





Volume XXII, Number 5
October-November, 1982

pioneer

TROUBADOUR



INSTITUTE OF LOGOPEDICS

...MORE THAN TALK

Al Fricker
30881 Nye Ct. W. Bus (313) 278-5200
Livonia, MI 48154 Res * 421-0820

A group of community leaders recently toured the Institute of Logopedics and passed a class of teenage boys on the sidewalk. The boys, apparently thinking the visitors were distinguished guests, commented to their teacher as they walked by; "They look important. They must be Barbershoppers."

When you stop and think about this it brings a sense of real responsibility to all of us. We are important to all those whose lives are made fuller and happier by our Logopedics efforts. Every man or family who has stopped to visit the Institute knows just how much the Barber-shop influence is alive there.

Now then, what's been happening and where are we in our 1982 Pioneer effort to top the District \$17,000 goal? First of all, going back to Pittsburgh, our District donation to the International Logopedics Raffle was a beautiful Frigidaire double-door refrigerator. This impressive item was received from the Greenville Products Company as a corporate charitable act. Our District President, Fran Jones, performed some magical sleight of hand and came up with that "gem." The total monies generated at the Convention for Logopedics, from all sources, set a new record; a thrilling grand total of \$9,637.36. Astounding!

The July printout from the Harmony Foundation shows Pioneer exactly where we were last year at this time. That's good and that's bad. It's good because we have a running start toward this year's goal. It's bad 'cause we have a 'tad' higher target this time and have to run a little faster to get there. However, we WILL get there!

Time really flies! We are entering the last third of the year at this writing. Summer has again provided us with beautiful memories and Harrisville is just a few days away. Logopedics always benefits from many sources there. Let us use that traditional Pioneer outing to signal a renewed interest and effort in the closing months.

Logopedics Christmas Cards are available NOW and are nicer than ever this year. Keep in mind that 75% of the price is deductible as a contribution. Chapters are credited for the contribution portion of the cards purchased by individual members of the Chapter.

The Fall cycle of Chapter shows will soon be underway and Logopedics

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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



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will certainly get its share of those funds. Singing performances by District choruses generate monies from a fee split or from outright donations made by clients specifically earmarked for the Institute. Twelve of our Pioneer quartets are contributing from their entertaining efforts and we welcome those others who have "been talking about it." I wonder who will win the Great Lakes Express Traveling Trophy this year? All in all, it's really a great life!

As of August 1st, two-thirds of the way through the year, these chapters have already passed the \$10 per man (Bronze level) and are on the way toward the Silver level:

Boyer City
Port Huron
Grand Rapids

Pontiac
Coldwater

TOGETHER.....we are something!



Int'l. Logopedics Chairman Reedie Wright watches Jimmy work with fine motor skills during an occupational therapy session at the Institute.

IN SEARCH OF...



...members in our District that are still active and at one time were members of the following chapters:

Albion	Hart	North West
Allegan	Holly	Area (Det)
Ann Arbor	Ionia	Ortonville
Bay City	Lapeer	Owosso
Beulah	Lowell	Portland
Charlevoix	Ludington	Redford
Dearborn	Manistee	Area (Det)
Dowagiac	Marcellus	Saginaw, be-
East Detroit	Midland	fore SagBay
East Jordan	Mt Clemens	South Haven
Eaton Rapids	Mt Pleasant	Sturgis
Grand Haven	Niles-	Thr. Rivers
Hamtramck	(Buchanan)	Whitehall
(subDetroit)	Northville	(Montegue)
		Ypsilanti

These chapters were organized during the first 10 years of our Society. If you know someone who was a member of these chapters, please contact:

Arthur H. Schulze, Sr.
21201 Stanley
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081



UNIFORMS FOR SALE....

We have 75 Yellow-&White checked chorus uniforms for sale. They are very snappy with black piping on the lapels and around the jacket cuffs. They are fully lined and have patch pockets on the jacket.

Contact Bob Ziebell (Oakland Co.)
727 E. Third St.
Royal Oak, MI 48067
Ph. (313) 542-4612



With the onset of colder weather, this little poem from "Notes from Polk" seems to take on added dimension:

I went to see my girl one night
Some pleasure I was seeking.
I missed her mouth
And kissed her nose...
And the doggone thing was leaking!

Member-Obelia

Now is the time to start planning your Fall recruiting programs. From Labor Day to Thanksgiving (that's November 25th for you Canadians) is a good time to set aside for getting new members. Get together with your Membership V.P., your Program V.P. and your Chorus Director and lay plans as soon as possible.

Read your Membership V.P.'s Manual regarding the "Wanna Sing" - "Open House" program. This is by far the most successful program we have ever had. It really works, fellas - if all members participate and you follow the book. Also make sure you have a good orientation program for those prospective singers. Tell them everything - we have nothing to hide and it's better to find out before joining.

Another point we would like to stress is new members going along to conventions. Whether they are ready to sing in the chorus or not, they should be given the experience of hearing and seeing the best your division and district have to offer.

If that's your chorus, let them hear the rest.

We hope you have continued meeting during the Summer months. Whether you have or not, there are certain to be members you haven't seen since June. Now is the time to get them back. How about having the PVP organize a family picnic? This should be a good way to get those absentees back and also invite some friends. The successful chapters in our organization center many of their activities around the family since they like to feel that barbershop-ping can, and should, be a family affair.

When you organize your "Wanna Sing" - "Open House" program, make sure you include wives and girlfriends. Not only invite your ladies, but also encourage your guests to bring theirs also - who knows, they may talk the man into joining.

If you need more information on the "Wanna Sing" - "Open House" program, please SING out.

Our Field Services Man in Kenosha is TOM COGAN.

OFFICIAL



NEWS RELEASE

SAFETY BEGINS BEFORE AN ACCIDENT

The International Office is concerned about membership - not only the numbers, but each individual's safety. We want every man to enjoy this wonderful hobby and not get hurt. So here's some things to watch for:

AT YOUR MEETING PLACE - Probably the most overlooked hazard is the risers. A man will "miss a step" or play when it sways or pretend to fall off the top row. When it happens for real, it's not so funny. Check the risers when they're up and be sure they're safe.

How about that wobbly chair in the corner? If it's not fixable, get rid of it. You never know when a member (or a guest) will grab that chair and fall to the floor.

Watch those steps at the doorway when it rains. Maybe you can buy some adhesive strips to take the slip out of those steps.

Do your part to keep people safe at meetings. By the way, are you sure the coffee pot was unplugged when you left? That's a certain fire hazard if it's left too long.

AT A SING-OUT, ANNUAL SHOW OR CONVENTION STAGE:

Boy, those risers are heavy - be sure you have a crew there to help with the load and not leave two men to do all the work. The summer months are bad about keeping working men hot, forcing overheating and exhaustion.

