

Community Service in Action

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THE

MAY • JUNE 1976



Ye Public Notice

It is with great pride and pleasure that we introduce our newest recording – CHAMPS . . . BACK TO BACK. On this record we have captured the most often requested selections as performed by our two most recent International Chorus Champions – the Louisville Thoroughbreds (1974) and the Dallas Vocal Majority (1975). Truly an impressive album at an outstanding low price.

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PROGRAMME

SIDE ONE (Vocal Majority)

1. Opener: Keep Your Sunny Side Up
2. Old Fashioned Girl
3. I'll Take You Home Again, Kathleen
4. At the Moving Picture Ball
5. Asleep In the Deep
6. All By Myself
7. Rampart Street Parade

SIDE TWO (Thoroughbreds)

1. Irish Medley
2. Winter Wonderland
3. I Love You Truly
4. Keep Your Eye On the Girlie You Love
5. When My Sugar Walks Down the Street
6. Get a Horse, Get a Horse
7. Waiting For the Robert E. Lee

Available through the International Office.



DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF BARBERSHOP QUARTET HARMONY

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future conventions

INTERNATIONAL

1976 San Francisco, Cal.	July 5-10
1977 Philadelphia, Pa.	July 4-9
1978 Cincinnati, O.	July 3-8
1979 Minneapolis, Minn.	July 2-7

MID-WINTER

1977 Orlando, Fla.	Jan. 28-29
1978 Tucson, Ariz.	Jan. 27-28

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Since the adoption of the Institute of Logopedics as our UNIFIED SERVICE PROJECT in 1964, most of our charitable singing efforts have been directed in support of our singing service motto: "We Sing . . . That They Shall Speak." No question but we've been more than moderately successful in providing financial assistance to the Institute, having raised over a million and a half dollars in about 12 years. We can be justifiably proud of this achievement. And one would normally believe that while all this was going on, many of our former community activities were either permanently abandoned, or they suffered serious set backs.

An international Community Service Committee was appointed last year to determine to what extent our chapters were still involved in community service performances (those for which no fee is received). The committee was pleasantly surprised to learn that most of our chapters are still very much involved in sharing their singing talents with others.

Because the committee felt that this aspect of barber-shopping deserved more attention, we've devoted our covers and lead story to

Community Service

community service performances. Even though our request for pictures and information concerning charitable performances over the past year didn't leave here until March 23 — with a deadline of April 5 for receipt of material — we were astonished at the response and the enthusiasm of chapters which have included public service singing as an important part of their total barbershop program.

We hope some of the edited accounts that follow, and the pictures on our covers, will urge others to experience the feeling of personal satisfaction that is a by-product of this kind of barbershop activity. The reports appear in the order they were received.

FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA. — The "Goodwill Blenders," a sixteen-man group within the chapter, has an enviable record of singing for civic clubs, churches, convalescent homes, nursing homes, etc. They've sung on board U. S. A. and foreign naval vessels stopping at Port Everglades and were singing guests aboard the submarine *Nautilus*. The average age of the group is well over 75, with the oldest 89 and the youngest 65 (one sings with a pacemaker). They entertained 33,540 people performing "for free" during 1975 and have already performed before 10,670 people during the first three months of 1976! (cover photo 1.)

OLATHE, KANS. — Twenty "no-fee" appearances performed at fifteen churches (as a replacement choir), two nursing homes, a meeting of City Commissioners, "Kick-Off" meeting of the city clean-up day and the Kansas Chamber of Commerce Flag Dedication Day (cover photo 2).

BURLEY, IDA. — The Burley Chorus entertained the old folks at the Burley Care Center just a short time ago. The chapter

makes several appearances every year in each of two care centers and two hospitals in the cities of Burley and Rupert. The chapter receives excellent press coverage, including pictures, in both local papers (cover photo 3).

LAKEWOOD, O. — The highlight of a recent singout was serenading a 100-year old woman who, after their performance, said, "I love you all, I love each one of you, I love everybody." The chapter toured the halls of the nursing home, singing outside the doors of the patients as they went along. The singing took place at the Manor Care Nursing Home (cover photos 4, 5 and 6).

GREATER BALTIMORE, MD. — Accepting a challenge from the members of the Santa Ana, Calif. Chapter,

this chapter donated a total of 25 pints of blood at the Red Cross Blood Center. While donating blood, they also sang some of the songs they were going to sing on an up-coming show. They received excellent publicity for their show in addition to giving generously of their blood (cover photo 7).

HARTFORD, CONN. — Proceeds from their annual "Harmony Night" will provide many of the "extras" for the 117 blind and blind multi-handicapped students enrolled at Oak Hill School. The benefit performance took place on April 2nd.

WILLMAR, MINN. — Camp Friendship — a summer retreat for mentally retarded young people — was the scene of a heart-warming appearance by the Willmar Chapter and two of its quartets, the "Kandy Pipers" and the "Dandy Dandies." A bus was chartered and 46 passengers, including a number of wives, made the 65-mile trip to the camp area last August 19th. Plans are being made for a return engagement during this summer (cover photo 8).

MUSCONETCONG, N. J. — Barbershop Harmony Week was proclaimed by the Mayor as the chapter sang for the Cosmopolitan Club of the Y. W. C. A. The affair was their annual dinner for the men folk and widows. The chapter has also sung for local senior citizen's clubs, hospital and church functions and for needy and neglected children's societies (cover photo 9).

LORAIN, O. — This chapter takes its community service obligation as a singing group seriously. They have sung in retirement centers, metropolitan housing centers, nursing homes, homes for the blind, PTA and church groups, fraternal organizations and have an active program of such singouts on a year-round basis.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY, N. Y. — A very community-service minded chapter, both quartets and mini-choruses have devoted a considerable amount of time to charity sing-outs, mainly in old folks homes, but also embracing hospitals, rehabilitation centers, prisons, homes for unwed mothers, the Salvation Army, alcoholic centers, plus special projects. When they found their group often outnumbering their audiences, they broke the

voice in

Action

chorus down into two choruses, each with its own director, M. C., and part-captains who are responsible for the attendance of their particular section. Since Westchester is a fairly large geographic area, they have a "Gold" Chorus comprised mainly of members who live "up-county" and sing in these areas on the second Thursday of each month. "Down-county" members belong to the "Blue" Chorus and sing on the fourth Wednesday of each month. In addition, on the second Monday of each month the entire chorus does a charity sing-out in place of their usual warmup period. In each case, all of the sing-outs involve two separate institutions so they generally cover six places per month. This ambitious program is popular among the majority of the members, helps to develop new directors, M. C.s, etc. and, most important, fulfills the obligation and desire to render altruistic service to the community through the medium of barbershop harmony.

STORM LAKE, IA. — Three recent singouts in local nursing homes are part of this chapter's year-round endeavors to share their four-part harmonies with those less fortunate.

WATERBURY, CONN. — The chapter's chorus and quartet sang identical performances the same evening for a Roman Catholic Church and a Lutheran Church. A similar program was presented one week later for a Greek Orthodox Church party, where the men had an opportunity to sample some rather unusual and tasty Greek-style pastry.

STEVENS POINT, WIS. — An annual Round Robin Night includes pre-planned performances at four locations on the same night. Starting promptly at 6:30 p. m. (to meet bed-time schedules at all four places), the chapter appears at a health center, rest home, county home and finishes the evening singing for a young woman, a polio victim, who has been bedridden and sustained by an artificial breathing apparatus for many years. She talks with the men, laughs and cries and the men laugh and cry with her. The sound, the vibration of 35 or 40 male voices, raised in inspired harmony in a living room or bedroom of a private home, is enough to shake any music lover's emotions. *(Ed. Note: Having been a part of these sing-outs in my home chapter fourteen years ago, it is heart-warming to know that the "round robin night" is still a part of the chapter's regular program. I re-lived, for a brief moment, the thrill of singing for the polio victim and recalled*

the personal satisfaction derived from participating in this rather tedious evening of singing. I'm proud to have been associated with these men and to know they are still carrying on this wonderful tradition.) Several other rest home sing-outs take place throughout the year, as well as an Art-in-the-Park project and an annual chapter-sponsored and produced free Community Christmas Concert, featuring local vocal groups presenting their special Christmas music (cover photo 24).

RIPON, WIS. — This chapter maintains a float solely for the purpose of appearances in community parades. It has been used in parades for June Dairy Month, July Fourth Celebrations, both high school and college homecomings, etc. The chapter also schedules one Sunday in each month to sing at three or four different church services. They also sing for nursing homes, service clubs and a local conservation camp on a regular basis (cover photo 10).

PARSIPPANY-TROY HILLS, N. J. — About 50 residents gathered in the main lobby of a local nursing home on March 29 and responded enthusiastically to an evening of barber-shop entertainment by this chapter and two of its quartets, the "Rock Bottom" and the "Original Edition." (cover photos 11, 12 and 13.)

SARASOTA, FLA. — Harmony Week last year gave this chapter an opportunity to serenade the Mayor in the city council chambers as he proclaimed the special week with a scroll, copies of which were sent to newspapers, radio, TV and other media in the area. This chapter also enters a float in the annual King Neptune Parade, one of the city's largest community projects. A "regular" on the float is the chapter's senior citizen, Al Patch, who'll celebrate his 95th birthday in July (cover photos 14 and 15).

FT. MYERS BEACH, FLA. — Boasting fourteen charitable sing-outs from October of 1975 through April 1, 1976 (along with many rehearsals for their up-coming "Salute to America" show on April 24th), these singers have entertained for churches, chamber of commerce tourist activities, senior citizens, mobile home park communities, a city group fair and an annual city-wide parade (cover photo 16).

MONTEREY PENINSULA, CALIF. — The chapter took part in a fiesta March 13 marking the 1776 journey of Juan Bautista de Anza, who successfully explored a land route to supply the scattered settlements in Alta, Calif. The fiesta concluded a week of activity in honor of the occasion (cover photo 17).

(Continued on page 29)

Convention Special Events Finalized

The first tickets are in the mail for those who have registered for the San Francisco convention, and included in the mailing is the greatest list of special events and tours we've ever had for an international (see page 5). There's going to be lots for everyone to do in San Francisco!

By the way, there are still registrations left, but the hall is filling up very fast, and indications are that the convention will be a complete sellout. So, if you want to be in the hall, get your registration in now.

Speaking of deadlines, there are some for a few of the special events. For instance, the special barbecue and wine country tour on Tuesday, which is being set up by the Napa Valley Chapter. They've got to order the meat a month in advance so we must know no later than June 1 whether or not you're intending to attend. (An order form for all special events is included in the ticket mailing.)

Another important deadline concerns the buffet dinner which has been arranged for Thursday between contest sessions. The Cow Palace, where the contests are being held, is a good 20-minute drive from the heart of the city where we'll all be staying. On Thursday, the shuttle busses are going to have to operate right in the midst of the rush hour traffic so the trip may take more like 30 to 45 minutes. This doesn't leave much time to eat and then get back to the hall. Plus the fact that there just aren't any good eating places around the

Cow Palace. So, we've arranged for a buffet to be served at the Cow Palace between sessions. There'll also be entertainment by quartets and beverage service will be available. The only problem is that we've got to know in advance so we can tell the caterer how many to expect. If you decide on Thursday afternoon that you'd like to stay at the Cow Palace and eat, and have not made a reservation, you're going to be out of luck. Also, when you receive your information brochure along with your tickets, you'll notice that there's a place to indicate whether you'd like something similar to be set up on Saturday between sessions.

ORDER SPECIAL EVENTS TICKETS EARLY

Every year there is a problem with people who want to take part in tours or other special events and are disappointed because they can't purchase tickets when they arrive at the convention. We'd love to have you participate, but please bear in mind that many of these events must be restricted because of facilities, space, or pre-ordering of meals. If you want to be sure, get your orders in prior to the convention.

Arrangements have been completed for the Wednesday night and Friday afternoon shows, and what a lineup! The Champs Show on Wednesday at the Cow Palace will feature the "Dealer's Choice," "Sun Tones," "Schmitt Brothers" and the "Happiness Emporium." The Friday afternoon showcase,

Soc. Communications Director Hugh Ingraham met with the Convention Steering Committee early in January. Shown right are (seated, from left) Bill Smith (Vacaville), Convention Secretary; Ingraham; John Krizok (Peninsula), General Chairman; Jerry Orloff (Peninsula), AIC Show and Public Ticket Sales; Hans Adler (Marin), Manpower Coordinator. Standing, Tom Keehan (Walnut Creek), Aids; Lou Micco (Oakland-East Bay), Special Events; Roy Larson (Oakland-East Bay), Registration; John Burby (Santa Rosa), Contests; Ralph Bryant (San Francisco), Public Activity; Don Redling-shafer (Oakland-East Bay), Transportation. Missing were Tom McGowan (Walnut Creek), Service Activity; and Andy Dill (Sacramento), Contests.



SAN FRANCISCO CONVENTION FUNCTION SCHEDULE

MONDAY, JULY 5

Registration Opens — Noon — Hilton Plaza
Ladies Hospitality — Noon — Franciscan Room
Executive Committee — 1 p.m. — Diablo
San Francisco Tour No. 1 — Busses leave Hilton at 1 p.m.
Tiburon Cruise and Dinner — Busses leave Hilton at 5:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, JULY 6

Executive Committee — 9 a.m. — Diablo
District Presidents' Conference — 9 a.m. — Shasta
Barbarteens Opens — 10 a.m. — Imperial Ballroom
Special SPEBSQSA Wine Tour — Busses leave Hilton at 10 a.m.
District Presidents' Luncheon — Noon — Toyon
Philadelphia Registration Opens — Noon — Hilton Plaza
Pre-Teens Get Acquainted Party — 1 p.m. — Imperial
San Francisco Tour No. 2 — Busses leave Hilton at 1 p.m.
Harmony Foundation Meeting — 2 p.m. — Tamalpais
Barbarteens Get Acquainted Party — 7:30 p.m. — Imperial Ballroom
President's Ball — 9:30 p.m. — Continental 4 and 5

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7

International Board Meeting — 9 a.m. — Continental 1, 2, 3
"Great America" Family Day Tour — Busses leave Hilton at 9 a.m.
International Board Luncheon — Noon — Cypress
San Francisco Tour No. 3 — Busses leave Hilton at 1 p.m.
Alcatraz Tour No. 1 — Busses leave Hilton at 1 p.m.
Parade of International Champions — 8 p.m. — Cow Palace
Chorditorium — 11:30 p.m. — Continental Ballroom

THURSDAY, JULY 8

AIC Breakfast & Meeting — 8:30 a.m. — Vista
District Logopedics Chairmen Breakfast — 8 a.m. — Tamalpais
Contest & Judging General Meeting — Continental 7, 8, 9
P.R. Workshop — 9 a.m. — Rosewood
B.E. Workshop — 9 a.m. — California
Barbarteens Marine World — Africa Tour — Busses leave

Hilton at 9 a.m.

