

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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

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pioneer TROUBADOUR



Beautiful MILLER AUDITORIUM at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo,
Michigan - contest site of the 1981 Pioneer District Fall Convention,
S. P. E. B. S. Q. S. A., October 16 - 18, 1981.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



ALPENA

Well, its been some time since you have heard from us, but if you think we have been annexed by Soo, Ontario don't believe it. It just takes a little longer for things to happen up here. One of the things that just happened was the 19th edition of the Harrisville Harmony Weekend. Our Chapter has the pleasure of being the host for the Sunday Concert mainly because it's held practically in our back yard. We had 83% of our chapter membership at the event but we decline the trophy each year because we are so close. Even though we had nothing to do with the origin of the Harrisville event, it seems that each year we become more and more involved. Our 2nd Annual Look-out Mtn. Chapter Meeting was a fine success and we surely appreciate all those who came from the State Park to sing with us - particularly the group from O.C.C.

Both of the quartets in our Chapter - the 4 Of A Kind and the Harbortones - have been busy this past summer doing jobs in places as far away as Petosky and Mackinac City. Let's face it, when you're the only two quartets for virtually hundreds of miles, you have a sort of "monopoly" on things.

The Lumberman's Chorus, under the direction of its new director, Ted Johnson (reknown lead of the Harbor Tones), is busy working on tunes for our next annual show to be held in May. All the men of the chorus would like to publicly thank our previous director, Bill "Duffy" Daugherty, for giving us five super years of his time and talent. We enjoyed some good times with Bill who, by the way, will still be singing in our lead section.

Well, folks, if you want to hear some "concrete" chords, come up and see us some time. Cement City is where it's at, and that's that!

Bruce VandenBosch

FAMOUS LAST CHORDS

10TH NIGHT OF HARMONY



"I know where we can get our suits cleaned for nothing. . ."

OAKLAND COUNTY

The 1981 version of the Annual Harmony Happening at Harrisville was the Omega and Alpha - to reverse the usual order - for Oakland County Chapter. It was the end of a full but orderly summer, highlighted by the International Convention. And it was the beginning of a vigorous, concentrated effort by the Chapter's Wolverine Chorus to win the District Chorus Contest in Kalamazoo on October 17. With that goal, Chorus Director, Al Fisk, persuaded Carl Dahlke, of Auto Towners fame, to take on the job of coaching the chorus. In announcing the arrangement, Chapter President, Don McDaniel, said, "Al Fisk's youthful enthusiasm and music savvy and Carl Dahlke's Barbershop experience and background is a combination sure to put us on the path to the District Championship." The Wolverine Chorus last represented the Pioneer District in International competition in 1972 and the Chapter members are determined that it is time to do it again.

Oakland County Chapter has found it necessary, at times, to sing its own praises. Ever since the beginning of the year, in Achievement Scores in Plateau 5, Oakland County has been Number 1 in the Pioneer District and is topped by only 6 other chapters in the whole Society!

Thirty-five Oakland County Chapter members and their families celebrated a soggy but tuneless Labor Day holiday at the 1981 Harrisville Harmony Happening. Thanks to the considerable clout of that dean of Pioneer tenors, Art Linde, this year's Barbershoppers had a place to continue their harmonizing after the "Quiet Hour" hushed up the State Park. Ex-Oakland County-ite Linde arranged to move the after-hours singing to a site across the road from the park. Let that be a lesson, Park Rangers!

A new and delightful feature, this year at Harrisville, was a wine-and-cheese parth hosted by Jean and Curt Seely on Saturday night. The fish fry, scheduled by Don Cline and Dave Williams, had to be cancelled out!

Flashback: In the previous (August September, 1981) issue of the TROUBADOUR, this column reported, in connection with sold-out reservations for Stroh Brewery tours during the International Convention, that a Chapter member "waxed wroth." Since then the TROUBADOUR's switchboard has been clogged with calls inquiring about wroth waxing. For directions on how to wax a wroth, write to the TROUBADOUR, enclosing a self-addressed, stamped envelope.



WAYNE

Our Chapter report to the Troub has been missing the last two issues and it's all my fault. You see, I was so busy with Pine Knob III and the very successful International Convention that I plumb forgot! Well, not exactly forgot, but I was having so much fun that the time slipped right by me. You know how that is...right?

We, of the Wayne Chapter mourn the passing of one of our stalwarts - Bob Miller. Your humble reporter was away visiting offspring and was not able to join Wayne's Wonderland Chorus at the memorial service, but, knowing my own feelings about Bob, I can mentally put myself in that choir loft and suffer the same difficulties my brothers in Wayne had in singing their hearts out.

Bob Miller had been a Barbershopper a long, long time, and he will be sorely missed. The bass section of Wayne's Wonderland Chorus is among the finest in Pioneer District, and Bob Miller's leadership in that section is the first on the list of reasons. He also lent his time and electronics expertise at the recent International Convention in Detroit, working with Bill Pascher and Jim Stephens on the Stage Committee.

I am told that Kathleen Klepaczyk was at the memorial service. That chokes me up, too.

Please join us in extending deepest sympathy to Bob's family.

By the time this issue goes to press, we will have survived another Harrisville Harmony Happening, another Mini-Hep School, in Ypsi, another "serious" quartet contest with the Grosse Pointe Chapter, another coaching session with Dave Schmidt (what a patient and diplomatic person he is!), another Plymouth Fall Festival...and etc.

Undaunted by an admittedly mediocre performance on the Cobo Arena Stage last July 11, the Wonderland Chorus is 'putting it all together' for another shot at the 'biggie' at Kalamazoo on October 17. You'll know we were there!

Bob Miquelon

Go ahead - Sing to a bird this week! They've sung to us for a long time, and, if your neighbor questions you, you can tell him, "My singing is for the birds!" (He may already know that!)



To ALL Barbershoppers...



Did you ever think you'd like to be the guy waving his arms in front of the chorus? Maybe it was just a brief, secret, fleeting thought? Then you quickly dismissed the idea because you have no musical training, you don't sight read well, and you can't tell one chord from another.

If you've ever felt that way -- read on! You may have more in common with our successful men of music than you think! Many of our outstanding directors were made, not born! The majority learned their trade after they joined a Barbershop chapter.

