COMING OF AGE
1971 – 1983

Evergreen had, by its twenty-fourth year, been through the growing pains of childhood and the painful uncertainties of adolescence and the teenage years. With age and experience it had grown into a respected member in the family of districts. The first International event had been held in the district just the preceding winter and the efforts of the Portland guys had brought the scheduling of the first International Convention to the district. It was time to bring the district's leadership and musical ability to the top of the Society.

1971

The new board for 1971 had only two officers in the same position that they had held in 1970. Those two were old faithful Hub Stone as secretary and Ray Greaves as vice president for Division 4. There were, of course, holdovers of people, but they were all in new positions. From the top they included: President Ron Forsyth, Anacortes, Executive Vice President Ted McAlpine, North Vancouver, Division Vice Presidents for 1 Jack Becker of Victoria, for 2 Howard Jones of Seattle, for 3 Laddie Lowen of Wetaskiwin, for 5 Burt Huish of Twin Falls and Treasurer Gil Hanson of Sno-King.

Early in the year it was learned that the Seattle **Sea Chordsmen** would not be able to represent the district at International in New Orleans. Money was the root of this decision. The Seattle area was in the throes of a severe economic slow down related to the drag of the Boeing Company's major retrenchments. The economic slow down had seriously reduced the numbers of Seattle members who could afford a third cross-country trip. The reduction in numbers of singers threatened the quality of the performance and the Seattlites reluctantly decided to forego the chance. As the second place finisher at the Calgary contest the **Pages of Harmony** from Spokane immediately accepted the challenge of going to New Orleans and giving the contest their best shot.

Throughout the year there was a continuing effort to formalize a plan to support the district chorus to International. Board support continued for the idea of a $3.00 assessment and the feeling was that with sufficient education this route could be approved. The officers spoke of pride and promoted the idea that the district's representative should be given the support of the district in this highly expensive endeavor (just the travel costs were approaching $20,000). The value of competition was stressed. But the other side was that $3.00 was an almost 40% increase in district dues and that if improvement through competition was the goal, such funds would be better spent on training everyone in the district, not on helping less than 5% of the district go to an International contest. The discussions were serious and sincere. There was little, if any, bitterness to the give and take. The final word for the year was taken at the fall convention when a proposed by-law creating the $3.00 assessment was defeated. The discussion would continue but there continued to be little help for International-bound choruses.

Another symbol of pride was the adoption of a district emblem. Entries were requested of designs for this emblem. There were 12 entries and the winning submission was sent in by Bill Saenger. The circular design included the SPEBSQSA insignia surrounded by evergreen trees and the words Evergreen District. It was a well-done symbol and emblem and, with pride, it represented the district well for years.

Not so pridefully, but out of economic necessity, the district put its still significant inventory of district records (audio) on sale for $5.00 in the hope of clearing the stock out. This was another good idea

that did not live up to the good expectations. People did not show much interest in acquiring these mementos of the 1968 contest quartets and choruses.

A note that on January 30 the Biggest Big Wheel Contest of all time was held makes the point that this informal long-lasting gathering bears mentioning. Division 1 chapters developed the idea early on (probably around 1960). The gatherings follow no strict schedule, but the entertainment is built around a novice quartet contest with judging done by the best people available (who aren't singing in quartets). After some years a trophy was built (the Big Wheel and Hub Cup) and later an award was added for first place in Stage Presence (for this, naturally, a Coughee Cup). For a while there was a traveling door prize. The physical requirements of transporting this actual door from meeting to meeting finally (and gratefully) caused it to come unhinged. Good fellowship, along with the harmony, makes this long-lasting event one of the good features of being a barbershopper in Division 1.

Great Falls hosted the spring Convention on the first weekend in May. A sunny, warm Spring time was provided by the hosts, everyone gathered at the Rainbow Hotel and harmony reigned. Most out-of-state participants flew in (boy, that's a long way to drive) and the high cost of getting to Great Falls served as the reason for utilizing a single panel of judges. The panel got its first work judging the Division 5 Chorus Contest. This Division contest was in its fifth year, encouraging the idea that division contests were possible and viable. The Billings **Big Sky Chorus** won this contest.

Saturday afternoon the 14 quartets entered the preliminary contest and that was narrowed down to eight for the evening contest. Earning the top three spots and the chance to go to International in New Orleans were the **Howe Sounds** of Vancouver, the **Most Happy Fellows** of Tacoma (within two points of each other) and the **Poets** of Bellingham and Anacortes. Not far behind, in the alternates spot were the **Artesians** of Olympia. Before July arrived, however, Don West, bass of the **Howe Sounds** was caught in the necessity of a career move to the east and the **Sounds** were unable to make the trip to the Big Easy. The **Artesians** were happy to go in their stead. It should be noted that the personnel of the **Most Happy Fellows** included Bob Jones at tenor. The novice quartet award (now named the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Trophy) was won by the **Pine Tones** of Missoula.

At the awards banquet, a special Great Falls touch was added when Bob Morgan (of Great Falls) was given the Barbershopper of the Year award.

A final Great Falls touch was the farewell breakfast given (literally) by the Great Falls folks at the Chalet Restaurant. The air was still warm (from the sun and the glow) as everyone departed.

The Spokane **Pages of Harmony**, with a date at International in prospect, went through an exciting rejuvenation. There were 25 new members and the adrenaline was flowing as the group got ready for the trip. As always there was a huge amount of money to be raised. There was support from chapters in the district, but never at the level that was a help in comparison to the total that had to be raised. And in the midst of the final preparations, director Jack Lyon was transferred to Seattle so that rehearsals were held when Jack could travel across the state to meet the chorus. Given the obstacles, it is a wonder that the **Pages** got to New Orleans at all. There should have been an award for guts. The **Pages** deserved it. But they had to settle for a 15th place finish and the good feeling that comes from performing at your best in spite of all the obstacles.

The **Poets**, Steve Kurtz, Dick Clark, Ray Heller, and Ron Forsyth, came in 32nd at New Orleans. The **Most Happy Fellows**, Bob Jones, Bob Hodge, Bill Thurman and Ken Hawkinson were 36th. Both

these quartets improved on their positions from the previous year. The **Artesians**, Dick Frankenhauser, Roger Haag, Jack Anderson and Ken Born, on their first time at the big show came in 42nd.

After this International Contest the judging system would change. The Arrangement Category would be scored in a completely different manner and the Voice Expression Category would disappear altogether. In its place would be a new category called Interpretation.

The change in the Arrangement category was designed to maintain it as the "guardian of the barbershop style," according to Burt Szabo. In the new category approach, an Arrangement judge would be expected to determine if a song was acceptable for use in a barbershop contest and if the song was in the barbershop style. The judge would start from zero and award points (up to 20) for outstanding use of musical material. He would also assess penalty points (up to 20) for infractions of the style. He could also disqualify a song or arrangement. In total, Arrangement scores would not have a large effect on the score of a song, but there was the overwhelming concern of disqualification, for if a song were disqualified, a zero would be scored for Arrangement, Harmony Accuracy, Balance and Blend and Interpretation.

The new Interpretation Category was designed to evaluate the artistic presentation of a song aurally. Harmony Accuracy and Balance and Blend were not seen as subject to artistic treatment — they were either right or wrong (or somewhere in between). It was expected that performers would have many interpretive techniques for presenting (interpreting) a song. Its believability was to be assessed.

Naturally, such a change created a large need for men trained and ready to act as judges in the new categories. The International C&J Committee was hard at work training and preparing men for these duties. Obviously, District C&J Chairman Keith Axline had his concerns in finding enough people to man the panel at the fall convention. One piece of good news was that Mel Knight of Lebanon had successfully completed training at an Arrangement school held in Wisconsin during the summer. The double panel of judges that handled the fall contest included Mel but the Interpretation judges and the other Arrangement judge were all from Far Western District.

The fall convention was held on October 15 to 17 in Vancouver, BC, hosted by the Burnaby, North Vancouver and Vancouver chapters. The quartet contest began at 8 PM on Friday night. Contemporary accounts do not state, but the affair must have gone on until the wee hours, for 34 quartets were entered. They were trimmed to eight for the Saturday night contest, and from that evening affair came the district's new champion, the **Most Happy Fellows** from Tacoma. This time Bob Hodge was singing tenor and new member Larry Hassler was singing lead. Bill Thurman and Ken Hawkinson sang bari and bass. The on-stage picture of the Saturday night show clearly shows Bob Jones standing with the **Haps**

The **Most Happy Fellows**, Tacoma, 1971 District Champions and, with some personnel changes, contestants in eight Internationals, ending with a gold in 1977. The five man configuration above is the "team" that brought the championship. From the left, Bob Hodge, t, Larry Hassler, l, Bill Thurman, br, Ken Hawkinson, bs and Bob Jones, t, br.

and sharing in the well-deserved applause. The **Artesians** from Olympia came in second, and third place went to the **Representatives** from Salem.

The chorus contest on Saturday afternoon saw 21 entries and the Seattle **Sea Chordsmen**, under Bill Flanigan, showed they still had it as, for the third year in a row, they won the district championship. In second place, directed by Denny Stiers, were the Lake Washington **Skippers**, and in third place, under Stanford Clark was Portland's newly named **Close Harmony Music Men**.

Not unsurprisingly, one of the outcomes of the crowded contest schedule was renewed discussion of developing a division contest system. This simply acknowledged the need for some advance seeding as well as realizing that the folks in Divisions 3 and 5 knew what they were doing when they had started holding such contests years before.

Carrying on a long-established entertainment tradition, the **Aliens**, from the Mount Hood Chapter, spent the better part of November on a USO tour of bases in Vietnam. Traveling by truck, helicopter and airplane, they hit bases, field hospitals, clubs and receptions throughout the theater. Jim, Bob Chuck and Jay had an intensely satisfying tour and the audiences were overwhelmingly pleased. It was a good time for all.

1972

For the new year Ted McAlpine, of North Vancouver, moved up to the President's job from the Executive Vice President's slot. Moving in as Executive was Ray Greaves of Coos Bay and taking over his job as Vice President for Division 4 was Dick Williams of Portland. Otherwise, the board retained the same personnel that it had had for the previous year.

There was a change at *Timbre,* however. After four years of dedicated effort and many long hours, Editor Bill Tobey of the Green River Chapter was ready to step down. Bill had been responsible for changing the format and content of the bulletin and also for reducing costs (obtaining a bulk permit for mailing helped), much of it through doing so much of the work himself. Replacing Bill would be Ross Hood of Vancouver. The transfer was made in time for the first issue (February) of the bulletin. The mailing would still be done from Seattle and staying on for the press work would be Wally Gonser who, along with other Green River guys, would see to the assembly of the bulletin. Also, members from the Seattle chapter would handle the mailing.

Early in the year an important new group was formed. Members of past District Champion Quartets met at Islander Lopez Inn on Lopez island in the San Juans. They formed the Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District (immediately they called themselves Q-CED). Present at that original meeting were four complete quartets: the **Model T 4** (1955), the **Howe Sounds** (1968), the **Poets** (1970) and the **Most Happy Fellows** (1971). The group dedicated itself to upgrading the caliber of district quartets and to promoting excellence in the district judging and coaching programs. In short, the group had a desire to develop and improve all aspects of barbershop harmony in the district. The group hoped that it could perform at the 1972 fall convention. Those hopes would be successfully fulfilled — the first of many good shows and the beginning of quality influence from the guys who had reached the peak in the district.

