



# pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

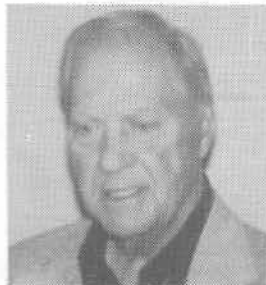


## APR·MAY 89



VOLUME 40 NUMBER 2

### We'll Miss the 'BEAR'



Willis D. "Bear" Butler passed from our midst on February 13, 1989. He will be sorely missed throughout the District and his beloved Detroit/Oakland Chapter. Funeral services were held at the Newburgh United Methodist Church and interment at White Chapel Cemetery on February 16, 1989 following. A hundred or more barbershoppers were in attendance to pay tribute to this great man.

We called him "Mr. Barbershopper." He was given that title earlier this month when the Detroit/Oakland Chapter dedicated their 50th Anniversary Show to him. Bill, who was 73, attended in a wheelchair to receive the applause of the crowd in what was to be his last hurrah.

Although weakened tremendously by his long bout with cancer, he still managed to appear at Detroit/Oakland's chorus rehearsals where he coached. Your editor can still remember the last thing he said to me, "I wish I had the strength to yell at them (meaning the chorus) one more time." Bill was that kind of guy, with the biggest heart of anyone I've ever known. Bill was big, and appeared gruff (hence the name "Bear"), but no one has ever done more for the advancement of barbershop singing than Bill.

Bill was a longtime salesman for the Detroit Mutual Insurance Co. and the Metropolitan Insurance Co.

He began his barbershopping with the Traverse City chapter in 1948. He directed the CHERRYLAND CHORUS for five years and also organized and sang with the CHIEFTAINS quartet.

#### IN MEMORY OF

W. D. "BILL" BUTLER

Born - August 4, 1915

Died - February 13, 1989

He moved to Cadillac in 1954 and in two years helped expand the chapter from 27 to 57 members.

He moved to Flint in 1956 and was one of the leaders in resurrecting the defunct Flint Chapter, which had had its charter suspended in 1952. He served as President and as Chorus Director while there.

In 1960, he helped rebuild the Wayne WONDERLAND CHORUS for three years before transferring to the Detroit #1 Chapter. He then directed the MOTOR CITY CHORUS for nine years, winning four District championships along the way, in addition to taking the chorus to International competition in 1965 and 1967.

In 1976 he was appointed chairman of the District musical activities program, a position which he served in until 1981. At that time the position of Director of Music Education was created, and Bill served as the DME for the District until 1983.

During his whole barbershopping life, Bill was constantly called upon by the Society for teaching in various capacities at HEP schools, Harmony College, etc. He coached many quartets during his career, the most famous of which was the GREAT LAKES EXPRESS.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife Jean and his family. Bill has left a void in our District that will be very hard to fill.

(See other articles in this issue by Wally Dorosch and a "Letter to the Pioneer District" by his wife Jean.)

### BATTLE CREEK Schedule

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - PIONEER DISTRICT  
CONVENTION AND CONTESTS, BATTLE CREEK

Friday, April 21, 1989

1:00 p.m. - District Board Meeting  
Stouffer's Hotel

9:00 p.m. - Quartet Preliminaries  
Kellogg Auditorium

Saturday, April 22, 1989

8:00 a.m. - District House of Delegates Meeting, Stouffers Hotel

11:00 a.m. - District Chorus Contest  
Kellogg Auditorium

4:30 p.m. - Outgoing District Champion Chorus Performance - MIDSTATESMEN CHORUS from Gratiot County Chapter McCamly Place

9:00 p.m. - District Quartet Finals  
Kellogg Auditorium

#### NOTICE OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING TO BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

APRIL 21, 1989, 1:00 p.m., STOUFFER HOTEL, BATTLE CREEK, MI, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE DISTRICT CONVENTION.

This notice is given as required by Article 7.03 of the Pioneer District By-laws.

All district board meetings are open to all Society members.

THE DISTRICT HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING WILL BE HELD ON April 22, 1989 8:00 a.m. at the Stouffer Hotel in Battle Creek. All chapter representatives should be in attendance!

Respectfully submitted,  
JACK SCHNEIDER, District Secretary

# LOGOPEDICS



ALEX WILCOX  
38174 S. RICKHAM CT.  
WESTLAND, MI 48185  
Res: (313) 728-6865

## PIONEER DISTRICT LOGOPEDICS CHAIRMAN

I would like to start my new assignment as District Logopedic's Chairman by thanking all of our chapters and quartets for a great job in our million dollar drive. Without your support, we could not have reached our goal. It takes all of us singing together to accomplish anything, whether it be in singing or fund raising. This past year has shown us this. Now it's time to show the other districts what we in the Pioneer District are made of. You should be pleased to know that we gave more dollars per man in 1988 than any other district. As I said, we are a team, so if you have any good ideas or suggestions about how we can improve the way we do things in our district, please feel free to call or write me.

This is a pretty good start, so keep up the good work and lets all go for the gold!

### 1989 LOGOPEDIC CONTRIBUTIONS THRU 3/1

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| ALPENA          | \$700 (Silver Award) |
| WAYNE           | \$325                |
| LANSING         | \$291.76             |
| FLINT           | \$115                |
| MILFORD         | \$100                |
| SAGINAW         | \$ 36                |
| DETROIT/OAKLAND | \$ 30                |
| GRAND RAPIDS    | \$ 10                |

TOTAL CONTRIB. \$1,607.76

### LOGOPEDICS REPORT



"That reminds me, our director told me to open my mouth wider when I sing!"

# Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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



## 1989 PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES: \$4.00 per year, Single copy price - 60¢

The Troubadour is the official publication of the Pioneer District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. All articles not accompanied by a by-line have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the members and officers of the Pioneer District or SPEBSQSA Inc. Space in the Troubadour will be made available for opposing points of view.

PUBLISHED: February, April, June, August, October, and December

POSTMASTER:  
Mail undeliverable copy to:

Detroit-Oakland Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.  
Robert McDermott  
1859 Maryland Blvd.  
Birmingham, MI 48009

ADVERTISING RATES:  
Full Page ..... \$80.00  
Two Thirds ..... \$60.00  
Half Page ..... \$50.00  
One Third ..... \$40.00  
One Sixth ..... \$30.00  
Quartet Card (per issue) ..... \$13.00  
Quartet Card (per year) ..... \$50.00

### TROUBADOUR DEADLINES AND MAILING DATES

| EDITION          | COPY DEADLINE      | APPROXIMATE MAILING DATE |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|
| February/March   | January 15, 1989   | February 1, 1989         |
| April/May        | March 15, 1989     | April 1, 1989            |
| June/July        | May 15, 1989       | June 1, 1989             |
| August/September | July 15, 1989      | August 1, 1989           |
| October/November | September 15, 1989 | October 1, 1989          |
| December/January | November 15, 1989  | December 1, 1989         |

NOTE: Please allow two weeks beyond the approximate mailing date for receipt of your issue of the TROUBADOUR.

### CHANGES OF ADDRESS

The TROUBADOUR is mailed with labels supplied by our International Headquarters. If you have moved, or plan to change your address, notify International Headquarters, SPEBSQSA, 6315-3rd Avenue, Kenosha, WI 53140-5199. Give them your name, Member Number, Chapter Number, your old address, and your new address. This will insure your continued receipt of the TROUBADOUR. **DO NOT CONTACT** your editor, as he cannot effect a change of address, and this will only cause unneeded delay in the delivery of your TROUBADOUR and your HARMONIZER.

## THE PRESIDENT'S



**PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT  
CLAY JONES**

Well, we're three months into 1989 and I haven't felt the necessity to slash my wrists or jump off a bridge yet, tho' we've still got nine months to go. Actually, last year was not a bad year at all, and this year looks very promising too. Other than our one major set-back of having to postpone our Mini-HEP (Music Education Program) due to exorbitant costs, things are getting off to a pretty good start.

DME Drennan is diligently trying to reschedule his M.E.P. for a more propitious time and in a location that we all can afford, we have relocated our December 1989 COTS to a more central location (Lansing), two highly successful visits by Jim DeBusman and Tom Gentry have fired up the troops, several chapters have actually shown an increase in membership rather than a decline, and Alpena, bless them, has experienced a 100% retention of members. Now we learn that a new extension site has applied for a license with 21 brand new barbershopper applicants. Jackson Chapter appears to be making an impressive revival, and have you heard about Holland? These guys are cooking and expect to be a powerful force in Pioneer in the coming months.

