

Photos by Gary Peck



October 1976

pioneer TROUBADOUR

**COTS will be November 13-14
MEA Camp, St. Marys Lake,
Battle Creek**

See complete scoring summaries on page 5

FOREIGN POLICY—New District Champs
John Wearing, tenor Russ Seely, lead
Dan Humphries, baritone Thom Hine, bass



THE MOTOR CITY CHORUS — PHILADELPHIA BOUND



There were two big events in the month of September in the Pioneer District that were of benefit to Logopedics — Harrisville, Labor Day Weekend, and the Logopedics Spectacular, September 11th.

At this point I can only cite figures given to me by the Oakland County Chapter as to monies raised for Logopedics in Harrisville. I am sure that other chapters raised monies for Logopedics and I would be glad to publicize them if someone will report the information to me. The following is an incomplete list of monies raised through the efforts of various members of Oakland County:

Alcona Motors, Inc. of Lincoln, Mich. (Through the New Baltimore Exit Quartet)	\$ 50.00
Leo H. Fraser	100.00
Mr. and Mrs. Kingsley H. Page	10.00
United Methodist Church, Harrisville	54.51
Corner Bar (Formerly Frasers)	300.00
Golf Tournament	65.00
Kid's Games	23.76
Cash remaining from Harrisville merchants' contributions for prizes for kid's games	8.20
Horseshoe Tournament	16.00
Mug Raffle	172.70
Recovery Station	109.91
Total for Logopedics	\$910.08

Congratulations to the many Oakland County Members who helped sponsor these various activities and to those who supported them. Harrisville continues to be a major source of revenue for Logopedics in the Pioneer District.

The Logopedics Spectacular was held a week later and was sponsored by the Battle Creek Chapter. It was a very exciting show with Jim Miller of the Thoroughbreds directing a massed chorus of 92 men and the Dealers Choice and Grandma's Boys as featured quartets. In addition, the Battle Creek and Kalamazoo choruses had special spots on the show. There were also numerous quartet and solo spots throughout this Bi-Centennial presentation. Dick Smith, of the Battle Creek Chapter, did a super job as narrator. Doran McTaggart was his superb self as MC.

While the Spectacular was, unfortunately, not a financial success, Ed Herr is to be congratulated for assuming the general chairmanship of, and pulling off such an event. It's a tremendous job to coordinate a show like this where the chorus is comprised of Barbershoppers from all over the District, where the show isn't really put together until the day of the performance, and where there is uncertainty as to how many are going to show up to participate.

Ninety-two men paid \$5 each for the privilege of singing in the show. 660 spectators paid for the privilege of seeing

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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

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Editor—Roger O. Morris Sr.
325 East Wardlow Road
Highland, Michigan 48031
(313) 887-4272

Co-Editor—Merle Clayton
77 Eldredge Street
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
(616) 963-6628

Photographic Editor—Bill Pascher
3520 Gregory Road
Pontiac, Michigan

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/s/Roger O. Morris, sr., Editor and Publisher.

and hearing that show. All were rewarded and gratified by what they saw and heard.

The afterglow was a sell-out and it was a good one. You might wonder why, after quoting these figures, I said the show was not a financial success. While the two quartets and Jim Miller came for expenses only, three members of the Dealers Choice had to come from Texas and one from Los Angeles. Jim Miller came from Louisville, Kentucky and Grandman's Boys came from Illinois. Ed tells me he expects that about \$100 was raised for Logopedics.

I hope one of our chapters will sponsor another Logopedics Spectacular sometime in the future. Ed admits that the timing, a week after Harrisville and just before Fall Contest, was a big factor in lack of participation and response. Ed, I am sure, would be happy to give the benefit of his experiences to any chapter who might have an interest in sponsoring a Spectacular.

The gratifying thing about both the activities at Harrisville, and the Spectacular at Battle Creek is that Barbershoppers from all over the District worked together and participated in raising money for Logopedics. That, in itself, is a great reward.

Fran Durham
Pioneer District
Logopedics Chairman

It happened in Dearborn:

Motor City Chorus takes prelims; Foreign Policy wins District title

Photos by Gary Peck

Pioneer District Barbershop members and fans will long remember the 1976 Fall Convention, not just for the splendor and the beauty of the trappings of the Hyatt Regency in Dearborn, but for the hospitality of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, and for the high level of competition in both the chorus prelims and the district quartet contest.

The October issue of the Troubadour was delayed in order to report the results of this convention and the contests while it is still "news". Time and space dictate that we keep it brief, so look for more pictures and particulars in December.

The men in blue from Detroit No. 1 will represent the Pioneer District in the big chorus contest at Philadelphia next July, where they will get a chance to improve upon the strong seventh-place finish of this year's event at San Francisco.

Bob Whitlege and the Motor City Chorus cleared the first hurdle in the big ballroom at Dearborn's Hyatt Regency on October 9th by taking a 101-point win over runner-up Wayne Wonderland and eight other entries.

Grand Rapids finished 17 points behind Wayne, with Monroe and Oakland County rounding out the top five.

Check the summaries for complete results.

The Foreign Policy scored a big win to take the District Quartet crown in one of the best sing-offs we have seen and heard in many years. With 17 groups entered, and the vastly improved quality of the participants, the entire Pioneer District came out a clear winner.

The new champs, with John Wearing singing tenor, Russ Seely lead, Don Humphries baritone, and Thom Hine bass, registered a solid 150-point victory over the Great Lakes Express. The Sound Spectrum, tied with the GLX after Friday evening's semi-finals, finished third by a mere 10 points.

Monroe's Country Estate finished sixth to take the Novice Championship, with the Patch Chords and the Rolling Tones just ahead of them in fourth and fifth place.

All sessions were extremely well attended, and the Saturday night quartet finals taxed the capacities of the facility. Convention Chairman Don Adams and his crew added additional seats for this event, but it was standing room only for the fans who lined the walls all around the ballroom.



THE GREAT LAKES EXPRESS

A second-place finish



MONROE'S COUNTRY ESTATE

Novice Champions



STEVE SUTHERLAND AND THE WAYNE WONDERLAND CHORUS

Huron Harmony Chorus featured at Detroit Tiger anniversary game

When the Detroit Tigers started planning a big 75th birthday party for the baseball team, the Huron Harmony Chorus was already waiting in the wings.

