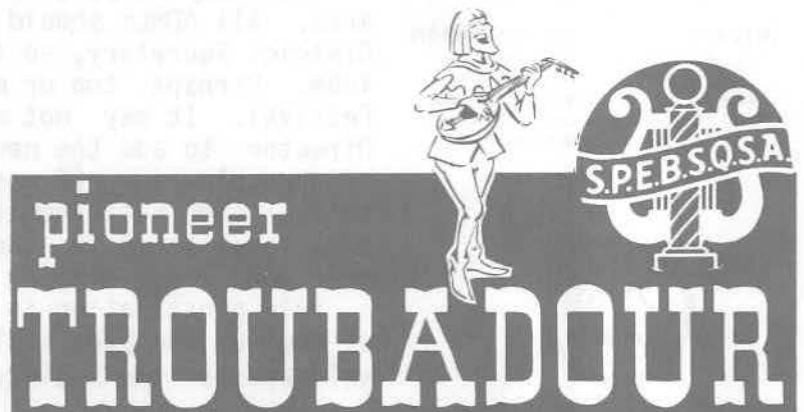


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February-March 1980



1980 PIONEER
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DORAN McTAGGART
890 Buckingham
Windsor, Ontario N8S 2C8 Canada
A/C 519 Bus. 252-5789
A/C 519 Res. 948-0637



the Barbershop Harmony

The purpose of the Barbershop Harmony Festival is to provide experience, education and fellowship. The idea is not new. It has been utilized by Music Educators in many forms for years. There are All-State Choruses (which are restricted to selected voices) and City-County-wide choral festivals, in which several choirs sing, and then the massed chorus sings under the direction of a respected guest conductor. This is also done by some churches and Glee Clubs to promote interest, and to provide more experiences. The Barbershop Harmony Festival would use much or all of the music that is included in the Harmonizer, plus other selections of legal published arrangements, such as National Anthems and numbers like "Battle Hymn." There are any number of reasons for this project, but the main one is to provide a learning situation with carryover back to the chapters and to put fun back into Barbershop singing.

The general plan would be for a package of music to be recommended by the International Music Staff. These selections would not be mandatory, just selections. A local committee (Division V.P., Assistant D.M.E., A/C, Chapter President, Chorus Director, etc.) would pick a time and place. They would arrange for sale of tickets, a place to rehearse the massed chorus (High School, Church, etc.), and for meals.

The participating choruses would be required to know the correct words and music before the event. The guest conductor would ONLY concern himself with sound, interpretation, and whatever stage presence might be required.

Groups would arrive at the scene early and spend three to six hours in rehearsal (as required), and then find their place on stage for final and finale rehearsal.

The program could include one, two, or all choruses within the Division(s) involved, each singing their best numbers (hopefully Barbershop). Quartets could and should be included. Nobody gets paid, but the guest director's expenses should be covered. For the finale, the Festival Barbershop Chorus sings.

Proceeds can be used for any project desired (logopedics, the chorus travel fund, etc.)

Festivals can be held on one day (Saturday or Sunday) or expanded to two. A two day festival would require more music, longer rehearsal and a more energetic organization, but would offer more fellowship with fellow Barbershoppers and their families, which everyone should enjoy. Festivals can be scheduled anytime during the year --- for instance, How about a Christmas Special? Or perhaps a Festival on a Sunday where only hymns are sung. It could be held in a church and a collection could be taken.

There may be some problems in the planning and scheduling area. All ADMEs should get date clearance through the DME and District Secretary, so that date conflicts can be held to a minimum. Perhaps two or more Divisions may wish to hold a joint Festival. It may not always be possible to convince a Chorus Director to add the new material (shame on him!), but with good advance planning (6 mos. to 1 year), he could do it. When his chorus came back from the event, they would not only have the additional songs in their performing repertoire, they will have undergone a fun singing experience.

This presentation is being made because of the great success of some of the Spectaculars and Festivals that are already being held around the Society. A well-rehearsed massed chorus adds

(continued on page 3)

Festival

another dimension to the member's singing experience beyond quartet and chorus singing. It also provides an experience for Chapters that, for one reason or another, choose not to compete in contests.

ABOVE ALL, it provides the chance for each man to go home with the same good feeling as everyone else. EVERYBODY IS A WINNER. There are NO LOSERS!!! Everyone has FUN. Why not put FUN back into our singing? Our members enjoy learning to sing better, and this provides an opportunity for directors and everyone to learn from a visiting expert.

The fellowship prospects surrounding this idea are unlimited. It is a chance to see and hear other choruses and quartets. It will provide a place for a musical gathering without the tedious preparation that contest requires. And FUN.

I believe this project will be a natural to fit into the plans of the District Music Education Committee, and will not interfere with our Quartet and Coaching Clinic nor with our Annual Harmony Round-Up.

This program has been presented to your ADMES and is now being presented to you for your suggestions and ideas. I welcome your comments. What do you say? Let's stay in touch.

Bill Butler
Director Of Music Education
Pioneer District



..ERRATA..ERRATA..ERRATA..ERRATA..ERRATA..

You will notice on page 2 of this issue a complete listing of the 1980 Pioneer District Officers. Please pay particular attention to the Office of Executive Vice President, held by Fran Jones. This information was inadvertently omitted from the 1980 Pioneer District Directory. It should have appeared on page 6. Please add this information to your copy. The Secretary apologizes to Fran for this error.

John McClinchey

Something New - - -



For some time now I have thought that we should have more coverage of the QUARTETS in our District -- after all, that's what we're all about. Right? But the exact means of starting this quartet column has not come together until recently. At first, I was just going to publish a listing of all our registered quartets -- but you can get that out of your District Directory, right? So, at the Fall Convention, I had pictures taken of all the contestants. Now all I need is some copy!

Quartet Men -- Want some free publicity? We would like to know more about you. So pretend you've been called by someone for a performance, and they need some background information for their program. That's exactly what I want. It does not have to be any set length, and I will be glad to include your business card at the end of the article. However, I will NOT run the feature if only your card is included. For those registered quartets who were not at Kalamazoo, I'll be doing the same thing this Spring in Ann Arbor.

