

See Story Page 2

THE

HARMONIZER

The Suntones & friends are singing your song!

A TOUCH OF OLD

Old Songs Medley
Sweet Adeline
Let Me Call You
Sweetheart
Bicycle Built For Two,
Annie Rooney, The
Band Played On
Carolina Moon
'Till We Meet Again
Wedding Bells,
Heart of My Heart,
Story of a Rose
Meet Me Tonight
In Dreamland
My Gal Sal
Harrigan, Mary's
a Grand Old Name
Moon Medley

KEEP AMERICA SINGING

Star Spangled Banner
This Is My Country
God Bless America
Cohan Medley
America The Beautiful
Giva Me Your Tired
Your Poor
WWI Medley
My Buddy
My Country 'tis of Thee
Service Medley
Battle Hymn of the
Republic

SOMEWHERE

Bye, Bye, Blues
They Didn't Believe Me
Tennessee Waltz
No, No, Nora
My Buddy
I'm Going Back
to Carolina
A Little Street Where
Old Friends Meet
Just A Bundle of
Old Love Letters
West Side Story

WATCH WHAT HAPPENS

Watch What Happens
By The Time I Get To Phoenix
Jean
Lollipops And Roses
If I Fell
Their Hearts Were Full
Of Spring
Hospitality
Lida Rose
Jerome Kern Medley
Finian's Rainbow Medley
Old Folks
Sheik of Araby

AFTERGLOW

Hey, Look Me Over
Hello, Dolly
All The Things You Are
River of No Return
After You've Gone
Pass Me By
Where Or When
No New Tunes On This
Old Piano
New Gang On The Corner
Cohan Medley
If You Can't Tell The World
She's A Good Little Girl
South

A TOUCH OF GOLD

The Chord Busters March
I Had The Craziest Dream
Lazy Bones
Mother Machree
I'm Confessin' That I Love You
Oh, Teacher
That Old Black Magic
The Little Boy That
Santa Claus Forgot
Doin' The Raccoon
Mighty Lak A Rose
For All We Know
America



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A Touch of Gold			

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DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARBERSHOP QUARTET HARMONY
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future conventions

INTERNATIONAL		MID-WINTER	
1973 Portland, Ore.	July 9-14		
1974 Kansas City, Mo.	July 1-6	1974 Phoenix, Ariz.	Jan. 25-26
1975 Indianapolis, Ind.	June 24-29	1975 Honolulu, HI.	Jan. 31-Feb. 1
1976 San Francisco, Calif.	July 5-10	1976 Washington, D.C.	Jan. 30-31

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BARBERSHOPP



Ralph Houghton (left), President-elect of Wisconsin MENC, and Society Director of Music Education and Services Bob Johnson handled the details of the Society's participation in MENC's North Central Division Convention in Milwaukee, Wis. March 29-April 1, 1973.

You don't recognize the initials M. E. N. C.? You surely should, because the *Music Educators' National Conference* (MENC) has become very important to the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., especially during the past two years, when MENC has provided the Society with its only means of developing the Young Men in Harmony program.

We have to know just a bit more about MENC to fully understand how important it is that we continue our good relations with this organization. The MENC is divided into six regional divisions and each has a convention every odd calendar year. The Society has been represented at five of the six conventions this year. Society Director of Music Education and Services Bob Johnson, a 33-year music educator himself, has conducted a workshop in all five divisions and two in some divisions. We chose to report on his activities at a meeting of the North Central Division (includes ten states — Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin) in Milwaukee (March 29-April 1, 1973) because this meeting contained some unique features and was reasonably near.

QUARTETS ASKED TO ENTERTAIN

It was Ralph Houghton, President-elect of Wisconsin MENC and Director of Music, Kenosha, Wis., who had the bright idea to include barbershop quartet entertainment on the opening night of the convention, ordinarily a get-acquainted session for the teachers. Milwaukee, living up to its reputation as a city with "*gemutlichkeit*," unfolded its hospitality by using its three major breweries (Miller, Pabst, Schlitz) as hospitality houses. Each brewery had two evening visiting periods for the teachers (from 7 to 8:15 and 8:30 to 9:45) during which, in addition to receiving an ample supply of refreshments, we were to provide the singing services of three quartets.

The 1971 international champion "Gentlemen's Agreement," and the 1972 finalist "Soundtracks" and "Vagabonds" agreed to appear on Thursday night at these informal open-house gatherings. You can imagine the problems the quartets encountered getting to Milwaukee when you consider this was a week

night. Work schedules had to be jockeyed and transportation arranged. Fortunately, all three quartets arrived without incident and literally destroyed the music-teacher audiences. Standing ovations became the rule rather than the exception; quartets scheduled to sing 20-minute programs were all held well beyond the scheduled times. That alone was reward enough for the quartets, but in addition they were turned on by the reception of the teachers. "What a thrill it was to perform before music teachers, something we've wanted to do all our lives." . . . "What an audience . . . you could hear a pin drop, and they all seemed so appreciative." . . . "Probably the most critical ears we've ever sung for . . . a great experience." These were typical of the remarks made by the quartet men.

Following the brewery appearances, where they had sung for over 600 teachers, the quartets met in the headquarters hotel and presented a mini-show in the lobby. Then they moved on to the Wisconsin hospitality room, where they continued to sing for another gathering of visiting teachers.

TEACHERS APPRECIATIVE

The joy and the enthusiasm displayed by the performing foursomes was equalled by the teachers. Never had they had an opportunity to hear so much outstanding barbershop harmony. All three quartets mixed with the teachers and answered many questions concerning the Society. These men proved to be excellent ambassadors of harmony for our organization. It was indeed a great evening and a proud moment for the Society.

But that wasn't all — as a matter of fact it was just the beginning. On Saturday, 60 men from the Racine, Wis. Chapter participated in a performance-workshop for over a hundred teachers. The Racine "Dairy Statesmen" (will be representing the Land O'Lakes District in Portland), under the direction of Dr. James Curry, gave an outstanding performance which included their contest songs. They also served as a demonstration group for Bob Johnson's lecture on vocal techniques for the adult amateur singer. They, too, received a standing ovation from the music educators.

Then on Sunday, Johnson presented the Young Men in

ING for M.E.N.C.

Harmony program. For this demonstration he called on a workshop group of high school boys from Brown Deer (a Milwaukee suburb) High School. Their director, Charles Zellmer, had recruited the boys from the school's halls and had spent six 20-minute practice sessions with them. He now has a barbershop chorus and has been invited to perform at the Wisconsin State MENC Convention in the fall. (Each state has its own MENC organization. In addition to the five divisional MENC meetings, the Society has been represented by Bob Johnson at nearly 40 state MENC conventions.)

BARBERSHOP BASICS TAUGHT

At each of the workshops the teachers were invited to participate in the singing. It's exciting to hear them sing our chords and "too-too-too" through the melody. They seemed to enjoy learning that barbershop harmony is "three parts harmonizing with the melody" (or lead part).

A comment on barbershop activities in conjunction with this divisional convention came from Richard Wolf, President of Wisconsin MENC: "Between your clinics and their (the three quartets) singing, the Barbershoppers left a very positive musical mark on all who attended any of the song fests. I must say that personally it's been a long time since I've heard music that touched me the way that did." This is the kind of positive reaction we are experiencing at all the workshops. Bob Johnson said: "Teachers are more open-minded today than ever before and are constantly seeking ways to expand their programs to include more students. Many music educators, like Kenosha's Ralph Houghton, encourage their people to be ever alert to new ideas and programs."

OTHER SESSIONS REWARDING

Probably the largest single session the Society has taken part in was the convention of the American Choral Directors Association in Kansas City early in March. There a thousand vocal directors sang and participated in a demonstration on how to interpret barbershop music. In addition to a teachers' chorus, a group of 26 boys from two high schools (Washington and Wyandotte - Kansas City, Kans.) performed. These boys had been trained by Barbershopper/Arranger Greg Lyne, who teaches at one of the schools. They provided new musical thrills for everyone.

In Minnesota we had 70 boys from Sibley High School in St. Paul who, under the direction of their teacher, Gar Lockrum, gave a 30-minute concert before our workshop session. It was a pleasure to see the boys enjoying this singing experience.

Last week a workshop was presented at the Mid-East Instrumental Music Conference in Pittsburgh. Here the "Golden Touch" quartet helped with the presentation. This was indeed a "first" for the Society - and a "first" for the instrumental teachers as well. It was the first time in their 14-year history they invited a vocal clinician to take part in their convention. Even they were turned on by our barbershop harmony demonstrations. Many of them, choir directors as well as

instrumentalists, welcomed the chance to learn about barbershop singing.

In Boston, at the Eastern Division meeting of MENC, we presented the "Sounds of Concord" Chorus (Northeastern representatives to Portland) and the medalist "Boston Common" quartet in concert. This was the first time that Barbershoppers have ever appeared in a concert presentation before a MENC convention.

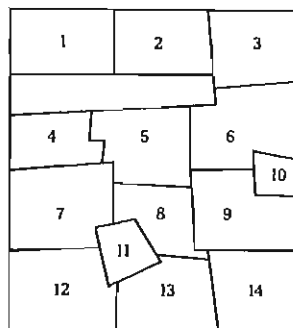
BOYS' CHORUS AT MOST SESSIONS

In most of the sessions presented by the Society a group of high school boys has been called upon to work with Johnson. These boys are taught the notes and words to a song ahead of time and then serve as "guinea pigs" for the workshops. The teachers of these boys have been most cooperative and in every case have said they enjoyed the opportunity to be part of the experiment. Many expressed intentions to continue using barbershop music in their programs.

Much work has been done during the past two years to establish the potential of barbershop music as a high school activity. Yet, we have only scratched the surface. Much more must be done to spread the word throughout North America. Only a small percentage of teachers can attend our sessions at MENC conventions. True, the word is getting out that we have a product that will help the schools' music program. Teachers who use barbershop music will be helping boys as well as themselves. In years to come our Society should ultimately benefit. It's a long road, however.

In any case, it's nice to be recognized by music educators. It's good to know that the international office staff of MENC, under the direction of Dr. Charles Gary, has contributed so much to making this schedule of presentations possible. If these teachers should ever come to you for help, do not hesitate to do everything and anything you can for them. You just don't know but what your contribution may be a sound investment in the Young Men in Harmony Program - the "Sound of the Future."

COVER PICTURE IDENTIFICATION



1. Racine, Wis. "Dairy Statesmen" get standing ovation.
2. Johnson directs Brown Deer High boys.
3. The "Vagabonds."
4. A teacher sings along.
5. The "Soundtracks."
6. Johnson explains barbershop harmony.
7. "Dairy Statesmen" in sight-reading demonstration.
8. Brown Deer boys ready to perform.
9. "Dairy Statesmen" performance.
10. "Soundtracks" baritone Doug Miller.
11. An attentive teacher.
12. Johnson leads teachers in song.
13. Brown Deer's "Young Men in Harmony."
14. 1971 Int'l Champion "Gentlemen's Agreement."

Exciting Special Events at Portland Convention

Registrations for the Society's 35th annual convention in Portland continue to roll in at the International Office. Latest reports have registrations 1,000 ahead of last year at the same time for Atlanta. If the trend continues, over 6,000 Barbershoppers and families will attend. Why the big rush to Portland? After all it's probably the most distant geographic convention site (distant, that is, from the main barbershop population) ever



PORTLAND'S MEMORIAL COLISEUM—Dedicated in 1960, this building has already gained special recognition for Portland as an outstanding convention center. The site of our singing contests, the coliseum has parking facilities for 2,000 cars and is about five minutes from downtown.

for an international convention. Well, there appear to be two reasons.

First of all, it's the first annual international convention ever held in the Evergreen District, and Barbershoppers there are really turning out in strength.

Secondly, it would appear that most Barbershoppers have never visited the great Pacific Northwest, and they're going to combine vacation with convention in 1973.

Because of the many Barbershoppers and their families who've never been in Oregon before, the Portland convention committee has arranged a number of interesting tours and events to show off what is, without question, some of the most beautiful and interesting country on the continent.

Monday, for instance, there's going to be a big salmon-bake in a lovely park not too far from the city. If you've never tasted fresh Pacific salmon you just haven't lived—and the way the Oregonians prepare it is something else again. So plan to stuff yourself with one of the world's great delicacies. Nor will entertainment be forgotten at the salmon-bake. A Sioux Indian family will be on hand to perform some of their native dances and songs.

Tuesday, visitors will have an opportunity to see Mt. Hood, Portland's "year-round" mountain. This 11,000-foot peak is the highest in the state of Oregon and majestically overlooks the city and the surrounding country. For the sports enthusiasts it's truly a year 'round mountain because residents have been known to ski down its glacier even in July, and its craggy peak is always a challenge for mountain climbers. The take-off point for the peak is Timberline Lodge, a landmark in itself. Constructed during the WPA period of the Roosevelt administration, its mammoth timbers are a sight to behold. You'll have a chance to

view Mt. Hood from Timberline Lodge, as well as take a ski-lift up to the lodge if you so desire.

Wednesday sees still another of nature's wonders exposed to Barbershoppers and their families. This time it's a trip down the magnificent Columbia River Gorge. Indescribable vistas stagger the imagination as the great river and its valley unfold. You'll see many man made wonders, too, such as Bonneville dam and the fascinating fish ladders. It's a trip you'll not soon forget.