During the past three months I've had the pleasure of attending five chapter shows throughout the district and I must say I'm impressed by the improved quality of the singing in every case. I suppose that can be attributed to several various and different factors. I believe the underlying reason is an awareness on every barbershopper's part of the importance of working for improvement in order to entertain our audiences more and increase our own personal enjoyment that comes from a truly good performance.

DYNAMO II in a couple of instances has resulted in the strengthening of chapter development and musical abilities. I hope more of you will take advantage of the opportunity DYNAMO presents. You have to prepare your administrative and music teams for this program. Yes, I said "prepare" for this program; it does take work to get ready, but the rewards are well worth the effort. Contact your DYNAMO

**CORNER**

## Pioneer TROUBADOUR

representative via your Division ADME or call Don Bazely (north) or Jack Drennan (south) and ask what you have to do to get started.

Finally, I'd like to make an appeal to all you chapter presidents to pay more attention to the mailings you receive from various district officers or committee chairman. It's very frustrating for a committee spokesman to mail out a questionnaire or a letter asking for a response, and then have it totally ignored, possibly "deep-sixed". When forms requiring nothing more than a checkmark and signature and returning in an accompanying stamped, self-addressed envelope get ignored, it's not only frustrating but a waste of time and money as well. It sort of makes you feel "What's the use, nobody cares!" Let's show a little compassion for the committee members who are trying to do a job. Let's get involved or move out of the way.

### **GRANT GOODFELLOW TO REPRESENT INT'L AT DISTRICT CONVENTION**



Grant Goodfellow from the Ontario District will represent International President Jim Richards at our District Convention being held in Battle Creek April 21-22, 1989. Grant is the International Board Member from that District and hails from the Oakville Chapter. His wife Betty will accompany him during the visit.

Grant has served as the Oakville Chapter Treasurer, Director, and President from 1972-75. He became an Area Counselor in 1975, and moved up the ladder serving as Central Division Vice President, Membership Vice President, Executive Vice President and finally Ontario District President from 1985-86. He is presently serving his second year as International Board Member.

Grant will be addressing the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday morning. If you happen to run into Grant and Betty during the convention be sure to introduce yourself to them, as two finer people you will never meet.

## The Executive Pitch



**by our Executive V.P.**

**MIKE O'DONNELL**

As I get ready to head out this weekend for the pre-convention meeting in Battle Creek, there are a number of things I'd like to share with you. Foremost on my mind is the excitement that is starting to build just thinking about what I hope will be a landmark convention in the Pioneer District for now and hopefully for years to come. The convention committee under the able leadership of Roger Lewis and the prodding of District VP Russ Seely are attempting to make the conventions FUN to attend and hopefully cheaper for those with younger children. Our aim is to make this gathering in Battle Creek a FAMILY REUNION like atmosphere. I hope to see all 1,314 of you there!!

Speaking of all 1,314 of you reminds me of the sad news I received in the mail today. No, someone didn't die (although we were all saddened by the passing of Hall of Famer, "BEAR" Butler), but we did lose another ten members of our "family" from the membership rolls. Few chapters appear to be immune from the problem. There are some exceptions like Holland which shows a gain of 20 members since last year! Great job, guys! But the overall loss has all of us concerned not only in Pioneer but throughout the Society, as evidenced by a decline of 721 members just this quarter alone. We will not continue to exist as a Society if this trend continues. What's the answer?

I think it calls for us to examine a number of things. Are we singing as well as we can? Are we using the Society methods for conducting a chapter meeting: i.e., Programming? Do we sing out in public or just rehearse? Are we sending our directors and musical people to Harmony College where they can improve their skills? Are we calling the District VP's, DME, Assistant DME's and Area Counselors and asking for help? God help me but here's the biggie--are we spending too much time on CONTEST PREPARATION and not enough on woodshedding, quartet activity, polecat programs or some other type of similar activity? Have we asked our members what the heck

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)**



**SPOTLIGHT**  
on  
**LOGOPEDICS**



**Dr. Fran Durham**

Beginning June 26, the Institute of Logopedics is again offering a seven week program for children ages six to twenty-two who have multiple disabilities. The program runs until August 11, and combines education, life-skills training, camp, and education. What better way to develop independent living skills and responsibility than to spend a short time away from home?

Housing is in the special community atmosphere on the Institute campus. Clustered in courts, each homelike apartment is designed with children in mind and provides an atmosphere for individual attention. Residential staff carry on the child's education and therapy goals. Summer students participate in household activities and are encouraged to be as independent as possible.

While summer time often is a time when children with disabilities can regress in skills, the Institute of Logopedics gives children the chance to maintain their gains and add new skills. The Institute's certified special education teachers continue with the goals of the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP). Through life-skills training, students receive experience in the community and learn the practical skills needed to live more independently as adults.

Speed-language therapy is provided in the classroom by certified speed-language pathologists. The Institute's unique focus on communication skills means that each child has access to specialists experienced in sign language, electronic devices and other alternative communication systems. Physical and occupational therapies and diagnostic evaluations can be provided for an additional charge.

Learning doesn't take place only in the classroom. Children have the opportunity to practice their skills in a variety of settings and have fun at the

**Pioneer TROUBADOUR**

same time! For one week of the session, students attend day camp with their classmates and teachers. In addition to camp, children take field trips to local points of interest. Residential students participate in after-school and weekend programs. They learn skills in the ideal way--through new experiences and by making new friends.

The Institute of Logopedics is a private, nonprofit school for children with multiple disabilities. Through year-round programming and its special summer session, staff members from many fields address the educational, medical and behavioral needs of each child.

Parents chose the Institute because of its focus on communication skills, the home-like setting and its life-skills approach to education. School districts contract with the Institute for its comprehensive and intensive programs. The goal for each child is to develop the skills needed to return to family and community as soon as possible.

Housing is in the special community atmosphere on the Institute campus. Clustered in courts, each homelike apartment is designed with children in mind and provides an atmosphere for individual attention. Residential staff carry on the child's education and their

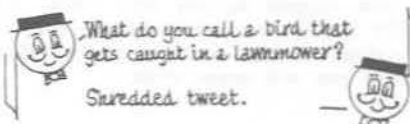
The cost of the seven week summer program is \$4,000 for a residential student. While this may seem high, remember, this is a 24 hour a day seven days a week intensive program. The fee for a day student (not needing housing) is \$2200. The deadline for applications is April 4, 1989.

Barbershoppers! If you know of a family who has a multiply handicapped child, this is a fantastic program. While local school districts are required to provide special education programs, they are only required to do so during the school year. As previously indicated, summer can be a period of regression for a special education student. They need stimulation, and the Institute can provide it! For further information, call the Institute at 1-800-835-1043.



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# History in the Making

BY YOUR PIONEER DISTRICT HISTORIAN  
**BOB McDERMOTT**

PIONEER DISTRICT HISTORY

(The following is the fifth of a series of articles excerpted from Mark P. Roberts' "THE MICHIGAN DISTRICT AND IT'S MEN OF HARMONY.")

MICHIGAN GAINS STATURE

Michigan had no quartets in the National Contests of 1939 and 1940 but in St. Louis in 1941 Michigan's two top rated quartets, the District Champion SAW DUST FOUR and the runner-up DETROIT TURNERS competed. While our two quartets did not come back bemedalled, they were finalists and we garnered the National Presidency and the National Convention and Contest for 1942. Carroll P. Adams of the Detroit Chapter was our man who took over the top SPEBSQSA job and Grand Rapids was awarded the convention and contest. We also placed three men on the National Board of Directors when Roscoe Bennett, Ed Schwoppe and Joe Wolff were elected to the high office.

Grand Rapids staged the biggest and best convention yet held and filled their Civic Auditorium with listeners for the big show. Our district also advanced musically when we placed five quartets in the finals. These were the DETROIT TURNERS, HALL BROTHERS of Grand Rapids, ACCOUSTICAL PERSECUTING FOUR of Jackson, PORT CITY FOUR of Muskegon and the GAY NINETIES of Kalamazoo. Other Michigan quartets in this contest were the PLEASURE FOUR, STROLLERS, AMERICAN LEGION FOUR, BANNER FOUR (later to become the PROGRESSIVES and FRANKENMUTH QUARTET) and DUBIOUS FOUR, all of Detroit, and the OLD TIMERS AND SAW DUST FOUR of Muskegon; the ROUNDHOUSE FOUR and DREAMERS of Grand Rapids, the STATE HIGHWAY FOUR of Lansing, the BALLAD BLENDERS of Charlevoix, the VARIETY FOUR of Birmingham, the FOUR JEWELLS of Flint, the OWOSSO ELKS and the FOUR OAKS of Royal Oak.