The PICS are here, guys. The rest is up to you.



SALT LAKE CITY CONVENTION UPDATE... here's where we stand on registrations... pretty good! And we're approaching sell-out again! Based upon final layout of the stage, we should have exactly 9715 seats with good sight-lines. Here are the figures we are working with. About 7000 registrations in to-date, including four competing choruses. The remaining 13 choruses, at about 150 each, will kick that up to 8950. We'll have to reserve 400 for the competing quartets who'll be selected this Spring and that brings us to 9350. So that means we have 365 left to go for a complete sell-out. If you've been thinking of taking in The Big One, you had better stop thinking and start acting!

Our Fearless Leader Speaks



$$1(\frac{1}{4}) + 1(\frac{1}{2}) = 200$$

The equation at the head of this column represents our goal for membership in Pioneer this year. When we are successful, we will have over 1600 fellow Barbershoppers in our District to enjoy our hobby.

Think about that for a moment -- 1600 or more Barbershoppers! Instead of only having 14 men on stage, a chapter could now stage 20 men. A chorus of 44 now becomes 50. A chorus of 94 becomes 100. What a time we would have at our conventions with all these men singing the old songs. Boggles the mind, eh?

Those of you who are mathematicians are saying, "How does the equation balance?" The equation stands for:

- 1 new member gained per quarter, per chapter $1(\frac{1}{4})$ plus (+)
- 1 new additional member gained every six months per chapter $1(\frac{1}{2})$ equals (=) 200.

One man a quarter plus one man every

six months means 6 new members gained per year times 33 chapters equals 200! (198?) IT CAN BE DONE. TRY IT - YOU'LL LIKE IT!!

The District Convention Committee recently met with the convention chairmen for 1980 and plans for both conventions are well under way. Mark down the dates now and plan to attend. The chorus competition in the Fall, to see who will represent Pioneer at the International in Detroit, will be a blinger.

It's not too early to be thinking about Pine Knob on May 24 or the Send-Off Show in Windsor in June. Let's see 1000 Barbershoppers at these events and really raise the roof.

Finally, I would be remiss if I neglected to formally thank our past District President and retiring I.B.M. for his efforts in our behalf. John Gillespie has served the District well and the International continues to recognize this talent through their appointments to the various committees on which he serves. Also, the Kalamazoo Chapter recognizes his value as they have re-elected John as their treasurer. From all of us in Pioneer John, a big THANK YOU.

Dan LaBumbard

***In the Spring a Barbershopper's fancy
turns to Boyne Country***

and the

Boyne City Bush League Show and Quartet Contest

Saturday, MAY 3, 1980

OFFICIAL ENTY BLANK
34th ANNUAL BUSH LEAGUE CONTEST

Boyne City, Michigan

Quartet Name _____
Contact Man _____
Tenor _____
Lead _____
Baritone _____
Bass _____
Chapter Name _____

New Quartets and those not registered with International are welcome.

NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED

Registration time 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. May 3, 1980



Entry deadline **May 3**
Program deadline **April 15**

Return to: **Dick Wheeler**

Box 205, Route 1

East Jordan, MI 49727

12th Annual Harmony in Review



"You Oughta be in Pictures"

A HOLLYWOOD MELODRAMA

FEATURING THE FOLLOWING QUARTETS...



ROYAL ASSENT-Kitchner/Waterloo, Ontario
SOUNDSMEN-Bridgeport/Meriden, Conn.
CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE-Wayne, Mich.

and the **WOLVERINE CHORUS** OAKLAND COUNTY

Saturday, February 16th. 1980 at 8:00 PM

FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

9 MILE & RYAN Rd. in WARREN

Tickets from Ron Shier ☎ 588-5047
\$5⁰⁰

WAYNE CHAPTER

A²
Spring
Thing



SPRING '80 CONVENTION

April 25, 26 & 27, 1980

Spring of 1980 finds us looking towards Ann Arbor for our Spring Convention. This Convention will determine which Quartet in our District will represent us at the International Convention in Salt Lake City. Also, at the Spring Convention, we will determine our District Chorus Champion.

Our current Chorus Champions, the Wonderland Chorus, is from the Wayne Chapter, which is hosting this Spring Convention.

Ann Arbor is reputed to have gotten its name from a combination of founder John Allen's wife's first name, "Ann," and from the Latin word "Arbor," which described the maximum amount of sunlight which was let in, due to the spacing of the city's massive Burr Oaks. The city was founded by Allen and Elisha Rumsey, in 1824, when they purchased 640 acres of land at a cost of \$1.25 per acre.

For the staticians who may be reading this, Ann Arbor is 850 feet above sea level. The land area is 23 square miles, with a population of approx. 111,500. This includes some 30,000 U of M students.

It is not a small town, by any means, nor is it strictly a college town. It is true that the Maize and Blue somewhat dominate the scene, but this only adds to the excitement of a truly beautiful and unique city.

This beauty can be seen in its parks, tree-lined streets, and while walking the U of M campus. U of M has 1600 acres of park-like land that can be enjoyed by everyone. If you would like to tell the folks back home that you sang in Michigan Stadium, take three other parts to the Stadium gates on East Stadium Street, next

to the Events Building or on Kelch Street, off So. Main Street. It is free and a nice place to woodshed.

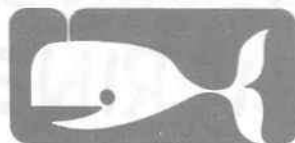
If you want to do some real woodshedding, head out to the Nichols Arboretum. Here you will find about 138 acres in the middle of town which has one of the most complete collections of trees and plants in North America. There is no charge and the entrance is at 1827 Geddes. You may not, however, take your automobile into the park.

