



Quartet Quontest! 9
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Macomb, Power Play tops at convention

Doug Pearson

VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Hot and heavy competition combined with excellent singing resulted in three quartets going to Atlanta's International Convention, plus a rapidly-rising chorus being crowned District Champs.

Results were determined at another successful Pioneer District Convention held April 24-26 in Lansing and hosted by the Grand Rapids chapter. More than 1,500 barbershoppers and their families converged on the capital city for the Spring confab, which featured something for everyone including competition, a Joe Barbershop Chorus, a Ladies Hospitality Room, special Sunday worship services, the Barbershopper's Shop, a mass sing in the Sheraton Hotel lobby, a college quartet contest, chapter hospitality rooms, a "Mystery of Harmony Gulch" melodrama, informal woodshedding, and chordbusting on all the favorite chestnuts

District quartet qualifiers for July's International were led by the imposing Power Play Slamka crew of Don, Mike, Mark and Jack. Second place went to FIREPOWER! (Mark Wilson, Jamie Carey, Jeff Marks and Mike McClary). Capturing third place was the Onyx foursome of Bruce Lamarte, Craig Pollard, Mike Woodruff and Brian Kaufman.

Meanwhile, the Macomb County Chapter's Harmony Heritage Chorus, directed by Jack Slamka, was crowned District winner. They were followed by second-place finishers Kalamazoo Mall City Chorus and third place Gratiot County Midstatesmen Chorus.



SWEET GEORGIA BOUND: Convention saw three quartets make the cut for International: the first place Power Play (above), second place FIREPOWER! (top left), and third place Onyx (middle left).
ANOTHER FINE MASS: Conventioneers gather at the Sheraton for a mass sing, ringing chords on *My Wild Irish Rose*.

"I was filled with pride at the results of the competition," said District President David Cole. He continued: "It was fantastic to qualify Power Play, FIREPOWER! and Onyx. It was even more heartwarming to see Macomb County win the chorus competition. It was well deserved, especially considering their struggling membership just a few years ago."

The top three Pioneer quartets are no strangers to the International stage. Power Play finished 10th last year and also competed internationally in 1990-94. Onyx competed in 1994 and 1996 while FIREPOWER! competed in 1995.

In the college quartet contest, the winner was Vocal Point from the University of Windsor and the North Monsee **CONVENTION**, page 10

Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District,
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Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.



Publication authorized by the Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA, Inc.

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1. submit articles and artwork via email attachment.
2. Mail files on floppy disk.
3. Fax typed copy.
4. Mail typed article or camera-ready artwork.

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A View From The Top

David Cole, President

Convening to Compete



Not too long ago, a seasoned barbershopper tried explaining to me the difference between a Convention and a Competition. For many

years, I always thought of the Spring and Fall convention weekend as a contest - until this year when it finally made sense why the weekend is called a convention.

At our recent Spring Convention, did you convene, or compete? Did you even attend? If not, you missed a fantastic weekend! It could be said that we convened to compete so that we could con-

vene after we competed -confused? Let me separate the two in hopes of exciting those who didn't attend the convention not to make that mistake again.

THE COMPETITION: Thanks to all of the quartets and choruses who competed. Those quartets who competed did so to qualify for the International Competition in Atlanta over the Fourth of July weekend. I was a little concerned about the lower numbers of quartets and choruses competing, but boy was I proven wrong, the wonderful chords ringing throughout the auditorium greatly offset the lower attendance. Of course, our hats are off to our three quartets (Power Play, FIREPOWER!, and Onyx) who qualified for the International. Gentlemen, all of Pioneer District is ex-see **COLE**, page 8

Number One with a Bulletin

Chad Sanders
Troubadour editor

You ever have one of those days when everything seems to go right? When things are clicking and you're on a roll and nothing's going to get in your way? Me, either.

So I'm cooking on the *Troub*. It's May 29 and I've got a 24-pager in the can, done, finito. Not my fastest time ever, but great considering it's the end of the school year and a time crunch for me. I pulled an all-nighter and got it done. Good for me. All that's left is to drop it off at the printer.

It's 4:30 on this Friday, and they close at 4:00 on Fridays. So I drop the envelope with the Zip disk and proofs in their mail slot.

A week later, Larry Parker inquires as to the *Troub's* status. All taken care of, says I. Dropped it off last week. They say they never got it, says he.

Long story short, it's now June 15 and I'm on my way to the printer again. You see, I didn't have enough room on my hard drive for a backup, and the only file I had was dropped in that slot. Which, apparently, had a trash can in front of it. You see, they haven't used said slot in years... it's left over from the office before them, or somethingorother.

So, on that beautiful afternoon of May 29, I hadn't dropped off the *Troub*, after all. I'd taken my all-nighter and thrown it in the trash. Funny story, huh?

Funny like Bob Saget.

So, here's your *Troub*, a tad tardy. Hope there aren't too many mistakes... I know I didn't proof it as well the second time around.

So, have you ever have one of those days when everything goes right?

What's it like?

-Chad



Society Synopsis

Russell Seely, SBM

COTS, outreach components of Society's 'burning issues'



Each year, the Society's Program Planning Development Group (PPDG) pulls together a "burning issues" list compiled by Board members reflecting the concerns of fellow barbershoppers that have come to their attention. Thirty-two emerged and were prioritized into 16 issues in order of their importance. These items (and the list is by no means all-inclu-

sive) will be addressed throughout the remainder of 1998 and beyond.

- **Quality singing at the chapter level.** Chapters must recognize the problem with poor singing and bring about improvement.
- **Public image.** Public TV, Radio and Youth Outreach should be used to present our very best talents.
- **Mixed arrangements for young people.** We need music arranged for high school mixed voices see **CHALLMAN**, page 17

sive) will be addressed throughout the remainder of 1998 and beyond.

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Chapters in Trouble



It may not come as a surprise to you when I tell you, we have a number of chapters in our District that are in trouble and in fact we recently lost a chapter. When I took this job, I was surprised to find out that we have quite a few chapters in trouble. I will not name the chapters here, but 15 - 20% of our Pioneer Chapters are struggling or on the verge of going under. What do I mean when I say in trouble? Well some do not have a director and others don't have enough members to function. Maybe they don't have enough parts to sing or perform. So how did they get that way? It didn't happen all at once, in some cases, and in other cases it did happen all at once, but even then it didn't happen all at once. Huh? Run that by me again. Well, in the case of it not happening all at once, the chapter was most likely comfortable. We don't have to have a membership drive, we have enough members and I don't like a big chapter anyway. Things are going pretty good. We're having fun, we have a good director, have enough members and parts to put on a show and sing out, so if it ain't broke don't fix it. Well then Joe moved away, but that wasn't to bad we still had another tenor and Fred comes

back from Arizona in the summer and he is a good tenor. Then Pete died, boy he was a great lead, but that's still leaves us four other leads and they really do a pretty good job. Gosh! Did you hear about Sam? He's been pretty sick lately and he can't sing. Jim has been tied up with his kids, you know they're into baseball big time. Well, you get the picture, pretty soon that comfortable feeling isn't so comfortable. Well, I'm sorry we can't take that singing job because we don't have enough parts. We can't put on a good show because we don't have enough members. Then some of the guys aren't coming out because it's not fun any more. Then those who are doing all the work are getting burned out. You get the picture. It sneaks up on you. Membership recruiting is a not a thing you do when you need it, because you don't know when you need it. In fact you always need it.

What about where you said it happens all at once, but even then it doesn't happen all at once. Well again we have that comfortable feeling, we have a great director, he's a great guy to boot. We treat him right, send him to Harmony College and even pay him mileage. In fact we took fourth in district and we're getting better. Then the director gets a job transfer in East Knocknockburg, Utah. Hey, we need a director!!! Let's see if we can get that church director down the block. Yeh, but she doesn't know Bar-see **BLOCH**, page 22



Mailbag.

Chorus director Sly says farewell

My fellow barbershoppers, I carry many memories away with me to Canada's answer to Florida, Vancouver Island. My wife and I will be driving across Canada as of June 1 to begin our new life in retirement, away from casinos, automobiles and semi-trailers and, of course, the many friends and acquaintances we have made after nine years in the Pioneer area as well. We'll be living in Qualicum Beach and I expect to be a part (what part I have no idea) of the Nanaimo Chapter (30 miles south) and my wife will more than likely get involved in the "Sweet Ads" chapter in Comox. We might even get going on a mixed quartet.

I appreciate the opportunity to use the good graces of the *Troubadour* editor to say how much I have enjoyed the friendship and support in barbershopping I have received from many of my American colleagues in the Pioneer district. I think of Jim Stephens, Jack Slamka as two talented persons whose insights in directing skills as well as quartetting have been a source of knowledge and encouragement to me personally. I admire the efforts and organizing abilities of Gene Hanover to hold successful Harmony Roundups and I am in awe of Jamie Carey's energy and

see **SLY**, page 22



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS

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

FIREPOWER!

A BARBERSHOP EXPLOSION

Mark Wilson
Jeff Marks

Jamie Carey
James Hawkins

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333 N. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Chapters find new and creative ways to publicize



Still reveling in a musical dreamland from those pulsating barbershop chords ricocheting off the walls, I want to tell you guys in Pioneer that if you

missed the Spring District Convention, you missed a real musical Shangri-La — you missed a combination of great singing, exciting competition and the kind of wholesome camaraderie that only our hobby can offer.

