



# pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 46 - NUMBER 4



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER, 1995

*Think cool, crisp, invigorating autumn in Lansing*

## Lansing will host fall convention, October 20-22

**Activities will emphasize the tried and true... And plan to use the trolley shuttle Friday night**

by Dennis Wertz, Chapter Coordinator

The Lansing Chapter will proudly welcome all barbershoppers to our city for the fall convention and contest in October. We are excited to have the opportunity to make the week-end smooth and fun filled.

If the past contests are an indicator, the fall 1995 contests will be exciting and filled with great harmony. We will select a new Pioneer District quartet champion; a district senior quartet champion and name a chorus to represent us in the 1996 International contest in Salt Lake City. The seniors champs will be eligible to represent the Pioneer District at the SPEBSQSA Mid-Winter convention in Jacksonville, Fla., January 28-February 3, 1996.

There will also be the Joe Barbershopper Chorus, a mass sing, the barbershopper shop and the Sheraton Hotel pool-side Afterglow, Saturday night after the contest finals.

Besides the scheduled events, we will all certainly enjoy the inevitable woodshedding and tag singing in the restaurants, hotels and most everywhere, all over town.

Waverly High School, contest site, will host a football game Friday night; the high school parking lot will be jammed. We always encourage the use of the trolley shuttle between the Sheraton and Waverly High, but on Friday, it will be a necessity. The round trip is \$1 and those rooming elsewhere may park at the Sheraton.

**Convention registration and hotel reservation forms in this issue.**

**District well represented in International contest**

by Jim Styer, Public Relations Director

Pioneer District represented itself well at the International convention in Miami Beach even though the singers didn't score in the upper reaches.

Genuine Blend with a new tenor, Butch Lievense of Holland, placed 38th in a close quartet competition.

Singing their familiar "Little Town in Old County Down" and an Irish medley, the quartet scored 2,169 -- 120 points out of the Top 20. Just 300 points separated most of the quartets in the quarter-finals.

Genuine Blend baritone Kirk Wood of the Battle Creek chapter said the quartet was pleased with its performance and with the opportunity for some of the members to experience the jitters and rigors of international competition for the first time. The quartet hopes to compete again next summer.

Other members are Mark Garlock and Dan Doctor of Holland.

Firepower, from Lansing and Gratiot County, placed 50th among the 56 top quartets in the Society. They scored 2,041 points with "Shine/Roll Them Bones" and "Irish Lullaby." Members are Mark Wilson, Jamie Carey, Jeff Marks and Jim Hawkins.

In the chorus competition, City Lights from the Motor City Metro Chapter, directed by Matt Coombs, placed 20th with the evocative "Just a Kid Named Joe" and "Redhead." The presentation of the first number scored about 16th in ranking.



pioneer  
**TROUBADOUR**



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S P E B S Q S A Inc.

1995 PIONEER DISTRICT OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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**RUSSELL SEELY**  
7626 Barnsbury  
West Bloomfield MI 48324  
R (810) 363-8977 B (313) 896-5650

**EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**  
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(517) R 485-0938

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712 Newgate Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49006  
(616) R 343-4188 B 349-4677

**YOUTH OUTREACH CHAIRMAN**  
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422 Green Street  
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**DISTRICT HISTORIAN**  
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758 S. Meadow Court  
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Ph.(616) 392-7735 - Fax 395-9630

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**HEARTSPRING CHAIRMAN**  
**ALEX WILLOX**  
38174 South Rickham Court  
Westland, MI 48185  
(313) R 728-6865

**EDITOR, PIONEER TROUBADOUR**  
**GORDON W. GUNN**  
2296 Pillon Road  
Twin Lake, MI 49457  
Ph.(616) 744-3211 - Fax 744-0088

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## President's Position

by President Russell Seely

The International convention in Miami proved a couple of things:

1. Hard-core barbershoppers will go anywhere to convene. Miami is hot, humid and high-priced. In spite of some over rated negative publicity, 6500 plus chose to attend.

2. A silver medal guarantees *nothing*. Ask

**Nightlife** and **Northbrook**, both 2nd in 1994.

Congratulations to **Marquis**, (4th in '94) and **Alexandria** (3rd in '94), who each ascended to the gold in '95.

Our rep's; **City Lights** chorus and quartets **Genuine Blend** and **Firepower** each sang well and I'm



sure would relish the opportunity to "go to the big show" again.

A major restructuring of our Society was approved by your International Board, which will/should streamline our organization from the International to the chapter level, including of course, district operations. We'll devote an entire article to this at a later date.

