

nor'easter

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PROVIDENCE, R.I.
02904
PERMIT NO. 654

Dated Material - Please Expedite

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

Volume 41, No. 2

Summer, 2000

Sunrise 2000—The Cape Breton Way

by Gerald J. Farrell, President
Cape Breton Chapter

The Cape Breton Chapter hosted the 2000 Sunrise Division Quartet and Chorus Convention and Contests in Sydney May 5 to 7. When Sunriser barbershoppers get together, they go all out. In addition to the usual division contest events, and a well-attended Friday evening Mall Sing, a Welcome Ceilidh was added. Fiddlers, piano players, and non-barbershop singers provided lively dance music while old friends chatted over a good cup of tea and home-made food treats.

Many barbershoppers stayed in Sydney to attend an inspiring Sunday morning service at a church near the headquarters hotel. If that wasn't enough, two chorus were coached by Don Gray on Sunday morning.



Sunrise Division Quartet champs *Seventh Wave*.
L to R: Bass: Kurt Reimer, Lead: Perry Jackson,
Fan: Sharon Wilson, Tenor: Steve Jackson,
Bari: Paul Grimm. Photo submitted by Sharon Wilson

Competition performances got underway at 12:00 noon on Saturday with a grand parade, featuring the Cape Breton Pipes and Drums 2000 Band, a 15 piece marching bagpipe group, the judging panel, the returning trophies, and a representative from each chapter.

Seventh Wave from the Kentville Chapter in the far southwest of Nova Scotia travelled to Sydney to capture the Quartet Championship. The *Anchor-men* (Cont. on page 8, col. 4)

Mountain Division—One for the Books

by Norm Mendenhall
Mountain Division Contest Chairman

The Mountain Division Contest was one for the record books, not only for what happened at the contest but also for what happened afterward.

Let me start by thanking everyone who attended and went out of his way to make this weekend special, especially the judges. I think that most Joe Barbershoppers don't understand what the judges have to go through to make our contests work. That is why we in Saratoga treat the judges who come here like kings—because they ARE!

The day of the contest was awesome. Everyone arrived on time, the weather was great—almost a record 76 degrees, with sunshine and a pleasant breeze all day. We qualified seven out of eight choruses and five quartets for district. Everyone had a great time and I heard almost NO complaints all day! A couple of quartets got locked out of their dressing rooms but it didn't affect their performance or the flow of the contest. The judges commented favorably about the flow of the contest and how there were no dead spots all day.

My chorus (*The Racing City Chorus*) came in first, and I won the Division Barber-shopper of the Year award. What more could you ask for?

Then came Sunday! When we went to bed Saturday night, all was well. However, we woke up Sunday morning to find almost a foot of snow on the ground, and it kept up all day. By the end of the storm, it had become a record fourth place snow fall for April in this century for the Saratoga area. We had about 14" of snow.

(Cont. on page 8, col. 3)



Brian O'Leary congratulates Beverly Director Dan Washington on the chorus' division win.

Photo submitted by Jack Dowd

started again in the lobby of the high school and entertained like four guys who just love what they do.

Now you've got to be saying, "I wish I had gone to the preliminaries this year." You're right! You should have, because it didn't end there. Later, at the headquarters hotel, we were entertained some more by the top quartets and others. It truly was a great weekend.

Patriot Division and NED Prelims—A Success and A Surprise!

by Jack Dowd
The Beverly *Northshoremen*

Salem, Mass; April 28 to 30. Both events were a huge success and a terrific show. Even the judges were happy with the arrangements.

Northeast Connection qualified to compete in Kansas City as our district quartet representatives. *Overdrive* wowed the audience by scoring 1723 points to almost qualify for Internationals. *Club NED* and *Minor Adjustments* were very close behind, which created a great sense of competition.

Saturday was the competition for the Patriot Division choruses. It was a crowning moment for the Beverly *Northshoremen* and its director, Dan Washington when the chorus won. Lou Perry was in the audience and was thrilled that Beverly had performed one of Lou's compositions in the contest.

Saturday night, after the contest winners were announced, our district chorus champions, The Nashua *Granite Statesmen*, appeared. They did a stunning performance of their contest package as well as few other renditions.

Then the surprise of the year happened. The *Boston Common* appeared on stage and they sounded terrific! And after they finished singing on stage, they

Dick White, host chairman, Paul Arnone, Bob Guiggey, Ernie Vien, Brian O'Leary and their wives—as well as the whole Beverly chapter—did a wonderful job. On top of that, they won the division contest.

Perserverance Pays Off In Contest

by Jim Nolan
NED VP, Contest & Judging

The next time someone in your chapter gripes about getting to a division contest, tell him about the effort made by the St. John's Newfoundland *Anchor-men Chorus* to get to their division contest this year. How about 24 hours of bus travel including an overnight ferry to get to Sydney, Nova Scotia? How about having to wait until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday night to begin the trek home, since that was dictated by the ferry schedule. In all, 31 men devoted Thursday to Monday night in pursuit of their hobby. That dedication paid off at the Sunrise Division Chorus contest. Not only did the *Anchor-men* win the Sunrise Division Small Chorus championship, they also placed first in their division overall and, in addition, scored the highest of all District Small Choruses this year. That makes them the Northeastern District Small Chorus Champion for 2000.

Ever Growing . . . Or NOTHING Else Matters!



The *Nor'easter* is the official publication of the Northeastern District (NED) Association of Chapters of the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.* It is published four times a year: March, June, September and December. SPEBSQSA is a non-profit educational and charitable organization. The *Nor'easter's* goal is to promote barbershop quartet harmony by publishing stories of interest to barbershop singers in the NED. We welcome articles and letters, but reserve the right to edit published material. Submitted articles become the property of the *Nor'easter*. Articles without a by-line are by the editor. Opinions are the authors', and may not be those of the District or the Society. Articles may be reprinted, with credit. The *Nor'easter* is printed by the Beacon Press Corp., Warwick, R.I.

Nor'easter Staff

Editor

Ed Dunn
81 Kenney Lane
Concord, MA 01742
978-369-1456
edunn68@aol.com

Business Manager

W. Jon Lemoine
138 Piedmont Street
Woonsocket, RI 02895
401-766-7666
barbershop@home.com

Distribution Manager

Dan D'Ambr
40 Plum Point Road
Sauderstown, RI 02874
401-294-3941
logcabin@home.com

Sunrise Division Reporter

Position Vacant.

Granite/Pine Div. Reporter

Position Vacant.

Patriot Division Reporter

Frank Charbonneau
3 Hampton Avenue
Brookfield, MA 02401
508-587-6201
fcharbie@aol.com

Yankee Division Reporter

Bob Bartley
190 Whisconier Road
Brookfield, CT 06804
203-775-9317
bbartley@snet.net

Mountain Division Reporter

John Griffin
110B Colonial Drive
Chicopee, MA 01020
413-594-9249
jgriffsr@aol.com

Nor'easter Policies

Changes of Status or Address

Please do not send changes in members' status or address to the editor of the *Nor'easter*. Since the Society supplies the members' mailing list to us, such changes should be sent to the International Office at:

SPEBSQSA., Inc.
6315 Third Avenue
Kenosha, WI
53143-5199

Non-member Subscriptions

Non-members may subscribe to the *Nor'easter*—U.S., \$3.00/yr; Canada, \$4.00/yr; elsewhere, \$11.00/yr. Send your address and a check to the editor.

The bottom line on the mailing label shows the last issue an individual subscriber will receive. It's the only notice we can provide so please keep track and renew your subscription before it expires.

Advertising

Ads with art work must be to size, in black & white, camera-ready. We will accept text-only ads for typesetting. Ads must be to the editor a week before the deadline. Payment in U.S. funds must accompany the ad. Make checks to "NED-SPEBSQSA."

Advertising Rates

Ad Size	Mbr. ¹	Com. ²
Full-Page	\$300	\$450
<i>(9.75" Wide x 12" High)</i>		
1/2 Page	\$150	\$225
<i>(9.75"W x 6"H / 4.75"W x 12"H)</i>		
1/4 Page	\$100	\$150
<i>(7.25"W x 5.25"H / 4.75"W x 8"H)</i>		
1/4 Page	\$75	\$112.50
<i>(7.25"W x 4"H / 4.75"W x 6"H)</i>		
1/8 Page	\$37.50	\$56.25
<i>(4.75"W x 3"H / 2.25"W x 6"H)</i>		
Quartet Card	\$10	
Display ad in 2.25" W column		
per In.	\$6	\$9

¹ SPEBSQSA Activity/Member

² Commercial

To Submit An Article

Anyone may submit an article. Naturally, barbershop activities in the Northeastern District are our primary interest. Submit your article to the editor by:

- e-mail, with file attached, to edunn68@aol.com. We prefer RTF or *Word*, but we can read other formats.
- fax (at least 10 pt. type) to 978-369-1456. Call first; the fax is not automatic.
- mail on a floppy disk.
- mail, typed (10 pt. type).

Include your name and identification as you want it to appear in your by-line. Also include your address, phone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if we have a question.

We like photos, but identify the people and the activity on the back of any you submit. They will be returned if you ask and your address is on the back.

Northeastern District Officers

President

Bob Guiggey
978-887-5304
rguiggey@worldnet.att.net

Executive VP

Art Lively
603-744-3755
natart@aol.com

Immediate Past President

Paul Arnone
781-324-7874
arnonep@worldnet.att.net

Society Board Member

Don Pyper
519-782-4425
pyperd@info.london.on.ca

Secretary

John Rusk
413-442-7523
jrusk@aol.com

Treasurer

Larry Nunes
860-886-8035
larrylpjn@aol.com

VP, Ch. Supp. Lead Training

Alan Lamson
860-647-9523
janlam314@aol.com

VP, Contest & Judging

Jim Nolan
860-646-4955
jjnln@aol.com

VP, Chorus Director Devel.

Position Vacant

VP, Events

Mike Strianese
203-467-1143
mikstrspeb@aol.com

VP, Member Services

Roger Martin
603-357-0338
rmartin@top.monad.net

VP, Music & Performance

Greg Caetano
603-424-3425
gcaetano@worldnet.att.net

VP, Marketing & PR

Allen McKenzie
902-861-3575
mckenzie@kayhay.com

Manager, Sunrise Div.

H. Duncan Mugford
506-449-4185
dmugford@sprint.ca

Mgr., Granite & Pine Div.

Roland Lindahl
603-352-0449
rel@monad.net

Manager, Mountain Div.

Don Flom
518-399-0156
flom@acmenet.net

Manager, Patriot Div.

Frank Charbonneau
508-587-6201
fcharbie@aol.com

Manager, Yankee Div.

Position Vacant

NED Barbershop Events for 2000

If you know of an event that should be included in this list, please send the information to the editor. First, be sure to clear dates with the District Secretary.

DISTRICT AND SOCIETY EVENTS

NEWCANEWING CAMPFIRE – June 2-4
Gorham, N.H. No further information.

ALTON BAY JAMBOREE – June 9-11
Alton, N.H. Scavenger Hunt, Barbecue, Breakfast Cruise, 51st Annual Show Sat. eve. at Community Center with *Limited Edition*.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – July 2-9
Kansas City,

DISTRICT BOARD MEETING – July 15
8:30 a.m. Marriott Hotel, Nashua, N.H.

HARMONY COLLEGE/DIRECTORS' COLLEGE – July 30-Aug 6 at Missouri Western State College, St. Joseph, Missouri

HARMONY EXPLOSION CAMP – Aug. 11-13
Westfield State College, Westfield MA

HARMONY PILGRIMAGE – Aug. 11-13
Westfield State College, Westfield, MA

HARMONY HOMECOMING – Aug. 18-20
NSAC, Truro, NS

BARBERSHOP FESTIVAL – Sept. 1-4
Bolton Landing, NY

FALL DISTRICT CONVENTION – Oct 27-29
Montreal, PQ

FALL HOUSE OF DELEGATES MEETING – Oct 28, Montreal, PQ

CAPCOTS – Nov. 12-14
Truro, NS

CHORUS DIRECTORS' SEMINAR – Dec. 1-3
Mont Marie Conference Center, Holyoke, MA

CHAPTER SHOWS

BURLINGTON, VT – June 3
No further information

PLATTSBURGH, NY – June 10, 8:00 p.m. at Giltz Auditorium at the State University. Featured: *Minor Adjustments, Saranac HS Chorus*

LEOMINSTER, MA – June 12, 7:30 p.m. 20th Anniv. Celeb. at Cong. Church of Christ

NASHUA, NH – June 17
No further information

LACONIA, NH – June 24, 7:30 p.m. at Gilford Middle School. Featured: *Minor Adjustments, Cornerstone*

PITTSFIELD, MA – Sept. 16, 7:30p.m. at the Koussevitsky Auditorium, Berkshire Comm. College. Featured: *Platinum, Just Four Friends, Berkshire Hills Chorus* (Sw. Ad.),

SCITUATE, MA – Sept. 16
No further information

MID-COAST, ME – Sept. 23
Featured: *Minor Adjustments*
No further information

NEW BEDFORD, MA – Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Zeiterion Theater. Featured: *FRED, Seems Like Old Times, Firehouse Four*.

