



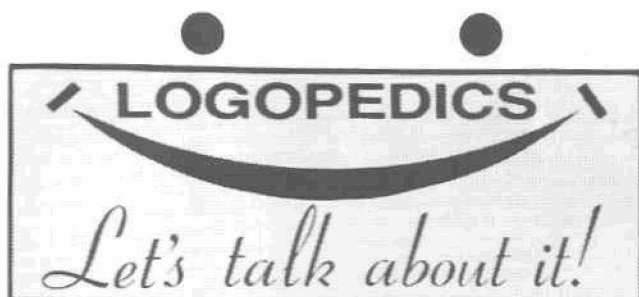
JOHN T. GILLESPIE
Pioneer District President



February 1977



pioneer
TROUBADOUR



Fran Durham, Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman
14851 Stahelin, Detroit, Michigan 48223
Phones: Business, 313 751-3410; Residential, 313 272-0892

Twenty-two of our 32 chapters contributed to Logopedics in 1976. Only nine of our 42 quartets contributed although some may have indirectly contributed through their chapters. As I have said many times, quartets do have a responsibility to support the Society's Unified Service Project also.

Congratulations to the nine chapters who will be receiving the Harmony Foundation Awards for per-capita contributions of \$10 or better. Congratulations, too, to all who contributed to Logopedics. The Pioneer District stands in 7th place with \$50.48 in per member average giving to Logopedics in 1976. We can be proud of our accomplishment!

PIONEER DISTRICT LOGOPEDICS CONTRIBUTIONS
January-December 1976

CHAPTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Chapter	Contributions	Chapter	Contributions
Alpena	\$ 65.25	Les Cheneau	\$ 100.00
AuSable Valley	55.58	Milford	20.00
*Battle Creek	1,736.41	*Monroe	650.00
Cadillac	170.00	Niles-Buchanan	175.00
Clinton Valley	154.57	*Oakland County	1,340.00
*Detroit #1	1,240.00	Pontiac	231.50
Grand Rapids	150.00	Port Huron	130.00
Grosse Pointe	569.00	*St. Joseph Valley	300.00
Holly-Fenton	25.00	Traverse City	451.00
*Jackson	750.93	*Wayne	1,027.36
*Kalamazoo	578.00	Windsor	298.00
*Lansing	650.00	Chapter Totals	\$10,867.60

*Designates Harmony Foundation Award Winners

QUARTET CONTRIBUTIONS

Quartet	Contributions
The About Four	\$ 20.00
Final Edition	16.02
The Fringe Benefit	100.00
The Galaxies	50.00
Gentlemen's Agreement	167.00
The Harmony Hounds	75.00
The Patch Chords	60.00
The Pitchblenders	20.00
Suqre Root	40.00
Quartet Totals	\$548.02
Non-Member Contribution	279.75
Miscellaneous	100.00
Grand Total Pioneer District Contributions	\$11,083.37

Checks for Logopedics should be made payable to
"Harmony Foundation"
and sent directly to

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

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



JOHN'S JOTTINGS

By JOHN GILLESPIE
Pioneer District President

Membership! The lifeblood of every organization.

I don't think any of us would quarrel with this often quoted expression. It's certainly obvious that without a continuous influx of new members, an organization will eventually smother and die in its member attrition.

A review of the 1976 activities of our Association of Chapters indicates that in many aspects it was a good year for Barbershopping in Pioneer. However, our membership statistics show a disturbing trend that must be of concern to each and every one of us. As of January 1, 1976, our District Association of Chapters membership was 1,554. As of December 31, 1976, our membership stood at 1,513. To aid in correcting this problem, I'm appealing to each and every member for assistance. Here's how:

First, I'm requesting that each chapter, through its chapter board, make a commitment to hold at least two Auditions for Admissions in 1977, supported by every chapter member. If conducted "by the book", AFA's have proven themselves throughout the whole Society. However, success depends on the support of all of us, not only at the actual audition night itself, but in the critical follow-up period. Your chapter administrative vice president has a kit that covers the conduct of an AFA in detail.

In addition to our support of the AFA program, I ask that each member make a commitment to bring at least one guest to a chapter meeting in the ensuing year. I'm personally convinced that this "one-on-one" approach will go far to reverse the downward membership trend.

International President Sam Aramian has set as a goal a net Society member increase of 7% in '77. Let's show him that Pioneer can beat that!

T O G E T H E R

WE ARE SOMETHING!!!

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

Official Publication of the
PIONEER DISTRICT
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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1

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PIONEER TROUBADOUR

President John Gillespie has served Pioneer well in many capacities

Since John Gillespie has started his second year in office as Pioneer District's President, and it looks like we will have him around for a while, perhaps it's time we made our membership a little better acquainted with our dynamic top exec.

John is a member of the Kalamazoo Chapter. He has served in various offices in his home chapter, including that of Secretary-Treasurer on a combined basis for six years.

It didn't take a lot of training to move up to the office of District Treasurer in 1971, followed by a couple of years as our secretary, two more as the executive vice president, and to the office of the presidency, which he assumed in 1976.

John was born in Niles, Michigan "forty-some odd years ago", he says. To remove the oddity, however, the date was March 11, 1929.

He joined the Niles Chapter, now the Niles-Buchanan Chapter, in 1948. We don't know exactly what happened at Niles that year, but in June John enlisted in the United States Navy, where he was assigned to a Destroyer for 3½ years.

The Barbershop "itch" was still with him aboard ship, however, where John sang lead in a quartet with three of his shipmates. "We never got around to a name," he says, "but we had many hours of fun entertaining fellow shipmates, along with an occasional appearance ashore at an officer's function.

When word got back to headquarters of such carryings-on, John was separated from the Navy in May of 1952. He entered Western Michigan University that fall and graduated in 1956 with a degree in accounting.

Two years before graduation from Western, John attended brother Jim's wedding. Jim sings with the Arling-tones, perennial chorus representatives from Illinois District at the International. IT was at Jim's wedding that John met a charmer named Betty. They were married September 3, 1955.

