



pioneer TROUBADOUR



VOLUME 43

INTERIM ISSUE

NUMBER 4

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PIONEER DISTRICT:

This is a very "abbreviated" issue of the *TROUBADOUR* that Dale Barber and Russ Seely have put together with any of the articles that are still pertinent from missed issues. Its purpose is also to introduce you to a new editor, and to thank Bob Demchak for his willingness to try and overcome the obstacles of new software, deadlines, plus a very busy schedule.

Our new editor is **Gordon Gunn** of the *Muskegon Chapter*. Gordon has been involved in writing and editing since he was in high school and college, and is retired from the Michigan Employment Security Commission. He has edited the *Muskegon Chapter Bulletin* on various occasions, going back, in fact, to the years when Muskegon was a regular International Competitor. (He assures me they will be again under the direction of IBM Mike O'Donnell.)

The deadline for the next issue will be

FEBRUARY 1, 1993

and your copy should be mailed to

**GORDON GUNN
2296 PILLON ROAD
TWIN LAKE, MI 49457**

Our intent is to keep this issue very brief, so I'll save my usual ramblings for the next issue - but if the level of enthusiasm shown by your officers at COTS is any indication, '93 is going to be GRR-R-R-R-REAT!!

Roger

PIONEER TROUBADOUR

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

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Bob McDermott: 1930-1992

Our *Troubadour* transition has unfortunately kept us from getting to you a major district story in a timely manner.

Bob McDermott, *Troubadour* editor until last spring, died on September 30, 1992.

Bob, of Birmingham, also had been district president, IBM, and historian/co-editor of Detroit-Oakland's "*Gentlemen Songster*," international PROBE president and a member of the district Hall of Fame and PROBE Hall of Honor.

Memorials may be made to the Hospice of Southeastern Michigan, 16250 Northland Drive, Suite 214, Southfield, MI 48075.

A full feature on Bob will run in the next *Troubadour*.



Bob McDermott

Letter from Mrs. McDermott:

We want to thank the Pioneer District for the book cover that was presented to Bob at his testimonial tribute last August. Although he was very ill, he saved up his strength and energy to attend. He wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Unfortunately, Bob was unable to finish his historical account of the Pioneer District. We made a promise to him that it would be completed and we will fulfill that commitment, because the book was most important to him.

Bob will be missed immensely, and the void that is already there weighs heavy on our hearts. Our foundation is shaken, but life goes on, and with the continued help and support of our wonderful friends and family, we'll get by. Bob will always be alive in our hearts.

The McDermott Family

TROUBADOUR PUBLISHING INFORMATION

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2/3 Page	75.00	1/3 Page	50.00	Card Size - Annual	55.00
		1/6 Page	40.00		

DISTRICT CONVENTION MOVES TO LANSING

by: Mike Cirrito, District Convention Chairman

The Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau welcomes all barbershoppers and their families to the State Capitol and the new three year site for Pioneer District Conventions, beginning in April 1993. Although not in Lansing proper, all convention activities will take place in Delta Township, the fastest-growing community west of the city limits in Eaton County.

The following is an overview of some of the features that are planned, as well as those that remain in the planning stages. Please keep this article for future reference.

- All convention activities will be within a two-mile radius of the headquarters hotel, the Sheraton Lansing.
- All quartet and chorus competitions will be held at Waverly High School, 1-1/2 miles east of the Sheraton.
- Trolley service has been arranged through the State Department of Transportation and ETRAN of Eaton County. Tentatively, the trolley(s) will run round-trip service from the headquarters hotel to Waverly High School, running one hour before and one hour following each event. Each round trip takes about 10-12 minutes under favorable conditions. This service is strictly optional and for your convenience. Please understand that this is not a mass people mover system. It is solely intended to add a "fun" touch to the conventions. The trolley service may also be extended to include the Lansing Mall.
- Lansing Mall Show. Located 1-1/2 miles from headquarters hotel, the mall contains over 100 stores and up to 12 restaurants. We are arranging to hold a mass sing and a barbershop performance for the public at center stage.
- Restaurants: West Saginaw abounds with many fine restaurants. Some examples include: Cheddars, Mountain Jack's, Fratelli's, Chi-Chi's, Bill Knapp's, Olive Garden, TGI Fridays, etc.
- Other Points of Interest Include:
 - the State Capitol Building
 - the new State Historical Museum and Library
 - the beautiful campus of Michigan State University
 - visit the Wharton Center for the Performing Arts
 - the new Breslin Student Events Center
 - Kresge Art Museum
 - the Kellogg Center

