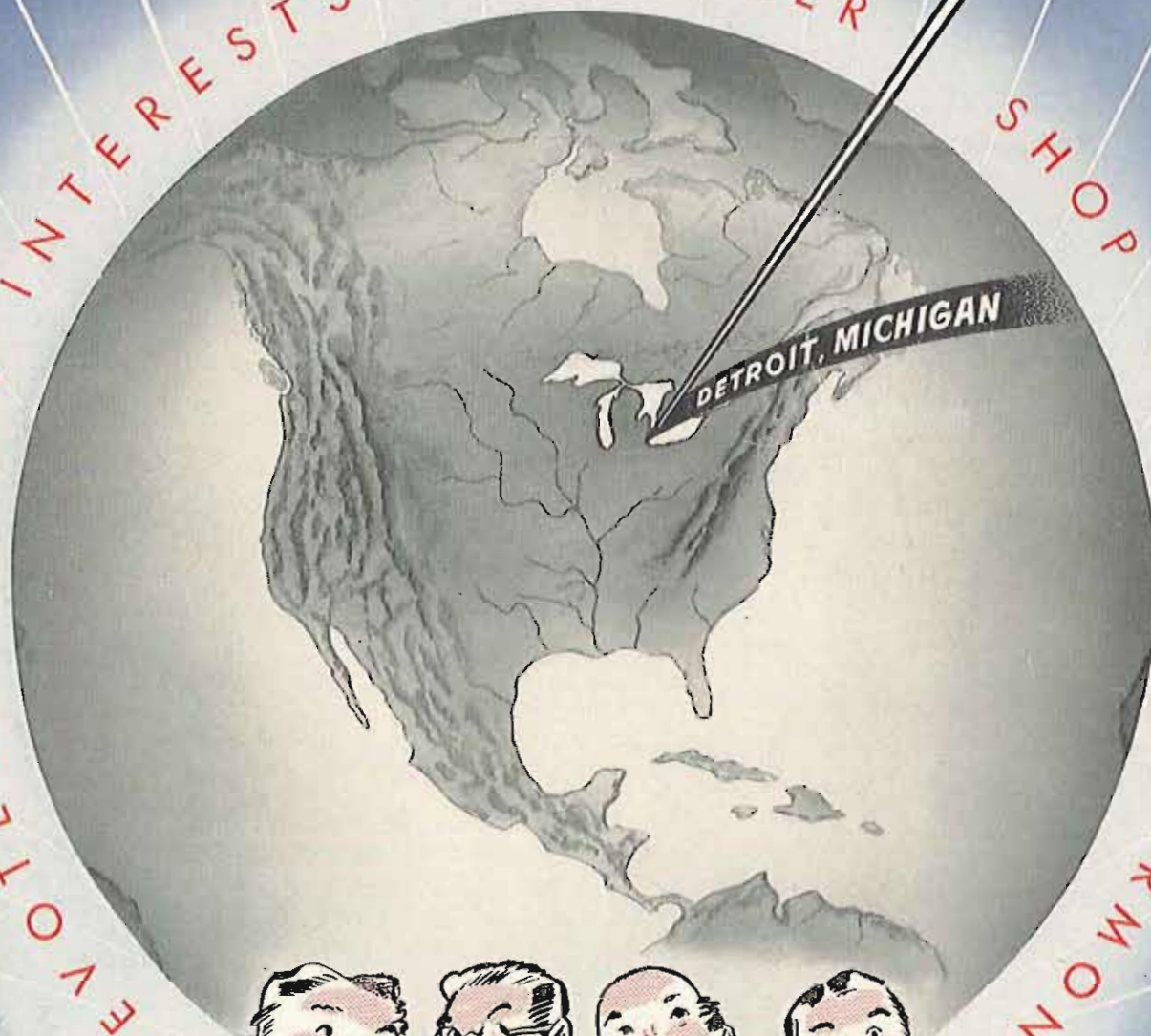


THE

# HARMONIZER



DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARBER SHOP  
QUARTET HARMONY



DETROIT, MICHIGAN



VOLUME XII

NUMBER IV

*Fifteenth Annual Convention • June 1953*





# Founder's Column

by O. C. Cash

Not long ago I was nosing around in my garage and found two filing cases containing Society correspondence from April 11, 1938 (founding date) to December 31, 1941. It was extremely interesting to me to review, for the first time in fifteen years, early correspondence in connection with the Society, and to re-read those first letters which came from harmonizers from all sections of the United States. I began to wonder, as I looked over these names, what had become of some of these fellows during the past decade and a half. Of course many who manifested early interest in the organization have been active through the years and are well known to all of us.

It occurred to me that it might be of interest to base a few articles on the men and events identified with the early life of our Society. It will be impossible, of course, to cover this adequately in one column. After I have finished examination of these files, they will be sent to headquarters and thus will complete the record of the Society from beginning to the present.

The original meeting of our group in Tulsa, as almost everyone knows, was on April 11, 1938. The second meeting, I find from a notice in the file, was on May 2, 1938; the third, on May 31. I recall the third meeting very vividly, because a traffic jam developed at Sixth and Main, Tulsa, the location of the Alvin Hotel, on the second floor of which our meeting was held. The windows of the lodge hall were raised because of the hot weather, and the gang singing attracted a large crowd to the sidewalk below. After a while automobile traffic was slowed down to a standstill. The jam and confusion were terrific. This commotion caught the attention of a passing reporter for the Tulsa World, who investigated the trouble, called his office for a photographer, all of which resulted in a front page feature story in the Sunday World the following day. This was the first publicity of consequence in connection with the Society and the Tulsa World story was widely copied by the AP and UP throughout the country.

Immediately after this story was published inquiries began to roll in. My files are not complete at this point, because the avalanche of mail made it difficult for me to keep up with it, and I often just replied in longhand on the backs of letters and returned

them quickly to the writer. However, I do find some letters dated the first week in June, 1938, and the earliest (June 4) seems to be from Chester Letts of Denver. This communication was followed within a day or two by letters from V. K. McCaughtry, Youngstown; Lowell Lawrence, Kansas City; Thomas E. McConnell, Lakewood, Ohio; E. L. Marietta, Carbondale, Illinois and Robert Church, Emmetsburg, Iowa.

Shortly thereafter I had a letter from another Iowan, one R. J. Heinen of Halbur. I seem to remember faintly running into this Brother at ten or twelve National Conventions since then, but I wonder what has become of the other "Brethren" above named. During the next week of two there were many others who wrote me and I will mention some of them in subsequent columns.

Early in the deal, as you probably suspected, old Huck Sinclair began to overload my mail with communications, asking dates of meetings in Tulsa, where the next chapter was to be set up and so on. I recall the first informal meeting in St. Louis of a few Brethren who came down to the hotel for a get together with me. I wired Huck as I left Tulsa for St. Louis; he caught a train at 4:00 p.m. from Chicago; ran down to St. Louis, sang with us, got his picture in the paper and returned at 11:30 the same night to Chicago.

Incidentally, Bud Neal, the lead singer in Huck's kid quartet at Topeka, Kan-

sas, was one of the charter members of the Tulsa Chapter. It was Bud who taught us "After Dark" as it was sung by his and Huck's outfit in Topeka in (I think) the early 1880's. I remember the night Bud broke us in on it. As a lead singer, as usual, he didn't know much about the other parts and nothing at all about the bass. He just simply said it was "a crazy bass part." I suppose every barbershopper in the country has sung this song until he is tired of it, but what a calamity it would have been if old Bud had not thought about it that night in 1938 when a bunch of us had gotten together here in Tulsa for a little harmony session.

The old files disclose that on May 23, 1938, just before our third meeting in Tulsa, I sent a letter to all the Brethren in Tulsa who had attended the first two meetings, asking for titles and words of barbershop tunes for inclusion in a song book I proposed to publish. With that letter I enclosed a list of 84 titles which I had previously accumulated and for which I had the words. The response to this letter was enthusiastic and about June 1, 1938, my old barbershopper and fishing friend, Jim Cockrell, who owns a big printing establishment in Tulsa, helped me get the book assembled and ready for printing. Shortly after this O. P. Erickson, who was an early national officer, reviewed the song book, added a number of songs, dolled the book up in a plastic binding, and we had two or

(Continued on page 6)

## FOUR TEENS VISIT ARMY HOSPITAL



The 1952 Champions recently visited Fitzsimmons Army Hospital, Denver, Colorado to entertain Korean veterans. The quartet—left to right—Steinmetz, tenor; Chinnoek, lead; Lamont, bar; Cahall, bass.



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## '53-'54 PER CAPITA

All Society members, and particularly Chapter Secretaries and Treasurers, are reminded that the per capita tax and Harmonizer subscription fee for the fiscal year beginning July 1 total \$5.00 per member. This \$1.00 increase in per capita tax, as reported in the March issue of the Harmonizer, provides for new and better member service on the part of both the District and International organizations.

The most important service is the mailing of the Harmonizer direct from the printer to each member beginning with this issue. The individual membership record and address plate systems maintained in the International Office will make other services possible as will the increase of the per capita rebate to the District from 50c to \$1.00.

The newly elected chapter officers are endeavoring to have all renewal memberships paid for as far in advance of July 1 as possible. Thanks to the help of their predecessors, some of the new officers find themselves already well on the way to a fully paid-up roster on July 1.

As in previous years, copies of the annual folio of Songs For Men will be mailed to Chapter Secretaries as per capita tax remittances are received. Songs For Men Book VI will be off the presses July 1 and it is hoped that all present members will renew their memberships in advance of that date, if possible. Here is a breakdown of the new per capita payment of \$5.00:

- \$1.00 Harmonizer Subscription Fee
- 1.00 Rebate to District
- .50 Harmonizer (and other) Mailings
- .50 Songs For Men Folio
- 2.00 Operating Expense of International Headquarters

JUNE, 1953

## CHAPTER PUBLICITY

Here is a subject of tremendous importance to SPEBSQSA Chapters. The Central States District felt that publicity is important enough to warrant distribution to their chapters of publicity bulletins especially prepared by Bud Jackson of the Springfield, Missouri chapter, a professional publicist. Bud offered his series of three bulletins to the International Office for distribution to any chapter or barber-shopper interested in obtaining them.

A notice of this appeared in the December issue. Bud capped his excellent suggestions with the following admonition "A final general word of advice: DON'T EXPECT PUBLICITY, ADVERTISING, OR ANYTHING ELSE TO SELL TICKETS EXCEPT BY DIRECT PERSONAL CONTACT. A MILLION DOLLAR PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN WON'T FILL A 300 SEAT AUDITORIUM IF THE TICKETS AREN'T PUT WHERE THE PUBLIC CAN GET THEM. TICKETS ARE YOUR SALABLE MERCHANDISE. GET THEM ON THE COUNTER BY MAKING YOUR PEOPLE HUSTLE TICKET SALES. IF THEY WON'T HUSTLE THEM, TURN THE JOB OVER TO SOME OTHER ORGANIZATION ON A PERCENTAGE BASIS. SUGGESTED ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDE BOY AND GIRL SCOUTS, SUNDAY SCHOOL OR SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS, REGULAR TICKET SELLING AGENCIES, CIVIC CLUBS, AND OTHERS."

## ANNOUNCING !!

### 3 NEW CONTESTS

LYRICS — MELODY —  
ARRANGEMENT

SEE PAGES 13 and 20

## KEEP RECORDS

One of the subjects which will be given treatment in the next history of the Society is that of chapter activities on behalf of and in cooperation with the armed forces. In order to have a record of such activities that will be at all adequate it is essential that all chapters keep careful records of their activities in this field, and include them in their regular quarterly activities reports.

When these reports have been processed by the Community Service Committee and the International Office, they can be routed to the International Historian and the Chairman of the Armed Forces Collaboration Committee, both of which chairmanships are now held by Commander Stirling Wilson, of Bethesda, Maryland. Wilson has requested that chapter presidents and district officers be notified of the importance of these records, and that they be kept carefully. If any chapters have failed to record their armed forces collaboration work in the past, it is desirable that they designate a member who has some knowledge of what has been done in the past to compile a record for this purpose. It will be very difficult for the Society to point with pride to a record of entertainment and instruction for men in the armed services, without the backing of substantial records. But it can't be done unless the chapter and district officers follow it up.

## PLANNED EXTENSION

Ernest Cullen Murphy, that most active and able International Board Member of Eugene, Oregon, is beating the tom-tom for some real planned extension in the Pacific Northwest District. Murph says the time has come to discard our "turtle" philosophy—lay so many eggs some MUST survive.

To accomplish this the PNW District is preparing a planned sales talk which will be illustrated with slides showing some of the SPEBSQSA legend and augmented by recorded and live quartet music. This will be used before club groups and any other gatherings that manifest interest in barbershop harmony and the aims and purposes of the Society. Vice-President Wayne Allen of the Far West District is handling the details of building up this most important and needed extension tool.

The members of the Extension Committee are unanimous in their endorsement of this operation and strongly urge each of the other districts to develop, on their own and tailored to their individual problems, similar presentations of planned extension. With a little better care on the part of the existing chapters, we will be able to hatch a bigger percentage of those eggs Murph is talking about.

## DETROIT CONVENTION WILL BREAK ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS

By far the largest assembly of barbershoppers and their families in the fifteen year history of the Society will be on hand in Detroit. Forty-four hundred All-Events Registration Books have been distributed. That represents the capacity of the Masonic Auditorium, but is somewhat less than the number of people who made application for books. Unfortunately, it has been necessary to turn some down. Wednesday, the 10th, will see activity getting under way when various Int'l Committees meet at the call of their Chairmen. The Int'l Board will meet that evening, the last meeting of the present Board of Directors under the old By-Laws of the Society.

On Thursday morning, the House of Delegates will have its first meeting. Created by the change in By-Laws at Boston in January, the House of Delegates will consist of the present Officers and other members of the Board of Directors, the fourteen District Presidents and all the Past Presidents of the Society. This meeting of the H of D will be open to members of the Society insofar as seating can be made available. Among other actions, the House of Delegates will elect next year's officers, and members of the sixteen man Board of Directors which will be the administrative body of the Society henceforth. In the afternoon the newly elected Board of Directors will meet.

### Special Meetings

District publication editors will meet Thursday afternoon with Com'dr Sev Severance, Washington, D. C., editor of "Mid'l Antics" acting as moderator. Rudy Hart, Director of the Michigan City, Ind. Chapter Chorus will preside Thursday evening at the meeting of Chorus Directors.

Int'l Board Member and M-A District Secretary Pom Pomeroy, Teaneck, N. J., will preside at the meeting of District Secretaries. Int'l Bd. Member Charlie Ricketts, will conduct the District Officers Conference. The fifteen Judges who will handle the quartet contests at Detroit will meet Thursday night with Chairman Means of the Int'l Contests and Judging Committee.

All events on Wednesday and Thursday will be held in the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel.

### Woodshed

The Woodshed will be in the Grand Ballroom of the Statler Hotel—will open 10 o'clock Thursday morning, close Sunday morning at 2 A.M. The Decrepits will be in charge as usual. On Saturday, the Statler will house the Classes for Judge Candidates, School for M. C's. and Community Song Leaders, Barbershop Craft Session and the Conference of Chapter Officers.

All quartet contests and the chorus contest will be in the Masonic Temple as will the Sunday Breakfast and Morning Glow. At that program, the fifteen Finalists, five Past Champions and possibly the winning Air Force quartet of the world-wide U. S. Air Force Contest will sing.

oOo

### Avoid Hotel Trouble

Detroit hotels hold no reservations after 6:00 P.M., unless they receive specific notice of late arrival.

In Detroit hotel parlance, "A.M." means up to 12:00 noon; "P.M." means from noon to 6:00 P.M.; "Evening" means from 6 to 11 P.M. If you're going to arrive after 6:00 P.M., write or wire the hotel two or three days before your arrival date.

### PARKING IN DETROIT

Downtown Detroit presents certain problems in outdoor overnight parking. City ordinances prevent any curb parking even in metered spaces between 2 A.M. and 6 A.M. on all downtown Detroit streets. All-night parking lots charge by the hour and that, of course, means a sizable bill in the morning. It is, therefore, recommended that our members who drive to Detroit either park their cars in indoor garages that have a flat overnight rate, or a reasonable hourly rate—or park them on side streets some distance from downtown.

## FIRST HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING

The result of salient legislation by the International Board of Directors at the Mid-Winter Meeting in Boston last January, the House of Delegates will assemble in its first meeting at Detroit on Thursday, June 11th. The meeting will be called to order by International President Ed Smith at 10:00 A.M. in the English Room of the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel.

Under the new International By-Laws, the House of Delegates becomes the Society's legislative body and the International Board of Directors, formerly concerned with both legislation and administration, becomes a strictly administrative group. To make the legislative body a more democratic organization, membership is composed of the District Presidents, all Past Society Presidents, and the members of the International Board. Although the present Board of Directors, which will be dissolved at the end of this fiscal year, numbers 30 members, the '53-'54 Board will be made up of only 16 men, including the officers.

The Society's By-Laws provide for the House of Delegates to meet at the time of the International Convention to consider emergency legislation and to elect officers, including Board members. The bulk of the Society's legislative problems will be handled at the Mid-Winter Meeting when less demands are made on the time of the members of the House of Delegates.

Visitors (barbershoppers and their ladies) will be welcome at the House of Delegates meeting to the extent that accommodations can be made available. The opening ceremony and the business proceedings will be impressive and significant.



# Table of Contents



Barbershop Bafflers by Charles M. Merrill	9	New Chapters Chartered	10
Barbershop Bafflers (Answers to)	47	Northeastern District Special Section	21-42
Coming Events	8	Old Songsters, The—Sigmund Spaeth	43
Community Service	50-53	Over the Editor's Shoulder	7
Do You Remember?—J. George O'Brien	44-45	President's Column—Edwin S. Smith	5
District Officers, 1953-54	49	Public Domain Songs	51
Donations and Pledges to Hq. Bldg. Fund	5	Regional Preliminary Officials	47
Editorial Page	3	Regional Preliminary Winners	8-9
Founder's Column	2	"Share the Wealth"—Rob't Hockenbrough	48-49
Information You Want (about songs)	45	Swipe Swap Shop	13-20
I See by the Papers	54	The Way I See It—Deac Martin	55
Keep Posted	46	Stirling Wilson	12



# President's Column

by Edwin S. Smith

Fifteen years ago this morning the Tulsa Tribune carried this headline—"Is Barbershop Harmony a thing of the past?" Now, fifteenth anniversaries do not, as a rule, have special significance. Nevertheless, you have heard off and on throughout the year that we are celebrating our fifteenth anniversary. Next year we will be able to sing "Sweet Sixteen" with fervor. It is a good idea to think about anniversaries, even if we don't get right down to the serious celebration of them.

It is a difficult thing to look back just one year and notice any particular or striking advancement. However, if you look back fifteen years you can see that our Society has come a long way. In that time it has become a great organization that has taken a

place with other fine American institutions. And it has, in no uncertain terms, given answer to the question that was propounded in Tulsa fifteen years ago—"Is Barbershop Harmony a thing of the past?"

It must be a source of great pride and satisfaction to those men who were witness to its birth and who have played a part in the shaping of its character, to gaze across the span of these fifteen years and contemplate the progress that has been made. Barbershop harmony is most emphatically a thing of the present. It is a thing of the present because of the creation of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Inc.

The only concession that those Tulsa men made to the temper of the times was the selection of a name whose initials put to shame the most flagrant alphabetical combinations that were then in use. The job of dignifying that somewhat frivolous title and making it a title of respect has been

one of the fascinating and purposeful tasks of our Society. The name was the product of one era of American history. The effort to recapture something American to the core was suggestive of another era. The combination of the two, the name and the ideal, has conspired to make a great organization and to shape the destiny of many, many lives.

These past fifteen years have demonstrated conclusively that the name, the idea, and the ideal are all extremely worthwhile; that there abounds within the framework of this organization the attributes of friendliness and loyalty and the mutual love of harmony that will continue to bring men together and assure the continual growth and prosperity of the Society.

Let us, therefore, rejoice in the fine accomplishments of the past fifteen years, and let us turn our eyes confidently upon a future that gives every promise of fulfilling our most earnest hopes and aspirations.

## Donations and Pledges to Int'l Hq Building Fund up to April 22nd 1953

### CASH DONATIONS FROM CHAPTERS:

California—Glendale-Burbank, \$100; Huntington Park, \$50; San Diego, \$100; San Francisco, \$40. Colorado—Longmont, \$100. Connecticut—Enfield, \$50; Hartford, \$100; Housatonic (Derby), \$50; Meriden, \$32; Norwich, \$50; Rockville, \$25. Delaware—Wilmington, \$35. Florida—St. Petersburg, \$100. Illinois—Chicago No. 1, \$1000; Oak Park, \$100. Indiana—Connersville \$25; Michigan City, \$25; Terre Haute, \$140. Iowa—Spencer, \$100. Kentucky—Paducah, \$25. Louisiana—Lake Charles, \$40.55. Manitoba—Brandon, \$10. Massachusetts—Belmont, \$25; Boston, \$524.95; Gardner, \$50; Lynn, \$25; Northampton, \$100; Salem, \$50. Michigan—Cadillac, \$25; Grand Rapids, \$200; Gratiot County, \$25; Grosse Pointe, \$116.96; Holland, \$200; Ionia, \$5; Kalamazoo, \$50; Three Rivers, \$25. Minnesota—Minneapolis, \$100. Missouri—Clayton, \$100; Mexico, \$25; St. Louis, \$250. Nebraska—North Platte, \$50. New York—East Aurora, \$50; Manhattan, \$1000; Rome, \$20; Syracuse, \$11. North Carolina—Winston-Salem, \$50. Ohio—Akron, \$25; Columbus, \$50; Cincinnati, \$25; Euclid, \$40; Findlay, \$53; Lakewood, \$100; Steubenville, \$50; Toledo, \$15; Youngstown, \$100. Oklahoma—Okla. City, \$250. Ontario—Hamilton, \$65; Leamington, \$50; London, \$63; Midland, \$10; Sarnia, \$100; Toronto, \$300; Yorktown (Toronto), \$50. Oregon—Astoria, \$100. Pennsylvania—Allentown, \$50; Philadelphia, \$100; Pittsburgh, \$200; Saegertown (French Creek Valley), \$100. Rhode Island—Providence, \$100. Tennessee—Memphis, \$50. Texas—El Paso, \$50; Houston, \$25. Vermont—Windsor, \$25. Virginia—Alexandria, \$30. Washington—Bremerton, \$10; Spokane, \$25. West Virginia—Clarksburg, \$100. Wisconsin—Kiel, \$50; Madison, \$100; Manitowoc, \$100; Marinette, \$40; Milwaukee, \$250; Sheboygan, \$100; Sturgeon Bay, \$50.

TOTAL CASH DONATIONS FROM CHAPTERS - \$8376.46

### CASH DONATIONS FROM QUARTETS:

Misfits, Chicago, No. 1, \$100. The Marksman, Toledo, \$25. Schmitt Bros., Two Rivers, Wisconsin, \$100. The Nite Howls, Rochester (Genesee), N. Y., \$5. Crown City Four, Pasadena, Calif., \$20. Pitch Blenders, So. Town, Chicago, \$25. Totemland Four, Vancouver, B.C., \$25. Four Teens, St. Louis, Mo., \$100. Note Crackers, Genesee (Rochester), N. Y., \$50. The Vikings, Rock Island, Illinois, \$50. Westinghouse Four, Pittsburgh, Pa., \$125. Gay 90's, Montevideo, Minn., \$50. Four Naturals, New Haven, Conn., \$25. The Wolverines, Detroit-Dearborn, Michigan, \$100. The O-At-Kans, Warsaw, N. Y., \$25. The Melodaires, Chicago, Illinois, \$50. Willamantic Croakers, Willamantic, Conn., \$25.

TOTAL CASH DONATIONS FROM QUARTETS—\$900.

### CASH DONATIONS FROM DISTRICTS:

Michigan, \$50. Far Western, \$100. TOTAL CASH DONATIONS FROM DISTRICTS—\$150.

### CASH DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS:

E. B. Reagan, (deceased), San Gabriel, Cal., \$25. Matt Hanuon, Chicago, \$25. Carl C. Jones, Terre Haute, Ind., \$25. King Cole, Sheboygan, Wisconsin, \$25. M. C. Newman, Sturgis, Michigan, \$25. J. D. Beeler, Evansville, Indiana, \$25. Chas. Forrest, San Diego, Calif., \$25. Matt Wilson, Holland, Michigan, \$25. J. F. Knipe, Cleveland, Ohio, \$30. Chuck Schmid (Mr. and Mrs.), Toledo, Ohio, \$15. Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Adams, Detroit, Michigan, \$5. Walt Wittel, Toledo, Ohio, \$15. Fred Taylor, Lyons, Kansas, \$10. Ted Hanna, Grand Mere, Quebec, \$10. Geo. Chamblin, Columbus, Ohio, \$10. Avery Hall, Houston, Texas, \$5. Roy Smith, Houston, Texas, \$5. John Wesley Graham, Houston, Texas, \$5. Happy Woodruff, Chicago, Illinois, \$10.

TOTAL CASH DONATIONS FROM INDIVIDUALS—\$320.

### MISCELLANEOUS CASH RECEIVED:

Interest on bonds and bank deposits. Receipts from sale of Staab-Hill Folio of Songs. Portion of returns from Kansas City Convention.

TOTAL MISCELLANEOUS CASH—\$2141.30  
TOTAL ALL CASH RECEIVED—\$11,887.76

### PLEDGES RECEIVED:

Aurora, Ill., \$100. Belleville, Ill., \$100. Gary, Ind., \$100. Indianapolis, Ind., \$50. Des Moines, Iowa, \$500. Spencer, Iowa, \$400. Shreveport, La., \$100. New Bedford, Mass., \$250. Reading, Mass., \$250. Dearborn, Michigan, \$500. Detroit, Michigan, \$1,000. Dowagiac, Michigan, \$150. Northwest Area, Detroit, \$100. Saginaw, Michigan, \$200. Traverse City, Michigan, \$100. Wayne, Michigan, \$200. Kansas City, Mo., \$1,000. Bronx, New York, \$100. East Aurora, New York, \$50. Genesee (Rochester), New York, \$100. Warsaw, New York, \$100. Painesville, Ohio, \$25. Windsor, Ontario, \$250. Fayette County, Pa., \$25. Corpus Christi, Texas, \$100. El Paso, Texas, \$150. Wauwatosa, Wis., \$100. Springfield, Mo., \$100. Broadripple (Indianapolis), Ind., \$50. San Francisco, Calif., \$160. Norwich, Conn., \$200. Belmont, Mass., \$75. Northampton, Mass., \$150. Buckeye Cap. (Columbus), Ohio, \$100. Steubenville, Ohio, \$150. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, \$750. London, Ontario, \$237. Toronto, Ontario, \$200. Allentown-Bethlehem, Pa., \$25. Pittsburgh, Pa., \$500. Providence, R. I., \$400. Madison, Wisconsin, \$100. Annually, Michigan City, Ind., \$75. Wilmington, Delaware, \$115. Grosse Pointe, Mich., one-third profit on next two shows. North Platte, Nebraska, \$50. Far Western District, \$400.

TOTAL PLEDGES—\$10,237.

GRAND TOTAL CASH AND PLEDGES—\$22,124.76.



## FOUNDER'S COLUMN

Continued

three thousand new books printed. Then we were reminded very forcibly that we had violated all the copyright laws of the United States and were subject to a minimum of damages of \$150 per song, times the number of books printed and distributed. I recall, with amusement now, Opie's coming into my office one morning, pretty much excited, with a bunch of figures showing that he and I were liable for the total amount of \$1,218,650. After going over the figures again, Opie discovered an error, made a few quick calculations, and said: "Cash, I am short just an even million—the total should be \$2,218,605".

Many of you fellows have copies of this original book, some copies of which had been distributed before we were warned of the copyright infringement. But Opie and I decided the safest thing to do was to destroy all remaining copies of the book. I was amused, too, in going through this old correspondence—and here I jump forward a little over a year—to find the first letter I received from a "lantern maker" of Warsaw, New York. That letter is as follows:

"Mr. O. C. Cash  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

"Dear Mr. Cash:

"It was about the middle of last year, as I recall, that I read a most interesting article in a Chicago newspaper about the Society for the Encouraging and Preservation of Barber

Shop Quartet Singing. I jotted down your name at the time and have intended writing you for information about this great Society.

"Altho kindred spirits are hard to find, harmonizing is a sort of hobby with me. Does the Society issue good 'barbershop' arrangements for the old time songs? For example 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon' is one I have tried to get, but it's apparently out of print.

"When is the next Convention? Many thanks for such information as you can give me.

Sincerely,

Phil Embury"

You will observe this letter was written early in 1940 and apparently Brother Embury had known about the Society for six months or more. Why he fooled around all that time, in getting the dope on it, is more than I have been able to understand, as he seems to have been mildly interested in the Society ever since. In my reply to Phil the very day his letter arrived, among other things, I said:

"My quartet has absolutely the sweetest arrangement you ever heard for 'By the Light of the Silvery Moon.' If you get something started in Warsaw I will send you recording of it and two or three others."

I must confess this statement may have been a slight exaggeration, as the repertoire of the "Okie Four" at that time probably did not include "two or three others" and maybe not even "By the Light etc." It has been a source of satisfaction to me to ob-

serve in the few years that our membership generally has become more truthful and calm in their representations than I was in the initial promotion of our Society.

About a week later I had another letter from old Phil, and after disposing of some more or less important matters, he said:

"This new found hobby has really taken hold, and when I go in for something there is nothing half way about it."

In observing his enthusiasm and hard work for the Society over the past fifteen years, I would venture the opinion that the above comment was certainly a typical barbershopper's understatement.

One of my earliest correspondents, of course, was good old Deac Martin. It has been like a breath of spring to read his letters again. He kept me down to date on the trials and tribulations of the Cleveland organization and in one of his letters he said, with an apparent sigh of relief:

"We have found a young man here in Cleveland who is a go-getter, to take over the duties of Secretary. His name is Jim Knipe. We are on our way!"

Within a week I began my correspondence with Jim. He had hundreds of questions to ask, many of which I could not answer, but we got together and figured out the answers. You know as well as I, how well and faithfully this "young man Jim Knipe" has served the Society in the thirteen or fourteen years since then. Then I ran into a letter from Brother Doc Nelson, enclosing a penciled arrangement of "I Had a Dream, Love." I suppose this is the correct title, although most of us have sung it as "I Had a Dream, Dear." Old Doc told me:

"When you meet the Southernares in Tulsa this Sunday, have them sing 'That's How the First Song Was Born.' Boy, that song is jammed with lovely chords!"

As you know, Doc is one of the comparatively few oldtimers in the Society who attended the first contest in Tulsa in June 1939. I did not hear the song Doc mentioned, forgot about it, but I wonder if it was really as good as Doc imagined. In those early days almost any song with a crooked chord or two in it seemed mighty sweet to us.

Well, these are just a few reminiscences of the early life of our Society which I hope to enlarge upon in future columns. I hope it will be of as much interest to you as it has been to me, to review the early development and growth of our organization. Now to another subject. I have been rather inmodest and boring sometimes, no doubt, in mentioning my family in previous columns, and particularly my young daughter, Betty Anne. On two occasions when I was in the hospital or ill at home, Betty Anne has written the column for me. She has been attending our International Conventions regularly ever since she was in pigtails. You

(Continued on page 42).

## "MAY THE GOOD LORD BLESS AND KEEP YOU"



The 1950 Champion Buffalo Bills had a meeting in Buffalo with a couple of their most ardent admirers—Mr. and Mrs. Meredith Willson—he's the orchestra conductor, radio and TV performer, author ("There I Stood with My Piccolo") [a very funny book. Eds.] composer—"May the Good Lord, etc."). Many months ago, Willson happened upon the Bills Decca Album of records and played them a number of times on his various radio shows. Finally, when he and his wife were in Buffalo, they and the Bills got together in the studios of WBEN and had a real "Jam Session". Left to right in the picture—Vern Reed, tenor; Al Shea, lead; Willson; Dick Grapes, bari; Bill Spangenberg, bass; Ed Dismore, WBEN announcer; seated, Mrs. Willson.