There are many different areas to see and sing in. The main place will probably be the headquarters hotel, The Briarwood Hilton, just off I-94, at exit #177. (see map - D) Just across the road, is the Wolverine Inn (Q). The other two motels are located just West on I-94, at Exit #172. They are The Holiday Inn - West (H) and Weber's Inn (P). ALL the motels are located just off I-94 as indicated on the map. The Briarwood Hilton (Headquarters), is on State Street (Exit #177). Pick up your badges there. It is hoped that a great many Barbershoppers and their families will pre-register. This gives us some needed advance time to make up the badges. The confusion and bedlam that always surrounds the Registration Desk will be kept at a minimum if you would help by getting your registration forms back to us early.

The competition will take place at Pioneer High School (shown North on State, and West on Stadium). Warm-Ups and Dressing Rooms are ALL to be at the school. The School is located at 601 West Stadium, at the corner (southwest) of Main St.

This Convention should prove to be very enjoyable, with a lot of good singing to be heard. Please plan early to attend. It will be made all the more enjoyable if YOU are there.

Ken Kostielney



A Whale Of An Idea

For any wives and children who would rather not attend all the Convention events, call the:

ANN ARBOR - 24 HOUR - HOT LINE
995-7272
for Current Happenings.

1980 SPRING CONVENTION - Housing Info.....

Briarwood Hilton (Headquarters)

State St. & I-94

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Single - \$31.-\$35.* Double - 39.- 45.*

Holiday Inn - West

2900 Jackson Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48103

Single - \$30. *

Double - 33. - \$36.*

Weber's Inn

3050 Jackson Rd.

Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Single - \$29.*

Double - \$37.*

Wolverine Inn

3505 S. State St.

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Single - \$23.*

Double - \$28.*

* = All Room Prices Subject To Change.

ALL room reservations should be mailed to:

Ann Arbor Conference and Visitors Bureau

207 East Washington

Ann Arbor, MI 48104

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Spring Convention

April 25, 26, 1980

(name)

(address)

(city & zip)

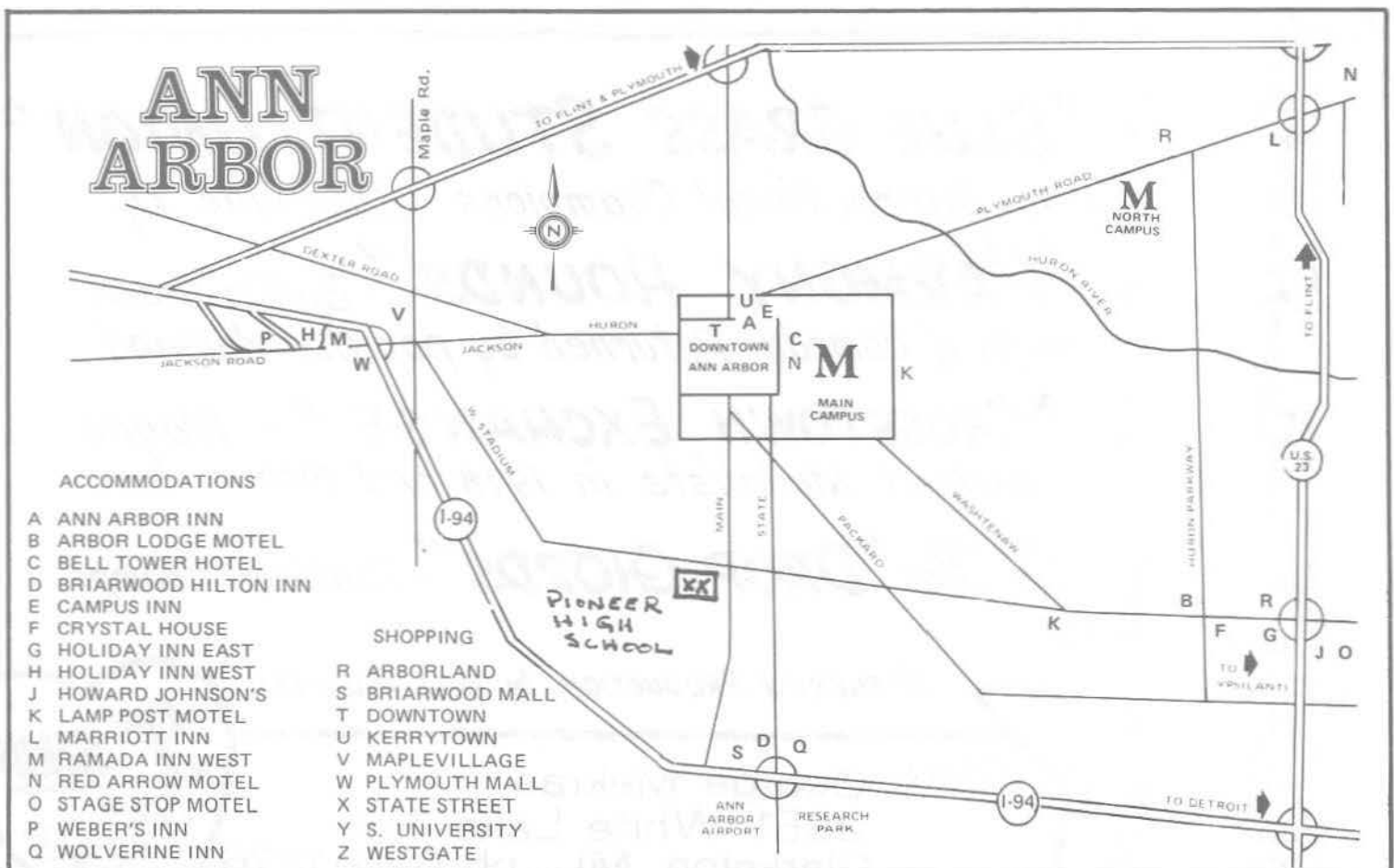
(Chapter)

(Quartet)

#1-----#2-----#3-----
(Hotel - list 3 choices)

Single ----- Double -----
(Room accommodations desired)

Fri.- April 25 () Sat.- April 26 ()
(Indicate nights for Room)



PONTIAC CHAPTER
presents the

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

37th ANNUAL "HARMONY PARADE"

of BARBER SHOP
QUARTETS



SAT. FEB. 9 1980 8:00 PM PONTIAC NORTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

★ The "BLUE GRASS STUDENT UNION"

1978-79 International Champions - Louisville Ky.

