



# pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

FEB·MAR 89

VOLUME 40 NUMBER 1

## BATTLE CREEK

### Spring Convention Format Changed

By JIM STYER, Convention Public Relations Chairman

Several changes are planned for the Pioneer District's spring convention, some of them intended to encourage further participation by barbershoppers and their families.

The convention will be held April 21-23 in Battle Creek. Host chapter will be Kalamazoo.

Intensive discussion after last fall's convention led to some of the changes. "Convention means 'to convene.' We want to convene, to have fun, not just compete," said Russ Seely in expressing the thoughts of many other members of the convention committee.

#### NEW CHORDITORIUM FORMAT

The "afterglow" or "chorditorium" Saturday night will be held in the Branson Ballroom at the Stouffer Hotel. One area will be set aside for quartet appearances, another for informal woodshedding and conviviality. "This is where the fun comes in, and we haven't encouraged that enough at past conventions," Seely said. Also, each conventioneer who enters the area may pay a small fee (\$1 or \$2) for beer, refreshments and snacks, rather than have to purchase drinks at a cash bar. However, the hotel will still provide a cash bar for those who wish mixed drinks.

#### MCCAMLY PLACE

McCamly Place, adjacent to the hotel, will be filled with barbershop and band music Saturday afternoon and evening, in a continuation of what proved to be a very popular part of last fall's convention. The local Phoenix Big Band will play for listening and dancing from 6-9 p.m., an hour earlier than

last time. The Gratiot County MIDSTATESMEN Chorus, the outgoing district champs, will present a show at McCamly Place, tentatively scheduled for 4:30 p.m. This will be followed by a mass sing, led by Midstatesmen director Jeff Rayburn. Quartets throughout the district are being invited to perform at McCamly between the mass sing and the big band performance, also during the big band breaks. Quartets: Please call Jim Styer, (616) 965-6456, to make arrangements.

To encourage more family attendance at the convention, the competitions at Kellogg Auditorium will be free for children 12 and under who are accompanied by a registered adult.

#### COMPETITION SCHEDULES FIRMED

Competition times, too, have been changed to accommodate late arrivals from distant cities Friday night and provide more free time Saturday afternoon. The Friday night quartet semifinals will start at 9 p.m. On Saturday, the House of Delegates meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m., the chorus competition will begin at 11 a.m., and the quartet finals will be held at 9 p.m. The Saturday night show will be shortened, as it was last fall, so it can conclude about 11 p.m. District awards will be made at the House of Delegates meeting rather than on the Saturday night show.

The convention committee is continuing to look at ways to improve the convention and increase attendance. If you have any ideas, pass them on to Roger Lewis, convention chairman, who's listed in the district directory.

## MIDWINTER CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The setting for our 1989 Midwinter was just perfect this year. Honolulu, Hawaii was the place, and the scenes on Waikiki Beach are something to behold. The Pacific Beach hotel was the headquarters for the big event which began on January 18 with the Executive Committee, the International Board, and some of the District Presidents meeting throughout the week.

Pioneer District people attending this convention included Bill Warner and his wife Nell, Earl Berry and his wife Mimi, Bill Pascher and his wife Evelyn, Rick Moses and his wife Nancy (from the Detroit Convention Bureau), Ernie Marlowe and his wife, Bill Daabs and Leonard Barnes from the Pontiac Chapter, John T. and Betty Gillespie, and there may be others that I missed along the line. All had a tremendous time! All in all, there were 750 to 800 barbershoppers from the entire country attending, which is not bad for a midwinter convention.

New President Jim Richards convened the International Board on Friday, January 16, and the keynote speech by BABS President Don Amos stirred many of us to the reality that we really are an International Organization, and that SPEBSQSA should take the leadership role. The essence was that if we don't, we will be the losers, because many countries new to barbershopping are forming and since it is an American art form, we may lose that leadership role. Primary among his suggestions was the allowance of foreign quartets and choruses to compete in our contests, and that it should be in the near future, not in the far distant future. It is your editor's opinion that change is inevitable in the nature of things, and that this would be the right step to take soon. A committee has been set up to study this very important point and will make recommendations to the Board.

The discussion of the 1989 International budget proved to have quite a weighing effect upon the Board.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



# LOGOPEDICS



George Van DeVelde

2616 Sinclair  
Pontiac, MI 48054  
(313) 682-5057

WOW, \$46,226.48!!

You guys are just fantastic! What a great year 88' was for the Institute of Logopedics! We donated over \$1,000,000. And, we can stand tall in in this district as we ended up \$11,000 over our goal of \$35,000.

I was getting scared at the end of November as we only had \$27,000, but in the Pioneer true fashion we came up with almost \$20,000 in the month of December. I'm really proud to be party to this district!

We had eight Gold awards, nine Silver's, and eight Bronze awards.

I would like to thank our newest chapter in the district, Cadillac. They came up with \$16.50 per man. Thank you guys, and welcome to our district. Also to the Sault Ste. Marie chapter who donated \$22.81 per man and they also support their own in Ontario. What a job!

Our winner of the Great Lakes Express Trophy was the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY, who contributed a whopping \$2,002. Terrific!

Well, guys, this is my last article after three and a half years as your district chairman. I'm hanging it up, but only at the district level, as I'll still be my chapter chairman. It has been very fulfilling. I'm sure you'll give our new district chairman as much support as you have me, and I'm grateful for it. Your new chairman is Alex Willox of the Wayne Chapter, who has done a great job for Wayne and will make an excellent district chairman. Thank you all!

## 1988 QUARTET LOGOPEDIC'S DONATIONS

QUARTET	AMOUNT
FURNITURE CITY CHORD CO.	\$2002.00
SOUND AMBASSADORS	\$1207.25
FIRST ENDEAVOR	\$ 600.00
FAMILY FORUM	\$ 500.00
LONG & SHORT OF IT	\$ 300.00
HARMONEERS	\$ 200.00
BLUE PLATE SPECIAL	\$ 115.00
BLUE RIBBON COALITION	\$ 100.00
SUITABLE UNION	\$ 100.00
COLLECTORS CHOICE	\$ 80.00
FOUR TUNE HUNTERS	\$ 75.00
HARMONY ROAD SHOW	\$ 50.00
SONGS "R" US	\$ 30.00
BAY TOWN RAMBLERS	\$ 25.00

# Pioneer TROUBADOUR



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



## 1989 PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> <b>CLAYTON JONES</b> 1868 Rush Lake Road Pinckney, MI 48169 A/C 313 Res. 878-3662; Bus. 961-1643	<b>VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION II</b> <b>BYRON C. DAVIS</b> 3312 Carlton Jackson, MI 49203 A/C 517 Res. 783-5996
<b>IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT</b> <b>EARL W. BERRY</b> 27130 Clairview Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 A/C 313 Res. 277-7130; Bus. 237-7928	<b>VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION III</b> <b>DALE MATTIS</b> P.O. Box 8153 Holland, MI 49423 A/C 616 Res. 399-0530
<b>INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER</b> <b>TROUBADOR EDITOR - DISTRICT HISTORIAN</b> <b>ROBERT T. McDERMOTT</b> 1859 Maryland Blvd. Birmingham, MI 48009 A/C 313 Res. 647-4807	<b>VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION IV</b> <b>ROBERT TRACY</b> 502 W. Central Mackinaw City, MI 49701 A/C 616 Res. 436-8766
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<b>TREASURER</b> <b>FRAN JONES</b> 1826 Eleanor Lowell, MI 49331 A/C 616 Res. 897-6369; Bus. 754-7131	<b>DIRECTOR OF CONVENTION PLANNING</b> <b>AND SPECIAL EVENTS</b> <b>ROGER J. LEWIS</b> 20115 12 Mile Road Battle Creek, MI 49017 A/C 616 Res. 965-5714; Bus. 968-9391
<b>VICE PRESIDENT DIVISION I</b> <b>RUSSELL SEELY</b> 7626 Barnsbury Union Lake, MI 48085 A/C 313 Res. 363-8977; Bus. 896-5650	<b>CONTEST AND JUDGING (DACJC)</b> <b>JOHN T. GILLESPIE</b> 712 Newgate Road Kalamazoo, MI 49007 A/C 616 Res. 343-4188; Bus. 345-4077

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## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

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## THE PRESIDENT'S



CORNER

PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT  
CLAY JONES

Picture, if you will, the following scenario:

Scene 1...Place, a chapter board meeting.