At any convention the highlight for me is always the same; renewing old friendships and singing good old barbershop. After all, isn't that how these friendships were formed in the first place? Weren't you encouraged to join simply because you liked to sing? Or specifically, attempt our type of harmony?

Granted, not all woodshedding is perfect, (what is?). But even the purists agree, woodshedding stimulates our ears, which I believe are the greatest assets we can develop to learn our craft.

My point? Please don't discourage enthusiastic woodshedders just because they're not offering some self appointed guru's arrangement which, in many cases, is too darn tough for the average barbershopper. Don't you think that sometimes we take *everything* a little too seriously?

I do! Maybe it's just because I just attended a very high quality performance convention where competition was king. From choruses to quartets, past champs to world harmony - very serious stuff... and some of it didn't even sound like barbershop.

So, to avoid the inevitable state of becoming an auditorium potato, I rounded up a New Zealand  
Continued - Please see SEELY, page 4.



## International Perspective

by IBM Roger Lewis

What an incredible convention in Miami Beach!! Every year the performances of the quartets and choruses get better. Congratulations to **Marquis**, our new International quartet champion, and **Alexandria**, the new chorus champs. Only 67 points separated Marquis from **Yesteryear**, and the **New Tradition Chorus** from Chicago was only 4 points into second.

**Genuine Blend** and **Firepower** performed **Grrrrr-r-r-reat**, and finished in 38th and 50th positions. Most of you that have seen them perform and know how good they are, will fully realize the level of competition.

The **City Lights** Chorus really reached

out and grabbed the audience with their set. A number of people went out of their way to tell me how much they enjoyed the performance. We were represented well.

Perhaps I should get to the actions of the board:

The restructuring of the Society, recommended by the Management Study Team was adopted with a few amendments. After 1997, we will have an International board of sixteen instead of the current twenty-five. International staff committees, district boards and chapter boards will all have the same alignment and a number of other changes will be presented during the next year.

Tampa will be the site of the 1998 Midwinter Convention. On the midwinter subject, next years meet will be in Jacksonville. Another minor change: Registration will cover the Friday night show, The Seniors Contest, the Saturday Night Show and all Chorditoriums. The International Convention next July will be in Salt Lake City, becoming an even better place for a convention. See the *Harmonizer* for order forms.

After the draw for order of appearance at International, any chorus may request to sing first. If more than one request is received, a second draw will determine the order of appearance of those choruses. Why?, you ask. Sometimes a small chorus or a foreign chorus might draw a position near the end and never see any of the other choruses. This will give them the option of singing early, then seeing the rest of the contest.

Seniors contest action: A seniors quartet may  
Continued - Please see LEWIS, page 4



## The Executive Pitch

by Larry Parker, Executive V.P.

Fall convention, here we come.

All too soon the first half of 1995 has come and gone. It seems the older we get, the faster time flies. Now I'm sure you've heard that statement before. But as fast as time passes, important dates seem to sneak up on us even faster. Case in point, the fall convention is less than three months away and many of you have yet to make plans for attending. You know, those hotel reservations and such. I have a gut feeling this fall's convention will be a memorable one.



There's a lot of talk around the district that Grand Rapids,

Lansing and Motor City Metro are going to have a knock-down, drag-out battle on stage to see which chorus represents the Pioneer District at Salt Lake City in 1996. I am unaware as to what weapons they each possess or what strategic plans they have in their war chests, but I'm sure there won't be too much blood letting.

"Hold your horses," says the Gratiot County, Kalamazoo, Traverse City, Grosse Pointe, Detroit-Oakland and other competing chapters. "We're not going to roll over and play dead. You can count us in this fracas."

In any case, this friendly rivalry is great for our hobby and should stir the attention and interest of each convention goer. How about it? Won't you be one of those in the audience to see the outcome?

## What's up in membership?

by Larry Parker, Director of Membership Development

Escanaba, Gaylord and Adrian are three places in the district seriously looking at ways to expand our hobby.

The Escanaba group has been meeting for the past several years without making any serious plans to license with the Society, let alone chartering as a chapter. I have done some gentle prodding in hopes of getting their leadership to take the first step.

The person in Adrian, looking to form a chapter there is a Society member from the Johnny Appleseed District. He must be a true barbershopper; he lives and works in Michigan but drives to Ohio to fulfill his needs of harmony.