★ The "HARMONY HOUNDS" - Battle Creek
Champs of Comedy - Returned by popular demand

★ The "CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE" - Wayne
District Medalists in 1978 and 1979

★ The "DROP CHORDS" - Pontiac's Champs

Featuring
the
"PONTIAC
BARN
SINGERS"

MUSIC DIRECTOR:
DON BARRETT

SCENERY & PRODUCTION by BILL PASCHER

Tickets: George Mekras
2851 White Lake Rd.
Clarkston, MI. ph. 625-1776

\$5⁰⁰ SHOW
AFTER
GLO 1 \$5⁰⁰

W.P.P.

WHATTA SHOW!!!

MOST HAPPY FELLOWS



& SUNTONES

with "new" lead
DRAYTON

at **GRAND RAPIDS**
APRIL 12

also the

GREAT LAKES CHORUS - directed by Clay Shumard

BLACK VELVET & B & L EXCHANGE QUARTETS

contact: Fran Jones
4419 Cedarwood N.E.
Rockford, Mich. 49341
Area 616 - 866-2951

Tickets \$4 \$5 & \$6
All seats reserved

Musical Notes from the Big Bear

W. D. "Bill" Butler, D.M.E.
33748 Pawnee Drive
Westland, Michigan 48185
Phone 313/721-4747



Happy New Year, everyone. The Music Education Program is off to a flying start. First let me introduce our Asst. DMEs for 1980:

Division 1 Tom Pollard
15019 Flamingo
Livonia, MI 48154
Ph. Res (313) 427-5527
Bus " 534-5660

Division 2 Don Lang
P.O. Box 161
St. Joseph, MI 49085
Ph. Res (616) 926-3305
Bus " 983-6846

Division 3 'Bernie' Poelman
4699 Grantwood S.E.
Kentwood, MI 49508
Ph. Res (616) 534-2262
Bus " 534-7685

Division 4 Edgar H. Lotspeich
Box 2821 Shadow Trails Rd.
Boyne City, MI 49712
Ph. Res (616) 582-9529

Division 5 Fred Kienitz
5338 Floria Dr.
Swartz Creek, MI 48473
Ph. Res (313) 655-8694
Bus " 232-7449

At Large James Stephens
6335 Clarendon
Canton, MI 48187
Ph. Res (313) 459-4011

These Divisional Directors of Music Education are all experienced and dedicated men and I'm sure that you will all enjoy the Division's program that they will put into operation, with your cooperation. Remember, guys, no one man can do it a-

PIONEER DISTRICT QUARTET AND COACHING CLINIC-WORKSHOP MARCH 21-23, 1980

PLEASE REGISTER	_____	TOTAL FEE:	_____
	Name of coaching student		
OR	_____	\$40.00 PER MAN	
	Name of quartet		
If quartet:	TENOR _____	BARI _____	
	LEAD _____	BASS _____	
ADDRESS	_____	AMOUNT OF DEPOSIT:	_____
CITY	_____	(Min. Deposit: \$20.00 COACHING	
ZIP	_____	\$80.00 QUARTET)	
PHONE	Area _____	Number _____	
CHAPTER	_____	(Please make all checks and M.O.s	
MAIL TO:	W. D. "BILL" BUTLER	payable to: PIONEER DISTRICT SPEBSQSA)	
	33748 PAWNEE DR.	Deposits will not be refunded if	
	WESTLAND, MI. 48185	notice of cancellation is not	
	Ph. (313) 721-4747	received by March 10, 1980.	

DO IT NOW — NEXT WEEK MAY BE TOO LATE !!!

lone. Keep in touch with them and I'm sure they will be happy to have your suggestions. They are responsible for the Music Program within their Divisions i.e. Music Festivals, one-day schools and chapter visitations. If they don't have the answers, they know where to get them. We are indeed fortunate to have these men in each Division, and I know you will give them 100% cooperation.

The MARCH 21-23, 1980 Quartet and Coaching Clinic will be the 'Biggest Ever' and registration forms have already been sent out to all registered quartets and to the District Officers. Total fees are \$40.00 per man, covering the two nights lodging and four meals, and the minimum deposit is \$20.00 per man. The Clinic is for ALL quartets, registered or not, AND to men with a fair amount of musical background and experience who wish to learn the latest techniques of coaching quartets and choruses. The faculty, at this time, consists of Connie Keil, Rudy Partin, Ken Buckner, Jack Hines, Ron Whiteside, Bob West and Ed Waesche. In addition, we are awaiting confirmation from Mac Huff, Brian Beck, Gary Parker and Jim Miller. How's that for a million-dollar faculty? In the event you don't have a registration form, they are available from any District Officer, Divisional DME or attached hereto. We are limited to just 20 quartets and 15 coaching students, so it's a first-come, first-served basis. No refunds will be granted after March 10, 1980, for any reason other than sickness or death. I suggest that some of you Chorus Directors enroll for the Coaching study. It can be a tremendous help in teaching your Chorus to sing better.

Bill Butler

P.S. Be sure to bring your tape players.

COLD ENOUGH FOR YOU? Well, then start thinking about Summer. And specifically, HARMONY COLLEGE. It's slated for the week of August 3-10, 1980 at Missouri Western State College again in St. Joseph, MO. The fee is \$200 per student and the faculty promises a powerhouse of the Best Of Barbershop, tons of Ice Cream and a return to the Big Saturday Night Show! Drop a note to the Music Department and get your reservations in now. It's usually a sell-out. A \$50 deposit will hold your reservation.

