

YOUTHFUL VIGOR 1959-1970

By the late 1950's the Evergreen District was thriving. The greybeards back east might still look askance at this comparative newcomer but they knew we were here and the exuberant activities of the now numerous chapters and members gave testimony to that. Financial concerns were always there, but the treasury was sound. There were good leaders leading. The judging program was in good condition and the educational program was a shining example of well placed voluntary effort. It was time to grow some more, make a few mistakes and maintain the harmony.

1959

As the year started there was a small dark lining to the silver clouds that brought the new year into the district. Calls came from the Seattle area for institution of chapter boundaries in order to help established chapters compete with new chapters. This sort of concern was not new and the initial hurt feelings were eventually improved through the good medicine of common sense and harmonious brotherhood. Along with the improvement the Seattle Chapter, with local and state backing, submitted a bid for the 1962 Mid-Winter convention, hoping to build on the good will of the World's Fair.

Also receiving attention was a night course at a local high school covering barbershop quartet singing. Sponsored by the Vancouver City School Board and taught by barbershoppers, the course was a great success. Local barbershoppers learned more about their hobby and the uninitiated learned about barbershopping. Walter Weston felt everyone won.

Spring Prelims were held in Eugene on the last weekend in April and 13 quartets competed for the chance to go to Chicago in July. The seven finalists produced the same two quartets for the second year in a row: the **Four Do Matics** of Seattle and the **Timbre Fellers** of Lake Washington. Alternates were the **Sema Four** from the Sno-King Chapter, giving the three Seattle chapters a lock on the top three spots (with no concerns about boundaries).

Discussion at Board and Delegates meetings included a plan to replace the several district fees with one per capita levy. It was the hope that this would be more efficient than the combination of a show "tax" and individual fees for supporting quartets to International and for financing the district bulletin. For the coming year, Bud Leabo was re-elected as president. Vice Presidents elected were Ralph Fuller, Vancouver, Jack Hicks, Seattle, Al Fraser, Calgary and Don Robison, Eugene. Re-elected as Secretary was ever-reliable Hub Stone and as Treasurer, Paul Cacy, Roseburg.

Extension word was that barbershop activity was occurring in Trail, BC due to the actions of Larry Gasena, Barry Fairbridge and George Meehan and that life was being breathed back into a Bellingham group by John Boyd and Art Warnell — good names all.

At the International Convention in Chicago the **Four Do Matics** came in a very respectable seventh, marking the first time that an Evergreen quartet cracked the top ten. The **Timbre Fellers** reached a very good 20th spot and the Lake Washington **Skippers** came in ninth in the chorus contest. Later in the summer Jack Rendle, lead of the **Timbre Fellers**, took over as director of the **Skippers** when Gene Brown moved on.

During pre-Stampede time in Calgary the **Stampede City Chorus** in full western uniform, was at the Calgary Airport to give a warm musical welcome for the arrival of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip and the royal retinue. The welcome was well received by all.

The Anacortes Chapter put on its second annual Salmon Barbeque for a crowd of 350 people at Bowman's Bay State Park and assured an event that would carry on through ever increasing crowds of well-fed participants down to the present day.

Floyd Connett, the Society's first field man, had been in the district. He was the first of many musically capable, articulate and witty men from Kenosha to tour the provinces, bringing and demonstrating craft and leaving well satisfied groups of barbershoppers behind. His presence also generated calls for contributions to the Expansion Fund so that more men like him could be available for improving the local "product." The Expansion Fund had been used to help pay off the acquisition of Harmony Hall in Kenosha and was now being used to help with instruction.

The District Convention was held in Vancouver on the first weekend in November. A previously discussed per capita fee of \$2.75 was approved to replace three assessments to help keep the district running. It was noted that the Society would now require a chapter to have 25 members (the number had been 20) in order to maintain its charter. And a plan was presented to help the winning chorus finance its way to International by extending the time to get ready. The winner of the 1960 contest was to go to International in 1961 and the second place chorus was to go to the 1962 International. Thereafter each district chorus winner was to go to International 18 months later.

The contest sessions were held in the brand new Queen Elizabeth Theatre. The **Sema Four**, of the Sno-King Chapter (Loren Watson, Dale Brown, Gene Haworth and Dave Little) was declared the new District Champion Quartet. The **Capitol Chordsmen**, Salem, and the **Northernaires**, Camrose, came in second and third. In the chorus contest, the Calgary **Stampede Chorus**, directed by Don Weldon, came in as the new District Champion chorus. Salem's **Senate-Aires**, under Dick McClintic was second and the Lake Washington **Skippers**, under Jack Rendle, was third.

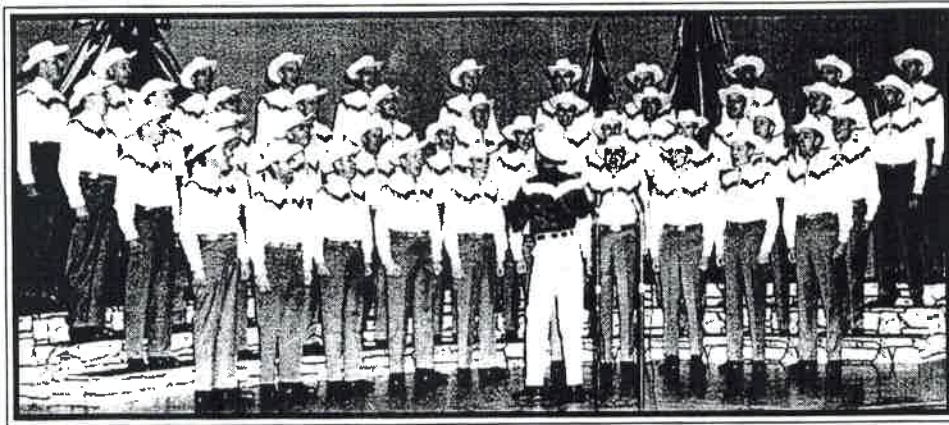
The stage at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre was huge and the front of it projected out over the orchestra pit. For reasons never clear to this observer, this projected stage floor

was an "island" leaving two yawning holes on either side. The members of the **Sema Four** were called to the front of the stage as winners and in the excitement, bass Dave Little, backed, unexpectedly (for him and the audience), into one of those holes. He literally disappeared from view and the celebrating audience quieted as everyone worried over what might have happened to Dave. Undaunted he climbed back out of the hole, waved to the crowd and the quartet received even greater applause. Dave did strike his hip on the way down, and it did require subsequent medical attention, but he was otherwise none the worse for his



The **Sema Four**, Sno-King, 1959 District Champions.
From the left, Dale Brown, I, Loren Watson, t, Gene
Haworth, br, and Dave Little, bs.

unexpected drop from sight. He did express dismay, however, over the number of people who thought the drop was part of the act.



The Calgary Stampede City Chorus, directed by Don Weldon. District Champions in 1959 and 1961. International Contestant in 1960 at Dallas (9th place) and in 1963 at Toronto (11th place).

1960

In March International President Clarence Jalving and International Executive Secretary Bob Hafer toured the district and led a series of meetings mainly to cover chapter administration (part of a society-wide tour that took up almost a third of the year for Clarence and Bob). Attendance by all was encouraged and was generally acceptable.

On the last weekend in April Evergreeners gathered in Everett to conduct business and select two quartets to go to International in Dallas. Allocations of quartets for the International contest were determined by dividing the 40 quartets into the total membership and applying that ratio to District membership. The 1960 ratio was one quartet per 490 members. At 736 members Evergreen just barely sneaked under the wire with a number of 1.5 quartets, which conveniently rounded up to two. During these years there were loud admonitions from District brass urging chapters to get all the members in that they could so that Evergreen could be represented by two quartets. In 1960 that goal was reached with the addition of a new chapter in Vancouver, WA.

The Board and House of Delegates approved the plan to commit two choruses to succeeding International contests at the fall District Convention with future chorus winners to have 18 months to get ready for International. Also approved was the expenditure of a sum of \$750 to provide four chorus directors schools and chapter officers schools (not yet called COTS). The latter schooling was to be done late in the year after chapters had had elections. In a major order of business the district moved to a calendar year operation. The current officers would serve to the end of the year and the officers elected at this meeting would then take over for a year beginning on January 1, 1961. To make this transition easier, only two officers changed jobs. Bud Leabo, after serving for two and a half years, would step down as president and be replaced by Al Fraser of Calgary. Moving into Al's former spot as Vice President for Area 3 was Keith Brown of Edmonton. Re-elected were vice-presidents Don Soar, Jack Hicks and Don Robison as were Secretary Hub Stone and Treasurer Paul Cacy.

The two quartets winning the right to go to International were the always favorite **Four Do Matics** and newcomers (to International competition) **Capitol Chordsmen** from Salem (Dick Roth, Lloyd Griffiths, Dick McClintic and Al Smith). Once again the **Sema Four** earned the alternate spot.

The competition at Dallas (scene of the 1960 International) was described as really tough. The **Fords** dropped a few positions to 11th place in spite of performing very well and the **Capitol Chordsmen** came in 23rd, just 21 points away from being in the top twenty. Calgary's **Stampede City Chorus** came in ninth in the chorus contest. They ended their contest appearance with each member throwing "his big cowboy hat into the audience, precipitating quite a scramble for possession," according to Hub Stone.

Note was made that the Lake Washington **Skippers** now owned their own club house, largely through the efforts of Larry Adolfson and Dave Morgan. And there was word that the **Timbre Fellers**, lately short a tenor, were back in business after the arrival of Jim Marich from Rockford, IL.

Prior to the fall district convention things were in a bit of a turmoil. In fact, the whole Society was, for the International Executive Committee had proposed a Member Benefit Plan with much in the way of improved training and performing. But the plan came at a considerable cost: an increase in International dues from the existing \$4.00 per year to \$13.50, plus another \$1.50 for the *Harmonizer*. The plan was unquestionably a great one, but the cost was very large. It had been covered in the pages of the *Harmonizer* and each member had received an audio record that further explained and promoted the plan. International had agreed that the plan would have to be approved by a majority of the districts before it would be put into effect.

Reports would indicate that there may have been some loud negative reaction to the plan, but that is not seen in the pages of *Timbre*. Long, reasoned, reasonable and logical articles were written by Bud Leabo and Al Fraser extolling the good intentions and high purpose of the men who developed and promoted the Membership Benefit Plan. But the Evergreen Board, after due deliberation (meeting during the weekend of the Anacortes Salmon Barbecue), came out in opposition to the plan. The district, while not a close part of the Society (as always the distances and remoteness of the district were noted), was still doing relatively well and it was doing much of the training and teaching that the MBP proposed but on a local and volunteer basis. Indeed, Bud and Dick McClintic and many others could show a number of years of very successful schools and clinics that had been done for the pure joy of the results.

The fall convention convened in Eugene on the first weekend in November. The House of Delegates counted all district officers and 24 chapter delegates. A roll call vote on the Membership Benefit Plan resulted in its unanimous rejection and suggestions as to a less ambitious International plan were made.



The Capitol Chordsmen, Salem, 1960 District Champions and two time International contestant. From the left, Al Smith, bs, Lloyd Griffiths, l, Dick Roth, t, and Dick McClintic, br.

It was reported that the district membership stood at 1250. Bud Leabo and his "assistants" were soundly applauded for the training work that they had been doing.

The quartet competition, preliminaries and finals, was held Saturday afternoon in South Eugene High School. The **Capitol Chordsmen** of Salem, by a considerable margin, were crowned as new Evergreen District Champions. In second place were the **Gem Dandies** of Boise, and third place went to **RainAires** of Lake Washington.