The Steering Committee for the 1973 International Convention in Portland was meeting monthly as the year started out. Chairman Chuck Olson had things in hand. Details were being developed and everyone was working closely with Hugh Ingraham of the Kenosha staff to try to keep things running smoothly.

Most of the Portland committee would be at the International in Atlanta to promote the first International to be held in the Northwest. Response was good and 1600 registrations were sold there. By September the committee was warning Evergreeners that they should be sending their registration requests into Kenosha if they wanted decent seats (over 2000 of the available 6500 had already been spoken for).

The membership summaries published at the end of March showed that Evergreen had exceeded the 2000 member mark (2033, to be exact). This goal of the district board was met well before the end of the year. At the same time, the Society finally broke through what had seemed an impenetrable ceiling of 33,000 members. There were smiles everywhere.

The Columbia Basin Chapter in Ephrata put on the spring convention April 21 to 23. Crossing the pass to get to Ephrata was described as a hairy proposition, but the weather and the hospitality was warm in this town of just over 5000 souls. Those who flew had to fly into Spokane. Members of the **Pages of Harmony** helped by transporting the fly-ins from Spokane to Ephrata. Conflicting commitments kept the **Howe Sounds** and the **Representatives** away, but 13 quartets did make it to eastern Washington. Eight quartets made the cut, and that included three novice quartets. When the score sheets had been totaled, the three quartets headed for the big contest in Atlanta were the **Most Happy Fellows** of Tacoma, the **Poets** of Bellingham and Anacortes, and the **Artesians** of Olympia. The combination of **Haps** included Bob Hodge at tenor, Larry Hassler at lead, Bob Jones at bari and Ken Hawkinson at bass. Personnel of the two other quartets remained unchanged. Winner of the Novice Quartet award (and alternate to the International) was the **Bright Side** from Portland.

The legislative sessions again approached the question of funds for the chorus to International and this time resolved it in a positive fashion by making the "assessment" voluntary. Each chapter was to be "billed" on the basis of $2.00 per man for the first 40 members and $1.00 for all members in addition to 40. Payment was to be up to each chapter. After the International contest in July it was learned that of a potential contribution of almost $3000, the Seattle **Sea Chordsmen** had received only $1100. There was clearly not a lot of whole-hearted response to the voluntary nature of this method of financing chorus trips to International.

Named as Barbershopper of the year was Harry Neuwirth, quartetter, judge, area counsellor, bulletin editor and all-around good guy.

Almost all the Evergreeners at the International Convention in Atlanta looked around to see how the folks in Dixie ran such a convention. There was much to be learned from how these friendly folks put on a big gathering. But there were a few contests for folks to watch also. For the first time since 1969 (when the **Westernaires** placed 18th) an Evergreen quartet made it into the top twenty. Tacoma's **Most Happy Fellows** came in with a 16th place finish and a feeling that they were doing a lot of things right, as indeed they were. The **Poets** (Bellingham and Anacortes) came in 36th and the **Artesians** (Olympia) earned a 41st position. In the chorus contest Seattle's **Sea Chordsmen**, directed by Bill Flanigan, came in 12th, a rise of one notch from their last appearance in 1970. They were all very pleased with their fourth place ranking in the Stage Presence category. Things were going well here also.

The District gathered for its fall extravaganza in Seattle on the weekend of October 20, with headquarters at the Olympic Hotel and contests at the Opera House. Notable was the first QCED show held late Friday night with the **Model T 4,** the **Bay Shore Four,** the **Nomads,** the **Westernaires,** the **Poets,** and the **Most Happy Fellows** all performing. It was a fine start for a continuing series of great shows.

Legislatively, the bylaws were revised to combine the office of Executive Vice-President with one of the Division Vice Presidents. At the same time provision was made for the District President to succeed himself.

The **Artesians**, Olympia, 1972 District Champions and two time International contestants. From the left, Dick Frankhauser, t, Roger Haag, l, Ken Born, bs, and Jack Anderson, br.

The business of the district is important to its health, and the participants gave freely of their time to get the business done, but the excitement of the convention comes from the contests. There were 24 quartets present on Friday afternoon to start the process of finding a new District Champion. The eight finalists went on to the Saturday night show. And out of that, on their fifth try, the **Artesians** of Olympia (Dick Frankhauser, Roger Haag, Jack Anderson and Ken Born) earned a well-deserved championship. In second place were the **Representatives** from Salem and in third place the **Contenders** from Tacoma.

The chorus contest was held on Saturday beginning at 11AM for the 22 chorus entered. For the fourth year in a row the championship was won by Seattle's **Sea Chordsmen** under Bill Flanigan. In second place, by only three points, were the Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Denny Stiers. The small separation, not unsurprisingly, generated a lot of discussion. Not the least of this was directed at a twelve point Arrangement penalty for "Alexander's Ragtime Band" which the **Skippers** had performed to great applause. The close separation really spoke to the general excellence of both choruses. In third place, not too far behind, was Portland under the direction of Stanford Clark.

The year 1972 drew to an end with good feelings about Evergreen in this its twenty-fifth year. Membership had passed the 2000 mark, there were 49 chapters, a convention manual had been published, the education program was strong and QCED had been formed. It was only fitting that one man who had been there from the beginning chose this propitious moment to retire. Louis Hubbard (Hub) Stone had been present when the Pacific Northwest District was formed and had been its Secretary from the District's second year on. He had put together the first district bulletin and had seen it become *Timbre* before he retired from the editorship in 1962. He had made the first district directory and was continuing work on it. During all of this time he served efficiently as secretary of the Klamath Falls chapter. This hard-working man was an articulate and gently humorous person whose actions defined the term gentleman. The love of the whole district for Hub was amply demonstrated in the ovations he received at the fall House of Delegates meeting and in the issuance to him of the title Honorary Secretary Emeritus. Even in departing his work-a-day toils he agreed to continue to help the district by assuming the job of District Historian.

Sadly, Hub did not get to savor his retirement. In February of 1973, just two weeks after attending his last chapter meeting (and after having driven himself to the hospital), Hub passed away at the age of 88. He was and is missed by all who knew him.

1973

With the move into the new year there were board changes. Ray Greaves (Coos Bay) moved up to become District President. In keeping with the new bylaws, Burt Huish (Twin Falls) assumed the duties of Executive Vice President along with his duties as Vice President for Division 5. Al Gowans (Calgary) came in as Vice President Division 3. Stu Knox (Burnaby) came in to fill the shoes of Hub Stone as Secretary (a job he had already done some apprenticing for). And Ken Fletcher, who had already filled most board positions, including that of president, took over the job of Treasurer.

International preparations for the Portland International included all of the members of the three sponsoring chapters but when wives, friends and other supporters were included, it was figured that almost 300 people would be involved. By April 5000 registrations had already been received. Following the publication of housing information in the January-February *Harmonizer* the Portland Chamber of Commerce Housing Bureau had been swamped. Everyone was working hard to make the convention a memorable one. Chairman Chuck Olson and his committee members, Dick Williams, Paul Extrom, Bob Wiggins, John Brown, Don Stueckly and Rocky Foshaug would put in long hours along with all of their helpers.

Spring Convention was held in Twin Falls on the first weekend in May with the Holiday Inn as headquarters. It was described as being just a stone's throw from the contest venue at the College of Southern Idaho Fine Arts Center. No stones were thrown inside the hall, however, and it was described as a beautiful hall. On Friday night, the Division 5 chorus contest was held and the host chapter showed how it was done by winning the contest. Burt Huish handled the directing job (as a fill-in for the time when he wasn't being convention chairman).

Thirteen quartets found their way to Twin Falls. When the finals were concluded three quartets had earned a short trip to International in Portland. Included were the **Most Happy Fellows** from Tacoma (Bob Hodge, Larry Hassler, Bob Jones, and Ken Hawkinson). Also going would be the **Poets** from Bellingham, Anacortes and Lake Washington (Steve Kurtz, Dick Clark, Skip Daniel and Ron Forsyth). And, together for the first time in competition, the **New Found Sound** from Lake Washington (Dan Tangarone, Chuck Landback, Jack Lyon and Loren Watson). The **Artesians**, in spite of having been to the last two Internationals, had to settle for the Alternate spot — they had missed the number three slot by just 24 points. The **Aliens** from the Mt. Hood Chapter took the Novice Award.

Larry Hull won the Barbershopper of the Year Award. Larry directed the Salem Chorus and sang lead in the well-liked **Representatives** quartet. He joined Harry Newirth as the second quartet member to earn the BOTY. He was also known for his arranging ability and drew on a background that included singing with the **Skippers** and the **Moonlighters** when he lived in the Seattle area.

On the second weekend in May the Seattle Sea Chordsmen put on its annual show with the headliners being the Far Westerners. But the overwhelming favorites were the four guys who made up the **Four Do Matics**. This was their farewell show. After 17 years, appearances in 35 states and six foreign countries, nine International competitions and almost unnumbered shows they were retiring. As the *Seattle Times* reported, "...the 'old gang' that wedding bells and growing families could not break up is being

The Four Do Matics
Jim Iddings, Clayton Lacey,
Merv Clements, Del Green

disbanded because the quartet had a gentleman's agreement that 'if one member wants to quit we'll all quit.'" The record does not show what the **Fords** sang on the last show but one can guess that the encores must have been numerous and the applause long, loud, sincere and well deserved. Do me "Nicotino" one more time, and, maybe, the Bee Song at the afterglow. In early June there was a retirement party for the quartet hosted by the Seattle Chapter. More good times.

Then, with a rush of last minute efforts, the 35th Annual International Convention arrived in Portland. Before the week of July 9 to 14 was over there would be more than 7000 barbershoppers and friends signed up for the gathering. Festivities were officially inaugurated with the christening, with imported shaving lotion, of a 71-foot barberpole (set in front of the Coliseum). The headquarters hotel was the Hilton (singles started at $20) and the halls of all the hotels plus the sidewalks throughout downtown, rang with the harmony that everyone loved. Said Doug Baker, of the *Oregon Journal*, "...who could ask for nicer visitors? Best of all they brought their sweet harmony and nobody knows how many thousands of songs." Tours during the week included a salmon barbecue, a trip to Mount Hood and Timberline Lodge, and a trip up the Columbia Gorge. Visitors were properly impressed with the scenery and with the hospitality of the natives (some even learned how to pronounce Willamette). The planning that Chuck Olson and his crew of the three local chapters had done bore the fruit of a very successful convention. Their hard work made this first Evergreen International something to be remembered warmly and fondly. A symbol of the hospitality was the gift of a rose handed to everyone who entered the Coliseum for the Saturday night finals — 7000 roses in a gesture of love that would be remembered by all.

Of course, there were contests and meetings all week long. And Evergreen participated in all of them. It was rewarding to see Evergreen quartets do better. For the first time since 1964 there were two Evergreen quartets in the top twenty. The **Most Happy Fellows** from Tacoma came in 14th (two spots better than in 1972) and the **New Found Sound** of Lake Washington, in their first International outing, came in a very respectable 17th. **The Poets** (Anacortes, Bellingham, and Lake Washington) came 41st. The chorus contest did not turn out so well. Seattle **Sea Chordsmen** director Bill Flanigan had moved out of town in mid-May. New director Bill Sass and the chorus did their best but managed no better than a 15th place finish.

Portland quieted down with the departure of the barbershopping crowd. A souvenir of the convention, the world's tallest barberpole, the 71-foot red and white striped pole from in front of the Coliseum, was donated to the town of Forest Grove. It stands there still, the world's tallest barberpole in Ballad Town, USA, a memento of an International Convention.