NORWAY-S. PARIS, ME – Sept. 30, 1:30 & 7:30 at Oxford Hills High School.
Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea

If you'll send information about your event to the editor, he'll replace the "No Further Information."

Deadline for the Next Issue: July 31, 2000

Recalling a Hero

by Bob Lafond, Public Relations
The Cheshiremen

How many of us look at our dads as heros? Or is there someone else that stands out more than old dad when he isn't around any more to help us out? After my dad passed away, which was shortly after I joined *The Cheshiremen* Chorus, I came to recognize just how much one member of the chorus reminded me of my dad. The only noticeable difference was their heights. My dad stood about 5'-10", while the chorus member who so reminded me of him, *Dino Houpis*, just broke 5 feet.

When Dino passed away a year ago, I felt a loss I hadn't experienced since my dad passed away. Dino's love of music fed my need for note and rhythm, melody and harmony. He was the consummate barbershopper, a stern tactician with a heart that took you to barbershop heaven. Dino instilled in me the love of Barbershop. He showed me the essence of harmony, the importance of listening, not only with your ears, but with your heart. His expressions as he directed the chorus reached down and pulled out the feeling of the music that is essential to enjoyment for both the audience and the chorus. I know how to be a better barbershopper from what I learned from Dino Houpis.

Because we, *The Cheshiremen*, will miss him more than the whole Barbershop world (he did direct us for more than 43 years), it was only fitting that we should honor him, not just to keep his memory alive, but also his spirit. So we created the the Dino Houpis Award, a traveling award to be given yearly to the director of the Most Improved Chorus. Pictured is VP-Membership Services, Dr. **Roger Martin**, from *The Cheshiremen* Chorus, holding the "Dino." The first year, 1999, it was awarded to the Danbury, Connecticut Chapter. But the story doesn't stop there. The award is rather a coming around, full circle, of the extent of the generosity and influence of Dino Houpis. And it goes like this:

After the Korean War, **Don Sutherland** came to live and work in Keene, N.H. A love of music led him to attend a rehearsal of *The Cheshiremen* Chorus where he met Dino. Dino must have ignited a fire for Barbershop in Don, because he when he moved to Connecticut a short time later, he became involved in chorus work there. Time and direction led him to Danbury where he is now Assistant Chorus Director.

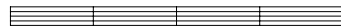
And at the district competition in Providence last October when the Danbury chapter received the "Dino" for Most Improved Chorus, Don was very clear about tracing the influence of Dino Houpis—that first exposure to



Photo submitted by Bob LaFond

barbershopping in Keene, and how his influence nurtured Don's love of barbershopping to lead him to the "Dino."

How many heros do we have? How many do we need? If they're all like Dino Houpis or my dad, I'll take them anytime!



Music Man Ticket Deal

Through special arrangements with Dodger Theatricals, SPEBSQSA members can get the best seats in the house at 15% off. In addition, a portion of each ticket sale will be donated to SPEBSQSA. To order, call Ticketmaster at 212-307-4100. Outside of NY-NJ-CT, call toll-free 800-755-4000 and give the order code "BARBERSHOP."



O.J.T.

With this issue, I am completing my first year as editor of the *Nor'easter*. I'd like to thank everyone who has aided, assisted and advised me through this break-in period. They include (but aren't limited to) **Dave Scott**, the former editor, whose advice was unique and invaluable in transferring the job. Webmaster **Rod Rodrigues** spoon fed me the basics of a new desk-top publishing program and its subsequent ramifications. **Mark Gemma** at Beacon Press patiently nursed me through the difficult first issue. President **Bob Guiggey** performs the valuable service of listening patiently to my troubles, and occasionally giving advice and support. And thanks to all of you who have sent us articles and pictures. Keep it up!

I've learned a lot in this past year and am still learning. I'll get the hang of this job after a while.

Reviews

The Music Man

What The Critics Had to Say

A revival of *The Music Man* opened on Broadway in April. Here's what some of the critics had to say about it.

Ben Brantley, *New York Times*

Susan Stroman, the director and choreographer, has not created the dream show you might have hoped for. When the show is singing or especially dancing, it often seems to have winged feet; when it's just talking or clowning around, those feet are decidedly flat. Neither she nor her estimable production team has been able to make the show's setting—the proudly plain and stubborn River City, Iowa—seem like more than a restoration park, a historic cardboard world in ice-cream parlor pastels.

This "Music Man" may be disappointingly earthbound for at least half of its nearly three hours, but it still has more helium than any of the other self-described family entertainments on Broadway.

Elysa Gardner, *USA Today*

You would be hard-pressed to name a contemporary musical comedy as perfect as 1957's "The Music Man," composer/lyricist/playwright Meredith Willson's exuberant account of a charming con man's adventures in small-town Middle America in the early 20th century. . .

The real star of this production is Willson's 43-year-old score, which sounds as glorious as ever, and whose book and lyrics continue to dazzle and amuse. This is an aggressively entertaining, unabashedly heartwarming evening of theater that will seduce audiences of all ages and sensibilities. . .

As the barbershop quartet formed by Hill, Jack Doyle, Blake Hammond, John Sloman and Michael-Leon Wooley sing and mug with irresistible verve.

Donald Lyons, *The New York Post*.

"The Music Man" is a hymn of triumph. Meredith Willson's 1957 musical is being revived, resuscitated, reborn in a get-with-it, joyful new production by director-choreographer Susan Stroman at the Neil Simon Theater. "The Music Man" has the simple elegance and sunny joy of a fable. It's a magnificent comedy of communal motion.

Fintan O'Toole, *The New York Daily News*

You might expect a performance and a production that stick so closely to the familiar original as to be rather

lifeless. Instead, Susan Stroman's revival is charming, funny and hugely entertaining. Such exuberance makes "The Music Man" as high-spirited and appealing as a marching band in a sunlit parade.

Linda Winer, *Newsday*

The Susan Stroman juggernaut continues, and what a happy, inexorable force this is. Consider it a testament to the Stroman touch. Neither her less-than-spellbinding choice for the music man—the antic but romantically lightweight newcomer Craig Bierko—nor an overzealous amplification system can dull her exuberant, lyric, lovingly impeccable production.

Michael Kuchwara, *AP*

"I always think there's a band, kid," says Professor Harold Hill, summing up his philosophy, a credo that could be the reason "The Music Man" is one of those Broadway shows that's impossible to resist. His hope, his willingness to believe, has been reborn in a joyous revival of the cornfed but never corny Meredith Willson musical. Judging from the rapturous audience response, it won't be leaving any time soon.



Nor'easter Editor Makes Mistake

Following the tradition of courageous, dauntless editors like Horace Greeley and Joseph Pulitzer, under the relentless glare of the public spotlight and in full view of readers everywhere, here in this prominent position on the pages of the *Nor'easter*, the editor fearlessly admits he made an error.

In the last issue in an article entitled "Who's Running This Show, Anyhow? II," the paragraph headed "Secretary—John Rusk" should have been entitled "VP, Contest & Judging—Jim Nolan."

So that answers your question, Mrs. Rusk—John has **NOT** been living two lives all these years. And Jim, I'm sorry for the error. My intention was to identify you and the other members of the district board, and to acclaim your hard work and continual service. As Alexander Pope said, "To err is human—to forgive, divine." So try to forget this error next time my chapter is in competition and I'm on-stage in front of you.

WANTED CHORUS DIRECTOR

The Cape Cod Chapter has an immediate opening for a Music Director. We are a chorus of 40 men who want to sing better and improve our performances.

Please contact Earl Hollis
Phone: 508-746-7751
Email: ephol@capecod.net



You're Not Old Unless You Remember. . .

from the editor's e-mail

1. Being sent to the drugstore to test vacuum tubes for the TV.
2. When Kool-Aid was the only drink for kids, other than milk and sodas.
3. When there were two types of sneakers for girls and boys (Keds & PF Flyers), and the only time you wore them at school, was for "gym."
4. When it took five minutes for the TV to warm up.
5. When nearly everyone's mom was at home after school.
6. When nobody owned a purebred dog.
7. When a quarter was a decent allowance, and another quarter was a huge bonus.
8. When you'd reach into a muddy gutter for a penny.
9. When girls neither dated nor kissed until late high school, if then.
10. When the nylon stockings your mom wore came in two separate pieces.
11. When all of your male teachers wore neckties, and female teachers did their hair every day.
12. When you got your windshield cleaned, oil checked and gas pumped free, without asking, every time and you didn't pay for air—and you got trading stamps, to boot!
13. When laundry detergent had free glasses, dishes or towels hidden inside the box.
14. When any parent could discipline anybody else's kid, or feed him, or use him to carry groceries, and nobody, not even the kid, thought a thing of it.
15. When it was considered a great privilege to be taken out to dinner at a real restaurant with your parents.
16. When they threatened to keep kids back a grade if they failed...and did!
17. When being sent to the principal's office was nothing compared to the fate that awaited you at home.

What IS Singing?

by David Kaufman

President, San Jose, CA Chapter
(*The Pitch*, Neal Cavanaugh, editor)

Singing is an art and a cultural force capable of elevating the quality of life in the home, at school, at work and in the community. It appeals to everyone's esthetic, emotional, spiritual and physical nature, and it is adaptable to every age and every degree of mental and physical development. Barbershop singing is a special sound. If it is to be preserved and enjoyed, it must be sung with energy, musical quality and emotion.

Chapter Rules?

Thanks to Steve Hagerdon from the *Newyorker Times*, George Trigg, Editor

Have you ever wondered what other Barbershop organizations ask of their members? The Sweet Adelines have written it out, and it looks like this:

What can we as chorus members do to make our chorus director happy?

- Attend rehearsals regularly and on time.
- Be an attentive chorus member.
- Stand with good singing posture.
- Watch the director at all times unless otherwise instructed.
- Don't talk on the risers; keep it to a bare minimum.
- Pay close attention to what is being said; it may apply to you.
- Know your music. Review your music and choreography on your own.
- Mark your sheet music for interpretation, breathing, trouble spots, octaves.
- Practice between rehearsals. Stay current on all repertoire songs.
- Vocalize daily. Strive for continual vocal development.
- Provide a safe, comfortable, acoustically adequate rehearsal site.
- Keep "business" to an absolute minimum during rehearsal time.
- Give your director room to grow.
- Participate in performances.
- Keep your costumes and accessories clean and in good condition.
- Keep up with chapter responsibilities (dues, etc.).
- Honor your commitments.
- Help the chapter. The leaders can't do it alone. See what you can do to help.
- Help other chorus members with music and choreography, but not while you're on the risers during rehearsal.
- Make suggestions to the right people and at an appropriate time.
- Talk with someone in authority.
- Focus on the "what," not the "who," so that feedback can be effective. In doing so, you say, "You're okay, but the situation is not." Be soft on the person, but tough on the problem.

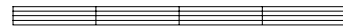
Silver Threads

Congratulations to the *Anchormen Chorus* of St. John's, NF Chapter. On October 27, they will celebrate their 25th anniversary.

Introducing Duncan Mugford

H. Duncan Mugford has recently become the new Manager of the Sunrise Division. By way of introduction, here's what he says about himself.

"I am a short timer in the society as I joined in 1981, but since then I have loved every minute of this wonderful hobby. I have held every office in the chapter except for treasurer. I have been chapter president three times, program VP twice, music VP twice, show chairman four times as I am again this year, and twice chaired contests here in Fredericton, NB. I was DVP for 7B for two years and Area Councilor for a couple of years. As Sunrise Division Manager, I am looking forward to doing the best I can."



Food For Thought

by Scott Salladin,
NED DSC/END REP

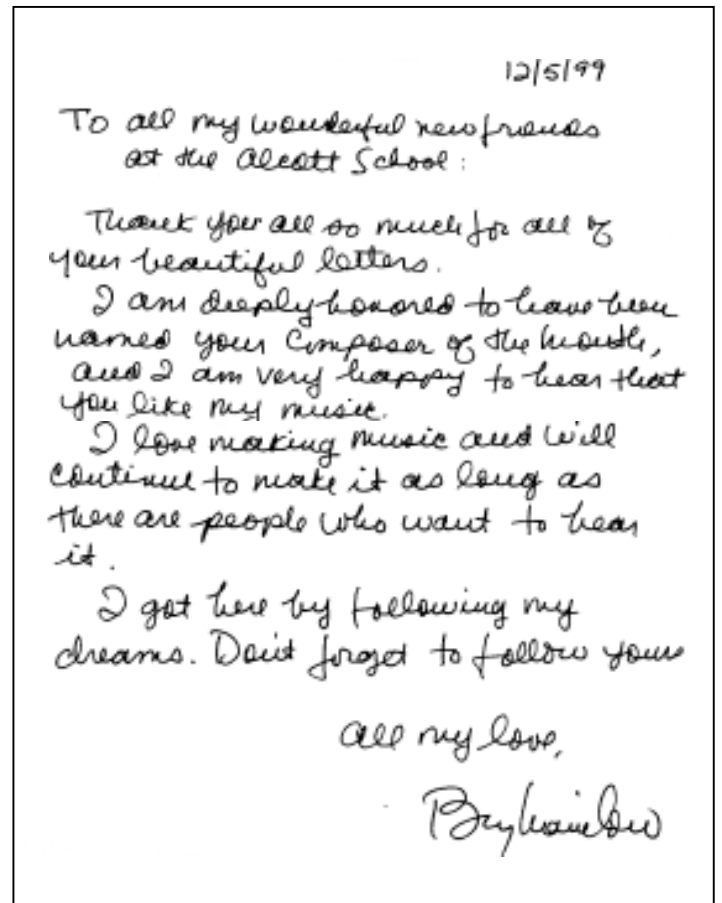
In the past few months some of our brothers in harmony have joined the chorus and quartets in the sky. What better thoughtful and loving way could there be to express your sympathy for the death of a loved one, than by a gift to the *Keep A Melody Ringing* Memorial Endowment.