The Eugene **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Bud Leabo, 1960 District Champions and International contestant in 1961 at Philadelphia (8th place).

For the first time the chorus contest was held on Saturday night. In a close contest, decided by 12 points difference, the **Cascade Chorus** of Eugene, directed by Bud Leabo, won the right to represent Evergreen at International in Philadelphia in June of 1961. Coming in second the Lake Washington **Skippers** earned the right to go to International in Kansas City in 1962. As was usual, each chorus had 30 days in which to let the district know if it would be willing to go to International. Both groups quickly let district know that they planned to raise the necessary funds so that each could be a worthy entrant.

Appearing on the contest stage was the chorus from the Mount Hood **Timberliner Chorus**. By dint of an amazing effort at rejuvenation the chapter had grown itself from 15 members on October 1 to 34 on November 1. Lots of PR, telephoning, talking and hard work went into that rebirth. The chorus members, along with all other singers there were delighted to be part of a 400 man massed chorus that put the finale to a great convention weekend.

The year drew to a close with a note from International that membership had reached an all-time high of 27,000. The International Mid-Winter meeting had scheduled consideration of programs and financing on a more modest scale than had been earlier considered.

1961

The year's first issue of *Timbre* noted the addition of Bud Concie of Spokane to the *Timbre* "staff" to help Hub Stone by editing chapter news. The bulletin had certainly grown under Hub's care over the thirteen years he had been responsible for it. It was more substantial than the one page listing of coming events that appeared on the back of the 1949-1950 Directory. *Timbre* now boasted eight legal-sized pages filled with information, ideas and editorial comment along with advertising and photos. Like the district it had grown — in size and sophistication.

The Spring Prelim Contest and Convention was held in Edmonton on the last weekend in April. For a change, a lot of west-of-the-Coast-Range-barbershoppers found out just how far away interior Alberta was from the moist Pacific Coast. Round trips of 2000 miles and more were noted. The host chapter made up for the distance with charming hospitality and harmonious brotherhood. The meeting was graced by the presence of International President John Cullen. In the Board and Delegates meetings agreement was reached that in all future Conventions all persons attending would be expected to pay a registration fee, in amount not less than the minimum ticket price. The ruling was to apply to all participants, including contestants and judges. For the present, this settled a long-standing discussion over whether contestants should be required to pay. Everyone's attention was also directed to the fact that the International Expansion Fund was in its fifth and final year and that many chapters were quite short of goals (\$10 per man over the five-year period). Support was urged. Although all District officers made it to the meetings, there were delegates from only nine of the 33 chapters in the district.

The quartet contest (for ten competing quartets) was held in the 2700 seat ultra-modern Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton. After the scoring sheets were totaled, the quartet entries for International Contest in Philadelphia looked just like the entries from the previous year: the **Four Do Matics** from Seattle and the **Capitol Chordsmen** from Salem. The **Timbre Fellers** from Lake Washington were chosen as alternates.

At International the **Fords** climbed back into the top ten, earning an eighth place finish. The **Chordsmen** came in 31st. Not unsurprisingly, everyone commented on just how tough the competition had become. Another measure of that was the fact the Eugene's **Cascade Chorus** came in with an eighth place finish.

The summer saw the usual picnics and get-togethers. The Anacortes Salmon Barbecue was now a well-established event and for the second year in a row it hosted a District Board meeting. This meet was the first one since 1948 that Hub Stone had missed. His wife was ailing and he stayed home with her. Another summer event, now in its second year, was the Sand Blast sponsored by the Bay Cities Chapter in Coos Bay. This included sand buggie trips to Beale Lake (in the sand dunes) where barbershoppers spent most or all of the weekend, camping, hiking and, mostly, singing.

Along with all the harmonious summer activities there was word from the completed Convention in Philadelphia that there would be improved services from Kenosha along with an increase in dues. The equally harmonious word was that the plan and the cost seemed reasonable in all respects so the previous winter's discontent had dissipated. Certainly there was no discontent when 500 barbershoppers, including five Evergreeners, attended the Harmony Education Program (H.E.P.) school at St. Mary's College in Winona, MN. The Society and the District were moving ahead.

The 1961 Fall Convention was hosted by the Bellingham Chapter. The Board and House meetings approved the first standard policy for reimbursement of district officers to travel to required attendance at

International Board and District Board meetings. Reading between the lines suggests that up to this point many of the officers had been covering the costs partly or wholly out of their own pockets. It was also noted that the about to charter Eureka (CA) chapter had asked that its charter be issued to the Far Western District rather than to Evergreen (that portion of California north of the 40th parallel lay within Evergreen District boundaries). The board agreed that it would not contest the desires of the men chartering the Eureka Chapter. Officers elected for the 1962 year were President Al Fraser, Calgary, Vice Presidents Ed Hartley, Anacortes, Russ Austin, Grays Harbor, Keith Brown, Edmonton, Don Robison, Eugene, Secretary, Hub Stone, Klamath Falls, Treasurer, John Boyd, Bellingham and IBM, Frank Graham, Eugene.



The Northernaires, Camrose, 1961 District Champions. From the left, Ross Gould, bs, Rudy Magneson, br, Arne Dahl, l, and Gordon Ness, t.

Seventeen quartets entered the competition for District Champion and the winning quartet was the **Northernaires** from Camrose (Gordon Ness, Arne Dahl, Rudy Magneson and Ross Gould). They were followed, just one point behind, by the **Westernaires**, of Eugene (including Ron Lodge and Art Hoffman of the old **Sharp Four** plus two recognizable new names, Denny Stiers and Terry Shannon). Coming in third were the **Do-Boys**, also of Portland. The farthest entrants were the **Rim Rockers** from Billings (about 1000 miles farthest). There were seventeen choruses, also, in competition (the largest number ever for the district), and the **Stampede City Chorus** from Calgary made it an all-Alberta

Championship weekend by winning. Not only that, but the Calgary-ites won a special honor by earning the right to go to International in 1963 — one that would be held in Toronto, making for a nice Canadian connection. Coming in second in the chorus contest was the **Salem Senate-Aires** followed by the **Pages of Harmony** from Spokane.

1962

The District moved into the new year with the usual bright resolution(s). President Al Fraser sounded the call early for everyone to get his dues in by the first of March. No one wanted to see the district just miss being eligible for three quartets to International. In 1961 the district had missed such a cut by only 85 men and a strong effort could overcome that. *Timbre* noted that Bud Leabo and one time district member O.B. Falls were two of only eleven judges who had served on ten District panels and five International panels.

Confirming the previous summer's word, International dues came in at \$6.75 with another \$1.50 due for the *Harmonizer*. Combined with District dues of \$2.75, the total was \$11.00 plus chapter dues. This amount does indeed seem to have been generally agreeable.

An indication of increasing complexity (some might suggest a bureaucratic response) arrived in the form of the first District Board meeting in the winter. The meeting was held in Portland in mid-February. Area 2 vice president Russ Austin had resigned so he was replaced by Jim Asp of Lake Washington. One

of the items discussed involved the loss of a treasured tenor by one metropolitan chapter to another. The lost tenor had transferred so that he might be part of a quartet in his "new" chapter. It was still a practice that a quartet was associated with a single chapter. Pride of association was strong. The board passed a resolution discouraging proselytizing. The board also agreed to cover the cost of a hospitality room at International — the expected bill would be \$40 (in fairness, it should be noted, some members contributed substantially from their own pockets).

Spring Prelims were hosted by the Lake Washington Chapter on the last weekend in April. The board and competing quartets literally blew into town on the gusts of a cold, windy storm that did not dampen the spirits though it may have chilled one's bones. The board met at Pantley's Motel, in the throes of renovation (the motel, not the board) and had to make do in a rather stark meeting room where light was partially supplied by candles on the table, suggesting an air of intimacy not shared by the attendees. Much satisfaction, however, was derived from the fact that the district had earned itself three quartets at International. The last minute surge in numbers was much aided by the timely chartering of the Prince George, BC Chapter. Approval was given to sending eight district men (good musicians and teachers all) to the HEP school in San Francisco in August. And in a well-advised bit of boundary shifting, both houses agreed to return Northern California to the Far Western District. In the early 50's, with chapters in Brookings and Coos Bay, it made some sense to have the Crescent City chapter part of Evergreen. But with both Crescent City and Brookings having dropped out, it now made more sense to let a new Eureka Chapter (and all the rest of California north of the 40th parallel) return to Far Western.

Contest sessions were held at Bellvue High School with eighteen quartets in the afternoon session and a final eight in the evening show. The double panel of judges (eight from Evergreen) selected the **Four Do Matics**, Seattle, the **Journeymen**, Eugene (Denny Stiers, Al Koberstein, Terry Shannon and Curt Roth), and the **Timbre Fellers**, Lake Washington, to be Evergreen representatives at the big contest in Kansas City in late June.

But the euphoria of late April turned into dismay when eight chapters failed to send in the membership dues required to cover the membership numbers that had been the basis of the third quartet being invited to International. The unfortunate consequence was that only the **Fords** and the **Journeymen** went to the big show. The **Timbre Fellers**, as alternates and all at Kansas City anyhow, as members of the Lake Washington **Skippers**, were treated to good audience response as they acted as full-time mike testers, opening all of the quartet sessions in that capacity. The **Four Do Matics** came in a very respectable sixth place, just 25 points out of fifth (held by the **Sidewinders**). The **Journeymen**, in their first International outing, did themselves proud, coming in 13th. The Lake Washington **Skippers**, with only 20 men on the risers, came in with an eleventh place finish.

Shortly after the International Convention the Seattle area chapters took advantage of the Seattle World's fair to put on a World of Harmony Show in the Fair Opera House. The show included the four local chapter choruses and featured the **Four Do Matics**, the **Nighthawks**, fourth place medalists, the new International Gold Medalists **Gala Lads**, 1960 Champions, **Evans Quartet** and the 1949 Champions **Mid States Four**. Needless to say, it was a block-buster of a show. Many barbershoppers within long-driving distance made it to this extravaganza.

And, while the Fair continued through the summer, most of the chapters within modest driving distance of Seattle sent their choruses down for a program of Saturday evening performances that helped spread the barbershop sound through the area.

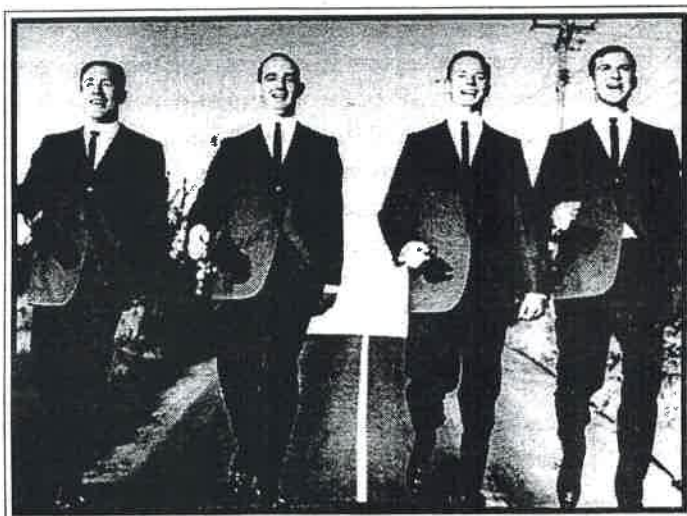


The Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Jack Rendle, competed at the Kansas City International in 1962 and finished eleventh.

