



THE
TROUBADOUR



pioneer
TROUBADOUR

Volume XXI, Issue 3
June - July, 1981



DETROIT, MICHIGAN, site of the 43rd Annual Convention, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., July 5-12, 1981

QUARTET UPDATE



International informs me of these new quartets:

HARMONEERS

John C. Tully
93 Fort Creek Dr.
Sault Ste Marie, ONT P6C 5V1

HARBOR HI-LITES

Bob Bame
290 Hunter
Benton Harbor, MI 49022

FLINT RIVER OPERA GANG

Willard A. Minns
1194 Normandy Terrace
Flint, MI 48504

STAGE DOOR FOUR

Noel Rushlow
5203 Lyngre
Howell, MI 48843

SAME OLD FRIENDS

Al Fricker
30881 Nye Ct. W.
Livonia, MI 48154

Please make the following correction:

COUNTRY ESTATE

Dick Metz
7140 Darby Rd.
Monroe, MI 48161

The following quartets are unrenewed:

CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE - Wayne

B & L EXCHANGE - Grand Rapids

ALL FOR A SONG - Kalamazoo

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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

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14851 Stahelin, Detroit, Michigan 48223
Phone: Business, 313 751-3410; Residential, 313 773-0862

Logopedics will be very much in the fore-front at the International Convention in Detroit. The Logopedics booth will be set up near the registration area in the Mackinaw Ballroom. Each District's gift to the Logopedics Raffle will be prominently displayed. Raffle tickets will be sold either individually or in books. With 16 gifts up for grabs you'll certainly want to buy at least 16 tickets. Just to mention a few of the gifts - a solid walnut roll-top secretary desk from the Central States District, a hand-crafted stand clock cased in black walnut, from Evergreen, a hand-made quilt from Dixie, a pair of Nacona cowboy boots from Southwestern, a 21" Toro power mower and a bushel of Florida fruit from Sunshine and a stained glass replica of the Society emblem from Pioneer. There will be a fantastic line-up of gifts to be raffled. The Logopedics Booth will be open at noon Monday, July 6th and will close down Friday night in order to prepare for the Logopedics Breakfast Saturday morning.

In addition to raffle tickets, tickets will also be sold for the Logopedics breakfast to be held Saturday morning, July 11th. The breakfast will be held in the beautiful Renaissance Ballroom at 9:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served, the raffle will be held and the 1981 International Quartet Champions will entertain. What a way to start off the day! It will set the tone for a host of activities scheduled on Saturday. Tickets are \$8.75

An Aside: With the contributions expected to come in this year from each district, plus additional monies generated through Logopedics activities at the International Convention this summer, the Society should top the 4 million dollar mark in contributions. What a fantastic response towards our International Service Project!

TROUBADOR DEADLINES

Issue	Info to Editor by
Feb - Mar	Jan 1
Apr - May	Mar 1
Jun - Jul	May 1
Aug - Sep	Jul 1
Oct - Nov	Sep 1
Dec - Jan	Nov 1



JUNE - 1981

12 International Send-Off, Windsor
27 Grand Rapids Chapter Show

JULY

5-12 Internat'l Convention, Detroit

AUGUST

1 AuSable Valley Chapter Show
2-8 Harmony College, St. Joe, MO
24-29 Dave LaBar Visits Pioneer

SEPTEMBER

1-7 Harrisville Harmony Happening
18-20 Harmony Round-Up, Ypsilanti

OCTOBER

16-18 Fall Convention, Kalamazoo
24 Gratiot County Chapter Show
31 Benton Harbor-St. Joe Chapter Show

DECEMBER

5-6 C.O.T.S., Ypsilanti
5 Detroit #1 Chapter Show

JANUARY - 1982

28-30 Mid-Winter Convention, Tucson

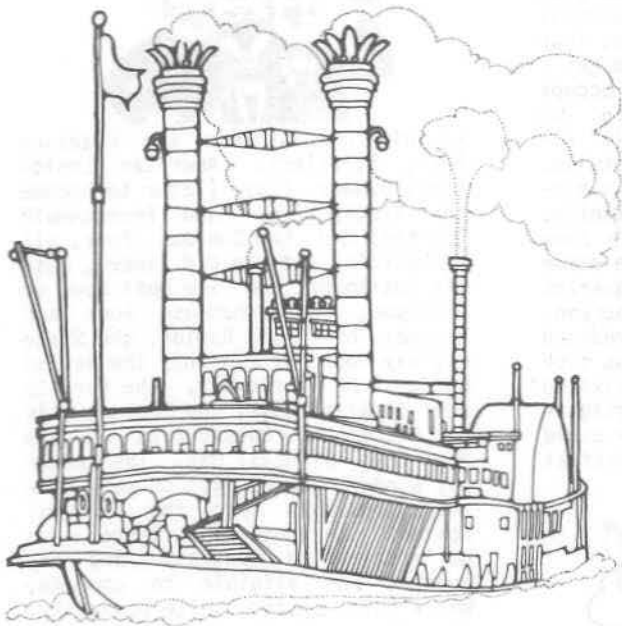
FEBRUARY

6 Pontiac Chapter Show

Detroit No.1 Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. MOONLIGHT CRUISE



FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1981



**Boat leaves at 8:00 P.M. SHARP
from WEST OF COBO HALL
near THIRD STREET
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*Featuring Barbershop Choruses and
Barbershop Quartets Galore*

You may bring food snacks aboard
NO alcoholic beverages can be
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per person**

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about our big
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December 5
1981

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June 19, 1981 at 8:00 p.m.
Bob-Lo Dock

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a self-addressed, stamped envelope and request that you forward my
tickets to me at:

NAME _____

ADDRESS & STREET _____

CITY & STATE _____

The Michigan District and it's Men of Harmony

by Mark P. Roberts

THE FIRST DISTRICT SPONSORED CONTEST

On March 9, 1941, the first State or District Quartet Contest ever held under S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. auspices was hosted by the Grand Rapids Chapter. Again the Ballroom of the Pantlind Hotel was the scene and some 28 quartets went through their paces for a distinguished and talented panel of judges composed of Cy Perkins, Phil Embry, Frank Thorne, Maurice Reagan and Robert Hamp. The judges at that time had no written rules or guide lines, so they had to figure out a system of grading and categories before the contest. Some of their findings went into the rules later adopted and are still a part of our judging rules. The Master of Ceremonies for the contest was our Founder O.C. Cash, who came up from Oklahoma for the occasion and he enjoyed every minute of it. The contest winners, down to five places, were:

- 1st. The Saw Dust Four of Muskegon (Len Horton, Ray Johnson, Bill Griffith, George Hansen)
- 2nd. Detroit Turners (Jim Creed, Ed Pazik, Mark Roberts and Wally Joure)
- 3rd. Legion Four of Detroit (Monty Marsden, Al Frank, Glenn Shields and Howard Tubbs)
- 4th. Big Four of Detroit (Hugh Ward, LeRoy McKinney, Bob Well and Joe Wolff)
- 5th. The Songmasters of Lansing (Harold McAttee is the only one of the original Songmasters remembered by the scribe)

