



pioneer TROUBADOUR



ROBERT T. McDERMOTT

1985

PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT

JAN./ FEB., 1985

Proud of our past... excited about our future



INSTITUTE OF LOGOPEDICS

...MORE THAN TALK

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

Can it be? Is it possible? Yes, it certainly is! Christmas and Thanksgiving have come and gone. Those two holidays are revered and anticipated by so many of us. Those days signal many things: homecomings, reflections, rededications, great joys and opportunities to sing some of the most beautiful songs ever written. They are just special times of the year.

It is not too late to wish you all a Happy New Year from each of us who work with Logopedics here in the Pioneer. This includes Chapter people and District officers alike.

But hark! This season also signals the end of our calendar year and the period that resulted from final efforts on behalf of Institute children. We have done so well, increasing our donations. Let us not rest on our oars early in the new year.

If 1985 is going to be another "knee knocker" than so be it! Don't put away the "worry stones" and there'll be more premature gray hairs as the road ahead is not always an easy one to take.

Time now for a closer. What is more fitting than a heartfelt THANK YOU for your participation in our Unified Service Project. What a wonderful motto we have: "We sing that they shall speak!" Please refer to one of our more recent HARMONIZERS for an official report of the twenty year relationship with the Institute in Wichita. This is a natural association.

Remember, "not to decide is to decide."

Together...we are something!

A DEDICATION

As the new editor of this publication, I would like to take advantage of being the one behind the District typewriter by dedicating this entire issue to the memory of Gene Weston.

I knew this man only by his reputation. My first opportunity to talk with him was at C.O.T.S. year before last. We were discussing how a Public Relations Committee should be run with, then, District President Jim Gougeon.

I have not met too many men as dedicated to our wonderful hobby as Gene Weston. The District and the Society as a whole has suffered a true

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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



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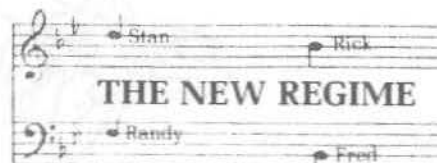
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loss. To grieve without continuing to have an eye to the future is truly a crime. The work he started cannot be forgotten. There will be a manhunt these next few months to locate men to take up the torch so our District may continue to grow and prosper. Let us utilize to the fullest the lessons taught by Gene and others like him.

Bill Tobias



1982 Johnny Applesseed
District Quartet Champions
Contact: Fred Schneider 419-993-5177
418 Harry Court • Miamisburg, OH 45347

*Music
makes people
more beautiful!*

TROUBADOUR DEADLINES

Issue	Info to Editor by
Jan - Feb	Dec 15
Mar - Apr	Feb 15
May - Jun	Apr 15
Jul - Aug	Jun 15
Sep - Oct	Aug 15
Nov - Dec	Oct 15



TROUBADOUR Advertising Rates - 1985.

Full Page...\$60. Half Page...\$40.
2/3 Page... 50. 1/3 Page... 35.
1/4 Page... 30. 1/6 Page... 25.
Quartet Card = \$10 @ - \$40 per year.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER



A BIG YEAR AHEAD!

1985 is going to be a big year for the members of the Pioneer District! I am highly honored to be your newly elected District President, and I'll do everything in my power to make this year as eventful and fulfilling as is possible. That's a promise!

The enthusiasm demonstrated by your chapter and District officers at our recently concluded C.O.T.S. School at Eastern Michigan University indicates that we are well on our way to fulfilling the phrase "make music mean membership" in Pioneer. That's the motto for 1985, adopted by our incoming International President Gil Lefholz, and if you analyze it, it makes good sense. This is the only way we are going to increase and maintain our membership. I'll be talking in future issues about the whole membership spectrum, as I believe we have not done the job we should have over the past several years in this regard for whatever the reason.

One of the things I hope to improve this year is communications within the District. We have had problems in this area in the past, and hopefully we can overcome many of these problems through timely reports in the TROUBADOUR from all chapters.

Our new editor, Bill Tobias, will be anxiously awaiting your reports on chapter activities and upcoming events. He cannot do it alone! If you haven't already done so, appoint a chapter P.R. man and reporter and make it his responsibility to report these activities on a monthly basis to Bill, so nothing is left out. The TROUBADOUR is your publication, and it will be as good as you make it.

Jim Stephens, our District Director of Music Education, has announced several visitations by International staff music men during the coming year. In March a rather unique chapter chorus coaching arrangement is being planned for choruses in both the eastern and western parts of the District. Details will be forthcoming. At any rate, we will have some fine expertise at our fingertips, and if we don't take advantage of it shame on us!

Other plans this year include a Pioneer District Logopedics Spectacular to be held in the Detroit area possibly in the summertime. Hopefully, the S.M.A.C. (Southeastern Michigan Association of Chapters) will take this one on, and a meeting will be scheduled sometime in January to work out the details.

I have rambled quite a bit in this, our first issue of 1985, but I felt I owed it to you members as to where I am coming from. I'm new as a District President, so I do not expect any immediate miracles. But working with our chapter and District officers, who are as dedicated as I am to the rebuilding of our membership and in making the Pioneer District the best in the Society, we will succeed! Your support of them and myself is important to the success of our District. Most importantly, it is your enjoyment and participation as a Pioneer District Barber-shopper which is really the bottom line. That is our mission!

Happy New Year!

Bob



From the Editor



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It is both an honor and a privilege to take over the responsibility of being TROUBADOUR editor from Rusty Ruegsegger. He has served the Pioneer District admirably these past years. Many thanks for a job well done.

