



pioneer TROUBADOUR



Official Publication of the Pioneer District
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF
BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA, INC.

VOLUME 44

DECEMBER 1993 - JANUARY 1994

NUMBER 6

"City Lights" tops among 19 Pioneer choruses!

Russell Seely heads district

The nominating committee's slate, headed by Russell Seely, was unanimously elected by the House of Delegates, October 15. Russ will first assume the duties of his new office, presiding at COTS, December 4-5.

Roger Lewis was elected to the International Board of Directors and Larry Parker is our new Executive Vice President.



**President,
Russell Seely**

Also serving on the Pioneer district board will be newly elected William Woodbeck, VP Division IV, plus incumbents: William Wickstrom, VP, Division I; Mark Wilson, VP, Division II; David Coles, VP Division III; Edward McCarthy, VP Division V; Jack Schneider, Secretary; R. Stanley Williams, Treasurer; Fred Kienitz, Director of Music Education and Mike Cirrito, Director of Conventions.

As expected, Motor City Metro's *City Lights Chorus* will represent the district in Pittsburgh as a result of their usual first place, fine performance in the International Preliminary Contest October 16.

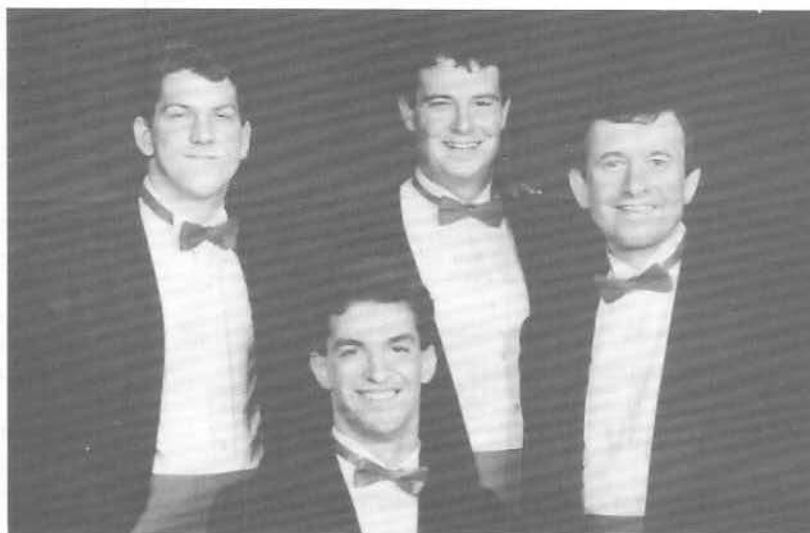
Gratifying, but not expected, was the record 19 choruses entered in the keen competition which saw several choruses improve their contest standings. Grand Rapids *Great Lakes Chorus*, in second place, are the alternates to international while the *Capitol City Chordsmen* from the Lansing Chapter earned the coveted "Most Improved Chorus" award, gaining third place.

In an incredibly close finish, only 1 point separated Grand Rapids and Lansing; both were but a few more than 100 points from the top.

Muskegon's *Shoreline Chorus* also improved upon earlier scores while Traverse City, Alpena, Huron Valley, Jackson, Cadillac and Boyne City returned to the contest stage.

Importantly - we saw 625 Pioneer District barbershop chorus singers obviously having a great time performing at the district convention!! Their fun was shared by the enthusiastic more than 1200 conventioners in attendance, one of the highest registration figures in recent history, Director Mike Cirrito reported.

Pioneer District Quartet Champions!



FULL CHORD PRESS

Pioneer TROUBADOUR

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

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The President's Corner

Lots of Thanks - From President Russ Seely

With the holiday season upon us I thought this old lead singer would take up my space with some sincere barbershop **Thanks**:

To the almost 1,000 pre-registrants and on-site registrants for the last convention, who set, we believe, new records for our district; To Gratiot County, our fall hosts and Lansing for being our spring hosts as well as ongoing site hosts; To *Full Chord Press* for their youth, excitement and Doc's marvelous creativity, Our own Champs! To Scott, their bass, who has his "ducks-in-a-row" by making education his priority even at the expense of leaving his co-champions next fall. Believe me, he will return. To *City Lights*, *Opening Night* and *Power Play* who's "Ode to Joy - Patriotic Medley," invokes goose-bumps even yet; To Mike Slamka for stepping in to help fulfil Bob Whitledge's dream - to have Pioneer District be the best that it can be. Say Yes, to Pittsburgh! To the 35 or so judges who came from all over the country last spring - at no cost to our district - to hone their skills in order to initiate the new judging system this fall; To Roger and Sue, a class act that will be very difficult to follow; To the 20 choruses, (including J. Barbershop) - who came to **convene**! We all kind of knew who the winner would be, but did that deter us. NO! We came to convene. To the tag singers and "score sheet" second guessers. It wouldn't be a convention without them. To Doran and Margaret - what would our conventions be without them, Eh? To *Troub's* Gordon Gunn who has (hooray) re-defined "deadline." Egads, he even *looks* like an editor. To *all* our past presidents. They simply say "Yes, to Pioneer" - volunteering for any needs. To my own chapter, Grosse Pointe, for going over the 100 member mark and *proudly* finishing somewhere in the middle of the chorus contest. Directing them has been truly a "Lifeblood" experience; To Big Fred and his team. He may be a riot, but listen to him closely. He knows and loves barbershop. One of the most beautiful people I've made friends with through barbershopping. I'm glad he's on my "team." To Mike and Jack and Stan and Jim who spend countless hours "behind the scenes" to make the machine work; To *all* the VP's, now headed by Larry, who really aren't spies - c'mon guys- but great guys dedicated to helping chapters achieve their goals.

And finally - to our greatest supporters - "the ladies." Without their cooperation we just wouldn't exist. I thank all of you but especially Shirl' who is as spiritually dedicated as I am physically, to "Keep the Whole World Singing."

Bless you throughout the holidays. Let's resolve to introduce one young man per member to our heritage for 1994! (More on this later.)

It's hard to believe two years can pass so quickly. Yes, there is a feeling of sadness as I leave the presidency, and at the same time, a feeling of great anticipation as I move to the International Board.

The two years have been a lot of fun and work. The District Board have been a great group and I thank each of them for the support they have given the Pioneer District. Their wives too, have been a great support -- pitching in and helping - volunteering before being asked - plus the quiet background support that lets us "do our thing." Thank you, Pioneer District Board and wives.

I could also write about the support I receive from Sue Lewis, but she edits this and would tell me to take it out. So I'll just say; Thanks for being a great First Lady, Sue."

A few things stand out as I reflect on these years. We suffered a great loss in the passing of Bob McDermott, a dedicated barbershopper, worker and friend. He lives on in the Pioneer District History book, presented by his daughter, Nancy, and wife, Dot, at our House of Delegates meeting this fall. You will soon be able to reserve/purchase a copy. Thank you Nancy and Dot, for making this happen.

* We moved to a new convention site and in preparation for the new judging categories, hosted an unbelievable number of judges last spring. Mike Cirritto and the convention team handled it in great style.

* Our attendance at conventions is increasing; we had a record number of competitors this fall. The spirit of "Lifeblood" was evident all weekend, unto the wee hours.

* We now have a new Historian, Dale Becker of the Holland Chapter.

* Jack Slamka will be organizing an *Association of Past District Quartet Champions*; watch for great things to happen by fall, '94.

* Our district membership is growing. You make this happen. Keep on sharing this great hobby.

* Thank you Fred Kienitz for the District Music Team work; Jim Styer for our unequalled public Relations; Larry Parker for making *Tiger Day* one of the best barbershop activities in the Society; and everyone who helped make the Pioneer the great District it is!

