



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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

VOLUME 47 - NUMBER 3



JUNE/JULY, 1996



Onyx



Please see page five.

Photo's by Film Arts, Inc.



Genuine Blend



Firepower



Great Lakes Chorus



pioneer
TROUBADOUR



Publication authorized by the Pioneer District, S P E B S Q S A, Inc.

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Presidents Position

by President Larry Parker

You can't imagine how delightful it was to stand on stage on Saturday night, April 27, following the quartet preliminaries and announce the names of the three quartets who will proudly represent the Pioneer District at the international convention in Salt Lake City. As *Genuine Blend*, *Firepower* and *Onyx* embraced each other and together



celebrated their achievements in front of a spirited audience, my zeal and excitement was near the same level as theirs. For I had just played a small part in one of the most exciting, rewarding and fun-filled conventions of my

life. I have nothing but praise and high hopes for these twelve young men and wish them good fortune in July.

I am also proud of the Lansing Chapter, *Capitol City Chordsmen*, our 1996 Pioneer District, Chorus Champions. Lansing last tasted the fruits of victory in 1973. In the past few years the chorus, under the direction of Jamie Carey, has seen an influx of members and an improvement in their vocal expertise. They say that this is just the beginning! Again, my congratulations.

All of our District conventions would not be at the level of success we now enjoy without a great host chapter. This convention was no exception as Gratiot County, in their second go-around as hosts, did another outstanding job. On behalf of the District Board and the Convention Committee, Thank You, Gratiot County.

Although there is work involved in being a host chapter, there are plenty of tangible and intangible rewards for performing the necessary duties and doing them well. The Pioneer District is looking for host chapters for future conventions. If your chapter, or a group of small chapters wish to host a convention, please contact Director of Conventions, Roger Lewis as soon as possible.



Society Synopsis

by SBM Russell Seely

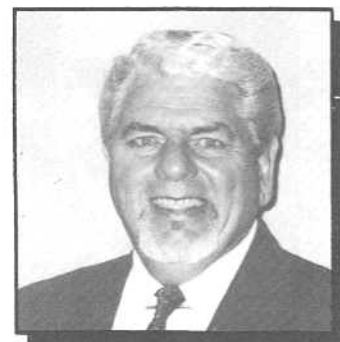
What a great bonus!! As if attending the Pioneer spring convention as President Hanrahan's representative wasn't reward enough, but what a hoot to have three quartets score enough points in the contest to qualify for the big show in Salt Lake City. Soooo.. to all you procrastinators out there that didn't get to Miami Beach, Pioneer has given you four good reasons to do SLC this July. Namely, the *Great Lakes Chorus*, *Firepower*, *Genuine Blend* and *Onyx*. They all need your support.

My address to the Pioneer House of Delegates included a theme inspired by our new Executive Director and long time friend, Darryl Flinn. Darryl talked about the quality of our performances and how there is a direct relationship in the acceptance of our style. Statistics bear out the fact, the better we perform the more audiences and potential members find time to become involved with the barbershop community.

Unfortunately, the reverse is also true. When we offer a substandard presentation we discourage audiences and prospective members from participation for long periods of time. We've probably all been guilty of taking the stage with a poor representation of our chorus, sometimes because of a radical lack of numbers, but more important, a dramatic lack of knowledge of the music we try to perform.

My advice? Make sure you go over and know all your songs before you perform. Have sign-up sheets to assure the quantity of bodies that will show up. Are there a good balance of parts? If you can't guarantee these basic necessities maybe you should reconsider accepting public performances. Let's encourage - not discourage - the image of our heritage... the best male accapella singing in the world.

See you all in Windsor, DOC and, of course, Salt Lake City.



The Executive Pitch

by David Cole, Executive V.P.

Changing times (Change can be a good thing)

At the spring convention your Pioneer District Board and the House of Delegates approved a motion by SBM Russ Seely. The motion, which was adopted, created the District



office of executive vice-president and v.p. of member services. The overall structure as set forth by Our Society leaders will include the following positions:

- * President
- * Immediate Past President and Society Board Member
- * EVP/V.P. Member services
- * Secretary
- * Treasurer
- * VP Marketing/PR
- * VP Chapter Development
- * VP Chorus Director

Development

- * VP Contests and Judging
- * VP Events
- * VP Music and performances

In addition, the VP of chapter development will have a staff of talented workers to draw from a variety of resources.

What does this mean to you and I? Actually, it is very good news. While the majority of these positions are very similar to those we have had in the past, the new ones will really show the intent of our Society to look first at our most valuable asset — our chapter members.

In the future, if you or your chapter need help in a specific area of expertise, all you need do is contact the vp responsible for that need. He in turn will immediately personally attend to your need or send one of his staff or refer somebody from the Society, or a combination of any of the above may participate.

It is important to understand from this point of view more emphasis will be put on how to make you and your chapter successful. Frankly, we are very concerned about the future success of our hobby. We are doing a lot of good things, but as in any endeavor, we are only as good as our weakest link. If you need help — *ask for it*. We have some very talented people in place to help you — our most valued resource.