Needless to say, the whole family will enjoy the tours, but special events have been arranged for the teens (and pre-teens) while Mother and Dad are attending contest sessions. There'll be the usual Barbarteens Hospitality Room, of course (right off the pool area this year), but in addition special tours have been arranged which should provide the youngsters with many happy hours. For instance, on Thursday the teens will have the opportunity of boarding a bus to visit the Oregon coast. You may have seen the sea before, but never against the background of the Oregon coast. It's really something.

Then on Friday a special day has been arranged at Camp Menucha, a short drive from Portland. There, amid the giant evergreens, you'll find lots to do: swimming, tennis, hiking, ping pong, horseshoes, volley ball and just about any other sport you can think of. A special barbeque has been set up, after which it's back to the hotel for the big dance.

What's been mentioned is just a sampling of things to do in Portland and the surrounding area. Many other tours can be arranged through the regular tour desk at the Portland Hilton, and members of the Portland Hospitality Committee will have a desk open throughout the convention in the registration area to give you helpful tips on what to see and how to get there. Greater Portland Barbershoppers are very proud of their state and want to do everything possible to make your visit to the Pacific Northwest a most memorable one.

EIGHT CHAMPS TO BE IN PORTLAND

Big news for quartet fans in Portland! This year there will be two shows featuring past international champions, rather than one. So you'll be able to see all international champs in action—all, that is, but the *Oriole Four* who just can't make the convention due to business commitments.

The first show, "Parade of Champions" will be held Wednesday night at the Coliseum and will feature the *Four Statesmen*, *Schmitt Brothers*, *Mark IV*, *Golden Staters* and the *Suntones*. For this show there will be all reserved seats and they can be ordered through the International Office at \$4.

The second show, to be held on Friday afternoon at 1:30, will feature the *Evans Quartet*, *Western Continentals* and *Gentlemen's Agreement*. Replacing the *Oriole Four* will be a quartet from the San Francisco area which has been tearing them up on the Far Western quartet circuit: *Kidder and Sons*. The quartet comprises long-time Barbershopper Don Kidder and his three sons. This show, "Barbershop Showcase," will be held in the ballroom of the Hilton hotel. Tickets are \$4 and seating is non-reserved.

PORTLAND CONVENTION FUNCTION SCHEDULE (All times are Pacific Daylight)

MONDAY, JULY 9

Registration Opens - Noon - Galleria
Ladies Hospitality Opens - Noon - East and West Parlors
Salmon Bake - Busses leave Hilton at 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 10

Executive Committee Meeting - 9 a.m. - Studio Suite
District Presidents' Conference - 9 a.m. - Council
Mount Hood Tour - Busses leave Hilton at 10:30 a.m.
Kansas City Registration - Noon - Galleria
Harmony Foundation Meeting - 2 p.m. - Directors Suite
President's Ball - 9:30 p.m. - Ballroom A

WEDNESDAY, JULY 11

International Board Meeting - 9 a.m. - Ballroom B
Barbarteens Opens - 10 a.m. - Pavilion
Columbia River Gorge Tour - Busses leave Hilton at 12:30 p.m.
Barbarteens Zoo Trip - Busses leave hotel at 1 p.m.
Barbarteens Get Acquainted Pool Party - 7:30 p.m. - Pavilion
Parade of International Champions - 8 p.m. - Coliseum
Chorditorium - 11 p.m. - Ballrooms A and B

THURSDAY, JULY 12

Contest and Judging School - 8:30 a.m. - Ballroom B
Barbarteens Trip to Oregon Coast - Busses leave Hilton at 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Luncheon - River Queen - Busses leave Hilton at 10:30 a.m.
Judges Luncheon - Ballroom A - 11 a.m.
Quartet Quarter Final No. 1 - 1 p.m. - Coliseum

Quartet Quarter Final No. 2 - 8 p.m. - Coliseum
Quartet Jamboree - 11:30 p.m. - Ballrooms A and B

FRIDAY, JULY 13

Golf Tournament - Tee off times between 8 a.m. and noon -
Delta Park Golf Course
District Associate C&J Meeting - 8:15 p.m. - Directors
PROBE - 8:15 a.m. - Directors
Ladies Tour of Portland - Busses leave Hilton at 9 a.m.
Barbarteens Picnic - Camp Menucha - Busses leave Hilton at 10:30 a.m.
Decrepits Meeting - 10 a.m. - Council
Decrepits Brunch - 11 a.m. - Forum
Messed Sing - Noon - In front of Georgia Pacific Building
Barbershop Showcase - 1:30 p.m. - Ballrooms A and B
AICC Meeting - Following Barbershop Showcase in Ballrooms A and B
Barbarteens Dance - 8 p.m. - Pavilion
Quartet Semi Finals - 8 p.m. - Coliseum
Quartet Jamboree - 11:30 p.m. - Ballrooms A and B

SATURDAY, JULY 14

Logopedics Breakfast - 9:30 a.m. - Ballroom B
Chorus Contest - 1 p.m. - Coliseum
Quartet Finals - 8 p.m. - Coliseum
Barbarteens Afterglow - 11:30 p.m. - Pavilion
Chorditorium - 11:30 p.m. - Ballrooms A and B

SUNDAY, JULY 15

Farewell Coffee - 9 a.m. - Galleria

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION ORDER BLANK

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International Office, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Box 575, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is check for \$ _____ for which please issue:
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Annual Convention and International Contests at Portland,
Oregon on July 9-14, 1973. I understand that the registration fee
includes admission to official events; a reserved seat at Quarter-
Finals No. 1 and 2, the Semi-Finals, the Chorus Contest and the
Finals Contest; a registration badge and a souvenir program. I
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SHARE



the Wealth

By Ken McKee
Send your ideas and pictures to:
5635 Yale Blvd.,
Dallas, Tex. 75206

THE WANDERING MINSTRELS is the name of a group of Miami Barbershoppers and their wives which goes to dinner once a month. Each month a different restaurant is visited . . . Joe Sherman, the Editor of the *Miami Tropic Notes*, doesn't say how much weight the average member has gained. In any case, this idea leads us to a new season of activity for Barbershoppers. "Summertime, and the livin' is easy . . ." is much more than a song; it's a time to have fun with fellow Barbershoppers in your area. How about an area picnic, mystery bus ride, inter-chapter bowling league, beach parties, sightseeing trips, theatre parties, golf outings. Why not keep your chapter rolling this summer with family "swim-nics" and "sing-nics," fish fries (I can still remember one my chapter had 15 years ago, don't know why we never had another) or a pig roast, a singing box lunch social (with lunches auctioned off to the highest bidder and the money going to Logopedics) . . . join neighboring chapters in a group attendance at a ball game (better yet, have your own ball game between chapters). If you are not doing some of these things get after your president, or better yet, YOU get it going. What other ideas do you have? We'd like to know.

DO YOUR EARS PERK UP WHEN you hear barbershop music on radio? In a future issue we will publish the stations, day and time that our music is played. Send us the information about your station. To get things rolling: WSUN St. Petersburg, Fla. 620 on the dial . . . 6 am to 10 am one can hear barbershop at its best . . . this station is heard from Key West to Panama City . . . thanks to the Sunshine District "Sa-tell-it-e" for this information, Harold Corbett and Charlie Peisner, Co-Editors.

THERE'S A CLIQUE IN OUR "club." Word has been received by the governing board of our "club" that it is run by a clique. Upon investigation we find that this is true! Furthermore, we find the clique is composed of faithful members who are present at every meeting, who accept appointments to committees, who give willingly of their time and who sincerely believe that the more one puts into his "club" the more one gets out of it.

There is no question that the enthusiasm, responsibility and efforts of these members are of inestimable value to your "club." We therefore suggest you join this clique!

THE FOLLOWING CITIES, in addition to their regular barbershop meeting, have luncheon groups, so reports Phil Schwimmer who is the self-appointed international chairman of these groups; he is also the chairman of the Chicago Luncheon Group which meets monthly. Other cities are New York, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Dallas, Bloomfield, N.J., St. Petersburg and Clearwater, Fla. Have we missed any?

SHARE THE WEALTH IS SOMETHING that quartets have been doing for as long as our Society has been in existence. At

the recent mid-winter convention our current champions, the "Golden Staters," paid tribute to the "Stage Door Four"



(Southwestern District Champions, 1970) by publicly thanking the quartet on stage for a song arrangement. To top it off the champs performed in the "Stage Door Four's" room (see photo).

IN THE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE of the "Etobicoke" (Etobicoke, Ont. bulletin) Editor Johnny Cairns reports that the 1967 International Champion "Four Statesmen" are visiting all the English chapters at their own expense; the "Four Naturals" quartet from St. John, N.B. made the trip, too. This will certainly be a great shot in the arm for the British clubs and is one more example of quartets "sharing the wealth" this time on an international scale.

NEW MEMBERS GET ACQUAINTED FAST . . . if you make them keepers of the name badges. After two or three weeks of handing out and taking back members' identification badges they will soon know every member by name . . . and the old timers will have the same opportunity to get to know all the new men. Give it a try!

THE SOCIETY EMBLEM HAS AN INTERESTING HISTORY . . . Bob Trevis of the LaCrosse (Wis.) Chapter got information regarding our Society emblem from our International Office and was kind enough to share it with readers of his chapter bulletin. Though everyone pretty much takes our emblem for granted, it does have a history. The emblem is actually a composite, using the ideas of two Barbershoppers. In the spring of 1942, Charles Cimerro, of the Atlanta Chapter, suggested a design to HARMONIZER Art Editor Dick Sturgis based on a barber pole with a lyre in the background and the Society's initials in a ribbon across both. (The cost was too high

so only one was made up; that one is in the possession of Roy Dean, member of the St. Petersburg, Fla. Chapter. Dick willed it to Roy!) In 1943, Joe Wolff, then a Pioneer District international board member, submitted a design showing a barber pole superimposed on a lyre all contained in a circle. Sturgis then combined both ideas and our present emblem was the result.

TRAVELING MEN . . . HERE'S GOOD NEWS! If you have to spend some lonely nights on the road, we suggest you obtain your copy of the Society's Directory of Chapters. It contains complete listings of the place and night of chapter meetings. It also lists the chapter secretary. It's a good idea to give him a call before you go to the meeting as they might have a sing-out, or they could have moved to a new location. It's free! Write the International Office, (SPEBSQSA, 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, Wis. 53141).

A HANDICAP QUARTET CONTEST can be great fun. Some of the names that quartets think of in such a contest can fracture you, too. Can you imagine harmonizing while counting peas on a table, while batting a rubber ball on an elastic string, eating an apple, crackers or marshmallows, or balancing a stack of books on your head or with cotton stuffed in your ears? Or, how about singing while shaving a balloon, or being shaved (by a bladeless razor, of course, but with plenty of lather)? We're certain you can add equally hilarious handicaps. Let "Share the Wealth" know and we'll let the rest of the Society learn from you. Incidentally, Mister Barbershopper, if you like ideas like these, you'll like reading the chapter program vice president's manual; there are 52 different programs in that manual (one for every week in the year). They have all been used and all of them work . . . why not give them a try?

SPEAKING OF PROGRAMS, have you tried the Barberpole Cat Program in your chapter? It's a great program launched by Past International President Ralph Ribble in 1971. Its purpose is to get as many Barbershoppers involved in quartet activity and to provide songs we all can sing any time we get together. The program has been expanded and there are now 13 songs in the repertoire (your chapter quartet activity chairman has the list). If you have sung all 13 songs in a quartet you are entitled to a Barberpole Cat tie tac. Is there a chapter in the Society where every member has already earned his Barberpole Cat tie tac? If not, what chapter will be first?

THE SHOW CORNER SPOT LIGHTS THE AFTERGLOW: Years ago the idea of an afterglow was to give those who participated in the show a place to get together, relax, woodshed a few and hear the quartets which sang on the show. Today many chapters have blown this concept up to almost a formal show. Perhaps the following might help to make your afterglow more pleasurable:

- + DO make plans well in advance and have adequate manpower to handle all details.
- + DO explain to the hotel, restaurant or club that an afterglow is not the same as a cocktail party or regular breakfast. How many times have you listened to dishes being removed while your guest quartet performed?
- + DO check the lighting, sound, table arrangement, food service, beverage service; also consider the use of paper cups and plates (helps cut down on the noise).
- + DO let your quartets know before the afterglow starts just when they will sing and for how long.
- + DO reserve seats for all quartets appearing on your show.
- DON'T use the afterglow for long speeches, sick jokes and/or a

rehash of the show. The people come to hear quartets sing! -DON'T keep your headliners 'til last. Be considerate; they may have been on the road for hours to make the trip to your town. - DON'T try to make money by filling the hall with non-Barbershoppers. Aim to break even or just a bit better.

FINALLY — An afterglow is a time to have fun and relax.

WANTED: Your active participation in "Share the Wealth!" This department is especially interested in your chapter show programs: the where and how of show operation, your theme, staging, backdrops (where you got them or how you made them), how your show was publicized and the success of your publicity. Each issue of "Share the Wealth" will have a show corner, space permitting.