A CHANGE OF PACE

Beginning with this issue the deadlines will be altered slightly. The issues will still continue to be bimonthly. The issues and their deadlines are as follows:

JAN/FEB	12/15/84
MAR/APR	2/15/85
MAY/JUN	4/15/85
JUL/AUG	6/15/85
SEP/OCT	8/15/85
NOV/DEC	10/15/85

Your patience and understanding will greatly be appreciated along with your timely contributions. We will not have a quality publication without your assistance.

DO SOMETHING!

To promote membership growth in our District, I am daring each individual chapter to get more involved. Many continue to miss golden opportunities for positive exposure. For example:

1. Blood drives
2. Paper drives
3. Collection of clothes for the Salvation Army and the Goodwill, etc.
4. Public T.V. fund drives
5. Answering phones and/or performing during telethons.
6. Salvation Army holiday bell ringing
7. Collection drives to gather food for the needy
8. Singing in hospitals and convalescent homes around Christmas and other times of the year.

Be inventive! There are always high school music departments desirous of funds for uniforms, instruments and music. It goes without saying that many hospitals have their own Speech Pathology Departments in dire need of therapeutic equipment. Split profit fund raising activities can yield many great results. "Try it, you'll like it!"

If your chapter had a Public Relations Officer to explore these many avenues, there certainly would not be any grumbling from your director because of not enough men on the risers. In fact, your chapter might have to purchase a new section.

Yours In Harmony,

Bill T.

NOW IS NO TIME TO HIBERNATE!



HURON VALLEY CHAPTER CHORUS

With A Song In My Heart

Featuring:

Center Stage International Medalists

and

Salt Water Tuffies

March 9, 1985

Pioneer High School

Auditorium

Ann Arbor

Ticket information:

Please send _____ tickets as follows: Regular \$5.00 (\$6.00 at door)
Senior \$3.00
Student \$3.00 (\$.00 at door)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Write or call: Doc Dixon
Huron Valley Chapter
132 E. Michigan
Clinton, Michigan OR CALL: (517) 456-4477
456-4523



IN LOVING MEMORY

DONALD EUGENE WESTON

BORN - AUGUST 28, 1928
DIED - NOVEMBER 19, 1984

The Pioneer District and the entire Society as a whole suffered a great loss around Thanksgiving this year. An active and dedicated Barbershopper like Gene Weston will be hard to replace. His heart was filled with the love of his family, his friends, the Institute of Logopedics and of Barbershopping as a whole and may never be equalled. That missionary zeal of his was infectious, making it almost impossible for someone not to share some of his excitement when talking to him. To Gene, the preservation and encouragement of Barbershop singing was all important to him and worth all the devotion and dedication he put into it. How wonderful it would be if there could be more of us like him.

His time with us was unbelievably short, but his accomplishments were many:

- He joined the Saginaw Bay Chapter on 12/31/74, recruited by Jim Gross.
- He served the Saginaw Bay Chapter as its Membership Vice-President.
- For two years he was Area Counselor for Zone V.
- He was elected Barbershopper of the Year for 1980.
- He served as Membership Development Coordinator for the International organization.
- He was District Area Counselor of the Year for 1982.



-He took on the responsibilities as editor of FIVE'S ALIVE while Nels Gregorson was President of the Pioneer District.

-He was Pioneer District Division V Vice-President.

-He helped start the Swan Valley Chapter.

-He also served as the Membership Vice - President for the Swan Valley Chapter.

Jim Gross, the one responsible for introducing Gene to our hobby, had this to add: "We were very close. Kathy and Gene, Judy and I did almost everything together. Playing cards, going camping and bowling for starters...He had a technique that, if used by everyone, would improve the quality of the Society by 200%." He related that Gene would phone him when he was not sure of his part, sing it, and ask for ways to improve. He would ask Jim to put his part on tape so he could learn it quicker. He was the Musical Director's dream personified.

Gene left behind his loving wife Kathy of Bay City, son Jim of California, daughters Mary (Marv) Wickler, Becky (Mike) Michalski, Dawn (Ken) Tlaga, and Linda as well as eight grandchildren all of Bay City.

It is Kathy Weston's wish that a living memorial be created in Gene's name with the Institute of Logopedics as recipient. Those wishing to contribute, may send their donations to:
Ms. Ruth Marks
c/o Harmony Foundation
6315 Third Avenue
Kenosha, WI 53140-5199



This is
A Round Tuit.

Guard it with your life. Tuits are hard to come by, especially the round ones. It will help you to become a much more efficient worker. For years now you've heard people say, "I'll do this when I get A Round Tuit." So now that you have one, you can accomplish all those things you put aside until you get

A Round Tuit.

SAY HELLO TO AN OLD FRIEND

We've heard news from the west side of our District. The Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids' finest, was without a director for a short while after Bob Buffham turned in his resignation. The individual who took over this important responsibility is no stranger to Barbershopping or to the Pioneer District. He served this chapter as their Treasurer for many years. He was the District President and has served last as the District's representative on the International Board. This man's name, of course, is Fran Jones.

He has been involved in music for a lot of years. There might be someone out there who is not aware that he has, in the past, directed Sweet Adeline choruses and has often been used as an Assistant Director. There was no word at press time as to whether this relationship is permanent or temporary. It is super that they decided to tap this man of many talents.

Many thanks, Fran, for once again seeing where your talents were needed and the courage to accept the responsibility.

...help yourself to better barbershopping!