Napa Valley Wine Tour — Busses leave Hilton at 9:30 a.m.
Ladies Luncheon — 10:30 a.m. — Continental 1, 2, 3, 4
Judges Luncheon — 10:45 a.m. — Cypress
Quartet Quarter Finals No. 1 — 1 p.m. — Cow Palace
Quartet Quarter Finals No. 2 — 8 p.m. — Cow Palace
Quartet Jamboree — 11:30 p.m. — Continental Ballroom

FRIDAY, JULY 9

Golf Tournament — Busses leave Hilton at 8 a.m.
District Associate C & J Meeting — 8:15 a.m. — Toyon
PROBE Meeting — 9 a.m. — California
Barbarteens Tour to Santa Cruz — Busses leave at 9 a.m.
Decrepits Brunch & Meeting — 10 a.m. — Rosewood
Oecrapets Meeting — 10 a.m. — Teakwood
Barbarteens Tour to Angel Island — Busses leave Hilton at 11:30 a.m.
Massed Sing — Noon — Union Square
Alcatraz Tour No. 2 — Busses leave Hilton at 1 p.m.
Mulr Woods Tour — Busses leave Hilton at 1 p.m.
Barbershop Showcase — 1:30 p.m. — Continental Ballroom
AICC Meeting — 4 p.m. — Continental Ballroom (following Showcase)
Barbarteens Dance — 8 p.m. — Imperial Ballroom
Quartet Semi Finals — 8 p.m. — Cow Palace
Quartet Jamboree — 11:30 p.m. — Continental Ballroom

SATURDAY, JULY 10

Logopedics Breakfast — 9 a.m. — Continental 1, 2, 3, 4
Chorus Contest — 1 p.m. — Cow Palace
Quartet Finals — 8 p.m. — Cow Palace
Barbarteens Afterglow — 11 p.m. — Imperial Ballroom
Chorditorium — 11:30 p.m. — Continental Ballroom

SUNDAY, JULY 11

Interdenominational Church Service — 9 a.m. — Continental Ballroom
Farewell Coffee — 9 a.m. — Hilton Plaza

to be held at the headquarters Hilton hotel, features the great comedy quartet, the "Salt Flats," and three international champions: the "Evans Quartet," "Four Statesmen" and the "Regents." And if that still isn't enough talent for you, don't forget to take in the Saturday morning Logopedics breakfast, where you'll be entertained by the four-time international chorus champs, the Louisville "Thoroughbreds."

The way registrations are pouring in San Francisco may well end up being the biggest convention we've ever had. Yet there are many who just can't make it. For those, we've again made special arrangements so you can phone in and get the contest results after each session. Thursday night, we'll record the names of the top 20 quartets; Friday we'll do the same with the top ten. Then on Saturday, following the finals of both the chorus and quartet contest, we'll record the names of the top five quartets. To find out this information, the number to call (yes, you have to pay for the call) is (415) 334-8986. If it's busy, you'll just have to wait and try again. And don't forget about the time difference; San Francisco is on Pacific time (that's three hours difference, for instance, from the east coast).

One final note: San Francisco is *not* Southern California, so bring some warm clothes with you (topcoat and sweaters) or you may freeze. Not even the warm welcome from Bay area Barbershoppers will be enough to keep you warm.

SAN FRANCISCO 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 @ \$25.00 ea. _____ Junior Registration @ \$15.00 (18 and under) for myself and my party for the 38th Annual Convention and International Contests at San Francisco, California on July 5-10, 1976. I understand that the registration fee includes admission to official events; a reserved seat at all contest sessions; a registration badge and a souvenir program; free shuttle bus service between the headquarters hotel and the contest site. I clearly understand that registrations are transferable but not redeemable.

PLEASE
PRINT
DISTINCTLY

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

CHAPTER _____

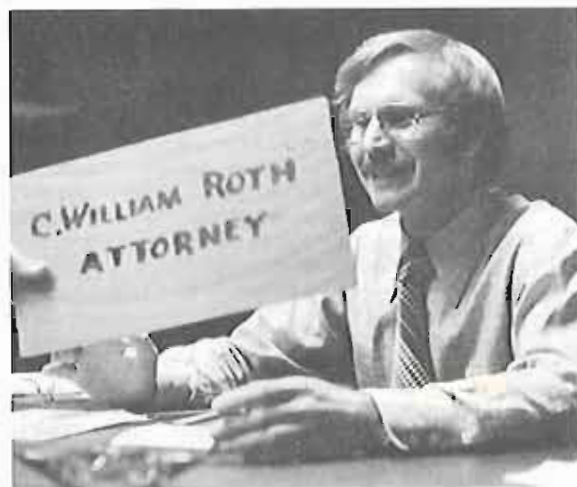
Make check payable to "SPEBSQSA"

How to Succeed in San Francisco



Ron Reigler

By Ron Reigler,
Baritone, "Roaring 20's" Quartet,
Western Hills (Cincinnati), O. Chapter
and
Bill Roth,
Baritone, No Quartet,
Arcadia, Calif. Chapter



Bill Roth

(Editor's Note: The following article is printed, at the authors' request, exactly as it was submitted. To the best of our ability we've followed their instructions. We trust you'll enjoy the story as much as we did and accept it in the spirit in which it was written.)

In breathless anticipation of the 1976 convention, we take this opportunity to share with you the *real* reason for our Annual Gathering. Traditionally, it has been thought of as a fulfilled week of singing and competition, saturating our souls with music and our bodies with exhaustion. However, it really is much more; its *primary* purpose is the selection of our Most Important Barbershoppers (MIBs) for the following year while simultaneously separating the Somebodies from the Nobodies.

Much of this, of course, is decided by what happens during the actual competition. The new Quartet Champs and the winning Chorus Director automatically become MIBs. Normally their names are on the tip of everyone's tongue except, of course, when there is a Surprise Winner (e.g., the Dealer's Choice, whose names we can't remember . . . except for Brian Bedford who used to sing in the Doo-Dums).

But there is Another Way to achieve recognition, you *can* be seen woodshedding with the Right People. It is well known that nothing of significance ever takes place at any of the meetings; the *real* action occurs nearby in the Men's Room during the ringing of a tag! It is only here that the general public can separate the Somebodies from the Nobodies. (N.B. It is often thought that the Lead in a tag quartet is *the* MIB. This is only because he forces on the others obscure melodies and half-made up words; but, in the end, it will be the Baritone who executes the difficult C minor 9th Kamikaze swipe outlasting everyone with an additional "I love a Girl like Yooooooooooooou!" That Baritones are the *real* MIBs in our quartets was recently documented in the best selling book, "I'm OK, You're Flat"!).

But, back to specifics:

Rule One: NEVER BE SEEN ALONE! To be a Somebody you must either be seen woodshedding with an Important Quartet or in the company of an already recognized MIB. All members of competing Quartets automatically are Somebodies and can become MIBs by finishing in the Top Ten. Any persons fortunate enough to be seen associating with an eventual Finalist but BEFORE Friday night also become MIBs by virtue of the Lloyd Steinkamp Bootstrap Syndrome.

Rule Two: FIND OUT WHAT THE PAST CHAMPIONS ARE WEARING AND GET YOURSELF AN IDENTICAL OUTFIT! Then you can wear it around the lobby of the Headquarters Hotel and you will be mistaken for a Past MIB (PMIB). Fashion Hint: Magenta with fuschia stripes and sequins is definitely IN this year. Don't worry if someone asks your name; just mumble something. After a year, no one remembers any Past Champion's name (except Buzz Haggard of the Imposters, whose face is so familiar). If they ask to see your medal, tell them it got rusty from wearing it in the shower.

Rule Three: ALWAYS BE SEEN WITH AN MIB! Many MIBs can be found on the International Staff. Of course, you don't actually have to know these people; what's essential is that it appear as if you do. For example, knock on Barry Best's door at 3 a.m. and ask if he knows the Bass to "The Sunshine of Your Smile." Disregard his answer. The point is that you've been talked to by an MIB and can now return to the lobby and casually mention to a friend, "As Barry so humorously said to me in his room, 'Aren't the Boston Common?'"

An even more dramatic way to achieve necessary distinction is to wait all night outside the elevator on Bob Johnson's floor. Then, when he goes to breakfast, get in the elevator with him. As the doors open into the lobby, exit smiling and say, "Good talking to you again, Bob."

Congratulations! You're on your way to becoming Important!

Rule Four: If, despite all efforts, you can't get into a Quartet, dress like a Past Champion, or be seen with an MIB, then **BE SEEN WITH SOMEONE ONCE REMOVED FROM AN MIB!** Anyone who has had personal contact with an MIB is for the next 24 hours considered a Once Removed Most Important Barbershopper (ORMIB). Naturally, a Nobody *must* associate with twice as many ORMIBs in order to become an MIB. But you have to start somewhere, and the ORMIBs really do appreciate the attention.

If you have lots of guts, one final approach sometimes works:

Rule Five: NEVER WOODSHED WITH ANYONE! If you can force yourself to remain mute, the uniqueness of this situation automatically makes you a Somebody. But you *will* need to employ one or more of the following various techniques:

- If someone insists that you sing, then teach them the tag to "Slaughter on 10th Avenue" using the neutral consonant "Z". They will quickly lose interest.
- When walking past a group of woodshedders, shake your head and mutter, "Sit flat on the 7th and sharp on the 5th." None of those present will ever ask you to sing.
- Tie yourself to the Bar on Wednesday night, thereby missing the All-Champions' Show, and moan, "They just don't sing like they used to." While that may be true, no one will admit it by associating with you.

Now that you have mastered the Ground Rules, you still must know with whom it is best to be seen. If you can accumulate 20 points before 8:00 p.m. on Saturday night, you automatically become a Somebody. If you can accumulate 50 points by that time, you will become an MIB! The following List of Relative Importance has been compiled to help you choose your associates:

- +15 : Bob Johnson (Mr. Barbershop and the Jack Benny of Harmony College)



PROPER DRESS FOR A P.M.I.B.



ACTUAL SIZE

KEY NOTE CIRCLE

... the salvation of the buried Pitch Pipe. A one dollar bill can renew the life of the old pipe in your dresser drawer, long discarded because you could no longer read the lettering.

... KEY NOTE CIRCLE is a thin brushed aluminum disk, with large litho letters, lacquered and baked for a hard, long-wearing surface that will outlast the pipe itself.

... easily applied by peeling off the backing paper and placing the 3M pressure-sensitive back to the old pitch pipe.

(also available - C to C)

\$1.00 EACH or \$5.00 for 6

Mail check, along with name and address, to:

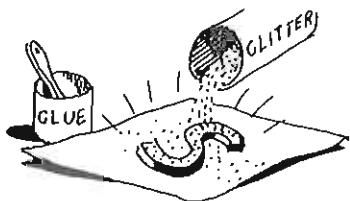
KEY NOTE CIRCLE, 2119 E. St. James St.
Arlington Heights, Ill. 60004

- +10 : Don Clause (everyone's favorite "Can't thank you enough" person)
- + 8 : Franklin Pierce (only if seen wearing his judicial robes)
- + 6 : Gentlemen's Agreement (if not seen wearing crushed velvet)
- + 5 : Leo Fobart's Son (an ORMIB who is so gullible he actually thinks we sing with him because we like him!)
- + 4 : Renee Craig (pen name for a well-known Barbershopper who prefers to remain anonymous)
- + 3 : Lyle Pilcher (another very famous "Can't thank you enough" person)
- + 2 : Judge Crater (he'll be on the 13th floor)
- + 1 : Ron Riegler (who's on this list by virtue of his virtue)
- +50 : Special Bonus for receiving a complimentary album from the Suntones.

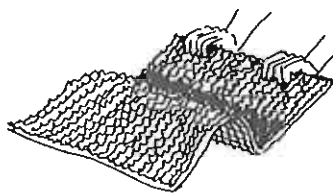
Under all circumstances, avoid being seen with or standing around:

- 15 : Leo Fobart (you probably won't be seen)
- 10 : Fred King (without his teeth)
- 8 : Leon Avakian (he LOVES to sing tags: We HATE tags)
- 7 : Mac Huff (saying you lack proper breath . . . support)
- 6 : Dave Stevens (trying to arrange Beethoven into 4 parts)
- 5 : Joe Mazzone (if he's performing his patented "Kneeling at the Cribside" Scene in the lobby)
- 4 : Happiness Emporium (for continuing to "Kneel at the Cribside")
- 1 : Tim Stivers (he talks weird)
- 50 : for expecting a complimentary record from the Suntones

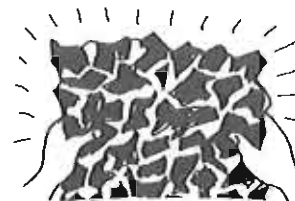
Good Luck! We'll see you at the Convention - but don't ask us to sing.



Bright, sparkly letters and decorative designs are made by coating with glue and sprinkling generously with glitter.



Floral sheeting, in a variety of colors, made of tissue petals glued to a cloth backing is easy to cut, tear or staple.



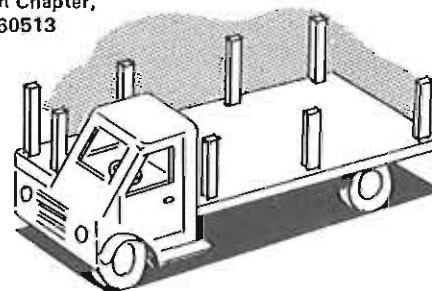
Aluminum foil paper, crinkled as shown, and applied over solid surfaces creates a handsome sparkly effect.

IT'S PARADE TIME...

By Bob Hockenbrough, "Q" Suburban Chapter,
4150 Dayo Ave., Brookfield, Ill. 60513



By using several old stage props we were able to put our float together for a cash outlay of about fifteen dollars most of which was used to purchase about 20 yards of blue cotton material to make the skirt to hide the wheels of the truck. The vertical panels (see photo) were red and white cotton material left over from a previous show. The loud speaker system was rented for about \$30. (We recommend a sound system.)