What kind of people are these successful directors? What are their "strong suits"? Why did they succeed where others failed.

Let's list some of the qualities of a good director. Our better people possess many, or all, of these qualities.

1. They are salesmen! They can sell songs and motivate people. Men get excited listening to these people talk about shows, sing-outs and rehearsals.

2. They have a "feel" for music. They have a good sense of rhythm and hear "out-of-tune" chords.

3. They have natural athletic ability...that is, they are well coordinated.

4. They have a positive attitude toward themselves, their fellow Barbershoppers, their families, their friends, and their jobs.

5. They are open minded, flexible and willing to learn from every new experience.

6. They are energetic and not afraid of hard work.

7. They sing (or did sing) in a quartet and love(d) every minute of it.

This list could go on, but I think you begin to see the pattern. Why do we not include music training? Do we not think it's important? On the contrary...We'd all like to have a director with the attributes mentioned above and music too! But these guys are few and far between. We must solve our director shortage problem from within our own membership. Take a Barbershopper with a positive attitude, an open mind, a feel for music, good coordination, lots of energy who can sell, and he will learn what he needs to know about music. We think there are lots of men in our ranks right now who fit this description. What about you?

The next logical question is...do we have programs to assist a Barbershopper who wants to become a di-

rector? Yes! Yes! Yes! You, and anyone in your chapter, can take advantage of them.

They are:

1. A full time music staff of 5 people in Kenosha. These men will answer questions (by phone or mail), give advice, and offer chapter and school training sessions in all sixteen districts. (Chorus directing at a level for all students is offered) Other courses may include basic music theory, sight singing, arranging and vocal techniques.

2. In addition to the above district schools, there is the annual Harmony College. This is a week-long session available to all members offering courses at your level.

3. A Director of Music Education in each district with assistants helping him organize an educational program at the local level. This includes one-day and weekend schools, and festivals.

4. A dozen or so complete Barbershop shows (including suggested scripts and music) for chapter use. These were developed at Harmony College and are free. No need to worry about your first show...just call or write and we'll send them to you.

5. A Music Publishing Program which ensures a full and ready supply of good Barbershop Music at reasonable prices.

6. A complete set of manuals on directing, basic craft, Barbershop theory, arranging, and you name it. It's sort of an "everything-you-wanted-to-know-about-Barbershop" collection.

7. A large contingent of certified judges ready, able, and willing to assist Barbershoppers with songs, staging, sound and interpretation. Many of these men are available for coaching and assisting beginning directors.

8. There are other experienced directors and coaches ready to help that do not fall into 7 above.

What can you do to get involved in a directing program? Here are some possibilities:

1. Offer to work as a section leader or helper.

2. Attend a weekend or mid-week music session in your area to study the fundamentals of directing. (Watch for a program called Direct Hit in your area.)

3. Watch for visits by International Music Men to your district and then make a point to attend their meetings.

4. Plan to attend Harmony College and ask your chapter and/or district

to assist you financially.

5. Get some of the Society manuals on theory and directing and start your self-help program now! (You might consider one or more of the following...Direct Hit Manual #4033, Basic Craft Manual #4043, and Chorus Directors Manual #4032.)

Most important...plan to take some positive steps toward self-improvement and education right away. Somewhere along the road your goals may change, but the knowledge and experience gained will help you enjoy your Barbershopping more than ever. And maybe...just maybe you could be the next director of a chapter in your area.

We think you can do it...go ahead...prove us wrong!



GOOD QUESTIONS...

If music is the language of the soul, does not that make your larynx (the voice box) nothing more than a passage-way between your soul and someone else's heart? If music is the language of the soul, doesn't that make our Barbershop Society a musical fraternity within which we're all "soul brothers?" If music is the language of the soul, whenever you sing aren't you communicating inner, personal feelings, as well as words/lyrics?

(Jons Olsson - the PRIDE PIPER)

ATTENTION LADIES...

Here's a way for you to become more directly involved in support of the kids at the Institute of Logopedics.



The Institute is collecting the front portion of labels from Campbell's Soups, Beans, Tomato Juice, "V-8", Swanson Canned Foods, and Franco-American products. They redeem these labels for Educational Materials to be used at the Institute.

Please save your labels and send them to:

LABELS
Institute of Logopedics
2400 Jardine Drive
Wichita, Kansas 67219

Please identify your organization along with your name and address and the label count. Help the Institute kids reach their goal of 50,000 labels....every little label counts!

Wouldn't this be a great project for all our Ladies Auxiliaries to adopt?



READ THIS

A short while back, District President, Fran Jones called me and we talked about the deplorable state of affairs within the Pioneer District with regards to Chapter Bulletins. Of the 31 Chapters within the District, only a handful have a bulletin and some of these are only published sporadically. This is not to say that the chapters do not have a Bulletin Editor. If you check your District Directory, you'll find that almost every chapter lists an Editor with their other chapter officers. It's just that these men are not doing the job that they were chosen to do. Why? Perhaps some of the reasons are listed in the article below. If you would like to receive a regular chapter bulletin, read the article and see how you can help. Perhaps YOU could do the job... if not, maybe you know someone in the chapter who could. Find that person and SEND HIM TO C.O.T. School. We'll have a class for Bulletin Editors which will help him along. If you make him these promises - and follow through on them - I'll bet he'll continue to do his part:

The CARE and FEEDING of a BULLETIN EDITOR

by Joe Lindsay



Hey, Joe Barbershopper, do you know your Bulletin Editor? I mean, do you really know him? Let's take a look.

He's not a "literary giant" or a "newspaper Pro." He's not a poet or a great lyricist. Most likely he's a mechanic or a farmer, or a clerk in the grocery store. He shows a common concern, however, with the rest of his counterparts, in his desire to serve his chapter and his belief that good communications are vital to any successful organization.

Are you happy with your Chapter Bulletin? Do you feel it serves its intended purpose? Do you see ways to improve it? Can you contribute in some way to its overall success? What help do you individually give the Editor. What help, for that matter, does your entire Chapter and its administration give?

