

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District,
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of
Barbershop Singing in America, Inc.



DECEMBER/JANUARY

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GR, Detroit Sound Co. winners at convention

Doug Pearson
Public Relations VP

Another successful Pioneer District Convention is now history with the Grand Rapids Great Lakes Chorus and The Detroit Sound Co. quartet coming away with top vocal honors.

Held again in Lansing, the Convention was hosted by the Battle Creek Chapter. In one of the closest chorus contests ever, the 56-voice Great Lakes Chorus edged Lansing's Capital City Chordsmen by four points to earn the right to represent the Pioneer District at the 1998 International Convention in Atlanta. Ann Jarchow directed the Grand Rapids contingent in performances of "You Keep Coming Back Like A Song," and "Rose Colored Glasses."

The 71-voice Capital City Chordsmen, directed by Jamie Carey, sang "Roll On Mississippi" and "Heart of a Clown." Finishing in third place was the Macomb County Harmony Heritage Chorus. Directed by Jack Slamka, the 41-member chorus sang "Opening Night on Broadway" and "Broken Heart For Every Light." They were named the District's Most Improved Chorus.

In quartet competition, the Detroit Sound Co., comprised of Rudi Krampf, Kelly Brummett, Jim Ryan and Al Fisk, was named 1997 District Champions. The quartet represented the Rochester, Huron Valley and Frank Thorne chapters.

Finishing second from the Grosse Pointe, Macomb County and Motor City



(Clockwise from top R): Incoming District President Dave Cole (left) chats with new District Board member Raleigh Bloch. • Newest Pioneer District Hall of Fame member Donald Bazely (right) is congratulated by District President Larry Parker. • Bill Wickstrom was a driving force behind the Convention's successful Quartet Champions Show.

Chapters was the Resolution quartet of Tony Ales, Tom Conner, Steve Pauling and Pete Burns. In third place was the Lansing Chapter quartet Gallery, with Art Cardy, Dave Hundt, Larry Parker and Larry Wise.

Capturing the District Senior Quartet championship was the Grand Rapids quartet Flipside, with Al Walters, Terry Huyge, Gary Branch and Jack Sidor. They will represent the District in the Society's Senior International competition.

Meanwhile, the 1997 District Novice Champion was Never Be Four out of the Grand Rapids Chapter. Quartet members

are Dave Szutkowski, Phil Johnson, Jack Sidor and John Baker.

Masters of ceremony for convention events were Battle Creek Chapter's Dave Eddy (Quartet Preliminaries), Society Board member Gene Court (Chorus Contest), and Windsor Chapter's Doran McTaggart (Quartet Finals).

A new feature to the Convention this year was Friday evening's 1997 Association of Pioneer District Quartet Champions Show. The show featured performances by the Quartet Champion Association Chorus; Onyx, 4 Fits, Power Play and Firepower. Master of ceremonies was Lee Hanson.

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President's Position Larry Parker, President

It was great fun, but the "Ride is over!"



When I was a young lad, my parents would take my sister, brother and me to an amusement park or carnival. The excitement, upon arrival, was sometimes breathtaking. The chance to ride the merry-go-round, Ferris wheel, tilt-a-whirl and the awesome roller coaster were all I had on my mind. Two hours, and many rides later, it was time to go home. The rides were over and the thrills had ended.

In 1995, you elected me as your District President. The past two years have been exciting, educational, and

sometimes, breathtaking. I feel fortunate to have had a hand in helping the District through the transition period of our new management structure. The presidency, and what the office stands for, is a milestone in my barbershopping career. The chance to ride the merry-go-round in the inner workings of the District and Society management gave me the ride of a lifetime. Now, those two short years, and many meetings later, the ride is over! However, the thrills of it all will remain with me forever.

As we begin the second year of the new management structure, it marks the first time that your outgoing president hasn't gone on to be—
see **PARKER**, page 19



Society Synopsis Russell Seely, SBM

Consider chapter service



Well, I almost made it! After more than a dozen years of service to the District—from area counselor to the Society Board—I thought I would finally return to the ranks of Joe Barbershopper, but I guess the cards turned me toward another direction. Now, instead of bidding a fond farewell to the District board, I simply trade my Past President cap in for a hat that proclaims that I am now the Vice President of Music & Performance.

Yes, Shirley, I'm STILL on the District Board!

This move also give me a theme to

share with you. For years, my perception of our grand organization was that quar-tetting was the only experience I needed. I never aspired to taking a "job" with my chapter, certainly not an elected position, and the furthest consideration for me would have been serving my district or, even more ludicrous, my Society.

Brother, would that ever have been short-sighted!

My mentor, a wonderful friend and excellent baritone, Mark Roberts, was the first one to lay the old philosophy on me that states: "you only get out of an organization that which you put in."

As a young man I wondered, what the heck does that mean? Shortly after, I was asked to serve as Keeper of the Mugs,

see **SEELY**, page 20

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

Man, I guess I need to play the Sad Editor more often. After last ish's maudlin plea for material, I received enough stuff for a 20-pager! With many photos, no less! Love it!

As I sit putting the finishings on this hefty beaut, hunched over a large bowl of Honeycomb and milk, I have to give major kudos to a few folks.

First, Doug Pearson is responsible for a lion's share of this ish's material. His first-hand coverage of events was much more knowledgeable, and entertaining, than mine would have been.

Next, I need to say thank you to Holland's Art Lane for his well-written, touching personality profile on Bob Eastman (pg. 14). *This* is what takes the *Troub* from an average newsletter to a publication with heart.

Also, Muskegon has done a nice job plugging their work lately with students and with getting the word out on "Harmony Month" (photos, pg. 17).

Finally, Gaylord's Carl (Webster) Essenmacher deserves a shout-out for using the ten dollar word "neophyte" in his Chapters In Action. Wow, man.

I've gotten a few comments lately regarding timeliness of the *Troub*. This is disappointing. It seems that while some folks get their *Troub* in a fair amount of time (by the 15th, moved back from my lofty goal of the 1st of the month), some don't receive it at all until the deadline for the next ish.

This is due mainly to the 3rd class status of our mailing, and I don't really know what to do about it. I know the *Troub* leaves Lansing, but beyond that, it's up to Distribution Centers and local Postmasters to decide when to

see **BULLETIN**, page 7

Here's to You

David Cole, Executive & Member Services VP

Are you a member of a fraternity?



Welcome to the "Fraternal Order of Barbershoppers." It has taken me too many years to become aware that we are members of a very unique fraternity.

While many fraternities are based on an ethnic, social, or scholastic theme, we have the uniqueness of having our fraternity based on music and entertainment.

The brotherhood of barbershoppers is some 36,000 strong, with quick growing roots, dating back over fifty years. And still, we have largely kept

our fraternity a secret -how many brothers could we include, if we asserted ourselves? Pioneer has a two-year goal of 2,000 members by the year 2000. We need to work as one to attain that goal.

Besides the obvious warm fuzzies of singing, what has kept you involved in barbershopping? Here are some of mine, maybe they're similar to yours.

Quarteting - Besides the thrill of singing with three other, a quartet becomes a family all of its own. There is the support of the wives; I loved that big hug after competition. There is the dismay of hearing about the tragedy of a family member. There is the difficulty of losing that family (quartet) member.
see **COLE**, page 8

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT



By the time you read this article, this year's COTS-PLUS will be history. About ten percent of our district's membership attend this excellent training session. The attendees, including our chapter officers, gain knowledge that will positively affect all of our membership. Unfortunately, not all of our chapters are represented at COTS-PLUS.

This year, all of the materials were not mailed to each individual chapter but were distributed at the time of registration. Those not in attendance will eventually get their materials but it will take some time.

Each chapter officer manual is accompanied by a goldenrod coloured Addendum which explains how your chapter will function under the new management structure of the Society which is now fully operational at all levels except the chapter level. This will be our thrust throughout 1998.

The Music and Performance manual is see **MCTAGGART**, page 19



Mailbag.

Audience at convention should limit applause

Consider my words to be kind and gentle. I wonder if there is some way that we could ask the audience at conventions not to applaud for a quartet or chorus somewhat before their performance?

I do not wish there to be a rule or a restriction added to the list (no cameras, etc.), but perhaps there could be some agreement among those present. The applause covers pertinent announcements and explanations that everyone needs to hear i.e., where the judges will be for their critique sessions, what programs will be held after the contest, and other convention notices.

Although I certainly don't want to curb the enthusiasm of those who wish to support their representatives, I do want to encourage a more moderate approach. Perhaps there is a way to accommodate both enthusiasm and necessary announcements. I wrote to the editor. Why don't you?

