



# Pioneer Troubadour

Official Publication of the Pioneer District March/April 2005 Volume 56, Number 2

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

## Antiques Roadshow scores bronze

And the winner is...Texoma Sound!

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

**Texoma Sound** swept the 2005 Barbershop Harmony Society International Seniors Quartet Contest Jan. 29, beating out 23 other competitors and achieving the highest score in the last several years.

The contest was held in conjunction with the Society's annual midwinter convention in Jacksonville.

Members of Texoma

Please see SENIORS page 7



### Roadshow does it again

Yes, **Antiques**

**Roadshow** garnered another **Bronze Medal** at the Seniors Contest in Jacksonville, Florida on January 29. What a contest!

Singing in second place, **Antiques Roadshow** set the pace early on, for the other 23 quartets. Their Presentation, with the highest scores ever, set a new standard for the Seniors Contest and

broke the paradigm, that all seniors can do is stand there and sing.

Overall scores were also the highest ever in a Seniors Contest.

The 2005 Seniors champions are **Texoma Sound**, with **Jim Casey**, the great vocal coach, singing lead.

What a fine job they did. **Antiques Roadshow** was only 11 points from getting a Silver Medal

The Presentation Judges  
Please see **ANTIQUES**

## Woodshed Contest April 8 in Pontiac

Pontiac's **49th Annual Woodshed Contest** is Friday evening, April 8.

The tradition brings men from the entire district who can choose from a list of songs and form quartets with no more than two men per chapter. The quartets (no organized quartets can compete) then learn the snippet of a song and sing together with an organized quartet serving as judges to pick the winners.

The Friday event starts at 7:30 p.m. at the usual venue – the Pontiac Country Club on Elizabeth Lake Rd in Waterford. Quartets are assembled on the spot, but limited to two members of the same chapter or registered quartet.

But how did this grand tradition come about. The following was Assembled by **John Cowlshaw** from the Complete History of the Pioneer District by **Bob McDermott** – available online at <http://www.harmonize.com/Pioneer/history/history.htm> – and is supplemented by the memories of **Bill Pascher**.

In the Detroit area, the local chapters all had established Friday night meetings, and one could Barbershop every Friday night

somewhere in the area.

These meetings featured woodshedding and quartet singing galore, and one attending would get a chance to sing with Barbershoppers from all the other chapters in the area.

In fact, one would probably see many of the same fellows at every chapter's meeting, rotating every Friday night. It was a tradition that lasted throughout the Sixties and the Seventies, but unfortunately died out in the Eighties in most instances.

A good example of the type of meetings held during this era (and which still continues today) was the Pontiac Woodshed contest.

This contest was started in 1957 by **John Beaudin** and **Bill Pascher**, who together created the concept of quartets competing without pre-arranged numbers and without prior knowledge of song selection.

The **Carroll P. Adams Memorial Trophy** was designed and built by Pascher to be awarded to the chapter with the highest percentage of its members participating, and is now the oldest revolving trophy in the Society. Please see **WOODSHED**, page 3



### Return of the Moonlight Cruise

By Steve Sutherland

We're real excited at the Detroit-Oakland chapter. We had the opportunity to reactivate the Detroit River cruise formerly known as the "Moonlight Cruise" on the retired Boblo Boat. The new vessel is the Detroit Princess.

It is a stern-wheel riverboat that will travel the Detroit River beginning this summer. (Right now it is docked and waiting in Toledo.)

I've missed the old cruise and in talking with many others, they do too.

This will be fun.

Here's a link to the flyer on the DOC web site: <http://www.harmonize.com/doc/MoonlightCruise/MoonlightCruise.htm> Reserve Saturday, July 30th for a return to summer fun.



### March/April 2005 Pioneer Troubadour

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# Meet The Last Gasp quartet

The Last Gasp recently was asked to sing for the 101st birthday party for a lovely lady at the Sunrise Assisted Living in Downtown Rochester, which happens to be located right next door to Rochester's brand new 4-star hotel, The Royal Park.

After our gig, we decided to walk over to check out the amenities of the hotel. As we approached, we were greeted by two doormen, a couple bell men, and the parking valets, all splendidly dressed in uniforms, complete with white gloves. We were ushered through the big beautiful front door just like any celebrity.

After enjoying a few moments in the bar, where we were asked to sing to a very attractive waitress, we went back out through the large wooden



doors, and were again greeted by the uniformed attendants, awaiting the arrival of some "other" dignitaries. When they discovered the reason we were all dressed alike was because we were a Barbershop Quartet, they "pleaded" for us to sing them a song. After much arm twisting, we offered them our rendition of

"Coney Island Baby".

After the tag, when their muted applause died down (they had gloves on, you see), several of them came over to shake our hands. **George Schmidt** (bari) noticed that the glove of one of the gentlemen seemed sort of rough, and as he started to leave he looked down and discovered

a neatly folded \$20 bill had been discretely placed in George's palm.

This has to be the first time any of us had ever been tipped BY the Bell Man.

We wondered later if the \$20 bill was the smallest bill he had.

If you wonder where name The Last Gasp came from, It became very obvious when we figured out that we have a total number of 303 years of regular breathing under our belts, with over 200 of them in a state of marital bliss.