The Gillespies have six children, three girls and three boys. Pat is 20, Mary 19, Margaret 18, Andy 16, John 15, and Mike 13.

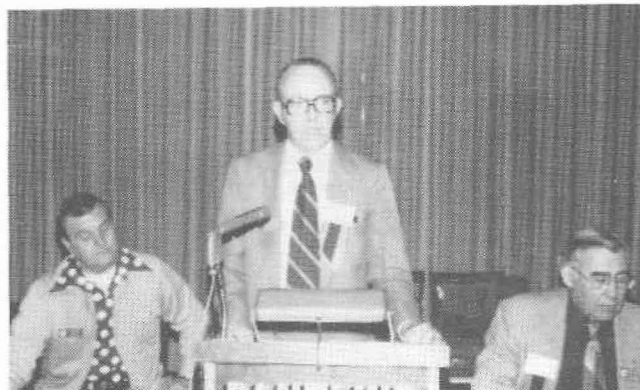
Somehow, in the midst of these busy years, John read a newspaper article about a performance by the Kalamazoo Chapter in the Kalamazoo Mall. He went to listen, but the late Ray Barrett, then 78 years young, rekindled John's old Barbershopping interests by getting him to woodshed with him and his two sons, Don and Ken. The two younger Barretts still are very active with the Kalamazoo Chapter.

From here, the rest is history. Give a guy a chance to woodshed in a quartet, and . . . you know the rest.

When John is not singing, or tending to District affairs, or instructing treasurers as a member of the International COTS faculty, he spends his time as a professional CPA. He is a partner in the international public accounting firm of Alexander Grant and Company.

The family likes to spend their leisure time at the Gillespie cottage on Gun Lake in the summer, and John lists fishing as his hobby, along with a little bit of golf, which means "poorly", according to him.

And all the time we thought Barbershopping was his hobby! That's what responsibility does to a dedicated woodshedder.



Motor City Chorus joins Detroit Pistons on national TV game

Members of Detroit #1's Motor City Chorus were scheduled to get some network television exposure in conjunction with the Detroit Piston-Kansas City Kings basketball game, Sunday, February 6.

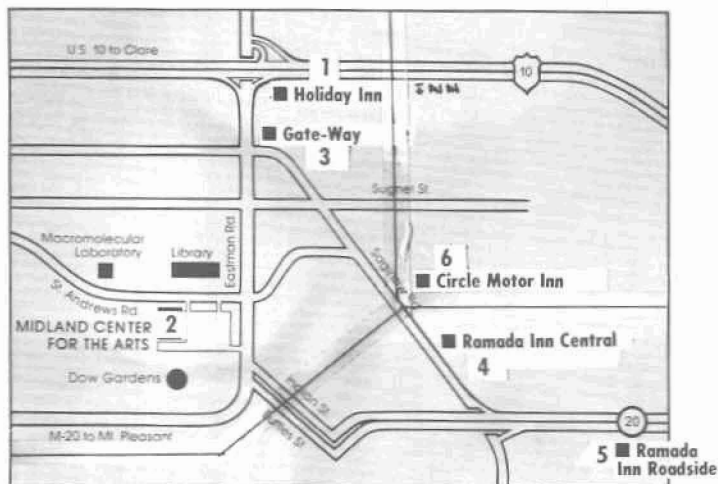
Program Vice President Harold Kendall informed the Troub in a letter dated January 9, that arrangements for the appearance of the chorus have been confirmed with Piston PR Director Brian Hitsky.

Tentative plans were for a 15-20 minute pregame segment including the National Anthem; two optional 90-second spots during timeout breaks in the first half, and an approximate 5-minute segment at half time.

Pre-game telecast was set for 1:45 p.m.

*The Saginaw-Bay Chapter
invites you to the*
**1977 Pioneer District
Spring Convention**
April 22-24, 1977
in MIDLAND, MICHIGAN

Center for the Performing Arts
 1801 W. St. Andrews, Midland, Michigan 48640



EVENTS—

Quartet Prelims— 9 p.m., Friday April 22, Price \$3.00
Chorus Competition—1:30 p.m., April 23, Price \$4.00
Quartet Finals and Evening Show—8:00 p.m., April 23, Price \$4.00
All Events tickets—\$9.00
Pre-registration—\$8.00 to April 1, 1977.

For preregistration, contact:
 Pete Secor, chairman
 707 S. Wenona St.
 Bay City, Michigan 48640
 Phone 517/893-4447

HOUSING INFORMATION—

For room reservations, contact Don Miller, Housing Chairman
 1117 E. Ashman
 Midland, Michigan 48640

HOLIDAY INN, headquarters, 160 rooms—\$17 single, \$23 double
 1500 W. Wackerly Rd., approximately 2½ miles from auditorium

GATEWAY MOTEL—30 rooms, \$9.88 single, \$15.60 double
 1408 N. Saginaw
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RAMADA INN ROADSIDE HOTEL—\$23.95 single, \$29.95 double with 1 bed
 \$34.95 double with 2 beds
 2914 W. Midland Rd., 8 miles from auditorium

CIRCLE MOTOR COURT—\$8.32 with 1 double bed
 116 Ashman Circle, 10 rooms, 1½ miles from auditorium

1. Holiday Inn
 Convention Headquarters
2. Midland Center for the Arts
3. Gate-Way Motel
4. Ramada Inn Central Motel
5. Ramada Inn Roadside Motel
6. Circle Motor Inn

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"The Foreign Policy"

and

The Kalamazoo Chapter SPEBSQSA

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Clinton Valley show breaks 'em up

The second annual Clinton Valley show, Saturday, December 4 at Troy Athens High School, presented a lineup designed to literally break 'em up — but before the night was over things began to get out of hand.

Two of the three headliner quartets called it quits before the night was through, and the third one has lost its lead since the show. The demise of Saturday's Heroes was no great surprise to those who keep up with Society happenings, since most of us have heard that two members of the Illinois District favorites were joining Al Rehkop and Bob Whitledge from Pioneer in forming the Pieces of Eight. The two Heroes were Gold Medal winners with the Four Renegades, as were Rehkop and Whitledge with the Gentlemen's Agreement, hence the name for the new entry. They will be competing out of the Illinois District.