Let's look at that "average" B.E. He tries hard to put out a good readable publication, but he feels stymied because he has to do so much of it alone. He wants to give the

Chapter what it wants to see, but he is confused because he never gets any suggestions on what to do, but rather only criticism after he has tried something new. He's looking for your approval and he tries hard to get it. He wants to feature you, your quartet or your committee in the Bulletin, but he's not a mind reader. Someone has got to clue him in on what is happening.

He would really like to put out a publication that would win the Bulletin Contest in his District, for his own satisfaction, as well as the prestige it would give the Chapter. But, in many cases, his Chapter leaves it up to him to "scrounge up" the necessary equipment and supplies in order to accomplish this mission. "After all," they reason, "we're not made of money, and besides, we're gonna need new uniforms in a year or two."

This gallant Bulletin Editor struggles along for a year or two, on his own, doing his very best and taking all the "guff" for "forgetting that important date" (no one bothered to inform him of it) or "not mentioning the Flat Tones latest singout" (he didn't even know the Flat Tones were still singing). He then quietly drops by the wayside, and the Chapter loses the potentially most vital and influential, and certainly the most dedicated, member of its administrative team. Then you, as a Chapter, have to start all over again. Maybe you will be lucky this time. Maybe you will find a retired newspaper man with a brother in the printing business. MAYBE, but don't bet on it!

Instead, invest a little time, effort and money into the "Proper Care and Feeding of a Chapter Bulletin Editor."

1. He should be made a voting member of the Chapter Board of Directors.
2. He should be provided with a Bulk Mailing Permit, to allow him to make maximum circulation of the Chapter's PR Sheet, and to permit the exchange of Bulletins with as many other editors as possible.
3. He should be provided with, or given access to, the best equipment that your Chapter can buy or arrange for.
4. He should have a yearly budget for supplies in order to do his job properly. He gives freely of his time. Don't expect him to supply the cash for the materials as well.
5. He should be invited to all committee meetings, or furnished with minutes of their findings.
6. He should be enrolled by the



Chapter as a member of PROBE.

7. He should be recognized often by the Chapter. He should be given everyone's support. Pat him on the back often; it will help his frame of mind greatly.

8. Resolve to give your B.E. at least one idea or article this year, strictly from yourself, just because you want to help.



Musical Notes from the Big Bear

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

Another "Harmony Round-Up" has come and gone and was, I say without fear of contradiction, the finest yet, from a fun and learning standpoint. The registrations were far below our hopes and expectations, and that's regrettable. Those of you who chose not to attend, or for some reason were unable to attend are the losers. Ask anyone who was there. We're asking that anyone who has suggestions about our schools, either Harmony Round-Up or the Quartet and Coaching Clinic, please send them to me. These are your schools, and we want them to be the best for YOU.

The District still has the offer open for any chapter, to send one or two men in for a one or two day clinic. This can be for one, or more chapters, or an entire division. The cost to you is only for meals and lodging for the faculty. Let us know. Also, anyone who is interested in operation "Direct Hit" (and every chapter should be) please contact your Divisional Director of Music Education. They are listed in your District Directory.

By the way, it sure would be nice if we had as many quartets participating at District Contest as we have Choruses. We should have twice as many quartets as choruses. Why not enter and have fun? You don't have to wait until you feel you are going to be a sure winner. While we only have one or two winners in the scoring column, everyone that participates is a winner. You are a loser only if you don't take part.

We will appreciate your comments and suggestions on anything having to do with your Music Education Program. Let's hear from you.

Yours in Harmony,
Bill Butler



20,406 PEOPLE VANISH!

That's right. In the past three years, 20,406 Barbershoppers disappeared. They came to our meetings, paid their dues, learned our songs, supported our chapters, and then simply vanished. WHY?

The reasons are varied; from health problems, to age, to job conflicts, to lost interest.

But the really frightening ones are the special reasons culled from the Society's Dropped-Member questionnaire, such as: a member in the hospital for three months and not a single chapter member ever visited or even called his wife; or "because of the coldness and don't-care attitude of most members;" or "this chapter just clowns around;" or "I found myself too tied up in non-singing activities."

There are a lot more similar reasons which could be repeated. The point is, are we really that cold and uncaring? Does competition dominate everything your chapter does? Do you really care about our lost members? If so, what are you doing about it?



The above is from Smoke Signals and the following poem, on the same subject, was found in Sharp Notes:

New members join to harmonize
and suddenly are gone.
Does anyone ever stop and ask:
"I wonder what went wrong?"

There's more than harmony with the
voice,
The pitchpipe sets your note.
But a warm "Hello" and a welcome hand
would get new-member votes.

Give them a chance to clear their
throats
And offer you a chord.
Many "unsung" heroes left your midst,
and this you can't afford.

If singing is what singing was,
You'd better change your pace.
Forget yourself and all join in,
Put a smile upon your face.

Performers come, performers go,
Like all proverbial rivers.
Be Barbershoppers once again,
You jolly, joyful givers.

A job well done on the risers,
Performance super par.
Now polish up your Welcome mat
So you'll remain a "Star."



PROGRESS UPDATE

The following is a brief (hopefully) look at our District insofar as International Achievement Points are concerned. For those of you who do not know, these points are awarded by International for such things as having a Chapter Show; entering the Chorus Competition, planned Activities; Board Meetings; sending Delegates to the House of Delegates Meeting; Publishing a Bulletin; having Officers at COT School; having registered Quartets within the Chapter and having them enter Competition; Membership Gain and even for sending in reports on time -- in short (?), all those things which are indicative of a growing, healthy chapter. This is the way our thirty-one chapters stack up as of 8/31/81:

CHAPTER	POINTS	MEMBERS
<u>Plateau 6</u>		
Grand Rapids	263	107
Detroit	224	111
Wayne	73	94
<u>plateau 5</u>		
Oakland County	245	103
Grosse Pointe	175	95
<u>Plateau 4</u>		
Lansing	169	52
Monroe	120	51
<u>Plateau 3</u>		
Benton Harbor	154	50
Flint	108	48
Stt Ste Marie	97	41
Kalamazoo	91	40
Huron Valley	48	41
Gratiot County	23	37
Coldwater	-1	29
<u>Plateau 2</u>		
Port Huron	195	35
Windsor	179	44
Traverse City	153	34
Battle Creek	102	33
Holland	91	29
Boyne City	24	31
Jackson	-14	27
<u>Plateau 1</u>		
Saginaw	121	28
Clinton Valley	112	22
Milford	108	24
Livingston County	102	27
Muskegon	91	19
Au Sable	86	18
Alpena	39	22
Pontiac	30	18
Hudson	-24	18
St Joseph Valley	-47	14

After the points are tabulated at year's end, a lovely plaque is awarded to the winner of each plateau along with a certificate for \$25.00 worth of free music from the Society Music Program.