## OVER THE EDITOR'S SHOULDER

### THAT OLD VIKING SPIRIT

Paul Shelton, Springfield, Mo. Chapter, wrote recently, "We staged our Annual Parade yesterday afternoon featuring the Teens, the Mid-States and the Vikings. Curtain went up at 2:30 and at 3:30 we had final word the Teens and Mid-Staters were grounded at St. Louis.

"The Vikings didn't turn a hair. They staged one of the finest performances possible. They made two regular appearances, sang sweet numbers and comedy songs. Bob Lindley captivated the crowd as a sort of sub-Master of Ceremonies, led the audience in some good singing and completely sold himself and his group to everybody. Nobody will ever be able to replace these boys in our esteem because of the yeoman service on our Parade".

### THANKS.

Staff Taylor, president of Buckeye Capital (Columbus) Ohio Chapter, commenting on the story about the chapter in "The Way I See It" column, March '53 Harmonizer, says "... Proud that we were picked for a story, but also very humble in knowing that there are many chapters, many individuals in the Society that have much better records."

### ASKS FOR PLAN

Wally Singleton, Memphis, Tenn., wrote, "Have just finished my Harmonizer, as usual cover to cover, and want you fellows to know that this last issue is power-packed with good stuff, like the revamping of the By-laws and changing our governing body of lawmakers. Also there are plenty of new gimmicks for meetings in Share the Wealth and Deac Martin's column about Buckeye.

Enjoyed Stub Pencil notes on the Boston confab too. Please send me a copy of the Plan for Lottery Quartet Contest, drawn up by Tom Watts".

### BELIEVES IN PREPAREDNESS

This letter accompanied an application for hotel space for the Detroit Convention and Contest; "Attached is hotel coupon which will serve as your authority to place a cot in either one of the two twin-bedded rooms which I have reserved.

"This, then, will accommodate five of us which will be one bass, one bari, one lead, and two tenors. From past experience at conventions, we find that the mortality rate on tenors is quite high. Therefore, it will be necessary to bring a substitute to take over at approximately noon Saturday and hold his own from there on in."

(Name withheld for obvious reasons. Eds.)

### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM A SECRETARY

"Your letter indicates that, in your opinion, I have had some measure of success in handling the duties of Secretary in this Chapter. I do not think there is any secret about this matter. I have found that the work gets done if I do not put off any of the tasks with which I am faced. I know the work MUST be done. I feel that I cannot let my Chapter down, or the District or International and, as I know what must be done, I just do it. I do not feel that I should receive any special recognition for handling this assignment. It is my feeling that if a member allows himself to be nominated for any office he is duty bound to discharge the duties of that office in full. If he will not, or cannot do this, he should resign or withdraw and allow another to do the job. In my case, I like the work and it comes easy to me. A most important factor is that I receive the best in cooperation from my Chapter members and from the District, as well as very pleasant remarks from the International office as have come my way during recent months. Even the dullest of us likes a little pat on the back and this acts as an incentive to even further effort. I have often remarked that I work harder on this job for nothing than I ever did for money.

There must be some reward and I think it is solely satisfaction in knowing one is doing his job."

—Jerry Graham  
Arcadia, Calif., Chapt.

### HOW TO ORDER REGISTRATION BOOKS

The question is frequently asked—how are the reserved seats in the Masonic Temple in Detroit being assigned to registration book holders—and how are hotel assignments made. The answer to question 1 is that orders for the coming Convention each year are accepted beginning the first day of the Convention and serial numbers are assigned denoting the order in which checks reach the staff of the International office. The sequence of those orders determines the location of the reserved seats for the six events in connection with the Convention each year and to some extent determines the location of the hotel room or rooms. However, this year in Detroit it was possible to give many of the early buyers of registration books their choice of hotel locations.

If your seats in Masonic Temple are a long way from the stage, and you would like to be closer next year at Washington, how about ordering your Washington books (at \$7.50 per person) as soon as you reach Detroit for this year's big event.

### FIRST INT'L CONVENTION CHORUS CONTEST

As the Harmonizer goes to press 17 choruses representing 10 of the Society's 14 Districts are slated to compete in the First Convention Chorus Contest. The competition will be held in the Masonic Temple Auditorium the same as all Quartet Contest sessions. Starting time is 9:30 A.M.—the date, Saturday, June 13.

General Admission tickets for this Contest are included in all Convention Registration Books.

The interest attracted by this addition to the Convention schedule indicates that a large crowd will hear the 34 or more Contest numbers and witness the crowning of the "1953 International Convention Chorus Contest Champions".

Special awards will be presented to the top three choruses and to the individual chorus members. In addition to the awards and the new title, the winning chorus will be featured on the Saturday night Medalist Contest Program.

ADDPMSPEBSQSABDWVWP, NOT INCORPORATED (DECREPITS) AS WELL AS THE DECREP-PETS, TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Most Antique Relic Edward G. Fahnstock and the Keeper of the Wampum and Antique Records R. Harry Brown have announced that the annual meeting and luncheon of the Decreps will be held in Detroit at the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel—Pan American Room—beginning at 11 A. M. Saturday June 13th. Roy S. Harvey of St. Petersburg, who carries the title of Head Nurse to the Most Antique Relic, is assisting the other officers in making arrangements for this unique gathering.

Kay (Mrs. O. H. King) Cole, secretary of the Decreps and Franc Adams (Mrs. Carroll P.) President, have announced that the annual luncheon and business meeting will be held in the Founders Room on the fifth floor of the Sheraton Cadillac Hotel at 12 noon on Saturday June 13th.



**AS REPORTED TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE  
THROUGH MAY 14, 1953**  
(All events are Parades unless  
otherwise specified)

May 15 Holland, Mich.; Jackson, Minn.,  
Charter Night.  
15-16 East Aurora, N. Y.  
16-Manitowoc, Wis.; Las Cruces, N. M.,  
Charter Night; Boonsboro, Md.; New Ulm,  
Minn.; Allentown, Pa.; Richland Center,  
Wis.; Paducah, Ky.; Providence, R. I.;  
Keene, N. H.  
17-Mt. Vernon, Ohio.  
17-Nassau County, L. I., N. Y.; Northbrook,  
Ill.; San Carlos, Calif.  
23-Dallas, Tex.; Newrk, Ohio; Dayton Sub-  
urban, Ohio; Westfield, N. J.; Aren No. 2  
Chorus Contest; Topeka, Kans.; Palos Heights,  
Ill.; Mayville, Wis.; Fayette County, Pa.,  
Charter Night Parade; Pomona, Calif.; Nor-  
wich, Conn., Northeastern District Chorus  
Contest.  
23-24-Pekin, Ill.  
24-Cloverland-Ironwood, Mich., Charter Night  
Parade.  
June 6-Elizabeth, N. J., Charter Night.  
6-Jersey City, N. J., Annual Dance & Quar-  
tet Roundup; Yakima, Wash.  
11-14-Detroit, Michigan, International Con-  
vention & Quartet Contest.  
28-Columbus, Ohio, Johnny Applesseed Dis-  
trict Chorus Contest.  
July 17-Detroit No. 1, Mich., Moonlight  
Cruise.  
19-Alma, Mich., Mich. District Chorus Con-  
test.  
Aug. 15-Oscoda County, Mich.  
Sept. 4-5-6-7-Charlevoix, Mich., 11th Annual  
Jamboree.  
Sept. 12-Mishawaka, Ind.; Snegertown, Pa.;  
Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.  
19-Oshawa, Ont.  
20-Brown County, Ind., Picnic; Portage,  
Wis.  
26-Housatonic (Derby), Conn.; Heart of Illi-  
nois (Peoria), Ill.; Gowanda, N. Y.; Gratiot  
County, Mich.  
31-Sheboygan, Wis.  
Oct. 2-3-San Gabriel, Calif.  
3-Eno Claire, Wis.; Beaver Dam, Wis.;  
Conneaut, Ohio; New Bedford, Mass., North-  
eastern District Contest.  
9-Fairmont, Minn., Charter Night.  
9-10-Oak Park, Ill., Minstrel Show.  
10-Olean, N. Y.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Fond du  
Lac, Wis.; Plainfield, N. J.; Mankato, Minn.;  
Windsor, Vt.  
16-Mt. Horeb, Wis.  
17-London, Ont.; Walton-Downs, N. Y.;  
Gardner, Mass.; South Haven, Mich.; Kiel,  
Wis.; Washington, Pa., Johnny Applesseed  
District Contest; Lansing, Mich. District con-  
test; New York Areas No. 1, 2 and 3, N. Y.,  
Mid-Atlantic District Contest; Janesville, Wis.;  
Rome, N. Y.  
23-Ridgewood, N. J.  
24-Norwich, Conn.; Cleveland, Ohio; Tra-  
verse City, Mich.; Penn Yan, N. Y.; Seneen-  
land District Quartet and Chorus Contest;  
Ashland, Wis.; Denver, Colo.; Salem, Mass.;  
Eschbana, Mich.  
25-Phillips, Wis.  
31-West Bend-Barton, Wis.; Sturgeon Bay,  
Wis.; Binghamton-Johnson City, N. Y.;  
Bloomsburg, Pa.  
Nov. 1-Muncie, Ind.  
6-Elkader, Iowa; Tuscaloosa, Ala.  
7-Portland, Me.; Sacramento, Calif.; Bath,  
N. Y.; Detroit No. 1, Mich.; Southbridge,  
Mass.  
8-Princeton, Ill.  
14-Baltimore, Md.; Brockton, Mass.; Pioneer  
(Chicago), Ill.; Kenosha, Wis.; Seymour-  
Black Creek, Wis.; Worcester, Mass.; Pas-  
adena, Calif., Far Western District Contest.

JUNE, 1953

21-Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Hartford, Conn.;  
Youngstown, Ohio; Paterson, N. J.  
28-Buckeye Capital (Columbus), Ohio; Carls-  
bad, N. M.  
Dec. 5-Boston, Mass.; Enid, Okla.; West-  
field, N. J.  
5-6-Evansville, Ind.  
12-Chicago No. 1, Ill.

1954  
Jan. 2-Milwaukee, Wis.  
23-York, Pa.  
30-Green Bay, Wis.  
Feb. 6-Akron, Ohio; Jersey City, N. J.  
13-Seranton, Pa.; Kalamazoo, Mich.; Sara-  
sota, Fla.  
20-Deerborn, Mich.; Philadelphia, Pa.  
27-Tulsa, Okla.  
Mar. 6-Oklahoma City, Okla.; Lima, Ohio.  
Apr. 3-Pittsburgh, Pa.  
10-Winnipeg, Man.  
24-Brandon, Man., Marinette, Wis.  
June 5-Jersey City, N. J., Annual Dance  
& Quartet Roundup.

**WINNERS IN REGIONAL  
PRELIMINARIES WHO  
WILL COMPETE  
AT DETROIT**

CENTRAL STATES-Longmont, Colo.  
Air Capital Quartet, Wichita, Kans.-Edw.  
C. Fahnstock, 346 No. Water, Wichita, Kans.  
BMA Gamblers, Kansas City, Mo.-Orval  
Wilson, 3646 E. 61st, Kansas City 4, Mo.  
Hawkeye Four, Des Moines, Ia.-Fred Owens,  
3rd Fl., Hubbell Bldg., Des Moines, Ia.  
Royals, Kansas City, Mo.-Arlo Moore,  
3016 So. 28th, Kansas City, Kans. Alternate:  
Orphans, Wichita, Kans.-O. H. Bigham, 432  
No. Terrace, Wichita 8, Kans.  
DIXIE-Daytona Beach, Fla.  
Antlers, Miami, Fla.-Willard Schindler, 326  
S.W. 6th St., Miami. Florida Knights, Tampa,  
Fla.-Sam Breedon, 1612 Virginia Ave.,  
Tampa, 9. The Vagabonds, Winston-Salem,  
N. C.-Pete Cromer, 314 N. Spruce, Y.M.C.A.  
Alternate: Peachtree Pipers, Asheville, N. C.  
Chapter-J. B. Thompson, 553 Lee St., S.W.,  
Apt. 8, Atlanta, Ga.  
EVERGREEN (See next page).

FAR WESTERN-Long Beach, Cal.  
San Diego Serenaders, San Diego, Cal.-  
Chet Hodapp, 3810 Chaumonne Ave., San Diego  
5, Cal. Statesmen, Sacramento, Cal.-Jack  
Gilstrap, 903-28th St., Sacramento, Cal. Al-  
ternate: Travelers, San Jose, Cal.-Ozzie  
Palos, 756 Montrose Ave., Palo Alto, Cal.

ILLINOIS-La Salle, Ill.  
Chicagoans, Southtown (Chicago)-Ward S.  
Chase, 5026 Manistee Ave., Chicago 17, Ill.  
Kord Kings, Oak Park, Ill.-Bob Jackson, 159  
N. Taylor, Oak Park, Ill. Kord Kutters, Pekin,  
Ill.-Paul Smuberry, 910 Amanda St., Pekin,  
Ill. Vikings, Rock Island, Ill.-Bob Maurus,  
3427-9th Ave., Rock Island, Ill. Alternate:  
Four Tissimos, Q Suburban-W. J. "Buzz"  
Haeger, 745 N. Kensington Ave., LaGrange  
Park, Ill.

INDIANA-KENTUCKY-Indianapolis, Ind.  
Clef Chiefs, Elkhart-Mishawaka-Lee E. Kid-  
der, 1103 No. Ward St., Elkhart, Ind. Tem-  
plaires, Don Tohey, 316 Ohio Ave., Muncie,  
Ind. Alternate: Dixieliners, Evansville, Ind.  
Jim Negley, 1505 Lincoln Ave., Evansville,  
Ind.

JOHNNY APPLESEED-Canton, Ohio  
Four-In-A-Chord, Cleveland, O.-Ray Bieber,  
506 Bulkley Bldg., Cleveland 15, Ohio. Har-  
mony Counts, Warren, Ohio-Gene Pealer,  
210 Oak Knoll Ave., N.E., Warren, Ohio.  
Humdingers, Canton, Ohio-Rolph Craddock,  
4229-7th St. N.W., Canton, Ohio. Lytle  
Brothers, Sharon, Pa.-Paul T. Lytle, Box  
3173, Boardman, Ohio. Alternate: Buzz Saws,  
Buckeye Capital-George H. Chamblin, 209  
So. High St., Columbus 15, Ohio.

LAND O'LAKES-Sturgeon Bay, Wis.  
Atomic Bums, Minneapolis, Minn.-Maynard  
W. Saxe, 3437 Girard Ave. So., Minneapolis.  
Minn. Cardinals, Madison, Wis.-Jerry Ripp,  
723 W. Johnson St., Madison 5, Wis. Sing-  
Copates, Appleton, Wis.-Dick Fuess, 538 N.  
State St., Appleton, Wis. Whipchords, Janes-  
ville, Wis.-D. Schuyler Davies, Delavan, Wis.  
Alternate: Wauwatosa Fortnuites, Wauwa-  
tosa, Wis.-R. H. Chapman, 2102 N. 86th St.,  
Wauwatosa 13, Wis.

MICHIGAN-Benton Harbor, Mich.  
Onehords, Saginaw, Mich.-Bill Ahrens, 239  
Berland St., Saginaw, Mich. Town Criers,  
Benton Harbor, Mich.

(Continued on next page)

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By Chas. M. Merrill, Past Int'l Pres.  
No. 37

Who's the HE?

1. HE floats through the air with the greatest of ease.
2. HE was her man but HE done her wrong.
3. HE just plays chords that make you feel grand.
4. HE wears a Tuxedo and Gee how it fits. HE looks like the head-waiter down at the Ritz.
5. HE had no wool on the top of his head in the place where the wool ought to grow.
6. HE don't say nothin'. HE just keeps rollin' along.
7. HE'd glide 'cross the floor with the girl HE adored.
8. HE jumped upon the piano and loudly HE did shout: "Who threw the overalls in Mistress Murphy's chowder?"
9. HE played hop-scotch with the starboard watch while the captain tickled the crew.
10. HE's a rootin', tootin', scootin', shootin' son-of-a-gun from Ari-

For answers, see page 47

## PRELIM WINNERS

Continued

Kalamazoo, Mich.—Louis Johnston, 1407 Portage St., Kalamazoo, Mich. Wolverines, Detroit & Dearborn—Wm. Bond, 621 Larchlea Dr., Birmingham, Mich. Alternate: Downtowners, Lansing, Mich.—H. Burdette Bottom, 900 Prudden Bldg., Lansing 16, Mich.

MID-ATLANTIC—Scranton, Pa.

Chordblenders, Easton-Phillipsburg — Gerald R. Bntt, 314 So. Broad St., Nazareth, Pa. Columbians, Washington, D. C.—Joseph B. Yznaga, 501 12th St. N.W., Washington 4, D. C. Jerseymen, Philadelphia, Pa.—Charles Bneso, 51 Walnut, Salem, N. J. Volunteers, Baltimore, Md.—Robert MacEneary, 1530 No. Gay St., Baltimore 13, Md. Alternate: Sentimentalists, York, Pa.—Ivan T. Kable, 15 E. Maple St., York, Pa.

NORTHEASTERN—New Haven, Conn.

Four Harpooners, New Bedford, Mass.—Everett Wood, 59 Elswick St., No. Dartmouth, Mass. Four Naturals, New Haven, Conn.—Paul H. Miller, 84 Anthony St., New Haven 15, Conn. Helmsmen, New Bedford, Mass.—Joe Humberges, 12 Ashley St., So. Dartmouth, Mass. Alternate: Noblemen, Providence, R. I.—Murray A. Rigby, 133 Uphill Ave., Greenwood, Warwick, R. I.

ONTARIO—London, Ont.

Four Chorders, London, Ont.—Art Patterson, 792 Elias St., London, Ont. Toronto Rhythmairs, Yorktown (Toronto)—Norman V. Sawyer, 5 Maynard Ave., Toronto, Ont. Alternate: Canadian Chordamen, East York—George L. Shields, 83 Marjory Ave., Toronto, Ont.

EVERGREEN—Spokane, Wash.

Evergreen Quartet, Yakima, Wash.—Bill Gable, 219 So. Grandview, Yakima, Wash. Alternate: Stratochords, Seattle, Wash.—Joe Zwiin, 1905 E. Thomas, Seattle 2, Wash.

SENECA LAND—Binghamton, N. Y.

Note Crackers, Genesee (Rochester)—Wayne Poor, 166 Belmende Rd., Rochester 17, N. Y. O-At-Kans, Warsaw, N. Y.—Bob Arnold, 64 Washington St., Warsaw, N. Y. Alternate: Compress-Aires, Painted Post, N. Y.—Bob Hughes, 540 W. High, Painted Post, N. Y.

SOUTHWESTERN—Lubbock, Texas

The Blenders, Okla. City, Okla.—Brett L. Miller, 1631 N.W. 29th St. The Desertairs, El Paso, Texas.—E. E. Winter, Jr., 29 Half Moon Drive. Alternate: Tune-Tillers, Ft. Worth.—Robert J. Taylor, 2812 Ave. G.

## QUEEN RECEIVES RECORD

Those who were present at Kansas City last June will remember that the assembly in Musie Hall sang "America" and "God Save the Queen" so well that Past Int'l Pres. Frank Thorne, who led the singing, suggested a record be cut Saturday night. It was done and later sent to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, along with a copy of "Keep America Singing", the Society's history.

Here is the reply, "Her Majesty has received with much pleasure the book and the special recording of 'God Save the Queen' and 'America' which you so kindly sent to her.

"Her Majesty desires me to convey to you and all the members of the Society her warm thanks and genuine appreciation of your gift and of the kind sentiments which inspired it."



## A NEW PRAYER

"Father We Thank Thee"  
by R. E. Pearson. Only  
published for quartet.  
20c per copy, postpaid.

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### CHARTERED SINCE FEBRUARY 1, 1953

**WOODSTOCK, ONTARIO** . . . Chartered February 10, 1953 . . . sponsored by London, Ont. . . 28 members . . . Wm. V. Ratz, 614 Dundas St., Woodstock, Ont., Secretary.

**COLLEGE PARK, MARYLAND** . . . Chartered February 17, 1953 . . . sponsored by Washington, D. C. and Annapolis, Md. . . 34 members . . . Louis J. Naecker, 9300 Avenel Road, Silver Spring, Md., Secretary.

**CHILTON (CALUMET), WISCONSIN** . . . Chartered February 19, 1953 . . . sponsored by Manitowoc, Wis. . . 20 members . . . L. J. Cardinal, 46 East Main St., Chilton, Wis., Secretary.

**INDIAN WELLS VALLEY, CALIFORNIA** . . . Chartered February 25, 1953 . . . sponsored by Pasadena, Calif. . . 21 members . . . Eldon L. Dunn, Box 399, China Lake, Calif., Secretary.

**WESTON, WEST VIRGINIA** . . . Chartered February 26, 1953 . . . sponsored by Clarksburg, W. Va. . . 24 members . . . Arnett Snyder, 217 W. 2nd St., Weston, W. Va., Secretary.

**CHAMBERSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA** . . . Chartered March 25, 1953 . . . sponsored by Harrisburg, Pa. . . 28 members . . . Nevin Short, Sr., 341 West Loudon St., Chambersburg, Pa., Secretary.

**FLOYD & CLARK COUNTIES (NEW ALBANY), INDIANA** . . . Chartered March 27, 1953 . . . sponsored by Louisville, Ky. . . 54 members . . . Chester B. Harrell, 2314 Fairmont Ave., New Albany, Ind., Secretary.

**FAIRMONT, MINNESOTA** . . . Chartered April 7, 1953 . . . sponsored by Mankato, Minn. and Waseca, Minn. . . 20 members . . . Dr. Kenneth Strauss, 200½ No. North Avenue, Fairmont, Minn., Secretary.

**CORAL GABLES, FLA.** . . . Chartered April 20, 1953 . . . sponsored by Miami, Fla. . . 27 members . . . Louis A. Miller, 5252 E. Sunset Dr., South Miami, Fla., Secretary.

**LAKEVIEW, OREGON** . . . Chartered April 23, 1953 . . . sponsored by Klamath Falls, Ore. . . 22 members . . . Gene Deter, 637 So. H, Lakeview, Oregon, Secretary.

**BAY CITIES CHAPTER (COOS BAY, OREGON)** . . . Chartered April 30, 1953 . . . sponsored by Brookings, Oregon . . . 20 members . . . Don M. Matson, 2157 Myrtle St., Coos Bay, Oregon, Secretary. →

## MEMBERSHIP GROWS

Progressive growth is evident in the Society's membership as an upward surge reveals a gradual increase following a couple of years of recorded losses.

This forward sweeping move is traceable to effective leadership within experienced and established chapters and the sound sponsorship of newly formed chapters.

With a present enrollment of more than 25,000 barbershop harmony enthusiasts we must conserve our gains through chapter opportunities for service and participation.

The trend toward choruses in our Society as evidenced by the large number of ensembles which have qualified for the first International Convention Chorus Contest to be held in Detroit June 13th offers another worthy approach to the membership problem.

Barbershop-harmony-conscious members have another justification for approaching glee club, chorus and choir singers to enhance their enjoyment of life through our type of harmony.

It is important that we interpret our style of music and harmony to potential members. We must win the confidence and appreciation of men

who like to sing but are unfamiliar with barbershopping. Our attention must be directed toward definite groups which consist of selected material.

Invite these singing groups to chapter meetings. Many of their members will become interested in the Society.

Success in our membership campaign can be attributed to the excellent leadership offered by District officers. Chapters gave constant consideration to the cause and the International Committee on Membership extends to all heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

It is hoped their successors will give immediate attention to re-enrolling present members and bringing in new ones. Some chapters are reviewing their records of years ago and inviting former members to "come back home". Try this! It is worthy of consideration.

### International Committee on Membership

Henry D. Schubert, Chairman; W. D. Common, A. C. Chapman, Charles E. Glover, Dr. Paul Hartig, Vern Leatherdale, James Martin, Pat McPhillips, Ernest Cullen Murphy, Charles F. Ricketts and Charles H. Schmid.

## DETROIT WILL WELCOME SPEB's

By Louis R. Harrington Michigan District Secretary  
and Associate General Chairman of Convention.

Detroit, "the City Beautiful," and all the surrounding area of Michigan and Canada will be ready to welcome visitors to the SPEBSQSA convention in June.

Visitors will find Southern Michigan in all its Spring splendor and a trip through the Michigan countryside is rewarded with many picturesque sights. The area around Detroit is renowned as a vacationland as well as a center of industry. It is also a cultural center.

As a resort city, Detroit lures millions of visitors each year. They come to tour the huge automobile plants, to enjoy the cultural highlights of Greenfield Village, Edison Institute, Cranbrook, Detroit Art Museum, Detroit Zoological Gardens, colleges, universities and its many fine churches. Visitors can also watch the Detroit River's unending parade of ships; take part in the down-river steamer excursions and moonlight rides on Lake St. Clair. The ladies can shop in the city's many fine stores. There are also more than 450 inland lakes within a radius of 25 miles.

Many visitors will take advantage of their Detroit visit to travel to Canada. Windsor, Ontario, is just across the Detroit River. Those who do so may be surprised to find that you have to go south to enter Canada from Detroit.

Another attraction which may be of considerable appeal to many is Briggs Stadium, home of the Detroit Tigers Baseball team. During convention week, the Detroit Tigers will be entertaining the New York Yankees in afternoon games on Wednesday, June 10th, and Thursday, June 11th.

Probably Detroit's most popular attractions are Greenfield Village and the adjacent Ford Museum. Both are located less than 10 miles from downtown Detroit in Dearborn, and are readily accessible by bus. It is a holiday in Early America where you see the full, rich past of our young nation. Two hundred acres are devoted to showing early shops manned by artisans in the methods of a past century.

The automobile plants all have regularly scheduled tours. These include Ford Motor Car Company, Dodge Division of Chrysler, DeSoto Division of Chrysler, Chrysler Main plant; Packard Motor and Hudson Motor.

Other industrial plants which conduct tours are: Burroughs Adding Machine Company, Vernors Ginger Ale Company and Stroh Brewery. Complete information relative to these tours will be available at the SPEBSQSA Convention Registration Room or from members of the Hospitality Committee.

**HOMESTEAD, FLORIDA** . . . Chartered May 4, 1953 . . . sponsored by Miami, Florida . . . 25 members . . . Glenn Thomas, Box 412, Homestead, Fla., President.

**BIG SPRING, TEXAS** . . . Chartered May 6, 1953 . . . sponsored by Lubbock, Texas . . . 23 members . . .

Tolford H. Durham, 606 West 15th St., Big Spring, Texas, Secretary.

**BEAVER VALLEY, PENNSYLVANIA** . . . Chartered May 6, 1953 . . . 22 members . . . sponsored by Pittsburgh, Pa. . . Arthur D. Hamlin, 192 Victory Lane, Leetsdale, Pa., Secretary.

## Committee Report on Status of Armed Forces Collaboration

The achievements of the Society in sending quartets to Alaska, Korea-Japan, Germany and Austria have been well publicized to our members, and a great deal of credit has been reflected upon the Society through the contributions made to soldier singing, by these fine quartets (Harmony Halls, Mid-States Four, Cardinals, Buffalo Bills, Schmitt Brothers and Clef Dwellers) both from the entertainment as well as from the instructional points of view. Early this year the subject of overseas tours by quartets was discussed with the Special Services of the Army, with past and present chairmen of the Armed Forces Collaboration Committee taking part. The Army was invited to make a proposition to the Society, detailing its requirements in the way of quartets, and stating what it was prepared to do in the way of financing such tours.

Subsequently the Army asked for five quartets to visit the various areas previously visited, but it was stated that because of the lack of funds for the purpose, no compensation could be provided for the quartets, except that they would be given transportation from their homes to the point of embarkation for overseas, and return, and would be furnished food and lodging. The Society, having found it impracticable to compensate the quartets from its own funds and special drives for contributions having proved inadequate, notified the Army that the Society would be obliged to suspend its overseas activities for the present, unless at a date in the future quartets of high calibre could be found who would not require compensation during their absence from their regular occupations. Thus the program has remained more or less in a state of suspension.

At this writing, however, it appears probable that two quartets will be selected from a number which have volunteered in the Pacific Northwest District, to visit Alaska and the Aleutian Islands. These quartets, as well as a sufficient number of public spirited chorus singers to make up a "package" show, have volunteered to perform this service without compensation beyond their actual transportation, meals and sleeping accommodations. Unfortunately, because of the difficulties of transportation and accommodation, only eight men can be taken, and although negotiations are not final or firm as yet, it appears fairly certain that two P.N.W. District quartets will go for 30 day periods. Great credit is due the men who have volunteered from the Pacific Northwest, but also to Obie Falls, President of the Pacific Northwest District, and to Art Campbell, of Eugene, Oregon, who was designated by Falls to "carry the ball" and do the organizing, corresponding, etc. in connection with the proposed "package" show. Recognition is due both

men who have gone ahead with the project in the face of discouraging delays and disappointments.

A proposal to make a barbershop training film, by the three armed forces in conjunction, and with the Society giving technical advice and furnishing some quartets for illustrative purposes, has been held up by the "austerity program" of the Armed Forces, and by the delays encountered in getting a suitable script prepared.

Also, an alternative plan submitted to the International Directors at the Boston Mid-Winter meeting, by Marty Mendro, of Chicago, has been considered. However, it is hoped that the training film, to be made and distributed by the Armed Forces themselves, will be a reality. Transfers of personnel in the armed forces make it difficult for the Committee to drive a project to a finish.

The Chairman wishes to thank all the good barbershoppers who have co-operated with the Society's program for promoting barbershop quartet singing and chorus singing in the Armed Forces.

F. Stirling Wilson  
Ch'm'n, Armed Forces  
Collaboration Committee

## DECCA TO RECORD

The 1953 Medalist album of recordings is to be made this year for the first time by Decca. It will consist of 8 sides—3 by the new champions—2 by the runners-up—and 1 each by the third, fourth and fifth place quartets. It is expected that Decca will offer the album in all three speeds.

An opportunity for placing your order will be given to all Convention registrants at Detroit by means of order blanks used as inserts in the Convention program.

### Chorus Special 55 "GABARTEX" CHORUS COATS

Gold with Maroon Piping  
Assorted Sizes—Excellent Condition  
Original Cost \$7.50 each  
First Check for \$225.00 Takes Them

Contact FRANK LEWIS  
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### FOUR TEENS

*Irish Lullaby*  
*Tie Me To Your Apron*  
*Strings Again*

### VIKINGS

*There'll Be Some*  
*Changes Made*

### FOUR CHORDERS

*When I'm All Alone*  
*With You*

### SAN DIEGO SERENADERS

*Somebody Stole My Gal*  
(Medley)

### KEYSTONE QUADS

*Red Lips*

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FINEST, HIGH FIDELITY  
RECORDS

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PROCESSED ON VINYLITE

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ABSOLUTE MINIMUM OF  
SURFACE NOISE

**\$5.50** POSTPAID

Make check payable to and mail to **SPEBSQSA., Inc.**  
20619 Fenkell Avenue :: Detroit 23, Michigan





Wilson

Very few barbershoppers appreciate the importance of keeping themselves in perfect physical condition. Good health is just as necessary for barbershoppers as for bus drivers, clamshell bucket chauffeurs, pastry cooks, beekeepers and snake charmers.

For example, do you know how many baritones have dropped dead from ex-



haustion during the long walk from the wings to the microphone? "Not nearly enough" is not the right answer, but you can find it in Vol. VI of the Encyclopedia Britannica. Also, have you noticed how many tenors become exhausted from that swinging-back-and-forth motion that many of our more athletic quartets affect? And as for the knee-bends and handkerchief-waving that go with "Cruisin'



## Health, Athletic and Frolic Department

by Prof. Stirling Wilson, Head Coach

(Reprinted from Jan. 1953 "Mid'l Antics" organ of Mid-Atlantic District)

Along", not one quartet in a hundred can do it without six weeks in a gym and plenty of road work.

