

Pioneer Troubadour

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



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Power Play 7th, Harmony Heritage Chorus 19th at Anaheim

By Jim Styer

In its strongest series of competition performances yet, POWER PLAY rose to seventh place in the international quartet competition in July in Anaheim, Calif.

Meanwhile, Macomb's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS placed 19th in the chorus contest.

In the quartet contest, Pioneer District's POWER PLAY, from Macomb and Hillsdale, scored 7694 points — only 7 points out of sixth place.

The final round was the Slamka family quartet's best. The foursome placed fourth — just 6 points out of third — with its performance of "Get Me To The Church On Time" and "For Sale, One Broken Heart." They have previously done this set on the district stage.

During the first number, they remembered "Papa John" Slamka, who died May 28 at age 79, as they raised imaginary glasses in a toast to his memory.

Their happy wedding day song, with Mike Slamka as the groom-to-be, was followed by a ballad of dreams shattered, "... a lifetime torn apart — for sale, one broken heart."

In this final round, POWER PLAY was bested only by BSQ, PLATINUM and FRED, the new interna-



Macomb County Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS directed by Jack Slamka (Photo by Dave and Lori Cole)

tional champs from Marietta, Ga.

POWER PLAY placed seventh in the quarterfinal round with "I Love To Hear That Old Barbershop Style" and "Pal Of My Dreams." The Slamkas were ninth in the semifinals, singing "Rock-A-Bye Baby" and "Little Lady Make Believe."

Harmonet Reporter Steve Tremper wrote: "Their phrases were so smooth and in control. Of course, they have a remarkable unit sound (having the right genes has to help some!), but to have four voices of this wondrous quality in the same family is pretty rare ... I'm looking down as I type this, but I can still hear the smiles and love come

clearly off the stage and all the way back to the rear of the arena. Singing from the heart is never any purer than this."

The Slamka foursome is comprised of tenor Don, lead Michael, baritone Mark, and bass (daddy) Jack. They were 1989 district champs and also previously competed internationally in 1990-94.

SLAMKA ALSO DIRECTS

Jack Slamka also directed Macomb's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS in its international appearance. The 53 men sang "A Bundle

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Pioneer District's Roger Lewis elected Society Executive VP

By Jim Styer

Roger Lewis likely will be one of the busiest men in the Pioneer District next year — and he won't even be holding a district office.



Roger Lewis

Lewis will be executive vice president of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 2000. He was elected at the summer international convention and will be installed at the mid-winter convention in January.

Lewis, of Battle Creek, already is one of the most lauded barber-shoppers in the district. For example, the Society's top staff member, Executive Director Darryl Flinn, said: "Roger is a man for all seasons. He has literally done it all, both inside and outside of the Society." And David Cole, district president, said, "We have not seen the likes of a Roger Lewis at the Society level in some time."

Lewis will be a backup to the

Society president, a liaison to district presidents, and a member of the Board Management Council. He also expects to be involved in "some special projects, maybe of my own doing," he said. "We need to do a lot more work on long-range planning."

Lewis said he and his wife, Sue, were overwhelmed by all the well-wishing. "We don't know what we've done to deserve it, but we sure appreciate the support."

"It'll be an exciting and busy time," Lewis said. "The next few years look like a lot of fun and hard work for us. Although I won't hold any official Pioneer office, I also doubt that I'll just 'sit back and enjoy' barbershopping in district or chapter activities."

Larry Parker of Lansing, a past Pioneer president, is expected to replace Lewis as district events vice president, including district convention management. But Lewis said he expects to continue to handle district convention housing in Battle Creek.

Lewis, 61, also has been head of the Society's Events Committee, which is responsible for site selection and management of the two international conventions each year.

HIGH-SCHOOL QUARTETTER

After quartetting in high school as a result of a Grand Rapids chapter Youth Outreach program, Lewis joined the Society in 1961 in Battle Creek, where he has been a chapter member ever since. He currently is secretary and assistant di-

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Roger Lewis praised

Praise comes from the highest levels of the Society and the Pioneer District for Roger Lewis, elected as Society executive vice president. Here are some excerpts:

Darryl Flinn, Society Executive Director: "Aside from his expertise and long experience, Roger is a wonderful human being and, too, his spouse and life partner Sue helps make Roger the perfect choice. That he is STILL deeply involved at the chapter level and with our music speaks very loudly."

Chuck Watson, Society president-elect: "I'm delighted. Roger and I have worked together for a number of years. I'm looking forward to having the strong backup that Roger brings to this position. We'll work as a team and have already been working as a team in forming the necessary committee structure for our Society."

Tim Hanrahan, Society Nominating Committee chair, immediate past-president: "Roger was chosen from a large list of excellent candidates because of his vast district and Society contributions. His many district roles prepared him for his Society committee positions. His chairmanship of the Society Events Committee has been outstanding."

Ernest Nickoson, Nominating Committee, Events Committee, past-president: "An all-round super barbershopper. He supports his chapter, district and the Society and still has time for quartetting. His wife, Sue, is a strong supporter. Without this, his barber-shopping success would be for

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The jugs are back home!

By Tom Uicker

For those of you who missed it, Detroit-Oakland Chapter hosted a wonderful party on Friday, June 4, at the Southfield K of C Hall. It was the "Return of the Traveling Jugs." For 34 years, Oakland County Chapter (now Detroit-Oakland Chapter) has been circulating a jug traveling from chapter to chapter throughout the Pioneer District, promoting interchapter visits and raising money for our district quartet representatives.

On the first Friday of June each year, we welcome the jugs (we now have two) back to our chapter by having a party. This year, Windsor ended up with one jug and Grand Rapids caught the other. Grand Rapids didn't think they would have anyone attending the party, so they shipped the jug to us. (Later, Wayne Kinde decided to attend). Windsor brought 20 people with their jug and they were one of the three choruses to sing. DOC as host chapter had 54 people



Pioneer District representative quartet POWER PLAY entertains at DOC's 34th annual return of the jug night. The Slamkaks: (l to r) tenor Don, lead Mike, bass Jack, and bari Mark.

(including the ladies).

Macomb Chapter was the other big group with 38 people attending, and their chorus was able to sing. The other groups in attendance were Wayne (8); Grosse Pointe and Motor City (5 each); Lansing, Rochester, Huron Valley, Frank Thorne, and Redford Harmony Club (2

each); and Hillsdale, Grand Rapids, Spirit of Detroit, East Pointe, Fenton Lakes, and Scarborough (1 each); and three guests.

Along with the three choruses — DOC's GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS, Macomb's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS, and Windsor's SUN PARLOUR CHORUS — we had five quartets. FORTUNE SMILES, BORDER CROSSING, THE DETROIT SOUND COMPANY, the SILVERDOMES, and POWER PLAY all sang that evening.

A last-minute menu change from pizza to chicken stir-fry caused a little bit of mumbling, but that was silenced when the cook brought Doran his very own pizza. The only disappointment of the evening was that Bill Wickstrom was too ill to be our master of ceremonies. Jim Kunz stepped in and did a great job. Since drinks and food were included in the \$8.00 admission, most agreed it would have been cheap at twice the price. ■



Quartet BORDER CROSSING sings for the barbershop audience. (photos by Floyd McDaniel)

A View From The Top

David Cole, President

Pioneer does itself proud!

Anaheim - The tension rose as the presenters called out the top five quartets at the Society's 1999 International Barbershop Quartet convention: BANK STREET is 5th, and the tension rose. BSQ is

4th, and the tension rose. MICHIGAN JAKE is 3rd, and the tension rose as dead silence filled the air, soon to erupt into a deafening roar as PLATINUM was announced as 2nd, leaving FRED as



David Cole

the only possible quartet remaining to be crowned champion. The wild anticipation of the final announcement was preceded by one man standing and applauding, followed by another, and another, and another, until the entire audience was standing and chanting "FRED, FRED, FRED." And then a hush came over the audience as the "official announcement" came across the speakers — "and your 1999 International Champions — FRED." The Pond, the home of the NHL's Mighty Ducks, erupted as if those Ducks had won the Stanley Cup.

Hidden within the excitement of FRED's victory in Anaheim was Pioneer's own POWER PLAY performance, finishing 7th overall (fourth in the finals round) and only five points from a 6th place finish — WOW! "The Slamka's

have arrived," stated one of the judges to me following the competition. To say that Pioneer is proud of POWER PLAY is an understatement. The "buzz" all around the convention was who was going to finish in the medals. Our guys were being mentioned often, and with great respect. Gentlemen, you should be very proud of what you have accomplished so far, and know that the rewards are just around the corner.

Earlier in the day the choruses got together in The Pond for an equally exciting contest. The rub for this event was whether or not Northbrook (Ill.) could break the seven-year jinx of finishing second each year. According to sources within the Northbrook Chapter, they would push the envelope to extreme, attempting to win this coveted crown.

Their performance of "Les Miz" was at a Broadway level — as it should have been since they actually flew in a Broadway choreographer to stage the two-song package. The dramatic performance was above anything I've ever seen on a barbershop stage. The only remaining questions — was it barbershop, and what did the judges think? Can you say "two points?" Once again Northbrook finishes second, being edged out by the MASTERS OF HARMONY — according to the judges. According to the audience sitting around me, including many who were still crying following the next chorus' performance,

Northbrook's performance was a winner — the scores didn't mean a thing.

Everyone in Pioneer can be proud of Macomb County's performance in the chorus competition. Under the direction of Jack Slamka, these guys sang the socks off of their two songs, finishing a very respectable 19th in a highly competitive field of 23. Great job guys!

Other choruses of note were the BIG CHICKEN CHORUS (3rd), who performed a very funny satire of Northbrook's "Les Miz," and the LOUISVILLE THOROUGHBREDS, finishing 5th and ready to make a run for the roses in the next few years.

Not to be unnoticed was the College Quartet Contest, where Pioneer was represented by PRIVATELY FUNDED. The four young men finished 18th out of 21, singing "Sweet Adeline" and "Them There Eyes" to a very enthusiastic audience. Keep it going guys; there are many years of fun in your future.

On the less exciting, but still important operations side of our hobby, the district presidents met for several days, making some valuable progress in laying the groundwork for clearing up the problem of "cost sharing" of society-based expenses with the districts. We also laid the groundwork for a more-organized game plan for solving important issues in the future. The Society elected their new slate of officers which included our own Roger Lewis as Executive Vice President.

Congratulations to Roger and Sue — this is well earned. We wish you the best of success in the years to come.

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Society Synopsis

Don Challman, Society Board Member

Anaheim proved to be awesome — the competition, the weather, the rides at Disneyland, and the way in which Society business meeting issues were handled.



Don Challman

The Society Nominating Committee submitted the following slate of officers (who were duly elected) for 2000: Society President, Chuck Watson; Society Executive Vice President, Roger Lewis; Society Treasurer, Ken Fletcher; Society Board Member at Large, Hank Hammer; Harmony Foundation Trustee, J. Robert MacDougall; Immediate Past President Ed Waesche.