Somewhat more of a surprise was the final appearance of the Classmates, former District Champs and competitors in San Francisco from our Saginaw-Bay and Battle Creek Chapters. Tenor Jim Johnson from Battle Creek has since joined with three members of the Galaxies to form a new quartet, and that story can be found elsewhere in this issue. The remaining members of the Classmates will be kept busy for a while helping Saginaw-Bay to host the Spring Convention in Midland this April.

Lead Galen Oliver of the Sound Spectrum, and a member of Clinton Valley, has called it quits due to business pressures.

But so much for the bad news. The good news is that the Clinton Valley Chorus, under Stan Salter, performed beautifully to present a great show for the public. Carl Dahlke brought his Macomb County Sweet Adeline Chorus to the show and gave the audience a splendid cameo of the four-part harmony which he hopes will carry the girls to greater things in the International at London, England this year.



SATURDAY'S HEROES



THE CLASSMATES SAY GOODBYE

Port Huron, Sarnia hold joint installation

The Port Huron Chapter hosted neighboring Sarnia, Ontario Saturday, January 22, for a joint installation dinner and service. Pioneer District Executive Vice President Doran McTaggart took the oath of obligation from the incoming officers in a unique ceremony that featured not only two chapters, but two districts. Sarnia, just across the St. Clair River from Port Huron, is a member of the Ontario District.

Both chapters recognized their past presidents and musical directors. A film of the 1971 International Convention in New Orleans was shown before the musical portion of the evening.

Each chorus performed for the gathering, and several impromptu quartets were selected from each chapter and asked to sing. The combined ensemble closed out the show with "Keep America Singing."

The event coincided with Wally Joure's 82nd birthday, and the Port Huron Chapter called on him to select a quartet for two songs.

Since the affair was also billed as a Ladies Night, the evening was then turned over to dancing.

Port Huron officers installed were Mark Older, president; William Clark, AVP; Pat Yacques, PVP; Loren Moss, secretary; and Charles Cameron, treasurer. Pat Yacques and Jack Rickert are directors of the Huron Harmony Chorus.

Sarnia officers installed were Al Scott, president; Don Lantz, AVP; Ken Marshall, PVP; Brit Belrose, secretary; Dave Rygle, treasurer, and Glynn Jones, musical director.

The Port Huron Chapter will hold its annual show March 26, 1977 at 8 p.m. in the McMorrin Auditorium in that city.

The show will feature District Champs, the Foreign Policy; the New Baltimore Exit, the Generation Gap, Bright Line Express and the Huron Harmony Chorus.



DORAN McTAGGART INSTALLS OFFICERS FROM PORT HURON AND SARNIA



Wayne Chapter
Presents their
1977

Pitchpipe Parade
**THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT
A PART**

BARBERSHOP STYLE

**MINSTREL
SHOWBOAT
VAUDVILLE
BROADWAY**

© THE "CITATIONS" QUARTET

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Comedy Kings from
Cincinnati, Ohio

FEATURING

(Returning by Popular Demand)

© THE LIVONIA BENTLEY HIGH SCHOOL
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Directed by: Dr. Jerry Smith

Plus

© WAYNE CHAPTER QUARTETS

The Wonderland Chorus

Directed by Steve Sutherland

Our Lady of Mercy High School

29300 11 Mile Rd. at Middlebelt, Farmington, Michigan

Friday and Saturday

March 4-5

8:15 P.M.

CALL TOM POLLARD, 313/427-5527, FOR TICKETS

TICKET DONATION \$4.00

Sound Expression combines talents of two former Pioneer champs

Let's give a big hand to the Sound Expression — the newest quartet in Pioneer District!

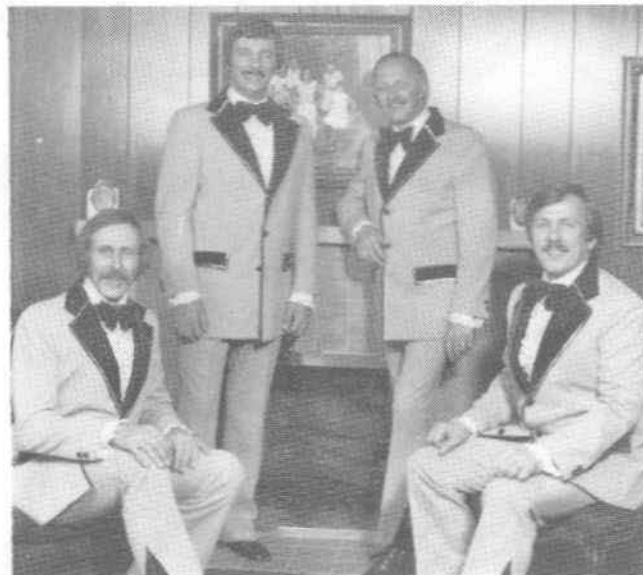
New quartet? As far as the name is concerned, yes, but experience-wise they have been on the scene for some time. The Sound Expression combines the talents of two former Pioneer District Champs, the Galaxies and the Classmates.

Tenor Jim Johnson sang with the Classmates at the International in San Francisco last July, and remained with that fine quartet until they hung up the pitchpipe at the Clinton Valley show in December. Before coming to our district, Jim sang with the Accents, the Lakeshore Harmony Four, and the Rare Blend quartets in the Cardinal District. Jim and his wife, Julie have four children and he is a sales representative with Commercial Equipment Company.

Bob Buffham sings lead for the new foursome. He formerly sang with the Soundsations of Holland before moving to Peoria, Illinois, where he directed the chorus and sang with the Expressmen quartet. Bob moved back to Grand Rapids in March, 1975 and joined the Galaxies, singing both tenor and lead. He is currently directing the Great Lakes Chorus in Grand Rapids. Bob is a co-owner of Van Hoecks shoe store. He and his wife, Janet, have two children.

