



pioneer TROUBADOUR

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



DEC 89 · JAN 90



VOLUME 40 NUMBER 6

POWER PLAY, GREAT LAKES SWEEP

Fourteen quartets, eighteen choruses and eight senior quartets made the Pioneer District Convention and Contests one of the finest in years. More than a thousand barbershoppers, wives and families were on hand to witness and enjoy the best that Pioneer District had to offer.

The new District Champion **POWER PLAY** (Jason Oyler, tenor; Michael Slamka, lead; Mark Slamka, bari, and Jack Slamka, bass) from the Macomb County Chapter carried over their fine showing from the Buckeye Invitational in August to prove to the world that this was a quartet to be reckoned with in contest, and prove it they did.

The second place quartet, **CHECKMATE** (Bruce LaMarte, tenor; Craig Pollard, lead; Brian Kaufman, bari, and Scott McNutt, bass), representing the Wayne Chapter, put on a tremendous set in the finals, but were unable to overcome the 49 point lead that **POWER PLAY** had in the semi-finals. Overall, only 20 points separated the two.

The "GREAT ESCAPE" (John Wearing, tenor; Frank Lopez, lead; Don Humphries, bari, and John Masalskis, bass) from the Grosse Pointe, Wayne, Windsor and Clinton Valley Chapters followed in third place, with the **COLLECTOR'S CHOICE** from Lansing in fourth and the **SOUND AMBASSADORS** from the Huron Valley Chapter in fifth.

Other quartets making the Saturday night finals included the **IRISH MIST** from the Holland Chapter, the **KEY-NOTE ADDRESS** from Kalamazoo, and the **WIND RIVER MUSIC COMPANY** from the Jackson Chapter.

The Grand Rapids **GREAT LAKES** Chorus proved to be too much for the
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

PRESIDENT'S MEN WIN SENIORS



The Seniors Quartet Contest seemed to be a real hit this year, not only with the audience which numbered in the neighborhood of 400, but with the competitors as well. The field increased from two last year in the district's first contest to eight this year. No doubt that this well-received contest will continue to grow in popularity as the years go on.

The winners this year were the **PRESIDENT'S MEN**, a group which included our District President Clay Jones (hence the name) on baritone, Jim Stephens on lead, Walt Quick, bass, and Bill Wickstrom, tenor, representing Wayne, Huron Valley and the Detroit-Oakland Chapters. 23 points separated the winners from the second

place quartet, the **MEN OF PAUSE** (Hank DeMars, tenor; Howard Masters, lead; Gordon Dubrul, bari, and Russ Seely, bass) from the Grosse Pointe Chapter.

Third place went to the **FOUR OLDER FELLOWS** from the Grand Rapids Chapter. Other quartets competing included the **SUNSHINE BOYS**, The "LAST GOODBYE," 268 AND COUNTING, **FUTILE 4 SOME** and the **LAST CHANCE** quartets.

The judges at this contest were all from the Pioneer District, including Chairman John Bauer from Alpena, Joel Mills from Grand Rapids on Sound, James Johnson from Grand Rapids on Interpretation, Roger Lewis from Battle
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

DON'T FORGET C.O.T.S.

DECEMBER 9-10, 1989

RADISSON HOTEL LANSING, MI

LOGOPEDICS



PIONEER DISTRICT LOGOPEDICS CHAIRMAN

Alex Willox
38174 S. Rickham Ct.
Westland, MI 48185
Res: (313) 728-6865

I know that within the next month or so each chapter will be bringing this year's drive for Logopedics to a close. This is not just your chairman's responsibility, but also your chapter as a whole. Logopedics quite often is an after thought or left to the man who will take the job.

I am glad to say that in our Pioneer District most of our chapters are responding well to this program, and I hope to see more of these Bronze awards turn to Silver and the Silver to Gold.

My thanks to all who helped in special ways to boost our funds for Logopedics, including those golf outings and special performances. I know everyone at the Institute really appreciates your commitment.

I would like to acknowledge the great job done by Macomb County at our fall convention. A special thanks to George Van DeVelde and his helpers at the Logopedic's table. The raffle brought in over \$1400 which is the highest amount collected at a convention in a long time.

Let me close by wishing you all a very happy Christmas and best wishes in the coming year.

CHAPTER LOGOPEDIC SUMMARY

CHAPTER	TOTAL CONTRIB	PER CAPITA	AWARD
ALPENA	\$700.00	\$26.92	SILVER
BEN.HARBOR	104.00	3.59	
CADILLAC	928.00	28.12	SILVER
DEARBORN	25.00	1.92	
DET-OAK	3,116.90	28.34	SILVER
FLINT	803.00	16.73	BRONZE
GR RAPIDS	2,329.27	21.18	BRONZE
GR POINTE	2,285.00	26.57	SILVER
HOLLAND	500.00	11.90	BRONZE
HURON VLY	504.40	11.73	BRONZE
JACKSON	70.00	7.00	
LANSING	1,703.11	24.68	BRONZE
MACOMB	3,134.75	53.13	GOLD
MILFORD	100.00	3.70	
MONROE	380.00	8.09	
DISTRICT	107.00	.08	
PONTIAC	1,650.00	71.74	GOLD
SAGINAW	957.10	24.54	BRONZE
SAULT STE M	90.00	2.50	
ST.JOE VLY	500.00	41.67	SILVER
SWAN VLY	350.00	13.46	BRONZE
WAYNE	2,773.00	30.14	SILVER
WINDSOR	460.00	10.00	BRONZE

THIS MONTH (OCT): \$5,974.24
YEAR TO DATE: \$23,570.53

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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

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CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

The TROUBADOUR is mailed with labels supplied by our International Headquarters. If you have moved, or plan to change your address, please notify your Chapter Secretary and International Hdqtrs., SPEBSQSA, 6315 3rd Ave., 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 delays in the delivery of your TROUBADOUR and your HARMONIZER. Failure to notify in this manner results in your district paying the U.S. Post Office forwarding and return postage fees!

THE PRESIDENT'S

CORNER



CLAY JONES

PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT

With the fall convention out of the way and our new district quartet champs and chorus representatives to international selected, we can now turn our attention to 1990 and the challenges the coming year has for us. As International President Charlie McCann announced in his keynote address to the House of Delegates, the emphasis in the coming year is going to be on membership. The battle-cry is "Membership Begins With Me" and Charlie is asking all barbershoppers to bring maximum interest, intensity and energy to an all-out effort to provide membership growth, first by retention but especially by recruitment.

The problem lately has been a steady erosion in membership. From 1982, membership has dropped from over 38,000 to below 36,000. From September 30, 1988 to September 30, 1989 our Society has lost 520 members. PIONEER has been more fortunate than most districts, with an increase of 19 during that period, but we can't expect that to hold up without a vigorous effort by all PIONEER members. Your chapter officers will be getting a big booster-shot regarding member recruitment at COTS this year and I hope you will all get behind the effort to bring our district up to 1400 or more during the coming year.

At the District President's Forum in Kenosha this past November, the question was raised "How do we insure the Society units (quartets and choruses) performing in public, representing the Society, do so at an acceptable level?" Many horror stories were told of extremely bad quartets and choruses performing for the public (many for a fee, suggesting that they are expected to present at least a partially semi-professional or somewhat competent performance) but instead have been so bad as to be an embarrassment to audience and singers alike. Could this be part of our problem?