From a Public Relations standpoint, I was able to unglue myself from District chores long enough to come away with some interesting ideas and stories from our various chapters.

Our intrepid Gaylord guru Hank Hedges once again set up his Bush League booth to tell and sell this rejuvenated activity. As you recall, Hank and his merry band of songsters last year rescued the Bush League from almost certain extinction. How did he do it? Good organization, certainly, but also great publicity and super communications. If you didn't know Bush League was coming, then, my brother-in-song, you weren't breathing. And Hank is at it again with an abundance of "teasers", brochures, bulletins, media contacts, etc. If you're planning a chapter activity and want to know the ingredients of PR success, contact Hank.

I'm lucky to have Holland's Art Lane as part of the District PR committee. Over Saturday breakfast at the Sheraton, I picked his brains on a few items. Being a long time newsman, Art's familiar

with what his local papers (especially the Holland Sentinel and the Grand Rapids Press) like and don't like in the way of chapter or quartet-related articles. The key here is that he knows his media and knows who he is dealing with. Like anything worthwhile, it takes some time to establish key media contacts, but it's worth the effort. Just ask Art.

In talking to a number of chapter presidents, I was pleased to hear that they had made successful placements of the District Convention news release with their local media. By using quotes from their own chapter members in the release, they were able to enhance the reputation of their chapter and give the District Convention a good plug at the same time.

And congratulations to Wayne's Gary Simon who again came away with top honors in the District Bulletin editor's competition. Internal communications is certainly a vital part a chapter's PR program, and a periodic publication is probably the best way of letting your members know what's going on. I'm impressed with the quality and quantity of chapter publications within our district. If your chapter doesn't have a bulletin or a newsletter, get one started!

Speaking of the Wayne crew, they've embarked on a neat community relations venture that's bound to give them positive exposure — the well-publicized Adopt-A-Road program. There are three cleanups for the chapter scheduled this year. Last year, 17 members signed up for the program. This is a worthwhile statewide program that your chapter might want to look into if you want some good vibes from your community.

And here's an example of chapter
see **PEARSON**, page 22

Simon and Wojtan repeat as year's best bulletin editors

Jim Styer
PioNet Administrator

Gary Simon of the Wayne Chapter has been honored as the Pioneer District's Bulletin Editor of the Year for 1997. His assistant editor is Ed Wojtan. Simon and Wojtan won last year as co-editors of the chapter's *Chordinator*.

Placing second in the district contest was Al Fisk as editor of the Rochester chapter's *Harmony Herald*.

The awards were presented at the spring district convention in Lansing.

These editors now are entered in the Society's international bulletin contest. Winners will be announced at the international convention in July in Atlanta.

The other entrant in the district contest was Art Lane, editor of Holland's *Windmill Blade*. While placing third, he again scored the highest — for the third consecutive year — in the district in the grammar and style category. The other categories are layout and reproduction, and content.

All chapter bulletin editors who publish at least eight issues this year are eligible to enter the next competition. Deadline for entries (three copies of any three consecutive issues) will be Jan. 15, 1999.

All entrants receive a detailed analysis of their bulletins from the judges, with tips on how to improve their bulletins further.

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

New COTS makes its debut



This December, COTS will be expanded to include eight instructors plus a dean. Your newly elected chapter officers and your chorus director will find many informa-

tive and interesting one-hour electives, two-hour core classes and two-hour advanced forums.

All instructors will teach one hour classes pertaining to various facets of chapter operations. The faculty will not just teach specific officer classes as in the past so you will have many elective choices.

The following are the instructors and what they will be teaching:

1. President (P) - two-hour core class for new presidents, one-hour electives on skills required for a successful leader, mission and vision statements, conflict resolution and problem solving, Roberts Rules of Order.

2. Secretary (S) - two-hour core class for new secretaries, two two-hour secretaries' forums, one-hour elective on chapter communications with the Society.

3. Treasurer (T) - two-hour core class for new treasurers, two two-hour treasurers' forums, one-hour elective on preparing the chapter budget.

4. Marketing / Public Relations (PR) - two-hour core class for new marketing/PR officers, one-hour electives on elements of a chapter bulletin, dealing with the news media, internal PR, creative marketing.

5. Member Services (MS) - two-hour

core class on basics of recruiting and retention, one-hour electives on developing sources of new members, available Society resources, planning a successful guest night, conducting a new member orientation.

6. Music and Performance (M+P) - one-hour elective on quartet promotion,

Singing Valentines, developing a music team, developing a six-month chorus rehearsal plan, performance chorus requirements.

7. Chorus Director Development (CDD) - one-hour electives on how to conduct vocal auditions, the role of the director in a chapter, basics of conducting, how to select music for your chorus, craft can be fun.

8. Chapter Support and Leadership Training (CSLT) - two-hour Chapter Coach forum, one-hour electives on considering a chapter coach, help in finding a director.

The general sessions will focus on items of general interest to every student. They will include Youth Outreach overview, chapter services, the Society's membership drive for the following year, a chance for District officials to interact with their chapters, singing, and a preview of next years' COTS offerings. The general sessions will not be like the ones conducted last year in which we spent a great deal of time working with and developing mission statements. The general sessions are to be motivational as well as informative.

As you can see, COTS will be bigger and better than ever. Plan now to have all of your chapter officers and your chorus director attend. The future of your chapter depends on a well-trained leadership team. See you at Gull Lake on December 5 and 6.

Call for district nominations

Election of District Officers

Secretary, Treasure
 Vice President of Member Services
 VP, Chapter Support & Leadership Training
 VP, Chorus Director Development
 Vice President of Contest and Judging
 Vice President of Events
 VP, Marketing and Public Relations
 Vice President, Music and Performance

Notice of nomination Procedures

The election of District Officers listed above takes place each year at the Fall District Convention. The new District By-Law, which will be in effect beginning January 1, 1997, requires that all nominations of persons for District office be reviewed by and be acceptable to the appropriate Society Committee. The procedure must be followed for nominations anticipated to be made from the floor at the fall House of Delegates Meeting as well as for nominations by the District Nominating Committee.

Therefore, nomination from the floor at the fall house of Delegates Meeting of any person to fill a District office must be preceded by submission of the potential nominee's written permission, resumé and credentials to the District Nominating Committee by June 1, 1998 for forwarding to the appropriate Society Committee for review and acceptance. Nomination from the floor of any person for any District office will be disallowed if this procedure has not been followed.

Additionally, nomination from the floor of any individual whose name has been submitted to the appropriate society Committee and who has been found not qualified will not be disallowed, but the nomination from the floor must be accompanied by the Society Committee's reasons for disapproval and its recommendations, if any, as to what steps can be taken to make the proposed candidate acceptable to the Society Committee.

SPEBSQSA, Inc.
 Pioneer District
 Laws and Regulation Committee

Once again, district receives solid coverage in recent pages of Harmonizer magazine

Doug Pearson

VP, Marketing and Public Relations

Every breathing barbershopper throughout the world should know that our Pioneer district is fully energized and youth-oriented after reading the May/June edition of the *Harmonizer*.

Two major features in our international publication highlighted activities and achievements of our district and its

members: One featured the triumphs of the Slamka family while the other spotlighted Lansing's High School Barbershop Quartet Contest.


The two-page Slamka spread, "All In The Family Slamka" asked the question: "What has 20 legs and sings barbershop? The answer is, the Slamka family. Ten members of the family (nine men and one woman) either sing or have sung

barbershop harmony."


Meanwhile, the full-page feature on the Lansing High School Quartet Contest included photos of the first, second and third-place winners. The feature was part of this special issue of the *Harmonizer*, which looked at ways chapters and districts can bring the sound of barbershop harmony to new audiences and young singers in particular.



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 The Dutch Chords Music and Mirth	
(517) 521-3218 Roger	(517) 321-3941 Larry

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Society Board Member reports on Mid-Winter happenings

This is a little old... but still interesting. And it fills space, which I need to have happen. -Ed.

Don Challman

Society Board Member

Finance: A surplus of \$256,538.00 in 1997 due to increased market value of investments and gross profit of merchandising operation.

Membership: A loss of 228 members... current count is just under

34,000. After 16 consecutive months of year to year gains, we've now had seven consecutive months of decline. Chapters need to focus on year-round membership recruitment by providing things such as: singing well and having fun and sharing same with friends they believe will enjoy the same experience; having entertaining shows and singouts (potential members), good PR campaigns, good guest orientation and followup programs, good planning and proper use of proven

see **REPORT**, page 23

Attention treasurers

Larry Parker

Immediate Past President

If your chapter's gross income for 1997 was more than \$25,000, you should have filed a **Form 990EZ and Schedule a (Form 990)** with the **Internal Revenue Service by May 15, 1998.**

No matter whether or not you file a Form 990, you **MUST** advise the SPEBSQSA office of your status. You do this by sending them a completed copy of your Form 990, as submitted to the IRS, or a letter stating your chapter was not required to file.

Besides the Form 990 requirements, the Society Board of Directors requires that every SPEBSQSA chapter perform a complete financial review every year. A report must be sent to the SPEBSQSA office before May 15 of the following year.