In late May, chapter AVP Mark Older and PR chairman Bill Clark sent a letter to Lew Matlin, who arranges special events at the stadium, and volunteered the Port Huron Barbershoppers' services to sing the Star Spangled Banner when the team visited the stadium at a future outing.

The letter reaped unexpected dividends when, despite some scheduling difficulties, the chorus was invited to sing at the big anniversary bash on August 22.

The celebration came in special pre-game ceremonies on Sunday at 1 p.m., before a single game with the Minnesota Twins.

The program called for special music, significant presentations and a reunion of former Tiger players to be featured, with Rube Weiss, noted Detroit character actor in Gay '90s costume, serving as master of ceremonies. A large plaque was presented for mounting at the stadium, marking it as an historical site where baseball has been played continuously since 1900.

Music in keeping with the spirit of the occasion was a must, according to the advance plans. What better music than Barbershop harmony and that old American standby, the harmonica?

That's where Port Huron came into the picture, joining the harmonica players from SPAH (that's Society for the

Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica, to you laymen!). There were about 50 men in each of the two musical groups.

The big event carried on the Tiger TV and broadcast network, took place between 2nd and 3rd base, and included Charlie Gehringer, Billy Rogell, Mayor Coleman Young of Detroit, Tiger owner John E. Fetzer, American League President Lee MacPahil, Al Kaline, Hal Newhouser, and George Kell, among others. When Mr. Fetzer made his closing remarks, all persons left the field except the Huron Harmony Chorus. Imagine the thrill of the moment for these wonderful guys!

During the ceremonies the chorus sang a medley of the Old Songs, but now they stood alone in the big arena, save for the umpires and managers at home plate going over the starting lineups. The Star Spangled Banner never sounded more beautiful!

The Tigers gained major league status in 1901 as a charter member of the new American League of that year. The only other teams with continuous membership in the league since its beginning are the Boston Red Sox, Chicago White Sox and Cleveland Indians.

The Huron Harmony Chorus gained major league status 75 years later, performing before it's largest live audience, and a vast TV audience.

That's show business!!



Jolly Jim Miller in action

The Dealers Choice rings one

OCC's Fran Durham

Racing to take a bow!

This is Grandma's Boys — honest!

Official Scoring Summary — S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Pioneer District Chorus Contest **Grosse Pointe Host Chapter**
DEARBORN, MICHIGAN — OCTOBER 9, 1976

Category: Song Number Rank	SOUND		INT		SP	ARR		TOTAL	SINGING SECONDS	
	1	2	1	2		1	2		1	2
1 Detroit #1	162	159	152	146	322	+13	+7	961	134	172
2 Wayne	138	140	137	153	283	+4	+5	860	173	141
3 Grand Rapids	136	137	138	142	279	+7	+4	843	145	134
4 Monroe	119	123	125	128	252	+1	+2	750	187	135
5 Oakland County	121	121	111	110	267	+5	+6	741	167	167
6 Grosse Pointe	116	111	116	110	205	-1	+4	661	115	126
7 Battle Creek	102	101	118	97	229	+7	+3	657	152	150
8 Lansing	88	83	94	98	177	+1	+4	545	133	126
9 Kalamazoo	87	82	115	92	142	+4	0	522	125	149
10 Holland	84	84	83	87	136	+2	+3	479	138	157

Detroit #1 will represent the Pioneer District in the 1977 International Chorus Contest at Philadelphia.

PIONEER DISTRICT QUARTET CONTEST

Category: Song Number Rank	SOUND		INT		SP	ARR		SEMI FINAL	PREV. FINAL	NET TOTAL	SINGING SECONDS	
	1	2	1	2		1	2				1	2
Rank FINALS												
1 Foreign Policy	150	148	153	141	280	+11	+4	887	841	1728	182	114
2 Great Lakes Express	146	137	131	131	275	+2	-2	820	758	1578	105	136
3 Sound Spectrum	133	134	119	126	295	0	+3	810	758	1568	114	163
4 Patch Chords	126	118	133	125	272	+5	+4	783	716	1499	127	150
5 Rolling Tones	104	103	115	114	239	-1	+4	678	728	1406	134	138
6 Country Estate	117	111	107	108	250	0	+1	694	658	1352	101	149
7 Fringe Benefit	103	103	110	127	220	+3	-3	663	643	1306	151	193
8 Harmony Hounds	90	91	118	112	236	+5	+5	657	611	1268	142	145
Rank SEMI-FINALS												
1 Foreign Policy	146	144	137	128	265	+14	+7	841			135	107
2 Sound Spectrum	137	125	119	108	271	-1	-1	758 A			126	153
3 Great Lakes Express	117	121	131	127	252	+6	+4	758			133	146
4 Rolling Tones	113	113	119	117	255	+5	+6	728			144	121
5 Patch Chords	125	124	126	117	221	-3	+6	716			107	167
6 Country Estate	98	104	115	115	217	+5	+4	658			110	157
7 Fringe Benefit	102	97	134	121	184	+1	+4	643			101	158
8 Harmony Hounds	95	95	93	96	211	+6	+5	611			168	125
9 Cereal City Chord Comm.	95	80	109	110	203	+5	+6	608			160	164
10 Personal Expression	117	120	132	127	190	+6	+5	593			99	128 a
11 Warren G. Harding Mem. 4	83	79	94	93	248	-7	0	590			144	136
12 Golden Oldies	90	87	87	99	181	-1	0	543			126	140
13 Village Ramblers	92	96	85	93	154	+6	+6	532			161	149
14 Chordwoods	85	78	94	93	166	+3	+4	523			112	134
15 Ye Olde Lamplighters	91	88	90	83	149	+1	+1	503			147	107
16 Subtle Impressions	80	77	92	85	152	-2	-4	480			121	125
17 Rapidares	57	58	74	73	145	-1	+2	408			191	119

A—Tie broken per Article 22 of Quartet Contest Rules.

a—Time penalty: 104 points (13 seconds at 8 points per second)

The Novice Champion — Country Estate

DISTRICT CHAMPION — Foreign Policy

PANEL OF JUDGES — Chairman Joseph Cutsinger, Louisville, Ky., Cardinal District. Sound: James Richards, St. Paul, Minn., Land O'Lakes; and Robert Moorehead, Milford, Ohio, Johnny Appleseed. Interpretation: Robert Craig, Schaumburg, Ill., Illinois; Melvin Harris, Charlotte, N.C., Dixie District. Stage Presence: John Sommer, Grove City, Ohio, Johnny Appleseed; Denis St. Denis, Mt. Prospect, Ill., Illinois District. Arrangement: Warren Haeger, LaGrange Park, Ill., Illinois; P. Nick Lawrence, Austin, Texas, Southwestern. Secretary Lawrence King, Livonia, Mich., Pioneer. Asst. Secretary Jack Wentworth, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, Johnny Appleseed. Timers: James Fegan, Traverse City, Mich., and Pat Yacques, Algonac, Mich., Pioneer. Practice Panel Chairman: Donald Lang, St. Joseph, Mich., Pioneer District.