This contest was well handled by the Grand Rapids crew and was an unqualified success which helped to assure the continuation of the District Contest as an annual fixture. While the singing at that time did not measure up to today's standards because no one would have thought of practicing and working at it the way today's quartets do, the singing was



more interesting in many ways and particularly as to musical arrangements. There were no published arrangements in those days and practi-

cally all quartets used their own arrangements. Thus we did not have a note for note rendition of the same songs by different quartets such as we quite frequently have in today's contests. We also heard more lyric tenor voices and big booming basses which, again is another story. The 1941 Contest was a stag affair, the last, by the way, and we were still carrying on in the grand tradition of Barbershop singing. It was a man's world - we said, but our ladies were becoming inquisitive about our activities, and why not when some of them had been led to believe that our meetings lasted from Friday evening until Saturday at noon. We know, of course, that Barbershoppers have the most tolerant women in the world and we were not the least bit apprehensive as to their acceptance of our music. We were not sure at all of women generally but, as might have been expected, we found some who had a genuine liking for our music, some who just liked to be around men, the singing kind or otherwise, and some who despised it but gritted their teeth and bore with it in a braving attempt to be agreeable. Some gals decided that they too wanted to participate in our singing and we even had attempts to enter their quartets in our contests as in one case, four gals seriously threatened to get a Court order to compel us to accept their entry in our competition. We stood bravely by our "male only" eligibility rules because, otherwise, we could visualize a far more sinister situation that would develop. That would be when we went home some evening to inform the little woman that the new tenor in the quartet was really a shapely blond soprano, and the lead was a gorgeous redhead whose chest expansion, when she took a big breath for that "Sweet Sixteen" swipe, was both amazing and delightful. This kind of hanky-panky could have led to arsenic in the breakfast



coffee as one of the more gentle forms of exterminating Barbershoppers. Eventually - and fortunately - The Sweet Adelines was organized and the frustrated femmes found an organized outlet for their singing and outwardly, at least, a happy harmony coexistence was established between our Society and the Adelines which continues to the present.

MICHIGAN GAINS STATURE

Michigan had no quartets in the National Contests of 1939 and 1940

but in St. Louis in 1941, Michigan's two top rated quartets, the District Champion Saw Dust Four and the runner-up Detroit Turners competed. While our two quartets did not come back bemedaled, they were finalists and we garnered both the National Presidency and the National Convention and Contest for 1942. Carroll Adams of the Detroit Chapter was our man who took over the top S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. job and Grand Rapids was awarded the convention and contest. We also placed three men on the National Board of Directors when Roscoe Bennett, Ed Schwoppe and Joe Wolff were elected to this high office.

Grand Rapids staged the biggest and best convention yet held and filled their Civic Auditorium with listeners for the big show. Our District also advanced musically when we placed five quartets in the finals. These were the Detroit Turners, the Hall Brothers of Grand Rapids, the Accoustical Persecuting Four of Jackson, the Port City Four of Muskegon and the Gay Nineties of Kalamazoo. Other Michigan quartets



in this contest were the Pleasure Four, Strollers, American Legion Four, Banner Four (later to become the Progressives and Frankenmuth Quartet) and the Dubious Four, all of Detroit, and the Old Timers, Muskie Musikords and Saw Dust Four of Muskegon; the Roundhouse Four and Dreamers of Grand Rapids, the State Highway Four of Lansing, the Ballad Benders of Charlevoix, the Variety Four of Birmingham, the Four Jewells of Flint, the Owosso Elks and the Four Oaks of Royal Oak. The reader may wonder how we got so many District quartets into the National contest. In those days, there were no elimination contests and any quartet was eligible to compete. While this system, quite obviously, did not upgrade the standard of contest singing, it was more fun for everyone and particularly for the many quartets which entered merely for the fun of competing and not with the idea of taking honors. In some ways this system served the purpose of "preserving and encouraging" our kind of singing much better than the present arrangement because it provided fun, fulfilment and fellowship for a greater number of Society members.

The Ten Year History of the Society states that the dearth of top tenors made it necessary that we

have a rule barring anyone from singing in more than one competing quartet, but this rule was not adopted until after the National Contest at Grand Rapids where the writer sang with two competing quartets, the Dubious Four, with Tim Weber, Mort Gittleman and Joe Wolff, and the finalist Detroit Turners. Maybe the officials decided that I was singing tenor but I thought it was baritone. In any event, being the



only Society member to sing with two quartets in the same International contest has not brought me a Nobel Prize, either for promoting harmony or interfering with it, and I mention it here merely because it is necessary nowadays to cling to whatever small distinctions that are left. Another incident at Grand Rapids that year was that Jim Creed, well remembered for his high lyric tenor voice, sang in the prelims and finals without a tooth in his head. Jim's new dentures were not ready but he was, so he became the only "toothless tenor" on record in an International contest. I never did find out how the Stage Presence Judges scored this lack of uniformity - three guys with teeth and one without, but an obvious correction under these circumstances would be for the other three members of the quartet to have all their teeth yanked out.

One of the best decisions ever made by S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. was to appoint Carroll Adams as International Secretary following his term as International President in 1942. While most of us were too busy singing and enjoying ourselves to pay much attention to the administrative problems created by the rapid growth of the Society, Carroll was well aware of them and he proceeded to bring some order out of chaos by organizing an efficient International office. In the process, Carroll moved the Society, lock, stock and barrel to Detroit and established headquarters there and made Michigan the center of Barbershopping. While Adams was surrounded here and assisted by a group of Barbershoppers who were second to none in numbers, enthusiasm and dedication, it still was because of his vision, enterprise and hard work that Michigan became the leader in all things Barbershop. While we have every reason to be proud of the history of the Michigan District and the many great Barbershoppers who have con-

tributed to this history, let us reserve a special niche for Carroll Adams, a truly great one.

At one time, Michigan was the lea-



der in membership, in number of chapters, in number of quartets and in just about every facet of Barbershopping that could be counted, weighed or measured. We have hosted four International Contests and Conventions, ours was the first District and we had the first District contest; our Detroit Chapter held the first Parade of Quartets and we were the first to have a local association of chapters (now called areas). We have produced more than our share of International Officers and Board Members and Committee Chairmen. Even today, the Michigan District rates high when the ratio of Barbershoppers to the general population of the District is considered. A District with a population of twenty million should have more Barbershoppers than one with eight million.

Next Issue:
WINDSOR MAKES US INTERNATIONAL

(to be continued)



GRAND RAPIDS CHAPTER NEWS

On April 11, Grand Rapids held another highly successful Great Lakes Invitational Show, featuring the Blue Grass Student Union, the Happiness Emporium, our own Black Velvet, and the Nitty Gritty Good Time Four. A full night of singing and fun was enjoyed by all.

After the show, it was back to work preparing for the Traverse City award presentation. Grand Rapids extends its heartiest congratulations to Detroit #1 for winning the District Championship and to the Center Stage and the Saturday Night Feature for winning the right to represent the Pioneer District in Detroit this summer at International. We will be there in force to support you.