That stairway down to the dressing rooms - is it lighted and the hand-rail secure? You don't want men tumbling down those, especially in your fancy uniforms.

Hanging the lights and curtains? Watch for "little ones" doing what Daddy does -- up the ladder, across the catwalk, dangling from the rafters. Keep children away while others are climbing.

Those dressing rooms are really nice - and carpeted! Hey, that entry way has a curl in it, just perfect for tripping somebody. Another hazard avoided by taping it down.

Those electrical cords scattered across the walkway to the stage. Maybe there's a way to route them around - bring them together and tape them to the floor so people traveling the stage don't trip.

We hope this has started you thinking about those little hazards around your chapter meeting place and singing area. It takes a few moments to fix them, or look for them. It's better to check them now, then to have to call emergency service for someone you'd rather have singing with you!

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



SWAN VALLEY CHAPTER

Hi! We're your new neighbors at the Gateway to the North Country. We are known as the Swan Valley Chapter and we meet at the Swan Valley Methodist Church, Geddes and Kennelly Roads, Shields, MICHIGAN, at 8:00 PM Wednesday nights.

To get to our location, take I-75 north to M-46, west on M-46 to Kennelly Rd. (one block past the Meijer Thrifty Acres store in Shields), turn right and follow the jog to the left, back to the right again and go to the stop sign - "We're There."

At present, we're concentrating on filling our membership so we can charter, hopefully, in November. This brings me to our:

DEER HUNTER'S SPECIAL!

November 12th is our targeted Chartering Show. Headlining the show will be:

CENTER STAGE

Other quartets have not been selected yet. Any quartets available and willing to participate, please contact Bob Kotcher, 3325 N. Michigan, Saginaw, MI 48603. Phone (517) 752-1928. Also featured will be the Flint Arrowhead Chorus along with our own Swan Valley Chorus.

You deer hunters could start a little earlier and plan to stop by and take in an excellent show.

We hope to see YOU there!

Pete Pandell

AU SABLE VALLEY CHAPTER

Just a quick note to report on some happenings up North. This is the first year in some time that Au-Sable Valley did not take part in the Milltown Summer festivities. It seemed as though many of our stalwart members were traveling around the country and we were not able to field a well-balanced group when the Milltown activities took place in early August. Things are looking much better now, however, and we're working hard preparing for our annual show on October 23, 1982. The guest quartets will be Pioneer District's own Saturday Nite Feature and the Harmony Hounds.

Although the show date has been changed, the Grayling High School auditorium is once again expected to provide ample room for all. An invite to such an event is not needed where Barbershoppers are concerned, but if anyone needed an excuse to head North, October 23rd is when, and Grayling is where.

Bob Dittman

HURON VALLEY CHAPTER

I imagine that anyone that has been a Barbershopper very long has noticed how the Chapter Meeting attendance drops off during the summer months. Of course, there are many reasons for this, such as vacation schedules, but there are also a lot of fellows who say, "I'm going to take a vacation from chapter meetings this summer." Huron Valley has, in the past been no exception. I say in the past, because this summer our meetings have been very well attended. Oh sure, there are still a handful of fellows who took a summer sabbatical, but this summer the members of Huron Valley have been very faithful. I wonder why. Could it be because of the super efforts of our PVP, Lyle Hanson, and our MVP, Dick Dixon? Both of them have kept our chapter meetings interesting and fun to come to. Or was it the extra sing-outs we had scheduled this summer which kept everyone interested? No matter what the reason, Huron Valley has certainly enjoyed its most successful summer ever.

Huron Valley is going to have a new look. We've decided to purchase a new casual uniform for use at our sing-outs and less formal events. It will consist of dark brown trousers and a light tan shirt. Just wait 'till you see us in them!

Congratulations are in order for Dick Ender. He has been selected to be one of our Assistant Directors. Dick has been a Barbershopper for many years and his leadership will surely benefit the Chapter.

Director Jim Stephens is actively working towards our next show. At his recommendation, a Show Committee has been formed consisting of Dick Ender, Scott Turnbull, Don Kandor, John Peterson, Ken Gates and Jim. We are already seeing new show music at rehearsal.

We had another successful, much-appreciated sing-out in one of our area churches. This time we sang during mass at Holy Trinity Chapel, located just off the EMU campus in Ypsilanti. The church was full and we received many fine comments on our performance.

Huron Valley is again planning to enter fall competition, at Grand Rapids. We certainly hope to improve our position from last spring. We are going in with much more confidence this time because our sound score was the second highest in the spring contest. With some added work in the other categories, we plan to be able to make a very good showing.

Roger Waltz

PORT HURON CHAPTER

It was July, 1981, when, for the 1st time, the Delta Queen sailed out in the Blue Water Festival Parade with the Huron Harmony Chorus on board. The result was a 2nd place prize and the opportunity to entertain approx. 15,000 parade watchers.



On July 14, 1982, the Delta Queen sailed again, same parade, same Captain (Director, Jack Rickert), with the same Huron Harmony "crew." Result (?) - unknown - no prizes were announced. However, the crew had a great time and was extremely well received. And we had a great afterglow. What more could a Barbershopper ask for on a Blue Water Festival Wednesday nite??

The Delta Queen will sail again!!!

Richard Samuelson

MILFORD CHAPTER

The Milford Chapter has enjoyed an active spring and summer with our chorus entertaining in the communities of Northville, Rochester, Hartland, Clarkston, Leonard, Brighton and our own Milford for its sesquicentennial celebration.

A contest within our chapter has resulted in a new name for our chorus. We are now known as the Mill Valley Chorus. The new name was contributed by both Ernie Marlow and Bob Moll, with the logo concept by Herb Mueller developed by Jim Moll. We hope these changes will distinguish us from our neighbors at the Huron Valley Chapter and identify us with the character of our community.

We also have plans for the following events: November 6, Ladies Night
January 15, Ladies Night
February 26, Chapter Show

Jim Moll





OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER.....

Where did the summer go? The first correct answer to reach this office will receive a handsome prize. Indisputable evidence that summer is gone is the fact that the 1982 Harrisville Tribal Powwow is now history. As advance scouts, Oakland County Chapter dispatched our Chief Croaking Frog Liddicoatt and Heap Big Chief Cline to case the place. On the basis of the reports they sent back that the Harrisville tribes, braves as well as maidens, were friendly, twenty Oakland County members made the scene this year. It may be an indication of the vocal quality of those twenty -- depending upon how charitable your judgement may be -- when the comment of some of the audience was, "Those guys sound better than their total chorus!" That was after they had been given the whip-and-chair treatment in rehearsals by Dick Liddicoatt and Fred McFadyen. Among chapter first-timers at a Harrisville Harmony Happening were Jim Barnowski, Tom Smeltzer, Paul Stafford and Dave Worley.