Our "Q" Suburban Chapter borrowed a flatbed stake truck similar to the one shown above from one of the local lumber companies. The stakes formed the base for a sturdy 2x4 fence and top rail to which the decorative materials were applied. The photos at left and below show the results that won a first place cup.



The 24-man chorus in bright red matched the red, white and blue float. Society initials were cut out and nailed in place. Other words painted right on the float. We made good use of second-hand lumber throughout.

The parade season is upon us. Across the land the parade committees are starting right now to line up their talent for the traditional main street extravaganza. And they'll be looking for floats — the star attractions of every parade. And that's where your chapter's opportunity comes in!

If you get started right away you can have your float ready for the big Memorial and Fourth of July Day parades in your area. This provides a great chance to present your chorus and quartets in a most entertaining and dramatic way. So line up all the designers, artists, carpenters and painters in your chapter and get started on your float.

Should the cost of the project seem more than the chapter treasury will tolerate, and you have no old stage props that you can adapt, don't hesitate to get your local business men to contribute materials. Or ask your local stores if they have any cast-off window display materials that you might have. Or consider approaching one of the town merchants to sponsor your float for a share of the publicity.

SO LET'S START BUILDING!

Your float will start with a foundation. A trailer, truck, car or wagon — almost anything that moves and can be towed or

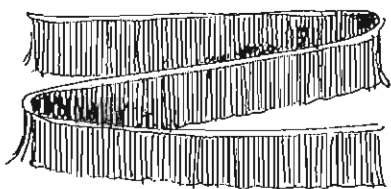
driven will do. It will have to be large enough to accommodate the men who will ride in it, be they quartet or full chorus. Sizes range from about 7 ft. x 14 ft. to 20 feet or more in length.

If you work on a truck bed try to blend the cab into the overall design. Be sure to allow for wheel clearance for steering; and keep flammable material away from the exhaust pipe, which should be wrapped in asbestos for added safety. Working with a flat-bed trailer is easiest, for there are no steering or exhaust problems and no cab to work around. But you'll need a car or jeep to do the towing.

A sturdy frame around the edge of the float to protect the chorus members is a must. If they are to stand it must be high enough for them to hold on to. If they are seated it can be lower. Framing areas, to which the decorative materials are stapled, can be built from 1x2 inch material. By using papier-mache over chicken wire you can create all kinds of unusual shapes and forms.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE!

When it comes to picking your color scheme go any direction you wish — but please — not before you give some



Paper or plastic fringe is used to trim the bottom of the float. Use it also to swag or drape for many good effects.



Bunch a 10 inch length of fringe to make tassels. Put them on the end of sticks for animated swagger accents. Effective.



Festoon rope is great for all kinds of trim and draping. Rosettes are easily made by bunching 8 in. length as shown.

LET'S BUILD A FLOAT!

It's Great Public Relations... a Great Chapter Project and a Great Way to Celebrate the Bi-Centennial Year

These are some general ideas and suggestions on the art of float building. We hope they will spark your imagination and stir you to action. There is no end to the magic you can create as you build, paint, wrap and drape your masterpiece. And what a thrill as you parade the finished beauty before the admiring throng!

thought to the good old red, white and blue. They're so right for the Bicentennial, the 4th of July and the Society. Make your design as simple or as elaborate as you like but strive for good balance, good taste. Make it a real eye-catcher. With the materials available today you can come up with a float that's a-glitter with sparkle and baubles, radiant with make-believe elegance. Just let your imagination take over.

Since the idea of the float is to promote your chapter and the Society, be sure your design incorporates the barbershop motifs... the barber pole, the Society emblem, the Society initials or the full name spelled out... as well as the name of your chorus and your chapter. Add to these your chorus in full uniform singing the old songs in barbershop style and you'll have a real winner!

PROFESSIONAL MATERIALS AVAILABLE

If you're located near one of the great metropolitan centers, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, etc., a look in the Yellow Pages of your phone book will list sources of materials under "Window Display" or "Float Builders."

Chapters in the smaller towns still have access to materials through the magic of the mail order catalog. You'll find red, white and blue cotton material 36 in. wide available in Wards and Sears catalogs for around 80 cents a yd. And Wards has a star-spangled bunting for 98 cents a yd. in 10 yard lots. In addition, here are the addresses of two specialty houses which deal in display materials. Drop a line to either for the things you need.

ASSOCIATED ATTRACTIONS ENTERPRISES INC.,
1519 South State, Chicago, Illinois 60605 has among its stocks:

Floral Sheeting 3x3 ft.....paper \$2.25 ea., plastic \$3.50

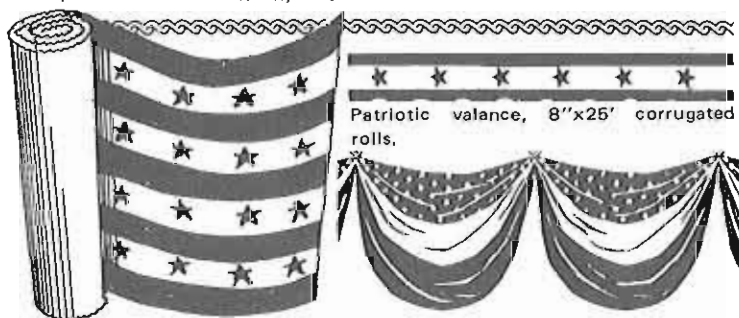
Fringe in 10 ft. lengths.....paper \$1.45 ea. plastic \$2.00

Festooning, 30 ft. rolls....paper \$1.25 ea. plastic \$3.00

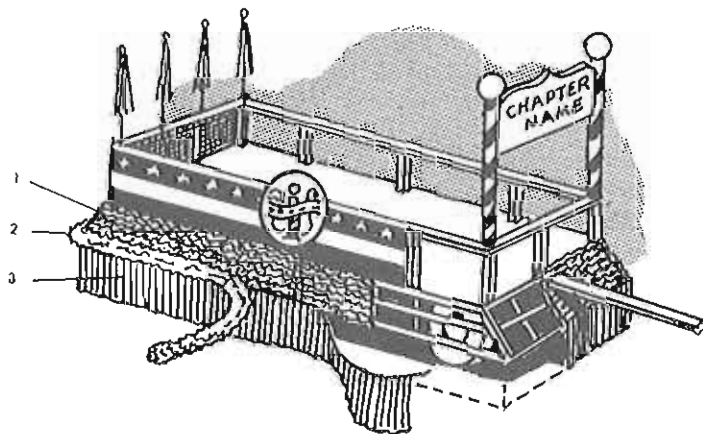
BEMIS-JASON, 1100 West Cermak, Chicago, Illinois 60608
or 3250 Ash Street, Palo Alto, California 94306 has a catalog or corrugated patriotic paper products ideal for our needs. Prices are reasonable. Send for a copy of their catalog!

So good luck! Get going! Join the parade and have fun!

SEND US A PICTURE OF YOUR FLOAT — and if response is good, we may do a follow-up story using the photos we receive. An 8x10 black and white glossy photo is preferable. However, a sharp color photo or slide will work, too.



Just two of many patriotic designs available in 4'x25' corrugated rolls.



A flatbed trailer, as shown, measuring about 7x16 or more feet, is ideal for float building. The sketch above shows a sturdy 2x4 fence and rail to which the decorations are applied. This can be cotton bunting, masonite or pre-printed corrugated display board. Floral sheeting (1) covers the lower framework and the fringe (3) on the bottom hides the wheels. Festooning (2) is used to hide all unwanted seams and can be swagged and draped for many unusual and dramatic results.

speaking BASIC-ally



By International President Plummer F. Collins,
216 Conewango Ave., Warren, Pa. 16365

As we continue our study of the word, "BASICS," along with the theme, "BACK TO BASICS FOR THE BICENTENNIAL," you have to remember what the word means, letter by letter:

"B" — Belonging to the Society by Total participation.

"A" — Attendance at all Possible Chapter, District and International functions.

Now we come to the letter "S," (my gosh, the year is half gone already!)

"S" — Sing in a Barbershop Quartet.

Considering that I am not a quartet singer, it seems only logical that I yield my space in this issue to a very fine and active quartet man. My personal thanks to Jim Grant (Dundalk, Md. Chapter), lead of the International Champion "ORIOLE FOUR," for the following inspiring message.

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

Notice anything wrong with that heading? If not, feel free to go on to the next page. If something seems wrong to you, I'd like to share a few minutes with you. Yes, gentlemen, the Q. is missing, and that's something that we should talk about. Think, if you will, for just a minute, of our theme for 1976 — BASICS.

What can be more basic to the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of *Barbershop Quartet* Singing in America than singing in a *barbershop quartet*? Isn't *barbershop quartet* singing the reason "O.C.," Rupert and the others first got together? Do we not belong to an organization founded in order to preserve *barbershop quartet* singing? You bet we do. Sing in a *barbershop quartet*!

What's that? You say there isn't time for *quartet* singing at your chorus rehearsal? (We don't seem to have chapter meetings anymore.) The blame for this situation, which alarmingly has become the rule rather than the exception, must be shared equally by our administrators and chorus directors. We have become an organization where the standard of chapter success is measured by the results of a chorus contest. Somewhere along the line we have lost sight of our purpose. How many prospective members are approached on the basis of preserving and encouraging *barbershop quartet* singing? Rather, isn't the real reason for more members the attainment of a bigger and better chorus to be able to compete with the "big boys." After all, small choruses seldom win big contests.

NO TIME FOR QUARTETS

The director has generally become the titular head of the chapter (most often referred to as THE CHORUS). He dictates the format of the "rehearsal" and allows little, if any, time for matters which do not pertain to the chorus. He almost always has a "sound" reason for this attitude — chapter show coming up, divisional contest coming up, district contest coming up, etc. His rationale is based on the idea that he will be cheating the "chorus" if he gives less than 100% of himself.

Okay, Mr. President and Mr. Program Vice President! If the director cannot see how really foolish and selfish this approach

is, *tell him!* This is your responsibility to your members and to the Society. Start a quartet promotion program to make your members aware that a *quartet* man is not a second class citizen in this organization. If you do not know how to initiate the program, contact your area counselor, district officers or the International Office. There are many programs available for quartet promotion. You must encourage the total support of your director toward the program. Because he has the lion's share of attention focused on him (no comment), his attitude has enormous influence. He must be aware that the program will take more than one night to be a success. He can contribute greatly to the program, as singing in a *barbershop quartet* involves teaching and direction just as much as chorus singing.

Mr. Director, you are also eliminating a valuable tool for improving the chorus. The confidence and competence of *quartet* men is infectious and can do nothing but *help* the chorus. If I were director of a 100-man chorus, I would want to have a minimum of ten quartets active and singing. Boy, would that make my job easier. How can you *not* allow time for *quartet* singing? Come on, guys, wake up. Give your members the chance to "sing in a *barbershop quartet*."

IF SHOE FITS, WEAR IT

Before I continue, I should clarify one point. I am neither 100% for quartetting nor 100% against chorus singing. Each is an important part of our Society. Neither should be relegated to second class citizenship. However, there is growing concern among many of us that the role of the chorus is dominating the Society. I realize that some of the aforementioned will be considered over-reaction and much too harsh. I do not apologize to those who will take it personally. If the shoe fits, wear it!

I'd like to talk to Joe Q. Barbershopper for a few minutes. Guys, you are really missing something. *Barbershop quartet* singing is an experience that no other hobby can ever hope to rival. I wouldn't trade my experiences of the last 24 years of quartetting for anything else in the world. The thrill — yes, thrill — of ringing chords with three other guys cannot be described. It is something you must experience to appreciate. The fellowship of quartetting cannot be equalled. It makes no difference if you are a truck driver, custodian or bank president. Barbershop harmony is the common denominator. You meet many *real* people from all walks of life. And you don't have to be an international champion to meet them. You can meet them right in your own chapter.

It's not all easy or a bed of roses. Singing in a *barbershop quartet* takes a lot of time and effort. There are two types of quartet: 1) fun singing; 2) competition. The *barbershop quartet* which sings just for fun is looking to totally enjoy the hobby. The contest-oriented *barbershop quartet* is willing to put in the extra time and effort to be competitive. I'll not expound on the pros and cons of contests. The main point is to "sing in a *barbershop quartet*."

I am fortunate to have experienced both types of *barber-*

Big Day for "Chorus of the Potomac"

By Bob Poliachik, 42848 Woodfield Rd.,
Damascus, Md. 20750

SATURDAY, Jan. 31, 1976; 8:00 A.M.

Nothing pressing this morning so I'll sleep in and be well rested for the "Salute to America" show tonight — at least I thought I would. Thoughts of the show run through my mind and the old adrenalin starts to flow. So much for sleeping in! Oh, well, I still have plenty to do before I have to leave for the afternoon rehearsal. Get the uniform out, shine shoes, etc.

Why am I getting nervous? Let's see — is it "Yankee-Doodle Dandy" or "Yankee-Doodle-oodle?" How do those words go?

1:30 P.M. Finally, it's time to leave. On the trip in, more time to think about the show and what it means. Why do twenty-two Montgomery County (Md.) and some 200 other area Barbershoppers put themselves through four months of tough rehearsals, learning thousands of words and notes, and what seems like a hundred songs? Why did we all hang in there?

2:30 P.M. Arrived at Statler-Hilton. I now feel more at ease at the sight of many familiar and happy faces and the sound of a few ringing chords. I spot Hugh Ingraham and Bob Johnson in the lobby and chat for a few minutes. Everyone is feeling that same excitement and nervousness. The busses are loading, and it's time to grab your gear and go. We're off to the Kennedy Center!

3:15 P.M. The dressing room scene. Two hundred thirty guys crammed into a small Musician's Lounge. Do we complain? No! Not one complaint! Most of these guys are veterans of many singouts and contests and are too busy finding and filling every nook and cranny with garment bags and paraphernalia. Members from each chapter are wearing their formal uniform for the show.