Looking ahead to International, Grand Rapids is busily preparing for competition, readying ourselves to represent our district. Each one of the chorus members, our director, and the wives are doing their share to get us to Detroit and ready for competition. We hope to see you all there.

John Wilder

OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

It's back to the old drawing board for Oakland County Chapter. Or more to the point in this case, back to the old rehearsal hall. While the Wolverine Chorus' second-place finish in the District Chorus Contest at Traverse City on April 25 was a creditable showing, it did not meet the Chapter's aspiration and expectation of finishing on top. Oakland County extends its congratulations to Detroit #1 Chapter's Motor City Chorus, but at the same time, paraphrasing the die-hard baseball fan's war cry, warns, "Wait Till Next October!"

All was not lost at Traverse City, however. Oakland County can claim credit for one-fourth of the District's 1981 champion quartet. Lee Hanson, the unparalleled bass of the Center Stage which will represent the Pioneer District at the convention in Detroit this coming July, is a long-time member of the Chapter. Another member of the Chapter, Bruce LaMarte, will be singing lead in the runner-up quartet, the Saturday Night Feature. The Chapter is proud, too, of its 4 Wheel Drive, a comparatively recently-formed quartet which placed seventh in its first try in the quartet contest.

In a most successful chorus seminar, on April 3, Oakland County Chapter sponsored a "Symposium in Musicology" at which Joe Liles and Dave Stevens of the International Music Staff led 90 avid Barbershoppers in a rewarding session of chorus do's and don'ts.

On May 1 and 2, the Wolverine Chorus was featured on the Sweet Adelines Great Lakes Chapter Show, "That's Entertainment." In one number, the chorus provided the background melody to the girls' counterpoint of "Lida Rose." Buffalo Bills, eat your hearts out!

The evening of Friday, June 5, at the Chapter's rehearsal hall, 1640 Stephenson Highway, in Troy, is the annual "Return of the Traveling Jug Night," the night when the Oakland County Chapter opens its heart - and purse - to the District's representatives in the International contests. This is an evening that no Pioneer Barbershopper ought to miss if he's in his right mind and fair voice -- or in one of those conditions.

COME ONE
COME ALL!



43rd INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION

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

July 5-12, 1981

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HAPPINESS EMPORIUM, 1975 Champions
THE INNSIDERS, 1976 Champions
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THE SCHMITT BROTHERS, 1951 Champions

8 p.m.

Wednesday

JULY 8th

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Detroit

All seats

\$5.00



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Or Call E. UPTON, 313/533-2645 after 6 P.M.

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ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

Tickets \$5.00. All Seats Reserved.
Make Check or Money Order Payable to S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

Got your all-events tickets?

Detroit prepares for the biggest show in Barbershopping

By golly, there's gonna' be a meetin' in Detroit comes July!

That's when the ringiest, singiest show of them all will turn the Motor City into the Harmony Capitol of the world. Yes, sir! Right here in Motor City.

The eyes and ears of the Barbershop world will be focused, and tuned to Detroit July 5-12 when the 43rd annual Convention and contests bring a full week of Barbershop Harmony to our town.

I sure hope you have your all-events tickets ordered or in hand by now, for this promises to be one of our biggest bashes to date — and perhaps the last time our annual International get-together will attract such a large number of members and fans. With transportation and expenses continuing to skyrocket around the globe, the future of larger conventions seems dim.

But that doesn't mean things are going slow for this year's convention. To the contrary, ticket sales are running at a brisk pace and hotels are filling up fast. In fact, quite a few are already filled.

So, if you have been putting off ordering your tickets, it could be downright embarrassing comes convention time. How could you explain it to the wife and kiddies if you missed out on the country's fourth largest convention, right here in your own backyard?

For the average Barbershopper, convention means one thing. Competition!

Believe me, there's a lot more to the Big One than the contests. The fellowship with harmony buffs from all over the world is worth the price of admission alone.

Many conventioners will be checking into the Detroit Plaza, our headquarters hotel, on Sunday evening before the official opening of the session. It's a leisurely time for getting together with old friends, making new friends, or just bustin' a chord or two.

Comes Monday, July 6, and the convention begins in earnest. The Executive Committee meets at 9 a.m. for the first of its sessions. At noon Don Givlin will open the registration desk, the Ladies Hospitality Room will greet visitors, and you will be able to browse and buy merchandise in the Barbershoppers' Shop. Reedie Wright will start things rolling at the Logopedics booth at the same hour.

The first of many tours scheduled for the week will begin at 12:30.

It would be impossible to list all the good things on the agenda for the week, but you won't want to miss out on the big night set aside for us at Tiger Stadium Tuesday when "Our guys" will be featured in a pre-game ceremony, and blocks of seats are reserved for the occasion.

The President's Ball is set for Tuesday at 9:30 p.m.. Wednesday the Barberteens have their get-acquainted party, and the singing gets started in earnest as seven past International Champions provide the entertainment in Cobo Arena at the big Past Champions show. This one is open to the public, and you can purchase your tickets by writing to Harold Kendall at P.O. Box 39283 Redford, Detroit, Mi. 48239. Tickets are still \$5.

Thursday the competition begins with the first quarter-final session starting at 12 noon. The second half starts at 7:30 in the evening. The annual PROBE meeting is set for 8:30 a.m. Thursday, with workshops for PR and Editors scheduled for Friday at the same hour.

Thursday night will be the first night for the Chorditorium. The number of quartets appearing on the Past Champions show precludes the feasibility of the Chorditorium on Wednesday night, so if you want to see and hear the champs, your best bet is to order your tickets now.

Friday morning at 10 sharp, Dr. Bob Johnson will hold court in Hart Plaza for the big Mass Sing, always one of the convention highlights. Don't miss it! You will never sing in a bigger chorus.

Quartet Semi-finals begin at 12:30 p.m., and if you are on hand Friday night at 8 you will be one of the first to know who will wear the gold medal for 1981.

Saturday at 9 a.m. you can have breakfast and get in on the fun with the people from Logopedics, and assist your favorite service project at the same time. You should be out in time to get ready for the Chorus contest at 1 p.m. If all this doesn't leave you exhausted, you can relax just long enough to make the big Saturday Night show at 8 and thrill to the best in the Barbershop Style.

And all that is just the tip of the iceberg. Every day is crammed full of meetings, conferences, luncheons, workshops, and tours. There's nothing quite like an International Convention. It really offers something for everyone. Ask any one who has ever been there. Just imagine! 10,000 people singing and ringing those old songs for a solid week.

Convention Chairman Bill Warner and his co-chairmen, Clay Jones and Bob Miquelon have planned a great week for all of us. Burt Schindler has made numerous trips from Kenosha to make sure we are doing it right. The numerous chairman-directors and their committee chairmen have been working hard to make sure no stone is unturned. Now it's up to we chordbusters here in Pioneer District to roll out the red carpet for our guests and make this the finest convention ever.

If you live within a reasonable distance of Detroit and haven't offered your services during convention week, there are several committees still looking for some extra help. Get in touch with your chapter president or Bill Warner and make yourself known. He will welcome your help.