Are audiences turned off and potential members discouraged from joining our ranks because they cringed through a totally inept, worse than amateurish singing performance by non-singers purporting to represent what we like to

Here's hoping all of your 1990 chapter officers are revved up and ready to attend the Pioneer District Chapter Officer Training School on December 9-10 at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

It should be one of the finest schools we've had in a long time, as we have a top-notch faculty headed up by Jerry Easter from out in that corn state of Iowa. He's been a real goer for that Cedar Rapids BLACKHAWK METRO Chapter, and if he inspires in our officers just half of what he has done for that chapter, we are going to come away winners, believe it!

And we have a top-notch faculty to go along with Jerry. Here is a rundown of the rest of the faculty:

PRESIDENTS: Bob Cearnal (International Vice President)

MEMBERSHIP VP's: Dave Dickson

PROGRAM VP's: Carl Petersen

MUSIC VP's: Dick Taylor

SECRETARY's: Lowell Shank

TREASURER's: Charles Rose

PUBLIC RELATIONS: Ray Heller

BULLETIN EDITORS: Bob McDermott

call the largest male singing organization in the world?

In the past this topic has been carefully avoided as being too hot to handle, but President Charlie believes "it is time to address it to see if (1) there is widespread support for the concept, (2) can we develop a positive way to accomplish the objective (perform at an acceptable level) and (3) do we have the resources to do so?"

One suggestion offered was for each of our Society's performing units to submit a video tape of their performance package to an evaluating body who would sanction them with a "seal of approval" if acceptable. This approach is fraught with controversy of course, because among other effects, it might intimidate all quartets and choruses into withdrawing from making any

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 11)

DON'T MISS COTS

LOGOPEDICS: Fran Durham, Alex Willox

Things will start rolling just before noon on Saturday and wind-up just before noon on Sunday. But in between, you'll find yourself involved in some real enjoyment at the same time learning the important aspects of administering a well run chapter so that all of our chapter members can be fulfilled in our hobby. We're there to learn and have fun, too.

Let's face it, this is a changing world that we are living in, and we had better be prepared to deal with new ideas and systems as they come along. If you think you know all the answers because you've been there before, think again, because what we did yesterday won't be there tomorrow.

Hopefully all of the S.M.A.C. Program VP's will come prepared with their preliminary event calendars for 1990, so that we can combine them to insure we don't schedule one event on top of another. We can coordinate now to avoid problems later, and that's what we intend to do.

At any rate, we're looking forward to seeing all of you fellows there in December. It's important for your chapter and for yourself!

HELLER TO TEACH PUBLIC RELATIONS

by John Mulkin

An experienced faculty of public relations professionals will be teaching the public relations classes at the Pioneer District COTS scheduled to be held at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing December 9-10, 1989. The man who will conduct the class in Pioneer this year is Ray Heller.

He is currently Manager of Communications in the International Office in Kenosha. He has provided public relations services for Bethlehem Steel Co., the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District, Western Washington University and his own firm of Ray Heller and Associates. He has edited PROBE and served as Vice President for P.R. and President of PROBE. He is a member of the International Public Relations Committee.

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CLAY

MACOMB COUNTY CHAPTER

SPEBSQSA, INC.



* * PRESENTS * *

" EVERYTHING OLD " " "

" " IS NEW AGAIN " "

* * STARRING * *



HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS

1989 DISTRICT SECOND PLACE

* * THE RITZ * *

1989 INTERNATIONAL 7TH. PLACE

* * THE IVY LEAGUE * *

1989 INTERNATIONAL FINALIST

DORAN McTAGGART

MASTER OF CEREMONIES



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The Executive Pitch



by our Executive V.P.

MIKE O'DONNELL

Well, Pioneer, that was some fall convention! My congratulations to all who were there and competed. Special congratulations to the GREAT LAKES CHORUS and to POWER PLAY for their winning efforts.

It looks like we are doing the "right thing" when it comes to convention. The final figures are in and attendance was up to 1,007 all events tickets and 402 individual tickets sold. This is up 51 from the previous fall convention. Once again, Clay's party was a rousing success with both the tag/woodshedding room in full use and the chordingium filled with those "die-hards" (sounds like a group of batteries, doesn't it?) who wanted to listen to our fine Pioneer quartets one more time.

In fact, I spent up to an hour with Charlie McCann (International President Elect), Doug Miller (Interp judge from Land-O-Lakes) and Dave Anderson (Macomb County) standing in the middle of the room singing for our own amazement and both Charlie and Doug thought this room was worth the price of a ticket.

Can we do better? You bet and we are working on it. The ladies' hospitality room was new at this convention and seemed to be well received by the ladies who ventured in. In fact, my wife Jan will be in charge of organizing the room for the April '90 convention, so if you have any suggestions or wish to help, let her know before March. She is busy trying to find organizations who might have some item to pass out, so if you know of someone give her a call at 616-363-1368.

As we rush headlong into the 1990's, let's all of us do all that we can to enjoy our hobby. How? By getting involved! Always wanted to sing in a quartet? Don't wait for someone to ask you -- ask them! Go to board meetings! Be on time for chapter meetings! Learn your music and stage presence at home! Make plans to attend Harmony College or the new director's school at Carthage College! Attend the mini-hep in August! Thinking about becoming a judge? Ask for an

enrollment form from John Gillespie or John Bauer. Go to International, CAN-AM, the Windsor Send-off Show. Visit other chapters! Volunteer to help in your own chapter! ATTEND CONVENTIONS! There, that should get you started!

SPOTLIGHT on LOGOPEDICS



Dr. Fran Durham

There will be a logopedics class at COTS, December 8-9, at the Radisson Hotel. Alex Willox, Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman, and I will teach the class. This will be the second year a separate logopedics class has been offered at COTS, rather than a portion of each officer's class being devoted to logopedics.

We had six chapter logopedic's chairmen in class last year, which was o'kay for the first year, but we want to do considerably better this year.

Every chapter should have a logopedic's chairman. Every chapter should send that chairman to the logopedic's class at COTS. It is a legitimate chapter expense.

Incidentally, I hope each chapter has included the name of the logopedic's chairman along with the roster of new officers for international and the district directory. Mike O'Donnell, our district exec VP tells me that the registration forms for COTS should be forthcoming soon from international and that the logopedics class is included in the schedule of classes offered.

The class will run concurrently with the other officer classes and will have the same number of sessions. Chapter chairman, go to your board meeting and request that you be sent to COTS. The sharing of ideas and materials will be most beneficial to you!

The monies are coming in! Pioneer sent \$5,974.24 to the Harmony Foundation during the month of October for a yearly total of \$23,570.53.

Pioneer continues to do its share in support of our International Service Project.

I want to highlight one chapter, Pontiac, a 23 man chapter, that has sent in \$1650 through October, for a per capita total of \$71.74 per man. Fantastic! Among those 23 men is a quartet of retirees, THE LAST GOODBYE, with a combined age of 273 years, and they have contributed \$500 to logopedics since forming in March. The quartet's purpose was to "provide barbershop entertainment for those groups who meet during daylight hours," according to spokesman Bill Pascher.

Pascher indicated the quartet had performed 23 times for the public since March, and that 17 of them were during the daytime, including a 9 a.m. breakfast performance. It gives you an idea of what can be done with a little imagination.

