

*Peace,*



*Happiness,*



*Harmony*



*and Good Will*



DECEMBER 1977

pioneer

**TROUBADOUR**

## Doran McTaggart to head Pioneer in '78

Doran McTaggart will become president of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters on January 1, 1978. His election at the Kalamazoo convention to succeed John T. Gillespie of that city, was a popular and uncontested choice as the District and the Society moves toward a crucial era in our history.



DORAN McTAGGART

Currently serving as executive vice president, Doran is no stranger to our membership, being the district's premier master of ceremonies and one of our most visible and involved Barbershoppers. He has become a familiar name and face on the International circuit as well, having MC'd in three consecutive Society conventions, starting with Indianapolis, where he presided over the quarter finals, and at San Francisco and Philadelphia, where he handled the finals in both contests.

Doran and his wife, Margaret, reside at 890 Buckingham, Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

John Gillespie becomes the immediate past president and

## Jim Gougeon named Division V V-P as successor to Dick Gueron

James Gougeon, a member of Grosse Pointe and Port Huron Chapters, was named to fill the vacancy as vice president of Division V, formerly held by Dick Gueron of Pontiac.

Dick, former area counselor of the year from Pontiac, has served the district in a very enthusiastic manner during his tenure in office, but the pressures of work and recurring health problems forced him to make a very difficult decision.

Jim has been serving as an area counselor in that division, so he will be no stranger to most of the membership in his new post. He is an avid Barbershopper, who has his own "chorus" of Barbershoppers at home. He is a welcome addition to the administrative staff.

The Troubadour staff expresses the wish of the membership that Dick will be able to relax and enjoy life a little more, and that he will find the road to full recovery of his health a lot easier. Thanks for the help, Dick.

International Board Member, and Division II Vice President Dan LaBumbard of Jackson moves up to the executive vice presidency.

Thom Hine, Detroit #1's busy musical director, becomes president of Division I, succeeding Clay Jones, Wayne Chapter. Roger Lewis, Battle Creek, joins the administrative team as Division II vice president, succeeding LaBumbard in that position. Francis Jones, Grand Rapids, continues in the office of Division III vice president.

Loton Willson, Boyne City's venerable booster, returns to the administrative wars as vice president of Division IV, succeeding Warren Marsh of Cadillac.

James Gougeon, who was named to succeed Dick Guerin as Division V vice president when Dick was forced to resign due to illness, was selected to continue in that position. Jim lives in Mt. Clemens, and is a member of the Grosse Pointe and Port Huron Chapters.

Jack Schneider, Grand Rapids, will serve another term as treasurer, and John McClinchey, Oakland County member from Royal Oak, will remain as secretary.

One of the biggest tasks facing the newly elected administration will be that of reversing the dwindling membership, a problem in most districts that always seems to follow a dues increase of any nature. The burden will fall heavily on the administration's shoulders as they strive to make inroads in the fields of retention and recruitment of new members. As members of this great district, it is our duty to support the new officers in this endeavor to the fullest. Let's make this a year of growth in Pioneer. We can stand some good news.

## That 'Volare' commercial? Yes, the Foreign Policy

If the faces in a recent Volare television commercial seemed familiar to you, they should have.

It was our own Pioneer District 1976 Champs, the Foreign Policy, singing the 60-second spot about "the car that has America singing."

After auditioning with many professional and "pop"-type singing groups, the ad agency chose the Foreign Policy to appear as one of the groups being shown nationally to introduce the 1978 Plymouth models.

Shortly after the commercial appeared on TV the guys hung up the pitchpipe. John Wearing, tenor; Russ Seely, lead; Don Humphries, bari and Thom Hine, bass, were the members of the quartet.

Pioneer  
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## On to Cincinnati

# Motor City edges Wonderland Chorus; will represent Pioneer at International

This was the year of expectation for Pioneer's big chorus competitors with one thought in mind — to upset the Men in Blue from Detroit and win the right to represent the district next year in Cincinnati. It didn't happen.

For Wayne Wonderland it was close, but no cigar, when the scores were added up at Kalamazoo's Miller Auditorium on October 8. Steve Sutherland's troops made a strong bid but still came up 48 points short of the mark set by Detroit #1.

The Great Lakes Chorus, after capturing the district crown in the Spring at Midland, had pointed all its guns toward this contest, feeling confident this was to be the year for Grand Rapids. But they, too, fell short of the prize and had to settle for a third place finish.

There were 17 chapters represented in this year's prelims, and the quality of the singing presentations reached a new high in competitive warfare — a tribute to the district's musical education program.

Grosse Pointe's Lakeshore Chorus took the fourth spot, followed by Traverse City, only nine points behind. Lansing's sixth place effort was just two points away from the Cherry Capitol singers, and Oakland County finished a scant



WINNING FORM.—The Motor City Chorus

three points behind Lansing. Monroe's Floral City entry came in eighth, only 10 points away from OCC's Wolverine Chorus.

From there on in it was Battle Creek, Saginaw Bay, Holland, Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Jackson, Niles-Buchanan, Cadillac and Flint.