The success of the convention was a measure of the voluntary efforts of many people. One story may represent the work of the many. In February it became distressingly apparent that a budget-strained Portland Chamber of Commerce would not have the personnel to handle the actual flood of requests for convention housing. Helen Brown, wife of Mt. Hood member Jack Turner, volunteered to do this work. This turned into a full time effort during the months leading up to the convention. Without this effort, all done on Helen's own time, it is likely that the housing confusion would have been such that the convention would have been ruined for many people. In recognizing this extraordinary effort, the Chamber awarded Helen (and Jack) a week's lodging at the Kansas City Convention headquarters in 1974. Helen's selfless

tale will have to speak for the efforts of the many in making the first Evergreen Convention such an overwhelming pleasure and success.

When the numbers were all added up the Portland Committee could take particular pride in the fact that while budgeted net profit for the convention was $32,800, the actual profit had been almost $95,000. So the hard work really did pay off.

After the convention, the summer disappeared in a blur of picnics, barbecues and campouts, including the Anacortes Salmon Barbecue, the LaPine campout and the Labor Day finale at Harmony Hollow.

Increasing job pressures prompted IBM Ted McAlpine to retire, reluctantly, from his two-year post. District President Ray Greaves, with Board approval, agreed to move into this job as of the end of the year and Executive Vice President Burt Huish would move up to the president's job. A necessary change was accomplished with ease and the district moved along with no trouble.

The District Convention was held October 12 to 14 in Edmonton. Many of the more distant travelers arrived by air and there were charter flights from Seattle and Vancouver. Headquarters was the MacDonald Hotel and guests had the halls filled quickly. In spite of the distance, seventeen quartets showed up for the Friday night preliminary contest. The final eight quartets sang it out on Saturday and the winning quartet by a solid 100 points was the International semi-finalist **New Found Sound** from the Lake Washington Chapter (Dan Tangarone, Chuck Landback, Jack Lyon and Loren Watson). In second place was the **Bright Side** from Portland (Bob Lorenz, Bob Swanson, Gene Haworth and Bud Roberts), and in third (in their first competition) was the **Lion's Share** from Lake Washington (Denny Stiers, Dick Connor, Bruce Bryant and Stu Turner).

The **New Found Sound**, Lake Washington, 1973 District Champions and four time International contestants. From the left, Chuck Landback, br, Dan Tangarone, t, Loren Watson, bs, and Jack Lyon, br.

There were eleven choruses in the Saturday afternoon competition and the Lake Washington **Skippers**, under Denny Stiers' direction, came in first. The **Skippers** could be pleased with this championship performance along with a championship quartet and a third place quartet in their ranks. Seattle **Sea Chordsmen**, under Bill Sass earned the second spot and the Tacoma **Totemaires**, directed by Jim Blokzyl, came in third.

After three years of discussion, study and uncertainty, the board and the house agreed to implement a division contest plan. It was noted that district contests had become unwieldy and the prospect was that increasing numbers of choruses and quartets would be showing up in the future. So, a schedule for division contests to provide 18 choruses and 18 quartets for district contests was approved. The allocation to each division was based on membership and past activity. It was pointed out that the plan would be reviewed so that improvements could be made.

This was not exactly pioneering action. Over half of the Districts now utilized division contests. Evergreen had planned carefully and it was hoped that the plan, to be instituted in the spring of the next year, would be enthusiastically followed by all five divisions, securing non-conflicting dates and utilizing judging panels without leaving empty slots. It was a sign of continuing growth, reflective of a district that had just put on its first International Convention.

The Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Denny Stiers, earned District Championships in 1973 and 1974 and a 13th place at the 1974 International in Kansas City. Under Jack Lyon's direction the **Skippers** won a District Championship in 1975 and earned International finishes of 13th in 1975 (Indianapolis) and 14th in 1976 (San Francisco).

1974

As noted above, the new year started out with Ray Greaves, Coos Bay, moving up to IBM. Burt Huish, Twin Falls, took over as the new District President and Howard Jones, Seattle, became the Executive Vice President along with his duties as Vice President for Division 2. There were two new faces in the vice-presidential ranks: Dave Ewing, Calgary, in Division 3 and Tom Messelt, Great Falls, in Division 5 (Tom moved up from his chairmanship of the Logopedics Committee).

In mid-February a barbershopper's dream turned to reality in Montana. Don Ingalls, over a year's time, organized a Montana extravaganza, inviting all the members in the Kalispell, Missoula, Great Falls and Billings chapters to join with the guys from the Helena chapter for an all-Montana show. The show climaxed a Good Old Days week that Ingalls organized in downtown Helena. Visiting barbershoppers were put up in the old Placer Hotel, the chapter sold out the house, flew in the **New Found Sound** to be headliners, and wowed an initially skeptical audience into a rousing standing ovation. The glow lasted for weeks.

The divisions approached the contest season with purpose and good will. The vice presidents helped set dates. The rules were published (the International chorus competitor was granted a bye for one slot, only one alternate per division was allowed, there could be no swapping of unfilled slots between divisions and strong judge candidates were to be permitted in one or two positions on panels). The district secretary cleared dates. Contests were successfully completed in all divisions. The count of actual participants appears to have been 35 choruses and 50 quartets in the five contests. It is good to see

predicted results occur. More men had experienced the excitement of competition than under the old set-up. And, as it would turn out, the Fall Contest had 18 quartets and 17 choruses — a much more manageable number. The allocation rules would be juggled and refinements made in arrangements, but the careful planning that preceded this divisional step was reflected in long term successful results.

The Spring Prelims were sponsored by the Burnaby Chapter. Of course, the Division 1 contest was held in conjunction with the prelims. Everyone agreed that the whole affair, held on the last weekend in April, was a great one. Seventeen quartets, including Division 1 entries, vied for the top eight spots. And the top three, who would be headed for Kansas City, were the **New Found Sound** of Lake Washington, the **Most Happy Fellows** of Tacoma and the **Poets**, now of Bellingham and Lake Washington (Ron Forsyth had moved over to the Lake Washington chapter). Personnel of the three quartets was as it had been at previous contests. The **Lion's Share** from Lake Washington (Denny Stiers, Dick Connor, Bruce Bryant and Stu Turner) came in fourth and earned the Alternate spot. The **Fraser Highwaymen** of the Burnaby and Langley Chapters (Bob Blair, Weir Muir, Eric Janzen and Gordie Cull) won the Novice Quartet award. There was no Barbershopper of the Year Award.

From southern Oregon word came in early May that the Medford Chapter put on a high school quartet contest as part of its regular show. One quartet each from three local high schools earned scholarship prizes. More importantly, though, their singing earned the respect and excited admiration of the older barbershoppers — so much so that the Medford gang was looking forward to doing it again the next year.

The news from the Kansas City Convention was that Evergreen almost had two quartets in the top twenty. Lake Washington's **New Found Sound** came in 19th and Tacoma's **Most Happy Fellows** were 21st (earning them a mike testers slot for the semi-finals). The **Haps** had had more than their share of frustration prior to International. Bass Ken Hawkinson suffered a serious leg injury right after the prelims. That had him on his back for almost two months. He was no sooner up than bari Bob Jones ruptured a blood vessel in his throat. In spite of doctor's orders to give up singing for a while, Bob sang through considerable pain and was unable to sing full range. The consequence was changed arrangements that cost Singing points that their high class stage presence did not overcome. The **Poets** (Bellingham and Lake Washington) came in 37th. In the chorus contest, the Lake Washington **Skippers** under Denny Stiers' direction, made it to the 13th spot. The competition was described as really tough. The promise to do better in the future would bear good fruit.

In early April long time Portland-area barbershopper Larry Scheel, past Portland director, quartetter, and coach, was involved in a very serious automobile accident. Larry was in a coma for weeks and came out of his injuries slowly. The presence of his family and the love and prayers of everyone helped bring him back from the brink and, finally, into rehabilitation. The cost of hospitalization and recovery was huge and to help in covering that cost, barbershoppers from all over gathered for a "Love for Larry" benefit show on September 28th in the Benson Auditorium in Portland. Sixteen choruses and quartets participated, including, even, long-time friends and retired **Four Do Matics**. The show was an emotional and monetary success and $5100 was turned over to the trust fund established in his name. As a measure of his rehabilitation, Larry and family made it to the district convention in Spokane. He was back.

On April first International dues had gone up $5.00 (to $18.00). There had been comment in support of this raise but no written evidence of disaffection. A new step had been to reduce by half the dues for senior and for student members. On top of the International increase, the district board approved an increase of $2.00 in district dues, to take effect on January 1 of 1975. While this proposal received

some debate in the House, it was approved. It probably speaks to the heavy inflation of the times that such an increase did not provoke any more public disapproval than appears in the bulletin or meeting notes. Much of the defense of the raises lay in concern over inflation, but the Society promised another field man (Tom Cogan) and the District promised to improve the C&J program (with more contests more judges were needed) and the education program.

As it was, the educational year had been a full one. There had been a Mac Huff "Super Clinic" in June and a Chorus Director's School with Bob Johnson and Al Knight. There was a clinic held in Burley (run by Burt Staffen) and another quartet clinic in Issaquah (some money for this donated by QCED). And, at the end of the year there was now a so-called International COTS. The district had for several years now acknowledged that the Society Program might be a better one than the informal one that the district had run previously. The 1974 version was a great one with 173 officers in attendance at the Hyatt House near Sea-Tac Airport. There was one final educational item. The district had some funds, available on a first come, first served basis to pay half the transportation cost of any coach brought in by a chapter for training purposes. This program would be available for years. And, while there may have been no overt grumbling, the still voluntary support of the chorus to International fund had seen only 16 chapters (of 50) contribute $1400 — better than nothing but hardly overwhelming.

With the September/October issue of *Timbre*, editor Ross Hood resigned, citing personal need for more time with his family. Ross had capably handled the job for almost two years increasing coverage of people and events and leaving a good example for his successor, Ray Heller of the Bellingham Chapter. Ray had been editing the Bellingham bulletin and, as a good publicist, was ready to give it a try. The masthead showed that Wally Gonser would continue to do the press work and that Gerry Loft (of the Seattle Chapter) would handle mailing. By the end of the year the notation showed that Wally was handling press work and mailing – a real labor of love there.

District Convention took place on October 18, 19 and was actually staged as part of the World's Fair Expo '74 that was winding up in Spokane. Every performing registrant for the convention would receive a two-day pass to the Expo '74 fairgrounds. It was expected that every chorus and quartet would perform at fairgrounds halls (in addition to contest performances at the Opera House).

The **Bright Side**, Portland, 1974 District Champions and one time International contestant. From the left, Bob Lorenz, t, Bob Swanson, l, Gene Haworth, br, and Bud Roberts, bs.

Chairman Lee Wynne organized things and the Ridpath Hotel served as headquarters. The 2800 seat Opera House was sold out and the eighteen quartets and seventeen choruses performed before enthusiastic crowds. The new District Champion Quartet, by a wide margin, was the **Bright Side** from the Portland Chapter (Bob Lorenz, Bob Swanson, Gene Haworth and Bud Roberts). In second place, from Lake Washington, was the **Lion's Share** (Denny Stiers, Dick Connor, Bruce Bryant and Stu Turner) and in third place was Tacoma's **Commencement Bay Flounders and Seafood Conspiracy** (Bill Dergan, Harry Aldrich, Bruce Forman and John Miller). In the chorus contest the Lake Washington **Skippers**, under Denny Stiers'

direction, took first place by a healthy 100 points. In second place was the rejuvenated **Pitchpipers** from Canby, directed by a transplanted Bill Flanigan. Seattle's **Sea Chordsmen**, directed by Bill Sass came in third.

