



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 2



APRIL/MAY, 1995

New quartets will vie for International stage

Convention week-end, April 28-30, will designate International competitors and district chorus champs.

While some long familiar quartets have disbanded, last years Pioneer, International reps, *Onyx*, will compete in International prelim's in Lansing. So the field is open for new Pioneer quartets to qualify to represent the district at International competition in Miami Beach in July.

While quartet registration will continue beyond our press date, based upon last years contests, top contenders will likely include *Onyx*, *Genuine Blend*, - current district champs, *Firepower*, - last falls runner ups, as well as *Camaraderie* and *Beyond Measure*.

And past surprises tell us we cannot predict the outcome of spirited district contests. *You will simply have to be in Lansing April 29*, to savor the talent, share the thrill and support the victors as two or more Pioneer quartets qualify to share the Society's top contest stage.

Younger barbershop singers are registering for the MBNA America 1995 Collegiate Quartet Contest. That preliminary competition, following Saturday evening's principal quartet preliminaries, will route youthful Pioneers to the collegiate finals in Miami.

The week-end will also produce a new district championship crown for a Pioneer chorus on Saturday afternoon. Competition will be keen among ambitious, improving district choruses.

Growing Pioneer conventions offer harmony and much more. Join the springtime revelry April 28-30.

One thousand, three hundred and fourteen barbershoppers, family members and fans attended last October's Pioneer District convention. Over forty percent of the district's enthusiastic membership - 14 choruses and 17 quartets - sang on the contest stage, Convention Director Michael Cirrito reported.

Convention and contest participation have grown steadily in the district, offering proof of the barbershop thrills and fun in abundance at the well planned, smooth running events.

If you haven't attended a Pioneer convention in recent years, do it now! Renew and revitalize your *esprit de corp*; make new friends and meet

again with old ones. And bring lots of stamina - there is continuous activity.

Early registrations at \$15 are available until April 15. (See page 9 of the February/March *Troub*). After that they are yet a value at \$20.

While some of the hotels/motels book full early, rooms are yet available. District reservation service ended March 28, but you may yet personally contact the hotels/motels listed within the registration box on page 7 of the March/April *Troubadour*.

Rates are listed in the form. *Tell them you're a barbershopper*, attending the convention.



**Pioneer District
Spring
Convention**

April 28 - 30

LANSING
A Capital Place to Sing

See the complete schedule of convention events on back page.

There will be a three day "Whopper Weekend" in Holland, in October. All Pioneer District members are invited to share the Holland Chapter's "50 Years of Harmony" celebration, October 27-28-29. See the blue, four page center insert in this issue, for details.



**pioneer
TROUBADOUR**



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TROUBADOUR pages are standard 8-1/2" X 11". We use nominal 1/2" margins at the top, bottom and each side of the page. A full page of copy is thus; 7-1/2 X 10".

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Please measure your ad copy carefully. Then multiply the width by the height for the number of square inches required. Thank You!



President's Position

by President Russell Seely

Hopefully, when the *Troub* reaches your mailbox the weather will be so balmy that you could "Care-Less" about the warmth we just experienced in a sojourn to the Caribbean with a 100 plus barbershoppers including Dr. Greg Lyne - multi gold medal director. It was a great opportunity to sing/work/play with a very gifted director such as Dr. Lyne.



If you've ever marvelled at the performances of our top choruses, you just "gotta" know that out-front is a fantastic musician/leader. I'm convinced that aspiring choruses will ascend only to the level of it's director.

The point of all this, is when "Big Fred," our DME brings in some of our geniuses for our Harmony Round-Up, pu-leez do yourself and your chapter a favor and attend. You won't regret it and it might put a smile on "Crabby Fred's" face.

The Mid-Winter Convention in Tucson attracted the highest attendance at such an event, which is both enjoyable and necessary to conduct the affairs of our Society. (Pioneer's Senior Quartet entry, *Vocal Gentry*, finished a very respectable sixth place.)

Our own IBM Roger Lewis will represent International at our spring convention and since last falls Town Meeting format was so well received, we've decided to continue the policy this convention. Roger has agreed to answer any and all questions pertaining to our Society and said, "If I don't know the answer, I'll get it for you."

It should be a very informative meeting. Brother Lewis will likely discuss Heartspring - the new guidelines, Vision 2001, and possible restructuring of our International board. All Pioneers are invited to attend Friday afternoons House of Delegates meeting for the Q & A portion of Roger's presentation.

Sadly, we report the death of a personal friend, Don Humphries of the Windsor Chapter. He passed away following heart surgery February 21. Don will be remembered as an exceptional baritone who won the district quartet championships with the *Foreign Policy*, 1976, and *Saturday Night Feature*, 1981. The "Hump" as we called him, was the first Canadian to win a

- Continued - please see Seely, page 5



International Perspective

by IBM Roger Lewis

TOWN HALL MEETING comes to the House of Delegates meeting.

Let's start with the most important! At the HOD, part of my responsibility is to pass along pertinent information from our International President, Dick Shaw, and from our Executive Director, Joe Liles, and the decisions of the International Board at the Midwinter Convention. Beyond that I will keep my remarks to a bare minimum and give you time to make this *your meeting*, and to ask questions or offer input.

Nothing is sacred. Please feel free to ask about anything. I do realize I won't have the answer to every question, but promise to find the answers and respond in my next *Troubadour* article.

President Russ has also invited any and all interested barbershoppers to attend the House of Delegates meeting. You do not need to be an official delegate of your chapter to attend. If you have question or are just curious, please feel free to be there. The meeting is at 2 p.m., Friday, April 28, at the Sheraton Hotel.

Board deliberations at Tucson.

Vision 2001. The board agreed with the proposals of 2001 with some slight modifications and directed President Shaw to put committees and budgets in place as necessary, to make them happen.

One modification was that SingAmerica/SingCanada was approved as an *additional* International service project. It is felt we can easily support this and Heartspring. Joe Liles has written a new song; "Teach the Children to Sing," that may be the SingAmerica/SingCanada theme song.

Lifblood. The Dream Team made ten recommendations which were approved in concept and referred to appropriate committees for implementation. Chapter mission statements, Lifblood Conventions, Music Festivals, Directors Workshops, chorus and quartet development and repertoire review were among the recommendations.

After the initial draw for order of appearance at International contests, any chorus may ask to

- Continued - please see Lewis, page 5



The Executive Pitch

by Larry Parker, Executive V.P.

Cots, a new face lift, in 1995

In 1994 all members attending COTS were assessed a \$30 fee to help fund faculty and travel expense. In 1995, Kenosha will supply half an International faculty, plus a dean for every COTS. To meet the budget requirements of the program in 1995, each member attending will be assessed a flat fee or \$15 to help cover Society expenses for faculty and dean. The Pioneer District will supply the other half of the faculty.



COTS will be held December 2-3 at Gull Lake. The Society will provide the following faculty; *Dean, President, Membership VP, Public Relations and Secretary.* The district based faculty will handle; *Program VP, Music VP, Youth Outreach (Opt.) and Treasurer.*

The ongoing decentralization of the COTS program has offered considerable cost savings to the Society. In reducing the overall cost to chapter officers, they plan to continue the positive growth in attendance occurring each year.

Zipper Club Chorus

We are still looking for qualified members for the "Zipper Club Chorus." To date I have had six people respond to the call. All you need to qualify is to have had open heart surgery.

Our songs will be simple and our performance will be *fun!*

We will sing at the convention on April 29 at the conclusion of the chorus contest, while the judges are totaling the contest scores.

Won't you join us? It should be great fun.



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

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Membership - from the beginning

by Larry Parker, Director of Membership Development

I found great reading and some very interesting facts while reading Bob McDermott's "A History of the Pioneer District - The First Fifty Years, 1940-1990.