Are you using all of your resources?

With the previously mentioned board to be put in place next year, everyone should be asking themselves, their quartets and their chapters this question: "Are you using all of the resources available to you?"

I can guarantee the answer to that question is an emphatic no.

Don't get me wrong. The Pioneer District has some wonderful things happening. But imagine what it could be like if we took advantage of all the tools currently available, not to mention those which will be available next year.

I want to briefly stress that after the first of the year we will have three very important v.p. positions which can greatly help you, your quartet and your chorus. *Please* take advantage of them. These fine gentlemen are eager and willing to lend their assistance.

Pioneer membership

by Dave Cole

Not such good news this time around: Of 29 chapters within District, only 11 have shown an increase in new members since the first of the year. Let's not forget that Operation Harold Hill is a six month program, not just three months. In truth, it is a lifetime program.

Hats off to the following chapters for their respective growth:

Flint	+10
Hillsdale	+6
Lansing	+6
Gratiot County	+4
Kalamazoo	+4
Detroit-Oakland	+3
Rochester	+3
Benton Harbor	+1
Huron Valley	+1
Macomb Valley	+1
Swan Valley	+1

The numbers represent membership growth through April, 1996 from ending membership numbers of December 1995, as provided by the Society.

Wally

Phil

HIGH BID
A Barbershop Quartet

Contact: Marv Moran
44763 Charnwood
Plymouth, MI 48170
(313) 459-4218

Bob



The Great Lakes Chorus, and for the first time since 1985, *three* quartets will represent Pioneer at International

The Great Lakes Chorus is going back to Salt Lake City

They have been there before. Ten years ago with Fran Jones directing. They have been planning and preparing for this return to Salt Lake City for some years, according to Jack Schneider. This time the youth oriented, enthusiastic chorus will be directed by James Pollard.

At the fall '95 district convention, former Grand Rapids Chapter President, John Bloomquist (now moved to Denver) told us he would join the chorus on stage in SLC. He will sing there with: Jerry Anderson, Dave Back, John Baker, Fred Barr, Bill Bekkering, Rodney Bloom, Moe Bompezzi, Don Borgeson, Gary Branch, Steve Brown, Phil Buzzell, Dan Casamatta, Steve Chambers, Wes Cox, Chet Cutshall, Bruce Evans, Tom Frens, Denny Grabill, Ken Harr, Larry Hein, Howard Jansen, Phil Johnson, Fritz Junke, Paul Kamysek, Tim Kilmartin, Bud Kraft, Dave Kutter, Dale Mattis, Ryan Mattis, Bill Mousel, Mike O'Donnell, Don Phillips, Bernie Poelman, Jonathon Pollard, Chuck Renn, Paul Robertson, Brent Rummelt Jim Russell Sr., Jim Russell Jr., Mark Savage, Jack Schneider, Don Scripsema, Jack Sidor, Paul Slack, Jay Smits, Joe Smitz, Scott Spence, Don Stanger, Dave Stewart, Don Strong, Dave Szutkowski, Al Talsma, Al Walters, Lyle Weeks, Pete Westers, Dick Williams, Joel Worst, Richie Wyse and Ron Wyse.

The Onyx quartet

With 1878 points earned at the Pioneer District Preliminary contest April 27, Onyx is the top district qualifier for the International Quartet Contest in Salt Lake City in July.

The quartet competed at the International Contest in Pittsburgh in 1994 with Bruce LeMarte at tenor; Craig Pollard, lead; Mike Woodruff, bari; and Tom Conway, bass.

My delighted ears told me they have lost nothing with Brian Kaufman now singing bass. In fact, I'm inclined to believe they are better than ever and will do us proud at SLC.

Genuine Blend

The District Quartet Champions of 1994 and International rep's in 1995 in Miami, are ready and prepared for further success.

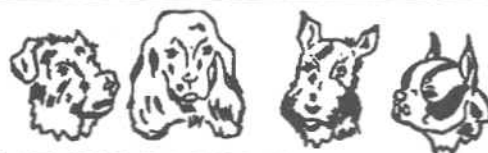
Their earliest victory was with Andrew Clements singing tenor. But he was compelled to follow his job back to North Carolina.

The new line up includes Butch Lievens at tenor, Mark Garlock, lead; quartet veteran Kirk Wood at bari; and the capable Dan Doctor singing bass. They sounded great at the International preliminary's April 27. They are well prepared for a second International go around at SLC.

Firepower!

Brand new as a quartet in July 1994, this winning foursome earned second place in district competition in October that very year. They earned greater laurels in 1995, representing the Pioneer District at International in Miami in July and winning the district crown in October.

Certainly they are not done! We may all day-dream about what Mark Wilson, tenor; Jamie Carey, lead; Jeff Marks, bari; and James Hawkins, bass, might accomplish in SLC



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS

Bus. (616) 979-4343 — Res. (616) 965-5714

**Pioneer District International Preliminary Quartet Contest and
District Chorus Contest, April 27, 1996, Lansing, Michigan**

**International Preliminary
Quartet Contest**

QUARTET	TOTAL SCORE
Onyx	1878
Genuine Blend	1842
Firepower	1840
Fermata	1630
Souvenir	1484
Passport	1478
Mach I	1456
Gallery	1410

Genuine Blend, Firepower and Onyx will represent the Pioneer District at the International Contest in Salt Lake City in July, 1996.

