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Over Time senior champs, Silver Domes place 14th

OVER TIME, Evergreen District representative to the Mid-Winter Seniors Quartet Contest in Tucson, Arizona, came away with the gold medal in a tightly fought (sung) contest. Members of OVER TIME are tenor Jim Richards, lead Jerry Harrison, bari Mel Knight, and bass Wilton Roberts.

Second place went to MUTUAL FUN from the Far West District. The foursome, which has appeared on the Dick Van Dyke TV show, "Diagnosis Murder," is comprised of tenor Art Taylor, lead Les Weiser, bari Lefty Parasson, and bass Dave Briner.

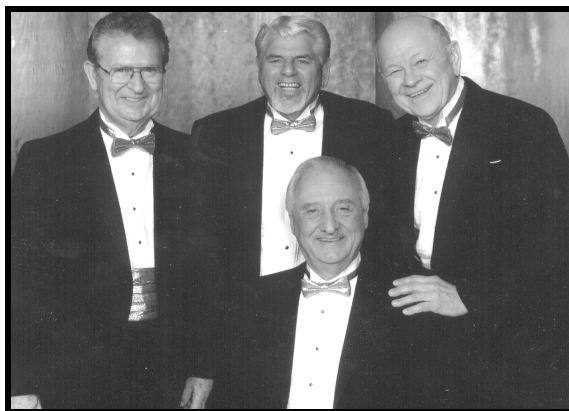
Third place medals went to HARMONY, which represented the Land O' Lakes District. Quartet members are tenor Rudy Zarling, lead Joe Liles, bari Darryl Flinn, and bass Reed Sampson.

Fourth place went to YESTERDAY'S HEROS (sic) from the Rocky Mountain District, and fifth place went to A TOUCH OF CLASS from the Far Western District.

The Pioneer District's representative, THE SILVER DOMES, finished in 14th place. Their 751 points was more than they scored

in their 6th place finish in Sacramento two years ago! Only 50 points separated 14th place from 5th place in 2000.

THE SILVER DOMES are tenor John Wearing, lead Russ Seely, bari Gene Bulka, and bass Bob Wis-



THE SILVER DOMES: (from left) tenor John Wearing, lead Russ Seely, bari Gene Bulka, and (seated) bass Bob Wisdom.

dom. Wisdom substituted for John Wade, who had a serious foot infection.

After a short stay in the hospital, John was advised to stay off of his feet until he was healed. This situation prevented him from participating with his quartet in the seniors contest for which they had recently qualified.

The quartet informed the dis-

(Continued on page 11)

Singing Valentines

By Doug Pearson,
District PR Chairman

Sending out heartfelt messages of love and affection to surprised and appreciative recipients throughout the district, Pioneer quartets once again filled the air with romantic music during annual Singing Valentines activities. Here's a synopsis of the reports that were sent in by participating chapters and quartets:

Leading the way with a barrage of musical messages was the Grand Rapids Chapter record. "We had a total of seven quartets singing on Valentine's Day and with substitutions, we had some 31 members singing in Valentines quartets over four days," reports Dan Casamatta. "Iron Man" Jack Schneider spent at least 100 hours answering two telephone lines and taking orders.

Dan says that probably the most poignant story during that time was when a quartet sang a Valentine to an 88-year-old former Barbershopper from New Jersey in front of the entire family. "The elderly gentleman started crying from the minute the quartet began, and he sang with the quartet during both songs," Dan reports. "The guys were so

(Continued on page 18)



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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2. Mail file(s) on floppy disk.
3. Fax typed copy.
4. Mail typed article and scanner-ready artwork.

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Uncle Sam Night

By Doran McTaggart,
Windsor Chapter president

Wonderful! Super! Great! These are only a few of the comments made by over 130 men who kicked off the millennium in Windsor at Uncle Sam Night. After enjoying a pasta dinner, Barbershoppers from 10 chapters were ready to sing their hearts out.

Everyone took part in the "Hands Across The Border" Chorus Contest: (Russ) SEELY'S SONGSTERS, BRUCE'S (LaMarte) BOB-O-LINKS, LYNNE'S (Peirce) STUD FARM, and RUBEN'S (Queen) ROBINS ended up in a four-way tie. How did that happen?

Throughout the evening, choruses from Windsor, Grosse Pointe, Huron Valley, and Macomb County performed. A combined chorus from Detroit-Oakland, Sarnia, Lansing, London, Motor City Metro, and Wayne chapters showed that they could hold their own with anybody.

The following quartets impressed everyone as they strutted their stuff: MIX MASTERS, BORDER CROSSING, CITY LIGHTS, NEW WRINKLE, RESOLUTION, SILVER DOMES, and WJBC.

All of this talent and still there was time for gang singing and woodshedding. These inter-chapter wing-dings used to be the norm many years ago in the greater Detroit area.

Mark your calendar now so you won't miss out on Uncle Sam Night next year — Friday, January 19, 2001. ■

Photographs by Bud Leonard

(Right) **BORDER CROSSING:** Tenor Rob Grimmel, lead Matt Tipton, bass Dan Bezaire, and bari Roy Gurney.



CITY LIGHTS: (Left to right) Ruben Queen, Steve Ray, John Szewc, and Jeff Woodruff.

NEW WRINKLE: (From left) Bob Wolf, Kelly Brummett, Walt Quick, and Don Kondor.



Gaylord Chapter installs 2000 officers

On Sunday, January 16, Pioneer District President Don Bazely installed the new Board of Directors for the Gaylord Chapter of SPEBSQSA at a dinner-buffet extravaganza.

President Al Glasby delivered a powerful message to the membership and their guests. He outlined the successes of 1999 and challenged the newly elected board to use their enthusiasm and skills to expand the HARMONIE MEISTERS' commitment to the community.

"While preserving the age-old Barbershop style of singing," he said, "I want the HARMONIE MEISTERS to bring education and entertainment to all of Northern Michigan."



Gaylord's 2000 Board installation: (From left) Al Glasby, Dick Beachnau, Dennis McNamara, Jim Quin, Pioneer District President Don Bazely, Bob Dittman, Bud Ryckman, Dale Hanson, and Mel Felts.

The chapter supports Heartspring and the Harmony Foundation, plus many community programs, including prostate and testicular cancer-awareness programs (which have received national recognition).

The sunshine-filled afternoon event was jam packed with songs and music in addition to the formal program. The Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, quartet RELATIVE HARMONY was the guest of honor.

The unique quartet is comprised of Don Bazely, his daughter Virginia MacKinnon, Reah Webb, and her son Bill Webb. Also en-

tertaining was the SONIC TONICS quartet: Jim Quin, Bud Ryckman, Dennis McNamara, and Mel Felts (all HARMONIE MEISTERS members), along with Sweet Adeline quartet PARTY OF FOUR, comprised of Mary Wilford, Shelley Wakefield, Jeannie Kelsey, and Val Closser.

Mel Felts introduced his wife, Mary, son Michael, and daughter, Melody. The four harmonized a great barbershop song: "Bill Grogan's Goat." The HARMONIE MEISTERS CHORUS, under the direction of Marlyn Byrd of Roscommon, concluded the afternoon of music.

The 2000 Board of Directors: President Al Glasby; Treasurer Lee Waldman; Secretary Mel Felts; V.P. Programs Bud Ryckman, V.P. Chorus Development Dale Hanson; V. P. Music Dennis McNamara; V.P. Public Relations Jim Quin; Members at Large: Bob Dittman, Dick Beachnau, and Seraphime Mike. Rounding out the board is manager, consultant, and District Liaison Hank Hedges. ■



(Above) Gaylord Chapter quartet SONIC TONICS: Bud Ryckman, Dennis McNamara, Jim Quin, and Mel Felts. (Below) Quartet RELATIVE HARMONY: Virginia MacKinnon, Bill Webb, Reah Webb, and Don Bazely.



A View From The Top

Don Bazely, President

Last Christmas, my son Patrick gave me a handsome wall plaque. I was deeply touched because he belongs to the generation that believes that popular music was invented in the late '80s and the stuff to which dear old Dad is addicted simply doesn't cut it among his peers.



Don Bazely

Anyway, it appears that the beneficial results of music have been known for quite a long time. This is what the message on the plaque says:

Music is a moral law.
It gives soul to the universe,
wings to the mind,
flight to the imagination,
a charm to sadness,
gaiety and life to everything.
It is the essence of order and lends to
all that is good and just and beautiful.

Plato

I had no idea that Plato was a Barbershopper. Well, I mean to say virtually no one else, other than Barbershoppers, would think in those terms. What is more, he seems to have suggested the first draft of the presentation category. ... "soul to the universe" ... "wings to the mind ..." "a charm to sadness ..." Are these not wondrous sentiments?

So here is the point. How can we, members of the Pioneer district, foster these sentiments among our fellow Barbershoppers if we consistently stay away from the dis-

trict conventions? How can the guys in a chapter on the east side of the state get to know the Barbershoppers on the West Coast if they don't mingle at our two annual conventions?

Similarly, the guys in the northern part of our district will ever remain strangers to the folks in the southern part of the district if they don't make an effort to meet and mix once in a while. (That's the name of a song, isn't it — "Once in a While"?)

Mind you, our geography plays strange tricks on us. Have you noticed that the trip from Sault Ste. Marie to (say) Battle Creek is much shorter than the trip from (say) Battle Creek to Sault Ste. Marie! It is a problem for smarter brains than mine. Actually, because we are a small(ish) district, we have it made over the big districts with many hundreds of miles from top to bottom. Yet, the guys in those districts seem to manage to visit with one another. Why can't we?

When only 15 or 16 chapters out of 32 have any reasonably sized representation at our conventions, there is something wrong with our priorities.

So, to start the ball rolling I am challenging all the northern Michigan chapters — the Soo, Traverse City, Alpena, Petoskey, and Gaylord — to make a concerted effort to not only attend but to participate in the fall convention. Of course, you can practice at the spring convention if you like. I guarantee that you will be glad you went. We could make a difference to the district if we all support district activi-

ties.

And talking of district activities, a real treat for anyone who attends is Harmony Round-Up. Russ Seely, sometimes against formidable odds, always manages to give the district a memorable school. We have fun there, too! May 19-21 in East Lansing. Will I see you there?

As Mike Slamka says: Sing from the heart ... or don't bother. Keep it Barbershop, and sing well and often. ■

Flint Retreat

By Guy Hissong

Over the weekend of January 21-23, Flint's ARROWHEAD CHORUS held its annual retreat at the Michigan DNR Ralph A. MacMullan Conference Center at Higgins Lake. As usual, it couldn't have been better for a Michigan setting. Lots of fresh snow, huge icicles hanging from the rooftops, deer walking between the cabins, and, of course, the top-notch staff that made our stay a welcomed one.

Chorus Director John Noteware had to have set some sort of history here, getting us through our entire packet of spring show tunes on Saturday. The guys sure have taken a liking to John's professional style of directing and the way he has pulled the group together.

Many hours of hard work by the guys ended up producing some very nice sounds. Now keep in mind — this took place after staying up to wee hours of the morning sharing tags and stories that make this event a special one.

We had the pleasure of sharing the conference grounds with "Michigan Ski For Light," an organization of people with visual disabilities. Upon preparing to sing

(Continued on page 7)

Society Synopsis

Don Challman, Society Board Member

Another Mid-Winter convention has come and gone. Another lengthy number of hours spent dealing with Society business. Another week in January to experience 70-80 degree sunny temperatures in Tucson ... there is a trade off! We managed to get the work done and enjoy the setting as well.



Don Challman

Mid-Winter is the first meeting of the year for the Board (new members, etc.) to meet in task directed groups (Planning and Program Development and Operations Group), and then come together to finalize priorities and formulate a work plan for the year 2000.

One of the "high profile" items for discussion dealt with the proposed "Show Package Format" concept. After consultation with C & J Chairman Lou Benedict, (and based on tons of correspondence), C & J asked to withdraw their proposal for implementing the SPF. As a result, the subject of SPF was not considered by the Board. C & J was directed to further study the concept with possible use in an educational venue, and report to the Board if further consideration seemed appropriate.

Of interest is the fact that 14 of 16 district presidents voiced their disapproval of the SPF. In its place, the Standing Ovation Program received tremendous support as all 16 district presidents wanted to see this program further developed and

implemented in their respective district. Districts that have an active SOP in operation are able to help quartets and choruses sing, perform, and entertain better. Get on the horn to your music and performance VP if any of the above appeals to you.