FOLLOWING IS AN ENVELOPE which was mailed with a show flyer to those on our show mailing list. Why not ask for the order? That is a question super ticket salesman Ray Lansberry and Vern Breiby have been asking for years. Today nearly 60% of their show is sold by mail. The first year the Town North-Dallas Chapter tried this approach tickets were sold using this order envelope. Want more information? Write Vern Breiby, 111 92 Ave. N.E., St. Petersburg, Fla. 33702.

13th Annual Barbershop Quartet Show — March 10, 1972

This Reservation Return Envelope enables you to have your choice of the best seats available when we receive your order, since tickets are issued at once, starting with those closest to front center of auditorium, upon receipt of your request. Please check the number of seats you desire. Enclose your remittance in this envelope and mail today!

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1st BALCONY	<small>Number Desired</small>
ALL SEATS RESERVED	() at \$4.00
ALL SEATS RESERVED	() at \$3.00
2nd BALCONY	<small>Number Desired</small>
ALL SEATS RESERVED	() at \$2.00

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Are To Be
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Town North Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
(Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America)
P. O. Box 1185
Richardson, Texas 75080

Reseda, Calif. Enjoys Appearing With Stars

By Jim Piechocki,
16003 Sunburst,
Sepulveda, Calif. 91343

Did Bob Hope ever make wisecracks about your chorus? Has Anne Blythe told you lately that she loves you? When was the last time that Jane Wyman looked at your chorus and told you that you brought the house down? I'll bet that Rosalind Russell never blew you a kiss. Odds are you've never woodshedded with Rouvann, the popular local nightclub singer with the opera pipes, or had Lawrence Welk hang around to hear you sing?

Does all this sound like boastful pride? All this and more happened to the Reseda Valleyaires of the Far Western District at their recent performance on the STOP ARTHRITIS Telethon sponsored by the Southern California Chapter of the Arthritis Foundation. For the second year in a row, the 80-man Valleyaires chorus closed the show — an eighteen-hour marathon — during prime time on KTLA, Channel 5 in Los Angeles, with an estimated audience in the millions along the entire west coast.

A great bit of exposure for barbershopping? A piece of cake? Actually, the arrangements took about two years to firm up, and they are a tribute to the dogged persistence of one Barbershopper who believed it could be done. That guy is Jerry Larkins, former public relations veep and longtime Reseda Chapter member, a former chapter president and a Barber-shopper for 29 years. That, plus the cooperation of many hands and the sweat of many brows, brought it all about. Here's how it all happened.

A long time ago, Dell Boll, current Far Western District Public Relations VP, was lecturing to anyone who would listen about opportunities for exposure, barbershop exposure, that is. He happened to mention to Jerry the possibility of getting a spot on the telethon. He also dropped the name of Jack Roarke, the show's producer and a TV personality in the Los Angeles area. (Dell's years in the Los Angeles area were not wasted.) Then began Larkin's campaign of letter writing, phone calls and door pounding that finally reached the producer's wife. It was she who asked her husband to "... take a look at those guys in the valley." That's when Jack Roarke agreed to attend a Reseda Chapter meeting.

Sometimes memorable events dim all too quickly, but do you remember the first time you surrounded a totally receptive ear with a resounding chord? Do you remember the chap's name or the look on his face? There are Valleyaires who will never forget the look on Roarke's face when our 70 men opened with a souped up barbershop arrangement of *Beer Barrel Polka*. We had him. A few weeks later, we sang that song and the resounding Armed Forces Medley in closing the telethon in our first-ever TV performance. That was way back in '72; it was a truly memorable experience for all of the Valleyaires, and what's more, we were asked to repeat it in 1973.

In many ways, the repeat performance last February 4 on the STOP Arthritis Telethon was an even more amazing experience. Most of the men had been through it the year before, so they were much more relaxed. Many of the physical arrangements went more smoothly the second time around.

The telethon is a semi-scheduled event, that is, performances are scheduled against a chaotic background of hustle and bustle. The waiting room, appropriately named in this instance, was immense. As "veterans" now, the Reseda troops could savor these moments, particularly as the celebrities passed through before and after their spots in the adjacent studio. In popped Rouvann. Many of the Valleyaires recognized him from last year. It didn't take too long for three guys to get him in an old fashioned woodshed quartet. Anybody can do *Sweet Sixteen*, and after the boys laid that first chord on his great lead pickup, he asked to do it again!

The ever-congenial Lawrence Welk strolled in and asked one uniformed Barbershopper who he was. He immediately got the sixty-second instant PR package, namely, history, business card, etc. . . . Jo Anne Worley posed for pictures while Reseda's (and Hollywood's) own Burt Mustin chatted with a few acting cronies.

Then came the electricity of the final run-through with Director Burt Staffen. It was then learned that the Valleyaires' spot was expanded to include three numbers instead of the two originally planned. Almost minutes later came the exciting news that there may be time for even a fourth number. The *Armed Forces Medley*, with Rouvann doing the solo in the finale, was quickly set up. It sounded like it would work out fine.

And now the Valleyaires filed toward the sound stage. Those last-minute chores came up fast and furious; at every turn a dozen men came rushing into the breach. Risers. Crooked ascots. Crepe bunting. Everything was falling into place incredibly well.

The performance went well. The Valleyaires were on risers in our contest position for thirty minutes — about twenty minutes on camera. One guy said later, "... you were robust when you had to be, and tender when necessary." As the celebrities came off camera and posed for publicity photos, the Valleyaires serenaded them with *The Old Songs* and *Keep America Singing*. Jane Wyman said we were just magnificent. And there were kind comments from both Rosalind Russell and Anne Blythe. Jack Roarke thanked us again for our appearance. (Bob Hope said we were so loud that he couldn't hear the orchestra.)

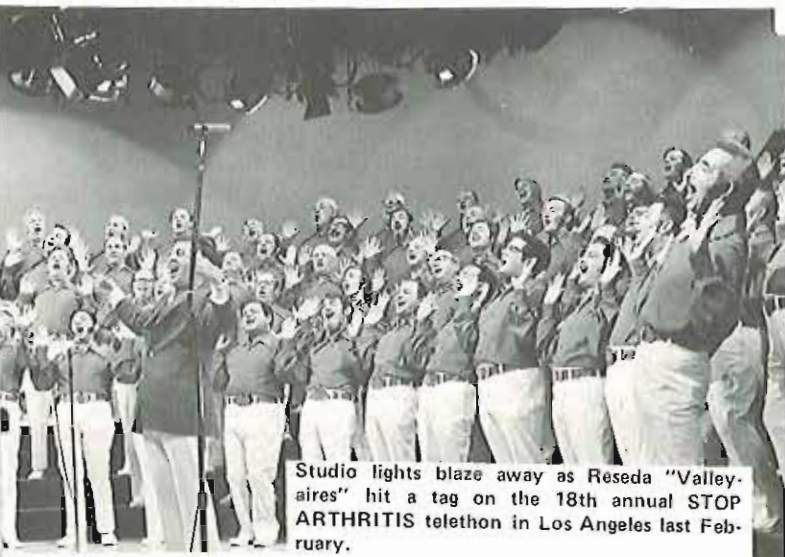
The huge tote board showed that more had been collected for a good cause than in any previous year. Then the bunting was taken down, the risers were folded and carted away and everybody went home with the kind of a glow that Barbershoppers don't even have to talk about. (See pictures page 9)



The "Valleyaires" front row was made up of stars. From left, they are Orchestra leader Manny Harmon, Bob Hope, Joe Campanella, Anne Blythe, Rosalind Russell, Telethon Producer Jack Roarke, Jane Wyman, Jerry Larkins and "Valleyaires" Director Burt Staffen.



Jane Wyman, STOP ARTHRITIS telethon anchorwoman, acknowledges studio applause with Burt Staffen.



Studio lights blaze away as Reseda "Valleyaires" hit a tag on the 18th annual STOP ARTHRITIS telethon in Los Angeles last February.



Burt Staffen and Actor/Barbershopper Burt Mustin flank TV hostess Jane Wyman, as Mustin presents Reseda's check to the Arthritis Foundation.



Night-club performer Rouvann makes some notes on a song to be presented with the Reseda Chorus.



Rouvann is surrounded by Reseda "Valleyaires" in a woodshed quartet.



Actress Jo Anne Worley clowns it up with "Valleyaire" Norm Laufe in warm up room.



Just "ah-one, ah-two, ah-three" guesses should tell you who stopped by to ask questions about our chorus and Society.



Director Staffen directs chorus and Rouvann in stirring finale.

"Take My Word For It - It Works!"

By Sam Kennedy,
Society Field Representative

Looking back to the time when I was first introduced to barbershopping, I certainly did not realize I would become involved in the Society to the extent I am today. Nevertheless, here I am a Society Field Representative, busier than a one-armed paperhanger and just back from another jolly jaunt around the Society.

After seven months of visiting numerous chapters and sharing ideas on administrative matters, one experiences a truly in-depth look at the Society and its functions — right down to the every day, garden-variety type Barbershopper's point of view. Believe it or not, I've visited chapters from Saskatoon, Sask. to Truro, N.S., from Olathe, Kans. to Manhattan, N.Y. and heard almost SIMILAR problems in each case. In the next few paragraphs I'd like to pass along some "golden goodies" which come to mind as a result of the subjects most discussed around the chapter board meeting table.

Situation: the 15-30 man chapter.

Question: What do we do to build the chapter membership roster?

Answer: Guys, the secret in building your chapter membership lies firstly in the sincere desire to WANT a larger chapter. WANT it badly enough to put some time and effort into making it happen. The next factor to think about is the proper areas to work on in order to make this come about. The following two main avenues should be tapped and promoted to the fullest:

(a) Making the chapter meeting more interesting and fun (this will retain current members and bring back guests the following week).

(b) A planned membership recruitment program (why not Auditions for Admissions?) staged properly.

Let's make a decision right now and use this particular plan at our meeting next week — with the understanding our chapter program vice president will work at organizing the evening.

The PVP should establish a programmed format for the evening — why not let him act as master of ceremonies. He can control the tempo of the proceedings and not let things drag. Remember, if members or guests have a good time at the meeting, they'll want to be back next week at 7:45.

Here's a sample format — again with the understanding that the master of ceremonies will enthusiastically introduce each man "up front" and encourage applause at the end of each man's particular shot.

8 p.m. — MC (PVP) introduces chapter president for "Old Songs" and welcome.

8:05 p.m. — MC introduces assistant music director for chorus warm-up.

8:20 p.m. — MC introduces music director for chorus rehearsal.

9:30 p.m. — MC introduces administrative vice president who enthusiastically introduces each guest. Chorus director directs "You're As Welcome As The Flowers In May" with each man in the front row of the chorus stepping up front and shaking the hand of each guest.

9:40 p.m. — MC calls for announcements (pre-planned) and it's on to the coffee pot, guests first, of course.

9:50 p.m. — program vice president sets up the "fun" part of the evening with the emphasis on complete chapter involvement. In this case, let's use the "rotating quartet" idea.

10:05 p.m. — MC introduces music director for continuation of chorus rehearsal.

10:30 p.m. — "Keep America Singing" with the announcement of good old woodshedding after the chapter meeting.

This is simply one of the many ways to run a chapter meeting night. How does this format relate to your present chapter program? Do you leave all the planning and motivation in the hands of the ever-willing music director or chapter president? Do you see the same face "up front" most of the evening? Does your AVP take care of the guests and their indoctrination into barbershopping? Is your chapter meeting night a choir rehearsal? No wonder your membership is sagging. Take my word for it, guys, what your guests see and feel at their first chapter meeting has a direct bearing on whether or not they will join the chapter and the Society. Let's think about the current member as well. Doesn't he deserve a fun evening of getting his jollies out of seeking the sacred seventh? I guarantee you will make your administrative vice president's job much easier if you impress your current and prospective members with an interesting program. Don't forget, not every man in the chapter has the rewarding experience of singing in a quartet, nor is he able to sing on the risers for three hours straight. Let's whet the appetite of ALL men at the chapter meeting by varying the format — keeping better singing the main objective.

Now, let's all say together one time, "EVERY NIGHT IS GUEST NIGHT, SO LET'S BRING A GUEST."

In answer to (b) a membership recruitment plan, I have an Auditions for Admissions work-plan designed especially for smaller chapters. It varies slightly from our A for A kit, but in no way takes anything from it. I've tried to overcome most of the pitfalls brought about by chapters' misuse of this fine recruitment program.

Let's face some facts: (1) Not all towns have a large shopping plaza or mall; (2) not all chapters want to enthusiastically work at making A for A work; (3) two ads in the local daily do not necessarily bring copious quantities of singers to be auditioned. When we are a small chapter with a low budget we cannot afford a "bust" evening. It's my opinion we should make every chapter member a member of our recruitment team and "beat the bushes" for prospects BEFORE the auditions night. Here is a simple SIX-WEEK work-plan of complete chapter involvement that WORKS.

Let's make some basic ground rules before we start. I recommend the chapter administrative vice president chairman the A for A committee. Secondly, the A for A committee should be comprised of the chapter board of directors. Why the chapter board you ask? Simply because you can depend upon these men to stress our theme: complete chapter involvement with an equal share of the workload. Here's an outline of our plan.

(a) The AVP should read and understand the Auditions for

Admissions Kit.