He reported that between 1945 and 1948 the "Michigan District" had 48 chapters totaling over 2,800 members.

I'm sure many conclusions may be drawn as to why barbershopping drew so much interest back then. But as the years passed, the decline in membership would become a constant concern.

Sometimes the losses were great in number, but mostly it was a gradual loss. From 1948 to the end of 1953 the district lost seven chapters and over 1,000 members.

In 1943 Muskegon and Oakland County boasted chapters of over 300 members each. By 1956 there were only four century chapters in the district: Muskegon - 146, Dearborn - 130, Grand Rapids - 110, and Detroit - 104.

Today we have only one - Grosse Pointe with 106.

Blaming an economic decline, district membership took another dramatic nose-dive from 1956 to May 1958, when we lost over 400 members and stood at 38 chapters. By February 1960 our ranks had dropped to a low of 1,142.

In 1961 membership rebounded to 1,700 but slid back to 1,571 by the end of 1962. The large differences in year ending totals were mostly blamed on chapter negligence in handling renewals.

In 1965, and for the first time in 20 years, the year ending total had dipped below 1,300 to 1,274. By 1970 the total was down to 1,238.

By the end of 1972 membership had taken an upswing, as the district grew to 1,486 and the Society reached an all time high of 34,376. From 1972 through 1979 the district remained in the 1,400 range.

Not much is known about year ending totals from 1980 through 1982, but from 1983 through 1994 the Pioneer District averaged 1,342 members with a high of 1,379 in 1989 and a low of 1,308 at the end of 1994.

So this is where we stand... not in a great position.... nor are we in bad shape.

Chartering in September, 1973, the Port Huron chapter closed it's doors late in 1994. It was sad to see it happen.

Other chapters in the district are considered to be on the critical list. They will need some special T.L.C. to help restore them to health.

1995 *can* be a great year!

But to make it happen, we *must* work together as a team to help the hurting and enlist the new. If we do this we will grow and be successful.

Can we count on *YOU?*!

take note by Fred Kienitz,
Director of Music Education

All you need to do is ask

The above was the topic of one of my articles in the recent past and it seems to be paying dividends. Thus far Cadillac, Boyne City, Alpena, Milford, Flint, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, Rochester Hills, Detroit-Oakland and Battle Creek have taken advantage of Pioneer people to help them produce a better product singing barbershop.



This represents about a third of district chapters and I am pleased at the

results. The D.M.E.'s from all 16 districts in the Society are pushing the same theme and the results have been tremendous for many. If you haven't taken advantage of this opportunity, let me encourage you to do so. Perhaps we could reach the two-thirds goal this year.

Plans for the 95 Harmony Round-Up are complete and offers another top quality faculty. The only thing left is registering enough people to make it work. The deadline (April 30) for regular registration is fast approaching. Get your application in soon and avoid the late penalty fee. We still have room for two full choruses and about eight quartets.

In a recent radio interview, the announcer asked me how barbershop harmony has changed since our inception. The question stopped me until I realized it hasn't changed at all.

Our founders had the insight to preserve the style and set restrictions that would guarantee it's pure form to the present. And yet, we still continue to produce better and better International champions as our Society grow older.

the reason is that we have concentrated on upgrading the quality of production of this kind of music. We have looked at the professional singer and asked how they provide the quality to the voice and what is needed to provide unity in the ensemble of our quartets and choruses.

This boils down to about four simple rules, which, unfortunately, are difficult to attain without dedicated work. First, we must learn to sing with resonated voices at all times. Second, we must sing in tune. Third, we must learn to form vowels properly, and fourth, we must learn to do what we do at exactly the same time everyone else does it.

I kid you not gentlemen, that is how champions are produced. However, should a championship elude you, the secondary benefit will allow you to sing your very best.

Seely, continued from page 3

Pioneer District Championship when he teamed with John Wearing, Thom Hine and your prez to become the Foreign Policy. Condolences to Muriel, his widow and to his two sons and two daughters. I will miss him.

On a happier note, I was tickled to hear that Muskegon is planning to hold an old time fun night in the near future (see *Ed Notes*, page 7). Since I had an inspirational part in this event, or so *Troub's* G. Gunn tells me, they invited me to be a part of the evening - an offer I couldn't refuse. Let's hear about more fun nights that are being planned.

Finally, congratulations to the chapters who completed their fall/winter shows. I had the pleasure of attending several and they were all winners.

Lewis, continued from page 3

appear first. If more than one chorus so requests, a draw for first position will be held, starting with the convention in Salt Lake City. Why? Sometimes a chorus winning the right to compete for the first time would like their members to see the contest.

The district presidents recommended that quartet medalists not be allowed to compete in the Senior Quartet Contest. It was referred to the Contest and Judging Committee.

For the spring contest, any quartet that scores 1,800 points or more will qualify to compete at Miami Beach.

Finally, Joe Liles plans to retire early in 1996. A search committee is working toward identifying qualified candidates to fill the post.

Quartet Jamboree! Friday Night, after the finals!

Any and all quartets welcome! (Previously only *registered* quartets were invited.)

Want a chance to "Strut your stuff" in front of the greatest audience in the district? Do you have a family quartet? A Sweet Adeline quartet? A comedy group that you put together for a show that is entertaining?

Call me. Write me. Fax me.

Roger Lewis, 20125 12 Mile Rd., Battle Creek,
MI 49017 - Phone 616-965-5714 home
616-979-4343 work / Fax 616-979-4442

ADD-A-LINE

by Jim Styer, Communication Officer

We now have a start toward the makings of a PioNet, a Pioneer District computer network.

I have E-mail addresses for seven other barbershoppers, representing seven of the district's 29 chapters, plus my own.

Only one of them, John Bauer in Alpena, responded directly to my request in the last *Troub* for the electronic monikers.



I found the other six in messages each had sent to Harmonet, the International barbershop computer exchange. They are Ed Fritzen of Kalamazoo, Steve Kovach of Black Swamp/Monroe, Rob Pettigrew of Huron Valley, Steve Sutherland

of DOC, Keith McClary of Motor City Metro and Dan Bezaire of Windsor, plus myself, Roger Lewis and Dick Smith in Battle Creek.

At the least, these addresses might be used to send messages back and forth among these seven people and their chapters. But these people may not be set up or able to get the information to others in their area.

Still not heard from are any district officers (except Ed Fritzen) and 21 chapters. Surely there must be more of you out there who have E-mail link-ups, either at home or work.

Please help us move ahead on this project. E-mail your E-mail address to jim_styer@fcl.gln.org. Also, if you have some knowledge of computer communications, let me know that too. I'm no expert and if this really takes off I probably won't be able to handle it all myself.

For those of you who aren't hooked up, ask your local computer buffs for information about the nearest BBF or FreeNet with E-mail capability. Or consider one of the commercial services like America On Line or Compuserve.

It's worth it. You can link up with barbershoppers in Kenosha and around the world, and Sweet Adelines, too. Read controversial discussions about competition vs. fun choruses, judges' decisions, beta blockers, even wind chimes constructed to sound barbershop chords. Get valuable information to help your chapter. Ask questions and get answers by everyone from Joe Barbershopper to Kenosha gurus.

I've found it a great help to my own chapter. I've asked for and received sample chorus contracts, guidelines for a new policy on singing standards and info on making legal learning tapes. I've been able help to others, too.

Executive committee, International board approve a second service project

by Fran Durham, Chairman, International Services Committee

In action taken at the International board meeting at the Midwinter convention, SingAmerica/Sing/Canada was approved as a second Society service project. The board also voted to continue support of Heartspring.