Major areas of concern dealt with chorus director development, membership recruitment, and the Standing Ovation Program. It is conceivable that the Chorus Director Certification Program may be scrapped along with the Chapter Challenge Program. The latter would remain in force so that all of those currently enrolled would not lose out on any awards they have earned. An effort will be made by the Music and Performance Committee to disseminate the materials for Standing Ovation training to the districts so that they can develop personnel to run this program.

The overall concern with membership was reflected in many of the meetings held in Anaheim. It is expected that the districts will

make every effort to assist chapters' efforts to increase their numbers. To that end, the Society board adopted a resolution which stated that the Society's efforts toward membership growth were largely failing, that the Society has had roughly the same number of chapters (810) for nearly 20 years, that the number of new charters processed has barely kept pace with chapter revocations, and that the Society's vision statement charged that we are to be an "ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers." BE IT RESOLVED that the Society Board of Directors recognizes the immediate need for implementation of an extension plan leading to 100 new chapters and providing an additional 1000 new members by December 31, 2001, and pledges its full support for the initiative.

The Society's full support will come in the form of allowing the shift of some current job responsibilities from the membership department to other persons in Kenosha. This will allow the current membership staff to schedule 48 weeks in the field working exclusively on extension sites and chartering chapters.

Another area of concern dealt with the Canadian membership renewal process, and was brought before the Society Operations Committee. Several Land O' Lakes Canadian chapters had voiced displeasure about the way the billing process was currently being handled and wanted it returned to a

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Youth Outreach

by Al Bonney

Anaheim is less than 24 hours behind me so the memories and images are still clear.

The impressive college quartet competition left me speechless. Listening to those clear young voices working through intricacies in their arrangements that would have derailed my quartet, I was reminded of how much young men enjoy our music, and why barbershop music is such a good addition to any high school music program — it attracts the boys like bees to honey.

Anyone who listened to STATION 39 on Saturday night must have been impressed with their skill and training — not to mention their flair and showmanship. Anybody think those guys have trouble getting dates?

The wonderful Harmony World Jamboree on Thursday at the Hilton ... the Aussie, Brit, and Swedish choruses were so alive and energetic. Their showmanship sloshing around the auditorium by the bucketful captivated the packed house and brought thunderous applause to their imaginative and entertaining arrangements and presentation.

And the Saturday finals ... what can anyone say about the wonderful singing and presentations of so many of the choruses — our own HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS included — excitement and energy fairly flowed through the aisles of "The Pond".

Our little hobby can boast entertainment standards that would compete for attention on the most

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Here's the Pitch

Raleigh Bloch, Executive & Member Services VP

Hey! Isn't it time for you to write an article about membership for the Troubadour? Oh, you're right. Why do I have to always write an article? Well isn't that why they pay you the big bucks? Oh yah, that's right.

Well have you got any suggestions on what I should write about? Well last time you wrote about exposing yourself. I think you better tame it down a little. How about telling us about

the fun we have when we do this hobby together? You mean like the time we had in Jackson, with Ev Nau back in May? Yah! Wasn't that a blast? It sure was. You

know, you're right. This hobby of ours is nothing without other people.

Well let's see, how should I start this off? It was a dark and stormy night. Hey! Who do you think you are, Snoopy? No, it really was a dark and stormy night. In fact we had some tornadoes in Southwestern Michigan that night. That's right. I remember now.

Anyway, Ev Nau spent the day in Jackson, Mich., talking to Mayor Martin Griffen and being interviewed by Jennifer Guy on WKHM radio. Then that evening we had the Community Room at Westwood Mall for an exploratory meeting to see if there was interest in starting a chapter in Jackson.

What a night! We had a total of 55 PEOPLE attend the meeting. Lansing Chapter had about 18 people there and they sang for us. Battle Creek had a bunch there and

there were a few from Hillsdale also. UPSTAGE SOUND, our current District Champion Quartet, was also there after coming through a tornado. The HARMONY HOUNDS were also there and provided some fun for all.

Most importantly, we had 11 people from the Jackson area that showed interest in singing barbershop. Floyd Osterhout was the sparkplug from Jackson and he had a spread of goodies, coffee, and soda. Ev Nau did a terrific job of introducing barbershop that was interspersed with singing and more singing. What a great time was had by all and we couldn't do it alone.



We need each other to enjoy this hobby and we come from all walks of life and it doesn't matter. One of the potential barbershoppers that was there had pink hair. *I remember that guy — he's a great tenor.*

Yes he is, and yet I know most of us would not ask a person with pink hair to come to a guest night. So you never know who might like to sing with you, maybe someone who doesn't have any hair.

Hey! I resemble that remark. ■

Woodshedding Corner

New AHSOW Board elected

By Toban Dvoretzky

In the earliest days of the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders, most of its officers lived in California. They were informally dubbed the "West Coast Mafia." AHSOW is pleased to announce the 1999 election of its "Gulf Coast Mafia" (president & vice-president), plus its other officers and directors:

Toban Dvoretzky, Pres. SWD
 Steve Shannon, VP SWD
 Fred Hinesley, Sec. DIX
 Ed Hartley, Mgr/Treasurer EVG
 John Plazek, Immed. Past Pres. LOL
 Bruce Foreman, Dir. EVG
 Bud Hillier, Dir. SUN
 Tom Millot, Sr., Dir. CSD
 Russ Seely, Dir. PIO
 Bob Walker, Dir. BABS/Frank Thorne
 Ken Wheeler, Dir. JAD

AHSOW, the Society's largest "affiliated subordinate" organization, currently comprises 1,457 members. For more information about AHSOW and about how woodshedding can enhance your Barbershop experience, contact the undersigned or refer to the AHSOW web site for a prompt referral to your district representative.

ANCIENT HARMONIOUS SOCIETY OF WOODSHEDDERS, INC.

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Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

Barbershopping — What does it mean to you? Is it a hit and miss outlet?

Or is it something exciting and fulfilling — a way of life?



Doug Pearson

If it's the latter — and I hope it is — then you qualify as a full-fledged public relations practitioner. For you see, public relations is more than just me ... more than chap-

ter, district or International PR officers, or your bulletin editors. Look in the mirror. In reality, public relations is YOU. By your actions, YOU'RE the one who creates and carries the image of our Society.

There are many component parts to your life as a PR practitioner. To do them justice, you can't let them slip from your stream of consciousness. The opportunities of good public relations are ever-present. You just have to be aware of them and keep them up front all the time.

How do you do this? How about keeping a checklist as both a reminder and as an enforcer. Here are a few items you might want to include on this list:

* Carry your chapter or quartet business cards with you at all times, and pass them out at every opportunity. Sounds basic, doesn't it. But how many times have you forgotten this simple PR tool. I know I have, and I kick myself every time I do.

* Something else basic, but a tremendous attention getter: wearing barbershop/chapter T-shirts, sweatshirts, jackets, caps, etc. What an easy way to gain public attention and to sell your hobby!

* Your annual show, as I like to mention, is a major chance to pull out all the PR stops. Do you talk it up with friends and associates? Are you getting the media coverage of your show you richly deserve? Do you give comp tickets to members of the media?

* In addition to your show, most chapters boast literally dozens of interesting activities during the year. Many of these lend themselves to good community and media exposure. Are you taking advantage of this potential or are you simply hiding our unique four-part sound under a bushel basket?

* We've zeroed in on Singing Valentines as a super PR tool. But there are many other special days and events during the year that are crying for the type of family entertainment that barbershopping can offer. Veterans Day. Special parades. Flag Day. Ballgames. Fourth of July. Are you utilizing the wonderful PR potential these days and events offer?

* Encouragingly, some of our Pioneer chapters have joined their local chambers of commerce. It's another positive way to promote community involvement and get your name in front of the public.

* Public relations encompasses communications. We all communicate, but some of us are better than

In Memoriam

"Papa" John Slamka 1919 - 1999

For those who may not already know, "Papa" John Slamka, patriarch of the Slamka family, passed away in May due to heart-related problems. He was a 12-year member of the Society and a charter member of the Macomb County Chapter. He was a very dedicated member and, as a result, received the honor of Barbershopper Of The Year. John was married to Fran (who passed away in 1997) for 57 years, and they both sang with the General Motors Chorus for a number of years. He is survived by three sons, a daughter, and a host of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There will always be a place on the risers for you, "Papa" John.

From Michael Slamka

Jack Teubert

Jack Teubert, lead of Oakland County Chapter — chapter secretary, chapter president, district secretary — was a man who loved to perform, who with little encouragement, would regale those in close proximity by remembering and singing all the words to the "Conn's Clothes" and "Olga Coal" commercials from the "Golden Age of Radio"; who so closely guarded revealing his age that it became a "quest" for the ladies of "OCC" to determine the year of his birth; who will always be fondly remembered by his many friends from the Oakland County Chapter as "His Eminence."

REQUIESCAT IN PACE

From Fred McFadyen

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Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, DVP-CSLT

During the past year, I have written articles about Chapter Challenge, teamwork, leadership training, chapter programming, annual show follow-up, how



Doran McTaggart

your district vice-presidents and chapter coaches can help you, and many other items that can keep your chapter healthy and

growing.

I know of no chapter that wouldn't like to have more active singing members. An increase in membership has a positive effect on a chapter. More singers in the chorus, more quartet possibilities, and more people to share the workload of the chapter are all possible with an influx of new blood.

"How can we increase our membership by one-third?" you ask. Read on, my friend. Our Windsor Chapter had a goal of increasing our membership this year. We were very pleased with the results of our recent guest nights.

We promoted a membership program that would commence following the district convention. We prodded, pushed, and twisted our members' arms to get on board, get involved, and buy into the program. They did and we are all now benefiting from their efforts.

We planned three successive guest nights on May 3, 10, and 17. Chapter members were asked to

bring in the names of potential members, along with their addresses and phone numbers, on April 12, 19, and 26, so that we could make contact with them and promote our guest nights.

Each guest received a letter of invitation signed by member A. In the letter it was mentioned that the guest's friend (member B) asked that he be sent this special invitation. Member C phoned the guest to remind him of the guest night. Three chapter members were involved in the process.

After the meeting, a different letter was sent to the guest thanking him for attending. Again, he got a phone call reminding him of the next meeting. Those who were unable to attend, got a second phone call reminding them that we were still looking forward to seeing them the next week.

What were our results? Because our members had unity of purpose and supported the program, they brought in 75 guest names who all received invitation letters. We had 15, 20, and 19 guests respectively on our guest nights. Altogether 30 different guests attended.

After each guest had attended three meetings, he received information about the chapter, the dues structure, answers to his questions, and a membership application. At our last board meeting, eleven applicants were approved. There are eight applications still pending including four really solid prospects. I anticipate a total of at least fifteen new members which will jump our

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Thanks From Power Play

On behalf of POWER PLAY, thank you to all who continue to support and encourage us. We had a great time in Anaheim, and we look forward to next year in Kansas City. Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth and supported us by wearing t-shirts and stickers, not to mention all who worked at the booth. Also, thanks to all of the chapters, quartets, and individuals who sent money to help with expenses — we couldn't have done it without you! Finally, thanks to Kelly and Marie Brummett who open up their home every Thursday night so we can rehearse. POWER PLAY is also blessed with the support of four wonderful wives. Once again, thanks to all.