3:30 P.M. Everyone upstairs and onto the concert stage for the first time. Swallow that lump in your throat, we haven't even started yet! After going over the rough spots a couple of times, we run through the entire show while a German film crew captures us in rehearsal for their nationwide television audience. Finally, we have everything smoothed out. Time now for a few accolades and presentations. Bob Johnson is awarded a framed copy of the Pledge of Allegiance in honor of his super patriotic spirit. Now for a rarity, one of the few times I've seen Freddy King speechless. He is presented with a beautiful watch in appreciation for his efforts in pulling the show together through all those rehearsals. Gene Jackson arrives on the scene laden with medicine. Seems the old flu bug bit him on Friday,

shop quartet singing. In the early years, it was strictly for fun. Then came the years of competing. Now, it's strictly for fun again. And do you know something? It feels just as good ringing chords while woodshedding with three other Barbershoppers as it did when singing in competition. The only difference is that woodshedders seldom have shirts alike! Gentlemen, you are really missing something special. I appeal to you to give it a try, for your own sake. "Sing in a barbershop quartet!"

Our organization now numbers 37,000 members. Wouldn't it be something if we had 9,250 quartets? Come on, let's carry out the theme of our President, Plummer Collins. Let's "Return to Basics." Let's put the Q back into S.P.E.B.S. S.A. Let's "SING IN A BARBERSHOP QUARTET!"

but in that true show biz spirit, he recovered enough to give his all for the show.

6:30 P.M. Some guys take a quickie tour of the Kennedy Center, while the rest of us storm down to the sandwich shop for a light repast. (Some of those make-your-own sandwiches looked like Mt. Everest!) Then it is back to the Musician's Lounge to get dressed and made up, and an attempt to relax before the show. The show begins at 8:30 and there's still 200 guys waiting for make-up, or at least it seemed like that many. 9:00 P.M. Time to gather backstage. Some last-minute words of encouragement by Bob Johnson, followed by a few words of prayer, put us in just the right frame of mind. We file onto the risers and we're ready. A presentation of the official Bicentennial flag by the Bicentennial Administration to International President Plummer Collins, and the reading of a letter from President Ford, by Society Executive Director Barrie Best, sends chills up the spine giving us an even sharper edge than before.

From the first chord to the last, "Salute to America" was one of the greatest barbershop happenings for us to experi-

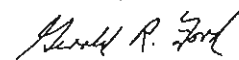
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 27, 1976

We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an Independent Nation as well as the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution. For two centuries our Nation has grown, changed and flourished. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the earth, have joined together to fulfill the promise of democracy.

America's Bicentennial is rich in history and in the promise and potential of the years that lie ahead. It is about the events of our past, our achievements, our traditions, our diversity, our freedoms, our form of government and our continuing commitment to a better life for all Americans. The Bicentennial offers each of us the opportunity to join with our fellow citizens in honoring the past and preparing for the future in communities across the Nation. Thus, in joining together as races, nationalities, and individuals, we also retain and strengthen our traditions, background and personal freedom.

As we lay the cornerstone of America's Third Century, the very special part in this great national undertaking performed by the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America through their Bicentennial program, "Salute to America", is most commendable.



ence. The sincerity and total enrapture of Bob Johnson, Freddy King, Hugh Ingraham and all was truly a thrill to remember for a lifetime. Then the standing ovation — the greatest I've ever experienced. WOW!

Why did 250 guys work like crazy for 90 minutes of stage time? Call it patriotism, pride, pioneer spirit or whatever, the Chorus of the Potomac strengthened in all of us the belief that it is great to be an American, and even greater to be a Barbershopper!

In the words of the opening song, "WHAT A COUNTRY" — WHAT A SHOW!

Good Old Summertime Can Be Super

By Harry Neuwirth, 1109 Maple St.,
Silverton, Ore. 97381

Show me a chapter president who says he has no let down in attendance during June, July and August, and I'll show you a Barbershopper from the southern hemisphere (or maybe from Burlington, Wisconsin, home of the famed Liars Club). Most chapter leaders are now moving nervously through the narrow meadow of April-May toward the precipice of Memorial Day and are beginning to experience the what-do-I-do-now syndrome.

Yet at C.O.T.S. last winter it all seemed so simple. Everybody was enthusiastic, and all the programs and activities proffered by the faculty were so positive and seemed ridiculously easy to implement. All the guys were excited, and not the least of that excitement came from the faculty volunteers and old pros.

Napoleon Bonaparte is supposed to have said, "... give me the two in the morning hero ...", and now it's 2:00 A.M. and time for all good heroes to implement the plans and programs that keep chapters vibrating through the summer. Those plans should have been made months ago, but there's always room for a few more innovations and enthusiasms. Of course, it's possible that a lot of non-officer types may be reading this piece, too, and they'll know what we're plotting, and we know they'll know. But now they know we know they know, so let's blow our cover and kick this thing around together.

VARY YOUR SUMMER ACTIVITIES

You know what's been going on all winter, and let's hope you've enjoyed your barbershopping activities thoroughly. But let's try something different this summer. How about a potluck? ("Oh for cryin' out loud, we...") Now wait a minute, let's pull a switch. Why not have the *guys* prepare the food (Oh yeah?! But then...), and let the wives do the entertaining ("Really?!!") And maybe even award prizes, or medals, to the best entertainers. ("And cooks?!!") Sure! Then embellish it a little. Do it again next year as a costume affair, and invite the folks from the T-Bone City chapter. You might even invite your non-barbershopping friends and neighbors.

Or how about the chapter picnic! Did you really plan it as a *family* affair, or do you just invite the wives and kids to a woodshed session and then turn them loose to fend for themselves? No, don't hang your head. Plenty of chapters do that because they don't fully appreciate that most of those

wives and kids have very little in common with each other, and the day will be practically over before they even get acquainted. You just gotta' have *lots* of games for the kids, with tons of prizes. And wives love games, too. You'd be surprised how well people like people, but you have to put them in a recipe together to bring out the flavor. You'll never believe how many people in their 30s, or 60s, for that matter, still enjoy musical chairs or balancing peanuts on a knife. (And who says that some of the guys can't be off woodshedding while that kind of organized stuff is going on.)

NEW IDEAS WILL FLOURISH

After you've put together a couple outings where the kids and/or wives *really belong*, they'll start feeding you ideas. ("Dad, do you s'pose the chapter would like to hike to Crystal Lake some weekend?") If you've never sung barbershop sweeties around a campfire, you're gonna' love Crystal Lake.

Or how about a Wives' Night ("In the summer?"). Sure, wives have summers too, and if you send notices a couple weeks in advance, you can warn them that they're going to have to put on a couple of skirts before you adjourn to Shakey's for pizza 'n pop. Or maybe you'd rather have an evening picnic, adjourn for an hour or so for the chapter meeting, and then reconvene with the wives and kids at that new amusement park (where they have been missing you like mad).

That doesn't mean you still can't have a wives' night next winter, too. Or a visitation from the local glee club. Or any of the many ideas you heard about at C.O.T.S. But remember, now *you* have to be the 2:00 o'clock hero; if you don't make it happen, it *won't* happen. You'll be amazed, and flattered, at how much fun and excitement you can create for your members if you'll turn them loose in a planned atmosphere of fun and innovative activity. But remember, they're reading this over your shoulder, so don't expect to feed them on warmed-over chicken from December's installation banquet. Fix them up with a new chicken, heated over a fresh fire of enthusiasm. They'll supply practically all of the enthusiasm, if you just get the fire going.

("Yeah, but how about our chorus director? He's a mean...") Listen, if you can create some enthusiasm in your membership and keep attendance high all through the summer, your director will love you for it. And if your chapter members are already swinging high on the chord, with no need for program material, why in the heck are you still reading this stuff along with us nervous heroes.

ESTABLISH NEW HABIT PATTERN

The big problem in maintaining summertime momentum is that most members are *busy doing something else*. They are establishing habit patterns that will eventually become compulsive (if they haven't already). We tend to visualize our chapters as existing in a narrow, one-way canyon. But harmony is bigger than a four-part chord, and we don't *need* to isolate our barbershop lives.

What's wrong with developing a barbershop environment for your chapter that is broader than the Tuesday night meeting, the Fall Contest and the annual show? Everyone agrees that Barbershoppers are among the world's greatest people, so why don't we expand our association with these wonderful folks; not as a device, not simply as a method of increasing and maintaining membership (though these will surely follow), but as the natural evolution of a mutual admiration society. We get emotional freckles singing harmony

Look out, the Top Hats are . . .

CRAZY!

On purpose, of course. Audiences from Nova Scotia to California have roared with laughter at the warm-hearted brand of musical lunacy these four oafs put out. Nutty gags, fractured lyrics, whacked-out routines. (p.s. Solid sound too.) Put some happy insanity into your next show. Call . . .

The **TOP HATS**

CONTACT: ALEX VAUGHN • STONELEIGH KNOLL • OLD LYME, CT. 06371 • PHONE (203)434-5008



together, and we've already agreed that Barbershoppers are a loveable, gregarious strain of *homo sapiens*. So what could be more logical than to transpose our four-part harmony into other social areas. We could ignite an elan that might reinspire the enthusiastic participation of those quartet men whom we haven't seen since the Boston convention.

So we embrace wives' nights, potlucks, picnics, guest nights, inter-chapter socializing, sons-and-daughters' nights, chapter campouts, cruises and a thousand other activities. The difficulty is that these things need to be scheduled, planned and effected. If we don't, some other organization will, and our guys will continue to be busy doing something else.

MORE ENJOYMENT FOR YOU

Well, for every negative there's a positive. Be a hero; initiate a sustained, comprehensive program for your chapter, and a few years from now we will be busy, *doing something else* with our barbershopping family and enjoying ourselves more than ever.

Naturally, there will still be vacation trips back to the old home town, and *everybody* needs to get away from it all with their own families from time to time. But there's really no good reason why chapter-planned social activities (complete with frequent "nips" of the chord) shouldn't dominate our social calendars throughout the year.

We won't forget what barbershop harmony *really* is (if we do, our International Office reps will remind us), but harmony *really is* bigger than a four-part chord, and we could do the world a favor by carrying the consonance of our Society out into society.

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614 Washington Avenue
Louisville, Ohio 44641

Chapter in the Bahamas? It's Possible

By Dan Heyburn,
23 Sylvester St., Cranford, N.J. 07016

Dave Mittelstadt is belted in across the aisle from me and our wives seated just behind us. Our chartered plane left Ft. Lauderdale half an hour ago, and now between the billowy masses of white cumulus clouds, we catch a glimpse of the Bahama Islands. Dave turns to the girls and shouts above the hum of our engines, "That's Bimini down there!" Since this is their first flight in a small plane, both Sandra and Arlene turn their heads slowly to peer through small oval windows at the jagged shape five thousand feet below.

Our destination is the small, rough air strip on the island of Great Exuma about 154 miles Southeast of Nassau. One or two thunderheads rest on the northern horizon. Exuma Airport has neither runway lights nor radio communication equipment; but where we are, the midday weather is excellent and there is no concern about such trivial inconveniences. Our minds are filled with the thrills and fun the next six days have in store for us.

A TWENTY-SIX YEAR ADVENTURE

I loosen my seat belt and adjust my position to relax. Thoughts of the days ahead turn to the events that led to this occasion. To put my finger on any one point in my life that brought me here would be difficult, but at the risk of sounding trite, I believe it all started when I became a Barbershopper twenty-six years ago. The unforgettable people I've met, and the experiences I've had through those happy years, are too numerous to recall. Yet every one related somehow to SPEBSQSA.

One man in particular, Colin Hecox, contributed greatly through most of those years. Very few men are blessed with ambition, intelligence and drive, as well as a genuine comprehensive love of music. Opera, jazz, barbershop harmony, classical and the rest. All favorites. The "Playtonics" (1956 Int'l Medalists) were the first to sing for, and become friendly with, this man. After their popular career ended in 1957, they had him hooked on barbershop. It wasn't long after that he chose the budding "Easternaires" (our present quartet) as his favorite foursome. As with many other friendships the "Easternaires" established over the years, our fondness for Colin grew with time. Since retirement five years ago, Colin purchased property and had a house built on this small tropical island.

We are flying at a lower altitude now. The patterns made

below by currents of blue and green water, coral and sand are dazzling. Each sighting of another cay (pronounced "key"), with its secluded coves and white sand beaches, prompts the snap of my new 35MM camera. We surely must have passed our halfway point by now. Dave is busy chatting with the pilot.

FIRST BAHAMA TRIP A GIFT

I shift my glance to Sandra and Arlene. They both appear happy and comfortable, and I recall that together they instigated the first trip this year. I remember the excitement when, under the Christmas tree last December 1974, Dave and I both found plane tickets to Nassau and Exuma neatly wrapped and bowed with our wives' blessings. The day after New Years, the two of us found ourselves on this little tropical paradise with Colin Hecox acting as social director, sailing instructor and snorkel expert. What a wonderful vacation! The warm friendly Bahamians we met were most interesting people. We were not surprised that they *liked* to sing, but with how *well* they sang. They loved the woodshed harmony Dave and I were able to add to their island melodies, and we were again surprised that they knew many of the "old songs." A group of eager, happy men circled us as we sang one song after another on into the night. If you think "keeping America singing" is fun, try a self-styled island afterglow, under a moonlit tropical sky, with a warm breeze carrying soft chords out over beautiful emerald waters. Your goosebumps will work overtime.

Our seven glorious days passed much too quickly; but we had made many friends in this short time and were thrilled with the fact that we had introduced barbershop music to a tiny part of the world where it had never been sung before. Needless to say, we hated to leave, and the thoughts of a return trip were already stirring in our minds.

WE RETURN IN APRIL

I don't recall whether it was me or Dave who made the first move, but all of a sudden, in mid-April, I found myself involved in some hasty last-minute plans to go back to Exuma. Sandra and Arlene waved goodbye to us at Newark Airport, and at last glance I could see the "how-did-we-let-them-con- us-into-this" look on their faces.

We flew from Ft. Lauderdale and surprised our host and hostess, Jean and Colin Hecox, who, due to brief and uncertain communications, were not quite sure when and if we would be making the trip. In less than an hour after landing and clearing Bahama customs, we found ourselves on a spacious yacht viewing a prestigious racing event, the "Out Island Regatta," in the beautiful Exuma Sound.

Our three-day stay included several memorable highlights. On Saturday afternoon we were interviewed by a popular Nassau disc jockey. Our conversation about being long-time Society members prompted him to ask us to sing a song. We willingly obliged with a two-part rendition of "Danny Boy" (Freddie King's arrangement, slightly altered). Sunday evening we were invited to cocktails and a delicious dinner to celebrate a birthday. Our pick-up quartet included Sam Gray, local real estate agent and owner of a rental car business, and William Nottage, Exuma's senior immigrations officer. "Happy Birthday" in solid four-part harmony was the hit of the evening, followed by a variety of island songs and old songs. Here again, as in January, we were surrounded by happy men who love harmony.

