



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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



Volume 45 - Number 6

December, 1994/January, 1995

Champion "Genuine Blend" plans future

"We're tickled to death and we'll represent the District as best we can, for as long as we can," Kirk Wood said, speaking for the new district quartet champion **Genuine Blend**. "And we've set a goal; we want to go to International competition," Dan Doctor added.

Wood and Doctor, with Andrew Clements and Mark Garlock displayed talent and enthusiasm, outscoring all others in district competition, October 14 and 15. Although the quartet organized only a scant year ago, in December, 1993, individual members have prior, solid quartet experience.

Fifteen year member, baritone Wood said **Genuine Blend** is his 13th quartet. Most notably, he competed at International with **Classic Ring** in 1991, '92 and '93. Wood is now the music director of **Battle Creek's Cereal City Chorus**.

Tenor Andrews and lead Garlock sang with the **Escapades** in International competition at Louisville in 1991. Andrews also sang with the 1992 version of **Full Chord Press** and earlier, in the **Heritage** quartet, in the Flint Chapter. Garlock also sang at International with the **Great Lakes Chorus** in 1988 at San Antonio.

Doctor has carried the bass for several quartets over many years. He spoke of the former **Dutch Masters** and the **Rapid City Revue**. In addition to the quartet, he now sings, with Garlock, in Holland's **Windmill Chorus**.

The four expressed gratitude to Nancy and Clay Schumard for their coaching help. "Without them, we wouldn't have performed the circus

City Lights will represent District at International '95

The **City Lights Chorus** memorable and emotional performance of the Civil War set in the fall competition brought tears to the eyes of many as they qualified for International. Now directed by Matt Coombs, the chorus was again this year, top scorer in the District Preliminary Chorus Contest and will compete in Miami in July, 1995.

Grand Rapids' **Great Lakes Chorus** was named alternate to the International Contest, while the **Cherry Capital Chorus** from Traverse City earned the Most Improved Chorus award.

The Lansing, Kalamazoo, Grosse Pointe, Windsor and Muskegon choruses each improved their performances and point standings in comparison to last April.

medley nearly as well," Garlock said.

Clements thanks his Dad, Ron Clements, for getting him started in barbershopping in the Flint Chapter, back in 1983.

Garlock credits his parents with his ability in and love for vocal music. "My Mom and Dad used to sing in Gospel Jubilee's, in Tennessee," he related.

Jim Casey also coached the four in late October, following the contest. "He really helped us - we'll sound different the next time on stage," Doctor stated.



The Genuine Blend Quartet
(l to r) Andrew Clements, Dan Doctor,
Kirk Wood, Mark Garlock

Film Arts



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Presidents Position

by President Russell Seely

It's hard to believe my first year as Pioneer President flew by so quickly. But, like the old line goes, it *does* when you're having fun. And I have! Having visited a couple neighboring districts - both of whom are larger in number, I am quite pleased at the number of people that



Russell Seely

attend our conventions. In fact, our attendance is almost the same as our larger neighbors - giving us a higher percentage of participation. Keep on comin' and share this marvelous hobby.

My dream is that someday we will all really *convene*, not just compete. There is a difference, as all are

becoming aware.

Wasn't it great to see our pals from Alpena at the convention - and with a good group too - singing their hearts out. In fact our new Senior Champs, the Left Overs are from Alpena. Congrats: Art, Gene, Dick and Bob. They are all former "city guys" who have gone to the peaceful Northern setting to do their "shopping" in Alpena.

Maybe, someday, if we can't bring *all* of our Northern Brothers down for a convention, we'll just take the convention up North. Might be fun for a change, eh?

Grosse Pointe, convention hosts, added a new twist: An arts and crafts emporium which seemed to be well received. The district also added some new items to the barbershoppers shop. That, plus an idea by our DOC brothers to offer independent recordings by some of the Society's finest quartets and choruses added up to a new retail record for a convention. Thanks a lot folks.

An oversight in the reporting of the Pittsburgh convention was the honoring of our own **Harmony Halls**, Michigan's first International Champs, crowned in 1944 - 50 years ago. It was a beautiful tribute which made us Pioneers real proud. I trust their families were notified.

The latest info on our College Quartet Contest next spring, is that a \$200 cash prize will be given on-the-spot to the winner, where the thirty-three regional contests are held. It's a good idea, since a good many of the young fellows can't attend our International, which was required to have a chance to win some cash. (Continued - see Seely, page 4)



International Perspective

by IBM Roger Lewis

Recently, I received a letter from my old friend, Daryl Flynn, a past International President and Chairman of the Future 2001 Committee. The committee had presented a document entitled "Vision 2001" to the International board in Pittsburgh and Daryl's letter asked for my feedback; what was doable, good, bad, dull or exciting. It's worth sharing; let me hit the highlights...

The premise is, "this is the way things will be on Monday, January 1, 2001. Imagine yourself there for a moment.

First, I am a member of an organization with an old fashioned name, the "Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America." We have helped to organize a group called "Barbershop Harmony International" and it in turn, along with groups like "Gospel Singers Inc.," the "Foundation for Vocal Jazz," and other vocal musical organizations have formed the "World Foundation for Vocal Harmony." Through these we are able to support and encourage all styles of vocal harmony.

Our audiences display great growth and enthusiasm. We often sing for ourselves and our families, but also for strangers and onlookers. We sing in almost every setting; at community festivals, churches, conventions, picnics, concerts and meetings of musical groups. TV commercials, community television and network shows are also part of our public relations. Our leadership encourages sing-a-long sessions in the community and schools and is introducing millions of people to the joys of vocal music and singable songs.