Barbershopper #1:

"Hey, guess what Fellas! Our district officers are going to be visiting us next month and they're bringing around a music specialist from International Staff to talk to us for an evening. And they want us to invite other nearby chapters to attend, and they want to have dinner with our Board and Music Team to discuss our goals and where we think we can improve our musical abilities and our membership recruitment."

Barbershopper #2:

"What? Are they spying on us again? Why can't they leave us alone? We've enough problems of our own without having to entertain the district officers and that spy from Kenosha for the whole night!"

YOU'VE JUST HEARD DUMB STATEMENT #1.

Scene #2...A chapter meeting, one month later.

Barbershopper #1

"Did you hear what that crazy spy from the district just said? That we can't make copies of our own sheet music to pass out to our chorus; that we'll be fined \$10,000 per copy if we do?"

Barbershopper #2

"Yeah, why do those dumb clucks from district make up such stupid rules? Who do they think they are?"

AND THERE YOU HAVE DUMB STATEMENT #2.

Apparently there is a breakdown in communication throughout our district. Someone is not getting the message. Obviously, it never occurred to Barbershopper #2 (Not the same guy in

these two examples) that the purpose of these visits is to help chapters, not spy on them. This is part of the service they perform. They advise us on such things as copyright laws and the importance of avoiding penalties for violating copyrights by illegally duplicating on published music.

The dues that we pay International each year in part goes for the expense of bringing music and administrative advisors like Tom Gentry and Jim DeBusman into our District to help us administer our chapters. They want to help us grow in numbers, to improve our singing abilities, to make our chapter meeting run smoothly and to do it all without running afoul of Uncle Sam, ASCAP and the myriad other watchdog agencies that are necessary to protect the rights of all our citizens. Without our International Staff to guide us we would all be floundering in a pile of... well, you know what I mean.

So, the next time your chapter president is asked to host a visit from Kenosha, look upon it as an opportunity to develop, to ask questions, to learn, to expand your knowledge of vocal techniques as well as obtain ideas on how to attract more members and entertain your audiences with a greater degree of professionalism. All of this adds up to helping us enjoy our hobby more by singing better and by running our chapters better.

Well, so much for this month's lecture. Other than the couple of incidents mentioned above, the past two months have been tremendously exciting as I

prepared to take over the office held so capably by so many talented predecessors. I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate all the help I've received from past district presidents and district officers like Earl Berry, Bob McDermott, Jim Gougeon, Bill Warner, Fran Jones and holy mackerel, I can't leave out our perennial District Secretary Jack Schneider. What a workhorse! I don't know of anyone who puts in more hours and effort, and blood-sweat-and-tears, than Jack! I'm sure the rest of the District doesn't fully appreciate the energy and the adherence to detail that this guy puts forth to keep our District moving forward so smoothly. Jack Schneider has got to be one of the unsung heroes of our time (pun intended). One of these days I may even get to hear him sing. I understand he even does that well!

With all these dedicated and experienced guys to help me, and with a super hyperkinetic DME (that's Director of Music Education) like Jack Drennan to plan his many music education programs, I can't help but be excited about the coming year and our opportunities for growth and fun.

As always, I want to hear from YOU, Pioneer District Barbershoppers, about how you feel things are going and what else we can do to improve. Do you want to criticize? Great! We learn from our mistakes, and I expect to do a lot of learning in the months ahead.

Best wishes to all for the coming year. Isn't it GREAT TO BE A BARBERSHOPPER?

## CHAPTER LOGOPEDICS CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1988

CHAPTER	NO. MEMBERS	AMOUNT	PER MAN AVERAGE	LOGOPEDICS CHAIRMAN
HURON VALLEY	42	\$3,130	\$74.52	Doug Price
HOLLAND	28	\$1,875	\$66.96	Darrell Vande Hoeft
WAYNE	101	\$6,514	\$64.49	Alex Willox
GRAND RAPIDS	114	\$6,277	\$55.06	Cliff Gritter
MACOMB COUNTY	55	\$2,915	\$53.00	Ron Grabowski
FLINT	44	\$2,275	\$51.72	Ron Gruener
CLINTON VALLEY	26	\$1,300	\$50.00	Gordon McGill
PONTIAC	17	\$ 850	\$50.00	Len Barnes
SWAN VALLEY	34	\$1,443	\$42.43	Herbert Sullivan
SAGINAW	34	\$1,304	\$37.26	Dan McClary
GRATIOT COUNTY	46	\$1,450	\$31.52	Richard Vliet
KALAMAZOO	46	\$1,315	\$27.40	Herman Dykema
DETROIT/OAKLAND	119	\$3,243	\$27.25	Cy Pelican
TRAVERSE CITY	42	\$1,125	\$26.79	Charles Mersino
GROSSE POINTE	86	\$2,272	\$26.42	Howard Lehti
WINDSOR	48	\$1,250	\$26.04	Mark Sikich
ST. JOE VALLEY	20	\$ 500	\$25.00	Craig Grams
LANSING	77	\$1,810	\$23.51	Roland Hayes
SAULT STE. MARIE	43	\$ 981	\$22.81	Allan Brown
BOYNE CITY	38	\$ 710	\$18.68	Casimer Mackowiak
MONROE	56	\$1,025	\$18.30	Kurt Hoemeyer
CADILLAC	20	\$ 330	\$16.50	Chester Polega
MILFORD	27	\$ 434	\$16.07	Harold Book
COLDWATER	20	\$ 292	\$14.58	Jim White
ALPENA	22	\$ 320	\$14.55	Bernard Martin
PORT HURON	18	\$ 170	\$ 9.44	Tom Wadell
DEARBORN	13	\$ 105	\$ 8.08	Theodore Patz
BENTON HARBOR	33	\$ 213	\$ 6.45	James Costigan
BATTLE CREEK	63	\$ 231	\$ 3.66	David Allen
MUSKEGON	36	\$ 80	\$ 2.22	Monte Rogers
PIONEER DISTRICT	1368	\$ 488	\$ .36	



## The Executive Pitch



by our Executive V.P.

**MIKE O'DONNELL**

Society President Dr. Jim Richards has for his 1989 theme "OUR FUTURE IS NOW". A great idea to rally behind, especially since we just bid farewell to our 50th anniversary year. And rally we must or another saying may come back to haunt us; "THE FUTURE IS THAT TIME WHEN YOU'LL WISH YOU'D DONE WHAT YOU AREN'T DOING NOW."

All across our great Society, chapters of all sizes are struggling. No one is immune. We are getting older as a Society and our future strength rests entirely in our hands. The successful chapters all have many things in common: First of all, well-trained leadership, secondly, a music team approach, thirdly, good singing, and lastly a positive, can-do attitude.

If we analyze these four I believe everything starts with the last one. If you believe you can do the job, you'll find a way to get it done. Which chapter wouldn't love to have some new and/or younger singers? Have you tried Young Men In Harmony? Have you followed the Societies' Auditions for Admission program to the letter? Don't let someone tell you why it won't work—surround yourself with people who want to find a way to make it work!

I was really excited and disappointed at the last COTS. Excited because so many chapters were there in full force to learn the various officer positions. From the reactions of those present, your time was not wasted. Disappointed because some chapters did not send anyone. If I were a member of those chapters I'd demand to know why I wasn't represented. What the heck, you pay your dues and you deserve better!

A Music Team and good singing go hand in hand, but are separate items. You need the "Team" to spread the work around and make sure musical things are getting done. You need to sing better to attract better singers.

I'm excited by our new District Director of Music Education, Jack Drennan, and his plans for improving

the quality of singing in every chapter. This man is here to help all of us either directly or through the Division DME's. If your chapter needs musical help, call Jack or the DME. And, for Pete's sake, send your director and musical team to the next Music Education Seminar March 10-11. Watch the Troubadour for place and cost.

