

# **1992 PIONEER DISTRICT CHORUS CHAMPIONS** Directed by Bob Whitledge

## Page 2

#### Pioneer TROUBADOUR

#### June/July

## PIONEER TROUBADOUR

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

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Companied by a by-line have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the members and officers of the Pioneer District. Space in the Troubadour will be made available for opposing points of view.

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MIKE O'DONNELL

> INT'L BOARD MEMBER

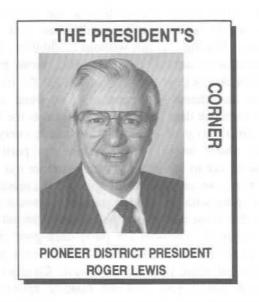
That was a terrific convention we just had in Battle Creek. We selected two fine quartets to represent our district in New Orleans and the Motor City Metro City Lights Chorus won the chorus contest handily. Grand Rapids did a terrific job of hosting. The board meeting on Friday morning and the HOD meeting Friday afternoon left more time for everyone on Saturday morning. The hospitality rooms were jumping Saturday evening and there was singing going on everywhere you turned. The Joe Barbershopper Chorus had almost 80 men this time and under the direction of Jeff Gougeon they sounded great.

With all that fun and things to do, you have to wonder why more didn't come to take part in it. Our turnout was good but a far cry from what it could have been. The following weekend I flew to Minneapolis to judge the LOL contests. They had the same problem only on a much larger

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What a GR-R-R-R-REAT Convention!!! The caliber of contestants just seems to get better every time. Congratulations to *Power Play* and *Opening Night* who will be representing us in New Orleans. From the audience, it seemed a shame that we didn't have at least three quartets representing us this year, but misfortunes do happen. Maybe next year?

The City Lights chorus showed their International Competitor form, and won the District Chorus Contest. Now it's on to New Orleans! Cheer them on at the Windsor sendoff, and the Mini-Hep sendoff in Lansing.

But everyone on stage was a winner. Perhaps those that felt it most were the men in the *Joe Barbershop Chorus*. Thanks to strong support by the Macomb County and Grand Rapids Chapters, it was the biggest and bestest ever. What a way to start off a chorus contest!

Watching three Junior Quartets compete for the privilege of going to New Orleans just sort of "put the frosting on the cake". Congratulations to *Silver Lining*, sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Chapter, who will represent us at the College Quartet Contest.

Another event really added to the weekend. For the first time, the District Board held their meeting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, and the House of Delegates met at 2:00 p.m. on Friday. Saturday morning became enjoyable instead of a "rat race". Friday night turned out to be a fun night, instead of "early to bed, early to rise". It added a whole new dimension to the weekend. Best of all, we had the best attendance at the House of Delegates in a long time-only six chapters missing. Thanks to IBM and Past President Mike O'Donnell for the idea! It's working!! As I write this, it's near the end of one of the greatest weeks I've ever had in Barbershopping. Eleven members representing nine litters of the *Harmony Hounds* have been rehearsing for our May 16th--34th Reunion Show. Larry Swan and Lowell Wolfe (original lead) arrived on Sunday from Sarasota. On Tuesday, Henry Brown (original tenor) and Bill Clark (original bari) arrived from Alexandria, VA, and Hilton Head Island. Wednesday, Ron Atkins (original bass) arrived from Mayer, AZ. Add to that Ron Mell and Mark Spear, who stepped in to replace his Dad, Dick Spear, who passed away in February. Together with current Hounds Dean Burrill, Dick Smith, Dorn Burrill and myself, it all adds up to lots of howling.

Every day has brought a "Lunchbreak" Radio appearance by one or another of the Litters, and every night has been a rehearsal, often to what seemed the "wee hours". Monday a local Cablevision Show, and Friday, a TV news appearance. Huge splashes of publicity in the Shopper News, local Magazines, the Enquirer and News, in stores and on numerous radio stations. Jim Styer wrote the book on "How to get Publicity" on this one!

But above all, it's the friendship and the memories. That's what this great hobby of Barbershopping is all about--having great experiences ourselves, and then sharing them with others, which we intend to do Saturday Night. We think we'll bring not only laughter, but also tears to an audience that has never seen anything like it. I, for one, sure know there's going to be a few tears on stage as the curtain comes down.

Little did I believe, back in April of 1962, when three guys asked me to fill in for a few engagements (on bass, no less), that it would become a 30+ year involvement that has had rewards far beyond anyone's dreams.

I know of no hobby that has that kind of payback. We're part of a fraternity that returns our investment fourfold every time we open our mouth to sing in a quartet. Are you investing regularly? If not, make plans to start. That is what the "Q" in SPEBSQSA stands for, and it will enrich your barbershopping and your life. I guarantee it.