Our new service project, unified under "Barbershop Harmony International" provides financial, teaching and coaching help for singing throughout the world. We award major scholarships/grants and sponsor world class singing festivals.

Technology has moved our education forward in ways thought impossible in the mid-90's. By turning on any computer you may find: Training to become a better singer with voice auditions incorporated and specific help for specific problems; arranging assistance; home study (Continued - see Lewis, page 4)



Roger Lewis

The Executive Pitch

by Larry Parker, Executive V.P.

Fall convention report card

Give an "A" to Director of Conventions Mike Cirrito; District President Russ Seely; the host chapter, Grosse Pointe and every other person who had a hand in making the 1994 fall convention a real success.



Larry Parker

Although great planning is a necessity, success is only achieved when you, Joe Barbershopper, and your family and friends participate in the convention. To you we give an "A+" and a big thank you.

The Amazing Killdon, (Don Kill of the Lansing Chapter) held a group of ladies spellbound as he displayed his mystifying feats of magic. The highlight of the show occurred when Killdon, assisted by Jan O'Donnell made colored scarves disappear and then re-appear as a bowl of sugar. He performed on the Ladies Magic and Fashion Show on Saturday morning at the convention.

Lansing will again be the site for both 1995 Pioneer District Conventions. The spring dates are April 28-30 and in the fall on October 20-22.

Make plans now to attend. We promise two great weekends of fabulous singing and great fun.

Seely - continued from page three.

But the big prize at International will remain \$4000. Another change, the age limit has been extended to 25 years.

As we head to the holiday season, I'd like to thank all the wonderful volunteers in our district, from the district board to the guys who sweep up our meeting places. Our Society could not exist without you and we appreciate you.

Merry Christmas to all of you and your families. May 1995 be a healthy chord-ringing year. Make it your year to bring a singing guest to your chapter. We'll all benefit.

As our new International President Dick Shaw says: "Barbershop music is something to cheer about."



Lewis - continued from page three.

courses for directors and for specific voice parts; all music that can be researched and downloaded; sight reading and woodshedding songs; show production and planning; plus all phases of financial and administrative help.

This year, for the first time, a barbershop performance was nominated for the Grammy Award!!

When people in the world think of harmony, they think of us. When people want help with A Cappella singing, they think of us. When people decide to learn how to sing or harmonize, they think of us.

Well, those are the high points!!

Can it happen? Yes! In Battle Creek, during the week of September 19-24, many of these dreams began to take form as Gary Stamm and Jim DeBusman, experts in residence, sponsored by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, spent a week working with vocal groups from the entire community, including elementary, secondary and college level students; service clubs; community choruses and singing groups; gospel groups and church choirs and the general public -- people who just wanted to sing better. It was a glimpse of where we can be in the future.

One more thing. After a year of planning for the expert in residence week and after a year on the International board, I'm convinced we can and will be the major player in world harmony. We have the best organization, the best communication and 33000+ quality men who love to sing and love to share singing with others.

What do you think? The Future 2001 Committee welcomes and urges feedback. Drop a note to me, or Daryl's address is 1030 N. Main St., Suite B, North Canton, OH, 44720 - if you would like to write directly to him.

Address Correction

Please note: Fred Kienitz has moved. Please see his new address as well as new 1995 district officers in the new masthead - page two!



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take note

by Fred Kienitz,
Director of Music Education

Am I a giver or a taker?

This is a question we all need to ask ourselves as barbershoppers. It's most important because the answer might very well determine the outcome of our existence in this wonderful fraternity. It might mean the difference between a happy, fulfilled barbershopper and one whose only goal is to be a winner, the best of the best.



Fred Kienitz

I have a very dear and long time friend and brother barbershopper who shall remain nameless. I will, however, give you a little of his background so it may help you to formulate your own answer to the question above,

He has always been a fierce competitor, both in business and barbershopping. As a young man he had a thriving business and coached high school football. He won several conference titles and possessed that "Vince Lombardi" motivation that made his players believe they could literally, run through brick walls. A short time later, he joined our Society.

His biggest attraction to barbershopping was its competitiveness. And, he brought with him the great ability to motivate plus a lesser amount of musical know-how. With these assets he has managed to accumulate eight gold medals as director of as many International chorus champions. He is one of the most respected and loved members of our society.

I submit, you will be hard pressed to find a greater success story in the 50+ year history of barbershopping.

Some time ago I spent a weekend with about 120 barbershoppers and during a lull in the activities I was able to sit down and spend a couple of hours talking with our hero about our respective businesses, families and future plans. It was during this gab session that he made a comment I could hardly believe.

In paraphrasing, he revealed he had just won his fourth gold medal, which at the time made him the best of the best. He stood alone at the top of his mountain almost daring any other challenger to try and dethrone him. He was confident he had the fire, drive, determination and tenacity to go to the battle on the competition stage with anyone and yet, he still had the feeling of emptiness and unfulfillment.

"As I looked around," he said, there were literally hundreds of guys out there whom I

envied. They were sharing everything they had with all the have-nots. And, yet, their supply seemed unending. The more they gave away, the more they had left to give. At this point I realized I was not a giver. I was a taker and had nothing to give because I didn't want anyone to have part of what I had."

This was the turning point in my friends barbershopping life. He is now one of the biggest givers around. Oh yes, he has gone on to win four more gold medals and he will still steam roller you on a contest stage, but now he will help you up, brush you off and tell you how to become a better barbershopper.

How about you, dear friend? Are you a giver or a taker? Are you a member only for what it can give you or do you tolerate the slower learner so that he too can share in this wonderful experience of four part harmony.