When gifts to this memorial endowment in one person's name reach \$250, that person's name is engraved on a beautiful plaque that hangs in Harmony Hall. The plaque reads "Given in loving memory of those who loved the sweet sounds of barbershop harmony." It's an enduring memorial.



I Write the Songs, I Write the Songs

A few months ago, my granddaughter's fifth grade class named Barry Manilow their "composer of the month" and wrote to him telling him so. In a surprisingly short time they received a return letter. I'm reprinting it because it appears that fame hasn't turned Mr Manilow's head. Taking the time to hand write such a compassionate letter to elementary school kids is, to me, the mark of a big man. And what a wonderful bit of advice he included in the last paragraph.





Following Ken and Sheila Rear's naturalization ceremony, the presiding judge posed with the quartet. From left to right: Steve Tramack, Matt Kopsner, Jon Green, the Judge, and Ken Rear.

Photo submitted by Gordon Clarke

Oh, Beautiful . . .

by Gordon Clarke
with input from Ken Rear

Ken and Sheila Rear became United States citizens in a recent ceremony in a Concord, NH, courtroom. As is always the case, this was a very personal experience for those involved, who renounced their other citizenship in the process. But this ceremony was special, and touched many others, some of whom were not even present.

Ken is a long-time barbershopper, having sung in barbershop choruses and quartets for 20 years. At the end of the ceremony, Ken and three of his barbershop buddies from the *Granite Statesmen Chorus* in Nashua sang *I'm Proud to Be an American* in a moving performance.

The *Granite Statesmen* have an internet service that lets any member broadcast an e-mail to all other connected members. The three other participants in the ceremony sent out messages, not only about how moved they were to participate, but how aware they now were of the many wonderful benefits of U.S. citizenship which they had long taken for granted. This in turn stirred feelings from others who were not even in attendance.

Here is a sampling of that e-mail:

"I just got back from Concord where Ken and Sheila Rear became naturalized citizens today. It was really a moving experience. Adding to the thrill was the singing of *Proud To Be An American* and the *National Anthem* by a quartet consisting of Matt Kopsner, Jon Green, Steve Tramack, and Ken."

"It made me proud to be an Ameri-

can — as 88 folk from 37 different countries of origin took the oath — and proud to be a *Granite Statesmen* as our boys sang the 'lights out.'... in a ceremony that made me realize how much I take my U.S. citizenship for granted."

"My wife and children call me a 'flaming patriot' because I display the American flag on my house, go to the July 4 parades, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, etc. Like Ken and Sheila, I know what it means to be an American, while my natural-born citizen family members take it all for granted."

"Never before have I been so aware of the lyrics of *God Bless the USA* and the relevance of that piece of music to an audience. I have taken my natural-born citizenship for granted, never having to study for a test or take an oath. You have reminded me that taking pride in citizenship is 'cool.'"

"The importance of the proceedings sunk in for me when the judge spoke of the reasons why each of the people in the courtroom were seeking citizenship: freedom to pursue a better economic future, freedom from political persecution, freedom to practice their religion. These words were still in my brain as we sang, 'I'm proud to be an American, where at least I know I'm free ...' I had a hard time singing that song, since I was realizing the full impact and intent of its words right then and there. ('So THIS is what the song's about!')

Ken was transferred from Canada to the U.S. for a temporary assignment fifteen years ago, and never went back. He has now made the U.S. his permanent home. His two adult children, Ken and Kerry, were naturalized in ceremonies not long before Ken and Sheila's.

The Songs We Sing The Battle Hymn of the Republic

(From San Angelo Chapter *Concho Capers*, via *Overtones*, Lake County IN)

The melody, written by William Steffe, a Virginian, first appeared in 1858 as a Methodist hymn "Say Brothers, Shall We Gather On Canaan's Happy Shore?" It re-emerged at the start of the Civil War to the words of "John Brown's Body."

In November, 1861, four prominent Bostonians went to Washington, D.C. Massachusetts Governor John A. Andrew, Rev. James Freenian Clarke, Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Gridley Howe all sought ways to further the Union cause. The Howes were what today might be called liberal activists—people concerned with all sorts of reforms. Julia Ward Howe, a poet and essayist, also edited the *Boston Commonwealth*, an abolitionist newspaper.

After the group had visited an army encampment near Washington, Mrs. Howe returned to her hotel and wrote the five stanzas of "Battle Hymn" at one sitting. The poem—without the "Glory Hallelujah" chorus—first appeared in the *New York Tribune* in January, 1862. In February, *The Atlantic Monthly* offered Mrs. Howe the then princely sum of \$5,000 to reprint the poem.

Some time later that year, the Boston music publishing firm of Oliver Ditson issued the first sheet music printing of the song. Nobody knows who put the tune and the poem together, it was probably someone hired by Ditson. Within weeks, "The Battle Hymn Of The Republic" was famous. Even Confederate soldiers sang it—just as their Yankee counterparts sang "Lorena" and "The Bonnie Blue Flag." No matter how hard people try to make it choose sides, music is stubbornly nonpartisan.

The tune has lent itself to variant lyrics. Near the end of the Civil War, Sherman's "bummers" sang "We'll Hang Jeff Davis to a Sour Apple Tree" as they looted and pillaged their way through Georgia and South Carolina. Later generations of Boy and Girl Scouts, summer camp kids and fraternity boys have bellowed "I wear my pink pajamas," "John Brown's Baby" and "Mary Ann McCarty." Servicemen in World War II had a number of grimly comic versions, none of them suitable for a family publication.

I'd like to report that Julia Ward Howe and William Steffe grew fabulously wealthy from the song's royalties, but there's no evidence that they did. Steffe vanished into the mists of history. Mrs. Howe lived a long, happy and productive life as a writer, social reformer, lecturer and mother. When

she died in 1910 at the age of 91, she must have been pleased to see her poem had become a classic of popular music.



A Tribute To Richard Vienneau

by Bob Dunning
The Beverly Chapter

As we pass through life, we experience many highs and sometime, lows. Such a low occurred on April 21 with the passing of **Richard Vienneau**. "Richie" was a long-time member of the Beverly, Mass. Chapter, and a close friend of many of its members. But most memorable, Richie was the bass of the *Four Rascals*, one of the best quartets ever to sing in our Society.

Richie was one of six children, two girls and four boys, and every day was Harmony College in their home. Their father was an old-fashioned ear singer of Barbershop harmony, and daily he taught all six how to sing the various chords in tune and in blend. So, while they were still young men, it was easy for **Bobbie**, **Jimmie**, and **Richie** to join our Society and to win the NED Quartet Championship in 1959.

Richie will be sorely missed not only by his friends in our Society, but also by his other friends apart from us. But most of all he is loved and will be missed by his wife and widow Frances, his two daughters, and five sons.



Platinum—Only Once

According to Chapter President **Bob Risley**, if you want to see *Platinum* quartet this fall, you'll have to attend Pittsfield's annual show on September 16. He says *Platinum's* appearance there will be their only NED performance this fall. By then, will they be International Quartet Champs?

MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Scituate Chapter of SPEBSQSA is looking for a new Director. We are a chorus of 26 singing members with an active BOD and Music Team. We are looking for a Director to join our leadership team and help take us forward musically. Interested persons, please call 508-587-6201.



Acoustix and The Beatles

by Todd Wilson of *Acoustix*
Excerpted from a Harmonet posting

I just got an email from Carol Sherry, an SAI member in the UK. I met Carol many years ago in Bourne-mouth when *Acoustix* was performing at our first BABS Annual Convention. She complimented our quartet on our performance and went on to tell me that her first cousin also used to sing in a quartet that I might be familiar with—THE BEATLES! Her first cousin was **Paul McCartney!**

I have kept in touch with her and Paul over the years. Over time, I have stocked her up with *Acoustix* and *VM* CDs which she has hand-delivered to cousin Paul during family get-togethers. The marketing guy that I am, I was hoping to get a quote from him about our new *Cool Yule* CD, which I sent to Carol and Paul for Christmas. She said she gave him the CD at a family New Year's Eve party and he played several cuts from it. Carol said that even though he would never be quoted, while he did enjoy *Cool Yule*, he told her that he did prefer the more traditional barbershop content of our earlier CDs over our newer, jazzier stuff. Paul McCartney likes barbershop! Way cool!



History Is Made At The MAD Prelims

Freddie King qualified with *Premiere* making him unique—as though he were not enough of a special person. He is the only person to ever qualify to sing at International in six different decades, starting in 1959 and now in 2000.



Northeastern District Fall Convention Montreal, Quebec, Canada October 27 - 29, 2000

ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM

Individuals Only—NOT Chapters
Registrations are transferable but not refundable
There are no single event registrations for Montreal

Complete this form and return it to the address shown below – Please print neatly

All Events Registration \$25.00
Junior Registration (Under 15) \$13.00

Last Name	First Name	Chapter	#Reg

Registrations will be held at the NED Registration Desk located in the Headquarters Hotel.
Cut-off date for pre-registration is October 10.

Check here if you would like to add a \$5.00 donation each to support **Young Men In Harmony**

Clip and mail to: Michael R. Strianese
7 Hurlburt Drive
East Haven, CT 06512-1109

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____
to cover registrations ordered above. Make
check payable to "NED Fall Convention"

..... clip here clip here

Northeastern District Fall Convention Montreal, Quebec, Canada October 27 - 29, 2000

APPLICATION FOR HOUSING

Below is a list of available hotels. Please pick one.

	Single	Double	Triple
The Queen Elizabeth (Headquarters)			
Canadian Pacific Rooms	\$156.00 Cdn	\$156.00 Cdn	\$186.00 Cdn
Canadian DeLuxe Rooms	\$196.00 Cdn	\$196.00 Cdn	\$226.00 Cdn
Cost per additional adult is \$30.00 Cdn			
The Marriott (Chateau Champlain)	\$157.00 Cdn	\$157.00 Cdn	\$187.00 Cdn
Cost per additional adult is \$30.00 Cdn. Maximum of 4 persons per room (2 double beds)			
Prices are plus applicable Canadian taxes.			

Hotel Choice: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Departure date: _____

Room Choice: Single: ___ Double: ___ Triple ___ Sgl Bed ___ King ___ 2 Beds ___ Smoke: ___ Non-smoke: ___

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Prov. _____ Zip _____

Clip and mail to: Michael R. Strianese
7 Hurlburt Drive
East Haven, CT 06512-1109

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

MC ___ VISA ___ AMEX ___ DISC ___

Name on Card: _____

Card # _____

Expiration Date _____

Cutoff date for reserving rooms is Sept. 1, 2000

The Record-Setting Buffalo Bills

From SPEBSQSA's publication,
"You Are Now A Barbershopper."

Our 1950 international quartet champions, the **Buffalo Bills**, were something very special. An excep-

tionally popular show quartet, they may have done more to raise public awareness of barbershopping than any other group in our history. Their selection to play the school board quartet in the original Broadway production of *The Music Man*, and subsequent appearance in the film version, brought them many other high-profile opportunities.

The **Bills** became regulars on the Arthur Godfrey radio and TV shows, and compiled a record of performances that may never be topped by another quartet: 728 concerts, 216 TV shows, 1510 stage performances, 675 radio shows, 626 conventions, 672 night club appearances, 137 state fairs, and 15 record albums.

News From The Granite and Pine Division

by Dick Wheeler

Granite & Pine Division Reporter



The Mid-Coast Chapter in Camden, Maine sang for two elderly housing complexes in Camden and Rockport on Palm Sunday. The chorus

will appear on the Brunswick Chapter annual show. Their own show will be held on September 23 featuring *Minor Adjustments*. The chapter will sing for several bus tours this summer. Members are mourning the loss of **Dick Foss** who died recently.

Waterville's annual show will be on October 7 with *Club NED* and *Overdrive*. A membership night was held. There will be several nursing home performances. Recently named Barbershopper of the Month was **Bill Branch**.

Hanover has postponed its annual show from its usual fall date to the spring of 2001. They will do a major show at Springfield, Vermont in October. The chorus has combined with Laconia and Concord for some joint coaching. There will be an interchapter night with Burlington at Norwich University. The chapter will sing at a church service in Ascutney, Vermont. **Jim Shibles** has retired as chorus director and has been replaced by **Jody Himebaugh** of Woodstock, Vermont. Jody is a former director of the Cape May, NJ, Chapter. A chapter quartet, *Live Wire*, won the Division Novice Quartet trophy at the recent division contest.