The reader may wonder how we got so many district quartets into the National Contest. In those days there were no elimination contests and any quartet was eligible to compete. While this system, quite obviously, did not upgrade the standard of contest singing, it was more fun for everyone and particularly for the many quartets which entered merely for the fun of competing and not with the idea of taking honors. In some ways this system served the purpose of "preserving and encouraging" our kind of singing much better than the present arrangement because it provided fun, fulfillment and fellowship for a great number of Society members.

## We Get Letters...



To Our Dear Friends,

I can't tell you what all of the glowing tributes that were paid to Bill this past week have meant to our family. He would have been proud. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to a host of fellow barbershoppers, their wives, and their children. There has never been so much love and caring from so many.

For the past four months our home has been filled with the kind of love that has astounded many who thought "barbershop" is only a word. You all have made our last months together an experience we will never forget.

Just seeing all the love from one person to another and knowing it all came from your hearts has made you all very special to us. Bill gave a great deal of his life to something he loved and the returns will live in our lives forever. To all of you--I will be forever grateful.

JEAN BUTLER

### REMEMBERING BILL!

by Wally Dorosch



As I sat at the funeral home I watched hundreds of people walk in and say their last good-byes to Bill. A lot of these people were family members, but most were good friends.

I'm sure there were many people there who knew Bill longer than I did, but I don't think that many knew him better than I. To me, Bill Butler was a take-charge guy, always being a leader in all of his endeavors.

He had a moodiness and stubbornness about himself that left no doubt in your mind as to his feelings about a person, a subject or a song.

Very clearly I remember standing at the piano with Bill some twenty years ago at the Bonnie Brook Country Club. He was giving me a voice audition to see if I was worthy to sing with the MOTOR CITY CHORUS. Hell, I knew he wanted me to sing with the chorus! He asked me a few times to come over and join a real chorus. But there I stood at the piano trying to sing a passage from a song while Bill pounded out different chords trying to distract my attention to this ballad. He would run me up and down the musical scale several times, stopping occasionally to tell me I was flat. He was very tough, but tactful and I was getting very nervous. When he was finished, he stood up, put his arm over my shoulder and said, "I'll let you know in a couple of days if the chorus can use you." Boy, he wanted me to sweat from day one! He wanted me to know who was in charge. He was a big man, stood 6'2" and carried over 200 pounds very well. They even called him the "bear" then.

As the years quickly passed our friendship grew at a steady fortissimo. Bill would now stand in front of me and I would look into this man's eyes for the next 20 years of our lives. He would wave his arms and I would respond as I stood in the second or third row of the chorus. Bill always said "I wasn't front row material!"

So to get to the front row I started singing in quartets. Again there was Bill always giving me the guidance and direction I so desperately needed in the musical world.

I have to admit there were times when I thought Bill was wrong about some of his coaching methods, but as time passed it always seemed to prove him right again. I honestly believe that this man, the "Big Bear", has made me a better singer, performer and person. But it's not just me!

I can't begin to count the hundreds and hundreds of people in quartets and choruses in the United States that have crossed paths with Bill Butler at one time or another, and are better listeners and singers today because of his willingness to give, give, give.

They called him "BIG BEAR", but if you knew him as many did, and if you looked under his coat of "big bear" image, you would find a warm, compassionate, caring person that was always there to give you a hand, whether it be in music or just someone to talk to and express deep personal feelings. It seems Bill was always there for me. Many people who really knew Bill say that right smack in the middle of his nickname should be the word "TEDDY."

Well, the Bear can't give us any thing else for a while. We will have to learn how to take these next years and steps alone without the wisdom and guidance of Bill.

To Jean, I say from the bottom of my heart, I'm so sorry. You have lost your life partner. Your days may seem empty and meaningless without Bill near you. Time and friends will help you through these uncertain stages of your life, and you can count on that.

To the children and grandchildren the sense of security is gone. The center hub, the main spring or foundation of knowing right from wrong will be missing. The wisdom and guidance and love of Dad will be hard to overcome without him near you.

To the many friends and barbershoppers of the world, they have lost a dynamic leader, and his absence will definitely be noticed as time goes by.

To me, I feel a little cheated or short changed to have to say so-long to Bill so soon. It's not just losing a quartet coach or a chorus director, or losing a good friend, but, I've lost my best buddy and I will miss him!

But I know in time, we'll meet again.

(Received this fine letter from Burt Szabo, one of our Musical Specialists from the International Office, and who is a former Pioneer District member.)

Dear Bob:

I applaud the new Chorditorium format mentioned in your February/March edition of the TROUBADOUR. A terrific idea. There are many of us throughout the Society who like to see a place at our conventions where woodshedding in a convivial situation with a large group of people is encouraged. It is okay to woodshed in the halls and in your own hotel room, but there is something to be gained in spirit when a crowd of woodshedders are all together. Hooray.

Some of us are old enough to remember when show afterglows were primarily for woodshedding, and not for listening to all the guest quartets put on another show. I keep hoping that we may get back to that someday.

I must also express my pleasure in the re-naming of Boyne City's Bush League Area Contest. The name change to the Loton Willson Bush League Contest pays tribute to a fine gentleman who has been so actively involved in barbershopping in the district. I suspect there are not too many in the Pioneer District who remember when this writer competed in that contest with a quartet from the Lansing Chapter. If I recall correctly, we lost that contest to a quartet from the big city to the east, who went by the name of AUTO-TOWNERS. I guess they must have been okay. Anyway, best wishes and a hearty handshake to Loton Willson.

BURT SZABO

From the pen  
of Your Editor



The GUBOS Group

What is this "GUBOS" Group we keep hearing about? Your editor recently received a number of mailings from Max Minor, who is the editor of the GUBOS "Gripe", a bulletin which apparently is published periodically to reflect differing opinions concerning the direction our Society is headed. GUBOS stands for "Give Us Back Our Society."

Their main thrust is that the Society is too chorus oriented, and that quartetting is no longer the prime motivating force of our Society. They feel too much time is spent on the risers preparing for chorus competitions, and not enough time for woodshedding and quartetting. They feel our decline in membership is a direct relationship to our chorus. They cite a case where members who do not attend 50% of the rehearsals are expelled from the chapter. One statement which perked my attention was this one in their September, 1987 issue; "As the rule stands, a chapter can refuse membership to a person who declares that he will not sing in the chorus; a very strange attitude for a Society dedicated to the preservation and encouragement of barbershop quartet singing in America!" Still further, the same bulletin states, "Now they are going one step further. If a man can't or won't attend fifty percent of the rehearsals...(note I didn't say 'meetings') ..he will be asked to further his barbershop career elsewhere; presumably in the Frank Thorne Chapter."

Well, it has to be fairly obvious to all of us that this chapter has gone overboard. I feel the above cited case is an extreme rarity in our Society. I can only state from my own experience at Detroit/Oakland that this would never happen. As long as I can remember (over 29 years), our chapter usually maintained its membership at or about the 100+ mark, and we have always had 30-40 members who did not sing in the chorus. It never really bothered us. However, we also had our first Fridays of each month where we could woodshed to our hearts content. Since the attendance at these monthly meetings was so

poor in the latter years, we now have combined with other SMAC chapters to have at least one Friday a month for pure quartetting with all of our neighboring chapters, and that is going very well. Witness the Pontiac Woodshed Contest on April 7th.

We still do have quartetting at our chapter meetings every Monday, and really enjoy our afterglows on Monday nights at the local watering hole. So in my case, and I'm sure in most cases throughout the Society, there is still a lot of woodshedding and quartetting going on, and we're having a lot of fun doing both! I think that this is one of the problems the GUBOS group can't quite comprehend, that you can do both and that everyone can enjoy. If they do, it certainly doesn't show up in their publications.

Aside from the above, I can make a good case for having choruses, as I am sure many of you can also. Some of the advantages that come to my mind include the following:

1.) Many members do not care for quartet singing, and refuse to woodshed when asked. Even though they are good singers, they are too shy or just don't care for quartetting.

2.) The chorus provides an outlet for learning a lot of new songs on a continuing basis, and not just the two songs for competition. In fact, sometimes in our chorus we are learning too many to keep up with, but that's alright too.

3.) Most of the quartets in our chapter and in our district generally started with the chorus. It gave them an opportunity to find different parts with whom to sing with, and this wouldn't have happened otherwise.

There are many other advantages we can also name such as learning correct vocal techniques, etc. In a quartet, you would only learn most of this from a coach or from a lot of musical experience, which the majority of us don't have.