I'm reminded of a poem, author unknown.

*A bell's not a bell, 'till you ring it.
A song's not a song, 'till you sing it.
And the love in your heart wasn't put there to stay,
'Cause love isn't love, 'till you give it away.*

SUNSHINE DISTRICT SUNBURST SEPT/OCT 1994

If No Birds Sang Except The Best

My talents may not be so rare,
And better ones found anywhere
But bird songs wouldn't have much zest
If no birds sang except the best.

No sense of meter for a test
Deciding which of them is best
No thought about their breath control
Can mar their efforts, as a whole.

It's natural for the birds to sing
Their voices on the air they fling,
So why should I not with the rest
Use talents, though not of the best.

When from the heart it comes sincere
It's bound to have a note of cheer,
And blends with others God has blest
Without much thought of which is best.

So we might learn from birds on wing
That all who wish may chirp and sing;
For there would be no real songfest
"If no birds sang except the best."

—Anon.

ADD-A-LINE

by Jim Styer, Communications Officer

PR and BE entries due

Two district contests are open to provide recognition for the achievement of chapter PR Officers and Bulletin editors.

District winners will be announced at the spring convention and will be eligible for International competition, which requires membership in PROBE.



Jim Styer

Public Relations

If you are a PR Officer, write a summary of what you did, the results and why you're proud of it. No minimum or maximum length; whatever it takes to help decide your worthy of recognition. Enclose any backup material, like information used in planning the activity,

outlines, reports, internal communications, letters, news releases, clips, tapes, posters, programs, brochures, handouts and adds.

Judges will consider the cover letter, supporting material, one-time PR projects, a year around PR program and involvement in marketing and community projects.

The cover letter should also include information on chapter size and resources and on area media to the extent this affected your work and results.

Also include your name, address, telephone number, chapter and title and a brief summary of your barbershop and PR experience.

Other chapter members may nominate the chapter PR Officer. Be sure to include supporting material with the nominating letter and mail as soon as possible. The deadline is March 1.

Mail entry's to Jim Styer, Director of Communications, 72 Allison Drive, Battle Creek, MI 49017-1828. For further information or help, call (616) 965-6456 late afternoons or Sundays.

Bulletin Editors

January 15 is the deadline for the Bulletin Editor of the Year contest. Entries will be judged on layout and production, content, grammar and style.

Eligible bulletins must be published at least eight times in the year. Submit three copies each of three consecutive issues published during 1994. One copy of each must be an off-the-press issue. Others may be copies.

Mail to Roger Morris, 325 E. Wardlow Road, Highland, MI 48356. Phone (810) 887-4272.

Barbershop shows air on PBS

by Jim Styer

"Keep America Singing," the national PBS barbershop show is airing on at least two Michigan stations during December pledge periods.

If you get this *Troubadour* in time, you can catch it at 9 p.m. Friday, December 2 and at noon, Sunday, December 4, on WGVU, channels 35 and 52 in Grand Rapids/Kalamazoo/BattleCreek. That market also includes the Holland and Muskegon chapters.

It will also air the evening of Friday, December 9, on WKAR, channel 23, East Lansing. The market includes the Jackson and Gratiot County chapters.

Watch local TV listings for other broadcasts in the district in December and early next year.

The 90 minute show - with legendary song-leader Mitch Miller, the championship **Southern Gateway Chorus**, and quartet champs **Rural Route 4, Acoustix** and **The Ritz** - placed second only to "The Three Tenors" when it aired in August in several other markets around the nation. Some stations were so pleased with the pledge response that they repeated the broadcast within a few days.

You can help assure the same heavy response if you call in a pledge when the show airs, or call in later and mention the show. Even if you can't afford a pledge, call anyway and tell them how much you liked the show. Ask your friends to call too.

Dan Casamatta of the Grand Rapids Chapter was coordinating with chapters in hopes some barbershoppers could appear on air and man the phone banks during these pledge periods. For more details, check with your chapter or call Dan at (616) 285-4546 Home - or (616) 456-2002 at work.

"singAmerica," too

In a real coup, "Keep America Singing" is paired with another barbershop linked show on WGVU, Grand Rapids.

"singAmerica" is scheduled to follow it at 10:30 p.m., Friday December 2 and to precede it at 11:30 a.m., Sunday, December 4.

"singAmerica." is a half hour of highlights from a two-hour show, taped in Battle Creek, featuring 10 local groups doing all types of vocal harmony, including barbershop.

The harmony showcase was the conclusion of a week in September when the Society's Jim DeBusman and Gary Stamm were in Battle Creek working with all kinds of vocal music groups, funded by the Kellogg Foundation and sponsored by the Battle Creek Chapter.

We hope to not only get in some strong PBS pledges during both these shows, but also share other types of harmony and promote the Society's new outreach to our communities.

Ed Notes - Almost unbelievably, this issue completes two years of my service to the *Troub*. And I still haven't done something I meant to do in a very early issue.

So before I get fired or something; Thank you Tom Porritt, Roger Morris and Stan Williams. Each of you have provided a great, individual, specific help as I learned the ropes and began putting this publication together.



Gordon Gunn,
Editor

And I had better thank my good wife, Margaret. She helped me with this computer room and even *encouraged* me to spend the money to buy the computer and printer needed to produce the *Troub*.

And so many others have contributed so much. So each issue, from the first, has carried the message, "Thanks too, to all contributors. There

could be no *Troub* without you."

Congratulations **Genuine Blend**. Congratulations to the **City Lights**, **Fire Power**, the **Great Lakes Chorus**, and the **Cherry Capital Chorus**, and all the rest who worked so hard and long to make the fall contest so musically entertaining. As Mike Cirrito reported, "Over 40% of the Pioneer District membership competed on stage." We are proud of you all!