SingAmerica/SingCanada is an outgrowth of the Futures 2001 committee report which deals in part, with the marketing of the Society. It will include support of music programs - in the public and parochial schools, in colleges and universities and in support of community choral activities. This could take a variety of forms - such as sponsoring a high school or college quartet, offering scholarships or underwriting summer music programs. Tentative plans call for offering a summer program in 1996 for both music educators and students.

There will be separate accounts kept by the Harmony Foundation for the two projects. Checks should be made payable to The Harmony Foundation with notations "For Heartspring" or "For SingAmerica/SingCanada."

While marketing is developing the SA/SC program, its business as usual for the Services committee. A seminar was held in January for all district chairmen and committee members. Of Interest; a generic plaque was approved as part of the Harmony Foundation Awards Program. The new program will eliminate duplication and unnecessary expense. There will be one plaque, instead of three. The numeral plate will be in the appropriate color, bronze for \$10 per capita, silver \$25, and gold for \$50. The existing plaques will be used until filled when new plaques will be issued to the chapter.

Each district chairman projected how much he thought his district could raise in 1995. There are some lofty goals and it is hoped each chapter will get behind the effort. Contributions were down in 1994, partially because of the confusion about our service project. We need to get the contributions back where they should be.

At our spring convention, Alex Willox will speak to the District Board, I will address the House of Delegates.

As I said at last years House of Delegates meeting, Heartspring is still our unified service project. The marketing committee is concerned about our declining membership and the average age of our membership. We recognize the need for an infusion of young blood in the Society. It is hoped the SingAmerica/SingCanada program will accomplish that end. We'll have to wait and see what program the marketing committee comes up with and how the money is to be raised.

Ed notes - Hopefully, you read in the last - February/March issue - President Seely's enthusiastic description of a "chapter meeting" he recently attended and his comments on the "fun filled evening". He said: "the main purpose was to get together... to sing and laugh".

"Gosh, doesn't that sound complicated?," he asked. "There is life beyond the risers", Chorus Director Seely stated, "and to me it's a pleasant change from the hard work we subject ourselves to on a weekly basis".



Gordon Gunn, Editor

Oh my, his words hit home here. I so fondly recall when my home town chapter used to hold a monthly *chapter meeting* in addition to the once a week chorus rehearsals. That was when the Muskegon chapter was most successful. That was when our **Port City Chorus** won district championships and competed repeatedly at International. Several Muskegon quartets were also among the tops in the district. As I

recall our chapter membership numbered 60 plus while around 40 to 45 sang in the chorus.

Importantly, the chapter and chorus were separate entities and if you compare the numbers above it is evident not all chapter members sang in the chorus. Some sang only in quartets while others confined their active musical participation to gang singing at *chapter meetings*. Some were likely what we used to call "crows". But all were happy, productive *chapter members*.

And to reiterate - both the chapter and chorus were successful. More successful and larger than either have been since we've become strictly a "chorus chapter".

Hard sell recruiting was not emphasized as much then as now - but wow, it was nice to be able to invite friends to a fun filled chapter meeting and witness their awakening to the wonderful sound of barbershop harmony while they simply listened or lustily sang along with the gang. Oh, sure - many joined the chapter; some also joined the chorus while others became one quarter of a singing foursome!

Usually, those new quartets first performed at *chapter meetings*, where they received lots of encouragement and often, friendly, helpful

coaching.

About those "crows", - we used to sell out the eighteen hundred seat Frauenthal Theater for our annual shows - with the help of those crows.

They not only sold tickets and advertising, but among other tasks, also helped with the elaborate stage settings we used back then. There was never a shortage of work for their welcome, willing hands.

As President Russ Seely recently, and many others, including me, used to enjoy chapter meetings - I'm sure you would too.

And the practice of a monthly fun filled chapter meeting just might add welcome numbers to your chapter roster, and likely provide new singers for your chorus and quartets too!

(PS - Our membership roster is smaller and we haven't filled the theater - since we abandoned the monthly chapter meeting.)

But we now have one crow again - me.

Ah, but there is a sequel: Program VP Dave Jones has chapter board approval to reinstate monthly chapter meetings. So he, Tom Porritt, Frank Scott and I are working to that end. Plans are for an initial *chapter meeting*, Friday or Saturday, June 16 or 17, with monthly meetings to follow.

Plans are somewhat tentative yet, but we hope to attract other district members and chapters to come to Muskegon for gang singing, woodshedding, tag singing, and all the other many and varied, fun activities that used to entertain many, and attracted members to the good ol' SPEBSQSA.

Call it coincidental or good timing - just as I was writing this, Jack Oonk and Art Lane from the Holland Chapter came to the *Troubadour* with some ad copy. I just had to tell Jack how much we used to enjoy the **Chord Counts** quartet, in which he sang for many years,

and this led to a little reminiscing.

Jack then related how he missed the earlier, the "more relaxed" era of barbershopping. Amen.

Directory Corrections

The new **Firepower** quartet was omitted from the 1995 District Directory. Contact Jeff Marks, 333 N. Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. (517) 633-8158.

Late word is that the **Camaraderie** quartet was also omitted. Contact Bob Wisdom, 6767 Limerick Lane, Troy, MI 48098. (810) 879-7083.

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The Furniture City Chord Company again leads district quartets with annual Heartspring donation

Pioneer District Quartets - Heartspring Summary for 1994

by Alex Willox, Heartspring Chairman

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THE LAST GOODBYE - PONTIAC	580.00
GASLIGHTERS - GRAND RAPIDS	240.00
CROSTOWN EXCHANGE - DETROIT-OAKLAND	100.00
FOUR SCORE AND MORE - MUSKEGON	100.00
ACT FOUR - MUSKEGON	50.00
CORDIAL FOUR - MONROE NORTH	50.00
DANNY'S BOYS - GROSSE POINTE	25.00
FINE WHINE - DETROIT-OAKLAND	25.00

"The History of the Pioneer District - The First Fifty Years"

by Robert T. McDermott

Did you know that at one International contest, the district had one silver and two bronze medalists? And that two of those medalists were from the same chapter?

If you didn't know that, you haven't read "The History of the Pioneer District"
 What else are you missing? There is only one way to know!
 We have received our *final* printing!

So - don't miss out!!!

\$25.00 including shipping and handling.

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District seeks to form association of past quartet champions

by Bill Wickstrom

The Pioneer District's dream of establishing an association of past quartet champions may at long last become a reality. Efforts are presently underway to contact all living members of the 53 past district champion quartets and invite them to attend an organizational breakfast on Saturday, April 29, at the district spring convention in Lansing.

The agenda of this initial meeting will be: to determine the level of interest in forming such a group, to obtain agreement on purposes and objectives, scope of activity and to decide the organizational structure. Similar associations active in other districts are being contacted to ascertain their purpose, form and function.

District President Russ Seely asked me to serve as chairman of a Past Quartet Champions formation committee. I agreed, on the condition that he also be a member. Others on the committee are Bob Wisdom and Kirk Wood.

The district executive board is anxious for this association to become a reality. They hope that interest among past quartet champion members will result in active support and involvement.

Coaching scholarships available for Harmony Round-up

Any registered quartet or would-be coach can receive free coaching from some of the Society's finest coaches at the Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up, May 19-21, thanks to the Bill Butler Memorial Coaching Scholarship Fund. Now in its 6th year, and sponsored by the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, the fund has so far provided full registration and room and board for four quartets and four prospective coaches at Harmony Round-Up.

Interested quartets or prospective coaches are encouraged to apply in writing to Bill Wickstrom. His address is listed below.

Last year, although four deserving applications were received, only two were awarded scholarships, due to fund limitations.

The **Four Score and More** quartet, of Muskegon, one of the beneficiaries, expressed its appreciation by making a donation of \$150.00 to the fund. It is hoped others will want to assist in the improvement of district quartets through coaching and will also contribute to the Bill Butler fund.