Sincerely,
Wilbur "Webb" Scrivnor
President
Muskegon Chapter

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Plan to help celebrate Society's 60th Anniversary



Let's have a party! Sure as ringing a good t a g , everyone's in favor of that. And while we're at it, let's make it world-wide and include every

chapter. What a blast!

Well here's our opportunity, because next year — 1998 — our Society is celebrating its **60th Anniversary**.

What a great vehicle to showcase our original American art form and to generate a whole lot of free promotion and publicity throughout the community.

Here's the plan our Society is suggesting and personally, I think it's a good one: Each chapter can offer their own community a *gift* as a part of the International 60th Anniversary. **The plan is to offer free entertainment to couples having a 60th Wedding Anniversary in 1998** as a way for Barbershop chapters such as ours to get local media attention. Here's how you could work it, using your own variations:

Generally, local media likes to run "free" offers, and likes to do human interest stories. Each chapter would seek a media sponsor to make a public offer and have the media sponsor manage the drawing to choose the winners.

The number of entertainment offers a chapter could offer is up to the individual chapter (1 or 2 or 3, etc). Chances are, the more you offer, the easier it will be to find a media sponsor.

The offer is for the chapter to come in uniforms and serenade the winning

couple at a mutually selected time. Your chapter does not provide the place nor food, but does give a free entertainment experience. The couple can invite as many friends as they wish to the celebration to hear the singing.

At the event, the chapter should include some love songs....and could include enough other songs to make it a "show" if it's appropriate. Your chapter's basic cost would be flowers, a card and perhaps an old magazine. Here are some suggested guidelines:

- * Enough flowers could be brought so that each singer can step forward and present some of the flowers.

- * Comments from the chapter could include reading some of the events from 60 years ago....sort of a "down memory lane."

- * If there is an "old book" store, or a "used book" store in town that has old magazines, you could provide a memorable highlight by purchasing a 60-year-old magazine with a date close to the couple's wedding date, and present that magazine as a souvenir.

- * A Congratulations Card should be presented, signed by all of the singers, as well as listing the Chapter's name and contact phone number. Guests could also be invited to sign the card.

Here's another idea to help promote our 60th Anniversary: Have a special ticket offer for your chapter's annual show. Again using the media, make the announcement that anyone having a 60th birthday in 1998 will get two tickets for the price of one, and anyone having a birthday during the week of the show will get two free tickets.

Or how about a special 60th Party at see **PEARSON**, page 19

Bulletin editor and PR award entries due

Jim Styer
PioNet Operator

Several good chapter PR officers and bulletin editors are out there. But we don't know about all of them. Here's a chance to get some recognition for your hard work.

Two district contests are open to you which can help give you that recognition. (You must be a PROBE member to be eligible.)

Even if you don't think you can win, consider submitting your entry anyway — judges' comments can give you some help in doing your job better.

Even if you disagree with the judges, they still probably will have something to say that will get you thinking.

District winners will be announced at the spring convention. If you win either contest, you can be entered in international competition.

Bulletin editors

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

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

You don't need to be the very best to win. The top two entries in the district will be recognized, and both can be entered in the international contest.

(By the way, save some extra copies of your bulletins; in case you win, you will be asked to submit three additional copies of any three bulletins

see **AWARDS**, page 7

Detroit Sound Co. thanks Pioneer for support

Al Fisk
Rochester

The Detroit Sound Co. is thrilled and honored to represent the Pioneer District as the 1997 District Quartet Champions.

Although we have to raise our performance level up significantly to qualify as International Representatives for Pioneer, we are proud of our accomplishment (especially with our formation occurring only two months ago). We are also pleased with the outpouring of congrats, support, and love from all of our Pioneer family.

The Detroit Sound Co. also had the privilege of singing the Star Spangled Banner at the Palace of Auburn Hills before the Detroit Pistons/Atlanta Hawks basketball game on Saturday November 22.

Let me introduce the quartet members. (You may have seen some of this on the Pionet.)

Kelly Brummett (lead) and his wife, Marie, live in Ypsilanti. He has sung with Camaraderie and is the assistant director of the Huron Valley Chapter. He currently sings tenor with Chordiology,



Detroit Sound Co. is (L to R): Tenor - Rudi Krampf, Lead - Kelly Brummett, Bass - Al Fisk, Bari - Jim Ryan

bass with Reckless Abandon, and with his brothers in the Cherry Hill Brothers. Kelly is most proud of his two sons and three granddaughters. "I never really considered myself a competitive person, so winning or losing never seemed all that important to me. This changes everything."

Jim Ryan (bari) and his wife, Joyce, live in Canton with their two teenagers, Ashley and Chris, his REAL hobby. Jim is in sales and works for a software company in Novi. He has sung with the Wayne Chorus, Macomb County and more recently with his good friends at Grosse Pointe. Jim has been competing

in district competitions since 1991 when he moved here from Nebraska.

Jim came close to winning with Signature with a third place and then with Passport. "It was a distinct pleasure sharing the stage with three gifted singers and sharing the thrill when they called our name as district champs. Thanks to all my friends for all their support."

Rudi Krampf (tenor) and his wife, Pam, live in Rochester Hills. He sings with the Rochester Chapter and with Endeavor.

Rudi put the quartet together and dealt with many necessary details such as outfits, arrangements, etc. He is a computer consultant. (And a good one, too!)

My name is **Al Fisk** (bass). Bonnie and I live in Rochester Hills. I direct the Rochester Chapter and have sung with the Lansing, Macomb County, Oakland County, and Motor City Metro Chapters. I have sung with the Subtle Impressions and now sing with the Chordmeisters. I teach vocal music in Hazel Park and will never forget the feeling of exhilaration when

see **SOUND CO.**, page 16

The birth of a championship quartet

Jim Ryan
Grosse Pointe

How does a quartet get started?

The phone rings. It's Rudi Krampf. He wants to sing in the district competition, just 2 1/2 months away. Okay, who have you got so far? Gee, not bad. I've always wanted to sing with them. Should we get together? What songs do you want to sing? Do we even have a match?

Two months to go. We're meeting tonight at Jim's house. This could be fun. Do we even know any songs between us? Wow, seems like everyone knows how to sing their part. What are

our strengths? Al is a musician, so is Rudi. Kelly has a great lead voice and learns music quickly. Jim's been on the stage before and has been through the regimen, knows what it takes. Rudi is so enthusiastic. This could really be good fun! But can we come up with a name? Let's see it's Al, Kelly, Rudi, and John, er, Jim?

One month to go. We've missed a couple of practices. Have decided to go to twice a week to catch up. We picked four songs. Learning them is going to be a miracle. Rudi is chasing arrangements, part tapes, possible names, everything. We might make it. But where is the sound? And what is our

name?

Three weeks to go. We are coaching with Lynn Pierce for the first time and everyone is sacrificing time to make this happen. Al even takes an early flight back from DC and the Promise Keepers rally. Lynn is excited about the potential. But where is the sound? Lynn gives us all something to work on. Rudi records everything on video and four channel DAT tape. What a guy!

Less than two weeks to go now. We're having our second coaching with Lynn. We surprise her. Ha! we actually listened to what she had to say and used it. It was a long night and some us are

see **QUARTET**, page 16

BULLETIN, from page 3

grab that bag of 3rd class mail and deliver it.

I was sure everyone would get the last ish at least a week before contest, and some didn't. Makes the front page schedule look rather silly, no? I'm going to keep looking into this dilemma, and see what we can do to speed things up a bit.

Lastly (which I'm pretty sure isn't a word, but it sounds cool), I'm going to plead again for digital submissions whenever possible. It takes me about five evenings to put the *Troub* together and proofed, and three of those are spent typing. If you've got email, please send your story to me that way, either as an attachment, or within the text of your email.

If you type on a computer, throw that file on a disk and mail it to me. I know disks are about 75 cents apiece, which can add up, and I know I can't promise to mail all your disks back to you, but isn't your humble editor's eternal gratefulness worth the price if a cup of coffee? (Thank you, Sally Struthers)

How about this: send me your story on disk, and I'll buy you a root beer at the next convention.

Please don't misunderstand. I still get stories typed on typewriters, and please *please* keep 'em coming. I'd rather take the extra time and type *everything*, than have one person not send me something because it's not digital. -Chad

As *fermata* disbands, they stop to appreciate everyone who helped along the way

What an honor it was to represent this district as quartet champs. Also, how good it feels to have passed on the trophy to such a great group of guys like the ones in The Detroit Sound Co. Guys, congratulations and have fun.