IN MEMORIAM : BOB MILLER

Members of the Wayne Chapter, and Barbershoppers in the Pioneer District, mourn the sudden passing of Bob Miller, a premier bass and long-standing member of the Chapter.

Bob succumbed to a heart attack on Wednesday, August 19. A fellow Wayne Chapter member and friend, Frank Matton, was with him, but attempts to revive him with CPR were unsuccessful.

Bob Miller originally joined the old Ann Arbor Chapter, and sang bass in "The Arbor Traders," with Dan McCarthy, Dick Webber and Bob Graham. Later, Bob sang bass with Webber, Tom Pollard and Gordy Limburg in "The Invoices," who twice represented Pioneer District in International Competition.

Memorial services were held Sunday the 23rd, at First United Methodist Church, in Ypsilanti. He is survived by his wife, Mary, son, Ron, and Daughter, Jan. We extend our sympathy to them.

Bob Miquelon

WHAT IS MUSIC?



A wise man once said that music is the only cheap and unpunished rapture on earth. It is that, and much more. It is an aid to the living, a shield against despair and a triumph of the human spirit.

The emotions that music brings out are mostly good ones: love, joy, hope, humor, sadness. Though it has stirred men in war, it more often has addressed those gentle feelings that people know when they are at peace with themselves and the world.

Why do we need music? Because, in so many ways, it brings out the best in humanity. Poor, twisted madman that he was, Nietzsche was right when he wrote, "Without music, life would be a mistake."

(from SHARP NOTES, Regina, Sask.)



Capt. Crabby: "Git yer badge and hit the road!"

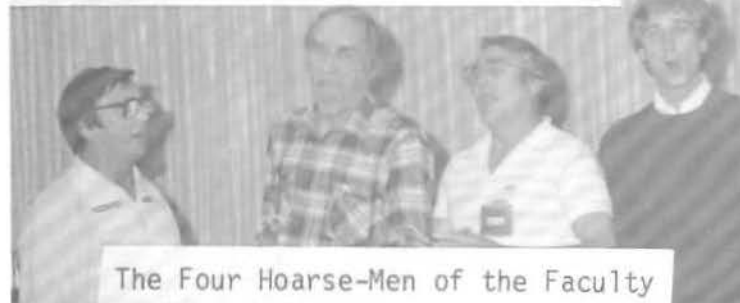


Jim 'Hopalong' Stephens - Asst. D.M.E.



"When do you think you lost control, Bill?"

"Shaddup"



The Four Hoarse-Men of the Faculty



Merle Clayton:

"Pie are Round"



Students at the 1981 Fall Harmony Round-Up



Mac Huff with The Saturday Night Featur



Lloyd Steinkamp with the Music Maestros



"When do you think
you lost control, Bill?"



"Shaddup, Lloyd!"



The Dynamic Duo



Merle Clayton:
"Pie are Round"



Marty Chirgwin with the Traverse City Chorus



Mac Huff with The Saturday Night Feature



Greg Lyne with the Accents



Lloyd Steinkamp with the Music Maestros



the Southwest Michigan Road Show



Lloyd!"

The Dynamic Duo



The Very Idea!



Lloyd Steinkamp with the Traverse City Chorus



The Long and the Short of it



Greg Lyne with the Accents





The Michigan District and it's Men of Harmony

by Mark P. Roberts

By 1945, the Michigan District, with Gordon Grant at the helm, Marv Brower as Vice-President, Harold Wright as Secretary and Horace Conklin as Treasurer, had increased its chapter count to 41 and was still growing. The District Quartet Contest that year was held in Flint and the Gardenaires from Rosedale Gardens, a community in Detroit that had a chapter for a year or so, won the District quartet title. Lou Burke sang baritone in the original Gardenaires but Chick Miller succeeded him for the International Contest. Both our records and memory are short as to who finished 2nd and 3rd in this District contest but the Continentals finished fourth and then improved fantastically to get a 3rd place medal in the International a few months later.

In 1946, Gordon Grant was in his second year as District President and Bob Walker of Grand Rapids was Secretary. Bob and Cecil Fisher were the tenor and bass of the Travelers Quartet of Grand Rapids (Frank Haight was the lead and Bob Carpenter was the baritone) one of our busiest and best known quartets of the time. Other District Officers were Harold Stark, then of Detroit but more recently of Mio, Vice-President, and Horace Conklin of Battle Creek still looking after the money, if any. The 1946 District Quartet Contest was held in Saginaw and the Accoustical Persecutin' Four of Jackson were named champions. The members of this fine foursome were Francis Hodgeboom on tenor; Bob Britemeyer, lead; Forrest Comstock, bari; and Fred Foster, bass. The 1946 International was held in Cleveland and the Michigan quartets which reached the finals were the Clef Dwellers (Wisehart, Hannah, Johnston and Bauer), the Detroiters (Weber, Eason, Hallman and Wolff), and the Gardenaires (Danic, Rubert, Miller and Tubbs). The Garden State Quartet from Jersey City won the International that year despite the efforts of their tenor, Ted Rau, to sing himself out the night before. Ted and a couple of other guys and I started a little boondoggling and visiting hospitali-

ty rooms together, sampling the best from each as we went along, and getting better, we thought, as the night wore on. Along in the grey of the morning, we were making a diligent search for contest officials to get the rules changed to allow this sterling combination to make a post entry in the International contest, when the brilliant idea struck me that maybe Ted should save some of that tenor for tomorrow's effort with his quartet. When I broached the subject to him, he fixed me with a couple of eyes redder than a Pacific sunset and said, "Let us (hic) leave tomorrow's problems to tomorrow but let us not leave for tomorrow that singing which can be sung today." The fact that tomorrow was already there didn't seem to bother anyone so, fortified by Ted's wonderful logic and the gleanings from numerous hospitality rooms, we marched bravely, if unsteadily, into the dawn looking for more lucky people to sing for. That night, when Ted's quartet came on, I kept wondering when he was going to crack, but he sang beautifully and they walked off with the big prize. The moral of this little story, if any, is that some Barbershoppers can sing longer and louder than others, but to me, Ted Rau is the champ.