Portland delivered over 90 singing valentines in the chapter's second year with this event. Their annual show will feature *Northeast Connection*. *Chordiac Arrest* has been signed for 2001.

Gardiner has scheduled singouts well into November. They have entertained at nursing homes and two church suppers. They hope to perform as usual at the Windsor Fair and the University of Maine Mile of Art.

Brunswick has its annual show on June 17. The Camden Chapter chorus will perform on this show.

Portsmouth won the Small Chorus trophy at the Division Contest. *The Management* will appear on the annual show at Dover on October 7. Chapter membership is growing appreciably.

Norway-South Paris had their installation banquet with **Art Lively** as presiding officer. **Arnold Jordan** was named Barbershopper of the Year. The chapter sang for the Rebekahs in Poland. The members again will have

their lime rickey wagon at Paris Old Home Days.

Concord received Most Improved Chorus trophy at the Division contest and *Overdrive* won the quartet contest. Singing Valentines was successful. A membership drive is being planned.

Keene's annual show featured *Limited Edition* and *Northeast Connection*. Singing Valentines was done for the first year and the members did 65 requests.

Bangor had its annual show with *Northeast Connection*. Former chorus director **John Pettit** has retired and is moving back from Virginia to the Bangor area.

Nashua has been receiving plenty of coaching from **Don Kahl**, **Gail Jencik**, **Greg Lyne**, and **Steve Plumb**. They will host the Alton Bay Jamboree on June 10. The most successful chapter show in recent history was held with *Club NED*, *Northeast Connection*, *Overdrive*, *Minor Adjustments*, and *Nightcrawlers*. The chorus performed at the Beverly Bash. They will also perform at the Museum of National Heritage in Lexington, Mass. The first CD recording of the chorus has been completed and shipments should begin soon.

Laconia will have its annual show on June 24 at Gilford featuring *Minor Adjustments* and *Cornerstone*. Performances are planned for Wakefield, Ossipee, and The Weirs. **Aime Theberge** has accepted the position of interim chorus director. Laconia has joined Hanover and Concord for monthly coaching sessions with **Duane McCarter**, **Mike Martin**, **Larry Bean**, **Dan Signor**, and **Matt Mercier**. This group of singers from three chapters may perform at Alton Bay.

* * * *

Editor's Note: This is Dick's last column. He's getting married soon and moving out of the area. Good luck, Dick, and thanks for your contributions to the *Nor'easter*.

Singers once had to have musicians accompany them. But since synthesizers came along, singers can now play with themselves.

For Truth, Justice and . . .

With **Dick Wheeler's** departure for undefined but sunnier climes, we at the *Nor'easter* are left without a reporter for the Granite and Pine Division. If there is an aspiring reporter out there who would like to take on the task, we'd like to hear from you. Please contact the editor and join the exciting world of reporting. Remember what it did for Clark Kent?

The Pype Line

by Don Pypier
Society Board Member

Here is my summary of the January 28, 2000 Society Board Meeting:

1. An updated C&J handbook is on the horizon for July of this year. This document maintains the quality of our judging system.

2. The Standing Ovation Program (SOP) will be managed and promoted by the Society Music and Performance Committee. This is an excellent program which must be used to survive.

3. Qualifying scores for Kansas City "Music Man 2000" convention will be 1824 for a double and 2736 for a triple panel.

4. The C&J Committee withdrew its proposal of a Society-wide show package format for competition. They may continue to study this concept and present work plan items to the PPDG in July.

5. The C&J Committee will place a disclosure statement on the Official Contest Entry Form to highlight the requirement to perform only cleared and appropriate copyrighted arrangements.

6. A proposal to limit the competitive activities of Society staff in directing choruses in Society competition, under the title of Conflict of Interest was defeated. There is no plan in the future to restrict Society staff from enjoying the hobby in this way on their own time.

7. The Society Executive Director was directed to evaluate by March 31, 2000 the resources, costs and overall benefits associated with the outsourcing of a Web-Master function for the Society. It was assumed that there could be cost benefit to a general updating of the e-function to our Society.

8. The Marketing & Public Relations Committee has produced an updated version of its 1998 multi-year Board-approved plan and encourages Society leaders to make use of this guidance resource.

9. The Society Treasurer will research considerations with respect to changing the Society's fiscal year so that it might better match the pattern of annual income with expenses.

10. The PPDG will prepare a long-range planning proposal for the Board's consideration in Kansas. This document will allow input from all Society members to initiate discussion and action for the improvement of Society organizations and functions.

In April, the PPDG completed its task and received over 50 items of input from varied sources which are all documented and reported to their authors. This plan is going to work well for the benefit of all.

11. The following Midwinter site selections were confirmed:

- 2002 Riverside, California
- 2003 Albuquerque, New Mexico
- 2004 Biloxi, Mississippi

12. The district presidents' report was presented by Moderator John Devine and generally supported the Standing Ovation Program, Chapter Coach Program, the five-year plan activity, and the membership initiatives being produced by Society staff and the Society Membership committee.

They did not support the Show Package Format, the Conflict of Interest Proposal, and continue to have strong concerns about the cost-sharing arrangements between the Society and its Districts. Society president **Chuck Watson** has promised discussion and finality on this issue soon. A task force is in place.

Well, there you have it. Be assured that the Society is fully aware of the seriousness of troublesome membership statistics and its impact on the total commitment we all have to preserving this magnificent art form.

Your theme for 2000 "I can make a difference in NED," could easily be used in our Society. Don't be shy; let your voice be heard.

Your district has one of the best work plans I've seen and an excellent set of goals and objectives for the coming year and beyond. It is a great organization and worthy of our efforts to improve it. Thank you for yours. I will support you in any way possible to achieve the successes you wish.

If you have any burning issues you wish to share and promote, please be in touch. Contact me on line, by phone, or snail mail any time at:

4564 East Road,
Port Stanley, Ontario N5L 1A7
519-782-4425 (H)
519-782-4217 (F)
e-dress: dpyper@lweb.net





Reminiscence— The Taste of Shoe

Here's another story excerpted from *Love, Laughter and a Barbershop Song*, **Fred Gielow's** book of nostalgia from the first 40 years of organized barbershop. It's from **Bob Royce**.

When my quartet qualified for its first International quartet competition in Toronto, the other three fellows drove from northern New Jersey. But my wife, **Dobbie**, and I decided to fly. On the airplane, I noticed four men sitting immediately in front of us wearing matching seersucker jackets and dark pants. "I bet they're a barbershop quartet," I said to Dobbie.

Spotting a Society lapel pin, I leaned forward. "Excuse me," I asked, "are you a barbershop quartet?" My question was answered with four instant smiles.

"Yes," one of them said, "you must be a barbershopper, too. What chapter are you from?"

"Livingston, New Jersey," I told them, then found out they were the *Cross Countrymen* from Massachusetts. I was talking to **Terry Clarke**, bass, and **Wally Cluett**, baritone.

"Livingston," Wally said thoughtfully. "Then you're from the Mid-Atlantic District. Tell me, I understand there's a quartet down there that beat the *Oriole Four* in the preliminaries."

"That's right," I said.

"A lot of people tell me that was a fluke," Wally continued.

"Well, I really can't say," I said. "I didn't think so."

"What was their name again?"

"The *Main Street Four*," I replied.

"Never heard of them," Wally said.

At that point, Terry Clarke asked, "Do you sing in a quartet?"

"Yes," I said, "as a matter of fact, I do."

"What's the name of it?"

I hesitated. "The *Main Street Four*."

Wally slid down in his seat as Terry roared with laughter. "Nice going, big mouth," he said.

DIRECTOR WANTED New London, CT SEA NOTES

An established and active chorus is seeking an enthusiastic music director.

Please call Jack Clewell at 860-848-0694 or e-mail him at ejclewell@aol.com, or call Doug Cassie at 860-388-9011.

How Well Do You Know Irving Berlin?

Thanks to **Scott Salladin**
from the Newyorker Times,
George Trigg, Editor

Here are seven snippets of Irving Berlin song introductions and verses. Guess the songs. If you have recently done an Irving Berlin show, you're ineligible.

1. Never saw you look quite so pretty before, never saw you dressed quite so lovely, what's more . . .
2. When you hear those wedding chimes, you know they'll bring happy times . . .
3. The sun is shining, the grass is green, the orange and palm trees sway. There's never been such a day in Beverly Hills, L.A. . .
4. The different tunes of now-a-days all set my brain a-whirl. They're not the kind of songs they sang when mother was a girl . . .
5. The roses each one met with the sun, oh, sweetheart when I met you . . .
6. While the storm clouds gather far across the sea, let us swear allegiance to a land that's free . . .
7. My thoughts go back to a heavenly dance, a moment of bliss we spent. Our hearts were filled with a song of romance, as into the night we went . . .

Don't cheat! Write down all your guesses before you look at the answers on page 12.

A Kansas City Kickoff for the Granite Statesmen

by **Tony O'Malley**
CD Executive Producer
Nashua, NH Chapter

On Saturday, June 17, 2000 at 7:30 p.m., as part of their "Music At The Museum" series, the Museum Of Our National Heritage in Lexington, Mass, will present a two-hour performance featuring the Nashua *Granite Statesmen* under the direction of **Steve Tramack** plus several fine chapter quartets. The *Granite Statesmen* will present the two-song competition package that they will perform in Kansas City on July 8, 2000, at SPEBSQSA's International Convention and Competitions.

The Museum features a beautiful and modern, albeit small, auditorium of 394 seats. General admission tickets are \$15 each and may be ordered from *The Granite Statesmen* at 603-886-SING or from the Museum at 781-861-6559. The Museum is located at 33 Marrett Road (Rt. 2A, west) just off Rt. 95 (Rt. 128) in Lexington, Mass.

So You Can't Read Music? So What!

Luciano Pavarotti, one of today's finest operatic tenors, admits he cannot read music. Instead, he relies on his ear and his own rudimentary form of annotation to learn a classical work.

Pavarotti said that his technique, "refined over the years," consists of memorizing the music with the help of a large notebook with the lyrics in block capitals and notations showing whether the melody goes up or down.

"I am not a musician," the tenor said. "I don't go in too deep. The musical score is one thing, and the singing part is another. If you have the music in your head, and you sing it with your body, you'll be all right."

If it's good enough for Luciano . . .

Contributors To This Issue

Thanks to the following for their contributions to this issue:

Roger Arend	Hanover
Paul Arnone	Beverly
Bob Dunning	Beverly
Bruce Checca	Saratoga Springs
Gordon Clarke	Nashua
Jim Dodge	
Greg Dolphin	
Jack Dowd	Beverly
Mark Draa	Springfield
Gerry Farrell	Cape Breton
Steve Giannuzzi	Hanover
Don Hatfield	Kentville
Ernie Johansen	Concord, MA
Bob LaFond	Keene
Leo Larivee	Medway
Duane McCarter	
Norm Mendenhall	Saratoga Springs
John Mullaney	Worcester
Jim Nolan	Manchester
Bob O'Connell	Providence
Tony O'Malley	Nashua
Alex Penman	Saint John, NB
Murray Phillips	Gr. Montreal
Don Pyper	Ontario
Scott Saladin	Poughkeepsie
Dick Wheeler	Portland
Todd Wilson	Dallas, TX

Mountain Div. (Cont. from page 1)

Needless to say the judges flying out had some problems. One judge didn't make it out until Monday morning and the rest of them spent an interesting day at the Albany airport.

Thanks again to all those who made the weekend a success. It was a great Saturday and an unusual Sunday.

Sunrise 2000 (Cont. from page 1)
from Newfoundland, who had to travel two full days before and after the Saturday contest, were deserving Sunrise Chorus Champs.

This truly was an exciting weekend. We thank all the volunteers and friends who helped make it happen. Special thanks to our judging panel and district officials, **Brian O'Leary-NED**, **Curt Roberts-NED**, **Don Gray-JAD**, **Gary Stamm-LOL**, **Dave Carr-ONT**.

We boldly dubbed this event, "Sunrise 2000—The Cape Breton Way" as a challenge to ourselves to provide an enjoyable barbershop experience for all.

By most accounts, we succeeded.

Singing A's Begins

by **Jim Dodge**, Moderator

By the time you read this, *Singing A's* will have finally had our school and will have trained our first division HEP team in the Granite-Pine Division. Originally scheduled for February, we were snowed out. On May 27, we got it done.

For those of you who are reading about *Singing A's* for the first time, we are a group of music leaders in the Northeastern District who are dedicated to improving the quality of singing in NED so more of our quartets and choruses will be "singing A" scores in competition. Although contest is the only venue that can be measured, we are also seeking to improve the level of all performances.

To accomplish our goals, we have defined the skills necessary to sing our very best and are implementing coaching models to teach these skills. We are looking for consistency between our coaches and chorus directors so the men of NED will hear the same things on how to improve as they work to develop their singing skills.