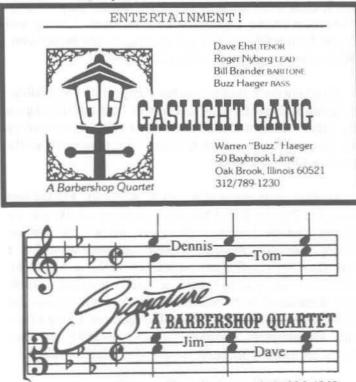


The first time I can remember hearing a barbershop chord was when I was a runny-nosed kid, hanging over the bannister--after being sent to bed--sneaking that last look at my red-faced (that's the way he looked when he sang) oldest brother, Art, when he had just been given the chance to become the tenor of the Progressive Four (with Restivo, McKerrell and Arnone). Wow, what a thrill! They were singing,"The Curse of an Aching Heart". The words didn't make sense at the time but the sound sure stuck in my memory. The Progressives became like the Pied Pipers to me and, I'm sure, plenty of fans like me who followed them around the circuit. At afterglows or social time following a performance, someone would inevitably ask if they could woodshed a part on one of "their" songs. Of course, they always agreed and that's when you'd really get bitten. My first attempt with these idols was when they allowed me to try the tenor on "Chicago Town". Well, sign me up, please! What's my point, you ask? Read on.

Last Saturday I had the pleasure of making a well deserved, District award of recognition to another stalwart quartet, Battle Creek's Harmony Hounds - all ELEVEN litters - as they headlined their Chapter's Fiftieth Anni-As Shirl' and I watched the show it versary Show. occurred to me that probably everyone there had heard at least one litter of the "Hounds" during the past 30 plus years and to those fans; this is what barbershop is! From the corny-but-always-entertaining "Ahab the Arab" to the serious set-up and ultimate "Swan"-dive of Dick Smith's solo on "I Talk to the Trees", you gotta' love 'em. More important, a lot of their "fans" became barbershoppers over the years .... just like me and my "big brother's quartet. These quartets performed what I like to refer to as a "gotcha".

Mark Roberts, my mentor (Hall of Famer, International officer et al) wondered if those quartets who'd been "inbusiness" prior to the introduction of the "Man-of-Note" awards would automatically qualify as 100 member recipients. His logic is not without credibility. Quartets ARE a major attraction to our Society. Now, please all you purest/chorus guys out there, don't get the impression that I'm anti-chorus - remember, I've been a chorus director for more than 25 years - it's just that the flexibility and spontaneity of a quartet can reach every family room or phone booth for an impromptu performance. And, the kicker to this great way to promote our Society, is that YOU can experience the greatest barbershop thrill of all; singing with three other guys who love it as much as you. But remember, you don't have to sound like the Ritz to enjoy it. Chances are purty-darn-good that your family, or the patrons at the local beanery or a gathering of Seniors will think you're the greatest. Chances are also very good that if you continue making appearances it won't be long before YOU haul in one of those Man-of-Note awards.

Oh, one more note about the Battle Creek show. I don't think they intended having an individual "star" on their show but one did emerge. Mark Spear filled-in in a sensational way for his dad, Dick, who is no longer with us. His courage and talent abounded throughout the show. The *Hounds* have a tape of Dick Spear singing "The Three Bells" and while this tape and a slide presentation were memorializing Dick it was Mark who offered strength and composure to the *Harmony Hounds* of that litter. As you can imagine this was a very emotional segment of the show. Also, betcha' Mark will be a barbershopper as long as we're a Society.



Contact: Dave Anderson (313) 286-4860



by Jim Styer DISTRICT COMMUNICATION OFFICER

## Quartets are the lifeblood of our Society--and our shows.

And they can help greatly in improving publicity.

Some provide good photos and usable news releases. But there are times when all a chapter gets from a guest quartet is the quartet name, a list of its members, and a bill — and the first two are late.

OK, that's a cute exaggeration. But improvements are possible. Even among international competitors.

If all quartets, whether they just sing in town or appear on other chapters' shows, follow these guidelines, it'll help PR officers do their jobs better, and will benefit both the quartets and the chapters with better publicity.

Quartet news releases must include members' names and voices, of course. Give background on each member: barbershop activities, honors, competitions, employment, anything interesting about the person, anything that makes him come alive as a unique individual rather than just another quartet member. Also some background on the quartet: how long it's been together, competitive Better too much than too little; it saves callbacks for information, and the PR officer can pick and choose to fit the nature of his stories and the media they appear in. Same for the MC who introduces the quartet.

Enclose a glossy black-and-white photo of the quartet, at least 5x7. At least three are desirable: One for the show program, two or more for media publicity. If you have different poses, even better. Display an active, singing quartet, not just standing there. Pose together, as a unit, not standing apart from one another. Shoot close up; you needn't show anything below the waist unless the shoes are unique or you're using props like gut-buckets.

Pose light uniforms against a darker background, and vice-versa. Careful with lighting; avoid prominent shadows; don't let black uniforms look like a dark bloch, or white uniforms like a washed-out print. Photos lose contrast when printed in newspapers.

Include IDs, left to right, preferably typed and taped to the back of every photo. It's surprising the number of quartets that don't identify their members, or which one is which.

Chorus publicity also can be successful by following the same basic guidelines. Choruses and quartets can prepare this publicity packet not only for shows, but also competitions. If they win, get a medal, place in the "top 10," win their plateau, or improve their standing from last time, they're ready to hit the media fast with good, useable copy and photos. Quotes from a chorus or quartet representative on how they did it can be added to make it more lively.

We often don't do enough to get publicity for our singers. International champs aren't the only ones who deserve good press. We all do. It's up to us.

#### TAGS:

B B With membership drives being promoted this year in our district, it's appropriate to look at our attitudes toward getting new members.