The bass of the Sound Expression is Bernie Poelman, who sang lead and bass with the Galaxies during their tenure from 1971 until they disbanded. Bernie sang with the VillageAires, Novice Champs in 1970-71. He and his wife, Marilyn, have four children and he is employed with Ferris Coffee and Nut Company.

Al Van Iwaarden is the fourth member of the Sound Expression, doing double duty as baritone and contact man. Like Bernie, Al was an original member of the Galaxies and the VillageAires, and has sung with the Princetones and the Royal Coachmen. He is a tool and die maker at Grand Rapids Fisher Body. He and his wife, Mary, have three children.



THE SOUND EXPRESSION

Al Van Iwaarden, bari; Bernie Poleman, bass; Jim Johnson, tenor; and Bob Buffham, lead

The Sound Expression has added several new numbers to their repertoire as well as retaining many of the favorite arrangements of their former quartets. They are being coached by Glenn Van Tassel and are ready to bring a brand new sound to the Barbershop scene.

Jim Johnson is a member of the Battle Creek Chapter. Bob, Bernie and Al are active members of the Grand Rapids Chapter. If you would like to book the Sound Expression for your next show you can contact Al Van Iwaarden at 1483 54th St. S.E., Kentwood, Michigan 49508, or phone him at 616/455-4039.

Morrie Giles speaks out on "Keeping it Barbershop"

At the time of my writing this I have not, as yet, received the latest Harmonizer, but our chapter was recently informed that a movement is underway at the International level to ban anything "non-Barbershop" from our shows, which would include comedy routine. While this idea was probably conceived with all good intentions, it does show signs of narrow-mindedness and smacks somewhat of dictatorship. In order for the International office to enforce such a rule, they would have to police each and every parade or chapter show, and that is something free-minded citizens will not stand for.

Whereas such a regulation is fitting for contest purposes, whatever we do at a chapter level should be of no concern to either the International or District officers so long as it does not violate the Code of Ethics.

Our chapter puts on what we consider one of the best Barbershop shows in the District, but we always make it a point to include non-Barbershop acts, knowing that perhaps 80% of our audience are not Barbershoppers. Most of these

people enjoy Barbershop up to a point (my wife included), but would hesitate to purchase a ticket for a program which had no great variety.

In my opinion such a rule would not be enforceable and could very well split the Society into factions.

I've always prided myself in the fact that I belonged to perhaps the only organization in the world where there was no bickering or disunity among the ranks.

I've been a member of this Society for more than 31 years. Before that I was (and still am) an avid opera fan. Imagine my chagrin when about the third year of membership someone proposed to the International Board that any member who attended operas be banned from the Society. This proposal was published in the Harmonizer with a sharp rebuff from a member of the board. That ended the matter. But just think how many fine musicians we would have lost from Barbershopping by adopting such a bigotted rule. What I'm really trying to say with all this is simply, "DON'T SPLIT THE SOCIETY"! Maurice Giles Wayne Chapter

Finally, after 34 years - we've done it!
- the **ULTIMATE** in BARBERSHOP-DOM



BIONIC BARBERSHOPPERS

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GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER
is pulsatin' proud to present



the **SUNTONES** BOTH the **SALT FLATS**

on our
34th Annual Great Lakes Iritational

SATURDAY
8:PM SHARP

APRIL 16

plus

AN ALL-STAR CAST OF THOUSANDS
including

- ★ the GOLDEN OLDIES (Yeah!)
- ★ the GOOD VIBRATIONS (Yeh! Yeh!)
- ★ the SOUND EXPRESSION (Oooh-Yeah!)

and

Pioneer District's fastest rising
GREAT LAKES CHORUS



By the time
you read this
- it could be too late



BUT TRY ANYWAY - WHAT TH' HECK!

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What is a Barbershop Song?

By LOU PERRY
PROBE Feature Service

As a result of the "Keep It Barbershop" movement, emphasized by the International Board action at San Francisco last year, much controversy has centered on

the question of "What is Barbershop?" Lou Perry's timely article is reprinted here to shed some light in that direction.

A song may be best described as a lyric poem or ballad placed in a musical setting, with a melody and logical harmony implied by the melody, form, meter and rhythm. A Barbershop song has all the above ingredients plus additional special requirements, all of which have evolved with the development of the style. Those "special requirements" follow:

- The Song Melody should be one that can be performed by amateur male voices, with no extreme range requirements, no awkward, unnatural intervals, and with a close relationship to the diatonic scale of one key. Ascending rather than descending melodies are easier to sing; they maintain pitch easier and create more audience interest. *Sol* to *sol* melodies are preferable, inasmuch as they allow the tenor to sing a consonant harmony for the most part. *Do* to *do* melodies, on the other hand, force him into a high baritone, with all the problems that go with the baritone part (and the less said about that the better).

- The Song Lyric should convey its message by a more or less traditional use of the language. The style, as evolved thus far, uses lyric language associated with the period roughly from 1890 to 1930, an era when songs were written primarily to be sung. This does not mean that the song had to be written within this period, but only that the language be representative. For example, the use of words like "Marry, forsoothe," would be pre-period, and arty, while over-sophisticated or contemporary hippie language would be post-period and detract from the ingenuous innocence of the period.

For contests, which are intended to prove which quartet or chorus performs the Barbershop style best, patriotic or religious lyrics are prohibited; and in keeping with the culture of the period, there must be absolutely no question of good taste in the lyric, by any standards.

In what other period in history would lyrics be written like *Last Night Was the End of the World*, or *I Wish I Had Died In My Cradle*. Who but a song writer of that era would have put music to the sentiment *Plant All Your Roses Without Any Thorns* or *Let the End of the World Come Tomorrow, As Long As You Love Me Today!*

- As mentioned above, the harmony of the song must be logically implied by the melody, but in order to satisfy the requirements of the Barbershop style, that particular harmony chosen by the composer must comply with the Barbershop chord vocabulary as it has evolved to the present day, easily and naturally, without excessive "engineering" to force compliance. There is some latitude in this respect, inasmuch as there is sometimes more than one harmonization implied by a melody. In short, the style of the song is dictated largely by the harmonization of the melody.