Preliminary Semi-Finals

Harmony Transfer	582
Northern Express	563
County Road Four	542
Picture This Four	537

**Pioneer District
Chorus Contest**

CHORUS	TOTAL SCORE
Lansing, Capital City Chordsmen	947
Kalamazoo, Mail City Chorus	870
Rochester, Heart of the Hills Chorus	725
Traverse City, Cherry Capital Chorus	725
Detroit-Oakland, Gentlemen Songsters	712
Muskegon, Shoreline Chorus	696
Grosse Pointe, Lakeshore Chorus	693
Gratiot County, Midstatesmen Chorus	652
Wayne, Renaissance Chorus	645
Huron Valley, Harmonizers	598
Hillsdale, Town and Country Chorus	586
Windsor, Sun Parlour Chorus	553
Flint, Arrowhead Chorus	458

Lansing is the 1996 Pioneer District Chorus Champion.

Muskegon is the Plateau 2 Champion.

Kalamazoo is the Plateau 3 Champion.

Rochester is the Plateau 4 Champion.

Traverse City is the Plateau 5 Champion.

Grosse Pointe is the Plateau 6 Champion.



**Pioneer District 1996 Chorus Champions
Lansing's Capital City Chordsmen directed by James Carey**

GO WEST YOUNG MEN!

A Fund Raising Effort for the Pioneer District's
Three International Quartet Competition Representatives

The spirit of the American pioneer is alive and well in the Pioneer District. Catch the spirit yourself by supporting the District's representatives as they sing their way to Salt Lake City.

GENUINE BLEND

1994-95 Pioneer District
Quartet Champions
1995 and 1996 Pioneer
District International
Representatives

FIREPOWER!

1995-96 Pioneer District
Quartet Champions
1995 and 1996 Pioneer
District International
Representatives

ONYX

1994 and 1996 Pioneer
District International
Representatives

Special Guests

LANSING'S CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN

Newly Crowned 1996-97 Pioneer District Chorus Champions

JUNE 22, 1996, 7:30 P.M.
LANSING EASTERN HIGH SCHOOL
220 N. Pennsylvania (one block north of Michigan)

ALL SEATS GENERAL ADMISSION
\$10 ADULT \$8 SENIORS (OVER 60) \$5 JUNIORS (12 AND UNDER)
Please, No Saving Seats!

For further information, contact:
FIREPOWER! c/o Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158
GENUINE BLEND c/o Kirk Wood (616) 657-7300
ONYX c/o Craig Pollard (810) 474-1485
CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN c/o Dan Hogg (517) 669-8539

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone _____

I understand that tickets are on a first come first served basis and they will be held for me at the box office. Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____, representing payment for tickets as indicated below:

____ Adult Gen. Admission ____ Senior Gen. Admission ____ Junior Gen. Admission

Mail to:
FIREPOWER! c/o Jeff Marks
333 N. Waverly Road
Eaton Rapids, MI 49827

FIREPOWER! ALL FIRED UP!

FIREPOWER!, the 1995 Pioneer District Quartet Champion and 1995 & 1996 International Representatives, is pleased to announce the availability of its first recording, ALL FIRED UP! A mixture of good ol' barbershop, show tunes, opera (yes, opera), and more -- and full of the raw energy (and silliness) this quartet is becoming famous for -- ALL FIRED UP! is available on CD and cassette. Send for your copy today and hear why the whole Pioneer District is talking (snickering?) about FIREPOWER!

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Total</u>
_____	Compact Discs at \$15 Each	\$ _____
_____	Cassettes at \$10 Each	\$ _____
	Postage and Handling	\$ 2.00
	TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	\$ _____

Make checks payable to FIREPOWER!. Canadian residents, please specify "U.S. Funds." Allow six weeks for delivery. Mail to: FIREPOWER!, P.O. Box 607, Sumner, MI 48889. Remember, just because it's on our recording, don't assume it's suitable for contest performance (or any other performance for that matter).

LOTON WILSON BUSH LEAGUE QUARTET CONTEST

August 10, 1996
Petoskey Middle School Auditorium
Registration: 9 AM to 12 Noon
Contest begins at 2:00 PM

QUARTET NAME _____
TENOR _____
LEAD _____
BASS _____
BARI _____

Contact Person _____
Telephone Number ____ (____) _____

For Information call (616) 548-2521 or (616) 588-6177
Mail Registration to: William Woodbeck
PO Box 931
Indian River, MI 49749



To: Friends of Heartspring

Re: Campbell's labels

On March 13, I mailed 56 boxes of labels to Campbell's. We collected 968,466 labels and will be able to obtain some needed educational and recreational items for the classrooms. With those labels, we will acquire four Mackintosh computers, four color monitors, two printers, a VAS camcorder, video tripod with carrying case, two video cassette recorders/players, two tape duplicators, one set of multi-cultural rhythm band instruments and one Ring Hockey game set.

