

THE TROUBADOUR

Pioneer District - SPEBSQSA, Inc.

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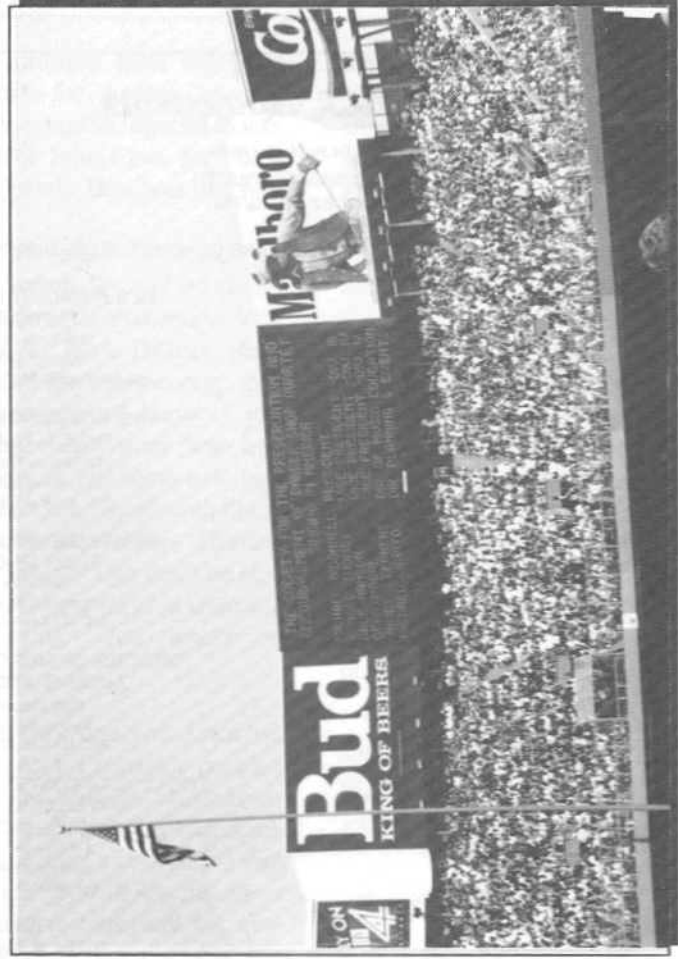
NUMBER 5



PIONEER DISTRICT "BARBERSHOPPER DAY" AT TIGER STADIUM HUGE SUCCESS



DISTRICT PRESIDENT MIKE O'DONNELL "SMOKED" THE FIRST BALL TO TIGER CATCHER MICKEY TETTLETON.



THE TIGER SCOREBOARD "LIT UP" WITH DISTRICT INFO!

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

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

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CHANGE OF ADDRESSES

DO NOT SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESSES TO YOUR EDITOR! 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 first, then notify International Headquarters, *SPEBSQSA, Inc.*, 6315 3rd Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin, 53143-5199. Give them your name, member number, chapter number, your old address, and your new address. This will insure your continued receipt of the *Troubadour*. By doing this you will avoid unneeded delays in the delivery of your *Troubadour* and your *Harmonizer*. Failure to notify in this manner will result in your not receiving it at all, as we are no longer paying to forward mail.

ATTENTION: ALL PIONEER DISTRICT QUARTET CHAMPS

The Pioneer District is interested in having an Association of Pioneer District Quartet Champions formed, and Bob Whitledge has agreed to head up the initial champion organization. Bob is interested in knowing how many of our past district champions are interested in becoming a part of this group.

Bob says that "for starters, we could form a chorus or do a cameo performance prior to the announcement of the new district champs at the fall contest." If you are interested or have any ideas about such a concept, give a hollar to:

Bob Whitledge
1730 Hendricks Dr.
Monroe, MI 48161
Phone: (313) 242-9207

He'll be looking for your favorable reply.

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THE PRESIDENT'S

CORNER



PIONEER DISTRICT PRESIDENT
MIKE O'DONNELL

Thank you Pioneer District for a terrific day at Tiger Stadium!

I'm not sure anyone has the exact count of how many men were on the field, but I do know that I didn't hear any complaints and that is something when you get that many people together for an outing like this. I missed singing with the massed chorus because of my duties at home plate, but from where I was standing, I got goose bumps all over when I heard the sounds you guys were making. I tried to join in and sing the two National Anthems but I got a lump in my throat the size of an orange. From the reaction of the crowd I could tell they loved it.

It's too bad we didn't get any TV exposure as well, but you just can't dictate these things to national TV. We did get some good PR over WJR radio which carried the game live. I was interviewed before the game, and along with Larry Parker, Larry Wise and Art Cardy from the Lansing Chapter we sang "Take Me Out to the Ball Game." I've had several of my clients call and ask if that was me, so we were heard all over the state.

I've already written to the Tiger organization about doing the same thing next year, only better. I've asked if we can upgrade our seats and a number of other things I hope to be able to report on at the convention. I must also thank

our Canadian brothers from the great Ontario District for joining us and making the day complete. Special thanks to Past President John Case, for doing much of the legwork. Boy, was that fun!

Convention! Yes, that's just around the corner or so it seems. We will be visited by Bobby Wooldridge, International Vice President, from the Dixie District. He is a terrific guy and has more energy than any 10 barbershoppers I know. I just received a confirmation letter from him in which he says he has some new tags to teach and is looking forward to doing some singing in the Pioneer District. Fellows, when you see him don't be shy. Go up and extend your hand in welcome and ask to sing. You won't be disappointed.