The Importance of Stage Presence

by Ron Riegler

The importance of Stage Presence to a Barbershop presentation can be explained very simply: The audience is capable of comprehending our existence on stage with only TWO senses: AURAL and VISUAL (sometimes a third sense can be detected if we haven't had our costumes cleaned recently...however) Therefore, our presentation must focus 50% on Stage Presence. This is likewise true in contest. Although there are three categories, two of them are so closely related that they are essentially the same. Stage Presence and Interpretation. There is no way to Interpret (sell a song) vocally without making an equal effort visually. Just watch all of our "Pop" singers on TV and you'll see what I mean.

Now, the method of winning a chorus championship can be broken down into the following components:

5. Attention to detail by Directors and Coaches.
4. As much rehearsal as necessary to insure that each chorus member is totally confident in what he is required to do.
3. Relative perfection; doing whatever is necessary to cause the audience to believe that you are making no mistakes.
2. Absolute concentration on "selling" the song; no thinking about parts, notes, chords, lack of ring, overtones, or the man leaving the room to go to the restroom - only sing the words that are representing the story.
1. 10% from every member of the chorus. The last drop of blood will be required here!!

ONLY IF THREE CONDITIONS ARE MET, will you Then WIN - in fact, it will be quite easy...

As a personal observation, I can describe the sensation of winning an International Contest in the following way: The most exhilarating moment comes before the curtain opens... You're on stage, you know exactly what you are going to do, you know the audience is going to love what you're going to do, and you can't wait for the standing ovation that will follow the presentation.

Imagine the night on Broadway, when Pearl Bailey took over the role of "Dolly Levi" in "Hello Dolly" from Carol Channing! This occasion met all the requirements above! First the show was a proven winner, for two years. Second the hit number "Hello Dolly" was staged to be as dramatic an event as possible - lots of exciting dancing preceding the big entrance by "Dolly" into "Harmonica Gardens" down Broadway's largest grand staircase...which was followed

by much singing, celebrations and a prance around the ramp which the audience had always reacted to with applause. Third, Pearlie Mae had rehearsed for weeks to perfect her part and was well prepared. Fourth, everyone loved Pearlie Baily and couldn't wait for her to appear at the top of the staircase and start down.

How could she miss? That is electricity! That is an International Championship!!! (reprinted from the Heartbeat)



When you are too busy to sing, you're too busy!

SOME CHRISTMAS SPIRIT!

A warm gesture of appreciation was shown by at least thirty members of Detroit #1 on the 17th of December. After an evening of caroling through the halls of convalescent homes and elsewhere, they all took time to raise the spirits of another one of our brighter stars. Our own Bill Butler had a heart attack the Monday after Thanksgiving last year.

This grand gentleman was relaxing in his living room nestled in his favorite chair. He had been cursing a doctor who took away his driving privilege, forbade him to take his frustrations out on the exercise bike and put him on a 1,000/day diet. Just when the lack of activity was really starting to get to him, the silence of the evening was broken up by the sound of Christmas carols sung in four-part harmony. He got up from his chair, walked to the front door, and after opening it found Barbershoppers standing on his front lawn.

His wife was told in advance, no one wanted to risk him getting too excited. This sign of friendship was well deserved as he's helped many a quartet and chorus improve in our craft. Bill's many contributions to our District, and the Society as a whole, has already earned him a position in the Pioneer Hall of Fame.

Chapter President Bob Dines, Ben Ayling their director, and the rest of those great guys even gave him a 45 minute concert in his living room. Many of the songs performed by the group were arranged by Bill. Their performance was a glowing tribute to someone who has given us so much of himself. Before their performance was over, there were tears of gratitude welling up in his eyes.

The "Bear" wishes to express his appreciation to these wonderful men of song, as well as the Barbershoppers throughout the Society who had sent over 133 cards while he was in the hospital. Your get-well wishes have worked as he is steadily recovering as the days progress. Soon he'll be back terrorizing pedestrians and in rehearsal halls helping us get better.

We all have truly been blessed this past year with Kalamazoo's John T. Gillespie, our immediate past President of the entire Society, being spared and now Bill. It certainly does seem that much more is expected of these two before they're through! May our good fortune continue throughout 1985!



Welcome New Members

THE DISTRICT B. E. CONTEST IS ON

Good news! For all chapter bulletin editors aspiring for the honor of being the 1984 Pioneer District Bulletin Editor, the entry deadline has been extended to 1/31/85. The top two finalists in the competition will go on to represent the District on the International level.

HERE ARE THE ELIGIBILITY RULES:

1. All bulletins must be from one editor.
2. Only bulletins from 1984 are eligible.
3. Entrants must have published at least ten issues in 1984.
4. Three consecutive issues must be submitted.
5. You may submit an additional issue as an alternate.
6. Eight copies of each of the selected bulletins are required.

Winners of the District Competition will be announced at the Spring Convention.

All issues will be critiqued by three judges in three categories: 1. content; 2. grammar and style; and, 3. layout and reproduction. All entries will be returned along with the judges' comments and recommendations.

All entries should be sent to:

Bill Tobias
512 Harger, Apt. D
Manton, MI 49663

Each entrant is a winner and each and every chapter President, Musical Director, and Board of Directors should have a means of conveying their thoughts to their membership. The entire chapter loses if they are without this important method of communication.

QUARTET



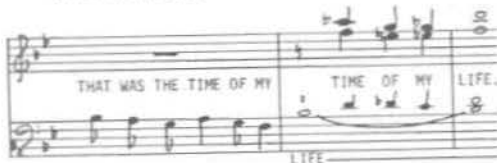
CENTER STAGE

CENTER STAGE, four time International medalist quartet, and current second place silver medalists, have announced that Drayton Justus is their new lead effective with the Fall '85 shows. Drayton is replacing Dennis Gore, whose business and personal commitments have become overpowering in recent months.