Burt Schindler

Black Velvet

A Barbershop Quartet



The Black Velvet formed in late September of 1978 at Herm Baker's Corn Roast, a Great Lakes Chorus Party. Our first sing-out was on Channel 13 TV, as a plug for the '78 District Convention which was in Grand Rapids. We set two goals for ourselves, "To have Fun and To Learn." The 1st goal came easy, and to our surprise, because of the backing of the Great Lakes Chorus and so many friends throughout the District, so did the second. We attended Bill Butler's Mini-Hep School in February of 1979 (which we recommend highly to all Barbershoppers) and in April, we competed in our first competition - the Spring Prelims. We finished 6th, but we didn't mind at all. Next came the Boyne Bush League, (which we also recommend highly) where, after the dust had cleared, we found ourselves on top! During the Summer, we traveled around to a few shows and campouts and just had fun. In October, we competed for District honors and did better than we had dreamed we could. Our first has meant a lot to us, and we hope to be around for some time!

Yours In Harmony
The Black Velvet

Black Velvet

A Barbershop Quartet

Contact: Phil Wilder

1512 Den Hertog

Wyoming, Mi 49509

Ph. 532-5469

"RIDING THE EXPRESS"

It was on a cold day in January of 1979 when the foursome decided to pledge their support to one another in regrouping the GREAT LAKES EXPRESS. This was with the realization that 130 miles separated the different voices in the group, and that sacrifice and challenge would play a major role in the quartet. Rehearsals are twice a week and are usually held in Flint which seems to be a halfway point for everyone involved. Steve Boughner, our tenor, lives and works in Windsor, Canada. He and his wife, Carol, own and operate a Star Lite Party Store (sort of like our 7-11 Stores). They have two sons and a daughter. Both of the boys are very active in the Riverside Hockey program in Canada. Steve began his early Barbershopping when he joined the Windsor Chapter in 1972. He soon formed a quartet and they called themselves the NITECAPS. Some time later, Steve transferred his membership to Detroit #1 Chapter and competed with the Motor City Chorus in San Francisco. Shortly after the California festivities, he was asked to sing tenor with the STATELINERS. This group was the nucleus of what was to become THE GREAT LAKES EXPRESS.

GREAT LAKES

EXPRESS

3436 MERRICK
DEARBORN, MICH.
48124

The lead, Wally Dorosh, lives and works in Dearborn. He and his wife, Patty, have 4 children - 2 boys and 2 girls. Both boys are active in the hockey programs in Dearborn, and both girls are majoring in BOYS!

Wally began his Barbershopping in 1966 when he joined the Dearborn Cordomatic Chorus. He sang baritone with Dearborn and later Detroit for 8 years before deciding to switch to lead. His early quartetting experiences were with the SPARE PARTS, the BACK PORCH 4, and the FOUR LIERS. It was after the 'Frisco Convention that he, too, was asked to join the Stateliners. It was at this time that they decided to call themselves THE GREAT LAKES EXPRESS.

Brian Kaufman sings baritone with the group. He makes his home in Marysville where he is an elementary school teacher in the Port Huron school system. Brian and his wife, Lou Ann, have two children and are expecting a third one shortly. If calculations prove correct, the new baby will

arrive on the weekend of the International Pre-Lims, in April! Brian began his Barbershopping in 1973 when he joined the Port Huron Chapter. He was soon singing with the TUNE-BY-FOURS, and, later, with a group called the SOUND SPECTRUM. In August, Brian joined the GREAT LAKES EXPRESS. Brian is also the Director of a brand new Sweet Adeline Chapter in Marine City, called the River District Sweet Adelines, who will be competing in London, Ontario, in May.

The quartet's newest member, but perhaps the most experienced, is our bass, Len Johnson. Len lives and works in the Saginaw-Bay City area. He joined the Saginaw Bay Chapter in 1953, and his early Barbershopping career was spent with the DELT-AIRES, the KEYRINGS, the ORIGINAL CHOICE, the EVERSHARPS and the CLASSMATES. In January, 1979, Len joined the GREAT LAKES EXPRESS. When the EXPRESS won the Pioneer District Quartet Championship last Fall, that made Len a 4-time Pioneer District Quartet Champion.



Right from the start, the quartet has worked very hard. Our first coach (and personal friend), was Denny Gore, of the Vagabonds. Denny worked with the quartet very closely but, at the time, was very busy with his own quartet and it made rehearsals difficult. So, with all parties in full agreement and in perfect harmony, the quartet reached out for the best possible help available to them and, naturally, they chose 'the Big Bear,' Bill Butler. Bill has been very instrumental in the success of this quartet. There have been times when the quartet would spend an entire 3-hour rehearsal on just one passage of a song, until 'the Bear' was completely satisfied with the interpretation and that every chord had been perfectly

(continued on page 15)



"OOPS"
OR
"NOBODY'S
PERFECT!"

Dan LaBumbard

Our last District Quartet Contest, at Kalamazoo, saw some events occur which, we hope, will never again be duplicated. First, we had the announcements for the trophy presentations and then a correcting announcement was needed.

After the awards presentation on Saturday evening, we were asked the definition of a novice quartet. Under the by-laws of our District, a novice quartet is a quartet that has never competed before. The novice quartet champions would be the highest scoring novice quartet that did not finish in the top three. Under District rules, a quartet cannot win more than one award. If they finished 1st, 2nd or 3rd, they were not eligible to win the novice championship.

A question was asked about the "Sound Ambassadors" from the Detroit Chapter, who were crowned "Novice Champions." It was thought that they had competed before and were ineligible for the novice award. A review of the entries from prior contests revealed that the Sound Ambassadors, with only one member replaced, HAD competed prior to Kalamazoo and they were NOT eligible to be novice champs.

We also discovered that we had not crowned a "Junior Quartet Champion" for 1979 - NOR FOR 1978!! What a mess of confusion! The Junior Quartet classification is for those quartets who have competed before, but never finished in one of the top three positions.

After an audit, conducted by DACJC Don Lang and Executive Vice-President and Convention Comm. Chairman Dan LaBumbard, the following adjustments were made and appropriate trophies have been awarded to:

1978 Junior Quartet Champions

"CADENCE COUNTS" from the Wayne Chapter.

1979 Junior Quartet Champions

"SOUND AMBASSADORS" from the Detroit #1 Chapter.