Michael Slamka for POWER PLAY

DON MICHAEL
MARK JACK



A Sound Advantage

Contact: Michael Slamka
(810) 326-0620
E-Mail: LIVE4SHOP@AOL.COM

Take Note

Fred Kienitz, CDD VP



Fred Kienitz

Ladies and gentlemen of Pioneer, I witnessed a minor miracle in Gaylord, Mich., in June. But before I get into the details, I would like to tell you about guys from Pioneer whom everyone of you would do well to know. They are one of a short list of people who do this district proud whenever called upon.

As the person responsible for setting up these clinics, I have to find a central location for the directors and then find a responsible person in that area to coordinate this workshop. We are proud to say that we now have completed three of these and have offered this workshop to 29 chapters.

Al Fisk coordinated the first workshop in southeastern Pioneer. Everything was in order and working properly which allowed the intensive workshop to run flawlessly. Second, I had to be away at another international function, so Jim Stephens and Larry Parker took the reins and the southwest workshop went as smooth as silk. Then came Gaylord. Hank Hedges expertly handled the details for that workshop; the northern area was well covered.

Thank you to these very special district volunteers.

Now back to Gaylord. Let me tell you that I was impressed. The guest directors were from Sault Ste. Marie (Ontario), Petoskey, Alpena,

Traverse City, and Gaylord. The two trainers were Mel Knight, our past Society director of music education, and Joe Caulkens, director par excellence from Rockford, Illinois. This was the first time I was able to spend the entire time with five directors, two trainers, and the newly formed WORKSHOP INTENSIVE NORTHWOODS BARBERSHOP CHORUS.

In the first two lower Michigan clinics, everyone involved were too busy to really attend to or get involved with the people on the firing line. And all this was made possible by the pre-planning of Hank Hedges.

First of all, the directors involved with this very intense training were Marlyn Byrd, director of our guest chapter chorus; Ted Johnson, director of Alpena's chorus; Bill Woodbeck, director of Petoskey Chapter's chorus (formerly Boyne Chapter); Neil Nugent, assistant director at Traverse City Chapter's chorus; and Don Bazely, assistant director of Sault Ste. Marie Chapter's chorus and mayor of the entire province of Ontario.

This workshop intensive day began promptly at 9:00 a.m. with about twenty minutes of coffee and sweet rolls; the remainder of the day (9:00 a.m.-noon and 1:00-4:30 p.m.) was spent in a very intense work session.

The first part is conducted without chorus members. Each director is interviewed individually, but it is done in a group session. It doesn't really make sense, does it? The purpose here is to attempt to get each

director to determine his greatest need and least-qualified area of directing. The reason for the group interview is that all five directors give an immediate response to the "What is your greatest need?" question. However, by the time they prioritize their shortcomings, they have heard other trainee responses and they begin to change their attitudes and opinions of what they really need to learn in order to be more successful in their directing skills.

Keep in mind, dear reader, that none of us wants to jump up in front of complete strangers and say, "I'm really stupid when it comes to being able to ...!"

Another problem that is very difficult to take credit for is aiding and abetting "bad singing," i.e., "I'm the director. I do wonderful things and I give outstanding direction and guidance to my chorus. And still they never seem to get any better."

Now, after the morning session ends and these five eager beavers are fed and ready to jump into the ring, they get together with the SOME CITY BARBERSHOP CHORUS made up of a-few-to-a-lot of members of each director's chapter. In this case, we had 24 guys who collectively drove somewhere between 400-600 miles to come to Gaylord and be guinea pigs for five directors who were learning how to hone their craft of chorus directing.

At this point, it may seem to you that I am taking a light-hearted view of this workshop. And please allow me to clarify a few things before wrapping up this article.

Most of you know that my vocation was that of an educator at the elementary level. And one of the

(Continued on page 25)

Six quick minutes!

By Dave Anderson

It seemed to go by so fast that I thought it was the six quickest minutes that I had ever experienced. From the second that the curtain began to open, we could hear the cheering, yelling, and whistling of the 10,000 Barbershoppers in the audience and the adrenaline was really pumping. The noise was at a level where I could not hear the pitchpipes until just a few seconds before we began to sing.

The HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS was singing in eighth position in this contest at Anaheim and we all felt well prepared and ready. Our rehearsal on Thursday at the Radisson was in a small room in front of a few of our family and Pioneer supporters.

Jack [Slamka] worked hard to get our energy level up to where it should be, but we were a little sluggish and there were a couple of singing continuity of sound problems to be fixed. Sharon Towner was there trying to light up faces and get bodies in motion while Wayne Kinde, Matt Coombs, and Matt Tipton worked vocal production and warmups. Michael T. Slamka was working the overall visual affect along with catching and fixing some sound traps.

Friday's rehearsal was in the same room, but in front of a larger audience and the energy level was higher. Those same great guys were working together to get us up to a top performance level and we felt pretty good about the level we were at, but then we hadn't seen the other choruses yet.

Saturday began early and we really didn't have a lot of singing time. We were bussed from the

Radisson to the Hilton for our warm-up time on the risers and then we were bussed to the Pond, where we waited outside in a freight area for about twenty minutes. Once inside it was total silence in our holding area before we went on, but Dr. Greg Lyne stopped by and wished us well and told us to go out and enjoy our performance as this audience really wanted to be with us and to be entertained. Gary Washburn led us in a short prayer just before we went on stage.

chance to perform in California in front of an audience of this size?

After we sang, I hurried around to hear the rest of the choruses and I was totally awestruck by the performances and clean singing. I couldn't find any that had any flaws and was thoroughly entertained.

We wound up in 19th position out of 23 and we had figured that we would do well to break in below 20, but deep down I was hoping for 17th position. We need to get busy and start doing more (and better) of



Members of the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS rehearse at the Radisson Hotel in preparation for Saturday's international competition. (Photo courtesy of Dave Anderson)

We performed our two songs just about the way we rehearsed them on our best days, but one cannot put into words the "rush" or the high that you feel when the curtain closes. This is what performing is all about and what this great barbershopping hobby of ours allows us to do. How else could a bunch of average singers like us get a

what our coaches have been telling us and look ahead to a tough competition here in Pioneer this October.

Thank you, Pioneer, for all the support for the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS and for allowing me to have real Barbershop high! ■

Photos from Anaheim



Pioneer District representative quartet **POWER PLAY** performs at the 1999 international competition in Anaheim.

A view of the Pond, home of the NHL Mighty Ducks.





POWER PLAY (above) and members of Macomb County Chapter's **HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS** (right & below), directed by Jack Slamka, performing at SPEBSQSA's annual convention and competition, this year held in Anaheim, Calif. Entertainer **Dick Van Dyke** (above right) with an honorary Society membership for his lifelong love and support of barbershop harmony.



The many shades of gold

By Music & Performance VP
Russ Seely

With the ringing of 7th chords still filling my memories of Mickey Mouse's beloved Anaheim, we thought it would be timely not only to report, but also to offer some observations on our most recent international convention.

First, the obvious thrill to witness the forward progress of Team Slamka, a.k.a. POWER PLAY, and



Macomb Chapter's representation of our district. Frankly, I had them both scored higher, but I was very proud of

their accomplishments. And may I suggest that you consider Kansas City in your travel plans next year? I'm certain you won't be disappointed.

Observations: We shared in the joy that our good friends Thom and Carla Hine experienced when son Clay fulfilled a life's dream by winning the coveted gold medal with his hilarious foursome, FRED. But issues were raised that the Society must address with a newly formed blue-ribbon committee composed of staff, C & J representatives, and barbershop "experts" re-examines the criteria of what, indeed, defines the barbershop style.

In the case of FRED, the weighting of the presentation category obviously served the quartet very well. Well enough, of course, to earn them the gold and, although

their singing was medal quality, they were outscored in the singing category.

The top ten contest, which was outstanding, did make the audience wonder what was, in fact, being judged! Two competitors "pushed the envelope" rather drastically when they, in a couple of instances, changed the melody to serve the arranger who used a number of questionable chords and/or passages.

The champs relied on parodies of simple arrangements, on the other hand, to get their "inside humor" across (mostly berating judges and competitors), making their presentations exclusively comical.

And then there were the pure, good old barbershop types, including POWER PLAY, which made you wonder how the judges were going to sort and score these rather distinctive differences in the quartet performances. We anxiously await the resultant changes, if any, of this committee.

I hope this doesn't detract from the hard work that quartets that emulate FRED do. I simply *loved* FRED, but I can understand the frustration of their competitors who may be confused about what style we are pursuing. 1998 champs, REVIVAL — pure barbershop. 1999 champs, FRED — pure comedy. Indeed, the many shades of gold.

The chorus competition may have been even more controversial when you consider the wonderful barbershop presentation of the MASTERS OF HARMONY, who outscored perennial silver medalist Northbrook (Ill.) with an honest-to-goodness Broadway performance, by a mere two points. Professor Gi-

allombardo was awarded his SEVENTH consecutive silver medal for a spectacular visual offering from "Les Miserables." Their singing was equal to the task, but I'm certain that most in the audience really questioned whether they heard barbershop music in that incomparable presentation.

Incidentally, former Pioneer whiz Jim Pollard played a major role with the Northbrook chorus and kind of "starred" as the patriot who was mortally wounded during the emotionally charged rendering of "Bring Him Home."

Third place went to "that other style" — comedy — as the ever irreverent BIG CHICKEN CHORUS from Marietta, Georgia, poked fun at their competitors, especially Northbrook, when they performed "What's a Big Chicken, Anyway?," a side splitter for sure. But again imagine: The gold, silver, and third-place bronze chorus winners were radically different. It's rather confusing to the point that I'm not too sure whether the question "How many in your quartet?" is a joke or not.

If you have feelings about these issues, write to our Executive Director, Darryl Flinn, and he'll send a copy to the necessary personnel who have been charged to answer these issues.

* * *

The Standing Ovation Program moves forward with some C & J performance tapes that will assist in adjudicating your quartet or chorus performance. Please send your evaluation requests to me to apply for a district rep to help you "shape up" your act. ■

The little girl who could

Submitted by Alex Willox

When Lindsay was very young, her parents knew she was different from other little girls her age. Like so many families, they sought help from many sources and went from state to state looking for information about their little girl.

After her parents searched for a year looking for answers, Lindsay was finally diagnosed with autism. Some doctors took a passive approach and did not want to state any opinion about Lindsay or her prognosis. Others told Lindsay's parents that she would never be able to walk ... never talk ... never function in the real world. Some even recommended that Lindsay be placed in an institution. Had they any idea of the remarkable potential waiting to be unleashed within this special little girl, they would never have suggested such a thing.

But to them, she was hopeless. To her family, however, she was a precious gift, a person who deserved every chance in the world. So that's just what they gave her. Today, with love and perseverance and the help of Heartspring School, the little girl who "could never" has become ... the young woman who could!