And for those of you around the district who are too far out to be of assistance, you can still be a big help by just being here. It's been a long four years since Bill, Don Funk, and John Gillespie, along with Clay and Bob, went to Philadelphia in 1977 and secured the convention for Detroit. Longer still since they started putting the bid together.

Now the time is almost here. Let's all enjoy it. The convention will never be closer to your home.

—Roger O. Morris

THE QUAGMIRE

SYNDROME

By BUD HARVEY

A study team from the Rancid P. Butter-milk Research Institute has issued a white paper confirming what many of us suspected all along. The odious baritone practice of hiking one shoulder during the resolution of a sneaky chord progression doesn't help matters at all. It's just a bald-faced grandstand play designed to perpetuate the myth that the baritone part is as difficult to master as the Basque language.

"The fact is," said the report, "the baritone part consists of only three notes and it makes little difference in which order they are sung."

Arthur Quagmire, leader of the study group (and composer of the Institute's fight song), reported that his group had conducted its extensive research last summer in Cincinnati during a group therapy session of an obscure singing organization known as S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. He said he had no idea what the initials stand for.

"They probably relate in some way," said Quagmire, "to the peculiar style of singing. Participation appears to be limited to four gentlemen, one of whom carries the air while two others contribute what clearly must be bass and tenor. The role of the fourth singer is somewhat obscure. He was identified to our investigators as a "Barry". This was later clarified to mean 'baritone' and it was explained that he fumbles around during the song, looking for unoccupied tones... frequently without success."

Apparently the role of the baritone in these quartets fascinated the Quagmire team. The terms "lugubrious" and "thoughtful" and even "worried-looking" are applied at various times in identifying this quartet member. The convulsive hunching of the shoulder was noted by all members of the study team and a substantial part of the thesis is devoted to speculation on the subject. The conclusion reached by some investigators was that the shoulder hunch is an expression of some form of acute gastric distress.

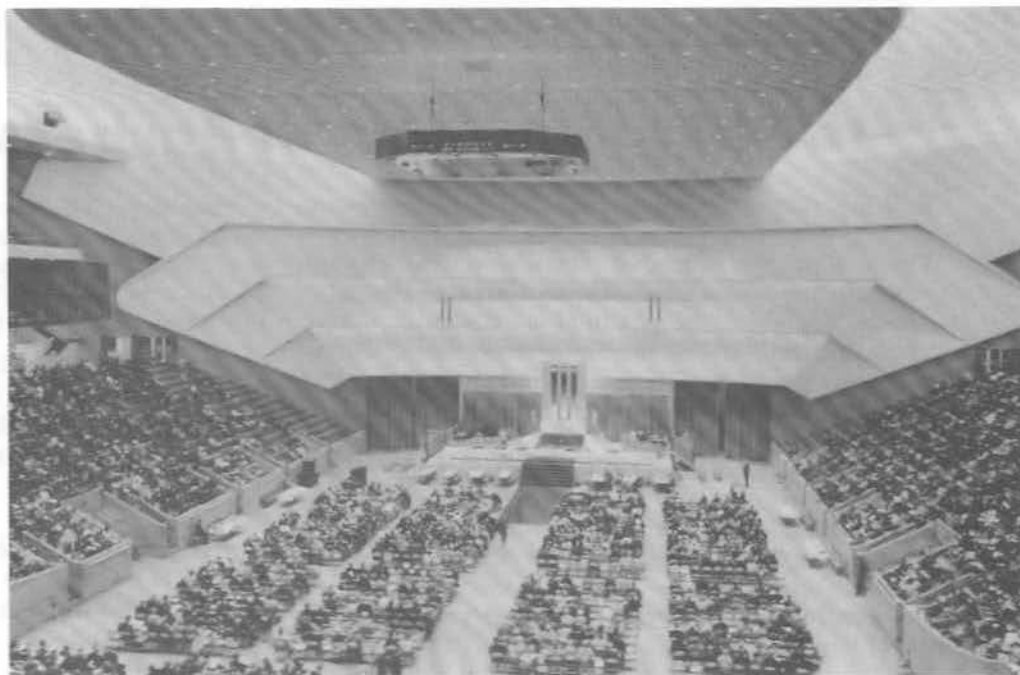
"It is our feeling that these men are assigned the less assertive baritone part because they so suffer from gastric dis-



turbance. We believe they need medical treatment and it is our recommendation that all baritones in these so-called 'barbershop' quartets be advised to abandon their search for a concealed note and report to the nearest medical clinic for observation..."

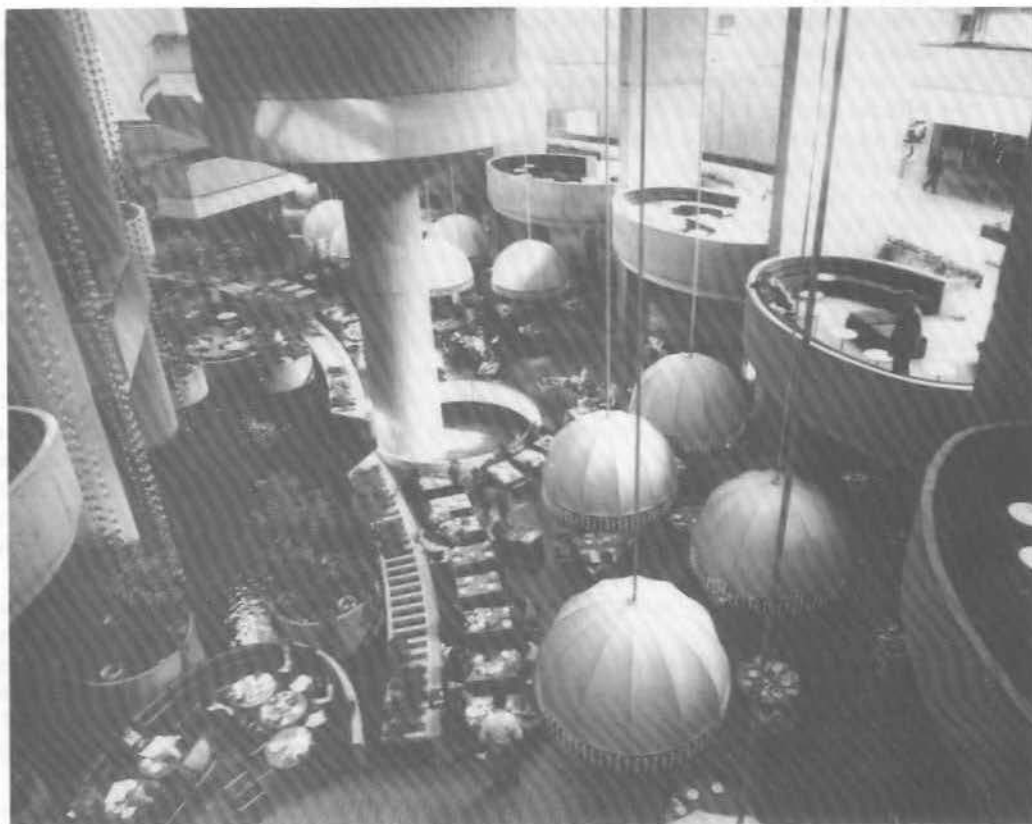
The report goes on to define the compulsive shoulder tic as the "Quagmire Syndrome" in deference to their group leader who first called their attention to it. Quagmire himself, however, said he had reservations about assigning a medical explanation to the phenomenon.