Regarding seniors quartets, they will be required to be registered in the district in which they compete and be selected by a certified judging panel. This is the same requirement for non-senior quartets.

Another issue that took Board consideration had to do with employee "conflict of interest." This item dealt with a staff employee's right to compete, direct, coach, hold a chapter office, or serve as a contest judge. The Board referred the matter to the Society Ethics Committee and directed the Society Executive Director to review and revise, as needed, the current Society Personnel Employees Manual so as to be in line with other non-profit organizations.

At the Fall Leadership Forum, the district presidents asked the Society Board to form a task force (involving DPs and Board members) to look into the area of program cost sharing. The DPs felt that the Society was initiating programs and then passing the cost on to districts without serious regard as to whether these programs were wanted by the districts. A task force was established and offered the following cost-sharing recommendations:

(Continued on page 10)

Spring convention preview

By Jim Styer,
Convention PR Chairman

Wanna learn how to improve your chorus and quartet performances? Even to the point where you can get a standing ovation?

You can learn at this spring's Pioneer District convention, April 28-30, in Battle Creek.

Gary Stamm, SPEBSQSA external affairs director, who originated the Society's Standing Ovation program, will make a special presentation at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at our headquarters, McCamly Plaza Hotel.

"Standing ovations," Stamm said, "are earned by performers who not only sing well and entertain, but also know how to present in a skillful manner." This includes song selection, song order, pacing, timing, energy, and emceeing.

"These components do not happen by chance," he said. "They are a result of planning, practice, and performance. This class will present the tools needed to lead quartets and choruses to Standing Ovations."

Stamm will be a presentation judge for the weekend competitions. He also is a performance coach, Harmony College teacher, and experienced show writer, director, producer, actor, and emcee.

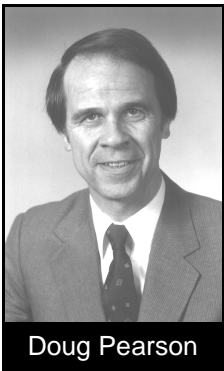
Stamm pioneered what is now the Standing Ovation program 14

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Public Relating

Doug Pearson, Marketing & Public Relations VP

For top PR results, you've got to seize the moment



Doug Pearson

I'll bet your perfect pitch against my relative pitch that you've heard the term "seize the moment" more than once during the past year. Like an old chestnut, the phrase has gained true cliché status, but it's one that we Barbershoppers can put to excellent use from a public relations standpoint.

Each and every one of our Pioneer District performances offers a golden opportunity for us to seize that particular moment in telling and selling our exciting story. Some of us do a pretty good job of it. Others miss the opportunity that may never knock again.

Here's a brief barbershop sampling of some recent public relations opportunities that were jumped on in our district with impressive success:

Utilizing an aggressive approach, the Grand Rapids Chapter seized the moment big time during their Singing Valentines event. Thanks to some good PR on their part, they achieved coverage on two television stations and made quartet appearances on four local radio stations. They were also the subject of articles in four local newspapers. Favorable exposure? You bet!

Lansing Chapter's Don Horton also seized the moment. Doing Singing Valentines with his OLD THYME HARMONY COMPANY quartet, Don contacted a reporter from the Owosso Argus-Press and told her about an upcoming Valentine to be delivered by his quartet to a 102-year-old woman in a convalescent center. The result? A front-page banner article along with a three-column color photo of the quartet serenading this centenarian. You simply can't buy that kind of publicity for our hobby.

Still another Lansing Chapter quartet, the PATCH CHORDS (of which I just happen to be a member) seized the public relations moment and wound up with a nice photo spread in the Fowlerville "News and Views" newspaper.

Now let's move our Magic Moment westward to the UPSTAGE SOUND quartet out of the Kalamazoo area.

This former district titleist, plus representatives of the newly formed Michiana Metro Chapter, were featured on Elkhart, Indiana's WNIT Public Television Open Studio. The quartet "pitched" the new chorus which meets in Niles. "The station did a fantastic job of informing the community about the LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS, and UPSTAGE SOUND had a great time singing," says Gene Hanover.

Finally, how about seizing the

moment with the Holland Chapter? This energetic crew of harmonizers opened up its Park Theater and took part in a giant New Year 2000 celebration.

Their show started with a 20-minute media presentation on the history of the Park, giving the viewer an in-depth rundown of the building and showing its roots as a planing mill to the performing arts center that the chapter has plans for.

Handling the media for this important event was a guy I consider to be one of the real PR stalwarts of the district — Art Lane. "Art pulverized the public with media saturation and gave the city a birds-eye view of what the Holland Chapter is all about," said Chapter Immediate Past President Steve Foster.

So how about you — your chapter, your quartet, or your chorus? Do you have a public relations moment to seize? I'll bet a bushel of bronze-plated pitch pipes that you do.

Actually, I have a hunch there may be quite a few of those moments for you to pounce on during the year. And if that indeed is the case, I've got another cliché for you to ponder: Don't hide your light under a bushel basket, for your golden moment may never surface again. Actually, it's a rather simple matter of putting into operation my own personal Three Ps of Barbershopping: Publicity, Promotion, and Public Relations.

Do that and, like the Four Lads, you'll have many "Moments to Remember." ■

Chapter Coaching

Doran McTaggart, Chapter Support/Leadership VP

As VP of Chapter Support and Leadership Training, it warms my heart when you can dangle a carrot in front of someone and he grabs a hold and runs with it. A couple of examples follow:



Doran McTaggart

1. Gary Simon, our *Troub* editor, wants to feature your chapter in the "Chapters in

Action" section of each issue. This column is an opportunity to blow your own horn and let all of us know what your chapter is doing.

In the October-November issue, he asked for an article from your chapter. In the December-January issue, I asked for the same thing, too.

What a thrill to see chapter reports increasing in the last three issues from six to nine to 16! WOW! I even guaranteed that Windsor would have an article this month and I kept my pledge.

2. Many reminders about sending your chapter leadership team to COTS have appeared in the *Troubadour* and other mailings. An unsolicited COTS promotion appeared in the last February-March *Troubadour* which deserves your attention. Read the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph Chapter report written by Earl Krieger.

What a testimonial! He loved COTS — the classes, the food, the fellowship, the singing — and he can't wait until next year to do it all

over again on December 2-3, 2000.

3. The lead time for articles in the *Troub* is months ahead of the event, so I'll mention the Pioneer District Send-Off Show now.

Plan to be at the Caboto Club in Windsor on Friday, June 9, 2000. The world-famous pasta dinner for over 600 Barbershoppers, their wives, and friends is an astronomical treat too good to miss. All chapters present have an opportunity to perform with their choruses as well as a massed chorus of 300 men.

Our international quartet and chorus representatives are the stars of the evening and the recipients of this great money raiser. Tickets will be distributed in April at the convention. Make sure that you don't miss the premier event in the district.

4. Barbershop chapters are popping up all over our district. In order to provide support to these fledgling groups, Edward Fritzen will be the chapter coach for the two licensed chapters, Allegan County and Michiana Metro.

I will be the chapter coach for the licensed chapter Clarkston and the newly chartered Livingston County chapter.

I do hope that all of our 29 chartered chapters and our three licensed chapters make use of their chapter coaches. He is your ace in the hole and can help your chapter be the best it can possibly be. ■

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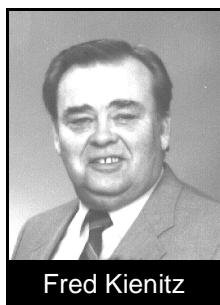
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Take Note

Fred Kienitz, Chorus Director Development VP

We are kicking off a new educational year in Pioneer. I would like to reflect on an annual event coming up in May that has been held during this same time period each year ... since before I became the district VP of literally anything in Pioneer.



Fred Kienitz

I think it is fair to state that this weekend started in earnest under the leadership of the late, great Bill Butler before some of you were born and then was passed on to Pioneer's gentle quiet gentleman, Jim Stephens, who suckered me into being his successor, and finally to the present leader, Uncle Russ Seely, (the guy who sings real loud and smells like an Italian sausage).

As I reflect on the results of these years, there is one major thing that sticks out in my mind about this unique fraternity and that is the "Barbershop air of superiority" we seem to continually generate and cultivate in within our Society.

This is indeed evident when we compare our product with that of church choirs, male choruses, mixed groups, and others.

This general attitude makes me cringe primarily because it is really a bad attitude to maintain, and worse, it is fairly accurate in its assessment. I say this because I have sung most of these styles of music and ours is by far superior in my estimation.

This music hold this magic ability to grab of the listener and excite

him or her with our performance.

Both men and women have been creating this magic for years and the message is loud and clear! It's the fact that this mystical magical music is being produced by people, 90 percent of whom have very little musical education.

An addendum to this is the fact that this stylized kind of music has also attracted educated musicians with professional and doctoral backgrounds who are devoting themselves to the betterment of our society. And, know what, we are rejecting their offers to help educate us. And, I think I know why!

If you are like me, you are a person of average intelligence with a "fair" understanding of our Society, our make-up and our "style" of singing as it relates with other performances. So as long as we can outshine these "other" groups, why get all bent out of shape?

Let me stop right here and ask you a question. Would you willingly deprive your son, your grandson, your brother, your father, your neighbor, or any other male friend or acquaintance the sheer joy of performing this musical art form as you have had as a Society member?

I already know the answer to this question and, further, I know that you often feel less than capable of touting this musical style to your friends, acquaintances, etc.

So, what is the next step? Now, you know I have an answer or I wouldn't have asked the question. Sure, I'm dumb. But I'm not stupid.

Harmony Round-Up and Chorus Director Development sessions

along with "Workshop Intensive" for directors at which you could sing and learn are just a few ways to learn more about your Society and hobby. So take the opportunity to participate beginning this year.

Encourage your chapter to send your directors and assistants to these Harmony Round-Up classes and to underwrite the expenses involved.

Do this and you and every member of your chapter will be placing yourselves in a win-win situation.

Now, blow an F# on your pitch-pipe and let's sing! ■

Society synopsis

(Continued from page 6)

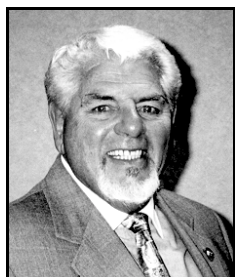
1. CDWI: The Society pays for the training of the trainers and the districts pick up the cost of hosting the trainers.
2. COTS: The Society pays for the president, secretary, treasurer, CSLT, CDD, M&PR and the dean's travel expenses. The district will bill the Society for rooms/meals for these instructors. The district pays for the instructors in membership, music & performance and any district-sponsored classes.
3. Leadership Forum: In 2000, each district will be charged approximately \$305.00 for nine officers.
4. The district pays for all expenses of the shared Society board member.

The Music Man theme for the Kansas City International Convention has attracted a record (7,000) number of advance registrations. A highlight will be a one-hour performance by the BLUEGRASS STUDENT UNION. ■

Yours 4 A Song

Russ Seely, Music & Performance VP

Many of our past columns have urged us, one and all, to experience the joy of quartet singing. An added voice of authority was added to this appeal when two-time Gold Medalist and popular



Russ Seely

Pioneer personality Glenn Van Tassell felt motivated to send the following correspondence.

As Quartet Promotion Chairman and with Glenn's permission, we publish

his letter for your consideration:

Dear Russ,

I am privileged to share recent issues of the *Pioneer Troubadour*, courtesy of John Taylor, one of my

chorus guys who is a part-time Pioneer member. I read your article in the October/November issue (Making our "Q" more meaningful with plenty of "E"). You are absolutely on the mark!

I have seen soft-spoken, shy men blossom into entirely different people just because they were encouraged, pushed, coerced, etc., into singing with a pick-up quartet and found the experience to be just wonderful.

You and I will always have a quartet whenever we want to because we know that we can approach other guys easily and get the process going. We have done so and have created a lifetime of memories. It isn't about us. It is about those

who are not quite sure that they have what it takes to be part of a quartet or are (heaven forbid) so shy that they hesitate to ask, even though they might want very much to get started, and in fact might be well qualified.

I would never want this to become an us-against-them issue. Heaven knows that, over the years, you and I have been very active in the care and feeding of choruses. Perhaps, however, you and I and others of like mind might push this subject a bit more. If you have any thoughts along those lines, feel free to include me in your efforts.