"I look back and I'm amazed at how far Lindsay has come," says her mother, Judy, "but you have to know how severe Lindsay's disabilities were. At the time of her first visit to Heartspring, she had nine of the symptoms of autism. Her muscle tone was so poor, and her sensory system so disturbed that when they put a prickly pin on her back, she didn't even flinch. But when they put lotion on her back, she screamed. And when they put her

hands in soap suds, she threw up. Her symptoms were so defined that at the age of three, I had never heard her call me 'Momma,' never seen her smile. Yet she would memorize, sing, and recite commercials."

After several outpatient evaluations, it was determined that the best way to treat Lindsay's autism was to enroll her in the Heartspring School. Like all of the programs at Heartspring, among the many components included in her program were occupational therapy, physical therapy, and extensive speech-language.

Lindsay's progress began one small step at a time, first learning how to focus on an object and how to make eye contact. Each day, the staff at Heartspring was helping Lindsay to reach for her potential and giving her family the tools they needed to help her continue to grow and improve at home.

After many years of tiny steps of progress, she was doing what the doctors had said she would never do.

In recent years, Heartspring expanded Lindsay's programs to meet her unique needs. As a result, she had exceptional opportunities to work and to generalize her behavior into several community activities and businesses.

Because of the high functioning abilities that Lindsay developed through her years at Heartspring services, she was accepted into a special Wichita "high school" program (the Chisholm Lifeskills Center) designed for adults capable of independence in the community.

At the Chisholm Lifeskills Center, everyone had his or her own

locker and went to different classes just like regular high school. When Lindsay first went to the center, she had a paraprofessional who was with her during the day; later Lindsay was able to function independently. She was even a cheerleader at their assemblies!

Music was one of her favorite extra-curricular activities. She loved to give musical performances. Her last performance at school was as one of the leading ladies in the musical "Grease."

She graduated from high school this past May and attended a full prom as well as an "after prom" bowling party 'til 5:00 a.m.! She's also very proud to have her class ring.

Lindsay is training for "household management" and is expected to be very functional and independent as a domestic helper. They are continuing to prepare her for independent living and work. The young adults at this center will someday live in their own apartments; this is the aim for Lindsay. Her goal is to be employed in the community and enjoy apartment living with a companion as needed. As part of her everyday schedule, Lindsay works at a local clothing store.

Judy is so grateful for Lindsay's successes. She says Lindsay has a wonderful sense of humor and is a great young woman. Heading the list of things to be grateful for is the fact that Lindsay and Judy have become best friends!

You can be proud to know that because of barbershopper's support, you have a part in Lindsay's success! For many children with autism, there is hope ... and help for a brighter future. Just ask Lindsay. ■

Pioneer's Art Lane wins coveted international PR award

An international tour led to an international award for Art Lane of Holland. But the self-effacing Lane, who hadn't even submitted the award entry, gave all the credit for it to his chapter.

Lane was presented with one of two Public Relations Officer of the Year awards at the international convention. The award to Lane is for PR activity in a single event. Another award was for general PR activity, presented to Bob Fisher of Harrisburg, Pa.

The entry for Lane "was well-organized, beautifully presented and certainly worthy of recognition," said John Sugg, Sr., PR vice president of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). "The chorus going to Holland really constitutes an outstanding effort."

Lane not only covered the event for area media and his chapter bulletin, *The Windmill Blade*, but also was intimately involved in planning and carrying out the 10-day trip, during which the chorus joined in three shows with Dutch chapters. He also helped schedule performances, was key in developing a tour of the country, organized trip fundraising publicity, provided five pages of chapter information for a Netherlands show program, and produced an edition of *The Windmill Blade* in the Netherlands.

"It is a great honor to receive this award," Lane said. "But the honor is due to the Holland Chapter for its accomplishments over the past year. The members worked hard to raise funds for the chapter's first-ever overseas singing tour to

The Netherlands."

Lane said the chapter's "commitment and enthusiasm make it easy for a public relations officer to tell the world what his chapter is doing. I thank the men of the chapter and especially James Hall for pulling together the chapter's efforts and applying for the award."

The entry had been prepared by fellow chapter member Hall without Lane's knowledge. Lane was surprised by receipt of the district PR award at the spring convention in Battle Creek. He then was entered in the international contest.

The PR entry also showed how heavily involved Lane was in the chapter's purchase of the Park Theater in downtown Holland, promotion of the effort, and fundraising publicity. It is being used as a chapter home and will be turned into a community performing arts center.

Again giving credit to the chapter, rather than noting his involvement, Lane said, "The chapter had faith and vision enough to buy it, and borrow lots of money for repairs."

Lane, 68, has been responsible for virtually all internal and external chapter public relations for several years. He sings bass in the WINDMILL CHORUS and in a quartet, FOUR BUCKS A CHORD. He joined the chapter in 1990, after retiring as a newspaper editor.

The last international PR award to a Pioneer District barbershopper came 10 years ago. ■

Simon finishes 6th in IBC

For the second consecutive year, Gary Simon of the Wayne Chapter placed in the top 10 in the International Bulletin Contest. Simon ranked sixth in the contest sponsored by PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). He finished first in the grammar and style category.

Last year, Simon placed fifth. The awards were announced at the summer international convention.

Simon edits *The Chordinator* for the Wayne Chapter. He has placed first in the district bulletin contest for three consecutive years. He also is new editor of the Pioneer District's *Troubadour*.

The other district entrant, Art Lane, editor of Holland's *The Windmill Blade*, placed 29th. Lane placed second this year in the district bulletin contest. He has consistently scored in the top three in the district, and had the highest grammar and style scores for three consecutive years.

Judges are bulletin editors and former editors who have gone through a training program. The judges score the bulletins and provide each editor with a detailed report and suggestions for bulletin improvement. Judging categories are content, grammar and style, and layout and reproduction. ■

(Continued from page 5)

Congratulations, too, to Art Lane of the Holland Chapter for bringing home the gold, winning the PROBE Special Events contest for his documentation of Holland's Netherlands trip, and their recent purchase of the Park Theatre. "It was a wonderful surprise," stated Art. ■

Muskegon to host fall convention

A "Harmony Wave" will wash over Battle Creek and the Pioneer District as the Muskegon Chapter hosts the fall district convention.

This will be the first convention hosted by the chapter and its SHORELINE CHORUS. Chapter convention chairman Mike O'Donnell is going high-tech with e-mail communications among his convention committee and district convention contacts.

The convention will be Friday-Sunday, Oct. 15-17, in Battle Creek, headquartered at McCamly Plaza Hotel.

A new feature will be the Show Package during the quartet finals on Saturday evening. Quartets will sing two competition songs as usual, and will have the option of filling the remaining time within 14 minutes with any other singing or show presentation they wish. A total of 40 additional points are available for show package judging. Pioneer is joining several other districts in testing this concept.

The semifinals and finals, to select a new district quartet champion, will be held at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, respectively, at W. K. Kellogg Auditorium. The field is wide open and a "dark horse" may even emerge as it has in recent years.

The Senior Quartet Contest will be folded into the Friday night semifinals. The winner will represent Pioneer at the mid-winter international convention.

The chorus contest, to select a district representative to the international convention next summer, will be at noon Saturday at the same auditorium. Contenders are ex-

pected to include (alphabetically) Grand Rapids, Kalamazoo, Lansing, and Macomb.

Mike testers for the chorus contest will be the JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS, open to any barber-shopper whether he's singing in another chorus or not. Rehearsal will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the gymnasium in the auditorium building.

WATCH FOR UPDATES

Information wasn't yet available on Joe Barbershopper repertoire or director. For this and other updated convention details, watch the Pioneer, the district's e-mail list. To subscribe at no charge, e-mail your name and chapter to jimstyer@voyager.net. Further convention details also will be published in the October/November *Troubadour*, with hopes that most members will receive it before the convention.

Convention and hotel registration forms are elsewhere in this *Troubadour* and also can be printed off the district's Web site (<http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/pio.htm>).

Our Society representative at the convention will be Bill Cody of Alexandria, Va., a Society Board Member at Large.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Another convention feature will be a show by Pioneer District's Quartet Champs Association. It will begin a half hour after the Friday-night quartet semifinals in the Branson Ballroom at McCamly Plaza Hotel. Cost is \$5.00, which may be paid at the door or submitted in advanced with your convention registration

form. Bill Wickstrom presides over the QCA and Russ Seely is working with him.

A massed sing is to be held at 4:00 p.m. Saturday at McCamly Place, the shops area adjacent to the headquarters hotel.

A district board meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. Friday and the House of Delegates will meet at 2:00 p.m. Friday, both at the headquarters hotel. Officers for 2000 will be elected. Candidates include Don Bazely of Sault Ste. Marie, appointed executive vice president to replace Joel Mills, who asked to be relieved of the position.

A meeting for chapter presidents will be held at 7:00 a.m. Saturday at Porter's Steak House at McCamly Plaza Hotel. Battle Creek Chapter President Dick Campbell is in charge.

The convention is to conclude with a Gospel sing at 9:00 a.m. Sunday in the Branson Ballroom at the headquarters hotel.

As usual, a Barbershop Shop and a Ladies' Hospitality Room will be open when competitions are not in progress. Some times listed in this story are tentative and subject to change.

Downtown Battle Creek also has a new feature for conventioners: a deli with 42 "grab and go" take-out sandwiches, perfect for stoking up during trips between the hotel and the auditorium. It's Pierre Lamborghinistein's on Michigan Avenue just west of McCamly Street.

Roger Lewis (rjlewiscmc@aol.com) will be district convention chair for the last time before he takes on the duties of Society executive vice president next year. ■

Windsor Send-Off 1999

On Friday evening, June 11, the Pioneer District's Windsor Chapter hosted its annual send-off, held to offer financial assistance and moral support to the district's chorus and quartet representatives at the international competition. This year's representatives are quartet POWER PLAY and Macomb County Chapter's HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS.

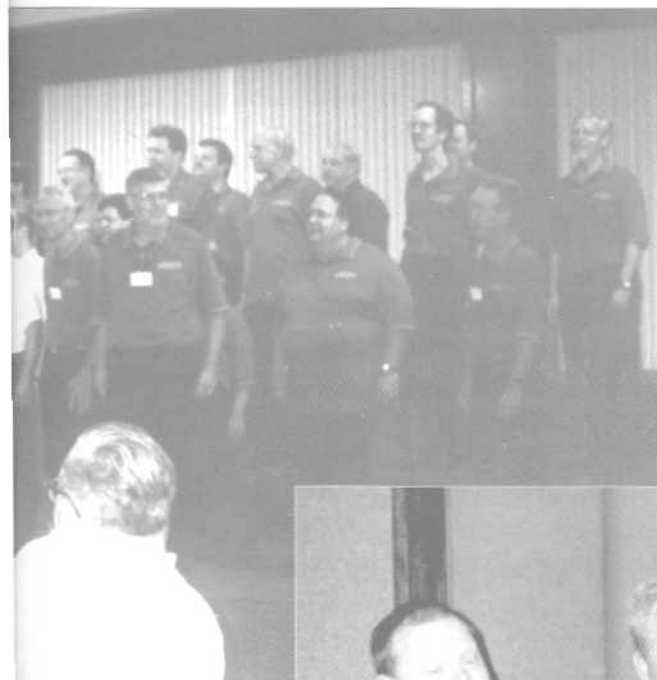
Several other quartets and choruses performed for the more than 500 attendees at Windsor's Caboto Club.