The August issue of *Timbre* (number 4 of Volume 10) saw a changing of the guard. This was the final issue that editor Hub Stone put to bed. Hub had been putting out bulletins since late 1949, although those early ones were modest indeed. The job had grown to 1500 copies of six issues per year. Hub labored long and late to get each issue out. Bud Concie, of Spokane, had been acting as chapter editor for Hub, covering the activities of chapters. He would take over as *Timbre* editor with the October issue.

Tragically, on August 18, his 37th birthday, Dick McClintic, chairman of the district music committee,

director of the Salem Senate-Aires and baritone of the Capitol Chordsmen, died in an automobile accident. Voids are filled — Bud Leabo graciously took over the work that Dick had been doing in Music Education for the district and served as director of the Senate-Aires. But spiritual losses are not easily overcome and it took a long time for Dick's family, quartet, chorus and district to overcome his early departure.



The **Journeymen**, Eugene, 1962 District Champions and three time International contestants. From the left, Curt Roth, bs, Terry Shannon, br, Alan Koberstein, l, and Denny Stiers, t.

District Contest was sponsored by the three Portland area chapters and was held on the first weekend in November. New this year: a "Preglow" on Friday night with much singing and ad hoc entertainment, and an "Aspirin Breakfast" on Sunday morning with more of the same. In between there was District legislative action that saw approval of new awards (including one for Barbershopper of the Year and one for

Novice Quartet Champion). Recommendations included the naming of the Quartet Award in honor of Dick McClintic and the Salem Chapter proposed an additional award for the Chorus scoring highest in the Arrangement Category, also in honor of Dick.

Al Fraser became an Immediate Past President, properly proud of progress made during his two years of administration. Elected for 1963 were the following officers: President Don Robison, Eugene; Vice Presidents Ed Hartley, Anacortes, Bill Hollister, Lake Washington, Thomas Stitt, Calgary, George Dow, Salem; Secretary Hub Stone, Klamath Falls (Hub might no longer be District Editor, but he was still performing his secretarial duties); and Treasurer John Boyd, Bellingham. Al Fraser served also as IBM.

Contest sessions were held Saturday afternoon and evening. Sixteen quartets competed in the preliminaries and seven graduated to the finals that evening. The **Journeymen** of Eugene were crowned the new Champions by a comfortable margin. In second were the **United Statesmen** of Spokane and the **Totem Tones** of Tacoma placed third. The **Northernaires** came all the way from Camrose to sing their swan song as District Champions and to present the trophy to the **Journeymen**. There were 14 choruses in



The Salem **Senate-Aires**, directed by Bud Leabo, 1962 District Champions and 1964 International contestant finishing tenth (at San Antonio).

the chorus contest, and, after a number of years in second place, the **Salem Senate-Aires**, directed by Bud Leabo, came in as the Champions, another fitting memorial for Dick McClintic.

1963

Early news from Kenosha was that Bob Hafer, Society Executive Director, was resigning. He stated that he simply had to find a position that paid more in order to help his seven children through college. He was leaving with absolutely no ill will, stating simply that he could not in good conscience request from the Society the salary that he felt he had to have to support his family. Before the year was out the Society had selected Barrie Best, former tenor of the West Coasters, to take over the Executive Director's spot.

Timbre went through a reshaping. There were ten issues during the year, so news became a bit more timely. The issue sizes were reduced in number of pages but content stayed much the comfortable same. The

logo at the head was altered so that the name was spelled out in bold face type rather than the previous letters made up of logs (a real logo?). The standing timber of the old logo was replaced with one falling tree over the "i" dotted with a small Society logo. Editor Bud Concie praised his Spokane committee who helped put the bulletin's ten issues out.

The winter board meeting approved plans for the first-ever Novice Quartet Competition as part of the Spring Prelim Contest. According to District C & J Chairman Floyd Turner a novice quartet was defined as one in which not more than two members had competed in a previous Evergreen District Prelim Contest. It was noted that the quartet had to declare its identification at the time of registering for competition.

A new chapter was welcomed in Burien (next door to Seattle). Calling itself the Hilene Chapter, the president was listed as Bill Thurmon and the director as John Boyd.

The Fort Vancouver Chapter, only three years old, but primed from having helped with the fall convention in Portland, was host for the spring convention on the first weekend in April. With lessons well-learned from 1962, chapters had been prompt in reporting membership numbers and in forwarding the dues money. This year three quartets were to be selected for the trip to International at Toronto and three were going to go. Thirteen quartets showed up to seek the honor of representing the district. The results looked very similar to the previous year. The **Journeymen**, from Eugene, the **Four Do Matics** from Seattle and the **Timbre Fellers** from Lake Washington earned the spots. This year the **Journeymen** scored the highest and this year the **Timbre Fellers** would go to International and compete. The **Capitol Chordsmen**, who had spent the winter battling flu, ended up as the alternates. Winners of the Novice Quartet Competition were the **Lost Chordsmen** of Tacoma with all-time great barbershopper Will Dergan plus 16 year-old tenor Les Dergan and 17 year-old bari Dick Hassler.

At Toronto Canadian representatives did themselves proud. Once again the **Nighthawks** came in second, and the chorus from **East York, ON** earned a medal for fifth place. The capable and justly proud **Stampede City Chorus** came in eleventh. They had worked hard and received good coaching, including time from Bud Leabo (goodness, that man got around). The **Four Do Matics** earned an eighth place spot and not far behind were the **Journeymen** in 14th. The **Timbre Fellers** came in 22nd.

A charter was given to a new chapter in Idaho Falls. The president was listed as Keith Axline — a man the district would hear a lot more of, gratefully.

Plans had initially been set for a series of HEP schools in the summer but a welcome substitute was arranged in the form of a whirlwind tour for the Society's new International Musical Director, Bob Johnson. He handled six one night musical stands between July 26 and August 1. The tour carried him from Portland through Washington, British Columbia and Alberta and ended up in Montana. Bob matched the pace of his visit with the pace of his presentations. Intense, interesting, insightful describe how he approached his subjects (those he taught and those who were taught). The 300 plus barbershoppers who attended the sessions were the first in a long line of Evergreeners who benefited from the presentations of this dynamic teacher.

For the second year in a row the Alberta Chorus Contest was held in Wetaskiwin in early October. This early model of an Area Contest gave the Alberta choruses a chance to compete without having to travel the long distance to district contest. Judged by an all-Calgary panel (Ray Leman, Al Knight, Don Welden, Al Fraser and Syd Young) the winning chorus was the **Oil Capitol Chorus** from Edmonton.



The Spokane **Pages of Harmony**, directed by Bill Flanigan, 1963 District Champions and International contestant in 1965 at Boston where they finished 10th.

On the first weekend in November the District Convention was held in Spokane. It may have been considered a somewhat central location, but there was still a lot of long distance traveling to get there. For years afterward tales (tall and otherwise) were told of the train ride over from Seattle. Indulged in by a goodly number of hardy souls, the word was that there was much singing and very little sleep.

For a change, the chorus contest was run first on Saturday afternoon. There were 18 choruses in the contest and the proceedings were delayed for forty minutes in order to accommodate the late arrival of the Edmonton chorus (travel over long distances can be slow). This threw the chorus director's critique into a late night limbo, but there was some informal discussion of performances. When the scores were added up the new chorus champion, by a very substantial score, was Spokane's own **Pages of Harmony**, directed by Bill Flanigan. It takes special effort to run a very successful convention and at the same time perform well enough to win the district championship chorus contest. The Spokane folks deserved all the congratulations heaped on them. The Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Jim Marich, were second and third place was taken by the Tacoma **Totem-Aires** under Bill McMenamin.

Seventeen quartets entered the contest and they were trimmed to five for the evening finals. The new District Champions were the **Roaring Twenty Four** from Lake Washington (Jim Asp, Jack Nickell, Dick Dybvad and Larry Adolphson). The **Totem Tones**



The **Roaring 24**, Lake Washington, 1963 District Champions. From the left, Jim Asp, t, Jack Nickell, l, Larry Adolphson, bs and Dick Dybvad, br.

from Tacoma came in second and the **Westernaires** from Portland were third.

This convention had the largest number of registrants of any district function to date (786) and in the words of C & J Chairman Floyd Turner, this convention surely was a sign of the district's coming of age. The double panel was all Evergreen. The evening show MC was Bob Perkins of whom Editor Bud Concie wrote, "without the silver tongue and Society background of MC Bob Perkins (Coos Bay) the whole affair would have generated much less impact on the community. It takes a special kind of Barbershopper to tie up the package — Bob Perkins is that kind of man." It was a well-deserved tribute to a master MC and all-around wonderful guy.

Elected to run the district for the coming year were: President Don Robison, Eugene, Vice Presidents Charles Colson, Vancouver, Bill Hollister, Lake Washington, Thomas Stitt, Calgary, and Bill Tobiassen, Mt. Hood, Secretary Hub Stone, Klamath Falls and Treasurer John Boyd, Bellingham.

As the year wound down word came in of a fledgling chapter at Lebanon, OR with a director by the name of Mel Knight. The district ended the year with a membership of 1485, a new record. Unfortunately, that was not enough to win a friendly contest engaged in all year with the Cardinal District. The District was short by 46 people. President Don Robison had to eat crow in front of those red bird people.

1964

The year may have started out with a record high membership but it was seventeen men short of being enough to guarantee three quartets to the International proceedings in San Antonio. Other districts grow too.

The new year brought a number of changes. Bud Concie, of Spokane, retired as *Timbre* editor. The newly reorganized bulletin was turned over to Hal Howland of the Mt. Hood Chapter. He brought a light-hearted new style to the paper. Wes Vance, Fort Vancouver Chapter, left the PROBE committee assignment to be followed by Randy Diefendorf, HiLine Chapter, a wizard with words. Also, Hub Stone, free of his bulletin editing job for a year and a half, found time to produce the district's first "real" Directory. It was a 4"x7" pamphlet, professionally printed and included most of the features that the current directory includes. Hub had "always" produced a directory, but the earlier model had been a type written and copied (or mimeographed) letter sized edition. The new issue was much appreciated. Four hundred copies were made and the booklet was available at fifty cents a copy.

As the **Salem Chapter** was completing arrangements to finance its trip to International in San Antonio, the district, via committee and board, came up with a plan to help the choruses that make this trip. Approval was given to a proposal to charge all barbershoppers a one dollar registration fee for attendance at the fall contest. This plan was to be put into operation at the next contest. That wouldn't help Salem, but there had never been district help of any significant amount. Getting to International was considered to be a chapter responsibility.

Tacoma hosted the Spring Contest on the last weekend in April. The contests were held on Saturday afternoon and evening and there was an awards banquet after the singing was completed. The two quartets winning the right to go to San Antonio were the **Four Do Matics** of Seattle and the **Journeyman** of Eugene. That looked a lot like the two who had gone the previous year to Toronto. Coming in at the alternate

spot was a new quartet called the **Kross Towners** of Lake Washington. To everyone's delight, the novice quartet winner was the **Ambassadors** of Spokane.

For the first time an award was presented for Barbershopper of the Year. There could be no doubt who that man would and should be. Bud Leabo could well be described as Barbershopper of the first seventeen years of the district's life, not just 1963. Certainly the district would have gotten along without him, but it would have been a different district altogether. His infectious enthusiasm and his love for the men who made the music and for the music itself touched all in the district. Everyone was the better for trying to follow Bud's example. He gave of himself in such huge measure that he left his peers in awe. Every district should be so lucky to have a Bud Leabo.