That's not just the job of the MVP. It's the job of every member. And there's a lot of PR involved. And you can do it.

How? Ask your chapter PR Officer for a copy of "Yes, you can get new members" from the recent PioneeReport, our district's new PR newsletter.

**J** J I'm still looking for responses to the PR survey in the of PioneeReport. It's not too late. Find your copy, fill it in, mail it, and maybe win a prize.

The April-June PROBEmoter has a similar survey. Only one Pioneer District response has been received. Send those to the same address. Thanks!

Mini-HEP again includes a session for PR Officers and Bulletin Editors (and anyone else floating around Sunday morning). It also should be of some interest to Membership VPs. Let Jim Stephens, district music educator, know you'll attend, either in advance or when you show up for the school. It's June 19-21 at MSU in East Lansing.

DON'T FORGET THE TIGER BALLGAME ON AUGUST 9TH!

# Still time to sign up for the Pioneer District Round-Up

➡ <u>WHEN?</u> June 19-21, 1992

WHERE? Michigan State University-East Lansing, Michigan

⊜ <u>COS</u> \$80	<u>F</u> Full Registrat'n
	Commuter Regist. \$50 Chorus Mem. Full
\$65*	
\$40*	Chorus Commuter
	Send-Off Show
\$12	

\*Note: To qualify for Chorus member prices your chorus must attend for coaching (at least 4 hours)

Brochures covering the entire Harmony Round-Up regular and mini-classes and the District Send-Off Show on Saturday night, June 20, 1992 were mailed to each member of the district about three weeks ago. The information should be in your hands, or you may have laid it aside, you still might have time to sign up.

The Registration DEADLINE is June 12 by 1 P.M.! Some of you may have received the *Troubadour* in time, so you will still be able to get in on schedule.

Just to entice you a little bit, you should be aware that there are nine regular classes (meet a total of 8/10 hours) and six Mini Classes (meets only 2/4 hours).

For further information or a registration form, contact a fellow barbershopper or one of your chapter officers to see if you can get a copy, but, if not, contact Jim Stephens @ A/C 313 459-4011 as a last resort.

Special housing is also available to **anyone** attending the Send-Off Show. Rooms available at only **\$14.50** a night per person based on double occupancy will enable you to bring your wife for the week-end and let her shop, etc. while you are in classes. One floor will be reserved for married couples. Sunday morning classes followed by a short farewell to the faculty will be over by 11:30 A.M. giving you plenty of time to get home for Father's Day.

Registrations will open at 4 P.M. Friday afternnon. Activities start promptly at 8 P.M. with announcements and introductions, followed by a two hour class session beginning at 8:30 P.M.



## LOGOPEDICS By Pioneer District Logopedics Chairman ALEX WILLOX

## LOGOPEDICS SUMMARY AS OF 5/2/92

CHAPTER	AMOUNT	MBRS	PER.CAP	AWARD	
ALPENA	\$ 675.00	27	\$ 25.00	SILVER	
BATTLE CREEK		32			
BEN.HARBOR-ST.JO	E	24			
BOYNE CITY		29			
CADILLAC		31			
COLDWATER		7			
DETROIT-OAKLANI	0 1,295.00	87	14.89	BRONZE	
FLINT	280.00	39	7.18		
GRAND RAPIDS		98			
GRATIOT COUNTY	50.00	58	.86		
GROSSE POINTE		89			
HOLLAND		60			
HURON VALLEY	290.00	37	7.84		
JACKSON	10.00	30	.33		
KALAMAZOO		57			
LANSING	534.18	76	7.03		
MACOMB COUNTY	641.00	84	7.63		
MILFORD		33			
MONROE		27			
MONROE NORTH	50.00	37			
MOTOR CITY METR		60	.92		
MUSKEGON	100.00	33	3.03		
PONTIAC		22			
PORT HURON		14			
ROCHESTER	1,180.00	47	25.11	SILVER	
SAGINAW BAY	582.50	24	24.27	BRONZE	
SAULT STE. MARIE		49			
SWAN VALLEY	620.00	18	34.44	SILVER	
TRAVERSE CITY		44			2
WAYNE	280.50	58	4.83		
WINDSOR		46			
PIONEER DISTRICT		1332			
GRAND TOTAL	\$6,642.68				



# Shock waves hit Quartet Contest at Spring Convention

by Bob McDermott

"What? Did I hear that right?" "Stay Tuned will not be representing the Pioneer District to the contest in New Orleans?" "How can that be?"

Following the announcement of the quartet preliminary finalist standings by Chairman of Judges John Bauer at the end of the contest, try as they might, it was awfully hard for all the district members and wives in attendance in the audience to hold back the feeling of frustration and disappointment when the announcement was made.

Everyone had felt earlier that this was the year that Pioneer would qualify three quartets for the New Orleans contest. But all that hope went down the drain unfortunately when *Stay Tuned's* bass Lee Hanson developed some kind of throat infection which made it difficult for him to sing, and in the second set he could barely whistle his part on stage. The result, a "2022" score and an alternate position. Here was a case where the quartet had scored a "2285" in the fall contest, so the loss of 263 points meant the difference. Even considering the fact that this was a low scoring judging panel (judging from all scores compared to the fall contest), no quartet of this caliber would have dropped that much from one contest to another, so the disappointment was not difficult to understand.

