

Pioneer Troubadour

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



April/May 1999

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Cereal City 'milking' convention potential

by Jim Styer

Convention Public Relations

Battle Creek is eagerly pouring on the milk in anticipation of the Pioneer District convention's return to the Cereal City on Friday-Sunday, April 23-25.

Highlighting the spring convention will be an attempt to stage the largest-ever competition chorus in the history of the district. All barbershoppers are invited to become dual members with the Battle Creek Chapter so they can sing with the CEREAL CITY CHORUS. Songs are "Wait 'Til the Sun Shines, Nellie" and "Sweet and Lovely." The several directors of this chorus will include Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn and Tony the Tiger.

A sign-up form is on page 8 in this issue of the *Troubadour*. Mail it in if time permits, or bring it to the convention. Rehearsal will be at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, followed by Joe Barbershop Chorus rehearsal at 10:30 a.m. Members can sing in both of these choruses and with their own chorus — three times in one competition, a district first.

"The intent is not to raid other chapters for Battle Creek members, but to provide a unique singing experience for the many members who would never sing in a large chorus otherwise," said Convention Chair Roger Lewis. "None of the dual members would be expected to remain active with the Battle Creek Chapter. But they will have a chance for other fun activities during the year."

Convention headquarters will be at McCamly Plaza Hotel downtown and all competitions will be held at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium, two blocks to the north.

The Convention Committee and the Battle Creek Visitors' and Convention Bureau (www.battlecreekvisitors.org) have been developing ways to make the weekend fun, cheaper, and more than just a competition experience.

WHAT'S NEW

In developments since the last *Troubadour* issue:

- Reduced prices will be offered to conventioners by restaurants, Huron Photos's One-Hour service downtown, and other retailers. These will be



available by either showing a convention badge or using coupons available at the registration desk. Check at registration for details.

- Full Blast, the colorful family center across from the hotel, will offer 2-for-1 admission coupons at the registration desk. Regular admission ranges from \$3-5.00. Features include a health club gym, a "Wild Room" with laser tag, a teen night club, a food court, an internet café, three full-size gyms, an indoor water park with two water slides, and a three-story indoor

playground with slides, climbing nets, and a family picnic area. It's open 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. Sunday. The web site is www.fullblast.org.

- Expected to be opening downtown by convention time are Adams Grill & Pub, with British fare including shepherd's pie or bangers and mash, with English brews; Pierre Lamborginisteins's, a deli with 60 hot and cold sandwiches; burgers and gourmet sandwiches at Econo Lodge; soup-salad Garden Place, a "healthy choice" deli; and Nathan's Hot Dogs.

- Those who stick around after the convention can receive reduced-price tickets for a Battle Creek Battle Cats baseball game at 2:00 p.m. Sunday. The team is in the same league as the Lansing Lugnuts and the Grand Rapids White Caps.

- CHICAGO NEWS, 1981 international quartet champion, will sing in lobbies and hospitality rooms during the convention. The quartet also may appear on the Macomb Chapter's show Friday evening after the quartet semifinals. The group includes Joe Sullivan, who replaced Greg Wright in the bari slot. Joe lives in Paw Paw, where the quartet often rehearses. Tom Felgen, Ray Henders, and Butch Koth are the other quartet members.

- Quartet semifinals time on Friday has been changed to 8:00 p.m. because of a preceding Kellogg Company annual meeting at the auditorium. Semifinals master of ceremonies will be Battle Creek radio personality and barber-

see Styer, page 16



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

Troubadour Advertising Copy Size ■ Rates

Rates quoted are for camera-ready copy or properly formatted electronic files. Please send check with copy, payable to "Pioneer District, SPEBSQSA."

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Ad sizes available:

Full page (75 sq. inches) \$100
2/3 page (50 sq. inches) \$75
1/2 page (37-1/2 sq. inches) .. \$65
1/3 page (25 sq. inches) \$50
1/6 page (12-1/2 sq. inches) .. \$40
Quartet-size card \$13
Quartet-size card (annual) \$55

Please measure ad copy carefully, then multiply the height by the width for the number of square inches required. Thank you.

A View From The Top

David Cole, President

Fall quartet competition to include show package



Much discussion has arisen lately (mostly over the Pionet) concerning the show package for our own Pioneer District quartet competition (fall, '99). Hopefully, the following explanations

will clear things up and give everyone the proper perspective of this exciting opportunity.

Let me start by saying that everything (and even more) that has been discussed on the Pionet has already been discussed, regurgitated, discussed some more, shared with others, critiqued, regurgitated some more, and tested in six other districts before allowing this concept to be administered throughout the Society. Your Pioneer District board is very concerned about your comments concerning this issue or any other issues of importance to our district.

Please understand that we've put a great amount of energy into this concept already. It has proven to be a huge success throughout the six test districts (three tested it for two years; the other three just last year).

Before going any further, let's cover the rules governing our fall district quartet contest. The following information is from Joel Mills, Pioneer District Contest & Judging VP.

"The proposed quartet show package for the fall district quartet contest is:

- The first round on Friday night will be unchanged from past years. The package will be judged in the finals only.
- Each quartet in the finals will sing two contestable songs. The songs

will be judged as regular contest songs, with 100 points available per judge per category (nothing different here).

- Each quartet may perform, talk, dance, juggle, or just about anything it wants to do. The time allotted on stage is 14 minutes.
- The show package songs, contest or not, may be performed in any order (but the two barbershop songs must be declared before going on stage).
- Musical instruments, props, etc., are allowed. The overall entertainment value of the package, including contest songs, will be judged, and each scoring judge may award up to 20 additional points per package.
- The package will be timed, and penalties will be given for going longer than 14 minutes. As of this letter, the exact points for penalty are still to be discussed, but they will be similar to the old system that we had years ago.
- In the Pioneer District, we will probably cut the finals to six quartets so that the evening doesn't go on forever. Even though this is just a test (cutting to six), these rules will determine our quartet champs.

I know many of you will have questions, and we will try to be helpful. There will be official published rules available later this spring."

Now that you know the guidelines, we need to discuss the concepts and thinking behind this program.