Bob Walker was District President in 1947 and Howard Heath of Saginaw was Secretary. Howard was also the bass of the Barons of Harmony of Saginaw which won the 1947 District Championship. The other members of the quartet were Chuck Sarle, Bill Oursler and Jarv Albrow. The Barons nosed out the Clef Dwellers of Oakland County in the contest held in Battle Creek in February. Michigan quartets which survived the eliminations to get into the International Finals at Milwaukee in 1947 were the Antlers of Flint, the Clef Dwellers, the Continentals and the Gardenaires. The Gardenaires at this time had Neil Hamilton singing tenor and George Danic had switched to baritone.

Bob Walker was reelected District President in 1948 and Dr. M.J. Kennebeck was made Secretary. Kalamazoo hosted the District Quartet Contest and the winner was the Antlers of Flint with Harry Morton, tenor; Byron Brooks, lead; Bill Schindler, bari; and Hap Augsbury, bas. The Clef Dwellers were a close second again in another of the many "duels" between these two fine quartets in District and International competition. This was the peak year for Michigan in the number of members, over three thousand, and we had 65 chapters. It was also the first time that Districts held International Preliminary Contests and Michigan's was held in Flint on Sunday, May the 2nd. Because of our large membership

we were entitled to five quartets at the International contest and 20 quartets competed for these places.

The five chosen were the Aetna-Aires of Bay City, Antlers of Flint, Four Counts of Oakland County, Gardenaires, and the Left Out Four of Marcellus. The first alternate was the Clef Dwellers and the second alternate was the Progressives. The Aetna-Aires were not able to go to Oklahoma City for the International and the Clef Dwellers took their place and became the only alternate quartet in history to wind up a Medalist 3rd place winner at the International. The Clef Dwellers, up to this time, were only the third District quartet to win a medal. The Antlers and the Gardenaires were finalists at Oklahoma City. Other well known district quartets which competed at the Flint Preliminaries were the Paragons of Muskegon, Variety Four of Birmingham, Sing Sing Singers of Midland, Improvisors of Midland, the Food City Four of Battle Creek, Collegians of Grosse Pointe, Cosmopolitans of Grand Rapids, Song-Masters of Lansing and the Barons of Wayne.

The District was now holding two meetings a year and at the Flint meeting new officers were elected as follows: President, Edwin Smith of Wayne; Vice President, Roy S. Harvey of Muskegon; Secretary, Louis R. Harrington of Detroit (yes, this is the same guy) and Treasurer, Horace F. Conklin of Battle Creek who was still looking for District funds to treasure. The District Contest was held in Grand Rapids in December and the winner was the Clef Dwellers with Dick Wisehart, tenor; Duncan Hannah, lead; Bill Johnston, bari; and Hal Bauer, bass. In second place was the Songmasters of Lansing (Hawkins, Bottom, Winegardner, McAttee).

Third place was won by the Collegians of Grosse Pointe (Limburg, Burrell, Avram, Winship) and fourth place by the Barons of Wayne (Arthur, LeBaron, Truesdell, and Ed Smith). Fifth place was taken by the Note Orioles of Muskegon whose names I do not have. This was the first contest in which awards were made to the Junior and Novice Quartet Champs. The Junior Champions were the Harmaniaks of Holland and the winner of the Novice Award was the Men of Achord of Saginaw. This was also the year that District Areas were established and the first Area Counselors, then called "Governors," were Cliff Davis of Ann Arbor, Rush Wyman of Lansing, Harold Gibbs of Bay City, Loton Willson of Boyne City, Steadman Rohn of Ludington, C.W. Coy of Grand Rapids, D.L. Barnhart of Kalamazoo and Mark Roberts of Grosse Pointe.

(Next: "Disquieting Developments")

HARRISVILLE HAPPENINGS...

by Darl Wiley



The 1981 Harrisville Harmony Weekend proved again that the fine art of Barbershopping can thrive in spite of inclement weather. Those of you who did not attend were the losers of the year. Those of us who were there,

listened to and enjoyed some great Barbershop chords - but the REAL winners were our kids at the Institute of Logopedics. The various activities sponsored by the Oakland County Chapter, the Saturday night sing-out at Maria Hall and the Sunday afternoon show at the band shell resulted in a contribution to the Institute of more than \$600. This donation could not have been made without the help of many chapters and quartets.

At the Friday Night Oakland County Fun Night at Greenbush Tavern, the following groups performed starting at 8:45 and ending at 12 midnight:

Harbor Tones	The Very Idea
Wayne Chorus	4 Wheel Drive
A Touch Of Magic	Memory Laners
Sat. Night Feature	Sounds Around
Relatively Speaking	Note-A-Dames
Chock Full O' Notes	Spec. Request

The donations to the Logopedics Jug from the patrons totaled over \$66.

Saturday afternoon was the annual Golf Tournament which was ably handled by Dick Liddicoatt. Fifteen foursomes participated, resulting in a \$53 donation to our kids.

Later on Saturday afternoon was the Horseshoe Tournament arranged by Joe Kiley, assisted by Bob Drabik. Twenty-two people participated resulting in a \$23 contribution. This was followed by a "World Serious" horseshoe match involving eight challengers and a \$22 contribution.

Saturday evening was the annual sing-out at Maria Hall at which many of the same groups - plus others (including the Wolverine Chorus) - performed. The Logopedics jug again collected over \$128 from the very generous audience.

The groups from Maria Hall proceeded to the Greenbush Tavern to perform and witness the awarding of prizes by Dick Liddicoatt for "excellence" in the golf tournament. (I must comment, in passing, that one dummy -- Darl Dummy, by name -- missed out on the top door prize by

leaving the premises for just a few minutes -- shucks!!) However, the Logopedics Jug didn't miss out - over \$125 was collected.