How times change! What used to be, in prior years at Harrisville, the Bachelor's Quarters, this year was the Old Married Folks Home with John and Carol Morris and Wayne and Karen Brumm housekeeping together.

Pioneer District's "Harmony Round-Up" this year was graced by the attendance of twelve Oakland County members. What may have been the high-light of this year's session was Carl Dahlke, apostate Director from Oakland County, teaching Fred McFadyen and Russ Seely the tag of "Black, Black, is the Color of My True Love's Hair."

It is the dream of every good reporter, sometime during his career, to come up with a "scoop," to beat his rival scribes in reporting some earth-shaking event. This reporter has achieved that dream. The chapter's annual summer picnic, this year at the Edison Boat Club, was held on August 21. This column reported the event in the August-September Troubadour which was in the hands of the membership on August 3, eighteen days before the picnic! Watch for this year's Pulitzer Prize announcements.

A mentally-disturbed Baritone went to a psychiatrist. The doctor suggested craft therapy and, for his first project, started him working on braiding a leather thong. The patient went home and finished the project but felt no better so he telephoned the psychiatrist and sang: "THE THONG IS OVER, BUT THE MALADY LINGERS ON."

We Get Letters



Dear Rusty,

I cannot respond to the entire letter written by Wally Dorosh and published in the last Troubadour, however, I would like to respond to that portion pertaining to the Pioneer District Hospitality Room at Pittsburgh.

On May 28, 1982, I, as District Treasurer, issued a check payable to the Detroit #1 Chapter for \$300 as instructed by the District Board of Directors to be used by the Chapter to help defray expenses of a hospitality room at Pittsburgh.

It is an item budgeted annually by the District and is issued to the chapter representing the District at the International Convention as they will be the chapter responsible for setting up and staffing the hospitality room.

I certainly agree with Wally that there should be a Pioneer District Hospitality Room at the International Convention.

Chord-ially,

Jack Schneider
Jack Schneider
District Treasurer

ATTENTION

CHAPTER

SEC'TYS



Custodian Of The Chapter Charter--

A valuable document should be framed for hanging on the wall of your meeting quarters. It is less likely to become mislaid or destroyed than if it is kept rolled up or folded for easy handling.

Although the Chapter Secretary already has plenty of responsibilities it would seem that he would be the logical man to accept the responsibility of being custodian of the Charter. He should know where it is at all times, and should see that it is turned over to his successor along with the other chapter properties and records in his care.

Art Schulze

You Really Do Sing Better in the Shower

by Tom Sparough

The water is splashing on your head and you're all soaped up. It's shower time and you decide to break into a song. Even though you know you're a terrible singer, in the shower, you sound like an opera star.



That's "scientific fact," says Prof. Dale Gilbert, of the U. W. Madison School of Music. "But it's not your voice that's doing it, it is the room," said Gilbert, a voice teacher for 26 years. "Any small room with hard walls will sound good."

The shower vocalist benefits from what is known as the theory of resonance. In an area where sound waves bounce back and forth, as in a shower or a stairwell, the good qualities will be amplified. Gilbert explained, "At the same time, the bad qualities in sound are filtered out because the good ones are resonating so much."

Gilbert said the water has nothing to do with it. The former chairman of the music school observed that good singing stems from a feeling of freedom that comes from relaxing the throat and other body parts important to vocalizing. "In the shower, the sound complements your ear, and that makes you relax and you have a good feeling in your throat," Gilbert said.

He tells his beginning students to listen to themselves in the shower. Students are cautioned not to sing by judging how the notes sound, but rather how the musical "vibrations" feel.

If you like to sing in the shower, "experiment a little," Gilbert suggested. "Sing in different showers." Generally, in bigger showers you'll be able to sing a strong bass, while in smaller showers, you should be able to hit the high notes better.

So enjoy your shower. But don't forget to share musical credits with those resonating sound waves.

(as seen in the L.O.L. Pitch Piper)

You Really DO Sing Better
In The Shower





Musical Notes from the Big Bear

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

With the great sounds of the Dealer's Choice still ringing in my ears, along with 160 fine men singing "Keep the Whole World Singing," I was proud to be a member of Pioneer District of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. I feel sure that while it may not have been the largest, it certainly was the greatest Round-Up ever, and I for one, thoroughly enjoyed it and was proud to be part of it. I certainly had an emotional mixture of feelings about this Round-Up, knowing it would be my last one as your DME. We had 159 registrations plus a faculty of 13. Grand Rapids was the #1 chapter in participation with 30 attending, and Division III led with 52 members participating. The second largest chapter attendance was from Huron Valley with 16 members and Division I, captured second place with 42. Oakland County was third with 12, and Division V had 39. Division IV had 8 and Division II had 2. Westland Chapter, one of our newest, had 8 participating. The following chapters had NO participation: Monroe, Windsor and Milford in Div. I. Gratiot County, Jackson, in Div II. St. Joe Valley in Div. III. Sault Ste. Marie, AuSable Valley, Boyne City and Alpena, in Div. IV, and Port Huron and Flint in Div. V.

This I don't understand. There is something at these schools for EVERY member. If we could get just a few men from each of these chapters, it would help their chapters to become better and they would enjoy our hobby even more than they do now.

"The Dealer's Choice" never cease to thrill me with their great artistry in selling a song. With Balance supreme, great phrasing and marvelous accuracy in harmony, they are amazing, especially considering that they haven't sung together in the past four years. They are fine examples of what a Barbershop quartet should sound like. Talk about talent, they really have it! They sang about fifteen songs during our general sessions, and worked on our fabulous faculty for "Harmony Round-Up." Bill Thornton, Al Kvanli, and Gary Parker, doing quartet coaching and Greg Lyne, scheduled to do quartet coaching, took over Vocal Techniques for the Chorus Singer and Chorus Directing. This switch became necessary when Fred King's wife became ill and he had to cancel. The entire faculty was simply FANTASTIC! Lou Perry, one of the greats, gave

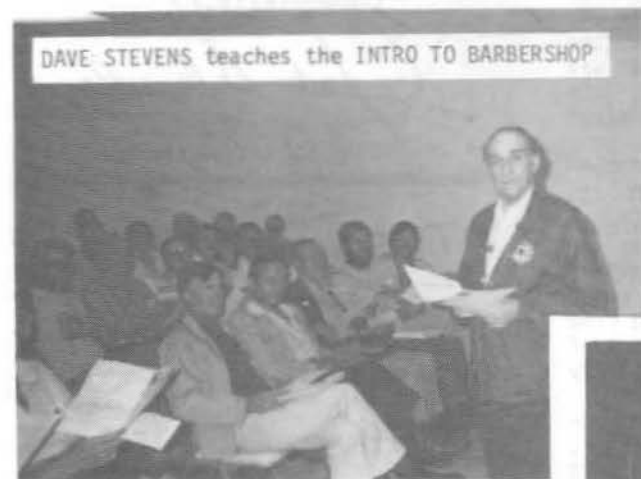
General Session



DAVE LaBAR teaches BASIC CRAFT



DAVE STEVENS teaches the INTRO TO BARBERSHOP



his presentation "The Birth of a Song" and it was certainly most inspiring.

