



pioneer TROUBADOUR



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SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF
BARBER SHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA, INC.

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DECEMBER, 1996/JANUARY, 1997

Great Lakes Chorus will sing at Indy

An impressive October district performance by the half-a-hundred barbershop choristers, directed by Ann Jarchow, affirmed the return of the hard working Grand Rapids chorus to International competition in Indianapolis, in July.

"Ann is demanding and expects excellence and we love it," Dick Williams wrote in his chapter column. He also reported "...some great coaches, Jim Casey and David Wright," helped the Grand Rapids chorus "achieve the honor."

With a total score of 946 at district, Great Lakes surpassed their own fall, 1995, International qualifying score by 39 points. Williams also said Greg Lyne and others will coach the chorus prior to International. "We are confident she will take us to the next level," Williams said of Jarchow's ongoing efforts.

With a stage filling, eye-popping, 96 chorus contestants, Lansing's Capital City Chorus, with James Carey up front, moved to second place with a fine performance. They have improved their number of members, performance, and score, since fall, 1995.

Still climbing, the Mall City Chorus, from Kalamazoo, directed by Gene Hanover, earned the third place slot in the contest. Traverse City's Cherry Capital Chorus, and the Windmill Chorus from Holland completed the top five.

Complete contest scores are on page 9 in this issue.

fermata completes Grand Rapids sweep of October contests

After eight months of singing together, Jay Smits, Wayne Kinde, Tom Wheeler and Peter Westers became the 1996 Pioneer District Quartet Champions, *fermata*. All are members of the Grand Rapids Chapter and the 1997 International chorus district representative Great Lakes Chorus.

Baritone Peter Westers has been a member of the Society for the last two years and had his first quartet contest experience in Lansing in

April at the International prelims. Peter is the newlywed of the group marrying Judy on August 24 this year.

Bass Tom Wheeler, a transplanted New Englander, has been member of the Society for the last 20 years. His first quartet contest experience was also at the International Prelims last April. Tom does all the arrangement work for the quartet.

Tom and his wife, Cathy have three children and one grandchild.

Lead Wayne Kinde has been a member for 15 years and has been with the Great Lakes Chorus for the last 4. Wayne has sung in *Cont.*, see *fermata* p. 4.

Pioneer District Quartet Champions



fermata

Jay Smits, Wayne Kinde,
Peter Westers, and Tom Wheeler



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Presidents Position

by President Larry Parker

Aren't conventions fun? Especially when you get a chance to perform on stage and also sing with fellow Barbershoppers in a more casual setting. You know, four guys standing in a hallway, an entrance way or in a hotel lobby singing their hearts out. I had a chance to do all those things and more at our last convention, and I observed many of you doing the same.

Many convention goers were pleasantly surprised to learn that there were twenty-three quartets planning to compete. This is the largest number of competitors that Pioneer has had at any contest in many years. It was unfortunate that four of them had to scratch due to various medical reasons, but it is my hope we have that many or more at another time.

As to the winners ... I congratulate *fermata* on becoming the 1996 Pioneer District Quartet Champions. It is our hope you have a great year while wearing the District crown. I applaud the Grand Rapids Chapter and the Great Lakes Chorus on winning the right to again represent the Pioneer District at the 1997 International convention in Indianapolis. These two fine Barbershop groups have every right to be proud of their achievements.

At the convention the House of delegates elected your new district officers for 1997. (Listed in the masthead on page two, ed.)

This fine cast of individuals will lead us as we go forward with our transition in the new management structure set forth by our Society.

At the Society level; Dr. Greg Lyne, former director of the 1996 International Chorus Champion *Masters of Harmony*, has been selected our Society's Director of Music Education, replacing Dan Nauman. Greg will begin his new duties around February 1.

On a district note; our newly elected Vice President for Contest and Judging, Joel Mills will serve as a judge in the singing category at the International contest in Indianapolis. To be selected is a tribute to excellence in his craft, and I am very happy for him.

The very best in COTS faculty personnel are heading to Pioneer this year. COTS will be on December 7 and 8 at the W. K. Kellogg Education
Continued, please see Parker, page 4



Society Synopsis

by SBM Russell Seely

I bring thee good tidings and I bring thee not-so-good tidings. The good? We've just completed a fantastic Pioneer year including two terrific conventions with record setting numbers of registrations and financial successes. We also added a brand new chapter at Gaylord, finished first in Operation Harold Hill, and qualified three quartets for the International contest in Salt Lake City. Give yourselves a hand.

The not-so-good? At our just completed Society's largest ever leadership forum in Wisconsin, we were emphatically reminded, under the restructuring of the Society, provincialism is strongly discouraged. We work for the good of the Society.

For example, your Society board member, me, no longer represents Pioneer District nor any other district. It will be quite different for me, since I've always been tied so closely with my chapter and district. District members will yet be represented. Your 'pipeline' to the Society will be your district president, who will meet with the Society board twice annually.



One of the most enjoyable, even if a little soggy moments during my administrative time with the district was presenting our dear friend Roger Lewis his credentials on becoming a member of the Pioneer Hall of Fame. Roger's accomplishments at chapter, district and Society level are so numerous it made me wonder if he wasn't the founder of the Hall of Fame.

But more important than all of his services is the *man*. In my opinion he is the essence of why barbershop has enriched my life. certainly, without it, I would never have had the opportunity to meet, know, love and respect the indefatigable Rog', and the ever charming, attractive and supportive Sue. (She cooks like a champ too.) If you need something done in your barbershop world, simply ask Roger. He does it all.

Have a joyous holiday season and get in 7th heaven for '97.

Here's to You

by David Cole, Executive VP,
VP Membership Services

Looking into the future with rose colored glasses

- or -

Let's All Get On the Bandwagon And Give Ourselves A Chance To Toot Our Own Horns



Your District Board Members have just returned from a hectic weekend of study and development of the new district board positions. The crux of the entire weekend was finding ways to make the new positions successful during the upcoming year, and in the years to come.

A great many things were discussed, but the continual underlying theme was that communications is, and will be essential to the success of our chapters, our districts, and our society. Make sure that you understand that those individuals who put in the endless hours of work developing the new format had our most important asset (Joe Barbershopper) at the forefront of this new program. Under the new guidelines, it will be easier to advance through the ranks of leadership, but more importantly, it will be easier to understand who to contact with your specific need.