On the other hand, we will not be taking a "back seat" to any other quartet at New Orleans. Fortunately, we still have two other quartets representing us with great credentials, namely *Power Play* and *Opening Night*, both singing and scoring very well to win the top two spots to the New Orleans event. *Power Play*, who recently regrouped and replaced tenor Jason Oyler with cousin Don Slamka, are still singing with Mike Slamka, lead, Jack Slamka, bass, and Mark Slamka as baritone. This quartet is singing as good as your old editor has ever heard them sing, and they were on a fast track even before replacing Jason.

The Opening Night quartet finished second to Power Play in the contest, and suffered somewhat from the same problem that Stay Tuned ran into with a low scoring judging panel, scoring "2222" in the fall contest versus "2068" in the Spring Prelims, amounting to a loss of 154 points from one contest to another. Singing with the quartet were all veterans of past championship quartets, and they lined up as Jim Johnson, tenor; Clay Shumard, lead; Ken Gibson, baritone, and Norm Thompson, bass.

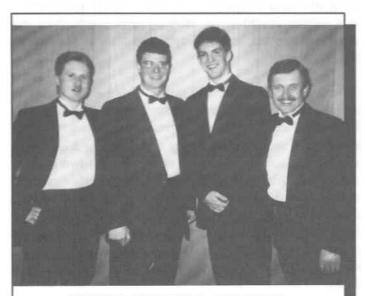
The two quartets have every right to be extremely proud of their accomplishments this past year, and both should score very well in New Orleans. Going out on a limb, your editor is predicting the two quartets to finish as follows: one in the "top ten" and the other in the "top twenty." Guess which is which? I haven't had so much fun in years!

## Motor City Metro City Lights Chorus cops District Chorus Championship

Pictured on the front page of this issue is the newly crowned Pioneer District Chorus Champs, the *City Lights Chorus*. Under the direction of Bob Whitledge, the chorus outdistanced 12 other fine choruses to take home the heavy hardware. The Holland *Windmill Chorus* under the direction of Myke Lucas finished second 146 points behind Metro, with Gratiot County, Lansing, and Grosse Pointe rounding out the top five.

Other choruses competing and finishing in the following order respectively, included Wayne, Kalamazoo, Detroit-Oakland, Rochester, Windsor, Milford, Monroe-North and Muskegon.

# FULL PRESS CHORD sweeps Bush League Quartet Contest



FULL PRESS CHORD L to R: Jeff Swan, tenor; Jamie Carey, Lead; Scott Whipple, Bass and "Doc" Gillingham, Bari.

## Despite early setback, the BUSH LEAGUE NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST was rescued by the Cadillac Chapter

The "at the last moment" cancellation of the Bush League Novice Quartet contest was rescued by the Cadillac Chapter with help from the Grand Rapids and the Gratiot County Chapters. The announcement earlier by the Boyne City Chapter that the contest had to be canceled due to membership availability and internal problems was received with much dismay throughout the district, as this would have been Boyne's 47th consecutive effort. To lose this pioneer tradition would be a travesty to the district, and to Loton Willson, its founder and greatest supporter, who passed away a few years ago.

Although the turnout of quartets was low due to the last minute arrangements, it was still competitive with the *Full Chord Press*, one of the newest district quartets from the Gratiot County and Cadillac Chapters, running off with the top honors followed by the *Four In Exchange* quartet from the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter.

Following the contest a barbecue and steak dinner was held for the judging panel and guest quartets. The **DAY**  was then topped off by the Cadillac presentation of "Hang on the Bell, Nellie," a barbershop melodrama that kept the audience in stitches.

Cadillac was proud to be of assistance to the Boyne City Chapter in helping to keep this long term tradition alive. Plans for next year's 1993 contest will again be laid by the Boyne City Chapter. Congratulations to the Cadillac Chapter for coming through when they were needed.

# **CHAPTER NEWS**

# DETROIT-OAKLAND

by Tom Uicker

There is a lot of activity at Maple Road and Pleasant, here in Birmingham, as we head into the summer months. So far, the Gentlemen Songsters Chorus has been able to adhere to its goal of at least one public performance per month. In April, we again welcomed National Music Week with a performance at Tel-Twelve Mall. In May, we performed for the "Merry Mates" (couples group) at our own First United Methodist Church of Birmingham. In June we will, of course, sing at "Return of the Jug" Night and at the Windsor Send-Off Show; but we also will sing for the homeless of the South-Oakland Shelter when they come to our church at the end of June. There's no word yet on whether we have a job lined up for July as yet; but Chorus Manager Fran Durham is busily trying to cajole an invite to Birmingham's Concert in the Park (that's Shain Park) for some Thursday this summer. He is also setting up a date for the Bushnell Concert Series in the fall.

By the time you read this, the *wandering jug* most likely has already been welcomed back home. The jug travels from chapter to chapter throughout Pioneer District during the year, promoting inter-chapter visitation and raising money for the quartets that represent our district in international competition. Whichever chapter has the jug on the first Friday in June is suppose to bring it back to Detroit-Oakland so that the money can be divided. This year, *Power Play* and *Opening Night* have won the honor, and both quartets are expected to be on hand to enliven our meeting on June 5, at Bishop Monaghan's K of C Hall (a change of site, incidentally). As I've said, it may have already happened. If you missed it, go to your calendar right now and attach a note—'DOC "Return of the Jug", first Friday of June, 1993!'