We would like to thank the Pioneer District for all their wonderful support during our year as champs. A special thanks to all the chapters that showed warm hospitality during our visits. These would include Gratiot County, Rochester, Detroit-Oakland, Lansing, Windsor, Milford, and Muskegon.

Thank you so much to the quartets Power Play, Onyx, and FIREPOWER! just for being friends at events such as contests, mini-hep, and jug night. We love you all.

Unfortunately (or fortunately), our last two weeks of reign were dictated by Wayne and Krista's newest addition, Andrew. This blessing took its sweet old time arriving, which resulted in us being unable to attend Bush League, and unable to sing the trophy away at Fall convention. It crushed us to not be able to sing at these events, and we are truly sorry, but there could be no better rea-

son than to bring a new barbershopper in to the world. The understanding by everyone was appreciated.

On an even more serious note, in late September, *fermata* made a very difficult decision. Collectively, we decided to discontinue the quartet as of November 1. Many factors led to this decision, but nonetheless, even the right decisions are not easy.

Our last performance was November 1 on the annual Grand Rapids Chapter show, and emotions were high, especially at the afterglow. In retrospect, it was fulfilling to realize how far we had come, the friendships we had made, and most of all, all the fun we had.

Finally, a heartfelt thanks to the Grand Rapids chapter, and our musical director Ann Jarchow. We thank you all for your support, encouragement and love. We do feel lucky to have been able to represent such a great chapter. Thanks, guys.

The four of us feel honored to have sung together, and we will miss singing in this quartet. What a great hobby, and what a terrific fraternity of friends.

Editors, PR folks have opportunity for recognition

AWARDS, from page 5

for the international competition.)

Mail your entry to Jim Styer, 72 Allison Dr., Battle Creek MI 49017-1828. Include your e-mail and postal addresses, and your background info as a BE.

Any questions? Need help? Call 616-965-6456, late afternoons and Sundays. Or e-mail to: jimstyer@voyager.net

Public relations

If you're a PR officer, write a summary of what you did, the results and why you're proud of it. No minimum or maximum length; whatever it takes to

help decide you're worthy of recognition. Enclose any backup material you might have, like information used in planning the activity, outlines, reports, internal communications, letters, news releases, clips, tapes, posters, programs, brochures, handouts or ads. That's your entry in Pioneer District's Public Relations Officer of the Year contest.

If you're not a PR officer, you can nominate your chapter's PR officer. But you also need to provide supporting material with your nomination letter. The cover letter also should include information on chapter size and resources

and on area media to the extent this affected your work and results. Also include your name, address, e-mail address, phone number, chapter and title, and a brief summary of your barbershop and PR experience that can be used for publicity.

Deadline is March 1. But mail it as soon as possible, so you don't forget. The winner can be entered in the international PROTY contest, which requires entrants to be PROBE members. Also mail your entry for this to Jim Styer, at the address above. Call if you have any questions.

Cole, cont.: Remember we belong to a musical fraternity

COLE, from page 4

And after all that, your family (quartet) is the strength that keeps you going.

Man of Note Award - Your most treasured? I know a man who is very proud of his 25th. I am most proud of my third - my son. I was also very proud of another, when I saw one of them singing lead at the recent contest. I guess I'll have to recruit more, to get more of those warm fuzzies.

The many chapter shows - Remember the hours of hard work putting together the show? Yes it was difficult, but the fellowship of members and spouses was incredible. And the featured quartets - Chiefs of Staff, Yesteryear, Keepsake, 139th St., Chordiac Arrest, Gas House Gang... they were all bigger than life. And yet, they'd all sing a tag with you at the afterglow. This fellowship is getting better.

My first International - WOW! I didn't miss a minute, every quartet, every chorus, and as many hospitality rooms as possible. FRED, I can't wait until they're on our show. How incredible, over 12,000 people, able to have fun, and renew acquaintances without causing a riot. There's that fellowship thing again.

Departed Friends - Although sad, I would not have had the enjoyment of knowing them, without barbershopping. It never ceases to amaze me how instantly friendship occurs within our

fraternity. We need to find more people to become members of our fraternity.

Joe Barbershopper - With all of the varied backgrounds, we all become Joe Barbershopper during our meeting night(s). That includes professionals, corporate presidents, salesmen and industrial workers. Recently at the Societies Leadership Forum, I was amazed at how many District Officers had "Gold Medals" around their necks. It was a thrill to just sit and talk with these guys - Joe Barbershopper.

Inspiration - Sometimes we need a kick in the pants, or maybe someone to inspire us. Recently someone did that for me. Our chorus needed someone to join the ranks of the front row. Personally, I'll sing in a quartet, but the front row - are you insane?! Well, this man volunteered, with the understanding that he would need help in learning the dance steps - in two months.

With help from two dedicated members, they taught him the routine. With much anticipation (on his part only), he strutted his stuff on the contest stage. The inspiration, you ask? Bob is blind. When I asked him why, he simply stated, "they needed someone to do it, and I wanted to prove to myself that I could." Thanks, Bob.

What's kept you happily involved in our fraternity? I'd like to know. E-mail, or write to me. Let's get a big list together for the next publication. In the meantime, if you need help within your chapters, there are seven District Vice Presidents chomping at the bit. Give them a call if you need help.

District to waive its \$10 membership dues for 1998

Doug Pearson

VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Is \$10 worth anything to you? Or to anyone you know? If your answer is 'yes,' then read on.

Effective January 1, 1998 — for a full-year duration —our Pioneer District will be waiving the \$10 District portion of the annual Society membership dues.

And this \$10-deal that each new member will get can be raised to an even greater amount if your individual chapter decides to waive its chapter dues for the year.

When it comes to club or association affiliations, we all like to know "how much it costs." This Pioneer District savings of at least \$10 a year during our special 1998 program should provide you with a major punch to your membership efforts. You won't want to forget this special benefit when you're talking to a potential member.

Remember, this \$10 attraction (or more if your chapter decides on it) can help us reach our district goal of **2,000 in 2000**. That's the goal we have set for our district: Hitting a figure of 2,000 members by the end of the year 2000. It's an ambitious goal since it represents an addition of some 600 new members over our current membership figure. But if we all pitch in, it's one we're confident we can meet.

There are a number of exciting ways we can achieve our membership target. You'll hear much more about this later. But an effective way of getting us out of the starting blocks is the **\$10 incentive**.

When you're talking to a potential member, don't forget it.

Unlawful
ASSEMBLY


YOU WILL LIKE OUR SINGING

Raleigh Gene

To put out a contract... contact

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



Gary Ed

Art Cardy - Tenor Larry Wise - Bass
David Hundt - Lead Larry Parker - Baritone

GALLERY

An Entertaining Barbershop Quartet

For information, contact:
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Lansing, MI 48906
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(517) 469-2128

Chapters in Action

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

The songs have ended but the memories linger on... and so it goes, another fall contest is now behind us.

Congrats to the Battle Creek chapter for a smoothly run and fun convention. Great job, Battle Creek.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Fred Kienitz for his very kind and exuberant comments on our performance at Indy. All of us appreciated what you did, Fred, it meant a lot to us and Fred, we wish you had been one of the judges.

For the longest time, I have wanted to congratulate Chad for the wonderful job he is doing with the *Troub*. We're very fortunate to have someone of his caliber to take it over. Keep up the great work, Chad. You da Man.

Congratulations to Pioneer's new District Quartet Champions, The Detroit Sound Co. They did one heck of a job. Took the lead Friday nite with a great set and never looked over their shoulders. Super job Rudi, J. Kelly, Jim and Al.

Speaking of the quartet contest, we are extremely proud of our chapter quartets and what they accomplished. Never Be Four (Pioneer Novice Champions) Dave Szuthowski, Phil Johnson, Jack Sidor and John Baker. Flipside (Pioneer Senior Champions) Al Walters, Terry Huyge, Gary Branch and the old man Jack Sidor. This Geritol bunch will represent Pioneer at the Senior Convention this January at Tampa. We wish them the best of luck.

Another first time quartet, Happy With Anything, featuring Peter Westers, Bill "we're the best lead section" Mousel, Dale Mattis and Mark Kettner did a great job considering they haven't been together very darn long. Again,

nice job, guys.

In fact, all of the quartets were wonderful. We take our hats off to you for the job you all did.

As for the chorus contest, what can I say! But first, I'd like to congratulate Macomb county on being the Most Improved Chorus. Jackson gottum on the move and that's great to see.