Drayton Justus is well known in the Society as the lead, for the last five years, with the 1961 champion quartet the SUNTONES. He also sang the lead with the 1971 champion GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT.

In the shuffle of papers following the change, some chapter show bids may have become lost. Please note that the new contact man for the quartet is: Glenn Van Tassell
5876 Mohawk
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Any bids outstanding for the past 30-60 days should be re-submitted to this address.



THE IVY LEAGUE

Our quartet has a new contact man, not because of a change in personnel. He is:

Brian Philbin
109 Elm Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
(313) 483 - 2990

I am understandably proud to broadcast the fact that the Monroe Chapter has a new Musical Director...me! Please update your District directories to read:

Scott Turnbull
P.O. Box #173
Clarkston, MI 48016
(313) 625 - 5866

Wedding bells are not breaking up that old gang of mine. However, our booming bass, Dave Drouillard, recently entered the joys of matrimony on September 15, 1984 in Vermillion, Ohio...sorry girls! Our new Mrs. Drouillard answers to the name "Tracey" or "Hey You!"

The IVY LEAGUE trio performed at the wedding accompanied on bass by the groom's very capable and proud father, Chuck Drouillard.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Turnbull

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT



BATTLE CREEK NEWS

We hope that all Pioneer District Barbershoppers had a nice Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Cereal City Chorus is definitely giving thanks.

Just in case you haven't heard, which means you weren't listening or in attendance, The Cereal City Chorus finished a solid fourth place in the chorus competition at the Fall Contest held on Saturday, October 20th at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium in our fair city of Battle Creek.

Though the contest was held just before Halloween, it was all tricks and no treats for the 50 men on stage that afternoon. To top it off, we finished second in sound and interpretation to the champs (Wayne-Wonderland Chorus).

Now, Santa, while we are all still in the holiday spirit, we would like 75 new uniforms, a dozen more solid voices, improved stage presence and a partridge in a pear tree for Christmas, and, for a New Year's resolution, the Cereal City Chorus plans to be #1 come the Spring and Fall Conventions...no holes barred!

In case you net the impression we're quite excited here in Battle Creek, you're right! Our spirits are high with expectations and, as 1984 was the year of the Detroit Tigers, we hope 1985 will be our year in Barbershopping in the Pioneer District. With the addition of a few designated singers, extra hard work and rehearsals, we hope to improve by this Spring enough to take all honors. We will be getting some intensive and specialized training under the leadership of our manager 'Giff' Richards to prepare us for the world series of Barbershopping.

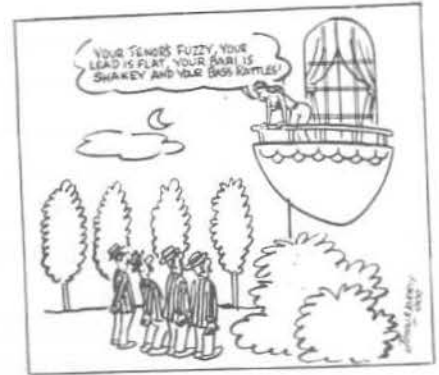
We felt very proud to have hosted the Fall Convention, and from all signs and appearances we did a great job. With no boast intended we would like to take a slight bow with pride for a job well done! We would like to offer a special salute to our own Roger Lewis who deserves a lot of credit for a smooth running weekend. Except for the rain that fell during the mass sing Saturday afternoon, it was a great weekend. We hope that all who attended the convention and visited our city, enjoyed their stay.

1984 certainly has been a fantastic year for our chapter. From a membership of 43 on January 1st to our present number of 75. A 7th place finish at the Spring Contest followed by a 4th place in the Fall, numerous requests for sing-outs & performances along with spirits at an all time high, Barbershopping is alive and well in Battle Creek. We would like to express our apprecia-

tion to our director, our officers & Board, and, of course, the membership as a whole. In this expression of gratitude, let us not forget our wives, friends, and families.

We hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas and we would like to extend our wishes for a healthy and most prosperous of New Years.

Ben Jerzyk
Chapter Secretary



GROSSE POINTE TO HOST SPRING CONVENTION

Pioneer District's Spring Convention will be held April 26-28 at the City of Warren's Fitzgerald High School at 23200 Ryan Road at 9 Mile Road.

Headquarters hotel will be the luxurious Midway Motor Lodge in Warren. The nearby Holiday Inn and Knights Inn will also have blocks of rooms available for Barbershoppers and their guests. A convention registration and hotel reservation form is printed in this issue and should be preserved for future use.

The Grosse Pointe Chapter's Immediate Past-President, Harvey Burr, is General Chairman of the convention. He will be ably assisted by a committee composed of Bob Rancillo (Housing), John Collins (Registration), Jim Kinner (Tickets), and Bill Brower (Treasurer).

In order to utilize the capacity of Fitzgerald's splendid auditorium and to make available to interested non-Barbershoppers an opportunity to attend a convention, a special effort will be made to sell single-event tickets to local residents.

Chapters in the Detroit Metropolitan Area are encouraged to contact Bill Lane (Advertising) at 884-2333 to offer their assistance in publicizing the availability of such tickets.

Further details will be printed in the next issue of the TROUBADOUR.