If these tasks are yet to be done, please do them **NOW!** The penalties to your chapter could be severe!

Participation necessary for successful Joe Barbershop chorus at fall convention

Al Fisk
Rochester

Wow! What a great convention! Super chorus contest (nice to see several chapter choruses back in the fray), wonderful quartet competition (three, count 'em, three reps going to Hotlanta), a terrific GR show, and tons of fun, fellowship, and frivolity.

The highly esteemed Mr. Fred Kienitz has been gracious enough to ask little ol' me (Al Fisk) to direct the fall version of the Joe Barbershop Chorus. I am honored, pleased, and flattered and look forward to the endeavor. I am also looking for some input from the masses regarding the JB Chorus: song selection, difficulty of such, use of tapes and music, uniforms, etc. I've already received a variety of responses from a similar request that I posted on the PioNet. For the electronically challenged, feel free to enlighten me by tele-

phone (248) 651-3796 or snail mail - 845 Dressler Lane, Rochester Hills, MI 48307. For those with access to email, give me a holler at Altonfisk@aol.com

By the way, with so many choruses getting back on stage, I'm a little concerned about the possibility of a lack of bodies participating in the fall JB Chorus. OTOH, good old Ev Nau from the home office, has assured me that being in a competing chorus and the JB Chorus is acceptable. Cool! I'm especially appreciative of some of my home boys (Rochester Chapter) for their willingness to support me in my JB Chorus debut by singing in both choruses.

Soooo, please let me know your thoughts for the fall version of the JB Chorus. Should we sing pole cat? Industry standards? Something difficult and/or different with available music and tapes? (Is that worth the hassle?) Since there are no choruses that sit out the International Prelims, there will not be a

Lansing/Grand Rapids base to solidify the ensemble. (FWIW, how did y'all feel about the most recent JB Chorus? Can anyone tell me how many non Lansing/GR guys were in the 80 man ensemble?)

See y'all later.

Peace,
Al Fisk

P.S. On a personal note, thank you, Pioneer, for your support of The Detroit Sound Co. Our bari is healthy, once again, and our new tenor has caught up with the rest of us. We've visited about five chapters (Rochester, Huron Valley, Windsor, Battle Creek, and DOC) so far and plan on hitting a few more (invitations from Motor City Metro, Wayne, Pontiac, etc.) as we ride out our term as district champs. Now that we know more than four songs, we would love to sing for ya at your meetin' or show. (Thanks, Windsor, for having TDSC as your headliners. We had a blast!)

Convention: are we competing, or convening?

COLE, from page 3

tremely proud of your accomplishments. We all know that you will represent our district well, and our best wishes for wonderful performances.

Those choruses, who competed, did so for the honor of being crowned the Pioneer District Champion Chorus. WOW! Macomb County chapter has made such an incredible turn around in the past few years, it simply makes me speechless. What an example we have to follow in the Harmony Heritage Chorus. Chapter President, Derrick Deakins said it best when referring to their turn around, "If we can do it, so can you!" That sounds like a positive challenge to all chapters who are currently struggling for success.

THE CONVENTION: This was the most fun that I have had at any convention. The "Harmony Gulch" show performed by our International Represent-

tative chorus from Grand Rapids was a riot. I only hope other choruses will follow suit, giving themselves a chance to earn a little extra income to help defray their expenses incurred for their International Contest. The Massed Sing directed by Fred Kienitz and Russ Seely was well attended and made lasting impressions on many young barbershoppers, and prospective barbershoppers. But the real fun hadn't even started.

Pickup quartets abounded everywhere at the headquarters hotel following both the chorus competition and the quartet finals. Tags and songs were being sung in every corner of the Stouffer Hotel, including the three hospitality rooms sponsored by the respective chapters. Sunday morning I heard stories of judges, yes judges staying up, and singing into the wee hours of the morning. But the weekend can be best summed

up by the response of Mark Wilson from FIREPOWER! (as they were going into their A&R on Sunday morning), when asked when he finally went to bed. His response was: "Bed?" That's what convening is all about.

Did you convene, or compete, or both? Unfortunately I did not compete, although I did sing with the Joe Barbershopper Chorus - which was a real treat. My hat is off to the Grand Rapids Chapter for taking the initiative to try something other than two Pole Cat Songs — it was fun. I hope you had as much fun during the convention as I did. If you didn't attend, you missed out on a fantastic weekend, but you will still have one more chance to convene in Lansing before we move our venue to Battle Creek for three years. I hope to see all 1400 Pioneer District Barbershoppers in Lansing in October - wouldn't that be a fantastic send off?

Macomb Quarter Quartet Quontest contest makes for fun, friendly competition

Roy Gurney
Macomb

The Macomb County Chapter held its Quarter Quartet Quontest on Friday, May 8 at the Georgian Inn ballroom in Roseville. The evening of this stag event started with refreshments and quartet warmups and a chance to get other foursomes together. Then "dinner" was served with all-you-can-eat salad and pizza.

With the judges (district finalist quartet Resolution) well-fed and satisfied, we began the festivities with a performance by the judging quartet. A total of five quartets competed for the traveling trophy, which sports the names of past winners dating back to 1990. Many of these barbershoppers have since graced the district contest stage.

Each quartet sang one song, one tag and one spoken part. When the dust had settled and the judges entertained the group once again, they shook out like this:

The Crushed Ego Award (a crushed peanut doughnut each) went to 4 Pleasure.

The Pawnbroker Award was attained by Just Us Four.

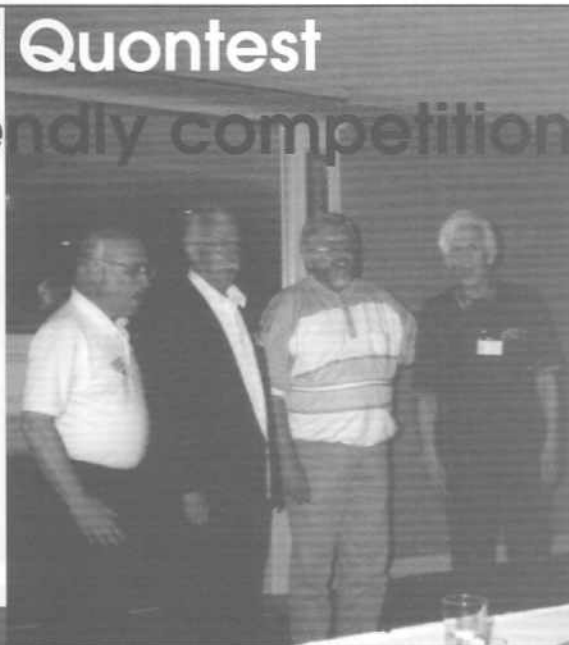
Third Place Medalist was The Who???, enhanced by a shaggy dog story.

Second Place Medalist was won by a fine bi-chapter foursome called Past Tense.

And the **First Place trophy** went to Protegé, with Steve Charleston singing lead, Roger Anderson, Jr. on tenor, Tim Prahl handling baritone and Mike Pepperman booming the bass part. As soon as their name has been engraved on the trophy, they will be able to show it off in their homes.

QUITE QWAZY

(from top) WHO'S NEXT: 3rd place quartet The Who??? performs. PAST IMPERFECT: 2nd place Past Tense shows what matching outfits can do. JUST 4 FUN: How could a contest be complete without bunny ears? TOM AND JURY: Resolution and a "senior compilation expert" takes notes. THE CHAMPS: First place Protegé with their traveling trophy.



If you missed this one, keep an eye out for work on the next one. It's a great time and a good test for new quartets to be in front of a very supportive audience. We want to thank Tony Ales, Tom Conner, Steve Pauling and Pete Burns of Resolution for being our judges for this great event. Thanks, guys!

CONVENTION, from page 1
roe Chapter.

Master of Ceremonies for the International Quartet Preliminaries was Patrick Tucker-Kelly, Society Membership Chairman. Emcee for the District Chorus Contest was Charles Watson, Society Executive Vice President. Serving as Master of Ceremonies for the Quartet Finals on Saturday night was longtime crowd favorite Doran McTaggart from the Windsor Chapter.

Capping off the Saturday night show were songs by the new International quartet representatives, the newly-crowned District champion Harmony Heritage chorus, the college quartet champs, and the retiring District Champions and this year's International chorus representative, Grand Rapids' Great Lakes Chorus.

Stringing together some of the on-stage numbers performed over a busy Convention weekend, you'd be musically correct in saying "I'd Give A Million Tomorrows" to go "Back In Those Wonderful Days," but as we're "Strollin' Down Harmony Lane" to "The End Of The Road," all we have now is "Memories," so until our next Convention (or barbershop activity) it's "Back in the Old Routine."





Spring Convention:

Fun Friends & Four-Part Fever



(Clockwise from top left) A BIRD IN THE HAND: Gaylord's Hank Hedges (right) gets wild west advice from Harmony Gulch's Sparky Hayes at the Bush League booth. Hammerin' Hank's spirited efforts paid off with 17 quartets registering to date. VIP VPs: District Vice President Roger Lewis (left) compares musical notes with special guest, Society Executive Vice President Charles Watson. SIDEBAR: Sharing ideas at the Board of Delegates meeting are Macomb Chapter President Derrick Deakins (right) and District VP Doran McTaggart. BARBER-SHOPPING: The Barbershopper Shop provided a flurry of activity for convention-goers. TICKET MASTERS: Hosting the convention kept Grand Rapids folks busy at the registration desk.