Another long standing tradition at Detroit-Oakland seems to be dry-docked. After more than 40 years of running our Annual Moonlight Cruise, we are left up a creek without a paddle-boat. We are still trying to track down the final disposition and status of the "Bob-Lo Boats"; and, if there (Continued on Page 9)

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# CHAPTER NEWS

## DETROIT-OAKLAND

#### (Cont'd from Page 8)

is any chance of doing a cruise, we will surely notify your chapter. Meanwhile, Assistant Director Darl Wiley reminds us that Milford Chapter has their own, albeit smaller, boat cruise on Kent Lake.

DOC's Membership VP, Bob Sillman, has just been through his first big guest night, and what a night it was. Twenty-three new potential members came out on May 18, to find out what barbershop singing was all about. What a joy it was when we invited them up on the risers to sing with us, and only two declined. Our next step is to keep them interested and keep them coming. Bob will be giving us pointers on what needs to be done on follow through. Bob easily relates to the guests since he was in their shoes less than 12 months ago.

With lots of guests, a new more-varied meeting format, and new show music to be learned, it is safe to say that Detroit-Oakland Chapter is where it's happening this summer. If you get a chance, stop by for a visit, any Monday night at 7:30, at the First United Methodist Church of Birmingham, Maple Road and Pleasant Street.

## CADILLAC CHAPTER by Jamie Carey

The *Inter-Lakes Chorus* is getting fired up for their annual show "Hand on the Bell Nellie!" With a good script, the "silent movie" type talents of Dr. David Gillingham, and a card girl, Cadillac believes it may have the first ever full blown barbershop melodrama.

Cadillac is also sponsoring this year's Bush League Contest along with the financial help of Grand Rapids and Gratiot County. When hearing that the Boyne City Chapter was going to be unable to hold the traditional event, the *Inter-Lakes Chorus* quickly volunteered a location. We feel that the contest is a part of quartet singing in Pioneer District (Yeah! Ed:) and the quartetting should be encouraged, especially at the amateur level.

At contest in Battle Creek, the Inter-Lakes Chorus was very proud to have sponsored <u>THREE</u> competing quartets. Spectrum, (consisting of Dave Hines, tenor; Josh Harris, Lead; Shane Madden, bari, and Malk Kettner, bass.) The high school and college age quartet had a fine showing and are looking forward to forward to retur. ing next year to take the crown. Also, representing the Inter-Lakes Chorus was the past Bush League Champs, Vocal Affair, in their first district contest and *Full Chord Press*, one of the newest quartets in the Pioneer District. Considering that the chapter has only 30 members, that's a pretty good quartet to man ratio!

# MUSKEGON CHAPTER

by Gordon Gunn

When Webb Scrivnor began directing the Port City Chorus, the international society was 27 years old. The year was 1965. Webb was a newcomer to the Muskegon Chapter with prior barbershopping experience in other districts and a masters degree in music from Northwestern University. Al Burgess, with health problems, retired following the rigors of preparing for and directing the chorus in international competition in '59, '60, '61 and '64. In the fall of 1965, under Webb's direction, the chorus again earned the privilege of representing the district at international. He directed the chorus in Chicago in '66. Although active in Muskegon barbershopping in many capacities in twenty-seven years plus, Webb has not continuously directed the chorus. He returned to the helm of the Shoreline Chorus when needed, three years ago. He announced this year that he would retire from the directors post to pursue the publication of a novel written since his retirement from Grand Haven Public Schools, where he taught vocal music until 1981.

Webb was honored with an award, a plaque "In Appreciation" of his many years of service at the Chapter's "Appreciation Night" dinner on May 15. The award was made by Mart Bomers, an avid Muskegon Barbershopper since 1952, and one of only a few current members who pre-date Webb with the chapter.

Although his transfer of duties within the chapter is referred to as "retirement", the scope of Webb's responsibilities are greater than before. His barbershop plans for the immediate future include directing Muskegon's Vocal Music Workshop for beginners in conjunction with the chapter recruitment program. He will also remain at tenor with the *Four Score and More* quartet and has accepted appointment to the chapters music vice-presidency, recently vacated by resignation. He is also co-chairman, with Fred Kendall, of the chapters 1993 show committee and will serve, with Mart Bomers, as an assistant chorus director.

When contacted earlier, Mike O'Donnell said, "I'm looking forward to directing the Muskegon *Shoreline Chorus* and being a part of that great barbershop tradition". Mike began those new duties May 7th.

A Grand Rapids barbershopper since 1979, Mike began as what he described "a bewildered but excited lead". To (Continued on Page 10)

# **CHAPTER NEWS**

# **GRATIOT COUNTY**

Once again, the Spring Convention was a great success. Congratulations go to our two international quartet representatives *Power Play* and *Opening Night*, as well as the *Motor City Metro Chorus*. We know that you three will represent our district well in New Orleans.

I would also like to applaud the quartets from our chorus, the *Blue Ribbon Coalition* and *Full Chord Press* for their fine performances. And a special thank you goes to director Jeff Rayburn and Dr. David Gillingham for pushing our chorus to perform so well.