Although Granite-Pine is the first division to have its own Harmony Education Program (HEP) Team, our plans call for a team in each division by 2004. The HEP Team will be available, on call, to coach quartets and choruses. Specifics on how to do this will be made available to all quartets and choruses as soon as the makeup of the team is determined and contacts established.

On a separate issue, *Singing A's* is cooperating with the NED Chorus Directors Association in a program to recruit new men into chorus directing. Please see the article entitled "Annual Directors's Seminar" for details.

We are proud of the great Northeastern District and its quartets and choruses and want to make them better. Maybe we can have one of our groups in the Top Ten again soon.

Hot off the Presses!

The Nashua Chapter's *first* CD

Ain't That A Kick In The Head!



Featuring **The Granite Statesmen Chorus**, (1999 NED Chorus Champions), with added selections from **Northeast Connection** (1996 NED Quartet Champions) and **Club NED** (1999 NED Quartet Champions)



Cost: CD, \$15; Cassette, \$10, plus \$3 Shipping and Handling (U.S. Funds)

Please send orders to:
The Granite Statesmen
 P.O. Box 3880
 Nashua, NH 03061
 Or call The GS Harmony Hotline
 at (603) 886-SING

Send Check or Money Order,
Mastercard and **Visa** Accepted:

51st Annual Alton Bay Barbershop Jamboree



Limited Edition, International Champion quartet of Harmony Incorporated will be the featured guests at the 51st Annual Show.

Quartet publicity photo

by **Gordon Clarke**
 the Nashua, N.H. Chapter

It's coming soon, the weekend of June 9 - 11, and it will be a great opportunity to hear and sing barbershop harmony, to renew acquaintances, and to just have a great time. While the highlight of the weekend for many will be the big Saturday evening show, there will be a lot of other activities throughout the weekend, including singing opportunities at an open mike, for formal as well as pick-up quartets.

As **Denis Cushman**, this year's show chairman notes, "The Jamboree is for everyone who enjoys four-part a cappella singing, whether you like to sing or just listen." No invitations are needed for either. If you'd like to perform at the Saturday evening show, call Denis. If you want to sing a couple of songs at an open mike, just show up.

Here are the weekend's highlights:
Annual Show: Saturday, June 10 at 7:30 at the Christian Conference Center. Many quartets and choruses will perform. The headliners: **Limited Edition**, International Champion quartet of Harmony Incorporated; and Nashua's **Granite Statesmen Chorus**, the 1999 NED chorus champions. The chorus has just released its new CD and is busily preparing for its trip to Kansas City in July for the Barbershop Society's International Competition.

Open Mike: Early arrivals can perform a two-song set at an open mike in the newly-renovated Pavillion.

Barbecue: Saturday Evening, June 10. There will be another popular and delicious chicken and rib dinner. Last year's was sold out, so get there early.

Breakfast Cruise: Sunday morning, June 11. Cruise Lake Winnepesaukee with other barbershop faithful.

We're looking for some quartets to join us and to entertain.

Quartet Scavenger Hunt: No, it's not a hunt looking for quartets, it's quartets competing for a fabulous prize.

Town-wide Yard Sale: Come for bargains. Maps will be provided.

Saturday Evening Show Tickets:

Adults: \$7.50; in advance by May 31: \$5.00 (call Denis)

Performers: \$5.00

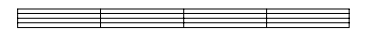
Children under 12: \$1.00

Contacts:

Denis Cushman 603-424-6966 (for show tickets or early performer registration)

Cecile Chase 603-875-6111 (for room reservations)
 e-mail: chase@worldpath.net (send name, address, phone number, e-mail, and lodging requirements)

We all look forward to a great weekend and an opportunity for fun and renewing friendships.



Want To Sponsor?

by **Gordon Clarke**
 the Nashua, N.H. Chapter

In recent years, the Nashua Chapter **Granite Statesmen Chorus** has been the sponsor and participated in the planning of the annual barbershop jamboree at Alton Bay. **Bob Schall**, the current chapter president, recently announced that conflicting demands on the chapter requires it to seek another barbershop group or groups to assume sponsorship of this historic, traditional event. Contact Bob Schall at 603-894-5708 if you would like to explore this for your group.

Annual Directors' Seminar—Dec. 1-3

by **Ernie Johansen**
 NEDCDA Secretary/Treasurer

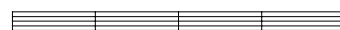
Plans for the annual directors' seminar, sponsored by the NED Chorus Directors' Association are moving smoothly. The location will be back at the Mont Marie Conference Center in Holyoke, Mass; the date will be December 1-3. It is a wonderful facility for our purposes, and its relatively central location in the NED should encourage interested directors and assistant directors to attend.

Classes will appeal to all levels of directors and assistant directors. Especially for beginning directors, **Steve Tramack**, director of the NED champion **Granite Statesmen Chorus**, will lead a session designed to follow-up the class in directing fundamentals to be held at the Harmony Pilgrimage and Homecoming in August. In addition to classes in Directing Techniques, classes in Sound Management and Vocal Techniques will be offered.

The faculty is again topnotch. The Vocal Techniques class will be led by one of the best in the Society in this discipline, **Jim DeBusman** from our Society office in Kenosha. Sound Man-

agement is a subject dear to the heart of instructor **Al Baker**, Harmony College coach and quartet bassman from the Ontario district. Leading the advanced and intermediate Directing Techniques class will be the wonderful **Joe Liles**, who is with us again after receiving rave reviews when he led this class in 1998. And, as we said above, Steve Tramack will be leading a class for beginning and aspiring directors. (See the article elsewhere in this issue regarding entitled "Creating New Directors").

So it looks to be another one of the best weekend schools for directors in recent memory in the NED. Check the mail in late August for more details on this fantastic weekend seminar for chorus directors.



Home Study

from *The Pitch*, San Jose, Calif.

If you have a computer and can access the internet, a basic music course is available. It's free and has 26 lessons that you can pursue at your own pace. It's called "Gary Ewer's Easy Music Theory" and it's located at www.musictheory.halifax.ns.ca.

Donkeys, Elephants And Barbershoppers

Here is the response of the Society Laws and Regulations (L&R) Committee regarding participation by barber-shop chapters in political activities.

Chapters (as well as Society districts and other subordinate units) may not accept political advertisements in their show programs or other publications. Organizations (such as the Society) which are tax exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code are specifically prohibited from engaging in activities attempting to influence legislation, or participating in any political campaign.

Paragraph 7e of the Society Statements of Policy specifically prohibits appearances (performances) in support of a candidate at political functions. It is our opinion that including political advertising in a show program is a similar activity. However, L&R is of the opinion that a chapter may accept an ad from someone who happens to be a political candidate, using his/her name, but with no reference to any political contest—just like an ad (or “best wishes,” “compliments of...” etc.) from a non-candidate.

In addition, Canon 8 of the Society’s Code of Ethics prohibits “the introduction of political, religious or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society.” It might be argued that including a political ad in a show program does not do this, particularly if the opportunity were open to all candidates. But L&R believes that Canon 8 also supports its position on show program ads, particularly in light of the tax exemption limitations.

By contrast, L&R has given its opinion that a chapter chorus (or quartet) may appear at the opening ceremony of a political convention to sing the National Anthem, and/or to entertain as paid performers (being careful not to include any material which could be considered to be partisan). We cautioned the inquiring chapter that its members (in uniform or otherwise identified as chapter/chorus members) should also enter and leave the hall as a unit, avoiding any appearance of being participants in the convention activity—other than as performers/entertainers. In this case, L&R believes the activity is permitted, as long as there is no suggestion of endorsement of candidate(s), party, or issue(s), and no favoritism is shown.

One final related caution: avoid activities such as participating as an identifiable group in letter-writing campaigns, circulating petitions, or other activities which might be considered to be lobbying in favor of, or in opposition to legislation.

Why Lutherans Love to Sing

By **Garrison Keillor**

From the Racine City Statesmen *Sharpnotes*, via the Fullerton, CA *Barbershop Clippin’s*



I have made fun of Lutherans for years—who wouldn’t if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main

joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn. We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their constant guilt that bums like a pilot light, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese.

But nobody sings like them. If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively “Lutheranless” place, to sing along on the chorus of “Michael Row the Boat Ashore,” they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans, they’ll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach and down the road!

And Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It’s a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor and bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person’s rib cage. It’s natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony. We’re too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. And when you’re singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it’s an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of “Children of the Heavenly Father” in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it. When we finished we all had tears in our eyes, part from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other. I do believe this: people who love to sing in four-part harmony are the sort of people you could call up when you’re in deep distress.

If you’re dying, they’ll comfort you. If you’re lonely, they’ll talk to you. If you’re hungry, they’ll give you tuna salad!

Quartet singers make better chorus singers.

Dr. Greg Lyne

Springfield’s Year In Review

by **Mark A. Draa**, President
The Springfield *Chordsmen*

The last year has been a great one for the *Chordsmen*. Here’s a list of some things from the past year we’re extremely proud of.

We surprised everyone (including ourselves!) in 1999 by winning the Mountain Division chorus contest, despite having not competed for seven years. We’ve been extremely fortunate to have a dynamic director and devoted and talented chapter leadership. The synergy of this team is has allowed us to mature as a chapter, growing from about 48 members to our current 63.

In November, our annual show was within \$100 of being the most profitable show in chapter history. We hosted *FRED* (1999 Gold Medalists), and *Just Four Friends* (1998 NED Senior Champs), playing to a combined crowd of 1,400 in our matinee and evening shows. In addition, the chorus has kept up its furious pace, learning ten new songs for the second year in a row.

We’ve continued our presence in the community, performing local shows, including a wonderful show we did this past January with Connecticut’s *Sound of New England Sweet Adeline* chorus. We recently did a benefit show for the Holyoke Catholic High School, where we shared the stage with the High School’s a cappella choir.

Over the past 12 months, we’ve had many special coaching rehearsals. We’ve been lucky enough to have **Jim DeBusman**, **Kirk Young**, **Gary Parker**, and **Karen Rourke** share their con-

siderable talents with us.

We’re sponsoring a quartet to this summer’s Harmony Explosion camp in August, and may end up sending two!

We hosted an enjoyable interchapter gathering in 1999, and are beginning to plan another later this year.

We’ve maintained our \$50 per man donation to Heartspring, and two men have received their Bachelor of Hanony degrees.

Most of the new songs introduced to the chapter membership are accompanied by professionally-produced learning tapes.

We have an active chapter bulletin, three active chapter quartets, and an active Barber Pole Cat program.

We’ve put in a bid to host the Mountain Division Chorus/Quartet contest in 2001.

Thanks to the selfless devotion of time by two of our member’s wives, we now have a full-time choreographer and videographer.

We continue to have a successful Singing Valentine program, this year placing three quartets, and delivering over 50 Valentines.

We’re financially solvent, finishing our most recent year in the black, and adding to our reserves in the process.

Wanted!

Pictures of our NED representatives as they perform at the International Convention in KC. If you go, and get a good photo, send a print to the editor along with a caption. But remember, no flash pictures. Use 400 speed film.



Typical of quartets all across the country, Frank’s Quartet, from the Natick, Mass. Chapter, had a busy Valentine’s day racing from venue to venue, singing greetings to surprised but appreciative listeners. They reported that it was just as gratifying and exciting to them.

Photo submitted by Charley Moses

1999 Harmony Foundation Award Winners

by Scott Salladin, NED DSC

Bronze Awards to chapters contributing at least \$25 per man:

Chapter	Total Given	Members	Average
Poughkeepsie, NY	2,471.00	53	46.62
Cape Cod, MA	1,905.00	42	45.36
Haverhill, MA	691.00	16	43.19
Manchester, CT	2,750.00	65	42.31
Central, CT	1,423.00	41	34.71
Burlington, VT	1,585.00	46	34.46
Portland, ME	2,423.00	71	34.13
Gardiner, ME	200.00	6	33.33
Halifax, NS	1,090.40	33	33.04
Norway-S. Paris, ME	550.00	18	30.56
New London, CT	1,250.00	41	30.49
Natick, MA	1,328.02	45	29.51
Hanover, NH	1,048.65	37	28.34
Norwich, CT	765.00	27	28.33
Concord, MA	1,420.60	54	26.31
Scituate, MA	1,011.89	40	25.30
Keene, NH	1,011.00	40	25.28

Silver Awards to chapters contributing at least \$50 per man:

Concord, NH	1,461.52	19	76.92
Brunswick, ME	1,923.00	26	73.96
Laconia, NH	2,102.00	29	72.48
Portsmouth, NH	2,815.00	39	72.18
Worcester, MA	6,910.00	105	65.81
Hartford, CT	3,316.36	54	61.41
Waterbury/Derby, CT	2,167.36	41	52.86
Springfield, MA	2,887.07	57	50.65

Gold Awards to chapters contributing at least \$100 per man:

The Alton P. Rancourt Memorial Trophy is awarded to the chapter with the highest per capita donation. This year's recipient is the *Electric City Chorus*, Schenectady, NY. They contributed a total of \$10,677.20 with 55 members for a per-man average of \$194.13. Congratulations to all the winners.