(Top) POWER PLAY takes a break at the Windsor Send-Off. Musical Director Jack Slamka and the HARMONY HERITAGE CHORUS (above) acknowledge the applause after singing "Darkness on the Delta." (photos on these two pages by Norm Cavallin)



99



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PARLOUR CHORUS
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(left) — tenor Je
Fisk, and bari Jin



(Top) Musical Director Dan Bezaire leads Windsor's SUN PARLOUR CHORUS. (Above) "It was this big!" — Although it looks like Russ Seely and the LAKESHORE CHORUS are describing the one that got away, this is actually a photo of their finale at the send-off. THE DETROIT SOUND COMPANY (left) — tenor Jeff Gougeon, lead Kelly Brummett, bass Al Fisk, and bari Jim Ryan — sing a favorite chestnut.

Bush League '99

By Hank Hedges

It's time, once again, to take that scenic short and exhilarating drive to Gaylord, to have a harmonious weekend with all your Pioneer buddies and us for the 3rd annual Bush League contest, show, and PARTY!

We are sending your chapter's Quartet Activities Chairman a snail mail copy of the all-events registration form to be filled out and sent to the Gaylord Holiday Inn.

We have only one scratch so far which means one fantastic contest! You guys that haven't had a chance to form or reform a quartet as yet, nail the next three guys that walk in the door, send in the form, pack a lunch, keep the rubber side on the road, and see you on the night of September 24th. This will be the biggest and the *bestest* Bush League yet!

A sort of final UPDATE will be sent as a gentle reminder, but since we are getting reservations now, so DO IT - TO IT - SOON!

Here is the list of Honor Roll Quartets the signed up in Battle Creek and recently with intentions to compete in Bush League this year. Actually, there are two lists: one with the actually name of the quartet, and the other with the contact names of quartets that, at the spring convention, had not decided on a star-quality name.

This listing is by no means final. There is plenty of room for you "no names" and other groups that have formed recently to be inscribed on the famous Bush League Trophy.

Here we go: SHINDIG * PROTEGE * B NATURAL * ULTRAPHONIX * THE THIRD COAST * FORTUNE SMILES * TONIC

SONICS * 4 MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR * BACKWARD GLANCE * RENAISSANCE * UNWANTED 4 * LYRIC * MY 3 FRIENDS * BORDER CROSSING * T. C. FOUR. * ONE BRICK SHORT * HARMONY TRANSFER * UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT * GOOD INTENTIONS * CHORDIALITY * COUNTRYMEN *

YET TO BE NAMED QUARTET CONTACT MAN Lee Somers * Tom Sharpe * Reese Olger * Steve Root * Richard Bruick * James Hall * Joe Queen * John Strunk *

We know we have probably missed many of you, and for that we apologize (what a cop-out). Let us know! For you folks listed as "no name," give us a shout and we will add your outstanding choice. If you want another regular registration/reservation form, please contact us and we will mail (or e-mail) one or more to you.

hhedges@i2k.com

Harmonic Meisters/BUSH LEAGUE '99

517-731-1169 (voice)

517-731-1169 (fax)

snail: 1418 Circle Drive,

Gaylord MI 49735

Remember — Bush League is the Home of PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE CHAMPIONS. ■

Special thanks to Dave Anderson, Dave and Lori Cole, and PROBE for providing photos from the international convention and competition in Anaheim.

Show package to be tested at fall convention

Pioneer District will try out the "show package" at the quartet finals during this fall's convention.

Quartets will sing two competition songs as usual, and may fill remaining time within 14 minutes with any other singing or show presentation they wish. A total of 40 additional points are available for show package judging.

"We ought to test this and get feedback from the audience and quartets," said District Convention Chairman Roger Lewis during discussions at last spring's convention. He said the new procedure, already tested in several districts, won't go into effect Society-wide before 2001, if at all. "We want quartets to sing better, and we want to be able to help quartets," Lewis said. "What gets measured gets improved," he added. But he said he wished that a rule existed to keep everything within the show package "under the barbershop umbrella." Russ Seely, VP for music and performance, commented, "We need a better road map."

Contest and Judging VP Joel Mills said, "The ideas that got this started are all valid. But I'm not sure the show package does what we want." While quartets making the finals can perform a package, "others may need it more," he said. "This is a test," he added. "I'd hate to see our quartets not experience it if it does go at the international level."

The show package idea, Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn said at the spring convention, began with attempts to find ways to improve singing in public. The idea may or may not be the answer, he said. "We'll learn. We'll do it right or we won't do it." ■

Tips for the quartet show package

By Chip Davis, SWD

These tips from Chip Davis seemed excellent and I thought you might enjoy reading them if you are planning on competing this fall in a quartet.

Mike O'Donnell

Last night I posted "Show Package — Final Word?" Was I thinking that my or anyone's words could enlighten those who are dead set against it? My error.

However, I thought that for those who may be competing this year for the first time under the SPF system, I would share my few words of wisdom (some could argue) from my "good" experience last year in the SWD contest. I hope that this may help those of you who are struggling with this format in your preparation for contest.

First, don't worry. It's no big deal. Statistically, it is such a small part of the scoring that it can hardly make a difference. SP scores count less than 10 percent (at most — varies in different districts) of the final possible points in this venue. If you walk on stage and only sing your two contest songs at a level of 75, then you should expect an approximate 30 (75 percent of 40 points) on your SP score. Whatever you do extra may slightly raise or lower that score, but it won't change much unless you do something really great (or stupid!).

So maybe you score a 32 or 28. The plus or minus two points are minimum when you consider the approximate 300 points (75 X 4 songs) you've earned with your contest songs over the two sets from the same judge. By simply raising your contest average a point per

song you will make up the difference.

Next, don't select material that will depart from what an audience would expect at a typical "Barbershop Show." I watched a quartet last year put on a doo-wop show with two BBSong songs inserted in the middle. They got slammed (as they should have) in SP scores (they got a 12). This also refers to any spoken material you may use. Jokes should be clean. Speeches should not be controversial. Don't take the risk of offending anybody (including judges) with questionable material.

Pay most attention to the flow of your set. Stay away from song, joke, song, joke, song, etc. Find ways to make all pieces tie together in one beautiful package. Some quartets will find a common theme or concept. Some will use musical interludes between numbers. These may be alright, but certainly are not necessary to achieve FLOW.

Do pay attention and practice the timing and pace between the pieces of your set. Make all movement smooth, relaxed, and a look of being unrehearsed (although you've rehearsed it more times than you can count).

Don't try to cram too much within your allowable time. Leave ample time for all that extra applause you're going to receive. I would suggest at least a one-minute safety margin. Not only does this protect you from a time penalty, it also keeps your set from looking rushed or your quartet from looking panicked that your time is about to run out.

Relax and have fun. The show

package means freedom to be yourselves. Take advantage of it.

I can think of more, but my wife has just ordered me to turn off the computer and come to bed. Since I don't wish to jeopardize my quartet practice tomorrow night by irritating her tonight, I must comply.

If any quartet has further questions about preparing for SP, I'll be happy to share other thoughts if they wish to contact me.

Chip Davis, lead, HIGH COTTON, 1998 SWD Champs
1998 & 99 International Competitor
www.harmonize.com/highcotton

"76 Trombones Led the Big Parade ..."

"The Music Man" could return to Broadway, possibly by fall, according to Darryl Flinn, Society executive director.



Two Society international quartet champions are auditioning for the roles that THE BUFFALO BILLS, 1950 international champs, played when the Meredith Willson musical opened on Broadway in 1957.

"The Music Man" also will be the theme of the international convention in 2000 in Kansas City. ■

Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive— the Northern experience

By Don Bazely

On Saturday, June 26, 1999, the Pioneer District VPCDD convened a CDWI in Gaylord. This is the sort of statement that would have delighted O. C. Cash, who liked to poke fun at the federal government's predilection toward multiple-letter titles for government departments.

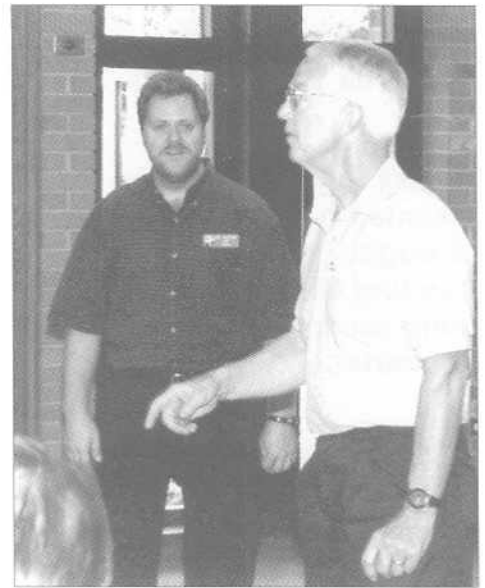
For those of you who do not have a Barbershop-to-English dictionary, the event referred to was the district's Vice-President of Chorus Director Development — Fred Kienitz — organizing a Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive for five chorus directors from the northern part of the district.

Chapters represented were Sault Ste. Marie with Ancient Assistant Director Don Bazely; Alpena with Ted Johnson, director; Petoskey with Bill Woodbeck, director; Traverse City with Neil Nugent, brand new assistant director; and Gaylord with Marlyn Byrd, director.

The trainers were Mel Knight, well-known ex-employee of the Society, and Joe Caulkins, a top-rate chorus director from the Illinois District.

The morning session was restricted to the five directors, the two trainers, and Fred Kienitz. The discussion centered around the question, "If you could change something in your chorus, what would it be?" and "What would you like to accomplish with your chorus?" For many of the directors, it was the first time to come to grips with the questions.

After lunch, chapter members from the five chapters represented showed up to form a chorus on which the directors could practice their craft and try to put into effect their aspirations voiced in the morning session. The name of the training session was Chorus Directors' Workshop Intensive, and that it was. Each director had only two



Trainer Joe Caulkins watches as Marlyn Byrd demonstrates his directing technique.

12-minute sessions to try and work some magic into "Story of a Rose," "Shine on Me," and a couple of other chestnuts.

After each session, the director, accompanied by a trainer, went into a room with a TV and VCR and viewed a video recording of his most-recent efforts. What a great system — and humbling, too!

Here is some sincere advice to all Pioneer directors: If you are given an opportunity to be part of a future workshop, don't miss it. I am convinced that there are few directors who are so good that they cannot improve their skills. ■



Neil Nugent puts into practice what he has learned at CDWI.

Chapters in Action

The Gaylord Chapter held its annual picnic Sunday, July 18, 1999, at the Shady Acres Campground in Lewiston, Mich. The day was filled with bright sunshine and great harmony, a perfect day for singing and celebrating with the members, their families, and friends of the HARMONIE MEISTERS.

The quartet SONIC TONICS entertained in the early afternoon. This quartet — all members of the HARMONIE MEISTERS — is made up of Jim Quin, Dennis McNamara, Aaron Scheers, and Bud Ryckman.