It is my firm belief that there is room for both in our Society, and a good balance between the two should be maintained. I myself would hate to spend two-and-a-half hours on the risers doing only two songs for competition. Choruses who do that are not being fair to their members.

Reading through the publications, I find articles from the sublime to the ridiculous, and some darn good ones, also. The one thing I will say is that it is good we have an outlet of this sort available to us, and if for no other reason every organization has to have a sounding board to keep it on the right track. We can thank Max Minor and his group for that.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to it can do so by sending \$4 (1 yr. subscription) to The GUBOS "Gripe", c/o Max Minor, 157 Washington Avenue, Chatham, NJ 07928.



# update

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE  
BY RAY HELLER  
MANAGER OF COMMUNICATIONS

Alexandria, Virginia Chapter won the 1988 International Achievement Award for the fifth time, with a total of 1,303 points. In winning the award, the chapter also won first place in Plateau 6, composed of chapter having more than 100 members.

Although Alexandria won the Mid-Atlantic District chorus championship last fall, the achievement award was won by the chapter in quartet categories. The chapter had the largest number of registered quartets and the largest number of unpaid quartet performances.

This year's runner-up was Long Beach, California. Long Beach finished second in the number of quartet performances, and was the winner of Plateau 4--chapters with 50-74 members.

Winners of Plateau 1, chapters with fewer than 30 members, was Foothill Cities, California, with the top score in membership gain. The chapter began the year with 21 members and finished with 109.

Runner-up in the membership category was Fairfax, Virginia, winner of Plateau 3--chapters with 40-49 members. Fairfax began the year with 48 members and finished with 71.

Winner in Plateau 2--chapters with 30-39 members was Warren, Pennsylvania. Denver was the top scorer in Plateau 5--chapters with 75-99 members.

Top district in the achievement award program was Mid-Atlantic, with almost a clean sweep in every category. Second place in district competition was won by Illinois, with Johnny Appleseed in third. (Ed. Note: Pioneer District ended up in fifth place, which is not too shabby!)

#### BILL MYERS HAS DEPARTED FROM INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

International office staff recently said a fond farewell to Music Specialist Bill Myers. Bill's low bass rumble could make the walls of Harmony Hall vibrate and when he spoke, his voice scared the pigeons that roost under the eaves. His recent marriage brought about a decision to move to the San Diego area.

While on staff, Myers was instrumental in promoting quartets at all levels and creating materials to improve the singing and performing of choruses and quartets. He also was coach and

(INT'L UPDATE - CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

(INT'L UPDATE - CONT'D FROM PAGE 6)

instructor at mini-HEP schools and at Harmony College.

The vacancy left by Myer's departure will be filled as soon as possible; applications for the position will be reviewed through April 1, 1989. Applicants should have a degree in music education with courses in vocal training, skills in teaching singing and at least five years of barbershopping experience in quartets and coaching. Direct inquiries to Mel Knight, director of music education and services.

HARMONIZER AD, SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
HIRED - SOME BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Advertising and subscription rates for THE HARMONIZER have increased in order to keep up with rising costs of production. Ad rates for the magazine had not been raised in some time and were so low it actually cost the Society money to run a full-page ad.

The change in subscription and per-copy rates causes an increase in charges for back issues of the magazine. Issues produced during the 1980s are available for \$2 per copy. The cost for older issues increases \$2 per decade, so that copies published in the 1940s sell for \$10 each.

Not all issues are available; if you are interested in completing your set of HARMONIZERS, send us a want list and we'll let you know what we have.

COMPUTER PROGRAM DEVELOPED FOR  
CHAPTER TREASURERS

Bob Kaes, treasurer of the Denver Mountaineers Chapter, tells us that he has created a computer program for chapter report forms 1 and 2. He has also been running forms 3 and 4 on a spreadsheet, with all 12 months on one sheet.

"The only information the treasurer has to fill in is the budgeted amount and the current month's figures," Kaes said. All other cells on the sheet are automatically calculated and updated to the next month's forms.

"The sheets are set up for Lotus 1-2-3, Version 2.0, but will also load into Symphony." For information about obtaining a copy of the program at nominal cost, contact Kaes at (303) 237-3271.

MEMBERSHIP SLIDE CONTINUES  
DIXIE DISTRICT SHINES

According to a copy of the Society's year-end Membership Summary that the Communications Department recently received, we lost 800 members over the course of 1988. This amounted to a 2% decline in membership.

The greatest percentage decrease was a 6% loss in Southwestern District, where a decline of 108 members was registered. This was followed closely by Land 'O Lakes District, with a loss of 5%.

Evergreen and Johnny Appleseed Districts showed no appreciable percentage of gain or loss for the year, although Evergreen actually lost one member and Johnny Appleseed lost five.

The only bright spot was Dixie District, which showed a 5% membership gain. Actual growth in Dixie was 91 members. (Ed. Note: Pioneer District experienced a loss of 33 members, or a 3% decline in membership.)

At the close of December, 1988, Society membership stood at 36,053.

PIONEER DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY  
DEC. 1987 vs. DEC. 1988

| CHAPTER             | 12/30<br>1987 | 12/30<br>1988 | NET<br>CHGE |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| <u>DIVISION I</u>   |               |               |             |
| Dearborn            | 13            | 13            | E           |
| Milford             | 27            | 27            | E           |
| Detroit/Oakland     | 119           | 110           | -9          |
| Huron Valley        | 42            | 43            | +1          |
| Wayne               | 101           | 92            | -9          |
| Monroe              | 56            | 47            | -9          |
| Windsor             | 48            | 46            | -2          |
|                     | 406           | 378           | -28         |
| <u>DIVISION II</u>  |               |               |             |
| Lansing             | 77            | 69            | -8          |
| Battle Creek        | 63            | 51            | -12         |
| Coldwater           | 20            | 19            | -1          |
| Jackson             | 15            | 10            | -5          |
| Gratiot County      | 46            | 50            | +4          |
|                     | 221           | 199           | -22         |
| <u>DIVISION III</u> |               |               |             |
| Kalamazoo           | 48            | 48            | E           |
| St. Joseph Valley   | 20            | 12            | -8          |
| Benton Hrbr-St. Joe | 33            | 29            | -4          |
| Grand Rapids        | 114           | 110           | -4          |
| Holland             | 28            | 42            | +14         |
| Muskegon            | 36            | 28            | -8          |
|                     | 279           | 269           | -10         |
| <u>DIVISION IV</u>  |               |               |             |
| Cadillac            | -             | 33            | +33         |
| Sault Ste. Marie    | 43            | 36            | -7          |
| Alpena              | 22            | 26            | +4          |
| Boyer City          | 38            | 35            | -3          |
| Traverse City       | 42            | 35            | -7          |
|                     | 145           | 165           | +20         |
| <u>DIVISION V</u>   |               |               |             |
| Flint               | 44            | 48            | +4          |
| Swan Valley         | 34            | 26            | -8          |
| Saginaw             | 35            | 39            | +4          |
| Pontiac             | 17            | 23            | +6          |
| Clinton Valley      | 26            | 28            | +2          |
| Macomb County       | 55            | 59            | +4          |
| Port Huron          | 18            | 13            | -5          |
| Grosse Pointe       | 86            | 86            | E           |
|                     | 315           | 322           | +7          |
| GRAND TOTAL         | 1366          | 1333          | -33         |

KANSAS CITY SHAPING UP

Registrations for the international convention in Kansas City are coming in a little behind last year's pace but there are already 5,000 signed up. We hear reports from AIC that 11 quartets will sing on the past champions show Wednesday night, including the original BOSTON COMMONS and the MOST HAPPY FELLOWS.

Call Conventions in America 1 (800) 942-0098 to make low-cost airline reservations to Kansas City. Identify yourself as a barbershopper and give them our Group Identification Number: 336.

Look for information about ladies' hospitality, Barberteens, Logopedics Breakfast and other activities in the next "Harmonizer".

WAS YOUR DAD A BARBERSHOPPER?

A blue-ribbon committee helping us plan the future of the Society wants to know how many of our members are second (or more) generation barbershoppers. Dr. Max Kaplan, who heads the committee of sociologists and musicologists, believes such information would help their studies.

So, if your father and/or grandfather (or son and/or grandson) were or are members, please drop us a note giving us the particulars and we'll pass it along.

"Who knows?" Kaplan said, "We may even find some fourth-generation barbershoppers!"