One group to which Oakland County Chapter claims 50% membership - "Relatively Speaking," with Pete & Sally Burns and Bruce & Dotie LaMarte, sang in one of the local churches on Sunday morning. The congregation donated \$28 which they, in turn, will send to the Harmony Foundation.

The final activity of the weekend was the show at the bandshell on Sunday afternoon. Fortunately the weather cooperated, the performers were numerous and the audience was appreciative and generous. The Jug was rewarded with over \$188.

A big "Thank You" is due to the people of Harrisville from the Pioneer District, and a special "Thank You" from the Oakland County Chapter to Sam, the proprietress of the Greenbush Tavern.

Dear Kenosha,

In reply to your request to send a check for my membership dues, I wish to inform you that the present condition of my bank account makes it almost impossible. My shattered financial condition is due to federal laws, state laws, county laws, city laws, liquor laws, mother-in-laws, and outlaws.

Through these laws, I'm compelled to pay a business tax, head tax, amusement tax, school tax, gas tax, light tax, water tax, sales tax, income tax, food tax, furniture tax, and excise tax. I am required to get a business license, truck license, & a dog license not to mention a marriage license.

For my own protection, I am required to carry life insurance, hospital insurance, disability insurance, liability insurance, burglar insurance, accident insurance, earthquake insurance, tornado insurance & fire insurance.

My business is so governed that it is no easy matter for me to find out who owns it. I am inspected, expected, suspected and disrespected; examined, re-examined, informed, misinformed, required, summoned, fined, commanded and compelled until I find an inexhaustible supply of money for every known need, desire or hope of the human race.

I can tell you honestly, except for the miracle that just happened, I could not endorse this check. The wolf who comes to the door had pups in my kitchen. I sold them, and here is my dues.

(from Jim Fulks, The STARTING GATE)



WHAT MYSTERY TRIP??

Flint Arrowhead Chorus hosted one of the best-kept secrets the Pioneer District has ever known. Do any of you know the secret? Well, its out now! Yes, Flint was the destination of a mystery trip by Oakland County, Grosse Pointe, Clinton Valley, Saginaw Bay, Lansing and Detroit #1 Chapters.

Bob Drabik, from Oakland County, instigated the project and, I must say, the enjoyment. It was a pleasure to work with Bob and see the fruits of a job well-done.

We heard some fine singing by the individual choruses, and we were entertained by the Chorus Directors in mass chorus singing. We even learned some new tags. There was lots of laughter and everyone enjoyed himself.

Quartet representation was outstanding. Our own newcomers to the quartet ranks, the "Flint River Opera Gang" (also known as the FROGS), the "Innocent Bystanders" (Oakland County), the "Mixed Foursome" (Lansing), the "Incredible Sounds" from Grosse Pointe/Clinton Valley, all thrilled the crowd. But that wasn't all. "The Very Idea!" from Oakland County did such a great job that they received an encore and, to top the evening off, the "Sounds Around" with a fill-in bass (a kid in short pants) Len Dawson, sang some of the prettiest "Sounds Around" that evening.

I tip my hat to Bob Drabik and I want to thank all the guys from the Flint Chapter for doing such a swell job of hosting. The 'tube steaks' were a smash hit, and everyone's thirst was quenched.

Fred Kenitz deserves our thanks for keeping the program going. I know of no one who can keep a time schedule as well as he and still let everyone be a part of the program.

I, for one, had a ball -- thanks everyone -- SHHH!, I just heard a secret.

Stan Brant
Program V.P.
Flint Chapter





FELLOW BARBERSHOPPERS:

Those of you who have attended a recent contest will undoubtedly agree that our singers are getting better, and our music is getting better as well. You have the Society's Musical Services folks and your own District Music Education program to thank for most of that. We, in the Contest and Judging program, take pride in our contribution too. Ask any competitor, and he'll probably tell you that the judges are more effective and helpful after the contest than ever before...and that they're even picking the right winners!

The International Contest and Judging Committee's analysis of the recent Spring contests revealed a marked improvement in the level of agreement between pairs of judges over the statistics of two years ago. And with good reason...our recent policy of requiring recertification every four years, plus more extensive training for both candidates and judges, is beginning to pay off. But, because we're being tougher on ourselves, our ranks haven't grown as fast as we'd like. I guess we're no different than the Marines..."we need a few good men".

Unfortunately, in the Pioneer District, we have a downright shortage of people in the Sound, Interpretation and Arrangement categories, and we sure could use a "few good men" there. We're looking for fellows that have had quartet experience, or have been successful chorus directors, and have sat across the table from judges at an A & R session. Coaches and music people with stage experience often make excellent judges, too. Age is no barrier; however, success, experience, reputation and leadership are important to us.

If you feel qualified, how about contacting your District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman (DACJC) or his Assistant for Candidate Development? These key men are Don Lang and Glen Van Tassell. You can reach Don at (616) 983-6846; Glen's number is (313) 484-3038. Advise either of them of your intentions and let him go to work putting together references, tests and other systems that have been designed to ensure entry of good men into the program.

If you don't feel qualified, but know someone who is, how about doing

him (and us) a favor by recommending him to your DACJC. Thanks for considering this.

Yours in Harmony
Ed Waesche, Chairman
International Contest
and Judging Committee



1981 FALL HARMONY ROUND-UP...

Al Fisk, the very knowledgeable young director of the Oakland County Chapter, does a fine job of instructing and drilling his chorus members in the basics of good Barbershop singing. He quotes many rules of good vocal production, interpretation, stage presence, etc.

So, here I stand, with my quartet, hand on the door knob, trying to remember all the things he's taught us. After all, the men we are about to sing for are the ones who have 'written the book' from which Al quotes!

With some degree of trepidation, 'The Very Idea' enters its third Harmony Round-Up. Those names I've seen on my music..."Lyrics by...", "Arrangement by....", they're all here! Mac Huff, Dave Stevens, Joe Lyles, Greg Lyne, Lloyd Steinkamp, Merle Clayton -- All the Great Ones! I'm Impressed!

But we soon find out that they are just regular folks.

I think we all hope that one of our faculty geniuses will find some magical detail that will suddenly change a frog into an angel. Seldom is the change that dramatic, but the improvements are noticeable immediately and there's no doubt that these are the guys who know how to make it happen.