- The best Barbershop songs incorporate a symmetrical form, as opposed to the asymmetrical form of Cole Porter songs of the 1930's and 1940's, and the free form of most of today's songs. The chorus, or refrain, usually 32 bars divided into four or eight phrases, and the verse of two or four phrases, make for a sort of standard two-part form. Introductions, interpolations, tags and the like are additional parts of the form and are symmetrical and proportioned in like manner.

- Rhythm is the element which makes it possible to write thousands of songs on variations of a limited number of basic melodic patterns. Meter may often be changed with impunity, without unduly disturbing the character of the song; but if the notated rhythm is changed, the same melody very easily takes on the characteristics of another song entirely.

SIMPLE, INGENUOUS, SOPHISTICATED INNOCENCE

Rhythmic patterns characteristic of the Barbershop style derive from the syncopated ragtime, Dixieland and early jazz rhythms of the above mentioned period. Most songs written after the 1930's were composed primarily for dancing, and the rhythmic patterns reflect this change, to say nothing of the evolution of harmonic patterns to fit larger and more sophisticated orchestral groups of instruments.

To reiterate and summarize briefly, the best Barbershop song is simple and ingenuous, with an air of sophisticated innocence, and most of all, it was meant to be sung with affection and an understanding heart.



The
BOYNE CITY CHAPTER
and the
SNOW BELT CHORUS
invite you to join in the fun
at the 31st annual
BUSH LEAGUE CONTEST

SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1977
Boyne City High School

BUSH LEAGUE CONTEST 2 P.M.

SHOW 8 P.M.

— featuring —

The WARREN G. HARDING MEMORIAL 4

(Those 4 daffy, diatonic dabblers from Detroit and Jackson)

The PATCHCHORDS

(Lansing's 1976 Bush League Champions)

and

The SNOW BELT CHORUS

(The Pride of Boyne City)



WARREN G. HARDING MEMORIAL 4



PATCH CHORDS

***Dining and Dancing at Anthony's Inn
are part of the big afterglow following the evening show***

***This is the week of the big Mushroom Festival,
so get those reservations in early to
Anthony's Inn, or the Boyne Motel
Camping available in state park or private grounds***

Tentative plans call for a big party at Anthony's for Friday arrivals

Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

Greetings to all Pioneer District members from the fellas up here in the North. A very successful Ladies and Installation Night was arranged by the three most recent Past Presidents, Gord Saxby, Cec Bolitho, and Colin Donoghue at the Sheraton-Caswell Motor Hotel, on Saturday, January 8th. Cocktails from 6:30-7:30, dinner (Yum, Yum), a well-run and entertaining program, followed by a dance, chatting session, and even the sounds of wood-shedding coming from the corners of the Georgian Room

Guests who attended the gala affair were Mr. and Mrs. Slat's Ramer, South Bend; Mr. and Mrs. Loton Willson, Boyne City; Mrs. Flo Tracy, Mackinaw City; as well as Mrs. Gibbs and Mrs. Bazely, Sr., from town.

Don Bazely did a bang-up job as M.C. during the evening. After the toast to the Queen by Bruce Martin, Ross Christie asked the blessing and the repast began. The Barbershopper-of-the-Year Award was presented to Gene Haines by John Greco. A token gift was given to Ruby Clowes by Gene Haines for the wonderful job she did soliciting (and collecting) money for the advertising for our 1976 Parade Program. Ed Cloutier had the honour of giving our esteemed Chorus Director, Don Bazely, a gift to show our appreciation for his great contribution of time and talent to our Northland Chorus. Harry Shardlow eloquently toasted "The Ladies" for their patience and understanding during the past year.

Gord Saxby, Area Counsellor for Zone 4 conducted a very impressive Installation Ceremony, prefaced by a real pep talk for all chapter members. Officers for 1977 are Jo Rogers, president; Allan Brown, A.V.P.; John Tulley, P.V.P.; Bob Nisbett, secretary; Bob Cameron, treasurer; and the Board of Directors Alan Carscadden, Ross Christie, Barry Clark and Wes Triplett.

Both quartets sang some good numbers, and Gene and Don took turns in directing the chorus for a few of the good old songs.

Sorry to hear that Bob Tracy, a Charter Member of our chapter has suffered a mild heart attack, and at present is a patient in the Community Memorial Hospital in Cheboygan. The good news however from his wife Flo, is that the doctors say he'll be out in a couple of weeks. Get better fast, Bob, you'll not only be missed by the Les Cheneaux guys, but also by we chaps up here in the Sault.

—Bruce Martin

Au Sable updates Troub with revised show date

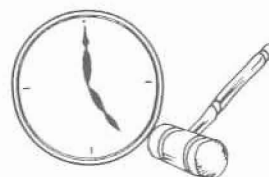


To the editor:

Please be advised that an error in the December, 1976 Troubadour needs correcting. In the Coming Events section the Au Sable Valley Chapter Show should be slated for July 30, 1977, instead of November 30, 1977. As chapter secretary, I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. John McClinchey is also being advised of this change.

/s/Robert Dittman
Au Sable Valley Chapter

P.S.: Our secretary promises to shape up his act!



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEA Training Center, Battle Creek, Michigan NOVEMBER 13, 1976

The meeting was called to order by President Gillespie at 10:15 a.m.
Directors Present: All Directors were present except Secretary McClinchey.

Also Present: Division III Vice President-Elect Jones, Treasurer-Elect Schneider, Troubadour Editor Morris, DME Chairman Butler, Area Counselors Hines and Horton, and International Field Representative Tom Cogan.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was waived inasmuch as copies of same had been mailed to all Board Members. It was moved by IBM Funk with a second by DVP Jones that the minutes be accepted as written. Motion passed.

DVP Guerin gave a brief report on the plans for the 1977 Spring Convention to be held in Midland and hosted by the Saginaw-Bay Chapter. Frank Bateson is the Convention Chairman. President Gillespie stressed that a convention budget must be submitted to the Convention Committee. A representative of the host chapter was requested to attend the January Board Meeting.