Harmony Hounds give birth to new litter

All those people who have been passing around rumors about the demise of Battle Creek's Harmony Hounds have obviously been barking up the wrong tree!

With Lowell Wolfe, who formed the popular comedy group in 1959, departing for Florida's sunny clime; and Roger Lewis deciding to give his back a rest after lugging a bass fiddle from dressing room to stage for some 14 years, some people thought the strain was running out. But not so — not so at all, fortunately for all us Hound lovers.

The old BC Kennel Klub whelped a brand new litter of pups just in time to keep the lineage intact.

Formal announcement of the changes was made by the Harmony Hounds in Pioneer's Hospitality Room in San Francisco, where the quartet made many appearances while enjoying the convention.

Dick Smith has taken over the lead chores from Roger Lewis and has inherited his bass fiddle as well. Dick is an elementary school principal in the Battle Creek school system, and has been a member of the Cereal City Chapter since 1965. No newcomer to the quartet scene, Dick sang with the Millionaires, another Battle Creek quartet, for the past two years.

Dorn Burrill has replaced Lowell in the baritone slot, and just happens to be a pretty fair guitar picker as well. A Barbershopper since 1968, he sang baritone with Pioneer's 1975 District Champs, the 4-D Minors, and at one time sang in a quartet with his three brothers. Dorn is an IBM clerk with Grand Trunk Railroad.

Larry Swan continues to "yip" tenor and strum his ukelele, while Ron Mell "growls" out the bass in one of the Society's all-time favorite comedy quartets. The group plans to keep many of the familiar comedy routines and zany numbers, while working in some fresh new material.

However, they promise to get serious when competition time rolls around and hit the contest trail once again.

Their many, many Barbershop friends may be pleasantly surprised with the "new sound" and their serious emphasis on good harmony which they hope will fare them well with the judges.

The revitalized Hounds also intend to expand their repertoire of instrumental numbers and take advantage of Dorn's expertise on the guitar.

If you would like to liven up your next "safari", you can contact the Hounds by writing them at P.O. Box 1471, Battle Creek, Michigan 49016; or call Larry Swan at 616/965-7297 days and 616/962-0380 evenings. Or you may call Ron Mell at 616/781-3901 days and 616/962-4446 evenings.



Dick Smith, lead; Dorn Burrill, baritone; Ron Mell, bass and Larry Swan, tenor

Cereal City Chord Committee Battle Creek's latest quartet



John Shay, tenor; Roger Lewis, lead; Jack Drews, bari, and William Bell, bass

Roger Lewis has finally escaped from the dog house after spending many years with the Harmony Hounds and is now singing lead with a brand new quartet in Battle Creek called the Cereal City Chord Committee.

The quartet has John Shay singing Tenor. John was tenor with the Four Fathoms Quartet from the Lake Washington Skippers Chapter in the Evergreen District.

Jack Drews, relocating in Battle Creek from the Illinois District, is baritone. Jack has sung with a few quartets, including the Rip Chords 4 and Sycamore 4, just to name a couple

Bill Bell is getting his first taste of Barbershop quartet singing as the bass. He has been a SPEBSQSA member for only a year.

The quartet appeared in the big Logopedics Spectacular at Kellogg Auditorium in September, and later at the after-glo, and competed in the Fall contest at the Hyatt Regency for the first time.

If you wish to contact the Chord Committee, just send eeny old box top to 842 E. Columbia Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan 49015, and Roger will give you the particulars. Please note that this address differs from the one on the list supplied by the International.

As time goes by



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SEPT. 4-5

WELCOME
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.



Harmony
Weekend

Harrisville Michigan



The Personal Expression



BOB GLOVER WARMS UP THE CHORUS



Together again — The Progressive Four!



The big parade

Truly invigorating!



Four Bits from Davenport, Iowa



THE CHORDWOODS FROM ALPENA



Wayne's Keepers of the Key



Yogi Bear!



Carl Dahlke and the M



Oakland County's Rolling Tones

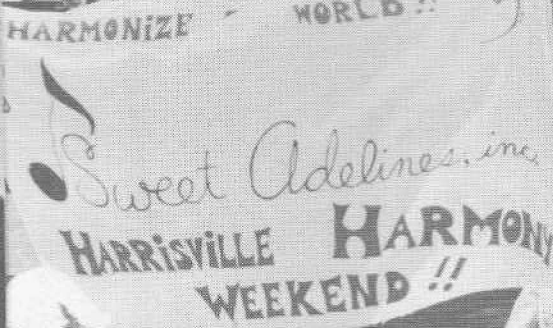
The Personal Expression



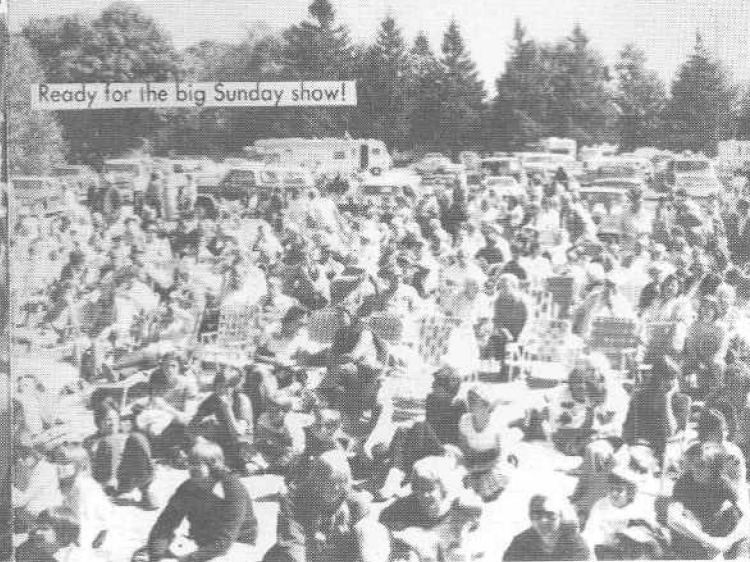
BOB GLOVER WARMS UP THE CHORUS



NEW



Ready for the big Sunday show!