It is worth noting that this was the first contest since the introduction of the Interpretation Category that there had been an Evergreen Interpretation judge on the panel. George Cotton, of North Vancouver, had learned of his certification at the Kansas City Convention and was proudly serving on his first panel in Evergreen.

1975

There was not a great deal of change in the complexion of the board that would direct the district in 1975. Jack Becker, Victoria, would handle the executive vice-presidential duties along with his divisional vice-presidency (where he had been serving since 1971). There were two new Division Vice Presidents: in Division 2 Don Miller was not necessarily new for he had held the job in 1969 and 1970, and in Division 3 Mike Gibbs, Edmonton, would handle the job.

The Spring Prelims were scheduled early — on the weekend of March 21 to 23. Just two weeks before that date the host Victoria Chapter was hit with disquieting news. They lost the use of the performance hall due to a municipal employees strike. Nothing daunted, the chapter members built a stage in the ballroom of the Empress Hotel, made arrangements to hold all the events there and, with lots of effort and good will, carried off the spring convention like a bunch of professionals.

Fourteen quartets competed on that specially constructed stage and the three winners of slots on the Indianapolis International stage were the **New Found Sound** from Lake Washington, the **Most Happy Fellows** from Tacoma, and the **Bright Side** from Portland. Only 39 points were spread between these top three quartets. The **Lion's Share** from Lake Washington ended up in the Alternate spot. Personnel in all these quartets was unchanged. The Novice Quartet Award was given to the **Monroe Doctrine** from the Everett Chapter (Chuck Strub, George Hieber, Brian Ayres and Dick Jones).

The criteria for the Barbershopper of the Year award was changed so that more emphasis was placed on chapter contributions. There were 30 submissions and the choice was correspondingly difficult. The final winner was Wayne Schroeder of the Twin Falls Chapter. Noted was his support of chapter activities and, especially, his efforts in collecting Logopedics money. Wayne also had been compiling the District Directory for a number of years.

In April the Mount Baker Chapter joined the Young Men In Harmony program with the sponsorship of a high school quartet contest as part of their show. Seven quartets participated and $600 in prize money was distributed to the three top quartets. The affair was deemed a success and the chapter planned to continue the arrangement. Certainly, the enthusiasm of both the young quartets and their chapter sponsors was infectious.

In June the Lake Washington **Skippers** and **New Found Sound** got an early start on the upcoming National Bicentennial Year by appearing as co-entertainers with the Bicentennial Wagon Train on its way to a July 4, 1976 date at Valley Forge, PA. The barbershop harmony was seen and heard as a legitimate part of the celebration of the nation's 200th birthday.

Not to be outdone, Calgary's **Stampede City Chorus** appeared as part of the nightly grandstand show at the annual Calgary Stampede in July. They earned rave reviews and exposed barbershop harmony and showmanship to over 200,000 during the ten day "run."

From the Indianapolis Convention came the exciting news that the **Most Happy Fellows** (Bob Hodge, Larry Hassler, Bob Jones and Ken Hawkinson) had come in 14th, equal to their 1973 place. There was the expectation that things could continue to improve. Evergreen's other two representatives were not far behind: the **New Found Sound** (Dan Tangarone, Chuck Landback, Jack Lyon and Loren Watson) had a 21st ranking and **Bright Side** (Bob Lorenz, Bob Swanson, Gene Haworth and Bud Roberts) were 23rd. The Lake Washington **Skippers**, under Jack Lyon, sang their way to another 13th rank, equaling their performance of a year before.

Since initiating support of the Institute of Logopedics in 1964 the Society had contributed almost one and a half million dollars. Curiously, among all the districts, Evergreen had lagged at the back of the pack for almost all of those eleven years. In spite of the concerted and well-intentioned efforts of a line of Logopedics Chairmen, contributions from individuals and chapters had not been satisfying. The year 1975 saw the beginning of a change in approach. Spokane's Lee Wynne developed the idea of riding a bicycle to the 1976 San Francisco International with members and chapters to pledge donations for miles covered. This developed into the idea of a competition with the Far Western District. Evergreen saw a chance to tie the effort in with the national Bicentennial celebration. The Barbershop Spirit of '76 was expected to generate enthusiasm and contributions. It was a nice combining of ideas and purpose. Much would be heard of it as the months passed. At the House of Delegates meeting in October a heretofore unimaginable total of $5,100 was presented by chapters at the annual "march." And on November 22 the British Columbia chapters put on a Logopedics Spectacular with Hugh Ingraham as MC, Bob Johnson as director of a mass chorus of 150 men and featured quartets the **Bright Side**, the **Most Happy Fellows**, the **Salt Flats**, and the **Innsiders**. It seemed apparent that Logopedics was getting a new Evergreen look.

The **Lion's Share**, Lake Washington, 1975 District Champion and, with some personnel changes, contestants at four Internationals. From the left, Stu Turner, bs, Denny Stiers, t, Dick Clark, l, and Bruce Bryant, br.

There were a number of notable personnel changes during the year. Denny Stiers retired as director of the Lake Washington Skippers and was replaced by Jack Lyon (who had already had fine experience with the Spokane Pages of Harmony). Word came that Past District President Ted McAlpine had been transferred to Toronto (where he would be a great addition to the Ontario District). Word also arrived that a barbershopper and musician of some renown, Greg Lyne, would be moving to the Seattle area where he had a position with the University of Washington. He signed on to direct Seattle's **Sea Chordsmen**. The bulletin also carried word that a new chapter was being established in Hillsboro, OR — to be called Tualatin Valley and directed by Chuck Olson.

On October 17 to 19 the District Convention was held in Portland. The contests held at this convention were the first ones utilizing the new Sound category. For the best part of two years specialists in the Harmony Accuracy and Balance and Blend categories had been working together to develop this new approach, utilizing components of the two categories to come up with a new one to emphasize the fidelity of the sound that could be produced. From this point on there would be a lot of talk about expanded sound. The Evergreen judging cadre was ready. By contest time John Fitzpatrick of Missoula, Al Knight of Calgary and Harry Neuwirth of Salem had all been certified in the new category and both John and Al would serve on panels at the contests.

Thirteen quartets entered the contest for the championship and the winner was the **Lion's Share** from the Lake Washington Chapter (Denny Stiers, Dick Clark, Bruce Bryant and Stu Turner). **The Aliens** from Mt. Hood and the new Hillsboro Chapter (Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson, and Jay Thornberry) came in second, followed very closely by the **Representatives** of Salem (Dana Walburn, Larry Hull, Harry Neuwirth and Marv Ryum).

In the chorus contest there were fifteen entries and the new champion turned out to be the Lake Washington **Skippers** under the joint direction of Stu Turner and Dick Crockett. The **Skippers** would represent Evergreen at the international Contest in San Francisco. Second place was won by the Seattle **Sea Chordsmen** directed by Greg Lyne. The **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men**, directed by Steve Kyes, came in third.

1976

Because of business pressure Ray Greaves had to resign his IBM position at the start of 1976. There was a shift of officers to accommodate this necessity. Burt Huish, of Twin Falls, moved into the IBM position and Jack Becker, North Vancouver, became District President, Chester Colpitts, Burnaby, moved into the Division 1 vice-presidency and Dick Williams, Portland, assumed the Executive Vice President's position in addition to his Division 4 duties. The only other change was in the position of Secretary where Paul Extrom of Portland took over the job that Stu Knox had been handling so well.

The year 1976 ushered in the Bicentennial celebration for those living in the USA. Barbershoppers helped in the celebrations and the first one noted occurred in mid-January when a combined chorus representing both the Seattle **Sea Chordsmen** and the Lake Washington **Skippers**, 125 strong under the direction of Greg Lyne, performed with the Seattle Symphony. The group sang a collection of patriotic numbers to go with the symphony's celebration of music in America.

The Society had prepared a program covering the 200 years with representative music in barbershop style and a goodly number of chapters in the district put this show on (some combined the efforts of two or three chapters in one location). This "Salute to America" show was a hit wherever it was performed. The last noted one was at the Evergreen State Fair in Puyallup in September.

The International Prelims were held April 23 to 25 in Missoula. Divisions 3 and 5 combined their contests with the quartet prelims. The combination of the two divisions produced five choruses eligible to go to District Contest at Spokane in the fall as well as four quartets. In the quartet prelims 13 quartets were entered and these were "finalized" down to eight for the Saturday night show. The three who ended up with a slot at the forthcoming International Contest in San Francisco were Tacoma's **Most Happy Fellows** (Bob Hodge, Larry Hassler, Bob Jones and Ken Hawkinson), the **New Found Sound** (Dan Tangarone, Chuck Landback, Jack Lyon and Loren Watson) and the **Lion's Share** (Denny Stiers, Dick Clark, Greg

Lyne - a new face at bari - and Stu Turner). Both of the latter two quartets were from the Lake Washington chapter. The **Bright Side** from Portland tied down the Alternate spot. The **DeLuxe Edition** from Missoula (Herm Bauer, Rick Stewart, Rob Goodman and Bob Stewart, Rick's dad) came away with the Al Fraser Quartet Award for the novice competition.

As the July date for the International Convention approached, Lee Wynne, the Logopedics Chairman from Spokane, put finishing touches to his plan to cycle from the Lilac City to the City by the Bay. Pledges continued to come in as Lee scheduled stops, secured the loan of a support vehicle (a motor home) found donors for food, gas and necessities and people were found to accompany him. Don Amos, the Chairman of BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers) and his wife Betty came along as part of an international effort. Flags of England, Canada and the U.S. (dedicated at a Peace Arch ceremony) accompanied Lee as he left Spokane on June 19 for the 1,000-mile trip. The trip took the group through Washington, Oregon and northern California. The stops for harmony were many. The group was part of two performances of the "Salute to America" show at Tacoma and at Portland. At Morton, in Washington, the group acquired a decorated noble fir tree (arranged for by Gus Storkman) to be part of a raffle at San Francisco. Also, the group was increased by the addition of the Everett quartet the **Monroe Doctrine** (Chuck Strub, George Hieber, Brian Ayres and Dick Jones). The entourage arrived in San Francisco on July 7th and the welcoming ceremony was large and convivial. A check for $11,125 was turned over to Logopedics, representing the sum of pledges that had been made. Said Lee, "The bike ride to San Francisco is something that I will remember as long as I live. It was truly a great experience." And something the participants would remember, too. And it did turn the attitude of the district into a more benevolent one so far as Logopedics was concerned. When the final contributions were tallied, Evergreen per capita contributions moved from 12th place in 1975 to second place in 1976. Lee well earned the Barbershopper of the Year Award that would be presented to him at the spring prelims in Idaho Falls the following April.

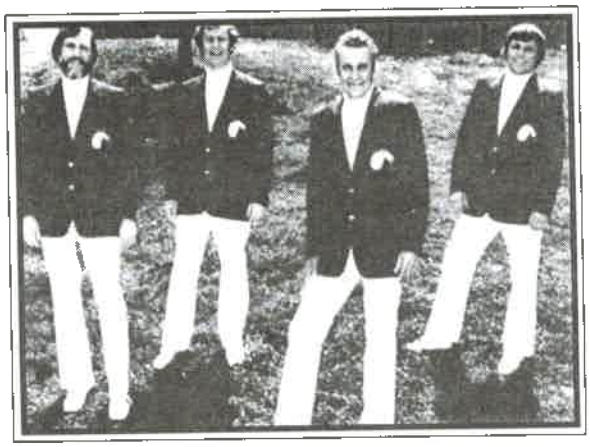
The International quartet contest was a fine one for Evergreen quartets. Lake Washington's **New Found Sound** came in 29th, only 50 points out of the top twenty. The **Lion's Share** (Lake Washington, also) were 11th and, of course, served as mike testers for the finals. Competing in the finals were the **Most Happy Fellows** (Tacoma). They rode a strong start to a seventh place finish, the best an Evergreen quartet had done since the **Four Do Matics** had done the same thing in 1966. There was a large representation of Evergreeners at the convention and all of them were excited over the showing that their quartets had made. In the chorus contest the Lake Washington **Skippers,** under Jack Lyon's direction, came in 14th.