In those three short days, our love for the island and its

people had doubled. Talks of our international Society, a barbershop movement in England, of devoted lovers of four-part harmony and the possibilities of forming a chapter, stirred interest among the Bahamians. Dave and I agreed that some small gesture of recognition was in order. Certainly somewhere in the files at our International Office were certificates of appreciation for friends of our Society, non-members who love singing as much as we do, or guys who would like to keep their part of the world singing also. Sure enough, there is such a certificate, and our International Office was kind enough to send several to us.

BACK FOR A THIRD VISIT

The sound of the landing gear thumping into position woke me from my reminiscent doze, and I knew that our third visit to Exuma was about to begin. As we banked and turned toward the single landing strip, I caught sight of Flamingo Bay and a few familiar landmarks below. Pirates Point, Clark Hopkins' house on top of the hill, and to my left, the shallow Bone Fish flats on the south shore of the island. Dave and the girls pressed their noses to windows, as we taxied toward a small lonely building shaded by one large tree that housed the customs office, airline ticket counter and immigration office. Within minutes after customs inspection, we were seated in Kermit Rolle's airport restaurant enjoying our first bottle of St. Pauli Girl beer and a delicious hamburger platter. The temperature was in the low eighties with a warm comfortable breeze. Relaxation had already set in.

Our first two days were spent seeing the island, Williams-town, Pretty Molly Bay, Rolletown, Steveton and taking part in a Halloween party at the Women's Club out on Pirates Point, plus a dance on the patio of the lovely Peace and Plenty Club. One difficulty we had was getting our quartet together. Our friend, Sam Gray, was available but Bill Nottage was off the island on some official business. The only singing we did was around the piano at Danny Major's house. It was here that Dave and I experienced a proud moment. We had memorized the Bahama National Anthem, and here, in front of our Bahamian friends gathered in Danny Major's living room, we sang the pretty melody with occasional two-part harmony:

"Lift up your hearts to the rising sun Bahama land;
March on to glory your bright banners waving high;
See how the world marks the manner of your bearing;
Pledge to excel through love and unity.
Pressing onward march together to a common loftier goal.
Steady sunward tho the weather hides the wide and treacherous shoal.

"Lift up your head to the rising sun Bahama land
Til the roads you've trod lead unto your God,
March on Bahama land."

The anthem was new and had special significance since it was only three years ago, in 1973, that the Bahama Islands declared their independence from England. A proud and momentous step in their history.

WE WAIT FOR OUR FRIEND

We had been staying at Colin's home, as he and a friend were navigating the final leg of a fifty-day sail in the "Vim" (a 27-foot Tartan II) from Montaloking, N. J. to Georgetown, Great Exuma.

They should have docked by now but as yet no sign of them. Someone said the weather north of Exuma was not good and we envisioned the Vim anchored comfortably in

some sheltered cove on a bay just north of us waiting for the breeze to settle down.

Dave, Arlene, Sandra and I, at this point, were mostly concerned about two things: the Vim's safety, naturally, but more importantly, when were we supposed to schedule the "coming home" party? At a brief meeting, just before going snorkeling off the Out Island Inn beach, we set the party for the following night.



Dave Mittelstadt (left) and Dan Heyburn, both of the "Easternaires" quartet, are shown above as they presented Recognition of Merit certificates to friends of barbershoppling in the Bahamas, Bill Nottage (in white) and Sam Gray.

The house was filled with a jolly group of distinguished islanders. Sandra and Arlene set out plenty of delicious dips and snacks, including thin shavings of fresh coconut, sprinkled with salt and baked in the oven till the edges are brown. An island delicacy. Well, the Vim never docked that day (nor the next) but our celebration went on just the same. It gave us an excellent opportunity to present the Society Recognition Certificates to Sam Gray and Bill Nottage, members of the first barbershop quartet on Great Exuma, and one to our absentee host, Colin Hecox. Glasses were raised and hands were clasped as the thrill of true friendship swelled within us. It's great to be a Barbershopper! Anywhere, we agreed.

The following night a group of us dined and danced together under the stars at the Peace and Plenty Club. After the band left we harmonized softly and beautifully for about two hours, songs such as *I Sailed on the Sloop John B.*, *Matilda*, *Yellow Bird*, *Sweet Sixteen*, etc.

The Vim docked around noon the following day in fine condition just two hours before our plane was scheduled to depart. We listened to a few hasty sea stories on the way to the airport. Everything seemed to happen so quickly. We waved goodbye and the next thing I knew we were gaining altitude in a north-westerly direction, heading homeward.

WE SHALL RETURN!

It wasn't long after the white billowy clouds blocked my final glance of the island that I turned to see the sad look on my companions' faces. Our problem was serious. We had toured Exuma but there was still more to see. We had harmonized with the Island people, but not nearly enough. We talked of a chapter, but more time must be spent on that possibility. I only left four folders of Barberpole Cat music which isn't enough for a whole island. What should we do? Our faces brightened when we came up with the only solution at that moment: we started making plans for our next visit to the beautiful Bahamas.



Afterglow with the Suntones

VOLUME ONE

FROM THE LAND OF SUNSHINE

SPRING 1976

"A LITTLE TRAVELING MUSIC"

Once again, we'd like to fill you in on what's been happening with the SUNTONES and share some highlights of our travels. Speaking of traveling, we're amazed at the number of smaller chapters which are interested in our goal of trying to sing for every chapter in the Society.

Our road tours to California for the past two years have really been enjoyable. If your district lends itself to packaging five to seven show or concert appearances on successive dates, just let us know. We'd be happy to set up a "circuit" so that travel expenses can be shared.

In the last Newsletter, we mentioned being part of a big Labor Day bash in the LOL District at Walker, Minn., but failed to mention the most heartwarming experience. While we were singing *Bye, Bye, Blues* a girl in the front row was laughing and crying at the same time. Later that evening we met her father, who related quite a story about an accident that left her almost totally deaf. That night during our *Bye, Bye, Blues* she totally regained her hearing. We don't claim to compete with ORAL ROBERTS, but it's the first time our sound system has been accused of being a hearing aid.

In October the Sunshine District Convention invited us to entertain as part of the evening Quartet Prelims. The big event was held at the fabulous FOUNTAINBLEU Hotel on Miami Beach. The gig was fun, but later during the contest the place caught fire and the lights went out. Fortunately all was cleared up quickly by the local fire department. Bravo to the "Cloud Four" quartet for continuing to sing their contest numbers in the darkness without the P.A. system.

The big event for February was Jackie Gleason's Birthday Party (his 60th), held in conjunction with the Inverrary PGA Golf Classic. The usual cast of stars was present — Bob Hope, David Hartman, Johnnie Bench, Denise Darcell, Fred Mc Murray, Mike Douglas, etc. We sang a pair of songs and still can't believe how well the crowd enjoyed *My Buddy* . . . you could have heard a pin drop while we were on. The highlight of the evening was when Bob got to drive *TONY BENNETT* home.

Our own Miami Chapter show is a pretty lavish affair. Gene is the MIAMIANS Chorus Director. The guest quartet this year was the absolutely sensational *GENTLEMEN'S AGREEMENT*. It's hard to believe they are retiring in June.

We traveled all the way West to Forest Grove, Ore. near Portland. They hold a fantastic week-long city-wide celebration known as the *ALL NORTHWEST BARBERSHOP BALLAD CONTEST AND GAY 90'S FESTIVAL*. Over 25 quartets compete for cash prizes and fame. The winners were *THE LIONS SHARE* from Bellingham, Wash.

The highlight of the *Wilmington, Del.* show occurred just before we were to sing . . . the audience had to evacuate the

auditorium because of a *bomb threat*! Twenty five minutes later (after a police search) it was show biz as usual.

The *Fairfax (Va.) Jubilaires* once again invited us to be a part of their show. Their hospitality team of Jed and Jane Casey, Dinny and Ginny Dinsmore and Les and Shirley Hesketh was superb. Once again Bob fell for a phony cake routine. He was invited to cut a cake baked in the Suntones honor — it turned out to be a beautifully decorated cardboard box! Bob swears he'll get vengeance!

In Greensboro, N.C. we got a chance to appear with the *BOSTON COMMON*, who are super guys and singers as well as being a many-times medalist quartet. Long-time friend Baxter Westmoreland, lead of the International Quarter Finalist *SOUTHERN ARISTOCRATS*, has been Greensboro's chorus director for over 20 years!

We met the *MANHATTAN TRANSFER* on a recent flight home and took in their act several nights later. They are a superb group and execute every number with neat chorography.

Here we are getting close to the time we'll be seeing many of you at the International Convention. This one couldn't be in a better town. The San Francisco Bay area Barbershoppers are just about tops in every department.

Many of you have asked where we'll be appearing over the next couple of months, so somewhere on this page you'll see our schedule. We'll hope to be singing for *you* in the days to come.

Gene . . . Bob . . . Harlan . . . Bill
THE SUNTONES

SPRING/SUMMER SCHEDULE

MAY	Sat.	1.	Arlington, Tex.
	Fri.	7.	Boca Raton, Fla.
	Sat.	8.	LaPorte, Ind.
	Mon.	10.	Palm Beach, Fla. (Breakers Hotel)
	Thurs.	13.	Lafayette, Ind.
	Fri.	14.	Wilmette, Ill.
	Sat.	15.	Cambridge, O.
	Fri.	21.	New Orleans, La.
	Sat.	22.	New Orleans, La.
	Tues.	25.	New York, N.Y. (Plaza Club)
JUNE	Thurs.	3.	Palm Beach, Fla. (Breakers Hotel)
	Sat.	5.	Memphis, Tenn.
	Fri.	11.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
	Sat.	19.	Miami Chapter Fund Raiser for Coastmen
	Tues.	22.	Miami Beach, Fla.
JULY	Sat.	26.	Palm Beach Junior College
	Tues.	5.	San Francisco Int'l Convention
AUGUST	Thurs.	5.	Palm Beach, Fla. (Breakers Hotel)
	Fri.	6.	Mankato, Minn.
	Sat.	7.	Stillwater, Minn.

(The above space was paid for by the "Suntones" quartet.)

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See song lists in Jan.-Feb. & May-June Harmonizer ads.



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"AFA, You've Made a Believer Out of Me!"

By Michael Foss, Box 8
Moultonboro, N.H. 03254

"Ridiculous, it'll never work." "Are you kidding, a barbershop?" My sentiments exactly. I'd come back from COTS bubbling over with enthusiasm about everything instructor Ralph Ribble had suggested, except that silly Auditions for Admissions (AFA) program.

But, we were in trouble. We were on associate status with only twenty-four members and only about half of them active. Something wrong? You bet. We needed to get that new officer team together fast and analyze our problems, get a plan and implement it.

President Al called a board meeting, and after three and a half hours of discussion, we decided to follow international's instructions as closely as possible. We'd build the Laconia, (N.H.) Chapter bigger and better than at any time in the past.

When it came time for my report, I said, "Well, I've got a goal. Thirty-five members by December 31st." What the heck, that was a nice round number, and we'd never had that many members in my twenty-one years in the chapter. We'd run guest nights occasionally and even had some guests show up a few times. We couldn't understand why they never came back. After all we were such a great bunch of guys having so much fun you would think every eligible male in the area would be pounding on the doors trying to get in. They didn't and they won't. We have to sell ourselves and that means we have to work at it. Laconia decided to have a go at it and use a gimmick. That gimmick, fellas, was AFA, the ridiculous program furnished by our International Office.

Here's how it worked for us.

Six weeks before our anticipated date of April 23 we sent out personal letters signed by me to 30 invited guests. The names were wheedled out of the membership by pleading on bended knee weeks preceding. The next week these names were divided among a telephone committee. They were all contacted by phone and invited once more, personally. The phone committee was asked to furnish a report of how many auditionees to expect and also to report what transpired in the telephone conversation. Now, already the candidate had been contacted three times — by his sponsor, the administrative vice president and a telephone caller. How could he refuse? He thought, "Wow, these guys are really interested in me." It paid off; on April 23rd we had seven auditionees show up. That's a return of 23% which is a whale of an average.

GUESTS ARE FOR KEEPING

Okay, we got them there. What would we do with them? Well, we've got a real "nut" in our chapter. If it has to do with barbershopping he has it. Dick Young, our program vice president, went out and scrounged up enough props to set up an entire barbershop; yep, chair, stands, signs, barberpole, everything. Anyway, we set up Dick's barbershop in the entryway of our meeting hall and, with the help of the "Adventurers," (bless em) auditioned the seven men, one by one. As each man sang in the chair, surrounded by the

"Adventurers," we had a polaroid picture taken of him which we presented to him immediately after his audition. After the auditions a mass sing of Barberpole Cat numbers was held, a little spiel about how great it is to be a Barbershopper, during which time we asked the guests to return for three more weeks to give barbershopping a chance. They could use that time to decide whether or not our singing organization was for them. A quartet program, consisting of our own organized quartets and the "Adventurers," followed by refreshments, concluded the evening. The next day a card was sent home certifying their presence at our meeting.

The following week, believe it or not, they all returned. We ran through the ultra simple songs included in the AFA kit, did a short chorus rehearsal and presented the Society's slide-tape presentation.

GUESTS KEPT COMING BACK

Third week. All seven showed up again. Fantastic, they were getting hooked. We held a warm-up of the "kit" songs once again and then got into a regular chorus rehearsal. We then demonstrated the orientation cassette program and each man took a cassette home. We had previously purchased a supply of cassette recorders at the suggestion of our COTS instructors. It was obvious by this time that these men were eager to learn some music on their own and what better music is there than *The Old Songs, We Sing . . . That They Shall Speak and Keep America Singing*?

We had asked these men to come back four weeks in a row, but the fourth week we threw them a curve. We invited their wives. We held a regular ladies' night, showed off our now rejuvenated chorus. Sixty people present, including some of our ex-members, created that elusive fifth note overtone many times during the evening. We had sold barbershopping in Laconia.

RESULTS? NINE NEW MEMBERS!