Several years ago (this didn't just happen overnight), the Society board

see Cole, page 10

Spring convention schedule of events

FRIDAY, APRIL 23

- 9:00 a.m. — District board meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.
- 11:00 a.m. — Registration begins, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.
- Noon — Barbershop shop opens, McCamly Plaza Hotel. Open thru Saturday night at any time competitions are not in progress.
- 2:00 p.m. — House of Delegates meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.
- 2:30 p.m. — Ladies Hospitality Room opens, McCamly Plaza Hotel. Generally open when competitions are not in progress.
- 6:45 p.m. — Registration moves from McCamly Plaza Hotel to W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.
- 8:00 p.m. — Quartet competition semifinals, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.
- Half hour after competition, Macomb Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS show, \$5.00 admission, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24

- 7:00 a.m. — Chapter presidents' meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.
- 8:00 a.m. — Registration continues, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.
- 8:30 a.m. — Breakfast at Kellogg's Cereal City USA, \$12.00 including tour. Advanced reservations recommended to Roger Lewis.
- 9:30 a.m. — CEREAL CITY CHORUS rehearsal with all dual members, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium gym (one hour maximum).
- 10:30 a.m. — JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS rehearsal directed by Macomb's Jack Slamka, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium gym (one hour maximum).
- 10:45 a.m. — Registration moves from hotel to W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.
- Noon — Chorus competition (JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS will sing first, CEREAL CITY CHORUS will sing last), W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

see Schedule, back page

Society Synopsis

Don Challman, Society Board Member

The 1999 experience (Part II)



A great deal of energy will be directed toward chorus director development and membership recruitment in 1999. The Society will be looking to recruit, train, and educate chorus directors so they can help increase the quality of the Society's music product while satisfying member needs. To that end, CDs can look forward to:

- 32 chorus director workshop intensives (CDWI) seminars which will reach 150 chorus directors.
- Four editions of a *Direct-ly Involved* newsletter.
- Enrolment of 50 new applicants in the CDWI program by 12/99.
- Production of a 15-minute video tape addressing chorus director skills by 12/99.
- Testing and implementation of a peer-to-peer program of mutual support for chorus directors by 12/99.
- Preparation of a curriculum and presentation of a seminar for DVP CDDs at Harmony College in 1999.
- The placement of chorus director development and recruitment materials on the Society web page by 7/99.
- Distribution of a free copy of the new chorus director's manual to all current Society chorus directors by 7/99.
- A training and planning meeting for all CDWI personnel by 8/99.

As mentioned earlier, Society membership remains a large concern needing attention. The goals for 1999 are to re-

cruit 4,527 new and reinstated members by using new recruitment initiatives, and continuing to support Chapter Challenge.

One of the most important resources we have in member retention and growth is the chapter coach. With that in mind, 30 new chapter coaches will begin training along with 30 "replacement" coaches for those lost in the initial training or who decide not to continue in that capacity. The results of the previous eight chapter coach workshops held in 1998 will be measured to determine the effect they had on membership growth. Extension activity will be very visible in 1999, with a goal of 36 new licensed chapters and 20 newly chartered chapters established. Eight new extension sites will be determined. A publicity package for new chapters and emerging sites will be developed as well as an outline for a video tape to be used to develop future extension sites by 7/99.

The remainder of 1999 Society goals will be covered in the next issue of the *Troubadour*.

Board action at the midwinter convention

- The 1999 international quartet qualifying score was kept at 76 points per judge per song (1,824 for a double panel, 2,736 for a triple panel).
- Beginning this year, contestants in the international chorus contest may request to sing first in the contest, but such a request must be made in writing and received by the Society president within 14 days of the publication of the draw to be considered. This year, the drawing will be made on April 14

see *Challman*, page 10

The day the music died ...

by Youth Outreach Chairman Al Bonney

One hundred-fifty men's voices — four-part harmony — matched vowels — precise intonation — perfect tuning — chords ringing ... who of us does not thrill at the sound. But what if there were no men to stand on the risers ... What if there was no barbershop music ...

A frightening thought ... but consider this.

Barbershop singers, like Olympic-level athletes, are not born — they are made. We are created as a result of a carefully designed system of training in the schools. We are taught the requisite skills by tireless coaches and teachers. We acquire the discipline to work hard and achieve higher standards by continuous exposure to success and satisfaction throughout our training. If this system, the teachers and the opportunity for success is removed, there will be no barbershoppers — or Olympic athletes — in the future.

Our Youth Outreach program addresses this problem by making the resources, talents, and skills of the Society, districts, and chapters available to music teachers interested in attracting more boys to their programs. They use Barbershop music because it is fun. It is fun to listen to and it is fun to sing. Kids get a kick out of singing barbershop tunes and harmonies. It is therefore not surprising that music teachers who include barbershop music in their vocal programs experience greater participation. The kids get satisfaction through recognition from their peers and teachers as well as the personal thrill of ringing chords with their friends is a high that builds self esteem.

Our effort is a purely philanthropic one. With no immediate payback to the chapters, we don't make any money, receive any applause, or sing any better

see *Bonney*, page 13

Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Hey, hey, hey! Get new members in May



Wow — that's a great new song? Sing me some more. How does it go? Well it's not a song, but it is easy to do! Well if it's easy to do, why don't

we have membership growth in the Pioneer District?

Fair question. It's because we aren't focused on making it happen. We aren't taking the action that will get us more members. If we really want more members, we will get more members.

Did you hear the story about the three frogs on the log? *Are these the Budweiser frogs?* Well, they might be the Budweiser frogs. Anyway, there are three frogs on a log. One decides to jump into the pond. Then how many frogs are on the log? *Hmmm — I'd say two.* Most people say two. Unfortunately, they are wrong.

You see, there are still three frogs on the log because all the one frog did was decide to jump into the pond. Once you decide, then you need to take action. It's that action that is required to be successful.

OK, OK — you got me. But you do need to make the decision on what you're going to do. Otherwise, you won't even know which direction to jump. Boy, you sure are a great straight man. We have 15 chapters out of 28 that apparently haven't even made the decision as to which way they are going to go to get new members. I say this because they haven't yet signed up for Chapter Challenge. All they need to do is fill out a one-page form and say what they are going to do to recruit members, and they're in. Then they are eligible to

win some very nice prizes.

That sounds pretty easy. Well, it is. The Kalamazoo Chapter has already won a free registration fee for their director to attend Harmony College. That's worth over \$400.00.

Well, which are those chapters that haven't signed up? Well, I don't want to embarrass them right here in front of everybody. *Why not? Maybe it will get them off of their dead butts and win their chapter some great prizes.* Whoa! You're serious, aren't you? *You bet!*

Well, OK. But remember — this wasn't my idea. It was yours. *Yeah, right!* OK, here goes.

The following are Pioneer District chapters that have not entered the Chapter Challenge: Rochester, Milford, Hillsdale, Holland, Muskegon, Petoskey, Alpena, Traverse City, Gaylord, Gratiot County, Saginaw, Flint, Windsor, Huron Valley, and Monroe North.