Note should be made that another summer event had joined an already crowded schedule. For the third year the Anchorage and Fairbanks chapters joined to sponsor a meeting and campout at Mt. McKinley Hotel in Mt. McKinley National Park (later renamed Denali National Park). The get-together included quartet and chorus coaching by Sound judge Jim McKee (up from California) and a Logopedics show on Saturday night. This gathering would grow, over the years, into a spring solstice celebration attended by many.

On the first weekend in October the District Convention was held in Spokane. Still healthy from his long bike ride, Lee Wynne relaxed (really?) by serving as general chairman for the event. Fifteen quartets entered the contest to determine a new quartet champion and when the proceedings were completed on Saturday night, that new foursome was the **Commencement Bay Flounders & Seafood Conspiracy** of Tacoma (Bill Dergan, Harry Aldrich, Bruce Foreman and John Miller). In order to save time and space the gang was often referred to simply as FISH. Coming in second were the **Aliens** from Mt Hood and Tualatin Valley (Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry). A new group from the Lake

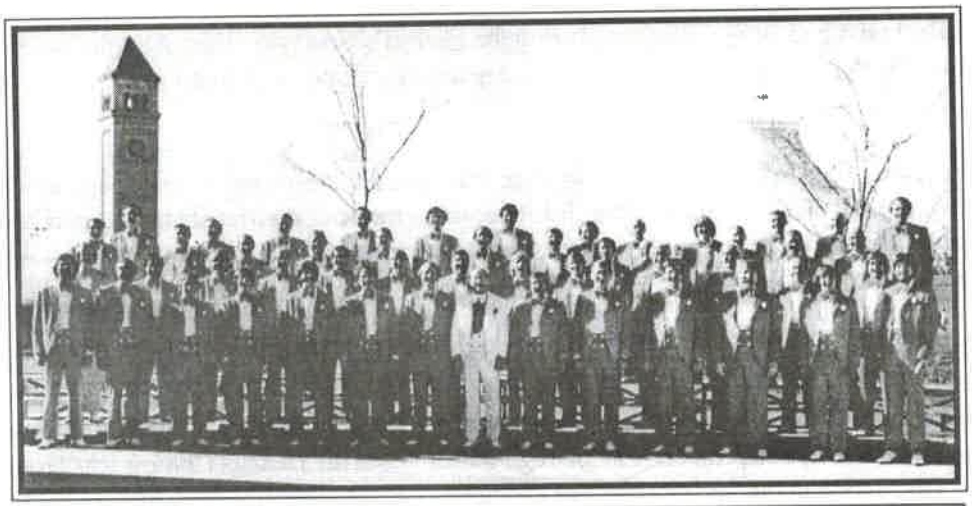
Wahington, Snohomish County and Sno-King Chapters, the **New Rendition** (Gordon Smith, Dick Conner, Joe Cordell and Forrest LaMotte) came in third.

In the chorus competition there was a change in the order of things. The Portland **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men** had been working hard for two years under director Steve Kyes. That effort paid off in Spokane as the Portland men won the championship by a comfortable margin. The Lake Washington **Skippers**, under Jack Lyon, were second, and the Seattle **SeaChordsmen** were third



The **Commencement Bay Flounders and Seafood Conspiracy**, Tacoma, 1976 District Champions. From left, Bruce Foreman, br. John Miller, bs, Harry Aldrich, l, and Bill Dergan, t.

As always, there were changes during the year. A few of the notable ones included word that, after a successful year directing Seattle, singing in the **Lion's Share** and contributing assistance to the district, Greg Lyne had moved on to bigger and better things. Ed Bogus, after setting up the most ambitious music education program yet seen in the district, had been transferred out of the district. Good news came in the word that Bud Leabo was around again and helping where he could (in Alaska for a while). And regrettable bad news came in the word that District C&J Chairman Ken Mansfield of Idaho Falls had passed away.



The Portland **Close Harmony Musicmen**, directed by Steve Kyes. 1976 District Champions and 13th place finisher in 1977 International in Philadelphia.

1977

The 1977 Board looked a great deal like the 1976 one. The only voted change was for Division 5 Vice President where Rob Goodman of Missoula took over from Tom Messelt (of Great Falls) who moved on to Director of Music Education (there was discussion of making this a board position). The year was not

very old, however, before another change occurred with the resignation of Division 3 Vice President Mike Gibbs (business pressures became too much). Gordon Dale of Calgary came in to take his place.

There was also a change in the face of the district itself. For some while International had been considering the creation of a Rocky Mountain District to be made up of portions of the existing Central States, Evergreen, Far Western and Southwestern districts. The idea was to try to better centralize the Society for members in the areas involved. Evergreen had to approve of the change (as did the other three districts) and the affected chapters had to approve. In due course, through the actions of the districts and International the change was made. Idaho Falls, Pocatello and Billings joined the new district. Burley and Twin Falls were eligible to join the new district but chose to stay with Evergreen.

There was a big change at Kenosha also. At the end of February Executive Director Barrie Best resigned after almost 14 years of service. Hugh Ingraham, Director of Communications was appointed Acting Executive Director. At the time of his resignation announcement, Best also terminated Bob Johnson, Director of Music Education. The International Board took action to delay this step and, after deliberations, Johnson was retained in his position. There were other staff changes. Best went on to another director's job at a national motorcycle association. By International Convention time Hugh Ingraham had been appointed Executive Director and things settled back down. In all announcements about Hugh it was always noted that he joined barbershopping in 1949 in the Calgary Chapter — another Evergreener made good.

In other changes that occurred during the year, long-time Field Representative and all-time great guy Lloyd Steinkamp resigned in order to pursue other interests (including a better job and more time at home). Under quartet notes it was noted that Jack Lyon had replaced Bob Jones at bari in the **Most Happy Fellows** and **Bright Side's** Bob Swanson announced a reorganization into a new quartet, the **Four Cheers**. Bass Jay Thornberry of the **Aliens** was transferred to San Francisco (in this their ninth year) so the guys brought back Dave Burt who had sung with them during the quartet's first two years. And the word from the **Lake Washington** chapter was that Jack Lyon had resigned as director and that Denny Stiers had returned as director.

There was even talk of changing a change when the division contest format came in for some heavy discussion. Some felt that it would be desirable to return to the open district contest format that had prevailed from the beginning of district time but wiser heads prevailed and the current divisional elimination-type contest was continued.

Some things never change. Financing the cost of chorus travel to International contests was a huge project for the Evergreen entry each year and discussion of how best to meet it always simmered. During this year it reached a boil once again. Efforts were made to develop funding at the district level to assist the district representative in this project. A $5.00 registration fee at the District Contest was proposed to provide such funds. Discussion at the Spring House of Delegates meeting was sincerely intense but the proposal was defeated. Interestingly, the delegates accepted a proposal to double the district contribution to quartet representatives travel to International (the increase was to provide 100% of the cost of travel to International). Once again a committee was appointed to try to come up with an equitable and workable solution. In the meantime, the Tacoma chapter came up with a partial solution. It organized and promoted a barbershop spectacular show in May that brought in $2,000 for the traveling Portland chorus. In lieu of any other concrete steps, this one surely helped.

The Idaho Falls Chapter hosted the Spring Convention on April 22, 23. Only eleven quartets showed up to vie for the chance to go to Philadelphia or to earn Division 5 honors. Three members of the **New Found Sound** quartet had found places in two of the quartets that earned a chance to go to

Philadelphia. The **Most Happy Fellows** (Tacoma and Lake Washington) had picked up one in bari Jack Lyon. They earned the first spot to Philadelphia. Lake Washington's **Lion's Share** picked up two of the remaining "New Founders" in tenor Dan Tangarone and bari Chuck Landback (to sing with Dick Clark and Stu Turner) They earned the second spot. Missoula's **DeLuxe Edition** (Herm Bauer, Rick Stewart, Rob Goodman and Bob Stewart) grabbed the third spot. This was a great spot to be in for a quartet which only the year before had earned the novice quartet award. They earned the respect of all as the only quartet from Montana to have competed on the International stage. Montana copped another award when the **U-Four-Ia Sounds** (also from Missoula) won the Al Fraser Novice Quartet award. The **Commencement Bay Flounders and Seafood Conspiracy** earned the alternate spot. Substituting at bari was Jim Blokzyl as regular Bruce Foreman was out of the country for an extended period of time.

With International approaching, Spokane's Lee Wynne decided to make one more bike ride — the 2,000 mile shot from Spokane to Philadelphia. Once again there was a support vehicle and an entourage and Lee left Spokane on June 1, arriving triumphantly in Philadelphia on Wednesday, July 6, leg-weary, but with another difficult goal reached. The trip was good for about $8,000 in contributions. After convention week Lee went by the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita and donated his bike to the kids there. Lee, the bike and the Evergreen District had come a long way.

But bigger things were going to happen at this convention. The **Most Happy Fellows** had had seven months of intensive coaching with Lloyd Steinkamp (much of it done by telephone and tape). This would be the **Hap's** eighth International and they planned to build on their 1976 seventh place finish in an effort to win a medal. Tenor Bob Hodge was quoted as saying they would have been happy with a third or fourth place finish. In the quarter-finals on Thursday they sang their contest stand-bys, "In the Naughty, Naughty Nineties" and "Slippery Sal" and they came away worried that they may have been a little off the mark. Post-contest review of the scores showed that opinion may have been marginally true, but they were in third place only three points out of first.

On Friday the quartet sang in the last position and did their now well known World War I set, "If He Could Fight Like He Can Love" and "I Don't Want to Get Well." The quartet played well off of lead Larry Hassler's comedic presentation and the performance brought down the house with a tremendous standing ovation. Of course, the quartet didn't know it, but they were now in first place by ten points.

At the finals on Saturday they sang their only ballad, "Alice Blue Gown" and the number which may be their signature, "Sweet May." The top ten quartets gathered back stage to await the announcements of placing. By the time the second place **139th Street Quartet** was announced the members of the **MHF** were feeling that they might have blown their chance for a medal.

But the medal was theirs — a gold first place medal that they earned with a good 53 points to spare. The celebration lasted all night as friends, new and old, congratulated and feted the new champions.

Evergreen's Golden Quartet
The Most Happy Fellows
Bob Hodge, Larry Hassler,
Jack Lyon, Ken Hawkinson

The quartet did not all get home until two weeks

after the contest, but when everyone was back home in Evergreen, the celebration continued. Commemorative get-togethers, keys to the city, television appearances and much speaking and harmonizing. Through it all there was frequent mention of the four former members, tenor Bill Dergen, lead Harry Aldrich, bari Bill Thurmon and tenor/bari Bob Jones. Jack Lyon, speaking of those four was quoted as saying they "played an extremely important role in the development, progress and direction this quartet has taken up to this point."