INTERNATIONAL BOARD



ROGER LEWIS

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THE EXECUTIVE PITCH

by our Executive V.P.
LARRY PARKER

Here's the Pitch!

I am excited and looking forward to the challenge ahead of me as your Executive Vice President. With the steady leadership of our new President, Russ Seely and a fine cast in your Board of Officers, the Pioneer District will continue to prosper and set objectives for others to follow.

Along with my duties as EVP, I will continue to wear the hat of Director of Membership Development. In both capacities, I ask that we form an intercommunication link to strengthen and increase our membership and to perpetuate the ideals of our hobby.

As the final chapters in the annals of the 1992 - '93 Roger Lewis Era are written, we would be remiss if we didn't stop a moment and reflect on his past two years as our president. Roger demonstrated the true meaning of leadership and devoted 110% to our Code of Ethics. Please join me in saying, "Thank you for a job well done, Roger!"

As we say goodbye to Roger, we must also say "Thanks" and bid farewell to our International Board Member, Mike O'Donnell. Roger will replace Mike as IBM and will continue to represent the Pioneer District in the fine manner we have all been accustomed to. Mike isn't going very far and won't be allowed to retire, as he also has a new position; DACJC.

A graphic featuring musical notation on a staff. The notes are labeled with names: Dennis, Tom, Jim, and Dave. A large, stylized signature "Signature" is written across the staff. Below the staff, the text "A BARBERSHOP QUARTET" is written in a bold, serif font. At the bottom, the contact information "Contact: Dave Anderson (313) 286-4860" is provided.

Post convention notes...

by Mike Cirritto, Dir. of Convention Planning

The overall convention attendance surpassed 1,200, making it one of the best attended in recent history. Nineteen competing choruses appears to have equalled an all time high and 16 competing quartets was not far behind.

The trolley continues to be popular. On Friday 485 people were shuttled between the Sheraton and Waverly High. We are trying for a slightly larger trolley.

Our sponsors, Waverly High Band Boosters, raised \$900 through concession sales.

Our first time breakfast and fashion show surpassed our expectations with 70 ladies attending.

We were pleased with the high powered performance of the new district quartet champs, *Full Chord Press*. And what a class act by Opening Night, outgoing champs, who so fittingly reviewed their year with a medley of songs.

The hotel lobby on Saturday night, with it's park like atmosphere, was a favorite place for quarteting, woodshedding and tag singing 'til the early hours. We expect this to be enjoyed throughout our stay in Lansing.

We must surely extend our thanks to Jeff Rayburn and the Gratiot County Chapter, for their superb job as host chapter.

See you in April!

District appointments made

President Lewis' long search for a district historian has been successfully concluded. At the House of Delegates meeting he announced the appointment of Dale Becker who has done a great job in that post for the Holland Chapter.

He also announced the appointment of Mike O'Donnell to the post of DACJC.

Jack Slamka now heads a committee: the *District Association of Past Quartet Champions*, which Roger envisions including sub committees: *Quartet Promotion* and *Sing With the Champs*.

**THE HARMONY HOUNDS**

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS

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New Directions in Membership for 1994

Excerpts from the 1994 District Leadership Forum

by Larry Parker, Membership Coordinator

"Membership Renewals"

Beginning with December '93 renewals, members of all U.S. chapters, and Canadian chapters that wish to participate, will be invoiced directly from International. And, members can select from two EasyDues plans, plus two exciting methods that make renewals easier than ever. For details on an individual program best suited to you, consult your chapter secretary or membership vice president.

"Membership and Holidays"

This is probably the best time of year to hold "Guest Nights" and to form "Men's Holiday Choruses." "Tis the Season to be Jolly" and the festive mood makes everyone want to sing. The "Holiday Singers" are potential members. Let's go out and find these guys. It only takes an invitation on your part.

"New Programs for 1994"

In '94 we will expand our recruitment focus to encompass Recruitment - Orientation - Retention and Follow-Up, (RORF). The concept originated with John Case, former IBM of the Ontario District and current COTS faculty advisor for Membership VP's.

Recruitment: In 1994 certificates will be awarded to districts on a monthly basis, and chapters, quarterly. Chapters meeting or exceeding 1993 end of quarter membership numbers will receive Gold, Silver or Bronze certificates, depending on their recruitment totals.

Orientation: We *must* orient new members in barbershop harmony. It's our responsibility to educate them as to what it is and why it works.

Retention: Besides orientation, a second key to retention is balanced programming at chapter meetings. By making sure that there is something for every member at each meeting, you practically guarantee attendance and participation.

Follow-Up: A phone call to each missing member will let him know he is missed. That simple procedure will go far towards retention.

It is my sincere wish that you and your families have a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year! Remember, throughout the holidays, WORK ON MEMBERSHIP!



Nancy McDermott Ward presents manuscript of "*Fifty Year History of Pioneer District*", to House of Delegates in October. Her Mother, Dorothy McDermott, is at her side.

by Tom Uicker, President, Detroit-Oakland

It is finished! Twelve and one-half months after Bob McDermott's death, his daughter, Nancy McDermott Ward, presented his manuscript to the District at the fall delegates meeting. It was Bob's last dream: *A History of the Pioneer District--The First Fifty Years*.

We are not certain when Bob first had the idea of compiling the 50 year district history. His wife, Dottie, feels it was while he was district president (1985-86) or maybe during his tenure as International Board Member (1987-88). We know he started drawing tables by 1988 and even took a year off publishing his chapter bulletin, *The Gentlemen's Songster* in 1989, to devote more time to the history.

It was something he seemed to be preparing for, for a long time, with interviews of former International President Carrol Adams as far back as 1972, and it was something that kept driving him up to the month before his death. Towards the end he enlisted the help of his closest friends and finally, he turned the completion of the task over to his daughter, Nancy.

Now the manuscript is completed. Nancy presented it to the Pioneer District. President Russ Seely has promised to continue the project. The next step will be to determine printing costs and demand for the published history.

take note

by Fred Kienitz,

District Director of Music Education

In Review of 1993, we began the year by doing some show reviews for a few chapters. The entire DME staff was trained to do this in order to help chapters put on better shows, of a professional quality. Several of us have been coaching various quartets and choruses in the district. We did several retreats, installed



Fred Kienitz

chapter officers, attended Uncle Sam night, district and international conventions, International COTS, Harmony College, Pioneer Mini-Hep and on and on.

Just starting to put together the May 20-22 Mini-Hep schedules and I thought about you; all of you.

I thought about the great times we had at conventions, the Pontiac Woodshed Contest, at chapter shows, at Harrisville, the Bush League Contest, At the Holland Shows, at the Soo, In Traverse City, at the Grand Rapids Shows, at International Nights in Detroit and Windsor and the Mini-Hep schools. All that nostalgia brought back the strains of that old chestnut, "Dear Old Pal, How I Miss You Tonight."

Now where was I? My mind wanders a lot; must be getting older. Oh yeah! I've been talking to several Pioneer members about Mini-Hep and wondering why the attendance is not as great as it was in past years. Some told me that 8-10 hours of quartet and chorus coaching is very exhausting. And yet, they seem to feel that it's a small price to pay for polishing our art form and singing better barbershop. The one thing missed, however, is the fun time which no longer seems to be a part of this weekend. So, I'm attempting to put the maxi amount of fun back into the mini school. But I need you and your ideas.

I thought we could start early Friday afternoon, if there is enough interest, with a barbershop golf scramble right on the MSU campus. For the non-golfer, we might have an afternoon Euchre contest at the dorm. Following the introduction of the faculty and the Key Note address, on Friday evening we could have an octet contest with judges and use overhead screens so we could listen and watch our

certified judges actually using official forms to rate the contestants.