"What can I do to get on this bandwagon?", you ask? Thanks for asking! LOTS !! For openers, you can get involved at the chapter level. This could range from volunteering for a committee, to becoming a chapter board member at large, to becoming a full fledged board member.

Another way of helping Pioneer become more successful is to take advantage of the programs available right at your fingertips. There are many opportunities for you to learn more about your craft, and/or the various duties of the board members. For openers, there's COT'S, which will be happening the first weekend of December. Make sure that ALL of your chapters board members are in attendance. Pioneer's own Past International President John Gillespie will be your host.

Also, if you are in a quartet, and not currently on your board, take advantage of the coaching session to be held at this year's COT'S.

Gene Hanover is your contact person for this, and it looks to be a fantastic program. While your board members are in attendance at COT'S, they will learn of other valuable services available to your chapter.

We all understand that sometimes change is not easily grasped, and that change for change sake is not always a good idea. Rest assured, that your Society is not simply tinkering because they have nothing better to do. All of the changes (both personnel and functional) will dramatically improve all levels of our beloved hobby.

Oh yeah, I would be remiss without a membership plug. *Only a few weeks remaining* in the "Let's Make A Deal" program. We're not (currently) winning the contest (Like Operation Harold Hill), but there's still a chance to pull off another "Dewey".

Try Quarteting — *It's Fun.*

Parker, from page 3

Center, (on Gull Lake), Hickory Corners, Mich. I will look forward to meeting your chapter officers there.

Another milestone for Pioneer: Our new music and performance team will hold its first quartet coaching clinic at COTS on Saturday, December 7. All registered quartets should have received notification by mail with details of the event. If you didn't, please contact Gene Hanover at (616) 465-6223.

Speaking for your board of directors, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year. Please have a safe holiday season.

fermata, from page 1

several quartets including International top 20 finisher L' *sprit de Corps* from the Land o' Lakes District. He also sang bass with *Beyond Measure*. Wayne has had extensive vocal training and leads the chorus with his knowledge and presence.

He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Krista, and their daughters.

Tenor Jay Smits has sang with three quartets in his 20 years of barbershopping. His first quartet was while serving in the army in Colorado, after which he sang with the *Furniture City Chord Company* and two years later with the *Premium Blend*. Jay lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Robin, and three sons.

The quartets first contest was the International prelim's in April, 1996. They placed fourth behind *Onyx*, *Genuine Blend*, and *Firepower!* Competing in the 1996 Buckeye Invitational last August, they finished third.

Plans now are to prepare for the chorus performance in Indy, and for the International preliminaries at the Pioneer spring contest.

take note by Fred Kienitz, VP, Chorus Director Development

Same by-line, same guy, different subject. My last letter to "ya'll" came from your chubby old D.M.E. - Since the election, however, they have reconstructed our district board to match the newly reconstructed Society board.

Little has changed beyond verbiage for the district officers. Now we have a president, an executive vice president combined with membership vp, vp for chapter development, vp



for music & performance which replaces the old D.M.E. and vp for chorus director development which is a new position and a concept that will now be the subject of this article.

This paragraph is for directors (chorus) only and must not be read by any other

member. Those found guilty of reading this anyway will be severely beaten about the head and shoulders and sentenced to put up chapter risers for a period of three months to one year. The length of sentencing will be determined by the offender's wife. And now the secret for directors eyes only portion of this news letter.

The Grand Pubas from International have, in their wisdom, determined that any poor singing, balance, interpretation, practice sessions, chord inaccuracy, etc. etc. is the fault of the chapter chorus director. The blame falls solely on his/her shoulders- If, on the other hand, your group wins the title of district champ or that chorus which will represent our district at the next International contest, you must also take the blame for having won. Sound dumb?

Perhaps, but like it or not, dear friend, you are the single most powerful person in your chapter.

With this in mind, let us assume your strong suit is notes, words, harmony accuracy, blend, great directing skills, an ability to make every member want to be a productive part of this chorus, and breathing skills to assume a strong presentation.

How much prestige would you lose if you brought in a strong coach who dealt only with vocal production and interpretation? The answer, my friend, would be "none whatsoever." If you have selected your goal properly, namely, to win or make another chapter work much harder to beat you, you have become a double winner.

You have a blue ribbon, or you are the second best chorus in your district. You have been able to cause conflict in the minds of those listening to your presentation. Did you really win or were you rubbed? Either way you are one of the best directors in the district. This brings me to the purpose of this article. I am the new district chorus director development vice president and there are some exciting new things available to you through Society trainers who will do a day-long workshop throughout our district to work with current directors and, or assistant directors from your chapter.

These will be presented to five chapters at a time, within driving distance from a central point, ie, a school in Gaylord for only Traverse City, Gaylord, Charlevoix, Cadillac and Sault Ste. Marie. The host would provide the chorus and all five directors would work with this group. These "fab five" will be given a long list of selections from which to choose with the theme of the day being, "If I could change two things in my chorus sessions they would be..."

You may have chosen, "all members will know their parts within two weeks" and "all members with fifty percent attendance or less will change this pattern to seventy percent or more."

If, as I mentioned earlier, all behavior in your chorus is your fault and you got your wish for the two things you chose to work on, that also is your fault dear friend. This is an exciting concept and I am anxious to get it off the ground.

I have talked to Gene Hanover who is the new D.M.E. (now known as v.p. for music and performance) and we will be overlapping to the extent that he will continue to offer chapter assistance (coaching on site) along with me and we will probably be using the same people we used from the old D.M.E. staff. If you have questions, I'm only a telephone call away.

Meanwhile, remember I'm the new district vice president for chorus director development. However, I would prefer it if your will simply call me D.V.P.C.D.D.

Wally	Phil
	
HIGH BID A Barbershop Quartet	
Bob	Contact: Marv Moran 44763 Charnwood Plymouth, MI 48170 (313) 459-4218



Ed Notes - Every barbershopper ought to experience the thrill of an International convention at every opportunity. For Pioneers, the event at Indianapolis next summer could not be more geographically opportune. It's only hours away.