'Harmony Gulch' a crowd-pleaser

Doug Pearson

VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Captivating a District Convention audience with a fast-paced show package, the Great Lakes Chorus proved that they're lively entertainers as well as blue-ribbon singers.

Spiced with quartets, solos, chorus numbers, jokes, comedic dialog and sidesplitting visuals, Ann's Boys had 'em rocking on Friday night with their presentation of "The Mystery of Harmony Gulch." Billed as a barbershop melodrama, this tongue-in-cheek Western drama was written by the chorus's versatile Dan Casamatta with incidental music by Tom Wheeler.

"Mystery" was performed initially on the Grand Rapids' show and played to a receptive audience with rave reviews. This encore edition served a twofold purpose: Not only did it entertain the convention audience, but it helped raise money for the Great Lakes Chorus trip to Atlanta in July.

Because of the show's success, plans are under way for similar fund-raising performances by choruses at upcoming District Conventions.

Enthusiastic and extensive chorus participation were key to the vitality of "Mystery." The narrator, Buck Shot, was played by Mark Savage; Darrell, the Mysterious Melodrama Sign Holder, when he wasn't interrupted by Doran McTaggart, was played by Bill Mousel; Ann Jarchow was Sheriff Dangerous Ann.

Adding to the musical festivity, there were quartets galore: The Lovely Looveys, The Prairie Dogs, The Snarley Brothers, The Seagrams Boys, and The Town Librarians, plus the back and front of the horse. Finally, the remaining chorus played the roles of Townsfolk and General Ne'er-do-wells.

All in all, the performance rated at least five stars. When the make-believe curtain closed, there was no "Mystery" in the fact that "Harmony" reigned supreme and that "Gulch" was an unqualified crowd-pleaser and musical triumph.

Harmony Roundup

More than 120 avid barbershoppers — the highest number in recent history— took advantage of top-notch coaching and classes, ringing Michigan State's Halls of Ivy with four-part chords at the recent Pioneer District Harmony Roundup.

"I was very pleased with the turnout and the enthusiastic response from everyone," said Roundup chief Russ Seely. "The fact that 11 quartets participated was certainly a very gratifying feature."

An outstanding lineup of faculty members contributed greatly to the Roundup's success. The all-star cast included Thom Hine, former Pioneer great and director of Atlanta's Big Chicken Chorus; former International champs Marquis; Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn, and top-20 quartet Free Trade Agreement.

In addition, Fred Kienitz and Jim Stephens led a class in chorus directing, and there were sessions in vocal techniques, sight reading made easy, tags and woodshedding. Capping it off was a Saturday night party featuring all the quartets.

If you're a member of one of the 76 registered Pioneer District quartets, and you felt you may have missed something by not attending, you're absolutely correct. Here are comments from two of the attendees: "Each of us comes away from these wonderful schools as better barbershoppers, musicians and people," said Rochester's Al Fisk.

Added Grand Rapids' Peter Westers: "I had a wonderful time and learned a heck of a lot. And the best part is the camaraderie of everyone, no matter what caliber of singer we are."

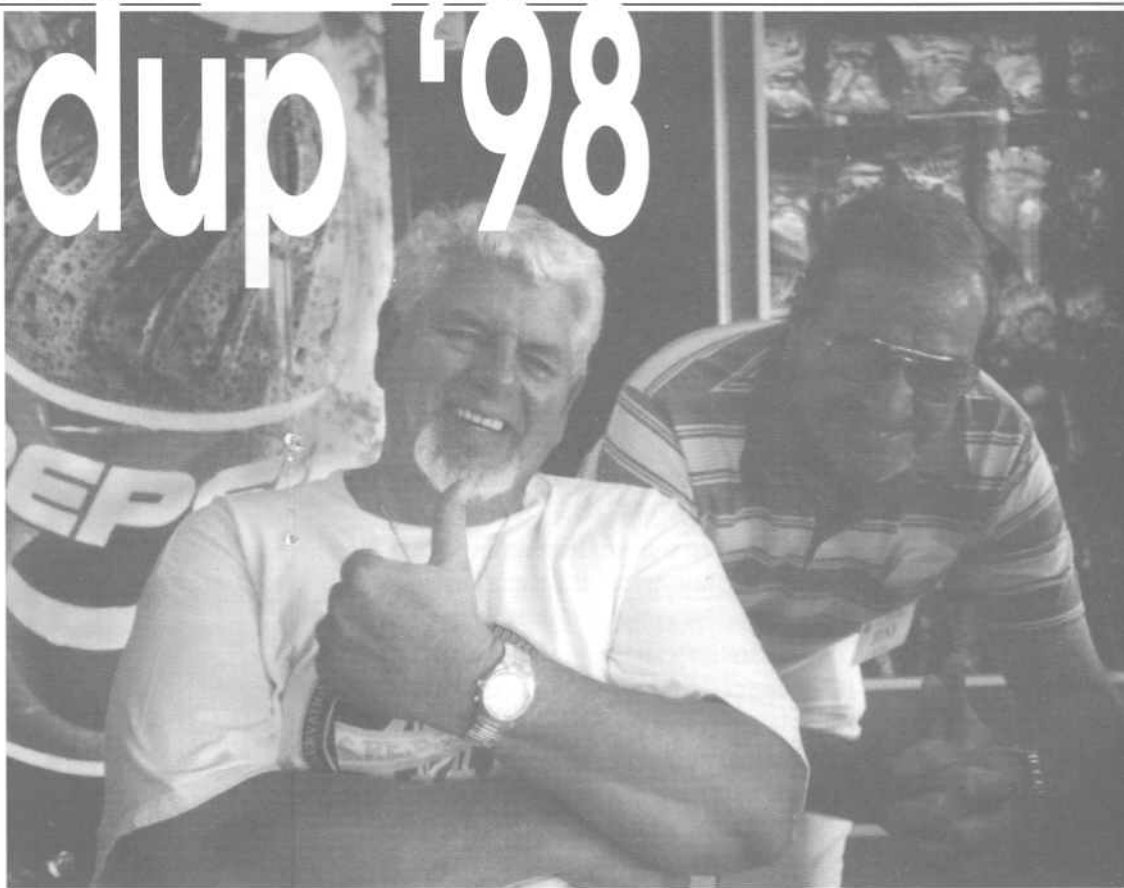
PHOTO ROUNDUP: (clockwise from top left): **RIGHT ON:** "It's thumbs up, baby!" says Roundup administrator Russ Seely at the registration desk. With him is Lansing Chapter's Jim Peck. **FREE AGENTS:** Entertaining in the registration area was top-20 quartet Free Trade Agreement (from left) Chuck Lower, Jay Butterfield, Al Baker and Ron Knickerbocker. **MOTOWN SOUND:** The Detroit Sound Company may be district champs, but like other participating quartets, they want to get even better, and that's why they attended the Harmony Roundup. Listening to their sound is Roundup coach Jay Hawkins from the International Champion Marquis quartet. **PUT ME IN, COACH:** Working with the Four Note Trump was the Society's Executive Director Darryl Flinn (right) "A great experience," said quartet member Jim Kunz of the coaching session. **DIRECTOR SET:** A one-two punch in directing expertise was provided by Fred Kienitz (sitting at blackboard) and Jim Stephens (standing at blackboard). **ROUND OF SOUND:** Want good vocal production? These Roundup attendees did, and came away better singers thanks to a session on techniques conducted by Free Trade Agreement's Al Baker. **CHORUS OF APPROVAL:** Free Trade Agreement's Jay Butterfield (standing, right) works with Kalamazoo's Mall City Chorus. At left is chorus director Gene Hanover.