Dear Gordon,

Will you please help us send a message of apology to all the chapters we missed at the convention?

We sure enjoyed singing at the Afterglow and in the several hospitality rooms at the Sheraton. But then, when we were ready to make the rounds of the other motels and hotels, we found it was after 2 a.m.

We would surely have liked to visit and sing for all the wonderful fun chapters, but we just plain ran out of time. Again, we're sorry.

Yours in harmony,
Dan Doctor - for the Genuine Blend

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singAmerica shares music with the community

by Jim Styer, Battle Creek Chapter Coordinator

singAmerica in Battle Creek, a pilot barbershop program reaching out to all segments of the musical community, was an unqualified success.

The purposes - helping musical groups achieve their goals, attracting more people to recreational singing, spreading information about the fun and benefits of recreational music and beginning to unify vocal music groups - were all met.

And the follow-up has already begun. An informal committee representing schools and musical groups is studying the possibilities of a regular local cable TV show featuring local music groups, advocacy of school music programs, bringing additional vocal music experts to town and another major production showcasing vocal harmony groups.

The singAmerica week, September 19-24, climaxed with a free "Harmony Showcase" featuring 10 local groups from gospel to barbershop. It raised \$353 in free-will offerings as seed money for future work, and is being highlighted in a half-hour PBS pledge period show on WGUV-TV in Grand Rapids. (see story on page 6.)

The week, which took a year to plan, was sponsored by the Battle Creek Chapter and funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The funds were exceeded by several thousand dollars in donated materials and services and 1,130 hours donated by volunteers from 17 local groups.

Society staffers Jim DeBusman and Gary Stamm spent the week helping teachers, directors and singers from schools and community groups improve their vocal production and performance techniques, using methods barbershoppers are familiar with, but not promoting barbershopping.

Three local choruses and a pick-up chorus of children from several elementary schools volunteered their time as demonstration groups for the workshops.

The week also included daily lunchtime musical performances downtown, an open house and sing-along bringing local directors of all kinds together for the first time, a Rotary meeting presentation, a senior citizens' luncheon, a teen party with karaoke and free pizza, a Friday night "how to sing better karaoke" party, a workshop on how to support school music programs, a "how to sing better gospel" session by a local church director, the first meeting of a new Vocal Music Coordinating Council; a display of membership information for several local groups and coordinated promotion

of many groups' guest nights the next week.

Many of the activities were in the evening and all were open to the public, without charge. Videos of several activities will air on local cable; others will be made available to schools and community groups as training tools. The Society gave vocal production manuals and a book of sing-along songs to the local groups.

Promotions included several advance mailings to target audiences; two local cable shows that aired eight times, daily radio interviews that included the United Arts Council director and a Kellogg Foundation vice-president; four minutes on local TV evening news; two weeks coverage in local newspapers, including two color covers; three paid and two donated newspaper ads; announcements on a local computer network; five different posters totaling 1,000 copies and 13,000 brochures.

The week was planned to show how the Society and its chapters could carry out the addition to the Society Vision Statement: "...preserving and encouraging vocal music, in our education system and in our communities, as a lifelong recreational activity and an essential element in one's cultural well being."

"It is through the grass roots and in communities such as Battle Creek where this can most effectively occur," Stamm said in a report on the week. "We truly hope to make *singAmerica* a national by-word. The Kellogg Foundation... has given us the opportunity to prove that a community can be positively affected by vocal music. We hope to expand on this opportunity all across our nation."

Local chapters need not sponsor a full week of programs to do this. Individual segments of singAmerica can be adopted in any community. Further, major sources of funding aren't needed, though many areas have businesses and foundations that help support volunteer activities. Barbershop and other music experts are available to help in many areas without great cost. Much of the funding in Battle Creek was used for publicity and to cover the costs of the free Harmony Showcase.

A story on singAmerica will appear in the January *Harmonizer*.

For advice on similar programs or a copy of the full 8-page report on the week, contact Jim Styer or Roger Lewis in Battle Creek. Stamm and Debusman in Kenosha also can answer questions.

In conclusion, Stamm said, any description of the week misses "the smiles of accomplishment and realization, the eager questions as participants searched for new knowledge and the pure joy of amateur voices raised in song."

Bill Wickstrom named to Hall of Fame

by Tom Uicker

Bill Wickstrom was honored with the Pioneer Districts's highest award with his induction into the districts's *Hall of Fame* at the House of Delegates meeting in Lansing October 14, 1994.



Photo by Tom Uicker

**Maureen and Bill Wickstrom
with Bill's award, at the convention**

Bill is just starting his 49th year in the Society. He first joined the Muskegon Chapter in 1946. He was a member there until moving to the Detroit area in 1964. Bill transferred to the Dearborn Chapter and Detroit #1, now a part of the combined Detroit-Oakland Chapter.

He is an avid quartet man, having sung tenor in one or another quartet almost continuously since starting with the Pitch Blends in 1946. There isn't room to name all of his quartets, but he was a district champion with *Aire-Tonics* in 1956 and *Sharplifters* in 1967. He sang with the *Sharplifters* in International competition six times; they finished 11th in 1968.

More recently Bill sang with District Seniors Quartet Champs: *The President's Own*, 1989; *Senior Class*, 1990; *the Prime Time*, 1992 and *Old Bones*, 1993. He will compete in the International Seniors Quartet Contest in Tucson in January, 1995, with the *Vocal Gentry*.