"I am preparing an appendix to the report," he said. "While not discounting the physical explanation entirely, I am inclined to believe that shoulder hunch has a strong psychological significance. I rather suspect the baritone is actually informing you that he is applying pressure to the chord... squeezing it, so to speak. I think I will prefer to call it the 'Showboat Syndrome'. And now, if you'll excuse me, gentlemen, I must excuse myself. I'm learning the baritone part to 'Yona'."



A VIEW OF BEAUTIFUL, CIRCULAR COBO ARENA, SITE OF THE QUARTET AND CHORUS CONTESTS. THE ARENA WILL SEAT NEARLY 12,000 BARBERSHOPPERS, AND IS ONLY A FIVE-MINUTE STROLL FROM THE HEADQUARTERS HOTEL.

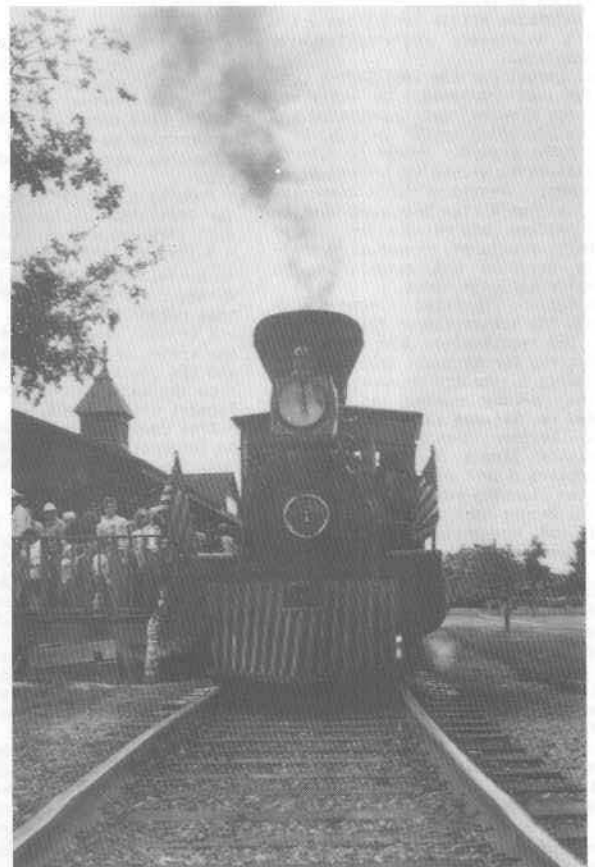
CASUAL DINING IN AN OUTDOOR ATMOSPHERE IS ONE OF THE ATTRACTIONS OF THE CAFE RENAISSANCE (below) IN THE EIGHT-STORY ATRIUM OF THE DETROIT PLAZA IN THE RENAISSANCE CENTER. THE CAFE IS ONE OF TWO DOZEN RESTAURANTS, LOUNGES OR FOOD SERVICES LOCATED THROUGHOUT THE CENTER.





The beautiful riverfront Renaissance Center sparkles behind the Dodge Fountain, centerpiece of the 10-acre "people place," Philip A Hart Plaza. The Detroit Plaza Hotel, rising from the center of the Ren-Cen, will be the Headquarters for the 43rd International Barbershop Convention, S.P.E. B.S.S.A., Inc., July 5-12, 1981. The Hart Plaza will be 'the' place to be on Friday morning as more than 10,000 Barbershoppers are expected to gather for the "Mass Sing." Situated directly between Headquarters and Cobo Arena, the site of all contest activities, the Hart Plaza is sure to

be the place where thousands of Barbershoppers will meet to renew old acquaintances and 'bust a chord' or two. Picturesque old trolleys add to the atmosphere as they run from the Ren-Cen, past Cobo Arena, to Washington Boulevard and the Book Cadillac Hotel. These old trolleys are sure to be a favorite singing spot for many quartets. While at Convention, be sure to take in the Greenfield Village/Henry Ford Museum Tour. It will be one of the highlights of your week! The Village is a 200-acre outdoor museum with working craft chops, historic homes and public buildings dramatizing American Heritage from the 1640's to the late 19th Century. An authentic steam engine is just one of the ways of seeing the village. The Henry Ford Museum (below) features collections of fine arts, machinery, agriculture and transportation in a magnificent park setting. Behind this facade are 14 acres of historic Americana.





PIONEER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING - 2/22/81.
UAW Hall #652, Lansing, Michigan

The meeting was called to order at 1:07 by President Jones.

All Directors were present except DVP Wheeler and Secretary McClinchey.

Also present: Committee Chairmen Butler, Funk, Gillespie and Warner. Also Acting Secretary West and International Field Representative Cogan. Director of Music Education, Bill Butler, led in the singing of "The Old Songs".

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$4,453.03 as of January 31, 1981.

IBM McTaggart's report summarized actions made at the Mid-Winter Board Meeting in San Diego.

International Field Representative Cogan addressed the assembly regarding the Society's Achievement Award Program. He stressed that chapter secretaries should be aware that points from the monthly green card are the only points credited to the chapters. The quarterly report is used as a verifying document. President Jones will send a clarifying letter to the chapters in this regard.

EVP Gougeon's report was submitted outlining the status of the AIC Scholarship, Hall of Fame, District Convention Schedule, District Logo and Field Representative visits to the District.

Fall Convention Chairman Gillespie submitted a budget for the 1981 Fall Convention in Kalamazoo. The issue of the Kalamazoo Hotels requiring a \$25 deposit with every registration will be questioned.

The budget for the 1981 Spring Convention was reviewed. An entry of \$800 for staging was questioned and will be clarified by EVP Gougeon.

All DVPs present submitted reports on activities within their respective divisions. President Jones announced that Division 4 Vice President Wheeler had submitted his resignation due to business pressures. The Board reluctantly accepted his resignation. No successor has been named.

DME Butler submitted a report outlining the activities of his committee: The registration for the Winter Quartet and Coaching was down somewhat presumably due to the economy; the fee for the Harmony Round-Up has been increased to \$55 due to increased charges by Eastern Michigan University; "Operation Direct Hit" courses for prospective chorus directors are well into the planning stages.

Bill Warner delivered a report on behalf of Membership and Extension Committee Chairman Don Funk, stressing this year's theme of "1981 - The Year to RE-MEMBER."

Logopedics Chairman Durham's report showed contributions for 1980 totaling \$12,905.38. Harmony Foundation Awards will go to 16 chapters. A new traveling Logopedics Trophy has been established by the Great Lakes Express quartet to go to the quartet contributing the most money to Logopedics in a given calendar year.