Pioneer brings top instructors to

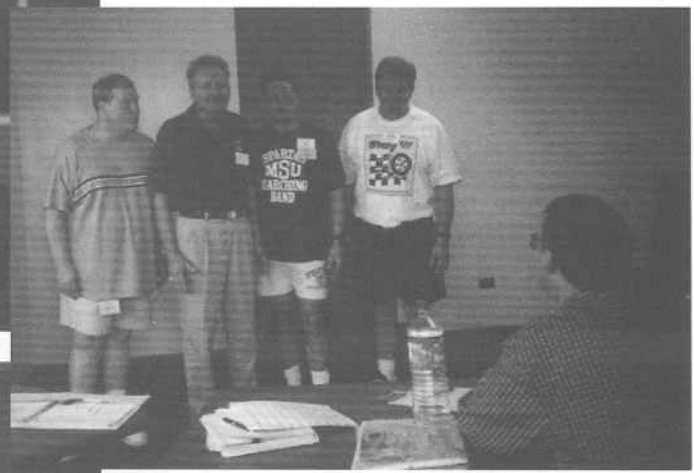
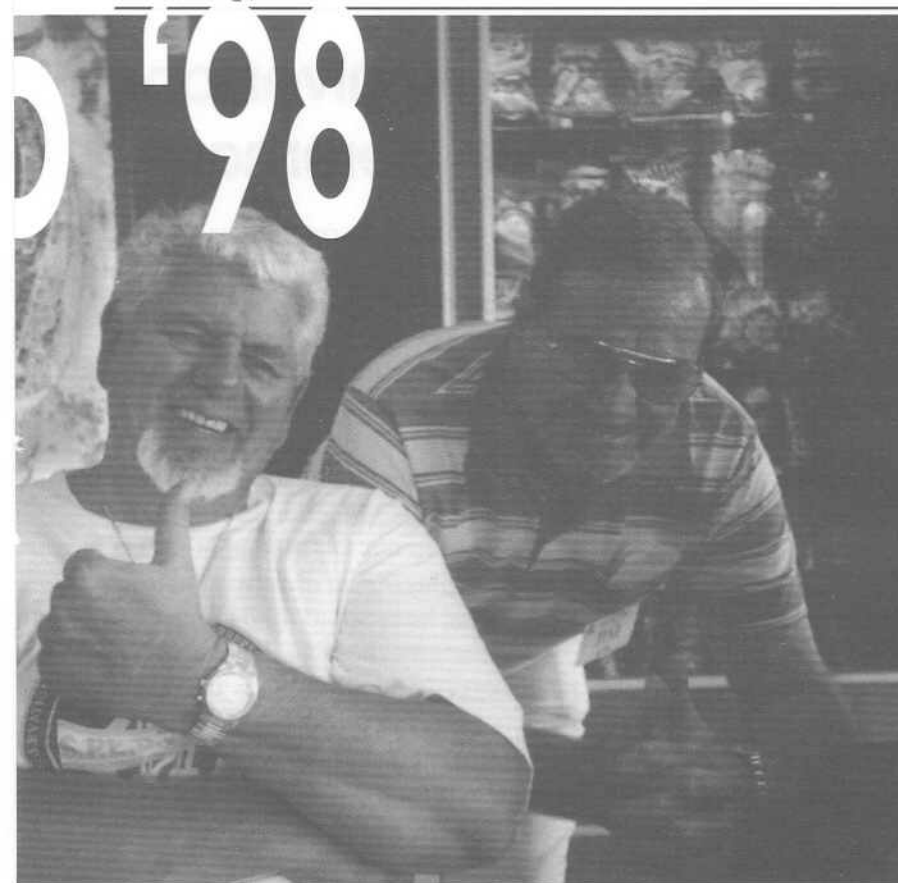
Roundup '98

(clockwise from top left): RIGHT ON: "It's a great day for the Roundup administrator Russ Seely at the Harmony Roundup. With him is Lansing Chapter's Jim Peck. FREE TRADE: The registration area was top-20 quartet. (from left) Chuck Lower, Jay Butterfield, Al Baker, and Al Berbocker. MOTOWN SOUND: The Detroit area quartet may be district champs, but like other quartets, they want to get even better, and that's the Harmony Roundup. Listening to their coach Jay Hawkins from the International Quartet. PUT ME IN, COACH: Working with the Society's Executive Director Darryl Seely. "Experience," said quartet member Jim Kunz. DIRECTOR SET: A one-two punch in the registration area was provided by Fred Kienitz (sitting at the blackboard) and Gene Hanover (standing at blackboard). ROUNDUP: Good vocal production? These Roundup members are away better singers thanks to a session conducted by Free Trade Agreement's Al Baker. MOTOWN SOUND: Free Trade Agreement's Jay Butterfield works with Kalamazoo's Mall City Chorus. At the Harmony Roundup.



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'98



Michigan State workshop

You've just finished the
best show you can
remember.

You're **excited.**

The **WHOLE CHORUS**
is excited.

Now that it's over, you can
relax, reminisce, and...

Not yet you can't.

Before the moment's gone,
put it down in words.

Then **send it** to
the *Troubadour*.

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snail mail it.

fax it.

FedEx it.

Western Union it.

However you get it there,

**You Must
Submit!**

Because,
face it...

if you want your horn
tooted, you better

**be the one
blowin'.**

**Pioneer
Troubadour**
Official Publication of the Pioneer District
Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.



Four receive Golden Anniversary awards in convention ceremony

Doug Pearson

VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Four longtime members of our Pioneer District reached an historic milestone with the Society during the past year.

They each recorded a half-century of service.

The four are:

Ross V. Renwick, Boyne City Chapter

Gordon Debrul, Grosse Pointe Chapter

Don Funk, Lansing Chapter

Ted Wietke, Grand Rapids Chapter

Funk, who is the District's Golden Anniversary Award Chairman, was presented his 50-year plaque by District

Board member Larry Parker during special ceremonies at the District Convention's House of Delegates meeting. A member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame, Funk is Past District President and Past International Board Member.

The other honoree in attendance was Grand Rapids' Wietke, a longtime contributor to our District and the Society. Displaying an old-time District newspaper, he recalled fond memories of the Society, how barbershopping has changed and what it has meant to him. Wietke was presented his Golden Anniversary Plaque by Award Chairman Funk.

Since 1994, a total of 20 Golden Anniversary plaques have been awarded to Pioneer District members, according to Funk.



NIFTY FIFTY: Ted Wietke of the Grand Rapids chapter's Great Lakes Chorus (right) is presented his Golden Anniversary 50-year plaque by Golden Anniversary Award Chairman Don Funk. Wietke shared with those assembled his memories of the Society and spoke of how it has changed.



GOLDEN GURU: Lansing chapter's Don Funk (left) is presented his Golden Anniversary 50-year plaque by District Board member Larry Parker, during special ceremonies at the District Convention. Don is a former District President, past International Board Member and a member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame.

1998 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 16-18, 1998
LANSING, MICHIGAN

CONVENTION REGISTRATION

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

REGISTRANT NAME _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE (____) _____

COMPETING CHORUS? YES ___ NO ___ CHORUS NAME _____

COMPETING QUARTET? YES ___ NO ___ QUARTET NAME _____

CHAPTER NAME _____

VOICE PART: TENOR ___ LEAD ___ BARITONE ___ BASS ___

EARLY REGISTRATION: \$16.00 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20.00 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 3, 1998

If you wish to purchase tickets to the Friday, October 16 Association of District Quartet Champions Show, you must enclose \$4.00 for each ticket. (\$5.00 at the door.)

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$16.00/\$20.00

Total Registration Fee: _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.

or MASTERCARD of VISA Number _____ Expiration Date _____

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

**Stan Williams, Treasurer
421 Franklin Street
Leslie, MI 49251**

NOTE: ALL EVENT PASSES WILL BE AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK IN THE SHERATON LANSING HOTEL (HEAD-QUARTERS). SINGLE EVENT TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED AT THE CONVENTION REGISTRATION DESK OR WAVERLY HIGH SCHOOL: FRIDAY \$10.00; SATURDAY NOON \$10.00; SATURDAY EVENING \$10.00. CHILDREN AGE 12 AND UNDER FREE.

EACH MEMBER OF A COMPETING QUARTET OR CHORUS MUST REGISTER FOR AN ALL EVENTS PASS. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD DISQUALIFY THE QUARTET OR CHORUS FROM THE CONTEST.

REFUND POLICY: REGISTRATION FEES WILL BE REFUNDED TO PERSONS CANCELING **IN WRITING** PRIOR TO THE 12:00 P.M. OPENING ON FRIDAY

1998 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 16-18, 1998

HOTEL RESERVATION

- All spaces must be filled out completely - type or print clearly.
- Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- All acknowledgments will be sent to the individual whose name and address appear below.
- Confirmation will be sent directly to you by your assigned hotel.
- Any changes in reservations must be made directly to the hotel after confirmation is received. **Do not send any room deposits to the Housing Bureau.**
- Reservation requests must be received no later than September 16, 1998. Room requests will not be accepted after this date.

PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:

SPEBSQSA Housing Bureau
P. O. Box 15066
Lansing, MI 48901-5066

Hotel should confirm this reservation to:

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone (Days) _____
(Area Code)

Arrival Date _____
Departure Date _____
Type of Room:
1 bed _____
(1-2 persons) _____
2 beds _____
(2-4 persons)

HOTEL/RATES (not including tax)

Number in order of preference.

- 1. *Sheraton Lansing Hotel - \$75.00 Flat Rate _____
(Headquarters Hotel)
- 2. Best Western Midway Hotel _____
\$59.00 Flat Rate
- 3. Hampton Inn - \$55.00 Flat Rate (incl. bkfst.) _____
- 4. Holiday Inn Lansing Conference Center _____
\$66.00 Flat Rate
- 5. Quality Suites - \$79.00 single/double; _____
+ \$10.00 each additional person (incl. bkfst.) _____

NAMES OF ADDITIONAL PEOPLE
OCCUPYING ROOM.

GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:

The Convention/Visitors Bureau is not responsible for room rates.

Credit Card: AE ___ MC ___ VS ___ DISC ___

Number _____

___ Request Non-Smoking Room

Exp. Date _____

SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____



Society Board:**Restructured COTS makes weekend even better**

CHALLMAN, from page 3
(male and female).