To develop a more rugged breed of barbershoppers, the Mid-L-Antics Athletic, Indoor Tennis, Needlepoint and Tatting Association has drawn up the following directions for calisthenics.

Other exercises will be described in future issues of this family paper as



soon as our instructor has recovered from the broken arm he sustained while demonstrating Exercise No. 1. A chart showing how to perform these exercises will be sent upon application to this publication. Enclose a self-addressed envelope and a \$15 stamp. All profits realized from the sale of our publication are donated to the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Wilson.

First, however, we shall list some of the occupational diseases that go with barbershopping. We omit some of the more obvious illnesses, such as dizziness from being hit with a Coca-Cola bottle, footlight fuzziness, pitchpipe lip and stage stupidity, and confine our remarks to the more dangerous disorders.

They are: Congratulations of the larynx; Tintinnabulation of the watch-

fob; Footbeat callus; Perforation of the litmus; Chipping of the glastonbury gland; and Concatenation of the rubato. Of course there are others not



mentioned here because we do not know how to spell them.

But to get to the calisthenics: Exercise 1—For strengthening the pitchpipe lip, raise and lower the pitchpipe a distance of approximately a half meter, i.e. from the medulla oblongata to the lobe of the right ear. As



the P.P. passes the lip sound a lusty F# to improve the wind and to avoid corrugation of the elbows.

Exercise 2—For making the neck fit starched collars: Move the tonsils slowly from right to left in a counter-sandstorm direction, until the tonsils have swollen to about twice their normal size. Getting them back in shape will give you adequate exercise for a month.

## REPLY TO J. F. N's. OPEN LETTER (See March 1953 Harmonizer, page 42)

You are so right about the importance of the Chapter Nominating Committee and covered it so well that I can add nothing to that important phase of Chapter operation. The subject does, however, lead naturally to the matter of Chapter Officers' duties.

Now that our officers take over on May 1st, they will have assumed their responsibilities by the time this piece is printed and will already have been urged to read and follow the many suggestions in the Chapter Reference Manual.

It is natural for a newly elected President to have some feeling of uncertainty when taking over the most important office in the Chapter but if he will choose his committee members with care, his job can be made much easier. The test of a true executive is in his ability to choose assistants who

are both willing and able to carry out assignments and many of the past Chapter officers fit that description. Don't let them hibernate; use their talents, ask their advice; try to get them to accept the chairmanship of important committees.

The Secretary is the Chapter's mainstay. He is the contact between International Headquarters and the Chapter members. He has several big jobs to do plus many little ones and because his work means a great deal both Society and Chapter wise, he deserves and should get all the cooperation and help he needs to do the job efficiently.

The duties of all Chapter officers are outlined in the brochure entitled "Chapter Officers Guide" which is mailed to them when the names and

addresses are sent in by the Secretary after their election. It also has many suggestions we hope will be used to maintain interest in Chapter meetings.

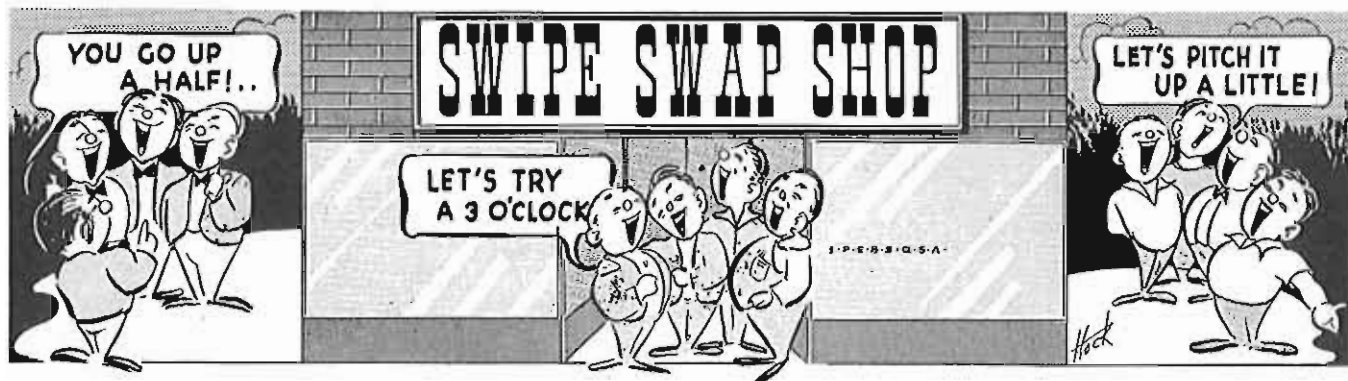
It is our contention that if given interesting and well conducted meetings, the membership problem can also be solved. It takes ingenuity, insight, hindsight, imagination, organization, and horse sense plus the help of the Guide and the Manual to run a successful Chapter and we wish the new officers success in this worthy aim, hoping they will write to Headquarters for further help if needed.

Sing-Cerely,

R. George Adams

Chairman, Int'l Committee  
on Chapter Methods

: : :



IF YOU WANT TO CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING TO THIS DEPARTMENT, SEND IT TO  
"SWIPE SWAP SHOP", c/o SPEBSQSA, 20619 FENKELL AVE., DETROIT 23, MICH.

### DAVIES WINS ARRANGEMENT CONTEST

D. Schuyler (Skid) Davies, Delavan, Wisconsin, submitted the arrangement of "I'm Going Home" which appears on the next page. The judges selected it as best of the arrangements submitted in the contest.

(For the benefit of those who came in late, lyrics were submitted by John Hill, Lansing, Michigan; were printed in the June 1952 issue and an invitation extended to all members to submit melodies.)

Morry Uppstrom, president of the Washington County, Pa. Chapter, bass of the Hometowners, submitted the winning melody which was printed in the December 1952 Harmonizer. Many contestants submitted not only a melody, but an arrangement. That did not affect the judging of the melody contest, but did suggest going further and conducting an arrangement contest. Twenty-nine entries were received.)

The Song Arrangements Committee reports that the quality of the competing arrangements was pleasingly good. It has become apparent through the operation of these contests that there is a great deal of "unknown" talent in the ranks of the Society membership.

Brief biographies of most of the contestants appear on page (19). Quartets looking for help with arrangements could do a lot worse than seek out some of these men. Maybe, you'll find them willing and able to deliver that shot in the vocal cords you've been looking for.

Many of the participants in the two contests sent letters with their entries that expressed the general idea — "This is fun. Let's do it again." So, bowing to the will of the pen-happy, creative element, the SWIPE SWAP SHOP will conduct a running series of related but independent "writing" contests designed to appeal to the artistic triumvirate that wags our dog's tail—

THE LYRICIST  
THE MELODY GUY  
THE ARRANGER

Terms and conditions of these three contests are announced on these pages.

## CONTEST FOR BEST ORIGINAL LYRICS

**PURPOSE**—To obtain lyrics that can be used in later SWIPE SWAP SHOP Melody Writing Contests.

**HOW**—Pick any published song. Get a copy of the music. Compose original lyrics that follow the *general rhythmic pattern* of that music with due allowances for "swipe deviation" consistent with good barbershop taste. You should end up with lyrics that could be sung to the melody of the song you select. Obviously, they will never be published in that form because of copyright restrictions, but by following this formula, all the lyrics submitted will of necessity be of such a nature that they can be set to a melody.

General appeal and novelty of situation developed and manner of presentation of situation will be major considerations in determining winning entry. The above is premised on the assumption that top-calibre entries will embody good phonetic considerations as related to barbershop delivery and adaptation to *melodic* treatment in future SWIPE SWAP SHOP melody competition.

### CHORD JUGGLERS CAN ALSO HANDLE KING'S ENGLISH

Many of the letters accompanying the entries in the SWIPE SWAP SHOP Arrangement Contest contained interesting comments on the contest and the Society in general. Here are extracts from some of them.

*Herb Kidd of Montclair, N. J.—*  
"... have been having more fun since I joined SPEBSQSA than I had dreamed of before. My ambition now is to turn out something someday that the boys will really have fun singing. My 'Close Shavers' are not too optimistic, but agree that you gotta hone a keen edge and use plenty of lather..."

*Floyd P. Quinn, Vancouver, B. C.—*  
"... I am not a musician in any sense of the term. I am an engineer.

### General Conditions of Contest

- 1—Contestant must be member in good standing of a chapter in good standing.
- 2—Published copy of song you have chosen to parallel must be submitted with your entry.
- 3—Suggestive material will be automatically disqualified.
- 4—Lyrics submitted become the property of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
- 5—Decision of the Judges will be accepted as final.
- 6—Manuscript and copy of published song must be mailed to

SWIPE SWAP SHOP  
c/o SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
20619 Fenkell Avenue  
Detroit 23, Michigan

not later than September 25, 1953.

PRIZE WINNER WILL RECEIVE  
FOUR BOOKS OF TICKETS TO  
THE CONTEST AND CONVENTION  
IN WASHINGTON, D. C. IN  
1954.

But these barbershop chords have been circulating in my system for more years than I care to remember and since I joined SPEBSQSA I have acquired a yen to bring them out into the open..."

*Paul M. Somers, Champaign, Ill.—*  
"... I am honored, thrilled, overjoyed, and just plain 'ham' enough to think that printing my picture and biography is probably the greatest forward step in the history of the Harmonizer..."

"I also became arranger for the Note-ables. In fact it was my arrangements of Runnin' Wild and Bird in a Gilded Cage which did much to lose them the Illinois District Prelims at Kankakee..."

"Hooray again for the contest..."

*John R. Baird, Chicago, Ill.—*"... Have been accused of writing im-

(Continued on page 17)





hows. In one of the discussion periods which closed each session, one Past President of a Society chapter stated that he believed many members who had passed through the Society in recent years would have remained active members if they had gained a more positive insight into the true Barbershop Craft as it has developed within the Society. In every discussion period, there was general agreement that the principles of the Barbershop Craft should be made available to the Society membership in written form. Since this column, the SWIPE SWAP SHOP, is now the department of the Harmonizer which serves as the outlet for all material prepared by, or submitted to, the Committee on Barbershop Craft, these columns will be used as the source of periodic material and information pertaining to the Barbershop Craft.

Eventually it is hoped that this material will be available in a single booklet, but for the present time, these columns will suffice for a trial period of development. This is exactly the aim held by the founders of the SHOP.

It appears to this column that a definition of the Barbershop Craft and a demonstration session devoted to it is in order, particularly in view of the diversified areas of interest and activity within our Society. These demonstration sessions mentioned in these columns are not to be confused with the established and equally valuable quartet clinics which have been a feature of the Society's contests for some time. The study of the Barbershop Craft generally, and the demonstration sessions in particular may be said to have as their chief purpose the understanding and definition of the unique *style* (not form) of vocal harmony which is known as *Barbershop*, including a clear comparison of its many differences between, and similarities to, other styles of vocal harmony. All Barbershop Craft sessions, whether formal clinics or informal discussions, should conform to this specific aim. Barbershop Quartet or Chorus clinics or demonstration sessions, on the other hand, are concerned with the manner and degree of perfection of performance by barbershop quartets or choruses and the methods used by the Society in judging these. The two areas are complementary but distinct.

As a first step in developing an authoritative and inclusive body of material on Barbershop Craft, the Committee on Barbershop Craft is currently seeking concise definitions of terms which are either unique to Barbershop or quite characteristic to it. Readers of this column are invited to submit their suggested terms, with recommended definitions, to the SWIPE SWAP SHOP. It is planned that a standard glossary of Barbershop terms will result and that this in turn will assist all Society members in describing Barbershop Harmony in terms which are understood and agreed to by their fellow barbershoppers. Those attending the Detroit Convention and Contest who feel they will have something to contribute either to this proposed Barbershop

glossary or to the development of the Barbershop Craft generally should come to the special session on the Barbershop Craft to be held between 2 and 3 P.M., Saturday afternoon.

\* \* \* \* \*

There has never been any doubt that there is widespread interest within the Society to preserve, protect, and retain the basic values of Barbershop. Two recent comments point up this fact. Immediate Past President Jim Knipe has passed along to the SHOP a comment he received from a seasoned barbershopper who is disturbed over the illogical use of swipes and shading which is currently employed by some quartets. In the words of the complainer, "precision singing of a fancy arrangement isn't enough if the basic song is taken out of character."

This column will not attempt to comment on the judging aspects of this assertion. The SHOP definitely does agree that true Barbershop singing must conform to the true musical values of a piece rather than to distort it.

Another comment has come from John Beaudin of Pontiac, Mich. Johnny was disturbed (and for good reason!) at hearing the third phrase of "Honey" sung just like the first, with a cowardly avoidance of a fat 8 o'clock or dim. 7th chord on the word "you." This column would also point out that, while it is usually sung and harmonized on "la", the last "love" in the original melody actually falls on "sol" and consequently must be harmonized with a 1 o'clock instead of a 2 o'clock barbershop 7th. This revelation was the basis for a lively discussion at one of the recent Barbershop Craft sessions held at Newark, N. J.

In the next issue's SHOP, look for a further development of the aims of this column as conceived by its founders and by the Committee on the Barbershop Craft.

For the Committee.

Bud Arberg, Chairman

# BARBERSHOP CRAFT SESSION AT DETROIT CONVENTION SATURDAY AFTERNOON

## SONGS FOR MEN BOOK VI

Our printer has promised to begin delivery of the 1953 issue of the Society's annual folio of arrangements, SONGS FOR MEN, by June 10.

Copies will be available for examination by the officers and members of the Society at the Int'l Convention at Detroit and will be found on display at the Convention Registration Desk or nearby. Distribution to the membership will follow by direct mail, beginning approximately July 1st.

In preparing this book, the SA Committee sought and received the help of our quartets in "shaking out" the arrangements. While this prior proof-singing may not have eliminated all of the bugs, based on earlier experience, it is felt that the process will have contributed to the singability of the material appearing in the book.

**COMPOSERS AND ARRANGERS**  
Edward Berg of Milwaukee, Bill Dieckma of Holland, Michigan, Dick Sturges of Atlanta, Don Webster of Cleveland, Skeet Bolds of Lafayette, Indiana, Frank Thorne of Chicago, F. R. Marks of Kansas City, Bob Haeger from La Grange, Illinois, Bud Arberg of Washington, D. C., and Arlington, Va., Skid Davies of Janesville, Wis., Loton Willson of Boyne City, Michigan, Tom Grove of Dowagiac, Michigan, Colonel Winnick of Detroit, and QUARTETS Four-In-A-Chord of Cleveland, Clef-Dwellers of Detroit, the Hy-Powers of Kansas City, the Minor Chords of Terre Haute, Indiana, the Volunteers of Baltimore, the Mid-States Four of USA, the Vagabonds of Winston-Salem, N. C., the Downtowners of Lansing, Michigan, the Wolverines of Detroit and the Chordettes of Sheboygan, Wis., all have cooperated in a splendid way with the SA Committee to generate a set of black-prints designed to meet, at least in part, the never-ending demand of our membership for new music.

In the preparation of BOOK VI of SONGS FOR MEN, the Committee has tried to attain effective simplicity, retain Society tradition, bridge the admitted gap between afterglow and footlight singing effort, provide appeal to both chorus and quartet interest and to secure an approving nod from any chance academic examination of the fruit of our effort. We hope we've included an arrangement that YOU like, particularly well.



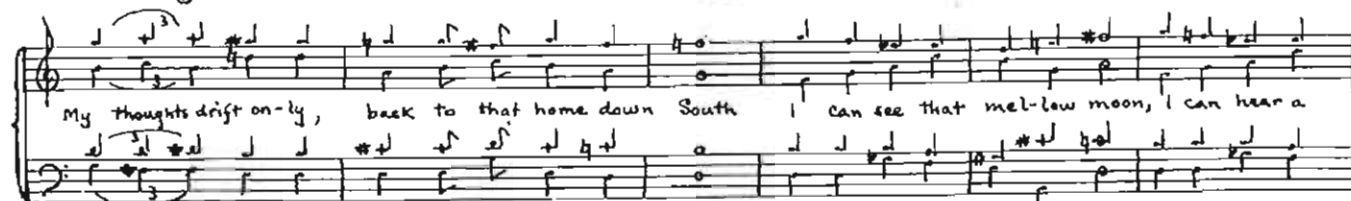
Arrangement: J. Schuyler ('SKID') Davis

**I'M GOING HOME**Music: Henry Uppetrom  
Words: John Hill & Henry Uppetrom


## Verse



I've been a roam-er, tra-vel-er all o-ver, since I left home sweet, home — Now I am lone-ly.

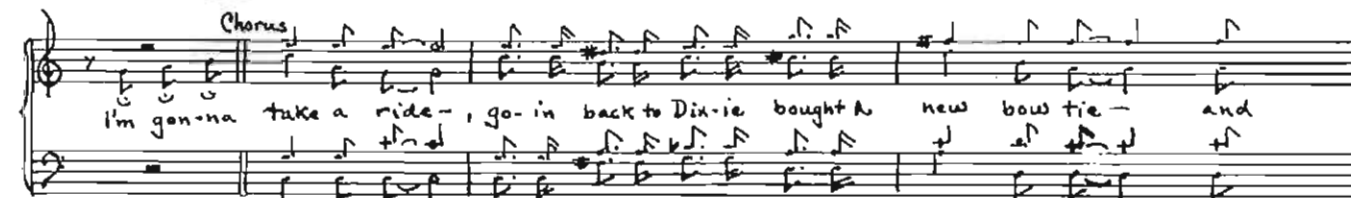


My thoughts drift on-ly, back to that home down South I can see that mel-low moon, I can hear a

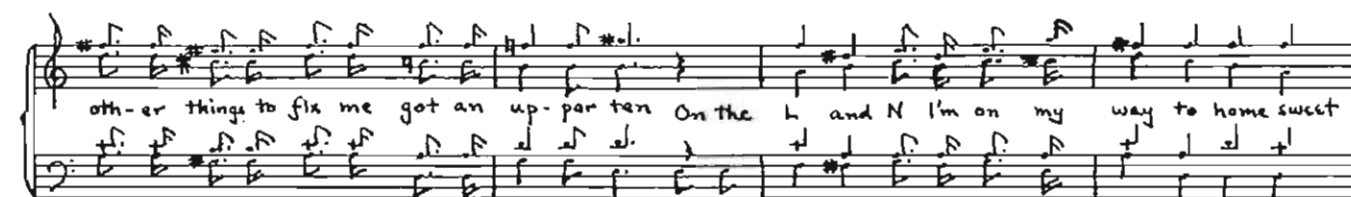


Dix-ie tune — seems to be call-ing, No need for stal-ling, I'm go-ing home a-gain, home a - gain

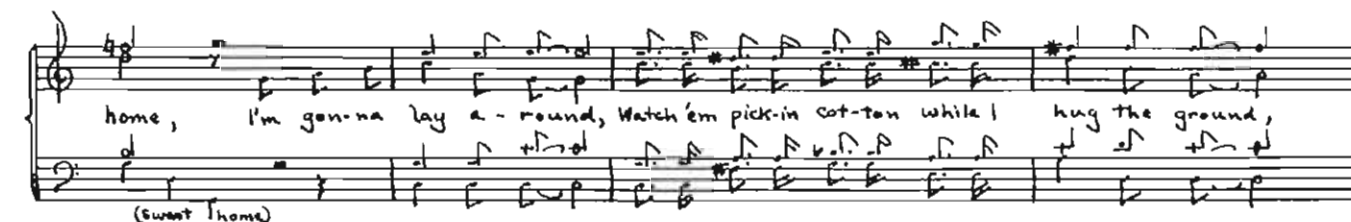
## Chorus



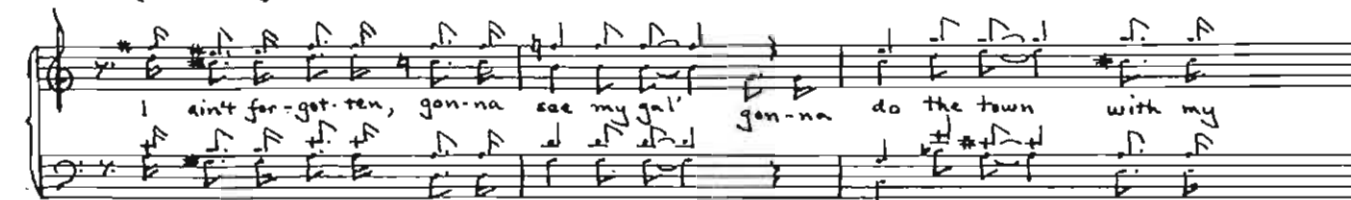
I'm gon-na take a ride —, go-in back to Dix-ie bought a new bow tie — and



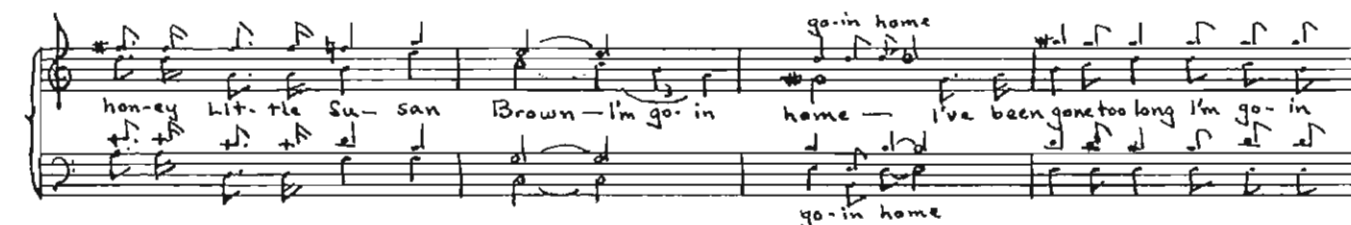
oth-er things to fix me got an up- per ten On the L and N I'm on my way to home sweet



home, I'm gon-na lay a - round, Watch 'em pick-in cot-ton while I hug the ground, (Sweet Home)



I ain't for-got-ten, gon-na see my gal' gon-na do the town with my



hon-ey Lit-tle Su-san Brown — I'm go-in go-in home go-in home I've been gone too long I'm go-in go-in home

home - and I'll be sing-in' a song, I'm go-in home, home to cat-fish fish-in and the

Go-in home home, go-in home

cook-in and the look-in that has kept me wish-in' for my home sweet home -

Had my fill of yon-der lost my yen to roam - , Don't want to wan-der, gon-na

set-tle down in that one horse town that I call my home sweet

home, I'm go-in' Home a-gain'

## CHORD JUGGLERS

Continued

possible stuff, but hope to prove differently some day . . . Have three barbershopping gripes — no organized preservation of woodshedding — too much emphasis on chorus singing and too little encouragement of quartets — too much stress on sight reading . . . little effort to promote ear singing, the initial magnet that draws frustrated singers to our Society . . . Wish we could find some way to teach ear harmony. Perhaps some of the more experienced members could devise a course based on the original barbershop method as actually used. Us young uns can't remember how it was done."

Gordon K. Douglass, Painesville, Ohio—"My harmony singing commenced in the 6th grade with inter-class competition in four part harmony . . .

"My present quartet, The Mad Flat-ters, should have a small place in history as the 'two song quartet'. Because our lead had been away for months, we had only two weeks to prepare for the District Contest

in 1951. We decided to work on only two songs, figuring we'd never get past the Prelims. To our consternation we made the Finals and had nothing prepared. As a result we came apart. Deac Martin, one of the Judges, said our only similarity to the quartet of the afternoon was the costumes . . ."

Henry K. Moffitt, East Aurora, N.Y. —" . . . I would like to say this: I have found in SPEBSQSA a means of actually participating in musical performance. For years I have had to just listen because I was not good enough to sing solos or play an instrument. Now I have the satisfaction of having really entertained an audience as part of a quartet. It has done a great deal for me and can for others. We're not very good, really, because we never can seem to get together often enough or long enough, but we've been on the same program with the Buffalo Bills, and what more can we ask?"

Hal Boehler, Lorain, Ohio—" . . . have been harmonizing since I was 8 years old. Played guitar and banjo and got my knowledge of chords that way, which made the Reagan Clock System work much easier . . ."

D. Schuyler (Skid) Davies, Janesville, Wis.—" . . . Perhaps I have written a toenail sketch, rather than the thumbnail you asked for . . . Did first pickup quartet singing when I met brother Phil in Brisbane, Australia in 1944 . . . said official goodbyes to the Cardinals at Niagara Falls following Buffalo International Contest to go to Delavan, Wisconsin to open law practice . . . Joined Whipcords in 1951. Joined Janesville April 1951: served as Ass't Chorus Director 'til January 1952 when took over as Director to date . . . Appointed Area Counselor for LOL Area 2 last year . . . Bows in deference to brother Phil, who, in his estimation, is one of the dandiest arrangers in barbershopping."

Marshall Walsh, Verona, New Jersey—" . . . Have sung ever since I can remember and find barbershopping the most satisfying and the most fun . . ."

James Thompson, Olean, N. Y.—" . . . Have been quartetting for five years with the Clark Angles. Practically all of the new pieces we have learned the last two or three years have been my arrangements, partly

(Continued on page 20)







## WHO'S WHO

### No. 1—HERB KIDD

Montclair, N. J. Chapter. Age—56. Joined Society—1952. Engineer. Organist. Studied to be a long hair. Has arranged for Close Shavers Quartet.

### No. 2—FLOYD P. QUINN

Vancouver, B. C. Chapter. Age—74. Joined Society—1951. Boy soprano. Sang in quartets in "Gay '90's". First effort at arranging.

### No. 3—PAUL M. SOMERS

Champaign, Ill. Chapter. Joined Society—1946. Sang with Odds and Ends, Tune Tinkers. Has done arrangement for Tune Tinkers and Note-ables. Accountant.

No. 4—EDWIN B. CUTLER, D.M.D.  
Needham, Mass. Chapter. Joined Society—1950. Chapter Sec'y. Bari of the Ynnkeys. First effort in arranging.

### No. 5—ROBERT E. LYTLE

Shenango Valley (Sharon, Pa.) Chapter charter member and Chorus Director for six years. Arranges for Keystone Quads and Lytle Brothers. Has "Tilted chords with his family (7 boys, 1 girl, plus parents) since before he could read".

### No. 6—J. F. (Jim) CLARKE

San Jose, Cal. Chapter. Age—49. Joined Society—1946. Singing limited to chorus and woodshedding. Has made a lot of arrangements, several used by Travelaires, Semi-Finalists in 1952.

### No. 7—JOHN R. BAIRD

Smalltown (Chicago) Chapter. Age—30. Joined Society—1948 (Omaha). Sings with Windy City Four. Has arranged for them and other quartets in which he has sung.

### No. 8—

GORDON K. (Sandy) DOUGLASS  
Euclid, Ohio Chapter. Joined Society—1943. Has sung with various fours and arranged for them between sailings—builds sailboats for coffee and cakes.

### No. 9—DENNIS M. DRISCOLL

Warren, Pa. Chapter. Age—18. Joined Society—1950. Sings bari with the Dynachords; has arranged many songs for them and continues to "turn out a new arrangement every week".

### No. 10—CARL A. IVERSON

Racine, Wis. Chapter. Joined Society in 1913. Has sung bass in quartet since 1942—car harmonizers—first attempt to put anything down on paper.

### No. 11—HENRY K. MOFFITT

East Aurora, N. Y. Chapter. Age—41. Joined Society—1951. Bass of Aurorchords. Has made arrangements for the quartet and for chapter shows—pounds 'em out on piano—by ear.

### No. 12—HAL BOEHLER

Lorain, Ohio Chapter. Age—61. Joined Society—1943. Bass and arranger for the former Hi-Chords, District Champs, Semi-Finalists. Has had many arrangements published in Society and commercial folios. Has arranged for a list of quartets stretching from here to there. "Great Smoky Mountains . . .", "Beautiful Drenner", "I Wonder What's Become of Sally"—just a few of Hal's.

### No. 13—HANK WHITTEN

Painted Post, N. Y. Chapter. Age—28. Joined Society—1949. Sings tenor in Compressaires, District Champs—has arranged 30 songs for them and modified many others by ear and the Reagan Clock System.

### No. 14—ARTHUR J. HUSAK

Norwood (Chicago) Chapter. Age—48. Joined Society—1949. Chapter president for two years; bari of the Songbusters; has collaborated on quartet and chorus arrangements.

### No. 15—J. GEORGE O'BRIEN\*

Medina, Ohio Chapter. Age—26. Joined Society—1948. Sings bari in Bee-tones. Prior to contest arranging was confined to dressing up tags, luros, swipes and standards.  
\*No relation to the Harmonizer columnist.

### No. 16—

### D. SCHUYLER (Skid) DAVIES (The Winner)

Janesville, Wis. Chapter. Age—31. Joined Society—1946. Sang with the Madison, Wis. Cardinals until graduation from law school. Now sings with Whipcords and directs Janesville Chorus. Has arranged for his quartet, the chorus and the Agriculturists, present I.O.L. District Champs.

### No. 17—MARSHALL WALSH

Montclair, N. J. Chapter. Age—42. Joined Society—1949. Sings with the Commuters and has done arrangements for them and others.

### No. 18—ED. E. SCHLIEBS

Kansas City, Mo. Chapter. Sings lead in the B. M. A. Gamboliers, organized in 1927. Has arranged for the quartet.

### No. 19—EDWARD B. ZABRISKIE

Denver, Colo. Chapter. Age—58. Joined Society—1948. Sang in quartet in Elgin, Ill. in 1909—now sings and arranges for the Prospectors.

### No. 20—JOE MATTHEWS

Washington, D. C. Chapter. Age—35. Joined Society—1949. Bari of Rhythmatists for three years—only recently took crack at arranging.

### No. 21—RALPH A. RUNYAN

Toledo, Ohio Chapter. Music vocal supervisor for thirty years—past two years Director of Toledo Chapter Chorus. Has done much arranging for operetta—mixed voices and instrumental until barbershop came along.

### No. 22—JOSEPH H. MOSSER

York, Pa. Chapter. Age—57. Joined Society—1945. Sings with Grantley Flame Throwers. Has arranged for them and Sentimentalists.

### No. 23—JAMES THOMPSON

Otewa, N. Y. Chapter. Age—45. Joined Society—1947. Sings with the Clark Angles, Semi-Finalists at Omaha. Has done all their arranging as well as for the Otewa Chapter Chorus.

### No. 24—CYRIL M. OWEN

Milwaukee, Wis. Chapter. Age—42. Joined Society—1948. Directs Milwaukee Chapter Chorus; tenor in Mil-Wau-Key Notes. Has arranged for the chorus and his own quartet and for others in the chapter.

## Luncheon For Ladies At Detroit

Mario (Mrs. Frank) Tritle, Chairman of the Detroit Convention Ladies Luncheon Committee reports that plans are set for another outstanding get-together for the wives and other lady guests of convening barbershoppers. The event will take place at 12:30 P.M. Thursday, June 11 in the Italian Garden (Ballroom Floor) of the Sheraton-Cadillac Hotel.

Favors and special entertainment will be supplied for the 250 or more "barbershop widows" expected in Detroit in time for this attraction—the only one on the schedule especially for the ladies. Tickets are \$3.00 each including tax and gratuity, and may be ordered from the Committee Treasurer, Elsie (Mrs. Joseph) Fecteau, c/o SPEBSQ-SA, INC., 20619 Fenkell Ave., Detroit 23, Michigan, or from the International Office.

Tickets will also be available from 8:00 A.M. Wednesday 'til noon Thursday at the Registration Headquarters in the Sheraton-Cadillac's Crystal Ballroom.

## Membership Record Dep't Gets Under Way

As announced in the last issue of the Harmonizer the new Membership Record department in the International office is now completely organized, equipped and staffed. This issue of the Harmonizer is being mailed direct to the Society's 25,000 members under the supervision of that department.

The cooperation given to Mrs. Regina Beerbohm in the matter of furnishing accurate and complete lists of members and addresses has been noteworthy and all members can be very pleased that the transition to the new system has been accomplished with such speed and absence of confusion.

No. 25



**KEN  
WILLIAMS**

Montclair, N.J. Chapter Member (1948). Bass. Commuters Quartet. Off and on bass. Four Hoarsemen, Manhattan Chapter. Some arranging for Commuters. Says he doesn't arrange for Buffalo Bills.