My Gaylord contact has, within the last couple of months, asked for and received information on the nuts and bolts of forming a chapter. In just a short period of time, the events and happenings of his efforts have moved along at a brisk pace.

These gentlemen and I recently discussed action plans on getting their groups to become licensed chapters. With their firm dedication to action and much assistance from the district and neighboring chapters, we could see these movements come to fruition by early fall.

If you know any former barbershoppers living in those areas, please let them know what's going on. If they are interested in renewing old memories and ringing a few chords, have them contact me. I will put them in touch with the contact person in their area. Recruiting members, no matter how the task is accomplished, is the lifeblood of our Society.

SEELY- continued from page 3

a Swedish bari and bass John Gatto from Chicago, and happily, at least for us, woodshedded. Gosh, I hope they leave *Bubbles* alone - every time we sang it we found a new chord.

We were personally tickled that Clay Hine's quartet, Fred, made the top ten and his **Big Chicken** chorus finished seventh. It seems like only yesterday that Clay and my son, Matt, along with Clay's dad, Tom Hine, struggled to ring a few chords as the **Dads & Lads** - Yeh, I know - it must have been me.

Hope you've had a great summer like I have - including a 50th birthday picnic/camp-out with London and Sarnia (Ontario District) at Harmony Woods. Chords-a-Plenty.

LEWIS- continued from page 3

not have more than two gold medalists from either the International or Seniors competition.

Tim Hanrahan, from the Sunshine District, was elected 1996 International President and will represent the Society at our Pioneer convention in October. Make it a point to welcome him and sing a song or tag with him.

John Schneider of Houston is our new member on the Executive Committee and Charlie Metzger (Evergreen) and Jim Bagby (Central States and bari of **Rural Route Four**) were elected Board Members at Large.

Joe Liles will retire next spring and a search committee is seeking a new Executive Director. Three candidates will be presented to the Board in January and a decision will be made.

Guess that covers the highlights.

Just have to say again that Miami was GRRRR-r-r-reat! If you missed it, you really missed something.

Make plans now for Salt Lake City, next July.



## ADD-A-LINE

by Jim Styer, Communication Officer

**Marquis** and the **Alexandria Harmonizers** became our new International champions in a contest in Miami Beach that was one of the most diverse and competitive in the history of the Society.

"Of all the contests I have been to," noted barbershop arranger and Music Judge, David Wright wrote on the Internet, "I can't recall one which more appropriately reflects the diversity, spontaneity, adventuresomeness and grandeur of the barbershop tradition."



Much of this was due to the new judging categories, which allows for more freedom than in recent years.

The singing included elements of other styles, reflecting the fact that barbershop harmony arose from and intertwined several related styles, including black quartetting, ragtime and jazz, Wright noted. It also included a wider variety of selections, from many eras, as barbershopping did in its early years, he added.

Music which previously would have been penalized or disqualified now is being rewarded if performed well. "This represents a clear victory of tradition," Wright said.

**Marquis**, from the Cincinnati Western Hills Chapter, cracked the 8,000 barrier with a score of 8,021 and songs that ranged from "Gypsy Love Song" to "I Found a Million Dollar Baby." The quartet's scores consistently rose with each set it sang.

The victory now makes the **Interstate Rivals** (1987) the first quartet in which all four members have won a second gold medal. **Marquis** members Paul Gilman and Jay Hawkins won with the **Rivals**, as did the **Gas House Gang's** Kipp Buckner (1993) and **Keepsake's** Joe Connely (1992). Others in **Marquis** are Dale Fetick and Randy Chisholm, the first Canadian born quartet champ.

In second place was **Yesteryear**, also from the Johnny Appleseed District, followed by **Nightlife** and **Standing Room Only**, both from the Far Western District. All three quartets had scored higher than **Marquis** in spring district contests.

Referring to the diversity of the contest, Wright noted that **Marquis** and **Nightlife** "effectively performed swing tunes" and **Yesteryear** did non-power ballads, such as "Let the Rest of the World Go By."

Others in the Top 10 were **Backbeat**, **BSQ**, **Great Stage Robbery**, **FRED**, **Bank Street** and

### Excaliber.

**FRED**, whose comedy included a spinning-around baritone and a tag flat on their backs with arms raised, was in sixth place until the finals.

In the close chorus contest, the **Alexandria (Va.) Harmonizers** won the top spot with a set that consisted of a quiet and well-controlled "I'll Be Seeing You" and a swinging "Sweet Georgia Brown."