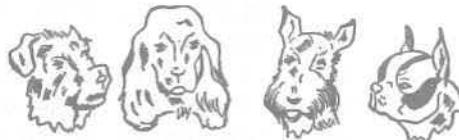
"KEEP THOSE DOGGIES ROLLIN"

The Harmony Hounds of Battle Creek, Michigan, announce two part changes in the Quartet effective the end of 1979 (their 20th year as a quartet, and the 10th personnel change).

Larry Swan, tenor since 1968 and the veteran of a USO Tour, International Competition in 1969 and an England Tour (and who has played the "Dummy" part so capably) is moving to Florida (watch out, Sarasota). Taking over the tenor slot is "Bud" Burrill, previously of the Burrill Brothers and the Cereal City Chord Committee.

Dick Spear, lead, will be leaving the quartet at the same time, due to an increasing work schedule. Returning to the quartet after a 3 year "vacation" is Roger Lewis, who sang with the Hounds from 1962 to 1976.

The new litter will bring the same zany style entertainment, plus dog-gone good harmony, and are already filling the engagements of the Quartet.



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Pedigree: Barbershoppers

Dog Gone GOOD Entertainment

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of occasions**

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
Bus. (616) 968-9391 — Res. (616) 965-5714

P.O. Box 1471, Battle Creek, Mich. 49016

1979 Novice Quartet Champions

"A POSITIVE ENDEAVOR" from the Traverse City Chapter.

Our apologies for the mix-ups and we will do our best to see that it doesn't happen again.

Wayne—

What ever happened to a show called "What Ever Happened To The Class Of '54?" Well, it did happen, and came off beautifully! At Dress Rehearsal, on Thursday night, many of us had misgivings - it was like trying to get the Detroit Lions ready for the Super Bowl - slightly chaotic! Producers Claudia and Jim Swisher probably had horrible headaches and a sleepless Thursday night.

However, it all came together (with "magic" glue!) Friday and Saturday, and even this "old" cynic had to admit it was good -- and fun, too! (Watching Jeanne Lunberg sure beats watching Steve and Gordy!) The We-Wa-Co Sweet Ads sang and performed very well, and proved to be as sugar-cured as the hams in the Wonderland Chorus! Congratulations to them, and to the producers, Claudia and Jim Swisher, who are now convinced, I'm sure, that it was all worthwhile, and probably are already planning next year's show! (Please, Jim and Claudia, not in December!)

No show can be a success without all the other heros, sung and un-sung - the singers and speakers, the woofers and the squeakers, and people like Tom Klepaczyk (Tom Kay, to you) Wayne's tireless "charge d'affaires des costumes!"

More good news! Despite the fact that "Lonesome" George Fitzgerald, the one-time Toledo Hot Dog, has passed on to greener fairways and sandier bunkers in Aiken, S. Carolina, Wayne will continue to hose it's regular 3rd Friday Chapter meeting in the "new" Country Place Community Activities Center in Northville. This is made possible by the very timely and appreciated entry into our membership ranks of Country Place resident, Art Hackett. Art is a Professional PR man, show producer, set designer, and all that related good stuff, and is a woodshedder from back in his college days at Wayne University (before it became Wayne State). (The name Wayne keeps cropping up, doesn't it?)

Wayne's 1979 Chapter Meetings were vastly improved over previous years, and our 1980 P.V.P., Hal Thompson, (telephone 420-0855) promises to out-do Don Stewart. That will not be easy, so all you quartets and other assorted singers, call Hal and invite yourselves to our meetings. As outgoing M.V.P. for '79, I'm glad to report that we remain in the Century Club. We gained 24 new members in 1979, lost only

16, for a net gain of 8. Onward and Upward!

After the Holiday breather, it is gung-ho for our March Show on the 7th and 8th - then the April Convention - 25th and 26th, then Pine Knob on May 24th and the International Send-Off Show on June 13th, and, ultimately, Salt Lake City!! Whew!

Speaking of S.L.C.: Wayne Wonderland Chorus appreciated the opportunity to represent the Pioneer District last July in Minneapolis, and we promise to try very hard to give an even better performance in July, 1980, in the shadow of the Mormon Tabernacle. We thank you sincerely for all the help you gave us, and are unabashedly asking you to do it again. God Bless You All!

Bob Miquelon

Grosse Pointe—

Grosse Pointe is well into the activities of the new year and at the same pace as last year. The activities quotient is at the top, with guest nights, paid sing-outs, chapter visits and contests. Ahead of us are a Ladies Night, pot luck suppers -- complete with auctions -- and a number of summer activities. Also a number of singouts in local shopping centers have been scheduled, to attract new members and to acquaint the general public with our great hobby and entertain them with our singing.

We have been seriously at work preparing for both the Spring Contest and our "Great Annual Show," which, by the way, will be greater than ever. I know if you saw last year's show, you'll say "it can't be", but it is true. This coming show will be the tops with the "Brand New" SUNTONES. This group, combined with the other high quality entertainment that Grosse Pointe always has, will make our show the talk of the year in Pioneer District. One thing is guaranteed, Grosse Pointe always puts on great shows.

Mark your calendar for Friday, April 11th. The location is a fine auditorium at the Lakeview High School, on E. 11 Mile Road, in St. Clair Shores. Y'all come now, hear!

We welcome and encourage visitors to our regular Tuesday night Chorus meetings and our Fun Night, which is on the third Friday of every month. We meet in the basement of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 14510 E. 7 Mile Rd., just about a quarter mile east of Gratiot Ave.

Jim Kerrigan

Benton Harbor—

St. Joseph—

Our members are always asking, "Why isn't there anything about our chapter in the Troubadour?", so I thought I would let you know what is happening in Southwestern Michigan.

Our officers for 1980, after a tremendous C.O.T. School December 15 & 16, came back determined to make 1980 our best year ever. President Don Bartz, P.V.P., Gene Hanover, M.V.P., Bob Orth, Secretary, Ray Neiman, and Treasurer Dale Leighty are now hard at work with the rest of the board and their committees to make our program more enjoyable for everyone.