In harmony,
Glenn E. Van Tassell

The Silver Domes (Continued from page 1)

strict contest & judging chairman, who offered the opportunity to compete to the current Pioneer District Senior Champions, SHADES OF GRAY. They were also unable to attend the competition.

When the 'DOMES heard that Bob Wisdom would be attending the convention, they asked him if he would pinch hit for Wade and, being the "pro" that he is, he agreed. District and Society officials approved the substitution.

THE SILVER DOMES sang "Ma, She's Makin' Eyes at Me" and "Back in the Old Routine."

They were the second-oldest competing quartet with a combined



Gold-medal champion quartet OVER TIME.

age of 279 years. Quartet RECOLLECTION was the oldest with a combined age of 281. Emmett Bossing of RECOLLECTION was the oldest competitor at age 77; three competitors were 55.

Twenty-four quartets crossed the contest stage. This was the sixth

time the mid-winter convention was held in Tucson.

What is important this time is that the attendance set a record. While the official tally is not yet in, more than 1,400 Barbershoppers attended the event.

Many former Pioneer District members are now active in the Tucson and Phoenix chapters and were among the Pioneer District rooters.

The 2001 Mid-Winter Convention will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. Based on the continuing excellence in the senior contest, it may be a convention you might want to add to your plans for next January. ■

Young Men in Harmony

Al Bonney, District Chairman

Huge stuff happening in YMIH — all around you!



Al Bonney

One of the buzz slogans of the 1990's applies to YMIH, I think: "Think globally, act locally." While the phrase is a cliché, it really does apply

to the Young Men In Harmony movement. Nothing happens in YMIH that hasn't already happened in a local school or chapter.

The only difficulty of understanding the hugeness of the YMIH movement in Pioneer is our ability to communicate the many activities taking place in chapters all over the district.

YMIH is indeed a movement. YMIH exists not so much in the activities planned by the district or the Society as it does at the chapter level — with guys like you working with kids, encouraging and supporting the music programs in your local schools.

One of the fundamental building blocks of any program is to grow it to the point where it has a life of its own. Until this point leadership has to keep feeding the project with good news and success stories to remind the participants how well they are doing as a group. This challenge is very real in our organization because we are so de-centralized. All the guys out working in the trenches to make YMIH work in their towns are part of a greater

army who can add PR to their kit of tools — PR not only for their programs in their communities, but in the district and the Society as well.

And that brings me back to the fact that SO much is happening around the district, but no one knows about it — and this is a problem. It is hard to detect a groundswell of activity, enthusiasm, or direction when the information you have is limited to what is before your face. The fact is that there are many activities going on around the district. Chapters are coaching quartets, building relationships with music departments, including student choirs on their shows, hosting quartet competitions, paying for trips to Harmony Explosion Camp, doing chapter and quartet concerts in schools — TONS of stuff, and this is what YMIH is!

I see the district VP's job as one of a catalyst — a facilitator to help spread the word, help publicize the groundswell, help everyone understand that YMIH is growing and that we are making progress toward our goal of supporting more singing in our schools all over the district.

The *Troubadour* is a wonderful vehicle to spread your news — either by feature stories or by articles in "Chapters in Action." If your chapter's YMIH stuff is not being touted in this publication, speak to someone and get that changed.

The *Harmonizer* is also a wonderful and willing recipient for pictures

and stories about YMIH. They love this stuff, and a simple story with a picture sent to Lorin May, the new *Harmonizer* editor, will go a long way!

Finally, tell me. Let me be on your PR team. I will help, I promise.

The YMIH movement in Pioneer IS huge and it IS growing. If you are involved, help spread the word. Keep the momentum alive by promoting the movement every chance you get!

Upcoming YMIH Activities in Pioneer

April 28-29 — District Collegiate Quartet Championship taking place at the same time as our own Spring Convention. The winners of this contest will take home \$600.00 and earn the right to go on to Kansas City and compete in the International contest for even larger cash prizes. Entries must be in 21 days prior to the qualifying contest. Call Al Bonney, Jim DeBusman, or Mike O'Donnell for more information.

May 15 — 19 — Bill Rashleigh will spend a week in the district visiting school music classes, presenting his wonderful program of singing better and singing barbershop. Last year the chapters that hosted Bill were enthusiastic about how much the teachers liked his programs. If your chapter is interested, call Al Bonney very soon. The itinerary will be filled well before April 1.

July 20-23 — Harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State in Muncie, Indiana. Several chapters sent students last year and the Society is repeating this great program for the fifth straight year. For only \$125.00 per person (including a teacher), your chapter can send a high school

(Continued on page 16)

Pioneer District charitable contributions for 1999

Pioneer raised \$25,415.33 for the Harmony Foundation and \$15,271.00 for local charities in 1999. I would like to thank all who contributed to make this possible. was quartet GALLERY from the Lansing Chapter who gave \$600.00. Thanks to them and all of the quartets who contributed to the Harmony Foundation.

The winner of the Great Lakes Traveling Trophy

Sing for Life,
Alex Willox, affiliated charities chairman

Chapter (Members)	General Fund	Heartspring	Harmony Heritage Museum	SingAmerica/ SingCanada	Keep a Mel- ody Ringing Memorial	Endowment	Non- Harmony Foundation	Total	Per Capita	Award
Alpena (27)	\$ 31.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 53.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,384.00	\$ 51.26	Silver
Allegan County (1)	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	Bronze
Battle Creek (29)	180.00	20.00	0.00	590.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	815.00	28.10	Bronze
Benton Harbor (23)	280.00	102.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	382.50	16.63	
Boyne City (31)	10.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	1.13	
Clarkston (1)	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	Bronze
Detroit Oakland (71)	3,176.78	571.50	20.00	10.00	0.00	37.00	50.00	3,865.28	54.44	Silver
Flint (63)	575.00	100.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	1,045.00	16.59	
Gaylord (26)	33.00	727.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	760.00	29.23	Bronze
Grand Rapids (93)	1,058.06	395.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,453.06	15.62	
Gratiot County (44)	50.00	223.62	0.00	233.62	0.00	5.00	0.00	502.24	11.41	
Grosse Pointe (100)	75.00	535.00	3.00	3.00	250.00	17.00	2,000.00	2,853.00	28.53	Bronze
Hillsdale (43)	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.23	
Holland (45)	0.00	0.00	34.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.00	0.76	
Huron Valley (39)	23.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	51.00	1.31	
Kalamazoo (60)	50.00	460.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	194.00	0.00	729.00	12.15	
Lansing (118)	125.00	770.00	0.00	870.00	0.00	21.00	3,215.00	5,001.00	42.38	Bronze
Livingston County	0.00	276.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	276.00	17.25	
Macomb County (69)	0.00	704.00	0.00	827.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	1,781.00	25.81	Bronze
Milford (20)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	2.50	0.00	52.50	2.63	
Monroe North (36)	0.00	569.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	569.00	15.81	
Motor City Metro (42)	75.00	548.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	1.00	0.00	874.00	20.81	
Muskegon (34)	49.00	1,607.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,156.00	63.41	Silver
Petoskey (31)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Pontiac-Waterford	425.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	475.00	15.32	
Rochester (59)	10.00	520.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,100.00	1,630.00	27.63	
Saginaw Bay (38)	20.00	610.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	640.00	16.84	
Sault Ste. Marie (45)	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,950.00	3,000.00	66.67	Silver
Swan Valley (13)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Traverse City (71)	790.00	2.00	2.00	7.00	0.00	23.00	3,956.00	4,780.00	67.32	Silver
Wayne (56)	1,312.75	25.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	2,187.75	39.07	Bronze
Windsor (42)	600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	14.29	
Frank Thorne (22)	605.00	520.00	0.00	1,500.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	2,695.00	122.50	Gold
District Total (1,395)	\$9,653.59	\$9,348.62	\$94.00	\$5,103.62	\$895.00	\$330.00	\$15,271.00	\$40,686.33	\$29.17	Silver

OOOOO

Harmony

**A 5-Star weekend designed with YOU
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Friday thru Sunday, May 19-21
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- Tag Singing
- Woodshedding

Chorus Coaching -

- Specific problems addressed
through expert coaches

Quartet Coaching -

- Always a Round-Up highlight for
novice as well as the "vets"

Chorus Directors' Workshop -

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- Classes for new or inexperienced
directors

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from our Society***

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of Cincinnati Western Hills Championship Fame

Wayne Kinde

Multi-talented Vocal Coach and Quartet Champ

Linda Liddicoat

Eastpointe SAI Champion Chorus Director

Doug Miller

Medallist Director of Arlingtones

Bill Rashleigh

Music Specialist from Society Headquarters

Jack Slamka

Father of the TEAM

Jim Stephens

Former Pioneer Great and
Sight Reading Specialist

Barry Towner

Ontario District Presentation Specialist

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(includes 2 meals)

NAME _____ QUARTET/CHAPTER _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE/PROV. _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE (____) _____ WORK PHONE (____) _____

Please check class(es) you would like to attend:

☐ Vocal Techniques

☐ Sight Reading

☐ Tag Singing

☐ Quartet Coaching - Sing in your own quartet

☐ Woodshedding

☐ Chorus Coaching - Sing in your own chorus

☐ Chorus Directors' Workshop I

☐ Chorus Directors' Workshop II

For front-line directors only

For new or inexperienced directors only

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

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

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

Do you have a preferred roommate who will be attending? ☐ Yes ☐ No

His name _____ His chapter _____

YMIH

(Continued from page 12)

quartet for the coaching weekend of a lifetime. Any chapters wishing more information can contact Al Bonney or Bill Rashleigh directly.

July 30-August 6 - Harmony College at 50 percent off for music educators who are not Society members. This is a great opportunity for music teachers who want to get continuing education credits AND have a wonderful music experience - and you will make a friend for life. Many chapters fund the rest of the cost through their good works outreach program. Call Al Bonney or Lani Dieter for more information. ■

*All you have to do is
give it your best.
Perfection is not
expected —
it's a quest.*

Ms. Cindy Stempin, a music educator from U of D Jesuit High School in Detroit attended both Harmony Explosion Camp in Muncie, Indiana, and Harmony College last Summer.

She writes of Harmony Explosion ...

This past summer, a quartet from U of D Jesuit High School attended the Harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State University. This was a priceless gift from the Wayne Chapter of SPEBSQSA, which sponsored our quartet.

The accommodations were comfortable and clean and the food was outstanding! The weekend proved to be one of hard work for our singers, polishing pieces we were required to learn ahead of time, and performing them according to each director's style. Throughout the rehearsals, the boys were educated on Barbershop harmony, effective warm-up techniques, and general vocal techniques.


The quartet SHARPER IMAGE was our featured quartet. They were fantastic. Not only did they

work musically with the entire choir, they were seen playing football, singing late in the evening, and talking with the boys. Our quartet had the privilege of having two private coaches. That was truly one of the high points for them.

Perhaps the next highlight was when the girls' cheerleading camp arrived. All choir members were found forming quartets and serenading the girls while eating, walking to class, or greeting them at the doors.

The culminating experience was, of course, the final concert featuring the Harmony College quartets and an incredible concert from SHARPER IMAGE. Besides becoming more proficient at singing Barbershop music, another benefit I have noticed from our quartet is that they have taken on a leadership role within their respective parts and have become much stronger singers.

Sincerely,
Cindy Stempin

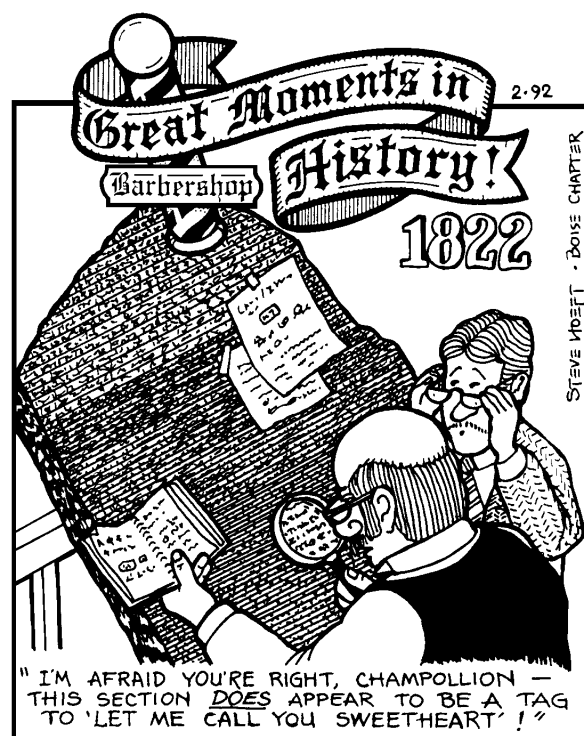


BILL DAN

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Contact: Dan Casamatta
6705 Adaridge Dr. SE
Ada, Michigan 49301
(616) 676-8814
E-Mail: porgyt@aol.com

JOEL MARK



Todd Wilson's Barbershopper's Wish List

By Todd Wilson, 27-year member of SPEBSQSA, International quartet (Acoustix) and chorus (Vocal Majority) champions, and SPEBSQSA COTS Certified Instructor of Marketing & PR.