The weekend would close with our usual, annual, after-glow. It isn't much, but it's a start and needless to say, I need your input. Give this some thought and write down any ideas you may have. Send them to me. My address is on page 2 of each *Troubadour*.

And I really wanted to write to let you know, like the old song goes, "I miss your voice, the touch of your hand, just long to know.....My Buddy!"

Novice Quartet Co-Champs!!!

"And the Novice Champs are *Aire Apparent*." That announcement was a surprise to many in the audience, especially *Aire Apparent*, as they were unable to compete on Saturday night, due to voice problems.

What happened? Both *Aire Apparent* from Holland and *Beyond Measure* from Grand Rapids were eligible for the trophy. When the voice problem developed, the contest administrators and the District President got together; It was decided to base the award on Fridays scores only, so not to penalize *Aire Apparent* for problems beyond their control.

But after review of the district policies and by-laws, it was evident the award should have been based on total score.

So - on October 23, at the Grand Rapids "Goodby to Harmony Hall" night, President Lewis presented a second set of Novice Quartet Champ trophies to *Beyond Measure*. Now we have "Friday Night" and "Saturday Night" Champions!

Congratulations to both our new Novice Quartet Champions - *Aire Apparent* and *Beyond Measure*. Both champions in their own right!

To all of the *Troub's* great contributors

There'll be some changes made

We advised the House of Delegates last spring, the *Troub* is subject to change!

We have received some copy, over the months, written as personal letters, complete with salutation and complimentary close. We spent a lot of time and effort re-writing that copy into news and column format. Now, we have learned that some contributors want those submissions published as letters.

So, we have a new policy. Suitable copy received as letters will be published in a new "Letters" column. As opposed to articles or columns, letters will be edited only for space. To the extent possible, all of the authors exact words will be published verbatim! We will continue to edit and re-write articles as deemed appropriate.

ADD-A-LINE

by Jim Styer, District Communications Officer

If you haven't been paying attention, you may be on the verge of losing a valuable resource to help you as chapter PR Officer or Bulletin Editor. **You may lose your PROBE membership**, or if you are new at the job, you won't automatically become a member, as before.

PROBE has become a dues-supported organization. But it's only \$5 a year, and your chapter should be able to pay that for you.

If you are not a member, you won't get the quarterly magazine, *PROBEmotor*. It's full of helpful tips on how to carry out your job as PRO or BE. It also includes stories on PROBE and how it can help you further. And it has clip art that helps brightening bulletins, posters and any printed material.

And it provides communication so you may share your tips and success stories with others.

Further, PROBE runs the PRO and BE of the year contests, which are other ways to get an evaluation of your work and tips on how to do better. And they recognize those who are doing outstanding jobs.

PROBE also speaks on behalf of PRO's and BE's before district and international officers.

How can you be sure you are a PROBE member? Your chapter secretary should have checked off a dues box by your name when he reported the new officers to Kenosha. Make sure he did. If he didn't, have him call Brian Lynch in Kenosha, 1-800-876-SING and ask him to get you on the list and bill your chapter. Or write to Brian in Kenosha, asking to get on the membership list, and send a check for \$5 payable to SPEBSQSA Probe dues.

Isn't it worth \$5 to get help in your job. Let alone to be represented in the big barbershop bureaucracy?

Kellogg Foundation may support community music project

by Jim Styer, *THE RISER* editor, Battle Creek

The Battle Creek Chapter and the Pioneer District plan to play a major role in 1994 in the Society's outreach to schools and communities.

The W. K. Kellogg Foundation, through its "Expert in Residence" program, is considering support for a demonstration project for all chapters on how to carry out our Society's expanded vision statement. The statement says the Society will be a leader in "encouraging vocal music, in our education system and in our communities, as a lifelong recreational activity."

A new aspect of the Kellogg program, and a vital part of the Society vision statement, is
(continued next column)

President Russ Seely, Grosse Pointe Chapter member since 1953

Russ has also been a dual member at Detroit # 1 and Windsor. He has served as chapter president and chaired several committees. He gathered 23 Men of Note awards along the way and was honored as "Barbershopper of the Year". Director Russ has been in front of the *Lakeshore Chorus* for over 25 years.

District services include Area Counselor, YMIH Chair, Division VP and Executive VP. He was elected to the District Hall of Fame.

Russ originated the single site convention concept, with the district providing funding and allowing any size chapter to "host" for a fee. To facilitate, he proposed office of district convention chairman and spearheaded necessary change in by-laws.

No stranger to International competition; Russ qualified to sing at 8 contests, including one chorus appearance. He sang lead in four registered quartets, all of whom competed at International. And he sang lead in 3 district champion quartets as well as the first Senior Quartet Champs, the 4-FITS.

He and his wife, Shirley, have 3 children; Russell Jr., Matt, (a barbershopper) and Jill.

President and Board Chairman Seely, founded the Quality Bending and Threading Incorporation in 1960.

Russ pleads that he bleeds maize and blue - especially this year!!!

(continued from column one)

involvement of other community groups in planning the activities.

A top Society member or staffer, with extensive background in barbershopping and education, would stay at the original Kellogg home. He would tentatively spend the week of Sept. 18-24 teaching, coaching, demonstrating and discussing vocal music in Battle Creek and nearby communities.

His audiences would include students and teachers as well as church and community choirs, directors, the arts council, other arts and recreational organizations, youth groups, senior citizens, and service clubs. A full week of radio and TV appearances would be planned. Community singing would be encouraged throughout the week. A barbershop museum display is possible.

The list of possibilities is almost endless.

Society Marketing Director Gary Stamm will help Battle Creek plan and coordinate the event, including advance visits to Battle Creek. Pioneer District President Russ Seely and Fred Kienitz, Director of Music Education have offered their support.

Planning for the program began this fall.



HEARTSPRING



DR. FRAN DURHAM

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter held its third benefit show for a communication related local charity in October, benefit of the Communications Disorders Center of Children's Hospital of Michigan.

The *Gentlemen Songsters Chorus* with the *Signature, Unlawful Assembly*, and *Crosstown Exchange* quartets contributed their services for the show. We were pleased that over \$3,600 was raised for the center. It is important that the benefit was for an organization treating communication impairments.

The Society encourages chapters to support worthwhile local charities while continuing to support Heartspring. I believe any local charity we support should have communication disorder or impairment treatment as its mission.

For a chapter to receive credit for such donations as a charitable contribution, the income and expenses must be run through the chapter books, and a chapter check issued to the charity. A record of the transaction must be forwarded to Frank Santarelli in Kenosha for recording as a contribution to a local charity. Such contributions do not count towards the *Harmony Foundation awards program*. The *Harmony Foundation* administers monies going to Heartspring and a record is kept of those contributions as part of the awards program.

Santarelli does issue a certificate to chapters contributing to a local charity providing they have observed the above stated procedures.

Effective January 1, 1994, I have been appointed chairman of the Logopedics and service committee, by International President, Ernie Nickoson. Former chairman, Jim Eldridge will remain as a committee member. Ernie also appointed a committee to study the Society relationship to Heartspring. They will make a preliminary report at Mid-Winter and a final report at Pittsburgh. The name and mission of the Logopedics and service committee remains the same, at least until the International Board acts upon the committee report. Meanwhile, there will be a Logopedics Booth, Breakfast and "Sing With the Champs", in Pittsburgh.