The official scoring summary, printed in this issue, gives further insight for those who wish to analyze the results of the contest.

## Major Event new Novice Champs

# Motor City Music Company captures District Quartet crown

With 18 quartets going to the post in Pioneer District's Fall Quartet Contest, it was obvious to convention goers at Kalamazoo that the competition would be keen from the outset and the winning quartet would really have to sing to win the title.

And sing they did, as the Motor City Music Company piled up 1,612 points to put a lock on the District Championship and take home the trophies. The Great Lakes Express finished 50 points back of the new champs to take second, and the surprising Personal Expression gave the youth movement a real shot in the arm by taking third place over some very solid competition — including the Sound Expression, the Dutch Masters, the Patch Chords, Harmony Hounds, and the Village Ramblers — all finishing in that order in the top eight.

The new Champs are Galen Oliver, lead, Clinton Valley; Bob Demchak, tenor, Grosse Pointe; Dave Caldwell, bari, Wayne; and Bob Wisdom, bass, Detroit #1.

The new Novice Champs are members of the Oakland County Chapter. While they didn't make the cut for the finals, the Major Event did capture the Novice title with their ninth place performance.

They were trailed by the Cadence Counts, Subtle Impression, Sound Ambassadors, Gold Medal Research Team, A Moments Notice, Those Other Guys, the Brightline Express, Union Street Arrangement, and the First and Final Attempt, in that order.



MOTOR CITY MUSIC COMPANY—an way to championship



NOVICE CHAMPS—The Major Event

# OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc., PIONEER DISTRICT

KALAMAZOO, MICHIGAN — OCTOBER 8, 1977

## International Preliminary Chorus Contest

Category: Song Numbers: Rank-Chorus	SOUND		INT.		STAGE ARR.		PREV. POINTS	TOTAL	SINGING SECONDS	
	1	2	1	2	1	2			1	2
1—Detroit #1	150	145	146	131	315	6	4	897	132	146
2—Wayne	135	132	137	125	315	1	4	849	124	146
3—Grand Rapids	133	127	127	106	279	2	2	776	111	135
4—Grosse Pointe	114	110	116	97	241	1	4	683	105	139
5—Traverse City	111	113	107	98	240	2	3	674	145	156
6—Lansing	124	111	103	97	235	1	1	672	152	130
7—Oakland County	112	102	101	92	255	3	4	669	132	151
8—Monroe	121	120	103	84	229	2	0	659	190	128
9—Battle Creek	97	97	97	92	196	3	3	585	142	115
10—Saginaw Bay	93	85	97	85	214	1	2	577	148	140
11—Holland	126	119	97	96	207	1	0	★566	101	129
12—Bntr Hrbr-St. Joseph	90	82	97	104	191	1	1	566	141	140
13—Kalamazoo	89	88	106	95	187	1	-1	565	146	124
14—Jackson	90	84	88	79	182	-5	1	519	167	139
15—Niles-Buchanan	92	92	76	69	148	0	1	478	134	128
16—Cadillac	70	61	66	64	143	1	0	405	163	138
17—Flint	81	71	76	63	—	0	2-5	288	113	140

Detroit #1 Chorus will represent Pioneer District at Cincinnati.  
Wayne Chorus is the alternate.

★ Tie broken by Article 22 (sound scores)

— Stage Presence score forfeited per Article 15 (a) 2.



WAYNE WONDERLAND—Giving it their best

## District Quartet Contest

Category: Song Numbers: Rank-Quartet	SOUND		INT.		STAGE ARR.		PREV. POINTS	TOTAL	SINGING SECONDS		
	1	2	1	2	1	2			1	2	
1—Motor City Music Co.	132	129	129	115	283	4	6	814	1612	129	144
2—Great Lakes Express	136	127	135	120	281	3	2	798	1562	93	142
3—Personal Expression	118	113	126	121	235	4	3	719	1439	134	133
4—Sound Expression	128	127	115	105	272	5	2	672	1426	120	183
5—Dutch Masters	126	121	113	98	232	4	2	649	1345	105	135
6—Patch Chords	107	108	110	108	222	2	2	633	1292	121	126
7—Harmony Hounds	100	87	98	85	210	0	-3	704	1281	162	139
8—Village Ramblers	104	107	97	98	195	0	4	617	1222	138	145
9—Major Event	111	108	97	89	205	-3	-2	605	147	144	
10—Cadence Counts	99	97	90	92	224	1	0	603	95	179	
11—Subtle Impression	100	93	95	100	208	0	1	597	138	131	
12—Sound Ambassadors	96	92	105	89	215	-2	1	596	166	120	
13—Gold Medal Rrch Tm	114	111	101	86	179	1	3	595	144	146	
14—A Moments Notice	98	94	99	85	210	-1	1	586	145	115	
15—Those Other Guys	90	80	96	85	200	1	0	552	108	134	
16—Brightline Express	93	89	79	84	197	-4	-2	536	113	133	
17—Union St. Armgf	91	86	76	76	195	0	0	524	115	129	
18—First & Final Atmpt	88	82	87	72	219	2	-1	509	137	98	

• Time penalty of 40 points (5 points @ 8 points per second)

\* Time penalty of 24 points (3 points @ 8 points per second)

The Motor City Music Co. are the new District Quartet Champions.