The Society is offering a special price of \$75 for those registering by the end of the year. Registration forms are in recent issues of the *Harmonizer*.

When District President Roger Lewis telephoned in December 1992, he asked if I was "still interested" in editing the *Troubadour*. He asked for a "two year commitment," to the task.



Editor: Gordon Gunn

I was interested then, and now after four years on the job, I am still enthused.

Oh, I sometimes fret and worry and silently threaten to quit when copy isn't here when I feel it should be or when I've had computer problems or something else is not quite right.

But every time Marg and I attend a convention my enthusiasm is renewed; Renewed in good measure by the wonderful friendly and kind barbershoppers of the Pioneer District.

Let's see, four years makes eight conventions, - oh! But I missed one. So that's seven conventions on duty. And over those years, so many people have approached Marg and I and introduced themselves, that my heart is gladdened. (And many have had nice things to say about the Troub!) I don't know where else or how else, we might have ever made so many friends.

The job has also furnished a reason to attend many chapter shows we otherwise would have missed. And again, we made new friends at those events.

I'm totally convinced - for a people person, this is the best job in the Society.

"Voices in Harmony," a PBS TV special will broadcast this month, (December). The special will feature The Gas House Gang and Marquis, 1993 and 1995 International quartet champs, as well as Showtime and Gem City Chorus, 1993 Sweet Adeline quartet champions and five time Sweet Adeline chorus champions.

Check your local listings, set your VCR, and, in the interest of PR, use local media outlets for advance publicity. It's a great opportunity!

Keep 'Em Ringing

by Gene Hanover,
VP Music and Performance

It is an honor and a privilege to be serving as your vice president for music and performance. My enthusiasm is flamed by the possibilities of the things to come and tempered by the amount of time that is in the day.

There are 10 men serving with me on the team and that number could climb as the need arises. There are educators, and a sheet metal worker. There's a pipefitter, and computer whiz men. There is even a certified music judge. We are from large and small chapters including the Frank Thorn Chapter.

Some are active competitors and some are not. Four of us are chorus directors and all are quartet men. We all like to sing tags and woodshed. We come from all parts of the district. From north, south, east and west, we come to serve you. We have a good cross section of the district and we are all accessible anytime by telephone. I'm excited because the possibilities are endless.

Some of the things that we are already working on include:

- *Harmony Round-Up. May 16-18 at Michigan State University in East Lansing.
- *Top Gun '97. A coaching clinic designed exclusively for those top quartets and the chorus that have the best chance of representing, or are already qualified to represent the district in International competition. This will give them a better chance against the Top Guns of the other districts.
- *A quartet coaching clinic at COTS '96.
- *There will be two society staff visits, one week in May and one in September.
- *Youth Outreach
- *Coach training
- *Possibly two chorus coaching workshops. One north and one east.

As you can see, there is a lot on our plate for 1997. None of them can happen though, without you. We need your input, ideas, and support. Feel free to jot them down and send them to me at: PO Box 322, Bridgman, MI 49106, or you can give me a call at (616) 465-6223. I've been told that I am difficult to reach, so you will probably have to leave a message. I'll be happy to return it and talk with you. But, unless it is an emergency, I ask that you call prior to 9:30 PM.

Until next time, *Keep 'Em Ringing!!*

Check out the
goldenrod, center insert in this
issue for the exciting details of
Harmony Round-Up, 1997



**President Parker and Clifford "Cap" MacLean, as President Parker presented "Cap" with a Badge of Honor signifying his induction into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame
October 18, 1996**

"Cap" MacLean joined the Society and the Long Beach, CA Chapter in 1947.

While in the navy, and serving a tour in the Panama-Canal Zone area in 1951, he helped organize a chapter there. He became a member of a chapter quartet, *Jingle-Aires*, and competed in the 1953 Dixie District contest in St. Petersburg, FL.

(The Panama chapter was the first Society chapter formed in a country outside the United States or Canada. Their membership, as high as 45 to 50, had six organized quartets. The chapter was very successful in staging their own shows and quartet contests without any outside help.)

He then moved to the Pioneer District in 1954, and with sponsorship from the Boyne City Chapter, he organized a chapter in Cheboygan, MI. By 1957 the chapter's membership grew to over 30 members.

In 1957 he moved to the Johnny Appleseed District and joined the Lakewood, OH chapter. From there, he moved in 1959 to the Mid-Atlantic District and joined the Norfolk-Portsmouth, VA chapter. He joined a chapter of about 10 members and helped it increase to over 40 members by 1961.

In 1961 he moved back to Pioneer and joined the Sault Ste. Marie, ON chapter. In 1963, he organized a chapter in his home town of Cedarville, MI and was a member there until 1978.

He rejoined the Sault Ste. Marie, ON chapter in 1978 and is still a member there.

In his travels he still found time to be Chapter President of the Panama-Canal Zone, Cheboygan, Norfolk-Portsmouth and Cedarville Chapters. While a member of the Cedarville chapter, he served his District as an Area Counselor from 1964-1965 and Division Vice President from 1965-1966.

He became a certified stage presence judge in 1961 and judged contests until around 1975.



**SBM Russell Seely and Roger Lewis, as SBM Seely presented Roger with a Badge of Honor, signifying his induction into the Pioneer District Hall of Fame
October 18, 1996**

The Pioneer District's newly elected Vice President of Events, Roger Lewis began his enthusiastic participation with S P E B S Q S A when he joined the Battle Creek Chapter in 1961.

He began singing in a quartet while yet in high school in Caledonia, and at that time, sang in a contest sponsored by the Grand Rapids Chapter.

He has served his chapter in every office except secretary, as chapter show chairman, and has sometimes filled in as interim chorus director. Roger was twice honored as the Battle Creek Chapter Barbershopper of the Year.

Roger began singing with the *Harmony Hounds* in 1962. He has sang baritone and bass with the quartet and has been a member of 8 of the 11 "litters."

He was our Pioneer District president in 1992 and 1993. He previously served the district as director of conventions, executive vice president and editor of the *Troubadour*.

He served two years, 1994 and 1995 as the International board member from the Pioneer District and is now the Society manager of conventions and meetings.