The *Midstatesmen* have a very busy summer ahead with parades, camping and fishing trips, a golf outing and many other activities. Who knows . . . we may even do some singing in between, if we can catch our breath.

As part of the Membership Begins With Me program, we are hosting two guest nights this year and are especially looking for young members. We feel that it is <u>vitally important</u> for our organization to bring in some of the talented youth in our area. The response so far has been great! As a part of this approach, there will be a Young Men in Harmony program at Central Michigan University on July 22. All highschool boys around the state are invited.

I tip my hat to the Cadillac Chorus for hosting Bush League this year. It's an important event within our district, and we support such efforts to keep it an ongoing tradition. On a similar note, we are excited to be hosting the 1993 Fall Convention in Lansing.

Our chorus has lost a tenor but gained a bass. Several months ago, member Dan Bish lost his tenor range. So he switched parts and went to contest with us as a *basso profundo*. Happy 14th birthday, **Dan**!

As a way of improving communication and increasing publicity, we have made some direct ties with the *Heart of Michigan Sweet Adeline Chorus*. This seems like such an obvious move since we have wives, sisters and friends in this group. The benefits to each group are numerous, and we encourage other choruses to set-up a similar communication line if appropriate.

Don't forget the send off shows and hope to see you at the Tiger game in August.

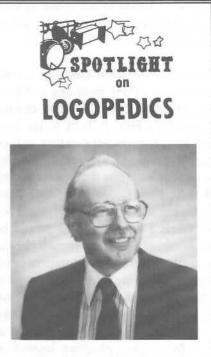
# MUSKEGON CHAPTER

(Cont'd from Page 9)

only highlight his career since then: Now Pioneer's International Board Member, Mike has served as District and Chapter Presidents; he was honored as chapter BOTY in 1982 and Area Counselor of the Year in 1985. He's been assistant director of the Great Lakes Chorus and has directed Lansing's Capitol City Chordsmen for "four wonderful years". Mike's a certified interpretation judge and frequently serves in that capacity at district contests throughout the SPEBSQSA. He will judge the International Harmony Inc., contest this fall. When asked of his plans for the Shoreline Chorus, Mike spoke of the chorus' earlier announced plans to "improve our singing and gain new members".

Frank Scott, MVP, personally signed one new member earlier this year, but his ambitions for exceed that number. He has spent countless hours in the past months preparing letters and other mailers, making phone calls and personal contacts, all in the name of recruitment. Frank well prepared the chapter and extended invitations to many prospects in readiness for the chapter's May/June recruitment period.





Dr. Fran Durham

## Judy and Lindsay Pollard to Appear in New Orleans

As I write this article I have fond memories of Lindsay and her mother Judy, appearing at our Pioneer District Spring Convention in 1991. When Lindsay finished performing there weren't many dry eyes in the house. I daresay, a lot of instant conversions took place, on the part of skeptical barbershoppers about the wonders accomplished at the Institute of Logopedics.

Judy and Lindsay Pollard will be in New Orleans for the International Convention. They will perform at the Logopedics Breakfast and will also make several appearances at the Logopedics Booth and Display. If you're going to be in New Orleans, order your Logopedics Breakfast tickets in advance as it's sure to be a sellout.

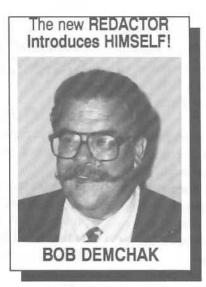
Lindsay Pollard is a shining example of what the Institute is able to do with communicatively handicapped children and yet Pioneer

## Pioneer TROUBADOUR

District has never had a child at the institute. There have to be hundreds of children in the district who are not reaching their full potential because of their communication problem and the school district they reside in is unable to provide a program designed to bring out that full potential.

The Institute of Logopedics targets these communication disabilities specifically and we as barbershoppers must spread the word to the people we come in contact with, that help for communicatively handicapped children is available.

All the tools you need to spread the word are available from your chapter, the district or the International Office in Kenosha.



BOB DEMCHAK .... Troubadour Editor ... Who'd a thunk it?

I've been away from barbershopping almost nine years and as long as I was coming back I figured I would do it right! I've started a new quartet (*The Car City Four*), taken on this job with the *Troubadour*, and have done some arranging (ten songs to date).

I'm singing in the Lake Shore Chorus, coaching a college age quartet (7th Heaven), going to miniHEP school, send-off shows, barbershop shows all over the state and having a great time doing all of it.

Don't look for a lot of changes in the *Troubadour*, 'cause right now I'm camped at Bob McDermott's feet learning all I can about editing, from the expert!

So,..."Send me a postcard. Drop me a line, stating point of view."...

BOB DEMCHAK 31758 Taft Wayne, MI 48184 Phone: (Res) 313-729-1216

MIKE O'DONNELL'S International Board Report (Cont'd from Page 2)

scale. Some of that I can understand since they also have divisional contests which many attend prior to the pre-lims.

What this is all leading up to is a new committee which I've been appointed, called "the Alternatives to Competition Committee." We are charged with exploring other avenues which might get our membership involved again other than on "Chapter Meeting Night." If you have some ideas which you think might add to this, please let me know.

We will be looking forward to seeing you at either the Windsor Send-Off or the MSU Send-Off Show in June or maybe at both. Also, don't forget to be a part of a great mini-HEP program the third weekend in June. We have some top-notch coaches coming in to help us get better in our hobby.