Now, about those guys from Lansing. Kinda like a bad habit, they just won't go away. Nice job, Jamie, the chorus was great. You guys are starting to get on my nerves, though. Go away. Nah, just kidding, it's great competition.

Actually, all of the choruses did an outstanding job. They just keep getting better and better.

Here in ole GR we are pleased to be able to once again represent our great district at the International in Atlanta. Hopefully, the third time will be the charm for all of us.

We're getting two new songs and arrangements along with some new great choreography and we are eager to get them started.

We just finished another successful chapter show, featuring Nitelife and all our chapter quartets and a mixed chorus with some of the Sweet Ads, and also the comedy group Variety Pack. All in all, it was a lot of fun for all of us. Now, we turn to the holidays.

December will keep us busy with a Dec. 6 Christmas show at Central HS and on Dec. 12 and 13, a Christmas show with the Sweet Adelines and on Feb. 4 a coaching session with David Wright, an honorary member of the chorus and then on March 21 our Spring Fling show. Then, in April, we will be your host for the Spring Contest.

I'd like to mention that two of our prominent members just became proud fathers. Steve and Julie Brown had a 8 lb.-4 oz. son, Andrew Nicholas, and Wayne and Christa Linde, a 10 lb.-4 oz. son Andrew Morris. Both destined for the lead sections. We like to start um young. Congratulations, mom and dads.

In closing, from our chapter to your chapter we love you all and may you all

have a wonderful Thanksgiving and may you all have a very merry Christmas and a very happy new year.

It is truly great to be a barbershopper, and Go Blue.

Grosse Pointe

by Nick Piccione

The fall convention was terrific. The Grosse Pointe Chapter improved from 8th place at the Spring Convention to 4th place this time... despite the fact that it included a brand new song we began just a couple of months before. Thanks, Russ and Steve, for all the great effort!

But there's no time to think about that because our Christmas Show with the Eastpointe Sweet Adelines is set for December 11. This will be our third major show this year and has become an annual event. It takes place at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial Theatre and is always a sell-out.

Coin Night on November 4 was a blast. Approximately 90 barbershoppers and guests packed the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Clubhouse for a "Surf and Turf" dinner of steak and jumbo shrimp, grilled to perfection by Al Cole on the shrimp and Chuck Wingard and Bobby Krumb on the steaks. So many other members and wives participated in the planning, cooking and serving that we can't mention all of them here. A 15-piece banjo band topped off the entertainment.

The Installation of Officers was conducted by that greatest of all Masters of Ceremonies, Doran McTaggart, of the Windsor chapter. Let me introduce our new leadership:

President, Mike Sullivan; Program VP, Russ Seely; Membership VP, Joe Serwach; Secretary, Dave Szupinski; Treasurer, Bob Krumb; Chorus Director, Steve Pauling; Music VP, Mike Proffitt, Chorus Manager, Al Cole; Director, Hospitality and Convention, Jim Grogan; Show Chair- see **GROSSE POINTE**, page 10

Chapters in Action

GROSSE POINTE, from page 9
man, Dale Barber; Keeper of the Mug, Chuck Wingrad; Director of Charities, Gordy Dubrul; Past President Rick Schaefer.

Of this fine slate of officers, we say:
The thoughts we're expressing
We're gladly addressing
To those men who deserve our deepest gratitude.
Since hinges our chorus
On all they do for us,
We salute them for their generous attitude.

Lansing

Doug Pearson
VP, Marketing & Public Relations

In any chapter activity, individual participation is the name of the game, and Lansing is no exception.

The Capital City Chordsmen put 71 men on stage as they finished in a runner-up position to an excellent Great Lakes chorus at the recent District Convention. Our hats are off to our friends from the west, and we wish Ann Jarchow and her chorus the best in Atlanta.

Meanwhile, participation also took a front seat in the quartet competition. Hard work and dedication paid off for the Gallery quartet of Art Cardy, Dave Hundt, Larry Parker and Larry Wise as they took third-place honors in the District Contest.

And we also boast the only competitive quartet at the convention that was allowed to sing three songs on stage. They were the mike-testing Parts Unlimited foursome of chapter members Ken Braman, Kevin Lenneman and Al Blankenship, and Frank Thorne member Joe Bodarko.

Also, let's not forget the Seniors.

Participating in that sector of competition was the R2D2 quartet of Ruben Queen, Reese Olger, Don Horton and Doug Pearson. In addition, basso Bob Fox lent his talents to the B Naturals senior quartet.

Joining the other Lansing quartets in the Saturday night Hospitality Room festivities was the Patch Chords crew of Roger Cahaney, Rich Harlow, Larry Best and Doug Pearson.

Finally, how about our energetic member Mark Kettner who sang competitively three times, finishing first once and runnerup twice? With a dual membership in Lansing and Grand Rapids chapters, Mark sang with the championship Great Lakes Chorus, took a quick breather and then revisited the risers to sing with the second-place Capital City Chordsmen. And that evening, just so didn't get he rusty, Mark lent his bass voice to the Happy With Anything quartet, runnerup in the Novice Quartet Contest. What do you do in your spare time, Mark?

Lansing also made its presence felt at the recent Bush League '97 at Gaylord with the Performing Arts quartet of Art Cardy, Don Horton, Rich Harlow and Doug Pearson, and the B Naturals with Bob Fox on bass.

Future activities for the chapter include the annual Christmas Dinner, Valentine's Day singouts and our annual Spring Show. Stay tuned!

Benton Harbor-St. Joseph

Steve Lake
Chapter Development VP

The editor's plea for copy from his potential contributors prompted me to finally sit down and give our new computer a try at word processing, and to let the district know that the Fruit Belt Chorus still exists in the far corner of Southwest Michigan!

I want to take this opportunity to welcome Ed Wesner to our chapter. His application was accepted by our board two weeks ago, and he submitted his initial due checks at our meeting this past Monday. It was ironic that this man was not invited by anyone, including me, until he approached me at a company picnic given by the bank where our wives both work.

It seems he had sung barbershop a long time ago, and he happened to see a weekly notice in our paper about our weekly meetings. Ed is our first new member in quite a while, and the chapter certainly welcomes him!

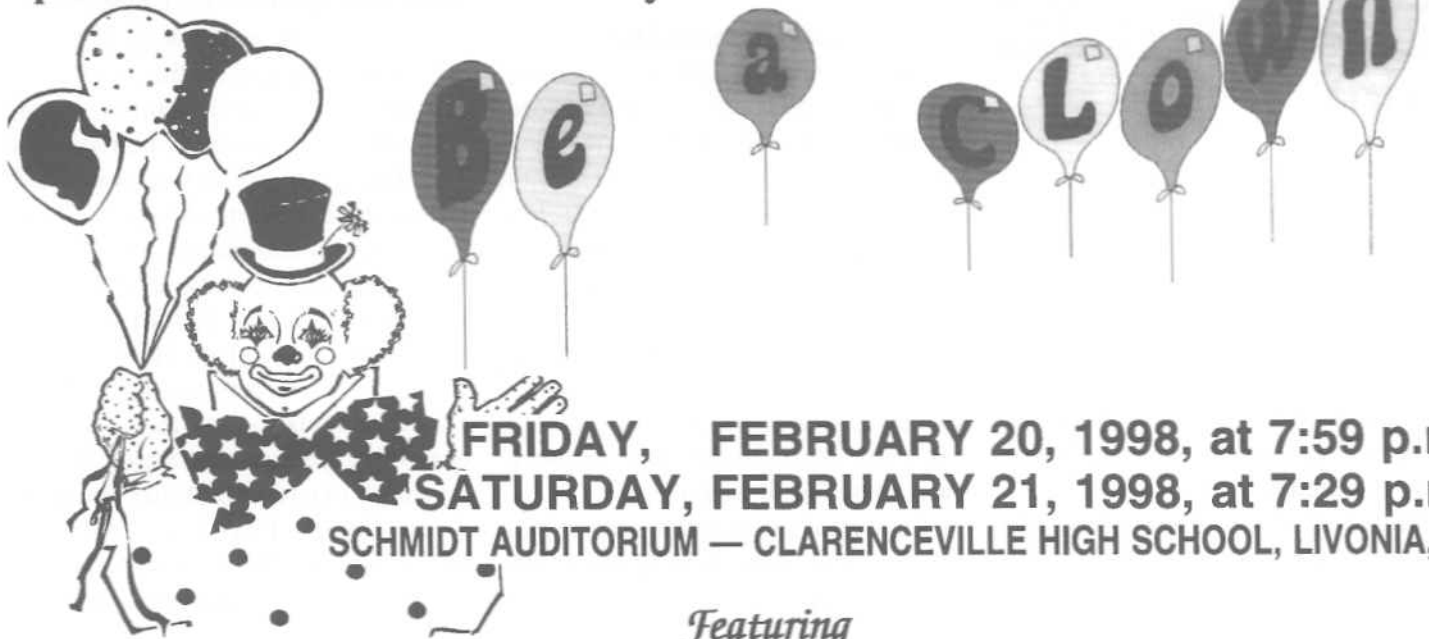
At the opposite end of our happiness continuum is the fact that our director for many years, Roger Valentine, has given the board his resignation, effective the end of 1997. So... we are searching for a new director! Our chapter coach, Ed Fritzen, says he has exhausted his possibilities, and our old friend and former member, Gene Hanover, is assisting in our search.