Photo submitted by Theresa Weatherbee

New Directors for the *Dukes of Kent*

Submitted by Don Hatfield, chapter bulletin editor

As of January 1, 2000, the Dukes of Kent have changed directors. Perry Jackson, the previous director of ten years, has decided to take a break from directing, and has turned the task over to Paul Grimm and Theresa Weatherbee as co-directors. Both Paul and Theresa come highly recommended, and have many accomplishments in singing, directing, judging, and coaching in Barbershopping. They are excited, honoured, and committed to helping the Dukes to become as good as they possibly can.

Certainly the Dukes are thankful to have two such highly devoted and trained individuals as Paul and Theresa co-direct them, and the Dukes are looking forward to a long and exciting relationship. The Dukes heartily say "Welcome aboard!"

We Sing That They Shall . . . Hear

by Alex Penman
Saint John NB Chapter

With the profits from a successful Singing Valentine program, the *Men of Fundy* Chorus recently teamed up with Council 6770 Knights of Columbus in Saint John, NB, to purchase a set of special hearing aids for an eighteen-month-old local girl who had been born profoundly deaf. Her parents were unable to come up with the money required to fit her with hearing aids, so the Chapter undertook to help out. The cost of the hearing aids was \$2182.00. The Knights contributed \$500.00 and the remainder was borne by the *Men of Fundy*.

The little girl, Cassandra Harquail-Gordon, was fitted with the aids, and her parents brought her to a regular rehearsal on March 20, 2000. Cassandra swayed to the music when the *Men of Fundy* sang her a few numbers, and was as bright as a button. It was a dramatic change from when our President Paul Chamberlain and VP Chuck Walper first interviewed the family with Cassandra sitting uncomprehending in her deafness.

Our theme song took on an added significance with the presence of this little child as we sang *We Sing that They Shall Speak*, and it is no exaggeration to say that there wasn't a dry eye in the rehearsal hall.

What's With the Yellow Ribbon?

by Scott Salladin, NED END REP

Many people still don't know about the Founder's Club. The Founder's Club is reserved for those who make a significant financial contribution or commitment of \$1,000 or more to the SPEBSQSA Endowment Program.

The O.C. Cash Founder's Club is a living memorial to our founder's dream. O.C. loved Barbershop singing and dreamed of spreading its harmony throughout the world. He set that dream in motion in 1938 when he founded SPEBSQSA, Inc. His dream continues today as the hearts and voices of tens of thousands of Barbershoppers throughout North America, and in affiliated organization throughout the world, Sing...for Life.

For more information on how to become a member of the Founder's Club, contact Scott Salladin at LeadKahuna@cs.com or by phone at 914-471-5845, or Larry Gilhousen at 800-876-SING, ext 8448.

Creating New Directors

by Jim Dodge (Singing A's)
and Duane McCarter (NEDCDA)

Where are our future chorus directors coming from? Several of us have been talking about just this topic and have decided that we should have an answer to that question. We could sit back and let nature take its course. But how does that help the district?

Our answer is simple. Many of our future directors are now singing in our choruses. The typical future director may be a section leader or an active quartetter. Or maybe he's that guy in the second row whose eyes light up when a song begins or even, when he walks in the door.

So how do we get guys like this interested in this vital role in every chapter? We want to start a recruiting campaign that reaches into every chapter to find their best and brightest and send them to school. Does that make sense?

Here's what we'd like to happen. At your next chapter board meeting, make an agenda item to nominate one man from the chapter and send him to Beginning Directors class at the Harmony Pilgrimage or Homecoming in August. Better still; don't wait until the board meeting. Look over the roster and do it now! There is at least one man in every chapter who fits the criteria above.

Will this work? The numbers seem to be in our favor. There are 62 chapters in the NED. If we bat .500, we will have more than 30 men to begin directors' training. Then, given that some won't find directing to be their cup of tea, we'll lose a few, but we still should come away with a dozen or so men ready to tackle more training.

The Northeastern District Chorus Director's Association (NEDCDA) will feature a class at their December Seminar aimed at beginning directors led by Nashua's Steve Tramack. So our new guys will have two terrific events in the next six months to help them plant their feet firmly in the director's stable.

Is this important? You bet! The most vital asset of every chapter is its chorus director. Chapters rise and fall on the skills of their director—we've seen that for years. The major area of failure of many chapters is their inability to recruit a talented director. The men we hope to train will not only contribute more positively to their own chorus but will join the pool of directors we need to help other chapters.

Will you help us? Will you reach out to your chapter leadership to take part in this program? Will you consider volunteering yourself to be a new director-in-training? The benefits are staggering for all of us, especially our beloved hobby.



At the installation banquet of the Norway/So. Paris, ME chapter, Arnold Jordan (Ctr) received the chapter's 1999 BOTY award. On the left is chapter Treasurer Carl Foster. On the right is NED Executive VP Art Lively, the installing officer. Photo submitted by Dick Wheeler

Is the Slovakian in the Postal System?

by Paul Arnone
Past President, NED

Okay, is the Czech in the mail? I'm referring, of course, to the check you, or your chapter, were going to send me. It's the one we'll need to support a student/educator at the HXCamp in August. Time's a-wasting and we don't yet have full funding for all the students who want to go! Can you help in any way? We will gratefully accept any amount up to or beyond the \$165.00 needed per camper.

Has your chapter made a commitment to support some of the youth? Please check with them to be sure they have. Now here's the good news! The plans are going full tilt for a terrific weekend. Jay Butterfield will head the faculty. Daryl Flinn and Revival will be on campus also. Because the Harmony Pilgrimage is the same weekend, some of their guest faculty will also be available to us. A wonderful set of seven songs has been chosen for the students to have in hand before the Camp. They'll perform them at the Saturday night show, once again.

At this writing, I may need some more help, i.e.: night duty/chaperone. Don't be afraid to ask if we need some help! Once again, my address is: Paul Arnone, 22 Hancock Road, Malden, MA 02148; or phone 781-324-7874. P.S. The YMIH collection jars didn't do as well as we expected at the Spring Prelims. I'm hoping for better luck at the Fall Convention.

Answers to Irving Berlin Quiz on Page 8

Some of the quotations are from introductions, and it is not certain that they were actually written by Berlin or by the arranger.

Here are the answers:

1. Easter Parade
2. Mandy
3. White Christmas
4. Play a Simple Melody
5. When I Lost You
6. God Bless America
7. The Song is Ended, But the Melody Lingers On

Wait! It's not over. Now you can characterize yourself.

None right: You don't even know who Irving Berlin is, do you?

One right: Well, you're a patriot for knowing "God Bless America."

Two right: You're a patriot and a romantic for recognizing "God Bless America" and "Easter Parade."

Three right: Patriot, romantic, and Christmas person for "White Christmas."

Four right: Consider yourself out of the novice category. You know Irving Berlin. You got "When I Lost You."

Five right: You're an old hand at Irving Berlin songs. You got "Play a Simple Melody."

Six right: Extraordinary! You've been around a long time, haven't you? You got "The Song is Ended."

Seven right: You've been around so long you should check your pulse to see if you're still alive! You identified "Mandy!"

Bulletin Editors of the Year

At the spring Prelims in Peabody, Mass. on April 29, the Awards for NED Bulletin Editor of the Year (1999) were announced. The winner was **Bob Bartley**, editor of the Danbury, Conn. bulletin, *Hatter Chatter*. Second was **Peg Lawrence**, editor of the Schenectady, N.Y. bulletin, *Shampoo*. Third was **Bob LaFond**, editor of the Keene, N.H. bulletin.

Congratulations to our brothers in the barbershop segment of the fourth estate. And good luck to Bob Bartley as the NED entrant in the national BE contest.

What Snu?

Here at the *Nor'easter*, we're always looking for news. When something noteworthy happens at your chapter or with your quartet, let us know. Send an article or a captioned photo to the editor. His address is on page 2. Help us to spread the word about barbershopping.

Advanced Vowel Training

by Don Rent

from San Diego's *Sun Harbor Light*
via Fullerton's *Barbershop Clippin's*

I take it you already know
Of *tough* and *bough* and *cough* and
dough.

Others stumble, but never you,
On *hiccough*, *thorough*, *lough* and
through. Well done.

And now I think you'll wish, perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps.
Beware of *heard*, a dreadful word,
that looks like *beard*, but sounds like
bird.

And *dead* is said like *bed*, not *bead*.
For goodness sake, don't call it *deed*.

Watch out for *meat* and *great* and
threat,
They rhyme with *suite* and *straight*
and *debt*.

A *moth* is not a *moth* in *mother*,
Nor *both* in *bother*, *broth* in *brother*.
And *here* is not a match for *there*,
Not *dear* and *fear* for *bear* and *pear*.
And then there's *dose* and *rose* and
lose,

Just look them up – both *goose* and
choose;
And *cork* and *work* or *card* and *ward*;
And *font* and *front* or *work* and *sword*;
And *do* and *go* or *thwart* and *cart*—
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!

Greater Montreal CD

From Greater Montreal's *Mini-Pitch*

Greater Montreal's E Board has authorized the production of a Christmas CD with the other Barbershop Chorus and quartets in the Montreal Area. This will include *South Shore Saints*, Sweet Adeline's *West Island Chorus*, the Greater Montreal Chorus and the Montreal Chapter of Harmony, Inc., as well as their chapter quartets.

Special Deal For New Members

by Reed Sampson
PR Specialist, SPEBSQSA

Here's a reminder of a great offer for all new members. Each new Society member is entitled to purchase a registration for the International Conventions and receive a second registration for the same convention absolutely free. The offer must be used at one of the next two conventions immediately following his enrollment. Example: A man who joined in January 2000 may use the offer to purchase a registration for either the 2000 or 2001 convention. A man who joins in September 2000 may take advantage of the offer for either the 2001 or 2002 international convention. This offer does not apply to reinstated members.

Richard Vienneau

April 8, 1933 - April 21, 2000
by Leo Larivee
Medway, Mass. Chapter

Tonight, many Barbershoppers and friends paid final tribute to **Richie Vienneau**, bass of the 1966 Silver Medalist *Four Rascals* quartet. Richie celebrated his 67th birthday earlier this month and was visiting his family in Massachusetts at the time of his death. According to brother Jim, Richie had his dinner on Friday, complained of heartburn, went to sleep, and just never woke up. The Beverly, MA, Chapter and **Club NED** (current NED Quartet Champs) sang at the service. The final song, *From The First Hello To The Last Good-bye* said it all.

There once was a man name Rich
Who had found such a really great niche
With a smile on his face
and the sound of a bass
He kept the *Four Rascals* in pitch!

May He Rest in Peace...

Nashua CD

by **Tony O'Malley**
 excerpted from *The Keynote*
 bulletin of the Nashua, NH chapter

The Nashua *Granite Statesmen Chorus*, 1999 NED Chorus Champs, are pleased to announce the release of their first recording, *Ain't That a Kick in the Head!* For many of us it has seemed like a marathon, and the myriad details in addition to getting the music captured have been a challenge. **Steve Tramack** and I went to the studio on March 20 for a final mix and mastering which set the level for each selection. The CD includes 12 selections from the *Granite Statesmen* and two each from *North-east Connection* and *Club NED*.

In parallel with the recording process, **Wendy Mercier** designed the CD cover and insert material, while I processed the mechanical license process which legalized what we produced. I also worked with the CD duplicator, *Superdups*. A major debt of thanks goes to **Jay Hall**, our resident recording engineer, and **Steve Tramack**, our inspirational chorus director.



Training a New Generation

by **Steve Giannuzzi**, President,
 Hanover, NH Chapter; excerpted
 from *Chips*, the chapter bulletin

For the recent installation of officers, Kier, my wife, and I decided that we could not afford a baby sitter. So we brought the three children with us.

During the program, the children went into the other room. The chorus sang *Hey, Little Baby O'Mine* as well as some of our newer repertoire songs. As we were singing "Do Wah," unknown to us, my children in the other room were singing along.

On the following Wednesday, Kier went to pick up the kids from school. Raymond's teacher came out to tell her what had happened in his class that day. For "Show and Tell," Raymond had performed the song. He sang the whole thing for the class even to the lifting of the leg and the grunt at the end. His teacher thought it was so great that she had to share it with us.

So what's the point? The point is that my children are not forced to sing barbershop. They do, most likely, simply because they are exposed to it. They also listen to rock and roll, but they don't walk out when there is classical music on the stereo. So I think that exposure might be a good thing for us to do to help our hobby survive long enough for our children to grow up and take it up.



Photo: John Mullaney

Bill Monroe

1928 - 2000
 excerpted from
 Worcester's
Key Notes

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Bill Monroe** on Tuesday, April 11. Bill sang with the Worcester Chapter for 38 years. Since 1968, he had served in many offices and committees, and was chapter President in 1975.

Bill sang with the *Razor Sharps* quartet beginning in 1968. He also sang lead in the comedy quartet *Hay Stack Four* from 1986 to 1996.

Over 60 Worcester members gathered at Bill's wake and sang *I Believe*. A moving funeral mass was held Friday, April 14 at Our Lady of the Angels Church in Worcester. Bill's nephew, Rev. **Charles Monroe**, celebrated the rites.