Incidentally, this will be the second consecutive year that Pontiac has qualified for the prestigious Gold Plateau of the Harmony Foundation Award. Congratulations to Pontiac! It demonstrates that the small chapters can contribute greatly to our International Service Project.

Speaking of monies, chapters are reminded that all monies must be in Kenosha by December 31 to receive credit for 1989 contributions. There are no exceptions.

The bi-annual seminar for the International Logopedics Committee and District Chairmen will be held at the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kansas, January 4-6, 1990. Alex Willox and I will be in attendance. I will report about significant events from the seminar in my next article.

HAROLD McATTEE HALL OF FAMER

The Pioneer District's oldest member, Harold McAttee, was inducted into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in Battle Creek on October 21. The award to him was made by District Executive Vice President Mike O'Donnell during the House of Delegates meeting on Saturday morning of the convention.

Harold, a long time member of the Lansing Chapter, has been a member of the Society for fifty years. He is particularly well remembered for singing in the SONGMASTERS, a quartet of great reknown during the 1940's. Although the quartet had some changes of personnel, Harold was the mainstay of the quartet all during this period, culminating in a fine 4th Place Medalist finish at the International Convention in Buffalo in 1949.

Congratulations to Harold on his award, because here is one Pioneer District barbershopper who is truly deserving of our Hall of Fame award.

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY
DISTRICT QUARTET CONTEST
PIONEER DISTRICT, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Battle Creek, Michigan, October 21, 1989

The Panel Of Judges

Chairman	Larry King	Farmington Hills, MI	Pioneer
Sound	David H. Patterson	Clinton, MA	Northeastern
	Robert J. Wachter	Alexandria, VA	Mid-Atlantic
Interpretation	Barry Clapper	Mankato, MN	Land O' Lakes
	Douglas Miller	Prior Lake, MN	Land O' Lakes
Stage Presence	Joe Bradbury	Ontario, NY	Seneca Land
	Michael J. Morgan	Rochester, NY	Seneca Land
Arrangement	Steve Armstrong	Oshawa, ONT	Ontario
	Burt Szabo	Kenosha, WI	Land O' Lakes
Secretary	John T. Gillespie	Kalamazoo, MI	Pioneer
Assistant Secretary	Robert T. McDermott	Birmingham, MI	Pioneer
Timekeepers	Dick Campbell	Battle Creek, MI	Pioneer
	Dick Smith	Battle Creek, MI	Pioneer

FINALS	SND		INT		SP		ARR		SUB		PREV	TOTAL	PTS.	SCORE	SECONDS
					NSS	1 2				TOTAL					
1 Power Play	146	148	146	147	43	125 130	2	-6	881	884	1765	142	120		
2 Checkmate	152	151	150	154	39	132 130	-1	3	910	835	1745	124	135		
3 "Great Escape"	142	137	143	144	36	124 125	-10	3	844	756	1600	175	177		
4 Collector's Choice	136	142	131	133	36	118 119	2	5	822	767	1589	96	163		
5 The Sound Ambassadors	131	122	129	126	32	128 119	-5	10	792	796	1588	154	172		
6 Irish Mist	134	130	130	126	34	116 116	-7	2	781	762	1543	124	135		
7 The Key-Note Address	128	125	124	122	32	111 113	-2	4	757	696	1453	172	142		
8 Wind River Music Company	117	114	122	124	33	114 112	8	-9	735	708	1443	150	161		

SEMI-FINALS

1 Power Play	137	139	148	152	43	131 127	5	2	884			93	162		
2 Checkmate	142	136	142	134	35	120 118	4	4	835			110	170		
3 The Sound Ambassadors	115	116	139	137	38	127 117	6	1	796			191	123		
4 Collector's Choice	124	129	131	129	35	106 110	0	3	767			140	130		
5 Irish Mist	125	128	130	136	39	101 104	-1	0	762			170	152		
6 "Great Escape"	123	123	133	137	33	99 104	3	1	756			142	138		
7 Wind River Music Company	113	112	118	121	32	106 108	2	-4	708			112	186		
8 The Key-Note Address	110	112	124	121	29	98 100	6	-4	696			160	163		
9 Songs 'R' Us	101	96	106	111	40	118 114	9	1	696			175	144		
10 Your Favorite Quartet	111	109	134	117	30	94 96	-3	2	690			175	141		
11 Four Part Formula	107	106	119	121	29	95 95	3	-2	673			119	149		
12 Top Brass	114	111	115	113	26	95 91	5	2	672			207	119		
13 Harmony Seekers	107	102	113	118	29	85 85	13	5	657			181	123		
14 Furniture City Chord Co.	126	114	121	116	31	96 99	-2	5	626a			100	100		

a - Time penalty 80 points (10 second) - Article 18 of Official Contest Rules

Power Play is the Pioneer District Quartet Champion
Irish Mist is the Pioneer District Novice Quartet Champion

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY
DISTRICT SENIORS QUARTET CONTEST
PIONEER DISTRICT, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Battle Creek, Michigan, October 21, 1989

The Panel Of Judges

Chairman	John Bauer	Alpena, MI	Pioneer
Sound	Joel Mills	Grand Rapids, MI	Pioneer
Interpretation	James Johnson	Grand Rapids, MI	Pioneer
Stage Presence	Roger Lewis	Battle Creek, MI	Pioneer
Arrangement	Edward Fritzen	Kalamazoo, MI	Pioneer
Secretary	Robert McDermott	Birmingham, MI	Pioneer

	SND		INT		SP		ARR		TOTAL	SCORE
					NSS	1 2				
1 The President's Own	58	61	64	62	16	57 58	3	3	382	
2 Men of Pause	59	63	55	58	13	52 55	2	2	359	
3 Four Older Fellows	59	53	59	58	8	55 46	4	1	343	
4 Sunshine Boys	52	50	52	43	12	52 48	3	5	317	
5 "The Last Goodbye"	44	45	50	54	8	44 40	0	3	288	
6 268 & Counting	46	43	46	48	12	45 42	1	4	287	
7 Futile & Some	43	45	51	46	8	35 36	2	3	269	
8 Last Chance	41	40	39	39	8	33 35	0	4	239	

The President's Own is the Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Champion.