It has been almost one year since we eliminated the Area Counselor position and created a new position of Assistant Division Vice President. We had some feedback at last spring's convention and I'm asking all of you to do the same now.. I won't know how well the new program of having divisional meetings is working (versus A/C visits) unless you are willing to give me some input. Also, I'd like to know if your chapter has taken advantage of our expanded DME staff to help in just about any musical/show related area where the chapter wanted or needed help. As you may recall, these visits were designed with the idea of getting the chapter to sing and perform better and thus, hopefully, to attract more members.

How about changing the House of Delegates meeting and board meeting to some other time than at convention?

One of the topics we hope to address this fall is the possibility of having the House of Delegates meeting and the board meeting on some weekend other than at convention. I know of at least one district which does so (Cardinal), and the convention weekend is so much more relaxed for everyone that way. I'm willing to bet that at least 15 directors would love to know that they would be able to have everyone at morning

rehearsals instead of at the HOD! Needless to say, this would mean that chapter officers and HOD representatives would have to give up another day prior to convention to travel to a site like Lansing for the meeting. Please come prepared to discuss this topic at the Saturday morning HOD meeting.

Membership continues to be a concern to all of us. Recently the Society membership had dropped dramatically, and we've also been affected in Pioneer with a drop of almost 80 members. I know many of the chapters are getting ready for the fall contest and fall shows, and that is great. I just hope we don't forget to keep asking and bringing men down to join us in what may be the best hobby of all time.

Bob Dixon steps down as the District Membership Coordinator

Recently our District Membership Coordinator of many years, Bob Dixon, had to step down because of heavy job commitments. In his place I have asked Richard "Dick" Campbell to step in and take over. Dick is really excited about working with all of you over the coming years. If you have any problems or need help in getting a membership drive going, just give him a call or write to him at: 132 Blueberry Lane, Battle Creek, MI 49017. Home phone 616-968-3238. Welcome aboard Dick and good luck!

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you in Battle Creek in October. We need to have you there to make this another great convention and to help the district financially. Remember, a portion of the convention proceeds are earmarked for the District International Travel Fund. We will be selecting our international chorus representatives this fall, and they will have a little further to go in 1992 (New Orleans) than Louisville. Won't you join us and be part of the excitement? See you there.

ROAD SCHOLAR

by Tom McGorray

*Beneath this slab, our bari's stowed.
He watched the ads—and not the road.*

THE EXECUTIVE PITCH



by our Executive V.P.
ROGER LEWIS

What attracted you to barbershopping?

During this year, thanks to the district and international conventions, committee meetings, chapter visitations, quartet engagements, judging assignments, category school, and a host of other barbershop activities, I've had the opportunity to "pick the brains" of a number of barbershoppers from all over the country, and from all levels of chapter size and personal involvement. Most of them, like me, have been around for quite a while.

My discussions have centered around two areas, and I'd like to share some of the comments with you.

My first questions were along the line of: "What originally attracted you to barbershopping? What were the most important things to you, and your most memorable experiences? What has kept you active?"

Over and over, I heard stories of special chapter activities. Chapter visitations; Division get-togethers; Jamboree, novice, woodshed and tag-singing contests; Picnics; "Special" performances (like the Tiger game); and a host of others. Even Jim Miller, when he named two equal barbershop thrills, only named one contest, the "Mardi-Gras March" set in Detroit in 1981.

Gary Stamm of our Kenosha staff told me of a "dime a spoon" picnic that one of his early chapter affiliations in

California had every summer. It was great fun, and raised a lot of money for Logopedics.

In the early seventies, the *Harmony Hounds* sang a two night show in Oshawa, Ontario, with the *Rumbleseat Raiders*. After the Friday night show, Elmer Downs, their bass, said his folks were having some people over to the house, and would we like to join them? Elmer's mother had an organ in the corner of the living room, and commented that she had always wondered what it would be like to tune stringed instruments (that she knew we had with us), to the organ and play some old songs she knew. (Actually, I think she knew every song written before 1930.) We gathered around, played and sang, about 20 or more of us, for maybe a couple of hours. As I finished the story, Gary said, "Did the *Hounds* compete that year?" I replied, "I haven't the foggiest!" He replied, "My point exactly. It's the other things that we do in barbershopping that really retain the grip on us, keep us active and moving forward."

Now I'm not suggesting that competition isn't important. I wouldn't be a judge if I thought that way. I believe competing gives us the very best opportunity to improve our craft, our skill level, learn more about performing from the judges and from our own experiences on stage. But generally, it isn't what we "live for" in barbershopping (with notable exceptions). Our Society didn't grow at its very rapid pace during the first 15 years or so because of great choruses or great directors. It was the "fraternal" aspect that was all important. We didn't even have chorus contests until 1953. Early barbershoppers began in a social environment--the barbershop! A place to gather, a place to sing and have fun!

The other side of my discussions centered around this premise: About 5 percent of the chorus directors in the Society are capable of taking a chorus to the top ten at international. Perhaps another 10 percent are true leaders but without the "top ten" ability. They direct a growing, thriving chorus that may win at district and/or preliminary contests, do well at international, or never finish

above last place in anything. But they are still successful as a chorus director.