An all-around barbershopper, he has been an active chorus participant since choruses became a part of the Society in 1952 and was quite involved with designing and stage presence. Bill has been administratively active in various chapters, including serving as President of (Please see *Hall of Fame*, next column)

Over forty percent of district membership competed during successful fall convention

by Mike Cirrito, Dist. Dir. of Conventions

Among 14 choruses and 17 quartets, over forty percent of the district members competed during a successful and well attended fall convention, October 14-15. My thanks to all who competed, those who sang in the Joe Barbershop Chorus and those who attended; with special thanks to the Grosse Pointe Chapter for pulling it all together.

One thousand, three hundred and fourteen attended the convention. Gross receipts from the Barbershop Shop exceeded \$7000, plus additional revenue from the Craft Store, a first time venture.

The popular Saturday barbecue dinner buffet at the Sheraton pool-side served 200 people. A like number enjoyed the convenience of the shuttle trolley between the Sheraton Hotel and Waverly High. Waverly's Band Boosters reported an appreciated \$1000 in weekend receipts from the lobby concession.

The ladies Saturday morning breakfast event was not well attended. No further morning events of this nature will be offered without evidence of greater interest.

Film Arts of Blue Grass, Iowa was selected as official convention photographer this fall, for the first time. The selection was made on the basis of a more competitive price. We are interested in your feedback in reference to the quality of the photos.

The committee has decided to move the Saturday night Afterglow to the Sheraton lobby, near the poolside. It is obvious the area has become a popular gathering place for our members.

(Hall of Fame - from column one)

Detroit-Oakland in 1990-91, and is just completing a two-year stint as Pioneer District Division I Vice President.

Bill and his wife, Maureen, live in Warren. Maureen sings bass and is a 38 year member of Sweet Adelines. She is a skilled lettering and water color artist and exhibits in art shows throughout the state.

Bill is probably best known to the people in both the Pioneer and Ontario Districts for his prowess as Master of Ceremonies, having emceed many barbershop events throughout the area.



Film Arts Photo

Mike Cirrito

Heartspring big winner at annual Division IV Show

by Edgar Lotspeich, BE and PRO, Boyne City



For the past ten years the last Saturday in September has been a big day for barber-shopping here in the Northland. That is the day of the annual Logopedics benefit show at the Opera House in Cheboygan. It all began in 1985, and it is still going - stronger than ever.

Pioneer Hall of Famer Bob Tracy of Mackinaw City gets most of the credit for starting it. He was then the music director of the Boyne City Chapter, which still hosts the show each year.

The idea was to assemble all five chapters in Division IV - Alpena, Boyne City, Cadillac, Soo Ontario, and Traverse City - to put on a major show for the benefit of Logopedics. What a better place to have such a show than the historic Opera House at Cheboygan which had been recently renovated. This theater was designed for musical performances and the acoustics are superb. When a chorus or quartet hit that final chord, the Opera House rings like a gong.

Cars and busses full of barbershoppers start arriving at the Opera House about 10 O'Clock saturday morning. In the morning each of the five chapters is assigned a rehearsal time on stage. At noon, all five choruses assemble on stage to rehearse the numbers they will perform as a massed chorus for the Grand Finale.

Saturday morning is also a time for fellowship as barbershoppers renew old friendships built up over the years at Cheboygan. It is like a mini-convention.

The show has followed the same format from the beginning. There is a 3 pm matinee and an 8 pm evening show. The show opens with a ten minute performance by the host chapter, Boyne City. Then quartets and choruses perform alternately, to the Grand Finale.

Most of the quartets are from Division IV chapters but we do feature outstanding quartets from outside the division. This years featured quartet was however, a product of our own division - the 1992 Bush League Champs, **Four In Exchange**, from the Soo. We sometimes feature Sweet Adelines and this year the ladies were the **Chasin' Rainbows** from Cadillac. They gave a first rate performance. This year Cadillac also produced a male quartet that came across like gang-busters, the **Coupe De Ville**.

But the Grand Finale, with a chorus of over a hundred men, really brings the audience to their feet. We sing five numbers, directed by each of the five music directors. We close with our theme song and our founder, Bob Tracy leads us in "*Keep America Singing*," with his usual force and (continued next column)

Left Overs win Seniors Quartet Contest

A crowd of 400 plus conventioners jammed the Royale Ballroom of the Lansing Sheraton Hotel late Saturday afternoon, October 15 to cheer on 10 quartets competing in the seventh annual Seniors Quartet Contest. They saw the **Left Overs**, one of three Alpena Chapter quartets entered, take top honors in a close race. The veteran foursome of tenor Art Linde, lead Gene Johnson, baritone Dick Liddicoat and bass Bob Fangert scored a mere 7 points better than **Old Gold**, a Detroit area entry who finished second, followed by the **T.C. Polecats** from Traverse City, in third place.

The contest judging panel included John Bauer (Administrator) Ed Waesche (Music) Roger Lewis (Presentation) and Ed Fritzen (Singing). Contest Chairman Bill Wickstrom served as master-of-ceremonies. **Old Bones**, 1993 district senior champs sang their swan song and presented trophies to the 1994 senior champs.

Since the newly crowned champion **Left Overs** opted not to compete in the International seniors contest at Tucson, Arizona in January, **Vocal Gentry**, 1993 International senior contest 5th place finishers, has been designated as Pioneer District official representatives at the Society's International Midwinter Convention competition.

(Division IV Show, from column one) vigor.

After this year's show, Tracy was presented with his fifty year membership card in a handsome wooden frame designed by Boyne City member, Harold Mason.

These shows have become a solid barbershop tradition here in the Northland. Each year we hear, from both barbershoppers and audience members, "Best show ever!"