This may not be a record, but we wonder how many other quartets can top this. Making up the rest of the quartet are **Merle Schultz** (Lead), **Dave Pearcy** (Tenor) and **Don Lewis** (Bass).

WOODSHED:

## In Pontiac April 8

Continued from page 1.

A separate medal, the Pontiac Woodshed Lapel Award, is given to each member of the winning quartet." (McDermott, 1962)

The first contest was on March 29, 1957 and publicized as "an 'Olde-Time Woodshed' contest. This event drew 114 Barbershoppers including International President **Rowland Davis** of New York.

The contest made up of foursomes selected on the spot, culminated in 14 quartets actually competing.

The winning four was composed of **Steve Vickers** of **Redford**, tenor; **Tom Pollard**, (Wayne,) lead; **Bill Carter**, (Detroit), baritone, and **Bob Wharton**, (Detroit), bass... The first annual award of the Carroll P. Adams Bennington Trophy went to the Detroit Chapter for entering the greatest number of individual contestants." (McDermott, 1957)

Bill Pascher and John Beaudin were the initial force behind the contest, to preserve Barbershoppers' ability to create harmony from an unpublished piece of music, to rely more on an individual's ear and intuition than on printed notes.

Several ideas for a trophy were kicked around, and the winner was patterned after a monument in Bennington Vermont, hometown of Carroll P. Adams' wife. Thus, it was called the Carroll P. Adams Bennington trophy. Carroll P. Adams was the first Pioneer district president (1940-42).

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# 'You Can Sing Too' campaign approved

By Bruce Smith

Pioneer District President

The Society Board approved the **YOU CAN SING TOO** membership campaign in early February.



Now the work begins for members, chapters, and districts. Getting prepared will challenge each of us, and each preparation

step we take will benefit us long after the campaign has passed. The entire plan can be found at the Pioneer Web Site under Membership. For me, the highlights include the following:

**Campaign overview:** The Objectives of the campaign are to:

1. Increase Membership to 1,500 by December 31.
2. Increase the value provided to our membership
3. Retain a higher percentage of our members in the society:

**Preparation:** The campaign document lists many items that should be in place prior to the campaign. The check list runs the gamut, from business cards to venue and should be carefully reviewed and followed as closely as possible.

The items of greatest importance relate to creating a program and environment that is welcoming and fun for guest as well as current and past members. A program that is varied and takes into account the needs and desires of all members, one

that includes musical variety, quartet activities, social and community activities, efforts towards improved performance and, in some cases, a reduction of the emphasis on preparation for competition. How did I arrive at this list? By reviewing lapsed member responses to the Harris Interactive survey done for the society. It can and should be reviewed. Just click on the link in the Membership plan and review the information.

One aspect of perpetration we need to explore is using the pre-recorded and print advertisements that will be made available by the society for chapter use. We need to look at purchasing our own advertising or going in with other chapters to advertise in regional papers. How about doing the same with Public Service Announcements on radio and television?

All this preparation should lead to a coordinated "You Can Sing Too" night held across our Barbershop world during the week of September 12 -16. A night which will be supported by a national advertising campaign in the U.S. and Canada utilizing advertisements in USA Today and The Globe and Mail asking interested men to call a national call center for referral to local chapters.

**Rewards:** There will be numerous monetary and recognition rewards available to members, chapters, and those who join as a result of the campaign.

These rewards are motivating

and exciting to be sure, but to me the concept of having more men joining in this life enriching experience is reward enough. Expanding the public's knowledge of barbershop harmony and listening to our musical style is a benefit to us all. **What's the Cost?** There are two costs. One is hard work. This effort will only succeed by all of us working together. That very effort will produce rewards yet unseen.

The second is a requested financial contribution of \$2 for each chapter member. I imagine there will be some that find that unacceptable though I hope not. It is a contribution not a mandate and I hope that each chapter

finds away to make that happen. The rewards are great, the cost significant, and the financial cost small.

**Implementation:** District and Chapter officers need to start yesterday creating plans, questions, and check lists. Work will take place at the spring HOD meeting and follow up and assistance will come from the society, district officers and chapter counselors. It will take all of our efforts to bring about success.

I hope we all seek ways to make this happen. We can forge the future we want or can recall the past and re-create the present.

Frank Fortier(Lead) Tom Smeltzer (Bass)  
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# COTS: Another record year

By Doran McTaggart

Last year, the Pioneer District set a **COTS** record by having 27 out of 27 chapters represented at COTS for 100 percent participation.

Seventy-eight percent of our chapters had four or more attending which also led the Society.



This past COTS in January 2005, Pioneer again was the envy of the Society with 25 out of 27 chapters attending for 93 percent.

Nineteen chapters had four or more men in attendance for a very high 76 percent. A total of 166 men were registered.

Three new District classes were added this year. They were Grant Writing, Director of the Future and a Joe Barbershop class.

Our Afterglow was a lot of fun with a number of classes each singing one song. The judges found it so difficult to find a winner, that all were awarded first place and received the Canadian Crystal Award.

**Insignia** sang in the YMIH General Session while **Moxie**, **Side Kicks** and our Pioneer Quartet Champions **Wildcard** entertained superbly at the Afterglow. What a great weekend!