That leaves 85 percent, doesn't it? As you look around the Pioneer District (and almost any other district, also), I believe you'll find these guesstimates are not too far off. **BUT DOES THAT MEAN IT'S BAD? NO!**

But it does mean that we have to recognize and develop our barbershop chapter activities to provide meaningful **BARBERSHOP EXPERIENCES**, not just "choir rehearsals." **YES!** If you thought that there were assumptions on the part of the people I talked who felt we should diminish or eliminate chorus rehearsals, let me assure you **THAT IS NOT SO!** But we do lack a balance, and many chapters are no longer chapters, just because they were nothing but barbershop "choirs." Notably, the Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, Chapter attacked this problem, and many chapters are following suit. Who knows? Maybe there is more hidden benefit than we visualize, as Bryn Mawr represented themselves very well in Louisville.

In his last article, Mike O'Donnell, our president, commented that there is still time this year to make an impact, even though the time for changing officers is nigh. Will you as a barbershopper, a chapter officer, a nominating committee member, or an officer-elect give some serious thought to your chapter's plans and activities for the balance of this year, and for 1992?

If this smacks of a challenge, it is intentional. If we are to grow, if we are to **PRESERVE** and **ENCOURAGE** our style, then we, each of us, must direct ourselves toward the things that attract and keep new members, and many of those things that attracted and kept us. I would appreciate positive feedback on how you feel about this.

I didn't know that...

Former District and International Quartet Champion Glen Van Tassell is now singing baritone with a new quartet in Florida. The quartet is named *Starlight Express* and includes lead Joe Mazzone (Regents, '74 champs), bass Paul Agnew (Cheerful Noise), and tenor Al Rehkop, former Pioneer and Int'l champion.

ADD-A-LINE**by Jim Styer****DISTRICT COMMUNICATION OFFICER****SHORTSTUFF: Lots of little notes, but with a big conclusion...**

■ COTS -- Chapter presidents are getting a letter from Ray Heller, Society communications manager, on the chapter PR officers' class. There will be break-out sessions for PROs who've been to COTS before. I will lead these.

This also dovetails with a request I made to COTS manager Ron Rockwell that District Communications Officers get time at COTS to communicate with their PROs. This is the ONLY time we all can meet to discuss goals, get answers, share our needs and successes. It's December 7-8 in Lansing.

Presidents, incoming presidents: Make sure your PRO is at COTS, even if he's attended before. Only a dozen attended last year, meaning most chapters were left outside the PR network. Why? Let me know and we'll try to help.

■ By invitation, I've met PROs at three (of five) division meetings. PRO attendance averaged 50 percent. I outlined PR goals and ways I could help. I received no follow-up. I hope the district can find ways to build participation. I hope to be invited to some early next year, and will offer more time for sharing ideas.

■ I offered a short PR forum at Mini-HEP. Only one PRO signed up. I'll try again next year. Meanwhile, why no interest? Let me know why you didn't

come; then we can try better to meet your wants and needs.

■ No quartets volunteered for the McCamy Place show Saturday at fall convention. I got on the phone to line up a show. There've been at least eight of these shows; choruses and quartets have been well received. Some quartets that would like to appear are tied up with contest preparation; but there are many others. Should the show be changed? Should it be dropped? Do you want to participate next spring? Call or write me, or see me at the convention.

■ I've received bulletins from 10 of our 30 chapters. Roger Morris, our associate communication officer for bulletin editors (or publishers as we refer to them now-a-days) has received about the same. Please include both Roger and I on your mailing list so we can communicate better.

■ More than 1,600 of us had a great time at the Tiger Game, and got some good PR. Even though TV ignored us, the state-wide Tiger radio network tuned in. The Lansing State Journal attended a chapter meeting, and had a section-front story with a huge picture, thanks to PRO Mike Cirrito.

Did we get any other PR? If so, PLEASE send me clips immediately, and a note on what response we received from the public, if any. Only then can we assess how much of a PR success this was -- and whether to change our approach next year.

■ In August, I sent out my first PioneerReport, a newsletter for PROs. I've had no response. Did you read it? What did you think? What changes would you suggest? Is it worth the time and cost? Will you contribute?

■ Continue gathering material for your PR Officer of the Year entry. Deadline is February 29, 1992. This has been publicized before; call or write if you need details. If entries don't increase, the award program may be discontinued.

■ As vice president for public relations of the Society's PROBE organization, I hope to help improve communications among PROs and through PROBE,oter,

which PROs and bulletin publishers get quarterly. I've started compiling a report of successful chapter PR projects. What can you offer? How can PROBE, PROBE,oter, and the Society help you better? What can you contribute to PROBE,oter?

BIG CONCLUSION -- We need feedback! Send clips or tapes of good media coverage. Share your success stories. What help do you need? What questions do you have? How have we done this year in PR? How can we do better? What goals do you recommend that I set for next year?

Surely you have questions, ideas, opinions. Pass them on. Only with feedback can you do better as a chapter PRO. Only if I get feedback can I serve you as your district communications officer. Only with good internal communications can we have a better public relations program.

Write me at: 72 Allison Dr., Battle Creek, MI 49017. Or call (616) 965-6456 (home, mid-afternoon to mid-evenings) or 966-0696 (work, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Off some Thursdays, work some Friday nights).

Quality of Tiger game video not too good...

A videotape was made of the barbershoppers' appearance at Tiger Stadium on August 18. It was hoped at the time that dubs could be made for sale to participants.

Unfortunately, the sound quality is not good. The chorus sound isn't as clear as in an indoor setting, and remarks by President O'Donnell at home plate are hard to decipher. Camera mikes and a boom mike picked up crowd noise which competed with chorus audio. Further, sound from the stadium PA reverberated and was directed into the stands rather than toward the on-field cameras.

The video was shot by volunteers with two cameras from Accessvision, Battle Creek's community cable operation. If we make a return appearance next year, another tape may be shot, hopefully with better sound. District Historian Bob McDermott has an archival copy.