No. 26



**CHARLES H.  
FRENCH**

Lives in Annapolis. Formerly cornet with Isham Jones and Ted Lewis. Says he has made about forty original arrangements but can find no one to sing them. Likes Bill Dickema's arrangements.

No. 27



**JIM EWIN**

Washington, D. C. Chapter. Been singing in quartets since 1923 at G.W.U. Member D. C. since it started. Has assisted in directing D. C. Chorus. Has served on Int'l Jndging Panel for several years.

No. 28



**JERRY  
WENDT**

Madison, Wis. Chapter. Member Society 6 years. Bari by trade. Has arranged some numbers for a couple of short lived quartets. Has date with Uncle on graduation this month and hopes the Army has tenors.

No. 29



**FRED N.  
POWELL**

Helped organize Oneonta, N. Y. Chapter three years ago. 48. Has served chapter as Sec'y, Treas., Pres. Formerly bass of Klip-Nae-Keys. First attempt at arranging.

## CONTEST FOR BEST ORIGINAL ARRANGEMENT

Entry must be an arrangement of the song

"I'LL TAKE YOU HOME AGAIN,  
KATHLEEN"

### General Conditions of Contest

- 1—Contestant must be a member in good standing of a chapter in good standing.
- 2—Arrangements submitted become the property of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
- 3—Decision of the Judges will be accepted as final.
- 4—Only one arrangement may be submitted by any contestant.
- 5—The arrangement submitted must be kept within the limits of tenor's high B flat and bass low G. Alternate tones will not be used.
- 6—The melody need not be maintained in the lead voice. However, if it is "passed around" among the other voices, it shall be done in such a way that the listener will readily retain the thread or continuity of the melodic flow. Entrants are cautioned against passing the melody from one voice to another in the progress of a phrase of the arrangement.
- 7—Smoothness of part-flow (including bari), ingenuity with regard to harmonization and voicing, and adaptability to satisfactory performance by quartets of "Finalist" calibre will be major factors considered in determining the winner. This contest revolves around the philosophy that an arrangement is sought that quartets will enjoy singing and listeners (John Q. Public included) will enjoy hearing.
- 8—Arrangement must be submitted on music manuscript paper, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. (This can be bought in any music store for a few cents).
- 9—Manuscript must be mailed to  
SWIPE SWAP SHOP  
c/o SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
20619 Fenkell Avenue  
Detroit 23, Michigan

*not later than September 25, 1953.*

PRIZE WINNER WILL RECEIVE FOUR BOOKS OF TICKETS TO THE CONTEST AND CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D. C. IN 1954.

## CHORD JUGGLERS

Continued

because I love to arrange something to suit my own fancy, be it good, bad, or indifferent, but mainly because a few years ago we found ourselves appearing on shows where the other quartets had learned the same stock arrangements as we . . .

"Have seen quite a bit of the country singing with the quartet in Chicago, Omaha, Tulsa, Houston, Los Angeles and many other places. Had some wonderful times and made many new friends—all due to the good old SPEBSQSA—may it go on forever."

## CONTEST FOR BEST ORIGINAL MELODY

Melody must be set to lyrics or poetry NOW IN PRINT of Public Domain status (56 or more years since publication) or with an accompanying statement unequivocally extending to the Society the permission to "reproduce and publish" executed by the copyright owner. A clipped copy or library reference must accompany any entry. Author's identity, date of copyright, and name of publisher must be furnished.

General appeal with view to adaptation to good barbershop arranging and presentation will be the major considerations in determining the winning entry. Every phrase of your melody should immediately suggest to any competent arranger an appropriate or satisfactory means of harmonizing it (not necessarily any one particular means) as opposed to such beautiful, but unsuitable to barbershopping purposes, songs such as "Star Dust", "Night and Day", etc. Make it solid.

### General Conditions of Contest

- 1—Contestant must be a member in good standing of a chapter in good standing.
- 2—Lyrics or poetry must be NOW IN PRINT, of Public Domain status, or be accompanied by

statement executed by copyright owner granting the Society permission to "reproduce and publish" without qualification. A clipped copy or library reference must accompany your entry. Author's identity, date of copyright, and name of publisher must be furnished.

- 3—Melodies submitted become the property of SPEBSQSA, Inc.
- 4—Decision of the Judges will be accepted as final.
- 5—Manuscript of melodies must be submitted on music manuscript paper, or a reasonable facsimile thereof. (This can be bought in any music store for a few cents.)
- 6—Manuscript of melody must be mailed to

SWIPE SWAP SHOP  
c/o SPEBSQSA, Inc.  
20619 Fenkell Avenue  
Detroit 23, Michigan

*not later than September 25, 1953.*

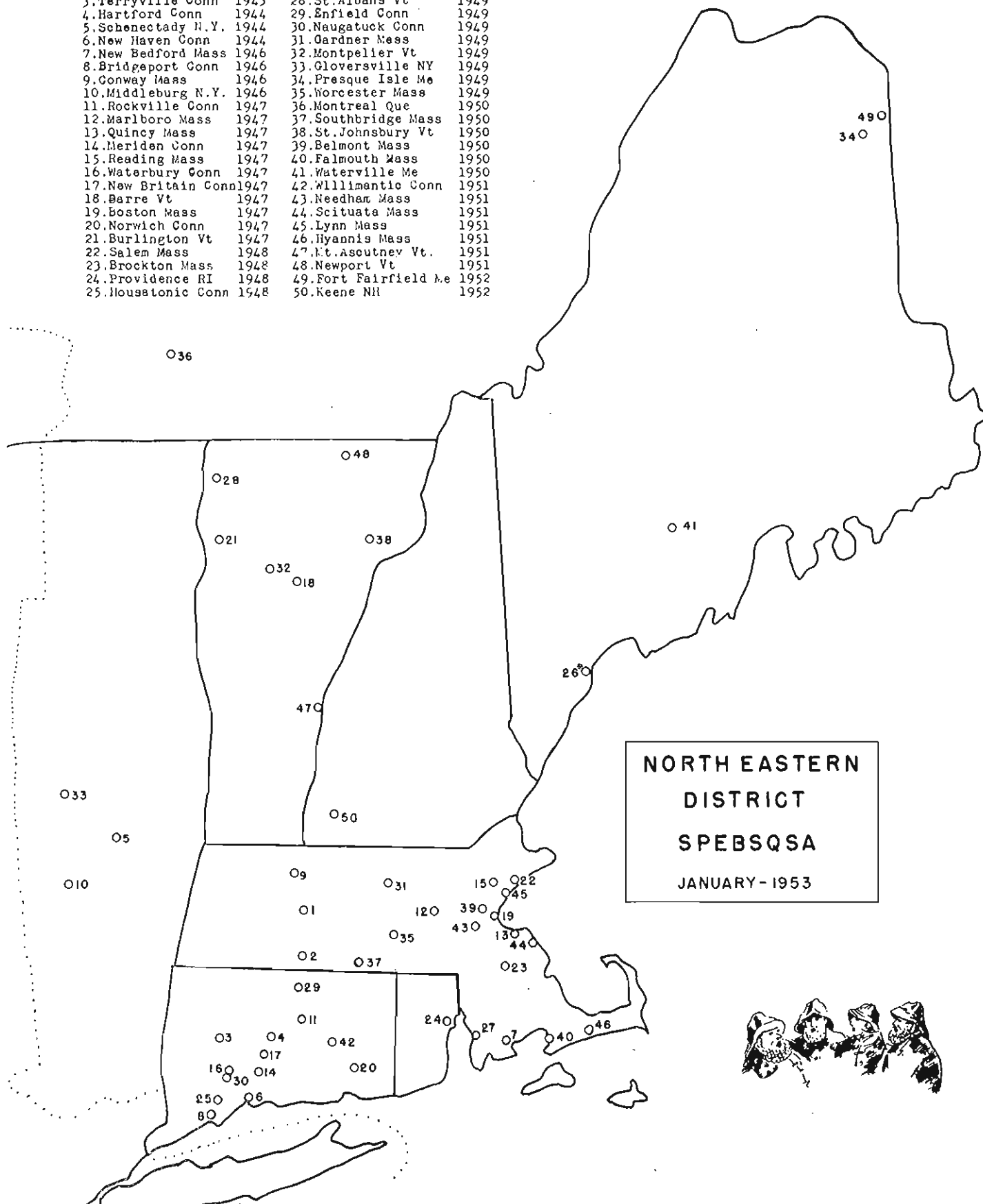
PRIZE WINNER WILL RECEIVE FOUR BOOKS OF TICKETS TO THE CONTEST AND CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D. C. IN 1954.



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1. Northampton Mass	1941	26. Portland Me.	1948
2. Springfield Mass	1942	27. Fall River Mass	1949
3. Terryville Conn	1943	28. St. Albans Vt	1949
4. Hartford Conn	1944	29. Enfield Conn	1949
5. Schenectady N.Y.	1944	30. Naugatuck Conn	1949
6. New Haven Conn	1944	31. Gardner Mass	1949
7. New Bedford Mass	1946	32. Montpelier Vt	1949
8. Bridgeport Conn	1946	33. Gloversville NY	1949
9. Conway Mass	1946	34. Presque Isle Me	1949
10. Middleburg N.Y.	1946	35. Worcester Mass	1949
11. Rockville Conn	1947	36. Montreal Que	1950
12. Marlboro Mass	1947	37. Southbridge Mass	1950
13. Quincy Mass	1947	38. St. Johnsbury Vt	1950
14. Meriden Conn	1947	39. Belmont Mass	1950
15. Reading Mass	1947	40. Falmouth Mass	1950
16. Waterbury Conn	1947	41. Waterville Me	1950
17. New Britain Conn	1947	42. Willimantic Conn	1951
18. Barre Vt	1947	43. Needham Mass	1951
19. Boston Mass	1947	44. Scituate Mass	1951
20. Norwich Conn	1947	45. Lynn Mass	1951
21. Burlington Vt	1947	46. Hyannis Mass	1951
22. Salem Mass	1948	47. Mt. Ascutney Vt.	1951
23. Brockton Mass	1948	48. Newport Vt	1951
24. Providence RI	1948	49. Fort Fairfield Me	1952
25. Housatonic Conn	1948	50. Keene NH	1952



# HAIL TO THE NOBLE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

**B**Y and large, this District was the child of a wonderfully capable member of the Society, and has become an imposing monument to him, the late lamented Harold B. (Hal) Staab, Past International President and Historian.

He founded the first chapter in Massachusetts (Northampton, 1941) and promoted the formation of many others, including the first in Connecticut (Terryville, 1943), Eastern New York (Troy, 1943), New Brunswick, Canada (Fredericton, 1946), Rhode Island (Pawtucket, 1946), Vermont (Barre, 1947) and Maine (Portland, 1948).

It was he who called the meeting of thirteen chapters, held on May 11, 1946, at Northampton, to organize the Northeastern Association of Chapters. Thirty-two men responded to that call, representing nine of those chapters. A comprehensive District Constitution was adopted, and officers were elected with Hal as District President.

Thus under auspicious circumstances the District was born, with the avowed objects of fostering good fellowship and co-operation among member chapters, coordinating District activities, sponsoring Annual District Contests, publishing a directory, insuring proper representation of the District on the International Board, reviving lagging or extinct chapters, selecting proper District committees, stimulating inter-chapter meetings, following up lagging quarterly reports, disseminating important information and scheduling meetings and parades.

These objects were all accomplished very soon after.

As the new District was without funds, the Northampton Chapter very graciously financed it by a loan until proceeds of the first quartet contest were available in the Fall.

## First District Meeting

The first District Board meeting was held at Providence, Rhode Island, on July 13, 1946, where the same officers were re-elected for a full term. A picture of that meeting is shown elsewhere in this issue. The District was chartered on July 24, 1946, and Canadian Provinces were later added, from time to time, until their total is now five.

The present Area Counselor system in all districts is the growth of a similar Lieutenant-Governor plan laid out by Hal Staab and put into effect on April 26, 1947, in the Northeastern District. The District naturally is highly gratified by this in-

fluence it has had on the shaping of the International District organization.

At first there were four divisions, each under the direction of a Lieutenant-Governor, with President Hal Staab as Governor. The Hudson River Division, with three chapters, was supervised by Lee J. Mohler (Schenectady); the Western Massachusetts Division, with five chapters, by Harvey F. Taylor (Northampton); the Connecticut Division, with six chapters, by Leo T. Osmon (Hartford); and the Eastern New England and New Brunswick Division, with five chapters, by Charles F. Ricketts (New Bedford). Charley resigned early in 1948 when he moved to Indianapolis and was succeeded by William P. Hinckley (Reading).

As the District grew, more divisions were made and new Lieutenant-Governors were appointed, until the plan was superseded by the almost identical Area Counselor plan in 1949, nearly a year before it was adopted internationally.

The others who served as Lieutenant-Governors are Leland E. Vernon (Schenectady), William R. Hotin (Holyoke), John O. Emerson (New Haven), Roger G. Cooper (Fredericton, N. B.) and Dan B. Haslam (Barre).

## Now Fourteen Areas

Today the District has fourteen Areas, comprising the States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut, the Canadian Provinces of New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Quebec, and the Counties of

Franklin, Clinton, Essex, Hamilton, Warren, Fulton, Saratoga, Washington, Montgomery, Schenectady, Schoharie, Albany, Rensselaer, Greene, Columbia, Ulster, Dutchess, Orange and Putnam in eastern New York State, including the City of Peekskill in Westchester County.

## International Acclaim

International encomiums concerning its organization gave the Northeastern District reason to be mighty proud in 1948 for they proclaimed it to be a leader in the Society.

Maynard Graft of Cleveland was then Chairman of the International Committee on Districts and he and his Committee not only approved the Northeastern District achievement award plan as a good one, but recommended that the District be given some form of International recognition because of that and its "pioneering of a chapter visitation plan, its dissemination of its fine 'Nor'easter'



The late Harold B. Staab

Int'l President, 1942-44  
Int'l Historian, 1947-49  
Int'l Board, 1911-16; 1947-49

# NEW HAVEN CHAPTER

*one of the oldest in  
Northeastern District*

★ ★ ★

Winners of a 2nd Place Achievement  
Award and two Honorable Mentions

★ ★ ★

Home of the 4 NATURALS

*1st District Champs (1946)*

*International Semi-Finalists  
(1948-51)*

*International Finalists (1947-49-50)*

★ ★ ★

Home of JACK EMERSON  
*Past District President*

★ ★ ★

Home of NICHOLAS CIRIE  
*Vice-President, Northeastern District*

*President, New Haven Chapter*

## LACONIA NEW HAMPSHIRE

*"The City on the Lakes"*

Industry, Recreation and Homes

## LACONIA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

—O—

## BELKNAP MT. REC. AREA

*"The Spot for Sports"*

4 Seasons

—O—

## WEIRS BEACH CHAMBER of COMMERCE

*"New England's Favorite  
Inland Resort"*

on Lake Winnepesaukee

—O—

## WINNISQUAM SCENIC ASSOCIATION

*"A Round of Fun For Everyone"*  
on Lake Winnisquam

—O—

*Congratulates the  
Laconia Chapter of  
SPEBSQSA*

## The Harmonizer

publication on a general basis, and its vigor and effectiveness in doing an elegant job on all phases of Society activity."

He said that, "the Central States, Central-Western New York and other districts have labored mightily, too, but Northeastern has a definite edge, in my humble opinion." When this report was made at the District Officers' conference at the Oklahoma City Convention in June, 1948, the Conference passed the following resolution unanimously: "RESOLVED: That the District Officers of SPEBS-QSA, Inc. in regular meeting assembled at this International Convention in Oklahoma City, June 12, 1948, express their sincere thanks and appreciation to the Northeastern District for the interest, forethought and effort shown by the formulation and adoption of a plan of District organization which has been of inestimable value to the officers of other districts in the adoption of the same or similar plans for the operation of their respective districts."

At the meeting another resolution was passed recommending the plans of organization of the Northeastern and Central States Districts, the two being almost alike, as worthy of adoption by all the Districts. As practically all credit for the Northeastern set-up was due to Hal Staab, the District was more than grateful for this recognition of his great ability.

Such things as these, as well as the type of men and chapters within its boundaries, have given rise to the term "Noble" with reference to the Northeastern District. Incidentally, but quite apropos, the current District Quartet Champions are "The Noblemen" (Providence, Rhode Island).

## Compliments of NORWICH CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

S. P. E. B. S. Q. S. A.

Meets every Monday at the  
ARCANUM CLUB  
150 Main St. :: Norwich

*Drop in and see us*

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MARLIN  
RIFLE CLEANING KIT  
RETAIL VALUE \$2.75**

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OF EXTRA COST

**when you buy a famous  
MARLIN  
.22 Cal. Bolt Action  
Repeater**



**Special  
Introductory Offer!  
Look What You Get:**

1. Complete .22 Rifle Cleaning Kit. Metal hamper containing Duraluminum cleaning rod, slotted and jagged cleaning tips; 2 Phosphor Bronze cleaning brushes; Nitro Powder solvent; Gun Oil; Cleaning Patches; instructions included. Retail Value \$2.75—but yours **FREE** of extra cost.
2. A Famous Marlin Model .22 Bolt Action Repeating Rifle. Choice of Model 81-DL—de luxe 25-shot tubular magazine model with peep sights, swivels and hooded ramp front sight, \$30.95\*; Model 81-C, similar to Model 81-DL but without de luxe features, \$28.95\*; Model 80-DL, de luxe, 8-shot clip-magazine type, with swivels for sling, \$26.95\*; Model 80-C, similar to Model 80-DL, but without de luxe features, \$24.95\*.

\*Prices slightly higher west of Rockies.  
Buy new Marlin Blades backed by 83 years' experience in manufacturing precision steel products.

**THE NAME** *Marlin* **FINE GUNS**  
**FOR GAME** **SINCE 1870**

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Dept. HA-6 New Haven, Conn.

Send me catalogue with information and photo-illustrations of Marlin Guns, plus new cartoon booklet, "More Fun with Your .22 Rifle." I understand you will also send me a pack of (please check) . . . single or . . . double-edge Marlin Razor Blades. I enclose 10c for handling.

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County \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

# North Eastern District



## Firsts

### INTERNATIONALLY

Even though this District was organized more than eight years after the founding of the Society, nevertheless, several of its individuals and chapters are entitled to a lot of credit for originating some things and putting them into effect for the first time in the Society's history.

First of all, the late Hal Staab, Past International President and Historian, organized the first chapter in the East in his home city of Northampton, Mass. This Chapter was chartered April 7, 1941 and flourished magnificently, as evidenced by its receipt of six consecutive achievement awards from 1943 to 1949, the first four being awarded on an International basis, and the other two by the District.

The first Parade ever held in New York State was held by the Schenectady, New York Chapter on October 13, 1945, a little over a year after the Chapter was organized. The entire proceeds were donated to the Community Chest of the city.

This rapidly growing Schenectady Chapter, spark-plugged by its founder and first President Arthur A. (Art) Merrill, its second President Lee J. Mohler, and its dynamic Chorus Director Samuel D. (Doc) Fendley, was the first to establish scholarships in music for High School students, which it did in connection with its second annual Parade held on November 1, 1946. These scholarships were paid from the proceeds of that Parade. Since then Schenectady has awarded such scholarships annually, and thus to date seventeen qualified High School students have been given financial assistance toward an education in music.

It took Schenectady to cook up something else new in 1947 when the Chapter began the practice of awarding to outstanding members who have moved

to other localities, the honorary title of Ambassador of Barbershop Harmony. Evidence of this award is in the form of a certificate signed by fellow barbershoppers of the Chapter and presented to the awardee, proclaiming him to be "worthy to carry the portfolio of good close harmony", and that "he is a certified wielder of the official pipe, and master of the five-chord swipe". So far eighteen members have been named Ambassadors, an honor which no other Chapter or District has bestowed upon its members.

The first District Directory of pocket size in the Society was issued in the Fall of 1947 as the first directory of the Northeastern District. Other districts have since adopted this pocket-size form.

Came the Buffalo International Convention and Contest in June, 1949, and Schenectady sent forty of its members there, financed in part by the Chapter. It had been honored by an invitation from International President King Cole to present a demonstration of a model chapter meeting at the Chapter Officers' Conference at that Convention. A complete meeting was demonstrated and was conducted exactly like the Chapter's regular weekly meetings, except that a narrator described it as it progressed. King Cole stated that the exemplification accomplished more than reams of bulletins.

Officers of all Districts are now quite familiar with the Plan of Uniform District Organization and Procedure which comprises the Standard Constitution for all Districts, adopted by the International Board of Directors in January, 1950, and put into effect in all Districts on May 1st of that year. This plan was developed by the International Committee on Districts under the Chairmanship of William G. (Stub) Taylor of the Schenectady Chapter who resigned the Secretary-

ship of the Northeastern District to undertake this work. It is with considerable satisfaction, therefore, that the District feels that it has had a prominent part in the shaping of the International District Organization of the Society.

On March 15, 1952, the Northeastern District arranged a harmony Jamboree, sponsored by the Boston Chapter, as a tribute and memorial to the late Past International President Hal Staab and the late International Vice-President Wes Enman, two leaders in the Society from the District. Thirteen choruses and 24 quartets from 15 chapters participated in the event. To perpetuate this memorial, the net proceeds of \$525.00 were donated to the fund for the permanent international headquarters building. Let all who read this be reminded that in initiating this form of donation the Northeastern District had strong hopes that other areas and districts would follow suit and thus give much impetus to the growth of the fund.

### WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Let's take a brief look at the record from the standpoint of history as well as of accomplishment. What has the District done? Here are some high spots:—

The first Parade in the territory now embraced by the Northeastern District was held on April 28, 1945, at Northampton, Mass., supervised, of course, by Hal Staab, who was MC. The Garden State Quartet, '46 Int'l champs then holders of 5th place medallions won in 1944 at Detroit, were featured.

The chapters and Quartets in the District are noted for their extensive work in Community Service, but to enumerate even the outstanding accomplishments would be merely a repetition of what has appeared in past issues of the Harmonizer. A couple of examples are worth citing as exceptionally noteworthy.

The Hartford, Connecticut Chapter on November 23, 1946, gained nationwide attention when it donated \$3150, the entire proceeds of its first Parade, for the benefit of the Shrine Hospital for Crippled Children at Springfield, Mass. Hartford has increased this sum by thousands of dollars with the proceeds of subsequent Parades. The funds are invested in insurance stocks and managed by a bank, the income going to Shrine Hospitals.

The New Haven, Connecticut Chapter gave the proceeds of its first Parade, held April 12, 1947, to the New Haven County Infantile Paralysis Fund. It amounted to 7,500 dimes, and was the largest amount ever given to the March of Dimes campaign by any business, club, organization, or individual in the City of New Haven.

### MODEL CHAPTER MEETING



At the request of then Int'l. President King Cole, Schenectady Chapter staged a model chapter meeting for the Conference of Chapter Officers at the Buffalo Convention in 1949. Leading the chorus is S. D. (Doc) Fendley. At left, Narrator Jim Peel.



# North Eastern District



Turning now to another type of activity, the "Kollege of Barbershop Knowledge" was conceived and "operated" by the Schenectady Chapter in 1947-8 as one of several objectives for the improvement of the Chapter. Its "curriculum" consisted of monthly music instruction given by experts invited to Chapter meetings.

In the Fall of 1947 the District established its present western boundary in New York State, inaugurated its first District bulletin, the "NOR'EASTER," published its first District Directory, and started its District achievement award plan. It also established the plan of having Chapter Presidents send welcoming letters to newly organized chapters in the District.

Northampton put on a Parade on October 4, 1947, which featured the famed Chordettes in their first public appearance in the Northeastern District, and thereby hangs a tale. It could be told no better than was done by Lee Vernon, then Secretary of the Schenectady Chapter, who wrote it in the Chapter Bulletin "The Sham-poo" under the title of "Our Hero." It goes as follows:

"Hal Staab, as well known and well liked a barbershopper as you can find anywhere, has attended innumerable Parades and heard countless quartets. As a consequence, Hal can take a quartet, or he can leave it alone—a male quartet, that is. It is our painful duty to report, however, that Hal has at last met his match.

"It all began when the Chordettes were invited to participate in the Northampton Parade. Hal, as usual, was the perfect host, and conducted the girls from dinner to Parade to Afterglow, and the next morning to breakfast, dinner, and train.

"At the dinner, Hal was harried, but the first number sung by the Chordettes (who, believe me, sing like well rehearsed angels) had its effect and before long Hal was wandering around in a pleasant glow, induced, not by the convivial cup, but by the heady charm of those famous femmes.

Hal held his own at the Parade, but at the Afterglow he had begun to weaken perceptibly (as who hadn't) and by dinner time on Sunday, when we last saw him, Hal was in a completely enthralled, not to say dangerous, condition.

"It was not until we returned home from Northampton after that memorable Parade, that we heard the climax of this story. It seems that Hal, by this time in a state bordering on the fatuous, escorted the four gorgeous chordsters to the train and assisted them, with Old World courtesy, to their seats. At this point a lesser man would have made his adieu and left. Not Hal. A giant was falling. A vacant seat beckoned. Hal sat down. The Chordettes were persuaded to sing a parting song. It was the final blow. Tim-m-ber! Hal was down for the count and it was not until the train reached Holyoke and an unsympathetic conductor asked for his ticket that he realized he had left Northampton.

"We never found out whether or not Hal had to walk back, but in any event, it's been a lesson to us. Never again will we underestimate the power of the female vocal chord."

And now, we'll quote from Hal's reply to Lee Vernon: "I admit all charges and delight in having such an enviable reputation as a gay Lothario. Hoping you are the same."

To say that barbershopping has "arrived" in staid old Boston is putting it mildly. Just to illustrate the point, let's go back to September 25, 1948. Boston's likeable and best known barbershopper, the late International Vice President E. Wesley (Wes) Enman, was President of the Chapter, which had been organized for less than a year, but which made the successful bid for the third District Quartet Contest. It was held on the date stated, in Boston's historic Symphony Hall, home of the world-famous Boston Symphony Orchestra. John O. (Jack) Emerson of New Haven, then a Lieut.-Governor of the District and later its President, acted as MC. For

the first time in its history the Hall, practically a full house, resounded with barbershop harmony where Bach, Beethoven and Brahms had always before reigned supreme. It was a most notable occasion, and barbershopping was definitely "sold" to the Bostonese with unbounded enthusiasm. The first meeting of the International Board in the Northeastern District gave Boston another reason to be proud, for the meeting was held in that city in January of this year. Yes, of course, the contemporary Parade was held in Symphony Hall.

## GARDNER, MASS. CHAPTER

5th Annual

## HARVEST of HARMONY

October 17, 1953

8:00 P. M.

PEARSON AUDITORIUM

\$1.25

Afterglow

# HARTFORD

CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

"The  
International  
Champions of  
Charity"

will present its

8th ANNUAL

## Parade of Quartets

November 21, 1953

featuring

MID-STATES FOUR

THE CARDINALS

THE FOUR NATURALS

and

THE HARTFORD CHAPTER  
CHORUS

under direction of  
J. FRANK DALY

For tickets write  
ED LONERGAN

265 Oxford St., Hartford, Conn.

## FIRST N. E. DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

Providence, R. I., July 13, 1946



L. to R.—front—Al Maine, New Bedford; Chas. Ricketts, New Bedford; Hal Staab, Northampton; Chas. Brambilla, Northampton; Wm. Pfannenstiel, Hartford; Lawrence MacDonald, Springfield. L. to R.—rear—Arthur Meunier, Pawtucket; Frank McGuinness, Pawtucket; Dave Williams, Bridgeport; Jack Lawless, Bridgeport; Jack Charman, New Haven; Ray Wagner, New Haven; Harry Buzzell, Springfield; Leo Osman, Hartford. (Arl Merrill, Schenectady, who took the picture, not shown.)

# North Eastern District



## V. I. P's.

Most people know that this means very important persons, and of course those are primarily the International Board members who have represented the District and the District Presidents who have governed it, a total of seven men. To these may be added the other five District officers of 1952-53. Mention at least might be made also of the past certified members of the International panel of judges and the present permanent members. No doubt, many will feel that this draws the line too closely, which is probably right, for who among the others are more important to the District than all the past District officers and the Area Counselors? However, the close line must be drawn because of space limitations.

The first seven men referred to are the late Harold B. (Hal) Staab of Northampton, Mass., Arthur A. (Art) Merrill of Schenectady, New York, the late E. Wesley (Wes) Enman of Boston, Mass., Charles F. (Charlie) Ricketts of Providence, R. I., and formerly of New Bedford, Mass., William P. (Bill) Hinckley of Reading, Mass., John P. (Jack) Lawless of Bridgeport, Conn., and John O. (Jack) Emerson of New Haven, Conn. They have done much to develop and establish the enviable reputation of the District, and so some information about them will be of interest.

### HAL STAAB

Hal was born in Northampton in the early nineties, attended Massachusetts State College and Lehigh University, and graduated from the latter in 1914. He joined the Society in 1940, became a member of the National Board in January, 1941, and in the same year founded and was the first President of the Northampton Chapter, the first in Massachusetts. He was elected National President in 1942 and International President in 1943, then served two years as Immediate Past President. In 1947 he was elected Society Historian and served as such for two years, during which, as Chairman of the Ten Year History Committee, he collaborated with Deac Martin of Cleveland in the preparation of the book "Keep America Singing". Hal's brilliant career was cut short by his death on November 19, 1949, at the age of 58.

Hal, with his natural flair for organization and his service club experience, undoubtedly contributed most to the Society's sound organization, at first aiding Third President Carroll Adams in laying a concrete foundation, and then becoming chief administrator at the time when his talents were needed the most. In the midst of these activities, he founded the *Harmonizer* in 1942. While serving as an International officer Hal was not overlooking the possibilities for Society extension in not only his home State but all of New England, as the growth of the Society there attests. He founded the

Northeastern District in 1946, and there was scarcely a chapter in it, up to the time of his death, in which he did not have a direct hand in getting it organized and giving it guidance. Hal was the Society's most prolific composer. From childhood he was a student of music, both orchestral and vocal, and his interest in music never lessened. There is probably no member who has not sung and thoroughly enjoyed at least one of his songs. The melody and words of many of these were composed by Hal while driving his car in his business travels as a sales executive, (probably highway traffic was much congested than it is today.)

Hal's numerous civic and community posts included offices in Kiwanis and Director of a bank and of the National Youth Council. He was in the automobile spring business as Eastern Sales Manager for William and Harvey Rowland Company of Philadelphia, and wrote innumerable articles in connection with this vocation. He sang baritone, wrote excellent poetry, was a good cartoonist, a talented violinist, an authority on literature and drama, and an avid reader, yet SPEBSQSA, INC. was his pet. He was much in demand as an M.C. What a man! In the words of Jack Lawless (Bridgeport), Past Northeastern District President, Hal was the "Patron Saint of Barbershoppers, and one of the hardest workers the Society ever had", to which the members of this District subscribe heartily and fully.

### ART MERRILL

Art is a member of a family of barbershoppers. His brother Bill was founder and first President of the Chapter in Honolulu, and his brother Charlie was founder and first President of the Reno Chapter. Charlie became an International Board member in 1944, Vice President in 1946, and International President in 1947. Art first became interested in the Society early in 1944 through his brother Charlie, who sent him a certificate of membership in the Reno Chapter. This led to the formation of a group of kindred souls in Schenectady, New York, which is Art's home city, and soon thereafter Art founded the Schenectady Chapter and became its first President. Thus all three brothers were the pioneer barbershoppers in their home areas.

Art's warm friendship with Hal Staab began when the latter attended the Schenectady organization meeting, for Hal at once sensed Art's wonderful enthusiasm and was impressed by his great ability and zeal. When the Northeastern District was formed in 1946, Art was a natural choice for District Secretary, a post for which his talents were well suited. His election to the International Board in the same year was a fitting tribute to

these qualities. In 1949 he became an International Vice President, and then International Treasurer for the year



Arthur A. Merrill  
Schenectady, N. Y.  
Int'l. Treas. 1950-1  
Int'l. Vice-Pres. 1949-50  
Int'l. Board 1946-51  
N.E. Dist. Sec'y 1946-7

1950-1. This past year he has been chairman of the International Finance Committee. His work on various committees, both District and International, including the chairmanship of several, has done a great deal to improve the methods and further the growth of the Society. He has been a member of the Contest Judging Panel for several years and is now one of its permanent members, specializing on Stage Presence.