My most sincere thanks to the great Faculty. Without the assistance of my Asst. DME, Jim Stephens, and the Divisional DMEs, however, "Harmony Round-Up" would not have been as successful as it was. Also, I want to add a big THANK YOU to the following for special help; District President, Fran Jones, Div. Five VP, Bob McDermott, Jim and Judy Stephens and Dan LaBumbard, Marv Skupski, and Gene Hanover.

It has been a distinct pleasure to serve as your Director of Music Education for the past 8 years, and I really appreciate the fine cooperation and support given me throughout my tenure.



DORAN McTAGGART with a rec



LOU PERRY works with the SOUTHME



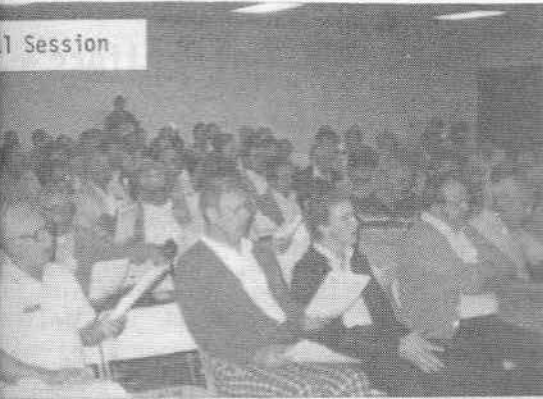
GARY PARKER relaxes to the sounds of E



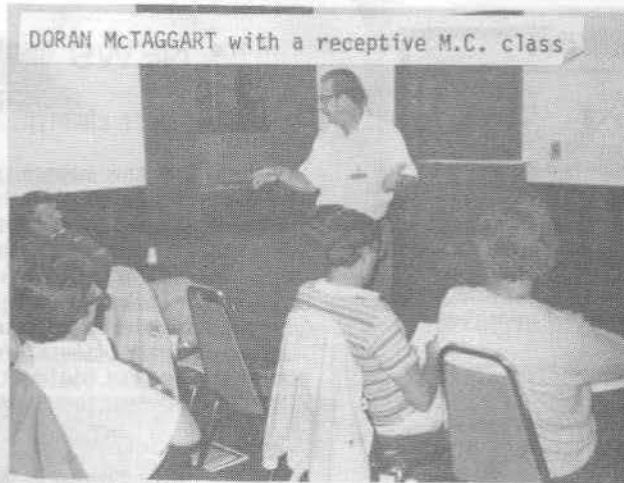
Dr. GREG LYNE teaches VOCAL TECHNIQUE

and CHORUS DIRECTING

Session



DORAN McTAGGART with a receptive M.C. class



AL KVANLI coaches the CLINTON V

teaches BASIC CRAFT



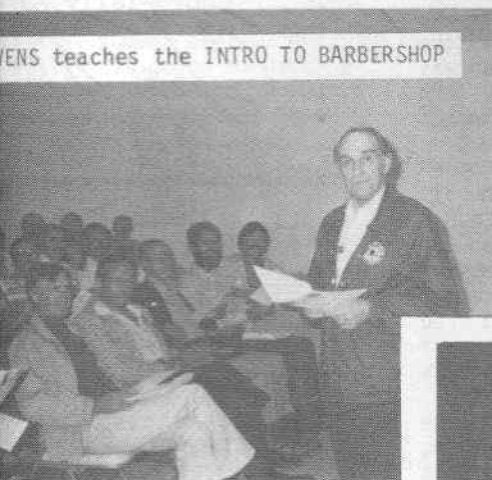
WHAT A WEEKEND

HARMONY ROUND-UP
August 27-29, 1982

Also in attendance but
graphed was:

THE VERY IDEA - Oakla
GOLDEN OLDIES - Grand
SPICE OF LIFE - Bentr
SOUND AMBASSADORS - V
CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE -
TAKE NOTE - Huron Val

WENS teaches the INTRO TO BARBERSHOP



LOU PERRY works with the SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN ROAD SHOW

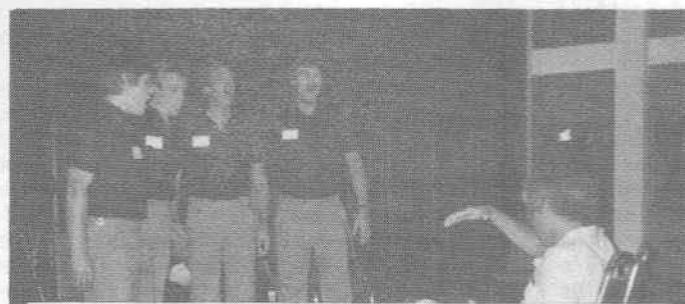


AL BAKER gets friendly with

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for special help; District
, Fran Jones, Div. Five VP,
mott, Jim and Judy Stephens
aBumbard, Marv Skupski, and
ver.

been a distinct pleasure to
your Director of Music Edu-
r the past 8 years, and I
appreciate the fine coopera-
support given me throughout



GARY PARKER relaxes to the sounds of BLACK VELVET

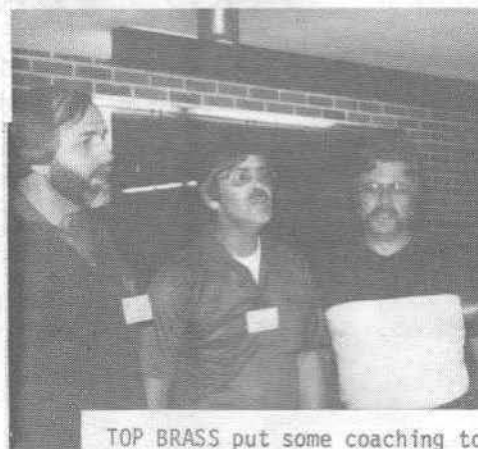


DON HARBIN works S.P. magic with t



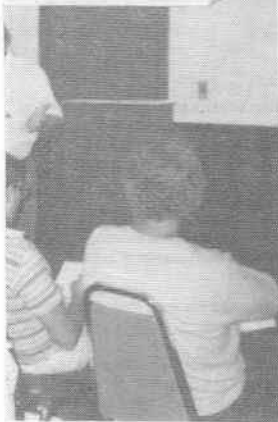
Dr. GREG LYNE teaches VOCAL TECHNIQUES

and CHORUS DIRECTING



TOP BRASS put some coaching to

aptive M.C. class



WHAT A WEEKEND

HARMONY ROUND-UP
August 27-29, 1982



AL KVANLI coaches the CLINTON VALLEY HARMONIZERS

Also in attendance but not photographed was:
THE VERY IDEA - Oakland County
GOLDEN OLDIES - Grand Rapids
SPICE OF LIFE - Bentn Hbr-St Joe
SOUND AMBASSADORS - Westland
CROSSTOWN EXCHANGE - Wayne
TAKE NOTE - Huron Valley