SOCIETY MUSIC IS 50 CENTS PER COPY

From the music department comes a reminder that all Society published music is now 50 cents per copy as of January 1. Our music is still a bargain, they assure us, as most similar music costs at least \$1 per copy.

URGE PASSAGE OF QUARTET MONTH BILL

In January, the Honorable Mary Rose Oaker, Congresswomen from Ohio, introduced a bill into the United States House of Representatives that designates April 1989 as national Barbershop Quartet Month. The legislation was referred to the House Committee on Post Office and Civil Service. It is thought that this might be a step forward in our lengthy effort to have a postage stamp issued commemorating barbershop harmony.

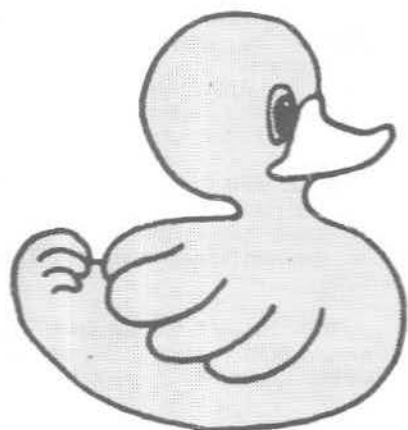
BECOME IMMORTAL  
PEN AN ARTICLE



# MAKE IT A CHAPTER

The Holland Windmill Barbershop Chapter And Their  
Wives Invite All Michigan Barbershoppers And Their  
Wives To Participate In Their 1989

## DISTRICT WING-DING



## THE GREAT DUCK CHASE

A PROFOUND BARBERSHOPPING  
EXPERIENCE OF LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE

Late afternoon, on August 19, 1989 a historic happening will quietly unfold, as a thousand confused little plastic ducklings are unceremoniously dumped into the placid waters of a Holland Fish & Game Club fish rearing pond. They will wander aimlessly around a man made obstical course, designed by the world's most discerning duckists, and sooner or later, one tired and tattered lil' duck will drift across the finish line to a roaring \$1,000.00 ovation.

### SOUND NUTS?

**It is and you can be a part of it. Here's how . . .**

You purchase an all event ticket to this affair for \$10.00. For your investment you will receive:

- A numbered duck in THE GREAT DUCK CHASE, and ... a chance to win \$1,000.00.
- An evening program that includes many of the District's finest quartets (a sound investment).
- A menu that begins with Duck Soup & Quackers and ends with Ugly Duckling Dessert.
- Valuable Door Prizes, Gags and Surprises you won't want to miss.

- A chance to compete in the famous C.P.O. (Chester P. Oonk) Memorial Tag Contest.
- An opportunity to help finance our district chorus representatives trip to San Francisco in 1990.

Let's add it up - chance to win a 1,000.00 bucks, food, prizes, laughs, tags, a great barbershop show and a chance to hob-knob with the finest people in the world, all for \$10.00. Now that's just plain "ducky".

Tickets available from any Holland Windmill Chapter member, or write: WINDMILL CHAPTER, 102 RIVER AVENUE, HOLLAND, MICHIGAN 49423.



# ER AFFAIR



**\$1,000.00 WIN**

## BE IT KNOWN:

The Windmill Chapter fully plans on using the profits from this affair to defray expense on their anticipated trip to San Francisco in 1990.

## IF BY SOME QUIRK,

some of you deny us this privilege, the guys in the Dutch costumes will "graciously" jam the accrued profits into a large stuffed duck and present it to your chapter for use on your trip to San Francisco.

- Prize amount determined by amount of ducks sold, and \$1,000.00 prize based on selling 1000 ducks.
- A drawing will be held in case of a tie.
- Ducks can be purchased on a "duck only" basis for \$5.00. This entitles purchaser to participate in the race only.
- Need not be present to win.
- Adelines encouraged.
- Chapter must purchase a minimum of 10 ducks to be eligible to receive the profits from this event.

## Represent Your Chapter Participate In The C.P.O. (Chester P. Oonk) MEMORIAL TAG CONTEST



Sharing the Duck Chase spotlight will be the Windmill Chapter's 4th Annual C.P.O. (Chester P. Oonk) Memorial Tag Contest.

This famous-for-fun affair is held to commemorate the memory of a great barbershopper whose love for tag singin' was unsurpassed.

This contest is divided into two divisions - Novice and Pro. All registered quartets must compete in the Pro division. All others will compete in the Novice division. If you have three other parts, bring them along. If not, we will find you the parts you need. Each foursome will sing two self-selected tags and a compulsory tag (received upon registration). There will be three categories for judging: Sound, Interpretation and Stage presence.

Judging will be done by competent judges. Cost to enter is \$4.00 a foursome and is payable at contest time. All monies raised will be donated to Chet's favorite charity (Logopedics) in the winning quartets chapters name.

The 1989 Winners names in each division will be etched for eternity on the Memorial Plaque, which hangs in prominence in the Holland Chapter Clubrooms. Represent your chapter, start your taggin' now and compete in the C.P.O. Memorial Tag Contest — It will be a rewarding adventure.

**ADELINES ENCOURAGED**

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Benton Harbor-St. Joe

It's been a while since you've heard from Benton Harbor-St. Joseph, but yes, we are alive and well down here. We've lost a couple of members, gained a new one, and are on the trail of a membership night very soon. Our main objective, of course, is new members; but we have hopes of reactivating a few old ones too.

A long belated memoriam is due Ray Leatz, our only member who was both active and an original charter member of our chapter. Ray had just attained his 40th year in this great Society of ours when he passed away this past October. Although he was known to grate on a few nerves here and there, Ray was probably the biggest single supporter our chapter and Society has had in while. He was our biggest ticket and ad seller for our shows, spending countless hours on the street and telephone as his devoted wife Margaret ran the adding machine and somehow managed to keep track of him at the same time. Ray, your shoes will be hard to fill!

Probably a few of you wondered where Benton Harbor-St. Joe was at the last convention in October. Sitting at home. But not this spring! We're gonna' be in Battle Creek, on stage, and singing our hearts out for ya'. I don't know how many we'll have, but we'll be there.

I'm happy to put forth that we already have activities and performances planned from contest time throughout the summer clear to our annual show date of November 7th. Our board is active, making more plans, and wanting to make this chapter grow back to what it once was.

This writer would like to take this opportunity to thank a couple of people...Roger Valentine, my director, for recommending me to Dale Mattis, our Division III Vice President, to fill

an Area Counselor slot; and to Dale, for asking me. I'm honored to be the Area Counselor for Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo. Thanks, guys, for your confidence!

STEVE LAKE

## FLINT

Chords are popping all over the place around Flint. We decided that we wanted to sing more and we are. We have been averaging almost a performance a week so far in 1989. We are taking a break right now to prepare for the Spring Convention and Contest, but are already booked for four consecutive weeks immediately after our return from Battle Creek. It looks like a real busy spring and summer coming up.

We held our annual Bowl-O-Pedics in Frankenmuth on March 4. This is an event where the guys from Flint, Saginaw Bay and Swan Valley are all invited to bowl and sing together, with the proceeds going to Logopedics. We were hit with some icy weather this year, but almost 20 people showed up for Flint. We sure missed you guys from Saginaw and Swan Valley, but we had a lot of fun anyway.

Catch our show ad in this issue? We are doing something a little different this year. All choruses, no quartets. We have a real vocal variety for you this year, featuring Barbershop to Broadway. We feature Rudy Hart and the HARTSMEN, a championship Sweet Adeline chorus and of course, your hosts, the Flint ARROWHEAD CHORUS.

See you all in Battle Creek!

BILL DYE

### SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHAPTERS (SMAC) SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

#### APRIL, 1989

- 7 PONTIAC CHAPTER Woodshed Contest, CAI Bldg., 5640 Williams Lake Road, Drayton Plains, MI 8:00 p.m.

#### MAY, 1989

- 12 DEARBORN CHAPTER Tag Quartet Contest, Dearborn Elks Lodge, Dearborn, MI @ 8:00 p.m. - "Shaggy Dog" stories req'd!
- 26 PIONEER DISTRICT & SMAC "SEND-OFF SHOW"-Caboto Hall, Windsor, Ontario

#### JUNE, 1989

- 9 DETROIT/OAKLAND "Return of the Jug" Night - Lathrup Village Hall, 27400 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, 8:00 p.m.

#### JULY, 1989

- 28 DETROIT/OAKLAND BOB-LO "Moon-Light Cruise" - Leave from the Bob-Lo Docks in Detroit 8:00 p.m.