Boyne City's Dale Hanson, one of the guiding lights of the shows, reports that this year's performance raised about \$2000.00 for Heartspring. Over the ten year history, the show has raised about \$20,000.00 Dale reported. Truly, the theme of these shows must be "*We Sing That They Shall Speak*".

You men from downstate ---- take out your new 1995 pocket calendar and mark the last Saturday in September. Come on up to Cheboygan for a show you won't forget.

-Photo-
page 11



Pioneer District Quartet and International Preliminary Chorus Contest
S P E B S Q S A, Inc., Lansing, Michigan, October 14-15, 1994

**Pioneer District
Quartet Contest**

**International Preliminary
Chorus Contest**

<u>QUARTET</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>	<u>CHORUS</u>	<u>TOTAL SCORE</u>
<u>Finals</u>			
Genuine Blend	1754	City Lights Chorus, Motor City Metro	922
Firepower	1644	Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids	859
Camaraderie	1530	Capitol City Chordsmen, Lansing	837
Beyond Measure	1483	Mall City Chorus, Kalamazoo	801
Limerick	1448	Cherry Capital Chorus, Traverse City	777
Four Grand	1430	Lakeshore Chorus, Grosse Pointe	704
Time After Time	1419	Windmill Chorus, Holland	697
		Midstatesmen Chorus, Gratiot County	690
		Huron Shore Chorus, Alpena	671
		Renaissance Chorus, Wayne	655
		Sun Parlour Chorus, Windsor	628
		Shoreline Chorus, Muskegon	604
		Inter Lakes Chorus, Cadillac	556
		Stateline Chorus, Blackswamp	551
<u>Semi-Finals</u>			
Four Ever Yours	680	<i>City Lights Chorus, Motor City Metro, will represent the Pioneer District at the 1995 International Contest.</i>	
Unlawful Assembly	657		
Safe-In-Sound	643		
Chordmeisters	524		
Hollands Own	524		
Four Score And More	484		
The Nauticals	472		
Picture This 4	447		
The Grand Travelers	419		

Genuine Blend is the 1994 District Champion Quartet.

Hollands Own is the Novice Quartet Champion.

Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids, is the International alternate chorus.

Cherry Capital Chorus, Traverse City, is the Most Improved Chorus.



Photo by Jim Styer

The Left Overs

Pioneer District Senior Quartet Champions
 Art Linde - Gene Johnson - Dick Liddicoat - Bob Fangert

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
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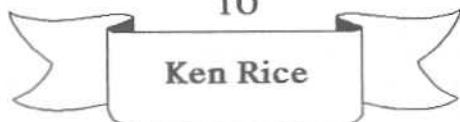
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PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



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 **January 15!**

Flint Chapter - by Ken Rice, PR Officer

Wasn't it W. C. Fields who proclaimed, "Reports of my demise are greatly exaggerated?" That's exactly the way we members of the Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus feel about our intra-district image. Admittedly though, it's our own fault. We haven't appeared on the Pioneer District competition stage in several years. You haven't read about us in this column in eons.

Well, by golly, we're going to fix that right now, because the *Arrowhead Chorus* is very much alive and kicking. The monograph following proves it.

First, how could a chorus possibly pass away when it counts among in membership some of the districts great seasoned barbershoppers - chord crunchers like Fred Kienitz, Ron Gillies, Dave Lonsbury, Jack Stevens, John Noteware, John Voss, Ray Goodall and others - who absolutely refuse to authorize an obituary? With these guys for glue, you're stuck with us for a long time to come.

Next, consider this litany of functions and events, each one solid evidence of a vital pulse, in which the Arrowhead Chorus has participated over the past half year, starting with our successful spring show, "*The Melody Lingers On.*" Ask quartets Studio Four and Full Chord Press how they enjoyed singing to a packed Grand Blanc High School auditorium on a lovely evening in May.

Our spring season was accented with a "Bowl-O-Pedics outing, engineered by John Voss, and one of those infamous *Jug Night* soirees. The Pontiac, Saginaw, and Bay City choruses joined us for the annual *Dead Creek Saloon* gathering in Frankenmuth on June 21. Basses and baritones blended with bratwurst and beverages, tenors teetotled (temporarily) and liberally lubricated leads led us astray. But what a night of singing! Wow!

A chorus family picnic in the palatial back

forty of the Dave Lonsbury estate was sandwiched between singouts at the Gaines Community Music Festival and the Leisure Lake Luau. Ron Gruener arranged for the latter event, where we abandoned our usual summer uniform in favor of flowered Hawaiian shirts and sang a program of tunes by that famous Hawaiian songwriter, Irving Berlin.

Arrowhead Choristers were present at the International Convention in Pittsburgh and on the center field grass of Tiger Stadium for the annual serenading of the Blue Jays. In September we showed up as a surprise at the fiftieth wedding anniversary party for Don and Francis Wills, embarrassing Don into a solo rendition of "Sweet and Lovely." October found us featured in another singout at Flint's Masonic Temple. On Halloween eve we sponsored a very successful fund raising chicken dinner where satisfied chicken chompers were entertained between bites by Paul Lehmkuhle's quartet, *The Last Goodbye*.

Mixed in with all this activity was a very fruitful membership campaign spearheaded by co-chairs Don Wills and Ed Wracan. The results are a cadre of a dozen new members.

So you see, the Flint Arrowhead Barbershop Chorus is far from dead. As Ken Sedlow passes the gavel to Paul Smith, we look forward to an exciting and busy year. Reports of our demise are indeed exaggerated.