- (b) The AVP should call the first meeting of the A for A committee. The date, time and place of the Auditions night should be decided. (I recommend a barbershop, not necessarily a mall. The best date should be a chapter meeting night. Auditions are usually held between 7 and 8:30 p.m., depending upon the number of auditionees.) At this meeting the AVP should explain in detail every page in the A for A kit so there is a complete understanding by everyone.
 - (c) At the next chapter meeting the AVP should enthusiastically "SELL" the chapter on their four-week involvement in the Auditions package. Each chapter member should be asked to submit at least two names, addresses and phone numbers of prospective singers from around his community, work or church. These contacts should be submitted to the AVP who will compile a recruitment list.
- Note: Our aim here is to promote prospective singers, not just names. Please keep our goal in mind: We want NEW singers, not your favorite brother-in-law, neighbor or the guy you've brought to previous guest nights. This should be fully understood by the entire membership. If we have a 30-man chapter, that means at least 60 names.
- (d) Two weeks before the Auditions night we should hold the second meeting of the A for A committee. The following data should be brought to the meeting: (1) The AVP's list of prospective singers. (2) The secretary should supply enough stamps, Society envelopes and Society letterheads to cover the AVP's list of names. (3) The chapter president should draft a letter of invitation to be sent to the prospective singers. This letter should contain a paragraph of introduction to the Society and the local chapter, a paragraph on advertising the "special guest night" and a friendly word of welcome.
 - (e) We have 60 names and there are ten men on the chapter board of directors. Each man is assigned six names for prospect follow-up. The board member should copy the president's letter in his "OWN HANDWRITING," at the meeting, and mail to the prospect that same evening. I say, it is the responsibility of the chapter board member to have his six prospects attend the auditions night.
 - (f) One week later, the prospective singer should be contacted by a personal phone call. At that time, we should simply stress our love for barbershopping and encourage our prospect to join us for a fun evening.
 - (g) The necessary steps should be taken to involve the news media regarding the big auditions night. This includes newspaper, radio, TV and poster coverage. The advertising phase of the operation can be geared to the pulse of the community, but please don't overlook it. (It's a proven fact that ads do bring out singers.)
 - (h) Use the program format outlined in the AFA kit. You can add a little icing on the cake by inviting a guest quartet for the evening. Or you might want to show the Society slide/tape presentation. It's a great recruitment vehicle.
 - (i) Use the prospective member follow-up outlined in the AFA kit. It's a MUST.

So them's ma' feelins' on building the chapter — two simple ideas that really work. As you can see, it takes a little effort, but in this business — love is reflected in love, so to speak, and what



CHUCK'S CHATTER

By International President Charles E. Abernethy,
300 E. Grand Ave., Ponca City, Okla. 74601

If ever there was an opportunity to tell the world about our good works and support of the Institute of Logopedics, this is the time. In just nine years, we have reached the million-dollar pinnacle, and we've only just begun. Enthusiasm is just as high today as it was in San Antonio in 1964 when the international board of directors unanimously adopted this UNIFIED SERVICE PROJECT. I am sure you all share my feelings when I say, "I am so proud." Proud, not just because we have given a large sum of money, but because we have had a part in enriching the lives of those less fortunate. When you stand before an audience and sing "We Sing That They Shall Speak," you know in your heart that you possess the love and compassion for giving the fruits of your God-given talent for the welfare of others. I know of no other group of singers who are so fortunate as we.

Many of the Spring shows have just been held, and the chapter treasuries are full and overflowing. Now is the time to commit part of your wealth to our SERVICE PROJECT. If you are not now giving an average of \$5 per member per year, increase your check to that amount. If you are exceeding that figure, bless you, and do continue to be so generous.

We have always been very cautious in asking non-contributors to donate to Logopedics, for we didn't want to be offensive with our enthusiasm. But sometimes the "soft-sell" is no sell at all. Sometimes we fail to tell the story often enough. Some of our new members may not know of our SERVICE PROJECT. There are those who have a built-in suspicion as to where the money goes. For any "doubting thomases" let me assure you that every dollar goes to its proper place. Administrative costs are extremely negligible, and proper credit is given to each district for all monies received. If you have any questions, write to Communications Assistant Bill FitzGerald at our International Office and he will supply you with the information you need.

Yes, we have a story to tell. A heart-warming, emotion-packed story of how we have touched the lives of many people, how those children who have emerged from a cave of silence can now take their place in society as useful citizens. A few years ago, many of those kids would have been placed in institutions as wards of the state, never to have the opportunity to learn and progress. Through your generosity, the Institute has been able to open its doors to those who might never have had a chance.

Thank you Barbershoppers, everywhere. Now let's go to work on our second million.

we get from our efforts, strictly depends upon our good foresight and planning. Please take my word for it, better planned programming and the organized recruitment program will bring about nothing but good for your chapter. Come on, chapter president, stop worrying about those \$150 uniforms for your 15-man chapter. Membership is everything, so let's get on the bandwagon and start putting our efforts in the right direction.

In his heyday, Babe Ruth played baseball for \$80,000 a year. Just a short time ago, Richie Allen, Chicago White Sox star, signed a contract for what amounts to \$230,000 a year. After taxes, the Babe brought home about \$68,000. This after-tax income brought him more than Allen's will today. To make a long story short, it takes three times the income today to buy yesteryear's wants and needs.

We all know that today's dollar has shrunk. The point I want to make is that today's Barbershopper is lucky if he gets a ten-cent return on his dollar!

Are you surprised? Are you interested in facts about who ran away with the bulk of the money you paid for a year's membership in S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.? You say you don't believe anyone in your chapter would make off with 90 cents on your DOLLAR. Read on; I am about to risk a lawsuit to tell you who the real culprit(s) are.

Let's start off with about 50% of our membership, sometimes less, but 50% is a nice round figure to work with. These are the guys who regularly show up for chapter meetings. Many even stay for the entire meeting. They are all crooks! They make off with all the new music and learn it! They could at least mail you copies so you will have the music at the same time they get it. By the way, don't forget your director! He is one of the worst culprits of all. Can you believe that your director, along with his gang (the music committee), holds secret committee meetings on their own time to select that new music I was speaking of! They order it, and upon delivery of said order, give it out to their special friends — you know who I

community-service type singouts — for the old folks' home, the veterans' hospital, etc. Can you believe you lost out here, too? Those folks didn't send out any "thank-you" notes. The only ones who heard their appreciative applause and verbal "thank-yous" were the guys who sang for them! These people aren't even Barbershoppers, and yet, they were out to cheat you.

Out of our Society International Office there are some big-wigs who are out for some nickels from your dollar. I shall, fearless of reprisal, name only one — Mac Huff! THE Mac Huff! He was recently in our area. Now you all know he is on the Society payroll. He is supposed to work for YOU! Only eight out of a 50-plus membership got all the value out of his visit. Now I ask you, is that a fair allotment out of your hard earned, carefully spent, dollar?

A myriad of other possibilities are lost to you also! Some of these include visits to other chapters. YOU miss the fun! Novice quartet contests — YOU miss a free evening's entertainment and refreshments. No one sends you any of the refreshments occasionally served at chapter functions. A visiting quartet on a Wednesday night — no one taped them (illegally) so you could hear it at your convenience. I can go on and on. The important thing is, I believe, you are now aware that our ranks are filled with thieves partaking of spoils that are rightfully yours! How can you strengthen your barbershop dollar? The real CULPRIT(S) must be taken to task!

There is a solution, lo and behold! I have thought of several ways to combat this "inside job" that is being perpetrated. First of all, meeting night is the same night each week. BE THERE!



THE SHRINKING DOLLAR

By Dave Everly,
342 Catectin Ave.,
Frederick, Md. 21701

mean — the gang that shows up on meeting night.

As for your director, well, I'm not through with him! No Sir! Not by a long shot! He has this special place at his house, see. After his family is all in bed, and sound asleep, is when he robs you! What does he do, you say? Read on my friend. He STUDIES the new music so he can come to meetings each week prepared to teach it to a few fellow-thieves. So you've lost twice! Not only did no one send you the music, but now, how can he possibly expect you to know how he wants the music sung? This is just for openers. Wait! I have more to tell you. Read on, my friend, I have BONA-FIDE, documented evidence of many more ways in which you are being taken, Brother Barbershopper! So far you have met only a few outlaws; here are some more.

Recently we have had quite a few singouts. These have been

As a matter of fact, be there early — 7:30-7:45. Some guys come early to warm up (cheaters). I have, with my own eyes, seen tag sheets passed out, and guys even sing them. Get in on this! By eight, the "Head Hood" (our director) is ready and sometimes can be seen passing out that new music. By nine (or so) our A.V.P. gets up and makes his announcements. Write everything down! Don't miss anything! Don't let a bus trip, sing out, or anything slip by you. At this time, we usually have a "break." Whatever you do, DON'T LEAVE NOW! The evening is only half over.

I am sure you can think of some things I haven't mentioned. But it all boils down to one thing. You are the loser when you stay away! Your chapter NEEDS your personal involvement. See if you can get a dollar-plus out of your membership for the remainder of this year.

MOTHER'S DAY • FATHER'S DAY

That Wonderful Mother
of Mine
Home on the Range
Keep in the Middle of the
Road
When the Bell in the Light-
house Rings Ding Dong
Alexander's Ragtime Band
Dry Bones
The Lord's Prayer

Asleep in the Deep
If We All Said a Prayer
If God Left Only You
Liebestraum
Home
Edelweiss
When I Leave the
World Behind
God Bless America

This Could Be the Start
of Something
Lost in the Stars
When the Midnight
Choo-Choo Leaves
for Alabam
The Little Boy
My Gal Sal
Waitin' for the
Robert E. Lee

There Never Was a Gang
Like Mine
That's A-plenty
Last Night Was the End
of the World
Cabaret
Yesterday
The New Frankie and
Johnny

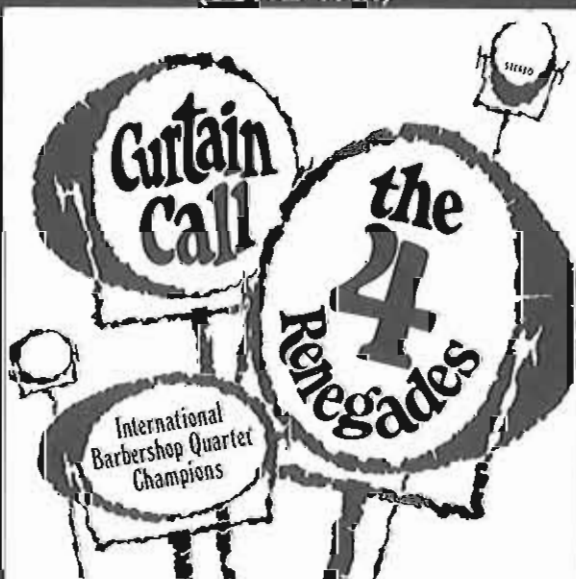
MOTHER'S DAY (MAY 13th)

23 YEARS OF HARMONY
WITH THE
SCHMITT BROTHERS



SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION AND ENCOURAGEMENT
OF BARBERSHOP QUARTET SINGING IN AMERICA

FATHER'S DAY (JUNE 17th)



ORDER FORM

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There's Gotta' be a First Time

By Redmond Curtis, Past Chapter President,
263 Lisgard St.,
Sidney, N.S.

With the spring prelims and the international finals in the offing, and, inspired by recent HARMONIZER articles by members of the "Golden Staters," I am reminded of my first taste of Society competition — albeit at the division level — in April of 1972. I write this so that fledglings in Society contests will be aware that there is as much excitement and fun at the first plateau as there is at the top.

The division seven Northeastern District competition was to be held in Halifax, N.S., some 263 miles from the industrial area of Cape Breton Island, home of our chapter. The date was April 8. The chapter chorus, "The Cape Breton Chordsmen," was entered in the chorus contest to decide who would represent division seven at the Fall district competition; the "Eastern Gentlemen" were to compete in the quartet contest.

Saturday morning — the day of the competitions — was a busy one as chorus members tried to forget their nerves and even more nervous stomachs by putting final touches to their costumes — white shirts, black trousers and the distinctive Cape Breton Tartan ascots and cummerbunds — and with the ever-present woodshedding. Saturday afternoon, while chapter officers met in annual conference with Division Seven Vice-President Hubie Atkinson, the rank and file talked and woodshedded with members from the other six chapters present for the contest. By early afternoon over five inches of snow was blanketing Halifax, and the snow was still falling.

At six — with the competitions due at eight — the Cape Breton Chorus met for an hour's warm-up in its room at the Queen Elizabeth High School, site of the competition. After chorus warm-up, and while the Cape Breton Chordsmen were donning uniforms and make up — and reassuring each other — the "Eastern Gentlemen" quartet slipped away to a designated warm-up room to do some singing preparatory to their performance in the quartet contest which was to follow the chorus competition.

Two things stand out in my mind about the chorus segment of the 1972 division seven competition: First, I remember very little about the actual performance of the two numbers we had rehearsed for so many months. Nerves can do that. The second thing that sticks in my mind was the waiting for the judges' decision, but this deserves a closer look.