Recently I served on the faculty of the Ontario District COTS school, where I taught Marketing & PR classes. I was also asked to present the annual "keynote address" to the entire student body and faculty on Friday night. Much to my surprise, the presentation went over very well.

Part I

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND PERFORMANCE ISSUES

1. I see a time when more Barbershoppers discover the importance of singing from the heart and not being satisfied with the bare bones of just knowing their notes and lyrics. Accomplished performers singing from the heart can stir all kinds of emotions within the audience while they clearly express the mood and message of the song.
2. I see a time when more Barbershoppers discover the importance of singing every song as if it's the last time you will ever have the pleasure of performing it. If you are not going to try to do a better job each and every time you perform a song, WHY DO IT AT ALL?
3. I see a time when more Barbershoppers understand that how you end a phrase is just as important as how you start it.
4. I see a time when more Barbershoppers take the time to learn the role their part plays in every chord to achieve the perfect balance and blend between and with the other voice parts, and how doing so will generate more overtones than we've ever heard before.
5. I see a time when more and more lead singers discover that it is their responsibility to know all aspects of the performance of any song better than anyone else and execute the interpretation (once it's established) with consistency so that the harmony voices know what to expect. There is a reason we call them "leads" and not second tenors.
6. I see a time where more Barbershop quartets and choruses discover the incredible value of rehearsing just one or two parts at a time, using this kind of technique to improve the foundation of every group, the match between the lead and the bass part.
7. I see a time when more Barbershoppers will discover that executing EVERY word sound within a song and using precise diction is just as important as every other aspect of your musical, mental, and visual performance.
8. I see a time when more tenor singers learn NOT to over-sing the other parts and not to flat the high third on a tag.
9. I see a time when Barbershoppers around the world can maintain the integrity of the vowel shapes and sing from their lowest to highest notes without all kinds of facial contortions and neck movements.
10. I see a time when more Barbershop groups take the time to create and follow a dynamic plan for every song they sing, which in turn will help make each musical presentation more interesting to the singers as well as their audience.
11. When it comes to vowel shapes, I see a time when an "A" is always and "A," and an "O" is always an "O," and so on.
12. Don't we all hope for a time when talking on the risers is ELIMINATED while the director or some other chapter leader is sharing important information with the folks in the chorus?
13. I see a time when more Barbershoppers understand the "ins and outs" of VOWEL MODIFICATION and how practicing this technique will help us to ring more chords and bring excitement to every performance.
14. I see a time when more Barbershoppers realize targeting EVERY vowel sound produces a much more favorable result than scooping into them.
15. I see a time when more Barbershoppers than ever before understand the incredible benefits of IMAGINEERING, when it comes to preparing for a potentially "nerve rattling" contest performance.
16. I can see a time when more Barbershoppers understand that their level of proficiency "on the stage" will be directly linked to the attitude they have in a rehearsal environment. If they just go through the motions at rehearsal, they are wasting the most valuable asset we all have ... TIME!
17. I see a day when more Barbershoppers have a chance to practice the two important tips recommended by my baritone singer, Jason January: "When the curtain opens, 'look good and breathe.' In

(Continued on page 35)

Singing Valentines XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Singing Valentines

(Continued from page 1)

moved that they sang another five songs with the gentleman while he again sang along. When they were done, he looked up at the quartet and said, 'Now I can die.' The guys said it was awfully hard to keep composed."

Lyle Howard from the Clarkston Chapter reports that the HARMONY KNIGHTS from Rochester-Clarkston "did 16 singing jobs on Monday and nine on Sunday, plus we had three other quartets out. Our final tally was at least in the 70s." Lyle echoes just about every other Singing Valentines participant when he says, "The numbers aren't important. It's one of the more enjoyable activities to get involved in



Among the many stops of the day, this quartet from the Lansing Chapter brightened the spirits of 102-year-old Delia Gilbert. (Clockwise from left) Tenor Stan Williams, bari Don Horton, bass Bob Fox, and lead Jason Fox.



during the year."

The Holland Chapter is always near the head of the Singing Valentines parade. Steve Foster reported that chapter quartets had a delivery total of 208 with gross earnings of \$7,380.00.

While all of this was going on, Hank Hedges, the singing sage from Gaylord, reports on another fine effort from his chapter with 60 gigs. Petoskey Chapter reports that two quartets delivered over 40 Singing Valentines.

Traverse City, meanwhile, achieved Herculean results with six chapter quartets singing over 100 Valentines, including one to "Laura Bush by quartet BAY SHORE IV

(Left) One of Lansing Chapter's Singing Valentine quartets makes a musical call on Mildred Grow, 90, and her husband Al, 91.



(Above) Karen Such was surprised by a Singing Valentine from husband Jerry. Doing the musical honors were the PATCH CHORDS. (From left) Rich Harlow, Roger Cahaney, Larry Best, and Doug Pearson.

who had an appearance of her own on Monday night stumping for George W.," reports Al Bonney. "Adding the normal assortment of secretaries, teachers, bank clerks and waitresses, we had a great day up here," Al says.

If you happened to be in the Muskegon area on Valentine's Day, you undoubtedly ran into the WHATEVER FOUR quartet. "We were one of five quartets that were out terrorizing pedestrians and embarrassing a whole bunch of guys and gals in front of those with whom they work," says WHATEVER FOUR member Bill Tobias, adding,

"Gawd, I love our hobby!"

From Gratiot County, Ron Fick reports that the chapter "was very active with four different groups singing from Greenville all the way to Midland and Mount Pleasant. It was great, a lot of fun, and some of the best exposure we can get for our hobby."

And from the Lansing Chapter, Don Horton put together a quartet that saturated the Owosso area with 21 Singing Valentines. Their stops included a 102-year-old woman in a convalescence home

in Durand.

Lansing's PATCH CHORDS did a 12-hour stint that ran the gamut from a kindergarten class, to the wife of 82-year-old chapter member George Olsen, to a legally blind woman and her seeing-eye dog.

Ralph Brown was in a Singing Valentines quartet out of the Saginaw Bay Chapter. His thoughts seemed to sum up the feeling of just about every participant: "Those of you who participated know how great it is to see the reactions of those watching as well as the recipient. Each delivery is an event in and of itself and gives everyone involved an experience to remember. It's great publicity, the money is easy and quick, but more importantly, it puts us in the hearts and minds of members of our community in a very positive way." ■



The PATCH CHORDS sang "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" to kindergarteners in Fowlerville as part of Singing Valentines. Proud teacher and recipient of Valentines musical crooning was Rosemary Cahaney, wife of quartet member Roger Cahaney. The PATCH CHORDS (from left) are Larry Best, Doug Pearson, Cahaney, and Rich Harlow. The puppets were unidentified.

Singing Valentines xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

It is no secret that Barbershoppers LOVE Singing Valentines. The scheming with the family member or friend ... the purchase of that special "something" to hand to the speechless Valentine ... juggling the jobs to get at the crime scene at the exact moment ... then

The Accessories: Craig Schwartz (the boss) and about 30 co-workers who would become ...

The Witnesses: the first ever Gilreath barbershop audience

The Quartet: BITS 'N' PIECES, a too-cute, delightful, and perfect Singing Valentine Sweet Adeline

quartet from the Davison's Thumb Area chorus in black sequins. Sing well. All redheads.

The Evidence Taken at the Crime Scene: Several pictures (snapped by the BOSS no less!) as the ladies sang "I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do" while removing victim's glasses, mussing victim's hair, stroking victim's beard, kissing victim's hand, etc., etc., etc. You get the

picture, or if you don't, I've supplied one.

The Victim's Favorite Moment: When BITS 'N' PIECES handed him the rose ... and a gigantic Payday candy bar — the victim's favorite. (At least he claims that was his favorite moment.)

The Victim's First Words to the Conspirator: "They're singing really well, aren't they?" Leave it to a Barbershopper ...

The moral of the story: "Ye Who Surpriseth Others With Singing Valentines May Someday Get Your Own Payday."

Of course, while paybacks can be frightful, "Paydays" can be kind of sweet.

Submitted by Lynne Peirce (a.k.a. The Conspirator)

Valentine's Day is a wonderful time to practice the love and harmony of our great hobby. I never spoke with anyone who didn't have the time of their life delivering little musical messages of love all over town, nor did I ever meet someone who didn't have a great story about one or more of the deliveries. We have such a story ...

The THIRD COAST quartet has been performing Singing Valentines in Traverse City for three years. As one of our members is a doctor, it is not surprising that many of our deliveries are in other doctor's offices, hospital rooms, various medical clinics, and the like.



Huron Valley's Tom Peirce receives a Singing Valentine from quartet BITS 'N' PIECES as "The Conspirator" lurks in the background at left.

observing the stages of "Singing Valentines Syndrome": first, the look of confusion and disbelief, then denial, then irritability, then the eventual acceptance and inevitable sentimentality. Stuff Barbershoppers LOVE ... or do they?

What happens when the tables are turned? Paybacks can be frightful!

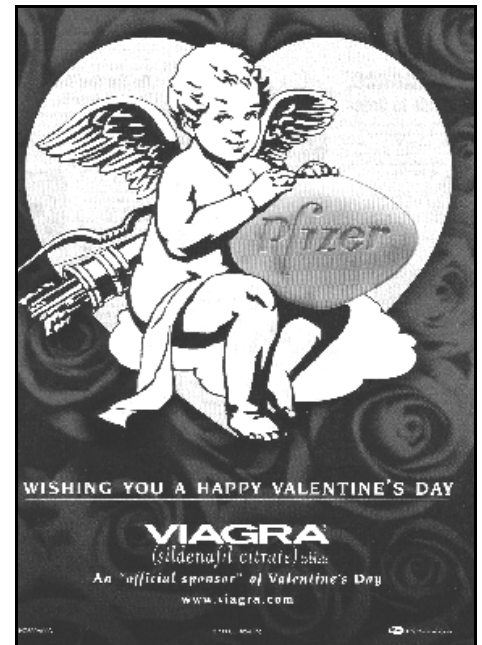
The Date: February 14.

The Time: 11:30 a.m.

The Place: Gilreath Manufacturing, Howell, Michigan.

The Victim: Tom Peirce, faithful member of the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS CHORUS.

The Conspirator: Lynne Peirce, faithful wife of Tom, but also the director of the HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS CHORUS. The plot thickens ...



This year was no exception and as the day progressed we, along with the day, warmed to our mission amid giggles, chirps, and squeals of delight from both recipients and onlookers. By 2:00 in the afternoon, we had delivered about 25 gigs and got to one with eight different deliveries requiring we call before arrival.

Let me back up here to ask if you

XXXXXXXXXXXX

saw any of the Viagra ads appearing in many national magazines for the week or two before Valentine's Day. It seems that the folks in charge of marketing Viagra at Pfizer decided to appoint themselves as the "Official Sponsors" of Valentine's Day. I have attached a copy of the ad if you haven't seen it.

Well, anyway, the number we had to call was the local Viagra salesman who had a brainstorm while making his call at our baritone/doctor's office a couple of weeks ago that a Singing Valentine would be just what his product needed to get a jump ahead of his competition.

So there we were, Cupid's own "official sponsor" of Valentine's Day! Viagra salesman in tow, flowers, camera, pitch pipe, and candy in hand, we delivered Valentines to well over 100 delighted doctors and assorted medical and administrative staff in eight different clinics around town. While the giggles, chirps, and squeals of delight continued, I thought I picked up a number of wry grins and a joke or two as the lucky recipients had fun putting two and two together while we sang.