Contributions to Heartspring, Society wide, are \$75,000.00 less than at this time last year. I hope chapters will come through in December. Pioneer already has 12 *Harmony Foundation Award* winners this year and *Huron Valley* could easily be the 13th. Remember, it's the kids at Heartspring who benefit!

Kalamazoo's Mall City Chorus

Barbershop Down On The Farm

featuring

Chiefs of Staff

Unlawful Assembly - Total Accord - Picture This 4 - Aire-Do-Wells



Saturday, March 19, 1994



Letters...

Dear Friends,

Thank you for allowing me to be your International Board Member the last two years. It was a real honor to be at the topmost level where the decisions are made which affect all of us in this great hobby of ours. The members of the board have become more and more vocal and committed to doing what is truly the best for the Society and I have every reason to believe that IBM Roger Lewis will continue that tradition.

As I write my final report, I must once again ask all of you to contact Roger and share with him your feelings about non-member directors and if this should be enacted this January in Sarasota at Mid-Winter.

I have already received correspondence which indicates the issue will again come before the board and will be seconded. Eric Jackson (whom many of you know) has written to say he has changed his position and now is in favor of allowing non-member directors including females. This change came after he was written by Sweet Adelines International and informed he was no longer welcome as a member of the International Faculty Training in July, 1994. He has now reconsidered and believes that by not allowing female directors we have diminished our relationship with female barbershoppers and opened us up to charges of being sexist, elitist and discriminating against women.

I've already sent in my reply and if you feel strongly one way or the other about this issue you should let Roger Lewis know before he goes to MID-Winter.

Thanks to all of you for the wonderful convention last October. Sixteen quartets and 19 choruses performed, entertained and were rewarded for their efforts by the largest group of attendees in many, many years. I headed to my room about 3 AM and there were still guys standing in the lobby singing and enjoying their hobby. I hope you were one of them and if not, see you in the spring?

Thanks for the memories - Yours in Harmony,

Mike O'Donnell

Advice for potential judge candidates...

by Mike O'Donnell, DACJC

As some of you know by now, I have been asked to serve as the District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman (DACJC) for the next two years. I will be attempting to fill the shoes of John Bauer who did such a marvelous job during his years in this position.

One of my duties will be to assist those who wish to enter the judging program to do so. Having just returned from the Leadership Forum last week in Milwaukee, I have some news which you should know if you are thinking about becoming a judge.

The International Contest and Judging Committee has decided to lower the number of men who will be certified from 45 to 40. This was done to assure all judges will have assignments each Spring & Fall allowing them to remain sharp in their particular category. Some categories have more than 40 now but it is felt attrition will take care of that number.

The MAXIMUM number of applicants per category will be: Presentation = 3; Singing = 4; Music = 5; Contest Administrator = 6. These applicants will be chosen from across the whole Society membership. Each man will need a written recommendation from 2 certified judges in the Category for which he is applying. In addition, you will have to attend special classes to be held at Harmony College in 1994 and then to go to Category School at DePaul University in Chicago in 1995 for final certification.

Does this sound like something you'd be interested in? If so, call me now because January is the only time applicants will be accepted. Do the rules seem a bit stringent for qualifying? Yes they are and on purpose. The mission of the ICJC is to provide the best qualified and trained judges we can to make sure the right winners are chosen and to give the best help we can to those who didn't quite grab the brass ring. Our members deserve the best judges we can give them so being selected for one of the openings will not be easy. If you have any questions regarding your application give me a call so we can discuss it. My number is: 616-451-2857(w) & 616-363-1368(h).

Grand Rapids - Goodbye Old Friend

Received without by-line

October 23, 90 people gathered in our "Harmony Hall" for the last time. The building has been sold. The keys were relinquished for a healthy check, November 1.

Roger and Sue Lewis were there. Our *Beyond Measure*, several pick-up quartets and

the *Great Lakes Chorus* entertained. There was lots of reminiscing as many non-active members returned.

Our afterglows and send off parties will continue, but will not be the same. We said goodbye to an old friend and may purchase another building in the future. But for now we will be rehearsing at the NCO Club, at the Grand Valley Armory, 1200 44th Street, Wyoming, Michigan. Join us in song, any Tuesday.

Ed Notes – "Time flies when you're having fun," and already, President Roger Lewis' two years at the helm are ending. Of course Roger has yet another most important role to fill; as International Board Member. On a personal note, I would like to express my appreciation to him for granting me the opportunity to serve the district as your bulletin editor and for his so generous support and help.

All truthful, married, barbershoppers will admit any service by way of preserving and encouraging barbershop singing would be impossible without the encouragement and even participation, of their ever loving wife.



Roger and Sue Lewis

I am sure all Pioneer's would like to join in simply expressing our thanks to and respect for the talented *Harmony Hound*, Roger, and the lovely and gracious, Sue Lewis. May Roger be as effective in his new duties as he was as our president, and may they both enjoy many more happy, barbershop years in good health.

Speaking of good friends and outstanding barbershoppers; We encountered Walt Quick, the great bass of the harmonious *Sound Ambassadors* quartet in the lobby of the Sheraton, in October. The quartet sang on Muskegon's 50th anniversary show in 1990. Before the show, they sang for Margaret and I at dinner in the hotel dining room. The very surprised diners were most appreciative, but certainly no more than we.

Sadly, Walt said the quartet sang it's last song last July 4th. We'll never forget Walt, Jim Stephens, Chuck Simmons and Ken Winkelman; the *Sound Ambassadors*!

After reading in other bulletins of support for chapter meetings – sans chorus rehearsals – we wrote some time ago in this column, in reinforcement of the concept. Now Tom Porritt, Muskegon's '94 Program VP is
(continued – next column)

From International

Jim Debusman wrote...

The Pioneer District Leadership team noticeably improved their ability to follow through with assigned tasks during this international staff's year of visits.

At the beginning of this year, not all members of DME Fred Kienitz's team did their job as well as they could. Well, things have gotten much better for my last two weeks of visits. The last trip was put together with little input by myself. Thank you Gene Hanover, Bruce Evans, Don Stewart and Al Fisk for a job well done.

Of course others like Roger Lewis, Larry Parker, Jim Styer, Bill Wickstrom, and Russ Seely also made a big difference in the effectiveness of my trips to the Pioneer District this year. I thank you. The problem when you thank Barbershoppers and name names, you risk leaving someone out. I probably did. Please forgive me.

Finally, I wish to thank Fred Kienitz for doing a fine job all year as my contact for the district. Fred and his music team are making a quality difference in the musical lives of every Pioneer Barbershopper who has taken the time to participate in the musical learning activities organized all year.

(continued from column 1)
working toward that goal.

We wish him every success in the hope the idea will spread and that fun filled chapter meetings may be widely reinstated. In years gone by, such meetings provided excellent opportunity for successful recruitment. Many, but not all of those new members, later joined chapter choruses. Some hard working member-boosters did not sing in organized groups at all, but did enjoy gang singing. While others, tsk, tsk, only sang in some mighty fine quartets!

In the last issue we asked for readers opinions in reference to the type size and style we were using for the "Chapters In Action" section. We asked for it, and we got it! Calls and letters, even from Herb Bayles, the Publisher of *PROBEmotor*, way out in California. And we got to meet some members at the convention that we may otherwise never have met, when they introduced themselves and offered their advice.

The results were unanimous! We won't use that type again!

My good wife, Margaret, kept asking if there would be room in this edition for her to wish everyone a *Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year*. There 'tis, from her and I! And isn't It Great to be a Barbershopper?

In review...**"Gas House Gang" enhances all around great show at Alma**

The *Gas House Gang*, reigning international quartet champs, were definitely a big plus, but certainly not the whole show when the Gratiot County Chapter manned the stage for their annual barbershop presentation October 2nd.