Finally, remember we are the Pioneer District. A Pioneer as defined by Webster's dictionary is: "one of the first to settle in a territory" and "a person or group that originates or helps open up a new line of thought or activity." That makes us leaders!! Let's show the rest of the Society our "CAN-DO" attitude and lead our district to the prominence it once had.

## WE WENT OVER THE TOP!



**Dr. Fran Durham**

There is great cause for celebration. The 1988 Million Dollar Society Golden Anniversary fund drive for the Institute of Logopedics has been realized.

The International Logopedics and Service Committee knew that we were taking on an awful big job when President Darryl Flinn challenged us to raise an additional 33% in monies in 1988 for our International Service Project. But we accepted the challenge and went forward with it. Such would not have been possible, however, without full cooperation at every level of Society structure, from the Executive Committee, the International Board support staff and all others at the International level down through the district presidents, district Logopedics chairmen and all others involved at the district level to the chapter presidents, chapter logopedics chairpersons, program vice presidents, and all others involved at the chapter levels. Not to be overlooked are the publication editors at all three levels.

Tremendous support and cooperation was received from the staff at the Institute of Logopedics. Dr. Frank Kleffner and his staff made themselves and the facilities of the Institute available to us carte blanche. Greg Elam, a member of the International Logopedics and Service Committee and also current president of the Southwestern District, was the real "force" behind the "Fifth Voice" campaign. He conceived the program, was

the driving force behind it and saw the drive to its successful conclusion despite the demands on his time as District President. Congratulations, Greg, on a job well done!

While I had not received a print-out showing the contributions of each chapter in Pioneer when I wrote this article on January 9, I do know that Pioneer went over our goal of \$35,000, reaching \$42,226.48, a tremendous accomplishment! That couldn't have happened without the dedication of a lot of people in Pioneer. "Thank you" to all of you and most particularly George VandeVelde, Pioneer District's Logopedic's Chairman. George is leaving as district chairman to assume the chapter Logopedic's chairmanship of the Macomb Chapter. Thanks George, for a job well done! Alex Willox, former Wayne Chapter chairman, assumed the position of district Logopedic's Chairman on January 1. Welcome aboard, Alex!

George VandeVelde will be detailing chapter and quartet contributions toward the "Fifth Voice" campaign in his article. Congratulations are in order for individuals within the chapters who promoted the "Fifth Voice" campaign, who have become active recruiters for the Institute of Logopedics and who have supported all of the Institute's charitable activities, from the Campbells labels program, matching gift program, memorials program, and on and on!!

What a great bunch of guys barbershoppers are. As I've said before, every barbershopper should visit the Institute of Logopedics. When you do, you'll have an eye-opening experience and a real appreciation of why "We Sing That They Shall Speak." With the International Convention being in Kansas City this summer, what a great opportunity to visit the Institute.

## LOGOPEDICS MEMORIALS FOR NOV. & DEC.

Glady Marie Stuber  
Dr. Wm. McCracken  
Gil Jacobs  
Rev. Donald Morris  
Doug Butler  
Robert J. Lain  
Lillia F. Geasler





A motion to assess each chapter \$25 for personal property insurance was defeated (\$50 Canadian) unanimously. Two other areas of concern; their will be no dues increase this year and that we will still continue to receive six issues of the Harmonizer each year. Incidentally, the COTS registration fee has been increased from \$10 to \$25, because of increasing costs.

Discussions were held on many other varied areas, such as Contest and Judging rules and regulations, but were tabled until the Kansas City Convention.

Your editor presented, on behalf of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, the new rendition of the "Hugh Ingraham" Quartet trophy, prepared by Ray Starrette of that chapter, and Chuck Sisson, lead of our International Champions, the CHIEFS OF STAFF. This trophy will replace the "Ben Landino" trophy, which is being retired after 50 years. The new trophy is a beauty, and the costs will be shared by both Grosse Pointe and the AIC. Ray is putting the costs together, and working with Chuck it will be presented to the winning quartet at Kansas City to start our 51st year. What a tribute to our own Grosse Pointe Chapter, who have consistently provided all of the trophies awarded at our district and International contests. It was approved by the International Board, and I am proud that they can once again announce their prominence as the "Trophy Innovators of the Society!" Congrats to our Grosse Pointe Chapter!

Calgary was awarded the 1993 International Convention. Detroit submitted a very strong bid, including the bottom line and location, but was defeated. Only history will see if we were right! See your editor's commentary in the editorial comments.

Those were the primary areas considered at the board meeting, although many other areas of "Future II" were referred to committees for future action. We are moving ahead with many new innovations to make your mem-

## Pioneer TROUBADOUR

bership more exciting. In my mind, you are the guys I'm most concerned about! Thanks for your support!

### NAME CHANGE FOR BUSH LEAGUE

Our barbershop Society has just celebrated its 50th year, and as barbershoppers, the Snow Belt chorus is proud to be a part of this great organization.

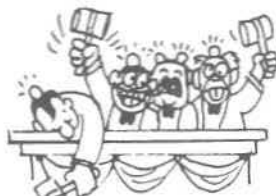
Boyne City has presented the Pioneer District a program of enjoyment through barbershop singing for 44 years. Among the many great promoters of barbershop singing and a foundation for the Boyne City Chapter is Loton Wilson. In recognition for his many years of service to Boyne City, and as a founder of the acclaimed Bush League Contest, the membership of the Boyne City Chapter has officially approved the renaming of the contest, which is held every spring, to the Loton Wilson Bush League Contest.

At the time that this chapter put together this program, Boyne City was certainly up in the bushes, and while many other chapters have come and gone, the SNOWBELT CHORUS still thrives and each year brings a new challenge.

In conjunction with the Bush League, the Boyne City Chapter presents their annual show which has attracted many singers and prospective members to our Society in the many years of activity. Again we must acknowledge Loton Wilson for his many accomplishments in the Pioneer District and to our north country.

Quartets, now is the time to enroll in this contest! Fill in the attached entry blank and have the time of your life! Remember, all quartets started somewhere. Why not at Boyne?

BILL WOODBECK



## BOARD BRIEFS

SUMMARY OF MINUTES - PIONEER DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 12/3/88

**MINUTES:** Moved, seconded and carried that the minutes of the October board meeting be accepted.

### BOARD ACTIONS:

Moved, seconded and carried that we allocate \$4500 for music activity expenses for 1989.

Moved, seconded and carried that there be no charge for children 12 and under for district contests when they are accompanied by a full paid adult registration.

Moved, seconded and carried that Detroit/Oakland be awarded the spring 1990 convention and Lansing the fall 1990 convention.

Moved, seconded and carried that we allocate \$750 for the hospitality rooms for the 1989 district conventions.

Moved, seconded and carried that contest starting times will be as follows: Friday night quartet contest at 9:00 p.m., Saturday Morning delegates meeting at 8:00 a.m., Saturday chorus contest at 11:00 a.m., and the Saturday night finals at 9:00 p.m. In the fall there would be a 4:00 p.m. starting time for the Seniors Quartet Contest.

**OTHER DISCUSSIONS:** It was suggested that all district committee chairman be board members wherever practical and that certain chairman be required to submit a written report even if they are not required to attend the board meeting.

It was suggested that the Radisson Hotel in Lansing be recommended to Ron Rockwell as the site for the 1989 COTS.

Better attendance is a goal for the 1989 music schools requesting that all chorus section leaders and district officers attend.

A study committee was appointed to review the reimbursement of expenses of candidate judges.