After the seven competing choruses had sung their two songs and, after a short intermission, came the quartet competition. The "Eastern Gentlemen" had drawn number one position. As we stood in the wings, I thought, "Intermission is not such a hard act to follow." After that, my recollection again gets a bit fuzzy. We stepped out, bowed, tuned up, sang, bowed and then stepped off stage. (As I think back now, I wonder if the audience could see what I'm sure was a huge key protruding from the back of each member of the quartet.) We raced to the balcony at the rear of the auditorium where seats were available for chorus and quartets to view and hear the show. As I reached my seat, it suddenly dawned on me, "Great Scott! we've sung already." Anyone who sings first in competition knows the

agony of seeing the competition and worrying. However, the "Eastern Gentlemen" had lots of company, for each member of the Cape Breton Chapter was worrying with us.

After the last quartet had performed, the audience of some thirteen hundred was treated to a unique event: an excellent review of the evening's presentations, a summary of Society history and achievements and some excellent good-natured bantering between Division Seven Vice President Hubie Atkinson and Chairman of Judges George Chamberlain, especially as they compared receding hairlines. Then the decisions. Chorus placings were announced in the usual reverse order. The Cape Breton Chapter Chorus had placed fourth; the winners were the "Nova Tones" chorus of the Truro, N.S. Chapter.

Then the moment of truth! George Chamberlain approached center stage to announce the results of the quartet contest and the winners of the magnificent trophy displayed to the side. Again the reverse order routine. Bill Anderson (bass), Ken Clark (bari) and I were sitting near the front row of balcony seats, surrounded by our friends, fellow Barbershoppers and a sprinkling of paying patrons. Our lead, John MacDougall, too nervous to sit down, was leaning against the back wall near the exit door which led to downstairs and the main floor of the auditorium. And finally came George's announcement: — the 1972 Division Seven quartet champions are the "Eastern Gentlemen." He asked that the quartet come to the stage. It took Bill, Ken and me several minutes to work our way to the exit door through the crowd of well-wishers and delirious Cape Breton Chapter members. By then, our lead, John, has disappeared from his spot.

As we entered the auditorium proper and started down the aisle to the stage, we saw John sprinting to the stage, hands clasped over his head like a victorious boxer. He leaped from the floor to the stage (omitting the intermediary steps) and, by the time we had arrived and were congratulated by George, John was already composed and ready to sing the acceptance song. What we sang was a breathless rendition — breathless not so much only from the excitement or relief (for we were rather numb in this aspect), but from that long run from balcony to stage.

For the Cape Breton Chapter Chorus and the "Eastern Gentlemen," the first time under fire was rewarding — a fourth and a first respectively. It was made even more pleasant by the fellowship displayed by our friendly competitors and by the constructive criticism and often praise given by the judges.

To cap off a rather exciting barbershop week-end, the snow continued into the better part of early Monday afternoon. Only one member of the Cape Breton Chapter made it home in time to report for work on Monday morning. Everyone else was either stranded in the Halifax area, or had managed a few miles but had to seek refuge at various places along the 263 miles between Halifax and Cape Breton. The snow didn't dampen anyone's enthusiasm; it just helped to make our first competition a more memorable event in our young barbershop lives.

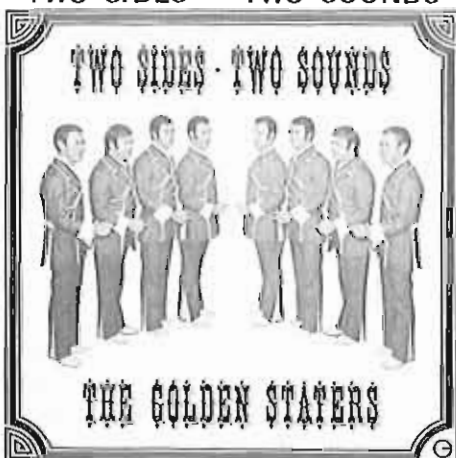
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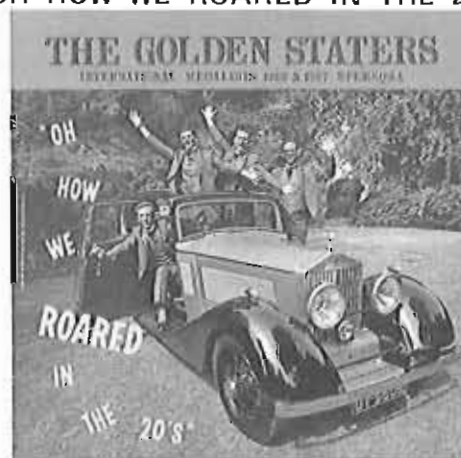


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THE WAY I SEE IT

By Dick Meinsen, International Board Member,
Northeastern District,
425 Main Street,
Hamden, Conn. 06514

Let's play "remember when . . ." that's a fun game, for nostalgia is one of the few pleasures left which we can still enjoy. We can remember the good things, ignore the bad and paint our memories with a rosier glow than probably ever existed.

Remember when our Society started. There was no money, and hardly any organization to speak of, and everything done was done voluntarily. Our pay was in the pride of accomplishment. There was a satisfying quality of morale, a richness of spirit and an added lustre to our harmony because things were done together. By our boot-straps, somehow or other, we woodshedded our way to accomplishments too numerous to mention here. The world was not as cynical then, the "what's-in-it-for-me," or "I-don't-want-to-get-involved attitudes" were not the name of the game. There was a special joy in the "Hey, man-we did-it!" feeling when we accomplished anything.

Can you remember when a parade was truly a "parade?" Can you remember when ten or twenty quartets might appear throughout the evening of your show and after-glow? Can you remember back when a chapter produced a show they sent out word and quartets would come from far and near — for free — to help. In those days, if the quartet were to experience a long and expensive trip, many chapters would help out with expenses just so their chapter's quartet could make an appearance. After all, weren't they helping out their brother Barbershoppers? They seemingly didn't know any better; they thought it was the thing to do.

Later on, as we made a bit more about keeping chapters solvent, host chapters started picking up the expense tabs for their guest performers. This act of good will by the host chapters, inevitable as it may have been, signaled the start of a change in attitude for our Society.

Until that time, the status symbols in our Society were being a quartet man and getting involved in a great deal of quartet activity. When chapters began paying the expenses of quartets, the process of singing on parades as a gesture of good will changed to singing by invitation. Volunteer quartets began to fade. The status symbol became the number of times your quartet was *invited* to sing. Though some quartets proved more popular than others, the amount of time they could devote to quartet activity became a problem. Although chapters were picking up most of the expenses, it almost always cost the quartet something. As the cost of living continued to spiral ever upward, the problem became so significant that the fee system came into existence. (The status symbol changed once more and now became a dollar sign. Our Society digested this painfully and belched up a new image.)

Today, in our tax-exempt, non-profit organization, we have

incorporated quartets, quartets with business agents, quartets producing and selling records, tapes, arrangements, etc. (I expect any day to find our favorite quartet dolls, sweaters, and emblems, etc. for sale.) Arrangers sell their arrangements; coaches sell their services and more than 75% of our chorus directors are receiving some kind of pay (though often small) for their services.

Today, in our tax-exempt, non-profit organization, we are part of a big business — a business large enough that if we were to total all the fees involved, the amount would be far in excess of our total Society budget. We've all heard, "well, they're away from home so much, they have to make it up to their families somehow," or "why should they give up over 40 weekends a year," or "it's not really a problem; it's simply a matter of supply and demand," etc. We also hear about quartets which charge their own chapters to sing, or represent them in public; directors who get paid for every rehearsal and singout; coaches who say they are charging a fee because groups won't value their advice if they give it for nothing.

There have also been quartets, past and present, which couldn't quit or break up (even though in some cases they could no longer stand the sight of one another), because of the rosy financial returns of remaining together. They regard the finished product, their presentation, more important than the group feeling for each other and their musical fraternity.

Strangely enough, this has all taken place while operating under a code of ethics containing the following:

Canon 1: *"We shall not use our membership in the Society for personal gain."*

Canon 2: *"We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society."*

What has happened to the fraternity, the spirit, the essence of barbershopping that was (and supposedly still is) inherent in our Society? These elements of barbershopping are *not* built on a buck. When *anything*, whether it be money, notoriety, medals, trophies, or whatever, becomes more important to our singing Society than the pleasure of singing, we have lost the true spirit of barbershopping upon which the Society was founded!

We are told, though, that this quest for a dollar has pushed us to a better standard of musical excellence, and widened the public scope of barbershopping. We are led to believe that in this practical, realistic, permissive world we live in, you have to allow for a more modern concept of the old virtues. Things that were once considered in bad taste, smutty, commercial, modern, etc., are the way of the world today. Old-fashioned concepts such as amateurism, love, dignity, etc., have had to change, and we are told that we should change with them.

However, as is most often the case, it's not the entire Society we're writing about, just a minority group. Most of the cash is

Montclair, N.J. Sings for POW Homecoming

By Captain Paul R. McLaughlin, Jr.
10 Prospect Terrace,
Montclair, N.J. 07044

Shortly after the announcement of the release of Commander Robert B. Doremus of Montclair, N.J. from a POW camp in Vietnam, the board of commissioners of his hometown contacted the Navy Department to see when it would be able to extend an official welcome and tribute to the Commander and to all of his fellow servicemen who served with him in Southeast Asia.

Commissioner Theodore MacLachlan, Montclair's Director of Public Safety, was given the task of coordinating the program. "Ted" MacLachlan has been a close friend of Montclair Barbershoppers from the time the chapter was founded and has always been encouraged by the chapter board to call upon us when our services were needed at town functions. After contacting the Commander's parents, and after many calls to the Navy Department, the town was advised of two suggested dates, Saturday, March 10 and Sunday, March 11, 1973. When Commissioner MacLachlan was informed by his colleague, Barbershopper Dick Bonsal, Acting Mayor and Director of Revenue & Finance for the town of Montclair, that the Montclair chorus would be singing in Philadelphia on Saturday, March 10, he set the date of the Doremus tribute for Sunday, March 11.

When first approached regarding the homecoming performance, the chapter board felt that it might be difficult to get enough men on the risers to sing due to our appearance in Philadelphia the night before and a full schedule of singouts and rehearsals for our annual show. However, after Dick Bonsal spoke before the membership it was found that a large enough chorus, with sufficient balance of voice parts, would be available to do the job. (Fifty men, including the acting mayor, raised their hands.)

Montclair appeared late on the program at the jamboree which followed the Quartet Contest in Philadelphia, and by the time the men changed and boarded the bus for home it was 1:00 a.m. on Sunday. Bad driving conditions slowed the bus down a bit and by the time we finally got back it was 4:00 a.m. Despite these problems the men were on deck for the homecoming at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday (all fifty of them).

actually going to *about one sixth of our Society!* There are still thousands of Barbershoppers doing their bit just for kicks. There are still quartets (even some with high rankings) singing because they love to sing, directors who direct for sheer enjoyment, arrangers and coaches who, out of affection for their musical fraternity, provide their services for no pay.

Therein lies the problem, "the way I see it." How do we (the "pros" and the "amateurs") all co-exist, guided by the same code of ethics — the code which we all promised to abide by when we became members? Perhaps it's time we consider a change in our code of ethics. Maybe we've reached that point in time when our code of ethics can no longer serve to keep us on a straight and narrow course.

How do you feel?

We sang toward the end of the program. Inasmuch as Commander Doremus had been declared officially dead for two years, our opening song was *I Believe*. We were well received, and when Director Art Dolt announced our second song, *America the Beautiful*, he invited Commander Doremus to join us in the center of the front row. It was a moving experience for all of us. The chorus finished up its part of the program with *Keep America Singing*, and we remained on the risers while the high school band played the *Stars and Stripes Forever* as a large American flag was lowered behind the chorus.

After the program, our men joined the reception line and shook the hand of Commander Doremus. It gave all of us a very warm feeling to be there and to have shared in the tribute.

Most of us were about ready for bed later on that Sunday evening when the Orange Blazers of our chorus appeared on New York Channel 7 of ABC-TV. It was quite a surprise, and when we were on during the morning news program on Monday and again on the Monday evening show, it was even more of a surprise. This was publicity we did not seek, but it still gave us a thrill. Extensive newspaper coverage resulted from the homecoming and all featured photos of Commander Doremus singing in the front row of our chorus.



Commander Doremus joined the Montclair Chorus as they sang "America the Beautiful." Doremus had been declared officially dead for two years.

The descriptive word "barbershop" had been added in the printed program to avoid the use of our official name as the program had to go to the printer before we knew for sure that we'd have enough men participating to justify considering it an authorized chorus appearance. To quote the old saying, "Many of our best decisions are made for us." The term "barbershop chorus" was picked up on the ABC-TV *Eyewitness News* program as well as in all of the newspaper accounts, including the lead sentence of the front-page story in the March 12 issue of the *New York Times*.

The members of the chorus feel very proud to have been a part of this tribute to a fine man. The resulting publicity came as a fringe benefit, which we feel certain will help us to continue to Encourage and Preserve Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

Barbershop For Boys

By Walter Rodby, A. S. C. A. P.,
Chairman, Division of Fine Arts,
Homewood-Flossmoor High School,
Flossmoor, Ill. 60422

REPRINTED IN PART FROM THE NOVEMBER 1972 ISSUE OF THE SCHOOL
MUSICIAN, DIRECTOR AND TEACHER MAGAZINE, BY SPECIAL PERMISSION OF
FORREST L. MC ALLISTER, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

You've often heard the statement that the only contribution America has made to the world of music is in the area of Jazz and the Broadway Musical. Not quite we say. Add one more contribution: Barbershop singing.