Oldsmobile World Headquarters
 Impression 5 (hands on) Science Museum
 R. E. Olds Museum
 Potter Park Zoo
 Michigan Historical Women's Hall of Fame
 Drive by the governor's mansion

- Hotel Accommodations: Headquarters Hotel, the Sheraton Lansing 4-star hotel, with 220 rooms, three restaurants, ample free parking, is located off I-496 at Creyts Road. Breakfast buffets will be available both Saturday and Sunday mornings. \$64 flat rate per night double/double or king. With the exception of some rooms set aside for airline crews, only Pioneer District Convention goers will occupy the hotel.

Additional rooms have been blocked at the following hotels:

1. **Hampton Inn** - 109 deluxe rooms, including a deluxe continental breakfast, free parking, free local calls, free in-room movies, and more, all for a flat rate of \$39 per room per night. Three rooms accommodating up to 75 people or more are available, perhaps as a hospitality room. If interested, contact hotel directly.
2. **Quality Suites** - 118 two-room suites with separate bedroom and living areas, two color TVs, microwave, refrigerator, wet bar, stereo, including complimentary full breakfast buffet and evening cocktails. \$65 flat rate per suite per night. Without breakfast and cocktails, \$60 flat rate. Atrium courtyard, gazebo gardens, sauna, spa and ample free parking.
3. **Midway Motor Lodge** - \$52 flat rate for two double or one king per night. Each room has a coffee maker. Midway boasts a domed atrium pool/recreation area. If a poolside room is requested, add \$5 to room rate. Full service restaurant, night club and ample free parking. If a chapter(s) books a minimum of thirty rooms, a complimentary 20x40 hospitality room is available and you may bring in your own food and drink. If interested, contact hotel directly.
4. **Holiday Inn** - Holidome/pool, restaurants, ample free parking, \$60 single, \$64 double.

As we look ahead to a new convention site, we're reminded of the fond memories of our stay in Battle Creek, and how fortunate we have been to have had such gracious hosts from the Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Stouffer Hotel. We expect that our stay in Lansing will be just as memorable!

1993 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION
APRIL 23-25, 1993
LANSING, MICHIGAN
CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES _____ NO _____ QUARTET NAME _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES _____ NO _____ CHORUS NAME _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR _____ LEAD _____ BARITONE _____ BASS _____

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON
LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL 9, 1993.

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

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

Stan Williams, District Treasurer
421 Franklin St.
Leslie, MI 49251

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



My congratulations to CITY LIGHTS for winning the right to represent us in Calgary next July. They continue to grow and impress us with their musical talents. Winning the District Quartet contest was OPENING NIGHT. I sure enjoy watching them perform. Just goes to show you, there is no substitute for four great voices and about 70 years of competition experience to make it all look so easy when it really isn't! The biggest laugh of the weekend was Ken Gibson's remark about Bob Whitledge and the VW - you had to be there!

Many of us were shocked and dismayed upon hearing the news from Kenosha regarding staff layoffs/dismissals. No one wanted this to happen or ever thought it would come to this. Unfortunately, our membership levels continue to decrease. Had they just held even, we'd have been okay. I will be attending mid-winter in January, where I'm sure more hard decisions will have to be made. If we can turn this membership loss around in the next year or so, we should be on the way to recovery. It is up to all of us to become salesmen and invite other men to come and sing with us. It doesn't take much effort to ask and you will have a friend for life if they join! Remember the old saying: If not YOU - WHO? If not NOW - WHEN?

I'm not sure when you'll see this, so I'm wishing all of you and your families SEASONS GREETINGS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!!!

Another year is drawing to a close and most of our attention is being focused on COTS and the coming year. There will be new leadership and new ideas and, hopefully, new life in some, if not all, of our Chapters. If you were at the recent fall convention, there was an opportunity to see and hear Eric Jackson talk about LIFE BLOOD. Simply stated, LIFE BLOOD is: EVERY MAN, IN HIS OWN WAY, HEARING HIS VOICE CONTRIBUTE TO BARBERSHOP HARMONY.

The Pioneer District asked that we be considered as the first to implement LIFE BLOOD. As many of you have heard already, Central States was chosen. We wish them the best because if they succeed, we will be next, and one of the promises Eric has made is that a District will see a 30% increase in membership if they use LIFE BLOOD. Stay tuned.