Our condolences and thoughts go out to his wife, Millie, and their family.

* * * * *

by **John Mullaney**

*Silent is the voice that sang
 for all those many years—
 Overtones and laughter gone,
 replaced by constant tears.
 Those that you have left behind
 have little to rejoice . . .
 Longing for the gentle sound
 and magic of your voice.*



Photo: John Mullaney

Poet Laureate?

For years, every issue of the *Nor'easter* has carried a poem written by **John Mullaney**.

The poem above eulogizing **Bill Monroe** made us wonder—who is this guy who has been submitting these poems, and how did he begin this lifelong pastime?

It started in 1940, John says. As a boy, he was an avid Red Sox fan and idolized slugger Jimmy Foxx. John wrote a poem which praised Foxx's hitting ability and sent it to him. Foxx sent back a letter thanking John and encouraging him to keep writing. That encouragement has lasted 60 years—so far.

John was introduced to barbershop by Bill Monroe, who brought him to a Worcester Chapter rehearsal in 1964. So John's poem about Bill is his last salute to an old friend.

The Torch Is Passed In Hanover

excerpted from *Chips*,
 the Hanover, NH, Chapter bulletin

The *North Country Chordsmen's* last performance under long-time director **Jim Shibles** was at the Granite & Pine Division Competition on April 1. After 23 years, Jim stepped down, but not out. He will remain with the chapter and is anxious to stand on the risers, rather than in front of them.

Their new director is **Jody Himebaugh** from Woodstock, N.H. He has much experience in Barbershop. He has sung in several quartets, started the Cape May, N.J. chapter and directed it for many years. Committed to a high standard of musical quality, Jody appears to be just what the chapter wants to continue improving their singing.

Scores On The Rise

by **Jim Nolan**
 NED VP, Contest & Judging

It was a banner Spring Contest season for the Northeastern District. A record number of choruses and quartets qualified by score for the Fall Contest. 27 choruses and 25 quartets made the qualifying scores this year, an outstanding achievement. Here is the breakdown of representatives by Division (including Nashua):

Divisions	Choruses	Quartets
Granite & Pine	3	5
Mountain	7	5
Yankee	6	7
Patriot	4	1
Sunrise	7	7

Congratulations to all, and good luck in the fall district contest.



RCMP Corporal Keith Brumwell has more than a career in common with the lead character in *Due South*. Like the Mountie in the television series, **Brumwell** not only always gets his man but sings, to boot. "I've been singing for years," said the affable corporal from his office in Lower Sackville [NS]. "I used to sing in a barbershop quartet. I also sang *O' Canada* at the ceremony for the Halifax International Airport a few weeks ago."

Several months ago, **Brumwell** was hired to oversee the community policing program at the Lower Sackville RCMP detachment. Until his promotion and transfer, he was active in the Dartmouth [NS] *City of Lakes Chorus*.

(Excerpted from the Bedford-Sackville Weekly News)



Harmony Pilgrimage 2000 Course Descriptions

August 11-13, 2000

Westfield State College, Westfield Mass.

Another Harmony Pilgrimage is underway and ready to roll out for the August 11-13, 2000 weekend at Westfield State College. This year the quartet coaching program is available for you to pick the times to be coached. Many quartets would like to attend some of the three hour classes so you now have the option. We have brought in some faculty members from other District's education programs. Our feature quartet this weekend will be our 1998 International Champion *Revival*. Choruses being coached will be in the capable hands of **Mark Hale and Darryl Flinn**.

Our show on Saturday Evening will once again include the Harmony Explosion Camp Chorus as well as the quartets and choruses that have been coached for the weekend.

Please Note: There is a registration deadline of July 10, 2000. At that time, we will determine whether or not to cancel classes that have fewer than five pre-registrations. We will accept registrations after this date, but not all classes may be available.

Come and share in the fellowship with open minds and hearts. Here are the course descriptions:

HP-1 How to be a Great Tenor Fri PM 2hrs

Soar like a gold medalist tenor. The tenor of *Revival*, **Royce Ferguson**, will help you learn the characteristics and personality of your individual part. Learn how to better understand and sing tenor effectively.

HP-2 How to be a Great Lead Fri PM 2hrs

Take control as a Lead Singer. The lead of *Revival*, **Mike Spencer**, will discuss and demonstrate the vocal and personality attributes to make you an even better barbershop lead singer.

HP-3 How to be a Great Baritone Fri PM 2hrs

Untangle the mysteries of the baritone part. Besides being the brunt of barbershop jokes, the baritone fulfills a crucial role in the barbershop sound. Listen to *Revival* baritone, **Mike Lawton**, as he shares his secrets with you.

HP-4 How to be a Great Bass Fri PM 2hrs

Provide a foundation for your quartet. *Revival* bass, **Bill Myers**, will provide you with skills to make you the envy of other basses. Learn how, through enhanced understanding of the style, function, delivery and role of the bass singer.

HP-5 Tag Singing Fri PM 2hrs

You don't need to know the whole song to have fun singing the tag. Come learn a few new ones. *Instructor: Rob Mance*

HP-6 /HP-14 Vocal Techniques Fri PM 2hrs or Sat AM. 3hrs or Sat PM. 3hrs – Register for only one session

Here is your opportunity to learn to sing better from some of the best vocal production people around. Class sizes will be limited to allow for one-on-one work. *Instructors: David Patterson, Rick Spencer, Karen Rourke, Mark Lewis.*

HP-7 An Hour with Hale & Flinn Fri PM 2hrs

Spend sixty minutes of casual discussions each with **Mark Hale**, lead of *Michigan Jake* quartet, past director of *Louisville Times* and current director of the *Masters of Harmony*; and **Darryl Flinn**, the Executive Director of our Society.

HP-8A/P Balance That Chord Sat AM or Sat PM

3hrs

You are all singing the correct notes but that chord is just not ringing. Come hear some of the secrets on balancing the voice parts within the chord.

Instructor: Harry Williamson (SUN)

HP-9A/P Beginning Directing Sat AM or Sat PM 3hrs

No experience is necessary! You will learn a better understanding of basic conducting patterns. The Direct Hit manual will be used as a guide.

HP-10A Sight Singing Made Simple Sat AM 3hrs

Sing what you see. Learn the fundamentals of transforming the visual symbols of pitch and rhythm into vocal sound. No experience is necessary. *Instructor Larry Bean.*

HP-10P Advanced Sight Singing Made Simple Sat PM 3hrs

More on turning notes into music. Accelerate your music-reading skills. Sing what you see. Some experience is necessary. *Instructor Larry Bean.*

HP-11A Presentation Power Sat AM 3hrs

Learn to unlock your powers of presentation! Through a combination of discussion, active exercises, and game playing, you will learn how to make any move, how to give the judges what they're looking for (and more!), how to use what you already know to perform better, as well as how to give a "total performance" (and why). You will view performances to assist you in evaluating how effective the presentation is. And for chapter leaders, a section will be devoted to how to organize a Presentation Team in your own chorus, so you can share what you've learned with others. From practice tips to concepts of presentation theory, "Presentation Power" will challenge and change the way you think about art of presentation.

Instructor: Scip Garling (MAD)

HP-11P Basic Choreography Sat PM 3hrs

Here is everything you wanted to know about basic choreography and how to teach it to the other members. Learn the basic moves any barbershopper can do. Learn how to use focal point, body angles and weight shifts. *Instructor: Scip Garling (MAD)*

HP-12A/P The Intellectual Rights Approach to Barbershop Activities Sat AM or Sat PM 3hrs

Everything you want to know about copyright issues in barbershop activities. The class will cover a fair amount of specifics—all you need to know, from a practical standpoint, including the ASCAP/BMI licensing process and issues. *Instructor: Jim Warner (DIX) Society L&R Chairman*

HP-15E/A/P Quartet Coaching Fri PM 2hrs and/or Sat AM 3hrs and/or Sat PM 3hrs. REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 10

The weekend includes eight hours of coaching for your quartet, if you want it! Please choose which coaching sessions you want to participate in on the registration form. You must register for each session. Flexibility in the coaching was an important feedback response on the surveys last year. Many coaches will be here to help any quartet at any level of experience and expertise to improve their ability to sing and perform. Quartets will have the opportunity to perform on the Saturday evening parade. *Coaching staff includes but isn't limited to: Revival Quartet, Karen Rourke, Brett Penkul, Dan Washington, Gary Parker, Mike Gabriella, Mark Lewis, Duane McCarter, Jim Dodge, Brett Penkul.*

HP-16 Chorus Coaching Sat All Day 6hrs

If your chapter is interested in being coached as a chorus at the Pilgrimage, your Chapter leadership must submit the request in writing to NED DVP Music and Performance, **Greg Caetano**. *Coaching Staff: Mark Hale and Darryl Flinn*

HP-17 A/P Emceeing Sat AM 3hrs or Sat PM 3hrs

Learn the responsibilities of a Master of Ceremonies or a "front-man" for your chorus or quartet. Get some practice by introducing one of the performing groups on the Saturday evening parade.

Instructor: Mike Maino

HP-18 History of the Barbershop Style Sat All Day 6hrs

Gain an overview of Society history including development of the contest and judging system. Listen to recordings of the international championships through the years noting what we are trying to preserve. *Instructor: Dave Krause (CSD).*

Reminders for the School Weekend

Registration will be at 4 p.m. on Friday, August 11, in the Courtney Dormitory Lobby. This year we can have dinner on campus Friday evening, since we will share the school with the NED HX Camp. Please list on the registration form whether you will attend the Friday night dinner available from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Our Opening Session will be at 7:30 p.m. in Wilson Auditorium. You will do some singing, hear the latest news, and we will be on our way to our Friday evening classes. There will be no class sessions on Sunday morning. The last official activity will be breakfast. We ask that all participants be checked out by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Registration Fees for this year are: \$120.00 full tuition, which includes two days' lodging and five meals. We have also added a commuter rate for this year. See the registration form for details. All registrations must be in by July 10, 2000. Registrations after this date will have a \$10.00 late fee applied.

Items to bring with you: A tape recorder with blank tapes and a fresh set of batteries, notepad and writing utensils, alarm clock, ear plugs (to combat snoring), medications, comfortable casual clothing, your chapter name badge, linens for bedding (remember these are dorm beds to encourage studying), and pillow. Also bring a fan (the dorms are not air-conditioned), towels, soap, and toiletries.

DIRECTIONS TO SCHOOL:

From North or South: Travel Interstate 91 to exit 9 Northbound or exit 8 Southbound (West Springfield/Westfield Exit). Follow Route 20 West. Continue Approximately 6 miles to Westfield Center. Bear left around the rotary and take the first right on to Court Street/Western Avenue. WSC is located 4 miles on the right.

From East or West: Travel Massachusetts Turnpike to Exit 3 (Westfield). Bear right after the tollgate onto Route 202. Follow Route 202 straight until you reach the rotary in the center of Westfield. Enter the rotary and take your first right onto Court Street. Go straight approximately two miles. The college will be on your right hand side.

From Bradley International Airport: Take the Airport Connector to Route 20 West, Granby, CT Exit (about 1/4 mile). Continue on to the intersection of Route 10 & 202. Bear Right on Route 10 & 202 through Southwick, MA to Westfield Center. Circle around the rotary, taking the third right (after the Library) onto Court Street/Western Avenue. WSC is located four miles on right.