International Convention Chairman Warner reviewed convention progress to date. In conjunction with the 1981 International Convention, president Jones appointed Board Members Greger-

sen, Horton and LaBumbard to a District Hospitality Room Committee. A report will be submitted at the Spring Board Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- The advisability for establishing the Joe Dean Memorial Traveling Trophy for quartets with the best stage presence scores at District Competition was discussed. A motion was made and seconded that in light of the adequate recognition of the stage presence category in the International Contest Rules, the proposal be rejected. Motion carried. The Secretary was instructed to send a letter to Tom Hunter notifying him of the Board's action.

- EVP Gougeon submitted suggested logo themes that had been designed by students at Macomb Community College. It was suggested that District participation in the logo contest be encouraged.

- A District Convention Manual should be ready for submission to the House of Delegates at the 1981 Fall Meeting.

- Former DVP Neff submitted a tentative Area Counselor Evaluation Form to the Board. Immediate Past President LaBumbard will finalize and submit same to the Spring Board Meeting.

- The Area Counselor was elected for the 1980 Area Counselor of the Year Award. The presentation will be made at the Spring House of Delegates Meeting.

- It was affirmed that the minutes of previous Board and House of Delegates meetings need not be approved at a subsequent meeting before they can be published in the Troubadour. The Secretary will submit minutes to the editor as they are completed.

- A Kick-Off Rally for the 1981 International Convention was discussed. Suggestions for same will be accepted and discussed at the Spring Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The placement of non-eligible choruses who perform in the chorus contest was discussed. The C & J Committee will review the possibility of having said choruses perform first on the program so that they may watch the competing choruses from the auditorium.

- President Jones' letter to the Chapter Presidents explaining the proposed dues increase was reviewed.

- A list of chapters who are past due on monies owed International was discussed. The affected DVPs will pursue this matter.

- A letter requesting information on the rate of exchange between Canada and the United States was received from the Northeast District. IBM McTaggart will respond.

- Area Counselor Weston suggested that an International Barbershopper-Of-The-Year be elected. IBM McTaggart will research this with the International Board.

- The proposal by the Traverse City Chapter to reduce the admission charge for the Saturday night show at the Spring Convention was rejected.

- The AuSable Valley Chapter's proposal to amend the District By-Laws was discussed. The proposal is in conflict with the By-Laws which states in Article 7.02 that there will be no proxy or absentee voting. The issue will be discussed at the Spring House of Delegates Meeting.

- The voting status of the Director of Music Education was discussed. It was generally agreed that he should be a voting member of the Board. Motion was made and seconded that the Board propose to the House of Delegates that Article 7.01 of the District By-Laws

be amended to include the words "Director of Music Education." Motion carried.

- The District will donate a leaded glass replica of the Society Emblem to the Logopedics Raffle at the International Convention.

- The problem of knowing who the voting members are at the House of Delegates meetings was discussed. It was agreed that in the future, non-voting observers at the House of Delegates meetings will be segregated in the room.

- The motion was made and seconded that the Board approve expenses to the extent of mileage and one night's lodging for the Chairman of the Credentials Committee at the House of Delegates meetings. The motion carried.

The summer Board Meeting will be held in conjunction with the First Annual Saginaw-Bay Chapter Campout on August 1, 1981, at 1:00 P.M..

DME Butler led in the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing".

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

PIONEER DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING - 4/24/81.
Park Place Motor Inn, Traverse City, MI

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 P.M. by President Jones.

All directors were present.

Also present: Committee Chairmen Butler, Durham, Funk and Warner. Also International Field Representative Cogan and International Vice President Vomacka.

DVP Horton led in the singing of "The Old Songs".

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as submitted.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$3,094.89 as of March 31, '81.

IBM McTaggart's report was an update of the previous report presented at the February Board of Director's meeting. He again summarized the actions taken at the International Mid-Winter meeting.

Each of the DVPs presented written reports on the activities within their divisions. President Jones announced that no replacement has been found for the office of Vice President in Division IV. He solicited the Board's recommendations in this matter.

Spring Convention Chairman Murphy welcomed the Board of Directors to Traverse City.

EVP Gougeon presented a written report outlining his activities. He announced that bids have been received for both the 1983 Spring and Fall District Conventions. After reviewing the bids, the Board decided to recommend to the House of Delegates that the Spring Convention be awarded to the Wayne Chapter and the Fall Convention be awarded to the Oakland County Chapter. He also indicated that four entries have been received for the District Logo Contest. No cut-off date has been established.

DME Butler presented a written report summarizing the activities of his committee. He announced that the new "Direct Hit" program was well underway. He also announced the tentative faculty for the September "Harmony Round-Up".

In an effort to reduce the fixed costs of the Troubadour, President Jones announced that Communications Chairman Rueggeger is considering soliciting printing bids and also exploring the possibility of going to a professional magazine format with paid advertising garnered from outside businesses and groups.

Membership and Extension Chairman Funk reported on possible extension sites. Kalkaska appears to hold the

best possibilities at this time. Funk and Field Representative Cogan held a meeting with interested parties. Funk also called for greater participation on the part of all chapter members to attend convention activities in order to help keep the District financially healthy.

International Field Representative Cogan outlined a new International Recruitment Program to the Board. It will concentrate on recruiting new members from specific professional areas. (i.e. the medical profession, educators, business people). The Board agreed to present the program to the House of Delegates to determine whether or not the Pioneer District should serve as the experimental district for this program.

Logopedics Chairman Durham presented a report showing that \$12,905.38 was contributed by the District in 1980. So far in 1981, \$1,943.50 has been contributed. He also announced that a stained glass replica of the Society symbol will be the Pioneer District's contribution to the Logopedics Raffle at the 1981 International Convention.

One new nomination was received for the District Hall of Fame. It was agreed to table on the Hall of Fame until the August Board Meeting.

The Audit Committee reported that the books, records and financial statements for the year ended December 31, 1980 are in order.

International Convention Chairman Warner reported that convention registration stands at 7,100 as of this date. Everything is proceeding on schedule and no major problems are anticipated.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President Jones announced that Troubadour Editor Rueggeger will be in charge of the District PROBE Booth at the International Convention. Dr. Vomacka indicated that due to apparent lack of interest on the part of most of the Districts, there was a possibility that there would be no PROBE displays this year.

- Past President LaBumbard, Chairman of the District Hospitality Committee, reported that a room was available at the Headquarters hotel. The committee recommended that the District host a hospitality room on Friday and Saturday nights of the convention. The committee requested a \$500 advance to cover any contingencies. The motion was made and seconded that the room be open on Friday and Saturday nights and that the monies be advanced. Motion carried.

- IBM McTaggart reported on the progress of the District ceramic lapel pins. A possible source of these pins in Houston, Texas will be pursued.

- EVP Gougeon indicated that work is progressing well on the District Convention Manual, and that it hopefully will be available for review by the Fall Board Meeting.

- President Jones reported that four nearby districts are actively considering a change in convention dates to help ease the problems of Judges' availability on the same weekend that the Pioneer District holds its convention.