Only 4 points behind was **Northbrook (Ill.)** with an Irish set that included kilts, bagpipes, an Irish jig and a cart wheeling leprechaun.

**St. Charles (Mo.)** placed third with a jazzy rendition of "South Rampart Street Parade" inspired by the **Confederates**, which Wright said might have been penalized under the former judging system.

**Jim Miller's Southern Gateway Chorus**, back for the first time since their 1992 win, placed fourth, followed by **Great Northern Union (Minn.)** doing an innovative "Forgive Me" parody set in a courtroom, with a briefcase-toting defense team, a geeky prosecution lawyer and a sidebar conference.

Only 64 points separated the 6th through 12th choruses.

The perennially winning **Louisville Thoroughbreds** was sixth, just five points ahead of the **Big Chicken Chorus** from Marietta, Ga., with a revised reprise of "How Do I Get Out of This Chicken Outfit" and a "Chicken-Hearted" parody that had chicken feathers flying all over the stage. At one point, the **Chickens** parodied the outgoing champion **Vocal Majority** and VM Director **Jim Clancy** rose from the audience front row to mime his response.

With just 26 men on stage, the new **Louisville Times Chorus** placed 8th with a young sound that reminded many of the **Lettermen** or the **Beach Boys**. One barbershopper likened it to "Boyz II Men meet The Osmonds."

Replacing a scratched chorus, the **Big Apple Chorus** got late notification and in 38 days, with twice-a-week rehearsals and weekend clinics, put together a "Happy Feet Medley" and "Dixieland One-Step" dance routine with 91 men that earned them 10th place.

They were followed in 11th by the **Houston Tidelanders** with Betty Tracy, the first non-member director on the international competition stage.

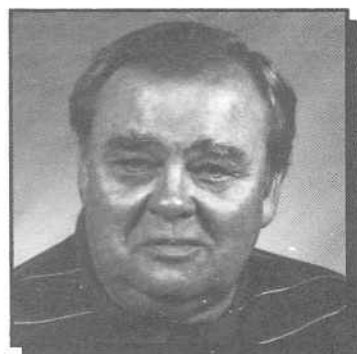
But the talk of the convention long will be the 18th-place **Narragansett Bay Chorus** from Providence, R.I., which parodied just about everything in barbershop, including the **Acoustix**, **Gas House Gang**, **Brian Beck**, the **Phoenicians** leaping over chairs and **FRED's** falling-down routine that had occurred less than 48 hours earlier.

The set began with pitch-taking led by a woman director in a long, slinky dress. In the Continued - See STYER, Page 6

## take note by Fred Kienitz, Director of Music Education

Gentlemen, we've had two fairly successful Harmony Roundup schools and I'm relatively proud of the back-to-back faculties we were able to put together.

I already have four out of district staff people reserved for the '96 school and there are some



new ideas for the school format and scheduling that will help reduce the number of classes being canceled each year. Some of the changes came about due to the evaluations turned in at the end of the session. One of your biggest concerns, and my biggest boo-boo, was not sending confirmations to registrants and not furnishing directions to the school site.

Beginning next Round-Up, when I receive a registration, I will send a confirmation along with pertinent information, including a map of the area and directions to the site. The form is already complete and ready for printing.

I'm spending some time teaching in other district round-ups and have found some very interesting circumstances compared to Pioneer's school. You are receiving the biggest bang for your buck over every district I've heard from thus far. Your faculty is equal to or superior to any I've seen and I get flyers on every district school around.

How you ask, do you know this to be a fact? The answer is quite simple. As a former educator, I feel a school is established for the purpose of teaching. Thus you surround yourself with the finest teaching faculty available and go for it.

I am not shooting to get International champs every year, unless like the Ritz, they are teachers first and champions second. Why? Because they understand what is involved in becoming the best. But more important, they can relate to you what must be done to attain that level of proficiency.

My apologies gentlemen, for the glitches in the last school week-end. However, if you will bear with me, we can build one of the best district schools in our Society. But, remember, keep on letting me know your feelings through the evaluations provided at the schools.

My philosophy is: The best way to make mistakes is to do something.

## District chapter bulletin editors honored

Battle Creek's *The Riser*, edited by Jim Styer, placed 13th in the International bulletin contest, scoring in the top 10 in grammar and style. First time entrant, *Windsor Chordster*, edited by Dan Bezaire, was 25th, scoring about 10th in grammar and style. Other categories are content and layout.