General Session



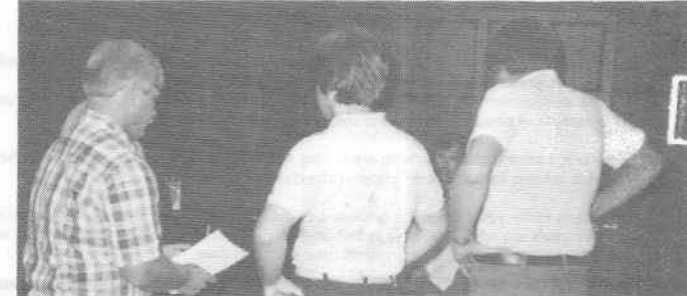
BILL THORNTON directs the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY



ST MICHIGAN ROAD SHOW



AL BAKER gets friendly with the CONTINENTALS



DARRYL FLINN sends the LAKESHORE FOUR for the Music!



BLACK VELVET



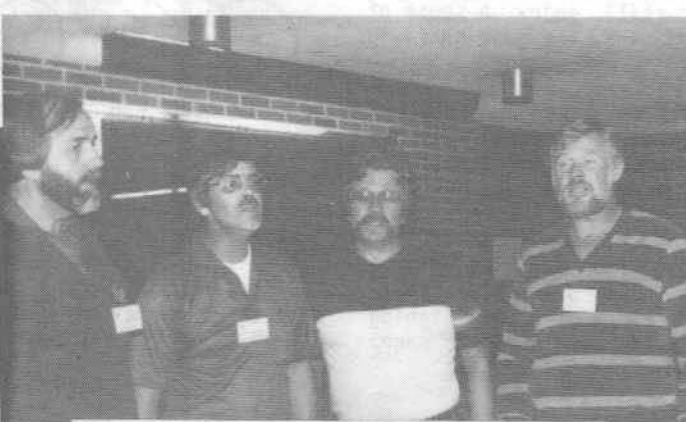
DON HARBIN works S.P. magic with the DUTCH MASTERS



Dr. BURT SZABO with the ARRANGERS CLASS



IES



TOP BRASS put some coaching to practice



BILL BUTLER with A POSITIVE ENDEAVOR

DOCTOR BOB RETIRES!

FAREWELL ADDRESS — HARMONY COLLEGE, 1982

Twenty-six years ago I began a love affair with a Society — a Society that accepted men who liked to sing, from all walks of life. All you had to do was sing their music. In exchange, they allowed you to use their name and initials — S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

The purpose of the Society was to educate the public in the appreciation of the barbershop style of harmony. I thought it was wonderful that an association would sponsor singing by the amateur — the man who just loved to sing.

This chapter of my life lasted about five and one half years. Many friendships were firmly established. They have lasted all these years.

The Dundalk Chapter discovered that dedication, participation and unity of purpose were a substitute for selectivity. It never occurred to me that we should ask people not to sing. Fellowship was the main result. Winning the International Chorus Championship was also a result.

As a result of winning the chorus championship in 1961, I became a prime candidate for the position of Director of Musical Activities (twenty years ago the Society was still afraid of the word education).

This chapter, which I am now ending, began with this position. The last 20 years have been a learning experience beyond any expectation. How to teach men to direct, how to coach, how to organize, administer, how to budget and how to develop a work plan for a year (and finally five years). There were chapter visits, weekend schools, spectaculars, festivals and Harmony College along with trips to Viet Nam, BABS, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.

As a professional I have been able to cross-pollinate the Society and to help purify the strain.

I believe the Society's only position should be for "all" barbershop. Let those who wish to deviate always know that we have established that standard for the good of the Society.

There are several observations I'd like to share with you:

1. the staff is the best around and they are dedicated to a fault;
2. the volunteer (who works so hard because of his love for the Society) is the mucilage that holds the Society together;
3. the average member is, in many cases, smarter than we give him credit for; he does resent the attempts of people to prostitute the Society for their own gain.

Therefore, I suggest that you, who are willing to give up a week of your precious time for the Society, should speak out for the preservation of the style, or there will be no Society.

The reason I love you so much is because I am here today as the result of an international outpouring of love five years ago which kept me in this position. It was then I knew that the only way to repay these people was to be worthy of their trust and love.

The next chapter is about to begin. A chance to become (for the first time) a participating Barber-shopper. A chance to sit back and sing bass and watch a bright, young director grow. A chance to work with an occasional quartet that needs help with their union. And a chance to speak my mind with no fear of reprimand. A chance to learn to love my wife again and share our joys together. For she alone has made my service possible.

As I say goodbye to you officially, I am reminded that I would be as nothing if it were not for Dave Stevens, Joe Liles, Lyle Pettigrew, David LaBar and Mac Huff. These men have strengthened me and made me a smarter man and a better man. They are my friends which makes it better.

Also, the faculties of Harmony Colleges and weekend schools have inspired me with their sharing and devotion.

Lastly, but mostly, Hugh Ingraham. He has been a true friend, a strong, stubborn leader who always allowed me my opinion. What a blessing for all of us that he was the right man in the right place five years ago. He has given the Society fiscal stability and has turned the Society back to the volunteer leaders.

To all of you who have wanted so much, you are a most fertile environment for creativity and service. You have learned to love and to express love. You must do that to be loved. And I love you.

To close, I'd like to read you a poem by Amanda Bradley. It was on a card I received from the Northeastern District.

"Goodbye is not an ending when you know that people care.
For miles may come between you, but warm thoughts are always there.

"Goodbye is not an ending, but a different start for you.
A time for making brand new friends and seeing dreams come true.

"Goodbye is not an ending for you'll find along life's way
Within your heart you'll always have a part of yesterday.

You, my friends (all of you), have made me the proudest and happiest man you'll ever know.