We received labels from 49 states, 7 Canadian Provinces, and we even received labels from England. Over 470 different chapters, groups, churches and individuals sent labels.

Special accolades go to the Victoria Village Squires barbershoppers in Victoria, British Columbia. They provided Heartspring with the greatest number, 108,000 labels. Fantastic job.

We wouldn't have been able to obtain these wonderful educational tools without *your* help. Your assistance is so important to us and we are really grateful for all your efforts and your many hours of hard work.

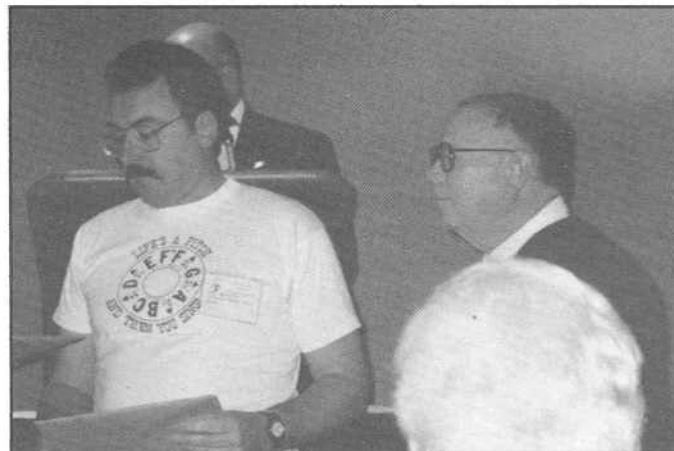
You are helping to expand a dream for the future for many special needs children. Staff and students again send their thanks. We will appreciate your support in the days ahead. Thank you for caring.

For Heartspring,

Nancy Dark, Campbell's labels coordinator

Bruce	Craig	Mike	Brian
ONLYX Barbershop Quartet			
(810) 474-1485			

	Kirk Wood 36702 49 th Ave. Paw Paw, MI 49079
Genuine Blend	
(616) 657-7300	



Dan Bezaire (left) and Art Lane

Chapter bulletin editors honored

by Jim Styer

Art Lane has been honored as the Pioneer District's Bulletin Editor of the Year. Lane edits the Holland Chapter's *Windmill Blade*. His entry in the district contest included coverage of the chapter's 50th anniversary last fall.

He received an almost perfect score in the grammar and style category, 578 points out of a possible 600. The two other scoring categories are content and layout.

Placing second in the district contest was Dan Bezaire, editor of the *Windsor Chordster*.

The awards were presented at the district spring convention in Lansing. Both editors are now automatically entered in the Society's International Bulletin Contest. Winners will be announced at the International Convention in Salt Lake City.

All chapter bulletin editors who publish at least eight issues this year are eligible to enter the next competition. All entrants receive a detailed analysis of their bulletin from the judges with tips on how to further improve their bulletins. Deadline for entries will be January 15, 1997.

FIREPOWER! A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION	
Mark Wilson Jeff Marks	Jamie Carey James Hawkins
Contact: Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158 333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827	



Sue Lewis
Contributed to
photo's on this page





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 July 15.

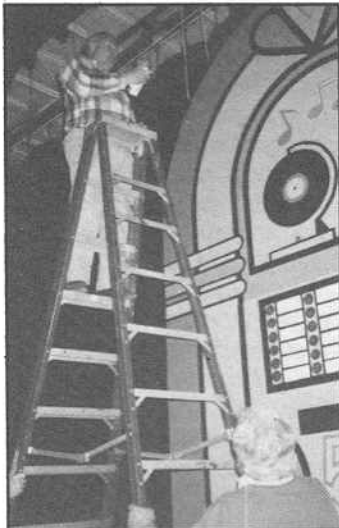
Flint Chapter

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chair

"Jukebox Saturday Night" has come and gone - both the date, April 20, and the Arrowhead Chorus Annual Spring Show. Four months of preparation culminated in two sixty-minute performances for an audience 30% larger than last years. We think we made a lot of friends for barbershopping with this year's production.

For a lot of Barbershoppers, including me, there's nothing like the thrill of performing before an appreciative and responsive audience. Next to the overall adrenalin rush of the total show experience, there were a lot of little "highs" along the way. There was the excitement of seeing the 14-foot jukebox, which we had been painting in sections for several weeks, come together to create the focal point on the Grand Blanc High School Auditorium stage. There were the outright belly laughs as individual members unveiled self-researched costumes representing the 1930's and 40's ... Ed Wracan and Don Wills in brazen-hued zoot suits; Bob Evanson wearing a wonderful paperboy's outfit, complete with knickers and a canvas bag of old *Flint Journals*; a plethora of plaid suits and sports jackets; and, of course, Ron Gruener resplendent in his signature show girl attire.

In my mind, though, the highlight of the show happened about the fourth song in. The chorus had been told there would be a quartet



John Noteware, music director puts finishing touches on 14' jukebox while Dave Lonsbury, show chair, steadies the ladder.

number inserted, featuring our four stalwart section leaders. The four had never rehearsed it with the whole chorus and, in fact, had never told us what they would be singing. When their moment arrived they were introduced as *The Ink Drops*.