The Major Event Quartet are the new District Novice Quartet Champions.



PERSONAL EXPRESSION—A strong finish

### PANEL OF JUDGES

Chairman: Don Lang, St. Joseph, Michigan, Pioneer. Sound: Don Barnick, St. Joseph, Michigan, Illinois; Darryl Flinn, Canton, Ohio, Johnny Appleseed. Interpretation: Gary Balles, Providence, Rhode Island, Northeastern; Glenn VanTassell, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Pioneer. Stage Presence: Don Harbin, Indianapolis, Indiana, Cardinal; Bob Mulligan, Highland Park, Michigan, Pioneer. Arrangement: Dove Briner, Playa Del Rey, California, Far Western; Bob Brock, Anaheim, California, Far Western. Secretary: Chick Nasser, Michigan City, Indiana, Cardinal. Assistant Secretary: John T. Gillespie, Kalamazoo, Michigan Pioneer. Timers: Herm Dykema, Kalamazoo, Michigan; Fran Jones, Grand Rapids, Michigan and Skip Hasely, Kalamazoo, Michigan, Pioneer.



the pride of GROSSE POINTE



THEY LOVED IT!

THE PIONEER TROUBADOUR

Death stills voice of the Singing Chef

## Barbershoppers and friends mourn passing of Carl J. Restivo at 68

A funeral mass for Carl J. Restivo was held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 28 in St. Mary's of Redford Church in Detroit. Carl died at the age of 68 in Mt. Carmel Hospital in that city, September 25. He had been ill since last spring.

Known to millions as the former "Singing Chef" on WXYZ-TV in Detroit, Carl was born in Maryland, but had lived in Detroit for more than 30 years.

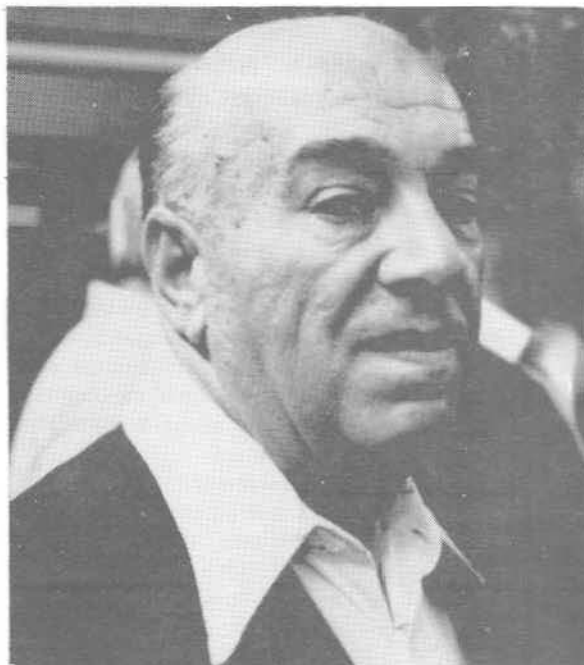
He was a noted voacelist in the area and a longtime member of the Detroit and Grosse Pointe chapters of the Society. He was the lead singer for the Frankenmuth Quartet and the Progressive Four.

Carl was the owner of Timber Bowling Lanes in Detroit and operated a rubbish collection service until his retirement in 1973.

He is survived by two sons, Robert A. and Michael E.; two daughters, Mrs. Carol T. Wright and Mrs. Susan M. Deckers; two sisters, and five grandchildren. Burial was in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

The family requested memorial contributions be made to the Mt. Carmel Kidney Foundation.

The Troubadour expresses the feelings of all Pioneer members in extending our sincerest sympathy to Carl's family. We have lost a brother and a friend, as well as one of the great voices of our fraternity. Carl was a member of Pioneer's Hall Of Fame.



CARL J. RESTIVO



BACK STAGE—Awaiting the moment of truth!



FOREIGN POLICY—Passing trophies to new champs



THE GREAT LAKES EXPRESS—

December 1977



Look who came to the convention! THE FOUR-TUNE TELLERS!

## 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

### DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

about our Music Education Program for 1978.

The first thing you must do is REGISTER for the Quartet and Coaching Clinic to be held February 24, 25 and 26, 1978 at the MEA Conference Center at St. Marys Lake on the North side of Battle Creek. Mac Huff will be there for his only visit to Pioneer District during 1978. The balance of the faculty will consist of the top coaches in the Society, with a surprise or two from the eastern part of the United States.

Those of you who have attended these clinics in the past two years are aware that Pioneer is fortunate in securing the best coaching staff available anywhere in the Society, and the February seminar will be no exception.