A tip o' the hat goes to COTS Coordinator, **Doug Lynn**, for all his efforts on our behalf. Next year's COTS will be January 7-8, 2006.

## CHAPTER COUNSELORS AND THEIR CHAPTERS

Some Chapter Counselors have retired and new ones have been trained to take their place. These men are dedicated to helping each chapter to be the best it can be. Give them a call and make use of their expertise.

They are the conduits that can open the doors to enable you to get all the material and human resources you will need to be successful. They are good



Chapter Counselors and their Chapters.

**Dave Anderson**.....  
Detroit-Oakland  
**Ed Bax**.....  
Saginaw Bay  
**Don Bazely**.....  
Gaylord, Traverse City  
**Al Bonney**.....  
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**Ron Bump**.....  
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**Dan Casamatta**.....  
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Muskegon  
**Ron Eubank**.....

**Russ Seely**.....  
Rochester, Pontiac/Waterford  
**Bruce Smith**.....  
Grand Rapids  
**Hal Thompson**.....  
Flint, Gratiot County  
**Alex Willox**.....  
Huron Valley, Monroe North  
**Darl Wiley**.....  
Motor City Metro, Wayne  
**Doran McTaggart**.....\nGrosse Pointe, Macomb County,  
Windsor

Let your Chapter Counselor help your Chapter get ready to



listeners and provide an impartial viewpoint to add to the mix.

Give them a call --- you'll be glad you did.

The following is a list of our 2005

Kalamazoo

**Dave Herge**.....

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**Clay Jones**.....

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# Everything old is new again

By Al Bonney

Last year, Americans gave more than \$250 billion to non-profit organizations. Almost 75 percent of that came from folk



like you and me: just plain folk who believe in and support the mission and work of their favorite non-profit organizations.

As I prepare our 2004 taxes I am reminded how Joanie and I allocated our charitable donations in 2004. The results are consistent with our priorities.

Of the money we gave away, the largest percent went to Barbershop: **Harmony Foundation**, the **Cherry Capital Chorus** endowment and to the **Pioneer District** youth fund.

Another percent went to other arts related organizations and the rest went to various charities that Joanie and I believe are important and deserving of our financial

support.

I bet you do the same thing because you want to know if your charitable donations are meeting your family's priorities.

It may surprise you to learn that there are a great many Barbershoppers who have never thought about our hobby as a priority for charitable giving. Like many other parts of our beloved hobby, we are evolving.

You know, of course, that virtually all non-profit organizations (hospitals, schools and colleges, arts organizations, etc) depend on a combination of earned revenue (dues, ticket sales, rentals, tuitions, etc.) and charitable donations to fulfill their mission.

Some symphony orchestras receive as much as 90 percent of their income from charitable donations in addition to their ticket sales and recordings. That's where the \$250 billion I spoke of in the first paragraph went.

The Barbershop Harmony Society is no different. If

we are to fulfill our mission of "improving lives through singing", we must have revenue streams beyond our three traditional sources of revenue: dues, convention revenue and Harmony Marketplace income.

This is why Joanie and I allocated a significant share of our 2004 donations to barbershop programs such as:

- **The Pioneer Youth Fund** that our district created to help pay for our "Harmony Happening" for high school boys in March.

- **Director Scholarships** to **Director's College** every year that come from donations to Harmony Foundation.

- **Harmony Explosion Camp** tuition subsidies from Harmony Foundation donations.

- **The Cherry Capital Chorus** endowment provides money to help elementary students in our area learn to sing standard American songs in the 52 elementary schools in the Traverse City area.

I was glad to confirm that our

charitable donations had fulfilled Joanie's and my priorities.

I am sure you will feel the same way when you tally up your 2004 giving. But just in case you have not asked yourself, "Am I supporting my hobby consistent with my priorities?", it might be time. If you believe, as I do, that "improving lives through singing" is a mission worthy of support; you may want to be sure that priority is reflected in your own charitable donations in 2005.

*There are several ways you can support the Barbershop Harmony Society mission. You can give money to the district youth fund, to the Harmony Foundation unrestricted fund or to your chapter to fund activities that you believe are important.*

*All these donations are charitable donations under the IRS regulations. Any decisions you make regarding your taxes should be made with the advice of competent tax advice.*

## Harmony Round-Up : Fun, Fellowship and more.

By Dan Bezaire

*Director of Music & Performance*

Harmony Round-Up will be held May20-22, again at Michigan State University. Our featured faculty quartet is the 1975 International Champions **Happiness Emporium**.

Other guest faculty members include **Greg Lyne**, the Society's Director of Music,

**Steve Plumb**, renowned judge and coach, and **Don Gray**, arranger, judge, quartet champ, and coach.

Don will be teaching an arranging class, a new class for Harmony Round-Up. He says that anyone who can read a 2<sup>nd</sup> Trombone part in a high school band can easily manage his class. Any budding arrangers out

there?

Also offered this year is a class in the History of Barbershop, taught by **Jerry Knickerbocker**, and **How To Be A Great Emcee**, by our own **Doran McTaggart**. Of course, there will be tags and woodshedding, and lots of chances to sing.