Several members are contacting local vocal music directors for possible candidates, but so far, no luck. Are any Pioneer barbershoppers with directing capabilities going to be moving to the Twin Cities area soon? If you are, and might be interested, please contact me soon. (Home: (616) 429-8996, Work: (616) 934-1231.)

Also, we would welcome the visit of any chapters that would be able to plan a Monday evening trip. How about it, guys, we're not that far away! We may be small, but we are determined to get this chapter going again.

Quartetting is a part of almost every meeting night, and we do have some other performances planned in December, plus looking for some more singing possibilities.

The Detroit-Oakland Chapter, SPEBSQSA, Inc.
and THE GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS
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THOMAS UICKER, 29257 SOUTHGATE DR, SOUTHFIELD, MI 48076

Chapters in Action

Flint

Ken Rice
Publicity Chair

Disregard the rumors. The Flint Chapter has not evaporated in to thin air. It's just that your reporter was placed on the disabled list back in February, and there hasn't been a word about Flint on these pages since then. It's nice to be back and to be included once again in the beautifully redesigned *Troub.*

First order of business is to play a little catch-up. Sure, it's all old news by now, but the Arrowhead Chorus thinks the following items of activity are worth at least a brief mention. In April, Mark Lemier, a new Flint member, transferred here from the South Bend area where he was active in both chorus and quartet singing. Stepping aside was nine-year veteran John Noteware, who deferred to family and business pressures. We're proud to have both of these dedicated barbershoppers affiliated with the Flint Chapter.

A full gaggle of Arrowheaders attended International competition in Indianapolis. In addition to that the summer was filled with sing-outs in places as diverse as Mayville High School, Linden Festival Days, A Knights of Columbus meeting, and aboard the Genesee Belle, flagship of the Crossroads Village tourist fleet. The annual brats-and-kraut outing at Dead Creek Saloon in Frankenmuth was attended by representatives of five east Michigan chapters. We sponsored a chapter bus trip to Stratford, Ontario, where an enthusiastic group of barbershoppers, Sweet Adelines and spouses saw the magnificently produced "Camelot" by the Stratford Festival Players. And finally, the third annual pontoon boat "sing-around-the-lake" party at Don Wills' house on Bald Eagle Lake was the best ever. The Mid-Michigan Chorus (Flint

and Saginaw combined) performed its Irish music show, "A Little Bit O' Heaven" again, this time in Saginaw on September 13.

Fall competition for the District found us onstage, singing 13th of 13 choruses (someone's gotta do it). The audience, we believe, was bedazzled by our brand new blue blazers with pocket emblem, red ties, gray slacks and red socks. Our performance surprised a few folks, too, and we were gratified by the enthusiastic applause. Amazing what a simple dance step and a few scraps of confetti will do to energize an audience. Our 10th place finish was a little disappointing, but a nice improvement over our previous outing. We'll take it.

Attentions have turned to preparations for our spring show, scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 1998. Entitled "Klondike Gold!" our show will be a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Alaskan Gold Rush of 1898, complete with an appearance by Gold Rush poet-laureate Robert Service. Plan to join us for either the matinee or the evening performance. You can expect to hear a lot of turn-of-the-century chestnuts, and you'll have an opportunity to pan for gold yourself. It's going to be fun! See you there.

Gaylord

Carl Essenmacher

Wow! What an experience! The idea of hosting Bush League '97 for a neophyte chapter was mind-boggling! Where do we start? What time frames need to be met? Who do we go to for advice? When should it take place? Hank Hedges just said "We can do it!" and with assurances of the Marmonie Meisters (to a man), set the wheels in motion. Of our 28 members, maybe ten had any previous barbershop exposure. Areas of expertise were investigated and everyone was assigned as a cog in the wheel (which they all cheerfully accepted). The inevitable obstructions arose and were met head-on. I can't say enough about the teamwork displayed, not only by our chapter, but throughout

the district. Glitches, such as *fermata's* Peter Westers' wife going into labor and not allowing them to perform, were taken in stride and understanding by everyone involved. By the way, that is the only acceptable excuse that will be tolerated from a bari! Winner of the Gaboon trophy (a cross between the Holy Grail, the Stanley Cup, and a half-filled spittoon, according to Doug Pearson) was Resolution, from Grosse Pointe, Macomb County, and City Light s chapters, with Take Four from the Soo and Chordiology from Huron Valley coming in second and third, respectfully. Our congratulations to the other nine competing quartets, who are all winners regardless of position. Thanks also to the Silver Domes, Four Ever Yours, the judges, and all who were involved.

Yes! There will be a Bush League '98! See you there.

Hillsdale

Chris Davis

We had a very enjoyable meeting night recently when we gathered at Rosalie's restaurant in Jonesville and pulled a surprise on Roy Tipton to help celebrate his 39th(?) birthday. Roy's good wife, Fran, had planned it well, and Roy surmised he was going out for dinner with another couple. We rang the rafters with "Happy Birthday" when Roy and Fran entered and followed with several of our old songs. The golden fluid added an extra touch to Roy's evening.

Our fall show went over well in Hudson to a near-capacity crowd. To continue a Hudson tradition, the show started on Sunday afternoon at exactly 3:03 p.m. Many were excited to see the antics of the Harmony Hounds and hear the great sound of FIREPOWER! We are fortunate to have four quartets with the chorus, and they all performed on the show.

Our "almost new" chorus director, Pete Blum, is doing an excellent job and gaining experience with every
see **HILLSDALE**, page 13

Chapters in Action

HILLSDALE, from page 12

meeting. Once we have learned a song, we are now able to sing it completely through without interruption.

We had another guest night in October with good attendance. Following the meeting, we treated our guests to pizza and refreshments, then had them join us in singing many old time favorites.

Upon singing in a nursing home, it gives us great pleasure to see the happiness in the residents' eyes as they sit back, relax and enjoy our songs.

Muskegon

Frank Scott
VP, Chapter Development

For the past several years, the Muskegon Chapter has made special efforts to spread barbershopping among the young. Chapter quartet the Four Score and More visited school classrooms, Frank Scott provided regular mailings to thirty high school directors, and the chapter board supported the harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State University.

One of those HEX quartets was The Cool Harmony Four from local Reeths-Puffer High School. At the 1986 Camp, expert coaching and five new songs to their repertoire pleased their director, and our chapter had them open our 1997 show in April. They also won the prestigious Muskegon Chronicle Show Case of Talent Award, and at our Pioneer District Convention in April, they won the college age quartet contest.

Meanwhile, the Uncalled Four, from local Mona Shores High School, with their teacher, Shawn Lawton, attended the 1997 Harmony Explosion Camp this past summer. As a matter of interest, Dan Doctor, Jr., is the son of

Dan Doctor, the bass of Genuine Blend... who is the son of longtime barbershopper, Del Doctor. This young quartet came back with great enthusiasm, and has appeared at our chapter meetings on two occasions. Since their membership consists of three high school juniors and one freshman, we can look forward to hearing them again in the future.

Of course, life and Shoreline Chorus rehearsals go on. During the summer months, the Chorus, and chapter quartets, sang at the Community College Mayfest, the National Asparagus Festival, and the NBD Community Picnic. We recently celebrated our 57th Anniversary with a very successful Open House. Muskegon Mayor, Blanche Smith, issued a proclamation, and the Four Score and More sang to her at a commission meeting.

We are looking forward, now, to Christmas performances—including the Festival of Trees at the Frauenthal Theatre. Our Annual Installation of Officers Dinner will be held at the Arboreal Inn on Thursday, December 18, with Ed Fritzen presiding over the ceremony.

Finally... for those of you who know "Mike" Simpson, his health problems have confined him to a local nursing home, where visits from chapter members help his peace of mind.