THE ROCHESTER CHAPTER
*of the Society for the Preservation
 and Encouragement of Barbershop Singing in America*
 proudly presents its 16th annual show:

"A LITTLE TRAVELLING MUSIC"

STAY TUNED

A new quartet with Bruce LeMarte, Denny Gore, Lee Hanson, & Brian Kaufman

IVY LEAGUE

Past District Champions & International Representatives

FIRST CLASS

International Champions -- Harmony, Inc.

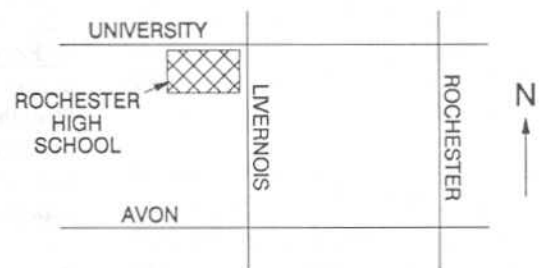


ROCHESTER HEART OF THE HILLS BARBERSHOP CHORUS

under the direction of Al Fisk

and emcee **DORAN McTAGGART**

DATE: Saturday, November 2, 1991
TIME: 4:00 PM & 8:00 PM
PLACE: Rochester High School
COST: 4:00 show - \$8.00 (\$6.00 Students/Seniors)
 8:00 show - \$10.00



FOR TICKETS, CONTACT JEFF DIX BY PHONE OR MAIL:

35726 Maureen Drive
 Sterling Heights, MI 48310
 (313) 939-5598

PLEASE SEND ME TICKETS TO THE 1991 SHOW:

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER OF TICKETS: _____
 MATINEE (\$8.00 / \$6.00): _____
 EVENING (\$10.00): _____
 TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Make checks payable to "ROCHESTER CHAPTER"



Most of the 29 Pioneer District members at HARMONY College-1991
At Right: The ten DOC members in attendance at the school.



Part of the Pioneer District Barbershoppers singing at the Tiger Ball Game on August 18.



President Mike O'Donnell speaking to the Tiger game audience.



DME Jim Stephens directing the songs at Tiger Stadium.



Blue Ribbon Coalition quartet performing at Buckeye Invitational III.

HARMONY ROUNDUP AT MSU ON AUGUST 24-25



ABOVE-DME Jim Stephens introducing our Mini-HEP teaching staff
BELOW-Three of the quartets who worked hard at the school.



The Illinois District Champs *Classic Ring* sang up a storm at the school!



LOGOPEDICS

By Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman
ALEX WILLOX

Things are looking very good in the Logopedics corner. Pontiac is again first in with the Gold award. I wonder how many more we are going to have this year. Alpena, Swan Valley and the Wayne Chapters have already qualified for the Silver awards. I'm hoping they will all move up to the Gold. It takes us all, so why not help. Encourage your chapter Logopedics Chairman and see what you can do to help move your chapter into the higher awards.

FROM THE MAILBOX...



August 21,
1991

To My Friends in the Pioneer District;

Well, I have to be honest with you -- two months ago this is the last thing I thought I'd be doing. As you may or may not know, I've returned home quite a bit earlier than expected. To keep things as simple as possible, this is the reason why:

Last November I underwent some minor outpatient surgery of a left varicocele (don't worry, *Chordiac Arrest* was not involved in the procedure!). Apparently I didn't wait long enough before entering the service. During basic training, I had a recurrence of the original problem. Although no further surgery is required at this time, the military medical review board decided (under my protest), that a medical discharge was in order.

This course of events has brought about a lot of mixed feelings. Returning to the district that offered me such support when I left actually makes me feel somewhat guilty. Therefore I felt I owed it to the district to explain why I was back.

In anticipation of your next question -- I'm not sure exactly what the future holds. At this time, I'm investigating all of my options both academically and in the area of barbershopping. I've returned to the Macomb County Chapter but have made no final decisions regarding other activities such as quartetting.

I look forward to seeing all of my friends in the district at the fall convention. Hopefully this letter will answer some of your questions and allow us more time to sing a few tags. Once again, thank you all for your support.

Keep smiling and singing,
Michael T. Slamka

LOGOPEDICS SUMMARY AS OF 8/1/91

<u>CHAPTER</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>MBRS</u>	<u>PER CAP.</u>	<u>AWARD</u>
ALPENA	\$ 931.00	30	\$ 31.03	SILVER
BATTLE CREEK				
BEN.HARBOR-ST.JOE	150.00	28	5.36	
BOYNE CITY	598.00	33	18.12	BRONZE
CADILLAC				
COLDWATER	80.00	8	10.00	BRONZE
DETROIT-OAKLAND	1,621.50	94	17.25	BRONZE
FLINT	594.75	44	13.52	BRONZE
GRAND RAPIDS	2,229.96	95	23.47	BRONZE
GRATIOT COUNTY	41.00	50	.82	
GROSSE POINTE	300.00	90	3.33	
HOLLAND				
HURON VALLEY	413.20	39	10.59	BRONZE
JACKSON	50.00	31	1.61	
KALAMAZOO	500.00	51	9.80	
LANSING	1,772.11	75	23.63	BRONZE
MACOMB COUNTY	782.50	67	11.68	BRONZE
MILFORD				
MONROE	205.00	26	7.88	
MONROE NORTH	119.00	41	2.90	
MUSKEGON	500.00	31	16.13	BRONZE
PONTIAC	1,486.50	37	61.94	GOLD
PORT HURON	62.50	17	3.68	
ROCHESTER	62.50	43	1.45	
SAGINAW BAY	361.00	31	11.65	BRONZE
SAULT STE. MARIE	650.00	46	14.13	BRONZE
SWAN VALLEY	696.00	21	33.14	SILVER
TRAVERSE CITY				
WAYNE	3,401.50	101	33.68	SILVER
WINDSOR				
PIONEER DISTRICT	691.00			
<u>GRAND TOTAL</u>	<u>\$18,299.02</u>			