Quartets: as always, there is

a great line-up of coaches, but again we are limiting the number of quartets to 10, first come, first serve.

More information, as well as registration forms, have been sent to your chapter. Please contact your Music & Performance man or your director.

Bruce Scott Mike Craig

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# Crescendo sings for 5,039 at Crisler

## Here come the judges

On Feb. 4th, the #2 ranked University of Michigan's women's gymnastic team defeated the #3 ranked UCLA Bruin squad in a close battle in front of a record breaking 5,039 in Crisler Arena in Ann Arbor.

Perhaps the U-M team was given a little extra inspiration by **Crescendo's** singing of the National Anthem!

One of the University of Michigan Women's Booster Club Board Member had the following to say about CRESCENDO's performance. Thank you for Crescendo's performance of the National Anthem



last Friday at the U-M/UCLA Women's Gymnastics Meet.

This competition was our most important meet of the season

to this point and our special tribute to the participating Olympians. We expected a larger crowd than usual along with more media with the #2 team up against the #3 team. Crescendo did a beautiful job.

Thank you again for contributing to all the excitement about this meet. We had a new all-time attendance record of over 5000 people, so I'm sure you gained some new fans.

*Jane E. Clements  
U-Mi 10.0 Booster Club Board Member  
A special thanks to Ruben and Joe Queen for filling in on Lead and Tenor.*

**By Al Fisk**

I'm pleased to announce that six guys have sent in their initial applications to begin the process of entering the judging/CA program.

Hopefully, they will all make it through and become certified in August of 2007. Please encourage them

in any way you can. I know how much I appreciated your input when I went through the cycle. Here's our applicant class:  
Contest Administrator:  
**Ron Eubank  
Bud Leonard  
Don Reddy**  
Presentation:  
**Mike Slamka**  
Singing:  
**Dorn Burrill  
Alan Murray**

## SENIORS: Details from Mid-Winter

Continued from Page 1

Sound are: tenor FrankFriedemann of Tulsa, Okla.; lead **Jim Casey** of Denison, Texas; baritone **Bill Thompson** of Stillwater, Okla.;

and bass **Tom Pearson** of Houston, Texas. They scored a total of 909 points. The quartet represented the Society's Southwestern District.

employed vocal music instructor; Thompson, 68, is assistant sales and service manager for General Motors Corp.; and Pearson, 63, is an orthodontist.

No member of any competing seniors quartet may be younger than 55, and the cumulative age of the quartet must be 240 years or more. They were judged on presentation, singing and music.

Members of Savoir Four are tenor **Rick Anthony**, 59; lead **Dick Bek**, 65; baritone Lynn Hauldren, 82; and bass George Sotos, 58. Hauldren was honored as the oldest competitor. Antiques Roadshow members are tenor **Raleigh Bloch**, 71; lead **Dennis Gore**, 62; baritone **Roger Lewis**, 67; and bass **Lee Hanson**, 73.

Second place was won by **Savoir Four** of Illinois; third went to **Antiques Roadshow** of Michigan; fourth to **Talisman** of Illinois and fifth to **Antique Gold** of the Greater Vancouver area, British Columbia.

Like all members of the Society, competing quartets sing Barbershop harmony as a hobby.

In "real life," Texoma Sound's Friedemann, 61, is a counselor-public relations manager for Musgrove-Merriott-Smith Funeral Service; Casey, 66, is a self-

## Gaylord loses Manley, Member since 1950

**Richard E. Manley**, a member of the **Gaylord Harmonie Meisters**, passed away on Jan. 14, 2005. Dick was 72 and lived at Houghton Lake.

He had been very active in Barbershop singing since 1950 and received the "Man of The Year" award in 1975 from the AuSable Grayling Chapter. Dick is survived by his wife of 49 years, Janet and a son, David.

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# C-c-c-cold coaching in Gaylord

## Chorus Coaching – Up North

By Al Bonney, Staff writer

GAYLORD -- It was four degrees above zero when I got up and roused my two house guests out of their warm beds. **Doug Miller**, from Minnesota, did not complain.

**Barry Towner**, from Toronto, wanted us to believe he was used to this kind of cold – nobody believed him!

After a quick stop at Burger King for a road-breakfast and refills on coffee, we were off for the 1.5 hour trek to Gaylord. It wasn't even light yet!

Driving through Mancelona, the temperature dropped to eight-below and we were glad the task for the day was inside! By the time we got to Gaylord, it was back to four degrees above, the sun was shining brightly on what was to be one of the most glorious northern Michigan days of the winter.

I wished for a moment that I could be out in the woods skiing . . . but then the music started . . . our three coaches started working their magic . . . and I forgot about skiing while one chord after another flowed over me. Heaven!

Due to a series of unforeseeable circumstances two of the six scheduled choruses had to cancel at the last moment but that did not slow anything down.

Barry Towner, presentation judge and gold medal director from Toronto; Doug Miller, presentation judge and quartet bronze medal winner from Minneapolis and **Al Fisk**, music judge, district champion quartet singer and

perennial coaching favorite in Pioneer each turned in yeoman's work, moving from chorus to chorus every hour all day.

The morning choruses, **Alpena and Gaylord**, took to the risers at 9 a.m. and worked till noon – each getting a full hour

of coaching from the three experts. The boys came ready to sing, I will tell you!