The results of this? Nine members, old and new, signed up giving us a membership of thirty-three. Hmmm, you're saying, he's almost reached his goal. Now the chapter can let up. Not so. Enthusiasm was now running wild. We couldn't let it die, so we set some new goals. We got every man involved in something, from the development of a package show, to the building of a float for the Columbus Day parade in nearby Sandwich (first prize). We operated a booth at the Sandwich Fair and, through the use of a drawing, got more prospects for our next AFA. Putting these names with those furnished with our new larger membership, we had a second AFA run almost identically like the first. Result, eight more members. As of December 31 the Laconia Chapter had forty-one members, and are rehearsing "Salute to America." We have already contracted for nine performances of this great production during the year of our Bicentennial.

What will 1976 bring? Well, our new AVP says, "Sixty members." AFA? Wow! Ya gotta' believe!

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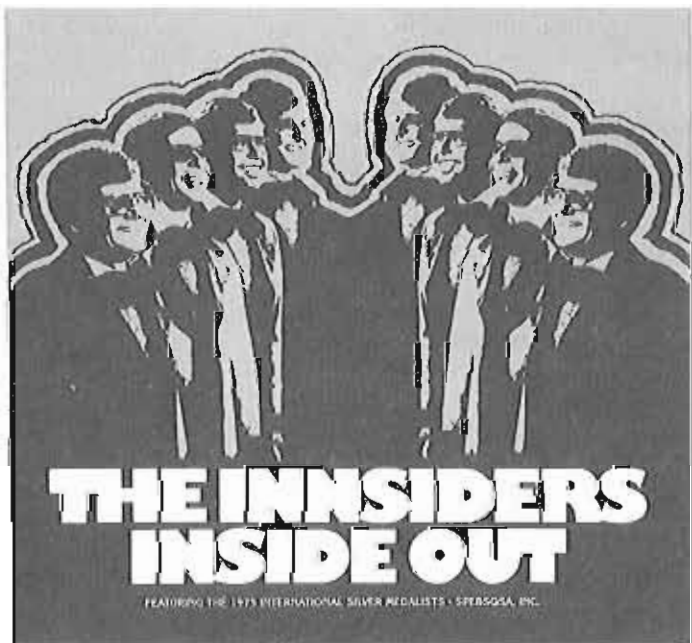


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Far Western Wins Top Achievement Honors

Though less than 180 points separated the top three districts in the achievement contest at the end of 1975, the Far Western District was solidly in first position after the final tabulations were made. Of the twelve categories used to determine the top district in achievement, Far Western ranked first in four, second in three and third in three categories, as they accumulated a total of 3,356 points. Seneca Land, with top scores in competition chorus and quartet activity, made a jump from sixth place in 1974 to second place at the end of 1975. The Dixie District, with by far the best score in net membership gain, moved into the winners' circle for the first time (from 14th place last year). They finished third in spite of suffering an 85-point penalty because of associate chapters (those with under 25 members).

The new scoring system, more comprehensive than in the past, awards points for net membership gain, choruses and quartets in competition, number of auditions held, use of Barberpole Cat Program, chapters chartered, number of fifty-or-more chapters, officers attending COTS and delegates

attending house of delegates' meetings, and chapters publishing regular bulletins. Penalty points are deducted for chapters on associate status.

Appropriately designed plaques recognizing their outstanding membership achievement during 1975 have been awarded the top three districts.

The 1975 Champion Chapter Award was won by the Tucson, Ariz. Chapter (Far Western District) which accumulated a total of 371 points in the Society-wide PROTECTION contest. (See table below for additional PROTECTION contest results.)

Four chapters — Dauphin, Man., Thunder Bay, Ont., Kaukauna-Little Chute, Wis. and Merrill, Wis. — all in the Land O'Lakes District, will receive special satin banner awards in recognition of their outstanding membership achievement (for retaining 100% of their 1974 membership throughout all four quarters of 1975). In addition, officers of these chapters will each receive a special token of appreciation for their efforts.

MEMBERSHIP ACHIEVEMENT POINTS AWARDED DISTRICTS AFTER PENALTY DEDUCTIONS

District	Total Points	District	Total Points	District	Total Points
FAR WESTERN	3356	LAND O'LAKES	2702	EVERGREEN	2480
SENECA LAND	3274	ILLINOIS	2675	NORTHEASTERN	2403
DIXIE	3177	JOHNNY APPLESEED	2663	SUNSHINE	2380
MID-ATLANTIC	2969	ONTARIO	2639	CENTRAL STATES	2333
SOUTHWESTERN	2799	CARDINAL	2582	PIONEER	2297

International PROTECTION Winners

PLATEAU ONE (Membership under 30)

Place:	
1st:	Sherman, Texas. 272**
2nd:	Merced, California. 272
3rd:	Laconia, New Hampshire 255

PLATEAU TWO (Membership 30-39)

1st:	Boulder, Colorado 307**
2nd:	El Paso, Texas. 307
3rd:	Abilene, Texas 289

PLATEAU THREE (Membership 40-49)

1st:	Tucson, Arizona 371*
2nd:	Tampa, Florida 337
3rd:	Catonsville, Maryland. 293

PLATEAU FOUR (Membership 50-74)

Place:	
1st:	Stevens Point, Wisconsin. 363
2nd:	Walnut Creek, California. 329
3rd:	Tacoma, Washington 316

PLATEAU FIVE (Membership 75-99)

1st:	Stark County, Ohio 283
2nd:	Maumee Valley, Ohio. 258
3rd:	Fresno, California 247

PLATEAU SIX (Membership 100 or more)

1st:	Phoenix, Arizona. 355
2nd:	Alexandria, Virginia. 328
3rd:	Livingston, New Jersey. 319

*Champion Chapter-Highest scoring chapter in Society.

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- ☐ Life Insurance \$10,000 to \$50,000
- ☐ Excess Major Medical Plan — Benefits up to \$250,000
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2831 - 35th St., Two Rivers, Wis. 54241

(This is the final of five installments covering the highlights and experiences of our oldest active international champion foursome, the "Schmitt Brothers," 1951 champions.)

With your permission, we'd like to philosophize just a bit. Though sub-titled "Rounding Out a Quarter Century of Singing," we hope you won't mind our paraphrasing that headline to read "Twenty-five Years of Harmony," as we pass along some random thoughts, tid-bits of advice and miscellaneous words of wisdom. This may not flow too well, as it is intended to be a kind of "catch-all" article, as we bring this series to a conclusion.

The Society has been the vehicle which helped each of us to personally better understand the other, and we did it by losing ourselves within the songs we are singing. Many times we came to rehearsal not at all ready for harmony. We can't remember ever leaving a practice session, though, not feeling better, in tune with each other and the world around us.

We recall that one of our early coaches had a pet phrase, namely, that we should always strive to "polish the gems" in a song. We have since learned that it's the "gem" that really shows its brilliance when it is set within the ring of the chord. We have sincerely tried (and we hope we were successful at least once in a while) to polish those gems until they resulted in "goose bump" reactions to a song.

In 1972, the quartet recorded "Twenty-three Years of Harmony" for the Society. "Polishing the gems" in this recording was a taxing experience for a group that had been singing together for 25 years. Though we are reluctant to admit it, the perfection demanded in recording is extremely difficult to achieve without an audience to inspire you. Believe me, it was much easier to record immediately after winning the contest in 1951.

"MID-STATES FOUR" HELPED US

As I recall our first meeting with the champion "Mid-States Four," it's with a smile and a twinkle in my eye that I remember my honest admiration for Marty Mendro. It seemed to me that every time Marty, as master of ceremonies for the quartet, filled that gap between songs, he said the right things and knew all the people who were so important in our Society. Often quartets ask the question: "How do you know what to say?" I think the real answer is that you prepare three things to say. Hopefully, you remember all three, and at the right time you choose the right one. Really, we're just like most other people. We remember the times we said the right thing, and hope to forget the mistakes we made while we were trying to learn to say the right things.

It's no secret to most people that though we are all members of the Manitowoc County (Wis.) Chapter, we live — all four of us — in Two Rivers. When the Two Rivers young people wanted to have their own place for recreation, they asked us to help them present a show to raise money. It was intriguing to deal with these youngsters in their struggle for recognition. We mention it because we are reminded of something the "Mid-States" passed on to us Sunday morning in Toledo after our "big" night. It's something that both young and veteran quartets alike might want to ponder a bit. They said: "Be nice to the people you pass on the way up. They are the same people you will pass on the way down."

HONORED AT HOME

Early in December of '74 our chapter had a "This-Is-Your-Life" evening for the quartet. It was a complete surprise. They gave each of us a plaque commemorating our 25th anniversary with the chapter as a quartet. It was a very special thrill to reminisce with them and to see again all of our dearest friends.

It was also during 1974 that we were privileged and proud to be present at the 50th anniversary party of Mary Gruber as a church organist and voice teacher. You may remember that it was this lovely lady who first gave us voice lessons. She listened to us sing during the party, and with tears in her eyes, told us we were pretty good, but on a couple of occasions she thought that the "vowel was in the throat." We promised her we would try harder, remembering that those basics she had taught us had sustained us many times when we thought we were too tired to sing anymore.

Last November, at the Land O'Lakes District Convention, our district honored us on the occasion of our twenty-fifth anniversary of being district champions. (It was in 1950, as we related in our first article, that we won the district title in Marquette, Mich.) It was a real thrill for us to have our fellow champions acknowledge us as the "old quartet" which was still singing.

A SURPRISE APPEARANCE

We received an invitation last year to sing at a golden wedding anniversary in another state. Every quartet gets these invitations and you always want to say "yes," but you also have to think about the expense of getting there and back. We responded by sending them a picture, said thank you, but it would be too expensive for us to attend the ceremony. A reply

came back by return mail: "We didn't ask you to come for nothing. Send us a bill and we'll send you the money in advance."

Our appearance was to be a surprise to the honored couple, so we made our arrival after they were in church. We sang along with the choir and did a couple of quartet numbers during the service. As we stood in the back of the church when the couple came out, Grandpa turned to his wife and said, "See, Ma, I told you the Schmitts were here." This kind of compliment is the reward that lasts forever.

Twenty-five years of travel, practice and performances have brought us rather realistically to the conclusion that barbershopping is not just music. It is really people in harmony. One of the great teachers to whom we owe so much is our friend Rudy Hart of Michigan City, Ind. The soul that Rudy implanted in our singing gives the song the warmth that makes it ours to share with you. You cannot give away what you don't have. Rudy taught us to enjoy singing a song so that we would have something to share with our audience. If we had to vote for the man whose friendship most influenced the quartet, Rudy Hart would get all the first place votes.

HOW DO YOU SAY "THANKS"

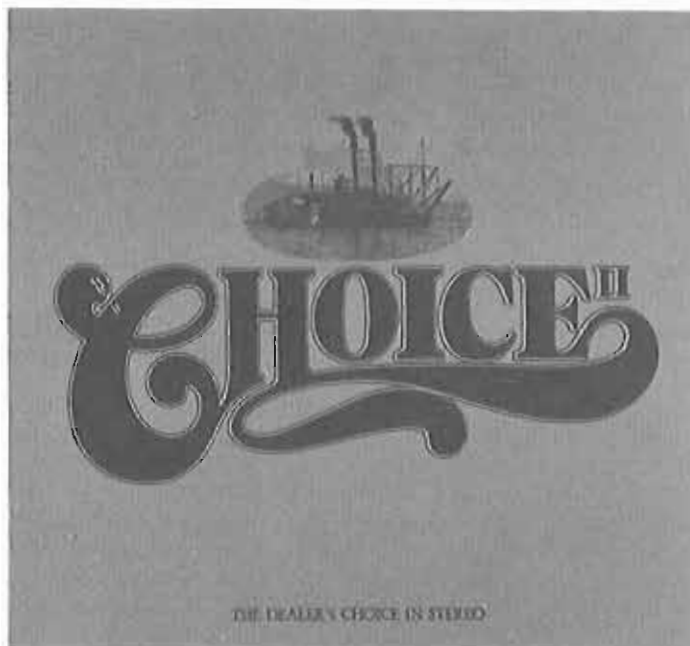
It is most frustrating to try to find the right words to show our appreciation to our wives and families. There were many, many times when loving us wasn't very easy, because we simply weren't there to love! Having a wife say, after a four-day weekend of traveling and singing: "I know you're tired. Why don't you rest?" That's the kind of love that it takes for a quartet to stay together. We feel the number one reason quartets break up is because some wife feels the quartet has superseded both her and the family on her husband's value scale. If our wives have ever felt this way, they have done a good job of hiding that feeling. We have received nothing but encouragement and support from them. If the Society ever develops special trophies for length of service, they ought to make similar miniature trophies for wives. The good Lord knows they truly deserve them!

We had a meeting before I started to write this final article to make sure that nothing would go unwritten. After two or three hours of good conversation, we decided the most important thing remaining to be written was to express our complete and sincere thanks to those who have hosted us throughout the past 25 years. Also, we thank each of the chapters which had the confidence to ask us to sing on their show, thinking that we would do a good job of selling barbershop harmony to their friends. We thank our district officers and the members of our international staff. The cooperation and help we have received from them could well fill a book.

We thank the Association of International Champions. The comradeship existing within that very exclusive club can never be duplicated. Their encouragement and understanding helped us when it looked like it would be easier to quit than to continue singing.

So, 25 years have gone by — 9,125 days — and nearly one-third of them have been devoted to rehearsing, performing or traveling. Would we do it again? Yes, because we've enjoyed every minute of it! Are we going to quit now? Not on your life!

We believe the quartet is a combination of God-given talent, excellent coaching, good arrangements and cooperative wives. Until one or all of these essentials are removed, we hope you will invite us to sing with you.



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The Way I See It

"I disagree with what you say, but I shall defend to the death your right to say it"
Attributed to Voltaire, 1694-1778

By Marvin Wainschel, 418 Valley Rd.,
Upper Mount Clair, N.J. 07043

With me it's always the same. Sometime around the evening before any contest, the adrenalin begins to flow in anticipation of the challenge ahead. It isn't nervousness that causes the excitement; it's my body preparing itself for the final stages of a big event. I'm sure it isn't nervousness, because I know the outcome of the contest before it begins. With the greater challenge of preparation mostly behind me, I can only win. The only competition left is me; who else is there to compete with?

Let me explain. Logically, singing is not a "competitive sport," that is, one singer does not gain points by *reacting* to something an "opposing" singer does. Consequently, for the world to know which singer is better, a third party is necessary. This third party is commonly known as a judge. The judge connects the opponents by ranking them, and his decision is purely subjective, no matter how he might try to convince himself that there was some rationale for his having placed the competitors where he did. Because the singer ideally has no control over the judge or the "opponent," the only thing left to control is himself. Therefore, in competition a singer can compete only with himself.