Wayne

Gary Simon
Publicity

The results of the Wayne Chapter's board of directors election for 1998: President - Jerry Beamish, Music & Performance VP - Mark Pritchard, Chapter Development VP - Alex Willox, Program VP - Ed Compton, Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Wolf, Recording Secretary - John McDowell, Members-at-Large - Paul Alflen and Bob Taylor.

We're brushing up on our Christmas songs for the upcoming season.

We're also learning new songs for our 1998 annual show to be held at Mercy High School in Farmington Hills on March 6-7, 1998. The show will feature the quartet "Michigan Jake."

We enjoyed helping Channel 56 with their Winterfest '97 by answering phones during pledge breaks on the evening of Saturday, November 29. We were also able to sing a couple of songs on live TV!

You've just finished the
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The **WHOLE CHORUS**
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tooted, you better
be the one
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Troubadour
Official Publication of the Pioneer District
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Chapters in Action

Holland

Art Lane

Among the dancers in the front row of the Holland Windmill Chorus is one man who memorizes all the moves, and doesn't sneak a look at the man next to him to see what the next step is.

Memorization has served him well, for in the recent contest in Lansing, Bob Eastman danced and kicked his wooden shoes better than some of the Holland dancers who could see what they were doing.

Eastman, 55, has been blind for more than half his life, but he hasn't let that get in the way of his enjoyment of music, particularly barbershop music. In fact, he learned the dance steps to "Wooden Shoe Strut" in the last three weeks before the contest. He was coached by fellow dancers Jack Oonk and Bill McAndrew.

The "Wooden Show Strut" involves striding back and forth on stage, doing a few steps of the Charleston, and kicking like a Rockette in the finale.

"I just figured I had to do it right or I didn't want to be there," he said.

One of the skills which helped him do it right is sharp hearing. On the contest stage he could hear the steps of the klompen-clad dancers on each side, and this helped him stay in line.

"It was a challenge. It was fun. It came off halfway decently," he said.

Bob has been a barbershopper since 1991, when he joined at the urging of members Kip Tillitt and Mike Oonk. Bob sees himself as "a vaudevillian who was born too late."

He likes quartet singing, and helped deliver Singing Valentines last February; he sings and plays the guitar, specializing in classical style pop

music, and he plays the lute, doing hymns and Renaissance music at churches in the Holland area.

Bob is a Holland native who joined the Air Force after high school and was a jet mechanic. After he got out of the service, he had a hobby of making his own fireworks. He was working with a rocket one day in 1963 when it went off and the explosion blinded him.

After a rehabilitation school in Indianapolis he returned to Holland where he worked in the drapery business and finished a year of study at Hope College. Later, he studied classical guitar at Eastern Michigan University and sang in the EMU chorus.

About this time, he met Perry Bullard, a state senator who was sort of an anti-establishment activist from Ann Arbor. With Bullard's encouragement, Bob and other students from EMU, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan, along with a couple of professors, started writing the Michigan Civil Rights Code for the Disabled. It was adopted by the legislature in 1974, he said.

"Congress liked it so much, they pattered the Americans With Disabilities Act after it," he said.

Returning to Holland, Bob found it hard to get a full-time job. He sang at weddings. Taking a Community Education voice class in the mid-1980s gave him more confidence. He found work as a volunteer, teaching a guitar class for five years to prisoners at the Michigan Dunes Correctional Facility near Holland, until the prison closed.

He lives in his own apartment and often bakes chocolate chip cookies to take to meetings of the Holland chapter. During practices, his memory of notes helps keep the bass section in tune.

As for performing with the dancers of the Holland Windmill Chorus, "I'd do it again," he said.

Windmill Chorus sings goodbye,

**Harmony Hall, hello,
Evergreen Commons**

The Holland Windmill Chapter sang a goodbye to its comfortable, somewhat shabby harmony hall, while surrounded by packing boxes full of memories, at its last meeting in the old hall.

After a short practice and some round-robin quartetting, chapter members were visited by the spirits of O. C. Cash and Rupert Hall, founders of the Society. They sped down from heaven especially for the farewell and promised help in finding a new hall.

Bill Andrew performed the part of portly founder O. C. Cash and Jack Oonk drawled convincingly as his fellow Oklahoman Rupert Hall. Headlining the last night in the old hall was the Dutch Masters, composed of Fred Schutmaat, Dan Doctor, Jim Colburn and Butch Lievense.

After the farewell, the chapter finished taking down hundreds of photos of quartets and choruses that lined the walls. The memories and furnishings were put in storage.

The chapter now meets at Evergreen Commons, a shiny and spacious senior citizen center while the chapter seeks a new hall with room for performance.

Chapter holds cruise on the Grand River

Steamboatpersons were throwin' ropes and blowin' whistles on toward the end of summer when the Holland Chapter embarked on The Grand Lady for a cruise of the Grand River.

Commodore Dale Bekker lined up the buffet dinner and a combo as the members took their best gals out to say "thank you" with a nautical twist. The 74-passenger paddlewheel boat offered a three-hour cruise of an almost uninhabited stretch of Michigan's Big River.

Many quartets enliven

three-day tag event

Thirty-two quartets turned out to compete in the Chester P. Oonk Memorial Tag Contest in July. This year, the contest evolved from a one-night competition to a three-day singing campout at Saugatuck campground near Holland. Local barbershoppers were joined by some from Terre Haute, Indiana, and a large number of Sweet Adelines, who set the pace in the competition.

Winning quartet in the pro category was Harmony Express, composed of Merry Lu Jordan, Jan Welsh, Janice Chamberlain and Claudia Presson. The novice winner was Three Girls and a Lamb, composed of Jan Welsh, Betty Elliott, Claudia Presson and Steve Foster.

The winner of the Bart Tillitt Memorial Tag Hog Trophy, for competing in the most quartets, was Emi Oonk, 15, a third-generation barbershopper and new member of the West Shore Sweet Adelines.

The Holland Chapter initiated a new award this year, the Bob Von Ins Gut Bucket Award. It is a miniature galvanized bucket given to the bass who most impresses the judges. The first winner of the Gut Bucket Award was Vince Winans of Terre Haute.

Incidentally, Bob Von Ins, a legendary former member of the Holland Windmill Chorus, who now lives in Connecticut, attended the contest, sang in one of the quartets, and was a judge. He was joined at the judging table by Jim Hotrod and Jack Schneider of Grand Rapids.

Another weekend singing campout is planned in July 1998 for the tag contest, and everyone in the district is invited.

Wood shoes shine in New Zeeland auditorium

One of the first big shows in the new Zeeland High School DeWitt Auditorium was the Zeeland Pumpkin Festival's "Barbershop Plus Variety Show" put on by the Holland Windmill

Chorus. Directors were Mike Oonk and Darrell VandeHeof.

The show included the 90-voice Zeeland High School Concert Choir and the 85-voice Zeeland High School Women's Ensemble, both led by music instructor Tim Oonk.

Genuine Blend, the 1995 Pioneer District champion quartet, headlined the show, joined by the Sweet Adelines' Lake Effect, the "O Boys" trio, and chapter quartets 2 Young & 2 Old and Seventh Sense. The new 1,000 seat auditorium is a very good place to sing.

Barbershoppers honored

As the months fly by, the Holland Chapter has recognized a number of Barbershoppers of the Month. They include:

Steve Foster, July, for his hard work and enthusiasm for the tag contest.

Myke Lucas, August, for his joy in teaching us our craft and "pounding the music into our thick skulls."

Paul Bekker, September, for tackling any job that comes along, including show programs, Pumpkin Festival and helping at the chapter garage sales.

Bob Eastman, October, for learning the steps and dancing well in contest, without sight.

Hail to the Chieflet

The Holland Chapter says congratulations to District President-Elect David Cole, the first Hollander to head the district since Clarence Jalving in 1953-54.

Detroit-Oakland

Tom Uiker
Bulletin Editor

Let me start off by apologizing for not getting an article in the last *Troubadour*. I missed an opportunity to publicize Detroit-Oakland's "Canada Night," held (as usual) on the first Friday of November. We did send out

flyers to local chapters, but word didn't always sift down to the members. Even so, we had 79 people in attendance, representing nine chapters.

We had six mini-choruses compete for the "Old Oakland Bucket," including two from Detroit-Oakland, one each from Windsor, Wayne and Motor City Metro, and one more called "Those Other Guys."