In regard to the possibility of changing the date of the Chapter Officer Candidate School as adopted by resolution at the Fall House of Delegates Meeting, President Gillespie reported that the Cardinal District might be interested in exchanging dates with the Pioneer District. After considerable discussion, it was moved by DVP Hegle with a second by EVP McTaggart that the Board of Directors recommend to the House of Delegates that the exchange with Cardinal District be implemented if the Cardinal District is willing to do so. Motion carried. If this is accomplished, the Pioneer District COT School will be held the first weekend in January after the New Year's Holiday.

President Gillespie reported that the Fruitbelt Chapter requests to change their name to the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter. On a motion by IBM Funk with support by EVP McTaggart, the motion was passed to allow the change. Secretary McClinchey will forward this request to the International Board of Directors for action.

Proposed Board of Directors Meetings for 1977 were presented by President Gillespie and are as follows:

January 15—Lansing. April 22—Midland, in conjunction with Spring Convention. August 6—Jones, in conjunction with the Jones Jamboree. October 7—Kalamazoo, in conjunction with the Fall Convention. November 12—Battle Creek, in conjunction with COT School, or November 5—Detroit, if the COT School date is changed (in conjunction with the Detroit #1 Show).

The formula for expense reporting on the part of Officers and Area Counselors was reviewed. President Gillespie emphasized that AC's report must go to their respective DVP for approval. The Officer's reports must go to the President or EVP for approval. On a motion by DVP Hegle with a second by DVP LaBumbard, expense reports must be submitted within thirty (30) days following the end of the calendar quarter to be eligible for reimbursement. Motion carried.

The recurring problem of chapters failing to clear show dates with the District Secretary and gaining the ASCAP License was the subject of considerable discussion. IBM Funk was instructed to present the following resolution to the International Board of Directors at their Mid-Winter Meeting.

"Any Chapter of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. that fails to clear the dates of their annual show or shows with the District Secretary, and/or fails to obtain the proper ASCAP License for said show or shows shall be subject to a fine not to exceed ten (10) times the amount of the cost of the ASCAP License. Said fine to be collected by the District Board of Directors and forwarded to the International Office."

A motion for support was made by its author DVP LaBumbard with a second by DVP Hegle. Motion carried.

Treasurer George Schmidt reported on the Fall Convention income, having received a check for \$2,000 from the Convention Committee, although the report is not final. It does appear that the Convention income will be somewhat less than previous years. The Treasurer's report as of November 13, 1977 indicated a cash working balance of \$3,993.

President Gillespie indicated that District membership is down twelve members since October 31, 1975, and that Logopedics collections are down \$1,991 from last year. He briefly outlined the goals for the coming year stressing the importance of member retention and the gaining of new members.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

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

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

Alpena

HELP!! Something's happened to our members — mainly, they're leaving. The great Northeast is swallowing up most of the Lumbermens Chorus and those of us who are left are not sure just what to do about it.

Our attendance has been dropping steadily until the past few months we've been averaging about 12 men a practice! We really had to stretch just to make a paid-up membership of 25 this past year and if the trend continues it'll be associate status for sure this year.

We certainly would welcome any suggestions on how to recruit and retain members — particularly the latter.

Other than this bright and cheerful news, not too much has been going on up here. Everything just seems to sort of hibernate for the winter, and why not? It's so cold that all of our songs start in G — Gee-e-e-s it's cold out here! It's hard to sing with icicles on your larynx.

Seriously, we have sung a few Christmas jobs for nursing homes, etc. WE are working hard (all twelve of us) right now for a Sweet Adeline show coming up in February. We had our annual planning meeting Sunday, January 9, so we are not ready to throw in the towel yet. Wish us luck for '77 — we'll meet it.

—Bruce VandenBosch

Au Sable Valley

IMPORTANT! Something went haywire, and our Milltown Festival date was improperly recorded. Please correct your calendar to show it for the last Saturday of July — July 30, 1977, 8 p.m., Grayling High School.

We are happy to announce that the 1976 AuSable Valley Chapter "Barbershopper of the Year" is Mr. Bob Hamp from Houghton Lake. It is an honor rightfully earned and richly deserved. Bob is a charter member of our chapter, and served on our first board of directors. He served as chapter president in 1976. His 1977 assignments include service on the board as IPP, bulletin editor, and, of course, the position of chapter jester and wit.

Also honored at the festivities was Rick Townsend for his expert assistance to the chapter in past years. "Our own" Don Probst hosted the chapter at the Arrowhead Inn. It was a truly outstanding evening, with events that began with a prime rib dinner (delicious), AuSable Valley Chorus performances directed by Rod Ames and Don Probst, the Graylords comedy hit "No Ones Perfect", a soon to be forgotten B.O.T.Y. quartet (lead Earl Whaley '72, bass Bill Greene '73, Tenor Rod Ames '74, bari Dick Manley '75). Of course, Bob Hamp took the tenor position following the announcement of his selection of 1976 B.O.T.Y. Zone VP Warren Marsh then installed the 1977 officers.

The evening's featured entertainment was provided by the fine young quartet, "Personal Expression", from the Ithaca area. These fellows have a great sound and are real showmen! They have a fine future! The "organized" festivities concluded with "Good Old Loton" leading all the barbershoppers in several selections.

A couple hours later the fellows were plumb sung out, so Don Probst played the organ for those who wished to dance, while the "wore out" ones chatted and listened.

We regret that Dick Whitaker was unable to attend due to his illness. We all pray that he will be better soon, and will join us better than ever!

—Earl Whaley

Wayne

THE SAGA OF JO AND MO

Jo: Big show! Big show!

Mo: What big show?

Jo: Wayne Chapter's annual "Pitchpipe Parade."

Mo: When's it gonna' be?

Jo: On Friady and Saturday nights, March 4th and 5th.

Mo: Where?

Jo: At Our Lady of Mercy High School auditorium on the corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington.

Mo: Who's gonna' be there?