DYNAMO administrator expenses should be paid by the chapters. A committee will report in April as to recommendations for reimbursing DYNAMO candidates expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

JACK SCHNEIDER, District Secretary

In the Spring a Barbershopper's fancy turns to  
Boyne Country and the

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



OFFICIAL ENTRY BLANK  
44th Annual Bush League Contest  
May 6, 1989 - Boyne City, Michigan

Quartet Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Man \_\_\_\_\_

Tenor \_\_\_\_\_ Bass \_\_\_\_\_

Baritone \_\_\_\_\_ Lead \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Quartets and those not registered with International are welcome.  
NO ENTRY FEE REQUIRED  
Registration time 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. May 6, 1989  
Boyne City Lanes

Entry Deadline  
May 6, 1989

Program Deadline  
April 16, 1989

Return to:  
Bill Woodbeck  
7234 Barney Road  
Alanson, MI 49706  
616-548-5841



# From the pen of Your Editor



## DETROIT LOSES BID FOR 1993 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Your editor has just returned from the mid-winter convention held at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Honolulu, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. I came back disappointed because I could not deliver the goods. As your bid chairman for the 1993 International Convention, I feel responsible, but none-the-less, the convention was awarded to Calgary. Calgary presented a very good case, but, Detroit had them bottom-line and this is what bothers me. Somehow, people do not pay attention to the bottom line when it comes to conventions. I find this hard to accept. "Joe Barbershopper" has to get a chance to attend our International Conventions. How many "Joe Barbershoppers" will you see in Calgary compared to Detroit? Not very many, I can assure you. I talked to a Chicago barbershopper on the plane back, and when I explained what had happened, he said to me, "Calgary, who the h--- wants to go there?"

Should we bid again? My feeling is that we should not, because until the feeling about Detroit changes, we don't have a chance. We put on a great convention in 1981. All the barbershop attendees at that convention loved it. Apparently that doesn't set well with many people, and for what reason I don't know. We have the greatest barbershoppers in the world in this area, and I'm extremely proud of them. The amount of time, effort, and money to submit a bid is tremendous, and for us to go through this exercise again is not, in my opinion, a good idea. (I could be wrong!)

So there you have it! I'm not questioning the integrity of the International Board, and please don't read that into this column. I do believe, however, that sounder thinking in favor of the people they represent might be in order. (But of course, that's my opinion, and who am I to question their's?)

I apologize to you, the constituents I represent, for not delivering the convention to Detroit. I did my best, and

that's all I can say. Maybe the next time we go for it, we may be successful. I still say that the greatest barbershoppers in the world are from the Pioneer District, and we deserve another great convention! After all, we were and still are the heart of barbershopdom in the world!

## DISTRICT DIRECTORY CORRECTION

Page 58 under NITTY GRITTY GOOD TIME FOUR Quartet -- Please change Al Iwaarden's phone number to 891-8460.

per: Jack Schneider, District Sec'y



"Pardon me, but would you like to join a barbershop quartet?"

1989 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION  
APRIL 21-23, 1989

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

### PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT'S 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: \$12.00 PER PERSON  
LATE REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 7, 1989

FEE ENCLOSED FOR \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS @ \$12.00/\$15.00 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 STOUFFER BATTLE CREEK HOTEL (HEADQUARTERS).



# We Get Letters...



## A REPLY TO BOB TRACY'S EDITORIAL

by Denny Gore, Lead of the LEGACY

In a recent letter to the Troubadour Bob Tracy raised an issue that has been around since the first "amateur" barbershop quartet was asked to sing a show (or other sing out) and was offered money for the appearance. The issue is that "... quartets just charge too darn much". It's an issue that will always be with us, but one which still merits debate from time to time.

I've been in a few quartets and so I can speak from experience, but only from the quartet perspective. The side of the debate on which I have no experience is the chapter side. I can't speak for the hundreds of show chairmen who are trying to put on a show and can't find the right talent for the right price, but I can imagine that it must be frustrating. Since I can only talk from the quartet perspective, I'll stick with that.

I do agree with Bob, to a point. There are some quartets out there that charge a great deal of money for a show. They, indeed, must be putting a portion of that money in their own pockets in the form of profits. This happens, and it will always happen. Some have even tried to make a living at it and it may be true that a few succeed in doing so--but darned few. Again, I can only speak from my experience--my quartets never could have made a living on what we charged for a show or what we got from selling records.

Actually, the vast majority of quartets spend more money than they make. In my quartets our only goal, money wise, was to break even. If we could cover our expenses we were happy. We tried, many times, to keep track of all the little expenses that happen but gave up because it's an impossible task.

Let's look at the expenses a quartet faces. Let's assume that we're talking about a quartet who has competed and won something or has competed at International or has a reputation of being a top notch comedy act. It's a logical place to start because if the quartet has no credentials it's not going to cost that much anyway or draw anyone to the show. (And isn't that really what it's all about--creating a draw for the show? I'll talk more about that later.)

OK. What does a quartet spend money on? Well for starters there's the obvious, clothes, shoes, business cards, stationery, quartet registration fees, member's dues, local convention expenses, International convention expenses, postage, telephone bills (which can be

considerable), music, original arrangements and coaching.

These are the obvious ones--but how about these? Music certification fees, ASCAP fees, expenses incurred to see a coach (food, room, travel), babysitting expense (if your wife works on rehearsal nights), travels to rehearsals, food (dinner on rehearsal nights). These are only a few--there are many, many more.

But what is the amount of actual cost? Well, that depends. Let's talk about clothes. Clothes can be as cheap or expensive as you'd like to make them. I guess the words "cheap" and "expensive" sum it up--you can look cheap or expensive. Judges don't want costumes that look like you could buy them at the local K-Mart--no matter how "uniform" they may be. Costumes must be just that--"costumes". They just can't look as if you could walk into a store and buy them off a rack. They've got to be "stagey" and even "flashy"--this makes the quartet look as though they're here to put on a show--not sell insurance. A quartet has a number of ways to go on this item. You can buy something at the local formal wear place, in which case you'd look like most other quartets. You can have something made by a local seamstress, most of which don't know anything about making mens suits. You can try to dress up a suit you already have or you can do it right and go to a real tailor to have suits made. We tried all of the above with varying results. The one we had the most success with was the last one--see a tailor. It's also, as you might guess, the most expensive.

Suits, from a tailor, cost about \$400-\$700 per man. The last costumes I was involved with cost \$500 each, not counting the material which we bought separately. (By the way, this isn't high. I was on a show recently with a quartet who spent \$900 per man.)

So what, you say. Well, here's what. If you're talking about three sessions at International (and hopefully we are) it can cost a quartet, conservatively, \$6000 for costumes.

Let's look at some other actual costs. International expenses can run as high as \$4000 to \$8000 just for the quartet members (if a wife goes along the member pays for his wife).

Original song arrangements can cost as little as \$50 or as much as \$300 (yes \$300--CENTER STAGE spent \$300 on an arrangement only to find it didn't work for the quartet and had to be scrapped--this happens). The average cost is about \$100 per arrangement.

If you have to travel to see a coach, or you have to bring a coach in, it can cost as much as \$300 for one coaching session--not including the coaches fee, if any. We used to have a coaching session every three to five weeks or about 10-15 sessions per year.

What about rehearsals? Well, in the current situation with LEGACY we live a distance apart. To rehearse, Wendell drives six hours ONE WAY to Detroit for a round trip cost of \$20 (out of pocket). Clay drives three hours one way. We rehearse all day Saturday and part of Sunday. The guys stay overnight at my place or Mike's. We try to keep meal cost to a minimum, but \$25-\$30 in food costs are common, not to mention the cost of dinner out for each guy. (By the way, we've already amassed a huge amount of expense, which we haven't been reimbursed for and, for which we might never be reimbursed.)

I won't bore you with the mundane costs of postage, telephone, etc., but I'm sure you can imagine it can be considerable. (In CENTERSTAGE my phone bill ran as high as \$100/month for the quartet alone.)

OK, what does all this mean? Well, let's get back to what Bob said in his article. "...no quartet is worth more than \$400..." plus expenses. Well, a quartet does about 20 to 25 shows a year (and I can tell you at that pace you're plenty busy what with contests, coaching sessions, and all). At the rate Bob is quoting, at 20 shows, the quartet would make \$8000 for the year. It's unrealistic to imagine that the members of the quartet could break even, or even come close, at this rate. In plain fact we really don't actually break even. Even when the VAGABONDS and CENTER STAGE were doing a lot of shows and selling records and tapes, we never recovered all of the expense we had suffered when the quartet was new. Nobody actually was reimbursed for past expenses or rehearsal mileage. We never really recovered all that we put in at the beginning or along the way to perfect our craft.

The VAGABONDS charged \$900 fee for a show and glo--CENTER STAGE \$975. This was when those quartets were hot. Second shows on the same day or subsequent days were discounted. Expenses varied, but they ran about \$300 per day for the quartet--\$200 rooms \$100 food (you can check it out but that's what it costs in major metropolitan areas).