Motor City Metro's "Miller Lights," the defending champs, took third place. DOC's "Mini-Songsters" came in second. First place went to Windsor's "Little Casinos." Honorable mention should be given to Wayne chapter for their chorus name. They took advantage of their one baritone to call themselves "Odds and Ed."

Four quartets helped to entertain the crowd—DOC's Four Note Trump, the Mix Masters from Windsor, Four of a Kind from Motor City Metro, and two appearances from the Detroit sound Co., our current Pioneer District Champs.

Master of Ceremonies Bill Wickstrom kept things moving while taking time for gang singing, socializing, and (of course) beer breaks.

Right now, DOC is getting ready for our 59th annual show, on February 20&21, 1998, at Clarenceville High School in Livonia. Our guests FRED (1997 silver medalists) and BSQ (1997 5th place medalists) along with the Gentlemen Songster's Chorus and our own chapter quartets. Please note the date (one week later than usual) and check out our flyer, elsewhere in this issue.

Congratulations to our newly elected chapter executive board: Jim Kunz, President; Dave Montera, VP-Music and Performance; John Northey & John Schell, VPs-Chapter Development; Will Power, Secretary; Tom Uicker, Treasurer; and Joe DeSantis, Jim Dugan & Harry Jessop, members-at-large.

*Lifetime Achievement...***Bazely 1997 Pioneer Hall of Fame recipient**

Doug Pearson
VP, Marketing & Publicity

Long-time district member and strong barbershop leader Donald Bazely from the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter has been named to the prestigious Pioneer District Hall of Fame.

His induction into the Hall was announced by District President Larry Parker at a special presentation ceremony during October's Board of Delegates meeting at the District Convention in Lansing.

Among his many activities, Bazely has served the District as an Area Counselor, a Division Vice President, an Assistant District Music Educator, a chief certifier for AHSOW, a Dynamo coordinator, a chorus coach and numerous other district duties.

Within his chapter, Bazely has been president, chorus director, bulletin editor, an arranger, a quartet coach, and was selected twice as Barbershopper of the Year.

In addition, he has been a mem-



Newest Pioneer District Hall of Fame member Donald Bazely (right) is congratulated by District President Larry Parker.

ber of several quartets including the Caboteers, Border Chorders, Souvenirs, Generation Gap, Harmoners and "4 in Exchange." He also assisted in organizing a chapter in Sudbury, ON.

Parker recalls his first impression of Bazely: "When I first met Don at a Harmony Roundup several years

ago, I thought, 'My goodness, what a voice,'" Parker said. "He was teaching tags to a group of men. He made sure the new kids, which included me, got their turn singing. It was then I learned that this man is not only a good barbershopper, but a great human being."

Quartet champs say 'Thank you' to supporters

SOUND CO., from page 6

our quartet was named as district champs.

Again, on behalf of The Detroit Sound Co., thank you for your support. We look forward to visiting and singing for as many chapters as possible.

Peace.
Sing-cerely,

Al Fisk
The Detroit Sound Co.
Altonfisk@aol.com
(248) 651-3796

Birth of the Detroit Sound Co.

QUARTET, from page 6

losing our voices. Al and Kelly are generating some sound and Jim is filling the bari. Rudi is working non-stop on music, recording and singing. But Rudi also has ties, cummerbunds, jackets, and was talking about shirts for the quartet. Does this guy ever sleep?

The Wednesday before contest. We spend time going through the sets. What's the message of the song? Are we delivering the message? We keep trying to insert everything Lynn has suggested. Is Jim even singing the right words? All of a sudden the rhythm isn't working. We work on the entrances and exits. Not much room in Jim's family room. Sure could use some mirrors.

Friday Night. We sing through the set twice and run to the school. Some-

one forgot the roses, not a problem. Bonnie gets them. Forgot to shave, not a problem. Forgot you had a ball cap on all day, not a problem. We are ready. We go on stage to entertain the audience.

Saturday night. Contest is over. Who won? I know it wasn't us. Friends offer their collective placements. Are we even in the top three? The places are read. Gallery is third. Resolution is second. Hold your breath. Are we fourth or first? They announce the winners. WHAT A THRILL!! And it's the same thrill from the first song on Friday that gets extended to the closing notes in the wee hours on Saturday night. Is this a great hobby or what? Thanks to all for your support.

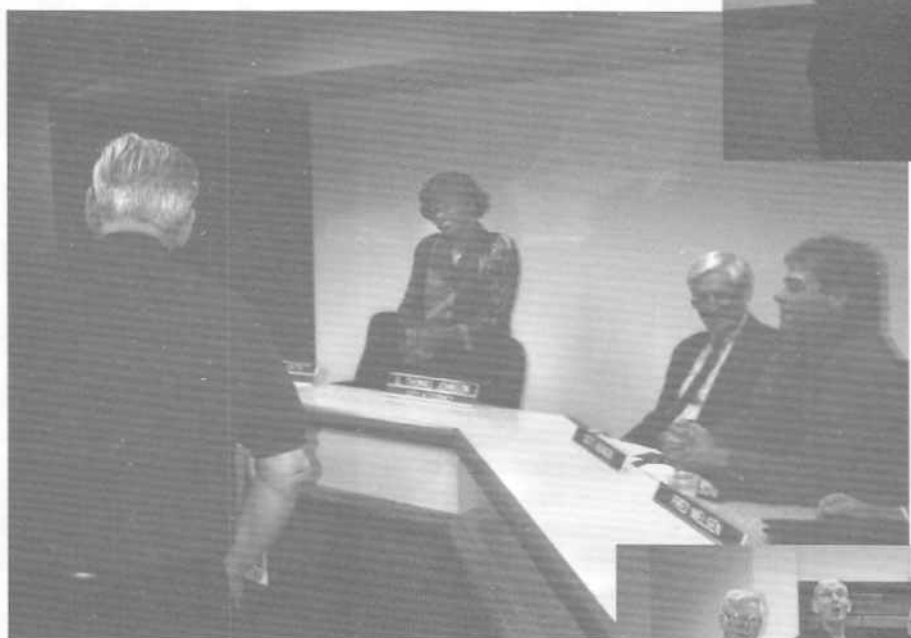
Jim Ryan

Muskegon chapter performs for city mayor, proclaims October 'Harmony Month'

In celebration of the Muskegon Shoreline Chorus' 57th anniversary, Muskegon Mayor Blanche Smith issued a proclamation, stating that "October is Harmony Month." Four Score and More then sang to her and the city commission at a regular meeting.



(Top): Muskegon chapter President and VP for Chapter Development display Mayor Blanche M. Smith's proclamation that "October is Harmony Month."



(Left): Smith beams as 4 Score and More sing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart." Shown from back: tenor Webb Scrivnor.

(Right): Four Score and More perform at a Muskegon city commission meeting. They are (L to R): tenor Webb Scrivnor, lead Paul Henrikson, bass Ray Crancer, and bari Dick Warner.



Marquis back on track

Marquis, 1995 International Quartet Champions, is pleased to announce that we have found a new lead and will be continuing as a championship quartet.

Our new lead is Denny Gore from Detroit. Denny has previously won four silver and three bronze medals in SPEBSQSA competition with the Vagabonds and Center Stage.

While replacing Randy is a difficult task, we are confident that with a quality singer/performer/person like Denny, Marquis will be able to provide the same gold medal level performance. We will be resuming our show commitments beginning in March 1997.

While the quartet consists of four, the Marquis family will consist of five, as the Chisholms will always be a perma-

nent part of Marquis.

We would like to thank the chapters for being patient with us while waiting for a decision on our future, and also those quartets who assisted in filling the show commitments we were unable to keep.

Paul Gilman
Marquis

BUSH LEAGUE '97

Gaylord Chapter hosts a reincarnation of the popular contest

Doug Pearson

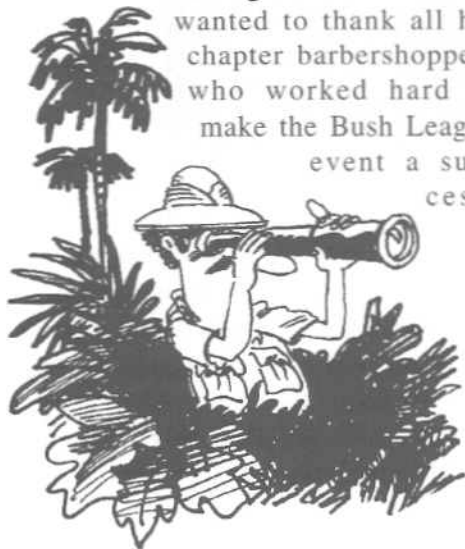
VP, Marketing & Public Relations

From virtual extinction to a smash success, the Pioneer District's legendary Bush League Contest gained an exciting rebirth in October amidst the invigorating surroundings of Gaylord's Treetops Resort.