The Progressive Four!



The big parade

Truly invigorating!



Pioneer Harmony Holiday in Harrisville

The 15th annual Harmony Weekend in Harrisville had it all this year. The weather was terrific, the camping, golfing, and all the various events provided fun for everyone. The Friday night hospitality in the taverns provided money for Logopedics, the big Saturday night preglow overflowed the hall, and Sunday's Ox Roast, followed by the fabulous parade and the super spectacular at the big outdoor dome — wow!

ODS FROM ALPENA



Yogi Bear!



Carl Dahlke and the Macomb County Sweet Adelines



IT'S SHOWTIME!



Becky Thote



NEW BALTIMORE EXIT



Ready for the big Sunday show!



Loton Willson



Murlene Smith

Pioneer Harmony Holiday in Harrisville

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Sam Slicer, Hap Hooker, Joe McDuff and Bogie Bunker



acomb County Sweet Adelines

IT'S SHOWTIME!



Becky Thatcher



... THE UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE

Warming up!



The following story is from the Nassau Mid-Island Voice Bulletin, Mid-Atlantic District, and is reprinted from Mid'l Antics, the official district publication, which is edited by Jack Pitzer. It merely confirms what we have known all along — Barbershoppers are something special!

His Canaries make a chorus

An extraordinary happening took place on May 25th 1976, in the parking lot of a bank in East Northport, N.Y.

Our own Nassau Mid-Island Bob Dumas has been driving a school bus for the past five years. He drives the typical yellow vehicle and was assigned to transport the kindergarten children last fall. They range from 4½ to 6 years of age. Bob was faced with the task of keeping these "tots" under control and so decided to try singing to them. When they seemed to enjoy it, he asked them to sing along with him. He has a large rearview mirror over his windshield, so he can see all of his passengers. He has the children sit up straight and watch the "magic mirror" at all times.

Little by little, Bob taught them the basics of Barbershop harmony. As they drove to and from school, the "yellow canaries", as Bob lovingly called them, learned more and more songs. He started them off with the "Old Songs," and "Keep America Singing," and then went on to "Yankee Doodle," "Shine On Harvest Moon," "God Bless America," and more. All in all they learned 40 songs.

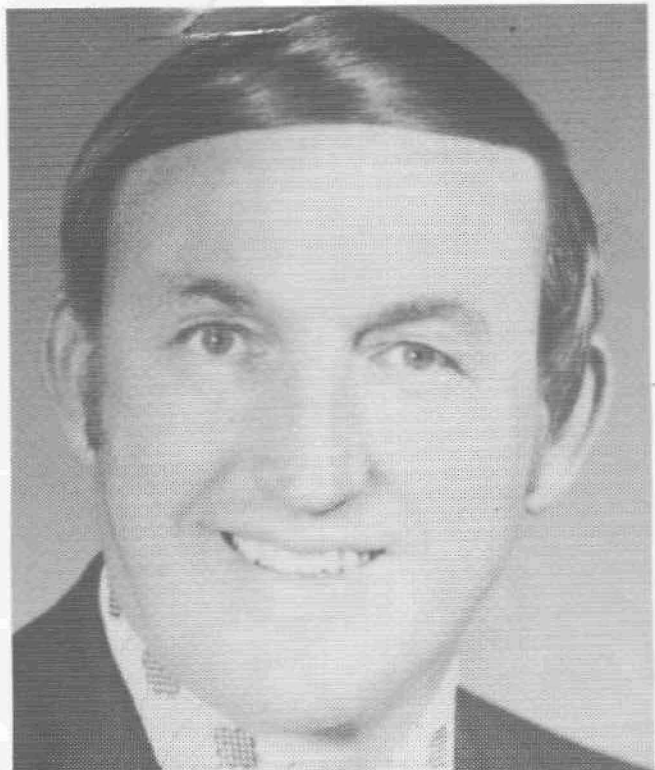
He even found a quartet. One of the older boys has a deep voice and could sing the bass notes. The lead was the smallest boy in the class but he sang up a storm.

That brings us to the happening in the parking lot. The "yellow canaries", 75 in number, put on an hour-long concert of Barbershop harmony for an audience of 400 wildly enthusiastic mothers, fathers and friends. Many Nassau Mid-Island members attended and were impressed with the sight and sound of the "canaries."

The mothers were all crazy about Bob. "My five year old daughter has no hearing in her left ear and very little in her right. Still you taught her 40 songs. Her speech patterns have improved 399%."

Newsday quoted Joan Bencivenga, mother of one of the "canaries" as saying: The kids left in September scared, frightened, bewildered. He fills all their days with happiness and merriment. They're terrific now. When my son waits for the bus, he's singing. When he comes off, he's singing. While he's waiting for the bus, he's singing "Give My Regards To Broadway." I swear it's unreal."

Vice President Ernie Hills is International Rep at Fall Convention



Ernie Hills, International Vice President-Treasurer, was the Society's representative at the Pioneer District Fall Convention in the Hyatt Regency at Dearborn this month.

Ernie joined the Barbershop harmony society in 1953 in Wichita Falls, Texas and later sang with Dallas before becoming a member of the Enid Chapter, to which he presently belongs. He has held nearly all chapter offices and is a past president of the Southwestern District which includes the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico.

He is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma and in business life is a funeral director and a furniture dealer. The Hills have two children and reside in Medford, Oklahoma. Ernie's hobbies include fishing, gardening and gourmet cooking — and Barbershop, naturally!

Saturday's Heroes will headline Clinton Valley show Dec. 4th

The Clinton Valley Chapter is popping its buttons with the announcement of its second annual Parade of Harmony, scheduled for December 4, at the Troy Athens Auditorium

Headlining the show will be Saturday's Heroes, Illinois District finalist in the recent International Quartet Contest at San Francisco.

Sharing the spotlight for the evening will be the regional chorus champions of female Barbershopping, the area's own Macomb County Sweet Adeline Chorus. And that's not all — for the Classmates from Saginaw-Bay and The Sound Spec-

trum will also be on the program.