Donations may be made to the Detroit-Oakland Chapter and forwarded to Bill Wickstrom, 2533 Donna Avenue, Warren, MI 48091-3947. You may telephone Bill at (810) 756-4294. All responses will be acknowledged.

Boyne City offering special 50th annual "Bush League" Contest

by Murray M. Borck

Because we feel this 50th anniversary is a special event, we are extending an invitation to *all quartets* in the district to compete in the unique contest. There will be no restrictions regarding past competition. If this might be your first opportunity to perform under competitive conditions or if you have competed before - you are welcome. The contest and show will be held April 8.

There is no entry fee. Just send us the name of your quartet; name and address of your contact man and your chapter affiliation.

You may mail your registration to:

Murray M. Borck - Route # 1, Box 148
Central Lake, MI 49622

We will also accept registrations on Saturday morning, April 8, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on M75 in Boyne City.

The contest will be at 2 pm and the evening show at 8 pm, April 8, both at the Elementary School auditorium.

If you don't choose to compete, come on up and enjoy an afternoon and evening of great barbershop, featuring the **Unlawful Assembly** and last years and this years Bush League Champs.

Unlawful
ASSEMBLY



You will like our singing

Raleigh Gene

A unique kind of barbershop quartet

To put out a contract . . . contact:

Gene Hanover
P O Box 259 Bridgman, MI 49106
616-465-6223

Registered Member of SPEBSQSA, INC.

Gary Ed

CMU offering Barbershop Bonanza Day

The Central Michigan University will offer an musical educational opportunity and barbershop entertainment at the Fourth Annual Barbershop Bonanza Day on Tuesday, July 25. The program will begin at 9 a.m. and conclude at 9 p.m., with lunch and dinner provided.

The morning and afternoon will be well filled with a clinic on men's and women's barbershop and will include: Young Men in Harmony Chorus rehearsal for high school boys - Young Women in Harmony Chorus rehearsal for high school girls - and an introduction to barbershop harmony. Clinicians from both SPEBSQSA and Sweet Adelines, Inc., will be in attendance.

The evening hours will feature a "Barbershop Bonanza" concert by the high school Young Men in Harmony and the high school Young Women in Harmony choruses. District Sweet Adeline and SPEBSQSA choruses and quartets will close the evening of music.

There will be a nominal charge of \$15 to help defray the cost of meals, but vocal music instructors may attend free of charge. Dr. David Gillingham said registration forms will be mailed to every high school music instructor in the state of Michigan in April.

Further information is readily available by calling (517) 774-3326; faxing (517) 774-3766 or you may utilize E-Mail at 34wymaq@cmuvm.cmich.edu, or write Dr. David Gillingham, School of Music, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859.

Fred Kienitz is
anxious to receive your
registration for
Harmony Round-Up!

Register by April 30
and avoid a
\$10 late fee!

the

Q

word



The **Unlawful Assembly**, Kalamazoo, recently taped a 30 minute program for the Kalamazoo cable TV access system that will air five times through March and April. The station has an access base of over 60,000 homes.

MBNA AMERICA

1995 COLLEGIATE QUARTET CONTEST

For further information and an entry form, call or write: Jamie Carey, Pioneer District Youth Outreach Chairman, 422 Green Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837, (517) 627-3933.

PRIZES

Grand Prize:	\$4,000
Second Place:	\$1,500
Third Place:	\$1,200
Fourth Place:	\$1,000
Fifth Place:	\$ 800

ELIGIBILITY

The contest is open to men under the age of 23 as of July 1, 1995 (i.e. born after July 1, 1972). A quartet may include no more than two men who have ever held membership in SPEBSQSA. An exception is granted to participants in the 1994 Collegiate Quartet Competition who have since joined the society.

QUALIFICATION FOR FINALS

The Pioneer District will be represented at the international finals by the district champion.

DATES

Preliminary - Pioneer District Contest, Saturday April 29, 1995 at Lansing, Michigan.

FINALS - Wednesday, July 5, 1995, at the SPEBSQSA International Convention, Miami Beach, Florida.

JUDGING - In all contests at all levels, certified SPEBSQSA contest judges will score in the areas of Presentation, Singing and Music using normal contest rules.

ENTRY FEE AND REGISTRATION - The registration fee for the preliminary rounds will be \$10.00 per quartet, payable to "SPEBSQSA, Inc." Pioneer District Secretary Jack Schneider reported that DACJC Michael O'Donnell will accept registrations up to 9 a.m. April 29, 1995.

His address is: 1617 Fairlane Dr. N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506 - Phone 616-363-1368.

**PIONEER DISTRICT
THE
IS**

CHALLENGED

**TO PARTICIPATE
IN**

THE HOLLAND WINDMILL CHAPTER'S

50th ANNIVERSARY

WHOPPER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28

"It's Bigger Than the Super Bowl"

Join us in remembering the Windmill Chapter's greatest barbershopper, the man who gave us our Society theme song "Keep America Singing" as well as barbershop arrangements of hundreds of other great songs. Join us in honoring Bill by participating in our

WILLIS A.

"DIEKEMA BOWL"

The Holland Windmill Chapter challenges District Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines to

DUST OFF A DIEKEMA TUNE

and perform it in competition at our fun filled Diekema Bowl.

DATE: October 27, 1995 — **STADIUM:** Holland Fish & Game Clubgrounds

KICKOFF: 7:00 p.m. — **TEAMS:** District and Adeline Chapters

GAME PLAN: Competitions for Chapter Chorus, Quartet & Senior Quartet with total points declaring a Chapter winner.

SCORE: Must be a Diekema Arrangement

JUDGING: Competent Officials...Instant Replay will be used, fan applause if needed

GAME BALLS BOWLS: To winning Chapter - Chorus, Quartet & Senior Quartet

CONCESSION STANDS: Free Dutch Pea Soup and Dutch Apple Pie

A Windmill Chapter Tradition

It's the only bowl where the fans are the players

(Holland Chapter can supply Diekema arrangements...Contact Dale Bekker at 616-392-7735)
ARRANGEMENTS AVAILABLE AT DISTRICT CONVENTION IN APRIL

A Day of Dutch

Couples tours of Holland's Points of Interest, with heated sidewalks and quality stores. Tour Windmill Village, Delft Shop, Dutch Village, Holland more will be available. Then settle down to our shows we in Holland have ever produced. It's

50th Anniversary

CELEBRATION SHOW

featuring

★ The famous "Banks of" from Terre Haute bound Sunday a.m., October 29, 1995

★ The sensational quartet that features Tenor Lead Joe Mazzone, Tampa, FL; Baritone Bass Jim Foy, Minneapolis, MN; and

★ The hilarious CHO... You laugh 'til you cry with

★ The fabulous GE... A great sound from a great

...and the show keeps growing... The Windmill "GLO" will follow the Celebration quartets and chorus, winners of the Diekema Bowl 50 year past. We will be serving tasty "Dutch" C

ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

OCTOBER 28

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29

Local Hospitality

Check over our renovated downtown district
Holland's Tulip Farm, Wooden Shoe Factory,
and Museum, Hope College and more...much
enjoy what we believe to be one of the best
our

Anniversary

RATION & GLO

Arriving

"the Wabash" Chorus

Wabash, Indiana
on a 12-day singing tour in Japan.

GOOD NEWS

Jerry Fairchild, Ontario, CA;
Lorraine Dale Deiser, San Antonio, TX;
1 former International Champions.

QUARTET ARREST

with this crazy foursome.

QUARTET BLEND

Michigan District Quartet.

and growing and growing.

Show and will feature our show performance
and persons of note from the Windmill Chapter's
Chicken Wings with dessert of a million chords.