1993 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION
APRIL 23-25, 1993

HOTEL RESERVATION

- All spaces must be filled out completely -- type or print clearly.
- All acknowledgements will be sent to the individual whose name and address appears below.
- No reservations will be accepted by telephone or facsimile.
- Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- Confirmation will be sent directly by your assigned hotel.
- Any changes in reservations must be made directly to the hotel after confirmation is received. **Do not send room deposits to the Housing Bureau.**
- Reservation requests must be received no later than March 26, 1993. We will not accept room requests after this date.

PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Housing Bureau
119 Pere Marquette
P.O. Box 15066
Lansing, MI 48901-5066

Hotel should confirm this reservation to:

Name _____

Arrival Date _____

Address _____

Departure Date _____

City, State, Zip _____

TYPE OF ROOM:

Phone (Days) _____
(Area Code) _____

1 bed _____
(1-2 persons) _____
2 beds _____
(2-4 persons) _____

HOTEL/RATES (not including tax)
Number in order of preference.

1. *Sheraton Lansing Hotel (\$64 flat) _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
OCCUPYING ROOM

2. Best Western Midway Hotel (\$52 flat) _____

3. Holiday Inn Lansing Conference Center _____
(\$60-1 bed/\$64-2 beds)

4. Quality Suites _____
(\$60 flat without breakfast
or \$65 flat with breakfast)

5. Hampton Inn (\$39 flat) _____

GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:

* **Headquarter Hotel**

Credit Card: AE _____ MC _____ VI _____

The Convention/Visitors Bureau is not responsible for room rates.

Number _____

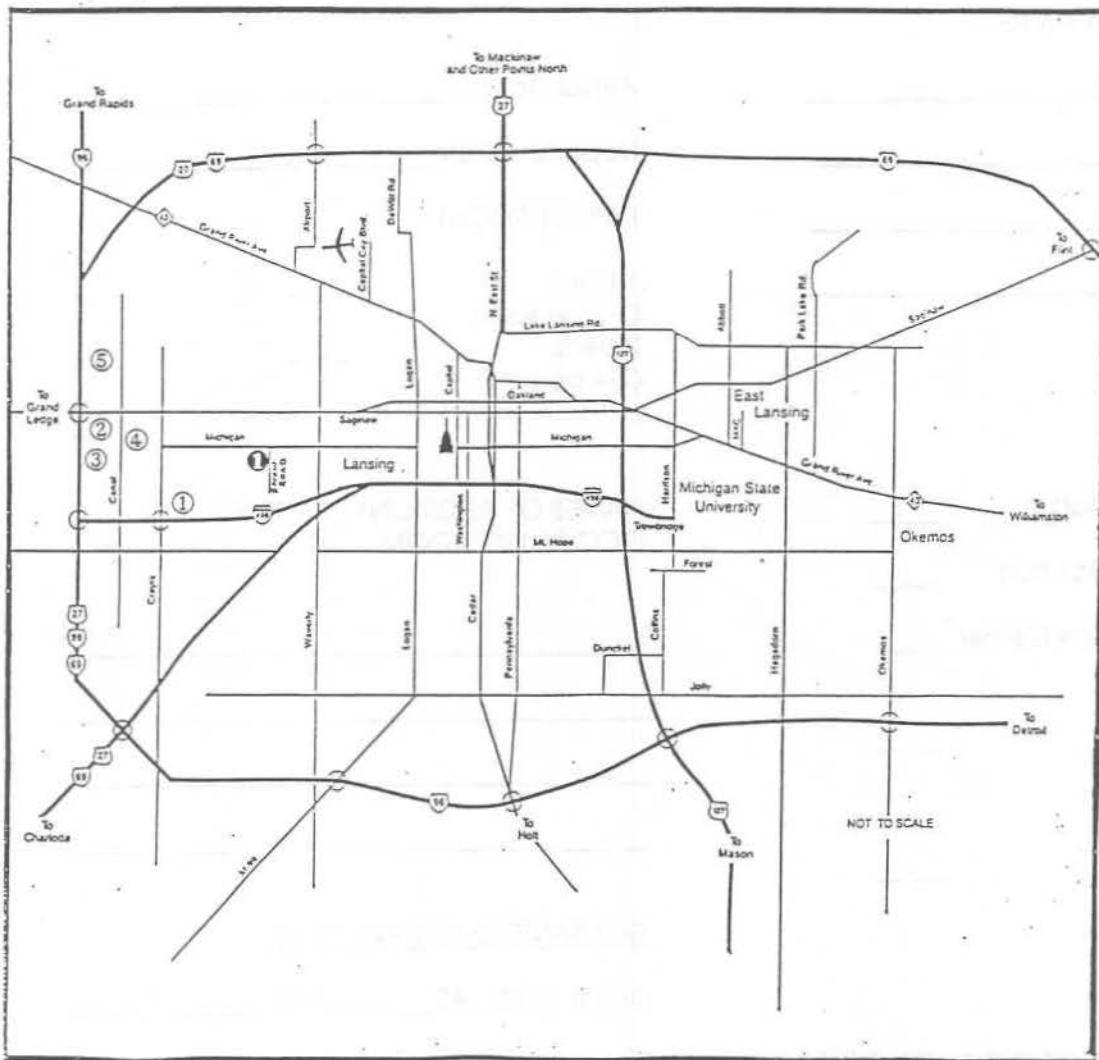
Exp. Date _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS _____