CONTACT: Bill Lane
1451 Oxford Road
Grosse Pte. Woods, MI 48236
(313) 884-2333

(continued on page 9)



1985 SPRING CONVENTION -- PIONEER DISTRICT
WARREN, MICHIGAN
APRIL 26-28, 1985



HOSTED BY GROSSE POINTE CHAPTER
at
FITZGERALD HIGH SCHOOL, 23200 Ryan Road at 9 Mile Road

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Chapter Name: _____
Member Name: _____ Wife: _____
Address: _____
Zip: _____
Tenor _____ Lead _____ Baritone _____ Bass _____

Chorus and/or Quartet Name: _____
Fee Enclosed \$ _____ (\$10.00 per person). After April 12, fee is \$13.00 per person. Refunds ONLY by written request to Convention Chairman before noon, April 26.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.
MAIL TO: JOHN COLLINS, 26213 SAN ROSA DRIVE
ST. CLAIR SHORES, MICHIGAN 48081

HOTEL/MOTEL RESERVATION

MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 25, 1985, MAIL TO:
BOB RANCILIO, 18045 TOEPFER
EAST DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48021

INDICATE 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD CHOICES - CIRCLE ROOM PRICE:
HOTEL/MOTEL

___	*MIDWAY MOTOR LODGE (1 to 4 persons)			
		<u>POOLSIDE</u>	<u>WING SECTION</u>	
		\$65	\$60	
		(1 person)	(2 persons-1 bed)	(2 persons-2 beds)
___	HOLIDAY INN	\$50	\$57	\$57
___	KNIGHTS INN	\$27	\$32.50	\$33.50

NAMES OF OCCUPANTS: _____
ARRIVAL DATE AND TIME: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____
CREDIT CARD NO. AND TYPE: _____ PHONE NO.: _____
HOTEL SHOULD CONFIRM TO: _____
(NAME)

[ONE RESERVATION FORM PER ROOM]
*Headquarters Hotel
FOR HOSPITALITY ROOMS:
CONTACT MOTEL DIRECT.



(ADDRESS)

(ZIP)

MUSKEGON CHAPTER NEWS

PONTIAC'S 42ND ANNUAL SHOW DATE SET

One of the Society's longest records of consecutive shows will be added to with yet another link in the unbroken chain. On Sunday, April 14, 1985, the Pontiac Chapter will present "Palates, Plates, and Pitchpipes II", at the Community Activities, Inc. Hall at 5640 Williams Lake Road in Waterford.

This combination show and dinner will start with entertainment at 2:00 pm followed by a buffet dinner at 5:00 pm ending with an Afterglow.

The talent line-up has not been completed, but more information is available from either Len Barnes (313-673-2077) or Bill Pascher (313-391-0572). Tables of eight or more may be reserved.

Pontiac ended year 1984 on a positive note, having just completed a six week Christmas Carol Chorus Program which attracted 24 additional singers. Indications are that 12 or more will continue as Society members.

The Chapter Achievement Scores have climbed steadily throughout the year principally due to intense summer activity. The November 30th report showed us firmly planted in first place (Plateau One). Retention has been near perfect having lost but one member. The dreadful combatant was cancer. However, the emphasis on activity has produced eight new members, four reinstatements, and an active prospect list of over thirty.

Pontiac enters 1985 under the experience of Len Barnes as President; Lyle Howard as M.V.P.; John Smith as P.V.P.; Bill Dabbs as Secretary; and, Dick Johnson as Treasurer.

We wish all readers a harmonious and happy New Year!

Bill Pascher, Editor
Pontiac POW-WOW

**Guests don't
"just show up"**

... someone
invites them!



**Have you invited
a guest lately?**

"The falling leaves...drift by my window..." It's also harmony time down south---Southwestern Michigan I mean. It was a great contest in Battle Creek. I was disappointed that the REMNANTS and the DUTCHMASTERS were not co-champions, but THE RITZ were far from being the pits.

We were disappointed, at first, that our Shoreline Chorus did not rank better. When we heard the other choruses, taking into consideration that there were six groups that had not sung in the competition last April, we just licked our wounds and started preparing for the next battle. Personally, I was impressed by the Cereal City Chorus, who certainly sang well. If they turn out to be the next District champions, remember that you read it here.

Meanwhile, back at the beach, the Shoreline Chorus continues to be in demand---which allows us to pick and choose a little. We chose, for example, to participate in the Grand Haven Coast Guard Festival in August. Grand Haven is celebrating its 150th year as a community, and the Waterfront Stadium was packed. Our chorus sang exceptionally well during their two appearances that evening. They also sang for the Spring Lake Heritage Festival. They shared the stage with the TOUCH OF CLASH (from Grand Rapids), a Sweet Adeline quartet called the CURRENT EVENTS along with their West Shore Chorus. Both of these festivals made donations to the Chapter Uniform Fund.

As I write, our chapter is preparing a community program for the Fremont Schools and the "Area-Ladies-Night-Wing-Ding" for November. We invited both the Holland and the Grand Rapids choruses and their ladies. We had an evening of harmony at the Doo-Drop Inn on the 8th of November here in Muskegon.

I sometimes wonder if members read the articles and columns in the District's TROUBADOUR. (Alas! I know that many of our members don't!) I find the news interesting and the suggestions are helpful from time to time, and it is worth making the effort to do the reading. One chapter, for example, shared their experience with International package shows, such as the Disney format. Don Richardson's "Record Reviews" is informative, and there is a current limerick contest being held by the PROBE organization. "Who cares?"-you may ask. Well, I care which is why I am sharing this bit of information with you...and I hope somebody reads it!

As a public school teacher for many years (now retired), a director of choral groups, as music director of local Broadway musicals, and as a singer and director in three International chorus competitions, I have listened to the groans of many complaining about the use of make-up. High school boys were never crazy about learning dance routines. Barbershoppers are no better.