Each chorus had been asked to come equipped with two or three songs from their repertoire especially selected by their director for coaching. Both choruses started singing well right from the start of the day and the coaches coaxed them higher and higher; amazing several of the guys on the risers who never expected they could sing at such a level.

The youth clubs from the Evangelical Free Church (our hosts for the Spring Contest last

Scheduled for the afternoon, the guys from the **Sault** and from **Gratiot County** had come in time for lunch and now it was their turn. Pumped from the morning reports, they were loaded for bear and ready to get everything the coaches had available. By 5 p.m., when the final chord rang, everyone was wishing the district contest would have been right then.

When I loaded Barry and Doug in the car for the trip back to

Traverse City, (Al Fisk was headed up to the Sault for another day of coaching on Sunday) they were two whipped puppies. The boys from northern Michigan had gotten their money's worth! Barry conked out and slept all the way home. Doug tried to stay awake. Neither offered to drive!

2005 was our fourth year for this annual event and judging from the critiques we will have a full house again on February 25, 2006 when six choruses will make the frozen trek to Gaylord for another wonderful Barbershop day. Mark your calendars, boys. Year five

will be the best ever!

*All photos by  
Nan Northup,  
Director,  
Gratiot  
County*



**Antiques Roadshow**

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## Border Crossing sings for local school kids

**Border Crossing**, of the Windsor and Macomb chapters, went back to high school recently.

Three high schools, in fact. The quartet, **Matt Tipton**, lead; **Rob Grimmell**, tenor; **Roy Gurney**, bari; and **Dan**



**Bezaire**, bass, visited some vocal music classes at schools in the Windsor – Detroit area.

The presentation consisted of the quartet singing a few songs, and a demonstration of how barbershop music is put together. Two of the quartet's members are former music educators, so



this type of audience was pretty familiar to them, but the other two had a great time as well.

Highlight of the day: when Roy mentioned to one group that he was hoping to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his high school quartet this year, someone exclaimed, "You're so cute!"

Homework assignment to all quartets: if you ever have an inkling of going out to a music class, do it! It's a lot of fun, and you will have a very appreciative audience.

# Coaching: Opportunities for your chapter

Following are the programs available to help our directors and chapters grow in their knowledge and skills related to directing. More detailed descriptions follow below. For more information about any of these, contact Ron Eubank at [roneubank@aol.com](mailto:roneubank@aol.com).

**Director of the Future (DoF)** The Director of the Future Day is a one-day workshop for section leaders, warm-up leaders, chorus vocal coaches, assistant directors and directors who want to improve basic directing, leadership and teaching skills **Directors College** A week long experience for all directors to enhance their learning in directing skills, vocal production, performance, teaching skills, rehearsal techniques and music theory.

**Certification Program** For directors who are interested in monitoring their life long learning as they become more competent and trained directors.

**Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI I and II)** These are one day workshops for five front line directors coached by two certified trainers. The day is designed to meet the needs of the individual director. The training is flexible, dynamic and a valuable opportunity for directors to enhance their frontline teaching and conducting skills.

**CDWI the Next Level** This is a one on one coaching opportunity for the director and the entire administrative, musical and leadership team with a certified trainer. Prior to the coaching session the trainer views and comments on a video of an earlier chapter meeting and summarizes questionnaires received from the director and chorus members. The trainer meets early with the director, executive and music team to review the written comments. Together they prioritize the areas for growth and the specific areas are addressed by the trainer during coaching at a regular rehearsal. A second video is recorded 4-6 weeks later and chapter members surveyed in a follow up questionnaire.

More details about each of the above programs follow:

**DIRECTOR OF THE FUTURE DAY** is a one-day workshop for section leaders, warm-up leaders, chorus vocal coaches, assistant directors and directors who want to improve basic directing skills. It is an active workshop designed for men who wish to take a greater musical leadership role in their chapters. They develop their teaching and directing skills so that the men on the risers enjoy a richer, more rewarding experience each week.

The workshop covers:

- Basic 4 / 4, 3 / 4, 2 / 4, single beat patterns, cut-offs and getting a song started. The focus of the workshop is that it is interactive and there are two sessions in small groups with a trainer, to practice conducting skills.
- Sound Management and Vocal techniques are taught so that participants have a better grasp of vocal skills to teach the chorus.
- Warm up models are taught which will inspire a chorus to better singing.
- Leadership techniques and methods of managing groups of singers is taught and demonstrated so rehearsal time is more effective.

Certified DoF instructors lead the workshop and use talented individuals from the district to assist. We held a DoF class at COTS this past January. If there is lots of interest we can arrange to have another class during this year.

**SCHOLARSHIPS TO DIRECTORS COLLEGE**- Each District has been awarded scholarships by the Society Board and

Harmony Foundation for Director's College scheduled for July 31 through August 7, 2005. Pioneer District has been awarded four scholarships.

- Top priority for these scholarships is given to front-line directors who have not yet attended Directors College.

- Front-line directors who have attended previously and assistants who have not attended are eligible.

- Applications were received by March 5, final selection has taken place and winners will be announced soon.