- **The new, unified COTS.** It is crucial to get district-wide support for this new program and get everyone on the same page.
- **Board relationships with district presidents.** There is a continuing need to involve DP's into the new management structure and allow them to be heard and offer the best possible service to their respective districts.
- **Leadership Training.** A better job needs to be done in identifying potential leaders and providing practical training at all management levels.
- **Community singing.** We need to "Get America Singing Again" and work with SAI, HI, CASC, and MENC to offer programs in theaters, schools and the home to promote family values.
- **Membership Slide.** We must find better ways to motivate chapter members to help solve the problem.
- **Member needs and continuing education.** We need to update our knowledge of member's desires and offer educational programs they want.
- **Communication.** Means must be provided so that every chapter member knows what is going on in the Society on a monthly basis.
- **More activities at convention.** Our members want more activities at conventions where they can be involved and entertained.

- **Polecat II.** We need another series of Barberpole Cat songs.
- **Poorly attended conventions.** More than half of our members never attend any conventions.
- **District management structure.** We need to find ways to help districts do away with the old structure and embrace the new.
- **Quartet activity.** Most of our members want more quartet activity at the chapter level. We need to find ways to make this happen.

Following the heels of #5 (getting district-wide support for the new COTS program), the Society Board issued a set of directives regarding the 1999 and 2000 COTS.

It is felt the program needed to be field tested in a rigorous and disciplined fashion for the next two years to determine the extent to which similar student feedback is received from each of the Society-wide, consistently delivered, COTS curricula.

Key elements of these directives include:

- **Chapter leader training via COTS,** according to the new Society governance structure, is the responsibility of the Society Chapter's Support and Leadership Training Committee (CSLT).
- **All districts will hold two-day schools,** unless the CSLT committee agrees that site remoteness and/or student travel consideration warrant otherwise. Requests for exceptions shall be addressed to the chair of

the CSLT committee.

- **Each district is encouraged** to have Board and/or committee meetings in conjunction with the COTS weekend, so long as they are not in conflict with any aspect of the scheduled hours of the COTS instruction. All district officers are expected to participate with the students in the COTS classes.
- **All matters relating to course content and faculty selection** are the responsibility of the CSLT committee. Separate and unique district-sponsored classes or events intended to be held within the scheduled hours of the COTS weekend must be approved in advance by the CSLT committee.

No district or student should experience any additional COTS expenses beyond those already planned as a result of the revised COTS program. The cost per student is expected to be \$10.00. This does not include the cost of housing, meals, or special added district classes, events, etc.

The key to the new COTS is that students can select from a variety of class offerings. For example, a repeating chapter president need not take all the same classes as a first-year president.

The ability to select classes of specific interest to the student follows somewhat the same format as Harmony College or our district HEP schools.

Let's all do what we can to support, by our attendance, the new COTS structure.

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

by Tom Uicker, Bulletin Editor

As I write this article, it is the middle of May. Unfortunately, you probably won't see it until Mid-June. So, instead of talking about the "Return of the Jug" as a future event, I have to think of it in the past. This was the 33rd year for the "little brown jug" to be passed around the chapters in the Pioneer District; and it still seems like the chapters enjoy it, even though, as with anything subject to Murphy's Law, there are times when it was less than convenient. So Detroit-Oakland plans to keep the "traveling jug" tradition alive, at least for the present.

The problem has been with the party to welcome the Jug's return to Detroit-Oakland. This grew out of the old chapter-meeting night and has traditionally been the first Friday of June. The tradition has been so strong that, when Windsor set up the District Send-Off Party (at the Caboto club), they consciously avoided the first Friday. Unfortunately, this has left two parties a week apart and in competition for attendance from other chapters.

This year, we made three major

changes to the "Return of the Jug" party format. (1) We held it a week earlier, i.e. on the last Friday in May, (2) We opened it up to women instead of the traditional "male only" party, (3) In an attempt to get things started earlier, we ate first instead of afterwards.

I can't say (two weeks beforehand) whether these changes were to the good or not. The first change is not viable on a permanent basis because the last Friday in May is usually Memorial Day weekend, and people want to be with their families. Change number two sounds great for increasing numbers, but it changes the party to a performance instead of a get-together where guys can feel uninhibited about going off and singing in a corner. Change three reinforces the atmosphere of a dinner show; also, it's hard to sing right after eating.

We do solicit your comments on the subject, as we ponder what format we will use for "Return of the Jug" night in future years. You can call me at (248) 559-7082. Or talk to our Music & Performance VP, Dave Montera. Dave can be reached during the day at (248) 851-5035, or by email at MONTERALAW@prodigy.net, or by fax at (248) 851-5069.

Wayne

by Gary Simon
GSimon@Juno.com

Our chapter's first participation in Wayne County's Adopt-A-Road program was on Saturday, April 18. Twelve of our members spent two hours picking up litter along a one-mile stretch of Farmington Road in Livonia. We'll do this twice more in 1998 — August and October.

We're looking forward to the Windsor Send-Off on June 12. It should be a great evening listening to the best-of-the-best Pioneer District quartets and choruses. (Rumor has it that they'll actually put meat in the spaghetti dinner this year!).

This summer promises to be an exciting time in Barbershopping for us "Pioneers": The International Convention in Atlanta (with an outstanding chorus and three, count 'em, three top-notch quartets representing our district!), the Buckeye Invitational in Ohio, and Labor Day weekend in Harrisville (with Bush League '98 in Gaylord in the fall).

If during your travels this summer, you happen to be in the western suburbs see **WAYNE**, page 19



ONE MAN'S TRASH... Members of the Wayne Chapter take time to pose after the day they spent beautifying their own stretch of a d o p t e d roadside.

Fanfare
an a cappella ensemble

Marv Moran (313) 459-4218 Bob Wisdom (810) 879-7083

A mixed a cappella sextet **Kindred Spirits**

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GALLERY
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Chapters in Action

WAYNE, from page 18

of Detroit some Tuesday evening, drop in to our rehearsal. We meet at 7:30 p.m. at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail (just east of Newburgh Road), Livonia. "We'll leave the light on for you!"

Flint

by Ken Rice, Publicity Chair

Paul Lehmkuhle is a quiet man. In the wonderful world of barbershop singing that's a good characteristic. When the rest of the chorus is belting out "Hello, My Baby," or cracking wise about the director's alarming lack of savoir faire, Paul is usually working diligently with his ever-present pitch pipe until he's satisfied that the notes in the newest tenor run are exactly right.

We had occasion this past week to pay tribute to Paul. His doctors defined the timetable for the tribute when they determined last January that 80 percent of his pancreas had to come out. It wasn't exactly the kind of opportunity we had been seeking, but it did tell us that our time was limited. So we scrambled to assemble all of the barbershoppers with whom Paul had sung and served. The list was staggering.

On the evening of the party — Tuesday, May 5th — there were five choruses represented: Pontiac, Milford, Saginaw Bay, Swan Valley, and Flint. And there were three quartets, all of whom had had the benefit of Paul's consistently accurate tenor. Frequently, Paul sang at performances where he was the only tenor, all the more important reason, he believed, to be there. Over the years Paul completed a number of district assignments, mostly in the arena of new member recruiting, always looking for a few good tenors.

When the party was over, Paul was the first one to jump to his feet and proclaim, "This is the kind of evening

that makes us all want to say 'It's great to be a barbershopper.'" No one has lived that slogan with more enthusiasm than Paul Lehmkuhle, the Quiet Man.

Grand Rapids

by Dick Williams

Howdy partner. You all have as good a time at the big singing roundup as we did?

All of us from the GLC ranch had a fun-filled weekend. I'll tell you what, there are no better people than what we have here in Pioneer. You're all wonderful and you really made our job as your host fun and easy. We love you all. Thanks.

It was great fun for us to reprise our "Mystery of Harmony Gulch" for you Friday night and by your comments you enjoyed it also. One thing, though: that darn horse has got to go, right, Doran?

Sheriff Ann had a grand time working with the Joe Barbershopper chorus and then directing all of us on stage to kick off the chorus contest. We'd like to thank Jamie and his Lansing chorus for their support and cooperation on the two songs Ann wanted to sing in order to show the judges that a lot of neat things are happening in Pioneer and from the comments, she succeeded. We also would like to thank all the rest of you that joined in and sang with the chorus. I think everyone had a great time and look forward to doing it again.

The Mystery of Harmony Gulch was written by our own "BIG" Dan Casamatta and directed by the loovely, lovely, no, the lonely lovely, um, it's, er the lovely Ms. Kathy Wheeler, and her other half, Tom, who wrote the "mystery music" which we have all come to know and love. Dangerous Ann directed. We'd also like to thank the Lovely Loovelys, Judy Westers, Amy Arnold, Barb Church and Cheryl Sinigos, better known as the quartet Friends, for all their help with the show. You were great.

Now we had a pretty big singing roundup where all the malcontents, ne'er-do-wells and any other polecat who thought they could sing at this here get-together got together to try and determine who was best.

Now I'm here to tell ya we got trouble and plenty of it my friends and something needs to be done about it and soon. Ya see, there's this gang of Slamkas that are running wild here and tearing up the district. They go by the name of Power Play. You'll never meet four shadier, lowdown, double-dealing sidewinders than those guys, and their leader is a real winner called Jack. I hate to say it, but they took the measure of everyone and won the contest, drat. Close behind were two other groups of gunslingers, one called FIREPOWER! who were close behind and almost got within shoot'n range and their leader is a shifty, lean, soft-talkin' troublemaker called Jamie?? Yep, they just ran out of firepower, that is unless you're standing downwind, then they got plenty of firepower.

