray McCalpin, Asst. Program V.P. Gordy Dubrul, Secretary Sterling Berry, Treasurer Nick Catallane, Chorus Manager Larry Lorentzen, Sgt. at Arms. Wally Pfunk, Keeper of Mugs Tom Fox, Historian Russ Seeley, Board of Directors Bob Kruger, Carl Uridge, Bob Wood, John Neighorn; Delegates Dan Bulbuk, Bill Brower; Alternates Hank Demars, John Wenzel.

The Musical Director's post has been filled by Gordy Limburg, no stranger to Pioneer Barbershoppers.

Don Adams as president is already working with the Chapter to make the Fall Convention in 1976 a real winner. A Meritorious Service Award has been instituted in Grosse Pointe as a method of recognizing the contributions of those who have extended themselves above and beyond the usual high standards of service and contribution in the Chapter. Wally Pfunk was the first recipient in July. In recognition for their many years of outstanding service, Al Singer, Jack Henderstein, Herb Reed, Wally Joure, Paul Johnson and Meinrad Braun received the award in a special presentation on COIN Night. Ray McCalpin deserves applause for the detailed research of the Barbershop experience of these venerable gentlemen and the clever and appropriate presentation remarks. —Bob Wood

St. Joseph Valley

We are not starting the new year like we had hoped we would as we are still under the 25-member limit. However, with the number of guests we have coming to the meetings we should make it by the end of the first quartet.

Also, Ron Neff, our area counselor, is going to make sure we don't falter. Ron has attended many of our meetings and all of our board meetings, even though he lives at least 50 miles from our Chapter.

Our chorus is busy learning the songs for our show, which will be held April 10 in Sturgis, Michigan. We have two local quartets working and also a quartet from Three Rivers High School.

Our past president, Cal Richmond, now has the makings of a quartet as his three sons have all joined our Chapter.

This is our Chapter's 30th year in the Society. We have had our ups and downs over the years but we believe we are definitely on the upswing.

Now we are going out and get those five new members President Gillespie wants from each chapter.

—George Dieffenderfer

Down Our Way

with the Editor



There is little point in reminding you that this is the heart of the busy season for Pioneer People, except that it may be busier than most of us even realize.

Of prime importance at this time is the problem of getting our deposits in to Don Funk for the charter flight to San Francisco. We know this is short notice for a lot of us to raise the funds and mail them in, but unexpected difficulties in getting charter approval this year caused a lot of turmoil. Don's exhausting efforts paid off, however, and we cannot say enough to show our appreciation for this wonderful, busy guy.

The original group flight, with some 40 seats available, will leave on Monday. Don, President John Gillespie, and some other District officers will be on that flight.

The bulk of the Pioneer contingent will depart from Detroit Metro on Tuesday. Though time is short, we hope every seat will be filled to insure a decent representation at the International Convention, and a decent rebate to our passengers.

Spring Convention and International Prelims in Lansing will be on us before we know it.

So will the Send-Off Show and the big bash with the Bowling Green Symphony, the Gentlemen's Agreement, The Vagabonds and the Motor City Chorus at Masonic Auditorium. We've been waiting a long time to hear this fantastic sound in our area, so let's turn out in strength and support our chorus representatives in their effort to raise funds for their trek to the West Coast in July. It takes a heap of cash to finance such a mass migration as this.

The Troubadour editor has been honored by a request from P.R.O.B.E. Editor Roger Snyder to serve as one of three members of the nominating committee for that organization this year. P.R.O.B.E. is the Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors mechanism in the Society and this year's meeting in San Francisco will mark the beginning of an effort to restructure it in order to better serve Society needs.

We were also invited to instruct the P.R.O.B.E. class at Johnny Appleseed's COTS in the Fawcett Center for Tomorrow on the Ohio State campus at Columbus.

What a facility this is, complete with 10-story inn, auditorium, class rooms and public and private dining rooms of generous size.

And what a school it was! 289 chapter officers, editors, music directors, etc., turned out for this session with Sam Kennedy, Dave Stevens, and a great faculty.

"The Time of Your Life", Sam promised us from the

beginning, which just happened to be the theme for this class of officers. That, we had!