Because of costs for faculty we are forced to limit registration for this clinic to 20 quartets and 10 men who wish to study coaching. With your registration, please include a twenty dollar (\$20) per man deposit, (fifty dollars per quartet). Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis, up to 20 quartets and the ten men to study coaching.

We certainly need to develop qualified coaches in the Pioneer District and this is the way to do it.

Total cost for two nights lodging and four meals, i.e. breakfast Saturday through breakfast Sunday, is \$36.50 per man in the dormitory and \$41.00 per man in the four-man suites.

## Registration for Quartet and Coaching Clinic

Feb. 24-26, 1978, MEA Conference Center

Quartet or  
Coaching student \_\_\_\_\_  
(name)

If quartet, list personnel:

Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Tenor \_\_\_\_\_

Bari \_\_\_\_\_

Bass \_\_\_\_\_

signature

Each application for registration must be accompanied by \$20 check or M.O. made payable to Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA. Quartets limited to 20, and coaching students to 10, all on a first come basis. If you are not accepted because we are at capacity, your deposit will be returned with your notification of not being accepted.

The big event of the year will be a Mini-Hep School, September 15, 16 and 17. This will be for ALL Barbershoppers and will include Beginning and Advanced Chorus Directing, Repertoire, Beginning and Advanced Arranging, and Basic and Advanced Craft.

The staff will be headed by Bob Johnson, Joe Liles, and Dave Stevens plus a well rounded crew of assistants. More information on this later when we line up a facility that can handle that many men. There will not be any quartet clinic at the Mini-Hep. If any of you know of a small college that can handle 150 to 200 men for that date, lodging and food, and meeting rooms, please contact me at the above number or address.

**DON'T MISS THIS ONE — BE SURE YOU SET THIS DATE ASIDE NOW!**

More information will be forthcoming as we get it locked in.

## Our Best Wishes to Pioneer District members and to all Barbershoppers

Once again, in this most celebrated season, Marion and I would like to extend our warmest wishes to all of our friends and members of this great singing society.

We feel most fortunate and privileged to have shared over 38 years of our life in harmony with the members of this great singing fraternity.

The years have been kind to us, permitting us the opportunity to continue to harmonize in song, and in spirit with the greatest of friends. We feel fortunate, indeed.

May we express the same wish again this year as in the past — that the Devine Creator be as kind to all of you as he has been to us, and may the holidays be everything that your hearts desire.

## Holiday Greetings

—from the Joure's



MARION and WALLACE

## Detroit features Happiness Emporium, Pieces of Eight and Harmony Hounds

Detroit #1 Chapter brought in the Happiness Emporium, the Pieces of Eight and the Harmony Hounds for their annual show on November 6 at Ford Auditorium. Tom Hine and the Motor City Chorus gave another solid performance to back up their headliners, and WJR's program director, Ted Strasser, gave his special touch of class to the show with his "On the Air" format as master of ceremonies. Ted featured a full hour of Barbershop Harmony on his "Patterns in Music" show on the previous Sunday, and followed that up with an hour with the Sweet Adelines the following Sunday. Here are some scenes from the show.



# Camping and singing popular in Pioneer

By TOM POLLARD, *Wayne Chapter*  
*Unofficial Co-ordinator*

Another Summer has come and gone and the traditional finale was once again a huge singing success at Harrisville over Labor Day week end.

A very large group of Barbershopping and Sweet Adeline families enjoyed the usual attractions of campfire singing, swimming, fishing, hiking and all the other things that go with outdoor living.

As the big week end drew near, the motels soon filled with songsters and the festivities were off in an accelerated fashion.

Friday night saw quartets and choruses filling the four local watering holes with ringing chords and corny jokes.

The final figures are not in on the total amount of money raised for Logopedics, but we are assured it was a very substantial sum. Thanks for this goes out to the local fans and Barbershoppers alike for their generous contributions.

Saturday night was a huge pre-glo, masterfully handled again this year by our Florida Flash, King Page.

Harrisville churches once more were ringing with Barber-shop sevenths on Sunday morning, thanks to our quartets and choruses and their hymns of praise.

The Sunday (down Main Street) parade was highlighted by a prize winning float with our own Foreign Policy quartet making up the craziest looking hood ornament you ever saw.

The Harmony Week End wrap-up was the free outdoor concert featuring the "Parade to End All Parades" at the band shell.

When the final dust had settled we had put on stage 27 registered quartets and choruses, and they all sang like champions. What a promising year of vocal magic the local Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines have to look forward to and we sincerely hope the competitive struggles coming up will in no way dim the light of friendship we have all enjoyed so much in Harrisville.

Next year? A vote was taken of all the chapters that have been the most active over the past years and it was agreed upon to continue having our Harmony Week End during the Labor Day holidays as in the past.

Thank you all for the cooperation and fun we had. See you next Labor Day.



HARRISVILLE IS KIDS . . .



YOUNG AND OLD



HARRISVILLE IS REUNION . . .



BARBERSHOP QUARTETS . . .



HARRISVILLE IS ONE BIG SHOW . . .



LOGOPEDICS IS ALSO FOR KIDS . . .