Now the other group, Onyx, and the leader of these bad boys is a surly, bad-tempered but good-singing gentleman called Craig. Word has it Craig learned everything he knows from the Sons of the Pioneers.

Now I have it on good account that all three of these no-account groups are now riding together and have a date with destiny this July in Atlanta where they plan to take over the stage and grab all the gold. Hey, these bad boys just might pull it off.

Now, just when you think it's safe, here comes that Slamka guy again, Jack, riding hard on 47 rough and tough guys from the badlands of Macomb county, where this mighty group called Harmony Heritage, ran roughshod over 11 other groups to grab the gold for themselves. Have they no compassion? Is there no remorse? Are you kidding, these are bad guys. We got trouble friends, what can we do? Where's the sheriff when you need one?

But there were others who did well for themselves, and our kudos to the following Plateau Champions:

Pontiac-Waterford -	Plateau 1
Muskegon -	Plateau 2
Gratiot County -	Plateau 3
Macomb -	Plateau 4
Detroit-Oakland -	Plateau 5

see **GRAND RAPIDS**, page 20

Chapters in Action

GRAND RAPIDS, from page 19

Actually, all of the choruses did an outstanding job and are to be complimented on their efforts and the quality and the high level of singing they achieved. The same could be said of all the quartets.

A couple of weeks ago, we got a surprise visit from Gratiot County, oops, not all of Gratiot, but a half-dozen. They brought along "the song." No, I mean "The Jug!" Thanks, guys.

The rest of our schedule here at the ranch kinda looks like this. May 23, Lowell Showboat Show, May 30 coach David Wright, June 6 Festival, June 12 Windsor Send-off, June 28 extra rehearsal. There could be more, depending on what Dangerous Ann decides.

We'll see you in Windsor and Atlanta.

Muskegon

by Frank Scott

scrivco@novagate.com

At the recent Pioneer District Convention, the Shoreline Chorus was pleased to have won the first place award for their plateau. They were equally pleased to have placed fifth overall. It was the result of a combination of excellent coaching and the persistent insistence of Director Mike O'Donnell that we were going to improve or die trying. Since "Everybody Wants to Go to Heaven But Nobody Wants to Die," the Chorus decided to improve.

Chapter quartets continue to be active, with ACT FOUR out and about, and with HARMONY TRANSFER making an appearance in four performances of Muskegon's production of *The Music Man*—June 13-14-15. The show will be held at the newly refurbished Frauenthal Theatre for the Performing Arts—where the Chapter will present their 57th Annual Show on September 26. The

Chordiac Arrest will come to help us celebrate. Why don't you come, too?

With the newly reconstructed float... parts of the old one are scattered along U.S. 31 after a wild trip from Hart to Muskegon. . . the Chapter will ride in the Hart Asparagus Festival on the afternoon of June 13.

Chapter representatives will man an information booth at the Muskegon Community College's Mayfest—also on June 13. (Nothing like blowing the pitch pipe on both sides!) Although I know the names of three new members, I'm not sure how to spell them. We'll try to remedy that omission by the time the next deadline rolls around.

REMEMBER: If you're too busy to sing, you're too busy!

Sault Ste. Marie

by Loyal Beggs

It has apparently been quite some time since the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter submitted an article to let the rest of the district know that Barbershop Harmony is still alive and well in the Great White North, so here is an attempt to bring you up to date on the many activities of the Chapter.

April 4 saw the 40-man Northland Chorus under the direction of Bob Shami and Don Bazely present their 34th Annual Spring Show, "Home on the Driving Range" to a delighted crowd of 800+

at the Kiwanis Community Theatre.

The script for the show was written by the Chorus' own George Nennon, Bill Webb and Bob Shami with a little help from our good friend Susan Barber. Joining the chorus for this show was the comedy quartet Rumors from Cincinnati, Ohio, and our own local quartet Take IV. Rumors, which is made up of tenor Gary Ellerhorst; lead Marco Crager, bari Tom Rouse and Bass Steve Sick kept the audience in stitches with their unique brand of humor and off-beat antics.

Take IV, made up of tenor Tom Lehman, lead Al Murray, Bari Bob Shami and Bass . . . yep . . . you guessed it . . . Don Bazely, are a group that we are very proud of. They were silver medalists at the Bush League competition last fall, and they once again proved that they do not have to take a back seat to anyone! Congratulations gentlemen on a job well done.

Since the show, the chorus has maintained a hectic schedule. By the end of May, we will have performed at three Church services, and provided entertainment for the Sault Area Hospitals Staff Appreciation Night.

June will also be a busy month, with a Novice Quartet Competition planned for the first week of June. A couple of quartets from the local chapter of the Sweet Adelines are said to be joining us for the evening as well. see **SAULT STE. MARIE**, page 21



MIND IF WE SING THROUGH? The Sault Saint Marie chapter performs their latest show, "Home on the Driving Range." The show, held at the Kiwanis Community Theatre, was attended by over 800 people.

Chapters in Action

SAULT STE. MARIE, from page 20

June 14 will see us travelling to Cedarville, Michigan to take part in a Church Service. Hopefully the author of this column will use a more direct route this time, rather than going by way of St. Ignace!

And June 21 will be an exciting time for the Chorus and Take IV as they travel to Thessalon, Ontario to present their Spring Show. This is a joint venture with the local Lions Club which will see all the proceeds from the show turned over to the Thessalon Hospital to help defray the costs of relocating the Hospital to new quarters at the local Nursing Home.

All things considered, it has been a tremendous year for the Sault Chapter. We continue to grow in numbers and further the cause of barbershopping throughout the area, and we look forward to better things ahead.

Rochester

Ric Matus
VP Communications

Rochester Chapter's Heart of the Hills Chorus is back on track. With Brian Kaufman, our new director, leading the parade, we are looking forward to resuming our charity activities and special performances beginning with the Memorial Day Parade and following service to be held in the Rochester Cemetery.

Our second "Old Time Meeting" was a success with a group of approximately 65 members and guests turning out for an evening of food, song and fun... thanks to the efforts and hard work of many of our members, even some baritones. As I speak/write these words, plans are in the mill for another "special event." Keep tuned, and maybe you, too, can join in on our next grand gathering in Rochester Hills.

We welcomed members of the

Macomb chapter as they dropped in to deliver the Little Brown Jug for our temporary holding. The Jug was passed along to Pontiac on April 7. Thanks to all who participated.

Our trip to Lansing brought smiling faces to the risers. Brian directed, we followed, and the result was our decision to compete again in the fall.

Kurt Kiesling, newly elected chapter President, introduced the officers and committee men:

Secretary	Merle Schultz
Treasurer	Wes Tomlinson
VP, Music	Don Reddy
VP, Program	Dick Hartrick
VP, Membership	Dave Percy
VP, Comm.	Ric Matus
Member-at-Large	Carl Hasselwander
Imm. Past Pres.	Dan Bajorek

who have agreed to give their best to make the Rochester Chapter better than ever.

A bit more about Brian Kaufman. Brian is a Speech Therapist in St. Clair, Michigan. He has been a barbershopper for over 25 years. He has sung with many different quartets who have won District championships and represented the Pioneer District at International. He is currently singing bass in the quartet, Onyx.

In addition to quartetting and quartet directing, Brian has also directed both men's and women's choruses. He is married to a "Sweet Adelaine" and Great Lakes Chorus member, Lou Anne. They have three children, Craig and Becky who are attending WMU and Kristin, a high school senior.

Let's give a big welcome to Brian Kaufman... and his family!

We're looking forward to an active and fun-filled summer. We practice every Thursday evening at the University Presbyterian Church on Adams Road in Rochester Hills and welcome new, or older voices, high or low - - because we know It's Great to be a Barbershopper!

Lansing

by Bob Fox

Greetings from Lansing, home of the Buckeye-bound Capitol City Chordsmen! After years of being on the fringes, we finally made the grade with an invitation to the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, August 20-23! Some 60 guys, not including spouses and friends, have been able to arrange their schedules in order to take part in this barbershop extravaganza. We are excited and we'll be ready!

We also want Pioneer barbershoppers to know that we have moved into a new meeting hall - the Dewitt Township hall, 16101 Brook Road in Lansing. It is just off US 27 (north East Street) on Lansing's North side. If you are planning to visit, call ahead and we can give directions. For the first time in years, we have extra rooms for "sectionals" and quartet practice.

The chorus and quartets have been pretty busy with coaching sessions and outside performances. We have seven active quartets in the chapter and are still hoping to start more. Four competed in the Spring contest and all four got to sing on Saturday night! We have high hopes that FIREPOWER! will grab a lot of attention in Atlanta... we are rooting for you, guys!

President Bruce Smith has been working hard at tightening up the workings of our chapter administration. As all of you guys know, barbershoppers would rather sing than run an organization. Nevertheless, he is finding jobs for a lot of people, and that's bound to pay some dividends. Each board meeting sees new members being added to our chapter.

Coming up, in addition to what's already been mentioned are: summer picnic and golf outing, Krazy Kwartet Kontest and dog and suds night, a bunch of coaching sessions, Windsor Send-off and a night at the Lugnuts park.

A final note: The Diamond Girls, four middle school ladies who won our much-publicized High School Quartet Contest, are now receiving regular coaching sessions from a local Sweet Adeline, have had several public appearances, and are about to join the Sweet Ads, providing their mothers approve!