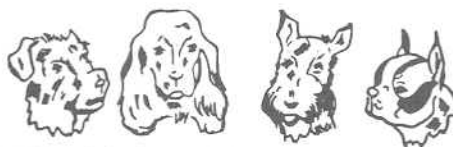
Styer, of Battle Creek, received a public relations award from the Society for his work last year on the SingAmerica program.

STYER, continued from page 5

second song, she reappeared in a kick line, but not as a singer or director. That caused a 105 point penalty in presentation, Judge Larry Ajer said on the Internet. Without that loss, the chorus would have placed 15th.

Even so, Narraganset's presentation score on the first song ranked in sixth place, and could have on the second song, without the penalty.

The college quartet contest was swept by Bowling Green (Ohio) State University. All three of its quartets were in the top four. *Stop the Presses* won, *Only Four Wise Guys* placed second and *Those Medlin Kids* - which sang at the Pioneer District spring convention - was fourth. There were no entrants from Pioneer.



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## Convention to host eighth annual Seniors Quartet Contest

by Bill Wickstrom, Contest Chairman

The annual Seniors Quartet Contest, an increasingly popular Pioneer District fall convention happening, will be held Saturday, October 21 at 4:00 pm in the Royale Ballroom of the Lansing Sheraton Hotel. If the experience of the last two contests is any barometer, the competition should attract more than ten quartets and another packed house.

Singers must be dues-paid members of the district, but the quartet need not be registered with the Society. Each participant must be 55 years of age by contest date and the totaled age of the quartet members must be 240 years minimally. No more than two members of a competition quartet may have been members of the same district seniors championship quartet.

Each foursome will sing two songs and will be scored according to official Society quartet

contest rules. Uniforms will be optional and will not be judged. Official scoring summaries will be published but there will be no A&R session. Members of the winning quartet will be presented with trophies as a memento of their accomplishment and will be invited to sing at the auditorium following the Saturday night district quartet finals.

The aforementioned rules notwithstanding, the purpose of this competition is to provide an onstage quartet opportunity for the older segment of our membership who wish to sing for the convention audience in a somewhat more informal and less rigorous than in the regular district quartet contest. The emphasis is on participation and encouragement as opposed to strictly competition. An official entry form for the contest is below. Although late entries will be accepted until 3:00 pm the date of the contest, all eligible quartets are urged to register early.

### OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM EIGHTH ANNUAL PIONEER DISTRICT SENIOR QUARTET CONTEST

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1995, 4:00 PM - ROYALE BALLROOM, SHERATON LANSING HOTEL

We attest the following men are paid-up members of the Pioneer District and the International SPEBSQSA Inc., and are eligible to compete in this contest. Quartet registration with the International Society is not required.

NAME OF QUARTET: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER AND STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY & STATE/PROVINCE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOME TELEPHONE ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME	CHAPTER	BIRTH DATE	AGE ON 10/21/95
------	---------	------------	-----------------

TENOR \_\_\_\_\_

LEAD \_\_\_\_\_

BARITONE \_\_\_\_\_

BASS \_\_\_\_\_

COMBINED AGE OF QUARTET MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

Submit this form not later than October 15, to Chairman Bill Wickstrom, 2533 Donna Avenue, Warren, MI 48091. **NOTE:** Late entries will be accepted until 3:00 p.m., October 21.

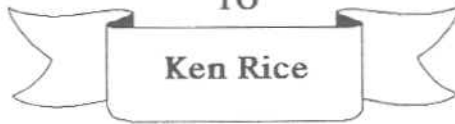




## PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



### A TROUBADOUR SALUTE TO



**Ken Rice**

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

#### **Flint Chapter**

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chairman

Singing first at conventions can have its advantages. Our new members (This was the first contest appearance for almost a third of our chorus) purged the nervousness from their systems early on that delightful Saturday in April and after we sang we got to attend all of the other outstanding performances... another great learning experience for the new guys. Then when we discovered that Al "Twinkle Toes" Slayton pirouetting like a peacock to the strains of the choruses of *Meet Me in St. Louis, Louis*, had tap danced us into first place in our plateau (or next to last place, depending on your perspective) we were collectively thrilled. Wow! What's the prize for that? Must be an ice cream cone from Quality Dairy. We'll collect the next time were in Lansing... in October.

Boy, did we have fun with our annual show in May. Written and directed by our own Dave Lonsbury, *A Showboat Adventure* told the story of a young man's trip the length of the Mississippi River to find adventure and his old friend, Louie. Half the fun was creating costumes for the dockside stage setting. There were gamblers, keystone cops, cowboys, dock workers, a fur trader, a riverboat captain, a rebel army general, Mark Twain himself, and the sleaziest chorus girl you'll ever want to see.