# CHAPTER NOTES

## Flint

We had an active summer and are enjoying good turnouts at our regular meetings. Several members of the now defunct Holly-Fenton Chapter have transferred membership to Flint and are taking an active part in chapter affairs.

The following officers were elected on October 11 and will take office, officially, following formal installation sometime in January. President, Paul Lehmkuhle; Administrative vice-president, John Wrage; Program vice-president Jack Stevens; Secretary, Ray Hazel; Treasurer, Jeff Coe; Musical Director, Jack Lyons; assistant directors, Dan Goodearl, Ted Moss and Jack Stevens. Immediate Past President, Bill Minns; Bulletin Editor, Gary Wilber; co-editor, Les Lang; Troubadour Reporter, Grant Wright.

Board of Directors, Ed Wracon, Bruce Wright, Les Martinson, Grant Wright, Dave Lonsbury, Ron Clements, and musical directors and editors. (Wrage, Stevens, Goodearl, Lonsbury and Grant Wright are former Holly-Fenton members).

Les Lang, former Troubadour reporter, has left for his home in Florida and will continue to be active in Barbershopping while there.

We were pleased to have the company of Andy Dill, President of the Far West District, at our meeting on November 1. Andy began his Barbershop career as a member of the Holly-Fenton Chapter before moving to California.

Although we have no scheduled sing-outs in the immediate future we were busy performing in several during the past few months. We are now working diligently on new numbers for our next annual show sometime next spring. More about that in later reports.

Seasons greetings to all and a good New Year.

—Grant L. Wright

## Port Huron

### Blue Water International Chorus Sings at Pt. Huron's 3rd Cabaret

In early July this year representatives of the Port Huron Chapter's Huron Harmony Chorus met with the Blue Water Chordsmen of the Sarnia, Ontario, Canada Chapter to discuss the possibility of combining forces to create the "Big Sound" and, at the same time, attract more members to our respective choruses.

The culmination of this meeting resulted in a highly successful performance at Port Huron's 3rd Annual Cabaret Show on October 29th.

The show was a complete sellout and the new Blue Water International Chorus had made its debut.

Appearing on the program with the International Chorus were Port Huron's Brightline Express, the Generation Gap, and Sarnia's Latest Arrangement. Pioneer's International representatives, the Great Lakes Express, headlined the show.

December 1977

## Wayne

Once again the Wayne Wonderland Chorus bows to the superior Motor City Chorus and we do wish them all the best in Cincinnati.

Regardless of the outcome, it seems to be generally felt that the Wonderland chorus has made tremendous strides in the past year, and we think we're justified in feeling proud. Perhaps the main cog that has turned our wheel of accomplishment has been our director, Steve Sutherland.

How did we get Steve in the first place? Glad you asked! About seven years ago four rather scared teen-agers came to our chapter meeting and rendered a shaky "Coney Island Baby". Evidently our warm applause bolstered their confidence, and they eventually joined the chapter. Steve was one of the four. They all graduated from high school that year and Steve enrolled as a music major at Eastern Michigan University, although he eventually changed courses.

At that time our director was Gordie Limburg, with Dick Webber as assistant director. Dick's job moved him to Baltimore and somehow Steve took over the warmup duties and was dubbed "assistant director". When Gordie resigned in the fall of 1975 we shopped around for a new director and finally latched onto Doc Caldwell who agreed to take us through the March Parade.

All this time Steve was serving as "warmup". After the March show Doc's quartet commitments would not allow him to continue as director, and he pointed out what we should have known all along — that Steve had the potential of becoming one of the Society's best directors!

Sometimes you can't see the forest for the trees! Steve took over and in a month we took the District Championship.

Moral of the story — Don't hide your assistant director.

Let's give a few more plaudits: Tom Pollard, who schemed up our stage presence, and Andy Lesperance, who drilled us on vowels and diphthongs.

Getting back to stage presence, we hired Mike Etue, professional choreographer, to coach the front row dance routine. He liked what we were doing so well that he joined the chorus and took one of the front row spots.

The stage props were made by another great artist, Frank Maton.

Wayne Chapter wishes to thank all the quartets who came to sing in our hospitality room Saturday night (and Sunday morning). And thanks to all the wives who prepared the snacks.

Don't forget our big show in March.

—Morrie Giles

Hats off to all these great quartets and especially to the Blue Water International Chorus. On Nov. 26th the chorus was featured at Sarnia Chapter's annual showsin that city, where we enjoyed another great evening of entertaining and entertainment.

—Mark Older

## New Baltimore Exit



# 1/2 mile

WITTED

CONTACT: PAT YACQUES (313) 725-8401

## Milford

Life goes on in the Milford Chapter though things seem to get a bit hectic at times — especially those times when we have a performance scheduled and we have to wonder if we will have all four parts without making a shift. Most of us know what that's like, but when your ranks are as thin as those in our chapter it can cause a bit of concern.

Nonetheless, Milford stays active and busy. We marked our return to the Legion Hall for the first time in quite a while with a very successful Ladies Night, which featured an all-comedy bill, along with the Huron Valley Chorus.