Roger was a certified judge in the former stage presence category and is currently certified and serving as a judge in the presentation category.

His wife, Sue, has been a Sweet Adeline since 1973 and competed Internationally with the Coldwater Chapter in 1975.

Roger and Sue have 3 children and several grandchildren.

A director and partner of Employment Group Inc., Roger said he plans to retire in January, 1997, and devote even more time to barbershopping.

Russell Seely wrote in his column in this issue, "If you need something done in your barbershop world, simply ask Roger. He does it all."

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*Rates and registration form
on goldenrod page four*

1997
Pioneer District
HARMONY ROUND-UP

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Full details on the following pages - or you may telephone
District Vice President of Music and Performance,
Gene Hanover - (616) 465-6223



1997 Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up

Regular Classes (All Day Saturday) 6 - 8 Hours

100 Direct Hit -	Faculty	104 Quartet Workshop -	Faculty
101 Fundamentals of Music -	Fisk	105 Chorus Workshop -	Faculty
102 It Ain't Magic -	Evans	106 Joe Barbershop Chorus -	Faculty
103 Apprentice Coaching -	Faculty	107 Pick-Up Quartet Coaching -	Faculty

Mini Classes (Sunday Morning) 2 - 4 Hours

200 Tag Singing -	Fisk	204 Sight Singing Skills -	Stephens
201 Gang Singing -	Fisk	205 Marketing for Members and Money -	T.B.A.
202 Sections Leaders Workshop	Faculty	206 The Art of Woodshedding -	Faculty
203 How's and Why's of Warmup	Faculty	207 Judges, What do they really want? -	Evans, Mills, O'Donnell

Class Descriptions

100 Direct Hit - Faculty. This course is designed to focus on the new, young and/or aspiring arm waver. It will also aid present directors but will concentrate on the basics of directing. All students will direct and be critiqued by the instructor and peers. Individual sessions will be video taped so you may see your own progress.

101 Fundamentals of Music - Al Fisk. This course is designed to teach the student how to identify various notes and their value. It teaches key signatures and how to identify the key in which the song is written. It touches on intervals and generally makes those dots on the paper user friendly.

102 It Ain't Magic - Bruce Evans. This class will be great for the barbershopper who wants to know more about the mysterious phenomenon called music. It will touch on melody, harmony, scales, pitch, meter, half-steps, whole steps, harmonics, and musical instruments, including your own; your voice. It will furnish a laymens view of all the dots, squiggles and flags we see on the paper.

103 Apprentice Coaching - Hanover. In this class you will be assigned to a quartet coach while he is working with his assigned quartet. Thus, you will observe, but not be involved in coaching. Following the session, the coach will advise the apprentice of the weakest part of the groups performance and what he did to help them improve. You may be assigned to alternate coaches for p.m. sessions.

104 Quartet Workshop - Faculty. This class is for quartets only; who want to improve their performance package. Each coach will work on your problem areas first, moving toward your strengths as the session progresses. Please advise the coach of your concerns at the beginning of the session.

105 Chorus Workshop - Faculty. This class is for chapter choruses only. You must have a majority of you chorus in attendance and supply risers. You will be coached in all areas of your performance. Be prepared to do a strenuous days work. See reduced price schedule for choruses. Your chorus will be expected to perform on the Afterglow.

106 Joe Barbershop Chorus - Faculty. Each man registering for this class will be given music and learning tapes for two songs the chorus will rehearse, be coached on and perform on the Saturday night show. A great class for everyone. Indicate your voice part when registering.

107 Barber Polecat Pick-Up Quartet - Faculty. An extension of the quartet experience class of the past. This is your opportunity to sing and be coached in a quartet. Indicate your voice part when registering and have all of the words and music of the polecat songs learned.

200 Tag Singing - Al Fisk. Al has a compilation of about 180 tags from which to choose. The class is designed for full enjoyment in a very relaxed atmosphere for instant gratification.

201 Gang Singing - Al Fisk. You will relax and enjoy winging with members of other district chapters. This is a fun class.

202 Section Leader Workshops - Faculty. Learn the basics of teaching parts to chorus members to help you be a more effective section leader.

203 How's and Why's of Warm-Up - Faculty. This class will help you get your whole body ready to sing. It will include posture, the "warm air" concept, and breath management.

204 Develop Sight Singing Skills - Jim Stephens. This class will explain what all the black dots and all the rest of the marks on the sheet music mean. You will learn basic skills to help you learn music faster and will receive hand outs to refer to back home.

205 Marketing for Members and Money - T.B.A. This class will provide some sure-fire ways to recruit new members and to market your chapter in your area. You will receive step-by-step instructions on how to be successful in executing tried and proven methods.

206 The Art of Woodshedding - Here is your chance to learn how to woodshed or become more proficient in the art. Every man will have an opportunity to sing in a VLQ and/or a quartet.

207 Judges, What do they really want? - Evans, Mills, O'Donnell. Have a heart to heart discussion with certified judges from the singing, music, and presentation categories. Find out how to recognize the "do's" and "dont's" of your performance. You will have an opportunity to use your new found knowledge. A great class for chorus directors and assistants, quarteters, and anyone else who performs.



TOP GUN '97

Free Trade Agreement and Cascade Connection to headline 1997 Harmony Round-Up

from the District Music and Performance team

Two quartets will be featured at the 1997 Harmony Round-Up being held on May 16-18 at Michigan State University in East Lansing, Michigan.

Free Trade Agreement gets their name from the international accords reached in 1994 between the North American countries. (they didn't think NAFTA was very catchy!) It reflects the composition of the quartet, with two parts living in Pennsylvania, one in Maryland, and one in Ontario, Canada.

Lead singer Jay Butterfield, who is the head of the music department at Lampeter-Strasburg High School, has been barbershopping since age 10, winning a gold chorus medal at age 15 with the Dallas Vocal Majority. He also directs the Red Rose Chorus in Lancaster, PA.

Baritone Ron Knickerbocker had been a barbershopper for more than 29 years. He has been in a number of quartets to date finishing in the Top 20, Top 10, and Top 5 at International. His crowning quartet achievement came as the baritone of the 1974 International Quartet Champion Regents. Ron directs the Chordbusters Chorus of Chester County, PA.