I love you.

Robert D. Johnson

Robert D. Johnson
The Old Man

Vanishing America

WE MISS THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS. . .

by Stan "Stasch" Sperl

Recently I heard a senior Barber-shopper mourn the passing from American life of certain sounds such as the huff of steam locomotives, and the cries of street vendors and of certain smells, such as leaves burning in the street. All evoke a strong nostalgia in those who remember them.

But words, customs and music may also become outmoded. As our life-style changes, our language accumulates new words at a rate so fast that the dictionaries can't keep up. It's inevitable that some old words that have served us well are discarded, or wither away from lack of use. They hang in the dictionaries like dead leaves on a tree; nobody bothers to blow them away. As do many of our customs, they simply fall unheard, unseen, unmourned, but not forgotten.

Let's mourn a little. Remember when we had an icebox in the house?

I still call it an icebox, even tho it runs on electricity and is no longer served by a name that is also gone -- the iceman. "Icebox" is simple, graphic and avocative. How did we get conned out of icebox and into refrigerator? No doubt that sesquipedalian monster was dropped on us by the makers who wanted a scientific sounding name for their product.

The undertaker is gone, buried by the mortician, in the name of euphemism. The name "mortician" will, I suppose, give way to yet a newer euphemism, once people find out that a mortician is really an undertaker in linguistic disguise.

Grocery store is about gone - rare enough to sound quaint in today's world of supermarkets and discount stores. The gear shift has been replaced not only as a word, but, in most American cars, as a fact. For those who still enjoy a sense of mastery over cars, the gear shift is a stick.

Yes, you're over 40 if you remember molasses on bread and butter, exciting games of croquet, two bits for a square meal, cotton stockings, and crusty bread which was baked at home every Thursday. And, how about squeaky porch swings, bannisters you could really slide on, beer bottles with rubber stoppers and brick sidewalks. It is all a part of vanishing America, and nobody seems to care.

"How about music?" you say. Well, I guess this is what makes our great Barbershopping hobby so very unique. You see, our whole purpose is to preserve this segment of what otherwise become just another part of what used to be.

Do you remember the words "croon" and "crooner"? These words defined a whole generation of idols. Suddenly, overnight, they were buried under an avalanche of rock, set loose by a group of upstarts from Liverpool, who not only didn't croon, but sang in a way to awaken the dead, or at least a generation of teenagers.

This music buried the waltz and the foxtrot under a mass of bodies that gyrated and shook until they must all end up as blobs of disjointed mush. And the crash of amplified guitars has ushered in yet another era of music.

In our passion for the new, we've thrown out some very good things. As Barbershoppers, let's resolve never to let Barbershop music join that list of good things that have become lost words within "Vanishing America".



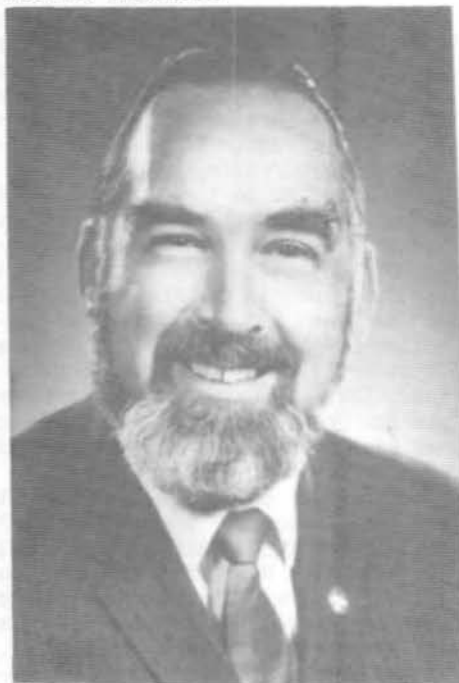
News from



Your Headquarters

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO VISIT PIONEER!

International President, Merritt Auman's personal representative to our Fall District Convention will be HUGH A. INGRAHAM.



Hugh is Executive Director of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., and is in charge of the day-to-day operation of our 38,000 member organization and its 40-member office staff in Kenosha.

He was appointed Executive Director in 1977, and has served the Society as Administrative Field Representative, Public Relations Director and Director of Communications. Hugh first joined the Society in 1949 in Calgary, Alberta and served as area counselor, district secretary, and international board member before joining the international staff in 1962.

Currently a member of the Kenosha, Wisconsin chapter, he has held membership in Calgary, Alberta; Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Columbus, Ohio Chapters. He has sung tenor, lead, or baritone in four quartets.

Hugh's pre-Barbershop career includes agency work, public relations and radio. A Certified Association Executive (C.A.E.) and accredited by the Public Relations Society of America, he was graduated from Acadia University with a B.A. in English and History. He is married to Kath,

they have four children and two grandchildren. Hugh lists his hobbies as tennis, sailing, swimming and scuba diving.

Now that we know everything about him, let's show him something about us -- namely, how friendly we can be. Let's give Hugh Ingraham a BIG Pioneer Welcome!

VOMACKA ELECTED INTERNAT'L PRESIDENT

Henry "Hank" Vomacka, a Society member since 1949 and one of the Sarasota, Florida, chapter founders, was named successor to Merritt Auman as the next International President. Vomacka has served as District President, International Board Member, International Vice President and Editor of both his Chapter and District publications.

He has been on the Chapter Officer Training School faculty and served as Category Specialist in the Chairman of Judges category of the C & J Program. He has received both the Chapter and District Barbershopper of the Year Awards.

Hank and his wife, Mary, have three children and two grandchildren. A retired anesthesiologist, his hobbies are gardening, swimming and singing with his quartet, 'The Best Generation.'

Taking office with Vomacka on January 1st, 1983, will be:

Immediate Past President, Merritt Auman (Lebanon, PA.); International Vice President-Treasurer, John T. Gillespie (Kalamazoo, MI.); International Vice President Gil Lefholz (Kansas City, MO.); International Vice President William K. Park (Wilmington, DE.). Elected as Harmony Foundation Trustee was Reddie Wright (Altadena, CA.).



NEW DIRECTOR OF MUSIC SERV. SELECTED

Effective September 1, 1982, with the retirement of Robert D. Johnson, JOE. E. LILES has been named Director of Music Education and Services for the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. He works out of the International Office in Kenosha, WI., and travels throughout the United States and Canada, working on chorus development at the chapter level, with emphasis on chorus director training.



Liles joined the International Office staff in September of 1975, but is a veteran Barbershopper. He first joined the San Antonio, Texas, Chapter in 1967 and, as their chorus director, saw them achieve 4th place international finishes in 1971 and 1972. He is a certified arrangement category judge and has served for a number of years on the Harmony College faculty.