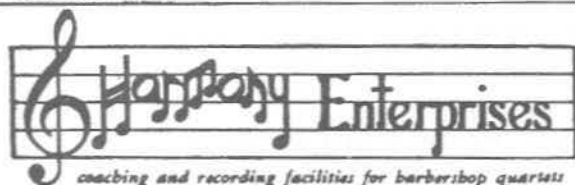
The "New" Harmony Hounds, the Patch Chords and the Bay Town Ramblers filled the old hall with music and laughter throughout the evening!

The chorus visited Hickorey Haven Convalescent Home in West Highland and sang for the patients again. We are always happy to sing for these people and they seem happy to have us entertain them. Chapter members consider their performances at the nursing homes a most rewarding experience.

The chorus also sang at the Countryside Inn in Hartland for the Lion's Club Ladies Night dinner. There was some question in our minds when we heard the club had invited us to join them for dinner! Feeding a hungry chorus can be quite expensive, as the Lions discovered, much to their dismay. They thought they were getting a quartet and quickly decided to call the whole thing off. But the chapter informed them we would be happy to sing for them — without the free meal — and we did. The club responded by making a contribution to the chapter's treasury.

Now, we must concentrate on building up our membership and preparing for our annual show, which will be held in the Kiva at Lakeland High School on April 8. The show will feature our new District Champs, the Motor City Music Company, and two other quartets not yet confirmed, along with the Huron Valley Chorus.

Barbershoppers living in the Milford area who do not have conflicts on Tuesday nights are invited to join us each week at 8 p.m. in the music room at Muir Junior High School in Milford.



JOHN SEEMANN

(313) 851-8652

3608 RIDGELAND ROAD • WEST BLOOMFIELD, MICHIGAN 48033



THE  
MEMORY  
LANERS

REG.

BARBERSHOP QUARTET

GEO. MEINSCHEN, TENOR

MARTY ZURN, BARI

MIKE BOURGOIN, LEAD

GENE BEATY, BASS

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

## Down Our Way

with the Editor



Reflecting on the all-too-quickly passing year, it seems almost impossible that we have been witness to so much in such a short span of time in this world of music and Barbershop Harmony.

As we dream by the first of the winter's fires, with the snow swirling about the landscape outside our comfortable abode, memory plays a myriad of illusive games with our mind, until we realize that trying to recapture all the memories of the year in detail is like trying to corral all those snowflakes that race with the wind.

Details become obscured with one show merging into another, one contest blending into the next, one chapter event confused with another, until it all becomes one big wisp, foggy blur, curling into the air like the smoke rising from the chimney — one big, ultimate afterglow to end all afterglows.

As district editor we have been privileged to attend more than the average number of shows, meet an inordinate number of wonderful people, and hear the greatest of quartets and choruses; and enjoy the hospitality of the finest chapter's in the Society — our Pioneer chapters.

We have made it a point to report as many of these shows as possible. Most we have attended, and some which we have been unable to attend, have been chronicled in these pages. Sometimes we get material from interested chapter reporters, and occasionally some pictures. This we appreciate.

Many of the pictorial accounts have been the product of the editor's camera — the one that gave up the ghost in Philadelphia. But the best ones have been the competent camera work of Bill Pascher, a real class guy, a first rate Barbershopper, and friend. Pioneer people are lucky to have multi-talented members like Bill, our district photographer, member of the Hall of Fame, and stalwart in the Pontiac Chapter. Bill's props and scenery produced for his chapter's shows, have been a hallmark of excellence that have marked Pontiac's shows through the years. We have sometimes thought that some of his work was so good that it actually captured the attention of the audience more than the quartets themselves.

Then there is that super-active guy down in Detroit who seems to be involved in just about every phase of chapter and show activities, and who, somehow, finds time to make a living with his camera work. We're talking about Gary Peck, of course. He has been kind enough to supply the Troubadour with some of his splendid photos from time to time, and we would be remiss if we failed to mention our thanks.

The pics of the Detroit show appearing in this issue, however, are the work of the editor's good neighbor, fellow Barbershopper, and co-worker with whom we share the long ride to work — Jerry Twomey. Jerry came to our rescue with his recently acquired 35mm camera, and this is the first of his efforts at capturing a big show on film. Like the editor, he

*(Continued on next page)*

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does not claim to have the expertise of a Pascher or a Peck, but his efforts are appreciated in this corner, and we hope you will like them too. Jerry and his wife, Barbara, have come to our rescue on more than one occasion when the Troubadour needed help. That's the "rewards" of living too close to an editor.

And didn't Kalamazoo host a great convention in October? The Mall City Chorus went all out to give us a great week end, and if you didn't enjoy the event, perhaps you liked the bomb scare at the Center!

With convention facilities like the new Kalamazoo Center and Western Michigan's great Miller Auditorium, the district's convention can involve more people and win more friends for Barbershopping.