At the set-to in San Antonio the Evergreen entrants sang their hearts out and came home all in the top ten. The **Journeymen** gained an eighth place finish, followed by the **Fords** in ninth. In the chorus contest the **Salem Senate-Aires**, with Bud Leabo directing, came in tenth.

Adding to Evergreen's distinction, Al Fraser, Calgary and past District President, was elected to the office of International Vice President. This was the first time that an Evergreen member had been elected to International office. At the same time, Bud Leabo was named to the International board, serving for the second time in this capacity.

To round out the International awards, one of four PROBE awards went to the **Northernaires**, past District Champion quartet from Camrose, AB for their public relations efforts

One award not made, though, was the response to Portland's bid to host an International Convention. The Portland chapters had been making efforts in this direction for several years, but so far the response had been in favor of other bidders. The Portland people vowed to keep on trying.

And the source of future awards was foretold in International Board action designating the Institute of Logopedics as the Society's official philanthropic project. This was a new direction for the Society. Word on this project came with the reminder that local charities supported by chapters were not to be discouraged. This new charity was seen as a logical step for an organization now old enough and sophisticated enough to have a charity to support on its own.

The summer saw more education efforts. A chorus directors school was held at Lake Wilderness Lodge east of Kent, WA. Bob Johnson, the Society's Music Director, was there to lead the 56 attendees through the intricacies of learning how to do better as a director. Randy Diefendorf, the District PR Chairman, was there. His words give a suggestion of what Bob Johnson could do. The School "...in actuality was a revival meeting led by the Rev. Bob Johnson. Johnson's approach is to weave a verbal spell with such phrases as 'music makes the whole man' and 'music is a gift of God; it is the director's job to translate this gift to the chorus.' Step by step Johnson brought the group under his evangelistic spell until, when he was done, 56 men went back to their chapters to nevermore be in the old rut. These men had been transfigured." I Believe. The effect was electric. Not all was cured, however. Illness kept Bob from a planned quartet school. It had to be canceled.

Word came as the summer drew to an end that the **Journeymen**, past District champion quartet and competitors at the last three Internationals were breaking up. Lead Al Koberstein was on his way to a performance with Uncle Sam in the Air Force. He was also due for bigger and better things with the **Mark IV**, but that was all in the future yet.

The fall convention was hosted by the Seattle Chapter on the first weekend in November. Headquarters was the Mayflower Hotel, where the Board and House meetings were held on Friday afternoon and night. An attempt was made to raise district dues at these meetings, with the need cited for more education (both music and officers), *Timbre* costs, directory costs and other projects. However, the proposal to raise dues from \$2.00 to \$4.75 per year was simply more than the House of Delegates would accept. Since no advance work had been done, a unanimous vote was required in the House and it did not happen.



The Ambassadors, Spokane, 1964 District Champions and one time International contestant. From the left, Gene Haworth, t, Jack Lyon, l, Al Parker, br, and Wes Stumph, bs.

Contests were held at the Opera House on the grounds of the World's Fair. Twenty-two quartets arrived to be judged for the Championship. The preliminary contest was held on Saturday morning and the finals that evening. The **Ambassadors** went home to Spokane with all the marbles. That wasn't a bad trip for a quartet which had won the novice quartet trophy only the previous spring. In second place were the **Kross Towners** of Lake Washington and Sno-King Chapters and in third were the **Totem Tones** of Tacoma.

The chorus contest was held in the afternoon with fifteen entries on hand. The winner, after an absence of six years, was the Lake Washington **Skippers**, under the direction of Jim Marich. The win put them in line for the 1966 International to be held in Chicago. Second place went to the **Tacoma Totemaires** and third was claimed by the **Green River Chorus**.

Hub Stone celebrated his eightieth birthday and voiced the hope that 'ere he reached four score and ten there might be an International convention held in Evergreen. Hub was not destined to reach that magic date, but there would be an International at Portland before then.

1965

The new year started out with a number of new faces on the district board. Coming in as District President was Bill Tobiasen of the Mt. Hood Chapter. Bill had served as Area 4 Vice President and had been working hard as a membership promoter and all around barbershop ambassador. Charles Colson, Vancouver, stayed on as VP for Area 1, but all of the other Area VP's were new: Bob Jones, Tacoma, for Area 2, Herman Flotten, Edmonton, for Area 3 and Jim Grant, Fort Vancouver, for Area 4. Two old standbys stood by as Secretary and Treasurer: Hub Stone, Klamath Falls, and John Boyd, Mount Baker. However, there were more new faces before the year was out. By April Treasurer John Boyd, after four years of dedicated service, retired so that he could return to school. Taking John's place was Fred Lamka of Green

River Chapter. Also, Bob Jones had to bow out as Area 2 VP. Marv Olsen of Lake Washington replaced him.

Still another new face showed up in *Timbre*. It was completely revamped. No more a long letter in appearance (with a staple at the upper left corner), the bulletin was now a booklet with eight pages 7"x10" in size. Copy was done with offset printing rather than mimeographing and the result was a professional looking job with more material to appear in seven issues than had been promised in ten issues before. As a final change, the production of each issue was moved from Spokane (where former editor Bud Concie had headed up a production crew that selflessly put each issue out) to the Portland area. The move made sense, putting the whole operation in one place, and that one place had three willing chapters with lots of willing members already working together on a variety of things. As an example, the well-named Tri-Chapter Council was already preparing a bid for the 1969 International Convention.

During the course of the preceding year, Evergreen had finally caught up with and passed the Michigan District in membership numbers. The consequence of this was that the district was assured of three quartets to International in Boston. This was important to quartets showing up for the prelims in Yakima on the April 30, May 1 weekend, for the contest was wide open. For only the second time since 1957 the **Four Do Matics** were not competing and the **Journeymen** had broken up. The 16 quartets who showed up were all raring to go. In legislative proceedings, prior to the contest, it was noted that the Mount Hood and the Sno-King chapters had sent their dues payments off prior to the April 30 deadline (even though the board knew the chapters were delinquent), so the board voted to accept quartets and delegates from those chapters.

The contests were held at Davis High School, preliminaries in the afternoon and the final eight quartets that night along with a show. When the judges completed the score sheets, the three quartets going to Boston were the **Ambassadors** from Spokane, the **Kross Towners** from Lake Washington and Sno-King, and the **Bay Shore Four** from Coos Bay, OR. The **Kross Towners** were still celebrating a much-noted appearance before both houses of the Washington State legislature and the **Bay Shore Four** had lately won the Forest Grove contest. Picked as alternates were the **Totem Tones** from Tacoma. Earning the novice quartet championship were the **Squires Four** from the Portland Chapter. The **Squires** had been together for only six weeks, but they clearly "jelled" quickly and sang well enough to make it to the evening show. Keith Axline of the new Idaho Falls Chapter was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year trophy for his herculean efforts in getting the new chapter chartered.

Everyone went home from the convention with the usual chords ringing in their heads. But soon telephones were ringing with a different and disagreeable sound. One of the members of the **Kross Towners** was a member of the Sno-King chapter and the quarterly dues payment from Sno-King had not arrived until May 4. Executive Director Barrie Best informed President Bill Tobiassen that the **Kross Towners** were disqualified as a consequence. There was a dignified, sincere and extraordinarily intense correspondence carried on over the next two weeks as the Evergreen District petitioned International for an exception to this strict ruling. It was especially noted that the one quartet member's dues were not in question — only the late payment of chapter dues. That was clearly something that the quartet had no control over. The response from International was essentially that a rule was a rule and if one is broken, all are in jeopardy.

It is notable that there is no evidence of recrimination in any of the recorded correspondence. Everyone spoke evenhandedly and referred always to the good of the organization and the sincerity of both "sides." Rules are rules, of course, and one does have to acknowledge their impartiality, but one can be grateful that

current conditions make such close accounting unnecessary. If the members of a quartet are paid up, the quartet gets to compete. No questions. Too bad it wasn't that way for the **Kross Towners**. Loren Watson, Dave Morgan, Bob Rychard and Al Setherlie didn't compete in Boston. But the alternates did. The **Totem Tones** (with Bill Dergan, Harry Aldrich, Bob Jones and Bill McMenamin) went to Boston.

The Boston Convention and contests saw the **Bay Shore Four** come in 34th, the **Totem Tones** with a 43rd place position and the **Ambassadors** with a 44th. Spokane's **Pages of Harmony** chorus came in with a respectable 10th position. There were six bids considered for the 1969 International and St. Louis won the award. The boys from Portland vowed to try again.

As fall arrived the pages of *Timbre* were filled with comments about and arguments for improving education and organization. The district treasury, while not in the red, was barely breaking even and it was obvious that some new blood was needed (talk about red!). Plans were being laid for a whiz-bang of a convention in Portland and the expectation was that the Board and House meetings would be full ones.



The **Squires Four**, Portland, 1965 District Champions. From the left, Jim Miesen, bs, Dan Tangarone, br, Dave Wagoner, l, and Dick McCormic, t.

The convention was held the last weekend in November. Headquarters was the Sheraton Motor Inn. The legislative sessions were long and the agendas full. Two large decisions were made. The first involved the creation of a new Area in the District. Designated Area 5 it was to include Idaho and Montana. Before the weekend was out Keith Axline, the previous year's BOTY and Idaho Falls Chapter president, was appointed as vice president for Area 5. The other big decision taken was an increase in district dues. Both the Board and the House approved a raise to \$5.00 per member (from \$2.00) with the chorus travel fund to be eliminated. The glow from reaching that decision must have been considerable. The treasury was short. Area 5 would involve new expenses. There were many projects awaiting funding. The increase promised to provide a financial answer to these needs. Assigned to committees for study was the question of whether to go to Area Contests. And the Vancouver, BC chapter caused a stir when it presented a resolution that recommendation be made to the International Board that International Chorus Contests be eliminated. Another committee was to address that item.

Contest sessions were held in the Memorial Coliseum. The quartet semi-finals began at 10 AM and the chorus contest at 2:15. The 21 quartets that started in the morning were "finalized" to five and they had their set-to as part of the evening show at 8PM where they shared billing with the **Capitol Chordsmen**, the **Four Do Matics** and the **Salt Flats**. For the second year in a row the previous spring's Novice Champion won the District Championship. Portland Chapter's **Squires Four** won the trophy. Forty points behind, in second place, were the **Villains** from Lake Washington and Tacoma, and, just one point behind them, in third place, was the **Bay Shore Four** from Coos Bay.



The Salem **Senate-Aires**, directed by Jerry Darby, 1965 District Champions and 1967 International contestant at Los Angeles, finishing in 15th place (under the direction of Madison Vick),

In the chorus contest the winning group was the **Salem Senate-Aires**, directed by Jerry Darby. The win earned Salem a spot at the International Contest to be held in Los Angeles in 1967. The Salem boys were followed by Spokane's **Pages of Harmony** in second place and the Lake Washington **Skippers** in third. The so-called "Glass Palace" proved itself to be a worthy venue for barbershop contests and the local boys made sure that the International convention types heard about the Coliseum's worthiness.

Everyone went home from this the largest convention yet (the hall was opened to outsiders for ticket purchases) with the usual glow. Among one of the disappointments, however, may have been the modest response that Evergreen had given to Logopedics. Although the district accounted for 5% of Society membership, Evergreen donations to the Logopedics fund came to only 3% of the total. The idea of a national charity apparently had not caught on in the northwest.