Make-up has been referred to as "war paint" and it soiled clothes, and a real pain after a performance. As they say in London, "pity!" A good make-up job is essential during normal stage performances. Artificial lighting is intense, and make-up simply returns the features to normal. Without it the eyebrows disappear, lips fade away and the chorus looks like "Ghost Singers On The Stage."

Gary Stamm, the Society's Audio-Visual Service Manager, would be happy to send to your chapter the educational video tape #4013---"On With The Make-up!" (There is a slight fee involved.) It shows the right and the wrong way. As one of the stage presence judges wrote me, "the right amount of make-up properly applied, is part of your stage presence score."

As in my custom, I invite anyone visiting the Muskegon area to drop by. We meet on Thursday nights at 8:00pm in the Music Room of Muskegon Community College. If in doubt or if you're stranded, phone Del Doctor at 780-2463 or Rick Baughman at 788-2574.

I would like to extend my heartfelt wishes to you all for a Happy New Year.

Webb Scrivnor



"I just know I dragged down our S. P. score."

NEWS 'N' NOTES

from

HERE AND THERE

by Rusty Rueesegeer

The International Preliminaries for Choruses are all complete and the singing positions have been determined at Kenosha. Here's how they will appear in Minneapolis, next July...

Appearing first, representing Rocky Mountain District, for the third consecutive time, will be Denver's MILE HI CHORUS. Directed by Larry Wilson, lead of the CLASSIC COLLECTION, the 71-man chorus won with a respectable score of 991. They were 13th last year in St. Louis.

Appearing second, from the Ontario District, will be the DUKES OF HARMONY from Scarborough. This chorus put 105 men on the risers and won with an impressive 1060 score. They are obviously out to better their 4th-place finish in St. Louis.

Singing third, representing the Evergreen District, will be the STAMPEDE CITY CHORUS, from Calgary, Alberta, Canada. This chorus represented the District three times back in the 60's but has not even competed since 1981! They've gone through a rebuilding program and 85 men won with a score of 931.

Competing fourth, from the Pioneer District, will be the WONDERLAND CHORUS from Wayne. One of the smallest choruses to win, the 67 men won with a score of 952. This will be the second consecutive appearance for Wayne who were 12th in St. Louis.

Fifth on the list of competitors is the VOCAL MAJORITY, from Dallas, Texas, representing the Southwestern District. This marks the return to competition of the V.M. who won the Gold Medal in 1982. The 113-man-chorus scored an impressive 1052.

Singing sixth and representing the Johnny Appleseed District will be those perennial contenders, the Cincinnati Western Hills SOUTHERN GATEWAY CHORUS. Back, after a one-year lay-off, the 94-man chorus scored just short of the "magic 1000" at 996. They are now directed by Dave Smotzer, tenor of the RAPSCALLIONS.

Appearing seventh will be Fresno's GOLD NOTE CHORUS, representing the Far Western District. Back for their second consecutive International, they'll be trying to move up from their 7th-place finish in St. Louis. Their chances appear good as this 86-man chorus scored an impressive 1012 to win over the 111-man Whit-tier Chorus.

The "Home Court Advantage" will be held by the eighth competitor, the Minneapolis COMMODORE CHORUS, back for their fourth consecutive appearance. This 91-man chorus, who took 10th-place in St. Louis, scored 999 points to best the St. Paul NORTH STAR CHORUS. St. Paul, by virtue of their 2nd-place, will be the Mike-Tester Chorus at the 1985 International.

Singing 9th will be the representative from the Dixie District. From Research Triangle Park, NC, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY CHORUS. Back for their second consecutive International, this will probably be the smallest chorus. Even with only 48 men on stage, they still put out lots of sound. They were 6th in St. Louis, against choruses THREE TIMES as big!

Appearing tenth and representing the Mid-Atlantic District will be the Manhattan BIG APPLE CHORUS. They were third in St. Louis in their very first International appearance and may be the "dark horse" to win in 1985. Their preliminary score of 1072 was the highest reported and indicates that they are a serious contender for the Gold Medal.

Singing in the eleventh position will be the BIG ORANGE CHORUS from Orange Park, FL., representing the Sunshine District. This chorus, 63-men strong, scored 920 points to defeat the Orlando Chorus who had represented that district for the last three years.

Appearing in the twelfth position and representing the Central States District will be the HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS from Kansas City. Back for their seventh consecutive International, this 78-man chorus scored 991 points to beat the Des Moines Chorus, who had 97 men.

The "Lucky Thirteen" spot will be filled by the Seneca Land representative CHORUS OF THE GENESEE, from Rochester, NY. Back for their sixth consecutive International, this 69-man chorus scored 917 points to best the East Aurora Chorus of 91 men. Time and again, we're seeing that it takes more than just numbers to win the big one.

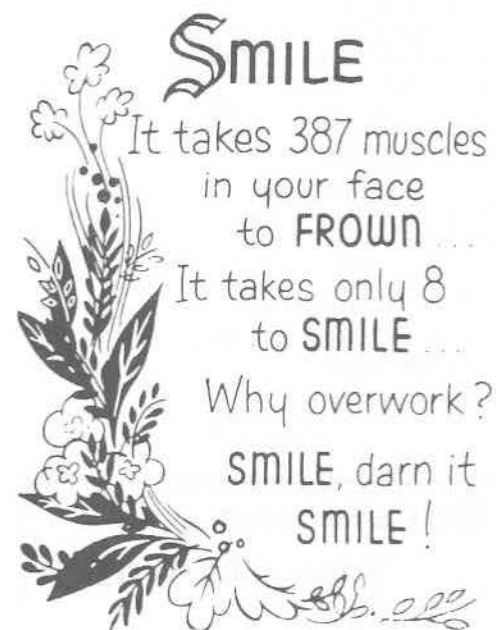
Simply because the THOROUGHBREDS won the 1984 International Chorus Championship does not mean you can forget about the Cardinal District for the next two years. Along comes the PRIDE OF INDY CHORUS, 92-men strong, to score 933 points and sweep the District. They are directed by former Society Music Services

Assistant, Lyle Pettigrew, and will sing in the 14th position.