Thanks to all of you who were at the convention and had to put up with Yours Truly as the M.C. on Friday night. I had hoped the trivia questions would be well accepted and apparently they were. See 'ya soon.



Tom Quirk, Jr. Bari; Kevin Bebensee, bass; Chais Cole, Lead, and Tod Moses, tenor.

## GROSSE POINTE by Jim Kinner

Congratulations to the winning choruses and quartets. It was a weekend of really great music. In the same breath, I can't help being very proud of the *Lakeshore Chorus* and the "Good Ship Lollipop!" They seem to come up with the greatest, crowd pleasing scenery. We will definitely be using the boat again in the near future.

I think the really greatest part of this weekend had to be the Pioneer District College Quartet Contest. If you are not aware of what the College Quartet Contest is all about, you must read your 1992 *Troubadours* and *Harmonizers*. Three college quartets competed, *Silver Lining, Spectrum*, and *Seventh Heaven*. They finished in the same order as named with Silver Lining winning the privilege of representing the district in July in New Orleans.

Seventh Heaven, comprised of Toby Shaner, Kevin Morey, Wally Krauss and Rob Facione, all students of John Glenn High School was formed and coached by Bob Demchak of the Grosse Pointe Chapter. Bob, by the way, is the new Troubadour Editor, taking over for Bob McDermott. Spectrum was sponsored by the Cadillac Chapter and are all members of the Cadillac Chapter. Silver Lining was also sponsored by Grosse Pointe and was also sponsored by Grosse Pointe and was coached by Sterling Berry.

The Ray Starrette Golf Open (Bare-foot, Carolina, White Lightnin', Lollipoopin', Hog Roast and Golf Retreat, 1992) was held the May first weekend. The guys really needed the relaxation after the tough rehearsals we have been having since January. Even though Russ Seely had the lowest score, complicated handicaps and general whinin' led to the award of the coveted jacket to Art Jones. (I want to thank Russ Seely for furnishing me with the above information on the golf outing.)

Some goodie-goodie two-shoes were cleaning up the neighborhood club where we hold our meetings and have come up with some nice trophies. These are inter-chapter novice quartet contest trophies which go back to the days when several lower Michigan chapters got together, at least annually, for novice quartet contest/fun nights. Looks like Grosse Pointe Quartets were so superior that we wound up in possession of all the trophies. (Edit. Note: Don't get carried away, Jim, D.O.C. has a bunch of them, too.) So, Grosse Pointe's P.V.P., Chris Miller, thinks it would be great to reinstate these fun nights and the camaraderie and challenges any chapters or chapters to compete with Grosse Pointe and try to take the trophies. Program P.V.P.'s can contact Chris Miller at 313-442-0770. There are only six or seven simple rules which we'll make available upon request. You know, it was nice to know at least a few of the guys from other chapters instead of barely remembering the names of the chapters as it is today.

## Harmony Hounds honored; Battle Creek Chapters celebrates 50th

**The** Harmony Hounds, Battle Creek's comedy barbershop quartet, has been honored by the Society for its 34 years of service.

The present and former members of the *Hounds*--one of the ten oldest quartets in the Society--were surprised by presentation of the international honor at a reunion and performance during the Battle Creek barbershop chapter's 50th-anniversary show on May 16, 1992.

"Their humor has always been *the best of show*, they have left audiences *howling* with laughter throughout the United States, Europe and the Far East," the award said, "...and have proved time and time again that *old dogs can do new tricks.*" The award was signed by Executive Director Joe Liles and Music Education Director Mel Knight. The Hounds also received a certificate of appreciation from the Pioneer District with copies to all members of the *Hounds*.

In another surprise presentation, the Battle Creek Chapter honored Paul Tammi, who participated in the opener of the 50th-anniversary show, as Barbershopper Emeritus. Tammi, 90, was a charter vice president who is the only identified charter member still living in the area. The chapter was originally chartered on November 18, 1941, as the 10th in the district.



# What a great idea? by Bruce Evans

In the Grand Rapids Chapter, we are fortunate to have an almost complete judging panel; Mike O' Donnell is a certified interpretation judge, Joel Mills is a certified sound judge, and I am an arrangement judge candidate. With Roger Lewis, who lives in Battle Creek and is certified in the stage presence category, we do have a complete panel in Western Michigan. Gene Hanover of the Kalamazoo Chapter has come up with a great way to make use of this geographical/barbershop coincidence.

Why not invite a judge from each discipline to a chapter meeting and have them score your contest package under simulated contest conditions? That way, you have a better feel for how you your going to do in the contest. Would we judges be interested in participating? YOU BET! Believe me, judges love to listen to barbershop choruses and quartets and offer suggestions for improvements. If we didn't, we sure wouldn't be judges. (None of us make a single penny from doing it.)

The night of the mock contest was terrific. Ron Thomet, also of the Grand Rapids Chapter and Division III Vice President drove down to Kalamazoo with us and made it an official chapter visitation. While the chapter warmed up and did the normal chapter stuff, the Grand Rapids group went to the back room and sang tags. (I had to sing baritone--the only less than terrific part of the evening.)