Perhaps the roots of barbershop singing can be traced to the German male chorus singing societies of the 19th century, but the actual art of barbershop singing, as we know it, is so uniquely American that it must be recognized as a completely "Stars-and-Stripes" operation. The feeling of fellowship and camaraderie that happens when good men sing together is universal, but when a male chorus gets involved with tags, swipes, bari, lead, and a lot of fractured seventh chords, that spells barbershop singing, American-style, and there's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the world.

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

The organization dedicated to barbershop singing is called The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., best known as "SPEBSQSA," with headquarters at 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141. From a small but enthusiastic beginning more than 30 years ago, this organization has grown into one of the great and important singing forces in the U.S.A. Make no mistake about it, barbershop singing is fun, lots of fun, and there are more than 30,000 men in hundreds of barbershop choruses all over the world who will attest to it.

Barbershop Literature

Over the years, this column has generated a good deal of mail and we have always been glad to get your letters. One of the more frequent requests come from readers who need help in finding good boys' chorus material, particularly easy barbershop chorus music. We are pleased to tell you that S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. has a "help packet" available titled *It's Great To Be A Barbershopper!* that, among other things, has a splendid listing of singable barbershop chorus material. All

of the music on the list is published and readily available either directly from the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. headquarters in Kenosha, or from your own music dealer. The classification ranges from A (difficult) to D (easy), and both publisher and price are shown with the title.

Just Plain Barbershop

One of the best items on the listing is a S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. collection titled *Just Plain Barbershop*. There are 18 pieces in the collection, all of them great standards in the best S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. tradition, and are easy and singable. In fact, any chorus or quartet that can sing four part music can manage these arrangements, both in vocal range and harmonic difficulty. The collection costs \$1, and you can get your copy by enclosing a buck and sending your request directly to the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. headquarters, 6315 Third Avenue, Kenosha, Wis. 53141. No free copies of this collection, but the packet we mentioned above is free.

Robert Johnson

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. offers many services and helps in the interests of barbershop singing. Mr. Robert D. Johnson, Director of Music Education and Services, developed the interesting packet *It's Great To Be A Barbershopper!*, and uses it extensively in giving various workshops in the art of barbershop singing. In a recent letter to this column he stated that he had just completed ten state meetings and was already booked for ten more. He also wrote, "I am available (at no charge) to conduct a workshop on singing barbershop in high school. I use the audience of teachers as a chorus or I use a group of high school boys if available. These sessions have been going very well."

If you have a group of music educators, a state meeting or some other special event, for example, that might be interested in a demonstration workshop on barbershop singing, we suggest you write to Mr. Johnson as to his availability to conduct such a session. We have seen him work and can attest to his ability to interest anyone in barbershopping.

One of the great New York publishers that seems to be specializing in barbershop music is Bourne Co., 136 West 52nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10019. Bourne has published a number of collections and single octavo pieces arranged by some of the best known barbershop chorus and quartet arrangers in the country. As a matter of fact, one of the country's top flight arrangers, Dr. Val Hicks, has become the editor of a new Bourne Co series titled *Young Men In Harmony*. We suggest you write to this publisher and request a free copy of *Yes Sir, That's My Baby* (YMIH No. 2), or two others that are equally well arranged for young voices: *Cecilia* (YMIH No. 1) or *Wabash Moon* (YMIH No. 3). These are all approved S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. arrangements, and include some pointers for "Singing In The Barbershop Style."

Through the efforts of men like Robert Johnson of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., interest and enthusiasm for barbershop singing has grown so much in our schools, that in 1971 MENC authorized an official adjudication form exclusively for Barbershop Quartet contests. A copy of this form is available *free* either from S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. headquarters in Kenosha, Wis., or from MENC headquarters (attn: Publications), 1201 Sixteenth Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. This is a copyrighted form and may not be duplicated without written permission, but a *free* copy is available in the event you are interested in seeing the kind of an adjudicated form S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. developed for MENC.

Over the years of writing this column, we have always been enthusiastic about barbershop singing. We have said it before and we say it again now: Barbershop singing is here to stay, and if you want to see some real growth in the number of boys you can attract for your choruses, get acquainted with S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. and "barbershopping." It's a heck of an organization, and they have a heck of a product, and they'll be glad to help you in anyway they can.

Because you share your songs with us, we'd like to share our song with you.

Oh, what beautiful music the two of us will make.

You and United, that is, the official airline for the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Convention in Portland, Oregon, July 9-14, 1973.

You'll have a lot to enjoy on the way.

Like entrées specially prepared by our own chefs. Our convivial 747 and

DC-10 Friend Ships that strike just the right note in spaciousness.

United's curbside check-in, which takes care of your luggage before you even enter the airport.

Add to these our Apollo computer, which gives you fast accurate reservations and, well, you really have something worth singing about.

So, please do.

The friendly skies
of your land.

Have you seen the o - ther side of where you live

Don't you know this great big land has got so much to give

Mo - ther coun - try's got her arms o - pen wide

Don't let your good land pass you by

Your land is our land a - ny where the big bird flies

Stretch - in' out in glo - ry, proud be - neath the skies

Come a - long sing the song peo - ple now's the time

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about QUARTETS

First of all, a desperation phone call from the 1970 international champion *Oriole Four* asking us to *please stop the rumor* concerning the breakup of this fine champion foursome. They haven't the least idea how the rumor got started, but wanted everyone to know that the quartet has not even given a thought to breaking up. If there's still any doubt as to whether or not the quartet is staying together, they suggest you try to book them for a 1974 or 1975 show. They can be reached by contacting: Jim Grant, 501 Luther Rd., Glen Burnie, Md. 21061; phone (301) 761-2449.

A letter written on behalf of the students of the Schafer High School band and Gerish Middle School 8th Grade band called our attention to a benefit performance by our 1971 international champions, the *Gentlemen's Agreement*. According to information contained in the letter, the quartet gave an outstanding performance at the Governor's Pop Concert, a fund-raising project to raise \$80,000 to defray expenses of two Detroit-area school bands attending the Revelli International School for Bands in Glion, Switzerland in July. James A.

Guy McShan, bairtone of the 1972 15th ranked semi-finalist "Innsiders" (Houston, Tex.), learns that he has won an all-expense paid trip to Spain during the time of the Southwestern District International Preliminary Contest.

Skura, director of the bands, was high in praise of the quartet's performance.

Recent foursomes to visit Harmony Hall were two 1972 finalist quartets the *Vagabonds* and the *Citations*. The *Vagabonds* toured the building and presented a short concert for Harmony Hall employees on Friday, March 30th. (They were returning from a Thursday night performance in Milwaukee.) The *Citations* were in town on a Saturday and just happened to catch Society Director of Music Education and Services Bob Johnson in the hospital (just a routine physical, Bob said). They paid Bob a visit, and an impromptu singing performance was pleasing to Bob, other patients and the hospital staff as well. The quartet appeared later that evening at the Sterling-Rock Falls, Ill. show.

Our thanks to Norm Wolfe, contact man for the 1972 Land O'Lakes District champion *Roadrunners*, who heeded our plea for more information from quartets. After having a discussion with "The Boston Common" regarding "stage jitters," Norm sent in the following quotations from "Boston Common" bass Terry

Clarke as he wrote on the subject of nervousness: "How do you shake off the nervous bit? It begins by understanding why 'nervousness' or 'fear' exists. The root of all fear is the unknown... in simpler terms, if you don't know what you're doing, you have a reason to be 'nervous.' So the key is really to know what you are doing.

"We allowed ourselves to question what we were doing, and *why*. The second part — the 'why' — has been the most important. If you know why, you can indeed execute with confidence. Nervousness generally develops because your minds are on the wrong thing. If you're thinking of yourself, the audience, your part, or anything but the song — you'll surely get into trouble. Therefore, we focus our attention on the song, nothing else. The song comes first. You'd be surprised at how easily you can overcome being nervous." These are excellent thoughts on a subject we're certain concerns many quartets. Thanks to both Terry and Norm for sharing them with us.

The "Music Man" production will soon be working for us again, this time in Europe. A Kansas City, Mo. foursome,

Guy's wife, Shirley, won the tug-of-war against the tenor and bass of the "Innsiders" on the ramp of the Madrid-bound plane. It was a great honor for Guy, but kept the "Innsiders" from competing and earning the right to sing in Portland.





The Chicago "Sing-Chronizers" were caught off guard as they waited to be called on stage. "Sing-Chronizers" (from left) are Otto Schaefer, Joe Lange, Russ Ross and Mel Weides.

the *Music Men*, has been selected to perform in the famous musical which will be touring Switzerland, France, Belgium, Holland, Great Britain and possibly Germany from June 23 through July 13. The newly registered foursome has been supplied a list of British meeting places and is hopeful of paying our British singing friends a visit. Good luck, *Music Men*!

One of the first performances for the 1972 finalist *Sound Tracks* with Doug Miller singing baritone was before a World Meeting Planners' Conference in Chicago a short time ago. The quartet was asked to appear at the request of Society Communications Director Hugh Ingraham, who was interested in showing those in attendance the kind of entertainment our quartets could provide for meetings and conventions.

Ed Place, who formerly sang with chapters in Washington, D.C.; Louisville,

Ky.; Portland, Ore. and College Park, Md. Chapters from 1945 through 1971, is now organizing a barbershop group called *The Song Fellows* from members of a senior adult citizen group he is now working for. Ed had a pleasant reunion a short time ago with Dr. "Bud" Arberg, Howard Cranford and Art Sabin (the latter two members of the *Diplomats* who competed in international competition in Oklahoma City in 1948). The four sang together at a meeting of the American Association of Retired People. Place, a member of the 1947 International Public Relations Committee, is obviously still "infected" with the old barbershop bug. Nice to hear from you again, Ed.

An account of 1972 activities of the *Humm-bugs*, a Manitowoc, Wis. foursome, appeared in the Manitowoc bulletin. The quartet racked up 59 singing performances last year (and that ain't bad)! They recalled, in particular, singing three church services on one Sunday and also attempting a quartet performance in an old barn with an empty attached silo. They claim they sang the entire song before the first chords stopped bouncing off the walls. They wondered if they may not have been the only quartet whose services were ever purchased by use of a formal purchase order. Kelvinator, one of their city's leading companies, recently contracted for the quartet's services by using an official company purchase order. The foursome appeared at the company's international sales convention at the be-

ginning of the year. Close on the heels of the *Humm-bugs*, with 53 appearances last year, were the *Phase IV*, another Manitowoc foursome. The quartet is just a bit over a year old and incidentally, the *Humm-bugs* paid the first year's registration fee for the *Phase IV*. Still another Manitowoc foursome's activities were written about in the bulletin. We're sure many will recognize the 1951 Champion *Schmitt Brothers* who appeared 34 times throughout the country this past year. Not a bad record, either, for these 22-year veterans.

The 1972 Far Western District Champions, *The Stage Four*, have had to replace their baritone. Bob Jackson has taken over the baritone spot and also doubles as contact man for the foursome. He can be reached at 2440 West Osborn Road, Phoenix, Az. 85015.

Somehow we overlooked making an announcement of a personnel change in the *Soundsmen*, a very active Northeastern District comedy foursome. Wayne Paul is now singing tenor in the quartet replacing Bill Stott. The change took place some time ago and the quartet has had numerous performances with its new tenor. The *Soundsmen* contact man is Jack MacGregor, 12 Country Lane, Trumbull, Conn. 06611; phone (203) 261-3319.



"Halloween at the White House," Tricia Nixon Cox told some 150 children and adults, "is the most fun day of all." Ordinarily only presidents, prime ministers, kings and princes visit the mansion, but only on Halloween are so many special, famous people present. Part of this year's entertainment for children from children's centers in Prince George's County and Annapolis were our 1970 International Champion "Oriole Four." The quartet is shown right as they posed with Tricia and lower left stirring up a pitch for their next song.

"Love - Barbershop-Style"

By Ted Fitch,
1601 Longfellow Street,
McLean, Va. 22101



With a mix of imagination, opportunism and coincidence, the Alexandria, Va. "Harmonizers" have succeeded in making the United States Post Office an unwitting partner in the promotion of their 1973 barbershop show - the 23rd Annual Spring Tonic.

Here's how it happened. Dan Lyons, Alexandria's chapter president last year, and this year's ticket chairman, decided on a mail-order campaign as the primary feature of his ticket-selling program. His

prospect list was constructed from card files of four-part harmony fans that Dan persuaded chapter members to establish and maintain. The theme that blazed from the cover of the show's program was "Love - Barbershop style." The first mailing to ticket prospects was ready to go on or about Valentine's Day.

Dedicated stamp collectors should be able to guess the rest of the story. Uncle Sam's postal authorities had chosen to pay homage to St. Valentine this year with an oblong stamp, bearing the word "LOVE" in a bold but unusual pattern. True it was that critics promptly drew a bead on the stamp's design as inappropriate to accepted standards of postage-stamp art. But what an assist to a barbershop show that centered on the problems and delights of love! The nearly 1000 prospects who received invitations to buy tickets must have been greatly intrigued to see that even the stamp on

the envelope advertised what the show was all about.