My quartet currently charges \$600 fee for a show and glo. I think that's fair. We're the current Pioneer District Champions--no small feat I'd say. This brings me to the thing I mentioned earlier about a "draw". If the chapter can say that the quartet is a Champion or something or the winner of something it adds to the "drawing power" of the show. Let's be realistic, nobody is going to see a show with only the chapter quartets on it (unless you're Dallas)--quartets they may have seen many times before. You need a "draw", a quartet that will bring in a big audience and insure a "sell-out". Sure, there are those in your audience that will come to the show no matter who's

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)



# WE GET LETTERS (Continued from Page 7)

## Denny Gore

on it because they don't know one quartet from another--you know, the "non-barbershoppers". Well, that may be true, but I'd say this--you give that audience the same show two or three times in a row and you'll see your attendance drop off. What sparks ticket sales and brings in the crowd of barbershoppers that make a sellout is a "draw".

You'll find that it also makes a difference in the chapter and its members to have a name quartet on the show. There's a new level of excitement and enthusiasm in the membership. They're given a new charge of energy and are excited to tell their friends about the "headliner" that will be gracing their stage. The question is, how much is that worth to a chapter? If a chapter has a 500 seat auditorium and they charge \$2 per seat they can ill afford to lay out the cash for a top quartet (in this case other means must be considered).

However, more commonly, if the chapter has a 1500 seat auditorium and they charge \$8 per seat (the normal going rate these days--not including the afterglow) they can expect a gross of \$12000 (yes, I said \$12000). I would think with that kind of gross riding on a sellout it makes good sense to lay out \$2000 for a good headliner. It all depends on the size of your show.

By the way, while I'm at it, there are excesses on both sides. I know a chapter that CLEARS a cool \$25000 per show for two shows, then records the show and sells the record for a profit. I wonder what they clear overall? But then, nobody is asking about what the chapters make--only the quartets.

There's another aspect here also. Some chapters take advantage of the situation and run the quartets ragged. Usually a quartet is prepared to do a show (1/2 hour) and glo (1/2 hour) on each day the quartet is in town. The VAGABONDS did a show out east where the chapter asked for a bid for two shows on two days and an afterglow on Saturday night. To make the situation more interesting it was on Thanksgiving weekend. When we got there, on Friday afternoon, we found out that there was a "little get together" of people for the quartet to sing for. It seemed suspiciously like a "pre-glow". Well, it was a pre-glow and the weekend went downhill from there. On Friday, there was not only this pre-glow, but two appearances on two shows, an afterglow and, if you can believe it, "hospitality rooms" to go to at the hotel afterward--and that was only Friday. On Saturday, we did it all again. To make matters worse our flight was cancelled and we had to miss a day of work and bear the cost of staying an extra day. Needless to say I'd never do that show again. It's no wonder that some quartets tend to be stand-offish

(but that's a subject for another article).

Want another example? Well, I've had chapters negotiate in a tough manner to get the quartet to lower fees and/or expenses only to find out later that, after bending to the chapter, the chapter was making a killing on the quartet name by selling out a large auditorium at a high ticket price.

Just to sum up--there are a few quartets that do indeed charge a great deal of money. However most quartets are charging a fair fee--a fee which allows the quartet to have operating funds and allows the members to break even.

Secondly, there are a lot of chapters who not only make a great deal of money with their shows, but some who actually take advantage of the quartets who come to entertain.

My advice to chapters is the same as that I'd give to Detroit Lion's fans--**IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE PRICE, DON'T PAY THE MONEY.** If you don't think a quartet is worth it, don't pay it. Why fuss about what the quartet charges? Quartets will continue to charge what they think they're worth as long as somebody is willing to pay, and chapters will continue to contract with quartets for what they think the quartet is worth to insure a sellout. This being what it is I feel that there's a common ground that the chapter and the quartets should attempt to gain.

One last point--what can the small chapter do? The problem of high costs isn't such a problem to a chapter in a metropolitan area. What does the small chapter do that's far from the mainstream? Here are a couple of suggestions. First, look at the calendar. Is there a time when a quartet might not be busy--quartets don't like to give discounts on weekends when they could be making a full fee. Next, look at what benefits you could throw in--bringing the wives along and providing some recreation area for the quartet to enjoy (lakes, golf, tennis, skiing, etc.) on a "bed and breakfast" basis. That way the quartet can combine quartet business with the pleasure of a short vacation with the wives.

Small chapters can also team up with other chapters in the area and cut costs. Travel expenses can be reduced if several chapters share the expense. Contract the quartet for Friday at one chapter, Saturday at another and Sunday afternoon at a third--we did this successfully in Wisconsin several times.

One more thing I'd like to say in defense of quartets. When you're in a serious quartet you spend a tremendous amount of time away from home. I even know quartets who have raised fees in order to lose shows just to keep the schedule reasonable, only to get those shows anyway. I never used or ever agreed with this policy. If our schedule

was too full I would just decline to bid the show. But here's the point. What is a quartet members time worth? How much is it worth to him to spend another week-end away from his home and family? What do chapters expect of this "superman"? Should he be asked to spend hours rehearsing, spend hours going to a coach, spend his time going to shows and other appearances, all of this at the expense of his home life, without being reimbursed to some degree? It's easy to say that it's what the quartet man WANTS to do. Yes, he wants to do it and for a few years it's o'kay, but after a while he has to ask himself, "...what is my time worth to me?"

It reminds me of the situation where a guy from the chapter came up to me when I was with the VAGABONDS and said, "Hey, where have you been? You never come to chapter meetings anymore." I just smiled and said I've been pretty busy lately. What I wanted to say was "...what were you doing last Saturday when I left home at 5 a.m. to drive seven hours to Chicago to rehearse with my coach for 10 hours, then drive seven hours back to arrive at 5 a.m. Sunday Morning?!" People sometimes just don't understand the sacrifice. Yes, it's what a quartet guy wants to do, but--at what price? Sometimes the cost can't be measured in dollars.

I hope these opinions and experiences will provide you with some added information in the debate over quartet fees. I hope I've been able to shed some light on the quartet side as well as providing some suggestions for small chapters on how to deal with the situation.

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# Clinton Valley DISTRICT NEWS

## Detroit-Oakland

Whew! What a whirlwind year it was for Clinton Valley. December was the windup for a packed year of activity for the HEART OF THE HILLS Chorus, with holiday season performances galore. Starting off with "Lagniappe Night" on November 28, in which we participated in the Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in downtown Rochester, we gained momentum on December 3, when we joined in the annual Christmas parade, our second year of participation in this event. Riding atop a decorated float, furnished by Bill Taggart's Clark Fork Lift company, thousands of people gave us tremendous ovations as we passed by, which made a very fulfilling experience. And incidentally, previous weather conditions for this event had always been cold and rainy, till we entered the parade. Now we can boast that we have brought sunshine to this event two years in a row! It just shows how much pleasure we barbershoppers can bring to a crowd. The remaining weeks of December were crammed with quartet and chorus performances at the various shopping malls, retirement villages, nursing homes and private gatherings. Every place we sang our Christmas songs in four part harmony, the listening audiences gave us tremendous ovations.

We have noticed by our scores on the achievement results for 1988 that we have slipped from position number one to third place. This was due to the overwhelming membership gain by both the Pontiac and Holland Chapters, an area in which we hope to improve upon in the coming year. In other areas, such as quartet and chorus activity, no one in this plateau even comes close to us in participation awards. Which points up the fact that Clinton Valley is an active and fun chapter. The year of 1989 is to be a challenge to us in that we can overcome this low mark by concentrating on an increase in our membership and thereby raising that score even further. Other chapters beware: Clinton Valley will not settle for anything less than first place for 1989. Another area we received a low score was in the publication of a bulletin simply because we have not published one for the past two years. But now, that office has again been filled and we are going to pick up points in this category.