Jackson Chapter - by Chris Davis

We have changed our meeting place. *The Town and Country Chorus* now meets at the Homer Elementary School, 7:30 p.m. each Tuesday.

In September we mingled with the crowd at the Hillsdale Fair, singing some of our oldies and then opening the show at the grandstand. We have been busy working on our songs for the fall show; scheduled for the Sage Center for the Arts at Hillsdale College. Following that, we will sing a couple of rousing medleys on the Coldwater Sweet Adelines show.

The Jackson Chapter lost their last charter member when Leonard Field passed away September 23, at the age of 95. Leonard was a past President and past International Board Member. He was an expert arranger of barbershop songs, one that is best remembered is "*Toidy Toid and Toid*," complete with it's Brooklynese accent. He also organized and sang with the old *Tonsil Benders* quartet.

Schedule conflicts kept us from the fall convention but we'll see you in the spring.

Holland Chapter - by Art Lane, BE and PRO

The **Whale City Sound Chorus** of Zaanstaad, in the Netherlands has said yes to a relationship with the **Windmill Chorus** of Holland, Michigan. The two choruses have started by exchanging pictures and bulletins and will look into traveling to each other's areas, possibly by 1996. Zaanstaad is a city of 130,000 made up of seven former small towns near the river Zaan, north of Amsterdam.

Barbershoppers from Holland, Michigan found themselves in the unaccustomed position of rooting for the favorite as the quartet **Genuine Blend** baffled even the master of ceremonies and rollicked its way to the Pioneer District Championship with a medley of circus songs October 15, in Lansing.

Members of the quartet include tenor Andrew Clements of Ludington, lead Mark Garlock of Muskegon, baritone Kirk Wood of Kalamazoo and bass Dan Doctor of Muskegon. Clements, Garlock and Doctor are members of the Holland chapter and Wood is director of the Battle Creek chorus.

In the finals, Clements, costumed as a circus roustabout, entered the stage with a broom and dustpan, sweeping the floor and polishing the equipment as emcee Doran McTaggart waited for the quartet. When the others appeared, as a clown, animal trainer and ringmaster, their act combined music with entertainment to a degree not often seen in a winning quartet.

Holland's Own quartet, in its first appearance on a contest stage, won the district novice trophy. **Holland's Own** is tenor Darrell VandHoef of Zeeland, lead Bill McAndrew of Holland, baritone Perry Melifont of Spring Lake and bass Ken Cook of West Olive.

As for the Holland Windmill Chorus, it's back to the drawing board after placing seventh in the contest.

Bill McAndrew, quartet singer, tag enthusiast and production manager of our *Remember Radio* show, was elected president of the Holland chapter for 1995. Other officers include Scott Schuster, membership - Mike Oonk, program - Mark Garlock, music - Dick Plaisted, treasurer - Dale Becker, secretary, Mike Lucas, music director - Art Lane, communications and Bob Wingett and Ed Garlock, board members at large.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter - by Tom Uicker, President

For those that missed it, Detroit-Oakland held another successful Canada Night on the first Friday in November. The official attendance count was 128 people representing 11 chapters. Unfortunately, we only managed to get a couple of dozen guys from Canada, but, along with the

various chapters in the Detroit area, we had a group from Flint as well as the defending champs from Lansing.

The format was another mini-chorus contest (10-16 men). We had nine mini-choruses competing for the coveted "Old Oakland Bucket," including two choruses each from the Detroit-Oakland and Windsor chapters. In spite of the stiff competition, Lansing walked away with the trophy for the sixth time, against a double handicap; they were the first group to sing and they didn't have any members in the judging panel.

We went to no great expense this year to have four judges, all from the Pioneer District Hall of Fame: Russ Seely, Grosse Pointe - Doran McTaggart, Windsor - Jim Stephens, Wayne and Huron Valley and our own Larry King. Another hall of Famer was our MC, Bill Wickstrom.

We have tried to find ways to entice more Canadians out for Canada Night, including switching to a different weekend, but to no avail. Someone said "If you build it, they will come." So we intend to stay now on the traditional first Friday of November. Mark your calendar 11/3/95 and let's make it the most fun night ever and see if we can take the trophy from Lansing.

Meanwhile, we are preparing for Christmas caroling and our show coming up February 17-18. (See the advertisement, page 12.)

Grosse Pointe Chapter - by Mike Sullivan, Program VP

The hallways and hospitality rooms were awash with the colors of Lake St. Clair's blue and white at the fall, 1994 district convention. If a chord was struck, you could be sure at least one of the members was attired in a snappy blue sweatshirt of the **Lakeshore Chorus**. With a working force of over 125 members, wives and sweethearts, the convention was a breeze for the chapter. That is, unless you were involved in the planning, staging, lighting, logistics and the myriad of other aspects of hosting a convention. A real *atta boy* goes to our coordinator, Rick Schafer. The chorus didn't do bad either, considering our other obligations.

A special congratulations to our novice quartet **Limerick**, featuring our own Bob Demchak and one of our newer members, Tony ales. Bob and Tony add a lot to our chapter. You guys are true representatives of Grosse Pointe. Good luck in the future.

October saw the chapter busy at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial exhibiting our talent and skills with a group of diversified students from the Macomb County Community College, the **Macomers**, to a sold-out crowd.

(continued next page)

Grosse Pointe, from page 14

Also in October, the chorus contributed not only musically, but also financially to the Father Solanus Soup Kitchen. Local restaurants donated samples of their signature soups and local Irish musicians in conjunction with the Ancient Order of Hibernians contributed their time and talents.