The NORTHERN LIGHTS, an all-female barbershop chorus also performed. The quartet PARTY OF FOUR consisting of Mary Wilford, Jeanne Kelsey, Val Closser, and Shelley Wakefield sang as well. Their songs were inspirational.

Two very special features of the afternoon for the 110 guests included the appearance of 15 young men who sing four-part harmony,

plus a special award-winning barbershop quartet. The young men were elite guests from the Petoskey Concord Academy. They were returning to Michigan from a very energetic music weekend at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana.

Each year, the university hosts what is known as Harmony Explosion Camp. The camp is an intense four-day workshop designed to teach young men a variety of music skills, including four-part barber-

shop harmony. The group, led by Tracy Ulrich of Petoskey, sang several selections very enthusiastically. The crowd appreciated hearing their sweet melodies.

The highlight of the afternoon came after a buffet dinner when the popular quartet from Traverse City and Petoskey sang and entertained with a variety of songs. The FOUR MAN FISHIN' TACKLE CHOIR sang not only traditional barbershop, but also parodies that had the audience



The SONIC TONICS perform at Gaylord's annual picnic.



howling with laughter. The quartet is comprised of Tracy Ulrich, Kurtis Kirtz, Neil Nugent, and Bill Woodbeck.

All in all, the sunshine, the music, and the wonderful friendship made for a very pleasant summer afternoon picnic. ■

Members of the HARMONIE MEISTERS CHORUS sing a polecat song.

We hate to be the ones to tell you this, but...

*You need
to see
a doctor!*



*The Alpena Chapter is pleased to announce that
for your health and entertainment, the "Doctors" of*

Chordiac Arrest

*will be accepting new "patients" and making a
special guest appearance on the Alpena Chapter's*

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the most popular comedy quartet in the Midwest!**

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Call for advance ticket discounts: Bill Martin at (517)356-0476 or Bob Centala at (517)734-2546

Mark your calendars now! And be sure to stay for the Afterglow.

(Continued from page 10)

most embarrassing things in life is to say, "I don't know." Thus, the normal tendency is to point the blame on others for our lack of knowledge.

The most important part of this intensive training is "on the spot correction of director errors" in a way that the chorus member who is ten feet in front of the director does not know what exchange of thoughts and ideas are being exchanged between the teachers and the directors being trained.

Each session was videotaped by creating a slight (three-foot gap) opening in the center of the chorus where the camera was placed and aimed at the director. The camera picked up the sound and the director's pre-instruction. Thus he was able to hear the directions given, hear the response of the chorus, and watch himself at work. When the trainer needed to confer with the director, they both moved ten feet away from the chorus, discussed the problem and tentative solution (20-25 seconds maximum), and then went back into rehearsal mode.

The directors had the opportunity to do four 12-minute sessions in the afternoon. After each session, the trainer would take the director into another room for consultation while the other trainer worked with the next director.

Now the context should be quite obvious. Work, correction, re-work, additional correction equals growth. But how does one measure this growth in terms of the workshop intensive concept? Well, the result is quite obvious in that you look at the change of behavior in each director and estimate the growth that has taken place. However, what about the chorus?

Keep in mind that this is a group of 24 or more guys representing up to five different chapters who have come together to help develop a new concept called Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI). These were volunteers or friends of the director who agreed to help with the day's festivities.

Now the proof of the entire concept of CDWI comes to the surface. If this concept is truly worthwhile — if the director involved is showing real growth after only a three-hour session — if the trainer's work is really making a difference — then there has to be a measurable entity to use as a ruler, yardstick, or scale to determine the growth of each director from 8-5 on a given day.

Because there are no written tests, no measurable ways to determine the success of each director, then the only way to determine the success of these five individuals is to

look at the chorus and their response to the director being evaluated. And this is the single-most measure of the success of the CDWI day.

These 24 guys filed on stage at 1:00 p.m. They had never attempted to sing together. Further, they were previously told that they would be singing only Polecat songs. And we all know that Polecat equals no-brainer at best. Most were coerced into coming to support the workshop, but most important, none had received any real intensive training on what a chorus should be doing to sell a song to the listener.

However, by the end of the day, these chorus members were focused on every director and were doing things they had never done before. They did a "forward press" to emphasize a phrase. They emulated rhythmic patterns through body motions. They showed happiness, intensity, tranquillity, and other emotional mindsets that came almost automatically and were not taught or emphasized as part of CDWI.

Gentlemen and ladies, I can almost guarantee that if asked, these participants, be they director or chorus personnel, will tell you it was a **WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE!** ■

Ed

Gene

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Wayne

(Continued from page 8)

others in telling and selling the barbershop story. Start with your own chapter. Do you make an effort to talk to your fellow members at your weekly meetings and find out what they're doing? Do you make new or potential members feel at home? It's all public relations, you know.

I like what Traverse City's Neil Nugent has to say. It provides a good tag to this column: "We've got something unique here and we

should talk up barbershopping every chance we get," he says. "We all are associated with church, family, social, and professional clubs. Do you ever make a suggestion that the chorus or a quartet would be delighted to entertain at some get-together? We all should be a salesman for our product. We know we have a great product. Let's sell it."

Well said, Neil. It should be part of our public relations checklist. ■

(Continued from page 9)

chapter membership from 45 to 60. Everyone has a smile on his face since we increased our ranks by 33.3 percent.

Now we are in phase 2 of our membership program. Each member will contact each of the names he submitted that didn't attend to see if any of these potential guests can be salvaged. The new members now have an opportunity to have their friends join the chapter during the summer, learn our repertoire,

and take part in the fall convention.

I will gladly assist any chapter that is serious about having more singers on the risers. The materials and how to use them are all yours for the asking.

Why not ask your chapter coach? He will be happy to help you with your membership problems or anything else as a matter of fact. He is well-trained and eager to assist in any way he can to make your chapter the best it can be. ■

Doug
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Rich
(517) 482-0365



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Music and Mirth

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Roger

(517) 321-3941
Larry

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Marv Moran
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Bob Wisdom
(810) 879-7083

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naught."

David Cole, district president: "Roger is one of the most organized individuals I've ever met. He is able to take on more responsibilities by himself than a handful of individuals could ever dream of handling. In addition, he is extremely diplomatic. His thinking is constantly forward, which has allowed the district to be constantly progressive, and which will cause the Society to leap forward with positive momentum."

Jack Schneider, district secretary: "Roger has been tremendous on the district board. He has the energy, vision, dedication, and ideas to benefit the Society just as he has used those qualities to benefit the district."

Larry Parker, district immediate past president: "The Society has selected a classic gentleman from a very proud Pioneer District."

Russ Seely, district past president: "He IS the consummate barbershopper! He brings to the Society a thoroughness of dedication that is rare."

Doug Pearson, district vice president for public relations: "Roger has consistently exhibited a keen feel for putting our district in the best possible light."

Dorn Burrill, HARMONY HOUNDS fellow member: "It's probably going to mean a few more bookings — providing he has time for rehearsal."

1999 PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION

OCTOBER 15-17, 1999

HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

- All spaces must be filled out completely -- type or print clearly.
- Hotels require a credit card guarantee.
- All acknowledgements will be sent to the individual whose name and address appears below.
- Confirmation will be sent directly 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 SEPT. 13, 1999.
- We will not accept room requests after this date.

PLEASE MAIL FORM DIRECTLY TO:
Battle Creek Visitor & Convention Bureau
SPEBSQSA Housing
77 E. Michigan Ave., Suite 100
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017

Hotel should confirm this reservation to:
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Phone (Days): (____) _____

Arrival Date _____
 Departure Date _____
 TYPE OF ROOM:
 1 bed (1-2 persons)
 2 beds (2-4 persons)
 Names of additional people in room:

HOTEL RATES (not including tax)
 Please number in order of preference

McCamly Plaza Hotel - \$80.00 flat rate
 (Headquarters)
(TWO-NIGHT STAY REQUIRED)

Battle Creek Inn – \$72.00 flat rate
 Baymont Inns & Suites - \$50.95 flat rate
 Econo Lodge - \$49.95 flat rate
 AmeriHost Inn - \$64.00 flat rate

GUARANTEED RESERVATIONS:
 Credit Card: AE MC VISA DISC
 Card Number: _____
 Exp. Date: _____

Request Non-smoking Room
 Request Handicap Room

(Continued from page 6)

prior status. This process had the Society billing the chapter treasurer directly, which allowed some chapters to supplement the dues requirement of certain (or all) members. This practice is allowed by the Canadian tax authorities.

The district presidents from all districts with Canadian members were invited to a Sunday evening meeting to discuss the issue. Those district presidents in attendance represented Land O' Lakes, Evergreen, Ontario, and Northeastern districts. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that, effective with the December 31, 1999, renewals, a Canadian member will receive his renewal bill in Canadian dollars only, with a US\$ conversion factor. The member will have two options: pay the dues by credit card directly to the Society OR pay by check (any amount acceptable to the chapter) to the chapter treasurer. Again, this latter option allows the chapter to supplement a member's dues if that is a current chapter policy.

The down side to the second option (paying by check) is that if the chapter is late in submitting the member's dues (some chapters hold

onto the dues money until they have several member's dues to send in at one time), they could end up paying a late renewal fee just as they would have if they were late with the credit card.

A major highlight at the Society board meeting was, again, the presence of all district presidents. Gary Denton, the DP moderator, shared a list of concerns regarding the cost of programs that were begun by the Society and then shifted to the districts at a later date. The presidents did not negate the value of the programs, but wished to have more of a say in which programs were valuable and which ones might need to be scrapped. An initial request was that the Society pick up the tab for all training and the districts pick up the tab for all expenses incurred while making use of these services.

This healthy discussion led to the immediate formation of an ad hoc cost sharing task force whose members include Chuck Watson, chairman; Gary Denton, Cardinal DP; John Devine, SWD DP; Ken Fletcher, Society Treasurer; and Frank Santarelli, Society Director of Finance & Administration. Their charge will be to determine how

best to fund Society programs that involve leadership training activities and contest performances. Their job will be to define current programs in the areas of C & J, COTS, CSLT, CDWI, Leadership Forum, and college quartet contests as to how, when, and where training takes place, how training is funded, and the rationale for current cost-sharing formulae.

They will determine costs associated with these programs in the districts. DPs are responsible for gathering costs estimated for 2000-2002 for the above in their districts by purpose (contests, COTS, etc.). This information is to be submitted to Fletcher/Santarelli by August 1, 1999.

Once the ad hoc committee has established the most effective means of funding current programs for 2000 and beyond to minimize the impact of change to a member's dues, it will recommend any necessary changes to the current planning and budgeting process. A final report with recommendations will be presented by September 15, 1999, and placed in the draft board book by October 1, 1999, in time for the Fall Leadership Forum. ■

(Continued from page 6)

professional stages anywhere in this great land.

Sitting there in the midst of all this energy and entertainment, I recalled the aging profile of so many of our choruses here and in other districts as well. I was struck with the fact that the choruses singing great arrangements with energy and style were not suffering from an aging problem. Oh, they had several silver-haired members to be sure, but that the age range was balanced with a good number of 30 and 40 year olds throughout the chorus.