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY
DISTRICT CHORUS CONTEST
PIONEER DISTRICT, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Battle Creek, Michigan, October 21, 1989

	SND	INT	SP		ARR	TOTAL						
			NSS	1 2		SCORE	SECONDS	MEN				
1 Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus	146 153	161 168	47 140	143	1	5 964	157 138	52				
2 Wayne Renaissance Chorus	136 141	159 164	55 133	136	-7	1 918	197 157	59				
3 Macomb County Harmony Heritage Chorus	144 147	154 157	45 131	135	-2	2 913	107 147	48				
4 Flint Arrowhead Chorus	134 132	140 138	41 133	129	9	3 859	147 144	32				
5 Detroit-Oakland Gentlemen Songsters	135 132	139 137	37 124	127	5	2 838	127 111	54				
6 Holland Windmill Chorus	134 133	141 140	43 117	116	6	-3 827	156 163	50				
7 Grosse Pointe Lakeshore Chorus	128 122	149 148	45 125	131	-26	2 824	130 99	47				
8 Lansing Capitol City Chordemen	109 110	131 136	36 103	108	1	-1 733	145 141	36				
9 Battle Creek Cereal City Chorus	114 108	116 117	24 87	85	4	2 657	198 158	24				
10 Milford Mill Valley Chorus	107 104	113 109	31 93	91	3	2 653	135 124	21				
11 Cadillac Inter-Lakes Chorus	97 92	118 114	29 92	97	7	5 651	156 112	27				
12 Kalamazoo Mall City Chorus	98 92	120 117	34 81	94	6	7 649	125 125	31				
13 Traverse City Cherry Capital Chorus	106 103	111 113	29 84	90	4	8 648	193 122	28				
14 Windsor Sun Parlour Chorus	95 91	108 106	29 94	95	1	-2 617	117 128	21				
15 Monroe North Floral City Harmonizers	107 104	105 97	29 95	86	0	-9 614	142 81	29				
16 Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Fruitbelt Chorus	84 87	100 111	30 74	76	-6	0 556	200 135	20				
17 Muskegon Shoreline Chorus	78 83	97 94	24 63	63	-5	-4 493	123 120	21				
Ineligible Chorus - Article 6 of Official Chorus Contest Rules												
Monroe Stateline Chorus	86 85	91 92	33 83	77	-2	2 547	172 129	16				

Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus will represent the Pioneer District at the 1990 International Chorus contest.

Wayne Renaissance Chorus is the alternate.

(CONTEST - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

rest of the field, winning over the second place Wayne RENAISSANCE Chorus by 46 points. This was the first contest for Grand Rapids with Dale Mattis at the helm.

The Macomb County HARMONY HERITAGE Chorus placed third, Flint ARROWHEAD fourth, and the Detroit-Oakland GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS Chorus was fifth. This contest was thrilling from beginning to end, and the improvement in the choruses competing is real evident over the past few years.

(SENIORS QUARTET CONTEST - Cont'd from Page 1)

Creek on Stage Presence, Ed Fritzen from Kalamazoo on Arrangement and Bob McDermott from Detroit-Oakland as Secretary and Emcee, ably assisted by Bill Warner of the Dearborn Chapter as Assistant.

All of the quartets were gaily arrayed and sang with gusto and just a taste of Geritol flavoring. The audience was particularly pleased with 78 year old Dick Barber's rendition of "In My Hometown" and "How You Gonna Keep 'Em Down on the Farm?" singing with the FUTILE 4 SOME. We don't get older, we just sing better!

Word has just been received that beginning next year the Grosse Pointe Chapter, carrying on their trophy tradition, will present an aptly named "Traveling Trophy" for this contest. It has also been confirmed that our last year's winners, the FOUR FITS, will compete in the International Seniors Quartet Contest at the Mid-Winter Convention on Saturday, January 27, 1990, in Tucson, Arizona. Good luck, guys!

We had a mob at Harmony College



HARMONY COLLEGE, August 1989

L to R:
FRONT ROW, kneeling: Gerry Gorty, Eli Beery, Al Fisk, Darl Wiley, Dan Connors.

SECOND ROW: Don McDaniel, Dan Decker, Len Barnes, John Meyers, John Smith, Ken Forbeck, Charley Marsino, Jim Stephens, Larry Hornsby, Don Stewart, Dale Hansen.

THIRD ROW: Al Galloway, Eli Beery, Ernie Marlow, Nick Pastor, Larry Buescher.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LARRY HORNSBY

HISTORY CLASS

by Bob McDermott

Having covered almost twenty years at this writing of the 50 year history of the Pioneer District, I have been truly amazed at the contributions made by our predecessors over the past fifty years. When you get a chance to read the history, which we have every hope of having published next year, you too, will be amazed. There really aren't many ideas which at one time or another haven't been tried in our district. The Pioneer District is truly the pioneer of barbershopping, in every sense of the word.

In writing this history, I thought that I had every issue of the Troubadour in our files. I have found out that I am missing the following issues:

1. Dec/Jan 55 - Volume 6 No. 3
2. Feb/Mar 55 - Volume 6 No. 4
3. Dec/Jan 57 - Volume 8 No. 3
4. Feb/Mar 60 - Volume 10 No. 5

If anyone has copies of these missing Troubadours and is willing to donate them to the district historical files, it sure would be appreciated.

Early district directories are also an item which we don't have. They have been issued since 1950, but the earliest editions are not in our files. We have all of the district directories issued from 1967 on, and we have one issued in 1961-62. Other than those, we are completely devoid of any from the fifties or early sixties. It sure would be appreciated if some of you members would check your collections and see if you have any of these early directories. Even the district secretary's files from those years (which we borrowed from our district secretary Jack Schneider) do not have any old directories in them. So if there is anyone who may still have them, please let me know.

1990 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION APRIL 27-29, 1990

MILES TO HOTELS/MOTELS	HOTELS/ MOTELS	HOTEL RESERVATION			
		1 PERSON 1 BED	2 PEOPLE 1 BED	2 PEOPLE 2 BEDS	EXTRA PEOPLE
HQ	STOUFFER	\$69.00	FLAT RATE	PER NIGHT	
.2 MILES	COMFORT INN	\$35.95	\$45.95	\$45.95	
.6 MILES	ECONO LODGE	\$21.95		\$29.95	\$2.00
5.0 MILES	ARBORGATE INN	\$36.45	\$38.45	\$41.45	\$3.00
5.0 MILES	HOLIDAY INN	\$49.00	FLAT RATE	PER NIGHT	
5.0 MILES	HOWARD JOHNSON	\$38.00	\$45.00		\$7.00
5.0 MILES	KNIGHT'S INN	\$32.95	\$38.95	\$39.95	\$3.00

(PRICES ARE SUBJECT TO A 6% STATE AND ROOM TAX)

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

THREE CHOICES FOR ACCOMODATIONS MUST BE LISTED ON THIS FORM!
ABSOLUTELY NO TELEPHONE REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED

	HOTEL PREFERENCE	NO. OF PEOPLE/BEDS	NO. OF NIGHTS	RATE/ NIGHT
1ST	_____	_____	_____	_____
2ND	_____	_____	_____	_____
3RD	_____	_____	_____	_____

SPECIAL REQUESTS/COMMENTS _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ TIME _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____ TIME _____
ROOMS WILL BE HELD UNTIL 6:00 P.M. WITHOUT DEPOSIT
OR CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE

VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____ AMERICAN EXPRESS _____ DINERS CLUB _____

CREDIT CARD # _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____

NAME(S) OF OCCUPANT(S) _____ HOTEL SHOULD CONFIRM RESERVATIONS TO:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE () _____ CHAPTER _____

ONE RESERVATION FORM(S) PER ROOM REQUEST!

MAIL HOTEL RESERVATIONS FORM(S) TO:

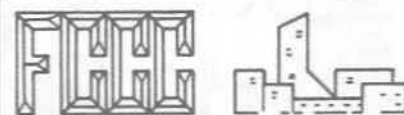
BATTLE CREEK VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU

172 WEST VAN BUREN STREET

BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017

****NOTE: FOR HOSPITALITY/PARLOR/REHEARSAL ROOMS...CONTACT: BILL KNOPP**
AT STOUFFER BATTLE CREEK HOTEL (616) 963-7050
AFTER CUT-OFF DATE OF MARCH 27, 1990, ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED TO THE
PUBLIC! THE VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU WILL NOT ACCEPT
RESERVATIONS AFTER THIS DATE!