The 15th position will be filled by the Providence, RI, NARRAGANSETT BAY CHORUS, representing the Northeastern District. Back for their second consecutive International, this 77-man chorus scored 984 points to win, thereby serving notice that they plan to improve upon their 11th place finish in St. Louis.

And, hoping to prove that the last shall be first, is the WEST TOWNS CHORUS, from Lombard, representing the Illinois District. This 129-man chorus, the largest reported in the preliminaries, posted an impressive 1044 points in their win. This will be their fourth consecutive International - they've been 4th, then 3rd, 2nd last year, and in 1985 - ? They are directed by Dr. Greg Lyne.

That's the lineup for the Chorus Competition. From the looks of it, this should be one of the most exciting contests ever! I'm not gonna miss it!



Last Sunday our minister asked all who were without sin to stand up. Only one man stood and the minister asked, "Are you without sin?" The man answered, "No, but I stand here in proxy for my wife's first husband."



RECORD REVIEW

by Don Richardson, Phoenix Chapter

DON RICHARDSON, a barbershopper since 1965 and a Society member since 1969, recorded "Close Harmony," a weekly half-hour of barbershop music in stereo for eleven years. He alone is responsible for choosing the records to be reviewed in this column, and the opinions expressed are solely his.

A few years ago, at the Riverside show afterflow, we, in Nostalgia, were excited to meet GINNY COLE, one of the Chordettes. The thrill came from being in the presence of one of the "greats" of barbershopping. Forget that chauvinistic attitude that women can't sing as well as men, or that they don't sound as good. The Chordettes sang better and sounded better than most of us, and we lose nothing by granting that.

Everest Records, 2020 Avenue of the Stars, Concourse Level, Century City, CA 90607 has brought out "The CHORDETTES' GREATEST HITS" which includes eight songs that many barbershoppers will recall. (Some I did not, but that's my bad memory.) There's "Lollipop," "Just Between You and Me," "Born To Be With You," "Never On Sunday," "Zorro," "Lay Down Your Arms," "Eddie My Love," and "Mr. Sandman." Just to list the song titles is an exercise in nostalgia -- I, personally, had forgotten that the Chordettes had recorded all of these. But to hear the record is to acknowledge again what a fine group this was and to concede that Arthur Godfrey did know something about talent -- he was quite instrumental in their success, I understand.

There are only eight songs here, and every one of them is accompanied. But listening to the record -- purist though I am -- I find that the accompaniment does not interfere, and I am glad to have the eight songs. And in reflecting about this record and the songs, I'm led to ask, "Where is the Chordettes quartet of 1983?" Oh, I know the quartet is out there, but why don't we hear about it? Is it, perhaps, because Arthur Godfrey and Ed Sullivan are no longer letting the American public hear this music? Remember the Doormen Quartet? How about the Osmond Brothers quartet? Did you ever see Andy Williams sing in his family quartet? Maybe I've gotten old too soon; I, for one, miss the groups that reaffirmed standard American values. That's probably why I stay in barbershopping -- we seem to continue on our conservative, patriotic way.

This record is available from Everest, or from Chesterfield Music Shops, 12 Warren St., New York City, NY, 10007. The record, Number 4115, costs \$2.99; add \$3.00 for postage and handling.

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

SOCIETY QUARTET NEWS

by Rusty Ruegsegger

In no particular order -- the Cardinal District crowned the CLASS OF '84, a foursome from the Louisville Chapter. In the Sunshine District, the CYPRESS CHORD CLUB emerged victorious, with teen-aged Tony Derosa floating in the tenor part.

From the Rocky Mountain District comes further proof that some guys will do anything to get into a good quartet. It seems that right after International last year the DUKE CITY QUARTET (28th) and PARTNERSHIP (42nd) both disbanded. So, the tenor and bari from PARTNERSHIP, who live near Boulder, CO., and the lead and bass of DUKE CITY, who live in Albuquerque, NM., started singing together. Not so unusual, you say? Consider that the distance is over 400 miles and you'll understand some of the difficulties. Notwithstanding, they formed BANK STREET, and won the RMD Championship.

In the Far Western District, most surprisingly, NEW TRADITION, 7th in St. Louis, took top honors.

In the Seneca Land District the SHENANIGANS good luck soon went bad. No sooner had they won the District Crown than their tenor, John Casey, formerly of the CAPITOL CHORD AUTHORITY, announced that he was leaving to sing with VAUDEVILLE, replacing Harold Nantz.

In the Ontario District, the winner was DE JA VU, an aptly-named quartet when you consider that their lead is Jim Turner. In the Mid-Atlantic District, ALEXANDER'S RAGTIME BAND, 16th place in St. Louis, took the Championship even after giving 2nd place FOUR UNDER PAR a 100-point spot in Stage Presence.