A bright finish to the year was written by the **Howe Sounds** of Vancouver's Thunderbird Chapter. Sponsored by the Canadian Government Travel Bureau and Canadian Pacific Airline, the **Sounds** spent two weeks touring Europe, hitting ten cities in six countries with 60 singing appearances. The members, Barry Shields, Maurice Jones, Al Hayward and Robin Buchan described it as a real musical experience leading to happy exhaustion and near-terminal laryngitis.

1966

The new year brought three new area vice presidents into a district board that otherwise stayed the same. The new men were Ken Fletcher (Sno-King) in Area 2, Alex Cummings (Calgary) in Area 3 and Dick Roth (Salem) in Area 4. One of the first things that all of the vice presidents had to learn (along with everyone else) was that they were now Division Vice Presidents. In the interest of standardization, Kenosha had determined that one term would now fit all, and Division became the word throughout the Society.

The spring convention was held in Portland — one might worry that the Portland people were trying to take the convention business over. To further that perception, Don Miller was again the convention chairman, just as he had been in the fall. This time, however, the headquarters was the Thunderbird Motel and the contests were held in the Oriental Theater at Grand Avenue and Morrison.

Anatomy of a Judge was a new feature put on in the theater at 9:30 on Saturday morning. The judges, led by Bud Leabo and Ev Ball (District C&J Chairman) sat before projectors similar to the ones that used to be seen in bowling alleys. They scored five quartets on sheets that were visible to the whole audience. The quartets sang one song each — a song that wasn't being used in competition. The judges then explained the reasoning behind the scores they gave and built that around an explanation of their categories. The session was described as about the best PR job on judging ever witnessed.

Prior to any competition President Bill Tobiassen had received wires from Kenosha confirming that all quartet entrants were from chapters who were not under any kind of suspension. For darn sure, there would be no surprises after the contest this time. Twelve quartets entered the contest and the three quartets that won the right to go back to Chicago were the **Four Do Matics** from Seattle (back to give it one more shot at International), the **Journeymen** from Eugene (reconstituted with Ron Lodge, once of the **Sharp Four**, singing lead and Pete Tomseth singing bass), and the **Moonlighters** from Lake Washington (Jack Rider, Jim Almond, Dan Woolsey and Larry Adolfson). As it turned out, however, the **Journeymen**, due to a schedule conflict, were unable to make it to Chicago, so, for the second year in a row, the alternate went to International. This year the group that made it was the **Bay Shore Four** from Coos Bay (Gary Larson, Jerry Harrison, John Anderson and Ray Greaves). The new Novice Quartet Champion was the **Sunset Four** from Portland. The Barbershopper of the Year award was given to Bill McMenamin, chorus director of the Tacoma Chapter.

At the Chicago Convention the **Four Do Matics** made it to the top ten once again, singing some of their old favorites, "Them There Eyes," "Sonny Boy," "You Talk About Your Sweetie," and "Take Your Girlie to the Movies." The audience response on the night of the finals was described as being the greatest for the **Fords** and many people thought that they should have medaled. This was their last International appearance. Beginning in 1957 they had appeared in nine International contests, scoring in the top ten on six of those occasions. Their best finish was sixth place in 1962. Combining showmanship, humor and good singing they left a trail of happy, committed fans in the wake of contests and shows that they sang all over the country (26 states and four provinces). For many of these distant fans, the **Fords** were the Evergreen District. With lead Jim Iddings providing the comic relief (in spades), Clayton Lacey singing a bell clear tenor, Merv Clements providing a solid baritone and spokesman Del Green doing the bass notes, this quartet was a real show quartet and they showed the best of Evergreen throughout the barbershop realm.

Evergreen's other quartets performed well in the quarter finals, the **Bay Shore Four** coming in 35th and the **Moonlighters** coming in 41st. In the chorus contest the Lake Washington **Skippers**, with Jim Marich directing, earned a ninth place spot.

The summer presented the usual run of picnics, barbecues and gatherings. The district performed on its promise of more educational opportunities with quartet clinics held in a good number of places. Some even sounded suspiciously like vacation places. What else can be made of West Yellowstone, Ocean Shores and Banff? But the purpose was pure and the sessions were greeted with grateful enthusiasm.

As the year drew toward its close things did not seem as bright as they had a year before. Chief among the gloom dispensers was a loss in membership that was not welcome. Even though a new chapter had come barreling in at Twin Falls, with dynamo Burt Huish doing most of the trail blazing, the chapters at Grays Harbor and Mission City had folded. On top of that members were not renewing in good numbers and the whole affair had a gray tinge. *Timbre* editor Hal Howland, under the press of business, had called

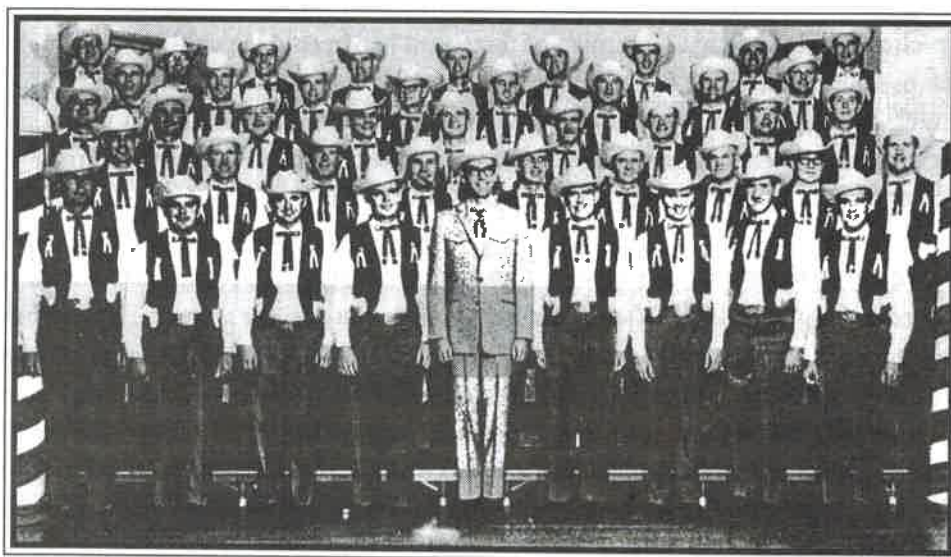
in his resignation, so a new editor was being sought. President Toby was handling things on an interim basis.

But, as always, there were bright sides also. District contributions to Logopedics reached a level that guaranteed that a young man from the district could be sent to the Institute at Wichita. Thirteen year old "Jimmy," a victim of cerebral palsy, unable to speak and unable to walk, was able to enroll and begin receiving treatment as a result of the \$4,000 contributed to cover his first year. Another bright light could be seen in the district treasury showing a surplus for the first time in several years. The dues increase did have beneficial results.

Fall Convention was held in Vancouver, BC the last weekend in October. The single panel of judges declared the **Bay Shore Four** of Coos Bay the new District Champion Quartet. The **Moonlighters** of Lake Washington came in second and the **Howe Sounds** of Vancouver, BC came in third. Eighteen choruses entered the contest and the winner, by only four points, was the **Stampede City Chorus** of Calgary, directed by Don Weldon. The win earned the Stampede gang a chance to perform on the International stage in Cincinnati in 1968. In second



The Bay Shore Four, Coos Bay, 1966 District Champions and three time International Contestants. From the left, John Anderson, br, Gary Larson, t, Jerry Harrison, l, and Ray Greaves, bs.



The Calgary **Stampede City Chorus**, District Champions 1966, directed at that time by Don Weldon. International contestant in 1968 at Cincinnati, directed by Don Clarke (pictured here).

place were the Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Jim Marich, and in third were the **Chord Casters** from the Green River Chapter, directed by Jim Blokzyl.

The **Howe Sounds** were not through for the year. Canadian Pacific Airlines and the Canadian government again asked the **Sounds** to go on a tour. This time the continent to visit was Asia and in mid-November the **Howe Sounds** went on a two-week tour involving 35 performances, mostly in Japan. They came home with loads of memories, grateful for another chance to share our harmony with enthusiastic audiences on the other side of the world.

1967

The new year saw a large turnover in the board. Coming in as president was Keith Axline of Idaho Falls. Keith had arrived in a big way in Evergreen with the chartering of the Idaho Falls Chapter in 1963 and had been recognized as District Barbershopper of the year for 1965, so he was moving along fast. New Vice Presidents included Ron Forsyth of Anacortes for Division 1, Laddie Lowen of Wetaskiwin for Division 3, Ronald Cummings of Salem for Division 4 and Tom Messelt of Great Falls for Division 5. Staying on as vice president for Division 2 was Ken Fletcher of the Sno-King Chapter. The two other holdovers were Fred Lamka of Green River as Treasurer and, of course, Hub Stone of Klamath Falls as Secretary.

Another face (not so new) in a new job was that of William (Toby) Tobiassen in the job of editor of *Timbre*. It is not apparent how Toby found time to do this, but find it he did and the bulletin benefited in the form of full coverage of the many District events through the year. Toby said he would do the job only on a temporary basis. As the year wound down a new editor was found. Bill Tobey of the Green River Chapter took over with the December issue. The production staff (after a good job by the Portland area chapters, headed by Fort Vancouver's Wes Vance) was made up of members of the Green River Chapter.

Spring Convention was held in Calgary on April 14 and 15. The occasion marked the tenth anniversary of the first prelim held in Calgary. Chairman of that event had been Al Fraser. To get it right a second time, Al was back as Chairman, aided by wife Lee. By *Timbre's* account it was a dazzler of a convention — smooth running and successful. The ladies were made a part of the celebration. It was a memorable affair. On Friday night the Alberta Chorus Contest was held — a continuation of the Division Contest concept before it ever existed in Evergreen. Edmonton's **Oil Capitol Chorus** won this competition.

Three quartets to International now was treated as an anticipated right. There was no more expression of concern over making the quota. Fifteen quartets showed up to test the waters. The top three quartets were only nine points apart. Earning the right to go to International in Los Angeles were the **Model T Four** from Vancouver (Bob Wall, Wayne Halstrom, Abie Klassen and Gordie Cousins), the **Squires Four** from Portland (Dick McCormic, Dave Wagoner, Dan Tangarone and Jim Miesen), and the **Bay Shore Four** from Coos Bay. The alternates were the **Moonlighters** from Lake Washington. The Novice Quartet winner was the **Oddities** from Calgary (Randy Peters, Harold Lauritzen, Hugh Skinner and Don Flemmons).

At the awards banquet on Saturday evening special note was made of the Dell Singers, four boys and a girl, five through thirteen years old, who sang a number of barbershop songs to wild applause responding to strong emotion. It was another highlight to a well-lit affair. By way of awards the Idaho Falls Chapter was awarded the Hub Stone Achievement Award for the second year in a row — the first time any chapter had achieved something like that. And the Barbershopper of the Year was declared to be Jim Blokzyl, a well-deserved tribute to a barbershop perpetual motion machine.

International Convention was held in Los Angeles. It was only the second time in almost 30 years that the gathering had been held on the West Coast. The Green River Chapter, with encouragement from the District Board (and a little seed money) handled the Evergreen Hospitality Room in the Biltmore Hotel. The crowds were thick, the entertainment superb and the hospitality warm. Chairman Ron Omev and the Chord Casters earned a sincere thank you.

Evergreen's representatives at Los Angeles, the **Model T Four**, the **Bay Shore Four** and the **Squires Four** placed, respectively, 31st, 33rd and 38th. A third place medal was won by the **Mark IV**, with former Evergreener Alan Koberstein singing lead. The **Salem Senate Aires**, with 38 men on the risers and an almost brand-new director in Madison Vick, came in 15th in the chorus competition. Once again, Portland's bid for an International convention was not successful.