If any of these chapters have mislaid the entry forms that were mailed to them (at least twice), contact Raleigh Bloch at 2033 Wild Cherry Lane, Kalamazoo MI 49009, or phone 616-375-6849, or you can e-mail to Rbloch@compuserve.com, or call Kenosha at 1-800-876-SING and ask for Ev Nau or anybody and we'll get the form to you. What's the old saying, "You got to enter to win."

Wait a minute, wait a minute! You were singing about, "Hey, Hey, Hey, Get New Members in May." What was that all about? That was just to say that May is a good month to recruit. Contest is over, summer isn't here yet, most shows are over or won't be until fall, etc. Actually, any month is a good month to recruit, so put a plan together and ... *I got it, I got it — JUST DO IT!* Yes, sign up for Chapter Challenge. ■

PIONEER DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC. SUMMARY OF MINUTES

DECEMBER 4, 1998 BOARD MINUTES

Moved, seconded, and carried that the minutes of the last meeting are approved.

The treasurer's report indicating a bank balance of \$30,978.00 is accepted pending an audit.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the COTS' expense of YO Chairman Bonney be paid by the district.

Moved, seconded, and defeated that the Pioneer District no longer participate in the MBNA College Quartet Contest program.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the district only award the prize money offered by MBNA for the winners in the College Quartet Contest and that the district not contribute the additional \$200.00.

Moved, seconded, and carried that we modify our procedures and accept on-line registration of quartets and choruses in our contests.

Moved and seconded that we have a committee formed and explore the possibility of assisting the Gaylord Chapter with staging the Bush League Contest. Moved, seconded, and carried that the motion be tabled.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Senior Quartet Contest be held Saturday afternoon.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the Pioneer District adopt the Show Package Format for the Saturday evening finals of the fall contest to put us in sync with the other districts and to offer our quartets a chance to familiarize themselves with this format limiting the number of quartets on the finals to six.

Moved, seconded, and defeated that we mail a copy of the 1999 district directory to all Pioneer District members.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the District Policy Manual be amended to reflect that the VP-C&J reimbursement be increased to four days at the International convention.

see Board minutes, page 12

Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

More show, less tell



Those of you who read my columns know that when it comes to positive public relations, I'm a great believer in the "show" vs. "tell" approaches.

Too much "tell" can be deadly. In our own district, we have an excellent quartet that unfortunately bores its audience during performances with dull, "who cares" biographical dialog before showing them what they can actually do with their highly professional musical routine.

In our musical performance activities, let's actually show 'em our entertainment talents, and chances are, we'll gain a slug of additional believers.

That said, here are some grass-roots examples of what members are doing in showing our communities and the general public that our entertainment venue is alive and well.

Let's start with singing valentines and Don Bazely from the Sault Ste. Marie Chapter. He writes, "Our one unique performance took place during the hockey game at our local arena. One of the linesmen is in a quartet and, since he could not leave the ice, he 'conned' another lead singer to pinch hit for him. During one of the pauses in the game, the announcer, who was in on the whole thing, called on the quartet EUPHONICS to serenade one of the ladies in the bleachers. She was surprised and delighted. We are looking forward to next year."

Holland's Steve Foster delivered 43 valentines in two days of singing while fellow chapter members Bill McAndrew and James Hall delivered nearly 70 each. Steve tells us that one of his quartet's deliveries was at a mower shop

where the college coed recipient and family members were gathered. "From the moment we appeared through the doorway clad in our tuxes, the tears were non-stop," said Steve. "When we handed her the card and sang the love songs, she cried harder, and then she would laugh.

"As I found out later, the couple has been together since before high school (she's now in her second year of college) and this was the first year he was away from her on Valentines Day. Only minutes before we walked through the door, she had been talking about how much she missed him (the sender) and that she wondered how he was going to send her anything being way out in Colorado. Our timing could not have been better."

When it comes to valentines, Hank Hedges from Gaylord knows how to show 'em, too. "Gaylord (two quartets) did 44 daytime gigs," says Hank. "We booked three 'block' sings. Saturday and Sunday, we sang at the top two resort dining rooms from 7:30-8:30 p.m. The quartets started at opposite ends of their dining rooms and, alternately, sang at individual tables until they met in the middle of the room. We finished with the eight voices singing 'Love at Home' and then we exited. Those gigs brought in a healthy chunk of cash without the strain of running all over the area. The restaurants supplied the flowers and we passed them out. Travel and time costs were little and everyone had a ball."

Still another guy who likes to "show 'em" has embarked on an incredible hands-on project. He's Ruben Queen, who has dual membership in the Lansing and Motor City chapters. Ruben has put together a barbershop outreach program for the veterans hospitals in the Ann Arbor and Detroit areas.

see Pearson, page 12

Pioneer District news - 10 years ago Ivy League, Sounds of Time to K. C., Wayne new district chorus champs

(excerpted from the *Troubadour*,
June/July 1989)

The battle of the quartets for the right to represent the Pioneer District in Kansas City in July was finally settled with THE IVY LEAGUE taking top honors followed closely by a new quartet, SOUNDS OF TIME. Fifteen quartets vied for the honor in Battle Creek, and there wasn't a bad quartet among them.

The Wayne Chapter's RENAISSANCE CHORUS, under the direction of Matt Coombs, won their eighth district chorus championship by outscoring the Macomb County Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS by 17 points. Fifteen choruses competed, with the Clinton Valley Chapter's HEART OF THE HILLS CHORUS capturing the Plateau I crown, Traverse City Chapter's CHERRY CAPITAL CHORUS Plateau II, the Holland Chapter's WINDMILL CHORUS Plateau III, Macomb County Plateau IV, and the Grosse Pointe Chapter's LAKESHORE CHORUS Plateau V. All in all, it was a stirring and exciting contest.

Also noted in that issue:

Jim Stephens was appointed to the position of District Director of Music Education (DME) by President Clay Jones at the district board meeting in April.

Alpena was given an award as the only district chapter with 100 percent retention of membership.

The Cadillac Chapter completed its first year and received their charter. They put on their show on May 20th assisted by their sponsoring chapter, Grand Rapids and the GREAT LAKES CHORUS.

The newly created Monroe North Chapter signed up 22 new barbershoppers and applied for a license on April 10th. They held a licensing show on April 15th aided by their sponsor, the Wayne Chapter and the RENAISSANCE CHORUS. ■

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

Spring begets a renewed enthusiasm for barbershopping



Spring has arrived at last! The blahs of winter are now a thing of the past. There is a renewal and an awakening across the land. The spring gardener sows a seed, waters

and cares for it, and watches it blossom into a healthy plant.

Many barbershop chapters need a shot in the arm about this time of year, too. There is a sameness to our chapter meetings and we need to look for ways to get out of our rut. A variety of activities and a rededication to our mission statement and goals would be a good place to start.