Do you think this issue of aging chorus membership could be a product of our own doing? And while youth outreach is NOT a membership program, it seems to me that maybe younger members are attracted to our style for the same reason high schoolers are — the excitement and entertainment value of a well-PRESENTED barbershop song.

If we can get past the idea that singing the words and music passes for a barbershop presentation, we will be well on our way to creating BOTH a successful membership

AND Youth Outreach programs.

There is no doubt that a group simply singing would inspire NONE of us. Add flair and style to your presentation. Define your presentation by including energy and variety — a bit of humor and, above all, present it to the audience in a package designed to attract THEIR interest and imagination and you have the problem licked.

They did it in Anaheim in spades. It was a real treat for all of us who were able to attend. We know it can be done — and I suspect you do, too! ■

PIONEER DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION
OCTOBER 15-17, 1999
BATTLE CREEK, MICHIGAN
CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

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 PER PERSON

LATE REGISTRATION: \$20 PER PERSON

EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 1, 1999

FEE FOR _____ PERSONS @ \$16/\$20 Total Fee: _____

QUARTET CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW Friday Night: Add \$5 each for _____ persons.

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

or MASTERCARD or VISA # _____ Expires _____

MAIL FORM AND FEE TO: **Stan Williams, Treasurer**
421 Franklin Street
Leslie, MI 49251

All-event passes will be at the convention registration desk in McCamly Plaza Hotel (headquarters). Single-event tickets may be bought at the registration desk or W. K. Kellogg Auditorium: Friday \$10; Saturday noon \$10; Saturday eve \$10. Children 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 noon opening Friday.

District convention facilities are handicap accessible. Please indicate any special requirements you need to fully participate.

(Continued from page 3)

rector. He has held all chapter offices, been president twice and was chapter Barbershopper of the Year twice. He is known for his love of leading tags.

A lead and baritone, he has been a member for 38 years of the comedic HARMONY HOUNDS quartet, one of the 10 oldest quartets in the Society. He also sang with the CEREAL CITY CHORD COMMITTEE and Grand Rapids' NITTY GRITTY GOOD TIME FOUR. He has been a quartet coach, and a stage presence and presentation judge.

Lewis is a member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame. He has been Pioneer's Society board member, district president, division VP, and *Troubadour* editor. He was a key player in the move to semi-permanent district convention sites and wrote a convention manual that has been a guide for many other districts. He also has supervised training of events chairmen in the 15 other districts.

For the district and Society, he instituted Sunday wrap-up meetings which helped improve each succeeding convention. His convention philosophy is: "The measure of a good convention is how efficiently and quickly you fix the things that go wrong. Things will

go wrong. If your problems are invisible to 99 percent of the attendees, you have a successful convention."

He is on the Society's Festival 2001 Committee; 2000 Kansas City Music Man Theme Committee, and Show Package committees.

RETIRED EXECUTIVE

Lewis recently retired as executive vice president of Employment-Group, a temporary help service which has offices in several cities. There, he even created a convention manual and managed many of their trade conventions. Previously, at Meijer Inc., he was a training director and editor of the company magazine.

He and his wife of 24 years, Sue, has been active in several community activities in Battle Creek. Sue is a regular volunteer at conventions. They live in a rural cobblestone octagon home built in 1856. Besides barbershopping, he enjoys golfing, woodworking, sailing, remodeling and motorhome traveling. Sue is a retired elementary school teacher and a chapter-at-large Sweet Adeline. They have three children and five grandchildren, all located in Michigan. ■

(Continued from page 1)

of Old Love Letters" and "Darkness on the Delta."

Using the same set, the chorus won a 5-point victory at the international prelims during the district convention last fall.

The chorus last went to international in 1991 in Louisville, then also directed by Slamka. The chorus began a renaissance in spring 1998 when it won as district champion.

COLLEGE QUARTET

In the college quartet contest, PRIVATELY FUNDED from Hillsdale College placed 18th.

Harmonet's, Jade Walker reported: "Brothers A.J. and Jason Siegmann on lead and tenor performed a gentle duet at the beginning of 'Sweet Adeline,' and the others joined in later. They accepted applause for their first song a little shyly, then dropped the shy persona for 'Love/Eyes Medley.' I enjoyed the way they sang 'glance my way' — sort of a startled delight as though they were noticed by the girl they'd admired from afar. This is obviously a favorite song of this quartet." ■

Art Cardy - Tenor
David Hundt - Lead

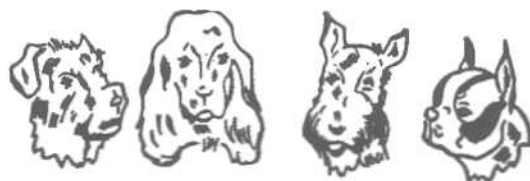
Larry Wise - Bass
Larry Parker - Baritone

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Chapters in Action

Flint

By Chuck Murray

Flint Chapter's Board elected to have FABC "take a vacation" during the month of July, having no formal rehearsals. Quartetting activities did continue during July, and included a PoleCat Learning Program for newer members on Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Flint hosted the annual Dead Creek Saloon multi-chapter songfest in Frankenmuth. The event had to be moved this year to the Flint Chapter's meeting hall in Flint. (Something about needing a "cabaret license," etc.). Jack Stevens and Dave Lonsbury provided food (brats and sauerkraut, etc.) and drink, while many visiting barbershoppers joined us to provide the harmony.

Flint Chapter normally meets on Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the hall at the rear of the Croation-Slovenian Home, which is on the east side of Dort Highway, north of Court St. and south of Robert T. Longway Blvd. (next to Ya Ya's Chicken). A committee has been formed to research additional chorus meeting places. A major consideration is having adequate facilities for isolated sectional breakout rehearsals. Other items factoring in the research include storage of risers, music cabinet, etc., as well as a central location for our members.

The Millenium Show is now in the planning process, which includes a good measure of Dave Lonsbury's creativity expanding the dimensions of our minds. The con-

cept of "multi-year show planning cycles" is not new, but it is being explored as a way to smooth out the anxieties associated with the "annual crunch" as we prepared for our show. We previously tried to fit our spring show, a membership open house, and competition into a three-week period.

Flint's Annual Golf Outing and Picnic was switched from July to August. Many members redefined the meaning of the word "handicap". Members also signed up for family bowling fun at the annual "Bowl-A-Pedics" fund raiser in Grand Blanc.

Flint Chapter created some sweet, harmonious sounds which drifted over the surface of Bald Eagle Lake to please many lake residents. The annual pontoon boat ride, songfest, and bratwurst rendering was hosted by membership committee's Don Wills (Yes, the lady who was "poured" into the tiny pink bikini came out in a boat to hear us again! Wills always thought it was his bratwurst that got such a good turnout!) Prospective members were invited to enjoy some of the joys of Barbershopping. (Yuk!)

Chapter quartet, TIME OUT!, visited Crossroads Village in Flint to sing for a "beard contest" at the village barbershop. (They sang "Beard Barrel Polka") The quartet also entertained on the Genesee Belle Riverboat with some riverboat songs.

Many members have already "staked out" camping sites at the Harrisville State Park for Labor Day Weekend. This is reported to be the "second largest flea market" in Michigan. (Let 'em think that! We know what it really is!).

Flint Chapter thoroughly enjoyed the "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" this year.

It's Great to be a Barbershopper!

Sault Ste. Marie

By Loyal Beggs

The chorus has now wrapped up what turned out to be a very busy year. On top of our annual spring show, we performed at a number of churches and nursing homes, as well as a special Hurricane Mitch benefit put on by the Salvation Army. I think the highlight for the majority of the members however was a return to the competition stage at the district convention in Battle Creek.

It was a delightful and inspiring experience for all of us. We have all learned a great deal and look forward to next year!

The afterglow spent with the boys from Traverse City was an evening to be remembered ... **let's do it again soon guys!**

The quartet experience has really taken off this past year within the chorus. For the first time, we now boast **three** registered quartets! TAKE 1V (Al Murray lead, Tom Lehman tenor, Bob Shami bari, and Don Bazely bass) continue to delight audiences in this area with their talents, and now ULTRA-PHONIX (lead Bill Webb, tenor Al Carscadden, bari Wes Triplett, and bass Barry Clark) and GOOD INTENTIONS (lead Bruce Clarida, tenor Loyal Beggs, bari Sean McMurray, and bass Graham McHattie) are up and running.

Congratulations are due to Bill Webb on being named 1999 Barbershopper of the Year. Bill has been a very active member of the Chorus Executive, takes a very active roll in our annual show, and is an active quartet man. His enthusiasm is contagious!

Congratulations Bill ... we're proud of you!

Chapters in Action

Holland

By Art Lane

Plan for renovating chapter's theater called "Preservation Through Performance"

As sometimes happens, a slogan became a plan which became a program after the Holland Chapter purchased the Park Theater last November.

The chapter knew that a complete renovation of the movie theater, which had been closed for 14 years, would require contributions from the public. And it would be fine to have other performances in addition to barbershop to help make the payments. And it would be nice to have more members. But how to get there from here?

The answer was supplied by Jack C. Oonk, bass of the 1959 Pioneer District quartet champions, CHORD ACCOUNTS, and promoter of Holland Chapter events throughout the years. Jack discerned a certain synergy between the several goals of the chapter. Or to put it in social science terms, he saw a triple whammy.

"We as barbershoppers have a big advantage over most other organizations that are asking for those same dollars we are," he wrote. "Our advantage is TALENT! We have something we can offer in return for dollars donated."

Thus, the chapter can use music to (1) seek contributions to renovate the theater so that it can be used for the performance of (2) lots more music, which will call for (3) lots more members.

The idea was deemed so important that the chapter devoted its regular meeting on April 20 to "Preservation Through Performance" instead of practicing for the district contest. The night started, naturally, with performance. Performing for the chapter on the stage of the Park Theater were Don Lucas as an opera singer, the 16-voice Zeeland High School Madrigals, and 1994 district champion quartet GENUINE BLEND.

Jack Oonk outlined a plan for dinner theater presentations to potential donors. Both chapter and outside talent would be used to present opera, big band, country, barbershop, dancing, and other forms of entertainment. The aim is to raise \$500,000.

After the renovation, the theater would be used for all kinds of performances and a great deal of talent will be needed. Oonk sees the chapter as the "talent bank for western Michigan."

Preparations for a fall series of dinner theaters for donors began June 1 with another mini-show at the Park, entitled "Catch the Vision." It featured Jim Colburn on piano; Nancy Lucas with a dramatic presentation; Bob Lucas, folk singer; Bob Lucas, Mike Oonk, and John Ozinga reprising music of "The Young 'Uns"; the O-Boys; and Stan Fisk and his Orchestra (two accordions and a Sousaphone) from Grand Rapids.

Chapter wins city grant for feasibility study

The City of Holland has budgeted a grant of \$7,200.00 toward work on making the Park Theater a performing center for downtown Holland. The theater sits across from Centennial Park and is less than one block from the city hall and the Holland Museum.

The Holland Chapter has engaged an architect to make a feasibility study of what is needed for renovation of the former movie theater into a place for all kinds of entertainment. Meanwhile, the chapter meets and practices there, and chapter members are painting and repairing the building.