In the end we had a wonderful time, sang for even more people than usual, and the Viagra salesman paid full price. We offered our best client (who bought eight Singing Valentines from us and two from the *Kalkaska Konnection* in the next town and paid full price for all ten!) frequent flyer miles for his fine business, but even that could



The THIRD COAST and our Viagra salesman (holding a box of Viagra that he wouldn't part with) posing with one of the eight Singing Valentines recipients they delivered. (Left to right, back row) Tenor Al Bonney, lead Phil Knapp, bass Dan Decker, and bari Dr. Jim Mudgett.

not get us any free samples.

Ah well, he promised to be back next year to do it again. There's always hope!

(Note: While this gig was a lot of fun, it also made us some good money as you can see. Why wouldn't this work in EVERY town that has a Pfizer sales office? A couple of phone calls would answer that question. Let's go one further – if Pfizer wants to be the "official sponsor" of Valentines Day, why wouldn't the Barbershop Harmony Society be the perfect "Official Cupid" to deliver their message nationwide ... for a fee, of course. Reed Sampson, do I smell a national promotion here?)

Submitted by Al Bonney, tenor, THIRD COAST quartet, and president, Traverse City Chapter

Valentine eternal

Lynne Wong, lead in VERDUGO HILLS CHORUS, SAI, reported on the internet that she had seen a men's barbershop quartet on her local Fox TV affiliate's 11 O'Clock news on February 14.

It was a story about a Portland, Oregon, man's Valentine's Day gift to his late mother.

He knew she loved Barbershop music, so he hired a quartet to sing "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" at her grave for Valentine's Day.

Somebody has to do it!

By Lyle Howard

On February 16, the remnants of quartet B-NATURAL, Randy Meldrum and I, along with the help of Bob Wisdom, departed the gate at Metro Airport at 5:30 a. m. and convened at John Smith's winter home in Bonita Springs, Florida, for our annual invasion of the beautiful fishing grounds off the Keys, and to do what we could to promote what it is we all love to do.

And it didn't hurt a bit to get away from what you all went through during that one wintry, blowy, snowy week.

We used Wednesday and most of Thursday to put our sound back together.

By Thursday night we felt confident enough to visit the Naples Chapter, where we entertained them with three numbers and stayed after to seek out the perfect chord with some of their members for an hour or so. They enjoyed — we enjoyed. Didn't find the elusive perfect chord, though.

On Friday morning, we left for Marathon Key, where we had prearranged housing for three nights in return for some scheduled performances.

Our first performance was at a closing-night cast party for Sweet Charity on Friday night. We got to see the play, then entertained at their party. Entertainers are appreciative audiences.

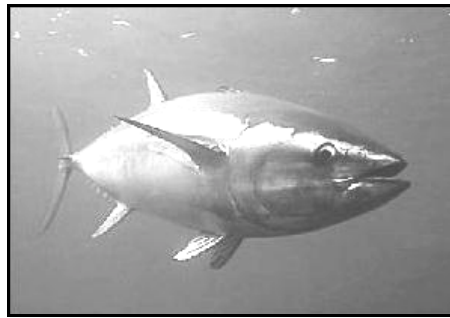
On Saturday morning, we got up around 8:00 a.m., stuffed our bellies with breakfast at the Stuffed Pig on Marathon Key, and drove to Big Pine Key where we met Captain Bob, our fishing boat captain, also a Barbershopper.

He took us out about four to

five miles for a half-day's angling on what's called the "patches," areas of shallow water.

I'm not one to tell fish stories, but I hooked into one that I fought for about 20 minutes before I lost him around the anchor rope.

It was probably a Bonita tuna, I was told. I was also told that because Captain Bob fought and landed one at the same time, I lost mine. He also had to clear his from



the anchor rope.

But I'm here to tell you, I've fought many a fish in my day, but none like this one. He took me all over that boat until I lost him. We cleaned what we kept and John took the filets home.

If you go down there, you gotta try Mangrove snapper — the very best.

I'm not one to tell stories on any one. But the next time you see Randy, you might ask him how he contributed to the chum dragging in the water over the side used to attract fish. 'Nuf said.

Saturday night our hosts took us out to a fine restaurant for some great sea food (except Randy had prime rib, of all things).

On Sunday morning, we arose and sang "I Believe" at a Presbyterian service attended by our host families. They asked us to stay and present some more Barbershop

sounds at their regular Sunday morning coffee klatch, which we gladly did.

Sunday afternoon, we performed at a large house party in a large house by the sea, consisting mostly of Barbershoppers and sweet Adelines from Key West, Marathon, and Big Pine Key. We estimated about 80 in attendance. The size of the home easily swallowed them up.

All three groups had been practicing for a combined performance to be held the following Tuesday. We sang for them. They sang for us. All had a memorable time. The things memories are made of.

We drove back to Bonita Springs Monday morning. After taking John and Karen out to dinner, we were honored to sing for the Cape Coral Chapter that evening. We didn't stay around too long, though, since we had to arise at 3:30 a.m. to catch our 5:40 flight home.

This makes the third year in a row we have taken advantage of John and Karen's hospitality, and the second year we have performed for the Keys' Barbershoppers.

But those of you who know John Smith know he will do anything for a chance to sing a song, including putting up with the likes of us for a week.

Thanks, John. Thanks, Karen.

I also want to thank Bob Wisdom for making it all happen by filling in those all important bass sounds. The trip would not have come off without him. And he does it so easily.

We're going back next year if I have anything to say about it. That fish will be out there waiting for me. He'll be bigger, but I'll be ready for him. ■

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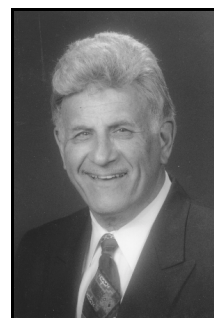
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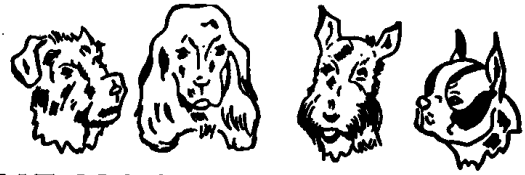
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Quartet Corner

WJBC - 1999 Pioneer District Champions

It was a great thrill for us to win the Pioneer District Quartet Contest. We would like to say "Thank You" to all of the fine people of the Pioneer District for their support and a special "Thanks" to our wives and families for allowing us to enjoy this great hobby.

WJBC got together in late fall of 1998 and, after a number of practices, decided to register as a quartet early in 1999.

Due to a scheduling problem, we entered the International Prelims in the Cardinal District. We came in in third place and missed going to the "Big Show" by a few points.

We are currently working hard and would like to represent the Pioneer District at the next International Competition.

Being in a serious, competitive quartet takes a lot of time and commitment. Each member of the quartet agrees that family and job must come before our Barbershop hobby.

Our tenor, Jason Oyler, has had to leave the quartet because of other commitments.

We are very fortunate to find another outstanding tenor to step in for Jason. Bruce LaMarte has agreed to sing tenor with us.

Jason Oyler was the original tenor of our current International finalist quartet, POWER PLAY. He also sings in the Macomb Singers and is a member of the Macomb Chapter. He lives in Sterling Heights with his wife, Heather, and daughter Molly. Jason is a manager of a Murray's Auto Supply store.

Bruce LaMarte has sung Barbershop for many years and has had district wins in different voice parts.



WJBC: (From left) Tenor Jason Oyler, lead Craig Pollard, bass Wayne Kinde, and bari Brian Kaufman.

He has made the trip to International many times and would like to go back once again. Bruce lives in Waterford with his Sweet Adeline wife, Dodie. He is a construction foreman for Etkin Skanska.

Craig Pollard grew up in a Barbershop family. His dad, Tom, sang with the International semi-finalist quartet, THE AIRMAILS, and his mother, Gloria, was a Sweet Adeline. Craig's brother, Jim, was a member of the IVY LEAGUE, one of Pioneer's greatest quartets.

Keeping the family tradition going, Craig has been the winner of several district champion quartets and has competed at the international level several times. He lives in Farmington Hills with his wife, Jill, and sons Wayne and Aaron. He is a salesman with Jackson Tool Sales.

Wayne Kinde is also an experienced quartet man who has won the district championship in several different voice parts. Wayne is often

asked to share his musical expertise, and coaches many groups around this part of the country. He lives in Grand Rapids with his wife, Christa, and children Elizabeth, Lydia, Andrew, and Benjamin. Wayne is a salesman for Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Brian Kaufman and his wife, Lou Anne, live in the city of Maryville. They have three grown children: Craig, Rebecca, and Kristin.

Brian has sung Barbershop for more years than he wants to admit, but still gets a big thrill from ringing those chords! He has sung baritone in a number of fine quartets and has had the opportunity to sing bass with International Representative ONYX. Brian is a speech therapist in the East China School District.

WJBC is hoping that we get a chance to sing for and with all the wonderful people in the Pioneer District. ■

Chapters in Action

Traverse City

By Elbert Ford

Our lawns are rising out of the snow as I write this, the last week of February. Our winter hasn't seemed bad, probably because we've been so busy we haven't had time to notice. We had six quartets participate in Valentines performances. Our production was down this year, but still high enough to keep the guys going steady

We are busy with our June show, learning new music, getting ready for our guest quartet, CHORDIAC ARREST, and getting our customers lined up with tickets. The show will be on Friday and Saturday evenings, June 9 and 10, at Interlochen's Corson Auditorium, each night at 8:00.

If you want to come north and relax in the Grand Traverse, contact Jeff Belanger. Call 231-933-9900 or E-mail at tcdoughboy@hotmail.com.

We are having Barry Towner here in April for another of his fun-filled coaching sessions. We are also planning to represent Traverse City in the chorus contest at the spring convention. We will be hosting the festivities in the fall and need to keep our eyes peeled, watching the proceedings and flow of events in April to enable us to continue the tradition of GREAT Pioneer District conventions!

We're going to get the Harmony Express rolling again to involve as many guys as possible. Topping the 19 guys that went in 1999 will hard to do, but after some arm-twisting and threatening letters, it's surpris-

ing what we come up with. Those of you acquainted with Al Bonney will know what I mean. As Al says from time to time, "It's Great To Be A Barbershopper - In Traverse City!"

Grosse Pointe

By Nick Piccione

It's beginning to look like spring is just around the corner ... and peeking around that corner we can see some good times ahead. For example, on March 15, we initiate St. Patty's season with a pub crawl through Port Huron, shepherded by those two grand Irishmen, Mike Sullivan and Marv Burke. The singing starts at Marv's Victorian Inn. They're not divulging the rest of the itinerary yet.

On March 24, we will again gather to toast the better-looking half of our group at the warm and beautiful Blossom Heath in St. Clair Shores. Ladies Night will find us dressed in formal attire, our usual dance band playing old favorites and tables filled with excessive appetizers and gourmet dinners ... always a predictably popular evening.

Our usual "Spring Show" will take place in the fall this year, but an alternate spring performance is on the way. This, plus rehearsals for contest, is keeping enthusiasm high. However, this week we had a welcome break when the Windsor Chapter made a surprise visit to return the "Jug." We sang, they sang, we all sang together. It's always fun to hear those cheery Canadian voices and laughs.

Our Grosse Pointe spotlight falls this time on Joe Bichler. After 23 years as an extremely active member, Joe died on January 11. Joe could be found at virtually every gathering, rendering great baritone

sounds. The jobs he held with the chorus are too numerous to list here and being named Barbershopper of the Year in 1993 is a testament to his many contributions and popularity. Active in our show programs, Joe spearheaded our Christmas Show, which has become so successful each year. A veteran of the Battle of the Bulge, successful businessman, and family man, Joe was a credit to our chorus indeed.

Approximately 60 Barbershoppers showed up at Peters Funeral Home for a final salute, including many who had moved away from our vicinity, but were inexplicably drawn to the occasion. The heartfelt harmony was so warm and tender that night that if we had been in contest, that elusive prize would certainly have been ours.

What is it in this singing style that causes such attachments? Does the blending of voices in harmony foster a similar blending of hearts? I can't help but believe we will all be singing with Joe again and wonder ...

When we've all crossed over that shore,

Will our voices continue to soar?

Will we still enjoy the feeling,

Of bouncing chords off the ceiling

While St. Peter is calling for more?

Flint

By Chuck Murray

Flint Chapter (FABC) went to Higgins Lake in January for their Annual Retreat to work on show music. The 2000 show, which includes two performances on May 20 at Grand Blanc High School, is called "When Everything Old is New Again." Dale Radford, our show chairman, was also recently named BOTY for his diligent efforts. Congratulations, Dale!