#### AUGUST, 1989

- 5 PIONEER DISTRICT LOGOPEDICS GOLF TOURNAMENT - Sponsored by Macomb County Chapter - Site to be announced
- 20 SMAC PICNIC @ Camp Dearborn Sponsored by Detroit/Oakland Details to be announced

NOTE: The above dates have been cleared by chapter S.M.A.C. representatives. If you have additional dates contact Bill Warner (542-0581), Bill Wickstrom (756-4294), or Earl Berry (277-7130).



May 13, 1989 - 8:00 P.M.

Tickets \$9.00

At Grand Blanc High School Auditorium

SEND ORDERS FOR TICKETS TO:

Ray Hazel • 3593 Coco • Flint, Michigan 48504

Make Checks Payable to  
FLINT CHAPTER S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

THE  
**HARTSMEN**

WITH THE

**FLINT  
ARROWHEAD CHORUS**

AND THE

**THUMB AREA  
SWEET ADELINES**

1985-1987 Regional  
Championship Chorus

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Detroit-Oakland

Detroit/Oakland Chapter members are really riding on a high right now, having just completed their 50th Anniversary Show. The show turned out to be a sell-out both nights and as a result was a financial success. It was pretty hard to miss selling out with the CHIEFS OF STAFF and the CHORDIAC ARREST gracing our stage, in addition to the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS chorus. Having the International champs and the 5th place quartet on one show sure wowed 'em in the aisles. Now the chapter can look seriously at new uniforms for the fall contest.

We performed at the Woods Memorial Veterans Hospital on March 8 and at the Greenfield Presbyterian Church on March 17. Both shows went over "big" with the audiences. Our show packages have improved considerably in the past year.

Our next big event (aside from the Battle Creek convention) will be the "Return of the Jug" night on June 9. This is always a big event for DOC as we feature the two quartets who will represent our district in the International Contest in Kansas City in July. The "Jug" is supposed to be returned to us on that night after its travels throughout the district by the chapter who has possession of it at that time. The money in the "Jug" is then divided between the two quartets for travel expenses, plus an additional contribution of \$50 from DOC as the sponsor. This event will take place at the Lathrup Village Hall located at 27400 Southfield Road (at 11½ Mile) in Lathrup Village.

Our membership is picking up again and it's good to see some new faces in the chorus. One of the nice things I've noticed about this chapter is that there's a real feeling of friendship and camaraderie among our members. We're not only singing better, but enjoying it more. What more can you ask from a hobby?

Have a good convention!

HERMAN SCHWARZENBERGER

## Grosse Pointe

Our outside activities have been somewhat limited for the last couple of months, but it has left us a lot of time to concentrate on our annual show practice.

We sang for the Grosse Pointe Seniors Valentine's Day party on February 16. Then on March 10 we sang at the Macomb Mall. It was a combination membership drive and publicity for our up-coming annual show. The loudest and most sincere applause came from our chapter president's granddaughter.

We'll also be entertaining at the Builder's Show on March 21.

A lot of our members got out to sunny cities in Arizona and Florida in the winter months. While they were enjoying their vacations some of our guys spent a little time in hospitals. Neal Hampton had his gall bladder removed, Bud Maire had a complete "in hospital" physical after fainting at home, little Hal Trombley had a quadruple bypass and is home doing well. Joe Bichler had a quadruple bypass by a team of doctors called the "Hail Marys". They're called this because many of their patients haven't got a prayer. Thank God, Joe is back doing well.

By the time this issue is published, our dinner dance at Blossom Heath to honor our ladies will be over. So will our annual show--"Planes, Trains and Automobiles," and the spring convention will be history.

I'm expecting our editor, Bob McDermott, to write Grosse Pointe's article in the next issue when he returns from the big Grosse Pointe golf outing in North Carolina. It sure made good reading last year even though I was teed off. (Ed. Note: Were you embarrassed for not reporting that month, or what?)

We of Grosse Pointe were saddened to hear of Bill Butler's death.

JIM KINNER

## Muskegon

Muskegon's SHORELINE CHORUS is "making musical progress," according to Dale Mattis. He emphasized that regular attendance at practice is required for continued improvement. Dale has asked all chorus members to "make chorus practice a regular habit, every Thursday." Webb Scrivnor, assistant director, has worked recently with the group to achieve the best sound through voice placement on the risers.

The chorus has benefited from other advice too. John Bloomquist brought his smiling face from Grand Rapids to a recent rehearsal. He encouraged the members to "look happy" and demonstrated all evening just how it is done. He coached the chorus in facial expression on the risers. "If you look happy and act happy, you will feel happy and sing better," John insisted. "Forget the lousy day you had at work," he advised.

Director Dale's long term plans for the chorus include the Pioneer District championship "...in five years, or sooner." The focus now, however, is on the spring contest in Battle Creek April

22 and the chapter's Parade of Quartets May 20.

The BLUE RIBBON COALITION from Ithaca will headline the 49th Annual Parade. Martin Bomers, the show co-chairman, is hopeful that the NITTY-GRITTY GOOD TIME FOUR from Grand Rapids will also appear. They must yet contact an absent member before confirming, Marty explained. Muskegon's O.T. Quartet with the ROCKET CHORDS, a local high school foursome, will fill out the fare.

The SHORELINE CHORUS will feature a "Sweetheart" theme on the show. The Muskegon Chapter is sponsoring a June Bride Contest. The "first couple" and other finalists will receive wedding gifts donated by area businesses and will be serenaded on stage.

The "Sweetheart" theme was selected as befitting the songs the chorus will present and in recognition of the sentimental, romantic spring season and setting on the beautiful shoreline of Lake Michigan. Barbershoppers from everywhere are earnestly invited to come share the springtime thrill of the shore! You are welcome to telephone this reporter at (616) 744-3211 for the best seats in the house.

GORDON GUNN

## Traverse City

Who would believe a Dave Wylie? Let me tell you, gentlemen, you had better believe him 'cause he's for real. He's energetic, he's enthused and he's vocal. Dave is our 1989 Membership Chairman and he has set some ambitious goals for our chapter. Dave's actions measure up alongside those of Joe Terrell, our new Program Chairman. These guys have strengthened some weak links in our chain of command and boy are they welcome! Both are fresh out of DeBusman's COT school and if Jim had any reservations about the effectiveness of his COT's staff, look to these gentlemen. President Forbeck says, "Talk is great." Wylie and Terrell respond, "Results are forthcoming." Go for it, guys.

Jim DeBusman is another asset to our chapter. He spent an evening with us on December 5. He is such a giving person. We continue to benefit from his visitations and he is always welcome back in Traverse City.

Another asset we have that seems to be perpetual is the dedication of several chapter members. In our part of the country, it isn't always easy to navigate nighttime roads but the Mersinos, Gibbs and Herweyers, the Nugents, the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 12)

# DISTRICT NEWS

(TRAVERSE CITY - CONT'D FROM PAGE 11)

Andersons, the MacDonalds, the Deckers and Burchfields, to name only a few, somehow seem to find their way past Chum's Corners to All Saints Church each Tuesday to enjoy a night of our favorite hobby, barbershopping. (Yes, I know that I should have mentioned the Galloways and the Gortes.) Would you believe an average 65% attendance?

Dean Fischer still contributes his 110%. After all, with him, there's only 25 hours in a day. Incidentally, we should mention that Deano was selected as our 1988 Barbershopper of the Year. Congratulations, Dean. Al Galloway, Elbert Ford and Maurie Allen work very closely with Dean and their combined efforts surface each Tuesday night. Contributions continue to flow.

Performances continue to be well attended. We will not let a bit of weather keep us from our appointed rounds. The public seems to appreciate our efforts. They turn out in force, too. That makes it all worthwhile.

Quartetting is the "in" thing in Traverse City. In February, we presented our first annual chapter quartet contest. Would you believe a slate of ten quartets? What with Fischer-inspired doubling, that's what has been accomplished. More later on this.

On January 8 Bob Tracy stopped by and installed our 1989 chapter officers.

So, all goes well in Traverse City. For you winter sports fans, Tuesday night, 7:30 p.m., All Saints Church, 1/2 Mile west of Highways 31-37 junction, six miles south of Traverse City is where it's at. If you are in the area, come sing with us.

**BOB SUTTON**

## Pontiac

On Friday evening, April 7, 1989, and for the 33rd consecutive year, the Carroll P. Adams "Bennington Trophy" (the Society's oldest revolving award) is being placed in competition by the Pontiac Chapter. It was conceived in 1957 as an award to the chapter that best exemplified the ability to improvise while singing a familiar melody without a printed arrangement. Further, that chapter must also have demonstrated an enthusiasm that would place the highest percentage of its membership into the competition at the Pontiac Olde Tyme Woodshed Contest.