Song titles covered the gamut of *Old Muddy*, lore from *Here Comes the Showboat* to *New Orleans, My Home Town*. Guest performers included ragtime pianist Bob Milne, professional actor played the young hero, Jake, two Pioneer District favorite quartets, **Harmony Hounds** and **Genuine Blend**, and the very talented **Down in Front** from the Thumb Area Sweet Adeline Chorus.

For the first time in many years we offered a matinee performance along with the usual evening show an a well attended after-glow. We think we sent all three audiences home singing and satisfied.

For those who *still* haven't had a chance to see our *Showboat Adventure*, we have been invited to recreate a part of it on the Pontiac Show October 14.

One of our favorite traditional get-togethers occurs at the infamous Dead Creek Saloon in Frankenmuth. We met there on June 21. Brats, sauerkraut and various liquid libations were the second best part of the evening, overshadowed by the enthusiastic singing and exuberant fellowship of five Pioneer District chapters assembled in one locale.

John Voss welcomed the guests for the host Flint Chapter. Regular participants were from Pontiac, Saginaw/Bay City, and Swan Valley Chapters and for the first time, a contingent of Lansing **Capital City Chordsmen**.

Quartets, octets, and whole choruses entered in what impromptu emcee Ron Gillies called the formal part of the program.

Thanks to all who attended, including of course, the lovely ladies who came along just to see how much their menfolk enjoy this crazy hobby. "It's great to be a barbershopper."

#### **Alpena Area Chapter**

by Bob Spencer, PR Officer

Greetings from the Huron Shore Chapter. "North of '55' and still alive."

Midsummer is a busy time in our area. This is the time of the year most of our chorus members are here and visitors pop in for an evening.

Our open house in May produced two new members. We also joined with Boyne City for an evening of singing at their place. I couldn't make it but was told they had a great time. We had a camp-out and fishing derby in July, at Tomahawk Flooding, North of Atlanta. There's nothing like sitting around a campfire drinking red pop and singing the good old songs. On July 29 we sang at the Ossinke Old Fashioned Days, always a fun event.

We performed on August 5 at the Nautical Festival in Rogers City. On August 17 Fred Kienitz and Jim Stevens will again grace us with their special skills. We always enjoy their visits and we do much better after their help. On August 19 we will perform at the Montmorency County Fair and follow up with our annual picnic.

Keep your calendar open for the "Harmony Weekend" in Harrisville over the Labor Day weekend. It is an informal week capped with the mass chorus at the Harrisville harbor on Sunday afternoon. We enjoy cruising the park, listening to the music. Join us at Muelbecks North of town on Thursday, August 31 for our  
--continued next page--



--*Alpena Chapter continued*--  
chapter meeting about 8 pm.

A quartet on local TV September 17 will plug our annual show "Radio Days", headlining the **Firepower** quartet. The event will be September 23 at the Alpena High School.

Haven't heard too much about the "North Country Annual Heartspring Show." That will be September 30 at the Opera House in Cheboygen. That's always a great show and the proceeds go to such a worthwhile purpose.

### Holland Chapter

by Art Lane, BE and PR Officer

Details of the Diekema Bowl, which will kick off the 50th anniversary celebration of the Holland Chapter on October 27, have been announced by the rules committee.

Quartets and choruses from throughout the Pioneer District are invited to join this contest of old-fashioned songs. Here are the highlights of the evening:

The Diekema Bowl will begin at 7 pm, Friday, Oct. 27 at the Holland Fish and Game Club, 10840 Chicago Drive, between Holland and Zeeland at the corner of Business I-96 and (M-21) Paw Paw Drive. Tickets are \$5, which includes registration for the singing contest. Free Dutch pea soup and apple pie will be available.

Contestants will be judged under the old contest categories in use during the peak of Willis A. (Bill) Diekema's prolific arrangement activities during in the 1940's and 1950's. They are: harmony accuracy, balance and blend, voice expression, stage presence and arrangement.

Competing quartets and choruses must sing one song which is a Diekema arrangement. They'll be judged on that song. They must provide the judges with a copy of the song. Contestants should prepare a second song, not necessarily a Diekema arrangement, which may be sung, depending on the number of entries.