It is hoped that the district history will be printed before the spring of 1990. At this point we do not know the cost of printing, etc., however, the district board has informed me that front money for the printing will not be available from the district. I hope that I will have a firm figure for printing (200-250 pages) before the next issue of the Troubadour is printed. The history will be sold at cost plus mailing expenses, so we will be soliciting advance orders at that time in order to get the needed funds for publication. We will publish an order blank in the next issue with the per copy cost. Initially, we are planning on printing 1000 copies, but that will depend on the price breaks with volume.



the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY

...barbershop quartet...with:

contact: ray grutter - bass
5407 claudia se - dave kutter - bari
kentwood, mi 49508 - rom thomet - tenor
hm 534-4273 bus 451-6358 jim westveld - lead

SENIORS CONTEST

The "GERITOL" Finals



(1.)



(2.)



(3.)



(4.)



(5.)



(6.)



(7.)



(8.)



(9.)



(10.)



(11.)

L to R:

PHOTOS BY DOT McDERMOTT

- (1.) JUDGES: J. Mills, J. Johnson, R. Lewis, E. Fritzen, J. Bauer
 (2.) EMCEE & SEC'Y: B. McDermott
 (3.) FUTILE 4 SOME: C. Uridge, R. Barber, W. Shiertz, D. Barber
 (4.) THE LAST GOODBY: P. Lehmkuhle, L. Barnes, M. Parrish, W. Pascher
 (5.) THE PRESIDENT'S OWN: B. Wickstrom, J. Stephens, W. Quick, C. Jones
 (6.) 268 & COUNTING: A. Galloway, F. Sanborn, J. Anderson, E. Beery
 (7.) FOUR OLDER FELLOWS: J. Empie, D. Phillips, J. Sidor, B. Poelman
 (8.) SUNSHINE BOYS: J. McCatty, W. Brumm, R. Fangert, M. Skupski
 (9.) LAST CHANCES: M. Bomers, I. Bryant, R. Rock, D. Warner
 (10.) MIKE TESTERS & 1988 CHAMPS - THE FOUR FITS: J. Wearing, R. Seely, R. McCalpin, M. Burke
 (11.) MEN OF PAUSE: H. DeMars, H. Masters, G. Dubrul, R. Seely

We Get Letters...



The following letter was received by Russ Seely and Ray Starrette of the Grosse Pointe Chapter from Laurie Ingraham, the daughter of Hugh Ingraham, our late Executive Director.

October 17, 1989, Franklin, WI

Dear Mr. Seely and Mr. Starrette:

I had hoped to attend your district competition this weekend to express what I am about to say in this letter personally. Unfortunately, business commitments encouraged me to do otherwise.

The love and appreciation from the Society for my father, Hugh Ingraham, has been both comforting and astounding. However, the most moving experience thus far has been the dedication of the Hugh Ingraham Trophy in his memory last July at Kansas City at the international convention. I understand that we have the Grosse Pointe Chapter to thank for that wonderful and very generous contribution.

My brothers, sister and I wept when we saw the obvious time, energy and money that was so lovingly sacrificed to produce such a beautiful piece of art. Wherever my father is, I believe that he is honored by your remembrance of him through this symbolic message of love and respect.

Planning, organizing and a commitment to excellence were involved in this endeavor. Therefore, I want to thank you, Mr. Seely, for being a major contributor in making this event happen. You must be very proud of your chapter's contribution. Also, I was most impressed with your presentation of the trophy at international and thank you for that.

I especially want to acknowledge you, Mr. Starrette, for the outstanding design of the trophy. What a creative masterpiece! The work and craftsmanship represents the same commitment it takes to win the honor of receiving such a trophy.

On behalf of my family and myself, I hope that the Grosse Pointe Chapter will accept our heartfelt gratitude for making this trophy a proud part of our lives. The Society can be very pleased to have people like you as a part of their membership.

Sincerely and with much thanks,

/s/Laurie Ingraham

International Seniors Quartet Champions, 1988

Tenor:
Bob Reidenbach
Lead:
Bill Brooks
Bass:
Ralph Shonk
Baritone:
Sam Love



Contact:
Sam Love
(216) 477-7847
1718 Woodlawn
Ave. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44708



Exciting Spring Convention Planned

by Jim Styer

DON'T MISS IT! The Pioneer District's spring convention could be the most entertaining and exciting one ever!

It'll be the district's Fiftieth Golden Anniversary birthday party!

If you've never been to a district convention before, this will be the best introduction. If you've been to them all, this will top the others. Bring your balloons and noisemakers!

It's April 27-29, 1990, in Battle Creek. Be sure to send in your pre-registration and housing forms now, as space will be at a premium. (Forms are included with this issue.) Housing is filling up already.

Plan to come early, too. An official birthday celebration will open the festivities at the Stouffer Battle Creek Hotel late Friday afternoon. (After the district board meeting.)

BETTY CASH WILL BE THERE!

Our special guest for the weekend will be Betty Cash, the daughter of our founder Owen C. Cash. She will participate in several of the convention activities and tell some great stories about her dad and our Society's early days. She's as excited about barbershopping as her dad was, and said she wants to meet as many of us individually as possible.

We hope to have a 50 Year Pioneer District Golden Anniversary historical display in the lobby of the Stouffer Hotel. This display will then be moved after the convention to Lansing to be displayed in the state historical building from April 30 through May 5, 1990.

Other firsts include a parade of past district champion quartets and a Junior Quartet contest.

Also we could have the world's largest number of birthday cards, but only with the help of ALL barbershop-

pers, spouses and friends in Pioneer and throughout the world. Get everyone to send cards NOW to "Happy Birthday, Pioneer, P.O. Box 50, Battle Creek, MI 49016."

Only if we get thousands of cards this fall will we be able to promote this as an attempt at a world's record. Numbers count! It's up to you! (More details in a separate article.)

Host chapter for the convention will be Detroit-Oakland. It's kind of apropos that this was our first chapter in the district and the first chapter east of the Mississippi and they are hosting this convention. Our district, aptly named, is known for its firsts. Now, with your cooperation, we can be known for the best birthday party ever.

If you have any ideas to make this a truly memorable birthday convention pass them on to convention chairman Roger Lewis (616-965-5714 or 616-979-4343) or myself at (616-965-6456 or 616-964-4343).

ATTENTION BULLETIN EDITORS!

ANNOUNCING THE 1989 PIONEER DISTRICT "BULLETIN EDITOR OF THE YEAR" CONTEST

ELIGIBILITY: All Pioneer District chapter bulletin editors are eligible to compete, provided they have published TEN (10) issues of a monthly bulletin, or TEN (10) months of bulletins on other than a monthly schedule, during 1989.

JUDGING PROCEDURES: Editors shall submit for judging THREE (3) copies each of THREE (3) CONSECUTIVE issues published during 1989. ONE (1) copy submitted must be a RUN-OF-THE-PRESS original production copy, the remaining two may be photocopies. It might be wise to submit five copies each of three consecutive issues, so that you can receive critiques on issues not previously marked on the first judging.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURES: Entries must be mailed in a strong manila envelope to Roger Morris, 325 E. Wardlow, Highland, MI 48031, NOT LATER THAN JANUARY 15, 1990. The entries will then be judged by international judges and the top two scoring bulletins will be announced at the spring convention and appropriate winning plaques will be presented. The top two entries will then be submitted for the International Bulletin Contest by Roger, and results will be announced at the international convention in San Francisco.