Where is your chapter in regard to the "Chapter Challenge" program? When you enrolled in this program a year ago, you received a dozen different ideas for membership growth. Let's look at these again.

Follow up your spring show with membership drives. Contact those patrons who filled out your ticket stubs and indicated that they were interested in singing.

Your annual show also gives you many opportunities to say "Thanks" to your chapter members for their efforts in selling your chapter to your community. For several weeks, they were not only chorus and quartet singers, but ticket and ad sellers, set builders, script writers, choreographers, costume makers, and specialists in lighting, sound, and make-up.

A special "Thank You Night" could be planned to honour your patrons and advertisers. Your chorus and quartets will have another opportunity to perform and, of course, a sing-song will get your guests participating in a musical experi-

ence, too.

Who knows what may happen. A new member or two might emerge. Light refreshments could round out the evening.

To ensure that a good number of your advertisers attend this special night, all of those present would be able to participate in a drawing for a free performance by your chorus or one of your chapter quartets.

This is a good opportunity to dig out those old manuals and the barbershop bible, the new *Chapter Management Guide*. These manuals are filled with good ideas that will be refreshing to your chapter members.

Now is the time to plan your summer activities in the great outdoors — barbecues, fish fries, picnics, golf outings, pool parties, corn roasts, and camp-outs. Select the dates and start promoting them.

Your chapter has many chefs to make all of these delicious foods — hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, ribs, shrimp, fish, steak, sausage, corn on the cob, veggies, finger foods, munchies, and appetizers. Don't forget your favourite beverage. While you are reserving dates, sign up for your Christmas party now so you won't be disappointed.

How do you select your BOTY — Barbershopper Of The Year? If you wish to change your procedure, now would be a good time, too. I hope you are making a dozen chapter members happy each year by acknowledging their achievements as Barbershoppers Of The Month.

For those chapters that did not enter the spring chorus contest, make your plans to sing in October. Turn on your troops by attending the convention. Participating in a variety of activities

see *McTaggart*, page 12

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*.

E-mail it.
Snail mail-it on a floppy.
Fax it.
FedEx it.
Western Union it.
Pony Express it.

However you get it there,

You Must submit It!

Because,
face it ...

If you want your horn tooted, you'd better be the one

blowin'

Pioneer Troubadour

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP

Ladies and gentlemen,

You may wonder why I chose to open my column with this particular greeting. Well ..., it is a column directed at, and specifically for, directors with information which, hopefully, may serve to attract other members to take an interest in "leading their flock" (that's their local chapter chorus).

I have even taken some of my own advice and gotten back into harness along with Flint's other director and my special colleague, John Noteware.

It has been touch and go this past few months with a somewhat sporadic Troubadour and I am fighting a deadline for the April/May issue which needs to be in by March 15 (our deadline).

In order to bring the arm wavers up to speed, I need to quickly cover some coming events that might very likely be of importance to you.

First, I have not one but two programs scheduled for the forthcoming Harmony Round-Up at MSU campus on May 14-16, 1999. The first is a program for those who are currently front-liners and it will be a chorus directors seminar featuring Bill Rashleigh from our international office. Bill is the co-brain thrust for the current Chorus Directors' Work-

shop Intensive (CDWI), which many of you have already taken either at Lansing last spring or in Rochester the previous fall. He and Eric Jackson, both extremely capable musicians and vocal directors, developed the WI Program and the May seminar will follow the same general theme at MSU in East Lansing in May.

Your chapters should be encouraged to finance this weekend because they will most certainly benefit from the techniques you will bring back to your chapters. (If you are driving any distance, plan for an overnight and meals.)

As you recall, we have had two "beginning directors" classes the past two Harmony Round-Ups for the less-experienced and "wannabe" directors in Pioneer. If my memory serves me correctly, we have five of these student directors presently holding front-in positions in Pioneer chapters. Kudos to every single one of them.

We will be offering this same class for the third year in a row and, if there is enough interest, we will do it again.

As I mentioned earlier in this report, we have had two workshop intensive classes in Pioneer in the past 14 months, and the third class is now in place and

will be hosted by the Gaylord Chapter for the five northernmost chapters. The date of this event is June 26 in Gaylord; all info and details will be forwarded to these five chapters within the month or so.

I would presently like to encourage all those chapter members from Gaylord, Petoskey, Traverse City, Alpena, and Sault Ste. Marie to come and support these five directors at their workshop and plan to participate in the volunteer chorus for the afternoon (right after lunch) session.

It's amazing how the chorus becomes enlightened and gets into the spirit of a great day of learning how to hone in on directing skills. It's a real eye opener for both the directors and the singers.

In closing, I would just like to remind you that I will be sending information and details to those directors from the five chapters mentioned above in early May. The Harmony Round-Up details will be coming from Russ Seely as part of the Harmony Round-Up weekend publication ASAP.

Anybody got a pitchpipe? ■

Dual Membership with Battle Creek Chapter

I wish to join the Battle Creek (MI) Chapter as a dual member and sing with the Cereal City Chorus at spring 1999 convention.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

HOME CHAPTER _____

MEMBERSHIP NO. _____ VOICE PART _____

PHONE (____) _____ E-MAIL _____

SIGNATURE _____

Bring \$6.00 for 10x8, \$9.50 for 14x8, if you wish photos.

I would like this size "Tony the Tiger" T-shirt:

(Check one) S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___

_____ Enclosed is \$9.00 for dual membership fee and \$11.00 for the T-shirt for a total of \$20.00.

Enclose check payable to "Battle Creek Chapter, SPEB-SQSA" or bill to credit card: Visa ___ Mastercard ___
Card no. _____ Expires _____

Mail to: Jack Eagles, 507 Alton, Battle Creek, MI 49017
(Phone for more information: 616-965-0173)

OR turn in this form and fee at the chorus rehearsal at the convention, 9:30 a.m. Saturday, April 24, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

1999

Pioneer District Harmony Round-Up

A 5-Star weekend designed with
YOU
in mind to enrich your Barbershop experience

May 14-16, 1999
Michigan State University

\$99.00

Includes 2 nights lodging and 4 meals
at Holmes Dormitory

Our newest, most complete school will offer:

- ✓ *Barbershop Classes*
 - Vocal Techniques
 - Sight Reading
 - Tag Singing
 - Woodshedding
- ✓ *Chorus Coaching*
 - Specific problems addressed
through expert coaches
- ✓ *Quartet Coaching*
 - Always a Round-Up highlight
for novice as well as the "vets"
- ✓ *Chorus Directors' Workshop*
 - I Seminar for front-line directors
Bill Rashleigh of our staff will teach a condensed
version of our Harmony College Class.
When is the last time YOU updated your skills?
 - II Classes for new or inexperienced directors.
This is a 3rd-time offering of this course which
proudly helped produce 3 front-line directors.