Tenor Rick Taylor is a displaced baritone who has won a gold chorus medal with the **Alexandria Harmonizers** and has served as baritone section leader. He has also been an International Top 20 quartet competitor numerous times. Rick has been barbershopping for 27 years.

Bikes Al Baker (the Ontario contingent) has been barbershopping since 1960, has made multiple appearances in the Top 20 International Quartet contests, as well as having been a certified judge and Category Specialist in the former Arrangement Category.

All four are very active as coaches and instructors across the Society, and have served as faculty at many district and Internationally sponsored schools. As a matter of fact, singing together informally at these schools is what led them to organize officially as a quartet.

In their first contest, they won the right to represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the 1996 International Contest in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Back by popular demand, is the Evergreen District's, **Cascade Connection**.

Tenor Jim DeBusman, and baritone Mel Knight

are known to most of us because of their work on the Society's music staff (Mel is now retired) and because of their exceptional, and extensive quartet and chorus coaching they have done in the district.

Lead Reid Stewart and bass Jerry Harrison are known here because of the excellent coaching that they performed at the 1994 Harmony Round-Up. Both men are highly sought after coaches and when paired up with Mel and Jim, they make a great quartet. The quartet was their districts 1982 Champion Quartet.

Two of the men in the quartet are judges and the quartet recently toured Australia and New Zealand and headed the first "Harmony College" in the Southern Hemisphere!

Our goal is over 300 Pioneer barbershoppers in attendance for the 1997 Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up.

We are still negotiating with outstanding people to complete the faculty for the event, but we wanted to get this information to you now, so you may make your plans to be there.

The complete faculty roster for the Round-Up will be published in the February/March issue of the *Troubadour*.

Gene Hanover, VP Music and Performance

Please take special note of the discount offer for full chapter chorus participation in the 1997 Harmony Round-Up.

All rates, early registration discounts, and a special offer for free, Harmony Round-Up T-shirts, are listed on the next page!

Please complete the forms provided on the next page and reserve your place early!

- * You are responsible for your own Friday evening meal.
- * Select one from each series (100 and 200 classes) and an alternative from each.
- * Chorus Workshop singers (quartets too) may elect to audit any of the classes offered for one to four hours at any time during the day to avoid fatigue.
- * Special rates for chapter choruses are listed below. If you have any questions, call me, (Gene) at 616-465-6223.
- * Sunday morning classes followed by a short farewell to the faculty and will be over by 11:30 A.M. giving you plenty of time to get home.

Here are some possible price combinations

Full registration \$95.00 - includes 4 meals, lodging, materials, all classes.
 Commuter registration \$75.00 - includes 2 meals, materials, all classes (no breakfasts)
 Chapter chorus member full registration \$75.00 - includes 4 meals, lodging, materials, all classes.
 Chorus member commuter registration \$50.00* - includes 2 meals, materials, all classes (no breakfasts)
 *Note: To qualify for chorus member prices, your chorus must attend at least 4 hours of coaching.

Special notice for our Canadian Brothers paying by check or in Canadian currency;
 Full Registration, add \$20.00 Full chorus registration, add \$15.00
 Commuter registration, add \$15.00 Chorus commuters, add \$15.00

Register Promptly

All prices listed will be honored through May 1, 1997. Registrations postmarked after this date will be subject to an additional \$20.00 late fee per registrant. Joe Barbershop Chorus registrants must register not later than April 27 to receive music and learning tapes.

Register before May 1 and receive **FREE** Harmony Round-Up T-Shirt!
 Please be sure to circle your T-Shirt size: S M L XL XXL XXXL

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____ Chapter _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone () _____ Business Phone () _____

Full registration fee includes two nights lodging, fees, materials, all meals.
 Smoker? Yes ___ No ___

Please check appropriate blank
 ___ Full Registration @ \$95
 ___ Commuter Registration @ \$75
 ___ Chorus Full Reg @ \$75
 ___ Chorus Commuter @ \$50

Note: Commuters may attend all sessions but lodging and breakfasts are not included. Chapter members attending with their chorus for chorus coaching should complete this form and give to chapter or chorus official for group processing.

\$30 minimum deposit required

List your class preferences below

1st choice regular class _____
 2nd choice regular class _____
 1st choice mini-class _____
 2nd choice mini-class _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Make check payable to Pioneer District and Mail to;

Gene Hanover
 PO box 322
 Bridgman MI 49106

Golf (18 Holes) ___ You will play on the MSU beautiful 18 hole course Friday afternoon.

QUARTET REGISTRATION FORM

Quartet name _____
 Tenor _____ Chapter _____
 Lead _____ Chapter _____
 Bari _____ Chapter _____
 Bass _____ Chapter _____
 Contact Man _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone() _____ Business Phone() _____

Full registration includes two nights lodging, fees, materials, all meals for one quartet member.

Please enter the appropriate no.

___ Full registrations @ \$95
 ___ Commuter Registrations @ \$75

Minimum Deposit \$120 required

Amount enclosed: _____

Make checks payable to Pioneer District and mail to;

Gene Hanover
 PO Box 322
 Bridgman MI 49106

Note: Commuters may attend all sessions but lodging and breakfast not included.