The four left their chorus positions and moved toward the microphones. Bari Fred Kienitz had an impish twinkle in his eye. Bass Dave Lonsbury and tenor Paul Lehmkuhle couldn't hide sheepish grins. Then with Ron Gillies mimicking the Ink Spots lead singer, they broke into, "If I Didn't Know Why the Roses Grow, Then I Wouldn't Know Why the Roses Grow." The audience loved it. The chorus cracked up. And me, I got a lump in my throat, realizing that here were four guys with 139 years of accumulative barbershop experience who were still having the time of their lives.

Our guest quartet, The *Sharpshooters* from Indianapolis, were funny and wonderfully entertaining. *Fred's Old Timers Band* contributed some very entertaining dance and Dixie music. Old friend Doran McTaggart was his usual engaging self in the MC role. But my favorites were...you guessed it...*The Ink Drops*. Thanks Fred and Ron, Dave and Paul for showing us new guys the real heart of barbershopping.

Additional Arrowhead news: We're mighty proud that Flint brought home the trophy from the Pontiac Chapter's April 12th Woodshed Contest. We sent 13 members to warble wistfully for the cup. Five, three of whom were brand new members, had never before experienced the wonders of woodshedding. Fine event Pontiac... well done.

If you seek a wholesome family outing this summer, make note of these dates: June 30; August 18; and September 15. The *Arrowhead Chorus* will be performing on the Genesee Belle Riverboat, one of the main attractions, along with the Huckleberry Railroad at Crossroads Village, Genesee County's premier tourist attraction. Come join us for harmony on the headwaters of beautiful Mott Lake.

Muskegon Chapter

by Bill Tobias, Music VP

The long awaited Spring Convention is over, but the excitement of it all seems to linger. The drain of practice and the thrill of competition are still very much with many of us. The excitement of those chorus and quartet members who exhibited marked improvement over the scores received last year, may take a long time to dissipate.

The members of Muskegon's *Shoreline Chorus* wish to express their appreciation to the
Continued next page

Muskegon chapter, continued

Convention officials who planned and put on a genuine effort to reach its successful conclusion. I am sure that those crazies who terrorized the non-barbershoppers in the hotel Friday and Saturday nights with their chords-ringing were quite satisfied. We would like to congratulate Jamie Carey and the other members of *Firepower* for their third Pioneer District triumph. We also would like to do the same to the members of the Lansing chorus. What an action-packed weekend!

The *Shoreline Chorus* is still bubbling over, with pride, having won their plateau and their sixth place showing overall. It seems as though we are finally responding to the very capable leadership of Maestro Mike O'Donnell. We are also proud of Mike for another reason. His quartet, *Harmony Transfer*, were mike-testers for the Saturday night quartet competition.

Our illustrious Membership Vice-President Frank Scott has succeeded in gaining the interest of a highly gifted vocal music instructor of Reeths Puffer High School and a super new quartet composed of her students. These young men will be going to the Society's training school at Ball State University this summer.

We will be singing at the National Asparagus Festival Parade, just to the north of us, and riding on one of the floats. Those who performed last year could not believe how much fun was to be had appreciating asparagus. The parade will be held on Saturday, June 13th in beautiful downtown Shelby.

Also, we will once again have the honor of performing in Muskegon's Shoreline Spectacular Parade on Saturday, June 29th. The parade was televised over Grand Rapids' Channel 8 last year, so we were seen across West Michigan on hundreds, maybe thousands, of television sets--what a great way to generate interest in potential members!

Like many other choruses, we will also be performing at many area churches this summer. We hope to use the Society's "Songs of Inspiration" to ring a few chords in those hallowed halls. We are also proud of the fact that we have no less than four active quartets, and there is a rumor flying around that there will soon be a fifth (and I am not talking about J & B or Cutty). So, come to the sunny shores of Lake Michigan to our state's official Port City and ring a chord or two with us. Give us a call and let us know you will be on your way,

P.S. It is great, once again, to be a Barbershopper. You all were missed over the past six or seven years. It is good to be back!

Rochester Chapter

by Frank Mirasola, PR-VP

As we approach the mid-point of 1996, enthusiasm still runs high in the *Heart of the Hills Chorus*. Building on our very successful Singing Valentine ventures which enabled the chapter to split a \$1000.00 donation between Heartspring and the Rochester Leader Dogs for the Blind. We continue to add new members, we won our plateau and placed third over-all in the district spring competition and have had a whole lot of fun in the process.

Congratulations to Membership VP Dave Percy and welcome to our four new members: Al Haller, Rudi Krampf, Carl Hasselwander and Tony Stachurski. Every new barbershopper we add sets a record for all-time membership in the Rochester Chapter which now numbers 57 people.

A photo of Chapter President Dan Bajorek presenting a \$500 check to B.J., a Golden Retriever (representing the Rochester Leader Dogs for the Blind) appeared in both local newspapers. Articles describing our fund raising activities through Singing Valentines were also published. Heartspring also received a check for \$500.00. Next year, we know we will do even better.