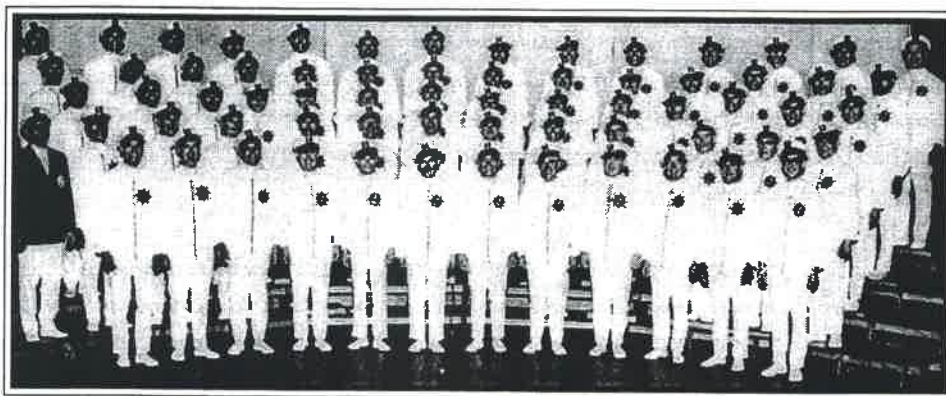
Music Education really took hold during the year, reflecting district resources and support and International assistance. From June through September there were three quartet clinics, a chorus director's school, an arranger's school and a school for quartet coaches. It bears mentioning that Bud Leabo was chairman of the Music Education committee for the district, a job he held for many years. Another great boost to the education program was the Society's hiring of Lloyd Steinkamp as a field man. He was a frequent visitor to Evergreen over the next three years. He brought a great combination of musical talent and knowledge that he expressed with force and wit. All who met him were deeply impressed with his commitment to improve each member and chapter. He would be deeply missed when he moved on to other endeavors. Everyone regarded him as a good friend.

The Fall Convention was held in Salem on the last weekend in October. The weekend started out with a downpour, but the sound of barbershop harmony, while it may not have driven the dark clouds all away, did improve the spirits of the record number of attendees. At the Saturday night show and quartet contest there were almost 1800 people in the North Salem High School auditorium.

Twenty-one quartets showed up to seek the district championship. Six of these made it to the finals and at the end the new district champions were the **Nomads** from Salem, Coos Bay and Fort Vancouver Chapters (the first three chapter quartet noted in these rankings — an indication of how things were changing from the day when a quartet always represented just one chapter). Personnel included Dick Roth, tenor, once with the **Capitol Chordsmen**, Chuck Christiansen, lead, once of the **Stockade Aires**, Larry Gordon, formerly bari in the **United Statesmen** and **Internationals** (of Spokane) and, singing bass in his first competition, Jim Hickey of Coos Bay. Their nomadic name well described the wandering the four did to get together. Coming in second were the **Moonlighters** of the Lake Washington Chapter and coming in third was a quartet that had begun to make a name for itself, the **Most Happy Fellows** from Tacoma.



The **Nomads**, Coos Bay, Fort Vancouver and Salem, 1967 District Champions and one time International contestant. From the left, Dick Roth, t, Chuck Christiansen, l, Jim Hickey, bs, and Larry Gordon, br.



The Seattle **Seachordsmen**, under the direction of Bill Flanigan, had a series of District Championships beginning in 1967 followed by successive ones in 1969, 1970, 1971 and 1972. There were also International appearances in 1969 (11th), 1970 (13th), 1972 (12th) and 1973 (15th). Bill Flanigan directed in all but the final of these appearances. Bill Saas directed the last one.

Twenty-one choruses showed up for the Saturday afternoon contest. The new champion chorus was the **Seattle Sea Chordsmen** under the capable direction of Bill Flanigan (whose last championship work had been done in Spokane). Along with the championship, Seattle earned the right to represent Evergreen at the 1969 International in St. Louis. Earning the second spot was the Lake Washington **Skippers** under the direction of Bob Jones and, under director Jim Blokzyl, the Green River **Chord Casters** came in third. It should also be noted that the fourth place chorus was from the brand new Canby Chapter, the **Oregon Trail Pitchpipers** in their very first competition, under the direction of Wayne Schumacher.

The end of the year brought the first-noted mention of C.O.T.S. Though not attended by a huge group of men, these were extensions of district training schools for incoming chapter officers in Division 2. One was held in Tacoma and another in Ephrata. One outcome of these meetings is the first recorded question raised about the desirability of requiring the District Champion Choruses to wait 18 months before going to International. Clearly the original idea of giving the champs a year and a half to raise money for the trip had moved to the question of losing focus over that long a period.

The Seattle Inter-Chapter Coordinating Council reported that it had submitted a bid to International to host the 1969 Mid-Winter meeting, reviving an effort made almost ten years before.

The district saw real growth during the year. A total of 169 new members came in (only the Illinois District exceeded us in growth) and by year's end there were 1715 Evergreeners on the books. New chapters at Canby and Pocatello aided by licensed chapter members in Medford, Victoria and Ponoka added to the numbers and there were good increases at Burnaby, Everett, Seattle, Olympia, Calgary, Fort Vancouver, Cascade, and Great Falls.

1968

The board that started 1968 for Evergreen showed only two new faces — Al Rydmark of the Canby Chapter replaced Ron Cummings as Vice President for Division 4 and Ken Mansfield of Idaho Falls replaced Tom Messelt in Division 5.

Timbre, with new editor Bill Tobey in charge, put on a new face, too. The type size increased, the style became more that of a newspaper and the undertoned evergreen tree on the front page provided a very nice touch.

Word came through early in the year that Camrose's beloved **Northernaires** were retiring. The 1961 District Champions had been thrilling listeners for years. All who heard them remembered them with pleasure. The members expected to remain active in the chapter.

The Seattle Inter-Chapter Coordinating Council was overjoyed to learn in February that International had accepted a bid for a Mid-Winter meeting in Seattle in 1970. Efforts had been made to secure this meeting in the early sixties, but none of the bids were successful. Since that time the Mid-Winter meeting had been increased in size and scope. Seattle's bid for the meeting was its first such attempt and all were delighted that it was successful. Many regarded its success as a sign that the district was indeed reaching International status.

To further that perception, members of the nine chapters in the Seattle area got together, 210 strong, to perform for the Adult and Continuing Education Division at the biennial convention of the Music Educators National Conference. Music had been sent to the chapters well in advance of the March 17 date and it had been well learned. In the week before the Sunday performance Bob Johnson came out from Kenosha and rehearsed members of gathered groups each night. The sessions were pure Bob Johnson — craft, singing, well placed encouragement, pride building belief, and an intensity that exceeded any normal get-together.

The gang gathered Sunday morning at the Seattle Center and practiced for the first time as a unit. The sound was a full reward for everyone who participated. It was enough to force a relocation of the rehearsal venue for the group blew away a recorder (the kind you blow into, not use for recording) session down the hall. The performance went on in the Opera House that afternoon. There was a program of seven pieces (including the first performance of Bob Godfrey's "Thirty-Five Years Ago.") In his inimitable style, Bob Johnson spoke between numbers, explaining to the educators just what barbershoppers do and believe and working the audience up to a great finale leading to a standing ovation. If the audience was half as thrilled as the 210 guys on the risers, it should have been overwhelmed. It took most of the rest of the year to calm down.

Spring Prelims were held in Idaho Falls on the last weekend in April. Spring it may have been, but the arriving conventioners were greeted by a whirling snow storm on Friday afternoon. Fortunately, things cleared off and there was glorious sun for the remainder of the weekend. Nothing daunted by the snow, there was a Division 5 chorus contest held on Friday night — yet another Division Contest without official imprimatur. But the contest was certainly accepted and it was won by the chorus from Great Falls, under the direction of Hermann Bauer.

Fourteen quartets vied for one of the three spots to go to Cincinnati in July. Many of the quartets were facing their first "real" competition and there were a bunch of eastside quartets present. The finals were held Saturday night with eight quartets doing their best. And the best turned out to be the **Howe Sounds**, from Vancouver, now with Don West at bass (he had joined up seven months before) along with Barry Shields, Maurice Jones and Al Hayward, the **Moonlighters** from Lake Washington and Sno-King, with Jack Rider, Bill Michalak, Dan Woolsey and Larry Adolfson, and the **Nomads**, from Salem, Fort Vancouver and Coos Bay, with Dick Roth, Chuck Christiansen, Larry Gordon and Jim Hickey. Missing the

number three spot by the difference of a three second time penalty was the **Model T Four** from Vancouver. They ended up as the Alternates. The Novice Quartet Champions turned out to be the **Four Forties** from Boise.

The highlight of the Saturday Awards Banquet was the awarding of the Barbershopper of the Year trophy to Everett Ball from Klamath Falls. Ev had been a Balance and Blend judge for 12 years and District C&J Chairman for four.

In legislative matters it is clear that the feeling of malaise that one sensed in the proceedings as 1966 had drawn to a close certainly no longer prevailed. This was a District that was growing — physically, musically and spiritually. The members could take pride in how well things were going. One measure of the new spirit could be seen in the easy passage of resolutions to change the bylaws so that the winning chorus at fall competition would no longer have to wait 18 months to go to International Competition. This was quick action on a feeling that had been developing only for several months and it reflected the strong feeling that any chorus should be able to come up with the resources to make a cross country trip in six months. No uncertainty there (although committees were formed to come up with ideas to help the winning chorus meet expenses). The amended bylaws provided that the winner of the fall contest in the current year (1968) would be declared District Champion only and it would not go to International the next year as the Seattle Sea Chordsmen were already scheduled for that International (having won the right in 1967). But beginning with the fall 1969 contest the winning chorus would go to International in 1970 and the schedule would continue that way. Evergreen joined the rest of the Society in the selecting of its choruses for International.

At the Cincinnati International the **Moonlighters** of Lake Washington and Sno-King came in 34th, the **Howe Sounds** of Vancouver came in 35th and the **Nomads** of Salem, Fort Vancouver and Coos Bay came in 40th. Calgary's **Stampede City Chorus**, with Don Clarke directing, placed 15th in the chorus contest.

Late in the summer the **Guardsmen** of the Fort Vancouver chapter went professional for sure. They

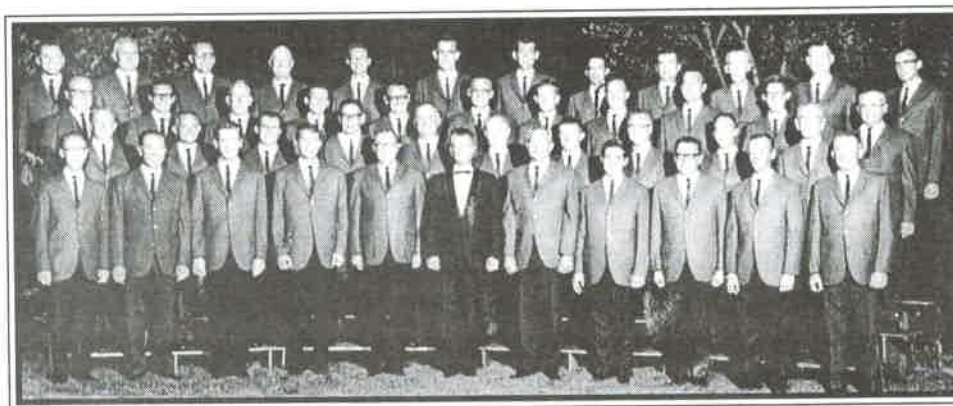
joined the American Guild of Variety Artists and spent four weeks with the Finn group performing at the Nugget in Sparks, NV. Fred Finn, at the piano, along with his banjo-strumming wife Mickey, had put on the Mickey Finn television show and now toured the West Coast. The **Guardsmen**, Dick Kishimoto, Jim Hogan, Ned Smith, and Fred Dunbar, had a great time in the bright lights but were pleased to return to their work-a-day lives in mid-September — in plenty of time to get ready for District Convention in Spokane on October 19 and 20.