Our director, Al Fisk, has us busy learning new songs already, and we will increase our chorus repertoire even further. Our contest songs have not been selected as yet, but when they are, we intend to make a very strong showing at the up and coming contest. So look for us, Pioneer District, at Battle Creek in April. You'll know us by the new songs and new uniforms. Yes, we are the HEART OF THE HILLS chorus!

BOB BIALLAS

As of this writing, D.O.C. members are hard at it working on their show, which at this stage is a complete sell-out for both Friday and Saturday nights. We have a waiting list for tickets, and this is the first time in my twenty-nine years that I have ever witnessed this type of attendance. Wow, maybe we're doing something right for a change! Our headliners include our International Champs the CHIEFS OF STAFF and the 5th place CHORDIAC ARREST. I don't know if those two quartets had anything to do with it or not (I must be naive), but I know the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS are singing like birds to make this show a premium package. If you missed this show, you ought to see a psychiatrist!

Big plans are in the offing for the rest of the year, and that includes coaching sessions and week-end retreats as the chorus is zeroing in on that big fall convention. We have been growing membership-wise in the last few months, and that means you may see a different GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS chorus in the fall. In fact, you can bet on it!

We plan on attending all of the SMAC functions during the year as well as the local quartet contests. Bill Wickstrom, our dynamo PVP, will never give up, and that spells "activity!" What a guy!

See you all in Battle Creek! Have a good one!

HERMAN SCHARTZENEGGER

## Grosse Pointe

The holiday season is over, and I've already broken all my New Year's resolutions.

I got a big kick when the FOUR FITS (Grosse Pointe Chapter) won the first Senior Quartet Championship at the Pioneer Fall convention. It's kind of nice to know there may still be a place for us oldsters.

We made the big annual singouts again this year. We sang for the Festival of Trees at Cobo Hall and at Trapper's Alley on the Thanksgiving weekend. It's still a great enjoyment to do these shows each year because it really gets you in the spirit and enough time has passed since last year to make the experience seem new.

We made our annual holiday bus tour visiting area senior centers and half-way houses. As usual, we packed 50 guys in a rented bus and traveled from Warren through Frazier, Roseville, St. Clair Shores and Detroit. We sang a pile of Christmas Carols and a few of just plain

barbershop numbers. The turkey salad sandwiches (170) were excellent as usual.

The chapter Christmas party was kind of a repeat of last year's. A few quartets went caroling and brought in a tidy sum of cash for logopedics. This year Jim Rutt served venison stew.

We're having our Ladies' Night at Blossom Heath (St. Clair Shores) on March 18. Call Don Adams for tickets. It will be a great night filled with the aura of the old Speak Easy Days with dinner, dancing and refreshments.

We're putting in some pretty heavy practice for our March 31/April 1 show. The theme is cars and boats and aeroplanes. Hope you all make it.

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 March. Eat your hearts out all you other chapter reporters. (NEWS for Mr. Kinner: Since your editor, who will be going on the golf outing in North Carolina in May with the Grosse Pointe Chapter, it may be kind of hard for me to write about it in March for the April/May issue. I suppose I could about it and say I won, etc., as I probably will, you know. First time I attended was last year and won the trophy for highest gross, and that was easy!)

The Troubadour is looking really good, Bob, keep it up! (Thanks, ED.)

Good luck and good singing to all until we meet again.

JIM KINNER

## Muskegon

In Muskegon we closed 1988, a year of a new beginning for the chapter, with a full schedule and a new enthusiasm for 1989. The final celebration of the old year, on December 29, was made special by the attendance of our ladies and Mike O'Donnell, our new District Executive Vice President.

Following his discourse to the effect that "All we really need to know, we learned in kindergarten," Mike administered the oath of office to our '89 chapter officers. They are: President Fred Kendall, Membership V.P. Mike Simpson, Program V.P. Martin Bomers, Music V.P. Ken Hemple, Public Relations Officer Gary Keller, Secretary Berney Kitchen, Treasurer Don Wood and Board Member Ed Bont.

1989 arrived in the middle of our annual Sub Sandwich Sale. Our loyal Muskegon fans like to eat almost as much as they like barbershop harmony.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 10)



# DISTRICT NEWS

(MUSKEGON NEWS - CONT'D FROM PAGE 9)

The event provides nourishment for our treasury, too.

Muskegon's SHORELINE CHORUS is preparing for the April competition in Battle Creek under the capable and most enthusiastic direction of our "new" (since September) director, Dale Mattis. Dale's popularity in Muskegon is attested by the appearance of some new faces and the re-appearance of several old, former chorus members, at weekly rehearsals.

We have a chapter bulletin again. The premiere issue of the "SandSong" was published on Michigan's beautiful western shoreline in January. Editor Gordon Gunn may be addressed at 2296 Pylon Road, Twin Lakes, MI 49457.

And chords will ring again in the spring at the Frauenthal Theatre in Muskegon. Marty Bomers and Perry Mellifont are finalizing all the details of our annual barbershop show for presentation on May 20.

GORDON GUNN

## Pontiac

Pontiac's MERRY MOTOR MEN chorus has more than fulfilled its community service obligation during the last calendar quarter of 1988. In December alone, the special CHRISTMAS CAROL Chorus made performances at ten different sites ranging from the Oakland County Children's Village to the Peachtree Center senior's apartments.

On Sunday afternoon, December 18, a special "Christmas Capers" show was attended by close to 400 people of all ages, whose only requirement for admittance was an article of non-perishable food. The Waterford Goodfellows who collected and distributed the food counted over 1000 items.

Pontiac issues special thanks to the Oakland Shores Sweet Adelines whose chorus gave a superb performance before the full house. Appreciation was shown too for the ambient antics of Director Jacki Work. Sharing much of the "Capers" applause was the "Clarkston High School Barbershop Ensemble" of eight boys, under the direction of Grace Warren, whose tutelage also gave to barbershopping one Scott Turnbull of IVY LEAGUE fame.

Another product of Clarkston High, and a close friend of Turnbull, is the newly appointed director of the MERRY MOTOR MEN, John Territo, who completed a degree in music education at the University of Michigan, and who is now teaching at Bishop Borgess High School in Redford.

Enough praise cannot be written about the generous efforts of our Pioneer District Championship quartet, LEGACY, whose members exemplify the meaning of "Good Will to Men." Their agreement to headline the Capers show provided the excitement and fellowship for a successful endeavor. Their waiver of fee and travel expenses (from Pittsburgh, PA. and from Grand Rapids) made it possible for Pontiac's Logopedic's raffle to mount a \$200 profit. Blessed kudos are extended to Wendell, Denny, Clay, and Mike.

Although the Christmas Capers idea was born in the head of the writer, the co-sponsorship of host Community Activities, Incorporated, North Oakland County, was invaluable. Plans are already underway to make this event an annual affair.

Rehearsals have now started on a "Disney" package for the 46th annual Parade of Quartets on Sunday, April 30. This will be John Territo's maiden voyage into the magical land of barbershop entertainment.

BILL PASCHER

## International Introduces Audio-Visual Lending Library

by Gary Stamm, Manager, Media and Performance

We are proud to announce a new service from your International Office. Over the past 10 years we have accumulated several hundred hours of video tape which is now part of the Society's archives. For the past several years, many of you have requested to view some of this video tape for educational or historical reasons. Since those demands have increased, we have devised a plan to offer the use of these materials to all Society members, chapters, choruses and quartets. We are calling it the Audio-Visual Lending Library.

Legally, under United States and Canadian copyright laws, an educational or archival copy of a video tape may be used without the necessity of a synchronization license. This license is required when additional copies are produced of a copyrighted work. Any video or audio tape that is in the archives may be loaned in whole or in part if the borrower has first signed a form which states that he will not make or have made a copy of the tape.

This is a trial program. We will continue it as long as it is feasible. All tapes will be loaned on a first-come, first-served basis for a particular tape. Since the law states we may have only

one copy, that copy must be returned to us before we can loan it again.

If you desire a tape, you can write or call us and tell us what you would like. We will then send you a form which states that you will not copy the tape. This must be signed and returned to us along with a check for the rental fee and dubbing charge, if any. If it is a chapter rental, you may indicate that on the form and have the chapter secretary sign it and request a chapter billing.