Deliberately contradictory, mock nautical cries of distress from behind closed curtains changed to viewer applause in admiration of the set as the exposed stage revealed the shipwrecked, "Castaway", *Midstatesmen Chorus*. A beached ship and vivid backdrop with realistic stage props landed the chorus and audience in fantasy on a lifelike south sea isle as wispy mist rose from the scene. Chorus "sailors" in ravaged costumes slowly, and seemingly painfully, arose from the wreckage.

The chorus musically complemented the illusion with "By the Sea" and "Minnie the Mermaid" while soulfully lamenting those "Asleep in the Deep". But about to escape the island, and thinking of home, they confided in ringing chords, there is "Nothing Like a Dame".

The chapter's *Blue Ribbon Coalition*, 6th place in district competition in April, as well as their *Suitable Union*, *Classic Chords* and *Shipwreck 4* quartets, provided further harmony and farce on the isle.

Pioneer's international competitors, the *Full Chord Press* proved they are as capable entertainers as they are contestants. The musical graduate, lead Jamie Carey, two students, tenor Simeon Esper and bass Scott Whipple and baritone, David Gillingham, Prof, all of nearby CMU, abundantly entertained the loyal audience who esteem the quartet as their own.

The *Gas House Gang* followed those very tough acts. But Rich Knight, lead - Kipp Buckner, tenor - Rob Henry the baritone and Bass Jim Henry are truly champions and they were definitely up to the challenge. The Calgary crowd pleasing quartet from St. Charles, Mo. said they took their name from baseball's old St. Louis Cardinal's nick-name, as they feel they are as rough and tumble barbershoppers as the notorious ball players were at their game.

The *Midstatesmen* Director, Jeff Rayburn surveyed the sold-out house, contemplated the most successful performance and suggested co-chairmen Joel Todd and Dave Rayburn need suffer no further sleepless nights. And obviously, Carl Mitchell & Associates, identified in the program as responsible for the scenery, are well entitled to take a bow.

The show was very well prepared and performed; the cast and audience shared a fun filled barbershop good time.

Grand Rapids "Great Lakes Invitational" was solid success

The *Great Lakes Chorus* mounted the risers wearing a varied assortment of college and university logos. They sang old collegiate standards including "You've Got To Be A Football Hero", "The Wiffenpoof Song" and "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi". The annual show was presented October 1st and 2nd. Assistant directors Mike O'Donnell, Bud Kraft and Bruce Evans directed the chorus for the Friday evening event.

The *Furniture City Chord Company*, *Four Ever Yours*, *Galaxies*, *Alumni* and *Four Grand* quartets added "Mister Touchdown U.S.A." - "Hello My Baby" - "Wild Over Me" - "Betty Coed" and "Doin' The Raccoon".

The Society's 1991 International Quartet Champs, *The Acoustix*, sang a lot of words in a hurry offering the rare vocal of John Phillip Sousa's "Stars and Stripes Forever". The four from Dallas otherwise established they are yet well capable of four part harmony sung acappella, but sadly, sang no barbershop. Many in the happy audience didn't care and rendered a long, enthusiastic standing ovation at the conclusion of *The Acoustix* act. They are Todd Wilson, tenor, - Rick Midaugh, lead - Jason January, baritone and Jeff Oxley, bass.

But the *Yesteryear* quartet, the 1993 International Eighth Place Finishers, sang barbershop! They rendered the old standards with every chord ringing true and, to the delight of the crowd, provided the usual, the expected zany barbershop show routines between numbers. The *Yesteryear* four from Ohio are; lead, Mark Blake - tenor, Dan Trakas - baritone, Rodney Blake and bass, Randy Baughman.

Jack Schneider has chaired the Great Lakes Invitational show committee since 1965. The annual event invariably draws large crowds and provides solid entertainment for the general public as well as the barbershop purist.



December, 4th and 5th

Gull Lake, Michigan

Contact John Gillespie, Coordinator

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
and THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS
present their 55th Parade of Harmony

Dearie, Do You Remember?

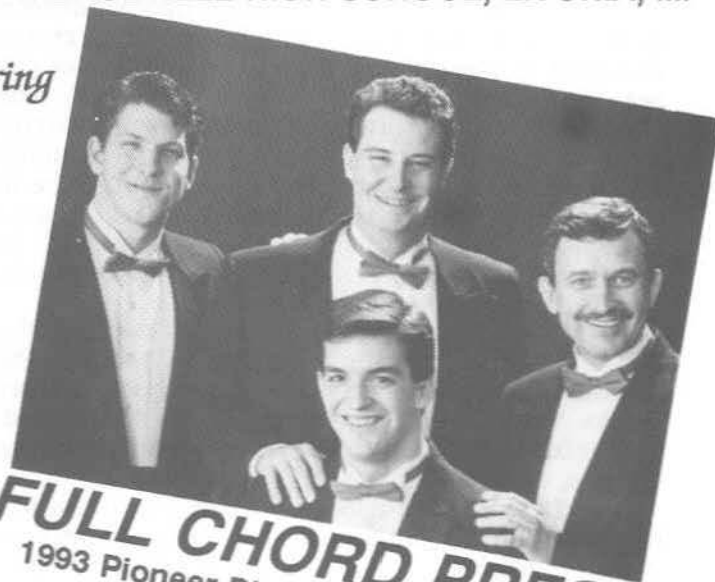
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T

Bulletin editors contest is January 15; Pioneers top two eligible for awards

January 15 is the deadline for chapter bulletin editors to enter the Pioneer District bulletin contest. Winners will receive recognition as Bulletin Editor of the Year, with nice plaques going to BETY and second place finisher.

The bulletins will be judged by a society staff of certified PROBE judges and the top two scoring bulletins scoring the highest in the district contest will be forwarded to the International Bulletin Contest, (IBC). PROBE, for the uninitiated, is an acronym for Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors, and affiliate of SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Winners of IBC will receive recognition at Pittsburgh and will be given an appropriate award at the convention. Since 1979, when the first traveling trophy and awards were presented to PROBE by Roger Morris, a member of the Milford Chapter and Pioneers current Associate Director of Communications for Bulletin Editors, the permanent trophy has returned to the district only once. The late Bob McDermott, and Tom Uicker, editors of Detroit-Oakland's *Gentlemen's Songster* won it all in Louisville in 1991. Here are the rules for the 1993 district contest:

Editors of monthly bulletins shall submit for judging three copies each of three consecutive issues published during 1993. One copy of each shall issue must be an off-the-press copy for the Layout and Reproduction judge. The other two may be photo copies. For weekly bulletins, submit nine consecutive issues: the first three together, the second three together, and the third three together. Bi-weekly publications submit six consecutive issues: the first two together, the second two together, and the third two together.

The top awards of a BETY contest will be announced at the district spring convention, with awards given at that time.

So, get your best issues together and send them to: Roger Morris, 325 East Wardlow Road, Highland, MI 48356 before January 15. The early date is essential since all bulletins must be judged and returned to the district before winners can be forwarded to PROBE in time for judging and selecting the international winners. If you have any questions, you may call Roger at (313) 887-4272.



A message from your "Lame Duck" DACJC; To all you Wonderful Pioneer Barbershoppers

by John W. Bauer, PIO "Past" DACJC

In completing my second term and four years as your DACJC, I already find myself missing some of the continuous paper flow and communication considered to be normal for that position. However, what Ole John will be missing even more, is the close relationship developed with the Pioneer Board of Directors and specifically, all of you wonderful quartet and chorus competitors.

I want to thank both Mike O'Donnell and Roger Lewis for the privilege of serving the district during their terms as president and the district board for their support and cooperation over the last four years.