We were in West Palm Beach in late September for a visit with our daughter Marilyn and family. While there, contacted Clint Bostick on the phone, which led to a visit with the Palm Coastmen. Harlan Wilson and his men were busy preparing for the competition in Sunshine District, and we had a good opportunity to observe this competitive chorus in action. To the laymen present, which included my son-in-law Ron Hungerford, the beehive of activity must have seemed terribly disorganized, as the chorus broke into sections for stage presence, sectional rehearsals, critiques, etc. But when they put it all together at the end of the evening, it came out smooth and polished, in a manner that won the approval of the visitors, even if it didn't satisfy Harlan's taste for excellence.

Clint, by the way, is looking great, and sends his thanks back to his home district to all those people who sent cards, breathed a prayer, and expressed kind wishes during his long road back to recovery following the tragic accident last year. We did a bit of woodshedding with him following rehearsal, and, as any of his fellow chapter members can tell you, he still sings the greatest. One member made a point in telling us that Clint was a rare champion who always found time to sing with anyone who wanted to sing. We can understand that statement.

The day we left West Palm, Clint went back on his walking beat for the Postal Service for the first time since the accident, and he was really looking forward to getting out again.

By the way, the Palm Coastmen, who did not attempt to qualify for Philadelphia after representing Sunshine for so many years, went to Tampa with two great numbers — and fell short by ONE point, as the Miamians squeaked by them on the way to Cincinnati next year. Harlan's fellow "Suntone", Gene Cokecroft, called him on stage in a great gesture, as he accepted the trophy for his chorus.

Another hard-working Pioneer member and Hall of Famer has fled our lovely Michigan, giving up the beautiful snows of winter for the warm sun of Florida. Merle Clayton, former C&J chairman and co-editor of the Troubadour for many years, has departed Battle Creek, according to a change of address we received recently. We will miss you Merle, and hope you and the wife will enjoy many happy years of retirement in the sun. Just get back to see us once in a while, and keep in touch.

We are well into our fifth year as editor of the Troubadour, an honor that comes to too few people in any district. Bob Roberts has just stepped down as editor of the Far West District after more than 10 years in that position. However, we don't expect to see Bob on the inactive list very long.

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since he is now a member of the new Rocky Mountain District via the course of redistricting. He has served Far West faithfully and well during his tenure, and we are sure he will be missed by his former associates.

For some time, now, we have contemplated stepping down from the editorship of the Troubadour and giving someone else the opportunity to experience the joys, and despairs of publishing this journal. Not that we have grown tired of the position or of the clan Barbershop — heaven forbid! It is simply that a person grows stale in his imagination after a period of time and new points of view are needed, new ideas introduced to breathe a livelier breath into the format.

To be sure, it is not always easy to get out a publication for the sake of a publication alone. The technical, or manufacturing end, of the Troubadour has become an increasingly difficult task in recent months, involving a goodly amount of our personal time other than just the time spent in covering various events. Add to this the time spent in correspondence, taking care of the billing and mailing and other business pertinent to the publication, and you can readily see that we let a lot of things go by the board to make room for this facet of our life.

We are reluctant to call it a day, of course. There is so much to be done in this district, and so much more that needs to be done through the channels of communication, of which the Troubadour is a vital part. Somewhere among the membership there must be scores of persons capable of stepping in and doing this work. It's no secret that your help will be appreciated. When you are ready to tackle the job, this editor will be ready to turn over the reins to you. In the meantime, we would like to see at least one good live-wire reporter from each of our five divisions channeling some fresh news into this desk. Perhaps our division vice presidents can find a good man in each of their areas to handle this work. We are not getting the desired results from our chapters though a few chapter reporters do a reasonable job of keeping us informed.

Our personal thanks go to Morrie Giles of the Wayne Chapter. It's a rare day when Morrie doesn't fill you in with a good report, and we'd like to nominate him as our selection for "Chapter Reporter of the Year".

Hopefully, too, with a new slate of officers taking over this coming year, they will get more involved in telling the district membership, through these pages, what's going on in their field of administration. We don't get enough of this. Bill Butler has been great in filing a column regularly, and that's not easy for a guy who carries the load of a Musical Education Director.

Here's hoping all of you have a happy holiday season, and that the New Year will bring new achievements to Pioneer District and it's great bunch of Barbershoppers.

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## Coming Events

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—1978—

FEBRUARY 3-4—Monroe Chapter Show. 11th  
Pontiac Chapter Show. 17-18th Oakland  
County Show. 18th Lansing Chapter Show.

MARCH 3-4—Wayne Pitchpipe Parade.

APRIL 1—Great Lakes Invitational  
8th Milford Chapter Show. 15th St. Joseph  
Valley Chapter Show. 22-23rd—SPRING  
CONVENTION, Lansing.

MAY 6—Niles-Buchanan Chapter Show. 13th  
Boyer City Bush League.

JULY 3-8—INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION,  
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Second Class Mail

HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER!

### Minutes of the Pioneer Board of Directors Meeting Eby's Pines, Bristol, Indiana

August 6, 1977

The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by President Gillespie.