The loans are for three weeks from the date shipped to the date returned. Any tape not returned by that time will be subject to a lost-tape charge of \$30 to \$100, depending on the length and contents of the tape.

The loan fee is \$8 per tape. If the educational segment that you desire is not already available on half-inch video tape and must be dubbed from our three-quarter-inch archival tape, you will be charged \$10 per hour for the time spent to make the dub. The actual work will be billed in half-hour increments with a half-hour minimum charge. When you receive the initial form it will state the amount of time that will be needed to complete the work.

These nominal charges are to cover the expenses of hiring a part-time student to perform the lending library duties, shipping costs, and time spent on the paperwork to document the loans. We feel the \$8 loan fee is very inexpensive as is the \$10 per hour dubbing charge.

Materials on video tapes include international contest performances for choruses and quartets from 1979 to the present, Harmony College shows from 1980 to the present (excluding 1981), and various instructors presenting topics at Harmony College from 1980 to the present. If you are curious to know whether or not the subject you are looking for is on video tape, you may call or write and ask. We also have fairly complete audio tapes of the International contest from the mid-60's to the present.

We are considering offering a custom, part-predominant learning tape for any song we have recorded in the last four years. While we already have part-predominant learning tapes for many of our songs, this would offer even more songs. Let us know if you would be interested in this service and we will make a decision and announce it in future publications.

We hope you like this new service and will take advantage of it. The service as described above is available immediately. During the start-up period, we ask you to bear with us as we get the machinery in progress. It is gratifying to us here at the International Office that we can offer even more help to our membership.



# History in the Making

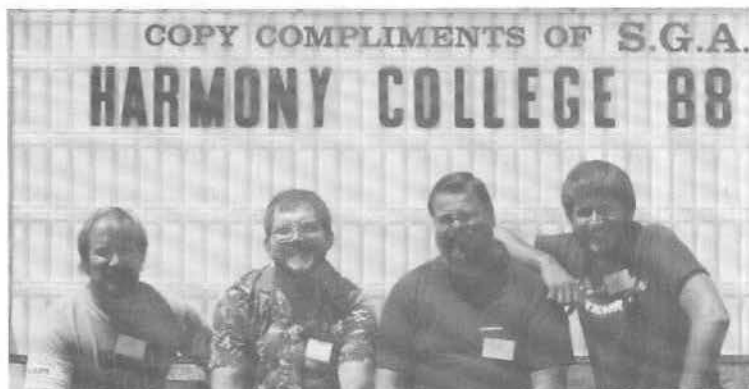
BY YOUR PIONEER DISTRICT HISTORIAN  
BOB McDERMOTT

## PIONEER DISTRICT HISTORY

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

Their were no published arrangements in those days and practically all quartets used their own arrangements. Thus we did not have a note for note rendition of the same songs by different quartets, such as we quite frequently have in today's contests. (ED. NOTE: Have I heard a dissonant note to our present system? Do we allow enough freedom in our judging system?) We also heard more lyric tenor voices and big booming basses which, again, is another story. The 1941 Contest was a stag affair, the last, by the way, and we were still carrying on in the grand tradition of barbershop singing. It was a man's world--we said, but our ladies were becoming inquisitive about our activities and why shouldn't they when some of them had been led to believe that our meetings lasted from Friday evening until Saturday at noon. We know, of course, that barbershoppers have the most tolerant women in the world (ED. NOTE: Amen!) and we were not the least bit apprehensive as to their acceptance of our music.

We were not sure at all of women generally but, as might have been expected, we found some who had a genuine liking for our music, some who just liked to be around men, the singing kind and otherwise, and some who despised it, but gritted their teeth and bore with it in a brave attempt to be agreeable. Some gals decided that they too wanted to participate in our singing and we even had attempts to enter their quartets in our contests and, in one case, four gals seriously threatened to get a court order to compel us to accept their entry in our competition. We stood bravely by our "male only" eligibility rules because, otherwise, we could visualize a far more sinister situation that would develop. That would be when we went home some evening to inform the little women that the new tenor in the quartet was really a shapely blond soprano, and the lead was a gorgeous red head whose chest expansion, when she took a breath for the "Sweet Sixteen" swipe, was both amazing and delightful. This kind of hanky-panky could have led to arsenic in the breakfast coffee as one of the more gentle forms of exterminating barbershoppers. Eventually and fortunately the Sweet Adelines was organized and the frustrated femmes found an organized outlet for their singing and, outwardly at least, a happy harmony coexistence was established between our Society and the Adelines which continues to the present.



LUMBERTOWN CHORDSMEN



HARMONY COLLEGE HAD A LOT OF PIONEER DISTRICT BARBERSHOPPERS IN ATTENDANCE  
Can you figure out who they are?

## **HAWAIIAN MIDWINTER CONVENTION**



OUR 1993 CONVENTION BID TEAM: (L to R) Bill Warner, Rick Moses (Detroit Convention Bureau), Bob McDermott



HOSPITALITY GUESTS: (L to R) Roy Frisby (Lead from 1942 Int'l Champs -The ELASTIC FOUR), Bob Cearnal, Charley McCann, John T. Gillespie



# YOUR HISTORIAN NEEDS HELP!

By BOB McDERMOTT

I'm sure most of you are aware by this time that I have undertaken the task of putting together a 50 Year History of the Pioneer District. This is a very important and needed document to record those early days of barbershopping in Pioneer, and we hope to have it finished by next year, 1990, which just happens (by coincidence) to be our 50th Golden Anniversary. To do this, I have enlisted three very dedicated barbershoppers, Ray McCalpin of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, Bill Pascher

of the Pontiac Chapter, and Fran Durham of the Detroit/Oakland Chapter to help me in this endeavor. However, we can't do the job without your full cooperation as members. How can you help, you may ask? I thought you would never ask!

Every barbershopper in this district has some memorabilia in his private collection. Every chapter in this district has records, photos, original board meeting minutes, and other records that fill an historical moment in the chapter's annals. Now is the time to share

it with the District! I hope we can include every chapter in the District History. Hopefully your chapter does have a chapter historian, and if not, you certainly should consider having one.

I have sent letters to every Chapter President including a questionnaire about his chapter. This letter requested his support in helping to make this document one of the finest ever produced. If you as a member have not heard about this, ask your President why? We want to make this historical document as authenticated as we can, and if we don't receive the documentation, it won't be there! You, as a Pioneer District member deserve to know your chapter's history!

Remember this! We would appreciate originals of chapter historical information. We need names, years and biographies, if known. We will photograph and return anything you submit, if you so desire. Another aspect, you might consider, is the fact that much memorabilia is treasured by the immediate family, but, as time goes on, it will be thrown out as junk by succeeding generations. They won't relate to it as we do, and gosh, we've lost a lot already. Don't let this happen to your chapter!

Even if you think your material is not historically valuable, question your chapter historian or other people in the chapter to see what they think! Send it to us to make a final decision, and if it doesn't fit, we will return it to you.

We do not need past issues of the HARMONIZER or the TROUBADOUR. We have a complete set of them. If an item relates to an item in those publications, merely reference it and we will pick it out.

Finally, I hope that every old-timer in this district will consider what I have said above. If you have a trophy of historical significance, take a close-up photo (or have somebody do it) of it and send it to me, but be sure you include the names and the significance. We'll publish it, no matter what else.

MAIL ALL HISTORICAL INFORMATION TO:

BOB McDERMOTT, 1859 MARYLAND BLVD. BIRMINGHAM, MICHIGAN 48009



## 1989 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION

APRIL 21 - 23, 1989

### HOTEL RESERVATIONS

MILES TO HOTELS/MOTELS	HOTELS/ MOTELS	1 PERSON 1 BED	2 PEOPLE 1 BED	2 PEOPLE 2 BEDS	EXTRA PEOPLE
HQ	STOUFFER	\$62.00	FLAT RATE	PER NIGHT	
.2 MILES	COMFORT INN	\$34.95	\$41.95	\$41.95	\$5.00
.6 MILES	ECONO LODGE	\$21.95	\$23.95	\$29.95	\$2.00
5.0 MILES	HOLIDAY INN	\$49.00	\$49.00	\$53.00	-
5.0 MILES	HOWARD JOHNSON	\$37.00	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$7.00
5.0 MILES	KNIGHT'S INN	\$31.50	\$37.50	\$38.50	\$3.00
5.0 MILES	SUPER 8	\$29.88	\$35.88	\$37.88	\$4.00

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

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

THREE CHOICES FOR ACCOMMODATIONS MUST BE LISTED ON THIS FORM!