EMERGENCY 24 HOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER 1-517-353-1602

Pioneer District Quartet and International Preliminary Chorus Contest,
S P E B S Q S A, Inc., Lansing, Michigan, October 19, 1996

Pioneer District
Quartet Contest

International Preliminary
Chorus Contest

<u>Quartet</u>	<u>Total Score</u>	<u>Chorus</u>	<u>Total Score</u>
<u>Finals</u>			
fermata	1692	Great Lakes Chorus, Grand Rapids	946
Blue Ribbon Coalition	1627	Capital City Chorus, Lansing	913
Camaraderie	1598	Mall City Chorus, Kalamazoo	758
Rivertown Revue	1551	Windmill Chorus, Holland	720
Passport	1498	Gentlemen Songsters, Detroit-Oakland	706
Bayshore IV	1476	Lakeshore Chorus, Grosse Pointe	705
Gallery	1402	Harmony Heritage Chorus, Macomb County	648
Four Ever Yours	1393	Huron Shores Chorus, Alpena	635
<u>Semi-Finals</u>			
Harmony Hounds	692	Sun Parlour Chorus, Windsor	614
Endeavor	666	Shoreline Chorus, Muskegon	611
Brand New Gang	650	Renaissance Chorus, Wayne	607
Harmony Transfer	623	Cereal City Chorus, Battle Creek	604
My 3 Friends	588	Midstatesmen Chorus, Gratiot County	590
Northern Express	560	Town and Country Chorus, Hillsdale	547
County Road Four	505	Arrowhead Chorus, Flint	535
Open Fifth	487		
The Nauticals	482	The <i>Great Lakes Chorus</i> , of the Grand Rapids Chapter will represent the Pioneer District at the International Chorus Contest in Indianapolis, in July, 1997	
Sugar Bears	470		
Three Flakes and a Cheerio	359		

fermata is the 1996 District Champion Quartet
Brand New Gang is the 1996 District Novice Quartet Champions

Huron Shores Chorus of the Alpena Chapter is the most improved chorus.

Silver Domes, a.k.a. Gro-In Pains, Seniors Champs

A composite report

The **Silver Domes**, who competed as **Gro-In Pains** at the October Senior Quartet contest, topped a field of ten entries and will represent the district at the Society's Mid-Winter convention. They are: John Wearing, tenor; Russ Seely, lead; John Seeman, baritone and John Wade, bass, representing Grosse Pointe and Motor City Metro chapters.

Grand Rapid's **Brand New Gang**, finished a very close second in the spirited contest. Seniors from nine chapters competed this year.

Retiring champs, **The Very Idea**, congratulated the new champions and sang their swan song following the contest.

The judging panel included Bruce Evans (music), Roger Lewis (presentation), Joel Mills (singing), and John Bauer (contest administrator). Senior contest chairman, Bill Wickstrom served as master of ceremonies.

Quartet Champs Association will present show at fall convention

by Bill Wickstrom

The Quartet Champ's will feature the QCA's **Chorus of Champions** and such quartets as **Power Play, 4 Fits, Genuine Blend, Onyx, Firepower!** and **fermata** in a fall show, likely to be held at the convention headquarters hotel following the Friday evening quartet preliminaries.

At their annual breakfast meeting in October, the group also decided to hold a "Sing with the Champs" session at fall conventions. Other action included: Adoption of a member medallion and name badge, and an annual dues assesment.

Bill Wickstrom and Dennis Gore were re-elected president and secretary and Russ Seely was voted treasurer. A music committee of Joel Mills, James Carey, and Mike Slamka was appointed.

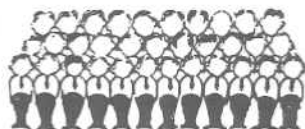
A silent memorial to deceased member Jim Gross was observed.

The meeting concluded with a roast of the outgoing quartet champions, **Firepower!**

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36TH ANNUAL HARMONY SPECTACULAR ★ ★ ★ "SHOW OF CHAMPIONS" ★ ★ ★

Featuring:



The Gas House Gang
(1993 SPEBSQSA International Champion Quartet)



Keepsake
(1992 SPEBSQSA International Champion Quartet)

Ambassadors of Harmony
(150-man SPEBSQSA International Third Place Chorus from St. Charles, Missouri)

Michigan Jake
(1995 Cardinal District Champion Quartet & current SPEBSQSA International Finalists)



Saturday, February 22, 1997 — 8:00 p.m.

At the **BRAND NEW Rosemont Theatre**
5400 River Road, Rosemont, Illinois



For more information, call the 24-hour Chicagoland Barbershop Hotline: (847) 475-8180

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___ x \$20 Premium (main floor) = \$ ___
___ x \$20 Balcony (front) = \$ ___
___ x \$15 Balcony (rear) = \$ ___
Grand Total Enclosed = \$ ___

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doing so will help the chapter of your choice
financially.)

Make your check or money order payable to CABC.

Afterglow information will be included
with your tickets.

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Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Day Evening

Phone Orders by Credit Card: (800) 449-1811 or (847) 475-8180

Credit Card Number: Visa MasterCard Discover

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Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ piobit

Bids are open for new convention site beginning in 1999. District also accepting bids for chapter host in Lansing in spring, 1998

District conventions will move to a new city in 1999, VP of Events, Roger Lewis said. The plan offers an opportunity for another Pioneer chapter to have the semi-annual convention in their home town for a minimum of three years. Roger said the convention committee asks only that the chapter in the new location host the first of the six conventions. The convention committee will negotiate the details with the convention bureau of the cities bidding.

The committee is also currently accepting chapter bids to host the 1998 spring convention in Lansing.

Chapters with an interest in either opportunity are asked to contact Roger Lewis.

"Light of the Moon"

From the Whittier, California, Chapter, submitted by Larry Parker

The "Light of the Moon" is a special publication, which was prepared as a tribute to the life of Earl Moon, who passed away earlier this year. It was originally printed to be presented to the guests of the "Moon Glow" held on June 15, 1996, which would have been Earl's birthday. Now, it is considered a collector's item among Barbershoppers.

According to Eric Jackson, "The book, ('Light of the Moon') is deeply moving and enriching. In some ways it defines what our hobby is fundamentally all about. I recommend that all Barbershoppers obtain a copy and read it, whether you knew Earl Moon or not."

The Whittier chapter will honor requests for copies of "Light of the Moon" for \$5.00 each, to cover the cost of printing and postage. They will only want to reprint one time so orders should be sent no later than January 31, 1997. It will take from 2 to 4 weeks after that time to return the orders. Please make checks payable to the Whittier Chapter, SPEBSQSA, and address order requests to:

"Light of The Moon"
Gale Sherrodd, Editor
14844 Springford Drive
La Mirada, CA 90638

Bob Whitledge directing "Kentuckians Chorus"

Bob Whitledge, former director of the City Lights Chorus, Motor City Metro Chapter, recently accepted new duties as the director of the Lexington Chapter **Kentuckians Chorus** in the Cardinal District, Ernie Nickoson revealed in a conversation at our fall convention. Past Society President Nickoson said Lexington is his "home chapter."