Art has a whale of a big lapel button proclaiming him to be the "world's best bass", which puts him in a class with bari Owen C. Cash. All that is necessary now is to find the world's best lead and tenor. Are there any candidates? Throughout his career with his Chapter and with the International affairs of the Society, Art has been practically their official photographer, his pictures by the score having graced the pages of the *Harmonizer*, even to the last issue covering the meeting of the International Board at Boston.

Art recently disclosed the fact that at present he is the only living member of the Decrepits residing in the Northeastern District.

It is a wonder how a man with such extensive barbershopping activities can find time to pursue his bread and butter, but Art puts in full time and hours of overtime as a commercial engineer working on special assignments for the General Electric Company, and yet appears fresh as a daisy at Chapter meetings.

### WES ENMAN

The District lost a very earnest and highly intelligent leader when Wes passed away suddenly on October 9, 1951 while he was an International

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# HARMONY NIGHT IN BOSTON

THE HUB OF THE UNIVERSE

THE TIME: Every Tuesday Evening at 8:00 P. M.

THE PLACE: Hotel Brunswick, 520 Boylston St. Copley Square, Boston, Mass.

THE EVENT: Weekly Rehearsal of the  
**BOSTON CHAPTER, SPEBSQSA, Inc.**  
Our own Chapter Chorus under the spirited leadership of  
ROBERT E. CARTER

---

*Listen to Boston's own Marathon Quartets and*

The Popular "OLD TIMERS" ★ The Famed "HUB CITY FOUR"  
★ The Well-Known "BEANTOWNERS" ★  
The Versatile "MERRY NOTES" ★ also VISITING QUARTETS

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THE RECORD: The First Chapter Chorus on Coast to Coast Radio Broadcast.

The Hal Staab—Wes Enman Memorial Night sponsored by Boston with the Northeastern District—Proceeds for the Headquarters Building Fund—First Big Parade for that Purpose.

Jerry Beeler Reception by 600 Barber Shoppers in District.

Outstanding Mid-Winter International Directors Meeting held in Boston with Boston as Host Chapter.

First District Army Show at Fort Devens, Mass. sponsored by Boston with its Chorus and 2 District Choruses and Ten District Quartets for the U. S. Army Personnel.

OUR GALA OCCASION:

*Boston Proudly Announces its*

## FIFTH ANNUAL PARADE

DECEMBER 5th, 1953

AT SYMPHONY HALL, HOME OF THE INTERNATIONALLY FAMOUS BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

*Watch for Details*

OUR INVITATION: All Barber Shoppers are cordially invited to visit us whenever in Boston.

*Fun and Fellowship*

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# North Eastern District



Vice President. He had been identified with the Society only about four years, and had helped to found the Boston Chapter in 1947 and was its Past President. The Northeastern District soon recognized his ability by



The late  
F. Wesley Enman  
Boston, Mass.  
Int'l. Vice-Pres. 1951  
Int'l. Board 1949-51  
N.E. Dist. V.P. 1948-9

electing him Vice President in 1948 and undoubtedly he would have become District President the following year if the International Board had not elected him a member then and he felt that he was too busy to do justice to both jobs. Before his full term had expired he was made International Vice President in 1951. Such a rapid rise in the councils of the Society testifies to his ability and devotion to the interests of harmony, and to the high regard in which he was held by all his associates.

Wes was a close friend of Hal Staab and worked with him in extending the Society in New England. As International Board member his principal contributions were in the Armed Forces Collaboration and Community Service programs. In the business world, Wes was District Manager of the Prudential Insurance Company.

## CHARLIE RICKETTS

From a farm in the West came a certain long, lean, lanky fellow, with a hillbilly complex and terrific with a banjo, to settle in New Bedford, Mass. As he loved barbershop harmony and knew something about SPEBSQSA he soon got a chapter going in his new home town early in 1946. He was none other than Charlie Ricketts, now member of the International Board and President of the Northeastern District. Charlie was the first President of the new Chapter and served in that capacity for two eventful years, when he moved to Indianapolis in 1948. It seems as though all that would be necessary to get a chapter organized in a new community would be to set Charlie down in the middle of it, for no sooner was he there than he founded one in the Indianapolis suburb of Broadripple, and was its

first President in 1948-9. Some time later he moved back to New England to establish a merchandise brokerage



Charles F. Ricketts  
Providence, R. I.  
Int'l. Board 1951-53

business but this time settled in Providence, Rhode Island.

When Charlie was at New Bedford, he became a warm friend of Hal Staab, and when Hal organized the Northeastern District in 1946, Charlie became its first Treasurer.

The part which Charlie took in the growth of the Society along the New England coastal area has been mentioned elsewhere in this issue. He sang lead in the original Neptuners quartet of New Bedford, and the enthusiasm of all of them carried extension far and wide in the District.

In 1951 Charlie was elected to the International Board and in 1952 to the Presidency of the District, and he has taken full advantage of these positions to further the causes of harmony, good will, and good organization.

## BILL HINCKLEY

Here's a man who for size—physically, mentally, and Society-wise—has few peers. Brought up on a farm, he has been known to be able to milk his



William P. Hinckley  
Reading, Mass.  
Int'l. Board 1952-3  
N.E. Dist. Pres. 1950-1-2

half a herd of 36 starting at 5:00 A.M., then do the chores and a day's work before supper at 6:30 P.M. After graduation from M.I.T. with an engineering degree in 1926, his background led him to work in the dairy industries and refrigeration. Employed by the Cherry-Burrell Corporation, he has advanced to the responsibility of supervising the engineering of its three Northeast Division branches centered at Boston, New York City and Syracuse, New York.

Early in 1947 Bill founded the Chapter at Reading, Massachusetts, and became its first President. Reading has prospered immensely and Bill has played no small part in its development, having been, among other things, Parade Chairman once, District Delegate for four years, and Area Counselor for two and one-half years. In 1950 he became District President, serving for two terms, and then he was elected to the International Board in 1952.

Bill tells of an interesting experience he had a few weeks after he had organized his home Chapter, when he went to New Haven and attended a Chapter affair there. He says he was impressed by the number of what he thought were Past President buttons, and when he returned home and told how everybody took hold at New Haven, he announced that the strongest chapter was the one with the most Past Presidents. Later he discovered that he had been fooled by the District Championship buttons of the Four Naturals, but the effect was good and Reading profited thereby.

And Oh! Yes—Bill sings a good deep bass in the Bum Chords of Reading.

## JACK EMERSON

It is a foregone conclusion that when a Director of Public Relations, as is Jack with the Marlin Firearms Company of New Haven, gets into barber-shopping, his activities are bound to hit a similar groove, and that means the fostering of more chapters. Working from scratch, under Hal Staab's direction, he organized five new chapters sponsored by the New Haven Chapter, and two others which he turned over to other chapters to sponsor and he presented all seven chapters. He was Chairman of his Chapter's Executive Committee in 1946-7, Chapter President in 1947-8, then District Lieutenant-Governor in 1948-9, and finally District President in 1949-50, an unbroken record of accomplishment and appreciation of his talents.

Jack has been a tireless worker for the Society. For example, as Lieutenant-Governor (same as Area Counselor now) he made 27 visits to 14 chapters in his area; he has been M.C. for about 15 Parades and two District Contests, one of the latter being that in Symphony Hall, Boston, when bar-

(Continued on next page)



# North Eastern District



bershop harmony first entered that staid edifice; and he has installed at least 20 sets of chapter officers. He is very proud, as well he should be, of the many thousands of dollars raised for worthy charities by the New Haven Chapter during his days of spearheading its activities. The District and the Society are much indebted to Jack Emerson. Incidentally he served as General Chairman of the District's 1963 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest.



John O. Emerson  
New Haven, Conn.  
N.E. Dist. Pres. 1949-50  
Chapter Pres. 1947-8

## NICK CIRIE

Nick succeeded Doc Anderson as First Vice President of the District. He has been a member of the New Haven Chapter since 1945 and active in every phase of Chapter work, twice as Vice President and now as President. As organizer and bass of the Four Naturals, five times International Semi-Finalists or Finalists, his activities have been prodigious, what with rehearsals and appearances in hundreds of events. His singing background covers over 20 years, including vaudeville and stage shows. He is Sales Manager of the Branford Motor Company, Inc. in his home town of Branford, Connecticut.



Nicholas Cirie  
New Haven, Conn.  
N.E. Dist. 1st V.P. '52-3  
Chapter Pres. 1962-3

## JACK LAWLESS

Jack claims that his hardest task in the Northeastern District was following Hal Staab in the office of District President, to which he was elected in 1948. Well might he feel that way, but his administration was nevertheless highly successful, which is just what was expected of such a sincere and conscientious harmony hound. He had founded the Bridgeport Chapter in 1945 after contacting Carroll Adams, who gave him the names of the New Haven Chapter Secretary, and of a fellow called Hal Staab. The New Haven man was out of town so he wrote to Hal and presto, Hal stopped off to see him. A few meetings later Jack found himself with a chapter on his hands as its first President. Char-



John P. Lawless  
Bridgeport, Conn.  
N.E. Dist. Pres. 1948-9  
Chapter Pres. 1946-7

ter Night on March 18, 1946, was a revelation, with organized quartets from Northampton, New Haven, and Jersey City traveling through sleet and fog to sing songs as the Bridgeport neophytes had never before heard them sung. Jack says he was so thrilled that he did not sleep a wink that night, and the rest of the Chapter was in a daze. That's the way it affects us all.

The only claim to fame which Jack will admit is the fact that he has sung "Sweet Roses of Morn" many thousands of times with new members of the Chapter. His part is bass, and his quartet, a sweet one, is the Parlor Rocks. Jack is a District Superintendent in the Connecticut Division of the Pipe and Engineering Company of New York City, specialists in plumbing, heating and air conditioning.

## ED STETSON

Here's a man who can take a lot in his stride, for he is District Secretary, and a good one. Ed's activity started immediately after the founding of his Chapter at New Bedford, Massachusetts in 1946, when the Jolly Whalers quartet was formed with him as tenor. Through all the succeeding seven years Ed has remained in the same place in the quartet, although the other parts have changed from time

to time. Although the quartet's engagements have been numbered in the hundreds, Ed has found time to fulfill the duties of Chapter Secretary in



Edward J. Stetson  
N.E. Dist. Pres. 1952-3  
New Bedford, Mass.  
N.E. Dist. Sec'y 1952-3  
Chapter Pres. 1950-2

1948-9, Chapter President for two terms from 1950-1952, and now District Secretary. What could better illustrate the attraction of barbershop-

ping! Ed is associated with his brother in the automobile service and repair business operated as Stetson's Super Service.

## JIM MERCER

Jim is the 2nd Vice President of the Northeastern District and was President of his Chapter at Reading, Massachusetts in 1950-1, following a term as Vice President. Here again is a very active quartet member who has found time to serve both his Chapter



James R. Mercer, Jr.  
Reading, Mass.  
N.E. Dist. 2nd V.P. '52-3  
Chapter Pres. 1950-1

and his District. Jim's quartet, in which he sings tenor, is the Aberjona Moaners, who were District Champions in 1951-2 and have been International Semi-Finalists three times in 1950, 1951 and 1952. He is Treasurer of the Marblehead Savings Bank.

(Continued on next page)

# North Eastern District



## PAUL CARNEY

Paul lives in Shrewsbury, Massachusetts, and is a charter member of the Worcester Chapter which was formed in 1949. Ever since then he has been the one and only delegate from his Chapter to the District Board, which is quite unusual and displays the confidence which his Chapter places in its representative.

Furthermore, he is a member of the Chapter Executive Board. His long



Paul E. Carney  
Worcester, Mass.  
N.E. Dist. Treas. 1952-3  
Chapter Exec.  
Board Member

service as delegate has given him the opportunity to become thoroughly conversant with District affairs and finances, and made him the logical choice for the position of District Treasurer which he now holds.

Paul is identified with the photographic industry, being with the Worcester Blue Print and Photo Print Company.

## OTHER 1952-3 DISTRICT OFFICERS

District President Charlie Ricketts has a fine staff of officers working for him, and it will not be amiss to include them as District V I P's.

## DOC ANDERSON

Dr. N. A. C. Anderson, a dentist of Hartford, Connecticut, was First Vice President of the District for the first three months of this fiscal year, but was obliged to retire because of physical disability. He served the District excellently for four terms from 1948-1952 as its Treasurer and everyone looked to Doc when questions of finance arose, which was not seldom. His advice and counsel were highly respected by the District Board.

## CONTEST JUDGES

Skilled knowledge of the technique of barbershop harmony places members of the International Contest Judge Panel in a class by themselves. Those in the Northeastern District who have attained this distinction in past years are as follows:

Back in 1947 there were seven, namely, Hal Staab of Northampton, Bill Hotin of Holyoke, and Doc Fendley, Bob Fegley, Art Merrill, Hal Sennstrom and Lee Mohler, all of Schenectady. Through the years some dropped out and others were added, among them Leonard Linnehan of Scituate, Massachusetts, Roger Tansey of Rockville, Connecticut, Bill Hinckley of Reading, Massachusetts, Bill Arnold of Providence, Rhode Island, Paul Barry of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, and George Nowell of Providence, Rhode Island. Today four of these men in the District, Hinckley, Linnehan, Merrill and Mohler (who is now identified with the Lynn Chapter) are members of the permanent panel of qualified judges certified by the International Board.

## THE READING CHAPTER S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. STORY!

READING, MASS. 1947-1953-

1 THE BOYS FIRST MET IN CLOSE HARMONY AT BILL HINKLEY'S HOUSE THAT WAS WAY BACK IN 1947

2 BILL'S HOUSE COULDN'T TAKE IT SO THE BOYS WENT TO READING HIGH SCHOOL. (SOME FOR THE FIRST TIME) - ED NOTE!

3 WELL THE BOYS FINALLY GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL - (AFTER A BIT OF FIRM PERSUASION BY THE GOOD CITIZENS... AND SOON FOUND SECURITY IN A COZY "NORTHERN RESIDENTS ASSOC." BUILDING. (FORMERLY A COMMUNITY FIREHOUSE) (SOME REHEARSAL NIGHTS THE COMMUNITY STILL FEELS THAT IT IS A FIREHOUSE)... WE DON'T THINK SO!?! G! "G" - AND SO, THIS IS OUR PRESENT HOME WHEN OF A THURSDAY NIGHT OUR GANG OF GROWLERS PARK THEIR NEW AND ANCIENT CARS OFF STATE ROAD 28, AND SOUND FORTH WITH THE "SWEETEST HARMONY" THIS SIDE OF HEAVEN ♪ ♪ - ED NOTE - THERE AIN'T NO OTHER SIDE!

4 YOU BET WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ABERTONA MOANERS 1951-52 SEMI-FINALISTS - INTERNATIONAL - AND DISTRICT CHAMPS -

5 AND WE ARE PROUD, TOO, OF OUR OTHER QUARTETS THE BUM CHORDS THE OLD FOGIES THE PHONE TONES THE EAR BENDERS THE BAY SHORE FOUR

6 OUR BELOVED DIRECTOR CY THOMPSON RATED ONE OF THE FINEST IN THE SOCIETY (ASK CARROLL HILL OR ARBERG!) AND MOST OF ALL WE ARE PROUD OF OUR CHORUS NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHAMPS 51-5253 FEATURED AT NEW JERSEY PARADE, FEB. 7, 1953

7 AND NOT FINALLY... THIS RECORD!

- ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS FOR 4 YEARS
- ONE INTERNATIONAL BOARD MEMBER
- ONE DISTRICT VICE PRESIDENT
- HOSPITALS, CHARITIES, CIVIC SHOWS
- MEMBERSHIP GROWN TO 83 AND WE WILL KEEP GROWING IN GOOD SPEBSQSA TRADITION



## *Small but Mighty*

The New Bedford Chapter boasts of 6 organized quartets:

Front row, left to right: THE COMMON-AIRES  
THE HELMSMEN  
JOLLY WHALERS—International Semi-Finalists in 1952.

Second row, left to right: CLOWNS OF HARMONY—baby quartet of the chapter.  
FOUR HARPOONERS—watch them.  
THE FOUR SMOOTHIES are not included in this photograph.

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The New Bedford Chapter is the proud sponsor of the following chapters in the Northeastern District:

BOSTON, MASS.—October 24, 1947	::	SALEM, MASS.—March 12, 1948
BROCKTON, MASS.—April 27, 1948	::	PROVIDENCE, R. I., Co-sponsored with Boston November 11, 1948
FALL RIVER, MASS.—February 10, 1948	::	FALMOUTH, MASS.—June, 21, 1950
HYANNIS, MASS.,—Co-sponsored with Falmouth June 19, 1951.		

All "children" are healthy and doing well:

# North Eastern District



## INTERNATIONAL FINALISTS AND SEMI-FINALISTS FROM THE NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT

Listed Alphabetically  
(Finalists Are So Indicated)

- 1942 (Grand Rapids)—Rambling Four (Finalist), Northampton, Mass.  
1946 (Cleveland)—Harmoneers, Schenectady, N. Y.  
Melochords, Holyoke, Mass.  
1947 (Milwaukee)—Four Naturals (Finalist), New Haven, Conn.  
Jolly Whalers, New Bedford, Mass.  
1948 (Oklahoma City)—Four Naturals, New Haven, Conn.  
Four Smoothies, New Bedford, Mass.  
Harmoneers, Schenectady, N. Y.  
1949 (Buffalo)—Chord Scramblers, Derby, Conn.  
Four Naturals (Finalist), New Haven, Conn.  
Maple Sugar Four, Burlington, Vt.  
1950 (Omaha)—Aberjona Moaners, Reading, Mass.  
Four Naturals (Finalist), New Haven, Conn.  
Mohawk Clippers, Schenectady, N. Y.  
1951 (Toledo)—Aberjona Moaners, Reading, Mass.  
Four Naturals, New Haven, Conn.  
Mohicans, Schenectady, N. Y.  
1952 (Kansas City)—Aberjona Moaners, Reading, Mass.  
Jolly Whalers, New Bedford, Mass.  
Mohicans, Schenectady, N. Y.

### NOTES

The Four Naturals have the outstanding quartet record of the District, having been Finalists three times out of the five that they were Semi-Finalists. Before 1949 they were composed of Ed Cappell (tenor), Geo. Kelley (lead), Paul Miller (bari) and Nick Cirie (bass). In 1949 and later years to date, the combination is Jim Sheehy (tenor), Fred Richter (lead), Paul Miller (bari) and Nick Cirie (bass).

The Schenectady Harmoneers in 1946 were composed of Jim Cronin (tenor), Ed Bauer (lead), Matt Pillig (bari) and Hal Sennstrom (bass). In 1947 and 1948 the combination was Jim Cronin (tenor), Ed Bauer (lead), Fred Callen (bari) and Ernie Decker (bass).

The Jolly Whalers in 1947 were composed of Ed Stetson (tenor), Bill Clarke (lead), Bill Atwood (bari) and Ed Ismirian (bass). After several changes in subsequent years they became Semi-Finalists in 1952 and were then composed of Ed Stetson (tenor), Bob Jellison (lead), Roland Lague (bari) and Roger Bourgeois (bass).

### THE FOUR NATURALS, New Haven, Connecticut



With this personnel, the Naturals made the Int'l. Finals in 1949 and '50; the Semi-Finals in '51. L. to R.—Fred Richter, lead; Paul Miller, bar; Jim Sheehy, tenor; Nick Cirie, bass.

## SOME EVENTS IN NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT GROWTH

Here it was a man or two, there it was a quartet, or frequently it has been a chapter that started the ball of harmony rolling in some locality.

The path usually has been smooth, but not always. Harmony rolled approximately from west to south to east to north in the District, so let's follow it.

### IN THE WEST

First it was the Northampton Chapter, founded by Hal Staab in 1941, with ten charter members. (Only eight required for charter in those days.) Hal's business as a sales executive required much traveling, and his interest, zeal, and enthusiasm for barber-shopping kept that uppermost in his mind, so he soon found many places ripe for harmony. The next group he encouraged was in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the Chapter was organized in 1942. Then came Troy, New York in 1943, and both Schenectady, New York and Holyoke, Massachusetts in 1944. These five chapters were the nucleus of barber-shopping in the western part of what is now the Northeastern District. Conway, Massachusetts, and Middleburgh, New York, the latter sponsored by Schenectady, both joined in 1946.

In his pioneering for Society extension Hal often was accompanied on his visits to potential groups by members of the Northampton Chapter and by one or more of the Massachusetts quartets already active, including the Rambling Four and the Hamptonians of Northampton and the Melochords of Holyoke, to all of whom great credit is due for inspiring the newly forming groups. On one occasion, that of the Burlington, Vermont Charter Night, Hal and the Melochords drove more than 400 miles to take part in the program.

### IN THE SOUTH

Connecticut's first chapter was at Terryville, formed in 1943, after which came Hartford and New Haven in 1944, then Bridgeport in 1946. From the seeds thus planted there sprung up five more Connecticut Chapters in 1947, namely, Rockville, Meriden, Waterbury, New Britain and Norwich. The latter is the host for the 1953 District Chorus Contest.

Hal Staab's influence had much to do with these developments in the southern part of the District, for there has been no part of the District where he did not take a big hand in organization right up to the day of his death. That was one of his great talents, as is well known throughout the Society.

At New Haven in the summer of 1945 the quartet which was destined to make the best record of all in the District up to the present was organized by Nick Cirie who became the bass, Ed Cappell sang tenor, George

(Continued on next page)



# North Eastern District



## EVENTS, Continued

Kelley lead, and Paul Miller, bari. From the very beginning, this four had the joyful feeling of a very pleasant natural blend, which led Nick's wife to suggest the name "The Four Naturals" and that it became. Their first Parade was at Northampton that Fall, and Hal Staab was so impressed that he enlisted their services in making visitations and appearing on Charter Night programs. They appeared also in Schenectady's first Parade that same Fall. This quartet won the first District Championship in 1946, were International Finalists in 1947, and Semi-Finalists in 1948. Up to 1949 this fine quartet participated also in 27 Parades and nine Charter Nights, besides numerous other shows, benefits and chapter visitations.

Unavoidable circumstances early in 1949 made it necessary for the Four Naturals to reorganize with Jim Sheehy as tenor and Fred Richter as lead. Paul Miller remained as bari, and Nick Cirie as bass. Their fine record continued to build up, for again their voices matched in a smooth, sweet blend. Only six weeks after reorganizing they qualified in the Regionals, which led to their being International Finalists again. They repeated this in 1950 and were Semi-Finalists in 1951. Unfortunately, for business reasons they were unable to compete last year.

During the four years from 1949 through 1952 they made 242 appearances, which included many Charter Nights, chapter visitations, etc. and nearly 100 Parades. Unquestionably the Four Naturals have been a very influential factor in the growth of the Northeastern District.

The first chapter in Rhode Island was founded in 1946 at Pawtucket, sponsored by Northampton and organized under the direction of Hal Staab. As Pawtucket is contiguous to Providence, the chapter formed at the latter place in 1948 consolidated the entire area and is a very flourishing organization.

## IN THE EAST

In the meantime, barbershopping had been brewing a few miles away in the old New England whaling town of New Bedford, Massachusetts, where Charlie Ricketts, now International Board member and District President, had moved from Indiana with some knowledge of the barbershop movement in the middle West and with harmony in his soul. What could be more natural, then, than a new chapter! It was chartered in February 1946 with Charlie as the spark plug. Again Hal Staab was on deck and Northampton was the sponsor.

One of the major factors in the growth of the barbershop movement in this part of New England was attributed not only to the enthusiasm of Charlie Ricketts but directly to

(Continued on next page)

## NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT OFFICERS (from date of organization on May 11, 1946)

### District Presidents

1946-7-8	Harold B. Staab, Northampton, Mass.
1948-9	John P. Lawless, Bridgeport, Conn.
1949-50	John O. Emerson, New Haven, Conn.
1950-1-2	William P. Hinckley, Reading, Mass.
1952-3	Charles F. Ricketts, Providence, R. I.

### District Vice Presidents

1946 (6 Mos.)	W. Pfanensmith, Hartford, Conn.
1946 (2 Mos.)-7-8	John P. Lawless, Bridgeport, Conn.
1948-9	E. Wesley Enman, Boston, Mass.
1949-50	George H. Young, New Bedford, Mass.
1950-1	1st Vice President, Charles F. Ricketts, Providence, R. I. 2nd Vice President, (5 Mos.) Record H. Rogers, Schenectady, N. Y. (7 Mos.) H. Merrill Luthe, Portland, Me.
1951-2	1st Vice President, James A. Stewart, Schenectady, N. Y. 2nd Vice President, H. Merrill Luthe, Portland, Me.
1952-3	1st Vice President (3 Mos.) Dr. N. A. C. Anderson, Hartford, Conn. (9 Mos.) Nicholas Cirie, New Haven, Conn. 2nd Vice President, James R. Mercer, Jr., Reading, Mass.

### District Secretaries

1946-7	Arthur A. Merrill, Schenectady, N. Y.
1947-8-9 (1 Mo.)	William G. Taylor, Schenectady, N. Y.
1949 (11 Mos.) -50	Record H. Rogers, Schenectady, N. Y.
1950-1	Harold B. Foye, Boston, Mass.
1951-2	H. Randolph Blandford, Reading, Mass.
1952-3	Edward J. Stetson, New Bedford, Mass.

### District Treasurers

1946-7	Charles F. Ricketts, New Bedford, Mass.
1947-8	Melvin I. Burnham, Pawtucket, R. I.
1948-9-50-1-2	Dr. N. A. C. Anderson, Hartford, Conn.
1952-3	Paul Carney, Worcester, Mass.

## NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

These awards were on an International basis until January, 1948, after which they were made on a District basis. The awards were made in large, medium and small communities for the preceding fiscal year, and are shown in that order. All awards are for first place, except as indicated:

### International Basis:

1943-4	-----, Northampton, Mass. (2nd place) -----
1944-5	-----, Northampton, Mass. -----
1945-6	Schenectady, N. Y., Northampton, Mass. -----
1946-7	Schenectady, N. Y., Northampton, Mass. -----

### District Basis

1947-8	Schenectady, N. Y., Northampton, Mass., Marlboro, Mass.
1948-9	Schenectady, N. Y., Northampton, Mass., Reading, Mass.
Honorable Mention—	New Britain, Conn., New Britain, Conn., Rockville, Conn.
1949-50	New Bedford, Mass., Burlington, Vt., Reading, Mass.
Honorable Mention—	Schenectady, N. Y., Meriden, Conn., Marlboro, Mass.
1950-1	New Bedford, Mass., Burlington, Vt., Reading, Mass.
1951-2	Providence, R. I., Burlington, Vt., Reading, Mass.
Honorable Mention—	Schenectady, N. Y. and New Bedford, Mass., Salem, Mass., Derby, Conn. and Presque Isle, Me.

## YANKS TRIM PRES. WHO DIDN'T NEED IT

Back in 1951 when Jerry Beeler, Evansville, Indiana, was President of the Society, he hit Boston on one of his many trips throughout the country. Three Boston members combined forces to give Jerry a close one—L. to R.—Newt Cole, Beeler, Ray Sheffield, Walt Ball.



# North Eastern District



## EVENTS, Continued

the missionary work and verve of the Neptuners, comprised of Charlie as lead, Everett Wood as tenor, John Briden as bari, and Al Maino as bass. These four guys, to use their own words, "May not sing as good as some quartets but we have more fun." They most certainly personify the joy of good fellowship and good harmony. They were tireless in their efforts and in their travels in the following two or three years, and they are still missionaries at heart, continuing to do a good job for barbershoppers throughout the Northeastern District. Following the work of this group, as it affected the seaboard area of New England, came chapters in Boston in 1947, Salem, Mass., Brockton, Mass. and Providence, R. I. in 1948, Fall River, Mass. in 1949, Falmouth, Mass. in 1950 and Hyannis, Mass. in 1951. All were sponsored by New Bedford, with Boston as co-sponsor for Providence and Falmouth likewise for Hyannis.

Before Boston was organized, Northampton had sponsored three chapters in Eastern Massachusetts, one at Marlboro in 1947 and two in the thickly populated area around Boston, at Quincy and Reading in 1947. The ball has really been rolling since then in the Boston area, as the map of the District shows.

### IN THE NORTH

The north country is sparsely settled from the barbershop standpoint. The distances are great and in most cases the communities are small. Although at the time the Northeastern District was organized in 1946 there

## NORTHEASTERN DONATES TO BUILDING FUND



In March, 1952, the District staged a Hal Staab-Wes Enman Memorial Jam-horee at Boston. Proceeds were donated to the Int'l. Bldg. Building Fund. Picture shows Boston Treasurer Stu Currie handling check for \$525 to Int'l Sec'y Adams while Mrs. Enman, Walt Johnson, Boston and Boston Chapter Pres. Jack Farley look on.

was a chapter at Fredericton in the Canadian Province of New Brunswick, chartered less than a month before, it was not until later in the year that the Province was added to the District. The next year, in the Fall, a chapter formed at Harvey Station, also in New Brunswick. Both of these chapters were so far from other centers of barbershop activity that they found it too difficult to maintain interest beyond 1949. Meanwhile in 1948 another Canadian chapter came into being at Grand 'Mere, Quebec, where almost the entire population is French-Canadian, and in the following year Grand 'Mere sponsored a chapter at Shawinigan Falls, also in Quebec. At the time Grand 'Mere was chartered, Quebec became a part of the Northeastern District. Because of the fact that the Society

does not have any songs in the French - Canadian tongue, Grand 'Mere found it too difficult to continue beyond 1950.

Shawinigan Falls was quite active in 1950, but the constantly shifting membership in this highly industrialized area caused it to discontinue late in 1951. Before this, however, in 1950, a chapter at Montreal, Quebec, was sponsored by Grand 'Mere, and has been very active from the start. It had the advantage of cosmopolitan membership and close relations with Burlington, Newport, and St. Albans in northern Vermont, and has put on three Parades, the last one in January of this year being a sell-out which really sold the city on barbershopping.

So much for the Canadian part of the Northeastern District. Going back now to the northern New England states, Northampton sponsored the Barre, Vermont Chapter in 1947, which in turn was responsible for getting Burlington, Vt. on the District map late in the same year. A jump east again to the coast disposes Portland, Maine, joining the Society in November, 1948, and barbershopping in 1949 reaching to almost the northern tip of Maine, at Presque Isle.

From 1949 through 1951 five more chapters were chartered in Vermont, the latest being Newport, the most northerly in the State. This chapter is a fine example of the many live-wire groups being added to the District. Less than seven months after being organized in October, 1951, Newport had an organized quartet and a chorus of 29, and today it boasts a membership of 51 drawn from an area with a population of only about 9600. Already it has put on two Parades. Unquestionably this chapter is blessed with an aggressive set of officers headed by the founder, Cy Searles, and it has an alert Secretary in the person of Tom Rooney and a very capable chorus director, Dick Croudis. That's the kind of stuff that good chapters are made of.

Only New Hampshire is still unaccounted for in this chronicle. Singularly, it was late in getting on the bandwagon (or perhaps one should say the pitchpipe) for it was only last year that the first chapter was formed there at Keene. Then came Laconia a month later, and Derry by the end of the year.

### FURTHER GROWTH

From these beginnings, the Northeastern District by 1952 had reached a total of 60 chapters. Because of isolation or size of community or type of membership and consequent difficulty of maintaining interest and the required minimum number of members, some of these have ceased to function, but this has left the District in a much strengthened position. At this writing there are 53 excellent chapters, and more are in prospect from groups now developing an interest in the Society's type of harmony.

## THE NEPTUNERS, New Bedford, Mass. (as originally composed)



The Neptuners took 3rd place in the 1947 District Contest. Standing, L. to R.—Everett Wood, tenor; John Briden, bari; Al Maino, bass. In the chair, Charlie Ricketts.

# PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND CHAPTER

Chartered November 16, 1948

## *Is Proud*

of its 71 *Active* members

of these present\* and former registered quartets:

CHORD JESTERS	*EASTERNAIRES	FOUR CLOSURES	*MELLO-TONES
MERRY-NOTES	*NEPTUNERS	*NOBLEMEN	PROVIDENCE WIND JAMMERS
*REVELAIRES	R.I.P.P. CHORDS	*SMALL STATE FOUR	

to be the Home Chapter of the Northeast District Champs

### THE NOBLEMEN

Murray Rigby, Tenor  
Rocco Ricci, Lead

Bill Arnold, Bari  
George Esser, Bass

of our Chorus directed by Bob Carter—2nd Place Winners in the 1951 and 1952 District Contests

of receiving the Northeastern District Achievement Award as outstanding large city chapter for '51-'52

of our contribution of \$500.00 to the Society's Headquarters Building Fund

of our many contributions to worthy charities and causes in Communities in and surrounding Providence

of the following members who have won SPECIAL recognition:

CHARLES RICKETTS—International Board Member  
District First Vice President '50-'51  
District President '52-'53

AL MAINO —Area Counsellor '49-'50, '50-'51, '51-'52, '52-'53

BILL ARNOLD }  
GEORGE NOWELL } Members of Contest Judge Candidates Panel

of the following Outstanding Chapter Activities:

Quartet Marathons  
Inter-Chapter Relations  
28 Standing and Special Committees, including Committee for Servicemen  
to keep barbershopping home-ties intact for members in Armed Services

of having "Hosted" the following events:

'49 Regional Preliminary Contest and Annual District Meeting  
"International President's Night" for Ed Smith attended by barbershoppers  
from Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island



# N. E. DISTRICT CHAMPIONS



**THE NOBLEMEN, Providence, R. I.**  
'52-'53  
L. to R.—Murray Rigby, tenor; George Esser, bass; Bill Arnold, bari; Rocco Ricci, lead.



**CHORD SCRAMBLERS, Derby, Conn.**  
'49-50  
L. to R.—Fred Austin, tenor; Joseph DeGeorge, lead; Elwood Wadsworth, bass; Leonard Marston, bari.



**THE FOUR NATURALS, New Haven, Conn.**  
'46-47 (as then composed)  
L. to R.—Nick Cirie, bass; Ed Cappall, tenor; George Kelley, lead; Paul Miller, bari.



**THE HARMONIZERS, Schenectady, N. Y.**  
'47-48 (as then composed)  
L. to R.—Jim Cronin, tenor; Ed Bauer, lead; Ernie Decker, bass; Fred Callen, bari.



**THE CAVALIERS, Bridgeport, Conn.**  
'48-49  
L. to R.—Dave Kennedy, lead; Herb Appleby, tenor; Ed Hayes, bari; Frank Armstrong, bass.



**THE MOHICANS, Schenectady, N.Y.**  
'50-51  
L. to R.—Dick Kitchen, lead; Ed Goodale, tenor; Jack Heidenreich, bass; Walt Schlenker, bari.



**THE ABERJONA MOANERS, Reading, Mass.**  
'51-52  
L. to R.—Jim Mercer, tenor; Ernie Mackay, lead; Wally Mackay, bari; Stan West, bass.





## Outstanding Chapters

It is easy to select these chapters, as it has already been done by the various Achievement Award Committees. The chapters have made names for themselves by their devotion to the aims of the Society and their many accomplishments. As they have set fine examples for not only the District but also the Society at large, a little information about them will be given, in the order of reception of their first awards. However, the histories of chapters are inextricably tied up with those of the men who had a hand in their founding and development, so in many cases one must read about these men in another article in this issue to obtain more of the highlights. Some of these chapters, too, have contributed to the record of Northeastern District "firsts", which is told in still another article here.

### NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

First there was Hal Staab, born and raised there, becoming a Society member sometime in 1940, and a member of the National Board in January, 1941. Only two months later, on March 30, 1941, he arranged the first formal meeting of a group in Northampton and on that day the chapter was born, in German Hall on Riverside Drive. That was the first germ of the Northeastern District. The charter members were Hal Staab, Fred Davies, Fred LaMontagne and Ed Twohey, all of whom have gone to rest in the Eternal Halls of Harmony; also Gus Henzler, Wallace Howes, Bob Keller, George Keller, Foss Narum, and Harvey Taylor, all of whom, it is a pleasure to relate, are still active in the Chapter. Hal was the first President, Harvey was Vice President, Foss was Secretary, and Fred Davies Treasurer.

The Chapter Chorus made its local debut on June 9, 1941, for the edification of the Kiwanis Club. The growth had been rapid, for by that time the membership had reached 32.

Northampton's first quartets of note were the Rambling Four, pictured elsewhere in this issue, and the Hamptonians. The Rambling Four were Finalists of the 1942 International Contest at Grand Rapids. These quartets gave Hal Staab a great deal of assistance in the promotion of other chapters, particularly in Massachusetts and Connecticut. Northampton is proud of the fact that it has sponsored a total of 13 chapters in four of the New England States. One of these sponsorships was shared with Tampa, Florida, the circumstances being told in comments on the Marlboro, Mass. Chapter which will be given later in this article. In addition, Northampton has helped many other chapters to get started.

In the program of Northampton's first Parade, held on April 28, 1945, is found the name of another quartet of that chapter, the Tri-City Four. Hal Staab was the M.C. as he was of many Parades to follow, both in and out of the District. By this time the Chapter enrollment had reached 96 members.

For excellence of Chapter conduct, participation in charitable and morale building projects and in formation of new chapters, Northampton won a total of six consecutive Annual Achievement Awards from 1943 to 1949, the first four having been presented by the International office and the last two by the District.

### SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK

First knowledge of the Society traveled from the far West to reach Schenectady. The Reno Chapter had been organized. Charlie Merrill (later International President) was its founder and first President, and he sent his brother Arthur in Schenectady a certificate of membership in the chapter. Art proudly showed it around to kindred souls who were his business associates, and six of them

got together on May 14, 1944 and met also at frequent intervals later during the summer for some harmony.

Meanwhile Art wrote to Charlie to find out how to get a chapter organized; Charlie wrote to Carroll Adams and Carroll passed the word promptly to Hal Staab at Northampton. Within a week or so Hal was in Schenectady and the Chapter was organized then and there, on August 9, 1944. Among the eight members present were, of course, Art at whose home the meeting was held and who was elected the first President, Lee Mohler, who was elected Vice President and who some years later founded and became first President of the present Lynn, Mass. Chapter, and Doc Fendley, who was elected Director of Music and has held that office continuously to this day.

The charter membership list increased to 30 in the next two weeks and the charter was granted the following month. By the end of the year the membership was 49 and the group had made three public appearances. Barbershopping really took hold swiftly in Schenectady, for by the end of only eleven months after organization the Chapter membership had surged to 94, with six organized quartets and four more progressing. Tenors were more numerous then.

Schenectady has been recognized as one of the leading chapters not only in its District but in the Society at large, and of this it is justly proud, but continually striving to improve. It has gained its reputation by originality of ideas, richness of accomplishments and quality of membership. It is a healthy but not static organization which believes in participation on the part of every member to the extent he desires, and that everyone is important yet no one indispensable. Consequently the morale is high and always has been.

The Chapter draws more than 85 per cent of its membership from two large manufacturing concerns which recruit carefully selected men annually from all parts of the country, a great many of whom have had experience in college glee clubs, dramatics, etc. However, such a rich source of membership material poses the difficult problem of high turn-over, for many of these men after training in Schenectady are transferred to other localities, carrying the banner of SPEBSQSA with them. In spite of this, the chapter has successfully maintained its membership, which is now just 100.

Some of the notable accomplishments of the Chapter will be found elsewhere in this issue under the subject of "Northeastern District Firsts". It has held eight Annual Parades, all

(Continued on page 38)

### THE READING MASS. CHAPTER CHORUS



Cyrus D. (Cy) Thompson, Director  
Winners of N.E. District Chorus Contests, 1951, 1952

# North Eastern District



## CHAPTERS, Continued

sold out in advance, and its quartets and choruses have made innumerable visits to hospitals and institutions in the vicinity. Among its quartets have been two District Champions, the Harmonizers and the Mohicans. Some other highlights are as follows:

A unique feature of each Parade for the past four or five years is a Pre-show, to provide entertainment in the lobby and aisles from the moment one enters the theatre until the raising of the curtain. This is much appreciated by the audience which arrives early because no seats are reserved. As far as is known, no other Chapter has done this. Among other things the Chapter elects permanent advisory members to its Board, provided that they have been Chapter members for at least five years; it also elects deserving members of long standing to special Chapter membership without dues, and pays the per capita tax of each in full.

Schenectady has been given four Achievement Awards, of which two were on an International basis and the others by the Northeastern District, and has had honorable mention twice by the District.

The activities of the Chapter have reached even to the Pacific Northwest, where four of its members organized the Atom City Four in Richland, Washington, before a Chapter was formed there.

One of Schenectady's most active and best known quartets is the Mohawk Clippers, Semi-Finalists in 1950. Organized in 1947, it has done a great deal of missionary work for the Society, chiefly in eastern New York and western Massachusetts. It is in great demand at all times and has accumulated a record of entertaining more than 106,860 people in 280 engagements, including six hospitals and many churches, P.T.A. meetings, etc. in addition to Radio and TV performances.

A couple of changes in personnel made breaks in its continuity, but the quartet has five full years of service to its credit. As a pantomimist, its lead, Bob Coward, has few equals.

The Schenectady Chorus, which is exceedingly popular, is directed by S. D. Fendley, universally known as "Doc", yet he is not a doctor, but an electronics engineer. His enthusiastic and inspirational leadership has not only produced lasting effort to excel on the part of the Chorus and Quartets, but has been of immense value in building up the Chapter to the height which it has attained.

## MARLBORO, MASS.

The inspiration for starting this Chapter came from afar. It seems that Harold R. Wheeler of Marlboro had a friend, a member of the Tampa, Florida Chapter, who aroused his interest in the Society. As Harold was

(Continued on page 30)

## WINNERS OF NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT QUARTET CONTESTS

1946	1st—Four Naturals, New Haven, Conn. 2nd—Linen Dusters, Hartford, Conn. 3rd—Mirth Kings, Bridgeport, Conn.
1947	1st—Harmonizers, Schenectady, N. Y. 2nd—Jolly Whalers, New Bedford, Mass. 3rd—Neptuners, New Bedford, Mass.
1948	1st—Cavaliers, Bridgeport, Conn. 2nd—Four Smoothies, New Bedford, Mass. 3rd—Jolly Whalers, New Bedford, Mass.
1949	1st—Chord Scramblers, Derby, Conn. 2nd—Chord Pickers, New Haven, Conn. 3rd—Melody Knights, Schenectady, N. Y.
1950	1st—Mohicans, Schenectady, N. Y. 2nd—Melody Knights, Schenectady, N. Y. 3rd—Maple Sugar Four, Burlington, Vt.
1951	1st—Aberjona Moaners, Reading, Mass. 2nd—Curly Tops, Salem, Mass. 3rd—Helmsmen, New Bedford, Mass.
1952	1st—Noblemen, Providence, R. I. 2nd—Jolly Whalers, New Bedford, Mass. 3rd—Care Free Four, Springfield, Mass.

## WINNERS OF NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT CHORUS CONTESTS

Year	Choruses Competing	Place Won	Chorus
1950	11	1st 2nd 3rd	New Bedford, Mass. Schenectady, N. Y. Hartford, Conn.
1951	9	1st 2nd 3rd	Reading, Mass. Providence, R. I. Schenectady, N. Y.
1952	15	1st 2nd 3rd	Reading, Mass. Providence, R. I. Hartford, Conn.

## RAMBLING FOUR

Northampton, Mass.

First quartet from the northeastern section to compete in a national Society contest, the Rambling Four got to the Finals at Grand Rapids in 1942. L. to R.—rear—Joe Lewandowski, bass; Jack Lahaie, tenor; bottom—George Carpenter, baritone; Arthur Laprade, lead.



# North Eastern District



## CHAPTERS, Continued

was connected with about everything musical in his home town—School Music Supervisor, Church Organist and Choirmaster, Director of two Brass Bands of the National Championship American Legion Drum Corps and of his own orchestra—he took steps soon to get a chapter organized, which was done on February 24, 1947, with the assistance of Hal Staab and the co-sponsorship of Northampton and Tampa; Wheeler was the first President. The Charter was issued on March 11, 1947 with 30 Chapter members, of which 17 are still active.

Located in an area with a population around 16,000 or 17,000, the Chapter has a record of five successful Parades, and more than 300 Public Appearances, over half being by the Chorus. In the year 1947-8 when it received a District Achievement Award, the Chorus and Quartets made more than 75 appearances, and this past season presented four complete Shows under J. Stanley Sheppard, the present Director. The principal recipient of its benefactions is the Marlboro District Nurse Fund, but other local charities have not been neglected.

Two of the Marlboro Quartets, the Highland City Four and the Close Shaves, have participated in many neighboring Parades and shows as well as a great deal of work for the Chapter.

The Society is anticipating a continuation of this fine record for many years to come.

## READING, MASS.

Down in York, Pennsylvania in November, 1946, big Bill Hinckley of Reading heard the Chapter Chorus and got interested in the Society. Back home he wrote to Carroll Adams and promptly heard from Bill Otto and then Hal Staab of Northampton. Big Bill planned to form a chapter at Reading and the opportunity for an organization meeting finally developed on April 18, 1947, with eight men showing up. Bill of course was elected President. Since then two of these have moved from town, one has passed away and the others are still active, three being Past Presidents. Reading has grown steadily to a membership of more than 70, with a high attendance record. It draws many of its members from several surrounding communities. Their numerous activities include many long trips en masse to such places as Bedford, Mass. 15 miles away for annual visits to the Veterans' Hospital, to Grenier Air Base 60 miles away to give an entertainment, to Portland, Maine, 115 miles away to meet with that Chapter, and just recently one of the longest trips of all, to participate as a Chorus in the Jersey City Parade. A week later they all went to Ipswich, 22 miles, to put on a show. What a gang of itinerants! Every time they go

to the Bedford Veterans' Hospital, which is a mental institution, they have to supply a bass for a quartet of patients whose bass "just got sick during the week", and so far that substitute bass has always been Bill Hinckley. Speaking of quartets, Reading is very proud of the Aberjona Moaners, and well they might be, for the Moaners have been Semi-Finalists three times in the past three years and were District Champions in 1951. The Chapter has five other active quartets.

Reading's Chorus has made an outstanding record in winning the last two of the three District Chorus Contests which have been held. It often rehearses for two hours every week, which is one secret of its excellence. The other secret is a devoted director in the person of Cy Thompson, who insists on precision, proper shading and continual practice. He has been with the Chapter from the beginning. Though his manner of direction is quiet and restrained, his technique is super, as the results have demonstrated. Cy was an Atwater Kent Audition winner some years ago.

Altogether the Reading Chapter is outstandingly successful, and it has a hard core of guys who will never let it down.

## NEW BEDFORD, MASS.

It happened this-a-way: When that lanky guy by the name of Charles F. Ricketts came from Indiana to settle in New Bedford and brought with him a background of harmony and a smattering knowledge of the Society, he naturally associated himself with men of kindred spirit and a barbershopping group was thus in the making. For a while eight or ten would gather weekly until finally there came a night when "she starts, she moves, she seems to feel the thrill of life beneath her keel". Barber-shopping had really taken hold of New Bedford and the Chapter was chartered on February 27, 1946 with twenty members, following an informal dinner meeting between first President Charlie (now International Board Member and District President) and the beloved and devoted Hal Staab. Hal, as related elsewhere in this issue, continued his interest in New Bedford and the spread of the movement along the New England Seaboard right up to the time of his death. The background of the city of New Bedford was the whaling industry, for which the city was once the leading whaleship port. To maintain this aura of the old days, the Chapter groups adopted names with a salty whaling flavor. The Harpoon Harmonizers are the Chapter Chorus; the Oarsmen were a smaller group in the chorus which will be mentioned further; quartets are the original Neptuners, the Jolly Whalers, the Four Harpooners, and the Helmsmen, also the Four Smoothies with a more modern tang in their name.

## DON'T LOOK, STUB—

A very large part of the work of compiling this Northeastern District section of the Harmonizer was done by "Stub" Taylor. "Stub" was secretary of the District from '47 to '49. He also did a major part of the work of setting up the Int'l District Plan of



Organization. Here is what he wrote when he sent in the first batch of material for the Harmonizer;

"In connection with the manuscript, I purposely have made these articles anonymous. Please do not add any personal 'By-line', as a lot of good men in the District have given me the thoughts and the data, and in some cases have even put the very words at the tip of my pencil. To them belongs the credit and to them will go my personal thanks for a wonderful response".

The picture was wangled by the Harmonizer editors from Art Merrill of Schenectady who wrote, "Stub would shoot me if he knew I am sending you this".

(The Harmonizer always respects the wishes of its contributors, up to a point. Eds.)

All of these groups have made distinguished records of accomplishment in Community Service, charitable work, and entertainment, as well as work in furthering the interests of the Society. The first public appearance of the chorus and three quartets, among which were the Neptuners, was on April 25, 1946, only two months after the Chapter was chartered. A year later the first Annual Parade was held before a packed house. From then on the demand for appearances grew and grew. To provide a chorus group which could be a sort of flying squadron more readily available for more frequent public appearances, a small group of about sixteen men was recruited from the ranks of the Harpoon Harmonizers and named the Oarsmen, who did a great deal of work for a number of years, but no longer function separately.

The outstanding work of the original Neptuners has been mentioned in another article in this issue. It is in-

(Continued on page 10)



**THE OLD TIMERS.**  
BOSTON, MASS.  
(Combined ages - 270 years)  
Cuthbert, Merrifield, Girard, Smith



**THE HARMONEERS.**  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.  
(as originally composed) Int'l Semi-Finalists 1946  
Cranin, Bauer, Pillig, Sannstrom



**MOHAWK CLIPPERS.**  
SCHENECTADY, N. Y.  
Int'l Semi-Finalists 1950  
Compositor, Coward, Pillig, Pettengill



**THE MELOCHORDS.**  
HOLYOKE, MASS.  
Int'l Semi-Finalists 1946  
McArdle, Morneau, Hotin, Daniels



**JOLLY WHALERS.**  
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.  
(as composed after 1950) Int'l Semi-Finalists 1952  
Logue, Stetson, Bourgeois, Jellison (front)



**FOUR SMOOTHIES.**  
NEW BEDFORD, MASS.  
Int'l Semi-Finalists 1948  
McGowan, Jellison, Young, Palmer



**THE MAPLE SUGAR FOUR.**  
BURLINGTON, VT.  
Int'l Semi-Finalists 1949  
Bechtel, Titus, Slack, Butterfield



**NEW BEDFORD, MASS.**  
**CHAPTER CHORUS**  
Everett Wood, Director  
Winner N. E. District 1950



**BOSTON CHAPTER CHORUS**  
George Arkwell, Director  
Singing in Symphony Hall, Boston

interesting to note that the tenor, Everett Wood, later became Director of the Harpoon Harmonizers, which had the distinction of winning the first District Chorus Contest in 1960; the bass, Al Maino, is President of the Providence Chapter for 1962-3; the baritone, John Briden, is a business associate of the lead, District President

Charlie Ricketts, and both are now affiliated with the Providence Chapter, where the Neptuners continue to function with a new tenor, George Madeiros. The Jolly Whalers originated in 1946 and have been one of the prominent quartets in the Northeastern District as well as in their Chapter. In Dis-

trict Contests they won second place in 1947 and third in 1948, and internationally they were Semi-Finalists in 1947. After changes in personnel in 1949 they went on to become Semi-Finalists as well as second place District winners in 1952. They have a record of more than 500 public ap-

(Continued on page 41)



# North Eastern District



## CHAPTERS, Continued

pearances and have given to the Society two Chapter Secretaries, two Chapter Presidents, an Area Counselor, and a District Secretary, which is a striking indication of their ability and leadership. The composition of the quartet both before and after 1949 is given in the tabulation of International Semi-Finalists from the District.

The Helmsmen, the Four Harpooners, and the Four Smoothies have all done outstanding work. The former was born out of the Oarsmen group. The Four Smoothies have been well known throughout the District and were Semi-Finalists in 1948. In the same year they won second place in the District Contest.

Elsewhere in this issue it has been told how influential the New Bedford Chapter was in the extension of the Society along the New England Seaboard, involving the sponsorship of seven chapters and the rendition of assistance to many others. The District has given the Chapter two achievement awards and one honorable mention in the past three years for its exceptional activities. Truly it is one of the great Chapters of the District.

## BURLINGTON, VERMONT

In five years the Burlington Chapter has attained a high standing in the District and the best in Vermont. Sponsored by Barre, Vermont, it was chartered on December 19, 1947, and began forging ahead at once, and were successful in winning District Achievement Awards for the last three years.

One of the factors which strongly influenced the granting of the first award was a pledge of \$4000.00 made to the Durfee Memorial Cancer Clinic for the year 1949-50. The other two awards were given for all around excellence. The Chapter's most prized award is a special one given by the District Board for running an outstanding District Quartet Contest on October 7, 1950, the fifth one of the District. In this contest the Chapter's own quartet, the Maple Sugar Four, took third place. It had been one of the District's three Semi-Finalists at Buffalo in 1949.

Among the Chapter's other quartets the Four Bucks and the Ethan Allen Four, as well as the chorus, have made many public appearances, and rendered their full share of Community Service. At the time of the District Contest the chorus was joined by those from the four other Vermont Chapters for a fine presentation on the program.

Burlington has worked closely all along with the other Northern Vermont Chapters and with Montreal, and last year it sponsored the chapter in Newport, Vermont, which is already showing great promise. The members of Burlington are looking forward keenly to even greater accomplishments.

## PROVIDENCE, R. I.

Last but not least on the list of Achievement Award Winners is the  
(Continued on page 42)

## ROCKVILLE CONNECTICUT CHAPTER

Chorus Director  
DAVE GOODALE

Rehearsals  
EVERY MONDAY 8-10 P. M.

Meetings  
2nd and 4th MONDAYS

## The Schenectady Chapter . . . **FIRST** . . . In Northeastern District . . . To

be incorporated

have "Stub" Taylor as a member

win three consecutive achievement awards

prove that MC's aren't needed to run a parade

win first and second place in one district quartet contest

be founded by Art Merrill and sponsored by the late Hal Staab

present a model chapter meeting to an International Board in person

have a wife's quartet and a daughter's quartet active at the same time

have our annual parade day made "Barbershop Harmony Day" by mayor's proclamation

sell barbershopping to the public with the "College of Barbershop Knowledge"

come to the city that... **LIGHTS AND HAULS THE WORLD** ...share a chord with the

**MOHICANS ★ MOHAWK CLIPPERS ★ CHORD CATCHERS**

**PACEMAKERS** ... and the **WORLD'S LARGEST QUARTET**, our chorus,

directed by "DOC" FENDLEY

*We meet every Tuesday Nite the year around*

## PROVIDENCE, R. I. Continued

Chapter at Providence, organized October 29, 1948, by Joe Lopez, Manager of Radio Station WEAN, and Bill Arnold, now bari of the Noblemen. Joe puts it this way: "I was a perfectly happy, peaceful man leading a normal ordered life when Bill Arnold approached me and said 'Joe, let's start a chapter of SPEBSQSA here in Providence.'" The idea clicked and Joe plugged it on the radio, drawing a large crowd of curiosity seekers at the first meeting, out of which a good bunch was culled and organized. The charter was granted November 16, 1948, with New Bedford and Boston as co-sponsors.

The new Chapter started at once to do things in a big way. Charter Night was a huge success, and then the infant Chapter volunteered for and obtained the 1949 Regional Preliminaries. Although growing pains had to be gone through, Joe Lopez as first President did a good job of piloting the Chapter through its first year and a half. In its next year, under President Al Maino, who had transferred from New Bedford and who sang bass on the Neptunians, it concentrated more on Community Service and raised considerable money for charity by putting on seven good shows. About this time Charlie Ricketts came back East and settled in Providence, joining the Chapter. This was like a shot in the arm for the members, and sent their spirits soaring, for Charlie, as Al Maino says, was like "a tall and thin candle that could give off more light about the whys and wherefores of barbershopping than anyone else southeast of Northampton".

Providence is on a sound financial footing. It has been busy this past year doing shows for charity, and is proud to be one of the first chapters to contribute \$500.00 to the International Permanent Building Fund.

## FOUNDER'S COLUMN

Continued from page 6

folks have been exceptionally nice to her and the rest of our clan, but especially to Betty Anne. She will not be able to attend the Detroit Convention this June.

She was married on April 2 to Eugene A. Oathout, a fine young fellow who graduates from the University of Iowa in June. Both Gene and Betty Anne will be in the midst of "finals" during the week of June 11-14, and soon thereafter will leave for an air-base where Gene will begin his two-year stint in the air corps. Betty Anne is so fond of all the barbershop brethren and "sistern" and is such an enthusiastic barbershopper herself, that I am sure she will regularly attend future International Conventions.

I hope that after the voice of the World's Greatest Barber Shop Baritone is stilled that Betty Anne will carry on for her "pappy" and that you will be as sweet and lovely to her in the years to come as you have been in the past.

The principal reason I mention Betty Anne's marriage, is that as a result I have an extra set of tickets in the

Cash group, to the festivities in Detroit—the seat being in Box J, Left, of the Masonic Auditorium. I am sending this set of tickets to King Cole, suggesting that he sell it to the highest bidder and place the proceeds in the Building Fund. Now the ticket is worth only \$7.50. But I propose to throw in with it, as a prize, a complete course of lessons in plain and fancy baritone singing. At intermissions we will pick up a tenor, lead and bass, and the purchaser of this set of tickets will be given instruction that conservatively is worth at least \$100. I suggest you wire or telephone Brother Cole immediately if you want to avail yourself of the opportunity of improving your baritone technique and the condition of the Building Fund.

Mrs. Cash and I expect to leave for the Convention Wednesday morning, June 10, via Santa Fe, arriving Chicago 9:00 p.m.; leaving there via New York Central at 11:59 p.m. for Detroit. I give you these details because I hope at least two of the Brothers will find it convenient to board our train somewhere en route and join me and the porter in a little close harmony.

I am aglow with anticipation at the prospect of seeing you all again in June.

Hoping you are the same.

*O. C.*

## A Gay Time—

in

## A Gay Town

Visit Storied

## MONTREAL

The

Paris of North America

in the shadow of

Old Mount Royal

It's Wednesday at 8:00,

Studio A,

Station C. F. C. F.

on Cote des Neiges for our weekly SPEB thrash—join us there, will you?



It's

## "Hello Everybody"

from

SALEM, MASSACHUSETTS

and "KEEP AMERICA SINGING"

## BROCKTON

MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER

## Annual FALL PARADE

November 14, 1953

WEST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL



Meetings Monday Evening

YMCA

Worcester Chapter

## SPEBSQSA

is proud to belong to the  
Northeastern District



Organized Nov. 1949

Meets 2nd and 4th Weds.

768 Millbury Street

Worcester, Mass.

## ANNUAL PARADE NOVEMBER 14

in

THE LITTLE THEATRE

Worcester Auditorium

Secretary: John W. Raymond

322 Highland Street

Worcester, Mass.



# The Old Songsters

by Sigmund Spaeth

OUR good friend Ray Walker of Miami Beach reports a horrible tragedy which will sadden many an old songster. His pal and musical team-mate, Arthur Fields, had suffered a stroke and was removed to the Nursing Home at Largo, Florida. Ten hours after his arrival the hospital burned to the ground. Fields, paralyzed, was unable to get out of bed and literally roasted to death. He would have been 65 years old in August.

The ASCAP Biographical Dictionary gives Arthur Fields' birth-place as Philadelphia, Pa. and states that he was a child singer who became a professional at eleven, using the song-slides that were so popular at the time. In 1905 he joined a minstrel show and later appeared in vaudeville, also gaining fame as a recording artist and eventually in radio.

Ray Walker played the piano for Fields at Coney Island as early as 1900 and they appeared together only three years ago on station WKAT, Miami Beach, identifying songs in answer to questions sent in by listeners. In all their broadcasts they were never stumped once, Walker playing the music and Fields singing the words.

Arthur Fields was both an author and a composer. Perhaps his most famous tune was *On the Mississippi*, for which Ballard MacDonald wrote the lyrics. (It is now in the process of becoming a motion picture.) But Fields was also responsible for the recently revived *Abba Dabba Honey-moon*, *And the Angels Sing* and other hits. He wrote 48 *Hymns of Happiness* and such sacred music as *There Shall Be No More Tears*. That title can well stand as the epitaph of Old Songster Arthur Fields.

FOR some reason Henry I. Marshall has never received credit for writing the permanently popular song, *Dinah*, now used by Dinah Shore as an obvious signature and known also in the Russian parody of Danny Kaye, as well as in numerous barbershop arrangements. Marshall, who now lives in New Jersey and broadcasts frequently over the Newark station WNJR, actually wrote the original version of the *Dinah* song as early as 1913, and it was in existence long before its supposed composer, Harry Akst, came into the picture. One of those unexplained mysteries of Tin Pan Alley!

Marshall, who recently celebrated his seventieth birthday, has plenty of other hits listed by ASCAP, one of

which, *Be My Baby Bumble Bee*, is now to be heard in the motion picture, *By the Light of the Silvery Moon*, as well as on the records made from the sound-track. (The title is correct as above, not, as so often misquoted, *Be My Busy Little Bumble Bee*.) That song was one of the favorites with Roxy's Gang in the old radio days.

Another Marshall success was *On the 5:15*, which is still popular. His radio program, *Cavalcade of Youth*, won the *Billboard* award as the best teen age show on the air. Incidentally, it was Anna Held who introduced Marshall's *Dinah* in a revue called *Mlle. Baby*. Later it was sung by Marion Sunshine (of "Tempest and Sunshine") in a show called *When Claudia Smiles*, starring Blanche Ring.

Henry I. Marshall now gives his address as 515 Bumble Bee Lane, Scotch Plains, New Jersey, featuring two of his famous song titles. He definitely could not be called a *Dinah*-sore.

THROUGH Douglas Storer of Ripley's *Believe It Or Not*, this columnist has been put in touch with two ladies who surely deserve a place in the company of the Old Songsters. They are twin sisters, named Doris and Aileen Woods, and they now live at 64a Nathan Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Mr. Storer sent them an autographed copy of *A History of Popular Music in America*, since when there has been a steady and interesting correspondence (at least on one side), between the Orient and the United States.

The Woods sisters started out as cabaret singers in New York in 1911

and made a consistent hit with the songs of the day. Among their friends were Gene Buck and Dave Stamper, who were then writing popular material for Flo Ziegfeld and other producers. They also knew John McGraw, who gave them a season pass to the Giants' ball games.

The sisters left New York in 1914, when prohibition closed down most of the calarets, and traveled to South Africa, where they introduced many of the American popular songs of the day, billed as "The American Girls". (Actually they were born in Australia and grew up with Annette Kellerman, who was a near neighbor in Sydney.)

Eventually Doris and Aileen Woods reached Singapore, then Java, India, Burma, Korea and Japan, finally settling in Hong Kong, where Aileen now conducts a radio program, *Down Memory Lane*. During the second World War they were Japanese prisoners of war for four years, but luckily found their possessions practically undisturbed on their return home. Quite a career for a pair of Old Songsters!

A REAL tribute has been paid to S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. in a song called *The Barber Shop Quartet*, with words and music by Dick Manning of ASCAP, published by the Odette Music Corporation at 1619 Broadway, New York. Manning does not exactly qualify as an Old Songster, but his composition has the nostalgic ring of the close harmony of the past. He mentions the Society in a freely accented chant, followed by a real barbershop ending. The number combines a solo version with a practical quartet arrangement and should score both ways.