Our Fall Show under Chairman Kurt Kiesling has begun to take shape. In addition to selecting the show tunes, two guest quartets; *The Friars* and *Expanded Sound* have been booked. The chorus and our quartets have started rehearsals and you can count on a fun-filled night on October 26, 1996.

This year, the Chorus approached the spring competition with an air of confidence and quiet determination. Herr Director Al Fisk not only got us to work as hard as he does...he got us to listen and watch and learn. The forty-one men on stage (an all time high) were both pleased and disappointed with our performance: Although we did a good job we know we have the ability to do better. Wait 'til the next time.

Chorus Manager George Schmidt has done a fine job of getting the *Heart of the Hills Chorus* and quartets booked solidly through September with a minimum of two and often four performances per month. One quartet, *The Chordmeisters*, was sold to the highest bidder on Saturday, May 18, 1996 as part of the Rochester Rotary Charities' "Big Bucks For Charity Auction." The biennial auction raises money for Rochester Area Youth Assistance programs.

In March, the Chapter Board, in an unprecedented move, recognized Bonnie Fisk as our Barbershopper of the Month. Through the years Bonnie has worked tirelessly on behalf of the chorus frequently outperforming members in

Continued on next page

Please save your Campell's labels!!!

See the letter from Heartspring in this issue!

Rochester Chapter, continued

show ticket sales, as well as Entertainment Book Sales and Singing Valentines. She devotes many hours "out front" and behind the scenes at our shows, and is a frequent supporter at rehearsals and sing-outs. Importantly for us, she is always there to support her husband Al, our director.

In April, the Chapter Board recognized Al Fisk as our Barbershopper of the Month. His determination has shown us we can achieve excellence if we watch, listen, learn and work. Also, because he had the good sense to marry Bonnie. These two people characterize what Barbershopping is all about. Our chapter is very fortunate to count them in our group.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

If the *Troub* is as prompt as usual, the date for the "Return of the Jugs" is still ahead. This year it will be on June 7 (the first Friday in June) at St. Francis K of C Hall, 21,900 Middle-Belt Road (South of nine mile), in Farmington Hills. We are holding admission down to \$5 for all the great entertainment and a late repast. Bill Wickstrom has agreed to emcee the evening and line up some local talent to sing for us. We are trying to get all three International bound quartets (*Onyx*, *Genuine Blend* and *Firepower*) to participate this year as we welcome the jugs' back from their travels.

At this time, I don't know where the jugs have been, but hope they complete their rounds before we have to call them back. We thank all the chapters for keeping them moving and all the members for their contributions. I'm sure our quartet representatives thank you for your support as they prepare for Salt Lake City.

The *Gentlemen Songsters* were pleased with our performance at convention this spring. Of course we would have been ecstatic with another 13 points to boost us from fifth to third place. Congratulations to Gratiot County for another well-run convention. We hope things go as smoothly when we host next spring.

Since the convention, we have had one public performance and another well-attended guest night. We are looking forward to performing in our "home town" of Royal Oak on July 24, as part of their Library Concert Series. After that, we will truly be able to say: "It's good to know you're welcome in your own home town."

We meet at 7:30 pm each Monday, except holidays, at Starr Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Crooks Road and Thirteen Mile in Royal Oak. We still have the group meeting Thursday afternoons from 1:00 to 3:30 in the same church. If you're in the area, or know of a singer in the area, we would be happy to hear from you. Now is a good time as we start learning songs for next years show. Come on out and sing a few with us.

Lansing Chapter

by Brian Dunckel, Membership VP

Pioneer District chorus champions!!! As the late Jackie Gleason said: "How sweet it is!" Eight of our eighty-three members on stage were there in 1973 when Lansing last won the district title. Special thanks again go to our coaches Joel Mills and Jack Slamka.

A few weeks ago, Frank Richards talked to our members about a group he was interested in starting. He proposed *The Afternoon Singers*, a group of about fifteen mostly-retired members are now meeting weekly and plan some future performances.

The Sunday Singers, under the direction of District President Larry Parker, are preparing for a busy summer. Last year there were about thirty in the group, and the numbers are higher this year. They provide sacred and inspirational music, along with scriptures and meditations at area churches throughout the summer.

May featured two guest nights for the chapter, and special guest performances by the *Patch Chords* and *Firepower*. Hopefully, in the next few weeks we will be inducting more new members into our chapter as a result.

For the past year, we have been fortunate to have the use of Moose Lodge # 2291 in Dewitt as our home. We were recently able to express our appreciation to them by performing a benefit show for the lodge. A full house was treated to the sounds of *Gallery*, *High Fibre Octaves* and the *Capital City Chordsmen*. Over \$1100 was raised for the lodge, and we received the satisfaction of giving something back to our community. Thanks to Rich Harlon who did a wonderful job as emcee.