This traditional event, held at the C.A.I. Building, 5640 Williams Lake Road, Waterford, has been a constant highlight in the activities of several neighboring chapters in southeastern Michigan (S.M.A.C. is supporting this activity in the name of all chapter members).

This memorial trophy stays in the possession of the winner for one year, and several chapters have won it on successive occasions. Milford is currently defending.

Competing foursomes must be formed on the spot, and consist of no more than two members (paid up) from any one chapter, and no more than one member of any organized quartet. Judging will be done by the evening's "Guest Quartet".

Each member of the winning quartet will be presented an individual "Lapel Award" for his keeping. Some men have as high as six awards, and some have won in three different voice parts.

Even though you may have received this "Troubadour" after April 7, each chapter in Southeastern Michigan was

provided several copies of a Woodshed Flyer before March 31.

**ANNUAL SHOW - SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1989**

Pontiac's 46th annual Parade will open at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Activities, Inc. Auditorium in Waterford. Bob Woodward has put together a package of Disney tunes for the MERRY MOTOR MEN chorus, and Bill Wickstrom will master the ceremonies. This will be the maiden voyage for Pontiac's new young director, Jon (Mr. Personality) Territo.

The FAMILY FORUM, Macomb Chapter, THE VERY IDEA, Wayne Chapter, and the OAKLAND SHORES Sweet Adelines will assure the sell-out audience of superb entertainment.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

## Thumb Area Chorus of Davison presents



Featuring

**Starshine - International Sweet Adeline Medalist Quartet  
from Iowa**

**The Gas House Gang SPEBSQSA  
1988 Central States Champion Quartet  
from St. Louis, MO**

**Thumb Area Chorus**

**Outgoing Regional Chorus Champions**

**Date - Saturday, May 6, 1989**

**Time - 8:00 p.m.**

**Place - Whiting Auditorium  
E. Kearsley St., Flint, Michigan**

**AFTERGLOW: PARADISE HALL, 3333 Associates, Burton, MI**

Ticket Prices: Show \$8.00

Seniors and Students: \$7.00

Afterglow: \$5.50

### TICKET ORDER FORM

Please rush \_\_\_\_\_ Show tickets at \$8.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Sr. and Student at \$7.00  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Afterglow Tickets at \$5.50

My check is enclosed for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_  
 Made Out To Thumb Area Chorus, Sweet Adelines.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form, payment, and self-addressed stamped envelope to: **S. Winkles, 836 Kaye St.,  
 Davison, Michigan 48423**

(PONTIAC - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

President Larry Hornsby is ticket chairman. Write him at 1254 Whittier, Pontiac, MI 48054, or call 666-4836. Seats may be reserved by arrangement with this writer at 3520 Gregory Road, Pontiac, MI 48055, or call 391-0572, tables of eight only.

Stay tuned....

BILL PASCHER

## HERE & ABOUT

Your editor receives a lot of mail, and part of it contains some items of interest to all of our members. A lot of it contains requests to publish long articles for which we frankly don't have the room, or it isn't pertinent to our district per se. Many times it's a way to get around taking out an ad. Also, often we hear things concerning our district chapters and quartets, but no one bothered to send it in. I will publish this column from time to time to try to keep you, our district members, fully informed.

From an historical viewpoint four chapters should be celebrating their fiftieth anniversaries this year. Those are Detroit/Oakland, Flint, Lansing, and Grand Rapids. Unfortunately Flint lost its charter in 1952 and was rechartered in 1957. The International office does not have a date on Lansing, and does not list them in the chapter anniversary list. Somebody from that chapter should get the correct date to the International Office. I've got them chartered somewhere in September or October of 1939.

The Battle Creek Chapter's CEREAL CITY CHORUS had the honor of backing up the Andy Williams Annual Christmas Show on December 15 at Kellogg Auditorium. They were included along with the Battle Creek Sweet Adelines in a mixed choir to do vocal back-up on many Christmas selections. Congratulations, Battle Creek!

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

WENDELL

DENNY

# LEGACY

CONTACT: D. GORE  
34096 WILLIAMSBURG  
STERLING HGTS., MI 48077  
(313) 939-5852

MIKE

CLAY

## Holland



HOLLAND WINDMILL CHAPTER PRESENTS \$500 TO GRAND RAPIDS "GREAT LAKES CHORUS"

A surprise visit from the Holland Windmill Chapter to the Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS practice this past January was highlighted by the presentation of a \$500 check for use by the GREAT LAKES CHORUS in their quest for the International Chorus championship this July. The Holland Chapter toasted the GREAT LAKES CHORUS with champagne and "Windmill Cookies". A great time was had by all who attended.



HOLLAND CHAPTER FUN NIGHT KICKS OFF "SUCCESS IS SIXTY" DRIVE

A goal of 60 singing members for the Holland WINDMILL CHORUS was launched at a recent "fun night", which featured a lot of laughs and some great singing. Shown above are the COURT JESTERS comprised of Sid Helder, Cal Ver Duin, and Don Lucas of the 1953 State Champion EXTENSION CHORDS, being helped out on bass by Myke Lucas, lead of the 1959 State Champion CHORD COUNTS and current director of the WINDMILL CHORUS. Jack Oonk, former bass of the CHORD COUNTS and membership V.P. for Holland states, "The 'Success is Sixty' drive is now completed and the chapter chorus is beginning to plan their trip to San Francisco in 1990." The blades are turning fella's, so stand clear.

JACK OONK



RAY HENDERS  
KEN EIDSON  
PHIL SCHWARZ  
LYNN HAULDREN, 929 Central Wilmette, IL 60091 (312) 251-6348

"The Barbershop Quartet  
with the Built-in Beat"

(HERE AND ABOUT-CONT'D FROM PAGE 13)

Jim Styer, our district convention P. R. man, spotted an item in the November 1988 issue of the "Organ Sheet Music" magazine. The issue was devoted to sing-a-long music, and he noted that many of the numbers have been preserved in popularity by barbershop quartets. Jim replied to the magazine in their January/February issue, extolling the virtues of barbershop singing, and it was published in its entirety. Congrats, Jim, you're right on the ball.

Have been receiving a lot of mail recently concerning the new "Harmony Woods Campground" which is being offered to both Pioneer and Ontario barbershoppers. Lots are available for parking your trailer or camper in the park, and it is set up specifically for barbershoppers. It is located just north of Parkhill, Ontario, only eight miles south of the well-known Lake Huron beach resort of Grand Bend. For information, contact Rick Madzia, 76 Kinner Cres., London, Ontario, Canada N6K 1V8.

They started a "Woodshedders' Convention" last year at the Tremont Hotel in Baltimore, and they just recently concluded their second convention at the same location on February 18-18 this year. They had barbershoppers from 34 chapters, in thirteen states, totaling 108 attending. They ran an elimination "Woodshed" contest, with the finals on Saturday evening. The contest was run in tournament style, with the winning quartets going head-to-head and the losers eliminated. No scores, just win or lose, and the winners going to the next round.

The judges were all AH=SOW members (who else better qualified to judge woodshedding?) and they were booed loudly by the rowdy crowd.

Glad to see we've got two new chapter bulletins on the street. Muskegon and Gratiot County are publishing on a regular basis now. It seems this very important area of communication is so neglected by our chapters. A sad commentary on this is that we only had two bulletins entered in the district bulletin competition this year. Every chapter should have a bulletin on a regular basis! Now if I can only convince Detroit/Oakland to get on the ball.....

Understand Dave Malony, international membership development coordinator, and Ron Rockwell, manager of membership and COTS, met recently to create a new membership recruitment program. They took all of the programs that have been tried during the past 15 or 20 years, tore them apart and put them back together in a new package.

The first draft looks good, according to Rockwell. Copies are scheduled to be in the hands of chapter membership vice presidents by mid-May, just in time for your summer recruitment drive.

Attended the Macomb County PRE-BOYNE Contest on Friday, March 17 at the Cross Lutheran Church. They had seven quartets competing, with the SONGS-R-US quartet coming out on top. Most of the quartets were made up on the spot, and each contributed \$10 to the winning quartet for expenses to the Boyne City "Loton Willson Bush League Contest". It was a SMAC function, and better than fifty members enjoyed the whole affair. Thanks to Dick Van Dyke and the Macomb Chapter for a super evening! ANYTHING GOES did the judging honors as well as entertaining the audience. They did a great job.