Bye-bye Sly

SLY, from page 4

ability to carry the message of barber-shopping to our youth. Therein lies the future of our craft. "Let's Grow Young Together."

I have met many musically competent and caring judges in the numerous A&R sessions I have attended. Their contribution to the excellence of presentation and vocal production has encouraged me to learn more about our craft and to enjoy more fully my love of music well-performed.

In spite of the fact that I am Canadian in what is essentially an American musical hobby I can say with all candor that good music generally and barber-shopping specifically transcends international boundaries, defying as it does most efforts towards nationalistic interests. When I see Fred King sticking out his false teeth and working an audience into hysterical laughter, or when I see Greg Lyne directing 600 men to sing an "Irish Blessing" with the basses focusing clearly on a low E flat and actually hearing it clearly, I am totally caught up in an experience that almost defies definition. It certainly has nothing to do with being Canadian or American. This wonderful hobby has its greatest value in our ability to pass it on wherever and with whomever we live.

I love the way music judge Marty Israel signs his email and I repeat it here: "Canto Ergo Sum," I sing, therefore I am.

Pax Vobiscum,
Doug Sly

Preventive maintenance key to avoiding loss of membership

BLOCH, from page 4

bershop. Well it's better than nobody at all and we can send her to Harmony College. I wish we would have been grooming Al as an assistant director, remember he used to direct Keep America Singing once in awhile. Yes, and we could have had the High School Director go to Harmony Explosion and got him interested. So even though the chapter lost its director very fast, the loss, in a sense, was gradual and wouldn't have happened if they had been continually cultivating other potential directors to step in. Each chapter should be working on getting new blood into directing our chorus. Even if you didn't use them

right away, wouldn't it be great to say to a chorus that needed a director, "hey we got a guy who will workout just great for you". There is a shortage of chorus directors in our society and we need to be working on this problem all the time. Wouldn't it be great if we could say we have an abundance of chorus directors.

When was the last time your chapter had a membership drive? If it didn't work, try something else until you find something that does. You can't afford not to. How about that assistant director? Are you helping him or her become better? What, you don't have an assistant director? Is your chapter getting too comfortable? I hope for your sake it's not.

Sweepstakes winner Metropolis has Pioneer ties

Doug Pearson

VP, Marketing & Public Relations

Metropolis, winner of the prestigious National Harmony Sweepstakes title, has a distinct Pioneer District flavor.

Brian Philbin and Bob Hartley, who sang with the popular 1985 District Champion Ivy League quartet, comprise one-half of the Metropolis barbershop quartet from California. They recently became the first barbershop quartet in the 15-year history of the event to win the Sweepstakes title.

Groups from throughout the country competed in the championships, all rep-

resenting different forms of a cappella styles sung by groups of seven singers or less.

Competition was held in San Rafael, Ca., and the 2,000 seat theatre was sold out, mostly with non-barbershoppers. Metropolis received a standing ovation for their competition package.

"What a rush. I was in complete disbelief when they announced our names," said Philbin. He added that Ivy League has a semiannual reunion at the International Convention. "We actually sing better than we did back then — at least that's what Bob Whitley told us," Philbin said.

Local chapters have stories to tell

PEARSON, from page 5

money being wisely spent. At a recent meeting, the Kalamazoo Chapter Board of Directors voted to spend \$200 to advertise its upcoming Guest Night. Free publicity is great, but sometimes you'll find a small monetary investment can reap big rewards in the final outcome.

Lastly, there was talk during various

convention sessions about our Society's 60th Anniversary and what various chapters are doing from a PR standpoint to take advantage of this significant milestone. As I mentioned in a previous column, the opportunities are endless, so if you haven't developed a public relations anniversary action plan, do it now.

So there you have it. Another success-

ful District Convention is history. In addition to singing up a proverbial storm, there was meaningful dialog. Personally, I'm recharged with public relations gusto to tell our exciting story to the media and our communities — to make our chapters and our district the best ever in the eyes of everyone.

I hope you feel the same way.

update
news from spebsqsa headquarters

N

ews from around the Society

SINGING GUINEA PIGS NEEDED

Chapters are always looking for new ways to raise money for our Service Projects that are fun, easy and get the chapter some good public relations. Harmony Foundation may have just the ticket and would like a couple of volunteer chapters to "test" the idea.

Most of us have participated in a "walk-a-thon," "jump-a-thon," or a "run-for-???" either as a participant or contributor. What about a sing-a-thon to support the projects that we back when we Sing . . . for Life (the new motto of Harmony Foundation)?

Basically, it might work like this. A chorus (or even neighboring choruses joining together) gathers in a mall on a Saturday or Sunday and sings (and leads the bystanders in singing) a whole bunch of songs, nonstop. Of course the money would be collected by having friends, co-workers, and neighbors pledge 5, 10 or 25 cents per song in advance.

This would get a lot of publicity and would might attract potential members. You could even do it with a high school music program and split the proceeds. And, most certainly, it should be a lot of fun and raise some money for some very worthwhile causes, with a minimum of preparation.

Before we suggest that this might be a Society-wide program and develop all the materials, we would like several chapters to try the idea and give us some feedback. If your chapter would be interested in this Grand Experiment, contact Harmony Foundation Executive Director Gary Stamm, 6315 Third Ave., Kenosha, WI 53143-5199; (800) 876-SING; email: gstamm@spebsqsa.org.

SOCIETY BOARD MEMBER REPORT

REPORT, from page 7
membership programs. Be on the lookout for the latest membership program, The Chapter Challenge.

Staff Changes: Kirk Young (music team), Scott Hogue (Information Services Manager), Reed Sampson (public relations staff) and Larry Gilhousen (director of development for Harmony Foundation).

Service Projects: Heartspring... \$388,342.00 (up 1.1% from 1996); Sing America/Sing Canada... \$91,110.00 (up 93.2% from 1996). Harmony Foundation is now the fundraiser for ALL Society service projects.

Conventions: Tampa was well-attended, Atlanta is running behind last year, at this time. Schedule changes include: Chorus Contest is on Friday, the College Quartet Contest is on Saturday due to city-sponsored events that prevent busses from getting to the Georgia Dome that afternoon. World Harmony Jamboree will be held on Saturday at a venue not affected by traffic blockages.

Youth Outreach: Far Western, Cardinal, Johnny Appleseed and Southwestern districts will be sponsoring Youth Outreach Camps this summer.

Board Actions at Mid-Winter

1. Quartet qualifying score kept at 76 points (B+) per song per judge (1,824 double panel, 2,736 triple panel).
2. A special nominating committee will now be appointed (by each district president) to select the

position of district-elected Society Board Member.

3. Time restraints have been put on nominations from the floor and relaxed for those candidates seeking the office of district vice-president, that need to be reviewed by Society committee chairs.
4. Music and Performance Committee will publish a directory of coaches available for quartet and choruses by April 1.
5. Chapter Support and Leadership Training Committee will study the effect the loss of divisional vice-presidents has had on affected districts and provide a report by June 1.
6. A new COTS curriculum and faculty will be in place by fall. Training of faculty will be in September. A new Chapter Resources Manual is slated for May, and the new COTS syllabus should be completed by July 1.

Don Challman
SBM for Land O' Lakes and Pioneer

AHSOW inducts The Tulsa Tradition

At the Southwestern District spring convention in Houston, Texas, all four members of The Tulsa Tradition qualified (each on all four voice parts) for induction into the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW). Six districts now claim 100 or more AHSOW members.

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NOTICE:

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email: csanders@lsd.k12.mi.us

Phone: (517) 485-3641

Fax: (517) 482-7466

Chad Sanders
1616 West Rundle Avenue
Lansing, MI 48910

Upcoming Events

1998

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------|
| April 4 | Sault Ste Marie Show |
| April 4 | Windsor Show |
| April 17-18 | Grosse Pointe Show |
| April 24-26 | District Contest |
| May 15 | Holland Show |
| May 16 | Boyne City Show |
| June 5-6 | Traverse City Show |
| June 12 | Windsor Send-off |
| September 19 | Alpena Show |
| September 26 | Muskegon Show |
| October 9-20 | Bush League-Gaylord |
| October 16-18 | District Contest |
| October 24 | Rochester Show |

1999

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| February 19-20 | Detroit-Oakland Show |
| March 5-6 | Wayne Show |
| March 6 | Lansing Show |
| March 20 | Monroe North Show |
| March 20 | Grand Rapids Show |
| March 27 | Macomb Show |
| May 14 | Holland Show |
| June 11 | Windsor Send-Off |
| November 5-6 | Grand Rapids Show |

2000

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| February 18-19 | Detroit-Oakland Show |
| March 3-4 | Wayne Show |
| March 4 | Lansing Show |
| March 25 | Grand Rapids Show |
| June 9 | Windsor Send-Off |
| November 3-4 | 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



'Mystery of Harmony Gulch' a comedy hit

BOOOO, HISS: The Snarly Brothers plot their dastardly deeds in the Grand Rapids Chapter's melodrama.

'LOVE,' AMERICAN STYLE: Adding excitement and old-west choral dimension to the melodrama was the Lovely Loovelys quartet.

MORE CONVENTION COVERAGE: Page One, Page 10.