Here is a refreshing story: in the Johnny Appleseed District, the new Champs are four all new faces----nobody's ever won nuthin'---named BUSTIN LOOSE. Also in the JAD, Chuck Bell (ROAD SCHOLARS), Dave Jung, and Don Gray (ROARING 20'S) have banded together to form HIS MASTER'S VOICE, one of the best new quartet names I have heard lately - truly evocative.

The Northeastern District witnessed the championship performance of FANFARE. In light of the recent seismic disturbances around Mt. St. Helens, I think it's fitting that Evergreen District Champions and six-time International competitors TALK OF THE TOWN recently called it quits so tenor, Roger Williams, has joined John, Kirk, and Jim, bass, lead, and bari of the former LITTLE RASCALS to form CELEBRATION. Watch this space for more on this four-some.

In the Central States District, SPECIAL TOUCH, 29th in St. Louis, finally got around to competing in the District contest and won. The members reside in Topeka, Kansas City and Sedalia -- about 175 miles apart.

It isn't necessarily true that only those who can't sing get elected to the District Board. In the Dixie District, President Bobby Wooldridge is a member of the BOWERY STREET BOYS, who won the championship this year.

In nearby Illinois District, the contest was won by CHIEFS OF STAFF, who formed only two months ago. Don Bagley, bass, was formerly with the TIN PAN ALLIES who recently disbanded. They credit their rapid improvement to the excellent coaching they got from the likes of Jay Giallombardo. Last year's champions, AT EASE, have had relocation and availability problems and have decided to retire.

Finally, in the Southwestern District, RARE BLEND, from Houston, won the championship. They were 12th in St. Louis.

A few additional notes of interest about some other quartets -- the NEW ST LOUIS VOCAL BAND, 1983 CSD Champs and 30th in St. Louis is defunct.

The Knudson Brothers, currently out of FWD, are not competing in any Fall competitions. They have again changed a brother in the quartet and will be aiming toward the Spring prelims.

At the recent JAD Fall Convention, when the 1984 Champs were crowned, the 1983 Champs, HARMONY PARTNERS, announced their retirement. Their tenor, Leo Sisk, has won four District Championships -- 1958 TOWN & COUNTRY FOUR, 1969 - POINT FOUR, in 1975 - ROAD SHOW, and in 1983 HARMONY PARTNERS. What's next for Leo?

We have heard that Rich Knapp and Kent Martin, former lead and tenor of the original BOSTON COMMON, have started a new quartet with the bass and baritone of the former GRAND STAND VOCAL BAND, International competitors and former NED champs. I imagine all those local quartets are anxiously waiting to see which District they'll choose to compete in.

The Palomar--Pacific Chapter in FWD is home of the popular 3 CENTURY 4, so named because of the combined performers ages. Tenor, Reg Sweet, is 82; lead, John Watson, is 81; the baby of the group, singing bass, is Bruce Radder, a mere 58! They say they hope to entertain for many more years, but just in case, they never start any continued stories. In fact, they say, they don't even buy any green bananas!



ATTENTION ALL SHOW CHAIRMEN:

Broadcast Music Incorporated (BMI) has informed us that Society chapters and quartets are singing their songs on annual shows and we haven't paid for a license! Granted, chapters pay an ASCAP (CAPAC in Canada) license fee, but now the United States chapters must incorporate the BMI license fees. Here are the rates for a joint ASCAP/BMI license fee:

	ASCAP/BMI Rate Per Concert Highest Price of Admission (Exclusive of Tax)			
Seating Cap.	\$0-\$3	\$3.01-\$6	\$6.01-\$9	\$9.01-\$12
0-750	\$ 33	\$ 39	\$ 46	\$ 58
751-1500	38	45	55	67
1501-2500	55	65	75	90
2501-4000	85	95	105	122
4001-5000	95	105	118	135
5001-5500	113	123	136	153
5501-7500	123	136	153	221

This new license fee was effective August 1, 1984.

NOTE:

Dates shown on this page are for activities which have been cleared through the District Secretary and for which ASCAP fees have been paid. Please **DO NOT** send show date reservation notices to me.

Please notify: JACK TEUBERT
3818 Dukeshire
Royal Oak, MI 48072



JANUARY

28 Mid-Winter Convention - San Antonio

FEBRUARY

- 8-9 Oakland County Chapter Show
- 15-16 Grosse Pointe Chapter Show
- 23 Holland Chapter Show
- 23 Clinton Valley Show

MARCH

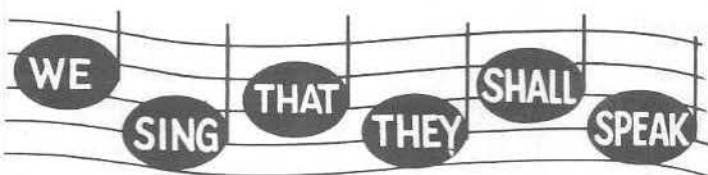
- 1-2 Wayne Chapter Show
- 2 Monroe Chapter Show
- 9 Huron Valley Chapter Show
- 15-17 Quartet & Coaching Clinic -
E.M.U., Ypsilanti
- 23 Lansing Chapter Show
- 23 Windsor Chapter Show
- 30 Port Huron Chapter Show

APRIL

- 13 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
- 14 Pontiac Chapter Show
- 20 Grand Rapids Chapter Show
- 20 Coldwater Chapter Show
- 20 St. Joseph Valley Chapter Show
- 26-28 Spring Convention in Warren, MI
by the Grosse Pointe Chapter

MAY

- 4 Battle Creek Chapter Show
- 4 Boyne City Chapter Show
- 11 Muskegon Chapter Show
- 18 Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter Show
- 18 Alpena Chapter Show



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