*Stay and help the Windmill Chapter say
"Thank you, Holland"*

You are invited to perform with the Holland Windmill Chorus,
joined by many male Holland area church choir, college and
high school singers to present

HALLELUJAH AMEN

A performance of great hymns
done in barbershop style
for the listening pleasure of
Holland area citizens

plus

★ **THE GOOD NEWS**
Gospel Quartet

Rehearsal at 1:00 p.m.
Performance at 2:00 p.m.
at the Holland Civic Center

FREE WILL OFFERING WILL BE RECEIVED

TICKET ORDER COUPON

Special Package Discount Tickets for Holland Windmill Chapter's 50th Anniversary

"A Whopper Weekend"

Friday, October 27; Saturday, October 28; Sunday, October 29, 1995

Mail coupon no later than May 12, 1995 to:
Paul Bekker, 602 Maple Creek Drive, Holland, Michigan 49423

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Number of ALL EVENTS WHOPPER WEEKEND tickets @ \$9/00 \$ _____
(This price automatic for wives also)

Please make checks payable to Holland Windmill Chapter TOTAL \$ _____

WINDMILL'S WHOPPER WEEKEND TICKET COSTS:

Diekema Bowl \$5.00 • Celebration Show \$10.00 • Afterglo \$5.00 • Hallelujah Amen \$0
Total Ticket Costs \$20.00

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

If you partake of all of the events as shown, you are eligible to deduct

\$4.00 If your chapter chorus competes in the soon-to-be-famous "Diekema Bowl" (12 or more members)

\$3.00 if you compete in a quartet at the "Diekema Bowl"

\$2.00 If you turn in your Michigan Pioneer District Convention name badge at the "Diekema Bowl"

\$2.00 if you perform in the Windmill Chapter's Hallelujah Amen performance.

('GLO' tickets available only with Package or Celebration Show tickets.)

These package discount tickets available at April Convention and by mail only until May 12.

PACKAGE PRICE

\$9⁰⁰

Wives of Barbershoppers
receive same package price.

HOUSING

KNIGHTS COURT

US-31 & 32nd St.

616-392-1000

SUPER EIGHT

640 E. 24th St.

616-396-8822

Headquarters Hotel

THE COUNTRY INN

located in the heart of Holland's fine shopping malls
12260 James, Holland, Michigan 49423

PHONE 616-396-6677

Ask for Special Barbershoppers rates

HOLLAND BEST WESTERN

482 E. 32nd St. at US-31

616-396-1424

DAYS INN

717 Hastings

616-392-7001

HOLIDAY INN

650 E. 24th St.

616-394-0111

SATURDAY, DUTCH HOSPITALITY TOURS & STUFF

Tours of Holland's points of interest (with couples in mind)
are just a few of the things being planned for your pleasure.

Watch for future stories and ads in the *Troubadour*.

We guarantee "Dutch Hospitality" at its very best.



Willis A. (Bill) Diekema,
arranger of more than 200
barbershop songs

Holland Chapter will honor Bill Diekema during three day, 50th anniversary celebration

by Art Lane, BE and PRO

The Holland Windmill Chorus will observe its 50th anniversary with a three-day celebration in October, and the whole Pioneer District is invited both to sing and listen.

The "50 Years of Harmony Celebration will include a tribute to the late Willis A. (Bill) Diekema for his contributions to the chapter, district and Society as a whole. He was a founder of the Holland Chapter and a top arranger of barbershop music.

Events will start Friday, October 27 with the Diekema Bowl, a combination contest and pre-glow. Choruses and quartets from throughout the Pioneer District and Sweet Adelines are invited to select a song by Bill Diekema and perform it. The winners will receive an ornate, hand decorated Diekema Bowl, made from the same substance as Holland's famous wooden shoes. The aim of the contest is to re-visit the barbershopping era of the 1940s and 1950s.

To encourage the selection and learning of Diekema's songs, The Holland Chapter will have a display at the district convention in April. Choruses and quartets may select one or more songs, get copies, and sign up

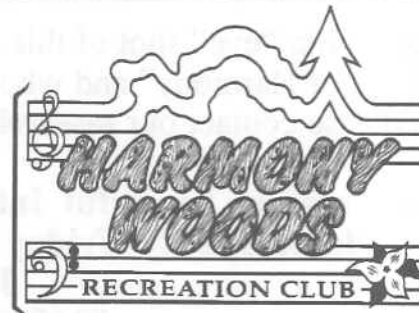
for the contest and an all-events ticket package.

On Saturday, October 28, the Holland Civic Center will be the site of the chapter's 50th anniversary show. Music by Bill Diekema will again ring where he once directed shows. The show will feature the Holland Windmill Chorus, the Banks of the Wabash Chorus, from Terre Haute, Indiana, the 1994 Pioneer champion quartet Genuine Blend, and nationally known quartets, Good News and Chordiac Arrest.

There is a third show on Sunday, October 29. This will be a gospel concert featuring the Good News Quartet and the voices of the Windmill Chorus, augmented by church choir members from the area and visiting barbershoppers. There will be a final rehearsal at noon, followed by the concert at 2 p.m.

Other week-end events will include Saturday tours of a tulip farm, wooden show factory, Delft pottery, Dutch Village and shopping at manufacturers outlet stores.

District members planning to attend may get music, tickets and motel information at the spring convention. Questions? Telephone chapter president Bill McAndrew, 616-786-2222.



A BARBERSHOPPERS' CAMPGROUND* JUST NORTH-EAST OF SARNIA, ONTARIO

- REASONABLE MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE
- SEASONAL OR CASUAL CAMPING TOO
- CHAPTER FUNCTIONS WELCOME
- COME SING WITH THE "HARMONY WOODSMAN" CHORUS

**COME VISIT AND ✓ OUT
OUR FACILITIES**

**FREE WEEKEND OF
CAMPING**

FOR FIRST TIME VISITORS

CONTACT: John Szewc (313) 676-8739

or

Doug Peteh (519) 633-8341
for details

* owned and operated by
barbershopper society
members



The "Top Ten Reasons" to spend June 9th & 10th in Traverse City, Michigan

10. It's God's Country.
9. 29th Annual June Night of Harmony.
8. Interlochen Center for the Arts.
7. Heartspring!
6. The "most improved" Cherry Capitol Chorus.
5. Hospitality that "won't quit"...just try us!
4. Genuine Blend....Pioneer District Champs
3. The Aliens....the world's funniest & most entertaining quartet.
2. "The Afterglow"...glow...glow...glow...glow..glow
1. God Says! (please refer to #10)



If there's anyone within "eye" shot of this ad who is not familiar with Traverse City's now famous "June Night of Harmony" and who doesn't have time to research the Guinness Book of World Records, please contact our ~~research~~ ticket department.

**Each reserved seat at beautiful Interlochen's Corson Auditorium is only \$10.
Please specify Friday or Saturday performance to:**

**Jim Fegan
7945 Cherry Avenue
Rapid City, MI 49676**

Please make checks payable to the Traverse City Chapter of SPEBSQSA.....
and then, leave adequate space in your diary...**you'll love our June Night of Harmony!**

A word to the wise...if you desire Saturday night tickets, act today! However, if Friday night is O.K....please enjoy today, and send your check no later than tomorrow!

Be a part of history...we guarantee "Aliens" will be sighted on June 9th and 10th. Please be advised, they're out to split your gut!

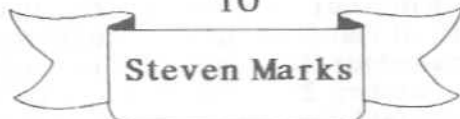




PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION



A TROUBADOUR SALUTE TO



Steven Marks

His was the first chapter copy received for this edition. *Early copy helps, a lot!* Steven writes for the Cadillac Chapter. Thanks too, to all contributors. There could be no *TROUB* without you! The next copy, photo, and advertising deadline is **May 15**. Items received after the deadline cannot be published until the following issue.