Chapter hosts talent night

Quartets, soloists, poets, comedians, and a guitarist all had their sparkle of fame on Tuesday, June 15, during the Holland Chapter's second annual talent night. The impresario for the evening was Ken Cook.

Tulip Time shows applauded

The Holland WINDMILL CHORUS put on its two concurrent Tulip Time shows to enthusiastic crowds on Friday, May 14. The director was Myke Lucas and masters of ceremonies were Del Doctor and Don Lucas.

The theme of the show, written by Mike Oonk, was "How Great It is to Be Back Home." It told about the chorus' trip to the Netherlands and about finding a new chapter home at the Park Theater.

Guest quartets were SHARPER IMAGE, an international contestant from Illinois, and SILVER AND GOLD, a mixed quartet also from Illinois.

A special feature of the shows was the appearance of the boys octet of the Zeeland High School Madrigals. The octet was the winner of an a cappella singing competition judged by the Holland Chapter. The boys sang an old Holland favorite, "Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie." The chapter awarded a \$500.00 prize to the Zeeland High School music program.

The two shows were followed by
(Continued on page 33)

Chapters in Action

a fine afterglow, planned by Dale Bekker and conducted by Bernie Poelman. The audience heard from CLASS REUNION, the Pioneer District senior quartet champion from Holland; FOOL'S GOLD, a new quartet from Grand Rapids, GOLD MINE, a Sweet Adelines quartet from Grand Rapids; and SHARPER IMAGE and SILVER AND GOLD. In addition, a new version of Holland's DUTCH MASTERS performed. It was composed of Butch Lievense, Dan Doctor, Jim Colburn, and Dale Mattis. Some years ago, Jim joined the quartet when Dale left; the two had never sung in the quartet at the same time.

Barbershoppers sing for Barney

Twenty-four members and friends of the Holland Chapter turned out on Sunday, May 16, to sing a few songs to honor Claude Barney, 72, who died on Friday, May 14. He was the chapter's Barbershopper of the Year for 1998. He had been battling lung cancer for nearly a year.

As President Steve Foster said, Barney had "relentlessly found ways for the chapter to build funds for our new home at the Park Theater." He had served on the chapter board for three years, and on the house committee for many years. He was well known in Allegan, where he was a former mailman. He and his wife, Marcia, lived in Holland.

Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

Summertime and the living is easy ... well, if not easy, it certainly is full. The chapter picnic took place on Saturday, July 10, at the beautiful Grosse Pointe Farms' Pier Park on the shores of Lake St. Clair. In addition to a perfect sunny day, picnickers were treated to a barbecue of Thorn Apple Valley's best ham, hot dogs, and smoked sausages. With all of the side dishes, it turned into a feast. When the singing started, the other people in the park gathered and became a most-receptive audience.

On July 25, the ladies auxiliary sponsored a riverboat trip up and down the Clinton River. This has become a standard and highly anticipated event each summer. The hospitality of the ladies auxiliary is evident in the extra measure of good food, refreshments, and happy smiles. Care are easily left behind as the riverbank landscape and passing boats glide gently by, providing an ideal venue for the strains of the old songs. Thanks, ladies, for such a nice laid-back experience.

On July 30 through August 1, the chapter is again invited by our Canadian friends to their campground, Harmony Woods. What a spectacular place this is and what a great weekend is provided for us — swimming, miniature golf, hiking, camping — all in a beautiful setting! But the most-anticipated event is the singing program at night by all of the participating choruses.

The August "Poker Run" is still being formulated. Boats and ports-of-call along Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River are being set up and the flotilla should be ready to embark in mid-August.

Lastly, the men's spring golf out-

ing was so well received that a number of couples will return to Gull Lake on August 25-27. About this I think:

*At Gull Lake, these couples will gather
To golf, but not work up a lather,
It is true they all say
They'll have some mixed play
Or do nothing at all if they'd rather.*

Benton Harbor- St. Joseph

By Earl Krieger

In the words of H. V. Kaltenborn, the old-time radio commentator of the '30s and '40s, "There's good news tonight!" The Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter has a new director — one of our own! Nick Stuart will assume the leadership of our chorus effective immediately.

It was providential that Nick became one of our members last year as the result of a career change that necessitated a move to this area from Atlanta. Nick comes to us from the BIG CHICKEN CHORUS, the 120-member Marietta Chapter, where he sang lead. His former chorus had been the recipient of two bronze medals in international competition — 1997 in Indianapolis, 1998 in Atlanta.

During our search for a director, Nick has been in our midst utilizing his expertise to coach us on the basics of performing Barbershop-style music. Pioneer District President David Cole was present at a recent officer's meeting called to discuss our search for a director. Our options included contacting church, school, and chorus directors. After we kicked this around a bit, David asked a pointed question: "Why are you looking *outside* for a director?"

(Continued on page 34)

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 33)

David's gentle prodding was an overdue wake-up call! We knew at once to whom he was referring. Nick was also present that night and, in answer to our unanimous request, consented to become our new director. We are all delighted at this turn of events. Nick has the experience and background of a large, successful chorus. His energy and enthusiasm are contagious. We feel confident that under Nick's direction we will achieve our goal of a "New Beginning." Nick will be attending director's college in St. Joseph, Missouri, August 1-8 this summer.

Nick is married to Kathy and resides in St. Joseph. They are the parents of three daughters: Sonya, Alana, and Andrea. The girls are presently attending college in the Atlanta area. Nick is employed by AEP's Cook Nuclear Power Plant in Bridgman. He is also an officer in the Naval reserve, reporting to the Great Lakes Naval Training Center for two weeks of active duty each year.

Chapter President Milt Zoschke is getting serious regarding our 1999 Recruitment Chapter Challenge. He has pledged to do his best to recruit a new member for the FRUITBELT CHORUS this year (and also to SPEBSQSA). He has the signatures of nine of our members on a sign-up sheet who have pledged to follow his lead. In order to fulfill this challenge, each member of our chapter will endeavor to bring one guest to our weekly rehearsal before the millenium is upon us.

*It's great to be a Barbershop-
per!*

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

Congratulations to Detroit-Oakland's own FORTUNE SMILES quartet who were awarded the Bill Butler Scholarship for quartet coaching at the Pioneer District's Harmony Round-Up (mini-HEP). No, this was not favoritism on the part of our chapter. Actually, they were the only quartet to apply for help this year.

If you have a quartet that would like to attend Harmony Round-Up for some coaching, why not let us know. We have money set aside in memory of Bill Butler for this exact purpose. We have in the past also sent individuals for training in becoming quartet coaches.

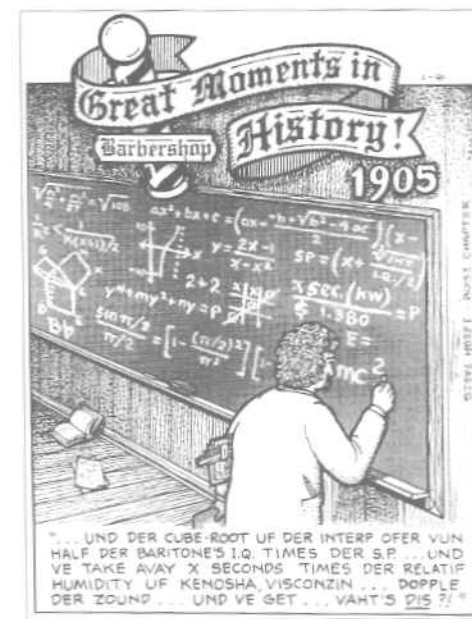
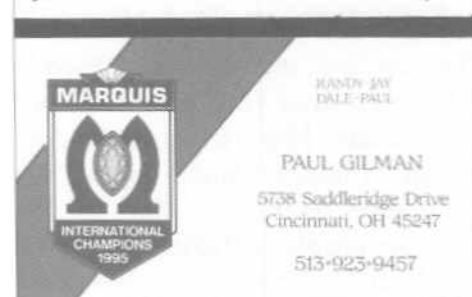
On Friday, June 4, we hosted our annual Return of the Jug Night. See separate article on page 4.

DOC also had a fair contingent at the Windsor Send-Off the following Friday night, although without a tenor, we decided not to sing. Some of the group joined with Wayne and Flint in a couple of songs and others contented themselves with singing in the massed group and enjoyed the singing of our district reps. Thank you, Windsor, for providing this annual event.

The GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS had a couple of performances this summer. In June, we sang for the Birmingham Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star. In July, we performed in the Nardin Park concert series in Farmington Hills. Both of these gigs were new to us — a chance to make new friends and spread the joy of barbershop harmony.

We're learning songs for a new show next February. We have a new contest package to prepare for this fall. And we continue to work on

improving vowel matching and breath support. As you can imagine, our Monday night meetings are busy. But we are not too busy to stop and sing a couple of chestnuts with friends, old or new. So feel free to stop by Starr Presbyterian Church on the corner of Crooks Road and 13 Mile in Royal Oak some Monday night. "You're as welcome as the flowers in May."



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MEMBERS: Tenor _____ Lead _____

Bari _____ Bass _____

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SEE JUNE UPDATE FOR HEADLINERS, COMPETING QUARTETS, AND EVENTS LISTINGS

Upcoming Events

1999

- Sept. 18 Alpena Show
 Sept. 24-25 Gaylord Bush League
 Oct. 9 Gratiot County Show
 Oct. 15-17 District Fall Convention
 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

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)

Off the wall...

It's bad luck to be superstitious.

I'm a kleptomaniac. When it gets real bad, I take something for it.

Madness takes its toll. Please have exact change.

My inferiority complex is not as good as your's.

If marriage were outlawed, only outlaws would have in-laws.

All generalizations are false.

Why do they have interstate highways in Hawaii?

Why do we park on a driveway and drive on a parkway?

What does clockwise mean to someone with a digital watch?

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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.

Fall convention schedule

FRIDAY, Oct. 15

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 through Saturday night at any time competitions are not in progress.

2:00 p.m. - House of Delegates meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

3:30 p.m. - Ladies Hospitality Room opens, McCamly Plaza Hotel. Generally open when competitions are not in progress.

6:30 p.m. - Registration moves from hotel to W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

7:30 p.m. - Quartet competition semi-finals and Senior Quartet Contest, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Half hour after competition - Pioneer Quartet Champions Association show, \$5 admission, McCamly Plaza Branson Ballroom.

SATURDAY, Oct. 16

7:00 a.m. - Chapter Presidents' Breakfast, Porter's Steak House at McCamly Plaza Hotel.

9:00 a.m. - Registration continues, McCamly Plaza Hotel lobby.

9:00 a.m. - Ladies Hospitality Room opens.

10:30 a.m. - JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS rehearsal.

11:00 a.m. - Registration moves from hotel to W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

Noon - Chorus international prelims, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium.

4:00 p.m. - Massed sing, McCamly Place.

7:30 p.m. - Quartet competition finals, W. K. Kellogg Auditorium. After competition -- Afterglows at McCamly Plaza and other hotels.

SUNDAY, Oct. 17

9:00 a.m. - Gospel service, Branson Ballroom, McCamly Plaza Hotel.