Harmony Round-Up

Featuring All-Star talent from our Society

Our headlining Gold Medal Quartet
None other than the fabulous
ACOUSTIX*

Plus:
Bill Rashleigh, Society Music Specialist
Dave LaBar, former Staff, personality extraordinaire
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These are just a few of the instructors plus Pioneer's own music staff
Guaranteed to give you a rewarding experience!

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\$99.00

Lowest ALL-INCLUSIVE rate in the Society!

Student registration	\$99.00	(4 meals, 2 nights lodging)
Commuters	\$59.00	(2 meals)
Quartets	\$370.00	(4 meals, 2 nights lodging)
Quartets Commuting	\$200.00	(2 meals)

Registration includes ALL materials used PLUS admission to:

*An evening with ... **ACOUSTIX**

For the first time, we will feature our gold-medalist quartet in a Saturday night concert for your added pleasure.

Schedule your arrival for late afternoon on Friday and head to Holmes Dormitory where you can check in and get your room assignment. If you have a "roomie" preference, let us know that when you send in your registration and we'll do our best to accommodate you. Friday night's dinner is your choice and is NOT included in "the package." There are many great MSU spots to dine at.

Are you contributing your 10%?

At the Pioneer District's last COTS, the chapter presidents were asked if they thought that sending 10% of their members to our mini-hep school or Harmony Round-Up, as we call it, was a realistic goal. In other words, if you came from a 50-man chapter, could you inspire five of your members to attend annually. The answers came back a resounding YES!

Being eternally optimistic, I immediately started to get excited at the prospect of little old Pioneer District having 130+ at MSU. We hope you've circled this date to be part of a weekend that we've become mighty proud to provide.

The classroom inspiration would probably be enough to make you proud of your district and, of course, listening to — at arm's length — a gold-medal quartet might top it. But you know what? The real thrill is getting to know your Pioneer brothers in a non-interrupted setting where you can woodshed, tag, or just tell stories 'til the wee hours, if you so choose. Last year, after a lo-o-o-o-ng day of classes and a fun afterglow, I had just left the faculty lounge heading for my quarters, assuming everyone was tucked in for the night, when I suddenly was encompassed in seventh chords and laughter coming from room after room. What a delightful feeling, knowing that the spirit of barbershopping in Pioneer was alive and well!

Fred Kienitz is extremely proud of his Chorus Director's Workshop where he will provide an opportunity for front-line directors to hone their skills under some professional tutoring. In addition, the guys and gals who aspire to that front-line position will also have that opportunity regardless of prior experience.

Add to this: **Woodshedding + Tag Singing + Sight Reading**

And you have one helluva deal!

Russ Seely

What do I get for \$99.00, you ask?

1. A shared double room in Holmes Dormitory. Clean!
2. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner, Saturday; breakfast Sunday.
3. Individual quartet coaching by the "best."
4. Barbershop craft.
5. Vocal technique - How to sing better.
6. All classroom materials furnished including arrangements.
7. A Saturday night concert by ACOUSTIX and selected Pioneer District quartets and chorus
8. A great old-fashioned Afterglow where EVERYBODY SINGS!

Clip

Clip

Clip

NAME _____ QUARTET/CHAPTER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROV. _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (_____) _____ WORK (_____) _____

Remit to: **Pioneer District**
7626 Barnsbury
W. Bloomfield MI 48324

A minimum of \$30.00 per enrollee to be sent with this application

Any questions? Call M&P VP Russ Seely at 248-363-8977

The auditorium on the MSU campus, although small, will probably allow us to sell tickets for the ACOUSTIX show to outsiders for a minimal charge of \$8.00.

The Macomb County, MI Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. presents

Macomb's Musical Montage

FEATURING



Harmony Heritage Chorus

1998 Pioneer District Champions and International Chorus Representatives

Power Play

SPEBSQSA
International
Quartet Finalist



with Chapter Quartets

Protege & Border Crossing

SPECIAL GUESTS

Chicago News

1981 SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions

Friday, April 23rd, 1999

**Showtime: about 1/2 hour after International Prelims
Quartet Semi-Final Contest (approx 10:45pm)**

McCamly Plaza Hotel (Headquarters Hotel)

Tickets: \$5

Available at Registration Desk or from any Macomb County Chapter Member

Fall district quartet contest has revised format

Cole, from page 3

and others discussed the fact that our international-level quartets, including some champions, were not very entertaining on shows. They sang wonderfully, but entertained less than adequately. And the thinking continued that if the international-level quartets were not performing up to par, how were the non-international quartets performing?

After much discussion, it was determined that the one constant in the quality of singing rising over the years has been the contest stage. Therefore, the "show package" to be judged on the contest stage would only make sense. If we are to improve our overall performance levels, then this would be a perfect resource to use.

It is most important at this point that we all understand some of the misconceptions which detract from the positive impact that this program will have on our Society:

- *We must now all be comedians.* NOT TRUE! Nowhere in the rules does it state that comedy wins, nor that we now have to have jokes in between all of our songs. We simply must be entertaining. After all, bad jokes detract, not enhance.

- *We must now bring out the musical instruments.* NOT TRUE! The rules only state that instruments are allowed. Personally, I think that they are a distraction, but I'm not a judge.
- *We must now learn more songs to fill the 14 minutes.* NOT TRUE! You are limited to a maximum of 14 minutes. You could simply sing two songs very well, take your applause, and leave the stage. The judges have to judge your two "barbershop-style" songs for their full 100 points system, and then your package for the additional 40 points per judge (the 20-point limit did not pass at the mid-winter convention Society board meeting). Worse case scenario would be that you didn't get any points for the show package (unlikely), but scored like crazy on the two straight songs.
- *This should be left only for the international-level quartets.* NOT TRUE! We are ALL entertainers and, therefore, we need to raise the level of this aspect of our presentations.
- *This will scare away the lesser quality quartets.* NOT TRUE! All along, we have had coaching (used to be called A&Rs) opportunities available after contest. This has not changed and,

furthermore, this is yet another opportunity and reason for participation. I know a quartet that finished dead last at the past contest, but still had a wonderful coaching session afterward.

- *Finally, Saturday night will go on forever.* NOT TRUE! We will be cutting to six quartets. Not everyone will be using all 14 minutes. And the entertainment value will actually make it feel like the night passed by very quickly.