Sing with the "Joe Barbershopper" Chorus at Contest

Here is your chance to sing with the "Joe Barbershopper" Mike Tester chorus for the chorus contest. If you're not competing, Don Bazely has picked two old chestnut songs from the "Harmony of Harmony" songbook, "My Gal Sal" and "Put on Your Old Grey Bonnet," and needs your voice. Practice time will be at 7:15 p.m. on Friday (for about an hour) and at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday. Hey, it's fun, and you'll get your picture taken, too. Look for more info on the bulletin board at Stouffers. Questions, see Deon Moore.



SPOTLIGHT
on
LOGOPEDICS



Dr. Fran Durham

D.O.C. hosting Benefit Show for Beaumont Hospital's "Stroke Survivor" Project

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter is doing its part to recognize the work of local charities, particularly those that work with communicatively handicapped. Let me emphasize that this effort will in no way detract from our support of the Institute of Logopedics. The Institute is still "our unified service project." We recognize, however, that a "local connection" is good for the groups involved. It should increase our visibility among the medical community and it should provide needed funds to the Beaumont Hospital Stroke Survivor Project for the great work that they do.

The work done at Beaumont was brought home to DOC when I discovered that Ray Strachan, a former member of the Oakland County Chapter, received his therapy from the Stroke Survivor Unit. Ray suffered a severe stroke that left him paralyzed on one side and unable to speak. After being released from the hospital, Ray underwent a long period of intensive therapy and eventually ended up as an outpatient at the Stroke Survivor Unit. Sue Ewing was his Speech and

Language Pathologist. When Sue learned that Ray was a barbershopper, she used music as part of the therapy since the ability to speak and the ability to sing are controlled by opposite hemispheres of the brain. Ray is now able to walk with the help of a cane, and has a limited speech vocabulary. Sue Ewing hopes that some day Ray will return to barbershopping. Those of you that know Ray may remember that he has a powerful "low down" bass voice, one that any chorus would welcome. During his term in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War he sang with the Great Lakes Naval Chorus.

As you notice in the flyer on page 12 the benefit show is Friday, October 25, 1991, 8:00 p.m., at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Tickets are \$15 with all proceeds, after expenses, will go to the Stroke Survivor Project. We have a terrific line-up for the show -- *The Gentlemen Songsters* chorus, and four great quartets, *Brighter Side*, *Great Escape*, *Sound Ambassadors* and *Stay Tuned*. DOC's own Bill Wickstrom will emcee the show and Earl Berry is handling the tickets as ticket chairman. Please enclose a self-addressed and stamped return address envelope when ordering tickets. This is a show you will not want to miss and certainly is one for a worthy cause.

I would hope that the other chapters in the Pioneer District will publicize the work that they do with local charities. We can do a lot of good locally, and still support our International Service Project, the Institute of Logopedics.

Our Mini-HEP at Michigan State was great, but we missed a lot of you...

by Al Fisk

Wow! What a weekend! Kudos to Jim Stephens, Don Stewart, Gene Hanover and the crew for another inspirational and educational mini-harmony education program at Michigan State University (go Green) on the last weekend in August. It was truly amazing to watch the wizardry of Jim Henry (*Gas House Gang*) in his Vocal Techniques class. Mel Knight (Kenosha) gave his usual expertise on everything from history to coaching. I enjoyed teaching the barbershop fundamentals and tag singing classes. And, finally, everyone loved the talent, love, and humor of the Illinois District Champs, *Classic Ring*. 74 men left MSU with a renewed love for our craft, but I am disappointed that more guys chose not to take advantage of this opportunity.

After talking to other directors from around the country (Director's College, Harmony College, and International), I know that other districts have a higher rate of member participation at local functions.

What do you say guys? Let's surprise Jim by having 10 quartets, five choruses, and 200 students at next year's school. Armed with new enthusiasm and better singing habits, maybe we can improve our performances on the international stage. Think about it!



"Okay guys, one more chorus of row, row, row yer boat!"

CHAPTER NEWS

GRAND RAPIDS



By Cliff Gritter

Some time ago the *Great Lakes* chorus, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was invited to make a concert tour to New Zealand and Australia. After several months of preparation and special rehearsals, a 26 man chorus flew off on June 23, 1991. After a week of concerts and sightseeing in New Zealand, they flew to Sydney, Australia, where a highlight of the trip was a performance in the famous Sydney Opera House. There the chorus received a standing ovation from the Australian barbershop fans.

Another highlight was a performance for the Ambassador's Ball at the American Embassy in Canberra on July 4th. After a final concert in Melbourne, the chorus headed home on July 7th, tired and happy with a successful tour. Barbershop fans "down under" proved to be very courteous, helpful and appreciative of the American's efforts.

In the photo, in casual dress, are officers of the *City of Sails* Chorus of Auckland, New Zealand. Formal suits are, left to right, Ron Thomet, Grand Rapids Chapter President; Dale Mattis, "Aussie Chorus" director, and Bob Goldschmeding, the trip director.