December was a busy month with six singouts plus a family Christmas Party, at which we all had a very enjoyable time. In addition, the three active quartets in our chapter, "The Jones Boys", "The Quadrachords", and "The Shoreline Chordsmen" all sang at a number of functions. Our only registered quartet, the "Union Street Arrangement" is minus a tenor since Glen Moon left the area to take a job in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Roger Valentine, our esteemed director, has announced the songs we will sing in the Spring in Ann Arbor. He says if we start now we may all know the words by April. Meanwhile, we are looking forward to appearing at the St. Joseph Queens contest where we were very well received last year. This involves radio exposure as well as the 900+ live audience. We are planning many more exciting activities for this year and we will let you know of them as the dates are firmed up. It looks like an interesting year for Benton Harbor - St Joe.

Ray Neiman

What's New in Your Chapter?

It's nice to hear from you, Ray, and good to know of the activities in Benton Harbor - St Joe. You other Barbershoppers out there, do you see YOUR chapter news published in the Troub? Why not? If you care, complain to your Board. Every chapter should have a reporter to the Troub. The rest of us would really like to know - What Is Your Chapter Doing?

Editor

Port Huron—

The Port Huron Chapter's 4th Annual Show promises to provide an excellent evening of entertainment. This year's show theme will be "An Introduction To Summer." Headlining the show will be our own District Champs and International Semi-Finalists, The Great Lakes Express. We will have a Sweet Adeline Chorus and various other talent along with, of course, the Huron Harmony Chorus. The show will take place on Saturday, March 22, at McMorran Auditorium in Port Huron. Showtime is at 8:00 P.M. For more information, call Dick Nauman at (313) 329-4701.

The Port Huron Chapter Officers for 1980 are: President, Jim Kavanaugh; M.V.P. Patrick Gerrits; P.V.P., Norbert Noetzel; Secretary, Greg Stark; and Treasurer, Sid Brown. Good Luck to them and to the other Board Members.

The Port Huron Chapter is now meeting at the American Legion Post, 1026 6th St. in Port Huron. Meetings start at 8:00 PM.

Pat Gerrits

RIDING THE EXPRESS....

(continued from page 12)

locked. Also of great help to this quartet, have been the H.E.P. Schools that Bill has set up. These top-notch coaches that Bill has brought in, are available to ALL Pioneer quartets, and we recommend it highly. We appreciate the fact that Bill gives 110% of his time, not only to the GREAT LAKES EXPRESS, but also to ALL Pioneer Barbershoppers.

1979 was a year of thrills for us; first, the thrill of representing the Pioneer District at the International in Minneapolis, followed by the thrill of winning the District Championship in October. We appreciate the honor and we look forward eagerly to what 1980 will bring.

Wally Dorosh
GREAT LAKES EXPRESS

We sing... 



that
they
shall
speak





Konvention Kapers in Kalamazoo
or
What A Weekend Of Harmony!

by John T. Gillespie
Convention General Chairman

The weather wasn't really cooperating very well when your old Convention Chairman arrived at the Sheraton Inn, Convention Headquarters, at 9:30 AM on Friday, October 19th. It was raining slightly and I recall wondering whether the rain might hold down the attendance. I really should not have been concerned, because before the last pitch-pipe was blown, over 1100 Barbershoppers and their families would have converged on our city to once again enjoy one of the great treasures of life - a Pioneer District Convention!

Things officially got underway at 1:45 Friday afternoon when President Doran McTaggart gavelled the District Board Meeting to order. After a 2½ hour meeting of our Board attending to administrative business, the meeting was adjourned, with ample time for our officers and wives to socialize a bit, freshen up, grab a bite to eat and head for Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium, for the District quartet semi-finals contest.

And what a contest! Fourteen quartets in the semi-finals vying for the right to appear Saturday night in the finals contest and emerge as our District Champions.

Much too quickly the Friday night contest was over, with the conventioners returning to their hotels to renew friendships, make new ones, and, of course, to boondoggle until the wee morinig hours.

The Saturday morning House of Delegates meeting started only ten minutes late, a minor miracle in itself, considering the shortness of the night. At the same time, District Logopedics Chairman, Fran Durham was rounding up his Chapter Logopedics Chairmen for their semi-annual meeting. The House of Delegates was well attended, with about 85% of the Chapters represented. Highlights of the meeting included the election of the 1980 District Officers and an address by International

Vice-President Bert Huish, who reported on Society happenings.

Next came the Chorus Contest - and it was a dandy. Fifteen Choruses in competition - and when the battle was over, Wayne Chapter's Wonderland Chorus had won the right to represent our District at the International Contest in Salt Lake City next July. Finishing a scant 14 points back was Grand Rapids Chapter's Great Lakes Chorus.

The Saturday evening quartet finals contest certainly lived up to the expectations created the previous evening. After appearances by 8 top-notch quartets, the Great Lakes Express was crowned our 1979 District Champions. After performances by the Wonderland Chorus, our 1978 District Quartet Champions - The Personal Expression and our newly-crowned champs, it was back to the hospitality rooms for quartet visits, woodshedding and just plain Barbershop fun.

Much too soon it was Sunday morning, and the wind-down of a fantastic weekend. This writer would be awfully surprised if those of you who attended this convention didn't agree with my above assessments. And if you couldn't make Kalamazoo - don't despair. You will have the opportunity to experience what we just did next Spring, when Wayne Chapter hosts the District Convention in Ann Arbor. The dates are April 25 - 27. We'll see you there!

SPRING CONVENTION

\$9.00 Pre-Registration. Deadline April 5th.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Chapter _____ Voice Part _____

Name of Chorus _____ or Quartet _____

Number of Registrants @\$9.00 _____

Names _____

Send to: Paul Millis - S.P.E.B.S.O.S.A.
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Livonia, MI 48154



After a night of rehearsal, you put away your music, bid the other members "good night" and head for home. Usually, somewhere in the span of time between the rehearsal and falling asleep, you evaluate the evening and ask yourself, "Was it a good rehearsal and did I have

a good time?"

When I first started singing with the Barbershop Chorus, I would leave rehearsal with a warm good feeling. For quite some time, I questioned what was this good feeling.