Troy Athens is located at 4333 John R in Troy, and the auditorium will seat 1,750 people. The show starts at 8 p.m., with tickets priced at \$3.50 per person. Advance sales indicate a good turnout, so it is advisable that you don't delay until the day of the show.

Tickets for the big afterglow are also \$3.50 per person, with food and beverage provided, along with more great entertainment, of course. For ticket information, call Bob Brown at 313/731-2116.

Port Huron wins Milltown Festival competition

By EARL WHALEY, AuSable Valley

The first annual "Milltown Festival of Harmony" was held before a near capacity crowd at the Grayling High School on July 31, 1976. The Huron Harmony Chorus from Port Huron took home the "Pole Dog Award" as a symbol of the fact that they were "tops" on the judges score sheets.

The Alpena Chorus was runnerup. Others competing in the Festival, designed for small chorus rivalry, were Boyne City, Cadillac, and the host AuSable Valley Chapter.

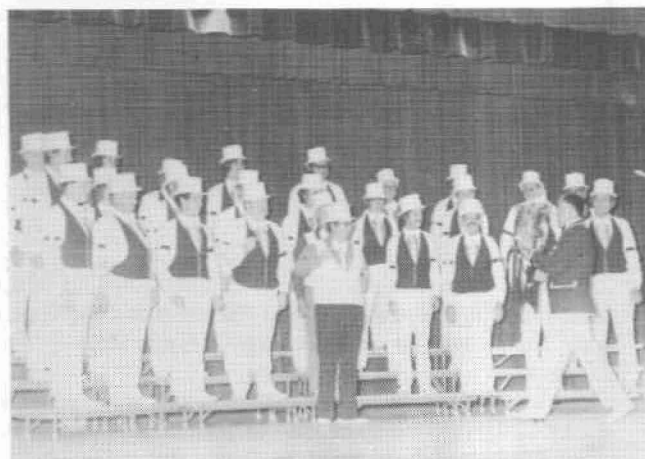
Bill Dolzel of Bay City MC'd the event, which was judged by Cap Mac Lean and Bob Tracy of Les Cheneaux and John Noteware of Grayling.

The Sound Objective and the Graylords quartets were in top form, and a grand time was had by all.

An afterglo at AuMan's house of Catering capped off a most enjoyable evening. Pat Yacques and Tom Gulliford shared MC duty, with performances by several choruses, group singing, and appearances from the Generation Gap, New Baltimore Exit, Timbertones, Graylords, and the highly entertaining "Sound Objective" completing the evenings festivities.

Moe Weaver was Festival chairman, assisted by co-chairman Lyle Ames and afterglo chairman Earl Whaley.

Lyle Ames has been selected to chair next years "Second Annual Milltown Festival of Harmony," to be held at the Grayling High School on July 30, 1977. BE THERE!!!



—Photo courtesy The Houghton Lake Resorter

Maynard (Moe) Weaver, show chairman for the Milltown Festival of Harmony, steps up to present the winner's trophy to Patrick Yacques, director of the Port Huron chorus. The festival featured a small chorus competition July 30 in the Joseph Stripe Auditorium at Grayling High School. The AuSable Valley Chapter hosted the event.

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Down Our Way

with the Editor



It always takes us a week or two to come down out of the clouds following a convention, but the big party our Grosse Pointe hosts threw for us at Dearborn's Hyatt Regency this fall may keep us up here until spring.

The beauty and splendor of the facilities were matched only by the great quality of the competition and the efforts of Don Adams and his committee to make this our finest.

Yes, we think there should have been greater participation by our district choruses, even though we doubt that it would have changed the outcome. It's difficult to dislodge a 7th place International chorus from a place on the boards next year, and Motor City is sounding more like champs every day. But 10 out of 32 chapters doesn't make for a very high percentage. Surely our district can improve on that!

The district quartet competition was something else, however. How long has it been since we had 17 quartets chasing after the district trophy? And when did the district ever hear such terrific singing in this particular contest? Clearly, Pioneer's musical quality is on the rise.

There were so many new quartets, and a lot of familiar faces singing in some unfamiliar groups.

One of the most common remarks we heard while seated in the big ballroom concerned the age spread of the participants. Especially from non-Barbershoppers. "I didn't realize so many young people were involved," someone said to the editor. This was a typical remark, but it points up the widespread appeal of our music when given the proper exposure.

When you consider all those quartets that paraded across the stage in the contest, Pioneer is most fortunate in having such a youth movement going for us.

While those "old pros" who finished on top of the stack may not qualify as part of that youth movement, Don Humphries did get his first taste of competition as a member of the Foreign Policy.

And how about those kids from Gratiot County? We've been hearing them around the district at afterglows, camp-outs, etc., for some time, now, and it's hard to keep talent like that hidden very long. But who would have thought that a 13-second time penalty would knock them out of the box and deprive them of a crack at the Novice trophy? 104 points would have put them in a pitched battle with Monroe's Country Estate, the foursome that eventually won the novice crown. Hats off to the Personal Expression for a good try.

Like all conventions, there was a lot accomplished, and a lot left undone. The Friday board meeting covered a lot of ground, as did the Saturday morning House of Delegates

session and Fran Durham's Logopedics seminar. International VP Ernie Hills spoke to the board members and addressed the delegates, giving us a better look at the workings of our Society and its needs. He stressed the importance of individual and chapter participation in the financing of the new headquarters annex. To date the response to this much-needed addition has been disappointing. However, Ernie said, if we all pitch in with a modest contribution, we can save the Society and ourselves a lot of interest and get this debt retired at an earlier date.

Doran McTaggart introduced four candidates for admission to Pioneer's Hall of Fame and President John Gillespie presented plaques to Wallace Joure, Port Huron and Grosse Pointe chapters; Bob Walker, Grand Rapids; Mike Arnone, Detroit No. 1; and Leonard Field, Jackson. Vice President Dan LaBumbard accepted the plaque for Mr. Field.

If there was a shortcoming in this convention, perhaps it was in the lack of enough space to accommodate a growing attendance at the contests. All three sessions were well attended, but Saturday night's quartet finals really taxed the facility. The ballroom normally seats 1,600 persons, but with the need for a large stage, this capacity was reduced considerably.