Whitledge, bass of the 1971 International champion **Gentlemen's Agreement** quartet, founded the Motor City Metro Chapter in 1991, "to get some people back into barbershopping."

He first joined the Detroit No. 1 Chapter in 1958. Moving to Monroe, Michigan in 1966, Bob became a dual member of the Monroe Chapter where he directed the **Floral City Chorus**.

Bob and wife Sally moved to Burlington, KY in October 1993, "seeking warmer weather."

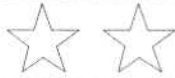
The Earl Moon Memorial Endowment Fund

from the Whittier, California, Chapter
Submitted by Larry Parker

- * The Whittier Chapter has elected to establish a \$20,000 endowment fund in the name of Earl moon.
- * The fund, once established, in perpetuity will pay the tuition each year for one or more deserving barbershoppers to attend Harmony College. The fund will be managed and administered by Harmony Foundation and the selection process will be administered by the Whittier Chapter.
- * The Fund will be known as the Earl Moon Memorial Endowment Fund and is dedicated to preserving his name and memory at Harmony College and throughout the Society and to further the education of barbershoppers.
- * The Whittier Chapter will plan fund raising events and conduct it's annual budgeting process to provide contributions to this fund until the target amount of \$20,000 is reached.
- * Contributions from other individuals, chapters or quartets are welcome.
- * While this fund raising project may take several years, the Whittier Chapter will aggressively pursue the attainment of the goal.
- * All contributions to this fund should be made payable to the Whittier Chapter, SPEBSQSA. Donations are tax deductible.

Society members wishing to make contributions to this fund may send contributions to:

Clay Sherman
649 N. Hamlin Street
Orange, CA 92669



PIONEER CHAPTERS IN ACTION

A TROUBADOUR SALUTE
TO

Chris Davis

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

Hillsdale Chapter

by Chris Davis

Barbershop singing returned to Hudson in September. After an absence of several years, chords were ringing in the high school as the **Town and Country Chorus** sang some rousing numbers. The **Home Groan** quartet had the crowd in stitches with their rendition of "Grandma's Feather Bed." The **High Bid** quartet did an excellent job and **The Ritz** topped off the show.

This Sunday afternoon show rekindled some old memories of many Sunday shows in Hudson.

A large crowd thoroughly enjoyed the show and afterglow, put together by Van VanDezande and Dave Rickard.

The **Town and Country Chorus** delivered the "Jug" to the Kalamazoo Chapter with a surprise visit October 7. We had a great time with the combined choruses singing old favorites. Kalamazoo's **Mall City Chorus** sounded very good as they performed some of their show numbers.

Our chorus has grown to over thirty members, necessitating a move to larger quarters. We are now meeting at the Hillsdale High School.

Pontiac Chapter

by Don Denoyer, Publicity committee

It was a great thrill to be on the risers waiting for MC Doran McTaggart to announce the opening of Pontiac **Merry Men's** show "Sweetheart Serenade." It was held on October 5 before a large and eager crowd at Brandon High School in Ortonville. My happy anticipation came from the fact that I've only been a member for seven months. It was a double treat because along with Mike Garrison, tenor, it was my debut singing in a new intra-chapter quartet, **Model A Four**. Longer term chapter members of the quartet are Bob Woodward and Bill Dabbs.

The show was a tremendous success. Our guest performers included **Firepower!**, **Impulse**,

Over 60 Four, and the **City Lights Chorus**.

Many kind, complimentary words were tendered to us after the show. In particular, I remember the lady in charge of my bridge group who brought five people along to the show. With a hug, after the show she said, "Gee Don, I didn't know you could sing that well."

That made my day, and I gave her a big hug in return.

In addition to our next show, an important item on our agenda is a cooperative venture with the Flint and Swan Valley chapters. With the aid of learning tapes we will all learn the same songs. They will join us on our shows, and we will join them on their shows. We think it will be a gratifying and educational experience.

Many of us attended Flint's successful open house on October 22. They had 21 prospective members in attendance. Our open house was on the following Friday, with **Firepower!** We had 10 new prospects and I thought the presentation was excellent.

Our chapter and chorus is looking forward to an active, adventuresome New Year.

Grand Rapids Chapter

by Dick Williams

The song has ended but the melody lingers on... and so draws to a close another exciting convention. Kudos to the Grosse Pointe Chapter for the fine job as convention hosts.

We are very proud of our chapter quartets and the great job they did, especially the new District Quartet Champions, **fermata**. Now they have the formidable job of preparing for the spring contest.

Congratulations too, to the district's most improved chorus, **Huron Shores** from Alpena, and to our own **Rivertown Revue**. It was the quartets first district contest together and they finished 4th after a great Saturday night comeback.

Now for the old guys. Congrat's to **Groin Pains**, Senior Quartet Champs and to our own Grand Rapids, **Brand New Gang**, second by only 10 points.

Grand Rapids salutes all of the competitors for the outstanding job they did. What a thrill to know that there were over 546 men on stage that week-end. That says a lot for the district.

A note of thanks to Roy Gurney for welcoming our new director, Ann Jarchow, into the fold. For all of us, were pumped and raring to go. It was a fantastic weekend for our chapter. We worked extremely hard to achieve the honor, with Ann and with some great coaches, Jim Casey and David Wright.

Ann is demanding and expects excellence, and we love it. In just the short time she has been

directing us, she has endeared herself to us. And we know, she is looking forward to directing us on the International stage. We are confident she will take us to the next level.

Greg Lyne is coming to coach us in November and we are really looking forward to the session. Ann has more coaching of this quality coming in following months. We are excited to say the least.

For the chorus, tide pride is running high and we are proud to be the district chorus champions and to be representing our great district next July at the International in Indy.

To all you wonderful people, please accept our sincere thanks for all of your very kind remarks that greeted us after the Saturday night contest and throughout the evening. You were very gracious and we are very appreciative and honored by your comments.

We just concluded our 54th Barbershop Harmony Show, where both the Saturday afternoon and evening shows were sold out.

We featured the 1993 International Quartet Champ's, The Gas House Gang, and the very funny 3 Men and a Tenor, along with fermata, Rivertown Revue, Brand New Gang, and Never be Four.