In this sense, competing is nothing more than striving for greater control of the musical instrument, the human body. Because control of one's body is a truly worthwhile challenge, every occasion for singing is an occasion for competing. The contest is never over for the passionate singer, only for the judges and the opponents. A person who competes with himself for self-improvement can only win.

COMPETITIVE ATTITUDES VARY

Approaching a chorus contest is usually an interesting experience for me, because I always notice things I hadn't the perception to see before. In particular, I learn about competitive attitudes by observing myself and others. Mentally, one can divide a chorus into three groups, all of whose members are striving to win, each man in his own way.

Some men are anxious to prove themselves superior to their opponents by *overwhelming them* with harmonious music. The inherent flaw in this type of thinking is the misconception that there is interaction between opponents. In reality, the guy to influence is the judge, not the opponent; and judges are fallible. In the final analysis, ranking singers is strictly a matter of opinion. Improving your singing ability is certainly a worthwhile goal — even if the primary motivation is to be better than someone else. But singing better than someone else is not the same as convincing a third party that you succeeded in this endeavor.

This brings us to the second group of men. These are the men whose primary goal is to bring home a medal. Perhaps fame is fleeting, but they want it nonetheless. "So what if we

don't sing as well as we could; so what if we aren't as good as our challengers. Of prime importance is convincing the judges that we're the greatest!" In this game, anything goes. Some of the rules are: (1) improve the quality of singing; (2) "psyche" the other choruses in order to hinder their performance; and (3) butter up the judges if possible. Players of this game still place their emphasis in the right spot — improving their singing. Unfortunately, the effort is stifled by the nervous attitude which puts fame about self-improvement. They forget that while fame is fleeting, self-improvement has a permanent effect.

ALWAYS A WINNER

This point brings us to an examination of group three, decidedly in the minority, competing with themselves through education. These men always win, because winning the competition is a matter of meeting the challenge, not crushing it. Their opponents are, paradoxically, their allies, because without opponents there would be less of a challenge to meet. The stronger the opponent, the greater the challenge, so they can only thank their opponents for performing well. But the real challenge, "the way I see it," is their own performance, and this challenge continues beyond any single event.

ABOUT THE MUSIC IN THIS ISSUE

One of the goals of our Music Education Program in 1976 is to put more emphasis on WOODSHEDDING. This was the unanimous decision reached by all fifteen district directors of music education at their forum in Kenosha last November.

In an attempt to help further this objective, the music department was asked to publish another in the series of "Woodshedding Gems." As a result of a letter sent to several arrangers in our Society — asking that they look through any Public Domain songs they had for suitable "woodshedders" — a member of our staff, "new guy" Joe Liles, wrote several originals and submitted them for consideration. They were so great that Joe was asked to contribute a few more, and you'll enjoy singing every one of them!

We knew Joe Liles was talented, but didn't know he had several compositions and songs to his credit, including a prize-winning musical play!

So grab the first three men you can and start enjoying one of the truly rewarding aspects of barbershopping. WOODSHED! You'll like it!

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I see from the bulletins...

By Leo Fobort, Editor

ALEXANDRIA OVERLOOKED

Though we didn't do it intentionally, leaving the Alexandria (Va.) "Harmonizers" and the "Nova Chords" quartet out of the story covering the Washington, D.C. Mid-Winter Convention activities was an unforgivable mistake. Over 70 Barbershoppers worked long and hard to prepare Alexandria's portion of the Friday night program presented at the headquarters hotel. From accounts we've seen in several bulletins, their contribution was well received and an outstanding success. Sorry, guys, it was an oversight on our part.

After all the smoke had cleared following the Mid-Winter, we learned of an interesting though un-planned activity which had a typical barbershop ending. Many convention diners were asked to leave the hotel coffee shop and adjacent areas on Saturday morning when a fire broke out in the coffee shop kitchen. With all the flurry of firemen extinguishing the fire and anxious guests hurriedly leaving the scene, a quartet woodshedded in the hotel lobby and never missed a note throughout the entire proceedings!

ALL-AMERICAN HONORED

A perennial visitor to their chapter meetings, the Greater Atlantic City (N.J.) Chapter inducted all-American linebacker Greg Buttle as a dual member on February 20th. A student at Penn State, where he was a member of the varsity

football team and is still a member of the State College (Pa.) Chapter, Greg has a number of friends in the Atlantic City Chapter. Director Tom Sterling presented the membership certificate to Greg during a special testimonial dinner, and then proceeded to "sock-it-to him" with an on-the-spot voice test. Greg sang bass with the "Sound Revival" and passed the test with flying colors. The "Right Pitch" (Editor Ron Lane) article described Greg as "not only a great football player, but a nice guy — the type of person we are proud to know and be associated with."

HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

It has been said that history repeats itself. This is certainly true in the case of U. S. Savings Bonds and barbershop harmony. In 1949, the Secretary of the Treasury requested the Society to produce a song to be used in the sales promotion of U. S. Savings Bonds (formerly known as war bonds). The Society announced this in the HARMONIZER and 43 original songs were submitted. Judged by a panel headed by famous Barbershopper Fred Waring, Past International President Frank H. Thorne's "Keep America Saving" was selected the winning song. It was then recorded by the "Singing Capital Chorus" of the District of Columbia Chapter for use on radio stations throughout the United States.

The Savings Bond Division has chosen the Bicentennial year to thank Americans

for their purchase of savings bonds. They have again turned to the District of Columbia Chapter to present a patriotic show which will be free to the public. Much of the music will be from the Society's "Salute to America" show which premiered in Washington on January 31st. The May 1 show was preceded by a direct mail promotion by the Treasury Department and over WRC radio. Several songs by the "Chord Foundation" and both 30- and 60-second voice-over spot announcements were recorded by Dee Paris of the "D.C." Chapter for use by the station.

SAD NOTES

Billed as the "last of the ragtime kids," veteran Kansas City Barbershopper and ragtime pianist Percy Franks passed away on February 10 at age 83. A member since 1943, Franks was well known for his composition and arrangement of "Don't Say Nothin' at All (Songs for Men, Book IV).

Ralph Anderson, bass of the 1963 champion "Town and Country Four," died a short time ago after suffering a heart attack. He was 54 years of age. Messages of condolence may be directed to his wife, Amy, at 5253½ Forbes Ave. in Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213.

LOGOPEDICS TO BENEFIT

A couple of new methods of raising money for the Institute have come to our

Our Canadian friends to the north confess there are two activities they truly love — barber-shopping and playing hockey. The "Pucks of Harmony," shown right, are an example of what happens when you combine your two favorite hobbies. A spinoff hockey team from the Scarborough (Ont.) Chapter's "Dukes of Harmony" Chorus, these guys play every week to a slightly less than capacity crowd. Boasting a phenomenal win-loss record (claim they've never been beaten), the one game played away from their "own crowd," with the Trenton Chapter, was won by just one goal, 17-16. Watch for these athletic types in San Francisco; they'll be carrying all the sound equipment and providing great breath support to the Scarborough Chorus.



attention. The Western Hills (Cincinnati), O. Chapter is offering show scripts to other chapters for a \$100 donation to our SERVICE PROJECT. They have some near-professional scripts available which, although they don't include any music (because of copyright laws), include choreography directions, etc. For further information write Ron Riegler (2575 Queen City, Cincinnati, O. 45238).

The 1951 champion "Schmitt Brothers" will make a \$100 donation to the Institute for each Land O'Lakes chapter show on which they appear during their Silver Anniversary Year. Remember, this offer, to LOL Chapters only, covers shows from July 1 through June 30, 1977. Show dates will be assigned in the order they are received. Contact Paul Schmitt at Box 232 in Two Rivers, Wis. if your (Land O'Lakes) Chapter is interested in this offer.

The Westchester County, N.Y. Chapter has really captured the true "Spirit of '76." They presented a check at the Mid-Atlantic District House of Delegates meeting for a total of (you guessed it!) \$1776! Our thanks to District Logopedics Chairman Joe Craig for letting us in on that bit of good news.

SOCIETY VETERAN REMAINS ACTIVE

A note in "Barbershop Clippin's," (Fullerton, Cal.) concerns the Society's



LOL Vice Pres. Cal Glockzin and wife Linda appeared at the Bemidji and Park Rapids (Minn.) Area installation party in costumes made by Cal's wife. They plan to wear them at all barbershop functions during '76.

The Warren, O. Chapter presented a dozen barbershop recordings to the Warren Public Library. Taking part in the presentation, from left, were Walter Ogrian, chapter PR-man; Mike Seiser, chapter president; Larry Rees, library head; Mrs. Don Mills, library aide; and Don Pleuss, chapter secretary.



first secretary/treasurer, Joe Wodicka, who was recently elected secretary of the Fullerton A. A. R. P. (American Assoc. of Retired People). Good to hear this "youngster" is still quite active.

CHEESE SALES EFFECTIVE

There are always a few notes on current cheese sales in the Davenport, Ia. "Weekly Note Dispenser" — Editor Tim Pashia. Cheese has become a great profit-maker for the chapter with a total of \$1350 raised as a result of cheese sales thus far. Having recently placed an additional order for another two tons of Wisconsin's best cheese, looks like Davenport is going to continue in the cheese business for a while.

EDITORIAL APPROACHES VARY

"Clever" is the word which best describes the way editorial comment is headlined in some of our chapter bulletins. The "Heartbeat" (Editor, Joe Lindsay), bulletin of the Grove City, O. Chapter, contains editorial words of wisdom under the headline, "The Gnu Gnows." The Birmingham Eastwood (Ala.) Chapter's

"Overtones" heads up a department for editorial comment called "The Hooded Haranguer." This editor ("Chuck" Steiner) claims he receives messages on a telephone affectionately known as the "Harrangue-a-Phone." Both editors have appropriately designed artwork to help present their stories.

PROCLAMATION

"Now Hear Ye All Good Men in These Presents . . .

WHEREAS, the 1976 S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. International Convention and Contests will be held in San Francisco, and

WHEREAS, the Far Western District recognizes the Barbershop Harmony Society's devotion to THE OLD SONGS, and

WHEREAS, said devotion to THE OLD SONGS implies the endorsement of all forms of nostalgia, including the wearing of the mustache as was the vogue in the GOOD OLD DAYS, and

WHEREAS, the Far Western District intends at every opportunity to nurture that feeling of nostalgia, and

(Continued on next page)

STATEMENT FROM THE VOCAL MAJORITY

A tradition has been established over the past seven or eight years whereby the international champion chorus from the preceding year appears at the current International Convention to entertain those attending, and to pass the trophy to the new chorus champion. As the 1975 International champion, the "Vocal Majority" recognizes that a significant number of Barbershoppers attending the San Francisco convention will expect to see and hear our chorus.

However, we have been participating in chorus competitions ever since being organized a little more than three years ago. As a result, we have never had a chance to catch our "financial breath," and our chapter treasury reflects this concentrated effort.

We informally agreed from the start that if our chorus were to participate in any major activity as a group, the chapter would provide the minimum finances necessary for each participating member's transportation, food and

lodging. Because this commitment could not be kept for San Francisco this summer, our chapter board recommended that we not participate as a chorus. After a great deal of soul-searching, and after consideration of the unanimous desire of our chapter members to attend, the majority of the membership concurred with the board's recommendation.

The chapter's music and administrative leadership will now turn its attention to rebuilding the chapter's treasury, on taking advantage of the many local opportunities to expand membership and the public's interest in barbershop music, and on preparing to re-enter district chorus competition in the fall of 1977.

A great many members of The Vocal Majority will be individually attending the San Francisco convention, and the chapter would like to extend its appreciation to Barbershoppers everywhere who have made our championship year a most enjoyable one.



Langley, B.C. Chapter member Tommy Tomlin, though blind, inspires his fellow-members. He never misses rehearsals, learns music quickly and never misses an attack or release. His dog, "Fergus," sits patiently by his side through rehearsals, only moving when the weekly collection is taken for Logopedics. With a small bank, resembling a flask, fastened around his neck, he stops long enough at each member to allow him to make his contribution, after which he returns to his master's side. The weekly ritual has paid off handsomely for the chapter which contributed \$665 to Harmony Foundation during the first eleven months in 1975.

I SEE FROM THE BULLETINS — (From page 27)

WHEREAS, the District has scheduled a MUSTACHE CONTEST in connection with the 1976 International in San Francisco,

THEREFORE I, BILL PARK, as President of the Far Western District, do hereby challenge all other districts of the Society to induce their members to participate to the fullest extent, to start growing 'em now, and to prove, if within their capabilities that they can produce more winners than the FWD in the categories of longest, bushiest, ugliest, funniest and other exotic classifications."

(Sig) Bill Park, FWD President

DO WE HAVE A PATRON SAINT?

A glowing report on a recent chapter show appeared in Santa Barbara's (Cal.) "Channel Tones" — Editor, Bill Miller.

Their "What a Country" production included many scenery changes and special sets. Everything came off as planned and those who saw the show were impressed with the professionalism of the production. An interesting sidelight in timing and good luck . . . less than ten minutes after the curtain fell at the end of the show the gigantic cut-out map of the United States came crashing down onto the stage in shreds! Yes, there is somebody "up there" watching over us!

INSTALLING OFFICER SPEECHLESS!

What would you do if your installing officer showed up at your installation banquet with such a sore throat that he was under doctor's orders not to talk? How do you install officers in a singing Society without making a sound? Past Land O'Lakes Oistrict President Jim Richards, one of those individuals gifted with a scientific mind, solved the problem by using an overhead transparency projector! Not only were the officers of the Winona, Minn. Chapter properly installed, those in attendance were amazed at this unique approach. (Jim even taught the guys a tag using the same method.) We read about it in the "Hiawatha Chorder."