Check our Website for ticket info. <http://community.mlive.com/cc/flintbarbershop>

Weight reduction program

While we were at Retreat, a couple of guys were sitting on the edge of a bunk, trying to do tags with Ron Gillies, and realized they could not breathe very well. Our resident genius, Paul Smith, had a great idea, as he looked around the room at the corpulent bunch trying to sing.

Paul suggested we start a weight reduction program so we could sing better. He went on to suggest that our chapter donate a dollar to the Harmony Foundation for every pound of weight the chorus members lose during this year. The chorus board adopted his suggestion, and the "Win-Win Weight Loss Program" was started.

All members weighed in at one of the meetings, and will be weighed at the end of the year to determine total chorus weight loss and the additional contribution to Harmony Foundation. What a great idea!

Singing Valentines

Al Kurmas managed the successful Singing Valentines campaign, and even found time to sing in a pickup quartet. Al learned first hand that the "most powerful fluid drive in the world is a woman's tear."

Several other quartets carried on this annual "PR program" and passed out invitations to join us in song. Our "package deal" included a fresh, long-stem rose and a Valentine card for the recipient. Our quartet chairperson pushed for "four to eight songs" for each Valentine, but he had to settle in some cases for two. The really "fun" Valentine was in the home of an Irish family who requested, and received, about eight Irish songs, loving every one of them!

Open house

Tony Corrie, our membership chairperson, organized a successful Open House in February. Tony went the "extra mile" by getting some Barbershop cartoons enlarged at a copy shop, then laminated them and posted them around the hall. We had a TV/VCR running the video "Can't Stop Singing," tag teaching by Ed Boychuk, several chorus songs directed by John Noteware, and a few songs by chapter quartet TIME OUT! Jack Stevens and Dave Lonsbury offered refreshments for all.

District director school

Rumor has it that Flint will be hosting a district director school this spring. This is a great opportunity for any chorus, because it is another "win-win" situation. The student directors get a real live chorus to direct, and the chorus learns to follow the director. Watch for more information on this subject.

In the meantime, "gimme an E-flat" and "Keep the Whole World Singing!"

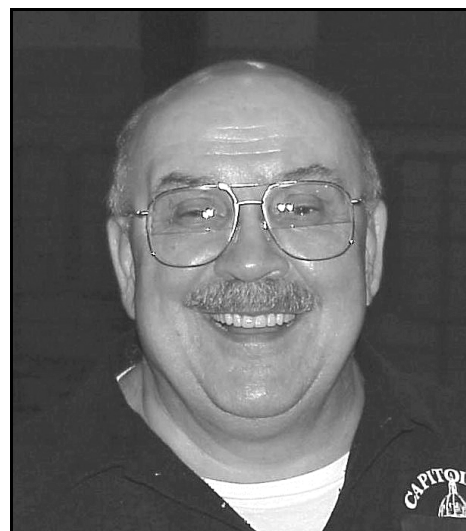
Lansing

By Paul Howe

As this is being written, the CAPITOL CITY CHORDSMEN are recovering from their exploits delivering Singing Valentines, and are especially hard at work preparing for our March 4 show at MSU's beautiful Wharton Center for the Performing Arts.

Our theme for this year will be a tribute to Irving Berlin. In addition to the Lansing Chapter's CAPITAL CITY CHORDSMEN, the show will feature performances by 1999 International Finalist quartet UPTOWN SOUND; SAI WATER WONDERLAND CHORUS; Lansing quartets PATCH CHORDS, GALLERY, and

RENAISSANCE, plus a special guest appearance by GLITTER, 1999 winner of the Lansing Chapter's High School Barbershop Quartet contest.



Larry Parker, Lansing Chapter's 1999 Barbershopper of the Year.

Lansing quartets put in some long, but satisfying days delivering Singing Valentines throughout the central Michigan area. Thoughts of love, expressed in music, were delivered to men and women alike, from 6 to 102 years old!

Among the most memorable were having Lansing's own George Olsen join in with the PATCH CHORDS to deliver a Valentine to a legally blind woman with her seeing eye dog, to a couple in their 90s, and to George's wife Doris. Probably the most memorable moment was singing for 102-year-old Delia Gilbert. "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" is her favorite song, so she sang along with the quartet.

I'm happy to see that good friend and former Lansing director Jamie Carey has again found gainful employment in Barbershopping. The Lansing Chapter wishes Jamie and all our friends in Grand Rapids the very best at the spring conven-

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Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 27)

tion as well as at International.

Benton Harbor- St. Joseph

By Earl Krieger

We have been having some fun with a new (to us) song entitled "When Frances Dances With Me." Our director, Nick Stuart, has choreographed this song for us line by line and has been up-front attempting to hold our individual antics into some semblance of a unified response to his direction. Our efforts thus far have been comical to the extreme. "Don't give up on us, Nick. We'll master your choreography if we can just keep our laughter in check."

Our chorus has been able to schedule six performance dates so far this year. Two of them are our favorites — the Berrien Springs Youth Fair and the St. Joseph Summer Concert Band Shell.

We are still being plagued by a somewhat static membership situation. Our VP of Chapter Development, Milt Zoschke, is going to work with a special committee chaired by Don Richmond to explore the possibility of a new approach to garnering additional members and also to do some extensive research on the successful efforts of other chapters in this area.

Our chapter scheduled a dinner meeting January 9 at the Pebblewood Country Club in Bridgman for the installation of officers for

the year 2000. The installation, conducted by Gene Hanover, was well attended by members and their spouses. The food was good, the fellowship and camaraderie were great, and a good time was had by all.

Officers for 2000 are: President Steve Lake, Secretary Vern Tollas, Treasurer Dan Drazen, V.P. Chapter Development Milt Zoschke, and V.P. Music Darrel Stiner and Earl Krieger. After the ceremony was completed, we all sat back with full stomachs and were entertained by UPSTAGE SOUND.

If you read Gene Hanover's "Chapters in Action" Michiana article in the February/March issue of the *Troubadour* and you can receive WNIT Public Television Channel 34 out of Elkhart, Indiana, you no doubt witnessed and heard UPSTAGE SOUND's appearance Sunday, February 20, on a three-hour special "Open Studio" program featuring the sights, sounds, and personalities of the greater twin cities area of Benton Harbor and St. Joseph. The award winning UPSTAGE SOUND quartet was introduced by Nick Stuart and performed three selections from their new "Just Us" CD released in January 2000 — "Ten Feet Off The Ground," "Old St. Louie," and "I Wanna Be Around."

We feel a genuine kinship with the recently chartered Michiana Metro Chapter and its LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS, and also with UPSTAGE SOUND. Our director, Nick Stuart, is the Michiana Chapter president and Gene Hanover, LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS director and UPSTAGE

SOUND lead, is a former member of our chorus. Furthermore, Kerry Foley, UPSTAGE SOUND bass, preceded Nick Stuart as our director.

The LIGHTHOUSE CHORUS rehearses every Thursday, 7:00-10:00 p.m., upstairs in the Elks Lodge, 104 Third Street, Niles, Michigan.



1998 Pioneer District Quartet Champion UPSTAGE SOUND. (From left) Tenor Raleigh Bloch, lead Gene Hanover, bass Kerry Foley, and bari Ed Fritzen.

Call 616-556-0527 or 616-465-6223.

A fair-sized group of our members (and spouses) are looking forward to attending the spring convention in Battle Creek. We won't be mounting the risers, but we will be supporting (and enjoying) those who do. I, for one, can't wait to get back on stage and perform with the JOE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS.

Holland

By Art Lane

Holland plans series of informal membership auditions

Three consecutive chapter meetings devoted to building membership have been planned by the Holland Chapter. The program is called "Auditions for Admission" and is being promoted as a good time to join the community's Barbershop singing group.

According to James Hall, vice-

president for chapter development, the audition will be an informal process of checking a singer's range and doing some singing with him, "without the pressure of formal sight-singing before a stone-faced review board." Hall said the chapter seeks to welcome prospects in a warm way and show them they can learn Barbershop, offering practice and support.

"In a nutshell, the goal is to take all the things which make an ideal meeting night (good music and a variety of songs, as well as tags, quartetting, chorus singing, craft, and fellowship) and just be more organized and enthusiastic about it," Hall said.

'Repaint and Thin No More' echoes as crews work on theater

Work on the interior of the Park Theater resumed late in February led by the quartet BLACK RIVER. With the help of a 28-foot motorized lift, lead Mark Andrew sprayed black paint on newly plastered sections of the theater ceiling, assisted by tenor Bill McAndrew, baritone Steve Foster, and bass James Hall. The quartet, aided by Jim Essenberg and Perry Mellifont, also used long-handled rollers to paint walls.

The aim is to make the theater attractive for shows and meetings in the short run, while design and fundraising efforts proceed toward a complete renovation of the century-old building. The chapter seeks to follow through on its motto for the building, "Preservation Through Performance." The theater will be used for all sorts of community performances and meetings, which will help preserve the building and the music of the past. In the process, both the building and chapter will be preserved and enhanced.

The chapter has hired a firm to oversee fundraising for the theater

renovation, with a financial campaign expected to be held this summer. After the money is in hand, design will take four to six months, followed by eight months of construction, according to the architect. Meanwhile, we will have a bright, welcoming hall for our weekly meetings and for performances.

Quartets deliver 175 Valentines in Holland area

The Holland Chapter's Singing Valentines program took songs of love to about 175 recipients over four days, according to chairman Steve Foster.

Since Valentine's Day fell on a Monday, delivery started on Friday to offices, factories, and homes in the Holland area. Over the weekend, quartets also sang to crowds at several restaurants.

The big push came on Monday with four quartets assigned mostly to zones of the metropolitan area, each delivering 15 to 35 Valentines. The downtown area was covered by quartet GOLD STANDARD, composed of Darrell VandeHoef, Jack C. Oonk, Mike Oonk, and John Ozinga.

The area north of the Black River belonged to quartet BLACK RIVER — Bill McAndrew, Mark Andrew, Steve Foster, and James Hall. Songsters on the south side were Al Plantenga, Karl Klompars, Perry Mellifont, and Ken Cook.

The fourth quartet was made up of singers from the West Shore Sweet Adelines — Emiko Oonk, Kay Monje, Marilee Saunders, and Linda Rozema. They agreed to help deliver Valentines when the chapter ran out of leads. Others who sang Valentines included Mitch Hall, Bob Eastman, and Art Lane. Men who suited up or had a tuxedo handy in the car, ready to sing, included Les

Swieringa and Dale Bekker.

Many people helped take orders, assemble bouquets, and alert their quartets to new jobs during delivery. They included Steve Foster, who worked many weeks on all aspects of Singing Valentines, Jim Essenberg, Bruce and Karen Ming, Bruce Rabe, Cathy Mellifont, Bob and Dolores Wingett, and Art Lane.

As Valentine deliveries drew to a close on Monday, quartet members and their spouses headed for the Park Theater, where they were treated to a corned beef and cabbage dinner cooked by Dale Bekker.

Cutshall again meets teacher who taught him Barbershop in the 1920s

Last fall, Holland bass Chet Cutshall attended a family reunion in Huntingdon Valley, Pennsylvania, and recalled how important high school teachers are in a young person's development. Specifically, he remembered his high school music teacher, Mr. Shirk, who taught four-part harmony while Chet was a member of the choir.

Chet, 85, was fortunate enough to meet again with Mr. Shirk, 95, during the reunion. Chet recalled, "He may have been the one who introduced Barbershop four-part harmony to high schools in the state of Pennsylvania. As I recall, our high school quartet competed at Penn State University in 1928 using the four-part harmony and songs. This did concern judges as to the arrangement. However, over the next three years, many quartets were using this same arrangement."

Barbershop harmony still plays a large part in Chet's life. He sings and competes with the HOLLAND WINDMILL CHORUS and in 1991 went to an international music festival in Australia with the GREAT

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Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 29)

LAKES CHORUS of Grand Rapids.

Chet graduated from Orbisonia High school in 1932, during the Great Depression, and attended nearby Juniata College in Huntingdon for a year. But his family had three children in college and to help make ends meet, Chet transferred to Michigan State University and got a job in Lansing with Motor Wheel Corp. He graduated from MSU in 1937 and soon helped Motor Wheel develop the modern army helmet. Later he was the engineer of seven plants in four states for Motor Wheel.