There followed the usual whirlwind year of chapter shows and appearances that is the expected and deserved role that International Champions play. Not only that year but the many more years that the **Haps** put in entertaining people while being great people themselves. They went to see the Wizard and kept on telling the tale well until official retirement in 1986, although it has been a "semi-active" retirement.

The **Most Happy Fellows** are the only Evergreen quartet ever to have medaled at International. It is remarkable that the only medal they have is a gold one. It is fitting that these four good guys, entertainers all, and loved by all who have been touched by them, should make up the one Evergreen quartet that has reached this pinnacle of quartetting.

Indeed, the Philadelphia contest will long be remembered by Evergreeners because of the triumph of the **Most Happy Fellows**. There were, as all should remember, two other district quartets at the convention. They shared the reflected gold. Lake Washington's **Lion's Share** just missed the semi-finals, coming in 22nd. Missoula's **DeLuxe Edition** came in 49th. In the chorus contest Portland's **Close Harmony Music Men**, under the direction of Steve Kyes, came in 13th. And in legislative proceedings, Twin Falls' and Evergreen's own Burt Huish was elected an International Vice President. The Philadelphia convention may not have been all Evergreen, but there was a lot of green there.

The **Four Cheers**, Portland, 1977 District Champinos and one time International contestant. From left, Vern Emre, br, Dean Voss, t, Bud Roberts, bs and Bob Swanson, l.

All that excitement and the year was only half over.

But time still flies (even in 1977) and, with everyone so happy, the summer was soon gone and it was time for the fall convention. In 1977 it was held in Portland on the first weekend in October. Sixteen quartets showed up to try for the championship title. Coming in first by a substantial margin was the recently formed **Four Cheers** from Portland (Dean Voss, Bob Swanson, Vern Emra and Bud Roberts). **New Rendition**, from the Lake Washington, Sno-King and Snohomish County Chapters (Gordon Smith, Dick Conner, Joe Cordell and Forrest LaMotte) came in second and the **Jackson County Roadshow and Touring Company** of the Medford Chapter (Bill Borah, Jerry McCollum, Wayne Horton and Jerry Ridgeway) came in third. The evening show at the Portland Civic Auditorium was sold out. In addition to the winners, it featured the **Most Happy**

Fellows, carrying gold of their own to everyone's delight. Sixteen choruses were present to try for the chorus gold and, for the second year in a row, the winner was Portland's **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men**, under the direction of Steve Kyes. The Portland group would have to look to carrying their harmonic package back to the Cincinnati contest in 1978. The **Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters** from Hillsboro under the direction of Chuck Olson came in second (putting on their school house set) and the third place position was won by the **Stampede City Chorus** from Calgary, directed by Don Welden.

Responding to concerns that chapters were facing time constraints in obtaining suitable halls for district contests the board and house amended the bylaws to provide more time for awarding convention bids as well as requesting publication of intent to make the bid. For a number of years there had been a "merchandise shop" at district conventions. Barbershop ware was sold at a small profit and the returns came back to the district. At this convention the arrangements were handled by A.P.E. (Associated Probers of Evergreen). The group represented district members of PROBE, the Society organization of PR men and bulletin editors. And in another measure of recognition for Evergreen and its people, long-time PROBE member, editor and author of many articles, Portland's Harry Neuwirth was named president of PROBE for 1978.

The Portland **Close Harmony Music Men**, directed by Steve Kyes, District Champions in 1977 and 1978 and Internatinoal contestants in 1978 at Cincinnati (13th place) and in 1979 at Minneapolis (15th place).

Receiving a lot of play during the year was a Society-wide effort to support the Expansion Fund recreated to acquire a building in Kenosha to house much of the merchandise operation for the Society. The headquarters operation had outgrown Harmony Hall and capital help was needed. District support was modestly strong but appeals continued. By year's end Evergreen had reached almost $16,000 in contributions toward a $20,600 goal.

Sobering news came that on the last day of the year the district's first president and charter member of the Eugene Chapter E.C. (Murph) Murphy died of complications resulting from a fall. Murph was 82 years old. The district is still in his debt for his selfless service.

1978

To start the 1978 year Dick Williams of the Fort Vancouver Chapter moved into the President's office. Don Miller, Snohomish County, took over as Executive Vice President (as well as continuing as Division 2 Vice President). There were two new division vice presidents. Dave Buffie of Edmonton came in for Division 3 and Harry Neuwirth, Salem, came in for Division 4. Other officers remained the same. Tom

Messelt resigned as Director of Music Education and John Shadden of Hillsboro took over this important function.

The board started the year with a planned deficit of $5000 in the budget. Part of the retrenching efforts was aimed at *Timbre*. The ad rates were increased and the mailing costs were reduced by cutting the issues back to five per year from six. By the end of the year editor Ray Heller was ready, after four good years, to turn the job over to a new man. That man was Julian "Stubby" Lahoski who had been turning out a great chapter bulletin for Canby. Another change also occured at the end of 1978 when Wally Gonser, after ten long years of dedicated effort let the printing of the bulletin be passed on to another volunteer.

The red ink in the district operating budget could not long be endured and a dues increase was in order. A proposed increase of $3 (to $10 per year) was not accepted at the spring convention but with proper preparation, this increase was voted in at the fall convention. The level of programs was maintained.

The Spring Convention and quartet prelims were hosted by the Lake Washington Chapter on April 21 and 22 at the Interlake High School in Bellevue (the Bellevue Holiday Inn was the headquarters). Along with the Prelims, Division 2 held its contests.

Twenty-four quartets showed up to test the waters. Of the eight who made it to the finals on Saturday night, the three quartets that earned the chance to go to Cincinnati in July were the **Lion's Share** from Lake Washington and Mount Baker (Dan Tangarone, Dick Clark, Chuck Landback and Stu Turner), the **Four Cheers,** 1977 District Champions, from Portland (Bob Lorenz, who was new in the tenor slot, Bob Swanson, Vern Emra and Bud Roberts), and the **New Rendition** from the Lake Washington, Sno-King and Snohomish County Chapters (Gordon Smith, Dick Conner, Joe Cordell and Forest LaMotte). In the alternate spot, just as it had been the year before, was the **Commencement Bay Flounders and Seafood Conspiracy** from Tacoma (Bill Dergan, Harry Aldrich, Bruce Foreman and John Miller). Claiming the Al Fraser Novice Quartet award was **Sound Policy** from Burnaby (Marty Lovick, Ken Wigbers, Brian Waplington and George Metzger). Barbershopper of the year was Earl Miller of the Snohomish County Chapter.

In June there were shows to support the Portland chapter in its excursion to Cincinnati. Division 4 put on a Cabaret for the District Champs and on Friday and Saturday nights in mid-June there was a "Spectacular for the Champs" held in Tacoma (at Wilson High School) and Seattle (at Eckstein Middle School). All proceeds after expenses were turned over to the International-bound guys. From the Tacoma and Seattle shows that amount was $1,500 to Portland and $200 to each of the quartets. Notes in the bulletin show that the help was much appreciated. No small benefit was the feeling of solidarity in the district that the shows generated.

At the Cincinnati convention the **Four Cheers** made a great impression, earning a very fine fourteenth slot in their first International competition. The **Lion's Share** was also solidly in the semi-finalists block, winning a 19th position. The **New Rendition** showed plenty of ability, coming in 44th. The Portland Chorus, under Steve Kyes direction, went back to its second International in a row, did the absolute best it could and held onto the 13th position it had earned the year before. The cliche is that competition gets tougher every year. There is much truth in cliches.

The **Most Happy Fellows** closed out their championship year at the Cincinnati convention, performing in the AIC Show, singing the National Anthem at a Reds-Houston Astros game and then presenting the gold medals to the 1978 champion, **Blue Grass Student Union**. A happy, crowded

whirlwind year for the **Haps**. It was reported that they immediately scheduled a ten-week break. A well-earned one, certainly.

The Seattle people at International were overjoyed, delighted and, perhaps, a bit apprehensive to learn that Seattle had been awarded the 1982 International Convention. A lot of effort had gone into presenting a successful bid. Subsequent concern over accommodations would cause the rescheduling of this convention to 1983, but Evergreen could look forward to another International conclave.

Following much discussion and planning the district sponsored its first "Mini-IIEP" school. Led by its Director of Music Education, John Shadden, the school was held on the first weekend after International. The location was the campus of the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, establishing a relationship that has extended to this day. Registration was set at $35 per person or $125 per quartet. The staff included Bob Johnson, Joe Liles and Dave Stevens and was augmented by a very talented group of Evergreeners (and a few Far Westerners) as coaches and instructors. The sessions, then as now, started on Friday evening and concluded by mid-day Sunday.

The 200 barbershoppers (including 96 men in 24 quartets) were high in their praise of this educational venture. In addition to coaching, there were classes in directing, arranging and craft plus the general sessions. Attendees spoke highly of the staff, the instruction, the facilities and even the food. This first session set a tone and standard that would be matched or bettered in the annual reoccurences of this great learning, singing and visiting weekend of harmony.

Another summer event was now attracting barbershoppers and families. Initiated in 1977 the Rocky Mountain Midsummer Glow took place in Virginia City, MT (northwest of Yellowstone National Park). This was a long weekend of clinics, woodshedding, quartet contests, chorus singing, shows, and a great time in a turn of the century mining town atmosphere with grand scenery and attractions around. The whole affair was sponsored by the Bozeman chapter and Division 5 men worked as coaches, instructors and directors in a most satisfying time. The Glow was held on the last weekend in July and for many years was the place to be for barbershoppers from all over.

On the first weekend in October Spokane hosted the 30th annual District Convention with the Sheraton as headquarters and the Opera House as the hall for all contest sessions. As advertised, everything was within walking distance, the Expo park was nearby and the friendly Spokane hosts awaited the arrival of Evergreen singers. Although none of them walked in, seventeen quartets did show up for the quartet contest. Benefiting from experience, well-honed ability, and a second place finish in 1977 the **New Rendition** from the Lake Washington, Sno-King and Snohomish County chapters (Gordon Smith, Dick Conner, Joe Cordell and Forrest LaMotte) won the championship. The **Aliens** from Mount Hood and the now renamed Tualatin Valley chapters came in second. Dave Burt was now singing bass with this great quartet. Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins and Chuck Olson continued at their regular slots. Coming in third for the second year in a row was the **Jackson County Roadshow and Touring Company**

The **New Rendition**, Lake Washington, Sno-King and Snohomish County, 1978 District Champions and one time International contestant. From Left, Gordon Smith, t, Dick Conner, l, Forrest LaMotte, bs and Joe Cordell, br.

from Medford (Bill Borah, Jerry McCollum, Wayne Horton and Jerry Ridgeway). Also in the finals were two Seattle quartets that would be heard from later — four young men in a quartet called **University Way** and four somewhat older men in a quartet called **Close Harmony Tradition**.

In the chorus competition 17 contestants tried for the prize. Portland was not to be denied, however, and, for the third year in a row, continuing under the direction of Steve Kyes, the **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men** took all the marbles home. The **Stampede City Chorus** from Calgary, directed by Don Welden, came in second and, directed by Denny Stiers, the Lake Washington **Skippers** took third.

Although Logopedics donations had lagged in 1977 and 1978, Evergreen earned good marks for a high level of contributions to the Expansion Fund.

1979

A change was made in the scheduling of COTS. Instead of being held as an end of the year event, it became a beginning of the year event, held in Bellevue (after the December gathering was cancelled). A new approach involved getting groups of officers together so that common concerns could be approached. The feeling was that the single officer class might be a bit too insular. There was praise for the school.