**CERTIFICATION**- A six level certification program is in place to encourage directors to pursue life long learning to enhance their skills. The directors are encouraged to attend schools and musical learning experiences.

- Directors can enrol in the program by contacting Dave Gelb at [dgelbbs@charter.net](mailto:dgelbbs@charter.net) or contact me for further information.

**Chorus Director Workshop Intensive Programs** The CDWI I is a program for five front line directors. Two certified trainers lead the directors through a process of self discovery, self acceptance of responsibility, and self motivation to improve in a three hour morning session.

- A host chapter provides a rehearsal chorus in the afternoon.

The directors have an opportunity to practice important selected skills while being recorded with a video camera. Their successes are reviewed with the trainers.

- Participating directors have rated over 150 workshops a success average of 95%. This indicates that this one day workshop is an outstanding and effective program which assists directors in their quest to improve the satisfaction and success of their singers as well as their own competency.

**CDWI II** The CDWI II is a follow up to the CDWI I to continue the development of directors and their commitment to better singing and performance. It is a one day workshop with more opportunities to practice the development of directing and teaching skills.

**CDWI NEXT LEVEL** The CDWI NEXT LEVEL is a director training program designed to provide Society directors, administrators, music leadership teams and choruses with one-on-one coaching.

- CDWI participation is a pre-requisite for the implementation of this program. It involves at least two contacts with the chapter. Selected chapter members will provide their views of the chapter meeting by a confidential questionnaire and the music team will record a complete chapter meeting on tape.

- The chorus director provides his view of the chapter as well as an evaluation of his own his strengths via a questionnaire.

- The certified trainer reviews the questionnaires, observes the video tape of an entire chapter meeting and meets with the executive, music team and director to explore opportunities for growth prior to the chapter meeting night. The specific areas that are selected are then coached during the chapter rehearsal.

- A second video tape is forwarded to the trainer 4-6 weeks after another chapter rehearsal. Chorus members also complete follow up questionnaires to determine the retention and application of the new skills.

- The NEXT LEVEL is designed to take the director/chapter from their current level, enhance the positive aspects and bring about positive growth and change. It is unique in the fact that all components of the chapter meeting are addressed.

- Think of a chapter meeting with less business, more singing and a more positive approach to improvement.

# 2005 PIONEER DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION

APRIL 29- MAY 1, 2005

## CONVENTION REGISTRATION

\*\*\*PLEASE FILL IN NAMES AS YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO APPEAR ON YOUR  
BADGE(S)\*\*\*

\*\*REGISTRANT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

—

\*\*SPOUSE/GUEST NAME \_\_\_\_\_

—

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

—

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

(Area Code)

\*\*COMPETING QUARTET? YES NO QUARTET NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*COMPETING CHORUS? YES NO CHORUS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*CHAPTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

—

\*\*VOICE PART: TENOR LEAD BARITONE BASS

**EARLY REGISTRATION: \$25.00 PER PERSON**

**LATE REGISTRATION: \$30.00 PER PERSON**

**EARLY REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN APRIL8, 2005**

FEE FOR \_\_\_\_\_ PERSONS @ \$25.00/\$30.00 TOTAL REGISTRATION FEE: \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: PIONEER DISTRICT SPEBSQSA, INC.

OR: MASTER CARD OR VISA NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIR.  
DATE \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

MAIL CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM AND FEE TO:

**Robert Smith Jr.**

**46210 Copper Lock Lane**

**Macomb, MI 48044-6202**

All Events passes will not be mail to you. Please pick them up at the convention registration desk, located in the Kalamazoo Radisson Plaza Hotel (Headquarters). Partial registrations will available at the convention's registration desk : The cost for each single event registrations is \$15. Children 12 and under Free.



# The story of the Pitchblendaires

By Jack Golding

The **Pitchblendaires** "came to be" probably by circumstances different than any quartet in the Society.

**Jack Golding** was active in a Navy Choir at Quonset Pt., R.I. during World War II. The group not only sang at Church Services on the base, but entertained at other bases as part of a "Show" Troupe. Their repertoire consisted of Glee Club Arrangements and Spirituals.

This was so enjoyable that Jack was inspired, after the war ended, to start a similar group. Well, there were a bunch of young men, (buddies) including Jack's brother **Don**, who had returned from the war and had common ground at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church.

They all had played Church League basketball and/or softball together. So, Jack talked 16 of

them into trying a singing group. The music bought at Grinnells was, of course, the same as the Navy Choir had used.

This group stayed together singing occasionally at St. Andrews for 18 months to two

years. For various reasons one and then another would have to leave until the Chorus finally disbanded.

Four men decided to continue as a quartet. Those four were **Tom Pollard, Dale Clixby** and **Don** and **Jack Golding**. Now, an interesting fact is, they knew nothing of **SPEBSQSA**!

They continued with a repertoire of more and more spirituals and glee club Arrangements. They often sang at Benefits, Women's Clubs, Veteran's Hospitals, etc. They once sang on a local TV Show on WXYZ called **Starlet Stairway** and won.

But still no association with Barbershop.

Then one evening in 1952 they were one of two quartets sharing entertainment at a Men's Club. The other quartet was the **Hobby Chord Four**. (**Howard Tubbs, Joe Jones, Earl Rubert** and **Ed Reddick**.) They invited the then- **Pitchblendaires** to visit the **Detroit Chapter**.