**HARMONY PILGRIMAGE
REGISTRATION APPLICATION**
August 11-13, 2000 at Westfield State College, Westfield, MA

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION - NOT FOR QUARTETS BEING COACHED (please print)

Name: _____ Voice part: T L Br Bs
 Address _____
 City, Prov / State, Postal / Zip _____
 Chapter / Chorus Name _____ Sharing Room with: _____
 Home Telephone () _____ E-Mail: _____ Handicap/1st Floor Room: Y N

QUARTET REGISTRATION - Must be received by July 10, 2000 - NOT FOR INDIVIDUAL CLASSES (please print)

Quartet Name: _____ Chapter(s): _____
 Tenor's Name _____ Lead's Name _____
 Bari's Name _____ Bass's Name _____
 Who is Contact Person T L Br Bs _____ Contact Address: _____
 Contact Phone () _____ E-Mail of Contact Person: _____
 What Experience Level (check all that apply) None Novice Intermediate Advanced
 Division Contest District / Prelim Contest

Roommates: (bracket {} names sharing room): _____

CHOOSE COURSES (classes with fewer than five preregistrations MAY BE CANCELLED)

Friday Evening Courses (select only one - 2hr session)

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| HP-1 How to Be a Great Tenor | HP-2 How to Be a Great Lead |
| HP-3 How to be a Great Baritone | HP-4 How to Be a Great Bass |
| HP-5 Tag Singing | HP-6 Vocal Techniques |
| HP-15E Quartet Coaching | HP-7 Hour with Hale & Flinn |

Saturday All Day Courses (select only one - 6hr session - do not select from half day courses below)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| HP-18 History of the Barbershop Style | HP-16 Chorus Coaching (For Chorus preregistered w/DVP) |
|---------------------------------------|--|

Saturday Half Day Courses (select one am and one pm session - most repeat material in pm session)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| AM - 3hr session | PM - 3hr session |
| HP-8A Balance That Chord | HP-8P Balance That Chord |
| HP-9A Beginning Directing | HP-9P Beginning Directing |
| HP-10A Sight Singing Made Simple | HP-10P Advanced Sight Singing Made Simple |
| HP-11A Presentation Power | HP-11P Basic Choreography |
| HP-12A The Intellectual Rights | HP-12P The Intellectual Rights |
| HP-14A Vocal Techniques | HP-14P Vocal Techniques |
| HP-15A Quartet Coaching | HP-15P Quartet Coaching |
| HP-17A Emceeing | HP-17P Emceeing |

Registration Options (check all that apply)

Full \$120.00 per person (includes tuition, Fri dinner, 3 Sat meals, Sun. Breakfast and 2 nights (Fri/Sat) lodging with roommate) Number attending Fri Night Dinner: _____	Commuter \$ 85.00 per person (includes 3 Sat meals and tuition - NO lodging) Add \$20.00 per person for a single room Add \$10.00/pp for Registrations received after July 31, 2000 (Quartet Registration Deadline is July 10, 2000)
Make check payable in U.S funds to: Northeastern District	Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____
A minimum deposit of \$60.00 must accompany your application. Deposit is NON-REFUNDABLE after July 31, 2000	

Complete the registration and mail with payment to:

Mark Draa 52 Glenview Dr West Springfield MA 01089 413-732-8545

Bolton Landing Festival, Year 11!

by **Bruce Checca**
Saratoga Springs, NY Chapter

Labor Day weekend this year (Sept. 1-4) will be another great one on the shores of Lake George! Our special guests this year are the 1990 Sweet Adeline Queens, *Ambiance*. Ever since they hung up their crowns, we've been after them to get back together for one more time, just for us! This is the year!

Or how about hearing *Revival* again? And don't forget, this will be your last chance to see *Marquis*—you DID know that they are hanging up the pitchpipe after Bolton, didn't you?

Who else do we have coming to entertain the music-hungry throngs? Here's the rest of the list: soon-to-be quartet medalists *Power Play*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Metropolis*, *Applause* and *Revielle*. And how about those fun guys from Seneca Land, *Cornerstone*? And could we forget the ladies from the east—the *Non-Pariels*?

This year, the festival will introduce a little change. Our chorus contest has been moved to 2:30 Saturday afternoon! Yes, for all you fans who told us "Gee, we'd like to take part in it, but we can't get there in time!" here's your chance! All it takes is 12 or more people on stage singing two songs—even if you have never seen each other before (like last year's *Harmonet Chorus*!).

We'll still have all the things that make the festival special: a Friday night show, this year with *Le Dixieband*, the six-man jazz band from Montreal—the 7:30a.m. Saturday morning cruise of the lake with your favorite barbershoppers—the 1:00p.m. Saturday afternoon show—the 2:30p.m. chorus contest—the 7:00pm Saturday night show and the FREE afterglow! FREE means we supply the food, beer and soda!

Don't forget Sunday and the Bolton Landing Barbershop Quartet Festival Quartet Contest! What better way could there be to spend the day in the park with the family? And then it's on to the 7:00p.m. Sunday Night Show and another FREE afterglow!

Pre-order a "Harmony Hog" pass and get admission to it all (four shows, two contests and a cruise!) for only \$50! That's right! You can get your "Hogs" by calling the Bolton Landing Chamber of Commerce at 518-644-3831. Tickets will be mailed to you as soon as they come from the printers! The CofC can also help you to find housing in the area! But hurry, rooms fill up fast in the Lake George area!

Questions? We can be reached by phone at 518-339-7646, or on-line at www.boltonbarbershop.com. I look forward to seeing all of you there!

Music Man Events In Kansas City

Join the celebration at the first ever "Themed" convention. This year's theme is the *Music Man*, as we commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Buffalo Bills International Championship. We'll pay tribute to one of the most recognizable quartets ever to wear a Gold Medal. The week will feature events, personalities, contests and nostalgic events remembering Meredith Willson's *Music Man*.

Music Man events will be staged

throughout the week, focusing activities on the play/movie that helped bring national attention to Barbershop Harmony. Tuesday night's ice cream social will feature appearances by Harold Hill and Mayor Shinn. There may even be a shipoopee contest (what's a shipoopee?), a minuet in G sing-along using the "think system," and how about a mini-concert by a barbershop quartet? There'll be free ice-cream. And that's only the kick-off event.

There will be special recognition for anyone who has ever performed any part in a *Music Man* production. Rumor has it that Harold Hill and Mayor

Shinn may be invited to emcee one of the contest sessions. Thursday night after the semi-finals there will be a Chorditorium featuring the full *Music Man* set by the *Bluegrass Student Union*. The "school board" may be asked to keep the "students" in line at the massed sing. Don't forget your *Music Man* era costume for the quartet finals on Saturday Night.

Don't miss this convention. If you're a traveling salesman, or a librarian, a member of a school board, a mayor, a member of a band, or just Joe Barbershopper, hop on the next "Wells Fargo Wagon" headed for Kansas City.



Nor'easter Memories 10, 20, 30 Years Ago

by Norm Mendenhall
Saratoga Springs Chapter

As expected, the *Nor'easter* and *Stay Sharp* issues of the summer of each of the years covered here were mostly about the results of the then recently-concluded Spring Preliminary Contests and the groups that would represent the NED in the respective International Contests the following July. In addition, awards were also given to NED barbershoppers who went above and beyond the normal participation in our great hobby. I have done my best to get the details as accurately as possible. I think relying on the past issues of our district bulletins provides about as accurate picture that you can get. With that said, let's look back.

Ten Years Ago

The July issue of the *Nor'easter* in 1990 had pictures of the NED representatives to the International Competition which was to be held in San Francisco that year. They were: *Reunion* (with a score of 1933), *From The Heart* (1805), *Saturday Night Live* (1800), *Prime Alliance* (1799), and Providence's Narragansett Bay Chorus (under the direction of Ted Doran) who had won the contest the previous fall.

Saturday Night Live and *Prime Alliance* did NOT qualify at the Spring Convention in Burlington. They qualified by points later on when it was discovered that only 43 quartets qualified at all the prelims in the Society. So the next highest scoring quartets were then invited. This was the first year that the new rules took effect, and apparently some of the quartets did not get the message that they still had a shot at qualifying later. As a result, one of the members of *Prime Alliance* made a business commitment after the contest in Burlington. It could not be changed and they weren't able to compete in San Francisco even though they qualified.

Other awards presented at the Burlington Convention were as follows: Bulletin Editor of the Year - **Leo Larivee** (Wellesley Assembly Line), Barbershopper of Distinction—**Harry Gault**, **Leo Larivee**, **Roland Lindahl** and **Bill Tully**, Barbershopper of the Year—**Vin Zito**

Twenty Years Ago

Unfortunately, the June/July 1980 issue of *Stay Sharp* which covered the results of the Spring Convention in 1980 is one of the issues that I am missing. However, based on following issues, I can tell you who qualified to go on to the International. We had one chorus. Of course, it was *The Racing City Chorus*. We also had five quartets: *The*

Timbre Jacks, *Sound Assurance*, *Showdown*, *Grandstand Vocal Band* and none other than *The Boston Common*.

Other awards were as follows: Bulletin Editor of the Year—**Gil Buffard** (New Haven *Chord Spreader*); and Barbershopper of the Year—**Wally Mance**.

Thirty Years Ago

The Lenox Spring Convention in 1970 qualified four quartets to go on to the International Competition in Atlantic City. They were: *Grandma's Boys* from Nashua, NH; *The Four Scores* from Springfield, Worcester, Warwick and Providence; *The Adventurers* from Nashua, NH; and *The Connaisseurs* from Montreal. The Poughkeepsie *New Yorkers* were the chorus to go on to represent the NED in Atlantic City.

Other awards were as follows: Bulletin Editor of the Year—**Jim Reybum** (New London *Sea Notes*), Barbershoppers of Distinction—*The Four Statesmen* (**Richard Chacos**, **Don Beinema**, **Richard Sause** and **Frank Lanza**), **Richard Ellenburger** and **Roy Hayward**. Barbershopper of the Year went to none other than **Lou Perry**!

Well, that's about it for this time. I wish I had more for you but I am missing more issues than I thought of what happened back in 1980 and 1970. If any of you have issues from back then and would like to part with them, contact me any time at 518-587-0811 or email me at: normkath@capital.net

I think it is important to keep these memories alive and one of the best ways to do it is through the district bulletins from the past. I have close to a complete collection, but it still lacks some important issues, and some of my issues are missing pages as well. Contact me if you want to help make my collection complete. The collection will eventually go into the archives of the district when I am finished with them, so they will live on as a record of what went on in our colorful past. I still find it fascinating to look through them and especially some of the photos from years past. I have been trying to reproduce some of them for you, but have not yet been successful in the quality end. Stay tuned for more goodies in the next issue.



Charbonneau Recovering

After being stricken with a stroke late in April, Patriot Division Manager **Frank Charbonneau** has been moved to an intensive rehab program for stroke patients and he seems to be better, according to his wife, Pat.

Family and Friends

by Bob O'Connell
Lead, *Road Show* quartet

This is my second year in the society and I could not be happier being part of something this wonderful. It feels better with every passing day. In April, my quartet, *Road Show*, competed in the Yankee Division contest and won!

Music has been with me since I was born. When I was five, Dad bought me a chord organ from Woolworth's, and I learned *Old McDonald* with a fervor. For my seventh Christmas it was a Hammond organ. I wasn't big enough to reach the pedals, but I loved it and finally grew to reach those pedals. I went to college and got my degrees in Music Education and Performance as a Voice. I always loved performing, giving my heart to the music.

I joined Barbershopping after going to a performance of the *Narragansett Bay Chorus*. I went to support **Tom Hennessy**, a dear friend who sings with them. He told me of a quartet and a man I had to see and hear. The quartet was *Keepsake*, the man was **Joe Connelly**. I was hooked.

But the thing that had the most profound effect on me was the feeling of "family and friendship." Everyone you meet at a show or competition is so warm and genuine. They'll give you everything from a smile or a friendly pat on the back after a good performance to a shoulder to use if things didn't go well that night.

I first sang in the quartet *Yankee Tradition* with three wonderful men (**Bob Vinculla**, **Don Laing** and **Jim Bentsen**) and was their Lead in two district competitions, once to finish seventh and last year to finish fifth. After our first competition, a man I didn't know came up to me and gave me the warmest smile and note of praise I ever had. That man is **Bill Ragusa**, and he and his wife **Flo** are the essence of what this society is, family and friends.

I now sing in the *Road Show* quartet with three great guys: **Mike Maino**, **Mike Gabriella** and **Rick Spencer**. And when we won the Yankee Division contest, Bill Ragusa was one of the first people to congratulate me. I am thankful for being part of this new family and for making so many new friends.



He's undergoing therapy but his speech and use of right side have been affected. He can receive cards but no visitors yet. Send cards to him at:

2 North #232B
Health South Braitree
Rehabilitation Hospital
250 Pond Street
Braitree, MA 02185

Excalibur at Heartspring

by Greg Dolphin, Lead, *Excalibur*,
from the Harmonet

Through the years, my nonchalant impression of *Heartspring* was that it dealt with kids with speech problems, and I thought, "Oh, isn't that a nice cause." When we drove up the drive to the new campus of *Heartspring*, I was floored by the beauty of the facility. We first visited one of the student homes where several kids live.

Each child at *Heartspring* is stricken with different degrees of physical, mental, and/or behavioral disabilities. Some have limited verbal communication skills. Some have no verbal skills at all. Most of the kids need 24 hour supervision. The kids are loving and affectionate, and couldn't be more friendly. It just about pulls your heart out, because they are just good kids who got a bad break in life through no fault of their own.

When we sang for them, their faces lit up with big smiles; some want to try to sing along; others sit and rock back and forth while others just don't quite understand what you are doing. I can't tell you how good it makes you feel to be able to make these kids smile even for just a short time, because everything is so difficult for them. Some who are 10 years old are just learning to dress themselves or eat with ordinary table utensils that we take for granted.

The sad thing is that it costs \$200,000 per year to care for just one child at this facility. SPEBSQSA donates roughly \$350,000 per year. To put it in perspective, annually, we pay for the care of one and one half child at this facility.

For various reasons, our Society's donations have dropped over the years from over \$500,000 to its current level. I would like to encourage every society member to visit *Heartspring*. It will give you a whole new perspective on how important this organization is in the lives of the kids it serves. I know there are many worthwhile causes looking for your support, but if you could find it in your hearts to help *Heartspring* in any way, their mission of teaching these kids to help themselves can continue at the high level it has established.

All I know is that visiting *Heartspring* really moved me, and it would anyone who visits there. If you can make the journey, I would encourage it. If it is difficult now, remember, International is in Kansas City, and it is a short drive to *Heartspring* from K.C. Make the pilgrimage to *Heartspring* to really understand why we sing, "We Sing That They Shall Speak."