Jo: Well, the headliners are the Citations from Louisville, Kentucky; and Both Sides Now from Cincinnati, perhaps the best comedy quartet in the country. Also appearing will be several chapter quartets.

Mo: Yeah, but don't you have any chorus?

Jo: Do we have a chorus? Why, the Wayne Wonderland Chorus, under Steve Sutherland, won the District Championship last Spring. They're among the best in the country. Just ask any Wayne member.

Mo: Does this show have any kind of a theme or format?

Jo: The theme this years is "That's Entertainment — 4 Part", featuring gems of minstrel, showboat, vaudville and Broadway, all done in Barbershop Style.

Mo: Where do you guys get all these ideas from?

Jo: From our little genius, Tom Pollard, who has been writing our shows for the past 10 or 12 years.

Mo: That is a pretty big line-up for one show.

Jo: Yeah, it is!

Mo: How come you don't have that high school group that got such a big standing ovation two years ago?

Jo: There, you did it! I was gonna' keep that as a surprise. Yes, the Livonia Bentley High School Concert Choir will be back again this year, by popular demand. These kids are perennial champions. They walk away with all the marbles in every contest they enter. Their director, Dr. Jerry Smith, is a real whiz with kids.

Mo: How much are tickets and where do I get them?

Jo: Tickets are \$4.00 and you can get them from any Wayne member or write Tom Pollard, 15019 Flamingo, Livonia, Mi. 48154.

Mo: I guess you guys work pretty hard at all this stuff, don't you?

Jo: The Chorus rehearses 2 nights a week learning 15 new songs and the various committees work even more than that.

Mo: But don't you guys ever have any just plain fun?

Jo: Oh, sure. Most of us really enjoy Barbershop enough that we consider it fun to work on new songs. However, on the third Friday of each month we have a chapter meeting and that's nothing but fun. Everybody gets in the act and at our December meeting we had a guest quartet, The Notable Exception, from South Bend, Indiana, plus all kinds of pickup quartets from the chapter members and guests.

Mo: Guests? You mean you allow guests at your meetings?

Jo: Sure do. In fact, we encourage any one so inclined to come visit us at the Rosedale Gardens Civic Association Clubhouse, 9611 Hubbard, in Livonia any third Friday.

—Morrie Giles

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

Coho Derby, fickle weather force a change in dates for Harrisville Harmony Weekend

After a lot of consultation, soul-searching, and planning, the Harmony Weekend in Harrisville has been changed from its traditional Labor Day schedule to the last week in July. The shift will be in effect this year, 1977, with events winding up on Sunday, July 31.

"Many factors bring us to this decision," Cliff Douglas informs the Troub. The Coho fishing derby is drawing more and more boats into the state park around Labor Day, adding to the already congested conditions. Too many cold and rainy nights make camping miserable."

Add to the unpredictability of the weather, especially after the experience in 1975, the homeward rush to get children enrolled in school while thousands of other people are jamming the roads on that week end for the same reason, and you begin to get the picture.

It is always painful to change something that has become such a successful tradition. Harrisville is one of the Society's oldest and largest campouts, having its roots in a chance meeting of Barbershoppers Russ Seely and John Smith in a state park near Bay City, some 16 years ago. From this meeting came the idea to get some of the gang out the following labor day at the state park in Harrisville.

But something must be said for the townspeople, themselves, a friendly lot who go all out to make us welcome to their town each year. They decorate the stores and streets in a manner usually reserved only for Christmas, and they let us know that we are appreciated guests.

Each year has seen the affair grow and grow — a surprisingly popular event for a non-sanction function without formal organization. Chapters like Oakland County, Pontiac, Grosse Pointe, and many others have made a ritual of the Labor Day campout.

But with the advent of the Coho salmon, we are now contending with another story of success in the Great Lakes, and the life cycle of the salmon has seemingly intruded upon the scene.

"We have contacted many long time participants of the campout," Cliff adds, "including the park rangers and town officials." They are also in favor of the change. When the Troub called attention to the fact that this might interfere with a sanctioned chapter function at Grayling that week end, Cliff was caught by surprise. At the time the planning was being done, however, the Coming Events schedule of this publication did not list the AuSable Chapter's Milltown Festival and small chorus competition in this time slot. The mixup was called to our attention by a letter being printed in this issue.

Cliff immediately started contacting those people who worked to change the Harrisville dates, but the planning, by this time, had already become too involved to make an other change at this time.

Cliff expressed his regrets in a telephone conversation with the editor, saying that he hoped those persons who would be interested in attending the Milltown Festival and competition would do so, since Harrisville, after all, is a non-sanctioned event. "If the Festival is to continue on those dates, perhaps we will have to take another look at it for

next year," Cliff said. "In the meantime, we feel the (Harrisville) change has merit and hope you do, too. If you do, we'll see you in Harrisville the last week of July."

Notes from the MusEd Director



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

I sure hope you all had a most Happy Holiday Season and that you're looking forward with a lot of enthusiasm to 1977 and the personal goals you have set for yourselves for the year. I sincerely hope that one of your resolutions was to sing better Barbershop and to have more fun with your singing.

One way to do that is to get involved. INVOLVEMENT is the key. Don't sit back and wait for Charlie to do it, because if Charlie does it, then Charlie will be the one having the fun.

Let's set some goals for 1977 in Pioneer District Barbershopping, OK!

- Every member of every chapter get involved in some phase of Barbershopping. Don't wait for Charlie to do it, you do it.
- Every chapter make a total effort to get at least one new quartet formed, and support not only that new quartet, but the ones you already have in existence.
- Develop at least one qualified coach in your chapter — someone with a good ear and some know how of Barbershop music.
- Develop at least one new assistant chorus director, and at least one leader for each section.
- As a chapter, pay all or part of the cost for representatives of your chapter to all of the Pioneer District Musical Education Seminars; i.e.: Quartet and Coaching Clinics, Chorus Directors Clinics, and arrangers seminars. The IRS recognizes education in our hobby as a legitimate chapter expense.