Macomb County Chapter

by Roy Gurney, Music VP

Well, we did it and we're glad. In fact, we're excited. We said if we could put 25 singers on stage we would compete. After our successful dinner show, we were committed. Unfortunately, our late decision, and late entry, enabled us only to sing and be judged but not ranked. That's okay, 'cause we didn't care if we beat anybody - we just wanted to be back. The best part of the convention was all the well-wishes we received from friends all over the district. It's great to be a Barbershopper. Of course, our 717 point score didn't hurt either.

We apologize that our Quarter Quartet Quontest didn't come off, but we definitely will have one soon. In the meantime, we sang at the Art Fair in Mt. Clemens and for a Salvation Army dinner in May. We have other performances lined **Continued next page**

Macomb County Chapter, continued

up through the summer. In September, we are going to have another dinner show and are looking for a bigger place, like maybe 400 capacity.

On Tuesday, June 25 we plan a reunion of the chorus that sang at International in Louisville. Everybody is welcome and we plan a lot of fun. If you were a member of that chorus, we would especially like to have you there. Come join us in a little nostalgia.

Plans are underway for a full-blown show next March and we are entertaining new guests every week. Growth seems to be so much easier when you work hard and do things right. We have re-registered our auxiliary with headquarters and Jack Slamka's wife, Kitty, has agreed to head it up.

We hope to see you at the Send-Off Show in Windsor.

Boyne City Chapter

by Bill Woodbeck, Music Director

The *Snowbelt Chorus* just had a successful open house with six visitors joining us for the evening. Three have been returning to enjoy the sounds of four part harmony. We are now working hard, preparing for the summer season, the busiest time of the year for us. We have scheduled concerts in the park in Petoskey, Boyne City and Mackinaw.

The main event for the summer is the Loton Wilson Bush League Contest and Show. It will be August 10 at the Petoskey Middle School. Staffords Perry Hotel, restored to it's original beauty and elegance, will be the headquarters hotel for the weekend. This is a landmark hotel with two restaurants and a lounge overlooking Little Traverse Bay. It is within walking distance to downtown shopping, waterfront park and cultural events. There are some good golf courses within a ten mile radius. A block of 16 double rooms have been reserved at a special rate of \$75.00 per night, plus tax. Rooms not reserved by July 10 will be released. Motel, campground and the Petoskey Visitors Bureau telephone numbers are listed immediately below:

Staffords Perry Hotel	1-800-737-1899
Best Western Inn	616-347-3925
	or worldwide reservations 1-800-582-1234
Coach House North	616-347-8282
Comfort Inn	616-347-3220
	or worldwide reservations 1-800-228-2150
Econo Lodge	616-348-3324 or 1-800-748-0417
Magnus Park Campground, Petoskey	616-347-1027
Petoskey KOA	616-347-0005
Petoskey State Park	616-347-2311 or 1-800-543-2937
Visitors Bureau	1-800-845-2828

The Snowbelt Chorus will be "going out west" for the Saturday night show. Last years' champion *Forever Yours* will pass the trophy to the new champs and we'll see the runner's-up from the afternoon contest. Quartet registration will be 9 am to 12 noon at the Perry Hotel.

The contest will begin at 2 pm at the Petoskey Middle School auditorium. Contest rules are the same as the Society rules except you can't compete if you placed fourth or above at a district contest.

Reserved seats (The first ten rows) are \$10.00. Beyond the first ten rows, seats are \$8.00 or \$7.00 for senior citizens.

Find three other guys, come up and have a good time singing and enjoying fellowship with other Barbershoppers. We've had a lot of support from district chapters in the past. Let's make the first year in Petoskey a banner-year, with 11 or more quartets. Let's show Petoskey what Barbershopping is all about. We look forward to seeing you.

Grand Rapids Chapter

by Dick Williams

Another great convention. Gratiot County did an outstanding job hosting as well as singing.

Congratulations to our quartet representatives to SLC. It's really great to have three quartet representing Pioneer at International. The last time was in 1985.

A Grand Rapids quartet, *Formata*, competed for the first time and finished fourth. Our hats are off to: Peter Westers, bari; Wayne Kinde, lead; Tom Wheeler, bass and Jay Smits, tenor.

As for the chorus contest, I imagine my old buddy Stan Williams is pretty excited, and rightly so. The Lansing chorus did one heck of a job. All of us in Grand Rapids are happy for them and know the excitement they feel. Again, congratulations Lansing and Stan.

The complete roster of the *Great Lakes Chorus* who will compete in SLC appears elsewhere in this issue. We would like to offer recognition here to the *young* men singing with us. They are:

Jonathon Pollard, 12 years old, 6th grade, 3 years with us. **Ryan Mattis**, 12 years old, 7th grade, 3 years with us. **Brent Rummelt**, 13 years old, 7th grade, 2 1/2 years with us. **Joe Smits**, 14 years old, HS freshman, 1 1/2 years with us. **Jimmy Russell**, 14 years old, HS freshman, 3 years with us. **Rich Wyse**, 16 years old, HS sophomore, 1 year with us. **Bill Beckering**, 18 years old, HS junior, 1 year with us. **Steve Chambers**, 18 years old, Grand Valley State Freshman, 1 years with us.