For the finals it was necessary to add a large number of extra seats, but this still did not meet the needs. For the first time in our memory there were people standing up during a contest — and they lined the walls all around the big room. With the Spring contests being moved to Miller Auditorium on Western Michigan's campus at Kalamazoo, this should not be a problem. Miller has a big seating capacity, and there should be plenty of room for everyone.

It was necessary to move the COTS sessions from Lansing due to uncertainty of the availability of the facilities used in past schools. The MEA camp on St. Marys Lake in Battle Creek is a beautiful property and should be adequate for this purpose. Will your chapter officers be there?

Don't forget, there will be a class for bulletin editors, hopefully with Bob McDermott as the head instructor.

The Logopedics Spectacular at Battle Creek was a great show, even if it did not bring in the funds to the extent we had hoped. Battle Creek did a great service to the district, and Ed Herr and his troops are to be commended.

See Fran Durham's column on page 2 for details, and see the pictures in this issue.

In the August issue, we helped further the identity problem of Grandma's Boys, who came from Illinois District to Join the Dealers Choice and Jim Miller in assisting our members on this occasion.

We had the right name, but the wrong picture (The 139th Street Quartet, if we recall), and it seems we were in some pretty good company, since the Saturday Evening Post ran a beautiful color picture of Grandma's Boys in its September issue — would you believe, with the wrong name? The Post identified them as the Soundtracks! Which reminds us that the Soundtracks were involved in another of our mistaken identity boo-boos when we switched their name with the Harmony Hounds. Why do these things seem to revolve around Battle Creek?

Anyhow, thanks to Holly-Fenton's Bill Bishoff for setting us straight on this matter while we were at Harrisville. Bill knows his competition quartets!

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

It appears, for some reason, that around Fall contest time we get more serious about our Barbershop music — and rightfully so. But why not for the whole year? OK?

I'd like to offer a few tips that will help your chapter to include an effective and well planned music education program in its meetings.

1. Use Society referenced materials (green Barbershop Craft Manual — \$1.00).

2. Plan the craft sessions carefully. Remember to start with basics.

3. Use the graduated program, don't skip from one item to another. Tie in the subjects discussed from meeting to meeting and show relationship to the one being discussed and how its importance is measured on the overall scope of music education.

4. Keep the craft session brief, but make sure one is held each week. The average is from ten to fifteen minutes long. This, along with a few vocal exercises should comprise, maybe, the greater part of half an hour.

5. Be sure to hold the craft session during the meeting and not before or after. It is important that ALL members be reached with the music education program.

6. Keep the session interesting. Don't read the text matter and encourage participation. Keep them as active as possible during the lesson.

7. Throughout the rest of the meeting try to tie in the techniques discussed earlier in that evening's sessions and from earlier ones.

8. Serve the majority, not the minority. From time to time, chorus directors have mentioned that there were certain individuals that would not condone a program of weekly craft sessions. I encourage them to not let one or two people determine the destiny (in education) of the entire chapter.

9. Teach with kindness. Sometimes there is a tendency not to be as tolerant when teaching those who are not as proficient in a certain subject as the teacher. Be firm, but be courteous as well.

10. Have fun with the craft sessions. Education is a serious business, but Barbershopping is a fun style, and there is no reason why the teaching of techniques can't be enjoyable.

Under the topic 'Keep it Barbershop' I was very impressed with Major Bob Balderson's article in the July-August Harmonizer, Page 8. This is **MUST** reading for all real Barbershoppers.

Don't forge December 4, 1976.

Don't forget Saturday, December 4. That's the date for the final HEP clinic and workshop in 1976, and there will be a great faculty on hand at the MEA Conference facility at St. Mary's Lake, Battle Creek.

KEEP IT BARBERSHOP!

Vagabonds bring Barbershop to Phil Donahue Show

The Vagabonds traveled to Chicago on September 20, along with the Front Office Four, where they starred on the popular Phil Donahue Show, which was aired live on WGN-TV Channel 9 at 11 a.m.

The entire show was dedicated to Barbershop harmony, with the Pride of Pioneer and Michigan's current Queens of Harmony carrying most of the load. A regional Sweet Adeline quartet was also included in the program, which had the wives of barbers in convention in that city as an audience.

The syndicated show was carried on WJBK-TV, Channel 2, in Detroit a week later, and will be shown on a delayed schedule around the country through November 15.

For those readers in other states, we suggest you check your local TV guide for the exact time of showing in your area, and drop a card of appreciation to the stations after you have seen the show.

It was a great performance by our Champs, and some solid public relations for the Society.



Quartet Changes

The following quartet changes have been reported by Robert D. Johnson, Director of Music Education and Services:

New Quartets

NEW BALTIMORE EXIT — Pat Yacques, 1805 St. Clair River Dr., Algonac, Mich. 48001. (Oakland County, Grosse Pointe, and Port Huron).

CEREAL CITY CHORD COMMITTEE — Roger J. Lewis, 124712 Lot 8, 10450 — 6 Mile Rd., Battle Creek, Mich. 49017. (Battle Creek)

GREAT LAKES EXPRESS — Chan Smith, 9163 Pheasant Dr., Temperance, Mich. 48182. (Detroit No. 1 and Monroe).

THE REGISTERED MALES — Jack N. Ware, 3340 Canterbury Dr., Bay City, Mich. 48706. (Saginaw Bay).

DANNY'S BOYS — Dan Bulbuk, 21118 Redmond, East Detroit, Mich. 48021. (Grosse Pointe).

PROGRESSIVE FOUR — Michael P. Arnone, 20731 Orangelawn, Detroit, Mich. 48228. (Detroit and Grosse Pointe).

Unrenewed Registrations

STATELINERS, Monroe, Mich.

FIRST AMENDMENT, Pontiac, Mich.

HARMONY HELMSMEN, Traverse City, Mich.

SHORE FOUR, Muskegon, Mich.

VOICE QUAD, Detroit, Mich.

Changes

EVIL COMPANIONS — Donald Freese, 1102 Loesser, Jackson, Mich. 49203.

THE FINAL EDITION has changed their name to **CLASS REUNION** — Steve Sutherland, 2870 Oakdale Dr., Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104.