ABSOLUTELY NO TELEPHONE REQUESTS WILL BE ACCEPTED

	<u>HOTEL PREFERENCE</u>	<u>NO. OF PEOPLE/BEDS</u>	<u>NO. OF NIGHTS</u>	<u>RATE/ NIGHT</u>
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:

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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 21, 1989, ROOMS WILL BE RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC!  
THE VISITOR AND CONVENTION BUREAU WILL NOT ACCEPT RESERVATIONS AFTER THIS  
DATE!





# update

by Ray Heller, Manager of Communications

--Ron Rockwell informs us that the slogan that our International President for 1989, Jim Richards will carry forth was incorrectly stated on registration envelopes at COTS. The correct wording should have been, "OUR FUTURE IS NOW."

--After the first of the year, registrations for Harmony College may be sent to Kenosha. Tuition will be \$270 and full payment must be received in order to validate your registration. The 1989 session will be held July 30 to August 6 at St. Joseph, Missouri.

--Registrations for the international convention in Kansas City are a little behind last year's pace--only about 3000 have been received. Convention information and housing forms are in the Jan.-Feb. Harmonizer along with tips on what to see in Kansas City. The VOCAL MAJORITY will present a concert at 7:30 on the final Saturday of the international convention week.

--The FAX NUMBER for the International Office is (414) 654-4048.

## MUSEUM FUND GROWING; THEATER TO HONOR INGRAHAM

--Results of the fund drive for the Heritage Hall Museum are also coming in, with about \$17,000 received so far. Proceeds will permit continued organization of Society archives, operation of the museum and construction of the "The Littlest Theater," a room dedicated to the memory of former Executive Director Hugh Ingraham, where visitors may hear and watch tape recordings of quartets and early Society leaders. In the archival area, uniforms of past international champion quartets that were on display in San Antonio have been organized and stored in protective wrappings in new storage cabinets.

## AIC SCHOLARSHIPS TO AID YOUNGER BARBERSHOPPERS

--Additional scholarships to Harmony College will be provided to men younger than 24 years of age by the Association of International Champions (AIC). Applications must be for first-time attendance at Harmony College. AIC awards 31 full-tuition scholarships each year: 24 of them to SPESQSA members, 5 to members of our affiliate organizations overseas and 2 to music educators who are not members. All districts are encouraged to submit applications for these scholarship grants; for information or application forms, contact Mel Knight at the international office.

## FLY TO KANSAS CITY AND WIN A FREE TRIP TO ?

--Conventions in America travel agency is offering a chance at free travel, in addition to providing special travel services and benefits for barbershoppers attending the Kansas City convention in July. Some lucky winner will receive a free trip for two to any of 150 destinations within the continental US.

The agency also offers air fare discounts from 40% to 60% on coach class, along with free \$100,000 travel insurance, free in-flight drink coupons and special rates on rental cars. Call toll-free (800) 942-0098 for reservations and information; don't forget to give them our Special Group ID number: 336. Tickets will be mailed to you immediately.

--This coming spring, International President James Richards and Executive Director Joe Liles will accept a Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Society from the National Council on Communicative Disorders in recognition of our national support of the Institute of Logopedics and our motto: We Sing... That They Shall Speak. The award will be presented at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on May 25.

--Some staff changes at the international office.: Diane Witscheber has moved from the membership area to the Communications Department. There, she will be assisting barbershoppers with information about Society publications and providing help for chapter bulletin editors and public relations officers. Her previous work with chapter licensing and chartering, incorporation, and bylaw changes for chapters will henceforth be handled by Ron Rockwell. Ron will continue to be in charge of COTS curriculum and manuals, plus chapter and district counseling and development. His new title will be Membership/COTS Manager.

Coaches' Guild--A listing of about 450 coaches, including their experience, categories in which they are qualified and level of expertise. Lots of information: \$10 List of Arrangements--A listing of all legal, unpublished barbershop arrangements in files at the international office. Includes arrangements for men's voices; some for women's voices, mixed groups: \$5 Chapter Directory--A listing of all chapter meeting places, including time, date and place of meetings and name and address of chapter secretary: \$3 Quartet Directory--Exists in international office computer files only. To obtain information about contact men, quartet members, registration status: Call Nancy Foris in the Music Department.



--Tuition and some transportation expenses for an aspiring arranger attending Harmony College in August will be paid by The Lou Perry Scholarship fund. Any arranger who is interested in learning more about his craft is eligible to apply; send four copies of your best, most recent barbershop arrangement and four copies of a brief statement explaining why you are interested in receiving the scholarship to Don Gray, 9 Filson Place, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202. Deadline for applications is April 15. Contributions to the fund are also needed. They are tax-deductible and should be sent to the international office.

--New years news is that the 50th-anniversary special-challenge fund drive for Logopedics is over the top! All of the numbers haven't been tabulated yet but it looks as though barbershoppers raised about \$12000 more than the million-dollar goal for 1988. That's an extra-golden result of our golden-anniversary year and brings our total of giving to more than eight million dollars. We can all be proud of the job our members are doing to help thousands of handicapped children lead more meaningful and productive lives.

## Grand Rapids

Early in 1988 the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY quartet, from Grand Rapids, decided to donate all of their quartet income for the year to Logopedics. They had a busy year, with many paid performances. They also provided special music for a number of church services, at which Logopedics was explained, and then a freewill offering was taken. During the year they donated a total of \$2216!! We in Grand Rapids are very proud that our contributions exceeded \$50 per man, but we couldn't have done it without the help of Ron Thomet, tenor, Jim Westveld, lead, Dave Kutter, bari, and Ray Grutter, bass.

## CLIFF GRITTER

(We in the District are also proud of the FURNITURE CITY CHORD COMPANY! Hats off to this quartet!! -- Ed.)





# Coming Events...

## FEBRUARY, 1989

25 LANSING Chapter Show

25 SWAN VALLEY Chapter Show

## MARCH, 1989

3-4 WAYNE Chapter Show

11 KALAMAZOO Chapter Show

12 SAGINAW-BAY Chapter Show

12 MONROE Chapter Show

18 HURON VALLEY Chapter Show

18 BATTLE CREEK Chapter Show

31 GROSSE POINTE Chapter Show

## APRIL, 1989

1 GROSSE POINTE Chapter Show

1 ST. JOE VALLEY Chapter Show

8 WINDSOR Chapter Show

14-15 GRAND RAPIDS Chapter Show

21-23 PIONEER DISTRICT Spring Convention - Battle Creek

29 COLDWATER Chapter Show

30 PONTIAC Chapter Show

## MAY, 1989

6 BOYNE CITY Chapter Show and "Bush League" Contest

20 CADILLAC Chapter Show

20 MUSKEGON Chapter Show

20 MONROE Chapter Show

27 ALPENA Chapter Show

## JUNE, 1989

17 TRAVERSE CITY 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

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

## MARCH, 1989

17 MACOMB COUNTY "Pre-Boyne" Quartet Contest @ Cross Lutheran Church, 35851 Utica Road, Fraser, MI. 8:00 p.m.

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

23 MEETING- S.M.A.C. Chapter Representatives - @ Bill Warner's, 23531 Meadowlark, Oak Park, MI. 8:00 p.m.

## APRIL, 1989

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

28 DEARBORN CHAPTER Tag Quartet Contest, Dearborn Elks Lodge, Dearborn, MI @ 8:00 p.m. - "Shaggy Dog" stories req'd!

## MAY, 1989

26 PIONEER DISTRICT & SMAC "SEND-OFF SHOW" - Caboto Hall, Windsor, ONT

## JUNE, 1989

9 DETROIT/OAKLAND "Return of the Jug" Night - Site to be announced. 8:00 p.m.

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).

YE 'ED IN HAWAII!!!



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NANCY MOSES, NELL WARNER, DOT McDERMOTT