The show, afterglow and everglow were great fun, but it made for an awfully long day. Well worth it though and we are still having fun.

The everglow was hosted by Dan and Ann Jarchow.

Any of you out this way, come visit us and join in. You just might like it.

From all of us, to all of you, have a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years.

Pontiac Chapter

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chair

Usually we don't call attention to our chapter Barbershopper of the Month in this, publication, considering the award important, but internal by nature. Our August recipient, though, is worthy of special acknowledgement. In our Spring '95 chapter show, "A Showboat Adventure," lead singer Al Slayton earned an affectionate nickname -- "Louie" -- as he tap danced his way through verse and chorus of "Meet Me In St. Louie, Louie". He repeated the performance in the Pioneer District chorus competition of Fall '95, and as part of numerous sing-outs thereafter. Al even had his own portable dance floor that became as indispensable as the chorus risers. In August of this year Al joined the "Chapter Eternal", his heart failing him at a too young 56 as he returned home from yet another terpsichorean triumph, entertaining at a church benefit for a fellow barbershopper. Though he had only been a barbershopper for four short years, Al established standards in the Flint

chapter with his diligence in learning his music, and his eagerness and enthusiasm for singing with anyone at any time. Louie, we miss you. Al Slayton's story reminds us of how fragile life can be, and how abruptly life can change, including our enjoyment of our barbershopping hobby.

Well, the Arrowhead Chorus may never find another Al Slayton, but membership co-chairs Don Wills and Ed Wracan have been doing their best. Don proudly crossed the Lansing stage to accept the top chapter award in the top district for the Association's Professor Harold Hill Membership Competition. Three days later, not resting on its laurels, the chapter hosted a highly successful new member open house with over twenty candidates. We extend special thanks to Firepower! for sending our guests home fired up about barbershopping.

Seems we were on a roll, so five days after the open house we conducted our third annual chicken dinner fund raiser, serving nearly 300 ravenous music lovers at Flint's Masonic Temple Dining Room on a Sunday afternoon. Two "practiced" quartets and several spontaneous assemblages of four to eight voices serenaded the diners at their tables, being careful not to block the path to the all-you-care-to-eat buffet spread.

It's a pleasure for the Flint chapter to welcome new member Mark Leimer. Mark comes to us from the Fort Wayne, Indiana chapter where he gained experience in both directing and quartering. We've put him to work immediately as assistant director to John Noteware. For his initial responsibilities he's been placed in charge of vowel-singing and facial expressions. How's that for a tough assignment?

Dave Lonsbury is at it again -- writing/producing the Arrowhead Chorus spring show, that is. Dave's special challenge this year is to blend the talents of three choruses as about 30 members of the Pontiac and Swan Valley chapters have taken dual memberships in the Flint chapter to form a Mid-Michigan Mega Chorus. The inaugural appearance of this blockbuster group will be on Saturday, March 15, 1997 -- matinee and evening performances -- at Grand Blanc High School Auditorium. We'll be joined on stage by the internationally acclaimed Salty Dogs, and champion ragtime piano player Bob Milne. Yes, "Beware the Ides O' March," cautions Dave, as he announces the title of the production, "A Little Bit O' Heaven." Faith and begorrah, you'll surely want to be in the audience that day.

Detroit-Oakland Chapter

by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

For those not able to make it (apparently quite a few), Canada Night was quite a party. Eighty five people attended, representing eight

times at times. I look forward to meeting and singing with as many chapters as possible this year.

December becomes one of our busiest months for the chapter. We start by lighting the Christmas Tree Of Hope at St. Johns Hospital, perform for several community groups, go on evening excursions to various establishments to raise money for a hearing center, and cap off the month with an all day bus trip to over 15 nursing homes to sing and spread the Christmas spirit. In between all this, we will manage to put on a Christmas performance with the Sweet Adelines.

memory, they have created a legacy of service to the Pioneer District that will be difficult to match and nearly impossible to surpass.

The unselfish contribution of their time and talent to support chapters throughout the district is deeply appreciated and will be long remembered by members of the Pontiac Chapter.

Thanks and best-of-luck in all future endeavors, to Firepower!

Bob Woodward, President
Pontiac Chapter



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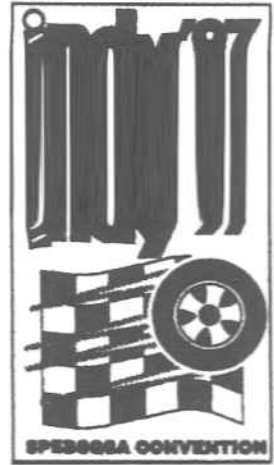


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- Feb 14-15 Detroit-Oakland Show
- Mar 1 Lansing Show
- Mar 7-8 Wayne County Show
- Mar 8 Huron Valley Show
- Mar 8 Monroe North Show
- Mar 15 Kalamazoo Show
- Mar 22 Macomb County Show
- Mar 22-23 Hillsdale Show
- Apr 5 Muskegon Show
- Apr 12 Battle Creek Show
- Apr 25-27 District Convention
- May 9-10 Motor City Metro Show
- May 16-18 Harmony Round-Up
- Jun 6-7 Traverse City show
- Jun 13 Windsor Send-Off
- Jun 29 - Jul 6 Int. Convention
- Oct 17-19 District Convention
- Nov 1 Grand Rapids Show

1998

- Feb 20-21 Detroit-Oakland Show
- Mar 6-7 Wayne County Show
- Mar 14 Kalamazoo Show
- Mar 28 Monroe North Show
- Apr 24-26 District Convention

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

PLEASE NOTIFY:

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



All the Exciting information about Harmony Round-Up 1997 is in the 4 page goldenrod, center insert, in this issue.

Bruce Craig Mike Brian

Barbershop Quartet
(616) 979-1488

FIREPOWER!
A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson James Carby
Jeff Marks James Hawkins
Contact: Jeff Marks (517) 663-8158
333 N. Waverly Road, Easton Rapids, MI 48827

THE HARMONY HOUNDS
Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
Bus. (616) 979-4343 - Res. (616) 965-5714

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for
the Holidays
and
Always*