Cadillac Chapter

by Steven Marks, Chapter President & BE

The Inter-Lakes Chorus from Cadillac was very happy with the outcome of last fall's convention competition. We were able to look at our performance statistically and found some very interesting things we would like to share with you.

First and foremost was our leap from the 18th place last fall to 13th place in fall, 1994. Upon review of the most improved chorus, we found ourselves in fifth place in line for that honor, out of the choruses represented. We were also happy to retain our title of having the highest points per man on stage with 39.71 ppm this year. This is down from last years 44.92 ppm but we did have one more competitor on stage this year.

We had a wonderful time joining with the Traverse City, Alpena and Windsor Chapters hospitality room at the Hampton Inn.

Our chapter also recently held it's second annual Christmas Concert membership drive. The concert was held on December 10th

**We met with
men from
Manistee...
who plan to
charter...**

with men from the community invited to join us to sing on the concert. Food donation admission was donated to a local food pantry.

And we met with men from Manistee who have been meeting for three years and plan to charter someday. They are working with only 12 men at this time. A couple of those men came to our kick-off membership drive.

We are now gearing up for the new year with our new-found knowledge from COTS.

Muskegon Chapter

by Frank Scott, Membership VP

The Shoreline Chorus and the Harmony Transfer quartet entertained the audience assembled for the Kiwanis Club travel film at the Frauenthal Theater in early February. The quartet also sang on the Grand Rapids Afterglow and their officer installation party and for the Teledyne Corporation dinner.

Roosevelt School Principal Edgar Watson, doubling as tenor with the Rising Tide quartet, sang for the students at the school. "We were a hit," lead Paul Henrickson reported. Bass Bob Weber said they fulfilled many requests for autographs.

Our Act Four foursome sang for the seniors at the Grand Haven Presbyterian church and made further appearances at convalescent homes.

Appearing on Clif Martin's radio Breakfast Club on WQWQ, the **Four Score and More** kicked off the chapter publicity for the annual Valentine serenades. The four chapter quartets made 55 valentine appearances.

Our members are enthused about our upcoming 55th annual show on April 8. The **Allied Four**, one of the midwest's most entertaining quartets will be back for the second consecutive year.

Flint Chapter

by Ken Rice, PR Officer

Ain't love grand? The **Arrowhead Chorus** is convinced the answer is affirmative after our experience with singing valentines. Love was in the air as we organized quartets, sextets, octets... it didn't seem to matter to the blushing recipients... and delivered 33 messages of amour.

Yeoman duty went to the **Weekday Foursome** of lead Ron Gillies, bari Fred Kienitz, bass Dave Lonsbury and part time co-tenors, Paul Lehmkuhle and Ron Clements. This crew sang in 22 unlikely locales, including a bank lobby, a dentist's office, two senior citizens homes, a hair salon, and the executive board room of a local college. They sang in a library (quietly), a school classroom, an office reception area and a kitchen. They reported leaving ladies in tears, due either to emotion or the quality of the music. One lady threatened to call 911 until her Lancelot convinced her the gig was legitimate. The hair dressers client was embarrassed - the
(Continued next page)

(Flint Chapter, continued.)

college president and his entire executive committee responded with laughter and a standing ovation. And at one home visit, the super-pleased patron slipped our tenor an extra \$40 donation of extra support of our community charitable work.



Arrowhead singers Paul Lehmkuhle, Don Wills, Jeff Smith, Paul Smith, Ron Gruener and John Voss deliver a Valentine serenade to Diane Swanson at her baby shower.

All in all, 18 Arrowhead choristers and one long-haired singing sheepdog participated in the Valentine promotion. Darrell Marriot and Ron Clements co-chaired the event and Russ Clark spent untold hours on the phone scheduling and coordinating. The program has been declared a "Go" for next year.

Public television in Flint ... WFUM-TV28 ... received over \$13000 in pledges while Arrowhead songsters manned the phone on two occasions. During the airing of "Keep America Singing", they even allowed us to sing "Keep the Whole World Singing", during a break.

One of the most successful events of the winter season for our chorus was the New Member Open House organized by membership co-chairs, Don Willis and Ed Wracan. Of the 19 guests we welcomed on that January evening, eight are now members and two more will join soon. All ten participated in the annual Arrowhead Retreat at North Higgins Lake in February, and that's a pretty good sign they're serious. There's no better membership clincher than a woodshed session that lasts into the wee hours.

The Arrowhead agenda for spring appears awesome. It includes our annual Bowl-O-Pedics event in Frankenmuth on March 11; sing-outs for Tony Zybers 80th birthday and John Voss' church; district competition of course, and our annual spring show, "A Showboat Adventure", scheduled May 6. See y'all there.

Rochester Chapter

by Frank Mirasola, PR Officer

The Heart of the Hills Chorus has re-energized as we launch into our program for 1995. In case you missed it, Al Fisk, our director confirmed in the last *Troubadour* that Acoustix has been booked for our October 28, 1995 show. That's a real "wake-up-call" for us. Needless to say, we're planning a real bang-up show; mark your calendar.

In response to a membership survey he conducted, Jim Troeger, Program VP has done a little "tweaking" here and there to streamline and add some punch to our rehearsals. To date, results have been excellent. We moved our starting time up half an hour, cut the business/break time dramatically and now follow a tight, interesting schedule.

In addition to preparing for the April competition and our Fall show, the chorus is adding four new songs to our sing-out repertoire. It's a lot of work and an exciting time for everyone.

We are pleased to note that we have added nine new members in the past year. They range in age from 12 to 65, with an average age of 38. How's that for a youth movement?

George Schmitt, baritone extraordinaire, served as host and MC at an excellent Installation Dinner for our new board on February 25, at the Shark Creek Inn in Troy, Michigan. Larry King, Division VI VP, administered the oath of office to: President Bob McCarrey, Program VP Jim Troeger, Music VP Wes Tomlinson, Membership VP Dave Pearcy, Public Relations VP Frank Mirasola, Treasurer Scott Young and Secretary Don Lewis. George Schmitt continues as Member-at-Large.

A highlight of the evening was the naming of Wes Tomlinson - our 1994 Barbershopper-of-the-Year. Wes headed up the drive to outfit the chorus with our new tuxedos, was our Music Librarian, Music VP and Polecat Program Administrator. He also contributed an hour before each rehearsal to work with new members interested in mastering quarteting skills. A tireless worker, Wes accepted the honor with his typical humility.

Congratulations to everyone. It was a great evening.

Save \$10 - register for
Harmony Round-Up
 before April 30

Macomb County Chapter

by Roger Walker, President

Smiles and handshakes to you from the Macomb County Chapter. You may not remember us, but we are alive and well. In fact we are looking forward to some great things this year, with fresh faces and another quartet on its way.

Safe In Sound made their debut last year and are planning to compete this year. We are very proud of these gentlemen and are anxious to see them rise and be recognized as a great quartet.

Our calendar is loaded with events and activities for all lovers of harmony. The Quarterly Quartet Qountests will continue, spearheaded by our chapter secretary, Bennhart Duerksen and the **Harmony Heritage Chorus** director, Derrick Deacons. One activity, bigger than the rest, is planned for June 17, in conjunction with a pre-father's day, area barbershop bash. Final planning is underway.

Our repertoire is undergoing some expansion, our image, some revision and our activities, a bit of both. There is even a possibility of a change of costume. If you may need some black tuxedos in the future, you may want to keep us in mind.