## WINS AREA CHORUS CONTEST



Jersey City, (No. 1 Chapter of New Jersey), recently won the Mid-Atlantic District Area No. 3 Chorus Contest held at Woodridge, N. J. Director Jack Brindy is seated in front row center, wearing coat. Jack sings bari in the 1946 Int'l Champion Garden State Quartet.



# Do You Remember

by J. George O'Brien  
117 West Genesee, Saginaw, Michigan

DEAR YOUNGE ED: Before we get too deeply involved in the subject of what is and what isn't barbershop, let's get straight on one important point.

Definitely, Junior, Olde Ed is not in his dotage and he's not "another one of those old fogies who refuse to admit that the automobile is here to stay."

Barbershopically, at least, Olde Ed is as modern as a Toni home permanent and there is one thing he wants you to get firmly fixed in your confused little cranium right off the bat. Because a song is old it isn't necessarily barbershop; neither is it automatically eliminated because it is of recent vintage.

On the Perry Como show not so long ago we heard two numbers, Lies and Keep It A Secret From Me, either of which would lend themselves very readily to barbershop treatment, as would How About A Little Kiss Good-night, which was very nicely handled by Julius La Rosa and Janette Davis a few nights later on the Godfrey Show. Frank Thorne opines that I Saw Mommie Kissing Santa Claus would have been a favorite with the oldtime foursomes had it been written around the turn of the century, and we certainly agree.

No, Sonny, the age of the song has nothing to do with whether it is or isn't . . . it's the type, style and harmony construction that does the trick, and unless a song has the necessary qualifications, it just ain't barbershop whether it was written in 1593 or 1953, so there.

Maybe we'd better get straightened out on one or two other points before we get too deeply involved in the business at hand. First off, Olde Ed is not one of those prejudiced individuals who refuse to admit that the young gaffers who are the leading exponents of our type of harmony nowadays can't sing rings around the foremost foursomes of Grandpappy's day. True, the old boys were loud and the basses were usually booming, but when it comes to beautiful harmony, with smooth blending, chord-bending changes and slides, the kids today are as far ahead as the modern motor car is ahead of an old E.M.F. or Model T. The old foursomes had a few pet swipes and they worked them to death. The modern foursomes have swipes ad infinitum and they have the benefit of some wonderful arrangers to work them out and put them down on paper. But they also have something else, the tendency to drift into the instrumental

arrangements that came along with our evolution in music, as the piano became a fixture in every home, and the orchestra supplanted the guitar, and the barbershop quartet which were about the only forms of accompaniment and musical expression back in the early 1900's, and therein lies the danger. But wait, Junior, we're getting ahead of our story.

What we're trying to tell you, Younge Feller, is that we are all too willing to admit that these young gaffers today can sing rings around the four-somes of yesteryear and so long as they stick to singing barbershop, we'll be the first to stand up on our wobbly old hind legs and cheer them to the echo.

You see, Sonny, it's definitely not the modern quartet that Olde Ed is agin . . . it's the songs they're singing or still more to the point . . . the songs they're passing up.

Whenever we spend an evening at a barbershop quartet session, we pretty well know in advance that it's going to be a rare occasion when we hear a foursome come through with anything real new. If they do, it's usually something that's been recently written by some of the boys in the Society who are turning out some wonderful numbers, or it's a twist to "So and So's" arrangement of one of the standard oldtimers . . . with fourteen added chord changes.

We're pretty certain that we'll hear at least nine renditions of After Dark, Coney Island Baby, I Had A Dream Dear . . . etc., etc., and if by sheer chance someone does come up with a "new one", you can rest assured that at least a hundred other society quartets will be singing it within six months, and around five hundred will either be trying to learn it or change it to make believe they are doing something original.

When you go to an International Contest to listen to the best quartets in the Society and hear two top foursomes follow each other with The World Is Waiting For The Sunrise, and three or four more sing Mississippi Mud, you get the impression that there just aren't very many barbershop songs, or else the dear brothers don't recognize one when it bats 'em in the ear drums.

Then when you hear folks claiming that a number like Cigarettes, Whiskey and Wild, Wild Women is barbershop because they hear it rendered by a barbershop quartet, you're certain that the time for the revolution is at hand. For your education, Junior, and for the benefit of anyone else who

cares, that Cigarette song is strictly hill-billy and sounds best when sung through the nose and slightly off key. Neither one of these requisites has any place in barbershop harmony, so disregarding the fact that the song in question has no other barbershop qualities, those two things alone should settle the question once and for all on that one.

Okay, Sonny, we know what you're thinking, "Why not quit talking about what barbershop songs are not . . . and tell us what they are?", and you know something? That's exactly what we propose to do, only right now we're running out of space, so if you'll stay with us 'til next time, we'll promise, with the help of some of the real experts, to start your education proper which we hope will result in "you, too, becoming an expert".

In the meantime, we can tell you where you're pretty apt to find a good barbershop tune if you're looking for one. Just go back to the years 1890 to 1915 and pick out ANY song that was written in that era, and the chances are 100 to one that it's barbershop. Now mark you, Junior, NOT BECAUSE IT'S THAT OLD but because the writers in those days wrote four part harmony and not for the instruments as they do today.

That's why you should be able to go to a quartet contest involving a hundred quartets and for three or four days never hear the same song twice. There are literally thousands and thousands of songs from that era and they are practically ALL BARBERSHOP numbers. There have been thousands and thousands of songs written since 1915 that are definitely barbershop but during the same period there have been millions of songs written that are not.

That's why Olde Ed and many, many more members of this good society of ours are so concerned about the songs that are being sung . . . or rather the songs that are NOT being sung by our present day foursomes.

Not that they can't sing 'em better, Junior, but rather the fact that they just can't . . . or at least DON'T . . . pick 'em out.

Don't go way, Sonny Boy, 'cause next time we're going to tell you what some of the experts say about barbershop songs, and how to tell 'em from the average alley cat. Should be interesting, particularly to the other cats. Sing-cerely, Olde Ed.

WHO WOULD LIKE AN AVON COMEDY FOUR arrangement of a  
(Continued on next page)



number called Julie My Own? Charles Coleman who arranged this number for that famous old quartet has sent us a manuscript copy for the library and if you're real nice to Carroll Adams, maybe he'll send you a photostat.

**SPEAKING OF THE LIBRARY**, which Olde Ed does during most of his waking moments, it's gratifying to be able to tell you that more and more members are sending in fine contributions every week, and it won't be long until our collection of precious old songs will be second to none. Ken Grant has just sent in some twenty dandies. Al Maier has contributed a veritable storehouse of treasures, some dating back to 1871. Bob Bisio and Paul Vandervoort have also made contributions, all of which are gratefully acknowledged.

**IN THE HOW'RE WE DOING** department, we gave Ed Blank detailed data on Goodbye Dixie Goodbye, Kentucky's Way of Saying Good Morning, Why Is the Ocean So Near the Shore, and At the End Of A Beautiful Day. Told Frank Finnegan where to get a copy of Freckles; gave Frank Noyce the dope on Turn Back The Universe And Give Me Yesterday and Time After Time. Put Johnny Means on the trail of Way Down In Georgia, (Garden State version), and dug up the words to the Billboard In The Rain for Buzz Haeger. For Paul Vandervoort we found Singing A Vagabond Song, who in return sent us Ebb Tide and I've Tried To Do The Right Thing By You But You've Tried To Break My Heart for the library. And for George Chamblin and the Buzz Saws we dug up the data on Wanita,

Wanna Eat, Wanna Eat, and we'll be looking forward to hearing them sing it in Detroit come June and the International. Outside of that "they ain't no news".

**MY GRANDPAPPY YODELED** a number that went like this: Down down the dark river where bull-rushes quiver I sing and I shiver and twang my guitar. Since ever I met her I've loved her, frog Etta, and yet cannot get her for cruel papa.

Olde Ed has no idea who wrote it or where or when. Matter of fact, he doesn't even know the title but Grandpappy yodeled it and right good, too. Wonder if anyone else ever heard it?

Do you remember?

## THE FOUR TEENS SEND GREETINGS

9 April 1953

Mr. Edwin S. Smith  
International President  
S. P. E. B. S. Q. S. A.

The time is drawing nigh when we will place the coveted gold medallions on the Fifteenth International Championships. With this act our tenure as current champs is ended, and the days devoured by the hands of time since June 14, 1952 become pleasant memories that will be cherished by us as long as the "Barbershop 7th" exists.

To you, Mr. President, to Int'l Sec'y Carroll Adams, to Dean Snyder, and to Stirling Wilson we sing a resounding chord of thanks for helping us over the many hurdles that were peculiar to our unique situation these past twelve months.



This is the sign Manhattan Chapter, (New York City), hung out two weeks before its Festival of Harmony. \$1,000 of the profit was sent promptly to King Cole for the Society's Hq. Building.

At this writing we have no idea where we will be for the next two years; perhaps overseas. But wherever we are for these next two, twenty or two-hundred years, we'll carry with us, and cherish, the memory of all Barbershoppers who have opened their homes and hearts to us.

"We'll Meet Again; Don't Know Where, Don't Know When".

### THE FOUR TEENS

John Steinmetz	Jim Chinnoch
Tenor	Lead
Don Lamont	Don Cahall
Bari	Bass
and	
Mike Egan	?

## INFORMATION YOU WANT

Each issue carries information on 25 songs. To lighten the load of the Old Songs Committee, members are urged to refer to back numbers of the Harmonizer before asking the Committee for aid.

TITLE	YEAR	COMPOSERS	PUBLISHER
And The Green Grass Grew All Around	1912	Jerome-VonTilzer	Harry VonTilzer Music Pub. Co.
Betsy's The Belle Of The Bathers	1907	Richard Carle	M. Witmark
Cotton Hollow Harmony	1918	Mason-Whiting	Jerome Remick & Co.
Don't Wake Me Up I Am Dreaming	1910	Whitson-Ingraham	Shapiro Music Pub.
Ebb Tide	1937	Robin-Rainger	Paramount Music Corp.
Evening Brings Rest and You	1916	Whaley-Bishop	M. Witmark & Sons
Everybody Wants The Key To My Cellar	1919	Rose-Basket-Pollack	McCarthy & Fisher
Fairest Flower Of All	1907	Al H. Wilson	Al H. Wilson
Freckles	1919	Hess-Ager-Johnson	Leo Feist
I've Been A Good Pal To You	1919	Freedman-Squires	McCarthy & Fisher
Julie My Own	1897	Geo. T. Chattaway	Charles Coleman
Kentucky's Way Of Saying Good Morning	1925	Kahn-VanAlstyne	Remick Music Corp.
Kill That Bear	1912	Jones-Daniels	Jerome Remick & Co.
Little Bunch Of Shamrocks, A	1913	Jerome-Sterling-VonTilzer	Harry VonTilzer Music Pub. Co.
Mandy, How Do You Do	1909	Percy Wenrich	Jerome Remick & Co.
'N' Everything	1918	DeSylva-Kahn-Jolson	Jerome Remick & Co.
Nobody Knows (And Nobody Seems To Care)	1919	Irving Berlin	Irving Berlin, Inc.
Rocked In The Cradle Of The Deep	1933	Willard-Knight	Hall & McCreary Co.
Rose Of My Dreams, The	1913	Barnett-Scanlon	Harry VonTilzer Music Pub. Co.
Sing Me The Rosary	1913	Lewis-Klickmann	Frank K. Root & Co.
Swanee	1919	Caesar-Gershwin	Harms, Francis, Day and Hunter
Turn Back The Universe And Give Me Yesterday	1916	Brennan-Ball	M. Witmark & Sons
Wanita, Wanna Eat, Wanna Eat	1923	Coslow-Sherman	Stark & Cowan, Inc.
Why Is The Ocean So Near The Shore	1913	Weinberg-Jones	M. Witmark & Sons
You Are False But I Forgive You	1888	Ned Straight	Mrs. Pauline Lieder

NOTE: The publishers listed may not be present publishers, as songs can change owners several times over a period of years. The listing, however, will enable your dealer to locate the number for you.

# important international news briefs

## KEEPING POSTED

The April-May issue of "Attacks and Releases", Illinois District paper, announces that Lombard, Ill. barber-shop John C. Allen has been appointed Ass't. Postmaster General. (Washington, D. C. Chapter please note. Eds.)

oOo

Keep Posted, in March, mentioned the all 'round activities of San Francisco's Phil Palos, ending with "Who swept out the hall?" Chapter Sec'y Bob Bisio sent in a copy of the April 1 "Foghorn" with the answer. Phil swept out the hall, assisted by Whit Henry. The latter, in addition to ripping his pants, Emceed the show.

oOo

Bob Irvine, former Int'l Treasurer of the Society, who edits Oak Park, Ill. Chapter's "Soundingboard", is a faithful reader of the Harmonizer. He always points to particularly interesting articles and features for the benefit of Oak Park members. (Thanks, Bob, for the flattering attention. Eds.)

oOo

Foulup in Detroit over a haircut. Int'l Pres. Ed Smith lives and operates his business in Wayne, Michigan, only a 10 cent phone call from the Society's Hq. One morning Ed called Carroll Adams, missed him, and left word to phone. Carroll did so, only to be told by Ed's secretary, "Mr. Smith is on the way to your office". Two hours later, Ed called again. Carroll told him what the girl had said and Ed was nonplussed until he remembered he'd told her he was

"going to the barbershop", which no longer means a hair cutting establishment to his secretary.

oOo

Outstanding quartets are much in demand. Most weekends of the year they can book appearances all over the country if they want to. Here's how the Buffalo Bills, 1950 Int'l Champions, decided to handle things last Fall. These are lead Al Shea's own words, "We have embarked on a sort of private campaign of our own. Our aim—to accept at least one invitation a month in our own District. That way, we hope to do our part in stimulating increased interest".

oOo

There doesn't seem to be any end to the inventiveness of barbershoppers in the way of letter closings. Here's Tom Rosewag's (Secretary of the newly chartered College Park, Md. Chapter—)

"Bass-eeing you soon"

And Paul Shelton, Springfield, Mo., signs his—  
"Of Chorus."

oOo

Carl Zimmerman, Hicksville, Ohio thinks music could be peace insurance for the world. His plan would involve sending of bands, orchestras, and choruses to foreign countries as ambassadors of good will. To send an adequate number of organizations abroad for six months would cost less than one battleship, according to Carl. Himself Director of the Hicksville Chapter Chorus, Carl feels some

barbershop choruses might well be included. If you want further details, address Carl at Hicksville.

oOo

If Bing Crosby's "Call Me Lucky" series of articles in the Saturday Evening Post escaped your attention, this quotation may be of interest. Bing is speaking, "... I got in touch with Colonel Galt and the upshot was that our troupe went out to Versailles and did some shows. Then we had luncheon with General 'Ike' and his staff, and since he liked to sing barbershop harmony, we got up a quartet. 'Ike' sang baritone."

oOo

This sounds like an interesting evening. West Bend-Barton, Wisconsin Chapter Bulletin "Bend - O - Grams" reports, "... some entertaining programs lately. On January 12th, we met and became acquainted with Mr. Strobocorn. Who is he? Not who, what? It is a machine that measures pitch electronically. Little dials rotate in one direction or another indicating that a tone is sharp or flat. If the tone is on pitch, the dial remains motionless. It's very sensitive and reacts instantly. Lots of fun trying to hit a note and 'hold' the dial."

oOo

Program for a chorus—Louisville, Ky  
—"First we will endeavor to pick out 6, 8, or 10 old time songs that most everyone knows and loves to sing—then we will do these songs for the benefit of new members. We will sing four or five of them at every meeting to keep them foremost in mind and always ready to put on a program. To this group others will be added from time to time. We do not, however, intend to die on our feet—we must learn new songs and prepare for contests and other programs. However, new song rehearsals will not last over 45 minutes at any one time, at least until we get close to show time.

oOo

Southern Californians apparently are planning a descent in force on Detroit in June. As far back as February, a letter went to all chapters proposing banding together to travel on the Santa Fe to Chicago, then via New York Central to Detroit, reversing the procedure Sunday night with a day's layover in Chicago to see the sights. For \$137.78, round trip, there are far worse ways to spend money.

oOo

Mortality among quartets is notoriously high, but seldom has one formed and disappeared with such speed as this one. Two Pottsville, Pa. Chapter members went into the service. One of them, Paul Ney, is a "real gone guy". He arrived at Fort Meade on a Thursday morning, formed a quar-

### SERENADING THE VICE-PRESIDENT



Four members of the Washington, D. C. Chapter sang for Vice-President Nixon just before the Chapter Chorus appeared for the second year in a concert with the National Symphony Orchestra in a benefit performance. LtoR—Ed Place, Dr. Howard Mitchell, Director of the National Symphony; Nixon, Lt. Com'dr Herbert Gimpel, Howard Cranford, Arthur Sabin.

tet on Friday; they rehearsed Saturday; sang at the Service Club Sunday; three of them were transferred Monday. That's about on a par with Solomon Grundy. "In an' Outers" you might call them.

oOo

Charlie Neal, secretary of the Lebanon, Pa. Chapter sent in a newspaper clipping recently that should stop O. C. Cash in his tracks. It heralded the news that Ira S. Hubbard, of Walpole, N. H., had been elected president of the Walpole Society for Bringing to Justice Horse Thieves and Pilferers of Gardens, Fruit Trees and Clothes Lines. For short, the Society is known as W S B J H T P G F T C L. Formed in 1816, the society has brought very few horse thieves to justice in recent years.

### Answers to Barbershop Bafflers

(See page 9)

1. The daring young man on the flying trapeze.
2. Johnny
3. Sam the old accodian man.
4. Francis
5. Uncle Ned
6. Old Man River
7. Matt Casey
8. Tim Nolan
9. The bo'sun of the Walloping Window Blind.
10. Ragtime Cowboy Joe

### WHO'S TOO LOUD?? YOU MEAN, WHAT'S TOO LOUD?



Why the Mid-States Four costumes are too loud. Many members have seen the quartet in these outfits. Left to right, the 1949 Champions are—Bob Mack, tenor; Marly Mendro, lead; Art Gracey, bass; Forrest Haynes, bari.

## REGIONAL PRELIMINARY JUDGES

DISTRICT and LOCATION	CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	M. C.
<b>CENTRAL STATES</b>			
Longmont, Colo.	F. Strong	D. Palmer	B. Simmer
		D. Stephens	R. Means
		H. Sparrow	Reed Walker
<b>DIXIE</b>			
Daytona Beach, Fla.	J. Hill	E. Hubbard	G. Evans
		R. Hafer	M. Barrett
		W. Zinsmaster	J. Dawson
<b>FAR WESTERN</b>			
Long Beach, Cal.	J. Means	J. Nyhan	D. Colville
		C. P. Adams	R. Oertel
		R. Schenck	Art Baker
<b>ILLINOIS</b>			
La Salle, Ill.	F. Thorne	F. Connett	F. Haynes
		M. Mendro	E. V. Perkins
		R. G. Adams	T. Armstrong
<b>INDIANA-KY.</b>			
Indianapolis, Ind.	C. Jones	Pete Lea	T. Haberkorn
		J. Beeler	Leo Ives
		W. Salmon	L. Richardson
<b>JOHNNY APPLESEED</b>			
Canton, Ohio	D. Webster	L. Callinan	G. Douglass
		J. Ward	M. Newman
		C. Schmid	F. Armstrong
<b>LAND O'LAKES</b>			
Sturgeon Bay, Wis.	A. Anderson	H. Beyer	H. Sinclair
		R. Jones	D. Bradford
		J. Hermesen	King Cole
<b>MICHIGAN</b>			
Benton Harbor, Mich.	J. Hill	L. Willson	H. Schubert
		M. Roberts	E. Gaikema
		W. Diekema	H. Tubbs
<b>MID-ATLANTIC</b>			
Seranton, Pa.	W. Holcombe	J. Ewin	L. Sims
		M. Bowsher	J. Briody
		W. Pierce	D. Snyder
<b>NORTHEASTERN</b>			
New Haven, Conn.	L. Mohler	A. Merrill	L. Linchan
		Wm. Hotin	W. Hinckley
		C. Ricketts	J. Emerson
<b>ONTARIO</b>			
London, Ont.	E. Smith	C. Scott	T. Boyd
		J. Jones	H. Podvin
		C. Chapman	A. Moores
<b>PACIFIC N. W.</b>			
Spokane, Wash.	J. Means	M. Olene	B. Loftsgaard
		G. Brown	J. Leabo
		O. B. Falls	C. P. Adams
<b>SENECA LAND</b>			
Binghamton, N. Y.	M. Reagan	R. Lougee	P. DePaolis
		R. Hafer	M. Wilson
		W. Coddington	A. Grabhorn
<b>SOUTHWESTERN</b>			
Lubbock, Texas	D. Palmer	H. Bosworth	H. Lewis
		R. Means	G. Naden
		E. Dick	I. S. Wright

# SHARE THE WEALTH

by Past Int'l Board Member Robert Hockenbrough

*"a means by which we 'share the wealth' of experience gained in quartet, chorus and chapter activities."*



Hockenbrough

"IMAGINATION is the difference between creative and routine living." I found this line in the monthly news letter published by the Royal Bank of Canada. It seems to me, with a slight revision, we have here a good formula for Chapter success. So let's revise.

IMAGINATION is the difference between a successful Chapter and a mediocre one.

All the IDEAS that we come up with in this column are the product of someone's IMAGINATION . . . and while the Chapter members, in general, might be inclined to leave this business of IDEAS up to the Chapter officers, it's the obligation of every member to come forward any time he has an idea which might prove helpful to his Chapter.

For example, the very fine booklet put out by the Lansing, Mich. Chapter is the product of someone's IMAGINATION. This booklet is furnished to every new member of the Lansing Chapter. It answers all the questions new members might have and outlines clearly the methods and policies of running the Chapter. It has a brief opening paragraph on the founding of the Society . . . it explains how the Chapter officers are elected . . . when and where the Chapter meets . . . the amount of the dues and the purposes for which the money is used. In addition, the book is filled with many unique IDEAS which other Chapters might do well to follow. Every member makes a donation at the door at each Chapter meeting he attends. This helps pay rental costs of the meeting room. Photographs of all members are mounted on a big board which is displayed during Chapter meetings. The Chapter conducts a quartet school and before regular Chapter meetings, a "gang-sing" is held which provides opportunities for members to learn old songs. These and many more ideas make up this very excellent Chapter booklet. Copies are available simply by writing this column in care of Int'l Hdqtrs.

ANOTHER GOOD IDEA comes from the Cleveland Chapter where they have issued a mimeographed membership list on which is shown the first name of the wife of each member. Past International President and present Chapter Secretary Jim Knipe, tells me they received the INSPIRATION for this list from the Louisville, Kentucky Chapter. Another thing that Louisville does is to list the birthdays of its members in that month in each issue of their Chapter bulletin.

From the March issue of BEND-GRAMS, the Chapter bulletin of the

WEST BEND-BARTON Chapter edited by Henry F. Renard, we have unearthed the following IDEA. For a very new and unusual Chapter meeting program, Renard says, and we quote: "Fred Weiss, the face-maker, matched his wits and skill against the rest of us. He was well supplied with paper and a drawing pencil. He asked each member present, one at a time to come up and make any kind of design, letter or mark on the paper. Fred then went about drawing a picture of a person out of the member's challenge; some were caricatures, but it was a drawing of a person. The last fellows had time to think and they did. They really made it rough for Fritz, but they didn't stump him. Very interesting and fun too". If you've an artistic member in your Chapter, why not give this idea a try.

The Lima (Beane), Ohio, Chapter came up with a surprisingly good printed program for their 5th annual Night of Harmony. A very informal atmosphere is created with bits of chatter injected between the acts listed on the program.

Another IDEA that the Lima Chapter used was to rope off the first four rows for barbershoppers of other Chapters. All tickets for the entire house were general admission (\$1.50), first come first served. This Chapter feels that anyone wanting to see the show badly enough to drive to Lima deserves a good seat. So, all a visiting member has to do is show a ticket and his membership card for the "best seat in the house". Local members are excluded from this section. This idea strikes me as being good from two angles—really good Inter-Chapter Relations, and an added value for a paid-up membership card.

TALK ABOUT IMAGINATION, Frankie Finnegan, co-editor of the Far Western District monthly bulletin Westunes, comes up with one of the most unusual twists in Inter-Chapter Relations that we've ever heard of. Finnegan was discussing the barbershopping situation in the Hawaiian Islands with their delegate, Bob Gaffney, and found out one very interesting thing. It seems that the three chapters in the Islands act more or less on their own and just can't seem to generate much steam about the doin's on the Mainland. According to Bob, they have a feeling of isolation from the main heart of barbershopping. Finnegan suggested that there might be a way to draw them closer to us here in the States and worked out the following plan.

Here's the setup. Record your meeting!! Start the proceedings off with The Old Songs and your usual opening. Introduce your Prez and all other chapter big shots. Have them say a few words each, give the details of your chapter—when and where it meets, number of members, activities, etc. Follow each of these little speeches with songs from the various quartets and throw in your chorus numbers. Horse around, keep it as informal as possible and in general try to catch the feeling of friendliness and good fellowship which is, of course, part of all good barbershop chapters. You can record it on wire, tape or records—makes no difference, they'll find a way to play it out there.

Get one of your photographer members to take 35 MM color pictures of each speaker, quartet, etc. If you get a chance, get a photo of the outside of your meeting hall and also one of the boys in the kitchen making coffee. After the film is processed, re-run the recording and make up a cue sheet for the slides so they will match up with the voices on the wire or tape. Then package up the whole mess and send it out to your barbershopping buddies in Hawaii. When they run the thing over there, each time a speaker or a quartet comes on they'll be able to see and hear the performers at the same time—just like TV, only clearer. There's no reason why you can't have Inter-Chapter Relations in this manner with any of the most remote chapters in the U. S. and Canada. It's a real good way to find out what and how they sing in Florida, for instance, or up in Toronto, Canada.

LET'S TELL THE WORLD—PFC Stan Busby of the "Q" Suburban Chapter, LaGrange, Illinois now stationed with the U. S. Army at Camp Atterbury, Indiana, called to our attention a situation which most Chapters would do well to correct. On his last visit home, Stan pointed out that during his basic training, there were times when he had an evening's pass and was looking for a place to sing. He claims in most cases it was almost impossible to locate the Chapters in the vicinity of the bases at which he was stationed.

I know that all of our Chapter secretaries are listed once each year in the Harmonizer, but apparently our members in the Services do not always have these particular issues available.

(Continued on next page)



## SHARE THE WEALTH

Continued

Why not then have each of our Chapters follow out either one or all of these various suggestions:

- 1—List your organization with your local Chamber of Commerce.
- 2—Acquaint the officers of all military establishments in your vicinity with your Chapter and invite all military personnel to visit you at any and all times.
- 3—In smaller communities, list your organization with your local hotels. They sometimes keep a file on community organizations and activities for the benefit of the customer.
- 4—Run a small ad at least once a week in your local newspaper.
- 5—Erect a road sign on the highways entering into your town the same as do the Kiwanis, Rotary and other organizations.

And finally, a listing in the phone book featuring the Society initials, the emblem, the name of the Chapter and the name and address and phone number of the Chapter secretary might also prove a big help to wandering barbershoppers.

\* \* \* \*

From the Tonsil Bender, official bulletin of the Lakewood, Ohio Chapter, we find a new angle on Chapter publicity that should pay big dividends in ticket sales when show time rolls around. We quote: "Ted Reese and Howard Hansen have put their executive heads together and come up with a revolutionary idea for our reciprocal trade program. Little gummed stickers, on which is printed the Society emblem, and the words 'Lake-wood Barbershoppers return your patronage'. They were printed free of charge, and we'll each get a supply of them. When we patronize an advertiser, we stick one on his copy of the bill of sale, or put it in the window of his cash register, or just slip it to him with the cash. Nuff sed. No strain on anyone, but the man is really going to notice it, and remember it. If we can dispose of a few hundred of them during the year our program will be cinched for next year. Howard tried it out for the first time yesterday when he bought gas from one of the Sohio stations that bought an ad. The guy saw Howard pasting the sticker to the back of the bill, but couldn't savvy it. As he walked back into the station he read it and turned to wave with a big wide grin".

\* \* \* \*

In a letter from Harold L. Dumler, President of our Russell County, Kansas Chapter, we find a very practical solution to good Chapter publicity which is available to many of our Chapters. The Russell Chapter installed a weekly radio show to promote barbershop singing in this area over Station KAYS. It is a sustaining program, of course, and recordings of many of the Society's topnotch quartets are used on the show along with excerpts from the ten year history

"Keep America Singing". We allow absolutely no advertising of any kind on this show. The broadcast has been well received and has gained a large listening audience.

\* \* \* \*

**QUARTET IDEAS**—"In an attempt to promote more organized quartets in Milwaukee Chapter, we have started a new project—namely a 'Harmony School'. This school is to be conducted by Web Luebtow of 'Hi-Lo' fame, Ed Murray—former baritone with the San Diego Serenaders, Ray Jones—former Central States District President and Des Moines Chorus director, and Vince Mainus—an old time barbershopper with Milwaukee Chapter. Approximately 25 fellows have signed up for the school, and our first meeting is to be held this Friday night. We shall keep you posted of our progress, which we hope will be good enough to get some new foursomes started".

\* \* \* \*

**SOMETHING FOR THE DISTRICTS**—While this is primarily a column for Sharing the Wealth in quartet and chapter activities, we've come across such a very excellent IDEA in regard to running a District convention. It's simply this—a 5-page write-up listing the convention organization . . . the various committees . . . the membership of the committees and the duties and responsibilities of each. This write-up leaves nothing to chance. Every conceivable phase of conducting a convention is covered. It was sent to me by Alec Finkler, General Chairman of the coming Illinois Regional Preliminary Convention to be held in LaSalle, Illinois.

In the meantime, anyone interested in securing a copy of this convention write-up can have same by writing to this column in care of Int'l Hdqtrs. Remember—this is YOUR column.

**PUT YOUR IMAGINATION TO WORK.** Let's have those IDEAS that you've found successful so that we might share them with all the other Chapters in the Society.



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## 1953—1954 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS AND SECRETARIES

### CENTRAL STATES

President — George H. Williams, 1520 Grand, Spencer, Iowa.  
Secretary—C. Herbert Wall, P. O. Box 1416, SSS, Springfield, Mo.

### DIXIE

President—Merton H. Barrett, 1817 Union St. So., St. Petersburg, Fla.  
Secretary—Roy W. Swanborg, 6265 Sunset Drive, South Miami, Fla.

### EVERGREEN

President—O. B. Falls, 13007—6th Ave., N.W., Seattle 77, Wash.  
Secretary—L. H. Stone, P. O. Box 698, Klamath Falls, Ore.

### FAR WESTERN

President—G. Marvin Brower, 1403 Washington Ave., Santa Monica, Cal.  
Secretary—A. E. "Jerry" Graham, 1933 Wardell Ave., Duarte, Cal.

### ILLINOIS

President—Charles Hecking, 3507 No. Wolcott Ave., Chicago 13, Ill.  
Secretary — Charles Snyder, 438 Crescent Blvd., Lombard, Ill.

### INDIANA-KENTUCKY

President—Glen A. Reid, 511 Erie Ave., Logansport, Ind.  
Secretary—John Hammond, 2801 N. Adams, Indianapolis, Ind.

### JOHNNY APPLESEED

President—R. Tracy Evans, 221—13th St., Parkersburg, W. Va.  
Secretary — Stafford Taylor, 66 South 6th St., Columbus 15, Ohio.

### LAND O'LAKES

President—Allan Kapitzke, P. O. Box 631, Oshkosh, Wis.  
Secretary—Harry Purinton, 1422 Memorial Drive, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

### MICHIGAN

President—Clarence L. Jalving, c/o Peoples State Bank, Holland, Mich.  
Secretary — Louis R. Harrington, 2222 National Bank Bldg., Detroit 26, Mich.

### MID-ATLANTIC

President—John Salin, Hotel Wentworth, 59 W. 46th St., New York 19, N. Y.  
Secretary—L. A. Pomcroy, 4300 Chrysler Bldg., New York, N. Y.