A recent Bush League high of 11 quartets enjoyed the smell of the greasepaint in their musical search for the fabled Gabboon. Taking top honors was the Resolution quartet from the Grosse Pointe, Macomb County and Motor City chapters comprised of Tony Ales, Tom Conner, Steve Pauling and Pete Burns. Finishing in the runnerup spot was Take IV, while third place went to Chordiology.

"It was gratifying to me to see such a great turnout," said the Gaylord Chapter's Hank Hedges, who coordinated the event. "Not only did the quartets and their families have a good time, but we had a big audience and they really seemed to enjoy the show, the afterglow and all the other activities that were offered by the Sylvan Resort."

Hedges added that he wanted to thank all his chapter barbershoppers who worked hard to make the Bush League event a success.



Clockwise from top: Members of the Performing Arts quartet strike a pose with Bush League '97 coordinator Hank Hedges (center). Quartet members, from left: Don Horton, Doug Pearson, Rich Harlow and Art Cardy. • The Take Four quartet rings a chord at the Bush League afterglow. • Headline quartet at Bush League '97 were the district champion Silverdomes. From left: John Wearing, Russ Seely, John Wade and John Seemann. • Popular 1995 Bush League champs Four Ever Yours perform at the Bush League afterglow.



"I feel confident the enthusiasm we generated will carry over into next year's event," he said.

One of the Bush League '97 highlights was the Saturday night show. The show featured performances by the Gaylord Chapter Harmonie Meisters Chorus, the Gaylord Women's Northern Lights Barbershop Chorus, 1995 Bush League Champs Four Ever Yours and the Silver Domes, past Pioneer District Senior quartet champs and sixth-

place finishers in the International Seniors Competition. Saturday activities were climaxed with a fast-paced afterglow.

Hedges emphasizes that the rules are simple to enter the Bush League Contest. A quartet is allowed to have only two members who have previously competed in a Society-sanctioned contest. Plus, those two must not have sung in a quartet that placed higher than fourth in competition.

Coaching, cont.

McTAGGART, from page 4

new this year and is a work in progress with many more upgrades still needed. All of the other manuals will be rewritten and introduced at COTS-PLUS next year.

The general session provided opportunities to learn about the new Society structure and how your chapter coach can help your chapter become the best it can be. He can help you to interpret the Unified Chapter Mission Statement (UCMS) and assist you in creating your chapter's Unique Mission Statement. Time is provided to show how you can design your chapter board to meet your specific needs not only for 1998 but for 1999 and beyond.

No longer will chapters be told what officers a chapter must have and how to use them. There will be a minimum number of officers required for all chapters (four or five) and the rest that you choose will support your mission statement and your uniqueness.

Throughout 1998, the Society needs your input on the following five topics:

1. The Manuals. Make changes that are needed to be consistent with the addendum and the new Society structure.

2. COTS Training. How can COTS-PLUS training be improved to help your future chapter leaders meet your goals and aspirations?

3. Your Chapter Mission. Send us a copy of your mission statement and any comments you have about its formation.

4. Your chapter Board of Directors. How did you design your Board and why?

5. Your Chapter Coach. Tell us about your relationship with your chapter coach. By the end of 1998, every chapter will have been assigned a chapter coach.

Send your responses to any or all of these questions to me, your DVP-CSLT anytime through 1998. The input for the manuals is needed soon, for the rewrite will be accomplished before next July.

The following are our trained chapter coaches and the chapters that they will assist during 1998.

Maurie Allen: Traverse City, Gaylord, Boyne City, Alpena and Sault Ste. Marie. **Dave Anderson:** Detroit-Oakland, Motor City Metro, Milford and Windsor. **Earl Berry:** Monroe North, Wayne, Huron Valley and Hillsdale. **Derrick Deakins:** Swan Valley, Saginaw Bay, Pontiac and Flint. **Ed Fritzen:** Muskegon, Benton Harbor, Holland and Grand Rapids. **New Man:** Gratiot County, Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and Lansing. **Doran McTaggart:** Macomb County, Rochester and Grosse Pointe.

Relating, cont.

PEARSON, from page 5

your chapter where all people age 60 (and a friend) and all couples married 60 years are invited to come to a special chapter night and be entertained.

These are only a few ideas that we in the Pioneer District can use to help celebrate and promote the Big Six-O. Our 60th Anniversary gives us a good reason to show off our vastness, our entertainment value and our availability. Let's take advantage of this opportunity.

President, cont.

PARKER, from page 3

come a Society Board Member. As part of the new structure, the Society is pairing districts together and will alternate the election of the position. The Pioneer District is paired with the Land'O Lakes District. For the next three years, Don Challman, of Shoreview, Minnesota, will sit on the Society Board. In 2001, the Pioneer District will elect the Society Board Member.

It would be challenging to have moved onto the Society Board, but I'm not upset nor unhappy that I'm not. I will still be a member of the District Board as the Immediate Past President and will be active to achieve our goals.

Several people were immensely helpful to me during my years as president, and I wish to extend my gratitude to them.

The wisdom and counsel from former presidents Russ Seely and Roger Lewis were immeasurable. The knowledge gained from them made the job of president much easier. The knowledge and experience of the District Board members under the old system (1996) and new system (1997) tallied more than 150 years. Working with a group of men, such as these, makes life's little tasks much easier.

Last, but not least, I thank my wife Carole. I could not have survived without her help and support of me and my hobby. If I have been prosperous, then I share all the successes with her!

Hummm'bly yours,


Larry L. Parker



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CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS
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e-mail: csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us

Phone: (517) 485-3641

Fax: (517) 482-7466

Chad Sanders
1616 West Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

Upcoming Events

1997

December 13-14 Macomb County Show

1998

February 20-21	Detroit-Oakland Show
March 6-7	Wayne County Show
March 7	Lansing Show
March 7	Huron Valley
March 14	Kalamazoo Show
March 21	Grand Rapids Show
March 28	Muskegon Show
March 28	Monroe North Show
March 28	Macomb County
April 4	Sault Ste. Marie
April 24-26	District Contest
May 15	Holland Show
May 16	Boyne City Show
June 12	Windsor Send-off
September 18	Alpena Show
September 26	Muskegon Show
October 16-18	District Contest
October 24	Rochester Show
November 6-7	Grand Rapids Show

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

Please notify:

Jack Schneider, District Secretary
1311 Northlawn, NE
Grand Rapids, MI 49505
R (616) 361-6820

Society Synopsis, cont.

SEELY, from page 3

which basically meant that I welcome members and guests to our meetings. To that date, it never occurred to me that someone had to do that job. And guess what? I really enjoyed it! I learned more about our members that year that I did in the first six years of my membership.

A few years later, I was asked to run for a chapter office of Secretary and I eagerly accepted. Board meetings were a riot. We had a couple of attorneys in our chapter at the time, so these meetings would usually end up with a tongue-in-cheek battle of semantics. Oh, yeah, we learned Robert's Rules, also. What a bonus for a young member.

Over the ensuing years, I was asked many times to serve my chapter - which I still do - my district - which I still do - and my society. In every case I was the primary recipient for my efforts. It has been a marvelous ride.

Now, assuming that I have your attention, **when was the last time you extended yourself by serving your chapter?** I find it appalling that chapters cannot hold an election because they can't drum up enough candidates to fill their needs. Give yourself a treat. Try it just once. You'll find that it's not only rewarding to you, but it will add a sense of prestige to your family when you are referred to by your title. Too

frequently we hear the excuse, "I'm busy this year." Bah! Most chapter "jobs" require less time per week than the time it takes to stare at some sleazy flick on the tube.

Last year, Grosse Point had a full-blown election where two great guys actually campaigned to be President. Guess how proud Mark Robert would have been about that!!!!

My Christmas wish list:
That...

- Prez Cole gets his 2000 members by 2000!
- Doran simply remains Doran
- Chad's *Troub* has too much copy in advance of deadline
- Power Play uncovers precious metal in Georgia
- Grand Rapids, don't forget to smell the magnolias of Georgia
- Massive return of the fine antique called Woodshedding
- Pioneer's Quartet Assoc., doubles in size (quality would triple)
- Roger Lewis runs out of rooms... everywhere
- You have a ringing, singing 1998 and volunteer for something!

Finally, thank you Larry Parker and Carole for a job well done as Prez and First lady.