After retiring to Holland, he started a company which made custom-designed universal joints used during construction of the Alaska pipeline.

Chet formerly raised hundreds of roses and won awards for them. He still plays a good game of golf, fielding a family team which often wins the chapter's tag contest golf tournament.

Attending the family reunion and revisiting the place where he received a high school education which shaped his future prompted Chet to say, "There's a lot of opportunity if you apply yourself."

Huron Valley By Darrell Richmond

The HURON VALLEY HARMONIZERS have been invited to compete at this year's Buckeye Invitational Barbershop gathering in Columbus, Ohio, in August. Our Buckeye neighbors have invited

eight of the highest scoring small choruses in this country (and internationally, I believe) to compete in a precedent-setting small chorus competition on Saturday, August 18, 2000. Chorus invitations were based upon scores from last fall's district-wide competitions.

Details are sketchy at this point, but it looks like a lot of different events will be occurring in Columbus over an August 17-20 period. We consider this a great honor and we will proudly represent the district at this affair.

Things are certainly looking up for Huron Valley these days. We recently completed our annual spring show, perhaps our best show ever, "No Business Like Show Business" at Washtenaw Community College. It was great to have Doran McTaggart and quartet FOOL'S GOLD with us for the show.

We are currently developing a great new competition package. Progress on the package has been excellent so far. We even have tried a little choreography already. I love the ballad!

Linda Liddicoatt will be coaching us again this year. She's a neat gal! We are all looking forward to April 4, the evening she visits us again this year. We will be ready! And it's likely that we may have 30, perhaps even 32, men on the risers by April 28. We have had 20-25 for as many years as I can remember. We may not even be a small chorus any more! Amazing!

We recently had a chance to perform at the Stony Creek United Methodist Church, where we re-

hearse every Tuesday night. The pastor there asked if we would do a benefit concert to raise money for a Volunteers in Mission project they wanted to support. The church has been very good to us and we couldn't refuse. We sang some of our new songs. The concert went very well. The audience was great! (See photo)

There are a couple of new events that we are trying to schedule. Nearby Saline High School has a group of young men and their dads called the CHORDSMEN, who get together to sing together every other Tuesday morning before the work (or school day) begins during the school year.

The music teacher at Saline appears very receptive to having a quartet there one morning in April to demonstrate our craft. And she



volunteered that if it can be arranged, she'd love to have the quartet sing for her first-period mixed chorus as well.

We have also received word from our bass section leader, Lynn Herche, that the Washtenaw Community College Performing Arts Department is open to getting some Barbershoppers there to sing for them. I haven't connected with them as yet, but we are hopeful that something will come of this. We

could use both of these opportunities to advertise our upcoming guest night.

On Tuesday, May 16, we will again be welcoming guests at 7:30 p.m. at the Stony Creek United Methodist Church. Although we only picked up two new members that night (and it is rumored that we have one guy itching to join, but unable to find the time), our last guest night was a lot of fun! How can you beat listening to the chorus and a few tag team quartets singing, learning a Christmas song with the group, fellowship and conversation with the guys, and topping off the evening with sloppy joes, chips, pop, and dessert. Your family is invited, too, I might add. I'm looking forward to it already!

Muskegon

By Frank Scott

Near the outset of its 60th year, the Muskegon Chapter's SHORELINE CHORUS performed for senior citizens at several high-rise apartment buildings and other functions this past Christmas season. The biggest audience was about 200 patients, spouses, and nurses from the Mercy Hospital Heart Center at their annual Christmas party. Chapter President John Tyler and Publicity Chairman Frank Scott work out regularly at the heart center and promoted the event. The chorus's performance was enthusiastically received.

The chorus started the Christmas season by singing carols at the lighting of the Muskegon Community Christmas Tree at Hackley Park in downtown Muskegon. The ceremony was led by Muskegon Mayor Fred Nielson. Later that evening, the chorus performed at the annual Festival of Trees at the Frauenthal

Center for the Performing Arts. This is an annual charity event that raises funds for the Frauenthal and the Mercy Hospital Heart Surgery Unit Fund.

The chapter officers for the year 2000 were installed at a Christmas banquet held at the Lincoln Golf Club on December 9. Serving as officers and board members this year will be John Tyler, president; Chuck Kitchka, chapter development; Mart Bomers, music committee; Steve Aiken, treasurer; and Bob O'Brien, secretary. Barry Hall, Ray Luce, and Ken Hampel are the members-at-large. Ray and Ken will do double duty as librarians.

Mike Wittopp, Heartspring; Dave Buchan, Youth Outreach; Frank Scott, publicity; Tom Porritt, chorus manager; and Past President Webb Scrivnor, bulletin editor, complete the board. Mike O'Donnell, our effervescent, enthusiastic chorus director, signed on for another year.

The year 2000 version of our Singing Valentines program was chaired by Chapter President John Tyler for the fourth year in a row. Four quartets were in action from February 11 through February 14. ACT FOUR, HARMONY TRANSFER, WHATEVER FOUR, and the RISING TIDE quartet did a total of 90 paid Valentines plus a few freebies. We had some cancellations, but still wound up with a record number.

Including substitutes, 18 singers were involved along with former members John Fuller, Paul Henrikson, Clieve Hendricks, and Edgar Watson. John Tyler, his wife, Patty, and all of the singers who donated their time to make the Valentines program a financial and public relations success deserve accolades from their fellow chapter members.

One of the high points was the

delivery of a Valentine and birthday serenade by the RISING TIDE quartet to celebrate the 90th birthday of Hugh Campbell. Hugh was a good friend of the late Harold Dobb, who sang lead with CROMATIX during the 1950s. Hugh was a chapter member who enjoyed the vaudeville-type meetings that the 200 members were able to serve up back then.

Hugh has made donations to the chapter that have been used to send high school quartets to the Harmony Explosion Camp at Ball State University the past three years. A crowd of over 100 family and friends gathered to celebrate and enjoy the serenades.

Mike O'Donnell, this year's show chairman, is in the process of producing "Remember Radio" for our 60th anniversary show on October 7, 2000. Webb Scrivnor and O'Donnell are also selecting new repertoire songs for a short show performance package.

Chorus Manager Tom Porritt has plans to produce a demonstration video to help promote chorus performances.

The Muskegon Chapter continues to be very busy performing and promoting Barbershop singing.

Windsor

By Doran McTaggart

The highlight of our annual Christmas Party was the presentation of the Barbershopper of the Year Award to Ron McDermott. Ron is a giver, a worker, and a worthy B.O.T.Y.

Larry King and Earl Berry have been our link with the district for much of the last 20 years. As we closed out the millennium, we were

(Continued on page 32)

Chapters in Action

(Continued from page 31)

pleased to have them and their wives, Joan and Mimi, as our guests. Earl installed our officers for the coming year. We had a lot of singing, caroling, laughing, and too much food.

Hosting Uncle Sam Night each January is one of our chapter highlights. It's a great way to start off each year. You can read all about this wonderful inter-chapter activity elsewhere in the *Troub.*

We had the pleasure of two other great inter-chapter events — when the Motor City Metro Chapter brought us the Detroit-Oakland Travelling Jug, and when we passed it on to the Grosse Pointe Chapter. Evenings like this provide good opportunities for singing and fellowship.

Throughout January, we looked forward to “February with Fred.” Yes, Fred Kienitz shared his many talents with the SUN PARLOUR CHORUS on our Saturday retreat. Fred left his wife, Joan, at the Windsor Casino for the day, hoping that she would become a millionaire. Our chapter was the big winner. So “Thanks a million, Fred.”

We are looking forward to our April show and the district convention in Battle Creek. See you there.

Detroit-Oakland

By Tom Uicker

As I write this, we are finishing the first week of March, 2000. Winter was supposed to be quite snowy this year, but so far we have only had a couple of storms. As any

good weather forecaster could have predicted (and did), the worst storm by far was to happen on the day of Detroit-Oakland's annual show.

As it turned out, the snow didn't amount to half of what was forecast, and the show went on as planned. There was a bit of a nail biter as we waited for METROPOLIS, our headline quartet, to work their way through flight cancellations on their trip from California; but they finally got through in plenty of time to greet old friends and make new ones.

The other guest quartet, HARMONIX, is a local Sweet Adeline group who now have a special place in our hearts. They not only performed their own set on the show, but they made up the female part of our bridal party as we presented some of the action at a wedding reception.

Congratulations to Show Chairman Jim Kunz and Detroit-Oakland's music team for their selection of songs, as well as to G. B. Work for a nice script, which held it all together. G. B. also stepped in to act as master of ceremonies, and a couple of my friends are still chuckling over some of the jokes they heard. We had three chapter quartets on stage as well as the chapter ensemble and, of course, the GENTLEMEN SONGSTERS CHORUS. Great work, everyone! And special thanks to our SP coach and choreographer, Sue Gleason, for all of her help in staging and running the show.

Now that the show is over, a few of our guys have given in to winter colds, and a few have disappeared for warmer climes; but the majority are hard at work learning a new song for spring contest. Yes, that's right. Spring convention will be here shortly and Detroit-Oakland will be your host on what we hope will be a

beautiful April weekend in Battle Creek. We hope to see you there.

There are two other items I want to mention:

1. If there is a quartet or quartet coach that would like some help in attending Harmony Round-Up (Pioneer's mini-HEP) this May, there is still money available in the Bill Butler Quartet Coaching Scholarship Fund for just that purpose. You can apply through Steve Sutherland (at sps@mediaone.net) or any of Detroit-Oakland's music team. We have paid full tuition for at least one quartet or coach each year since the fund was started in 1990.
2. Friday, June 2, is when the Traveling Jugs are due to return to Detroit-Oakland Chapter. You are all invited to the party to sing our representative quartet(s) on to victory at Kansas City. I can't tell you where right now, but we should have fliers up at spring convention. See you there.

Meanwhile, if you happen to be in the neighborhood of Royal Oak, Michigan, some Monday night about 7:30, stop by Starr Presbyterian Church at Thirteen Mile and Crooks Road and sing a couple with us. Or, if you are free on Wednesday afternoons, our Daytime Singers meet at the same church between 1:00 and 3:30 p.m.

Milford

By Ernie Marlow

The chapter has not been very active since we lost our chorus director more than a year ago. There are a few of us still hanging in there in hopes of finding someone to wave his arms in front of the few who have remained.

Several members have moved to the Pontiac-Waterford Chapter and the new Livingston Chapter. Also, a couple of our members have had health problems and some are with that chorus in the sky, but there are a few guys left — about six of us are meeting on Tuesdays at noon at the office of Dr. Book for a bit of discussion.

We later move to a local eatery and some more talk on how to get the chapter back on its wheels and later sing a couple of tags to keep those vocal chords limber. Dave Anderson dropped by on February 15 to add some of his suggestions to the discussion. We will be forming an octet very soon and move on from there to bigger and better things.

On the last Friday of February, we will attend the Redford Harmony Club, and on March 31, we will attend the Pontiac Chapter's Woodshed Contest at the Pontiac Country Club.

Sault Ste. Marie

By Loyal Beggs

The Sault Ste. Marie Chapter has had a very exciting season thus far with performances at a number of churches and the usual array of Christmas activities. The chorus, now under the co-direction of Bob Shami, Loyal Beggs, and Don Bazely, is making great strides and looks forward to competing at the fall convention this year.

Adding to the excitement and to our musical growth has been a series of coaching sessions with Pioneer's very own Mr. Fred Kienitz, who has now completed two evenings with us and has another planned for late March. Also planned is a visit from David Cole, who will work with us on presenta-

tion.

I hope that all of us in this district realize how fortunate we are to be blessed with such talented individuals who give so freely of their time. If you haven't made use of these people, I urge you to do so. We're so delighted to have them coming way up here to God's country that we even got rid of the snow to make travel easier. Thank you to you both for your time and dedication to the betterment of the choruses and quartets in this district.

Even more exciting are the numbers of new members which have been received into the chapter since September. It is wonderful to be able to share our love of this hobby with the new fellows, and it is our hope that they get as much joy out of it as we do.

On February 5, Larry Parker and his wife, Carole, paid a visit to this area to be present for our ladies' night. Larry had the honour of installing the officers for the chapter. His unique presentation of the officers to the chorus, which looked and sounded a whole lot like a marriage ceremony, was certainly a delightful part of the evening. Thanks to the Parkers for making the long trip north a part of our special evening.