### NORTHEASTERN

President—Charles F. Ricketts, P.O. Box 186, Edgewood Sta., Providence 6, R. I.  
Secretary—Edward Stetson, P. O. Box 586, New Bedford, Mass.

### ONTARIO

President—Wm S. (Stan) Hutson, 79 McLaughlin Blvd., Oshawa, Ont.  
Secretary—Fred Boddington, Apt. 24, 168 Berry Road, Toronto 18, Ont.

### SENECA LAND

President—Jerid Stine, 131 Steuben St., Painted Post, N. Y.  
Secretary—Bill Bower, Gurney Rd., Franklin Heights, Franklin, Pa.

### SOUTHWESTERN

President—Jos. E. Lewis, 2912 Gas-ton Ave., Dallas, Tex.  
Secretary—Harold K. Rusk, 203 So. Polk St., Dallas, Tex.

# Serving Our Communities

by Rowland F. Davis, Chairman of Int'l Committee on  
Community Service

## SERVING OUR COMMUNITIES

The Spirit of Giving Is Eternal!

There can be no greater sense of satisfaction to a group of humans than to know that not only are its charitable efforts appreciated but to realize that such efforts, when once activated, can be accelerated in their beneficial effects. Such is the case with the Community Service efforts of our Chapters. During the last year the reports from 416 of our 595 Chapters show that we have contributed about 95,000 man-hours of vocal entertainment and over \$75,000 in *direct* donations to various worthy undertakings. History seems to repeat itself in that the period between January 1st and April 1st seems to be that in which the various Parades, etc., really begin to "pay off"—possibly a little "advance-planning" would permit continuing this high level of service into the other portions of the year.

In this final presentation, within these pages, of your current Committee's summaries we are not going to present an extended tabulation of each District's and Chapter's activities but rather, after a brief recapitulation of specific undertakings, are going to offer some items for consideration in planning this Summer's and next Fall's program in this area of activities.

### Communiters and Especially Class A(\*\*) and Class B(\*)

Central States District—Spencer\*\*, Storm Lake\*, Oskaloosa\*, and Ft. Madison, Ia.; Russell Co.\*, Rice Co.\* Abilene\* and Osborne Co.\*, Kansas; St. Louis, Columbia, Clayton, and Joplin, Missouri; Kearney\*\* and Holdrege, Nebr.; Westington Springs\*\*, So. Dakota.

Special Items — Kearney, Nebr. gave \$250 to Buffalo Co. Polio Fund; Russell Co., Kansas gave many items such as picnic tables, choir robes, Scout Cabin furnishings, etc.; Spencer, Ia. Chorus and quartets very active.

Dixie District — Clearwater\*, Ft. Lauderdale\*, Sarasota\*, Tampa and Miami, Florida; Jackson, Miss.; Charlotte\*\* and Gastonia, N.C.

Special Items — Charlotte, N.C. helped in Variety Show netting \$2,000 for Children's Clinic; Fort Lauderdale, Fla. pledged \$300 for Musical Scholarship for Florida State Univ.; Gas-

tonia, N.C. purchased barber-shop arrangements for High School boys.

Far West District — Phoenix\*\* and Tucson\*, Ariz.; Pasadena\*\*, Huntington Park\*\*, San Gabriel\*, Torrance\*, San Diego\*, Long Beach\*, Inglewood, Arcadia, San Carlos, San Fernando, San Francisco and Santa Monica, Cal.; Reno, Nev.; Salt Lake City\*, Utah.

Special Items — Phoenix Parade netted \$1,500 for Arizona Boys' Ranch, also plans on 5/30 to put on another Blood Show and are "shooting at" 5,000 pints!!! Pasadena put on its fourth annual show for The Rebounders—a handicapped group; Huntington Park is sponsoring a High School quartet; Long Beach is sponsoring a High School Quartet Contest; Salt Lake City's Chorus donated blood.

Illinois District—Fox River Valley\*\*, Pioneer (Chicago)\*\*, Arlington Heights\*, Alton\*, Princeton\*, Farmington\*, Norwood (Chicago)\*, Kankakee\*, Rock Island\*, Chilli-cothe, Champaign-Urbana, Belleville, Chicago (Southtown), Oak Park, Peoria, La Grange, Lombard, Chicago No. 1, Bloomington, Elgin, and Skokie.

Special Items — Champaign-Urbana has met several times with the Univ. of Illinois chorus and quartets; Belleville Chapter has been invited to collaborate with the Philharmonic Society; Oak Park continues its monthly visits to Vaughn Hospital; Pioneer, Norwood, Skokie, Northwest Suburban and Arlington Heights are putting on a "Chord-Puscle" Show for Blood on May 14.

Indiana-Kentucky District—Elkhart\*\*, Michigan City\*, Muncie\*, Connersville\*, Broadripple, Logansport, Gary and Lafayette, Ind.; Louisville\* and Versailles, Ky.

Special Items — Louisville is sponsoring a Univ. of Louisville Quartet Contest; Elkhart turned over \$1,125 to the Foundation for Infantile Paralysis—this makes a total of \$5,000 in four years!!

Johnny Appleseed District—Elyria\*\*, Medina\*\*, Akron\*\*, Steubenville\*, Dayton\*, Niles\*, Buckeye Capital\* (Columbus), Fremont, Lancaster, Carroll Co., Kenton, Bowling Green, Cincinnati, Euclid, Newark, Youngstown, E. Liverpool, Lakewood, Zanesville, N. Cincinnati, Painesville and Port Clinton, Ohio; Washington Co.\*, Newcastle\* and Pittsburgh, Pa.; Oakland, Md.; Charleston\*\*, W. Va.

Special Items — Charleston put on a Parade for the Cerebral



\$1500  
FOR  
BOYS  
RANCH

Phoenix, Ariz. Chapter put on a benefit show for the Arizona Boys Ranch. The Hi C quartet of Phoenix participated. The quartet, LtoR—Bill Kellogg, Maury Mooney, Paul Smith, Toni Bradley. The seated gentleman, left, is the Society's Past Int'l Pres. Charles Merrill, Reno, Nevada, now a Judge of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Palsy Clinic; Elyria is sponsoring a High School Quartet Contest; The "Fun-Damentals" of Dayton helped to start a barbershop group at Wright-Patterson Air Base; Akron put on a show for an Iron Lung patient; the Buckeye Capital Chapter is sponsoring a High School Barbershop Quartet Contest; N. Cincinnati gave \$100 for a Musical Scholarship for a High School student.

**Land-O-Lakes District**—Sturgeon Bay\*, Janesville\*, Mt. Horeb\*, Wisconsin Rapids\*, La Crosse\*, West Bend-Barton\*, Kenosha\*, Kiel\*, Milwaukee\*, Eau Claire\*, Green Bay\*, Neenah-Menasha\*, Racine\*, Beaver Dam\*, Menominee\*, Wausau\*, Portage, Marinette, Manitowoc, Sheboygan, Oshkosh, Calumet and Ashland, Wis.; Brandon\* and Winnipeg, Manitoba; Minneapolis\*, Mankato\*, Chisholm, Virginia, Escanaba and Iron Mountain, Minn. & Mich. (Upper Pen.); Fargo-Moorhead\*, N. Dakota.

**Special Items** — Menominee Chapter is cooperating with the local Lions Club and Chamber of Commerce in public service projects; Minneapolis Chapter is very busy as is its 7 quartets—there's really too much going on to enumerate here; Green Bay is doing a real job at the State Reformatory in getting a chorus and quartet started.

**Michigan District**—Traverse City\*, Milford\*, Charlevoix, Dearborn, Muskegon, Lowell, Manistee Co., Mt. Clemens, Kalamazoo, Ionia, Detroit (N.W.), Pontiac No. 17, Lansing, Detroit and Oakland Co.

**Special Items** — Muskegon again offered its annual Musical Scholarship to a High School student—won by Jerry Olsen of North Muskegon High School; Ludington is planning for a show for Polio; Detroit, in collaboration with Detroit Public Library, is putting on a series of concerts—to establish a real public appreciation of a vocal phase of Americana.

**Mid-Atlantic District**—Boonsboro\*, Md.; York\*, Plainfield\*, Lebanon\*, Mahanoy City\*, Hazleton\*, Allentown-Bethlehem\*, Pottsville\*, Bloomsburg, Lancaster and Reading, Penn.; Plainfield\*, Newark\*, Teaneck\*, Westfield, Paterson and Montclair, New Jersey; Bronx\*, Manhattan\*, Jamaica\* and Nassau Co., New York; Alexandria, Virginia.

**Special Items** — Lancaster is carrying on weekly rehearsals with the Boys' Club of Lancaster and has formed a quartet in the Club; York made over \$3,050 on its Parade which amount was given to the March of Dimes.

**Northeastern District**—Willimantic\*, Housatonic-Derby\*, Naugatuck\*, New Britain\*, Water-

## MUSKEGON CONTEST



Judges auditioning one of the contestants in Muskegon, Michigan Chapter's Young Musicians Contest. The gentleman at the left is Past Int'l Bd Member Bill Diekena, Holland, Mich.

bury\*, Norwich\*, New Haven, Hartford, and Bridgeport, Conn.; Reading\*, Brockton\*, Falmouth\*, Worcester\*, Boston\*, New Bedford\*, Lynn\*, Gardner\*, Marlboro\*, Northampton\*, and Scituate, Mass.; Presque Isle\*, Maine; Schenectady, N.Y.; Providence\*, R.I.; Montpelier\*, Mt. Ascutney, Barre and St. Albans, Vermont; Montreal\*, Quebec.

**Special Items** — New Bedford Chapter is sponsoring a High School Barbershop Quartet Contest in Southeast Massachusetts; the Pick-up 4 Quartet is following this; the proceeds of the Springfield Chapter's "Easter Parade" of March 28th is going to a Memorial for a deceased member—to go to the All-Faiths Chapel Fund of the VA Hospital at Northampton, Mass.; Special mention should be made here about the fine reports which Ray Lewis of the Providence, R.I. and Ed Fuchs of the Schenectady, N.Y. Chapters send in covering the multitudinous activities of the quartets and choruses.

**Ontario District**—Oshawa\*, East York\*, Brantford\*, Windsor\*, Kitchener-Waterloo\*, Yorktown, Leamington and Belleville.

**Special Items**—Oshawa put on a big job on January 30th at St.

## HOSPITAL PARTY



The O-At-Kans, Warsaw, N. Y., have helped to put on a Christmas Party At Mt. Morris (N.Y.) TB Hospital for several years. The quartet (kneeling) L-to-R—Bob Arnold, Francis Finch, John Honker, Dave Grove.

Paul's United Church; The Windsor Chapter is working with a Boys' Group of the Optimists' Club; Brantford Chapter put on a Parade for the Ontario School for the Blind.

**Pacific-Northwest District**—Vancouver\* and N. Vancouver\*, B. C.; Astoria\*, Roseburg\*, Cascade\*, Medford\*, Portland\* and Klamath Falls\*, Oregon; Bremerton\*, Everett\*, Yakima\* and Spokane\*, Wash.; Anchorage, Alaska.

**Special Items**—The quartets of the Cascade and Bremerton Chapters have been especially busy.

**Seneca Land District**—Gowanda\*, Rome\*, Hornell\*, Painted Post\*, Buffalo\*, Binghamton-Johnson City\*, Bath\*, Olean\*, Oneonta, Rochester, East Aurora and Clifton Springs, New York; Warren\*, Saegerstown\*, Albion\*, and Brookville, Penn.

**Special Items**—The Genesee (Rochester) Chapter (Wayne Floor, Sec'y.) has sent a letter to various organizations offering vocal donations for charity purposes; Bath Chapter gave \$100 for a music student to go to a summer Music Camp; Olean worked on an air-conditioning project for Bethesda Hospital's operating room; Saegerstown gave \$350 in prizes for High School and College Quartet Contest; Warren Chapter gave a \$250 TV set to Rouse Hospital (a home for indigent elderly ladies)—also the Chorus sang at the State Mental Hospital in N. Warren.

(Continued on next page)

## DAVID SILVERMAN Music Librarian

WJR, The Good Will Station, Inc., Detroit

Says the following songs are in Public Domain and you may use them anywhere, anytime, and in any way.

Title	Composer
CASEY'S WIFE	Joe Flynn—1889
CAT CAME BACK	Harry S. Miller—189.
CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE	Leybourne-Lee
CHIMES OF TRINITY	M. J. Fitzpatrick—1895
CHIMING BELLS OF LONG AGO	C. S. Shattuck
CLANCY'S TROTTER	William B. Glenroy—1890
CLARA JENKINS' TEA	Horrigan-Braham—1881
COME DOWN, MRS. FLYNN	J. W. Kelly—1890
COMING HOME FROM MEETING	Horrigan-Braham—1884
COMRADES	Felix McGlennan—1887

## Community Service Continued

Southwestern District—Shreveport<sup>La.</sup>, La.; Carlsbad<sup>N.M.</sup>, New Mexico; Enid, Oklahoma; Houston<sup>Tx.</sup>, Wichita Falls<sup>Tx.</sup> and Ft. Worth, Texas.

**Special Items** — Houston gave \$1,500 proceeds from 3 shows to various charities; Wichita Falls gave \$750 proceeds, from its Parade, to the local YWCA; Shreveport made \$1,218 from its first annual parade and gave it to the Polio Foundation!

Before closing this part of the quarterly summary we wish to point out that specific mention has not been made in this issue with regard to the individual quartets. This is not done to deprecate their contributions to Community Service—in fact, exactly the opposite. Throughout all the Chapters' reports there is a consistent thread of outstanding quartet activity in this field. May we here-with salute each of the quartets for a job well done in bringing vocal joy to fellow beings!

In closing this summary there are two or three items which the Chapters may wish to consider most carefully in properly organizing and balancing their Community Services during the ensuing months, viz.:

1. Do not "bunch" your Community Service appearances—i.e., spread them out chronologically so that the strain on the Choruses and Quartets is minimized. This tends also to keep "targets" in front of the boys and adds to their interest.
2. Do not tend to drift into certain classes of charity appearances—for example:

Hours spent singing to:

### Civic Groups

During 7/1/52 - 10/1/52	8,700
During 10/1/52 - 1/1/53	14,700
During 1/1/53 - 4/1/53	13,100

### Religious Groups

During 7/1/52 - 10/1/52	2,000
During 10/1/52 - 1/1/53	2,600
During 1/1/53 - 4/1/53	3,000

### Hospitals

During 7/1/52 - 10/1/52	1,600
During 10/1/52 - 1/1/53	7,500
During 1/1/53 - 4/1/53	1,750

### Miscellaneous

During 7/1/52 - 10/1/52	6,000
During 10/1/52 - 1/1/53	5,000
During 1/1/53 - 4/1/53	3,700

This suggests the thought that while it is excellent for publicity and membership purposes to sing before various civic, fraternal and industrial groups, the joy of bringing our vocal offerings to the afflicted, indigent and other unfortunates should not be allowed to diminish.

(Continued on next page)

## SING FOR VETS

Dearborn, Michigan Chapter puts on a monthly program and bingo party for ambulant patients at Dearborn Vets. Hospital.



## "DIMES" PROFITS

Fargo-Moorhead, North Dakota recently put on a program for the benefit of "The March Of Dimes". \$411.69 was the result. LtoR—Chapter Pres. "Molly" Wehlender, Carl Peterson, Sam Telchmann, Loehle G. S. t. Bernie McCord, Norm Gangnes, Robert Fogal. "March Of Dimes" Chairman.



## HERMANN, MO. DONATES

Each year a portion of Parade profit goes to the local High School. Dr. J. F. Schmidt, at mike, is Chorus Director.



## STREET SINGERS

Five members of the Memphis, Tenn. Dixielanders and Rebellaires took to the streets in February to sing for the March of Dimes—LtoR—Bill Busby, Clyde Wright, Dave LaBonte, George H. Evans, Wally Singleton.



## PITTSBURGH CHILDREN'S PARTY

Pittsburgh, Pa. Chapter annually puts on a party for the youngsters in the Industrial Home for Grippled Children.



## WARREN, PA. DONATES TV SET

Warren, Pa. Chapter donated this \$250 TV set to Rouse Hospital for the benefit of the elderly female patients.





## Community Service Continued

3. And, finally, as has been stated before, do not "over-reach" your capabilities in scheduling Community Service work. Line up your chorus and quartet assets, survey the potential contributions both as regards dates and types of performances required and allocate the effort as equitably as practicable. Remember this job is not a hundred-yard dash—it's a never-ending marathon but it can be made into a "relay" marathon with each participant carrying the baton! A veritable torch of harmony from Mt. Olympus to the plains of Olympia!

Just a final word of advice which has been taken almost verbatim from the Pacific Northwest District's Bulletin:

"High Plane Ethic No. 2—We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the Society and its membership. When we are in public we are almost always conspicuous because of our unquenchable desire to sing. It seems, therefore, that it behooves us to maintain a gentlemanly degree of sobriety and otherwise to conduct ourselves \_\_\_\_\_. Inasmuch as our Society members have a super-abundance of ability to supply good, clean entertainment, there is no necessity for questionable lyrics, stories or acts \_\_\_\_\_.

The conduct of our Society functions should always be maintained on such a high plane that comment cannot help but be favorable."

## YORK, PA.—TWO SHOWS FOR MARCH OF DIMES



Top picture is view of York, Pa. Chapter Chorus, Harry Steinhauser, Director, singing in their two show benefit performance. Bottom picture shows 10 foot replica of \$2193.16 check realized from the two shows. L to R—Ivon T. Kable, Pres., W. L. Myers, V.P., G. F. Porter, V.P., G. B. Wills, Sec'y, H. Eimerbrink, Treas., Joseph Garrety, York March of Dimes Chairman.



Top Left—Brantford, Ontario Chapter annually stages a "Doghouse Night" to which nearby chapters are invited. Shown—L to R—Bob Turnbull, Jack LeMaitre, Harry Wood, Arnold Cowan, Hap Houlding. Bottom Left—Louisville Chapter recently staged the 6th Annual U. of Louisville Barbershop Quartet Contest. Here is the winner in the girls section, having just received a cup from Pat Dunleavy, Chapter Pres. Judges included Int'l Board Member Ed Hackett, Henry Weher, Louis-

ville Sec'y, "Ding" Crosby, Paul Ditto, Phil Cassidy and Frank Shephard, all of Louisville Chapter.

Top right—Westfield, N. J. Chapter's 5th Annual Show was entitled, "Boardwalk in Atlantic City". Chapter's Uncalled Four at the mike—L to R—Schumann, bass; Stalknecht, bar; Daumgartner, lead; Smith, tenor.

Bottom right—Bozette City, Michigan again put on their "Bush League Contest" this year. Eight quartets competed. Picture shows Michigan District Vice President Loton Willson of Bozette City directing finale.



# I SEE BY THE PAPERS

acquaintance with the Society. Wrote Beulah, "... rare is the man who sing none

have been present Saturday night and remained unconvinced that barbershop is a true folk art that is growing as a true folk will (remarks)

## "BARBERSHOP SINGING IMPROVES MEN'S DISPOSITIONS"

So says Kay Murphy in a feature article in the *Miami, Florida Herald*. She bases her claim on a series of interviews with the wives of Miami Chapter members. Here are a few samplings of opinion, "... Mrs. Herbert T. Young doesn't go so far as to say her husband is grouchy; she says, 'Barbershopping is a wonderful outlet for nervous tension for my husband. He may be tired and upset when meeting time rolls around but he comes home relaxed and happy'.

"Barbershopping has paid off in disposition 'dividends' where Mrs. H. B. Heath's husband is concerned. 'It's made him a much pleasanter person. Me too, she adds'.

"At first I couldn't understand why so many men spent so much time singing, Mrs. Gordon Shaw admits. 'Now I'm convinced the world needs more organizations like the barbershoppers'."

## NO OLD MOVIES EITHER

Here's what Si Steinhilber wrote in the *Pittsburgh Press*, "Television could take a page from the code enforced by the Society, etc. 'Just one small suggestive word and the guilty quartet will find itself banned by the Society'.

"They tell a cute story about a clergyman who went to a Barbershop Quartet Show, intending to see that nothing of the kind ever came back to his community. He was provoked because it was so clean and someone had told him to go there to start a campaign against such quartets."

## HARMONY—DISCORD???

Reviewing the Third Annual Chapter Parade, Walter Merkel wrote in the *Evening Gazette, Worcester, Mass.*, "... Harmony? Why as harmony it is so sweet that sometimes it's almost discord. It comes not only from the soul but all the way from the boot heels. The tenors, the baritone, the basso profundo can emit volume and color like a pipe organ, in chords that would stump most organists . . ."

## "... FROM THE HEART ..."

Elmore Bacon, Music Critic of the *Cleveland News*, wrote recently, "As Jimmy Durante has explained, the song must come from the heart. And that's true in most any type of singing, and in most music, too. And when it comes to heart in singing, those warblers known as barbershoppers really have an edge.

"George London, Jan Pearce, Bob Merrill and Dick Tucker are right up in

the top brackets as opera and vocal stars. Besides all of the necessary vocal artistry, they also put heart in their singing. And probably in their early days they joined with their school chums in a spot of barbershopping."

## "... HAVING A LOT OF FUN ..."

A reporter from the *Big Spring, Texas, Herald*, paid a visit to the newly organized chapter there and had this to say, "... They aren't trying to save the world. They aren't trying to press through any startling social reforms. They aren't even beating their gums over the state of the union or the price of putty. They are just singing and having a lot of fun at it. 'Of course in so doing they are making a substantial contribution for the organization or community that sings is a happier and more cooperative one. 'It seems to us that those who like to sing or who like to hear just plain old harmonizing would find it mighty interesting and wholesome to drop in on the SPEBSQSA, Inc.

## "... GOT NO TIME ..."

C. F. Shoop wrote a review of the Pasadena, Cal. Parade in the *Pasadena Star-News*. At the conclusion of his review he wrote, "... It is the verdict of this critic that barbershoppers are performing a tremendous service to the public and the republic. 'Keep America Singing' is their motto and in that they really have something, for men who sing together have little time for wrong doing or for going off into tangents of Communism or other false isms."

## "... AS HUMAN AS IT IS VOCAL ..."

Al Spiers, columnist of the *Michigan City, Ind. News Dispatch*, devoted his entire column to SPEBSQSA recently. Among other things he said, "Even a good democracy has its puddles of snobbery. A day laborer is seldom seen at the country club and the tycoon rarely takes his highball with the

working stiff at the corner tavern. "But all this flies out the window when the SPEB's begin to sing. Their harmony is as human as it is vocal. "Where else would you find an investment broker, an FBI agent, a factory hand and a farmer linked arm-in-arm in sweet harmony and good fellowship ...?"

## "WOE IN THE BARBERSHOP"

Howard Preston, *Cleveland News* columnist, must read J. George O'Brien's column in the *Harmonizer*. On February 27th, he wrote, "You can't call it a war and it hasn't reached 'police action' status, but I report trouble is brewing, not in the Balkans, but in the Society for the Preservation, etc.

"I have been in unofficial conference with a few of the group's elder statesmen but I do not speak for them. I have it, however, from an unimpeachable source that they are displeased with the new trend in barbershop singing and somebody better get back on the beam or there'll be trouble. "What happened is that swing and corn-style harmony have invaded barbershop singing . . . This has brought grumblings from the strict barbershop sweet singers. Barbershop is barbershop. It isn't vaudeville. Some quartets have gone so far as to introduce musical instruments as props in the barbershop singing and this is regarded as treason by the elder statesmen and I think they are right.

"Another item is material. The standard barbershop numbers are being slighted in favor of modern songs (post 1925) which aren't meant to be sung by barbershop quartets.

"The tension mounts and the clouds gather. Any day now there'll be thunder and lightning over the old barber shop."

oOo

E. F. Schmidt Company, Milwaukee printing concern, distributes a house organ called "Reflections". Featured article in the February issue was about SPEBSQSA.

## SANG IN DISTRICT CONTEST

This quartet of Air Force men represented the Seattle Chapter in the District Contest last fall. Stationed at Fairchild A. F. Base, the group appeared as the "Wot Four". Left — George Witbeck, tenor; Don John, lead; Ed Starr, bar; Chuck Straley, bass.





# The Way I See It

by Deac Martin

"I disagree with what you say,  
but I shall defend to the death  
your right to say it."

Attributed to Voltaire, 1694-1778

If any one read this column in March, he saw that I picked upon Buckeye Chapter, Columbus, Ohio, as a successful big city chapter whose methods might well be applied elsewhere. Since then, I've seen by the *Central States Serenade*, official publication of that district (Herb Wall, editor) something of the methods which have made Spencer, Iowa (population 8,000) "probably the red-hottest barbershop town in the United States" it says in the *Serenade*. Dissenters may challenge Wall, P. O. Box 1416, S.S.S., Springfield, Mo.

"The Spencer chapter should be an inspiration to those chapters located in comparatively small towns" wrote Herb, and he cites reasons, some of which follow in the order in which they were presented:

The six-year-old Spencer chapter has held six parades, always to a full house (capacity not given), while for the past three years it has been forced to put on two shows to take care of attendance. Gross receipts of the '52 show were more than \$5,000 topping '51 by a few dollars.

They attribute success importantly to "being careful to select for membership only high-type barbershoppers" and, among other factors "excellent assistance from the International office". The chapter is operated and directed entirely by an executive committee, after discussion of important matters with members.

Members of the 66 man chorus act as "No. 1 ambassadors of goodwill for the city." Directed by a paid director, the chorus is in constant demand. "They are just as much at home in the church choir loft as they are at their parades."

Spencer chapter is prepared to put on a minimum two-hour show with chorus and quartets for a \$100 minimum guarantee or 50% of the gate. Programs are "on a high musical level". The chorus was selected to represent the district at the June '53 International contest.

Only when one has seen the Society itself grasping at straws to keep its infantile head above water, can one appreciate fully the almost incredible changes that have come about in its status, music, economics, and reputation, with Spencer as an example of outstanding progress.

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From the beginning of the Society, one dire need has been for more tenors. Yet I see no mention in the agenda for Detroit in June which in-

dicates that our august Board or any committee will discuss or report upon the tenor dearth and ways and means to alleviate it.

There are three principal phases involved:

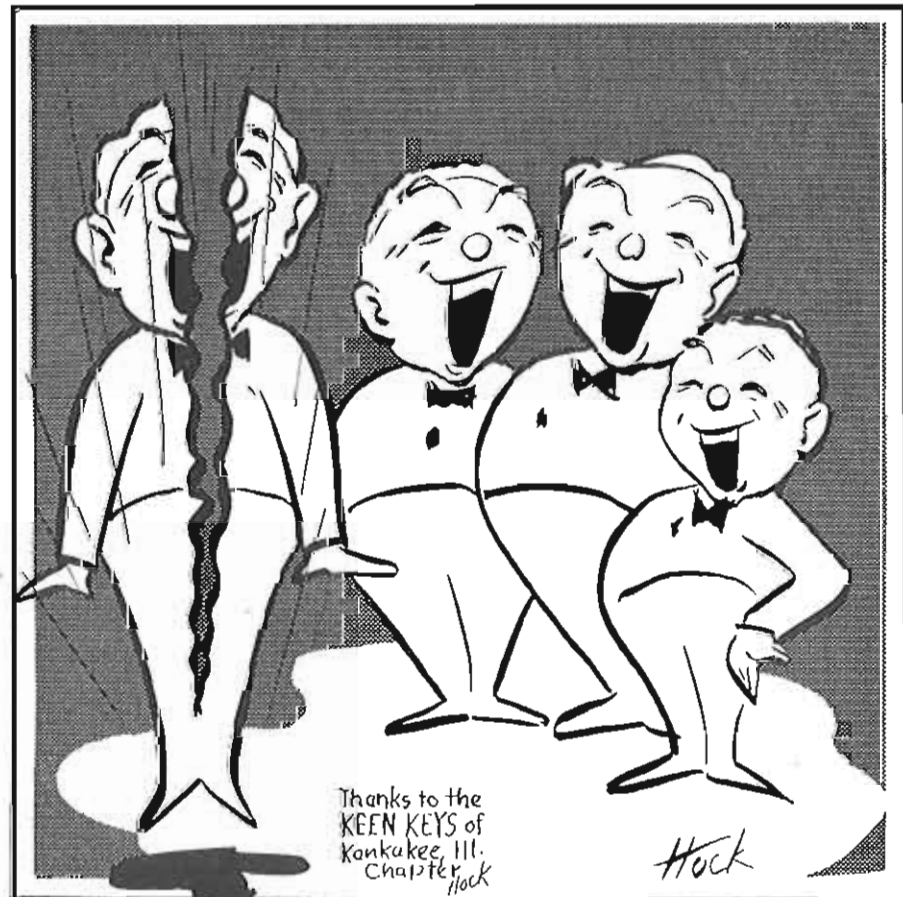
1. The shortage itself.
2. The handling of those few touchy and temperamental though indispensable canaries which the typical chapter now has.
3. A system is needed—
  - a. To produce more tenors to the square mile.
  - b. To distribute equally the existing specimens extant in the chapters.

This calls for a long range program which stretches all the way from the pre-natal to final distribution and

housing, with medical and social sciences and economics included along the way.

It is a subject on which Owen Cash and I feel deeply, have grappled long, and exchanged much talk and considerable correspondence over some 14 years, always with faith in the future. May that faith be justified at Detroit in June.

In a membership as large as ours there must be a Brain, maybe several of them, able to come up with the solution. Without Cash's permission or that of the Board I hereby appoint O. C. and this humble scribe as a committee of two, eager and willing to listen to, inspect, peruse, consider, weigh, evaluate, and pass on to the Board any plan for multiplying the existing supply by means legal or illegal. Look for your committee in the Woodshed, and bring a tenor, alive.



Thanks to the  
KEEN KEYS of  
Kankakee, Ill.  
Chapter

WRIGHT ALWAYS CRACKS ON THE HIGH ONES!





DETROITER  
Kon White  
Managing Director



DETROIT-LELAND  
Bill Chalmers  
General Manager



FORT SHELBY  
(Pick Hotels Corp.)  
Jerry Moore  
General Manager



SHERATON-CADILLAC  
(Shoraton Hotels)  
Neal Lang  
General Manager



THE STATLER  
(Hotels Statler)  
Don Mumford  
General Manager

# The SPEBSQSA Detroit Convention Committee

suggests that members examine this schedule of events that are on the agenda for Detroit in June and determine in advance which ones they wish to attend. Unfortunately, there are many conflicts, but that can't be avoided with such a crowded schedule.

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## 15th ANNUAL CONVENTION AND CONTEST JUNE 10 TO 14

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WEDNESDAY—JUNE 10th-----Int'l Committees meet (forenoon and afternoon).  
*(No compulsion here)* 1952-53 Int'l Board meets (evening).

THURSDAY—JUNE 11th-----House of Delegates meets (forenoon).  
1953-54 Board meets (afternoon).  
Detroit Area Barbershoppers' Luncheon Rendezvous, 12:15 P. M., Hotel Detroit—All Barbershoppers Welcome (Stag).  
*(Still no compulsion—but you'll miss a lot)* Luncheon for ladies (noon).  
District Secretaries and District Publication Editors meet (afternoon).  
District Officers meet (evening).  
Chorus Directors meet (evening).  
Detroit Contest Judges meet (evening).

FRIDAY—JUNE 12th-----Semi-Finals No. 1 in the forenoon.  
*(Fourth of July and Christmas combined)* Semi-Finals No. 2 in the afternoon.  
Finals in the evening.

SATURDAY—JUNE 13th-----Chorus Contest (forenoon).  
Decrepits Annual Meeting and Luncheon (noon).  
Decrep-Pets Luncheon (noon).  
Classes for Judge Candidates (afternoon).  
Conference of Chapter Officers (afternoon).  
*(If you miss this day, you might as well give up)* School for MC's and Community Song Leaders (afternoon).  
Jamboree (afternoon).  
Barbershop Craft Committee (afternoon).  
Medalist Contest (evening).

SUNDAY—JUNE 14th-----Breakfast and Morning Glow—10:00 A.M.  
*(Gotta wait a WHOLE year ? ? )*

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The 4400 people who will attend the 1953 Convention will be housed in the five fine hotels pictured here.