(see reverse side for special instructions and map)

SPECIAL NOTES

- One hotel reservation form is required for each room desired. This applies even when a chapter housing chairman makes all of the room reservations.
- If a chorus or quartet desires housing in the same hotel, all completed hotel reservation forms must be mailed to the Housing Bureau. Indicate the quartet name and individual's name on all housing reservation forms to be grouped together. For grouping by chapter, indicate the chapter name on all housing reservation forms to be grouped together. Please use "Special Requests" line for these requests. **Please be sure to indicate your 1st, 2nd and 3rd hotel choices.** If the Housing Bureau cannot complete this request, they will contact the individual making the request by phone. The hotels will make every effort to meet these requests, but cannot guarantee these requests.



① WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL

LOCATION OF HOTELS:

- ① SHERATON LANSING HOTEL (Headquarters)
- ② BEST WESTERN MIDWAY HOTEL
- ③ HAMPTON INN
- ④ HOLIDAY INN LANSING CONFERENCE CENTER
- ⑤ QUALITY SUITES

NOT TO SCALE

One of the last articles that Bob McDermott wrote was his impressions of the International Convention in New Orleans. Since we haven't had a report of that convention, we thought it only fitting that we include Bob's notes in their entirety. Russ S.

SCENE: 3 SITE: New Orleans Superdome

STAGE: Semi-Fin Quartet Preliminaries

DESCRIBER: Bob McDermott

SETTING: My wife and I were seated in the eleventh row of seats just behind stage right on the auditorium floor, seat nine to be exact. We had already been buffeted earlier in the contest when our other fine quartet, the *Opening Night*, had been eliminated in the first round of competition, ending up in 35th position, not bad but still not where we had them figured. Now, we had only *Power Play* left in the competition, and our hopes were still riding on them. We knew that they were planning on doing their best scoring set in their second set of songs, and time was growing short.

The two songs that *Power Play* had selected to sing in this round were "(I Owe 'Em to My) Dear Old Dad," and "the Little Boy". Both songs were tremendous keepers, and the guys knew just how to meld the song well. And they did that, singing them as well as I had ever hear them sung. A tremendous job, believe me. I try to keep my emotions out of the songs I listen to in contest, so I can judge better, and I thought I did that well in this contest also. At any rate, they should have made the cut easily, but unfortunately such was not to be the case. The old brain "click-ker" did not go up in time this evening, so I knew we were in trouble this evening. Immediately after the *Power Play* finished singing, I was really beginning to panic. They had sung superbly and yet were passed over for the next round. I didn't know that as of yet, (the time I was referring to,) however.

We ran into the quartet just exiting from back stage as they began the long walk back to the hotel. After the exchange of hugs and best wishes, and what songs are we going to do next in the finals, a gentle camaraderie swept over the group as we continued our walk back part of the way back to the hotel. We all felt at that time that they had made the finals, a major under taking in a big contest.

Such was not to be the case. The *Power Play* Quartet finished in 14th position, 4 positions below their objective. It was too bad, because I was able to participate

in and experience for myself their emotional elation for a minute, and also the trauma of the loss. Surely, their are greater losses in this world, but to a young quartet it had to have an effect at the moment. We know that there will always be another year, and I'm sure this quartet has bigger years in their future, but for one instance my wife and I were able to experience this one. Thanks guys, for that experience. Good luck, because I still think we are looking at future International Champions.