It was after talking to Vern Reed, of the Buffalo Bills fame, on the phone one day that he put his finger on what made me feel so good. He said in so many words that rehearsals can be fun - but they should be enjoyable.

Thinking about Vern's statement made me realize that it was the answer to my question. Fun is one thing and enjoyment is another. At our rehearsals we have our fun. We make our funny comments, kid various sections, like the baritones, and even try to steal some glory for the leads and basses. The tenors have their moments, too. Sometimes we will pick on individuals, and even our Director is the brunt of many remarks from the Chorus. It is all intended to be humorous and good-natured. This is fun and we are fortunate to have members that participate and make the evening fun.

Fun, however, is something that lasts only for the moment. A humorous comment will get a big laugh at the time but is seldom as humorous if repeated an hour later.

When the Chorus puts in a night of hard work, the progress can be seen and heard by every member. The difficult notes start to fall into place and the chords start to ring. Everyone starts to enjoy the sounds they hear.

And when they leave the rehearsal hall at night, I have heard many comment to the director on having a "good rehearsal." It will be a night that they will remember for days and years afterward.

So when you leave, ask yourself, did you have fun tonight and, most importantly, was it enjoyable.

Announcing - THE SATURDAY NIGHT FEATURE...

It started in early August of 1979. The goal was to learn enough numbers to make a good showing come the big Harrisville Campout in September.

The personnel - Bruce LaMarte, the former lead of "The Major Event" quartet from Oakland County; Don Humphries, the 'pride of Canada,' on Baritone. Don was formerly with the "Foreign Policy" quartet - Pioneer District Champs in 1976. On bass - Jack Slamka, formerly with "The Sound Spectrum" quartet. Jack had been inactive for awhile, but at our urging, decided to give it shot - at least through the Labor Day weekend. On tenor - John Wearing, formerly with "The 4-Fits" and "The Foreign Policy" quartets.



After the big bash in Harrisville, we decided to register and try our luck in the coming District Contest. We came away from Kalamazoo with a 3rd place showing -- which was most gratifying.

The quartet is now working hard with our coach for the Pre-Lims to Salt Lake City. We are now booking shows and look forward to hearing from our Barbershop friends.

Contact:

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QUARTETTING BUILDS CHARACTER

by Bud Harvey

Every Barbershopper owes it to himself, his family and his friendly neighborhood psychiatrist to get in over his head at least once in his lifetime in a genuine, brass-bound quartet. Why? Because it's a character-building experience. According to statistics composted by the Ephemeral Research Laboratories in Bemidji, Minn., quartetting has developed more characters than any contact sport with the exception of Japanese Mixed Pairs Bathing.

Let's consider the basic exercise in acquiring humility. Learning how to accept constructive criticism is Lesson #1. When you take into consideration the fact that there is more ham in an average Barbershop quartet than you'll find in Smithfield, Va., and all its suburbs, this represents a massive sublimation of the ego. And, when you bear in mind there is no such thing as constructive criticism when you're the target, learning to accept passively is an act of saintliness that should be called to the attention of the Pope. After all, just the fact that you are deigning to sing with these other three clods is worthy of some kind of merit badge.



I clearly recall the rehearsal of The Trumpetones when I offered a mild bit of constructive criticism to Fitzpatrick, the tenor.

"How would you like to back off on the tag, Leo, so people can hear the lead?" I suggested.

"How would you like a fat lip?" Leo replied.

"He doesn't sing very good with a fat lip." said Miklusek.

"He doesn't sing very good without one," snarled Fitzpatrick.

Now this is the kind of constructive criticism which frequently brightens those tedious rehearsal sessions. Personally, I felt rather strongly that I sang rather well without a fat lip, but I accepted Leo's criticism in the spirit with which it was offered -- seething with anger. But I made no reply, preferring to practice Christian forbearance. And preferring not to experiment with fat lip singing.

Then there was the rehearsal of the Coconotes in Miami, when Bob Ray turned to me and said, "You're flat."

So often this kind of constructive criticism draws fire from the object of the barb, but I just replied, with hauteur, "Like hell I am!"

"The judges at Key West said you were flat," he persisted.

I curled a lip.

"What the hell do the judges know?" I demanded. "Especially in Key West!"

I had a point there, and Ray knew it.

"You have a point there," he said, rubbing a hand on my head.

You see, it's this friendly give-and-take of constructive criticism that makes a better man of the Barbershop quartetter. It doesn't make a better singer of him, necessarily, but it certainly adds dimension to the man's character. And you can learn from these exchanges. I'm sure Bob never realized before, that contest judges didn't know anything about judging tone quality, until I called it to his attention.

And there are honest differences of opinion which may be resolved in open forum during rehearsal. Like Bill Bishop's insistence that I sing the correct lyrics to "Redhead" all the time. Privately, I feel that there should be some latitude permitted in rearranging a song as the spirit moves -- or as the memory fails. Perfection is a nice ideal, but I wouldn't want to live there. Would you?

(Your answer could win you an all-expense tour of the Hobe Sound Volunteer Fire Department. Or a fat lip.)





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9 Pontiac Chapter Show
16 Oakland County Chapter Show
16 Lansing Chapter Show
22-23 Monroe Chapter Show

MARCH

7-8 Wayne Chapter Show
8 Huron Valley Chapter Show
21-23 Q'tet & Coaches Clinic, Ypsilanti
22 Port Huron Chapter Show

APRIL

12 Grand Rapids Chapter Show
25-27 Spring Convention - Ann Arbor

MAY

3 Boyne City Chapter Show
24 Pine Knob Spectacular

JUNE

13 Send-Off Show, Windsor

JULY

7-13 International Convention -
Salt Lake City.

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- you're singing alone and you're NOT the soloist.
- you haven't cleaned your outfit yet and tomorrow is the dress rehearsal.
- everyone else remembered the key change and you didn't.
- you've got four more beats to sustain and you're out of breath.
- you have to stand next to someone who knows the music because you don't.
- you haven't been to the last two rehearsals and the tag has been changed.
- you have to ask, "What's the first word?"

GOOD LUCK!



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HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER!
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Rusty

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