But most of all, I want to thank you competitors for the eight great quartet and chorus contests during those years. Without competitors, spring and fall, and a guy like me, there wouldn't be much of a convention.

And speaking of "a guy like me", we wish Mike O'Donnell well in this position, and I trust you competitors will give him the same kind of support provided me the last four years. Thanks again - It was a ball!

Holland's "Diekema" donation appreciated

by Art Lane

The Holland Chapter received a letter of appreciation from Society Director Joe Liles for the donation of material about Willis A. "Bill" Diekema to the museum at Kenosha. Diekema, who founded the Holland Chapter in 1945, went on to become a prolific arranger of barbershop music from the forties to the seventies. He composed the theme song "Keep America Singing." When he retired, a two day barbershop bash with famous quartets from all over the country, was held in Holland to honor him.

The Diekema material, including original sheet music and a photo of Bill, was selected by a committee of Dale Becker, Myke Lucas and Bart Tillitt and delivered to Kenosha by Becker, long time chapter historian. Dale Becker, newly named district historian, also made three large notebooks containing almost 200 songs to be put on display in the chapter hall in Holland, along with many pictures of quartets and numerous framed sheets of music written by Bill Diekema.

Willis A. "Bill" Diekema died in 1988.

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, Pioneer District Quartet Contest
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc., Lansing, Michigan, October 16, 1993

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SUB	PREV	TOTAL
					TOTAL	PTS.	SCORE
1 Full Chord Press	I'm Looking Over A 4 Leaf Clover	156	161	159	965	973	1938
	I Love You Truly	166	163	160			
2 Onyx	The Silver In My Mother's Hair	149	147	151	890	919	1809
	Is This Another Song About Love	147	146	150			
3 High Bid	I Want You To Be My Sweetheart	142	141	154	872	819	1691
	Who Told You	140	142	153			
4 Signature	Heart Of My Heart	137	142	129	813	817	1630
	Do You Really, Really Love Me	136	144	125			
5 Crescendo	The Moment I Saw Your Eyes	140	139	134	841	778	1619
	An Irish Lullaby	145	146	137			
6 Beyond Measure	Mary/Little Bit Old Fashioned	141	147	140	846	747	1593
	Last Night Was End Of The World	136	148	134			
7 Momentum	Old Songs Are Like Old Friends	131	133	123	772	777	1549
	Mistakes	129	133	123			

SEMI-FINALS

1 Full Chord Press	Wait 'Til The Sun Shines Nellie	160	162	159	973	0	973
	I'm Afraid The Masquerade Is Over	163	167	162			
2 Onyx	Hitchin' A Ride To My Hometown	158	158	152	919	0	919
	If You Were The Only Girl In World	152	151	148			
3 High Bid	Back In My Hometown	138	137	142	819	0	819
	Lost In The Heart Of My Hometown	137	127	138			
4 Signature	The Same Old Shelleleigh	134	145	136	817	0	817
	A Tear In Every Irishman's Eye	129	139	134			
5 Crescendo	So Long Mother	128	124	131	778	0	778
	Sweet Georgia Brown	134	130	131			
6 Momentum	Is This Just Another Song About Love	136	119	134	777	0	777
	Hello My Baby	135	122	131			
7 Aire Apparent	Mistakes	125	131	131	774	0	774
	The Melody Lingers On	125	133	129			
8 Beyond Measure	Bring Back Those Good Old Days	113	121	128	747	0	747
	Song For Mary	131	124	130			

Full Chord Press Is The Champion

Aire Apparent Is The District Novice Champion

PANEL: ADMINISTRATOR

H. Lathom-SUN

J. Bauer-PIO

MUSIC

M. Knight-LOL

N. Papageorge-FWD

PRESENTATION

D. Challman-LOL

B. O

SINGING

D. Flom-NED

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, Pioneer District International Preliminary Chorus Contest
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc., Lansing, Michigan, October 16, 1993

FINALS	SONGS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SCORE	OnStg
1 Motor City Metro	Song Of The South	163	161	161	990	73
City Lights	Flag That Train	167	168	170		
2 Grand Rapids	Rose Colored Glasses	141	147	146	882	28
Great Lakes Chorus	Sweetheart Of Sigma Chi	145	153	150		
3 Lansing	Joe Barbershop Medley	146	140	146	881	49
Capitol City Chorus	Wait 'Til The Sun Shines Nellie	149	151	149		
4 Holland	Sing Me That Song Once Again	145	143	142	855	41
Windmill Chorus	Barbershop Strut/Old Wooden Shoe	142	143	140		
5 Gratiot County	By The Sea/Good Old Summertime	142	145	137	829	40
Midstatsmen Chorus	Minnie The Mermaid	136	136	133		
6 Kalamazoo	How Ya Gonna Keep Em Down On Farm	133	131	132	817	28
Mall City Chorus	Who's Milking Her Cow Parody	145	144	132		
7 Detroit-Oakland	Where Have My Old Friends Gone	141	133	127	801	34
Gentlemen Songsters	Back In The Old Routine	137	137	126		
8 Grosse Pointe	Summer Sounds	130	134	141	795	54
Lakeshore Chorus	Moonlight Bay/Good Old Summertime	121	130	139		
9 Wayne	Church Bells Are Ringing For Mary	136	142	128	794	37
Renaissance	Who's Sorry Now	124	138	126		
10 Traverse City	I'm Glad God Made Little Girls	125	131	118	742	48
Cherry Capital Chorus	I Wish All My Children Were Babies	121	128	119		
11 Alpena	My Wild Irish Rose	125	95	128	702	26
Huron Shore Chorus	Keep Your Sunnyside Up	125	102	127		
12 Macomb County	Midnight Rose	116	113	115	681	20
Harmony Heritage Chorus	Can You Tame Wild Wimmen?	101	126	110		
13 Muskegon	When The Circus Comes To Town	100	114	115	649	19
Shoreline Chorus	If I Had The Heart Of A Clown	108	100	112		
14 Huron Valley	Boy Of Mine	114	103	100	645	21
Huron Valley Harmonizers	Take Me To The Land Of Jazz	117	110	101		
15 Jackson	Give My Regards To Broadway	124	95	109	641	22
Town & Country Chorus	I'm Alone Because I Love You	116	91	106		
16 Windsor	A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody	106	94	107	632	26
Sun Parlour Chorus	Alexander's Ragtime Band	112	100	113		
17 Monroe North	I'm Glad God Made Little Girls	105	96	118	617	31
Floral City Harmonizers	Let Me Call You Sweetheart	96	89	113		
18 Cadillac	Oh You Beautiful Doll	105	90	102	584	13
Inter-Lakes Chorus	Wild Irish Rose	100	90	97		
19 Boyne City	Mandy And Me	104	81	81	516	15
Snow Belt Chorus	Goodbye My Lady Love	96	78	76		

Motor City Metro is the International Representative to the International Chorus Contest in Pittsburgh, PA.

Grand Rapids is the Alternate

Lansing is the Most Improved Chorus

Seniors contest biggest yet

An estimated 450 conventioners crowded into the Royale Ballroom of the Sheraton, October 16, to cheer on 12 entries in the Districts Sixth Annual Seniors Quartet Contest. Since its inception in 1988, the competition has grown from 2 quartets and an audience of 100, to where it is now one of the largest district Senior Quartet contests in the Society.

Old Bones, an aptly named foursome of tenor, Bill Wickstrom, (DOC), lead, Bob Demchak, (Grosse Pointe), baritone, Jim Stephens, (Huron Valley), and bass, Bob Wisdom, (Motor City Metro), shuffled onstage to win the 1993 district, Seniors Championship.