The 1979 Directory was put out by a new volunteer, Carl Nelson of the Seattle Chapter. This was a job that Carl would fill well and faithfully until after the district passed its fiftieth anniversary. The directory for the new year showed a few changes in the board. There were new faces in three division vice-presidential positions: Tucker Goodwin of the Vancouver Chapter took over Division 1, Dick Merritt of the Seattle Chapter took over Division 2 and Gordon Dale of Calgary served in Division 3. In addition, with the departure of Don Miller, Harry Neuwirth (Portland), Vice President for Division 4 also filled the Executive Vice President's post.

As planned, the new year also brought a new bulletin editor, "Stubby" Lahoski of the Canby Chapter. Harry Neuwirth, who must not have had enough to do, signed on as Business Agent. One of the first things they did was reduce the size of the bulletin so that standard sized paper could be used — thereby reducing printing costs. A revamped district budget permitted six issues for the year. In keeping with editorial prerogative, the masthead changed and the new editorial team charged ahead (old historians are grateful for the very substantial efforts of these hardworking heroes — without the bulletins, writing the history would be impossible).

The Puget Sound Basin chapters (five of them) were already organized into a planning committee for the expected 1982 International Convention. With the Seattle Center Coliseum to be the contest venue, the seating configuration would allow 12,600 seats. The desire was to fill every one of them. By spring the call had gone out for all artistic types to come up with logo ideas for the convention. Winner of the competition for best logo was to receive two registrations to the contests.

A note in March revealed that a former Great Falls chapter president had taken over an Area Counselor's position in Division 5. That man was Bun Strom, a name to be heard more often in the future.

Recognizing some inequities in allocation of quartets to district contest, a change was made to allow one more quartet each for Divisions 1 and 4. Allocations were now to be Div 1 - 3 quartets; 2 – 8 quartets; 3 - 2 quartets; 4 - 5 quartets and 5 - 2 quartets.

Spring Prelims were scheduled for the last weekend in April at Bellingham (Division 1 Contests would be held at the same time). In an effort to avoid the frequent stirring of delegates at House of Delegates meetings held on Saturday morning, the HOD meeting was scheduled for Friday night. It was hoped that this would mean that the delegates would stay in their seats for the whole meeting rather than running out (as was often the case on Saturday morning) to get to that final chorus warm-up session before contest. The experiment was noble but the session, held after the quartet elimination contest on Friday night was a real yawner. So the idea went in the Disposal and the House meeting went back to Saturday morning at the fall convention. Harry Neuwirth implored all chapters to delegate one man to be a real delegate, exempted from that final chorus warm-up so the House could stay on its legislative course.

One thing that the temporary movement of the HOD meeting to Friday night provided was the opportunity for a seminar on Saturday morning where the judging panel led discussions on categories, techniques, stage deportment and the like. The rescheduling did have that advantage.

In addition to the delegates, of course, twelve quartets showed up to compete for three places at the Minneapolis International and/or three spots for Division 1 quartets to go on to District contest in the fall. When the competing was over with, the three aspirants for International acclaim included the **Lion's Share** from the Lake Washington and Mount Baker Chapters (Dan Tangarone, Dick Clark, Chuck Landback and Stu Turner). Also going would be the **Aliens**, Tualatin Valley Chapter (Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Dave Burt) and **Sound Policy**, Burnaby Chapter, (Marty Lovick, Ken Wigbers, Brian Waplington and George Metzger). The alternate slot was won by **University Way** of Seattle (Ralph Scheving, John Lee Whitener, Ron Carlson and Dan Cornelissen). This new quartet missed the International cut by just one point.

A well-deserved award was given to Chuck Olson as District Barbershopper of the Year for 1978. Not only did Chuck serve the district well, he was a mainstay of his chapter and a strong barbershopper in every sense. One neat thing to see was that Bud Leabo had earned the Salem Chapter BOTY title for his work with the chapter where he was directing.

At the International Convention in Minneapolis Evergreeners (about 125 of them) gathered for an informal supper on Friday night (going on with what became a tradition for a number of years). With people spread all over town, the dinner provided a good chance to be with friends. There was a chance to recognize the district quartets. The **Lion's Share** finished just out of the money. Another three points and they would have made it to the semi-finals. They did sing as mike testers for the Friday afternoon semi-final contest. **Sound Policy** had come in 37th and the **Aliens** had placed 46th.

In the chorus contest the Portland chorus (with Steve Kyes directing) put on a New York City set built around a 1920's scene on the streets (including a flower cart with live flowers — obtained from a Minneapolis funeral home). Unfortunately, the Stage Presence judges felt the props dominated the scene and detracted from the musical performance. As a consequence, **The Rose City Music Men** came in 15th. The package was a good one, but the scoring problems made position poorer than all would have liked.

A special District Quartet School was held on the University of Washington campus in early September. Greg Lyne, dean of the school, said the purpose was to have the 16 quartets who showed up

University Way, Seattle, 1979 District Champions and two time International contestant. From the left, Ralph Scheving, t, Don Cornelissen, br, John Lee Whitener, l and Ron Carlson, br.

"singing better when they leave than when they came in." The faculty included Brian Beck and a group of very capable Evergreeners: Jim Blokzyl, George Cotton, Paul Graham, Bud Leabo, Charlie Metzger, Luke Powell, Bud Roberts and Stu Turner.The weekend was seen as a valuable experience for the quartet men who attended.

Calgary hosted the District convention on October 19 - 21. Seventeen quartets showed up for the semi-finals on Friday night. In standard fashion these were reduced to the eight which competed on Saturday night and the new District Champions turned out to be that bunch of bright-eyed young men from the Seattle chapter, **University Way**. The mostly student make-up of the group raised the thought that this must have been the youngest district Champ quartet in district history (two at 21 years of age, one at 23 and one at 26). But the grey beards quickly noted that the 1954 champion **Sharp Four** (from Eugene) was made up of four high school seniors. In both events a great example of Young Men In Harmony.

Second place was pulled down by **Sound Policy** of the Burnaby Chapter and third was taken by the **Aliens** of the Tualatin Valley and Mt. Hood Chapters. Personnel of all three quartets is shown above in the paragraphs devoted to the Spring Contest.

The Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Stu Turner, 1979 District Champions. This chorus went to International in Salt Lake City in 1980 wher, directed by Bob Jones, it earned a twelfth place.

Thirteen choruses were entered in the chorus competition and the new District Champion turned out to be the Lake Washington **Skippers** under the direction of Stu Turner. In second place was the host chapter's **Stampede City Chorus**, directed by Randy Peters. Portland's **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men**, under Steve Kyes, came in third. There was a new award at this contest, the Small Chorus Trophy. It was to be given to the best scoring chorus with 35 or fewer men on stage. The Tualatin Valley

Harmony Masters, under Chuck Olson, won this award. Those who were there would remember the Count Dracula in the cemetery set that the Tualatin ghouls put on.

1980

The previous year's rescheduled COTS session, held in January, had been deemed a success, so on the first weekend in January of the new year, Evergreen COTS was held at the Greenwood Inn in Bellevue. The timing, after the holiday rush, was seen as especially helpful. Some 220 officers and music men showed up for the training sessions led by Kenosha staff man Tom Cogan. The faculty came from throughout the Society and participants agreed that the sessions were well worth the time.

One of the groups that got together at COTS was PROBE, the PR people and the Bulletin Editors. They agreed to disband an offshoot group first organized in 1975 — the Associated PROBErs of Evergreen, known as APE in its heyday.

Harry Neuwirth of the Portland Chapter moved up to become the District President. Dick Merritt Division 2 Vice President from the Seattle Chapter took on the added responsibilities of Executive Vice President. There were two new faces in the division vice-presidential ranks: John Shadden of the Tualatin Valley Chapter for Division 4 and Charles Lehrman of the Twin Falls Chapter for Division 5. With a tight $34,000 budget the 1980 board set out to make 1980 a memorable year.

In the Logopedics field the lower mainland British Columbia chapters came through with another Barbershop Spectacular show in early March. The show featured **Classic Collection** and **Chicago News** as well as Evergreen's **University Way** and **Sound Policy** plus a combined chorus of 150 voices from the Burnaby, Langley, North Vancouver and Vancouver Chapters, under the direction of Bob Johnson. The Institute of Logopedics and the local Vancouver Oral Society each received more than $2,000.

The irrepressible and good-hearted Lee Wynne was back at personally raising money for the Institute. Lee planned a parachute jump for mid-October with all encouraged to guess his time to the ground and his distance from the target at $1.00 per guess. Subsequent bulletin issues do not reveal if this dare was successfully completed.

At the Society Mid-Winter Board meeting in January considerable concern was expressed over the projected availability of adequate hotel space in Seattle for the planned 1982 International Convention. Hotel space was under construction or planned, but the potential for delay was such that the board felt it best to substitute Pittsburgh for 1982, especially since the Pittsburgh people said they could be ready in time. Convention Chairman Dick Merritt expressed disappointment over the change but acknowledged that hotel space was a concern. Following negotiations it was determined that the Seattle Center Coliseum would be available in 1983 and the hotel situation should be improved. So the convention committee rededicated itself and began getting ready for a new date.

The Big Wheel contests continued in Division 1 and the March get-together was hosted by the Anacortes Chapter. An Anacortes entry, **Ideal Sounds** won all the awards. Personnel included Darryl Sjodin, John Rodriguez, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell. Some names to ponder there.

Word came out during the year that the **Lion's Share**, 1975 District Champion and four times competitor at International Contests, was retiring. Also, **New Rendition**, 1978 District Champion and International Contestant, was reported as temporarily sidelined but hopeful of coming back.

Legislative sessions in 1979 had approved a new formula for determining qualification for competing at the District Fall Convention. Beginning in 1980 each division was to be represented by one quartet and one chorus. In addition, each chorus and each quartet which scored 325 points or more in division contests would qualify to compete at the Fall Contest. The District C&J Committee was to evaluate each year's scores to determine if the qualifying score for the succeeding year should be raised or lowered.

These were the conditions under which competitors were operating at division, including the Spring International Preliminary Contest. For 1980 the district moved to its eastern edge. Great Falls hosted "Harmony Calls" on the last weekend in April. Division 5 held its chorus contest on Saturday afternoon and, in keeping with the new qualifying rules, the Division 5 Champions, **Rocky Mountainaires** from Missoula and Twin Falls' **Magichords** both qualified to go to Seattle in the fall. One of the delights of the convention had to be a mass sing in the seven story atrium of the headquarters Sheraton Inn — high level harmony there.

Fourteen quartets showed up to vie for the honor of representing Evergreen at Salt Lake City's International Contest. Three were chosen to make the trip. At the top of the heap, by just twenty points, was Seattle's **University Way** (Ralph Scheving, John Lee Whitener, Ron Carlson and Dan Cornelissen). Right behind the "boys" was Tacoma's new entry, **South Sounders** (Glenn Barnhart, Neal Booth, Bill Thurman and Tom Wilkie). Rounding out the trio was Burnaby's **Sound Policy**, making its second International appearance (Marty Lovick, Ken Wigbers, Brian Waplington and George Metzger). The **South Sounders** had been listed as the **South Sound Sailing & Singing Society** but that appellation had brought unwanted scoring problems when judges stated that their apparel did not match their sailing name, so a change of title (rather than clothes) seemed desirable. The **South Sounders** were also new enough to win the novice quartet award. The Alternate spot was awarded to the **Masters Touch** from the Calgary Chapter (Doug Marwood, Bob Robson, Mike Gibbs and Julius Bodor).