Categories of contestants will include choruses with a minimum of 12 SPEBSQSA men or Sweet Adeline women, SPEBSQSA and Sweet Adeline quartets and male senior quartets. Prizes will be awarded in each category and the chapter that accumulates the largest point score with it's chorus and quartets will also receive a prize. Prizes will be handsome wooden bowls.

A list of available Diekema arrangements, copies of the music and the complete rules are available from Dale Bekker, 616-392-7735.

Hats off to **Genuine Blend**, the West District representative in the quartet contest at the International convention in Miami Beach. The quartet, which includes Butch Lievens, Mark Garlock, Kirk Wood and Dan Doctor, sang well in the big show. They will be back! Journeying to Florida for the convention from the Holland Chapter were Jim Wojahn, Dick Plaisted and Art

and Kit Lane.

### Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

As I sit at my computer working against the deadline for the *Troubadour* and basking in the relief the air conditioner provides from the 100 degrees outside, I am grateful that last night's storm didn't leave me without power as it did my neighbors. Summer is here and the weather is as variable as attendance at the barbershop meeting on Monday night. Yet, while we can't do much about the weather, we are always working against absenteeism at the meetings.

One means of fighting absences is with activity. With a show coming up in February we have a passel of new songs to tackle. As of now we are about half way through the list. Jim Kunz has his hands full trying to get us to learn the polecat songs the way they were written. Dick Moy has started a class in music fundamentals for those interested in unravelling the reason behind all those black dots on our sheet music. In addition to the tags and gang singing that always happens when barbershoppers get together, PVP Bill Wickstrom has promised (threatened?) us with a weekly groaner.

While we don't have as many performances as we might wish this summer, we have tried to join in on all the interchapter activities in the area. We are grateful to Grosse Pointe for allowing us to join them singing at the Send-Off Show in Windsor. And we thank all the chapters, particularly Motor City Metro for their fine support at the "Return of the Jugs."

We witnessed the traditional return of the jugs to Detroit-Oakland on June 2. With two jugs traveling instead of the former one, we more than doubled the amount of money raised for our quartet representatives to International. Unfortunately, **Genuine Blend** did not join in the activities, but **Firepower** gave a rousing performance. A number of other quartets augmented the program emceed by Bill Wickstrom, the most notable being **Power Play**. A great time was had by all and **Firepower** and **Power Play** were still singing tags and switching parts and partners long after the crowd had dispersed. The jugs, now in hiding, will be traveling again shortly. One day soon, your chapter may be surprised by a visit from another chapter carrying a little brown jug.

We have changed the date for Canadian Night to September 29, at St. Adains Hall on Farmington Rd. in Livonia. We will hold the mini-chorus contest for the Old Oakland Bucket. I'm pretty sure a mini-chorus is 16 men from one chapter plus an optional director. Contact PVP Bill Wickstrom for other rules.

As I sign off, let me wish all the best to Grosse Pointe on their upcoming 50th anniversary show.

**1995 PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION REGISTRATION  
OCTOBER 20-22, 1995 - LANSING, MICHIGAN**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

REGISTRANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE/GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE(\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPETING QUARTET? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ QUARTET NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 COMPETING CHORUS? YES \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ CHORUS NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 VOICE PART: TENOR \_\_\_ LEAD \_\_\_ BARITONE \_\_\_ BASS \_\_\_

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$15.00 PER PERSON - LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON  
 EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 7, 1995

FEE ENCLOSED FOR \_\_\_ PERSONS @ \$15.00 / 20.00 TOTAL\$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO PIONEER DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. INC.

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:  
 R. STANLEY WILLIAMS, 421 FRANKLIN STREET, LESLIE, MI 49251

**NOTE:** ALL-EVENTS PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK; SHERATON LANSING HOTEL (HDQRS).  
 SINGLE EVENT TICKETS \$10.00, AVAILABLE AT REGISTRATION OR WAVERLY BOX OFFICE. CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER FREE.

EACH MEMBER OF A COMPETING QUARTET OR CHORUS MUST BE REGISTERED FOR AN ALL-EVENTS PASS. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD DISQUALIFY THE QUARTET OR CHORUS FROM THE CONTEST.

**REFUND POLICY:** REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS CANCELING IN WRITING PRIOR TO THE 12:00 NOON OPENING ON FRIDAY.