1995 shows real promise. So, if you don't remember us, come visit.

Windsor Chapter

by Dan Bezaire, B.E.

The Windsor Chapter hosted our annual Uncle Sam Night on January 13. Chapters from the Pioneer and Ontario Districts were invited for an evening of singing and fellowship and over 160 attended the event. We saw Pioneer President Russ Seely, Ontario President Don Pyper as well as past officers from both districts.

After a light supper, the evenings program was emceed by Doran McTaggart with the Limerick quartet leading off. Other quartets included **County Road Four**, **Themester's Union**, **CanUSA**, **Good News Ambassadors**, district Seniors Champ's Vocal Gentry, **Who Knows?**, **Vocal Parade** and **Fraternity**.

Choruses featured were Windsor's **Sun Parlour Chorus**, the **Gentlemen Songsters** from Detroit-Oakland, the **Wayne Renaissance Chorus**, the **Lakeshore Chorus** from Grosse Pointe, **Metro City Metro's City Lights** and the **Harmony Woodsmen**, from the Harmony Woods campground, where barbershoppers hang out, near London, Ontario.

Many of the guests, particularly from the Ontario District, were there for their first Uncle Sam Night, but as President Don Pyper said, ...it certainly won't be their last.

Thanks to organizers Andy McCann and Ron McDermott. It was a fun evening of fellowship and song, and that gentlemen, is what it's all about.

Battle Creek Chapter

by Jim Styer, B.E.

"Every meeting will be fun for every member and each will become a better singer through that process."

That's the goal our chapter set for 1995. Now, the big job is reaching it. Or at least approaching it. Some new policies have been approved, putting things in writing that have never been written down before. An executive committee (president and new VPs) are even meeting monthly between board meetings to keep on the fast track.

The stress is on improving sound, because we feel if you sing better, you'll have more fun. District Music Educator Fred Kienitz was scheduled to coach us for two weeks, and more coaching was planned, in addition to the great direction we get from Kirk Wood.

A new chorus manager is actively seeking more paid performances. We sang for the United Arts Council fund-drive kick off and at a three-day home show, where we also had a booth. We may sing for the new Battle Creek Cats minor league baseball team, and already have a December performance scheduled.

In our first experience at singing Valentines, various combinations of 12 members made 57 appearances and netted \$1,250.

To promote our annual show, quartets sang March 17 at Irish dinners at two restaurants and at the annual Irish Club dinner-dance.

The show, "*It's a Great Day for the Irish*," will feature singers and dancers from the Irish Club, along with the **Cereal City Chorus**, chapter quartets, district champ **Genuine Blend** and an audience sing-along. It's at 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 13, at Kellogg Community College Theater. Call or write me to reserve tickets.

At our installation, we tried something different -- Karaoke. It went over well. And we honored Hugh White as Barbershopper of the Year -- not a top officer but a regular Joe Barbershopper, always there when you need him.

We have two recent new members: Wayne Lemonds of Coldwater, who barbershopped in the Detroit area, and Matt Grubb of Marshall, a former Boy Choir member.



FIREPOWER!

A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson

Jamie Carey

Jeff Marks

James Hawkins

Contact: Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158

333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Traverse City Chapter

by Maurie Allen, Program VP

Greetings from the Traverse City Chapter. We've been having so much fun with sing-outs, getting to know our many new members, trying to incorporate the vast knowledge acquired through some coaching sessions with the likes of Harlan Wilson, Jim Casey and Joel Mills, that we've missed a few *Troubadour* deadlines. Sorry 'bout that.

Both musically and administratively, 1995 is starting off in a most harmonious fashion. In fact our fun threshold was nearly crossed with the delivery of over 150 Singing Valentines on February 14; a new Cherry Capital Record. Six quartets had a good old time from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the lucky recipients of all this affection were obviously very grateful. Our treasurer is ecstatic. But, he always was a pushover for a love song.

The **Cherry Capital Chorus** continues enthusiastic preparation for the upcoming convention and contest in Lansing and for our 29th annual "*June Night of Harmony*", June 9 and 10. After several years of sell-outs without even advertising, we're going to a two night format this year, enabling 1,000 more fans of barbershop to avoid the disappointment of missing our show. This year's show, after several years of trying, will feature **The Aliens** and Pioneer's own **Genuine Blend**. Please refer to our ad in this issue for complete ticket information.

In addition to demonstrating the results of our hard work on the contest stage, another top priority will be to add to an overall great barbershop week-end with a **Whale of a Hospitality Room** at the Hampton Inn. Y'all come!

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Chapter President

The applause has ended, the footlights are dimmed, the make-up is gone; the show is over for another year. And what a great show it was, with the Ritz, 1991 International champs, and **Hullabaloo**, 1994 Ontario District champs. Even the weather cast a favorable eye, considering it was mid February. If you missed the show - make a note right now. Next year's show is February 16 and 17.

One offshoot of our show preparations we want to keep going is a group of day-time singers. The buildup is a little slow right now, with so many of our retired members in warmer climes; but we are working on a core of singers, free during the day, to get together for extra practice and possible future sing-outs. We meet Thursday afternoons, 1:00-3:30, at Starr Presbyterian Church. If you're interested, stop by.

On Monday nights it is business as usual. We have three performances lined up, so we must keep the repertoire polished. Steve is working us on two contest songs for the spring convention. And we are always ready to try something new for next year.

On another topic, I understand the two jugs have been traveling very well. For those who don't remember back to last summer, we announced we have two jugs making the rounds in hopes of hitting more district chapters. I know we skipped a few northern chapters when we drew up the routes, and a couple of chapters may have been missed when people changed the routing, but one or the other jug has visited a majority of chapters in the district. We will welcome the jugs back home to Detroit-Oakland on Friday, June 2. The quartets representing Pioneer at International this summer are expected to be on hand as we divide the money from the jugs.

We invite all of you to come celebrate the return of the jugs, but we will have to get back to you with a location; St. Adains is not available that evening. Hopefully, we will have a place locked down by convention time, and we look forward to seeing you in Lansing.

Holland Chapter

by Art Lane, B.E. and PRO

Jim Wojahn, craftsman, caretaker and purveyor of fine doughnuts, has been named Holland Chapter's 1944 Barbershopper of the Year.

Jim's work during 1994 included building portable sets for the Holland Windmill Chorus's Tulip time presentation of "Remember Radio," and making banjos and canes for the showboat numbers in the fall contest. He started a kaffeeklatsch at the chapter hall on Thursday mornings, with coffee, doughnuts and singing, and produced the food for the afterglows and special practices. He's in charge of Heartspring contributions and, as a member of the lead section, learns his music and sings it.

The **Windmill Chorus** has recently been blessed with the presence of two families with three generations of singers: Del, Dan and Dan Doctor Jr., and Ed, Mark and Tyler Garlock. We appreciate you.

Program VP Mike Oonk has listed a schedule of chapter events for the whole year. Dates which district members may wish to circle include:

May 19 - annual Tulip Time Show.

May 20 - Barbershop B.B.Q. with strolling quartets.

Aug 5 - The Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag contest.

Oct 27-29 "50th anniversary "Whopper

Weekend." It will start Friday evening with a district-wide "Diekema Bowl" contest,
Continued - next page

Holland Chapter, from previous page. featuring choruses and quartets singing barbershop music arranged by Holland Chapter founder Bill Diekema. On Saturday there's a big anniversary show. Sunday afternoon is a gospel concert. District folks are invited to all these events. (See the blue, center, four page insert in this issue. Ed.)

Monroe North Chapter

by Dale E. Cousino, Chapter President

Wow! Our annual show is history, but will not be forgotten by many. The music committee chose great music for this show. It pushed our **Floral City Harmonizers** chorus to do many new, interesting things and certainly was fun to perform.