It would be just FANTASTIC to have at least one quartet and one coach from every chapter in Pioneer District at the March 18-20th Quartet and Coaching Clinic in Battle Creek at the MEA Conference Center. Quartet and Coaching Clinic means quartets get coaching from some of the top quartet coaches in the Society, and Coaching means you study coaching under Mac Huff and a top coaching faculty.

Your chapter president has the full information and registration forms, so ask him for one. DO IT NOW — the deadline for registration for the Q&C Clinic is March 10, 1977. Cost is \$35.00 for 2 nights lodging, meals, registration, or in other words, that's the complete cost for the package.

Let's make some real solid progress in 1977 by becoming INVOLVED, in better singing, more quartet activity, growth in membership and last, but not least, MORE FUN SINGING.

—Bill

NOTICE—After we went to press, word was received that the Harrisville Lions Club says it is impossible to change the Labor Day routine this year. Oakland County Chapter has scheduled its regular Friday night chapter meeting for Harrisville in September. Cliff Douglas was vacationing in Florida and the Troub was unable to reach him. See the April issue for clarification.

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

Down Our Way

with the Editor



District chapters continue to line up some great talent for their shows, and it has been our good fortune to be present at a few of them this season.

The Clinton Valley show in December, the Pontiac show early this month, which we will report on next issue, along with the Monroe two-nighter, Lansing, Oakland County and Wayne. All these shows have exposed Pioneer members and fans to some great Barbershopping from headliner quartets, both from within and outside our own district.

The Pontiac show featured Grandma's Boys from the Illinois District; Monroe's show had the Blue Grass Student Union and the Citations up from Louisville the same week end as Pontiac, and Lansing headlined the Nova Chords 3rd place medalists from Mid Atlantic District. Oakland County is bringing in three outside quartets — the Quasars from Austin, Texas; the Yankee Clippers from Great River, New York, and the Allied Four, Joliet, Illinois.

The Citations will be back in the district for the Wayne show in early March, where they will be joined by Johnny Appleseed's "Both Sides Now", a crack show and comedy group from Cincinnati. Still to come in April are the Sun-tones from Florida's Sunshine District, for a Friday night engagement in Kalamazoo, and a Saturday night set in Grand Rapids, where they will be joined by the Salt Flats, one of the Society's top all-time comedy favorites from Salt Lake City.

There are others, of course, but these come to mind as we head for press time. They all add up to some great entertainment.

Hats off to Grand Rapids, our newest Century Chapter. They gain a few, and lose a few in that vibrant organization, but their latest loss is the International's gain. Pat Warren, fine bulletin editor of the 4-Cast, president-elect of the chapter, and a prospect to help with this publication has been named by the Society to replace Margaret York in the merchandising enterprise at Kenosha. We all wish Pat well, and know that he will make a splendid addition to the staff at headquarters. Fran Jones will replace Pat in his position in the chapter.

Spring Convention in Midland

that's where it's at
for Pioneer this year

—Midland, April 22-24

While we are on the subject of Grand Rapids, they have challenged the editor to stuff his snoring trophy in the ice box until their "man", whoever that might be, can be given a go at the championship. They claim he was unfairly excluded from the competition. Consider the gauntlet as having been picked up, GR. We'll see you in Midland, loser buys the drinks!

The road to recovery for Clint Bostick has not been an easy one for the baritone of Pioneer's 1966 International Champion Autotowners. Clint was severely injured in a head-on automobile accident last year in Florida. He is at home now, in West Palm Beach, Florida, and we wish him all the best. Clint's mother passed away in Detroit shortly after he had returned home from the hospital. We extend our sympathy to Clint and his family, as well as our best wishes for his recovery.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Burt Mustin in California, a few days before his 94th birthday. The veteran actor and TV personality had moved from his home to a



BURT
MUSTIN

nursing home in the Los Angeles area a short time before his death. A staunch Barbershopper and member of the Reseda, Calif. Chapter, Burt seldom missed a convention. He is well remembered for some of his great character roles, but most Barbershoppers will recall his visits to the Johnny Carson show, where he sang with his quartet, and held a standing invitation to appear at his pleasure. We will miss Burt from the scene.

The British Association of Barbershoppers lost their founding father and guiding light, Harry Danser, on December 5th. Harry had been ill for some time and his illness had kept him from enjoying his hobby as often as he would have liked. Don Amos, BABS chairman, writing in the Crawley, England Harmony Grapevine, said, "I personally shall always be grateful to him for introducing me to Barbershop for it has changed my life completely, as it has so many others. He taught me how to enjoy life and for this I shall always remember him." Our sympathy to family and friends in the British Isles in this great loss.

Martin Anderson, public relations officer of the Barber-shop Harmony Club of Bristol, England, has inquired about advertising rates in the Troub. It seems that Bristol and Reading chapters have combined their talents to produce an LP album called "That Barbershop Style". The two choruses were 2nd and 5th in recent national competition, and they share one side of the record. The other side is given over to the Barrytones, BABS quartet champions. They say the album has been well received by those in the states having heard it, and feel that others in this country might like a copy.

The album is going at \$5 including postage, and can be obtained by writing to Martin Anderson, 41 Clarendon Road, Bristol, England BS6 7EY. The slow mail between here and Bristol prompts us to give Martin this bit of "free" publicity until we can strike a deal, perhaps.



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

Coming Events

—1977—

FEBRUARY--

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

MARCH--

- 4-5 Wayne Chapter Show
- 26 Port Huron Show

APRIL--

- 2 St. Joseph Valley Show
- 4 Hudson Chapter Show
- 15 Kalamazoo Show
- 16 Grand Rapids Show
- Flint Chapter Show
- 22-24 Spring Convention, Midland

MAY--

- 14 Boyne City Bush League

JULY--

- 4-9 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- 22 Detroit #1 Moonlight Cruise
- 30 AuSable Valley Chapter

SEPTEMBER--

- 24 Gratiot County Show

OCTOBER--

- 7-8 Fall Convention, Kalamazoo

NOVEMBER--

- 5 Detroit

—1978—

APRIL--

- 1 Grand Rapids Show

MAY--

- 6 Boyne City Bush League



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