I was particularly impressed with the help we got from a fellow I had never heard of. Rusty tells me "Greg Lyne sang with the 'Dealer's Choice' and is the coach of 'The Classic Collection'. What a musical genius he is!

Between classes we had free time to practice what we had learned and to plan what we wanted from our next class. Our Saturday night party was a ball with the quartets showing their newly-acquired ~~confusion~~ form and Lloyd Steinkamp (Little Bear) just breaking us up. This is a really funny man when he's not busy being a really great coach! I do hope he'll be back on the faculty, next year. I wouldn't blame him if

he never returned, though. Bill Butler treats him so mean!

I must congratulate the Traverse City Chorus for attending en masse, with 20 of their 28 members appearing. Seeing the success of this experiment prompted 'Big Bear' Butler to remark that perhaps we should institute a new class in 'Vocal Techniques for the Chorus Singer.' We think it would be an excellent idea!

I am amazed that more Pioneer District members do not take advantage of this marvelous weekend experience. If something is worth doing, be it quartet or chorus singing, arranging, coaching or directing, it is worth doing well. And fellows, this is 'where its at!' Not only that, its a heck of a lot of fun!

If your chapter treasury can handle it, the Board of Directors should elect to subsidize at least a portion of the tuition. It will be money well spent!

Fred, Gene, Rusty and I left this session all charged up and eager to apply what we have learned. We'll try, with the help of our tapes, to remember everything, but we'll back again next year, for sure.

Much thanks to the 'Big Bear' for making it all possible.

Dave Williams, bass
The Very Idea Quartet
Oakland County Chapter



ALL ABOARD THE HENRY CLAY!

Not if you value your life! Some recent research on riverboats named "Henry Clay" turned up two candidates.

One "Henry Clay" traveled on the Hudson River and took part in the last riverboat race before a New York state law was enacted prohibiting this kind of sport. The old "Henry Clay" had the race well and truly won, until it went out of control and hit a bank, killing several passengers and becoming a wreck.

The other "Henry Clay" was a Union transport on the Mississippi during the Civil War. It was one of several boats which attempted to run past the Confederate guns at Vicksburg. All the boats made it except one; that's right, the old "Henry Clay" was the one that didn't make it!

So, given the choice - it is safer to sing about the old "Henry Clay" than to sail on her!

(from the Charlottesville, VA.
SKIMMER, Nevil Gott, editor.)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FINALE

The overtones have long-since died away at Cobo Arena and all that is left of the 43rd International Barbershopper's Convention is pleasant memories. Now that all the hard work is over, it's a real thrill to sit back and read some of the comments coming from out-of-state Barbershoppers. Perhaps the most thorough analysis I've seen was done by Mike Sisk in the Pitch-Burgher Bulletin of the Greater Pittsburgh Chapter, site of our 1982 International Convention. He writes, in part:

BARN BURNER IN DETROIT!

The 43rd International Quartet Contest was indeed quality Barbershop at its finest. It seems as though the competitive level increases by a few degrees each year. You can ask anyone who heard the 48 competing quartets and they will tell you it was rough, tough, and confusing. It was the BIG SOUND of the "CHICAGO NEWS" winning the contest by a moderate 91 points. The smooth finesse singing of the "CLASSIC COLLECTION" (of Denver, Col.) earned them the Silver Second-Place Medal. In Third, it was the "SIDE STREET RAMBLERS" of Dallas, Texas, with former "Dealer's Choice" bari, Brian Beck singing lead and showing everyone how easy it is! The "CLASSIC COLLECTION" were 5th last year and the "SIDE STREET RAMBLERS" were 7th. The "CENTER STAGE" of Michigan (in their first International appearance) were the fourth place Medalists. What great singers in this quartet! The fifth place Medalists were the one-and-only "ROARING 20's" earning their title as perennial Medalists (3rd last year).

THE THIN LINE

Looking at the point spreads gives you a better idea of how tight the International can be. Take the quartets from 21st to 48th - It was only 133 points from 21st to 34th. That is only 10 points difference per quartet (with 12 Judges, that's less than one point difference per Judge) and from 35th to 45th it was only 72 points. That's 7 points difference per quartet ($\frac{1}{2}$ point difference per Judge). Going up the scale, the same principle of closeness applies. A CONTEST OF HEAVYWEIGHTS

It's my own personal opinion that the 1981 International Quartet Contest was worth its weight in GOLD (Silver and Bronze, for that matter) Talk about fast company - this has to go down as one of the most loaded quartet contests ever seen. Loaded in what respect, you may ask? Loaded up with the biggest factor going for any quartet in competition and that's experience! There was only one quartet in the top 20 making

their first International appearance without any previous retreads of note. This was the "HARRINGTON BROTHERS" from Louisville, KY. The other 19 were either experienced International competitors or just plain loaded with Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Let's take a closer look at each of these top 20 quartets and understand better their success due to the personnel involved. Before analyzing these quartets, it should be noted that there were 10 quartet men in this contest with Gold Medals. Two of those who did not make the top 20 were Leo Sisk (Tenor of the 1963 Champs, the "Town and Country Four") of the 34th place "HARMONY PARTNERS" and Don Bienema (Bass of the "Four Statesmen" 1967 Champs) of the 38th place "NEW TRADITION". Also, Jim Turner, lead of the 1963 Silver Medalist "Nighthawks," sang in "4 KARAT GOLD" who placed 21st. (It is my understanding that Leo Sisk, mentioned above, has appeared on the International stage as a contestant a total of 17 times! That must be some sort of a record! -Editor's Note.)

BREAKING IT DOWN



Let's take a close look at each of the top 20 quartets and their "ammunition."

20th - the "FOUR PENNY OPERA" has two of the 1965 Champion "Four Renegades" - Jim Foley, bari, and Ben Williams, lead. Along with them are the tenor and bass of the former "Chords Unlimited" who have been in the top 20 several times.

19th - the "TIN PAN ALLIES" has Don Bagley who sang bass in the 1974 5th place "Soundtracks" and Joe Sullivan, bari, who sang lead in the bronze medal 1962 & 1963 "Four Renegades" and bari in the 1968 & 1969 bronze medal "Avante Garde."