GROSSE POINTE

by Jim Kinner

The annual Harsen's Island Golf Outing was held at Don Adam's island estate on July 28th. There were 70 barbershoppers and wives in attendance. Of this number, 30 played scramble golf. The winning team was Ray McAlpin, Donna Sullivan and Mike Sullivan. The trophies were solid brass frogs. In addition, the guests also played jarts, horseshoes, bocce ball, fishing, and Eric Ernst cooked a 40 pound round of beef for all to enjoy.

Our annual Gowonie Golf Outing and Performance was held on August 17th. It was enjoyed by 24 golfers and 39 singers.

Most players were rained out after nine holes of golf, but Russ Seely and Ed McCarthy went back out and finished their 18 holes. After the showers and refreshments, they had the banquet and the chorus sang for the club members who had gathered for this event.

Grosse Pointe's annual floating poker game was held on September 8, and was enjoyed by all. A goodly number of Grosse Pointers got up to the Harrisville Barbershop/Sweet Adeline Labor Day weekend and enjoyed the Arts and Craft Show. Among the group were our newly weds, Harvey and Elaine Burr, who were married August 17th.

We want the world to know that our own Barbershop Hall of Famer, Russ Seely, has been nominated to be the Pioneer District Executive Vice President. The election will be held at the fall convention. Speaking of the convention, I hope you all win, but if you don't, enjoy.

MUSKEGON

by Fred Kendall

The chapter opened the summer season with a family picnic at Ross Park on Mona Lake in Muskegon. It was a grand affair for the members and their families.

On Saturday, July 27, the *Shoreline Chorus* participated for the third year in a row in the opening of the famed Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven. We made three appearances during the afternoon festivities.

Our chorus was invited by the Grand Rapids *Great Lakes Chorus* to attend a warm-up for the Blue Jay-Tiger affair at Tiger Stadium on August 11th. Needless to say, we all had a grand evening. On August 18 twelve of our members made the trip to Detroit to participate at the ball game. It was indeed a thrill.

In early August the chapter held its second picnic. It was held around the pool at Mart Bomer's place. These family get-togethers tend to compensate for the hours we spend enjoying our craft.

Our next performance will be on September 14 when we participate in celebrating the 60th birthday of the "Frauenthal Theatre" in Muskegon. This is a community affair and the *Shoreline Chorus* will make three appearances during this day long celebration.

The Frauenthal is classed as possibly the second best, acoustically perfect, theatre in the state. We have held fifty-one annual shows here.

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District Nominating Committee offers slate of officers to serve Pioneer District for 1992

The Pioneer District Nominating Committee chaired by John Gillespie and consisting of James Gougeon and Earl Berry, has submitted a slate of officers to lead the Pioneer District for 1992, as follows:

PRESIDENT	<i>Roger J. Lewis</i>
EXEC. VICE PRESIDENT	<i>Russell Seely</i>
VICE PRESIDENTS:	
DIVISION I	<i>William Wickstrom</i>
DIVISION II	<i>Larry L. Parker</i>
DIVISION III	<i>Ronald Thomet</i>
DIVISION IV	<i>Dale L. Hanson</i>
DIVISION V	<i>Deon L. Moore</i>
SECRETARY	<i>Jack F. Schneider</i>
TREASURER	<i>Richard S. "Stan" Williams</i>
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC EDUCATION	<i>James H. Stephens</i>
DIRECTOR OF CONVENTION PLANNING AND SPECIAL EVENTS	<i>Michael A. Cirrito</i>
INT'L BOARD MEMBER	<i>Michael J. O'Donnell</i>

The elections will take place at the House of Delegates meeting scheduled for Saturday morning, 8 a.m., on October 19, 1991. Section 9.01 of Article IX of the District By-Laws provides that further nominations may be made from the floor and a motion to close nominations shall not be entertained until full opportunity has been provided to nominate from the floor for each elective office.

Rules published for International Seniors Quartet Contest

The popularity of the Seniors Quartet Contest has promulgated some changes in the International Senior Quartet Contest to be held during the Midwinter convention at Long Beach, California, in January, 1992. While our district rules follow most of the prescribed guidelines, our only variance is the fact that a quartet must be registered with international to compete, whereas our district rules do not require this.

The international contest, since its inception, has been open to all comers who meet the minimum age requirements. Now, each district and each affiliate is being invited to send a representative. If that representative is chosen by a district level contest, that contest should be open to any prior District Senior Quartet Champion from that district. (Note: This rule is in direct conflict with our rules, in that past district seniors champions are not allowed to sing in our contests.) Space for that representative to enter the International Senior Quartet contest will be held until a registration deadline. District and affiliate representatives must register with the international office prior to November 15 of the year preceding the midwinter convention. A responsible district

officer (DACJC) should notify the international C&J office, in advance of his district's selection. Further, the QUARTET must indicate its intention to compete by notifying the C&J office in writing (or FAX - 414/654/4048) prior to the registration deadline. Districts should make a point of telling their representative of this requirement.

Additional registrations will be accepted from "at-large" entrants on a first come - first served basis until a field of no larger than 25 is achieved. At-large entries will be accepted by written application (including FAX) no earlier than November 15 nor later than December 15 of the year preceding the midwinter convention. Each application should include the quartet name, the singers' name, and their date of birth. A waiting list in order of application is maintained to fill late vacancies.

Scores of only the top five contestants will be published. All other contestants will finish in sixth place. Contestants may receive their scores upon request. In all other respects (including the use of timers) the International Senior Quartet contest will be run and judged in accordance with the current Official SPEBSQSA quartet contest rules.