GREAT SOCIETY PUBLICITY

Several examples of outstanding publicity have reached my desk in the past three or four months. A recent Pops Concert by the Seattle Symphony Orchestra, featuring an appearance by the Seattle "Sea-Chordsmen" (under the direction of Greg Lyne), received a glowing review in the *Seattle Times* . . . The October issue of *Portland*, a prestigious magazine published by the Portland Chamber of Commerce, carried an interesting promotion story on the Evergreen District's fall Convention which was held

in that city . . . A great story concerning Barbershopper/TV star Burt Mustin's attendance at our most recent mid-winter convention appeared in the Feb. 9, 1976 issue of *The Washington Post* . . . A full-page story on the Society, complete with pictures, appeared in the Sunday, Feb. 9, 1976 issue of the Asheville, N.C. *Citizen-Times* . . . *Criss Cross Currents*, the monthly house organ for employees of Mutual of Omaha and United of Omaha insurance companies, used the Society in general, and the Omaha Chapter in particular, as subject matter of the lead story in their February, 1976 issue . . . *Americana* magazine, with a circulation of about 130,000, carried a feature story on the Society in a recent issue as the result of the combined efforts of Harshe, Rotman & Druck, the Society's public relations firm, and the International Office . . . The Sunday, Feb. 1, 1976 *Green Bay Press-Gazette* contained a feature story on Int'l Vice President Roger Thomas, who was interviewed while working on choreography with the Green Bay Chapter Chorus prior to their annual Harmony Jubilee presentation.

AUCTION SERVICES

If there's a PBS (Public Broadcasting System) or educational television station in your area, you just might have a great new outlet for publicity. Many of these stations raise nearly all their operating funds from the proceeds of an annual auction. Offer to perform during the auction and let interested bidders "purchase" your singing services for some future event. You'll get a double-barrelled publicity shot — the exposure when you do the television appearance, and then again when you sing for the party who bids highest for your services.

Northeastern Dist. Pres. Curt Roberts awaits tonsorial treatment as Virgilio Interligi, the first barber to become a member of the Hartford, Conn. Chapter, readies for action. Roberts is a member and past president of the Hartford Chapter.



COMMUNITY SERVICE IN ACTION —
(from page 3)

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. — The "New Mexichords" presented the Society's "Salute to America" show for eight consecutive nights, Marh 28 through April 4 at Fesitval '76, Albuquerque's Bicentennial commemoration.

CINCINNATI, O. — A group of chapter members helped welcome home the DELTA QUEEN by singing on the gangplank. The "Queen" has been spared the torch by an act of congress, until a newer all-steel version can be built to replace the luxury cruise vessel (cover photo 21).

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN, ILL. — The chapter just finished a "one-night-stand" during which they performed for three area rest homes. They have similar sing-outs at least three times during the year and manage to find two or three homes to sing for on the same evening (cover photo 18).

MONROE, N. Y. — On Wednesday evening, March 31, the chapter visited Barbershopper Hank MacDowell, a patient at the Castle Point Veterans Administration Hospital in Beacon, N.Y. Hank was visiting the Monroe Chapter as area counselor for the Rama-Del Area in 1973, when he was seriously injured in an auto accident which left him paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. Though Hank is a member of the Rockland County, N. Y. Chapter, the Monroe men visit and sing with him several times throughout the year (cover photo 22).

LE MARS, IA. — On March 6, 1976 the chapter serenaded Miss Leah Irvine of Sioux City, Ia. as a send off for her first airplane flight in honor of her 100th birthday which she'll celebrate on July 4, 1976. As a remembrance of the special occasion Miss Irvine was presented a scroll from the chapter (cover photo 23).

SOUTH COOK, ILL. — Sing-outs at an antique car show, three local malls, a church and for a local conservation group have kept this chapter busy since last fall. Several repeat engagements are scheduled for May and a big auditions night will be held on April 27th (cover photo 24).

STARK COUNTY, O. — Designated the "Hall of Fame" Chorus, this chapter centers much of its community service activity around ceremonies held in conjunction with the world famous professional football Hall of Fame shrine located in their area. In addition to singing the national anthem to open the enshrinement ceremonies, the chorus has sung for the opening function of the weekend, the Mayor's breakfast, and has participated in the huge Hall of Fame Parade (cover photo 26).

OMAHA, NEBR. — The Omaha Hearing School has become the pet charity of this chapter. Over \$500 of the proceeds of their March 27, 1976 "Salute to America" show went directly to the school. Since adopting this project Omaha Barbershoppers have donated over \$5,000 to this worthwhile project (cover photo 27).

ST. BRUNO, QUE. — "Flowers of Hope" nursery, a home for mentally retarded children of pre-school age, has become the local service project of this chapter. In the past 18 months they have held two mini-shows and raised \$800 for the nursery. Some of the money was used to buy special equipment for the children and some was used to purchase a mini-bus for the nursery. The chapter has been cited by the Quebec Association for the Mentally Retarded for their efforts in behalf of this charity.

NASHVILLE, TENN. — The "Music City" Chorus entertained visitors to the Red Cross Blood Center on Monday evening, December 29, 1975. Afterwards members of the chorus made blood donations to help meet hospital demands during the New Year's holiday period. A total of 94 units of blood were donated throughout the entire day. Seventeen of those donations were made by Barbershoppers and members of their families (cover photo 28).

PONTIAC, ILL. — A tradition started eight years ago when the chapter chartered continues each year on the first Sunday in December. Called "Nursing Home Day," this chapter charts a bus and spends the entire day singing for as many as nine nursing homes in Livingston County, Ill. At the end of the day, tired, but charged up, they pick up their wives and head for one of the area's finest restaurants for their annual Wives' Appreciation Dinner and Installation of officers (cover photo 29).

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MUSICAL DIRECTOR WANTED! If you're fed up with the metropolitan hassle; you're an experienced barbershop chorus director; you would relish an association with a very active chapter; you love sunshine and beautiful water — the Corpus Christi Commodores want to talk to you! We're 65 men strong with a dedicated leadership team, our chapter is very much on the grow, having recently put on a highly successful annual show, "Salute to America." We want and are now ready for an aggressive, enthusiastic director who will lead us on to even greater accomplishments. Corpus Christi is the gem of South Texas, ideally located for the pursuit of both career and recreational opportunities. No matter what your job requirements may be, with our many area contacts we are sure we can help you re-locate. If you think you might be the man we're looking for, please contact chapter president Nolan Nelson, 5409 Hartford, Corpus Christi, Tex. 78411. Phone: (512) 884-4971 (office); (512) 855-9654 (home).

FOR SALE — 50 red wool blazers with Society emblem on pockets. Each with black trousers and white duck pants. Asking \$20 each for coat and 2 pants. Make an offer for the lot! Contact: Fred Lust, 2117-21st St. N.W., Rochester, Minn. 55901

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WANTED — Medallist quartet records for the years 1956, 1957, 1966 and 1967. Write B. Delaney, P. O. Box 223, Des Plaines, Ill. 60017

FOR SALE — 40 traditional style dinner jackets in blue/green brocade with black satin shawl lapels. A few traditional vests in red brocade reversible to black brocade with materials on bolts for extra vests. Contact: Bill Taylor, 1715 Dixon Blvd., No. 109, Cocoa, Fla. 32922; Phone: (305) 631-0488 or George Bridgman, 3212 Nottingham Lane, Cocoa, Fla. 32922; Phone: (305) 631-1338.

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FOR SALE — Fifty (50) complete formal tuxes, powder blue coats with black tux pants, black cummerbunds, and black satin ties. Also with these very well-kept uniforms are some black continental ties. Colored snapshot of sample available on request. These uniforms are a steal at \$22 each. Contact: Harry P. Roth, 635 N. Hanover St., Carlisle, Pa. 17013. Phone: Home — (717) 243-5551; Work — (717) 584-0101 Ext. 6262 8 a. m. to 4:30 p. m. Mon. thru Fri.



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	January - February Contributions	Since July 1, 1964	Average Per Member In 1976	7-1-64 To 12-31-75
CARDINAL	\$ 1,375	\$ 64,204	\$1.16	\$52.57
CENTRAL STATES	1,164	114,869	.36	36.47
DIXIE	671	61,194	.42	37.45
EVERGREEN	477	56,737	.20	24.02
FAR WESTERN	1,476	169,961	.38	48.28
ILLINOIS	2,080	116,611	.98	52.88
JOHNNY APPLESEED	1,885	114,809	.63	37.64
LAND O'LAKES	1,023	138,247	.28	37.98
PIONEER	298	85,599	.20	42.02
MID-ATLANTIC	3,041	256,843	.58	48.44
NORTHEASTERN	1,805	103,959	.66	31.71
ONTARIO	5,000	58,579	3.20	34.81
SENECA LAND	874	74,469	.62	51.07
SOUTHWESTERN	5,053	66,014	2.76	32.07
SUNSHINE	1,443	65,233	1.19	51.95
HARM. FOUND.	—	9,938		
OTHER RECEIPTS	43	91,772		
TOTAL	27,708	1,648,038		



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Society Rank		Total Members
FAR WESTERN		
2.	Phoenix, Arizona	160
3.	Peninsula, California	154
5.	San Diego, California	141
8.	Riverside, California	136
19.	Whittier, California	116
21.	Reseda, California	111
24.	Salt Lake City, Utah	109
34.	Walnut Creek, California	105
40.	Fresno, California	101
MID-ATLANTIC		
1.	Dundalk, Maryland	184
11.	Livingston, New Jersey	126
12.	Montclair, New Jersey	126
13.	Westchester Co., New York	124
20.	Alexandria, Virginia	115
26.	Fairfax, Virginia	108
28.	Allentown-Bethlehem, Pa.	107
35.	Montgomery Co., Maryland	104
JOHNNY APPLESEED		
25.	Warren, Ohio	109
27.	Stark County, Ohio	108
29.	Maumee Valley, Ohio	107
38.	Elyria, Ohio	102
CENTRAL STATES		
15.	Kansas City, Missouri	119
31.	Mt. Rushmore, S. D.	106
36.	Denver, Colorado	103
ILLINOIS		
10.	Arlington Heights, Illinois	132
18.	Lombard, Illinois	117
33.	Bloomington, Illinois	105
LAND O'LAKES		
6.	Minneapolis, Minnesota	140
39.	Racine, Wisconsin	102
41.	Green Bay, Wisconsin	101
PIONEER		
14.	Detroit, Michigan	122
17.	Oakland County, Michigan	119
23.	Grosse Pointe, Michigan	109
CARDINAL		
4.	Gtr. Indianapolis, Indiana	152
16.	Louisville, Kentucky	119
SOUTHWESTERN		
9.	Houston, Texas	135
22.	San Antonio, Texas	111
DIXIE		
7.	Atlanta, Georgia	137
ONTARIO		
30.	Scarborough, Ontario	107
SENECA LAND		
32.	Binghamton, New York	105
SUNSHINE		
37.	Miami, Florida	103



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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.

ENGLISH ENTHUSIASTIC

Staten Island, N.Y.

During the past few months I found it necessary to make two two-week business trips to London and Brighton, England. I had the addresses of Don Amos and Dennis Tyrell of the Crawley and Brighton Clubs and, upon arriving in Brighton, contacted both of them.

Well! You cannot possibly imagine the reception I received. I was picked up at my hotel every night that each had a meeting or sing out, had dinner at their homes and was driven back to the hotel on every occasion. They are *still* talking about the trip made by your groups ("Four Statesmen," etc.) last year. Their enthusiasm for anything barbershop is just amazing. They look for new arrangements, records, tapes, pictures, magazines and just anything that's going on "back in the States" concerning barbershopping.

I understand, from talking to Don Amos, that you are planning another trip to England this coming year (May). I wasn't able to make it before, but wouldn't miss it for the world this coming year. I didn't have my wife on these business trips but said so many nice things about England that she is anxious to go. British Barbershoppers can't wait to see us again to re-live the enjoyment of last year's visit.

Sing-cerely,
Bob Peirano

DISAPPOINTED READER

Dallas, Tex.

I read the last issue of the "Harmonizer" (Jan.-Feb., 1976) with mixed emotions. I did not see anything written about choruses. The whole issue was about quartets, some of which are completely unknown to most of us.

Choruses work very hard for their amusement and accomplishment. As a matter of fact, very few quartets, especially famous quartets, support their chapter. It is my sincere belief that choruses support the Society, not quartets. We are taking our initials SPEBSQSA literally in applying to quartets. I would propose that the name of the Society be "Society for the Presentation of Barbershop Singing," that is, until I can find out exactly what barbershop is or is not!

More emphasis ought to be placed on choruses and chorus singing, if you want to perpetuate the Society. I've been in the Society 12 years, our membership is still in the 30,000 range. We'd better find out why, but quick!

Charles L. White

(Editor's note: Membership at the end of December, 1975 was 37,264. Though this still is a "thirty thousand" figure, it's closer to forty thousand. Last year we had the largest yearly increase in membership in a decade.)

REPORT FROM SWEDEN

Stockholm, Sweden

Today we have 31 singing members in our chorus and four quartets. So far we have not organized a formal chapter, but successively we implement more and more of the ideas that we get from different chapters in USA, and lately also from England and Canada.

Last summer we had visitors from St. Paul, the "Night Howls" quartet. They spent a whole week together with our chorus, singing at garden parties, boat trips, picnic tours, sing-outs and so on. To those in our chorus who have not yet been in the States, they were a tremendous inspiration.

In December, 1975, two of our quartets went to the British barbershop convention in Brighton. This was a fantastic experience. We made a lot of new barbershop friends, and our singing was very much appreciated by the British Barbershoppers.

What comes next? — Two of our quar-

tets are now working hard with preparations for a trip to the International Convention in San Francisco this summer. Remembering the convention days in Kansas City two years ago, I know we can look forward to a week, wilder and more fun than ever. We have, of course, a couple of new songs in Swedish in our repertoire.

At last, many cheerful regards to all our barbershop friends from the "Stockholm Barbershop Chorus."

Hakan Akerstedt

"BARBERSHOP BOMBSHELL" A HIT

Louisville, Ky.

It was a distinct pleasure and privilege for our chapter to record "Salute To America" for the Society. While the preparations and actual sessions were both pressure-packed and hectic, the chance to again work closely with Bob Johnson and Hugh Ingraham was most rewarding.

The real purpose of this letter, however, is to share with HARMONIZER readers the most exhilarating musical experience our chapter has ever had. The past two Saturday nights, February 21 and 28, marked our production of "Salute To America" for the first time in a theater environment, and we played to two SRO audiences within 60 days of our annual show. These audiences were all but mesmerized by the sheer power of this score. To a man our troops were so enthusiastic that we are seriously considering a third production this summer.

Our business manager has arranged for us to do "Salute" over 18 times this year for various conventions and civic groups, which projects to audiences of over 20,000 people.

Please relay my sincere appreciation to the entire music staff for this Barbershop Bombshell, especially that sly old fox, Dave Stevens, and Hugh for his masterful commentary.

Jim Miller

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