Directors Present: All Directors were present except EVP McTaggart and DVP Marsh.

Also Present: Committee Chairmen Darrah, Lang, and Warner; Director of Music Education Butler; Area Counselor Hine; and International Field Representative Cogan.

The reading of the minutes of the April Board Meeting were dispersed with as copies had been mailed to all members.

Treasurer Schneider's report showed an operating balance of \$4,107.67. The Treasurer also distributed a new expense statement form.

IBM Funk reviewed the International Board Meeting held in Philadelphia and submitted a written report. The Board honored the Pioneer District's request to move the District Fall Convention from the second weekend in October to the third weekend commencing in 1979. The resolution from the Pioneer District regarding ASCAP violations was denied by the International Executive Committee. The District Laws & Regulations Committee was instructed to review the matter and report to the Fall Board of Directors' Meeting for possible resubmission to the International Board.

Written reports were submitted by all Division Vice Presidents concerning activities within their division. It was reported that one chapter was in jeopardy because of its failure to submit the IRS Form 990 by the deadline, although that situation has since been resolved. Final accounting concerning the Spring Convention has not yet been received from the host chapter.

REX Chairman Warner submitted a written report indicating that there are two potential chapters very close to qualifying for a license with several more in the "embryo stages".

Music Education Chairman Butler outlined plans for the summer clinic at the MEA Center in Battle Creek and the September Clinic to be held at the Caberfoe Ski Resort in Cadillac.

Under unfinished business, President Gillespie introduced Don Lang, the new District C & J Chairman who replaced Larry King. Because of the change in C & J Chairman, it was moved by IBM Funk, with a second by DVP Guerin that the proposed implementation of the NORTHUP Scoring System as approved at the Spring Board Meeting be deferred to a future date. Motion carried. C & J Chairman Lang will report on this at the fall Board of Directors' Meeting.

The By-Law changes as proposed by the Niles-Buchanan Chapter were reviewed by Laws and Regulations Chairman Darrah, and the following action was taken:

1—Moved that the Pioneer District By-Laws be amended, where necessary, using the word "Division" in place of the current terminology of "Zone".

Motion supported by DVP LaBumbard, seconded by Secretary McClinchey. Motion carried.

2—Moved that Article 7.03 of the Pioneer District By-Laws be amended to include — "All Pioneer District Board meetings are open to Society members who are cordially invited to attend as observers. All District Board meetings (their date, time and place) will be published in advance through the District's publication (Troubadour) as well as the minutes of these meetings.

Advance notice is not meant to include "Emergency Board meetings" for which there is not time for publication."

Motion supported by IBM Funk, seconded by DVP LaBumbard. Motion carried.

3—Moved that Article 11 of the Pioneer District By-Laws be amended to include the provision that "All District committees (standing or special) shall submit written reports of their activities (to include committees which may have had no activity) to the membership of the District via the House of Delegates and/or the Troubadour on a 6 month basis.

Motion to reject the proposed change made by IBM Funk, seconded by DVP F. Jones. Motion carried with one opposition.

4—Moved that the Pioneer District By-Laws be amended to require written reports from those officers carrying specific responsibilities for the District — these reports to be submitted to the District membership via the House of Delegates and/or the Troubadour on a 6 month basis.

Motion supported by DVP F. Jones, seconded by DVP C. Jones. Motion carried.

5—Moved that the Pioneer District By-Laws be amended in accordance with the Pioneer District Board's motion of 4/25/75 which provided for written notice in the Troubadour of any business to be brought before the House of Delegates.

Proposal rejected based on action taken at the Fall 1977 House of Delegates Meeting. However, the Board of Directors proposed the following to be included in the District By-Laws:

The agenda of each regularly scheduled meeting of the House of Delegates shall be mailed in advance to the president of each chapter. The District president shall include in the agenda, in concise language, all matters which he has reason to believe will be discussed at the meeting. Additional matters may be considered at the meeting.

Motion to recommend the above supported by DVP F. Jones, seconded by IBM Funk. Motion carried.

6—Moved that a job description (to include duties and responsibilities) be written for the position of "Pioneer District International Board Member" and that such description be entered into the Pioneer District By-Laws. This description to be submitted to the Fall '77 House of Delegates for approval.

Motion to reject made by DVP LaBumbard, seconded by DVP F. Jones. Motion carried.

President Gillespie announced that plans for the Fall Convention are moving well and presented the proposed budget.

Due to problems concerning a final accounting from the host chapter of the 1977 Spring Convention, it was moved that the Board of Directors recommend to the House of Delegates that the request of the Saginaw-Bay Chapter to hold the Spring 1979 Convention be rescinded. Motion made by DVP LaBumbard, seconded by IBM Funk. Motion carried.

On a motion by DVP Guerin with a second by DVP F. Jones, the Board of Directors determined that a special convention issue of the Troubadour must be issued well in advance of the 1977 Fall Convention. Motion carried.

The next scheduled Board of Directors Meeting will be held on October 7, 1977, at 1:00 p.m. in Kalamazoo.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

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