Their lives changed thereafter.

They joined the Detroit Chapter, had to change to **Pitchblendaires** since the old name was already registered by a Quartet. Rubbing shoulders and pitch pipes with the

**Cleff Dwellers**, the **Wolverines**, and the **Hobby Chord Four** was priceless. That next summer the International Convention was in Detroit.

They had to start learning Barbershop and were fortunate to get to sing in the "Woodshed" Room and in Chorus competition with the **Detroit Precisionaires**.

After gaining experience in local contests, they were able to qualify along

with the **Wolverines** and the **Bel-Aires** to represent Michigan at Washington, D.C. in 1954, where they placed 24th. Again that added experience helped them win the Michigan District Championship that fall.

After a very busy year they again qualified in the spring of 1955, to represent Michigan at the International in Miami. There they made what was then the "Finals" and placed 14th overall.

Because of Jack Golding's increasing difficulties with "tenor", the **Pitchblendaires** had to disband that fall, leaving behind many wonderful memories. There were, however, several very good spin-offs from the **Pitchblendaires**: The **Staff Sergeants**, the **Four Bearers of Harmony**, the **Dynamics** and the **Aire Males**.

Their lead, **Tom Pollard** is gone and **Gloria** lives in Plymouth, MI., **Dale** and **Doris Clixby** live in FL., **Don** and **Betty** and **Jack** and **Cherryl Golding** live in the Phoenix area. Many of their children are or were active in Barbershop.



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A Barbershop Quartet



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**V**

**REQUEST FOR HOTEL ACCOMMODATION Pioneer District Association of Chapters**  
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**April 29-May 1, 2004**

**Please fill out this form and mail to the Kalamazoo County Convention & Visitors Bureau at 346 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3737 or fax to (269) 343-0430.**

**One form for EACH room must be submitted.**

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City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Name of other guest(s) in room: \_\_\_\_\_

Evening Phone: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

1-Bed \_\_\_\_\_ 2-Beds \_\_\_\_\_

Preference for            Smoking \_\_\_\_\_            Non-Smoking \_\_\_\_\_

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## Holland presents 'Back in Dad and Mother's Day'

**By Art Lane**

When gentle spring brings tulips into bloom, and men's bright chords resound throughout the hall, it's time to head for Holland, Michigan, and see how Barbershop brings smiles to all.

Yes, folks, Friday, the 13<sup>th</sup> is the lucky day. The **Holland Windmill Chorus** will present

"Back in Dad and Mother's Day" at 7:30 p.m. in Christ Memorial Auditorium. Guest groups will be our Pioneer champion of 2003, **Infinity**, and mixed sextet **Vocal Montage**. Tickets are \$14, available from the Tulip Festival office, 800-822-2770 or [tulip@tuliptime.com](mailto:tulip@tuliptime.com)

Things are looking up at

the Park Theater. The Park Theater Foundation, which the Holland Chapter helped create to operate and renovate the Park, has unveiled a series of cabaret, comedy and music performances. It's called "Live at the Park"

Thus, performance lives at the Park while it awaits restoration. For information call Brian

Dykema, 616-634-2909.

Our sunniest snowbird must be **Paul Bekker**, who winters in San Benito, Texas. He's found a chapter in McAllen, Texas, a 40-mile drive, and is working on music for a 10-show schedule the McAllen singers do January through March, when they have 63 or more guys available.

## Hillsdale does 170 Valentines in second year

HILLSDALE TOWN  
AND COUNTRY  
CHORUS

**By Roger Mc Caskey**

Valentines Day has come and gone and once again the **Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus** has risen to the occasion.

We sang in excess of 150 "Singing Valentines"

in 2004, in our very first year, and in 2005 we increased that total to at least 170, although final totals were not in at this printing.

We had seven quartets in the field for Saturday, Sunday and Monday, singing their hearts out. Many miles were driven,

many loving tears shed and many hearts touched.

Mark this date on your calendars: May 21, 2005.

The "Hillsdale Town and Country Chorus", under the direction of **Don Slamka** will present "Moments To Remember," our annual spring show, at the

Hillsdale College Sports Complex at 7:00 p.m. followed by an Afterglow at 9:30 p.m.

The site for the show was moved, to accommodate a larger audience, due to the overwhelming response to our outstanding director, Don Slamka, and a chorus

that just keeps responding to his direction and moving in the right direction.

Headliners will be Vocal Spectrum, 2004 champion College Quartet and a guest appearance by **FootNotes**, a young ladies quartet from the Toledo area.

## Muskegeon succeeds with Barbershop on Broadway



Muskegeon Chapter.

**By Frank Scott**

The 64th annual fall show "Barbershop on Broadway" was a success. We also had an interesting Christmas Chorus.

We were joined by several members of the community as we spent three nights singing for senior citizens in retirement homes. Our advertisement in the local paper seeking singers for our Christmas Chorus resulted in a call from a group of theater enthusiasts from the City of White Cloud.

They hired our chorus to sing carols and show songs at their little theatre. So on December 21 we had 22 men on stage including

the **Act Four** quartet and managed to entertain the small but enthusiastic audience for about 90 minutes. The 42 miles of roads were dry for our first paying out of town performance in several years.