The **Howe Sounds**, Vancouver, 1968 District Champions and three time International contestants (highest place: 23rd). From the left, Don West, bs, Al Hayward, br, Mo Jones, l, and Barry Shields, t.

Twenty-eight quartets showed up for the Spokane contest. It got underway at 9:30 on Saturday morning and seven quartets made it to the evening finals. Earning the championship mantle was the **Howe Sounds** of Vancouver: Barry Shields, Maurice Jones, Al Hayward and Don West. In second place was a newly formed quartet (only eight weeks together according to the local

word) bearing a good name, the **Westernaires** with Bob Jones, Bill Michalak, Skip Daniels and Art Russell, Jr. Coming in third were Green River's **Tam-O-Chanters** with Jim Blokzyl, Howard Simmons, Larry Siemon and Ken Bassett. And, fresh from Nevada, the **Guardsmen** came in fourth.



The Canby **Oregon Trail Pitchpipers**, directed by Wayne Shumacher, 1968 District Champions. Because of a district schedule change, the 1968 district chorus contest awarded a championship but no trip to International.

With no trip to International in the balance, some of the heavy hitters in the district were not present for the chorus contest. The 16 choruses that did show up did not include Lake Washington, Eugene or Salem, and Seattle was getting ready for its International appearance the next year. So this became a legitimate chance for the groups that had always been just a little short of the championship to make the grade. The proud winners turned out to be the **Oregon Trail Pitchpipers**, from Canby, in only their second competitive appearance. They were capably directed by Wayne Schumacher. In second place, just 11 points behind Canby were Sno-King's **Chord Splitters**, directed by Larry Hull. Green River's **Chord Casters**, directed by Chuck Asmus, took the third place spot. Special note was made of the performance put on by the Mount Hood **Timberliners**. Under the direction of a relative new comer by the name of Chuck Olson, this group spent two and a half hours spray painting themselves green and, after donning gold trunks and antennae, appeared as "moon men" singing two moon songs under the direction of a space suit-clad Chuck Olson. They performed well enough to earn fifth place. The district and the Society had not seen the last of Chuck Olson.

At the legislative sessions there was much discussion of dues. The International Board had proposed an increase of \$5 per year (to \$13.25) to cover salary increases and the hiring of two additional field men. The response had been less than enthusiastic. The district board agreed that a raise was probably necessary (faint praise?) and finally voted to recommend to the House of Delegates that dues be increased \$3.75. The House was even less receptive. The minutes of the meeting are quiet but one can guess that debate was intense. The general feeling was that an increase was simply more than many people could face and that the district could thrive with district educators. After a series of votes, the House voted in favor of a \$1.75 increase to put the total at \$10.00. The International Board was to take action in January after hearing from the districts.

Word had gone around that Coos Bay's **Bay Shore Four** was breaking up but that word was quickly forgotten in a reincarnation with bass Ray Greaves moving to tenor and the **Nomads'** Jim Hickey

moving in at bass. Jerry Harrison and John Anderson continued at lead and bari respectively. The word, right this time, was that the quartet sounded as good as ever.

The district lost two of its stalwarts during the year. Elmer Burke was a charter member of the Seattle Chapter and served as its first secretary. He was its president and served in his last years as editor of the chapter bulletin. Elmer was District president in 1956-1957. On top of his selfless service to chapter and district, Elmer will always be remembered for Elmer's Woodshed in the basement of Elmer's home, where countless meetings were held, hospitality and conviviality were always warm and wife Selma's coffee AND ... were so much to be appreciated. Elmer got into barbershopping early in the district's life, but late in his own. He served it well for almost twenty years.

Bill McMenamin, director of the Tacoma Totemaires, bass in the Totem-Tones quartet, Barbershopper of the Year for 1966 and judge candidate in the Arrangement Category, was only 31 at the time of his death. He had suffered a coronary and underwent open-heart surgery in June. At that time almost 150 pints of blood had been donated in Bill's behalf by Puget Sound barbershoppers. Recovery was well underway when complications developed and Bill passed away in mid-September. This bright, outgoing young musician (Bill was head of the music department at Seattle's Kennedy High School) showed all the harmony he had in his heart but the heart was not strong enough, despite its size, to carry him to the promise of a long, melodic life.

In spite of those deep personal losses, the district had had a good year. There were new chapters in Burley, ID, Medford, OR, Penticton, BC, Ponoka, AB and Victoria, BC. Also, licenses had been issued to Missoula and Fairbanks. Musical training continued at a high level. Officer training was being handled at the Division level. The judging program was in good hands. Best of all, the district came in second in the District Achievement Awards running and there was a good overall feeling that all could be proud to be in barbershopping in the Evergreen District. Elmer, the old hand, and Bill, the newer one, had been part of what everyone could be proud of.

1969

The year started out with a new District President, Ken Fletcher of the Sno-King Chapter. This meant that there was a new vice president in Division 2, Don Miller of the Everett Chapter (Don had moved north from Portland where he had chairmanned two very successful district conventions).

Responding to a developing fashion, the district directory for 1969 began identifying chapters by their "nicknames." Thus, the two chapters noted in the preceeding paragraph would also be identified as the Chord Splitters and the Windjammers, respectively.

In the everlasting search for money making projects a hard-working group had produced a hi-fi record of selections from the quartet and chorus competitors at the fall convention. Copyright concerns had been covered by the International staff, tapes had been audited and edited, a record producer had been secured and the records became a reality. This record plus one made of the entire MENC program from the year before were priced at \$7.00 each and it was the enthusiastic expectation that this project would be a first class profit generator as participants and district faithful lined up to obtain these fine records. Music Education and Logopedics were expected to benefit from the profits. The records were first available at the spring convention in Everett and the sales were satisfactory. However, purchases through the year were less than expected and, despite the good expectations, the idea did not ever bear the fruit that was hoped.

Early in January there was a fund raising effort put on by the Seattle-area chapters to help pay off some of the huge debt incurred during Bill McMenamin's terminal illness. Shows were produced in Ingraham High School and Kennedy High School (where Bill had been director of music) in Seattle and in Jason Lee High School in Tacoma. Talent included choruses from the six local chapters plus quartets from near and far. The whole endeavor was organized and pushed by the human dynamo, Pete Bement. Unfortunately, the date fell in the middle of some of the worst snowy weather that western Washington had seen, or would see, in years. That affected turnout, but the shows did provide close to \$2,000 of much needed assistance to the McMenamin family.

By February the district learned that the International Board had acted on the dues question. There was an increase, but the Board had heard the concerns of the troops. The increase was \$3.75 (not the initially proposed \$5.00) to a total of \$12.00 for International. And the Board acted quickly to provide the promised field men. Before the year was half over Dave Stevens and Mac Huff had been hired to assist Bob Johnson and Lloyd Steinkamp. From a 1998 perspective, that would seem to be a great bargain.

The Spring Prelims were held in Everett on the last weekend in April. By way of a new event there was a Logopedics dinner held on Friday night. The dinner provided opportunity to speak of goals and ways of meeting them. Young "Jimmy" was still Evergreen's boy at the Institute. He was making great progress in overcoming inabilities and there was a continuing need to support him financially. With good faith and good hearts Evergreeners were beginning to come forward with this support.

There were twenty quartets seeking one of the three spots for district quartets at the St. Louis International. When the finals were over the entries looked a bit like those of the previous year. Both the **Howe Sounds**, from Vancouver and the **Moonlighters** from Lake Washington would be returning (the Moonlighters had a new lead in Larry Hull). Joining them were the **Westernaires** from Lake Washington. The Westernaires were still thought of as a "new" quartet, having been formed only the previous August. Earning the Alternate spot were the **Most Happy Fellows** from Tacoma. The double panel of judges was almost all Evergreen. There were two Far Western District judges and one of them, judging Arrangement, was Burt Staffen.

The award for Barbershopper of the Year was given to Jim Blokzyl. This was Jim's second BOTY award. He is the only Evergreener ever to have earned the award twice. In typical light, voluble and sincere comments, Jim described barbershopping as "open mouth heart surgery."

The St. Louis convention was a hot, muggy one, but barbershoppers overlooked heat in the search for harmonic excitement. They found it in the new champs, the **Mark IV**. Singing lead with them was Al Koberstein who once had sung lead in Evergreen's own **Journeymen** quartet. District quartets did not earn a gold, but the **Westernaires** earned an 18th spot, the best that a district quartet had done in three years. The **Howe Sounds** were not far behind in 23rd and the **Moonlighters** were 38th. Recognized as a Senior Judge in the Society was Seattle's own Mel Olene. Mel had served on six International panels.

The Seattle **Sea Chordsmen**, the last of the "eighteen month wonder" chorus entrants, took 68 singers to St. Louis. With their red derbies those 68 men and their supporters seemed to be everywhere. Under Bill Flanigan they came in a very credible 11th. The **Four Do Matics** were there also. They appeared in a barbershop Boffo show with four other of the Society's funniest quartets. The show was a real break from contest fare.

But the biggest and most exciting news from the Convention was that the 1973 International Convention was awarded to Portland. The folks from Portland had been bidding for an International Convention since 1962. It is fair to say they learned as they went. Of course, the competition increased with time, also, and requirements got tougher. But the Portland, Mount Hood and Fort Vancouver chapters finally put together a winning combination of harmonic appeal, business support, board entreaties and a great presentation by past District President "Toby" Tobiassen and Chuck Olson. Folks from the Far Western District had been promoting a San Francisco site for the same convention. Earning a West Coast slot for Portland was a real feather in everyone's cap (or red derby). The delegation came home hardly able to contain its excitement.

Quartet clinics were planned for each division during the year but a special effort was made to bring in a HEP school. This was a session dedicated to explaining and demonstrating craft and musical training for all quarteters, singers and judge wanna-be's. It had a cracker jack crew from International and from around the country to explain, demonstrate and teach. The school was held at Western Washington State College in Bellingham on a Friday through Sunday schedule in late July. Included in the faculty were Howard Mesecher, Burt Szabo, Emmett Bossing, Jack Hines, Fred King and Jim Richards, covering all the judging categories. Of course, Bob Johnson was there to encourage everyone while teaching a number of new songs. Proceedings closed up in time for most attendees to take in the Anacortes salmon barbecue which had moved from its old venue at Bowman Bay State Park to a more spacious location at Sunset Beach Park west of Anacortes.

In September the **Four Do Matics** went on an eighteen-day tour of military installations and hospitals in the Far East. The tour was sponsored by the USO in conjunction with SPEBSQSA. There were stops in Japan, the Philippines and Okinawa. The **Fords** found the schedule demanding but very rewarding. The response was very good and they enjoyed the opportunity to visit with the young men in the hospitals. Most of the men there were recent arrivals from Vietnam and there was much satisfaction found in singing for and visiting with these good young men.