Also a highlight of that evening was the presentation of the Barbershopper of the Year award to Mr. Doug Iles. Doug has been a very faithful member of our bass section and has been the organizer of many performances over the years. His organizational abilities have been a great asset to the group. Congratulations, Doug ... it's an honour well deserved.

On a sad note, members of the chapter gathered in December to pay tribute to one of its most admired and respected members, Cap-

tain Clifford "Cap" MacLean. Cap was a faithful member of the chorus and weekly made the trip from Cedarville, Michigan, to the Sault (even well into his 90s) alone. A member of the Pioneer District Hall of Fame, Cap's enthusiasm for the Society was obvious and was contagious; his absence at our weekly meetings is deeply felt. Every time I hear an overtone, I know who's watching us and joining in from on high.

Cap, though you're no longer with us in body ... your spirit lives on in all of us and in the music we make forever. "You and the song are gone ... but the melody lingers on."

Macomb

By Roy Gurney

Well, our annual show is upon us and taking up most of our time right now. But as soon as the show is over, we will start learning our two new songs for the fall contest. And to get these songs off on the right foot, we are all going to Harmony Round-Up.

The big push this year at Macomb is "planning ahead." We're already working on next year's show and we haven't even put on this one yet. And, of course, the big plan — to make it to Nashville in 2001.

Our installation of chapter officers was held last month and officiated by none other than our good friend, Doran McTaggart. Thanks a lot, Doran.

And at this prestigious event, we crowned our 1999 Barbershopper of the Year, CHUCK HATCH! We thank Chuck for all he has done and continues to do for us.

We'll see you all at spring convention in Battle Creek AND Harmony Round-Up at MSU. ■

Spring Convention

(Continued from page 6)

years ago at Harmony College. He also helped assemble the Directors College performance curriculum. His class outline was the basis for the Society manual on performance, and he has led several schools and seminars on performance, craft, and vocal techniques.

Before he joined the Society staff, Stamm wrote and directed films and videos for several production companies, worked for Hanna-Barbera (remember the Jetsons?), and holds degrees in communications. A barbershopper for 29 years, he has been involved with several choruses and quartets.

At Kenosha, he oversees marketing, public relations, publications, and development. He also is executive director of Harmony Foundation charitable activities, including SingAmerica and Heartspring. He was a key in implementing SingAmerica; the pilot program was held in Battle Creek in 1994.

Pioneer Standing Ovation chairman is Dave Cole of Holland.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In other convention activities, quartet competitions at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday will select the district representative to the international competition this summer.

Collegiate Quartet Contest entrants will perform before the quartet finals Saturday night. This is open to men aged 17-25 as of the International contest date. No more than two singers may have been Society members before Jan. 1, 2000. Further information and official entry forms are available from Al Bonney <albonney@aliens.com>, district VP for Young Men in Harmony, or from Jim DeBusman <jdebusman@spebsqsa.org> at So-

ciety headquarters. Entries must be received by DeBusman by April 7.

The contest to select the district's new chorus champion will begin at noon Saturday.

Mike-testers will be the JOE BARBERSHOP CHORUS, directed by Lansing director Jeff Gougeon. It is open to all members, whether competing or not. The chorus will rehearse "From the First Hello" and "Wait 'Till the Sun Shines, Nellie" at 10:30 a.m. Saturday in the W.K. Kellogg Auditorium gym. All contests will be at the auditorium, two blocks from the headquarters hotel.

The chorus contest will be followed by a father-son-grandson chorus directed by Jack Slamka and son, Mike, of quartet POWER PLAY. Rehearsal will be at 9:30 a.m. Saturday. "Lida Rose" and "Singing Here with Dad" must be learned in advance. The arrangements and a learning tape are available from the Society for \$6.00 plus shipping. To order, call 800-876-SING, ext. 8410.

Participants also must notify Larry Parker, convention chairman. Write him at 1416 New York Ave., Lansing, MI 48906; call 517-372-8389; fax 517-372-8979; or e-mail LParker437@aol.com. Chorus attire will be a suit or sport coat with tie, or a chorus dress uniform.

The GREAT LAKES CHORUS will present a show at the headquarters hotel about one-half hour after the Friday night quartet semifinals. A \$5.00 admission fee will help cover the cost of the chorus' trip to represent the district this summer at International. Tickets can be requested in advance when convention registration is submitted.

Since the chorus lost musical director Ann Jarchow, Jamie Carey has been temporarily lured out of retirement. "We have at our disposal three competing chapter quartets and a solid repertoire that Ann

left us with," said Chapter President Dale Mattis. "Therefore, we are confident that a quality show can be presented, and help raise some much needed cash to help us get to Kansas City."

Deadline for advance convention registration is April 14. Hotel registration deadline was March 27. Competition registration is separate from convention registration; it is handled through Mike O'Donnell, district contest & judging VP. A link to the competition entry form is on the district website.

The convention also will include a mass sing at McCamly Place about one-half hour after the chorus contest, and a ladies' hospitality room and a Gospel service at the headquarters hotel.

Don Challman, Society Board member from the Land O' Lakes District, will be the Society's representative at the convention.

A Barbershopper for 37 years, he is a member of the Hilltop Chapter's GREAT NORTHERN UNION CHORUS. With the chorus, he has sung in 14 consecutive international contests, medalling five times. He also was a member of the NIGHT HOWLS comedy quartet, which competed internationally three times and went on a USO tour in 1970.

Challman, 66, has served in many chapter and district offices. He is on the Society's presentation and operations committees. He has been a COTS and Harmony College instructor. He previously was an international board member in 1975-76 and is a past Society contest & judging chairman. He has received his district's Barbershopper of the Year and Hall of Fame awards.

Retired from a career in educational social work, Don and his wife, Barbara, live in Shoreview, Minn. ■

Spring Convention Schedule (tentative)

FRIDAY, April 28

9:00 a.m. -- District board meeting, McCamly Plaza Hotel.
 11:00 a.m. -- Registration begins, McCamly lobby.
 Noon -- Barbershop Shoppe opens, McCamly. Open through Saturday night at any time competitions are not in progress.
 2:00 p.m. -- House of Delegates meeting, McCamly.
 2:00-5:00 p.m. -- Ladies Hospitality Room, McCamly.
 6:15 p.m. -- Registration moves from McCamly to Kellogg Auditorium.
 7:30 p.m. -- Quartet competition semi-finals, Kellogg Auditorium.
 One-half hour after competition -- Grand Rapids show, \$5.00 admission, McCamly
 Plaza Branson Ballroom.

SATURDAY, April 29

8:30 a.m. -- Standing Ovation presentation, McCamly.
 9 a.m. -- Registration continues, McCamly lobby.
 9:00-11:00 a.m. -- Ladies Hospitality Room.
 9:30 a.m. -- Father-son-grandson chorus rehearsal, gym at Kellogg Auditorium.
 10:30 a.m. -- Joe Barbershop Chorus rehearsal, gym at Kellogg Auditorium.
 10:45 a.m. -- Registration moves from McCamly to Kellogg Auditorium.
 Noon -- District chorus contest, Kellogg Auditorium.
 Half hour after competition -- Mass Sing, McCamly Place
 3:30-5:00 p.m. -- Ladies Hospitality Room.
 7:30 p.m. -- Quartet competition finals, Kellogg Auditorium.
 After competition -- Hospitality rooms at McCamly and other hotels.

SUNDAY, April 30

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

Todd Wilson's List (Continued from page 17)

barbershop singing, our type of phrasing and musicality is quite difficult to execute without proper breath support."

However, do not allow your breathing to disrupt the mood of the song. Do not take a quick gasping breath before a tender and soft phrase in a ballad. Make your approach to breathing appropriate to the type of mood you want to maintain.

18. I see a time when chorus and quartet members REALLY spend more time working on their music between rehearsals and showing up each week more prepared than the previous rehearsal.

Learn your notes and words at home on your own or with a learning tape and allow the limited time at rehearsal for polishing your presentation.

19. I envision a day when more of your fellow riser mates can actually perform a new song without the sheet music within the three weeks of its introduction, so the director can begin to work his magic and have every singer's undivided attention.

VISUALS

20. Don't we all hope for a time when the "penny-pinching" committee in charge of selecting chorus costumes will realize the ramifications of this important duty? How you look on stage will probably impact your performance and how your group will be perceived by the audience.

IMAGE IS EVERYTHING. When in doubt, budget and spend more to acquire quality attire. Cheap costuming looks cheap and

will not survive the rigors of a busy show schedule.

Also, what have you accomplished if you buy a cheap outfit that looks good from stage, but embarrassingly bad up close when you are greeting your friends and fans after the show? Don't forget comfortable shoes.

21. I can see a time when more and more chorus and quartet performers enter and take command of the stage as though they own it!

22. I can see a time when more chorus and quartet performers establish the mood of each song visually before they sing a note, and that their facial expressions throughout the performance are in harmony with the message and mood of the song.

MUSIC

23. I hope for a time when Barbershoppers spend much more time in the process of selecting the right songs and arrangements to perform. As a performer, the choices they make with regard to the music they perform are THE MOST IMPORTANT decisions they will ever make in Barbershopping.

MARKETING AND MANAGEMENT

24. I see a time when every chapter and quartet has an e-mail address, web site, fax number, and dedicated phone number with voice mail.

25. I envision a day when attempts to run our barbershop choruses "like a business" are not looked down upon by others.

26. I envision a day when more barbershop chapters discover one of the most important aspects of their success, besides their membership, their MAILING LIST.

Concluded next issue

... New edit #10

Math problems? Call 1-800-[(10x)(1n(13y))]-[sin(xy)/2.362x].

I'm writing a book. So far, I have the pages numbered.

Ambivalent? Well, yes and no.

The worst (insert your choice: tenor, lead, bass, or bari) always sings the loudest.

The guy who says that stage presence is an easy, risk-free way to get added contest points should be shot. Twice!

No matter how many rooms in the headquarters hotel, the guy who starts up his car at 5:00 a.m. is always parked under your window.

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***"When love and skill work together,
expect a masterpiece."***

John Ruskin

Upcoming Events

2000

April 8 - Sault Ste. Marie Show. Contact Bob Shami: 705-253-9574

April 8 - Windsor Show. Contact Andy McCann: 519-979-3130

April 8 - Michiana Show. Contact Gene Hanover: 616-465-6223

April 28-30 - District Spring Convention, Battle Creek. DOC hosts.

May 15-19 - Bill Rashleigh's visit to PIO schools. Contact Al Bonney: 231-223-4064

May 19-21 - Harmony Round-Up. Contact Russ Seely: 810-363-8977

May 20 - Flint Show. Contact Dale Radford: 810-234-2724

May 20-21 - Hillsdale Show. Contact Bill Valentine: 517-437-2167

June 9-10 - Traverse City Show. Contact Jeff Belanger: 231-933-9900

June 9 - Windsor Send-Off.

July 2-9 - SPEBSQSA International Convention & Competition - Kansas City. www.spebsqsa.org/KansasCity

July 20-23 - Harmony Explosion Camp, Ball State University, Muncie, Ind. Contact Al Bonney: 231-223-4064

July 30-Aug. 6 - Harmony College/Directors College, Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, Missouri. Contact 1-800-876-SING x-8551

Aug. 17-20 - Buckeye Invitational, Columbus, Ohio. Contact Walt Miller: 740-928-6306, or <http://www.singingbuckeyes.org>

Sept. 16 - Alpena Show. Contact: Karl Heidemann: 517-734-7038

Sept. 16 - Gratiot County Show. Contact Mark Wilson: 517-833-2466

Sept. 29-30 - Bush League 2000. Contact Hank Hedges: 517-731-1169

Oct. 7 - Muskegon Show. Contact Mike O'Donnell: 616-363-1368, or Web Scrivnor: 616-842-9041

Oct. 20-22 - District Fall Convention

Oct. 28 - Pontiac-Waterford Show. Contact Dick Johnson: 248-363-5173

Nov. 4 - Rochester Show. Contact Carl Hasselwander: 248-651-6172

Dec. 1-3 - COTS, Gull Lake

Dec. 8, 10 - Grand Rapids Show.

2001

Apr. 27-29 - District Spring Convention

Oct. 19-21 - District Fall Convention

Note: All chapter show activities must be cleared through District Secretary Jack Schneider (contact information on page 2).