The Pioneer District has held three contests, and so far we have not had a representative quartet from our district compete at the midwinter. Recognizing this problem last year, the district board made funds available (in the same amount as our regular competitors) for our winning quartet to attend and compete at the midwinter. It is hoped that this year our winner will be able to take advantage of this opportunity (or alternate) to compete at international.

The Pioneer District Seniors Quartet Contest will be held Saturday afternoon, October 19, 1991, at approximately 4:00 p.m., in the Stouffer's Hotel Branson Room. Entry banks were published in the August/September issue of the *Troubadour*, and will be available at the registration desk at Stouffer's. Remember, the deadline for entering is 9:00 a.m. on October 19th at the registration desk or by mail to John Bauer, our DACJC. Enter now, as it will be a lot of fun.

"Take Me Out to the Ball Game" turned out to be great thrill at Tiger Stadium on August 18

The Detroit Tigers may have lost the ball game 4-2 to the Toronto Bluejays, but the Pioneer and Ontario District barbershoppers and guests in attendance were the real winners. Better than 1600 of us were in attendance, and close to 400 were on the field to sing "God Bless the USA", "Oh Canada", and the "Star Spangled Banner" before a crowd of 47,000, one of the largest turnouts in recent Tiger history.

District Director of Music Education Jim Stephens led the group on the field, which consisted of representatives from every chapter in the district, in addition to a large group of Ontario District barbershoppers who joined in on this memorable occasion. The pictures on pages 1 and 7 portray some of the flavor of the day, and might become an annual district event.

CHAPTER NEWS

DETROIT-OAKLAND

By Tom Uicker

Summer turned out to be rather quiet for the *Gentlemen Songsters* chorus, with only two public appearances -- at "Jug Night" and on our "Boblo Moonlight Cruise." Individual members, on the other hand, were very busy with two at Director's College, ten attending Harmony College, twenty-five at the district's mini-HEP, and over thirty joining the massed chorus at Tiger Stadium.

Summer is over now, and our chorus is regrouping for busy times ahead. First and most important, in some minds, is the fall convention/contest in Battle Creek this month. Second, equally important in some minds, we are putting on a benefit show for Beaumont Hospital's Stroke Survivor Project. This takes place a week after contest, on Friday, October 25, at Birmingham Seaholm High School. It is our attempt to support a local charity without detracting from our Logopedic's contributions. See our show ad on page 12.

The week after the benefit show we will come back with another rip-roaring Canadian Night at Lathrup Village Hall, on Southfield Road between 11 and 12 Mile Roads. The date is Friday, November 1. Emcee Bill Wickstrom hasn't let out any details yet, but it will be much the same as last year except that we won't have to contend with hunting season. For those that haven't had the opportunity to attend one of these stag nights, things start to roll between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. with plenty of singing (both quartets and choruses) and refreshments. (Food is served later.) Come join us, and bring a friend.

The following Monday, November 4, we interrupt our schedule of learning new songs (for February's show) to work with and learn from Music Specialist Bill Rashleigh as he starts his week-long visit to the Pioneer District. No word yet on Bill's topic for the evening, but we know that all you *Songsters* members and guests will be glad you came out to hear from one of the giants of Kenosha. Mark your calendars, and join us at the 1st United Methodist Church on Mondays.



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FALL CONVENTION

By Jim Styer, Convention Public Relations

The Pioneer District convention is continually evolving. Responding to conventioners, three more changes are being made. The convention is Friday-Sunday, Oct. 18-20, in Battle Creek. Quartet competitions will start earlier, the district chorditorium has a new look, and the McCamly Place show will be shorter.

■ **Quartet semi-finals** will start at 8:30 p.m. Friday, a half hour earlier. **Quartet finals** will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday, an hour earlier. Many responding to a poll said they wanted more time afterward for hospitality.

The Saturday chorus competition will remain at noon. All competitions will be at W.K. Kellogg Auditorium, a few blocks from the headquarters Stouffer Hotel.

The competitions will offer good variety and new sounds. Several new quartets have expressed interest in competing. Past chorus winners are likely to go head-to-head to represent us again at international next year; and the new *City Lights* Chorus from Detroit hopes to be ready for its first competition.

Mike-testers Friday will be the *Harmony Hounds*. The Master of Ceremonies include Battle Creek radio's Dave Eddy on Friday, Windsor's Doran McTaggart on Saturday night.

■ **The District Chorditorium** after the Saturday night finals will become a more informal District Hospitality room. There won't be a formal, scheduled quartet show, with competing quartets asked to perform. But both competitors and non-competitors will be encouraged to entertain. Pick-up quartetting and woodshedding are encouraged. Tables will be set up for informal gatherings. The \$2 admission fee won't be charged; there will be a cash bar available. The convention committee made the changes because of the cost to the district and lower attendance.

Chapters may run their own hospitality rooms, with arrangements for rooms being made directly with the hotel.

■ **The McCamly Place show**, right next to Stouffer's, will be shorter for two reasons: Quartet finals are earlier, and no quartets volunteered; it took several phone calls to line up a show. Instead of two hours, it will be 1 to 1½ hours, starting at 5 p.m. with a mass sing led by Al Fisk, director of Rochester's *Heart of the Hills* Chorus. Entertainers tentatively scheduled include the Senior Quartet contest winner; the new Musician's Coalition from Jackson and a new comedy quartet, Lansing's *Fundamentals*. The Phoenix Big Band has a schedule conflict, and won't follow our show.