Scholars among Barbershoppers will know that there is a famous fallacy, duly noted in most text books on logic, that regards one event as causing another, if the second, in point of time, closely follows the first. In a distinctly dead language this logical difficulty is described as "*post hoc ergo propter hoc*" (after this, therefore because of this). The use of the "LOVE" stamp in letters to ticket prospects was followed by a sell-out that, for the first time in the history of the Alexandria Chapter, preceded the actual date of the show by a matter of two weeks. The logical trap involved in this "*post-hoc-ergo-propter-hoc*" situation prompts us to avoid what might seem otherwise to be an obvious conclusion. We can only observe that the audience thought that "Love - Barbershop Style" made for a great show.

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an L.P. stereo album of 12 great songs by the
1971 International Champions.

Ma, she's makin' eyes at me
That lucky old sun
Good old days
Just a cottage small
My wife the dancer
Love story

Ring the bells in dixieland
Hush
If you love me,
really love me
Everybody loves a lover
My way
Fiddler medley

Clip This Order Blank and Mail To: The Gentlemen's Agreement, C/O A. E. Rehkop, 22470 Hillcrest Dr., Woodhaven, Mich. 48183



Please send me, postpaid, _____ copies of the new stereo album, "Gentlemen Prefer Barbershop" at \$5.00 each. (Canadian orders please add \$1.00)

I enclose check (or money order) totalling \$ _____, made payable to:
The Gentlemen's Agreement.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

The distribution, sale, or advertising of unofficial recordings is not a representation that the contents of such recordings are appropriate for contest use.



I see from the bulletins...

By Leo Fobart, Editor

IDENTIFY BULLETINS, PLEASE!

We're seeing many new bulletins these days, along with new bulletin editors and brand new formats. It's heartwarming to see the number of new chapters with bulletins. We're gradually getting all chapters on the bulletin "bandwagon," and all are earning important PROTENTION points. It's about those PROTENTION points that I'm concerned right now. Far too many bulletins are reaching my desk with poor chapter identification, and in some cases none at all. Some very clever bulletin names such as "Wagin Tongues," "Plain Notes," "The Whaler," etc. are



Greater Charleston, S.C. Chorus Director Russ Calhoun congratulates his son, Ronny, as he receives his Society membership certificate. At age thirteen, Ronny represents the growing interest of young men in our Society. The Charleston Chapter currently has ten high school student members.

easily identified by members of your chapter, but cause a problem when the proper chapter name is not prominently displayed along with the bulletin name (not necessarily true of the examples mentioned.) We know the amount of work that goes into preparing a bulletin, whether it be a weekly or a monthly, and wouldn't want you to lose PROTENTION points with an unidentifiable bulletin. You'll help us a great deal by including your chapter name along with the title information so that those in-

volved with PROTENTION scoring will have little difficulty crediting your bulletin.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

A paragraph in the Montevideo, Minn. Chapter bulletin reminded us that the Barbershoppers' Bargain Basement department of the HARMONIZER continues to be one of the best places for a chapter to sell its unwanted properties. In Montevideo's case, they were trying to sell their uniform jackets. A \$5 ad in the Bargain Basement Department produced inquiries from five chapters and several quartets, and finally, after some dickering on the phone, they completed a transaction with Casper, Wyo. Remember, for the low rate of \$5 per column inch, you can advertise your no longer needed items in this department. You really can't beat that price and you'll be amazed by the response to your advertising.

SEATTLE RECORDS

The Seattle, Wash. "Sea Chords" contained an item regarding a unique activity for their chapter. The chapter learned songs of the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity and recorded them for distribution to the membership and alumni of that fraternal organization. Forty-plus members of the chorus held two special rehearsals and then recorded 15 songs in a five-hour

recording session on a Sunday. When it seems as though we've exhausted almost every means of getting exposure for our singing hobby, someone comes up with a new idea. We'll bet that Seattle's involvement with this recording venture will produce many new friends for the Society.

"AUDITIONS" DOES IT AGAIN!

"OK International — we believe you now! For the past three years our International Office has been telling chapters across the nation to try an Auditions for Admissions program. We tried it once or twice with minimum results (largely due to a lack of support from the members). This time it was different. We spent some money for advertising — had great support from radio and TV — and enthusiastic support from the chapter members and guess what? On January 22, 1973, the Lincoln Chapter hosted 82 — that's right, eighty-two members and guests in one of the doggondest sing-song singing symphonies of sonnet and song you've ever heard. Fifty-one guests (that included four vagrants from Omaha called "The Extension Chords". The results?

— well, the chapter board on February 6 approved ten applications for membership and there are at least six and perhaps as many as ten more that will soon be submitted. The outstanding thing about

(Continued on next page)

John Kibler, left, and Harry Lovell await their turns at the microphone as Alan Draper auctions merchandise for March of Dimes radio auction. All three and Jim Stahly, back to camera, are Bloomington, Ill. Barbershoppers. The two-day auction brought \$12,400 in donations.



Past Abington, Pa. Chapter President Paul Cohen (right) presents check for \$100 to Abington Chorus Director Les Moyer. The check represents money collected during a three-month period in a fountain located in a new shopping center. Cohen, a project development manager for Kravco, Inc. (shopping center development firm), talked his firm into the special sign and donating the money collected in the fountain to the Institute of Logopedics. Moyer is also a Kravco employee.



I SEE FROM THE BULLETINS

(from page 23)

the events of the AFA night and the weeks that have followed has been the continued interest of members, prospects and guests. Chapter meeting attendance has jumped from an average of 25 to 45 each Monday. Perhaps most significant is that these new members, prospects and guests can SING. Not a 'crow' in the bunch." We took this report word for word from the Lincoln, Nebr. "Re-Chord-Er," Editor Don Little. What more can we say!

SPERL SPREADS

In behalf of countless bulletin editors

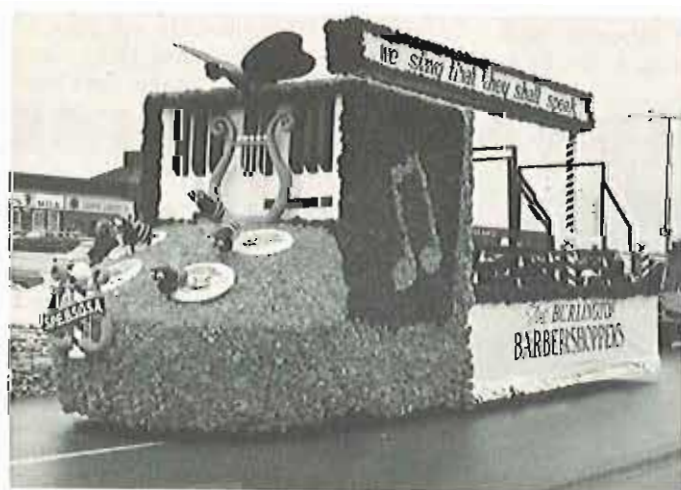
throughout the Society, I want to publicly thank Stan "Stasch" Sperr (Waukesha County, Wis. Chapter) for his numerous cartoon contributions which are being used in many chapter bulletins. In addition to his excellent art contributions to PROBE's publication, PROBE-MOTER, Stan continues to edit a fine bulletin. Stan, we don't know where you get the time, but we sure hope you can continue to share your talent with us. We don't believe you have any idea the number of times we see your cartoons in the countless bulletins that reach the International Office.

EVERGREEN LOSES VETERAN

A 25-year district secretary, L. H. "Hub" Stone passed away on February 17. His name is familiar to every Evergreen Barbershopper and to many outside the district. Those fortunate to have served with him on district boards (includes 17 district presidents) will never forget the competent manner with which he performed his duties, and his ability, even in his late years, to sit through endless board meetings. Hub's son has suggested that anyone wishing to make a contribution in his name to Logopedics can do so by sending same in care of Pat Wilson, 5621 Casa Way, Klamath Falls, Ore.

AUXILIARY DRAWS PUBLICITY

Your chapter having difficulty getting publicity in your local papers? Perhaps you should follow the example of the Burlington, Vt. Chapter whose ladies auxiliary unit was written up in great detail in one of their local papers. Incidentally, ladies auxiliary units are now officially operating in well over 100 of the Society's chapters. Auxiliaries have become an excellent means of allowing wives to play a more meaningful role in support of their husband's barber-shopping activity. We're grateful to past international president Carroll P. Adams for sending the item concerning the Bur-



Covered with 6,300 colorful flowers, the Burlington, Ont. Chapter's float in the Grey Cup Parade was a work of art. The float won first prize in a Santa Claus Parade a short time later.

lington ladies' activities. Thanks, Carroll.
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ED

Many Far Western District bulletins have included special invitations to Ed "Pappy" Boynton's Barbershop Birthday Bash which was held on May 1st. A past bulletin editor and a 22-year Society veteran, Ed celebrated his 94th birthday in April.

BRITISH BARBERSHOPPING

Here's the latest information on what's taking place in merry old England barbershop-wise. First of all, the *first ever* all-British convention will be held in Crawley on May 26, 1973. All four British clubs will gather for this fantastic song feast. Newest developments in the harmony field find barbershop enthusiasts springing up in Kent, Reading (near London), Plymouth and Leeds. The Crawley group continues to keep in touch with these people hoping to have seven barbershop clubs in Britain before too long. Visits were made by the "Four Statesmen" (1967 international champions) and "Four Naturals" from New Brunswick to each of the four British clubs on consecutive nights. We expect we'll be hearing more about their May convention in the next issue.

ALASKANS COMING TO PORTLAND

Paul Extrom, Editor of the Portland, Ore. "Pitchpipe," noted an editorial com-

ment in the Fairbanks, Alas. "Gold Notes" that we somehow missed. The note stated that some choruses on the east coast complained about the 2500-mile trip to Portland. Fairbanks people attending the convention will have to travel 2500 miles to get to Portland and they'll never leave their own Evergreen District! Incidentally, we are watching the excitement mount as the Portland convention draws near. It promises to be one of the biggest ever (see story page 4).

DEMONTMOLLIN STRICKEN

Immediate Past International President Dick deMontmollin is resting comfortably at his home in Columbia, S.C. after suffering a severe heart attack in Acapulco on April 3rd. Dick was attending a National Oil Fuel Institute convention when he became ill. He was flown to a hospital in Columbia on April 15 and was able to be home for Easter.

BARBERSHOP EDUCATION

We are happy to note that meetings of the Parsippany-Troy Hills, N.J. Chapter are listed in the curriculum presented by the Parsippany Adult School. Barbershop quartet and chorus singing appear as a non-credit course in the Adult School's curriculum brochure which tells the time and room in which the chapter meets weekly. Our thanks to Parsippany-Troy Hills Editor Jack Kane for this infor-



The Orlando, Fla. "Orange Blossom" Chorus is shown above as they performed in front of Theme Park Castle at Walt Disney World on February 25th. They appeared again on Easter and will highlight Memorial Day activities with another performance. The Memorial Day sing-out will climax a week-end camp out for Sunshine District members and families at Apopka, Fla. (Photo courtesy Walt Disney Productions)

mation, and for sending us a copy of the Adult School curriculum.

MORE ON EDUCATION

We are proud to report that the March, 1973 issue of the *The Education Digest* includes a condensed version of "Yes, Sir," (Continued on next page)

New Convention Registration Policy

A new registration policy for international conventions has been instituted by the executive committee. This policy will go into effect in Portland this year; in other words, the new policy will cover registrations for the 1974 convention in Kansas City.

The new policy is simply this. Advance registrations for Kansas City (see form on this page) will be accepted, *no more than 10 per person*, anytime up until July 15, 1973. Registrations may be made either at the Portland convention or by mail to the International Office. All registrations received up until July 15 will be drawn by lot to determine the eventual order in which the tickets will be assigned for the hall in Kansas City.

Registrations received in excess of 10 per person will not be assigned until after July 15.

All registrations received after July 15, (any number may be ordered after this date) will be assigned in order of receipt.

Registrations will not be processed, either at Portland or at the International Office, unless accompanied by cash, check or money order to cover the cost of the registrations. (Adult, \$20; junior (18 and under), \$10.)

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION ORDER BLANK

Date _____

International Office, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
Box 575, Kenosha, Wisconsin 53141

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is check for \$ _____ for which please issue:
____ Adult Registration @ \$20.00 ea. ____ Junior Registration @ \$10.00 (18 and under) for myself and my party for the 36th Annual Convention and International Contests at Kansas City, Missouri on July 1-6, 1974. I understand that the registration fee includes admission to official events; a reserved seat at Quarter-Finals No. 1 and 2, the Semi-Finals, the Chorus Contest and the Finals Contest; a registration badge and a souvenir program. I clearly understand that registrations are transferable but not redeemable.