Liles holds a B.A. degree from Baylor University, a Master of Music from Southern (Louisville) Seminary, and has completed 30 hours toward a Doctorate in Music at the University of Texas. He is married and has four children.

The late F. Sterling Wilson, resident wit in the "Harmonizer" back in the '50's, once defined a Barbershop chorus as..."a conglomeration of men who are either too good or not good enough to make a quartet, and which differs from a college glee club essentially in that its members do not get checks from home."



George Wykel

The Birth Of Barbershop

It was 1890 and America had reached a new era. Families had pushed on to new frontiers, found new homes, and were settled down. Schools were well established, transportation and communications were improving, people had more money and leisure time. The age was ripe for popular entertainment.

Minstrel shows became popular twenty years before the War Between the States. They went to California with the forty-niners and reached far to the south as their ships went around the Cape. Each phrase of the typical minstrel song opens the way for original words or nonsense or for some fancy strutting. Truly a variety show in every respect, it offered comedy in the form of Mr. Interlocutor and Mr. Teabone, in addition to group singing, solo numbers, and instrumentals.

Toward the end of the 19th Century, many sentimental, romantic ballads were composed. Often called songs of the Gay 90's, they were sticky-sweet or tragically sad. Many have survived and most campfire singing nowadays includes such old favorites as "Grandfather's Clock", "In the Good Old Summertime", "Put On Your Old Grey Bonnet", "Missouri Waltz" and "The Old Oaken Bucket." It was also during the Gay Nineties period that two new kinds of music became the rage - ragtime and Barbershop.

Perhaps ragtime was born long ago on the plantations when the slaves dressed up on Sundays and danced to amuse the fancy white folks at the big house. It was not a singing form but a style of playing, a syncopated melody over a regular beat in two-quarter rhythm. Many people called it a cakewalk because the prize for the best dancing couple was usually a cake. The dance was a high-kicking, prancing, walk-around and this may have eventually evolved into ragtime, a dance made up, primarily, of shuffling feet. Squeals of delight frequently punctuated the action, while the spectators added to the fun by stamping their feet and clapping hands to the rhythm. In its purest form, ragtime was played by small groups of instrumentalists, but it was only natural that the people would want to sing along, so words were added. The music played by these musicians was so freely improvised, created, borrowed and stolen that it was often difficult to say just who had really composed a particular song.

Much could be said about Barbershop, since it, too, was the result of improvisation -- today we call it woodshedding. While its very name suggests that it was born in the barber shop, there are historians

who claim that this unique style of harmony actually had its beginnings in the camps of the transcontinental railroad workers who left a rich song heritage. They say the Barbershop style was nurtured wherever men gathered, and because the barber shop was the favorite gathering spot for men during the Gay Ninety period, the style was named by association. Barbershop did, however, enjoy a very rapid growth of popularity during this period, even among the ladies. It is said that the famous light opera star, Lillian Russell, was very fond of Barbershop, even though her style wasn't usually compatible.

While many songs of the period are still sung today, the idea of the minstrel show has pretty well died except for motion pictures where it is used in connection with this period of our history. Ragtime, too, has gone the way of high-button shoes, except for several groups that still play it for novelty. This leaves only Barbershop as the sole survivor of the Gay Nineties, and, thanks to almost 40,000 of us who believe it is the greatest style of music in the world, it will live on forever.

by Stan "Stasch" Sperl

WHAT IS IT??



a riddle from the Twin-City Hi-Notes

It costs nothing but creates much.
It enriches those who receive it
without impoverishing those who
give it.
It happens in a flash and yet the
memory of it sometimes lasts forever.
Nobody is so rich that he can get a-
long without it and no one is so
poor that he isn't richer from its
benefits.
It creates happiness in the home,
fosters good will in business, and
is the countersign of friends.
It is rest to the weary, daylight to
the discouraged, sunshine to the
sad, and nature's best antidote for
trouble; yet it is something that
is no earthly good to anybody un-
til it is given away.
And if it ever happens that some of
us friends should be too tired to
give you one of theirs, may we ask
you to leave one of yours, for no-
body needs one so much as someone
who has none left to give.

What is it....?
A SMILE.



LET'S IT!

WHAT WEAKENS A CHORUS?

I'll tell you what weakens a chorus. It's the guy who's not there. It's the fellow who says, "I've got a mediocre voice; they don't need me." The heck we don't! Give me fifty mediocre voices, properly trained, and I'll give you a magnificent chorus. Take one voice away, and it's a crack in the dam, so to speak.

You're not coming 'cause the guy in front of you is always accusing you of being flat, sharp or making the wrong moves? Well, the guy in front of him is doing the same to him. And so it goes. Take it with a grin, and a grain of salt. After all, the director is your boss (along with your wife, of course).

Too tired to go tonight? Gad, what a day you've had! Let me tell you something - go anyway. Just being around a lovable, crazy bunch of guys can do wonders for the spirit, not to mention the many, many, to-the-bottom-of-the-lungs breaths we take in order to sing through our phrases. That old oxygen can rejuvenate you and make you feel like you have had eight hours of sleep. Honest, it works.

You're not going 'cause you don't like the programs, or this or that? You may be right, but no one's going to know it. How can they when you are not there? Board meetings are open to one and all. Your officers will lend a willing ear. Your input, yes, I mean your input is "as welcome as the flowers in May." Your suggestions, ideas, and even your criticisms, are vital to our success as a chapter. So, hang in **HANG ON..**

there. Be a voice. You love to sing, you know you do, or you wouldn't have joined in the first place. You love the camaraderie, the thrill of singing to an audience and the ensuing applause. And ah, the competition, the spice of life. How sweet it is! Smiling down at those nasty old judges with your heart in your mouth.

Yes sir, I mean YOU! You are so very important to our chapter. Ya know we miss your grin, your firm handshake, your screwing up a note or word and how you laugh when I do. You know what weakens a chorus? Yeah, it's the guy who's not there.

I don't care how beautiful they are, I still say the only man who enjoyed falling leaves was Adam.



The Michigan District and it's

Men of Harmony

by Mark P. Roberts

The official sponsor of the 1953 International Convention and Contest in Detroit was the Metropolitan Association of Chapters with Seaborn Lawrence as General Chairman and Lou Harrington as Associate Chairman. The International office staff and about a hundred Detroit-area Barbershoppers worked to make this an outstanding event. The Vikings of Rock Island, Illinois, won the quartet title that year but Michigan came on strong when the Grand Rapids Chorus, with Bob Weaver directing, won the Chorus Championship in this, the first International Chorus competition. The Detroit Chorus, with Ed Easley directing, also competed and performed well. Grand Rapids had to be good to sing down 17 well-trained groups from all over the country under the leadership of the Society's finest directors. The success of this first International chorus competition convinced Society leaders that chorus competition at the International level was a desirable activity and it has continued ever since.