The Very Idea, (Wayne & Motor City Metro) placed second closely followed by *The Left Overs*

(Grosse Pointe), in third, *High Fibre Octaves* (Lansing), fourth, and *Class Reunion* in fifth place.

The contest was adjudicated under the new system by Bruce Evans, Grand Rapids; Ed Fritzen, Kalamazoo and Roger Lewis, Battle Creek. Larry King of DOC served as administrator while Earl Berry, DOC, and a member of the International Seniors Outreach Committee, was Master of Ceremonies.

The winners, *Old Bones*, subsequently registered with International as *Rare Vintage*, will represent the Pioneer District in the 9th Annual Seniors Quartet Contest, January 29, at the Society's Mid-winter Convention in Sarasota, Florida.

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, Pioneer District Senior Quartet Contest S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc., Lansing, Michigan, October 16, 1993

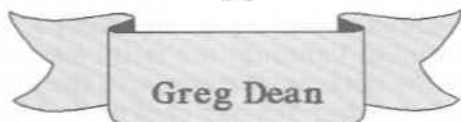
FINALS	MUS	PRE	SNG	SCORE
1. Old Bones	114	137	118	369
2. The Very Idea	106	103	111	320
3. The Left Overs	105	107	82	294
4. High Fibre Octaves	89	108	87	284
5. Class Reunion	84	90	101	275
6. The Nauticals	76	87	77	240
7. The Grand Travelers	76	86	77	239
8. Bad Boys Of Barbershop	81	85	66	232
9-T. A Touch Of Class	63	80	73	216
9-T. Four Bucks A Chord	77	72	67	216
11. After-Glow	71	80	45	196
12. Four-Gone Conclusion	37	55	48	140

Old Bones is the Seniors Quartet Champion.

PANEL:	ADMINISTRATOR	MUSIC	PRESENTATION	SINGING
	L. King-PIO	B. Evans-PIO	R. Lewis-PIO	E. Fritzen-PIO



PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION

A TROUBADOUR SALUTE
TO

His was the first chapter copy received for this edition. *Early copy helps, a lot!* Greg writes for the Kalamazoo Chapter. Thanks too, to all contributors. There could be no *TROUB* without you! The next copy, photo, and advertising deadline is **January 15!**

Kalamazoo Chapter

by Greg Dean, Public Relations Officer

Our ladies auxiliary, led by Sharon Ramlow, Debbie Dolph and Kathy Ditto, planned our "Singing Spaghetti Supper", held November 19. Featuring chapter quartets and the chorus, the event was a fund raiser for our uniform fund. Some say we should purchase tuxedos... I think we sound best in bib-overalls!

We are now concentrating on music for our Christmas sing-outs and learning new music for our show. We will present "*Barbershop Down on the Farm*," Saturday, March 19. If you enjoyed our performance at contest, you won't want to miss the show. See the next *Troubadour* for further details.

We have a number of new chorus members over the past few months and they are all enthusiastic. We expect great things to happen next year.

Our Program VP, Ed Fritzen, implemented a new program to encourage attendance at meetings. Each week a member arrives on time, they are paid \$100...yes \$100. Members are also paid for various chorus performances and chapter activities. Some have recently received \$500 a week! Without a key to the U. S. Treasury, Ed uses Monopoly money. But, near the end of the year, we hold an auction where the play money is redeemable for various donated items.

**Gratiot County Chapter**

by James R. Hall, Chapter President

Our Fall Show on October 2 was a great success, with the *Gas House Gang* and *Full Chord Press* as our featured quartets. Both did a fantastic job, helping to cap one of our best shows ever. Our "Shipwrecked/desert island" theme caused quite a commotion with mermaids, water fights, magical genies and ferocious cannibals surprising the audience and our own chorus as well. Thanks to all who made it work, especially co-show Chairmen Joel Todd and Dave Rayburn, two of the most creative guys around.

In reference to the fall convention, we congratulate *Full Chord Press*, Quartet Champs and the *City Lights Chorus*, our 1994 District Representatives to Pittsburgh, for their fine performances. They will represent us well. I was especially pleased to see several smaller choruses on stage, proving that enthusiasm is more important than sheer numbers on stage.

And it was fun to have a colorful contest too. Farmers, baseball players, beach bums, clowns, gangsters and more graced the Waverly H. S. stage. Tuxedos will always be popular and appropriate, but it's nice to see creativity, as long as it fits the music expressed.

Our chapter was proud to host the convention. The district committee does a great deal of the planning, so the host chapter primarily performs the legwork. We would like to encourage other chapters undertake the task. It will bring you closer together and earn your chapter a few dollars also.

Our chorus joined the Traverse City group in Cadillac in October. The three choruses met with a number of guests to make an exciting evening of music. Chapter visitations are always gratifying.

Our recent gospel night in Alma was also rewarding. It was a fresh change, let us sing new music and brought in lots of people who may not have otherwise attended a barbershop program. And we may have gained new members!

We will soon join the *Heart of Michigan Sweet Adeline Chorus* in a benefit for a community center and Habitat for Humanity. And we are planning plenty of Christmas singing around the area. We have a good crew of 1994 officers, to be installed at our Christmas party. We know they will do a great job.

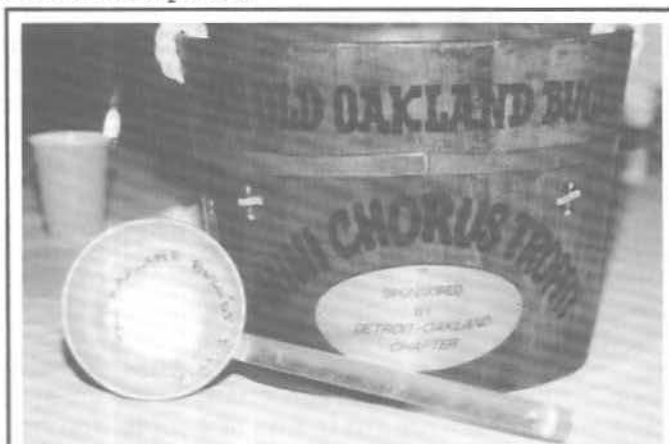
Finally, we appreciate the expertise and enthusiasm of member Chet Miller. A computer graphics whiz, he has created special advertising displays for us, as well as better organizing membership rosters and the like.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

Just two weeks after fall competition, Detroit-Oakland Chapter made a third attempt at a local charity show; the second one to benefit the Communications Disorders Center at Children's Hospital, Detroit. The *Gentlemen Songsters Chorus* was supported by fine performances by *Crosstown Exchange*, *Unlawful Assembly* and *Signature* as well as that wonderful master of ceremonies, Doran McTaggart. With better support from one of the booster groups at Children's Hospital and a mailing to our own list of patrons, we more than doubled the audience of previous years and tripled the funds raised.

We missed the deadline for the last *Troubadour* so PVP Don Stewart mailed a notice to nearby chapters, reminding them the first Friday in November is "Canadian Night", at Detroit-Oakland Chapter. We changed the format slightly, thanks to a suggestion from Lansing's PVP. Instead of the Parade of Quartets, we held a mini-chorus contest, limiting the size of the choruses to 10-16 singers. Eleven choruses participated; two from Detroit-Oakland, two from Lansing and one each from Grosse Pointe, Milford, Huron Valley, Motor City Metro, Wayne and Windsor and by special dispensation, a combined chorus representing Windsor and Catham Chapters.



The "Old Oakland Bucket" mini-chorus trophy, last won by Lansing in 1981, was brought out of retirement at Detroit-Oakland's 1993, "Canadian Night."