District Contest was held in Portland October 17 to 19. Much was made of the fact that already this was a preview to the great time that everyone would have at the International in 1973. Legislative matters, however, were "long and animated" according to House of Delegate minutes. The House quickly approved a proposal to establish the position of Executive Vice President on the Board. But a motion to set up a chorus to International Fund by collecting a per person fee from all competing choruses plus an assessment of 10% of chapter income (not including dues) was defeated. After much discussion, as noted, an amended motion was passed providing that each chapter would be billed \$3.00 per member to establish the chorus travel fund. A portion of the fund was to be used for education, but 75% of it was destined for helping the District Chorus representative get to International. As with any heated discussion, there was some negative reaction and it was necessary to secure International assistance in interpreting Roberts Rules to be sure that all actions taken were appropriate. They were and the new fund was projected for establishment in 1970.

Twenty-seven quartets entered the Competition for District Championship. The top eight competed on Saturday night. And the new Champions, by a very hefty total (almost 200 points above the nearest competition) were the **Westernaires** from Lake Washington, now with Denny Stiers at tenor, and with Bill Michalak, Skip Daniels and Art Russell. Second place was taken by the **Artesians** of Olympia (Dick Fankhouser, Ken Born, Roger Haag and Jack Anderson) and third by the **Most Happy Fellows** of Tacoma (Bill Dergan, Bob Hodge, Bill Thurmon and Ken Hawkinson). Note should be made that the **Aliens** of Mount Hood were at this contest. Also another contender of many years from the Lake Washington

chapter, a great bunch of guys, but a continual challenge to all program makers: the **Original Authentic 1890 Village Councilmen Quartet**.

There were 18 choruses in the chase for the chance to go to Atlantic City the next summer. Encouraged by their trip to St. Louis the past summer, the Seattle **Sea Chordsmen** came back to win it all again by a substantial 150 points over second place. Under the capable direction of Bill Flanigan these guys were ready. In the second spot were the Lake Washington **Skippers**. It was remarkable to note that of the 24 men that the **Skippers** put on the risers, 18 were in the quartet competition. In third place was the Vancouver **Thunderbird Chorus** directed by Barry Shields. Sentimental favorites, though, were the guys in the Anchorage **Midnight Sons**, directed by Kirke Muse. These fellows had spent about as much as Seattle would spend on getting to International. To help meet costs, the wives were selling arm garters. And to top it all off, the chorus came in very nicely in sixth place.

1970

There were some changes in the board for the new year. Ron Forsyth, Anacortes, moved up to the newly created position of Executive Vice President. Taking his place as Vice President for Division 1 was Ted McAlpine of Vancouver. Also, new vice presidents came in for Divisions 3 and 4, respectively, Edgar Todd of Rimby and Ray Greaves of Coos Bay.

The first big order of business was the gathering of the top of the Society for the Mid-Winter in Seattle at the end of February. District President Ken Fletcher wore a second hat as Convention Chairman and the Greater Seattle Inter-Chapter Coordinating Council saw to it that everyone in the local chapters had plenty to do. Over 500 visitors showed up for the convention and everyone, whether visitor, host, International President Wilbur Sparks or the newest Evergreen member, seemed pleased with the whole affair. The Olympic Hotel was the headquarters and the International Board met there and conducted considerable business. Not to be outdone, the Evergreen board held its winter meeting at the same time in the Olympic. Somehow, President/Convention chairman Ken Fletcher handled both jobs.

Tours included a trip to Bremerton by ferry, bus tours of Seattle, and walking tours of Seattle Underground and, of course, Pike Place Market. There was a grand Saturday night show at an almost full Opera House with the best of Society quartets performing. These included the **Sundowners**, the **Oriole Four**, and the **Far Westerners**. Headlining the show was the International Champion **Mark IV**, with local boy made good, Al Koberstein singing lead along with their new bass, Pete Tomseth of Eugene. Probably the highlight of the evening, for the locals at least, was the appearance of the **Evergreeners**, a 300 plus man chorus made up of area chorus members and directed by Bob Johnson. This was a reprise of the chorus that had entertained the MENC convention in this same hall just two years earlier. Once again there



The **Westernaires**, Lake Washington, 1969 District Champions and, with Bob Jones at tenor, a 1969 International contestant. From left above, Skip Daniels, br, Art Russell, bs, Denny Stiers, t and Bill Michalak, l.

had been learning of the music in advance. There were combined rehearsals under Bob Johnson and a final "dress" rehearsal. The performance was a thrill to performers and audience alike.

In short, the convention went off so well that most people went home so dazzled by the hospitality and the harmony that no comment was made about the weather!

Of course, some small measure of gloom can hang over the brightest of prospects, and the "settled" case for a \$3.00 per man assessment to start a "Chorus to International Fund" had run into some heavy going. During the early months of 1970 dissatisfaction was expressed at many local levels and this resulted in discussion at the Spring Board and House meetings. In fact, a "Calgary Resolution" was presented calling for the rescinding of the previous fall's vote establishing the travel fund. This resolution passed easily, but the potential for bitterness was overcome with an immediate move by the Eugene chapter (one of the areas of local dissatisfaction) to subscribe, voluntarily, the \$3.00 per head and put it in a chorus travel fund. Calgary immediately followed this lead and by the time Seattle went to Atlantic City there was a total contribution on the order of \$2500. To provide a more permanent solution to this vexing concern a committee was established, under Calgary's Al Knight. His work and the efforts of many would keep this problem under study for the better part of a year and lead to budgeting to provide funds with support to be sought at the local level in 1971.

The Spring Prelims were held on the weekend of April 10 to 12 in Bellingham. Only ten quartets showed up to compete for the three openings at International in Atlantic City. The contest, however, was a good one and when the scores for the eight finalists were added up, the winning trio included the **Howe Sounds**, from Vancouver (for the third year in a row), with Barry Shields, Maurice Jones, Al Hayward and Don West. Also included were **The Poets** from Bellingham and Anacortes (the 1969 Novice Quartet winner) with Steve Kurtz, Dick Clark, Ray Heller, and Ron Forsyth) and Tacoma's **Most Happy Fellows**, (the 1969 Alternate quartet) with Bill Dergen, Bob Hodge, Bill Thurman and Ken Hawkinson. The Alternate quartet for this year was the **Artesians** from Olympia with Dick Fankhauser, Roger Haag, Jack Anderson and Ken Born. There was a mix-up in awarding the Novice Championship. It was first given to the **Cross Sounders** and then taken back when it was discovered they had competed at the fall district contest. Some quick research, however, revealed that the regulations required only that no more than two members had competed in a Spring Prelim Contest. So the award went back to Seattle's **Cross Sounders**, warming the hearts of Dave Harwood, Bob Pederson, Bob Mahoney and Garland Bellamy and all their supporters. A notable absence in the double judging panel was that of Bud Leabo. For the first time since 1951 he was not serving on a prelim panel. He was in Fiji where he had gone to lend his sawmill experience and expertise to the government there as it pursued wood industry development.

Selected as Barbershopper of the Year was Dick Williams of the Portland Chapter. He was cited as a complete barbershopper — officer at chapter and district level, bulletin editor, quartet and chorus man and a key member of the committee that put together the successful Portland International bid.

There was considerable educational activity throughout the district. Lloyd Steinkamp made a number of trips, mostly related to extension. Dave Stevens was in the district for some of his sessions devoted to the barbershop style. And Mac Huff was in the district for two weeks. On top of this, there were four quartet clinics throughout the district, run by Jack Briggs, Harmony Accuracy Judge. There also was an offer to help choruses if help was asked. If one added in the district run COTS sessions at the turning of the year, it could be strongly argued that Joe Barbershopper should get his money's worth out of the district educational dollar — if he cared to make the effort.

International was held in Atlantic City. Evergreen's entrants sang their best and lived the excitement of the International convention. The **Howe Sounds** claimed a 25th place finish and the **Most Happy Fellows** and the **Poets** came in 39th and 40th, respectively. The Seattle **Sea Chordsmen**, now proudly noting that they were a 100 member-strong chapter, came in 13th in the chorus competition.

The summer sported the usual number of well-attended picnics and get-togethers. Special note should be made of the first La Pine camp out in Oregon (about 30 miles south of Bend). A good crowd gathered. The group organized the first "Mixmaster" Chorus to entertain other campers, and there was plenty of singing and fellowship. Another first occurred under sponsorship of the Langley Chapter with the first Harmony Hollow Family Barbershop Campout at Aldergrove Lake Park on Labor Day weekend. And a not-so-propitious first occurred for the Anacortes Salmon Barbecue when, for the first time, it rained. Heavily. A great time just the same.

During the year the Society and International President Wilbur Sparks made much of PROTENTION: PROgram and reTENTION. This was one of many attempts at improving membership figures with good programming and with retention of members. Incentives were offered for chapters that did well in achievement point totals and the promotion was planned to improve member numbers significantly. While Protention awards were announced in the next year, little more is seen of it in the pages of *Timbre*. By 1971, the new word(s) was Auditions for Admission. Another great program, responsible for some good members and growth. Each new program reflected the continuing sincere and necessary effort to grow the Society into a full-sized organization without continual concerns for sustained existence. The size of the membership was a daily challenge for a succession of high level thinkers and innovators. Great ideas were hatched and tried. None ever had a lasting effect, but we are fortunate that all were tried. Without them the membership would probably have withered away to nothing.

The District Fall Convention was held in Calgary on the last weekend in October. In spite of the distance involved, there was a good turnout. Fog on the coast did delay the charter flights on Friday. With the quartet eliminations on Friday night, one quartet was unable to make it to the contest and the Board meeting was not well attended. For the first time, an all events ticket was offered, covering quartet contest on Friday night, chorus contest on Saturday and quartet finals on Saturday night.

Twenty-two quartets showed up for the Friday night contest and they were narrowed down to the eight finalists on Saturday. The new champions were the **Poets** from Anacortes and Bellingham. Second place went to the **Artesians** of Olympia and third was taken by the **Most Happy Fellows** of Tacoma. There was a change in the personnel of the **Most Happy Fellows**. Bob Jones sang tenor with the group on this occasion. Bob, as coach and fifth man to the quartet, could easily fill in. Bill Dergan had not been able to really prepare for the contest due to a shift change where he worked.



The **Poets**, Anacortes and Bellingham, 1970 District Champions and five time International contestants. From the left, Steve Kurtz, t, Dick Clark, l, Ray Heller, br, and Ron Forsyth, bs.

Amazingly, eighteen choruses showed up in Calgary to compete for the championship. That didn't even include Calgary. The **Stampede City Chorus** had chosen not to compete. Once again, by almost 175 points, the **Seattle Sea Chordsmen** won the championship, led, again, by Bill Flanigan. In second place was Spokane's **Pages of Harmony**, directed by Jack Lyon, and Green River's **Chord Casters**, under Chuck Asmus, came in third.

It was worth noting that the awards banquet on Friday evening had almost 1100 people seated. If that wasn't a record it was still a whole lot of interested folks. Special thanks were given to convention chairman Al Gowans. It was also noted that **Poets** bass Ron Forsyth would be the 1971 District president, so his executive position went along with his membership in a championship quartet.

In mid-November the **Most Happy Fellows** went on a U.S.O.-sponsored tour of the Far East. The conditions, as bari Bill Thurmon noted, were considerably happier than those associated with his tour with the U.S. Navy some twenty years earlier. For this tour Bill Dergan came along as tenor. The **Haps** sometimes had more the look of a quintet than a quartet.