Late registration is \$20; deadline for the \$15 was October 4. All-events tickets may be picked up at Stouffer's starting at noon Friday. Bring the family. There's no charge for children 12 and under with adults. Housing arrangements now are being handled by local hotels.

Other highlights:

■ The Senior Quartet Contest will start at approximately 4 p.m. Saturday afternoon in the hotel's Branson Ballroom. Bob McDermott is the chairman. Details for entering were contained in the August/September issue of the *Troubadour*.

■ A Joe Barbershop Chorus again will be the mike-testers for the chorus competition. See page 9 for details.

■ District sweatshirts will be sold for the first time at the Barbershop Shop, along with District T-shirts.

■ The International Representative will be Bobby Wooldridge of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, currently an international vice president.

■ The district will provide a ladies hospitality room at the Stouffer Hotel.

■ The district board meets at 1 p.m. Friday, and the House of Delegates at 8 a.m. Saturday. You're all invited to both.

■ Battle Creek is the host chapter. The local convention chairman is Dick Campbell.

CHAPTER NEWS

SWAN VALLEY

by Deon Moore

WOW! What a summer for the Swan Valley Chapter. In June we joined with the Pontiac, Flint, Saginaw-Bay and Alma choruses in what was called the Saginaw River Basin Logopedics Extravaganza Show. Also in June we joined with Pontiac, Flint, and Saginaw-Bay at the Dead Creek Saloon in Frankenmuth for singing along with brats and sauerkraut.

Included in our sing-outs were performances for a traveling group, west side business association, 50th anniversaries, pool party, Detroit Tiger Ball game, and working with kids at the CWA annual picnic (this work pays for the hall rental).

Closing out the summer activities we had a mystery night. We (wives included) traveled to Frankenmuth, the number one tourist town in Michigan, and chartered an authentic paddlewheel driven riverboat for a cruise on the Cass River. The trip lasted about 1 1/2 hours and included dessert from Zenders Restaurant. What an enjoyable evening. If any of you PVP's out there are interested in an easy relaxing evening for your chapter contact me for details.

Pioneer District COTS to feature Bulletin Publishing Course by Roger Morris...

In addition to the normal courses for chapter officers offered at the district COTS school, a course on bulletin publishing has been added to the schedule. It is hoped that all of our chapter bulletin publishers will take advantage of Roger's tremendous experience in the publishing field. The COTS school will be conducted at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing on December 7-8, 1991. Here is a real opportunity for our chapters, both those chapters that are publishing and those that are not. What a shame if they don't take advantage of this opportunity.

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Coming Events

OCTOBER, 1991

- 5 Gratiot County Chapter Show
18-20 Pioneer District Convention at Battle Creek
25 Detroit-Oakland Benefit Show
Stay Tuned, Great Escape, and Brighter Side

NOVEMBER, 1991

- 2 Benton Harbor/St. Joseph Chapter Show
2 Rochester Chapter Show
Stay Tuned, Ivy League, First Class

DECEMBER, 1991

- 3 Grand Rapids Chapter Show

FEBRUARY, 1992

- 14-15 Detroit-Oakland Chapter Show
Gas House Gang, Swing Street
29 Lansing Chapter Show

MARCH, 1992

- 14 Kalamazoo Chapter Show
14 Muskegon Chapter Show
21 Grand Rapids Chapter Show
Chiefs of Staff, Happiness Emporium

APRIL, 1992

- 4 Milford Chapter Show
24-26 Pioneer District Convention at Battle Creek

MAY, 1992

- 2 Boyne City BUSH LEAGUE Contest and 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:

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NEWS FLASH!

Pioneer District members have voted for new starting times for convention events. **PLEASE NOTE** the following changes:

Friday evening district quartet prelims will begin at **8:30 p.m.**

Saturday night district quartet finals will begin at **8:00 p.m.**

ALSO

A District Hospitality Room will be debuting a new format with no admission charge, a cash bar, and a cabaret-type atmosphere.

IN MEMORIAM

Ed Gaikema, 1944 International Quartet Champion, passes

by Cliff Gritter

Edwin J. (Ed) Gaikema, a 48 year SPEBSQSA member, passed away on July 27, 1991, after a long illness, at age 85.

Ed sang tenor in the *Harmony Halls* quartet, which placed fifth their first time in international competition in 1943. In 1944, in Detroit, they were crowned International Champions! In 1950 they made an extended USO tour to entertain the troops in Europe. Other quartet members included Ray Hall, lead; Bob Hazenburg, baritone, and Gordon Hall, the bass. Ed's death leaves only Gordon as the lone survivor.

In 1953, Ed sang in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, chorus which won the first international chorus contest in Detroit. Ed maintained a lifetime association with barbershopping, faithfully attending conventions as recently as 1989 in Kansas City.

Ed was elected to the Pioneer District Hall of Fame in 1974, and when the Grand Rapids Chapter established its Hall of Fame in 1987, the four *Harmony Halls* were the first inductees.

A Memorial Service was held on July 30 at the LaGrave Avenue Christian Reformed Church in Grand Rapids. The *Furniture City Chord Company* furnished appropriate special music, and at the conclusion of the service, a recording of the *Harmony Halls* singing "The Lord's Prayer" was played. At this point there were very few dry eyes in the chapel. It was truly a memorable event and a fitting tribute to a great barbershopper.

Ed is survived by his wife Sadie, daughter Susan, son James, and seven grandchildren. Our sincere condolences go out to Sadie and the family from the district and the Society barbershoppers. He will be sincerely missed by all of us, as he was one great barbershopper.