- Past President LaBumbard presented the proposed Area Counselor evaluation form as developed by former DVP Neff. This was designed primarily to aid in the selection of the Area Counselor of the Year and to provide a common set of criteria. The motion was made and seconded to table action until the August Board meeting so that the Board members may have time to evaluate same. Motion carried.

- IBM McTaggart reported that the International Board of Directors have discussed the problem of Canadian cur-

continued next page...

more BOARD MINUTES.....

rency exchange in regard to International Conventions. There are no simple answers to this problem until the rate of exchange approaches parity. He also indicated that the suggestion to elect an International Barbershopper of the Year was discussed, as suggested by one of the members of the Pioneer District. The Board felt that this was too unwieldy a proposition due to the vastness of the Society and that these awards are more meaningful if they remain at the District level.

The next meeting of the Pioneer District Board of Directors will be held at 1:00 P.M. August 1 at the Bay City State Park in conjunction with the First Annual Saginaw-Bay Chapter Camp-out.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing" at 3:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

PIONEER DISTRICT
HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING - 4/25/81
Park Place Motor Inn, Traverse City, MI

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 a.m. by President Jones. Director of Music Education Butler led in the singing of "The Old Songs". International Convention Chairman Warner offered the invocation.

A quorum was declared present by Credentials Chairman Dyer.

The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting was accepted as written.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance as of March 31, 1981 of \$3,094.89.

Treasurer Schneider presented the proposed Pioneer District budget for 1981 showing a total operating income of \$18,611. A motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed budget as presented. Motion passed.

International Convention Chairman Warner updated the delegation on the 1981 International Convention. All is in order, though he did solicit additional manpower to serve on the various committees where needed. Registration for the convention is currently at 7,100 people.

International Board Member McTaggart reported on highlights of the International Mid-Winter Convention: International Convention minimum seating has been scaled down to 8,500 from 10,000 due partly to the economy and also because of the potential of closed-circuit television; changes and clarifications in contest and judging; the use of female chorus directors is prohibited; and a new point structure for Chapter Achievement Awards will be presented to the International Board in Detroit.

Executive Vice President Gougeon, after outlining his written report, announced that bids have been received for the 1983 Spring and Fall Conventions. On recommendations from the Board of Directors, the delegates approved the Wayne Chapter to host the Spring Convention and the Oakland Co. Chapter to host the Fall Convention.

Each of the DVPs present introduced his respective Area Counselors and fielded questions generated from his written report. President Jones announced that no candidate was forthcoming for the office of DVP in Division IV at this time.

Director of Music Education Butler summarized the activities of his committee; announced that the faculty for the Fall "Harmony Round-Up" has been tentatively selected; indicated that the "Direct Hit" program was well under way; and stated that the Quartet and Coaching Clinic in February was an

academic success, although he expressed disappointment in the small number of registrants.

Communications Officer Ruegsegger indicated that every effort is being made to lower the cost of publishing the Troubadour including soliciting printing bids from additional sources and going to a magazine format with paid advertising for businesses and groups outside the Society. He also announced that there will be a District Bulletin Contest for 1981.

Membership and Extension Chairman Funk announced that Kalkaska appears to be a fairly good site for possible extension. He urged that all delegates explore any possibilities for other likely sites. He pointed out that if there was greater participation in convention activities, dues increases would not have to be considered.

International Field Representative Cogan presented an International Recruitment Program proposal to the delegates. It will emphasize recruiting within certain professional groups such as educators, the medical profession and the business community. The Pioneer District was asked to serve as a "Test District" to give this new program a five-month trial. The motion was made and seconded to accept this program. Motion carried.

Logopedics Chairman Durham's report showed that so far in 1981, \$1,943.50 has been contributed to Logopedics. Sixteen chapters are eligible for the 1980 Harmony Foundation Awards to be presented at the evening show. A stained glass replica of the Society emblem will be the District's contribution for the raffle at the 1981 International Convention.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- President Jones solicited more participation in the District Logo Contest.

- Communications Officer Ruegsegger will be in charge of the PROBE booth at the International Convention in Detroit.

- Past President LaBumbard outlined the plans for the District Hospitality Room at the 1981 International Convention. The room will be open on Friday and Saturday nights after competition.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Proposed Resolution for Amendment to the District By-Laws 1: "The office of the Director of Music Education shall be a part of the District Board of Directors". Motion made and seconded to make the Director of Music Education a part of the Board of Directors. Motion passed.

- Proposed Resolution for Amendment to the District By-Laws 2: "The District dues shall be increased from \$7 per year to \$10 per year beginning with the third quarter, 1981." After considerable discussion, the motion was made and seconded to increase the District dues to \$10 per year. Motion passed.

- The delegate from the Battle Creek Chapter made a motion that a committee be appointed to study the possibility that the District levy a surcharge on annual chapter shows for the financial benefit of the District. The motion was seconded. Motion passed.

- The proposal from the AuSable Chapter to allow voting in House of Delegates meetings by proxy or absentee ballots was presented by the Board of Directors without recommendation because it is contrary to the Standard District Constitution, Article 7.02. The delegate from the AuSable Chapter made a motion that the proposal be submitted to the International Board

of Directors. The motion was seconded. The motion was defeated.

- International Achievement Awards were presented to the following Chapters: Plateau I, Traverse City; Plateau II, Port Huron; Plateau III, Benton Harbor - St. Joseph; Plateau IV, Lansing; Plateau V, Grand Rapids.

- District Achievement Awards were presented to the following Chapters: Silver Division, Benton Harbor - St. Joseph; Gold Division, Wayne.

- Executive Vice President Gougeon presented the Area Counselor of the Year Award to Robert T. McDermott of Division I.

International Representative Dr. Henry Vomacka addressed the delegation briefly, stressing that financially the Society is healthy but with inflation, etc. there could be problems "down the road". He urged greater use of the "Pay-As-You-Go-Joe" plan. The Society has lost 200,000 members since its inception some forty-two years ago. Leadership and good programming, he stated, are the real keys to a successful chapter.

Director of Music Education Butler led the delegation in the singing of "Keep The Whole World Singing" to close the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shirley M. McClintock

PORT HURON CHAPTER NEWS

The dream is lofty;
The pay is low.
The job is director -
The need is now!
The rhyme is lousy,
but the gang is not -
give us your effort;
we'll give what we've got!

The Port Huron Chapter is seeking the services of a chorus director. We can offer some positive points to consider, not the least of which is a challenging opportunity to work with a nucleus of enthusiastic Barbershoppers. We're involved in and committed to a membership growth program. We need a director who can help us grow. If your curiosity is aroused, why not call one of the following numbers to learn more?