18th - the "CURTAIN CALL" had Joe Mazzone, lead, and Ron Knickerbocker on bari, from the 1974 Champion "Regents." Along with them was Barry Brown, bass of the 1979 3rd place "B & O Connection."

17th - the "NEW YORKERS" in their third straight year in the top 20. They had previously placed 16th and 14th.

16th - the "SOUND REVIVAL" a well-known top 20 quartet.

15th - the "FRIENDS OF YESTERDAY" who dropped out of the top ten after previously placing 10th, 9th, 9th.

14th - the "RURAL ROUTE FOUR" who dropped out of the top 10 after previously placing 9th, 8th, and 9th.

13th - was "FRIENDS" who were 12th last year. Singing bass was Doug



Smith who sang in the 1970 & 1971 Silver Medalist "Sundowners."

12th - was "CALIFORNIA FEVER" who have the lead and bari from the "Great Stage Robbery" who were in the top 20 in 1974 and have sung in other Far Western District International quartets.

11th - the "EMPIRE EXPRESS" who moved up from 14th, last year.

10th - were those "squirts" from Louisville, KY.... the "HARRINGTON BROTHERS" with no previous International experience. This is the youngest quartet ever to compete in the BIG ONE!

9th - was "VAUDEVILLE" with Scott Werner and John Hohl, lead and bari from the two time Bronze Medalist "Nova Chords."

8th - was "REMEMBER WHEN" with tenor Al Mau of the 1968 Champion "Western Continentals." Al also sang with the Silver Medalist "Pacificaires" in 1973 & 1974.

7th - the "139TH STREET QUARTET" made their 5th top ten appearance. They were 2nd in 1977 and 5th in 1979. Larry Wright, lead, also sang in the 6-time medalist "Sundowners," and Doug Anderson, tenor, sang in the 3-time medalist "Far Westerners" of the early 70's.

6th - was the "SOUND ASSOCIATION" who have been in the top 20 three times and now in the top 10 for the second time.

5th - was the "ROARING 20's" with their 6th medal. They have been 5th, 5th, 4th, 4th, 3rd and 5th.

4th - was "CENTER STAGE." This quartet has Glenn VanTassel, bari, who is a two-time Champion (lead of the 1966 "Auto Towners" and bari of the 1971 "Gentlemen's Agreement." He will be shooting for his Third Gold Medal next year.) Denny Gore, lead, sang with the three-time medalist "Vagabonds."

3rd - the "SIDE STREET RAMBLERS" were 7th the previous two years in a row. Brian Beck is their (new) lead singer. He was the bari of the 1973 Champion "Dealer's Choice."

2nd - was the "CLASSIC COLLECTION" who were 5th last year.



Your 1981 International Champions are the "CHICAGO NEWS" who were 8th in their first outing and jumped to

continued next page...

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FINALE..... (continued)

2nd last year. This great quartet consists of Tom Felgen who sang bass with the 1965 Champion "Four Renegades." This is Tom's second Gold Medal. Tenor Ray Henders sang with the 1974 5th place medalist "Soundtracks." Bari, Greg Wright sang with the 6 time medalist "Sundowners" and lead Butch Koth sang with the "Landmarks" who were 14th in 1977.

That wraps it up - as you can see, the quality of these quartets is reflected by the combinations of experienced personnel within them or the experience developed by the quartet as a whole over a number of contests. I have to wonder who the next Heavy Hitting quartet is going to be.



A Note on STAGE PRESENCE....

Every man is blessed with an exclusive face, unique in its own way of sending out its countless signals. It is in error that we ask an entire chorus to "Raise your eyebrows." For, on one face it may e-mote happiness, while on another, it may display stark terror! All that can be asked of a chorus of men is to reflect a mood. All faces will, of course, not be the same, but they must look as if all wearers FEEL the same. This can be practiced at home. Look into a mirror and move your facial muscles until you have convincingly assumed an expression that corresponds to the mood you want to portray. You will find that, in order to be successful, you have to THINK the mood... you have to be IN the mood...and you have to practice.

(from the Minneapolis CHORD-INATOR)



FIRE TRUCKS ARE RED BECAUSE.....

Fire trucks have four wheels and eight men. Everyone knows that four and eight make twelve. There are twelve inches in a foot. A foot is a ruler. Queen Elizabeth, a ruler, is also the name of the largest ship on the seas. Seas have fish and fish have fins. The Finns fought the Russians. Russians are red. Fire trucks are always rushin'. Therefore, fire trucks are red.

If you think this is wild, you should hear some people explain why they don't have time to attend rehearsals!

(from Bob Parkinson's MAGICHORD)

A Little Craft -- VOLUME CONTROL.

We must all try to remember that, in addition to being pitch-true, it is our individual responsibility to sing at a correct volume. Being barely conscious of the sound of one's own voice in a chorus chord is shading the high side. If you can't hear yourself at all, you're either right on or not contributing your share. Experiment at all dynamic levels and try to find the balance point for your voice in the chord.

The very softest that a chorus can sing - and that means with every man participating -- occurs when each man is singing as softly as he can with support. "With support" means a steady true tone is being produced for the duration of the note. You would be amazed at how soft and, at the same time, full and rich, this can be if everyone does it.

Doing these things is not easy. If it were, we would have been doing them right all along. We tend to sing for our own comfort and enjoyment; that's part of the basic attraction of Barbershopping, but to be part of a really good chorus is a reward well worth the effort.

(Dan Daily - in the SKUPPER)

Right after returning from Harmony Round-Up and just when I think I've fully mastered all the vowel sounds, I learn from Stan Bates' JUICE that there are at least SIX ways to pronounce "ough." He illustrates thusly:

"The dough-faced ploughman strode through the streets of Scarborough coughing and hiccoughing."



OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

7 Livingston County Chapter Show

DECEMBER

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

JANUARY 1982

28-30 Mid-Winter Convention, Tucson

FEBRUARY

6 Pontiac Chapter Show
13 Oakland County Chapter Show
20 Lansing Chapter Show
27 Pontiac Chapter Show

MARCH

13 Port Huron Chapter Show

APRIL

17 Grand Rapids Chapter Show

MAY

1 Coldwater Chapter Show
8 Battle Creek Chapter Show
8 Kalamazoo Chapter Show

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