The show was titled "Remembering." We wore World War II military uniforms and sang songs from the era. The presentation featured five step out quartets from the chorus. How can we adequately say thanks to our director, Chuck Drouillard, who pushed us hard to improve our craft, sing well and still have fun? Maybe just satisfaction and caring is what Chuck is all about.

We had a sell-out audience with over 1,000 people enjoying an evening of barbershop. This president wishes to thank every member of the chorus for their outstanding efforts.

Our guest quartets, **Allied 4** and **Keepsake** certainly made a good show great. The hilarious comedy of Allied 4 and the wonderful sound of Keepsake was a perfect way to sell barbershop to everyone.

We certainly welcome our new lead, Dave Broughton, to the chorus. Dave brings a great smile and a good voice. We all hope Dave enjoys singing with us as much as we are pleased to have him.

Monroe North wishes everyone competing in the spring contest much luck and a fun time.

Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Mike Sullivan, Membership VP

Where were you in 1945? Some of us were being discharged from the military, some were starting families, some were learning to talk and some, like me, weren't even considered. However, one member of Grosse Pointe was forming a barbershop quartet chapter: our own Methusala, Ray McCalpin. Congratulations to our 50 year charter member. Talk about singing some old chestnuts! Ray continues to inspire our chapter and can still be heard singing baritone with the **Four Fits** on any given night.

Though it was several months ago, Grosse Pointe out-did itself on its Christmas pub sing-out for the Holley Ear Institute of St. John's Hospital: over \$2,000 in a mere three hours. What a benchmark to try and exceed next year. If we could put our product in a bottle on the market,

what a business we'd have for fund-raising.

Our annual spring show has been deleted this year in favor of a mega-performance in the fall at the Macomb Center for the Performing Arts to celebrate our Fiftieth Anniversary. The goal is fifty songs in one show! Hold onto your seats.

Convention is right around the corner. Last fall, several normally non-competing choruses were in attendance. What about the rest of the district chapters? We mean to *convene*, not compete. Contrary to popular belief, "Wild Irish Rose" is not that bad of a song if that is what you do best. I, and my chapter, hope to see more old friends and make new ones this year. See you at the hospitality rooms.

Ill health has stricken several of our more active members as of late. The average age of our membership is steadily creeping upward. It's amazing how many of our so-called seniors are still faithfully attending meetings and conventions. Barbershopping may be the real "Fountain of Youth."

It's time to take our risers out of the cosmoline for another convention. We'll have to find a new storage area for our beverage cases. Remember - conventions are to convene.

1995 Pioneer District Harmony Round-up

May 19 - 21, 1995
Michigan State University
East Lansing, Michigan

Growth Through Learning -
A must for all
Pioneer Barbershoppers

See the complete schedule and
registration forms in the
February/March Troubadour

Register before April 30
and save \$10.00

Miami Convention 40th Anniversary Luncheon

by Jan Stenback
Convention Planning Team

Were you at the last international convention held in Miami in 1955? If you were, we'd like to hear from you. A commemorative luncheon is planned during the 1995 convention on Wed., July 5, to honor all 1955 quartet and chorus participants who plan to attend this summer. The luncheon will start with a gathering—a "fore-glow"—at 11:00 a.m. and last about two hours. We encourage you to dress for the '50s.

If there are any quartets that are still intact (or mostly intact) that would like to perform at the luncheon, let us know. GENE COKEROFT and the rest of the MEMORY FOUR will "ring a few" and we'd like to have others.

We particularly would like to receive any memorabilia from the '55 convention, such as photos, recordings, etc. While there were no cam-corders in those days, we are fortunate to have a 35mm film; this is being converted into video for viewing that day.

This is really going to be an event you won't want to miss. Look for a sign up form in a future issue of the *Harmonizer* and if you plan to participate or have any memorabilia, please contact: Jan Stenback, 6556 Windsor Drive, Parkland, FL 333067; home phone (305) 344-0358, bus. phone (305) 474-9046 or fax (305) 473-5344.



From the
Central States District
Serenade

Tots Room at conventions?

UPDATE from *International*

A hot discussion on the *Harmonet* recently has been about a room at the Miami Convention Center, with remote TV feed, for parents to take young children during the contest sessions. Crying babies and restless preschoolers frequently require mothers to leave the arena, and thus miss seeing daddy and friends perform. The lack of such a facility might cause some young barbershop families, who would otherwise attend, to stay home.

This would be an added convention expense. We need to know how many persons would be interested in and willing to pay for its use. There may also be some liability issues if parents are not always in there with their children. On the latter, we will consult with the Society's insurance carrier.

To indicate your interest, please write to Ken Buckner at the international office, and write "Tots Room" on the lower corner of the envelope.





SOCIETY FORMS NEW TASK FORCE

SEEKS MEMBERS WITH EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE IN LEADERSHIP ANALYSIS, TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT.

International President Dick Shaw has created a task force to investigate ways to improve the leadership skills of current members and to attract new members with desired leadership drives.

If you are an experienced professional consultant or high-caliber executive or administrator with extensive skills in leadership analysis, training, and development, the Task Force would like to hear from you. Expertise in profiling personalities, styles and skills is a plus. This may be your special opportunity to contribute to the future of our organization.

Send your relevant background information to:

STEVE RAFE, Chairman
SPEBSQSA Leadership Task Force
7624 Summerfield Hills
Warrenton, VA 22186

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of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America, Incorporated.*



*Everything's
Coming up
Barber Shop!!*

1995

Apr 8 Muskegon Show
Apr 8 Boyne City Bush League
and Show
Apr 8 Windsor Show
Apr 28-30 Dist. Con., Lansing
May 6 Jackson Show
May 6 Flint Show
May 13 Battle Creek Show
May 19 Holland Show
May 19-21 Harmony Round Up
Jun 9 Windsor Send Off
Jun 9-10 Traverse City Show
Jul 2-9 Int. Convention, Greater
Miami, Fla.
Sep 16 Alpena Show
Oct 7 Gratiot County Show
Oct 14 Pontiac Show
Oct 20-21 Dist. Conv. Lansing
Oct 27-28-29 Holland's Whopper
Weekend
Oct 28 Jackson Show
Oct 28 Rochester Show
Oct 28 Benton Harbor/St. Joseph
Nov 3-4 Grand Rapids Show
Dec 9 Motor City Metro Show

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

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

Pioneer District 1995 Spring Convention April 28-30, Lansing, Michigan

Schedule of events:

Friday

- *Registration, lobby, Sheraton Hotel; moved to lobby,
Waverly High School 30 minutes before each event.
- *District Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m.-12 noon.
- *District House of Delegates meeting, 2 p.m.
- *Barbershop Shop - all hours except during contests.
- *Raffle, Associated Charities, lobby, Sheraton Hotel.
- *Concessions, lobby, Waverly High School, during
contests.
- *Trolley Shuttle, Sheraton - Waverly H.S., \$2.00 all events
or \$1.00 each event, at registration desk.
- *Quartet Contest Preliminary, Waverly H.S. 8:30 p.m.
- *Quartet Jamboree, Sheraton Hotel, 11 p.m.

Saturday

- *Joe Barbershopper Chorus followed immediately by
District Chorus Contest, Waverly High, 12 noon.
- *B.B.Q. Buffet, Sheraton Poolside, 4-7:30 p.m.
- *Quartet Contest Finals, Waverly High, 8:00 p.m.
- *MBNA AMERICA Collegiate Quartet Prelims, immediately
following District Quartet finals.
- *Afterglow, poolside, Sheraton Hotel, following contest.
- *Hospitality rooms for all hotels/motels will be posted in
Sheraton lobby. Chapters - notify Mike Cirrito.