One last word. The show package has been tested, critiqued, fine tuned, and has proven to be successful in six other districts. We are not guinea pigs for the Society. Rather, we are those who have benefited from the successes of other districts. Don't let this concept scare you — change can be good.

In addition, help is available from coaches within the district. All of the district board members have volunteered to be available to sit in front of your quartet and critique your show package.

Frankly, this should have been going on in your chapters already. There is no greater (and more difficult) audience that our own chapters. We need to take our hobby to the next level. We are all entertainers and, therefore, we all must be entertaining. ■

The 1999 experience (part II)

Challman, from page 4

- and put on the internet on April 15. A new drawing will be held no later than seven days after any such requests are received, i.e., no later than May 6.
- The MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest rules were changed, effective January 29, 1999, so that the contest is open to young men who are or will be 17-25 years old, inclusive, on the date of the international-level contest for the contest year.

- Districts will be doing five-year planning in the future, with a standard format to be developed by the summer 2000 Society board meeting.
- A new chorus director manual is to be shipped to every chorus director about May 1, 1999.
- The board declared January 29 "Betty Madsen Day," honoring the merchandise manager on her retirement from the Society after 32 years of service. ■

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Gary	Ed

The Wayne Chapter & its Renaissance Chorus

Present a day of barbershop harmony

“The Ballad of Frank & Nellie”

(A story of love “alive?”)

Featuring



The Detroit Sound Company



Sharper Image

*Saturday, May 8, 1999,
at Mercy High School,
11 Mile Road (at Middlebelt),
Farmington Hills*

Two shows: 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

General admission tickets are \$10.00 for the matinee performance and \$12.00 for the evening performance. Afterglow tickets are \$11.00

*To order tickets, call Jerry Beamish (734-427-9140)
or John Lynn (313-937-1322)*

More show, less tell

Pearson, from page 6

"Basically I wanted to start the program to introduce and continue to bring barbershop harmony into the hospitals, and to help develop groups of men to experience the joys of barbershop singing," he said.

Ruben goes to the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital on Mondays from 10:00-11:30 a.m., and to the Detroit Veterans Hospital on Tuesdays within the same time frame. It's time consuming, but Ruben says it's well worth the effort from both a musical and public relations standpoint. He's looking for volunteers to work with him. If you're interested in this worthwhile project, please give him

a call (734-261-5321).

Finally, I recently came off of a Panama Canal cruise where I rubbed elbows with an absolutely amazing gent, Fred Bock. At 76 years young, this 50-year SPEBSQSA member has capitalized on an ingenious PR idea.

For the past several years, he and his wife have enjoyed cruising the oceans of the world. Not content to leave his love of harmony at home, he wires the cruise directors in advance and asks for a barbershop singing placement in the daily list of activities. The result has been four-part singing and positive audience response from sea to shining sea.

This year was no exception. Fred's

musical call to action on the Panama Canal cruise resulted in a seven-man turnout — four Society members and three prospective members. After three days of practice, we felt tuned in enough to audition for — and make — the bally-hooed cruise talent show.

As our ship headed toward St. Thomas and San Juan, the CELEBRITONES (named for our Celebrity cruise line) presented a fast-paced act of chestnuts laced with one-liners Fred said that he stole from the SIDEWINDERS. Predictably, the audience response was great. And once again, the old "show 'em" philosophy paid off in public relations spades. ■

Think spring!

McTaggart, from page 7

will ensure membership renewals and chapter growth.

Your chapter coach can give you a basketful of ideas. Pick what is suitable for your chapter and use it to advantage. The chapter coach program is user-friendly and yours free for the asking. Ask and you shall receive. ■

Board minutes, from page 5

Moved, seconded, and carried that we not accept the contract from A & B Video for \$6,000.00 paid up front for the video taping of our contests for the next three years. By not accepting the proposal, we will be paying \$1,200.00 per contest with the possibility of increases over the next three years.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the induction of new members into the

district Hall of Fame occur on the Saturday evening finals to give proper recognition to the event.

Moved, seconded, and carried that we waive the first year district dues for all new members.

Moved, seconded, and carried that the meeting is adjourned at 11:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jack Schneider,
Pioneer District Secretary

The Alpena Chapter Presents Its

25th Anniversary Show Celebration

Featuring

The Huron Shore Chorus

And the Alpena Chapter Quartets

With Special Guest Performance By

Chordiac Arrest



Alpena High School Auditorium – Saturday, September 18, 1999 – 7:30 PM
Mark your calendars now! Details to follow in the next issue of the *Troubadour*!

Youth Outreach

Bonney, from page 4

because of it. The YO program is not an effort to recruit new young singers to our risers — it recruits new young singers to the music teacher's risers — to sing in their programs, not ours. We want to interest young men in vocal music and have them sing in school-sponsored programs.

So what is in it for us? (I refer you back to the first paragraph of this article.) We want to preserve our heritage in the future. Young men brought to singing through barbershop music in school programs may remember in later years the joy they felt singing in high school. This is when some will join the Society. This is when we get our payback — when we know there will always be men ringing chords, thrilling audiences — and themselves — with barbershop music.

Let me recount a true story, in the words of one of our members:

"At the start of my sophomore year in high school, a new music teacher was hired. She, not unlike Professor Harold Hill, decided the school should have a top-notch marching band, and did some heavy recruiting. I was nabbed out of study hall and five minutes later was auditioning on a B-flat Sousaphone in the music room! I made it, along with my brother, on the same instrument.

"After an intensive rehearsal schedule the next week, I was playing in the "A" band! It was a natural progression to join the boys glee club, and after a few

months of that boring music, she picked about eight of us guys to stay after class one day to try something that I had heard my uncle singing when I was a child!

"She had some of the old *Songs for Men* books from the Society and took us through some of the tunes. That sure beat 'There is a Tavern in the Town' that we were singing in the glee club!

"Four of us stuck with it and stayed after class a couple of nights a week to sing some exciting stuff. My brother was one of the singers, along with two of our pals. The biggest highlight of our short-lived career was winning 1st prize one year at the county fair talent contest. We sang 'Coney Island Baby' and I can still sing any part by memory! We must have taken a long time to learn it."

This barbershopper, now a 25-year veteran of our sport, sang in and out of the Society programs for quite a number of years following this experience, but ultimately returned and now describes the high he gets from ringing a chord as second only to that which he feels in his church.

Of course the music won't die, and with 34,000 of us running around the planet ringing chords, it's not likely barbershop will fade into the sunset. But what a happier place our world would be if there were 75,000 of us running around the planet! And that's what Youth Outreach is all about! ■

From the Society's update

Edited by Dan Daily

PBS special in editing phase — Nick Clooney to narrate

Producers of a barbershop television special shot last summer report that the program is now in the editing room, and expect an August airdate.