The prize, the coveted "Old Oakland Bucket", went to a Lansing Chorus, for the fifth consecutive time. Grosse Pointe was second and Motor City Metro, third. Six quartets also performed and many pick-up groups sang throughout the hall during beer breaks and while waiting for the pizza.

P.S. Don't miss our annual show, February 18-19, 1994. There is an ad in this bulletin.

Monroe North Chapter

by Dale E. Cousino

Applause, Applause! Congratulations from the Monroe *Floral City Harmonizers* to the winning chorus and the quartet champs. The fall 1993 weekend in Lansing was truly memorable, a great time for both performers and the audience.

On December 5th our chorus and quartets will do a joint Christmas Show with the Monroe High School Chorus as a benefit for the school chorus. They are raising money for a singing trip to Washington D.C. This joint show will offer exposure to barbershop to the young men at the high school!

Among our chorus goals is encouraging our members to enjoy singing, improve our sound qualities and stage presence. Constant efforts show weekly improvement. We also stressed continual growth in members. We now wish to extend a cordial welcome to new members: Gregg Dushane, Beb Bondy, Neal Spaulding, and Ed Leonard. This brings us to a total of seven new members this year. With a successful guest night on December 7, we will be very close to our 1993 membership goal.

As we close 1993, we can look back at a good year. We have had many sing-outs and have reached out to our communities through the wonders of barbershop. Surely, it has been a great experience for our members. As we consider all our friends in the chorus, we realize how proud we are to be barbershoppers.

The Monroe North Chapter hopes everyone enjoys the Christmas season with a smile on their face and a song in their heart.

Holland Chapter

by Art Lane

Members of the Holland *Windmill Chorus* had a wonderful time and gained inspiration during a recent visit to Terre Haute, Indiana.

Our chorus and quartets helped Terre Haute's *Banks of the Wabash Chorus* celebrate 50 years of barbershopping in that city. The anniversary show was held in the 1,600-seat Indiana Theater, a 1922 landmark of downtown Terre Haute, and nearly every seat was full.

The weekend was something of a homecoming for Holland's *Windmill Chorus* Director, Myke Lucas, a former director of the Terre Haute chorus. He directed a segment of Terre Haute's songs, led the Holland chorus, and then closed the evening, directing the Society theme song. Myke also sang with his former Terre Haute quartet, *Music Mart*.

The *Windmill Chorus* is preparing for it's (continued on next page)

first Christmas season show, planned as a gift of appreciation to the community.

We have a new kaffeeklatsch each Thursday at 10 a.m. at Harmony Hall. Members who are free, show up for coffee, donuts and to sing a few tags. We hope to field a quartet or two to sing at functions around town.

Charles Wilson of South Haven was elected to lead the chapter in 1994. His first act was to give the chapter a suggestion box.

Editors Note: The following two articles were received barely too late to be published in the last issue. We trust the important activities of Pioneer Chapters are never out of date.

Rochester Chapter

by Chuck Lombardi, VP Public Relations

Al and Bonnie Fisk had a great time touring Europe. Knowing Al, we can hardly wait to find out how many performances he booked for the chorus.

While they traveled the world, the chorus was treated to a fun appearance from Russ Seely, "Song Leader" of the Grosse Pointe Lakeshore Chorus. It was a great evening of inspirational comments and many good laughs. Russ also provided a number of good musical suggestions to improve our performance. Thanks again for your visit Russ. It's no wonder you have "song led" Grosse Pointe for so long.

The chorus had a great time again this year performing at the Rochester Arts & Apples in the park; Singing on the stage for the first part and walking the crowd for the second.

Our "Tip Of The Hat" this month goes to Joe O'Brien. Joe and Teresa will soon be relocating in sunny Florida. As our PVP Joe has done a great job keeping us on time and in order. We will all miss you Joe and wish you and Teresa every happiness in your new home.

Please note our meeting day has changed from Wednesday to Monday; same time and place.

Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Jim Kinner

As I scanned the August/September issue of the *Troubadour* I was particularly interested in the news from the "Top of the Mitt". I was at the Ellsworth Pig Roast on June 19th when Boyne City's *Snow Belt Chorus* entertained there. I was impressed with their calendar; entertaining at all the little towns up North. These people depend on the help so freely given by the Boyne City Chapter to make their fairs and picnics a

success. Bravo!

Our annual Harsens Island Golf Outing and Chapter Picnic was held July 15 at Don and Joann Adams cottage on the island. The golfers finished their game before a storm hit, when we all took refuge in Don's garage. After the hour and a half storm we enjoyed singing, horseshoes, bocce and fishing while several of the girls continued playing Euchre.

Gene Honderick and Sully Mazur tied for men's first place in the golf tournament. Dorothy Rancilio finished first among the ladies. Don Adams and Don Willoughby were horseshoe winners. Barbara Fox and Don Willoughby were first in Bocce while Sharon Shafer caught the biggest fish.

We were all well pleased with Eric Ernst's round of beef and Ed Sauves's sweet corn.

On August 10th we met at Bill and Marie Lane's estate on beautiful (especially with the big moon shining on the water) Lake St. Clair. There was no business but lots of singing, hot dogs and refreshments. Some of the hot dogs were singing.

The Grosse Pointe Navy went to sea August 22nd. We boarded Ed McCarthy's and Dale Petrosky's boats for our annual poker party. At each stop along the shores of Lake St. Clair, each "sailor" was handed a playing card. The sailor with the best poker hand at the last stop won the game. This year... Russ Seely!

DOC sponsored a quartet contest with Grosse Pointe August 14th. Both chapters had a good turn out and the Neighborhood Club was packed. Grosse Pointe, with more quartets competing, won the Chapter Contest. The *Four Fits* quartet, of Grosse Pointe, won the quartet contest.

Some of our more ardent campers spent the Harrisville week at the state park while others stayed at motels. The trek North was for the annual Barbershop/Sweet Adelines Week and the Harrisville Arts and Crafts Show.



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**Everything's
Coming Up
Barbershop!**

1993

Dec. 4 Motor City Metro Show
Dec. 4-5 COTS, Gull Lake Mich.

1994

Feb. 18-19 Detroit-Oakland Show
Mar. 4-5 Wayne Show
Mar. 5 Lansing Show
Mar. 12 Monroe North Show
Mar. 12 Huron Valley Show
Mar. 19 Kalamazoo Show
Mar. 26 Macomb County Show
Mar. 26 Swan Valley Show
Apr. 9 Muskegon Show
May 7 Jackson Show
May 15 Pontiac Show
May 20-22 Harmony Round Up
June 10 Windsor Send-Off
Sep. 30-Oct. 1 Grand Rapids Show

1995

Feb. 17-18 Detroit-Oakland Show
Mar. 3-4 Wayne Show
Mar. 11 Monroe North Show

NOTE: All chapter show activities must be cleared through the District Secretary and ASCAP, BMI and Canadian Chapter CAPAC fees paid. Only those thus cleared will be listed herein. **PLEASE NOTIFY:**

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The Troubadour desk now has a Fax machine. The device shares the editor's home telephone line, so you may send to the same number, (616) 744-3211. You may send copy or messages during the day or during evening hours when rates are lower. But since it does share the telephone line, we must first answer the telephone, then start the fax, so not between 10 PM and 7 AM please. It is also connected to an answering machine, so you may send a fax or leave a voice message when we are away.



Seems like everybody knows and enjoys singing the old Christmas Carols. Your friends would likely, really appreciate an invitation to join your chorus or chapter, caroling this season. They might even enjoy the experience and comraderie so much that - with a little encouragement - they may well become happy, fulfilled, barbershop singers, as members of your chapter.