The second Michigan District Chorus Contest was held at Wright Park, in Alma, on July 19, 1953. Choruses were entered from Ionia, Holly-Fenton, Dowagiac, Lansing, Holland, Muskegon, Gratiot County and Detroit. Fran Hodgeboom, who had directed the Grand Rapids Chorus to the District Championship the previous year, was now directing the Holland Windmill Chorus and he brought the Dutchmen through in first place. Detroit, with Ed Easley still at the helm, was second and Muskegon (I believe Jim O'Toole was director) was third. The rules at the time permitted both our first and second place choruses to compete in the International and both Holland and Detroit appeared at Washington, D.C. in the 1954 International.

THE INTERNATIONAL CHORUS TROPHY

Sometime prior to the second Michigan District chorus contest, I had

asked Ben Landino, creator of the International Quartet Trophy, and a member of my chapter, if he would make up a trophy for our Michigan chorus champions. I explained to Ben that we didn't need anything so elaborate as the International Quartet Trophy, and he agreed and went to work. The trouble with Ben was that he didn't understand mediocrity in handcrafting. What he brought to Alma indicated that he was only doodling and practicing when he made the quartet trophy. When the boys from International office got a look at this beautiful creation, they insisted that it be donated to International for the International Chorus Trophy. This was done and it is presently inscribed as the O.C. Cash Memorial Trophy. Later that year, Ben went to Grand Rapids and personally presented the trophy to the Grand Rapids chorus, the first winner - a sort of all-Michigan affair. In appreciation of what he had done, Ben's chapter, Grosse Pointe, made him a life member of the chapter. International, principal beneficiary of Ben's genius, continues, however, to collect his dues from the chapter thereby demonstrating both a critical need for money and a lack of appreciation of his extraordinary services. (More about Ben Landino in a later story.)

With the 1953 International Preliminary, the International and the chorus contests behind us, we still had the 1953 District meeting and Quartet Contest ahead of us, so away we went to Lansing on October 17th where John Hill and his friends were well-prepared as hosts.



Thirteen quartets showed up for the contest and after hearing the best offerings of the Town Criers, Pitch Blendaires of Detroit, Four Stars of Holland, For-Tune Tellers, Onchords, Wolverines, Aire-Tonics of Muskegon, Tonsil Blenders of Jackson, Chordial Four of Lansing, Debonairs of Ann Arbor, Key Wanderers of Hudson, Starliners of Muskegon, and the Makeshift Four of Gratiot County, the judges gave the nod to the Wolverines (Rehkop, Sipots, Sipots and Bond). Second place was taken by the Onchords (Ahrens, Keith, Peitsch and Lee) and third place went to a new quartet, the Aire-Tonics from Muskegon (Bill Wickstrom, tenor; Jerry Guimond, lead; Tom Damm, baritone; and Clare Bristol, bass). The For-Tune Tellers of Jackson (Cushman, Cushman, Queens and Knorpp) won the Junior Title and the Pitch Blendaires of Detroit (Golding Pollard, Clixby and Golding) were the Novice Champs.



RECORD REVIEW

by Don Richardson, Phoenix Chapter

Readers of the November-December, 1981 Harmonizer may have wondered who the Gentlemen Four quartet is; their half-page ad for their record appeared on page 35. Intrigued, I ordered the album.

In the ad, the quartet is called a "renowned quartet from Southern California." I'm not sure to whom they are renowned, but they are, in fact, from the San Diego area. The liner notes say that they all were aspiring physicists at Point Loma College. The ad copy tells us that the quartet has "performed in churches throughout the Western United States." Members are Dave Covey, Dave Tubbs, Bob Ross, and Steve Brown. The record is copyrighted 1978, by the way.

But to get on with this, how do they sing? That depends on which side of the record you listen to. Side One is all religious or gospel songs, from "This Little Light of Mine" to "Abide with Me." This side shows the quartet singing together, using effective interpretive techniques, and generally performing well. (Point Loma College is a protestant institution; it appears that The Gentlemen Four may be a barbershop version of a gospel quartet.)

Side Two features the quartet in traditional barbershop songs from the three Gentlemen's Agreement's arrangements - "Shenandoah," "Everybody Loves a Lover," and "Ma, She's Makin' Eyes at Me" - to "Side By Side." This side is a different story altogether. This half of the album says to me that the group coaches itself, that they've simply gotten arrangements from true barbershoppers, and that they don't have ties with any barbershop chapter. If they did, their interpretations would not be so ineffective. Their breathing, their articulation, their phrasing, their resonance would not be as it is. This album shows by a negative example exactly what a singing man can take from the Society -- good singing technique, effective song presentation, uniform vowel placement and production, and on and on. This album reminds me of the Fred Waring Barbershop album of several years ago; it's sincere and well-intentioned, but it fails.

To order the record, send \$5.98 (California residents add 6% tax) to R/3 Marketing, 11558 Iowa Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90025.

(from WESTUNES, R.A. Girvin, Editor)





What's Next ?

OCTOBER

15-17 Fall Convention - Grand Rapids
23 Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Show
23 AuSable Valley Chapter Show

NOVEMBER

6 Benton Harbor - St. Joe Chap Show
6 Milford Chapter Show
12 Swan Valley CHAPTER Show
20 Detroit #1 Chapter Show

DECEMBER

3-4 C.O.T. School
11 Saginaw-Bay Chapter Show

JANUARY, 1983

27-29 Mid-Winter Convention, Sarasota
29 Clinton Valley Chapter Show

FEBRUARY

12 Oakland County Chapter Show
19 Lansing Chapter Show
26 Monroe Chapter Show

MARCH

12 Port Huron Chapter Show

APRIL

9 Coldwater Chapter Show
9 Grand Rapids Chapter Show
22-24 Spring Conv. - Saginaw-Bay
30 Battle Creek Chapter Show

MAY

7 Boyne City Chapter Show
7 Kalamazoo Chapter Show

JUNE-JULY

26-2 International Convention -
Seattle, Washington

QUARTET : UPDATE



FOUR new quartets have registered:

CROSS COUNTY CONNECTION

contact: Bruce Vanden Bosch
6058 Woodlea
Kalamazoo, MI 49004

SOUND AMBASSADORS

contact: Chuck Simmons
2000 N. Vernon
Dearborn, MI 48128

TWO PLUS TWO

contact: Paul Stotz
1295 Muehleisen Rd.
Ida, MI 48140

HARMONY UNLIMITED

contact: Doug Maddox
2336 Park Ridge Dr.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48013

And these registrations have lapsed.

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