Earlier, in September, we saluted the driving force behind *Operation Desert Storm*: General Norman Shwartzkopf with barbershop versions of "Proud to be an American," "This Land is Your Land," and "The Star Spangled Banner." It was quite an honor for the chapter.

Those of us that had an opportunity to sing with or talk to our Society Vice President, J. Edward Waesche at the convention, realized that his philosophy of quarteting and chapter spirit mirrors that of Grosse Pointe. He teaches a great tag too.

In November we delivered the "jug" to the Windsor (we missed Doran) chapter. Later in the month we met up with those Canadians at Canada Night.

The ballots are in - the campaigning over. Our three year president, Mike Proffit called it quits. Trying to fill his shoes will be Rick Schaefer, a polished lead and long time board member. Installation was completed at Coin Night with the culinary talents of Nick Piccione presenting an evening of Neapolitan delights. If we can only get him into a quartet and out of the kitchen.

The holidays are rolling around and the chorus and quartets will spend December at sing-outs in nursing homes and hospitals, not to mention our Annual Pub Crawl for Charity. Last year it reached \$1600.00.

The doors are always open at Grosse Pointe for visiting members and chapters. We hope this feeling is extended by all chapters throughout the Society. Barbershopping knows no boundaries.

Monroe North Chapter - by Dale Cousino, Business Manager

Wow! On Saturday November 12, the chapter sang a benefit for the River Raisin Centre for the Arts in Monroe, with the Monroe Sweet Adelines and quartets from both. It was really great to sing there; the acoustics are wonderful. And we all felt good about the Centre raise much needed funds to refurbish the old theater, where we all practically grew up. They are doing a great job, and importantly, the RRCA is helping the community realize the many facets of the arts, having a great variety of performances throughout the year. Monroe North say's "Hats off to the RRCA."

Our annual show on March 11, will feature many of the great songs of the WWII era. The

arrangements are fast and fun and are proving to be quite a challenge for all of us. The chorus really appreciates Director Chuck Drouillard who really has a feel for the songs and makes our practices so much fun. The show will feature the blockbuster quartets **Keepsake** and **The Allied Four**. Mark you calendar for March 11 and watch for our ad in the next *Troubadour*.

Practice attendance has been very good and the chorus eager to master the music. It seems most are doing their homework, studying the music.

We will honor our 1994 officer at our annual Christmas Party December 11, with wives and attendance.

The Monroe North chorus wishes all barbershoppers an *In Tune* time for the holidays.

Windsor Chapter - by Andy McAnn,

"B-Day" - Barbershop Day is over, but will not be soon forgotten. There were forty-three past members and thirty-seven current members present for our Barbershop Bash to celebrate our **Golden Anniversary**.

Our Pioneer District was represented by President Russ Seely and Vice Presidents Bill Wickstrom and Ed McCarthy.

The guest quartet was newly formed **Limerick**, with Tony Ales, Gary Fox, Mike McClary and Bob Demchek. Their repertoire was enjoyed by all. It was great to hear that old favorite about "Mrs. Demchuk" and some of their contest material.

A beautiful dinner was enjoyed by everyone and the evening was emceed by the incredible Doran McTaggart.

In addition to **Limerick**, we were entertained by: **Foreign Policy**, Bill Wickstrom, Russ Seely, Don Humphries and Mike McClary; **Spinal Chords**, Bill Thrasher, Ken Arksey, Mac Hendersen and Earle Dykeman; **Treblesome Four**, John McGregor, John Blair, Doug Scott, and Doran McTaggart; **Special Event**, Rob Grimmell, Roger Van de Walle, Grant Wilson and Dennis Cave; **First Endeavors**, Bob Bell, Grant Wilson, Earle Dykeman and Vic Branch; **County Road Four**, Merv Knight, Ron McDermott, Andy McCann and Jim Findlay; **Merrimadics**, Fred Sorrell, Bill Strong, Doran McTaggart and Paul Eberwein; **Limited Edition**, Vic Branch, Glyn Gilmore, Ken Bilton and Earle Dykeman.

Past presidents in attendance were: Joe Roufer, Al Raikers, Bill Strong, Ken Arksey, Ken Bilton, Earle Dykeman, Andy McAnn, Doran McTaggart, Ted Saby, Bob Bell, Doug Scott, Paul Eberwein, Don Givlin and Roger Van de Walle.

Past and current chorus directors who led us in song during the evening were; Paul Eberwein, Doran McTaggart, Dennis Cave, Don Humphries, Bob Demchek, Doug Scott and Grant Wilson.

Thanks to all who helped make our 50th Anniversary Reunion a night to remember.

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1994

Dec. 9-10 Motor City Metro Show

1995

Jan. 22-29 Midwinter, Tuscon, Ariz

Feb. 17-18 Detroit-Oakland Show

Mar. 3-4 Wayne Show

Mar. 4 Lansing Show

Mar. 11 Monroe North Show

Mar. 18 Kalamazoo Show

Mar. 25 Sault Ste. Marie Show

Apr. 8 Muskegon Show

Apr. 8 Boyne City Bush League

Apr. 28-30 Dist. Conv., Lansing

May 6 Jackson Show

May 13 Battle Creek Show

May 19-21 Harmony Round-Up

Jun. 9 Windsor Send-Off

Jul. 2-9 Int. Convention, Greater
Miami, Florida

Oct. 20-21 District Convention

Oct. 28 Jackson Show

Nov. 4 Grand Rapids Show

1996

Feb. 16-17 Detroit-Oakland 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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Photo by Jim Styer

The Genuine Blend

Pioneer District Contest - October 15, 1994

May you enjoy
Harmony
through
the holidays
and the
New Year!