CHAPTER NOTES

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

Saginaw-Bay

We have had quite an active summer singing four performances — The Wenonah Benefit on June 1, the Bay County Fair on July 12, the Delta College Summer Festival on July 13 and the Saginaw Summer Festival in August. We visited the Alpena Chapter on a mystery bus trip in July and were treated like long lost brothers. Everyone had a great time. We would like to express our thanks to the Alpena Chapter for a wonderful evening. This also was the night that the "REGISTERED MALES", one of our chapter's newest quartets made their official debut. The quartet consists of Jack Ware, lead; Dave Szutkowski, tenor; Doug Beaver, baritone, and Bob Deming, bass. The district will be hearing a lot from them in the future.

We also have a second quartet that is developing a very fine sound. They have as yet not chosen a name. Their members are Chuck Fulks, lead; Denny Keyes, tenor; Matt Kett, baritone and Bob Reisinger, bass.

At present we are making plans for an AFA in September and a family picnic also in September. —Don Miller

Port Huron

We were approaching the summer doldrums and trying to come up with ideas to keep the chapter active when it was suggested we take a bus load to a Detroit Tiger game.

Better yet, why not sing the National Anthem!

So, wheels turned, a phone call made to the P.R. department and a letter asking if we could do the job. At first there was no room on their schedule, but later, I received a letter from Lew Matlin, Tiger Special Events manager, saying that they were planning a 75th anniversary program.

An historical site plaque was to be mounted, a reunion of former Tiger players (Charley Gehringer, et al.) were to be featured. Would we be interested in participating, Lew asked. Would we sing the Anthem and a medley of old songs?!!

So, on August 22nd, we boarded two busses (singing all the way to Detroit) and at 1 p.m. 45 of us, dressed in red and white, stood near 2nd base and sang a medley of The Old Songs, After Dark, and Down By the Old Mill Stream.

After the presentation ceremonies at about 1:30, we sang the National Anthem. The game was televised and many of our boosters thought we sounded great! We even looked good on TV!

This climaxed a great summer for us.

Earlier, 30 of us went north on July 30th and captured the 1st annual Grayling mid-summer chorus competition. The host chapter in Grayling did one heck-uva fine job, and we are looking forward to defending our title next summer. See you there. —Mark Older

Alpena

A big hello from the land of logs! Yes folks, the Lumbermen's Chorus is still up here singing in the woods (they won't let us in any other place). We love to bounce those seventh chords off those big pine trees.

We've been doing more than that, though. We had an annual show in May featuring the Harmony Hounds and we've been doing a lot of singing in the area this summer. The Lumbermen came in second place in the 1st annual mini-chorus competition held in Grayling this summer. This in spite of the fact that our regular director was unable to be there. (Hats off to the assistant who did so well). And our pitchpipe man blew the second song a note and one-half low! (We still talk to him, though!)

Our membership this year is a little down from last year so we have a big membership drive underway. We don't have a large manpower resource up here, so every person really counts.

Oh yes, I must tell you about our resident "Barbershop Genius". We sent our director, Bill Daugherty down to Harmony College this summer to get smart. I want to tell you, when he came back he was not only smart, but he had figured out how to sing. Now when he opens his mouth we get more than bad breath — he can actually make noises that resemble musical notes! I know, because I stand to his right in the Chordwoods quartet and have been trying to ignore him for 3 years.

Our P.V.P., Al Piggott, also joined him at the school, so it's anybody's guess what actually went on down there! We're only kidding, because they both came back extremely fired up and ready to go again next year.

The chorus is working hard getting ready for competition, although we're not sure which one. You small choruses out there — don't count us out. The sleeping bear in the woods is getting ready to come out and howl! —Bruce VandenBosch



Au Sable Valley

Wow!! What a busy summer! Lots of activities, and some great progress as a chapter. Most important, we have gone to 26 members (soon to be 27), so we are off associate status.

Welcome to new members Bob Harris, Art Storch, and Rev. Bill Winter. Congrats to M.O.N. Bill Greene, Bob Hamp, and Bob Dittman.

A successful "Festival of Harmony", plus 14 singouts this year and 3 more scheduled have kept us on the move!! A second successful AFA headed by AVP Raleigh Gregory will be history when you read this.

A hearty thanks to our director, Rod Ames, and a welcome to his new assistant, Don Probst. They have worked us hard and we love it!! Progress has been made. Another milestone — we have some honest-to-goodness uniforms, too!!

It has been said that the mark of an outstanding boss is for the crew to say, "We did it all ourselves". A tip of the hat to President Bob Hamp. He makes things happen with just a smile!! —Earl Whaley

Holly-Fenton

We have had an active and busy summer, working hard at making a come-back to full fledged chapter status. Our weekly meetings are now held at the Fenton Township Community Center at the north end of Lake Fenton, Tuesday nights at 8:30, guests always welcome.

Our chorus performed in July at the Genesee County Youth Fair. We had a great family, chapter picnic on September 12 at the lovely picnic grove at the home of David and Shirley Lonsbury. Food, games, songs and a good time was enjoyed by members and guests ranging from two weeks to 72 years of age.

By the time you read this we will have completed our second "Show-Glow", featuring the Northern Hi-Lites, the Basically Four (from Sweet Adelines), and from our own chapter, The Ransom Notes and the Tonsorial Tune Teasers along with the Holly-Fenton Lakelandaires Chorus.

—Grant L. Wright

Wayne

As must be the case with the majority of chapters in Pioneer District at this time, the primary concern is the Fall Contest. The Wonderland Chorus has gone to a twice-a-week schedule in an all-out effort to put us in a top-form scoring position. A lot of work, but we do enjoy it.

Does your chorus or quartet take advantage of the excellent coaching and technical advice that is available to all of us? All you really have to do is ask. Bill Butler, District Music Educator, gave us an evening of his time and stage presence judge Bob Mulligan came out on two separate occasions to offer advice and criticism. In each case their assistance was invaluable. It was of great interest to find that what we thought we were singing was not necessarily what Bill Butler's ears actually heard; and that our movements and facial expressions did not always convey the intended message to the stage presence judge.

On the weekend before Harrisville we had a 2-day coaching session with Bob Mucha, a director of the past international chorus champions, the Southern Gateway Chorus from Cincinnati, Ohio.

Bob is a wiry little fellow with a lot of knowledge and the ability to impart an idea to others. He turned our songs inside-out, all the time displaying his great ability as a professional musician and teacher. I should mention here that he is also quite a comedian, and never boring.

As some of you already know, the Wonderland Chorus did its annual two shows at Lakewood Shores Country Club near Oscoda over Labor Day weekend. Then, on Sept. 12 we did a half hour spot at the Plymouth Fall Festival.