The main object of the Pioneer BETY contest is to promote improved communications at the chapter level by encouragement of better bulletins. One of the advantages in submitting bulletins for this contest is the critiques offered by the judges on how to further improve your bulletin.

1990 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION APRIL 27-29, 1990

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANTS NAME _____

WIFE/GUEST NAME(S) _____
(FOR ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION)

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE() _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES _____ NO _____ QUARTET NAME _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES _____ NO _____ CHORUS NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR _____ LEAD _____ BARI _____ BASS _____

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 13, 1990

FEE ENCLOSED FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$15.00/\$20.00 TOTAL \$ _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

BATTLE CREEK VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU
172 WEST VAN BUREN STREET
BATTLE CREEK, MI 49017

NOTE: ALL EVENTS PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK LOCATED IN THE STOUTER BATTLE CREEK HOTEL (HQTTS)

(PRESIDENT'S CORNER - FROM PAGE 3)

public performances. We might end up singing only for ourselves.

Certainly a way can be found, however, for our members to receive an evaluation of their performance package and be coached towards improvement without being so negative as to discourage any further participation in front of the public. If this concept receives enough support, a committee will be appointed at International Staff level to study and formulate a strategy.

Another "hot" topic discussed at the DP Forum was ways to finance district operations. All districts are suffering cash flow problems. The most obvious but least desirable method of course is to raise dues, but this was rejected immediately by all districts. Other suggestions were:

1. Negotiating commissions on travel from a travel agency, such as a 5 per cent kick-back on all district as well as business sponsored travel by barbershoppers.
2. Profits from a district-run Barbershopper's Shop.
3. Show/performance fee equal to ASCAP fee or ten cents per seat based upon seating capacity.
4. \$2.00 per night surcharge for rooms at conventions collected by the hotels and returned to the district.
5. Private grants (industrial, friends, boosters, Arts Councils, etc.)
6. Fan Clubs. Perennial cunmudgeon Lloyd Steinkamp (Stein Loinecamp to his friends) told us of his chapter's "Phoenician Fan Club." For \$10, a patron (Phan) receives advance notices of shows, opportunity to purchase merchandise, preferred seating at shows, etc. This money collected by the district, would then go to operating the district.

All of these gimmicks and others will be studied at future board meetings and a committee will present a proposal to the next House of Delegates meeting in April.

Finally, we will be examining a format suggested by John Case, President of the Ontario District, in which non-competing choruses will join together into one large "Joe Barbershopper" chorus and will be the mike testers for the Saturday chorus contest.

All participants will learn two songs at their separate chapter meetings and will then rehearse together one day before contest. They will appear in their own chapter costume as the mike testing chorus. Afterwards they will receive the judges' critique which will help them improve their own individual skills and it will give everyone involved the thrill of having participated. This is working very successfully in Ontario and one or two other districts, so let's give it some thought. Let your delegate convey your chapter's opinion at the HOD in April.

See you in the spring.

TROUB CONVENTION PHOTOS

by John Neighorn



HAROLD McATTEE proudly displays his "smile" and plaque upon being named to the Pioneer District "Hall of Fame"



McCann addressing the House of Delegates meeting.



1989 District Quartet Champs POWER PLAY receive trophies from 1988 Champs LEGACY.

DETROIT-OAKLAND CHORUS SELLING

Two Sets of Good Used Uniforms for
Chorus of 50-55 men

Choose either or both, \$20.00 each:

- 1) Light Green Tux w/ Vest, Fancy Shirt & Some Shoes
- 2) Red Tuxedo with Black Piping

PRICED TO SELL

Contact: Detroit-Oakland Chapter Uniform Committee
(313)562-1989 or (313)383-1566



McCann inducting Clay Jones, Bob McDermott and Dave Anderson into Dixie District's "Rebel Rouser Brigade" as Brevet Lieutenant Colonels. He promptly reminded all that he was a full Colonel!

DISTRICT NEWS

Grand Rapids

Clinton Valley

by Bob Biallas

To nobody's surprise, the boys at Clinton Valley have just completed the best show ever produced by the chapter. For those of you who did not make it to the Rochester High School Auditorium on October 28, you missed a truly great show.

The HEART OF THE HILLS Chorus, combined with two very talented quartets, produced two hour performances of four part harmony the likes of which have never been seen around here in a long time. Spearheaded by show chairman Bob Biallas, the show committee did an outstanding job. Their talents and hard work really paid off when standing ovations were given at both the matinee and evening performances.

The headliner quartets, CHORDIAC ARREST and our own district winner LEGACY, gave excellent performances and the audience loved them. Our thanks to them and to the Master of Ceremonies Doran McTaggart, who rounded off a spectacular evening.

And the chorus was never better! The expressions on the faces were superb, and they reflected exactly how much we enjoy singing barbershop. So you judges at Battle Creek, get ready for us next April. With the new sound and the spirit we have achieved this past year, the HEART OF THE HILLS Chorus, under the expert direction of Al Fisk, is going to surprise a lot of people.

Christmas time is fast approaching and as usual, the chorus has scheduled many performances. Kicking off our caroling this year will be the tree lighting ceremony and the strolling-singing along Main Street, in Rochester on "Lagniappe Night" November 27, followed closely by our fourth participation in the annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 3. The rest of the month will be filled by visitations to the Older Persons communities and shopping malls.

Detroit-Oakland

by Herman Schwarzenegger

What the heck, fifth place isn't that bad! Despite the fact that we left our best singing in the rehearsal room, we still sang well enough and enjoyed ourselves. A chorus contest is kind of like a game of golf. Other people don't beat you, you beat yourself! At any rate, congratulations to the GREAT LAKES Chorus for your inspired performance, and we wish you well in San Francisco.

POWER PLAY came on strong with a great performance, and CHECKMATE wasn't far behind. What a contest we'll have in the spring when LEGACY will be competing. It'll be a real donnybrook! Congrats to all our quartets for fine showings in the contest!

How about that Canadian Night on November 17 at the Lathrup Village Hall? We had 155 members and guests at what had to be one of the finest parade of quartets and choruses seen in a long time in the metro area. Eleven quartets and four choruses sang for the enthusiastic crowd, made up primarily of S.M.A.C. members which included our Windsor Chapter. The only Ontario District chapter to have representation was the Chatham Chapter. Apparently the fliers did not arrive early enough for the other Canadian chapters to organize to attend.

By the time you receive this Troubadour, our SMAC "Ladies' Night" held on December 1 at the Clawson-Troy Elk's Club will be history. A joint induction of the chapter officers of Wayne, Macomb, and D.O.C. will be held. The awards presented will be highlighted in our next issue.

The "Gentlemen Songster" will again be published on a monthly basis with co-editors Bob McDermott and Tam Uicker. The award winning bulletin was not published during 1989 due to other commitments by the editor. The first issue is expected to hit the streets about the first of January.

The chorus will be busy with the usual Christmas Caroling performances, which always include Providence (Dec. 12) and Beaumont Hospitals (Dec. 20) as well as the Arnold Home (Dec. 13). We always welcome additional singers if you care to join us. We usually start about 7:00 p.m.