All of these young men are very committed, having lots of fun and are a real asset to our chorus. They are really looking forward to Salt Lake City, as we all are. See you there.

Holland Chapter

by Art Lane, Bulletin Editor

Chapter surveys members

"I'm conducting a survey" is the word at the Holland chapter. The chapter membership has been asked to complete a detailed survey to help the board create the kind of program the members want. The survey, based on one used by about 50 chapters nationwide, was designed by president Dick Plaisted.

Church singouts

Several singouts at area churches have been held by the new Holland Area *Barbershop Sunday Singers*. Although the chapter has been singing at churches on occasional Sundays for years, this is something new. Non-members are invited to sing too.

The chapter discovered that non-members were interested in a barbershop approach to religious music last year. We invited men from schools and church choruses to join in a concert, "Hallelujah Amen." About 60 guys showed up. This inspired the chapter to open its Sunday singing to other men singers.

Kaffeeklatsch Singers perform

Eleven men from the Thursday morning kaffeeklatsch at Holland's Harmony Hall participated in the group's first singout March 11 at Holland Health Care Center. The mini-chorus sang a number of Polecat songs to 30 or 40 residents and one dog. Dick Plaisted introduced the group and had the audience sing along on several numbers. The outing was arranged by Jim Wojahn. The kaffeeklatsch chorus is available for similar Thursday morning performances on short notice at reasonable rates. Barbershoppers named Si Krol, arranger of performances for the chorus and the religious chorus, Barbershopper of the Month for January. February's barbershopper is Al Plantenga, who is dedicated to barbershopping, learns his music and is "willing to dive into anything," according to presenter Claude Barney.

Skip Lewis was named Barbershopper of the Month for March. Skip had no thoughts of barbershop until last summer when the Allegan Rotary Chicken Barbecue and the Holland *Windmill Chorus* all came to town on the very same historic day. Skip heard the chorus perform at Allegan's Riverfront Gazebo, liked the music and joined the chapter. His most recent singing experience before taking up barbershop was singing "The Marine Hymn" in a room full of tear gas during boot camp. He was honored for his discipline in learning songs, blowing pitches, distributing music and helping in many tasks.

Polecat Pride

Two men have received honors for learning and singing all 12 songs from the Polecat

book. They are Vern Rome and Bob Eastman.
Genuine Pride

Hollanders take pride in *Genuine Blend*, which practices in our hall, and was one of three quartets chosen to go to Salt Lake City. Best wishes to *Genuine Blend*, *Firepower* and *Onyx*, and to the *Capitol City Chordsmen*.

This is a busy time of the year for the Holland Chapter. In May we had a Lions Club show in Allegan and our two Tulip Festival shows, which run simultaneously. There's a mystery trip planned in June and an outdoor show at a campground in July.

Tag Contest Set in August

On Saturday, Aug. 3 men who like to sing tags are invited to the 11th annual Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest. There's a golf tournament at 10 am, roast pig at 6 pm and tag contest about 7:30 pm. For more information call Dick Plaisted, 616-394-0791.

Grosse Pointe Chapter

by Mike Sullivan, Chorus Manager

Kudos to the three, yes three top quartets from the spring convention: *Onyx*, *Genuine Blend* and *Firepower*. Each has their own unique style of singing and presentation. All will be great representatives at the International Contest. Let's not forget the fine showing of Lansing's *Capitol City Chordsmen*.

It was good to see our "cousin chorus," Macomb's *Harmony Heritage Chorus* back on their feet after a short hiatus. No doubt they will be contenders soon. Our chapter would also like to thank all the quartets who performed at our hospitality room, and for making our evening the success it was.

Grosse Pointe is proud to announce our Barbershopper of the Year, Eric Ernst. Eric is a 12 year member, sings lead in the *Pointe Pipers* quartet, and smoothly manages our shows. He has demonstrated the qualities it takes to earn this recognition. Ask him for the plans for his patented spud gun.

Togas were the uniform of the day in the spring contest and certainly got the judges and the audiences attention. They really are comfortable.

We definitely convened and enjoyed ourselves in April. We will host the Fall Convention. Meanwhile, keep an eye out for us on the high seas of Lake St. Clair.

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Oct 26 Rochester Show
Nov 1-2 Grand Rapids Show

1997

Feb 14-15 Detroit-Oakland Show
Mar 1 Lansing Show
Mar 8 Huron Valley Show
Mar 8 Monroe North Show
Mar 15 Kalamazoo Show
Apr 25/27 District Convention
June 6/7 Traverse City Show
Oct 17-19 District Convention
Nov 1 Grand Rapids Show

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

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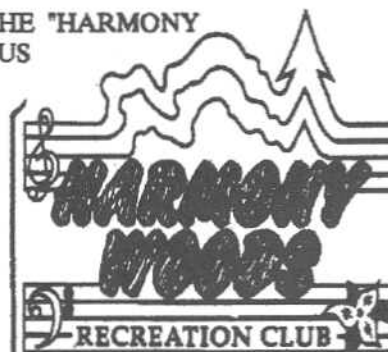
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