Can't Stop Singing is the working title of the program, produced by Brandenburg Productions in association with Georgia Public Television and underwritten in part by the Public Broadcasting System (PBS).

American Movie Classics (AMC) cable television host Nick Clooney has agreed to narrate the show, and expects to tape his segments in May.

Also of note, *Voices*, a 1994 production of independent filmmaker Daniel Bushnell, starring the VOCAL MAJORITY, aired on WLIW public television on Long Island, and may see future public broadcasting appearances as a result.

1999 Harmony Explosion camps

Our youth outreach camps for students and teachers this year will be held:

June 3-6, U. of N. Texas, Denton, TX.

June 16-20, U. of Central Florida, Orlando, FL.

July 15-18, Ball State U., Muncie, IN.

August 12-15, Westfield State College, Westfield, MA. ■



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1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champions

Rating: A Regional Endorsing Society Kelly

Chapters in Action

Holland

by Art Lane

Former Allegan mailman named Holland Barbershopper of the Year

A man who carried the mail in Allegan for 20 years has been named Barbershopper Of The Year for 1998 by the Holland Chapter. The honored singer is Claude Barney, 73, who retired from the U. S. Postal Service in 1988. He was an Allegan sub-carrier and, he recalls, "covered every route in town at least once a week."

Before becoming a mail carrier, Claude worked at Rockwell and sold mail-order shoes. Earlier, he built pipelines around the country and sold coffee. He is a native of Heidelberg, Pa.

Barney became a Barbershopper in 1951 during a short time when Allegan had its own SPEBSQSA chapter. After retiring, he moved to Holland and in 1990 joined the chapter there. He and the other members of the Holland Windmill Chorus perform their old-time, close-harmony music about once a year in Allegan, at the Griswold Auditorium at the gazebo on the waterfront.

Barney sings bass, is a director of the Holland Chapter, and has chaired the group's house committee for many years.

In commending Barney for his contributions to Barbershopping, Chapter President Steve Foster said, "Barney has taken what he has learned in life and has given this same devotion and passion to the chapter. Quite often when you hear someone say, 'we ought to do this or that,' you come back next Tuesday and it is done."

Barney has worked hard to raise funds for the renovation of Holland's Park Theater, bought by the Holland Chapter in 1998. The group plans to renovate the former movie theater as a

meeting place and a community performing center.

Barney and his wife, Marcia, live in Holland.

Holland Chapter announces \$500 award for a cappella singing contest

A \$500.00 award for the best local a cappella singing group has been announced by Chapter President Steve Foster. The award will be given to the school of one of the groups which sings unaccompanied during the Tulip Time Salute at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11, in the Holland Civic Center. The winning group will sing during the Barbershop on Parade shows on Friday, May 14.

The Tulip Time Salute includes choirs, barbershop quartets, orchestras, and bands from four local high schools.

Al Plantenga plans vacation as volunteer in Vietnam

Al Plantenga is going on vacation from June 17-July 3, but it's not your ordinary sightseeing trip. Al saw the sights as a G. I. the last time he was in Vietnam; this time he is going as a private citizen to help fix up the country.

He will fly from Grand Rapids to Los Angeles, then to Taipei, and on to Hanoi, where he'll visit an American prison known as the "Hanoi Hilton." Then he will fly to Hue and take a bus to nearby Panaus. It's "about nine miles from where I was" when Al was stationed in Vietnam in the 1970s.

In Panaus, Al and other volunteers will spend nine days repairing an orphanage and painting the children's wing of a hospital.

Why go back to Vietnam? Al explained that he had a lot of thoughts about being in a war there and that no one was interested in the topic when he got back to the United States in the early 1970s. Al's dad, Henry Plantenga, recently sold his house and gave back to Al all of the letters Al had sent home from Vietnam. After seeing his letters again, Al said, "I went to International Aid and volunteered for service work."

Holland Chapter members move into old theater, scrubbing and painting as they sing

Four months and four days after purchasing the Park Theater, the Holland Chapter has moved into its new home.

The chorus now rehearses on risers placed at floor level in front of the stage. Quartets sing tags under the balcony or in the former projection room. Everybody's really happy with the way the former movie theater handles the sound of barbershop music.

Our bulky belongings have been moved to the theater from storage. Our music has been brought over from Evergreen Commons Senior Center, where we were privileged to meet for a year and a half after selling our old hall. As the chapter house committee reports, "Everything we own is now at the theater."

Meanwhile, work continues on the renovation of the sturdy century-old building at 248 River Avenue, across from Centennial Park. The plasterers have come and gone, creating big patches of white amidst the black of the ceiling at the Park Theater, repairing the places where water did its work after the movies stopped in 1984. The roof itself is patched and a new furnace sits atop the building, warming the auditorium. A second new furnace heats the lobby area. The sign that says "Park Theater" is being readied for re-lighting.

Volunteers from the chapter have carefully scraped, spackled, sanded, caulked, and painted the lobby. They are working their way back to the lofty expanses of the theater itself under the direction of Jack C. Oonk. Chairs of the building committee are Ken Cook and Jim Wojahn. Work sessions are held Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings.

Wayne

Jason

WJBC

Brian

Craig

Contact Craig: 248-474-1485

Chapters in Action

Detroit-Oakland

by Bulletin Editor Tom Uicker

La Niña was gentle on the Detroit-Oakland Chapter, upsetting a couple of rehearsals in January, but leaving bare ground for our February show. That helped with the door sales as we put on another successful show.

And what a show it was! The audience, both nights, was ready to join us on our "Sentimental Journey." They seemed to love the songs we picked as well as our portrayal (betrayal?) of such greats as Jimmy Durante and Elvis Presley. Our guest quartets, GAS HOUSE GANG and UPTOWN SOUND, were superb with their sets.

Cold and flu season hit our chapter quartets hard with the lead of SHINDIG out for both nights, and the bass of CROSTOWN EXCHANGE struggling through his quartet's number on Saturday. We can also take pride in the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS and their ability to pick up so many songs and the associated choreography in a relatively short time. Nice work, fellows; keep it up.

If you missed the show, I understand it has been shown on the local access cable channel in Livonia several times, and we are looking into getting it shown in Royal Oak. And, of course, there is always next year's show. I can't tell you our featured quartets yet, but the dates will be February 18 and 19 in the year 2000!