President - Tom Waddell (313) 392-2305
Secretary - Jim Regan (313) 765-9006
PVP - Chuck Warren (800) 572-3624 X-40

REGISTRATION for
PIONEER'S ANNUAL "HARMONY ROUNDUP"
(Mini-hep)
SEPT. 18-20, 1981

NAME _____ Class _____
(student or quartet)
If Quartet: _____ Alternate 1 _____
Tenor _____ Lead _____ 2 _____
Bari _____ Bass _____
ADDRESS _____ Total Fee: \$55.00 per man
CITY _____ ZIP _____ Deposit with Reg.
PHONE _____ (area) _____ \$25.00 per man
MAIL TO: W. D. Butler
33748 Pawnee Dr.
Westland, MI. 48185
Please: Make all checks & MOs payable to:
PIONEER DISTRICT SPSBQSA
Deposits will not be refunded unless notice of cancellation is received on or before September 8, 1981.

DO IT NOW----- NEXT WEEK MAY BE TOO LATE!!:

**Musical Notes
from
the Big Bear**

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

--MAKE YOUR PLANS NOW TO ATTEND ---
Harmony Round-Up - Sept. 18-20, 1981.

We hope to make the 1981 'Harmony Round-Up' a record school with the largest attendance ever, and the most fun in a learning weekend. To do this, we need your participation. Sooo, get your registration in poste haste, because we need to know HOW MANY and WHAT CLASSES to enable us to have adequate faculty and a smooth-running schedule. The following subjects are being offered:

1. Basic Craft - A must for all new Barbershoppers. Don't take any other class until you've had BASIC CRAFT.
2. Introduction to Barbershop - Beginning Arranging.
3. Beginning Chorus Directing - for all would-be arm wavers who aspire to become Chorus Directors. (especially if you attend the 'Direct Hit' classes in your Division.
4. Advanced Chorus Directing - for all those who are now directing a chorus or have directed in the past, and for those who have taken Beg. Cho. Dir.
5. Advanced Arranging - for those who have enough musical knowledge, and have taken Intro to Barbershop.
6. Coaching - for those who have had sufficient musical training and wish to study quartet and chorus coaching.
7. Quartet Clinic and Workshop. WE ARE LIMITED TO TEN QUARTETS, because of space. FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED!

REGISTER NOW!
8. Emceeing - Will only be taught if we have enough enrollment to make it worthwhile.

(WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO CANCEL ANY CLASS WITH INSUFFICIENT ENROLLMENT)

We have confirmations for the following faculty members: Dr. Bob Johnson, Joe Liles, Dave Stevens, Dr. Greg Lyle Gary Bolles, Mac Huff, Merle Clayton, Lyle Pettigrew, and 'definite maybes' on Lloyd Steinkamp, Fred King, Brian Beck and Doran McTaggart.

Take advantage of the 'Direct Hit' program in your Division. If you want more information on this program, contact your DME or your DVP.

Ass't. Director of Music Ed., Jim Stevens is now back with us. He didn't like Houston, Texas!



WHAT A WEEKEND

CENTER STAGE and SATURDAY NIGHT FEATURE win PIONEER Prelims.

The weather was cool but the competition was HOT at the International Quartet Preliminaries held in Traverse City on April 24-25, 1981. Center Stage proved to be the class of the competition and won "going away." This very experienced quartet should do quite well at International this year. In fact, if there's any such thing as a "home-court advantage," who knows what might happen right here in Detroit!

The Saturday Night Feature came out of a tightly-packed semi-final to take second place rather handily, with the Sounds Around nailing down the alternate spot.

In Saturday's District Chorus Contest, the Motor City Chorus, from Detroit #1, staged 60 men and won the "beer bet" from Oakland County to become the 1981 Pioneer District Chorus Champions. Oakland County is the new Gold Division Champion and Gratiot County is the new Silver Division Champion.

It was also most heartening to see four choruses enter the contest even though they were ineligible from a "numbers" standpoint. I believe they will profit from the experience and, with a few more singers on stage, they'll do quite well. Rumor has it that there's more interest now in the "McTaggart Memorial Trophy" than in the District Championship!?!

The Traverse City Chapter were excellent hosts and are to be congratulated.

The Convention Calendar now reads as follows:

- 1981 - FALL - Oct 16-18 Kalamazoo
- 1982 - SPRING - Apr 23-25 Lansing
- 1982 - FALL - Oct 15-17 Gr Rapids
- 1983 - SPRING - April 22-24 Wayne
- 1983 - FALL - Oct 14-16 Oakland Co



ATTENTIONNOSTALGIA BUFFS.....

Antique Porcelain Barber Chair
For Sale - \$200.00 - Era 1915
Fully Functional - Very Good Cond.

call Don Smith - (313) 455-4981



ERRATA...

...ERRATA...

"To err is human. . .", but maddening, frustrating and disappointing! Your District Secretary has erred -- again. Not the first time and probably not the last. Until now, I think my biggest goof was leaving the Executive Vice President out of the list of Pioneer District Officers in the 1980 District Directory. Now I have managed to top that because it involves a lot more people and affects the Spring Competition Award for the Silver Division Chorus winner. As most of you know, the Silver Award went to the Lansing Chapter Chorus. It should have been awarded to the Gratiot County Chapter Chorus.

This in no way affects the contest scores or the order of finish. It only means that I inadvertently, through a typing error, placed Lansing in the Silver Division instead of the Gold Division where they rightfully belong. This means that the next highest-scoring chorus, Gratiot County, is the Silver Division winner.

I am sorry for the inconvenience and confusion this has caused, to say nothing of the chagrin I feel. Please accept my apology.



WANTED: CAMP COUNSELOR / CLINICIAN

Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, located near Lake Michigan between Ludington and Muskegon, is looking for a Society man to teach our Barbershop Harmony Style to the eager young talented youths that attend this prestigious summer camp. Instead of having just any choir director, the Blue Lake music faculty needs someone who can devote a couple of weeks to teaching our style to junior high and high school youth. The dates are June 17 thru July 5. I will be attending M.S.U. this summer doing grad work or I would be there myself. If you are willing to share some of your Barbershop knowledge and counseling to the musically talented youth of the Midwest, please call me for more details:

Al Fisk
phone (313) 651-0871 (home)
542-3910 (work)

STEPHEN SUTHERLAND 106811
697 ADAMS 141 DEC 81
PLYMOUTH MI 48170

Second Class Mail

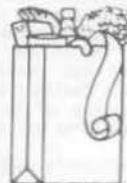
HERE'S A BARBERSHOPPER!

POSTMASTER: Please return all undeliverable mail to 17336 Harper, Detroit, Michigan 48224.

PIONEER DISTRICT

SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA

BARBER SHOPPING IS MY BAG



MUSKEGON CHAPTER

We are preparing for our 40th Anniversary Show to be held at 8:00 P. M., on May 22, 1981, at the Frauenthal Center. In preparation for this we will be singing at the May fest at Muskegon Community College on May 17th. We currently have between 20 and 30 men singing in our chorus.

Due to health problems, Ken Davis has had to resign as our Musical Director. Our new Director is William Maple, of Grand Rapids. We really appreciate all that Ken has done for our chorus and we look forward to more exciting things from our new Director.

One of our newest members, Wilbur Schäfer, passed away on April 22,



1981. Although we had only known Wilbur for a short time, he was a good, hard-working member and we will miss him. We extend our sympathy to his wife and family.

Berney Kitchen