In addition to the Christmas carols, the chorus is busy preparing for our big February show at Clarenceville High School in Livonia on February 16-17, 1990. We've even scheduled an extra Saturday rehearsal to make sure we learn the eleven new Broadway songs we will be singing. The show features the SECOND EDITION, our current International Champs, and the IVY LEAGUE, Pioneer's perennial comedy showcase quartet.

Congratulations have to go to Earl Berry who was elected the Pioneer District International Board Member beginning January 1, 1990! We know Earl will do a fantastic job. Detroit-Oakland is proud of you, Earl.

Hey, everyboy, have a Merry Christmas and a fulfilled but safe New Years.

by Dick Williams

We sure had us a jim dandy and hotly contested contest, what with 18 choruses and 14 quartets competing for the gold. I'd say that the Pioneer spirit is alive and well.

We'd like to congratulate all of the competitors for the excellence of their performances.

Macomb County deserves a round of applause for the super job they did as our convention hosts. We tip our hats to ya!

Congratulations to POWER PLAY, our new district champions. Great performance, you guys. Finishing a strong second and also doing one heck of a job was CHECKMATE. Congratulations also to IRISH MIST, our new novice quartet champions. The spring contest should be a real barn burner as they select our San Francisco quartet reps. You sure don't want to miss this one!

Hey, what can I say? I'd be lying if I didn't say we are extremely excited and awfully darn proud to again be able to represent our district at the international contest in San Francisco next July. We want to thank all of you that gave us your warm and sincere congratulatory comments after the contest. It meant a lot to all of us.

Boy, what can you say to our Director, Dale, the man, Mattis. He stepped in when Cap'n Clay desired to step down and actively pursue the gold with his quartet, LEGACY. We wish you the very best success Captain and thanks for everything.

As I was saying, Dale stepped in and did one heck of a job and we want all of you to know how darn proud we are of him. He had some big shoes to follow and he filled them well.

One can not say enough though, about those great guys who were on the risers that afternoon. Believe me, they made it happen. They hung in there when things got tough, they endured, they worked and worked and worked to insure the success of a new and exciting format. They just wouldn't give up until it succeeded. You guys are the greatest. Frisco 1990, here we come!

I'd be remiss if I didn't mention our super coach and friend, Rick Serpico, director of the Houston TIDELANDERS, who did so much for and with us prior to the contest. We will be working with Rick on a continuing basis until San Francisco. During that same time Doug Miller and Burt Szabo have also agreed to work with us. So, we're off to a great start with some very talented people.

HURON VALLEY

by David Spizarny

Losing the Director, President, Program Vice President and Music Vice President in the same year would cripple most chapters, yet, as Jim Stephens' DME report states, Huron Valley is alive and well.

Considerable effort by Jim Carter, president elect and current Music Vice President, and other members of the Director Search Committee paid off with Ed Aluk's recruitment as director.

Ed's style is dynamic, and his enthusiasm is contagious. Balancing intensity and fun, Ed's rehearsals are rewarding and entertaining. Under Ed's direction, the Huron Valley HARMONIZERS grow impatient for the spring competition and spring concert.

We owe another round of thanks to Tom Taylor, immediate past president, interim president, and membership vice president elect, for stepping in as president after Vern Hale's resignation. Tom's dedication is a credit to all barbershoppers, and he epitomizes what Huron Valley is about. Thanks again, Tom.

Like most chapters, we're busy rehearsing our holiday show package, spring concert songs, and spring competition numbers. Our annual Briarwood Mall Holiday Concert is Saturday, December 16. Mixing holiday shopping with barbershop music guarantees an enjoyable afternoon, so don't miss it. HAPPY HOLIDAY TO EVERYONE!

Grosse Pointe

by Jim Kinner

We'll celebrate our installation of officers this coming Tuesday, November 14, at the Imperial Hall. We're expecting a large turnout as usual to honor our 1990 Board of Directors, who are as follows:

Ed McCarthy, President; Eric Ernst, Membership VP; John Wade, Program VP; Mike Proffitt, Music VP; David Beran, Secretary; Neal Hampton, Treasurer; Scott Houghton, Ray Starrette and Don Adams, board members.

Well, the convention is over and the big guys won. Congratulations to Grand Rapids.

As I predicted, you would see more props on the stage when Grosse Pointe performed, and you did. We had a ball on stage and even more fun at our chapter dinner and afterglow. For the spring convention I feel we should have live props. How does a circus theme with real elephants sound? Maybe the weather will be better for golfing too.

DISTRICT NEWS

We're girding for our annual Christmas activities again. You can criticize the stores for starting Christmas sales as early as Thanksgiving, but because of the calendar this year we'll make our annual bus tour to the Nursing Homes as early as December 10.

As I sit here I realize that Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years will come and go before the next issue of the Troubadour.

We wish you all Holy and Happy Holidays!

Macomb County

by Dave Pickett

Macomb County is starting the new year on a very positive note, as 1989 was a very successful year for us. We have had growth in our membership, excellent performances and an outstanding year of contest finishes. We hosted two events this year and had banner results and fun in doing them.

Our first was the district golf outing for logopedics held in August, and some \$651 was raised. If you did not attend, be sure to sign up for next year, and you will be amazed how the "FORE" sounds in four part harmony. Ten foursomes were singing tags all over the course and sometimes even playing golf!

The second hosting was at the outstanding district convention in October. One of the best conventions we have seen in a long time, according to many district members. These events with the second and third finishes at contest has given Macomb a boost toward our goal of District Champions next April.

1989 saw one sad note for Macomb and the district as the FAMILY FORUM called it quits. It seems the two "boys" have grown up and want a college education. Our best to Donald and Michael T. Slanka in their conquest at school.

However, all was not lost as Michael decided to stay at home and attend a local college. This gave rise to dad Jack, teaming up with his sons Mike and Mark along with "adopted son" Jason Oyler as POWER PLAY. And behold, they became 1989 Pioneer District Champions! Macomb County is proud to claim them as their own. Another achievement for POWER PLAY this year is; they were selected as the "Young Men in Harmony." Macomb and the district take pride in having this fine quartet representing them on the international level.

Macomb County is now busy preparing for our show "Everything Old Is New Again." February 3, 1990, is the date

and the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts is the place. Two performances will be given, one at 3:00 p.m. and one at 8:00 p.m. See the ad on page 4 of this Troubadour. The stars of this show, aside from the HARMONY HERITAGE Chorus, will include Canada's own Mister Emcee Doran McTaggart, the seventh place 1989 international finalists, THE RITZ, and the district's "anything goes" boys, THE IVY LEAGUE. Get your tickets early for this one.

Bob Whitledge Recovering

Received a nice letter from Bob's wife Sally regarding Bob's condition and his whereabouts. We don't have the room to print it in total, but we will condense it for your information.

After extensive tests, it was found that Bob was suffering from Transverse Myelitis, which paralyzed him from mid-spine down. The paralysis never climbed higher so he has full upper body mobility and somewhat dulled but complete sensation in his lower body.

Bob has been transferred to the Spinal Cord Unit of University Hospital at the U. of M. Medical Center in Ann Arbor. He is undergoing reevaluation and testing to confirm the diagnosis and rehabilitation to restore him to health. He is now able to transfer himself to a wheelchair and get about independently.