NAME _____ PLEASE PRINT DISTINCTLY

ADDRESS _____

(City) _____ (State or Province) _____ (Zip Code) _____

CHAPTER _____

Make check payable to "SPEBSQSA"

Century Club

(As of March 31, 1973)

1. Dundalk, Maryland196
Mid-Atlantic
2. San Diego, California170
Far Western
3. Minneapolis, Minnesota ...150
Land O'Lakes
4. Reseda, California137
Far Western
5. Detroit, Michigan136
Pioneer
6. Oakland County, Michigan .130
Pioneer
7. Westchester Co., New York .129
Mid-Atlantic
8. Phoenix, Arizona123
Far Western
9. Miami, Florida123
Sunshine
10. Riverside, California121
Far Western
11. Fairfax, Virginia119
Mid-Atlantic
12. Kansas City, Missouri118
Central States
13. Whittier, California117
Far Western
14. Louisville, Kentucky117
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15. Houston, Texas116
Southwestern
16. Livingston, New Jersey ...115
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17. Alexandria, Virginia114
Mid-Atlantic
18. Peninsula, California110
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19. Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania ...108
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20. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania ...107
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21. Montclair, New Jersey ...106
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22. Arlington Heights, Illinois .105
Illinois
23. Wilmington, Delaware105
Mid-Atlantic
24. Davenport, Iowa104
Central States
25. East York, Ontario101
Ontario
26. Seattle, Washington100
Evergreen

I SEE FROM THE BULLETINS

(from page 25)

"That's My Barbershop" written by Society Director of Music Education and Services Robert D. Johnson. The complete article appeared in the December, 1972 issue of the *Music Educators' Journal*. As soon as space permits, we intend to do a reprint of "Yes, Sir, That's My Barbershop" in the HARMONIZER.

WANTS MORE SINGING

Corpus Christi, Tex. Editor Burt Robbins reports the following in the "Taglines" section of his February-March issue: "Bet you felt a tug at your heart strings like I did when it was learned that a group of American POWs had been keeping their wits about them by enjoying and participating in chorus singing. Just goes to show you that SINGING is what we're in this crazy outfit for in the first place — throw out the politics, contests, shows, petty differences, etc., and you come up with the substance upon which this great Society was founded many years ago: Singing in four-part harmony for the pure enjoyment of it." Here's an additional note about that POW

chorus mentioned in Editor Robbins' article. Far Western District VP John Krizek located the director and two other members of the POW chorus in Oak Knoll Naval Hospital. Krizek contacted Commander Southwick, who informed him that Commanders Kay Russell and Charles Stackhouse also sang in the chorus. Southwick reported that CDR Russell actually directed the group, and that it was CDR Stackhouse who used the tea-pot lid to get pitch. Krizek invited all three men to attend a Peninsula, Calif. Chapter meeting soon and added that CDR Southwick admitted to being a barbershop buff.

CHAPTER DONATES FLAG

The Bayport, Minn. American Legion Post has a new flag thanks to our St. Croix Valley (Land O'Lakes District) Chapter. In seeking a way to thank the Legion for chapter meetings, Administrative Vice President Judd Orff hit upon the idea of writing to Senator Walter Mondale of Minnesota and, through the senator's office, to purchase a flag that had flown over the U.S. Capitol. The flag was presented at a regular legion meeting by St. Croix Valley Chapter officers, as an octet from the chapter sang "Battle Hymn of the Republic." Two plaques, presented along with the flag, are now prominently displayed in the Legion meeting rooms. One plaque tells about the gift of the flag from the chapter, along with appreciation for use of Legion facilities, and the other attests that the flag had actually flown from the Capitol. "Chuck" Palmer, editor of St. Croix's "Border Lines," where we saw the item, commented, "Good planning and a slight expenditure of money added up to invaluable public relations."

Bargain Basement

FOR SALE — 42 Tuxedo-type chorus jackets, silver on black, black lapels. Excellent condition; \$12.50 each. Contact: Dick Ashland, 635 Hermitage Ct., Winter Park, Fla. 32789, Phone AC 305-671-2752.

FOR SALE — 25 black tux pants and 25 green brocade-type jackets with black lapels. Contact: Corpus Christi, Tex. Chapter, Commodores, P.O. Box 265, Corpus Christi, Tex. 78403.

AVAILABLE — 80 uniforms (blue blazer and gray slacks), in good condition (some new), outfit excellent with many furnishing combinations, great buy for a growing chapter. Make offer to: Mike Calhoun, Brandon Drive, Mt. Kisco, N.Y. 10549, Phone AC 914-241-0017.



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(All events are concerts unless otherwise specified. Persons planning to attend these events should reconfirm dates with the sponsoring chapter or district. This list includes only those events reported by district secretaries as of April 1, 1973.)

- May 16 – July 15, 1973
CENTRAL STATES
COLORADO
June 2 – Colorado Springs
8-9 – Boulder
MISSOURI
June 2 – Florissant Valley
SOUTH DAKOTA
May 25-26 – Rapid City
DIXIE
GEORGIA
May 18-19 – Atlanta
MISSISSIPPI
May 26 – Jackson
NORTH CAROLINA
May 19 – Greensboro
SOUTH CAROLINA
May 26 – Spartanburg
EVERGREEN
BRITISH COLUMBIA
June 2 – Langley
OREGON
May 26 – Coos Bay
July 9-14 – Portland (Int'l
Convention & Contest)
WASHINGTON
May 18-19 – Centralia
FAR WESTERN
ARIZONA
May 19 – Yuma (Prelim.
Chorus Contest)
CALIFORNIA
May 18-19 – Downey
19 – Bakersfield
19 – San Gabriel (Arcadia)
June 9 – Monterey Peninsula
16 – Peninsula
ILLINOIS
May 26 – Fox River Valley
JOHNNY APPLESEED
OHIO
May 18-19 – Cincinnati
19 – Columbus
19 – Maumee Valley
19 – Cleveland

- June 1-2 – Clermont County
PENNSYLVANIA
May 19 – Pittsburgh (South Hills)
LAND O'LAKES
MINNESOTA
May 19 – Duluth-Cloquet
WISCONSIN
May 19 – Plymouth
19 – Monroe
MID-ATLANTIC
NEW YORK
June 15-16 – Hamptons
PENNSYLVANIA
June 1-2 – Westchester
VIRGINIA
May 19 – Roanoke Valley
NORTHEASTERN
CONNECTICUT
May 19 – Bridgeport
June 2 – Torrington
MAINE
May 19 – Portland
MASSACHUSETTS
May 19 – Canton
19 – Haverhill
June 2 – Beverly
NEW HAMPSHIRE
May 19 – Berlin
June 2 – Laconia
QUEBEC
June 15 – Montreal
VERMONT
May 19 – Burlington
ONTARIO
May 26 – St. Catharines
June 16 – Ottawa
PIONEER
MICHIGAN
May 18 – Holland
June 9 – Traverse City



- TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA... Dixie
District... Chartered February 12,
1973... Sponsored by Montgomery,
Alabama... 35 members... Bruce Hes-
kett, 201 Williamsburg E., Tuscaloosa,
Alabama 35401, Secretary... David
Brennan, 49 Woodridge, Tuscaloosa, Ala-
bama 35401, President.
THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO... Land
O'Lakes District... Chartered February
16, 1973... Sponsored by Silver Bay,

Minnesota... 35 members... John Wil-
kinson, 547 Leslie Ave., Thunder Bay,
Ontario, Secretary... Kenneth Duke,
367 Egan St., Thunder Bay, Ontario,
President.

WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA...
Johnny Applesseed District... Chartered
February 16, 1973... 35 members...
Jack Mundell, Jr., RD 6, Washington,
Pennsylvania 15301, Secretary... Eli
Dille, RD 1, Prosperity, Pennsylvania
15329, President.

PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN
... Land O'Lakes District... Chartered
February 21, 1973... Sponsored by
Regina, Saskatchewan... 38 members
... Walter Wilson, 879 Third St. East,
Prince Albert, Saskatchewan S6V 0J1,
Secretary... Fr. Roger St. Pierre, Notre
Dame College, St. Louis, Saskatchewan,
President.

TRENTON, ONTARIO... Ontario Dis-
trict... Chartered February 22,
1973... Sponsored by Peterborough,
Ontario... 41 members... James Leger,
RR 1, Belleville, Ontario K8N 4Z1, Secre-
tary... David O'Brien, Bayside Apts.,
Apt. 11, Box 8, RR 2, Trenton, Ontario,
President.

RIVERHEAD, NEW YORK...
Mid-Atlantic District... Chartered March
13, 1973... Sponsored by Plainview,
New York... 37 members... Sal Mes-
sina, 7 Joyce Dr., Riverhead, New York
11901, Secretary... John O'Brien, 1359
North Sea Rd., Southampton, New York
11968, President.

HELENA, MONTANA... Evergreen
District... Chartered March 14,
1973... Sponsored by Great Falls,
Montana... 35 members... Chuck
Harnish, P.O. Box 700, Helena, Montana
59601, Secretary... Carr Cleveland, 18
Orange Ave., Helena, Montana 59601,
President.

GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA... Sunshine
District... Chartered March 28,
1973... Sponsored by St. Petersburg,
Florida... 40 members... Burl Moose,
Jr., P.O. Box 14228, Gainesville, Florida
32601, Secretary... David Kolonia, RR
2, Box 431, Gainesville, Florida 32601,
President.

SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN
... Land O'Lakes District... Chartered
April 5, 1973... Sponsored by Regina,
Saskatchewan... 35 members... John
Denike, 2330 Clarence Ave., Saskatoon,
Saskatchewan, Secretary... Jack
McDowell, 25 Harrison Crescent, Saska-
toon, Saskatchewan, President.

MAIL CALL



from harmony hall

This department of the HARMONIZER is reserved for you, our readers. It contains written expressions regarding your magazine or any other segment of the Society.

As nearly as possible, letters should be limited to 250 words. The HARMONIZER reserves the right to edit all letters and will not publish unsigned letters or letters which may be in poor taste.

"WHO WERE THEY?"

Benton Harbor, Mich.

Mar. 17, 1973

Ever wonder what happens to second and third place district finalists, and all the other quartets that work long and hard for six minutes of "glory" once and possibly twice each year at contest. After that — you guessed it, friend — we become "Who?" The great big "E" in our name somehow is lost in the shuffle as show chairmen put together their annual shows. If we're lucky, we do our own chapter show and all the "freebies" that come along — P.T.A., nursing homes, etc., but not one single invitation from a neighboring chapter.

Yes, I know what you're gonna' say, and I wholeheartedly agree. We want to present our best — after all, that's how we draw a crowd — sell tickets — make money. You bet! But, don't we deserve some consideration too? We're not asking for the sky — just a chance to feel that the effort required to place at a district contest was worthwhile. Yet, we are strange birds — we'll be at the next contest — or will we? It only takes a couple years of being "Who?" and who knows whether we'll be back.

What is all this leading up to — well, let's see. What would happen if each chapter in our Society would use "us" along with the top 10? Can you imagine what that would do our our quartet program? The "E" I wrote about earlier would jump right out and grab you!

Dick Peterson

PENS HISTORICAL NOTE

Montpelier, Vt.

Feb. 26, 1973

Recently a letter arrived from veteran

Society member Bill Graham of Easthampton, Mass., telling me that Dave Shumway of Amherst, Mass., another veteran Society member, had come into possession of a copy of the book, "Keep America Singing", the Society's ten-year history by Deac Martin published in December, 1948. He wrote also that the fly leaf had an inscription written by me to "Pat" somebody. I immediately asked Bill for more details. Word soon came back that Dave had been given the book by a woman neighbor who had spotted it at a rummage sale. Knowing of Dave's deep interest in our kind of music, she grabbed off the book to give to Dave as a present.

The inscription turned out to be, "To my old and valued friend, Pat Powers of Springfield, Mass., a grand guy. Carroll P. Adams, Detroit, 9/6/49." Pat had been a friend of mine in our 1905-1910 high school days in Northampton, Mass. How the book in question ever found its way into that 1972 rummage sale will never be known.

Pat, Bill Holcombe, the late Hal Staab and I often met late Friday evenings, after high school dances, at Tim Leahy's lunchcart, where we ate three or four of Tim's five-cent hot dogs apiece and harmonized the old tunes without benefit of a pitch pipe or printed notes. Occasionally, on a nearby stool, there sat, sipping his coffee, Mayor Calvin Coolidge, pretending to be reading his newspaper. Tim Leahy whispered to us more than once that Coolidge stopped in on his way home from his law office only to hear us sing.

Carroll P. Adams

QUARTET COMEDIANS?

Highland Park, Ill.

Jan. 22, 1973

I have noticed something over a long period of time which has finally compelled me to write this letter. Almost every

top quartet has a member who feels he is a professional comedian.

A case in point was the 12th annual Chicagoland show on January 20, which I attended with three other people. The four of us were of the unanimous opinion that there was a big minus factor: each quartet, without exception, felt it had to supplement its singing with jokes, coupled with the fact that there was not one particularly funny joke teller in the lot. In fact, I have never encountered a really funny comedian in any quartet in all my 14 years as a member.

Bear in mind, I am referring to speaking comedy only; singing comedy, as exemplified by many fine comedy quartets we have enjoyed over the years, is quite another matter, and quite acceptable to all.

If all quartets feel they have a real comedian in their midst, then choruses, usually ten times larger, have that much better chance of having a good joke teller in their midst. Yet choruses must know something quartets don't know. Their abilities haven't gone to their heads; they know the audience is there to hear them sing, period.

Quartets usually do well to confine their speaking to introduction of songs, and, if they wish, to introduction of their members. If they feel they do have a comedian among them, I wonder if any of these quartets have ever taken the time to inquire from the show chairman if the emcee is primarily a comedian, and if so, to refrain from all jokes. No quartet comedian has ever won the game of "Can You Top This?" from a comedian master of ceremonies.

The emcee should make a deal with the quartets and choruses. He won't sing, and they won't tell jokes. So far, only the emcee and choruses are adhering to this idea.

Phil Schwimmer

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