JAD's President Gene Courts, COTS Chairman Frank Buffington, and our Columbus hosts made the theme a reality for all of us. The enthusiasm was unbelievable!

Sam's "backward quartet contest" was just as unbelievable. If this becomes a trend, the Society is in deep trouble!

Those Appleknockers have the Fawcett Center booked for the next 10 years, but if this thing keeps growing at this rate, they may need Buckeye Stadium for the overflow!

Our P.R.O.B.E. classroom was graced with some real talent — Clare Wickman of Dayton Suburban's "Fly Paper", Joe Lindsay of Grove City's "Heartbeat", District Editor Dick Stewart of the Cider Press and many others we should name if space permitted.

The feedback of bulletins we have received indicates that most of them listened carefully to our ramblings. It's not easy to lecture off the top of your head following two busy, sleepless days.

At least one editor must have been as sleepy as this one, however, since the publication received carried a name, but no chapter, city, return address, or editor's name. Not knowing who to contact, we hope this oversight will be corrected before the publication goes to press again.

The Troub would like to welcome aboard the Pioneer Conestoga our new Wagonmaster John Gillespie. That's a demanding set of reigns Don Funk left draped across the buckboard, John, but we know you can handle our team in grand style as we head westward for some heavy prospecting in this, the year of the Pioneer.

To Plummer Collins and the new administration at Kenosha we also extend our welcoming hand, along with thanks to Dick Ellenberger and the outgoing officers who have served us so well.

The long list of administrative and singing talent within our Society is a reassuring comfort in our effort to Keep America Singing.

We were pleased to receive a copy of Barrie Best's letter to Frank Bateson printed in this issue. It is our hope that this will serve as an inspiration to our members and will give them an incentive to do likewise. What a Society this would be if we had more recruiters like Frank. We doff the old Pioneer coonskin to him for this accomplishment.

The Lansing Chapter show was changed from its October schedule for this season to January 17. The shift apparently paid off with big rewards since the auditorium at Lansing Eastern was packed to the rafters and more than 250 people were unable to get tickets. A conflicting schedule with our own Milford Chapter kept us from being in Lansing for this one and we regret having missed a great show.

It is encouraging to see so many of our chapters using the Bicentennial music package in some form or other as a theme for this year's shows. With so much commercialism detracting from the importance of this historic milestone in our history we feel that our own unique art form comes closer to the commemorative target than the spate of drivel with which the American public is being flooded.

Barbershop is American music. Our songs tell the story of this country and its people through the years. We can all stand tall with pride in our efforts to preserve our music.

Coming Events

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

— 1976 —

FEBRUARY—
6-7 Monroe Floral City Show
7 Holly-Fenton Show
14 Pontiac Chapter Show
20-21 Oakland County Show

MARCH—
5-6 Wayne Chapter Show
27 Battle Creek Show

APRIL—
10 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids
10 St. Joseph Valley Show
10 Flint Chapter Show
23-25 District Convention, Lansing

MAY—
1 Boyne City Bush League
1 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
15 Alpena Chapter Show

JUNE—
4 "Back to Barbershop", Detroit

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

OCTOBER—
8-10 District Convention, Grosse Pointe

NOVEMBER—
6 Detroit No. 1 Parade

Chapters are requested to get Parade Clearances and dates approved for all public events your chapter expects to hold in your area. Do it well in advance each year, or even up to five years in advance. This will help avoid conflicts with talent and audience pull.



Keep America Singing

STEPHEN SUTHERLAND
2870 OAKDALE DR
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Second Class Mail

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Contact Mike: 29673 Chester, Gdn. City, Mi. (313) 261-6938

Gary Peck is new lead for the Stateliners quartet

Gary Peck, a busy member of Detroit No. 1 and the Motor City Chorus, has replaced Tom Granata of the Monroe Chapter as lead for the Stateliners.

Gary also inherits Tom's duties as contact man for the quartet. Members can engage the Stateliners by calling Gary at 313/837-2739, or write to him at 12910 Memorial Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48227.

Stateliners

GARY

NORM

CHAN

BOB

"Just Plain Barbershop"

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12910 Memorial
Detroit, Michigan 48227
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Spring Convention in Lansing



APRIL

2 BIG NIGHTS Friday, Saturday

3 Big Day's 23-25