#### GIVE ME THAT BARBERSHOP STYLE

(Your editor picked this article out of the Riser, the Battle Creek Chapter bulletin published in December, 1988, by Jerzy Benjamin. I found the comparison quite interesting.)

A few months ago, October to be exact, my dear wife took me to the Bari Manilow concert at the Kellogg Arena as a birthday present. It was a great concert, the best this editor has ever attended. It was one great song after another, fabulous S.P. in every respect from musicians to video and light effects. It was worth the \$16.75 per ticket. Of course I knew that anyone with a name like "Bari" and who sings that mellow had to be great anyway.

A few weeks later I took my daughter and some of her friends (sort of a chaperone) to the Amy Grant - Michael W. Smith concert at the same arena, same ticket price. To this editor's ears it sounded more like a rock concert than a religious experience and in fact I left two-thirds through the ordeal because the noise factor began to effect my ear drums. I've heard mortar and rocket fire in Vietnam, been to drag races, worked in noisy factories with machinery that required ear plugs, but none of these compared with the noise emanating that night of the show. Unless someone had memorized the words to the songs of the two artists there was no way one could understand what they were singing.

The arena was nearly packed with 90% of the audience teenagers or younger who were constantly screaming, dancing, running back and forth to the stage for pictures, a better look at the stars, etc. It was the worst concert I've ever attended. I will admit that at age 43 there is some generation gap involved in my opinions of the above two concerts and that my folks were not that enthused about Elvis, the Beatles, etc. But my doctor had assured

me that I'm not deaf or dumb yet and so my statements still stand. I am still surprised that only half as many people attended Mr. Manilow's concert as did attend the Amy Grant concert. It can be stated that the audience for Bari's show drew mostly an audience from 21 to 45, excited and enthusiastic but civil and we could even hear all the words.

In between these two concerts was our Pioneer District Fall Convention held at the Kellogg Auditorium. After attending the above two concerts I now have an even greater appreciation for this great barbershop sound that we have. What a joy to sit in comfortable seats, have the M.C. tell those in charge to close the doors, and knowing you could hear a pin drop as he announced either the quartet or chorus which was to perform. There was no screaming during the performances, no cameras flashing, just the beautiful sounds of four part harmony ringing through the auditorium. Plus the price for the three events (the quartet prelims, the chorus competition and the quartet finals) was much cheaper than the bucks paid out for the other two concerts.

Let's not take our hobby for granted, guys, because it's great to be a barbershopper!

(MIKE O'DONNELL - CONT'D FROM PAGE 3)

they'd like to do? I'm not sure I know or have the answers, but I do know we don't lose members because they are having a "great" time. We lose members for all kinds of reasons--age, job transfers, death, illness, etc. We also lose members because we forget to treat them like PEOPLE.

I don't go to my chapter meetings because I want to stand on the risers all night and sing the same two songs over and over. I don't go to get yelled at because I sang a wrong note or didn't make a move on time. Stroke me now and then with a little kindness and let me go home wishing the night didn't have to end and I'll be back early next week and maybe with a friend who wants the same thing!

Time to get off the old soapbox. But, before I do, please don't be offended by what I've written. It isn't addressed to anyone in particular. In fact, we have the same problem in Lansing and I'm the director! I get caught up in the same traps as the rest of you. The difference is, you elected me to this post and I get to write the article. Frankly, this was as much for me as the rest of you. However, if it strikes home a little then maybe I've served a purpose after all.

Quick reminder! Hall of Fame nominations are due by this convention! Area Counselors--counsel! So far only 11 recorded visits have been made to chapters by the A/C's. The district president alone has made almost that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

**Detroit-Oakland Celebrates 50th Anniversary with great Show**



INT'L CHAMPS "CHIEFS OF STAFF" HEADLINED SHOW

**Macomb Show has Circus theme**



2ND PLACE "SECOND EDITION" HEADLINED MACOMB SHOW



5TH PLACE "CHORDIAC ARREST" TORE 'EM UP!



THE MACOMB CIRCUS IN ACTION



CHORDIAC ARREST--"PLEASE FORGIVE ME--I'M SORRY!"

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN NEICHORN AND NICK PASTOR



"SONG-R-US" ENTERTAINING THE MACOMB AUDIENCE



RAY HENDERS, EMCEE, LEADS THE FINALE



BILL BUTLER SURROUNDED BY HIS WIFE AND FRIENDS. THE D.O.C SHOW WAS DEDICATED TO HIM!

# Coming Events ...

## APRIL, 1989

14-15 GRANDS RAPIDS Chapter Show

21-23 PIONEER DISTRICT Spring Convention - Battle Creek

29 JACKSON Chapter Show

30 PONTIAC Chapter Show

## MAY, 1989

6 BOYNE CITY Chapter Show and "Bush League" Contest

13 FLINT Chapter Show

20 CADILLAC Chapter Show

20 MUSKEGON Chapter Show

20 MONROE Chapter Show

27 ALPENA Chapter Show

## JUNE, 1989

17 TRAVERSE CITY Chapter Show

## NOVEMBER, 1989

7 BENTON HARBOR-ST. JOSEPH Chapter Show

NOTE: All Chapter Show Activities must be cleared through the District Secretary, and the appropriate ASCAP, BMI, and CAPAC (Canada only) fees paid. Only shows that are cleared through the District Secretary will be listed above.

PLEASE NOTIFY: Jack Schneider  
1311 Northlawn, N.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
Res. (616) 361-6820  
Bus. (616) 774-5225

### (MIKE O'DONNELL -CONT'D FROM PAGE 14)

many visits himself. NO, I REPEAT NO nominations for the Association of International Champion's scholarship to Harmony College have been received to date. If you need details, see your district VP's--they have had info since COTS in December. Watch for upcoming info on COTS '89--new location in Lansing. Finally, hang in there. Remember: SUCCESS is more ATTITUDE than APTITUDE!!



Detroit Oakland Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.  
Robert McDermott  
1859 Maryland  
Birmingham, MI 48009



## Postmaster: Dated Material - Please RUSH!

An official publication of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated

## Loton Willson Bush League Show & Quartet Contest Saturday, May 6, 1989

The Boyne City Chapter announces its 44th annual BUSH LEAGUE SHOW and QUARTET CONTEST at Boyne City High School on Saturday, May 6, 1989. The quartet contest starts at 2:00 p.m. and the big variety show starts at 8:00 p.m.

We need your help to make this another successful and fun-filled weekend. Last year the contest was a big success with eleven competing quartets. This year we would like to get at least fifteen competing quartets. Please talk it up at your meeting and please urge your Novice quartets to enter.

BUSH LEAGUE IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER CONTESTS! It was started 44 long years ago by the senior member of our chapter, Loton Willson, in whose honor we have now named it. Bush league gives inexperienced quartets a chance to compete in a regular contest under real-life competitive conditions. Many of our District Champions won their first contest at the Boyne City Bush League.

Any quartet can enter provided it has never placed in the top three in District competition and provided it has never competed at International. The rules are the same as for International competition except that there is no penalty for not being in costume.

Last year's champs ANYTHING GOES will appear in the Saturday night show as will the new 1989 Bush League Champs and the Runner-Up. This year's feature quartet will be that outstanding FATHERS-AND-SONS foursome and Pioneer District favorites FAMILY FORUM.

There is no entry fee. All you have to do to enter is to send--the name of your quartet; the names of your mem-

bers; the name and address of your contact man to this year's Bush League Chairman: Bill Woodbeck, 7234 Barney Rd., Alanson, MI 49706. Deadline for entry is the morning of May 6, the day of the contest. However, if you want the name of your quartet to appear in the show program, then enter by April 16. (An entry blank was included in the February-March issue of the Troubadour for your convenience.)

Registration (9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) and the After Glo will be held at THE DILWORTH INN on M-75 across from the Post Office. This is a change from the information which appeared in the last issue of the Troubadour. Registration is at the Dilworth Inn and not at the Boyne City Lanes.

Whether or not you enter the contest, come on up to Boyne City on May 6. It is a great weekend of Barbershopping and it is a lovely time of the year up here in the North.

EDWARD A. THURSTON

### DIRECTORY CORRECTIONS

#### COLDWATER CHAPTER (Page 29)

New President - David Smith  
A/C (517) 238-2354

New Program V.P. - L. D. Mynhier

#### WINDSOR CHAPTER (Page 45)

New President - Roy McKee  
A/C (519) 735-4184

New Treasurer - Robert Bell  
931 Watson Avenue, Windsor,  
Ontario N8S 3T1  
A/C (519) 944-6806

Please make the above corrections in your Pioneer District Directory

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