Looking ahead, I want to remind you readers of two things. First, the Detroit-Oakland Chapter has scholarship money set aside in the Bill Butler Memorial Fund for any Pioneer District quartet or quartet coach who would like to attend the quartet coaching sessions at this year's Harmony Round-Up (mini-HEP). To apply for this scholarship, contact Bill Wickstrom at 810-756-4294 or write to him at 2533

Donna Ave., Warren, MI 48091. You can even e-mail him at Mwickstrom@aol.com

The other reminder is that Return-of-the-Jug Night is coming soon. We are back on the first Friday of June, i.e., June 4, 1999. We are again inviting ladies as well as men to join us in a party for our international quartet representatives. We are still working on a location, but we should have fliers ready by the time of spring convention. We look forward to seeing you in Battle Creek on the last weekend in April. If you miss us there, stop by some Monday night at Starr Presbyterian Church in Royal Oak.

Lansing

by Chapter President Brian Dunckel

The Lansing Chapter had several wonderful opportunities for Youth Outreach recently. The Holt High School vocal music program's existence was being threatened by school board budget cuts. We were happy to have the opportunity to perform a benefit concert in conjunction with their high school choirs.

As the deadline for our second annual youth quartet contest drew near, we ran into several problems. But rather than cancel the event, it was postponed. We are happy to announce that it will be held on Saturday, May 1, at Chippewa Middle School in Okemos. Why not make the drive and support the next generation of our harmony heritage?

Our third Youth Outreach program was making tickets to our annual show available to high school vocal music students free of charge. This is the third straight year we have been able to offer this chance to local students, and we have seen an increase in requests each year. This year, nearly 150 tickets were given away through this program.

Speaking of our annual show, "Roll On Mississippi, Roll On" was a smashing success! The chorus portion of the show opened with our contest set ("Mississippi Medley" and "Swanee") and also included "Mississippi Mud," "Java Jive," "Shenandoah," "San Francisco Bay Blues," "Jazz Came Up the River from New Orleans," and

"Darkness on the Delta."

The audience witnessed the debut of two new chapter quartets on the Wharton Center Stage. HALF TON OF HARMONY (OK, so at 1,085 pounds they're a little over their name) is the chapter's newest (and largest) quartet!

COLLEGE PARK FOUR (who "toured" the UP last summer) performed in their flannel shirts and stocking caps, and made a lasting impression upon our patrons.

Audiences also enjoyed PARTS UNLIMITED, RENAISSANCE GALLERY, and the antics of the PATCH CHORDS. Former Pioneer District champions FIREPOWER! never disappoint an audience with their performance. 1998 International Senior Champion JURASSIC LARKS had the crowd in stitches with their home-grown parodies (not to mention their leisure suits!). All in all, it was a great night of barbershop harmony!

Twelve chapter members visited the Battle Creek Chapter recently to "present" them with the dreaded jug! We had a great time and many of the fellows continued the night well after the meeting at a local eatery.

As contest time approaches, we are preparing with mixed emotions. We're excited that we are able to compete again for the district championship, but sad that when the convention ends we will say goodbye to our director for the past six years, Jamie Carey. We wish you well, our friend!

But as they say, life goes on. We will make a visit to Dewitt High School in early May for a performance. Larry Parker will wave his hands at that event as we continue our search for our new director.

See you in Battle Creek!



THE HARMONY HOUNDS

Pedigree: Barbershoppers

CONTACT: ROGER LEWIS

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

*Schedule, from page 3***SATURDAY, APRIL 24 (cont'd.)**

4:00 p.m. — Mass sing outside Kellogg's Cereal City USA. Special tour price of \$5.00. Ticket to be purchased at registration area.

7:30 p.m. — Quartet competition finals, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

After competition — Afterglows at McCamly Plaza Hotel and other hotels.

SUNDAY, APRIL 25

9:00 a.m. — Gospel service, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

10:00 a.m. — Convention Committee meeting.

Wayne Chapter
SPEBSQSA, Inc.
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Westland, Michigan 48185

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An official publication of the Pioneer District Association of Chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Upcoming Events

1999

April 10	Sault Ste. Marie Show
April 10	Windsor Show
May 1	Flint Show
May 8	Wayne Show
May 8	Petoskey Show
May 14	Holland Show
May 15	Grand Rapids Show
May 22-23	Hillsdale Show
June 4-5	Traverse City Show
June 11	Windsor Send-Off
Sept. 13	Alpena Show
October 9	Gratiot County Show
Dec. 3-5	Grand Rapids Show

2000

Feb. 18-19	Detroit-Oakland Show
March 3-4	Huron Valley Show
March 4	Lansing Show
March 11	Kalamazoo Show
March 11	Monroe North Show
March 25	Grand Rapids Show
June 2-3	Traverse City Show
June 9	Windsor Send-Off
Dec. 1-3	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
616-361-6820 (R)

Styer, from page 1

- shopper Dave Eddy. Saturday's masters of ceremony for the chorus and quartet contests, respectively, will be President Dave Cole and, as usual, raconteur extraordinaire Doran McTaggart of Windsor.
- Budgetel Inns on Beckley Road, on the convention hotel list, has changed its name to Baymont Inns.

KELLOGG'S CEREAL CITY USA

In an incentive announced previously, special convention rates are offered for tours of Kellogg's Cereal City USA, which includes a simulated cereal production line. The web site is:

www.kelloggscerealcityUSA.com.

A breakfast will be held at the facility at 8:30 a.m. Saturday (this is a change from the previously announced time of 8:00 a.m.). Cost is \$12.00 per person, including a tour. There is room for only 100 persons, so advance reservations are recommended. Send reservations with your name, address, phone number, and cash or check to:

KCCUSA Breakfast
c/o Roger Lewis
20125 12 Mile Road
Battle Creek, MI 49014

If there isn't enough mailing time, call Roger at 616-965-5714, or e-mail

RJLewisCMC@aol.com. Reservations also will be taken at the convention.

The first district outdoor mass sing in many years — if not the first ever — will be held at 4:00 p.m. Saturday near the tall, cereal-character glockenspiel at the cereal attraction.

HEARTSPRING PRIZE

In another piece of news, first prize in the Heartspring drawing will be a combination telephone, answering machine, fax machine, and copier.

Roger Lewis is trying to make arrangements for food concessions at the auditorium during competitions, as was done at the Lansing competition site.

A tentative convention schedule is on page 3 of this *Troubadour*. Details on other activities are in the previous issue of the *Troub.*

Updated details on the spring convention are being filed on the PioNet, the district's e-mail list. Contest scores and other convention reports will be filed Sunday and Monday after the convention. To sign up on the PioNet (it's free), send your full name, chapter, and e-mail address to Jim Styer at:

jimstyer@voyager.net

Convention information, including a map and weather report, also is available on the Pioneer web site at:

<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>. ■