Officers for the new year are: President, **Tom Porrritt**; Secretary, **Chuck Kitchka**; VP Chapter Development, **George Doyle**; Sunshine and Librarian **Bob O'Brien**; Marketing and Public Relations, **Joe Auffrey**; Treasurer, **Barry Hall**; YMIH, **Nels Carlson**; and Harmony Foundation, **Dick DeWitt**. A Men's Octet from Reeths Puffer High school entertained us at our Christmas dinner when we

installed our new leaders.

The chapter is gearing up for what we hope will result in the delivery of many Singing Valentines. **John Tyler**, past president, is chairman of the event.

We were meeting to have a planning session on Feb. 26 to outline and review chapter goals and programs for the coming year. The chorus is rehearsing for another paid job on March 5 that makes our treasurer, Barry Hall happy. We had a large delegation at COTS and we hope their enthusiasm continues.



# Harmony Happening: Our future

By David Anderson

WOW, what a weekend! We had 57 of the best male high school singers in Michigan over in Lansing.

They worked hard, they played hard, and then they performed like real pros on the stage Saturday Night...and they sang up a storm.

Things were really going too smoothly when the phone rang on

Thursday and it was Kenosha saying that our head clinician, **Rick Spencer**, was sick and could not make it to Lansing.

I called **Don Slamka** and he willingly agreed to be promoted to head clinician. With all of the snow and ice, Don just barely arrived in time for the opening session.

**Mike Slamka** had gotten there a little earlier and **Jessica Thompson** had arrived earlier, too.

Shortly after this, we learned that the other half of our teaching quartet, **Jim Henry** and **Rich Knight** from the GHG, had been delayed by the storm in Chicago and they wouldn't be in until much later.

But the show must go on, so with the fast techniques used by Don, the group was soon divided into

delivered three of the meals during the weekend and did a great job of getting everyone fed.

**Fran Durham** worked at the registration along with **Bruce Smith**. **Bob Wisdom** was in charge of room assignments and soon everyone had a room. Bob also came over and helped with some of the music things and taught a tag or two, which was



much appreciated.

I also want to thank my wife, Pat, for being there and helping with things. I am blessed to have such a helper. Sidekicks was rehearsing at the



when they hit that stage...Don Slamka had done a super job of prepping them for the stage.

Well, we really were thrown

**Photos by  
Greg Humbel**

Holiday Inn, so sang for the gang and then Brian Dunkel pitched in and helped teach some of the bass on Jazz Came Up the River. Many of our fine Pioneer Barbershoppers were there and all did many jobs with a willing smile. Mike Woodruff of Infinity was there

as a chaperone, but soon he was in helping with the music. Jamie Carey showed up and also pitched



right in to help.

Saturday morning's rehearsal began with Jim Henry helping us out and we soon found out what a fantastic teacher he really is.

The show was fantastic as the HH-05 Chorus really jelled

Happening Team and to all who pitched in to help. Those young men were telling me what a great weekend it had been after the show.

a few lemons this weekend, but thanks to a great bunch of



Barbershoppers, we just made a lot of very good lemonade.

Thank you to the Harmony



sections and the learning was underway.

**Greg Humbel** planned and

## ANTIQUES: Pioneer's win

Continued from Page 1.

were thrilled with the Antiques Roadshow package and so was the audience.

The new package, shown for the first time at the Midwinter Contest, was presented in "Fourth Wall Mode."

This means they preformed in a manner similar to the way a play is performed. In other words, like the audience is not there.

The package used the quartet posters that were used in the Fall Contest and used dialog that had a theme which lead to the songs that they sung. Their first song was "Walking My Baby Back Home" and finished with "Smiling through."



*Happy Valentines  
19 times from our  
friends at Monroe  
North Chapter*

**By Dale Cousino**

Greetings from **Monroe North!** With a very busy and successful Christmas season behind us, we now look forward to 2005 and our annual show on April 16.

Last year was an active year for us with 16 performances including two public schools sharing the "Get America Singing... Again" program with the kids and sharing the stage at their spring concerts, and two work projects as well as many social events which always turn into singing events.

This year we found Singing Valentines most successful with three quartets busy most of Sunday and Monday. At the end of Valentines Day we had brought pleasure through song to 19 homes and offices as well as singing in several local restaurants. What a great day!

## 2005 CALENDAR: Upcoming events

**April 8**

Pontiac Woodshed Contest

**April 9**

Sault Ste. Marie Chapter Show

**April 10**

Mountaintown Chapter Show

**April 16**

Monroe North Chapter Show

**April 29-30, May 1**

District Convention, Kalamazoo

**May 7**

Macomb Cabaret Show

**May 14**

Wayne Chapter Show

**May 20**

Harmony Round-Up

**July 2-9**

International Convention, Salt Lake City, Utah

**July 30**

Detroit-Oakland Moonlight Cruise

**September 10**

Grosse Pointe's 60th Anniversary Show

**October 21-23**

District Convention, Battle Creek

**October 29**

Rochester Chapter Show

**November 5**

Pontiac-Waterford Chapter Show

## Chapter Locations