DISTRICT CONVENTION FACILITIES ARE HANDICAPPER ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE INDICATE ANY SPECIAL REQUIRMENTS NEEDED TO FULLY PARTICIPATE. \_\_\_\_\_

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NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a rules and information sheet \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a Diekema arrangement \_\_\_\_\_

Arrangement Name \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: Paul Bekker, 602 Maplecreek Dr., Holland, MI 49423

**DATE: OCTOBER 27, 1995 PLACE: HOLLAND FISH & GAME CLUB KICKOFF: 7:00 PM**



To Our Pioneer Friends,

The Firepower quartet wishes to express our sincere thanks to all the members of the district who gave so generously of your time, talent and financial resources to support us in our effort to compete in Miami Beach. The outpouring of assistance was overwhelming and

we thank you.

Obviously, we would have liked to have placed higher in the standings, simply to make your efforts more worth while. However, given the relatively short time we've been together and the incredible quality of the competition, we are not unhappy. We feel we sang well.

Thanks again, and we'll see you in Lansing in October.

Sincerely,

Jeff Marks for Firepower

Dear Fellow Barbershop Singers,

Greetings from Australian Barbershop Singers! On behalf of our members, I would like to invite you to our biennial convention to be held in our national capital, Canberra, from 12 to 15, October. The theme will be "A Nation in Harmony."

We can promise the usual great hospitality and fellowship customary to the barbershop scene. We already know of visitors coming from several countries and competitors from New Zealand.

We would be delighted to welcome any of your members who might like to build a different barbershop experience into their itinerary.

Yours in Harmony,

David Russell, President  
AAMBS

The **High Bid** quartet has a new address.  
Contact: Bob Reidel, 3810 Long Lake Road,  
Reading, Michigan 49274  
Phone (517) 283-2282



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**HOTEL RESERVATION  
PIONEER DISTRICT CONVENTION  
OCTOBER 20-22, 1995**

- \* ALL SPACES MUST BE FILLED OUT COMPLETELY - TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.
- \* ALL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WILL BE SENT TO THE INDIVIDUAL WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS APPEARS BELOW.
- \* NO RESERVATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED BY TELEPHONE OR FACSIMILE.
- \* HOTELS REQUIRE A CREDIT CARD GUARANTEE.
- \* ANY CHANGES IN RESERVATIONS MUST BE MADE DIRECTLY TO THE HOTEL AFTER CONFIRMATION IS RECEIVED. **DO NOT SEND ROOM DEPOSITS TO THE HOUSING BUREAU.**
- \* RESERVATION REQUESTS MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN SEPT. 20, 1995. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ROOM REQUESTS AFTER THIS DATE.

**PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:**

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

Hotel should confirm reservation to:

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City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Days) A/C( ) \_\_\_\_\_

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

**TYPE OF ROOM:**

1 bed \_\_\_\_\_  
(1-2 persons)  
2 beds \_\_\_\_\_  
(2-4 persons)

Sheraton Lansing Hotel (\$69 flat) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Headquarters Hotel)

**NAMES OF ADDITIONAL  
PEOPLE OCCUPYING ROOM**

Best Western Midway Hotel (\$56 Flat) \_\_\_\_\_

Holiday Inn Lansing Conference  
Center (\$64- 1 bed/\$68-2 beds) \_\_\_\_\_

Quality Suites  
(\$65 Flat With Breakfast) \_\_\_\_\_

Hampton Inn (\$49 Flat) \_\_\_\_\_

**GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:**

\_\_\_\_ Check for Non-Smoking Room

Credit Card AE \_\_\_ MC \_\_\_ VI \_\_\_

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

Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Advise special requests to accommodate  
handicap. \_\_\_\_\_



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1995

- Sep 16 Grosse Pointe Show
- Sep 23 Alpena Show
- Sep 30 Swan Valley Show
- Oct 7 Gratiot County Show
- Oct 14 Pontiac Show
- Oct 14 Benton Harbor/St. Joe Show
- Oct 20-21 Dist. Conv. Lansing
- Oct 28 Rochester Show
- Nov 3-4 Grand Rapids Show
- Dec 9 Motor City Metro Show

1996

- Detroit-Oakland Show
- Mar 1-2 Wayne Show
- Mar 9 Monroe North Show
- Mar 16 Kalamazoo Show
- Apr 26-28 Dist. Conv. Lansing
- May 16-18 Harmony Round Up
- Jun 13 Windsor Send Off
- Oct 18-20 Dist. Conv. Lansing
- Nov 1-2 Grand Rapids Show

NOTE: All chapter show activities must be cleared through the District Secretary.

PLEASE NOTIFY:

Jack Schneider, District Secretary  
1311 Northlawn, N.E.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505  
(616) R 361-6820 B 771-5225



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