SCENE: 5 SITE: New Orleans Superdome

STAGE: Chorus Finalist Competition

DESCRIBER: Bob McDermott

SETTING: Probably one of the most thrilling competitions to listen to and to enjoy at any international convention is the International Chorus Contest. I don't know of anything so colorful and so emotional at this great event.

This year we had twenty great choruses competing for the 1992 Championship, with the great Jim Miller directing the Western Hills (Cincinnati) *Southern Gateway Chorus* to a 33 point win over the second place Alexandria, Virginia *Harmonizers*. Points really do not mean much in this contest, in that, the scoring of the individual judges cannot really be much more than a combination of listening to sounds of 80 to 120 men on a stage so acoustically correct they get lost in the overall presentation of the package. This may or may not be true, but listening to the judges and listening to the choruses leaves me awash with so many chords I can't comprehend.

It's to the point that you don't hear a bad chord at all anymore, not even at the district level. The great sounds just overwhelm the whole scene, and soon you are in rapture. What a way to go! The Louisiana Superdome was laid out a little unconventionally this year, using a side-wise lay-out, compared to the usual front-to-rear layout. It tended to give a little better sound spread than from the usual in a conventional front to rear.

Pioneer District was represented by the the Motor City Metro's *City Lights Chorus* and they performed beautifully under the direction of Bob Whitledge, finishing up in 13th place overall in the 20 chorus competition. The Chorus, clad in their black tuxedos, sang "Sonny Boy" and "Alabama Bound", and they gave an excellent presentation before the 10,000 members gathered for the concert.

Overall we would have to say it was one of the best contests your editor has had the pleasure of attending. Pioneer can be really proud of all of their contestants.



PIONEER TROUBADOUR

of the Grosse Pointe Chapter, SPEBSQSA.

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FALL CONVENTION

One of the events that happened during *TROUBADOUR'S* absence that we sure don't want to have "fall through the cracks" was the crowning of the 1993 District Quartet Champions, OPENING NIGHT. The silky sound of Jim Johnson, Silver Fox's Shumard, Kenny "I don't do tenor" Gibson and Norm Thompson enchanted the whole convention.

The entry of several "first-time-in-competition" quartets made it a real challenge for all the "Auditorium Seat Judges" to see if they were in concert with the real judges. Second Place was awarded to FULL CHORD PRESS and Third to SIGNATURE.

The Novice Champs were FOUR GRAND. All in all, nine quartets entertained us all.

In the Chorus Competition, 18 choruses contested for the right to represent Pioneer in Calgary. Although a number of choruses improved their performances over prior contests, it was the "Boys from Detroit" - CITY LIGHTS, under the direction of Bob Whitledge, who will represent us next July. Closely bunched following CITY LIGHTS and all scoring over 1000 points were Holland's WINDMILL CHORUS, the MIDSTATESMEN of Gratiot County, Grand Rapids GREAT LAKES CHORUS and the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS of Macomb County. We know that all of you Pioneer Barbershoppers realize how expensive it is to send a chorus to International - literally thousands of dollars - so wouldn't it be a great gesture if chapters found some spare dollars to aid a really needy group - our own representatives! The District helps a little, but we're really

limited by convention attendance and a standard formula of "so much a mile."

When your Board goes over your 1993 budget, why not consider that a portion of your income be earmarked for our representative chorus and quartets?

The Seniors Contest is also proving to be a major part of our "Fall Convention" (another Bob McDermott creation). At this autumn's contest a total of 11 groups competed and when the dust, and a few silver hairs settled, PRIME TIME took prime honors. Even though the contest was fixed (I get so tired of coming in second), PRIME TIME should do us proud when they are the first Senior's Pioneer representative at this year's Mid-Winter Senior International Contest in Corpus Christi.

We also want to give proper recognition to our old pal Al Burgess, of Muskegon Chapter, who was inducted into the Pioneer Hall of Fame. Finally, the House of Delegates, after reviewing our 1993 budget, decided that a continuation of the \$3.00 per member assessment charged in '92 would not be necessary. That's the good news. The bad? International dues will be increased.

Gordon Gunn will be examining our current printing facilities, which we hope can remain with Print Plus in Detroit. Any future correspondence, reporting or ads should go through Gordon at the address given on the cover. DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE FEBRUARY 1ST.

Thanks again for your understanding.

Russ