In lieu of a September chapter meeting, Wayne had a family picnic on Sept. 18 in the Gunsolly Mills section of Hines Park. This lasted from about 10 a.m. until after dark.

Come visit us any 3rd Friday at Rosedale Gardens Civic Association clubhouse, 9611 Hubbard, in Livonia, Michigan.

—Morrie Giles



HOLLY-FENTON ENJOYS A PICNIC

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS GUN LAKE, WAYLAND, MICHIGAN AUGUST 1, 1976

The Meeting was called to order by President Gillespie at 1:15 p.m.
Directors Present: President Gillespie, EVP McTaggart, IBM Funk, DVP's Guerin, LaBumbard, Jones, and Treasurer Schmidt.

Directors Absent: DVP's Hagle, Marsh and Secretary McClinchey.

Also Present: DME Chairman Butler, REX Chairman Warner, and Contest and Judging Chairman King.

Also Absent: Troubadour Editor Morris.

Inasmuch as the minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed by mail to each of the Board Members and Committee Chairmen, the reading of same was waived. The minutes were accepted. An addition was made to the minutes of the special Board Meeting of May 21, 1976, (Balkan Hall, Warren, MI) adding Glenn Van Tassel to the list of candidate judges invited to attend the International Judges School in San Francisco. Minutes otherwise accepted as read.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Treasurer Schmidt and copies of same distributed to those present. The report was accepted as read. It was noted that chapter delegates should be instructed to communicate more thoroughly with their respective chapters re action of House of Delegates Meeting as witnessed by the apparent confusion over the annual dues increase.

President Gillespie expressed concern regarding the fact that the Troubadour Editor has failed to publish minutes of the Board of Directors and House of Delegates Meetings and will consult with the Editor regarding same. Also there appears to be a problem regarding billing for advertisements in the Troubadour. President Gillespie instructed IBM Funk to obtain rates for other district bulletins as a basis for evaluating the Troubadour rates.

IBM Funk reported on the International Board Meeting in San Francisco. He also gave a final report on the San Francisco Charter Flight.

EVP McTaggart submitted a written report which outlined district convention sites through the Fall of 1977 and reported that the Lansing Chapter has submitted a bid for Spring, 1978. The application forms for the A.I.C. Scholarship will be mailed to all Chapter Presidents by the middle of September. He also outlined Field Representative Cogan's itinerary through the end of the year.

All DVP's submitted written reports concerning activities in their respective divisions. DVP LaBumbard suggested that these written reports and those of the EVP, Treasurer, and Committee Chairmen be mailed to each Board Member and Committee Chairmen at least one week prior to the Board Meeting to allow more time for study. It was agreed to do so. DVP Jones reported that the Detroit Convention Bureau has been contacted and a study is being made as to the possibility of the Pioneer District hosting the 1981 International Convention in Detroit.

DME Chairman Butler reported on the activities of the Music Education Committee and outlined Dave Steven's tentative itinerary in the District in late November and early December. He also reported on plans for the Music Directors' School, Coaches and Quartet Clinic to be held at St. Mary's Lake near Battle Creek on December 4, 1976, under the general tutelage of Joe Liles.

REX Chairman Warner submitted a written report on activities in regard to retention and extension.

Under unfinished business, President Gillespie outlined and reviewed the duties of the various District Committees and instructed IBM Funk to review the Michigan laws regarding lotteries, etc. as they might affect individual chapter fund-raising activities. Upon receipt of this information a further study will be made to formulate District policy to assure compliance with the overall Society policy statements.

Regarding quarterly activity reports, President Gillespie cited those chapters that have not filed same and instructed DVP's to again reemphasize their importance to the chapter secretaries.

Roger Lewis, President of the Battle Creek Chapter, outlined the plans for the Logopedics Spectacular to be held on September 11, 1976, at Kelllogg Auditorium in Battle Creek.

Under new business, President Gillespie announced his intention to appoint a District Parliamentarian and will approach Attorney George Darrah to see if he will accept this position.

The importance of the individual chapters filing Form 990 to the IRS was again emphasized. Proposed By-law changes and certain resolutions instituted by A/C Neff of Division II were discussed. President Gillespie stated that a recent note from A/C Neff to Secretary McClinchey indicated that he would not introduce these changes and resolutions at the Fall House of Delegates Meeting, but reserved the right for possible introduction at the Spring Meeting.

An annual "Bulk Mail Permit" is now required by the U.S. Postal Service in order for International to continue to provide the mailing service for the individual districts. DVP LaBumbard motioned that the new required annual fee of \$40 be submitted to International for same. Motion seconded by DVP Guerin. Motion carried.

In regard to the Fall, 1977 Convention, President Gillespie reported that the host Kalamazoo Chapter would prefer to use the Western Michigan University Auditorium. Because of its higher cost, the Kalamazoo Chapter has offered to make up the difference up to a dollar level of estimated profit mutually agreed upon by the Board and host chapter in the traditional 50-50 split. The Board was asked to consider this proposal and further discuss at the October Board Meeting.

Concerning the District President's Conference in San Francisco, President Gillespie indicated that some twenty-one solicited proposals were discussed. He will summarize said proposals and distribute to the Board and Committee Members.

The Hall of Fame Awards nominations were presented by EVP McTaggart and acted upon by the Board. The Awards will be presented at the Fall Convention.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Secretary, Pioneer District

/s/ JOHN M. McCLINCHEY



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Coming Events

—1976—

OCTOBER—
2 Cadillac
8-10 District Convention, Grosse Pointe
16 Saginaw-Bay
22 Port Huron Chapter Show
23 Jackson
30 Fruitbelt

NOVEMBER—
6 Detroit
13-14 COTS—Battle Creek

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

MAY—
14 Bush League Contest, Boyne City

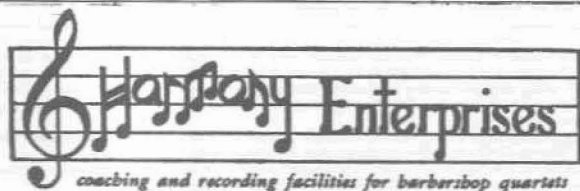
SEPTEMBER—
24 Gratiot County

NOVEMBER—
5 Detroit

—1978—

APRIL—
1 Great Lakes Invitational, Grand Rapids

MAY—
6 Bush League Contest, Boyne City



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