Then it came time for the "contest". Gene had official scoring forms for us, a judges table facing the risers, and Mike--who thinks of everything--supplied the hard candy for the judges. Ron was our impromptu master of ceremonies and timer for the A & R sessions which immediately followed the performance. It was interesting for me to hear the A&R's from the other judges for the performance we had just heard and scored. I learned something from this night, also. We went in the order of interp, sound, SP and last, but certainly not least, arrangement. Under a subtle challenge from Gene, I did my best to deliver an interesting A&R. All the chorus members were very attentive and throughout and asked thoughtful questions on cue. I think the evening was informative for everyone involved.

Do I have any suggestions for future mock contests? Of course I do. What kind of judge doesn't have suggestions for improvements?

This took place just about three weeks before the convention. If your chapter would like to plan a similar event, try to plan it more like six to eight weeks before the contest so that you have time to incorporate the suggestions into your package. By that time you should have the basics down, but not have the weak points so firmly ingrained that they can't be changed.

Again, thanks to Gene Hanover and the Kalamazoo Chapter for coming up with such a great idea and inviting us to participate. Let's do it again, guys!

Hey, I believe in miracles, but when I heard that one of our district gospel quartets, THE GOOD NEWS AMBASSADORS sang for a deaf audience, I thought... well, you know what I thought!

#### by BOB McDERMOTT

Sing for the deaf?--YOU BET! On May 27th, the Good News Ambassadors, a gospel quartet, were enthusiastically received at the Mercy Center in Farmington, by almost 100 deaf and hearing impaired seniors. With the aid of two "signers" the words of the songs were rapidly relayed to the attentive audience. Since Gene Bulka, a member of the quartet is also a "signer" himself, he verified the warm reception.

Other quartet members are Marvin Wilson, Chuck Hatch, Jack Edwards, and Jim Lekander. Carrying five members makes it much easier for the retired quartet to accept engagements, since a couple of them switch parts on occasion to fill out the quartet.

Well, I stand corrected now. They did it as advertised, and the audience enjoyed it!

Music is the universal language of mankind. Longfellow

Detroit-Oakland Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc. Robert T. McDermott 1859 Maryland Blvd. Birmingham, MI 48009-4119

> STEPHEN SUTHERLAND 46827 BARTLETT CANTON, MI 48187

#### 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.

Mason City, South Bend, Knox County Metro, St. Charles, Shenango Valley, Fort Wayne, Manhatten, LaCrosse, Holland, Macomb County, Saratoga Springs and Sounds like a travel Milwaukee. itinerary, doesn't it?. Well it's not. It's just a list of the choruses singing at the Buckeye Invitational.

The Ritz, Gas House Gang, and several other quartets will be singing also.

A whole weekend of great singing entertainment down and in Columbus, Ohio.

The Best Barbershon Gathering This Side of International

	oming Events	The Best Barbershop Ga	thering This Side of International
JUNE,			Ruekovo
13	Traverse City Chapter Show		Buckeye Invitational IV
19-21	HARMONY ROUND-UP Michigan State U.		A weekend with 13 different
28-	INT'L CONVENTION -	A IL IL	Barbershop Shows!
JUL 5	New Orleans, LA		August 14–15–16, 1992
JULY,	1992		Columbus, Ohio
12-19	DIRECTORS COLLEGE	- The second sec	
	Kenosha, WI		Friday is Barbershop Day
AUGU	ST, 1992	Gas House Gang	AMERIFLORA'92
2-9	HARMONY COLLEGE	Clast rice Chorus	AMERICA'S CELEBRATION OF DISCOVERY
	St. Joseph, MO	Gem City Chorus Sweet Adelines	Officially designated as the centerpiece of all U.S. 1992 festivities
OCTO	BER, 1992	Oliver	-wonderful exhibits-great entertainmentl ◀
2-3	Grand Rapids Chapter Show	FRIDAY AT AMERIFLORA	Ticket Order Form for Saturday Shows
16-18	PIONEER DISTRICT	• 4:00 Mass Sing	# Tickets TOTAL \$
	Convention	free admission to	Chorus Show (premier seats) @\$12
24	Benton Harbor -	AmeriFlora for	Chorus Show (regular seats) @\$10
	St. Joseph Show	mass-singers	Quartet Show (premier seats) @\$12 Quartet Show (regular seats) @\$10
NOTE	: All chapter show activities must	SATURDAY PALACE	Both shows (premier seats) @\$21
	d through the District Secretary,	THEATRE SHOWS:	Both shows (regular seats) @\$18
	appropriate ASCAP, BMI, and (Canada only) fees paid. Only	• 12 noon: Chorus Show	Total (US Funds)
	hat are cleared through the District	12 choruses competing!	Name
	y will be listed above.	Brats cookout	Address
	PLEASE NOTIFY:	(between shows)	City State
	Jack Schneider	• 7:30 pm: Quartet Show	Zip Country
	1311 Northlawn, N.E. Grand Rapids, MI 49505	followed by	Phone /
Res. (	616) 361-6820 Bus. (616) 771-5225	Show of Champions	Make checks payable to "Buckeye Invitational" and send with coupon and self-addressed
	and the second sec	For hotel information, call Larry Nofziger 614/882-4048	stamped envelope to: Russ Young 162 Northridge Rd. • Columbus, OH 43214

June/July

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