The prognosis looks quite good. The doctors are guardedly optimistic. They are encouraged by the fact that he has shown some signs of restored function.

His address at the hospital is: University Hospital, Room 6409, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48109 (Phone 1-313-936-6409). His home address is 123 Lincoln Ave., Monroe, MI 48161 (Phone 1-313-242-9207).

We all wish Bob a speedy recovery. If you get a chance, drop him a line.

KINGFISH Goes Hollywood

by Chris Miller

It all started as basic woodshedding during break time at the Grosse Pointe Chapter meeting. Mark Davidson (lead), John Kosmos (bass), Jack Messing (tenor) and Chris Miller (bari) were singing chords that resembled barbershop, but a song that was definitely "Doo-Wop." The song was "Under the Boardwalk" and the sound was good enough for director Russ Seely to invite them to sing it on the spring show. The song was a break from the routine and proved to be a hit with the audience.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 14)

SOCIETY CREDIT CARD A WINNER

Acceptance of the SPEBSQSA credit card, the MASTERCARD with the Norman Rockwell quartet drawing on it, has already marked this program as a success. Approximately ten percent of our Society members currently hold the card; that's about twice the acceptance rate predicted by Maryland Bank NA when the card for barbershoppers was announced.

Society officials are pleased with the results. The current acceptance drive has ended; another campaign will be mounted next year and Maryland Bank will have a booth at the International convention in San Francisco.

International President-elect Charles McCann applauds the credit card idea. "The card is a new concept for barbershoppers, however," he said, "and all of its possible benefits are not clearly understood."

"Every time you use the credit card, you are making a contribution to the Society," he said. "The total benefit from this program will be significant." Income from the card has been earmarked to support the Young Men in Harmony program.

The credit card is an important source of non-dues income for the Society and can go a long way toward keeping dues to a minimum. A royalty is received from each card issued and for each renewal. In addition, a commission will be received on all purchases charged to the card.

There are other benefits: \$300,000 in accident insurance is available for Society members whenever fares for common-carrier travel are charged to the card. Members are covered for amounts up to \$3,000 for loss of luggage and personal effects while traveling, and up to \$15,000 for auto-rental collision reimbursement when rentals are charged.

These advantages can be obtained at no cost; if your credit card is paid in full each month, there are no interest charges. If the account is not paid in full, interest on the unpaid balance is 17.9 percent -- that's less than is charged by many other cards. There is no annual fee the first year the card is used; the charge will be \$20 per year thereafter.

Maryland Bank has already begun to make payments to the barbershoppers; a check for more than \$6,000 was recently received. According to Charles Moloney, Vice President of Sales for the bank, the Society can conservatively expect around \$25,000 next year for the use of the card, even if no additional cards are issued.

"But the primary reason for use of a credit card is convenience," McCann

said. "It is for convenience that many of us use Mastercard or VISA, or cards provided by individual stores, for routine purposes. Purchases made using these other cards could just as well be made with the Society card."

"For example, meals charged at restaurants, goods purchased at drug stores or department stores, gasoline and auto maintenance that is charged at a service station, all could be charged to the Society credit card. By making a conscious effort to use this card instead of other credit instruments, each of us could make as much as \$500 worth of purchases each month from which the Society would benefit."

"In addition, exclusive use of the Society card brings the convenience of covering the month's bills by writing only one check."

If as many as 10,000 cards were in use, they could develop an annual income of \$250,000 at no cost to the Society or its members.

And the card is an attractive advertisement for our hobby. It has the Society logo on the front and the beautiful reproductions of Norman Rockwell's quartet will start a conversation every time the card is used. It gives the card holder a chance to talk about barbershopping and has already been successfully used as a tool to recruit members.

The Society Mastercard is a winner. The many long-range benefits to barbershoppers from its use are just beginning to be felt.

(KINGFISH - FROM PAGE 13)

This success inspired the quartet -- since named KINGFISH AND THE MYSTIC KNIGHTS OF THE SEA (Mark Davidson be the Kingfish) to enter the Lever Brother's "Singing in the Shower" contest sponsored by radio station WKSG -- KISS FM 102.7 "the oldies station."

"Kingfish, et al" won the Detroit contest and the opportunity to travel to Hollywood/Universal Studios where they competed nationally. They enjoyed an all expense paid trip and placed fourth out of 30 acts in front of a large audience at the Universal Studios Amphitheater (kids and animal acts are tough to beat). They have enjoyed radio and television appearances and currently are doing promotional work for WKSG and Sunkist Fruit Juices.

"Kingfish et al" realize that some barbershoppers may not approve of their "doo-wop" style, but feel that "doo-wop" is a natural evolution from barbershop. It's fun and has mass appeal. It also enhances their ability to woodshed -- they use no written music.

"Kingfish et al" hope to soon complete a show package and even polish a few barbershop songs for contest (?).



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☐ Saturday, Feb. 17

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Call for Group Rates

Please make check payable to the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc. Mail to
23606 Civic Center Dr. Apt. 255, Southfield, MI 48034. Final date for mail orders February 2, 1990.
Please enclose stamped self-addressed envelope.

Order Form

Coming Events...

DECEMBER, 1989

- 9-10 PIONEER DISTRICT
Chapter Officer
Training School - to be
held at the Radisson
Hotel in Lansing, MI.

JANUARY, 1990

- 23-28 MID-WINTER CONVENTION
Tucson, Arizona

FEBRUARY, 1990

- 3 MACOMB COUNTY Chapter
Show
- 16-17 DETROIT-OAKLAND Chapter
Show
- 24 LANSING Chapter Show

MARCH, 1990

- 2-3 WAYNE Chapter Show
- 10 KALAMAZOO Chapter Show
- 10 MONROE NORTH Chapter
Show
- 24 JACKSON Chapter Show
- 24 MUSKEGON Chapter Show

APRIL, 1990

- 7 GRAND RAPIDS Chapter
Show
- 8 PONTIAC Chapter Show
- 20-21 GROSSE POINTE Chapter
Show
- 27-29 PIONEER DISTRICT Con-
vention and Contests,
Battle Creek, MI

MAY, 1990

- 5 BOYNE CITY "Bush
League" & Chapter Show
- 12 CADILLAC Chapter Show
- 19 BATTLE CREEK Chapter
Show

NOTE: All Chapter Show Activi-
ties 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:

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1311 Northlawn, N.E.
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
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Bus. (616) 771-5225

Detroit Oakland Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A
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Birmingham, MI 48009

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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.

S.M.A.C. CALENDAR

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION
OF CHAPTERS

JANUARY, 1990

- 19 "UNCLE SAM" NIGHT-Spon-
sored by the WINDSOR
CHAPTER-To be held at
the Moose Lodge, 777
Tecumseh West, Windsor
8 p.m.

(THIS IS THE ONLY EVENT
SCHEDULED SO FAR FOR 1990. ALL
S.M.A.C. CHAPTER PROGRAM VP'S
SHOULD BRING THEIR PRELIMINARY
SCHEDULES TO COTS IN LANSING SO
WE CAN FINALIZE THE COMING YEAR)

Note: The above dates have
been cleared by chapter SMAC
representatives. If you have any
other dates to be listed or
added, contact Bill Wickstrom @
756-4294, Bill Warner @ 542-0581
or Earl Berry @ 277-7130.



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