Starting from a long list of high-achievers, the district awarded its prestigious Barbershopper of the Year Award to the highest of the achievers, Burnaby's Charles Metzger, quartetter, coach, chairman of many committees and, best of all, instructor of most things barbershop.

International Convention was held in Salt Lake City. The location was handier to Evergreen attendees than most International conclaves, so attendance was good. Probably the most striking news to come out of the convention, for Evergreeners, was the International confirmation of what we already knew — that Burt Huish was presidential timber. Burt had joined the Society in 1963, chartered the Twin Falls Chapter in 1965, serving as both president and director, and had worked his way up through district offices until serving as president for the years 1974 and 1975. That was followed by terms as International Board member and as International Vice President. His district service was a natural precedent to his selection as International President to serve for the year 1981. Burt showed a rare combination of dedicated and efficient effort, common sense, administrative ability and the friendliness of a Will Rogers. Presidential timber indeed. Burt served as the only International President from our district. It was an honor for him and for the Society.

In the quartet competition the **South Sounders** sailed to a 29th place spot on their first International outing, only a little more than 50 points away from breaking into the top twenty. Only 40 points behind the **Sounders** at 37th and 39th place were Evergreens' other two entrants, **University Way** and **Sound Policy**.

Lake Washington **Skippers** chorus had handled the resignation of director Stu Turner in March and thrived under Bob Jones' direction. With 56 men on stage and earning a solid Sound score, the **Skippers** came in with a good 12th place position. On returning home the chapter thanked the district for the $1200 assistance (based on attendance at the Calgary convention the previous fall). The guys were also grateful for contributions from individual chapters.

In news of quartets, Bruce Foreman, bari (barracuda?) of the **Commencement Bay Flounders and Seafood Conspiracy** had had to resign. He was replaced by Roger Haag (formerly of the **Artesians**) and the quartet had been filling lots of dates. A neat wrinkle was reported by Tacoma's **Old Grandads** (Frank Lawson, Will Dergan, Steve Mondau and Dick Porter). The quartet toured businesses in Tacoma and its environs to sell ads for the show program. They performed in each establishment, then put on the pitch for an ad. The approach was described as quite successful. Tuneful, too.

In a sidelight, the **Skippers** bought, as rummage, mirrors from the Olympic Hotel (going through extensive renovation) and installed them in their rehearsal hall. Instant Stage Presence aid at a cost of only $175 plus a little tricky handling and installation.

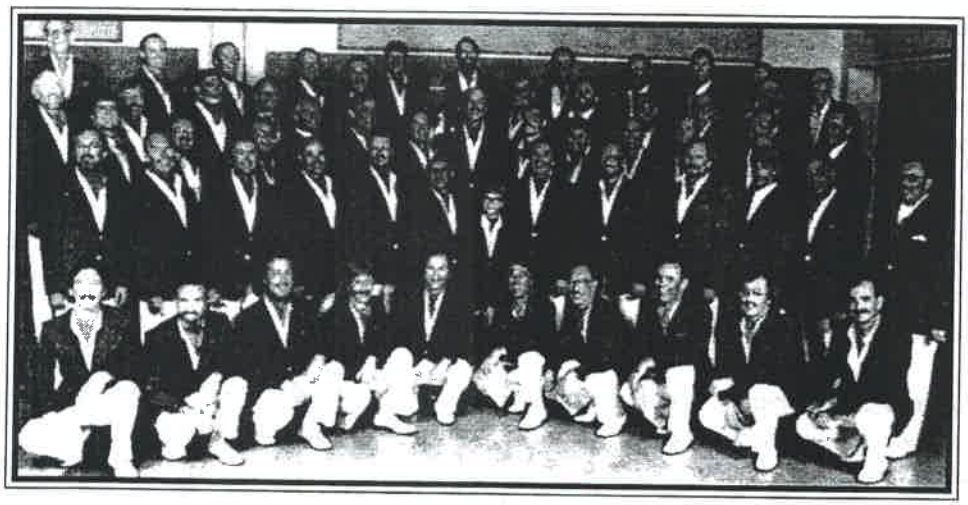
In mid-September, hosted by Salem, Division 4 enjoyed a "Harmony Festival." The idea was to have a division-wide get-together in a relaxed setting with no hint of competition. Family attendance was encouraged. The Salem Armory was a setting for a cabaret-style meeting with groups (choruses, quartets, octets and a massed chorus) coming up from the floor of the hall to perform on the stage. Division support was strong (the massed chorus was reported to have had 350 men in it) and the idea (developed by DME Steve Kyes and ADME Bud Leabo) was seen as a great one. Salem's Ken Jones, along with chapter president Bob Cox and Music VP Jerry Hutchings were praised as the spark plugs.

The District Convention was held in Seattle on October 24 to 26. Venue for the contest sessions was the still resplendent Opera House. In a change from the ordinary there was no headquarters hotel. Registration was carried out at the Opera House as were all the other functions. The Barbershoppers Shop, which Lee Wynn, of Spokane, had been handling, was transferred, voluntarily, to the hands of Bob Mahoney of the Seattle Chapter. The shop was handled well enough that Bob agreed to continue with the job, showing up at COTS and most division and district contests. Profits were transferred to Logopedics. The usual Convention Awards Banquet was dispensed with and attendees were encouraged to try local eateries to suit their taste. The big city met most such tastes and the convention was a success.

The **South Sounders**, Tacoma, 1980 District Champions and six time International contestants. From the left, Glenn Barnhart, t, Neal Booth, l, Bill Thurman, br and Tom Wilkie, bs.

Fifteen quartets showed up to compete for the District Championship. As usual the semi-finals were held on Friday night and the final eight met for competition on Saturday night. With a very solid win, the new District Champion Quartet was the **South Sounders** from Tacoma (Glenn Barnhart, Neal Booth, Bill Thurman and Tom Wilkie). Their performance

was a confirmation of the position they had set since the beginning of the year, and a pretty darn good one for the three young fellows who had been together in a high school quartet, plus old Bill. In second place was a new quartet from Portland, the **High Rollers** (Keith Dodson, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Dick McCormic — Dick was father to the other two Mac's). The **Aliens** came in third, making it five times that they had been in the top three in the district — persistence personified, along with their signature comedy; crowd favorites forever.



The Lake Washington **Skippers**, directed by Bob Jones, 1980 District Champions and a 12th place finisher at the 1981 International in Detroit.

In the chorus contest the Lake Washington **Skippers**, under the direction of Bob Jones, came back to win for the second year in a row. In second place, with Bill Flanigan back in the director's spot, was Seattle's **Seachordsmen**. Third place went to Bellingham's **Mount Baker Toppers**, under the joint direction of Denny Stiers and Stu Turner. The award for the Small Chorus Champs went to the Snohomish County **Doughboys**, directed by Brian Ayers, doing a World War I set.

Special mention was made of the fact that Evergreen had grown at a good rate during 1980, posting the fourth best gain (at 2.4%) of all the districts in the Society. Chapters making the largest gains included Eugene, Fairbanks, Helena, Kamloops, Kelowna, Kitsap County, Lake Washington, Lebanon, Lewiston, Medford, Roseburg, Salem and Sea-Tac.

1981

The year started with bad news. J. H. "Bud" Leabo, Mr. Evergreen, passed away on January 7. Bud had been around since the earliest days of the district, singing in a quartet (the Hills Creek Four) and helping organize the Eugene Chapter. For 34 years he had been a barbershopper of importance as director, judge, arranger, educator, coach and district administrator, dispensing advice and judgement of sterling worth, patinaed with a golden humor that all could enjoy. It was particularly during the early years of the district that Bud's worth was most valuable. There would have been a district without him, surely, but it would not have seen the level of organization, quality and purpose as quickly if he had not been so intensely involved from the start. All of us, those who knew him and those who followed after, are deeply in his debt.

It speaks to the character of the man that within three weeks of his passing, work had already been initiated to organize a scholarship fund in Bud's name. The fund, from modest beginnings, has grown to one which annually dispenses about $7,500 from a principal of almost$100,000. It assists Evergreen members in their efforts to learn more of their craft and of how to be better musicians. It is a tribute to the director and educator that Bud was that this namesake fund furthers the effort that he engaged in so willingly and with such fine results.

The COTS session, held on the weekend of January 10-11 (again in the Greenwood Inn in Bellevue) was carried out in the shadow of Bud's passing. One likes to think that Bud was there in spirit. Officers training schools had been district handled when Bud was in charge of music education and later when he was District President. The luxury of a Society-sponsored school for officers was still only a dream then. An innovation this year was the addition of a chorus director's class (under Lyle Pettigrew's tutelage — Lyle then held a staff position at Kenosha). Surely he followed in Bud's footsteps. Bud was reading from choral directors' text books when many (most?) of the district chorus directors thought that directing might be something you did on chapter meeting night (and at no other time). Yes, his presence was there.

The year, as always, started out with some new faces in positions of authority. Dick Merritt, of the Seattle Chapter, moved into the District President's office. The only change at the division vice-presidential level was in the movement of John Anglin (Spokane) into the Division 2 slot, replacing Dick. Tucker Goodwin, Division 1 Vice President, took over the executive vice-presidential duties. Ex-president Harry Neuwirth became International Board Member.

Another change for the new year occurred at the editorship of *Timbre*. "Stubby" Lahoski had been fighting the good fight very well for two years but for several months he had been seeking a replacement. A very able one was found in Mike Lanctot, who had been editing the Sno-King Chapter bulletin. Mike would fill the job capably and successfully for ten years. His very first issue with its cover showing Bud Leabo against a background of some of his arrangements was a fine start.

A change (again) was requested in the means for assisting the district's chorus entry at International competition. Representatives of the Lake Washington Chapter proposed that the $1.00 fee that was charged all participants at the fall District convention be raised to $5.00 and that the funds so generated be given the district chorus going to International. Discussion was purposeful and sincere and the spring House of Delegates meeting approved this proposal two to one. The board, in acknowledging this change agreed that there should no longer be a requirement that participants purchase all-events tickets.

January marked the tenth year that QCED (Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District) had gotten together for its annual meeting on Lopez Island (in the San Juan Islands of Washington). During those years since 1972 the group had established its reputation for putting on a show on the Friday night of the District Convention weekend. Proceeds from tickets had been used to further music education in the district and to support those quartets that went to International each year. At this current meeting the group pledged $500 to the new Bud Leabo Memorial Fund (among the first contributions to the fund, and, certainly, the largest early contribution), a thoughtful and highly appropriate donation in the name of education. The group also pledged $150 each to Evergreen's quartets to International that year.

March and April brought the annual division contests, with four of the five divisions holding contests. In all, 53 quartets competed and 26 qualified (exceeding the required 325 points). Thirty choruses competed also, and 15 of them qualified. A great contest was expected in the fall at Vancouver.

The Spring International Preliminary Contest was held in Portland on the last weekend in April. The Division 4 choruses and quartets were there also for the division contests. There were 25 quartets ready for the Friday night semi-finals, held in the ballroom of the Red Lion Motor Inn at Lloyd Center. As usual eight quartets made the cut for the Saturday night finals. Included in the eight were the **Representatives** from the Salem Chapter. Unfortunately, shortly before the Saturday night contest (at Benson High School auditorium) sickness struck and the quartet could not appear so only seven quartets worked through the finals. In a good, tight contest, the three quartets chosen to represent Evergreen at Detroit included two past district champions and, with the highest score, the still relatively new foursome from Portland, the **High Rollers** (Keith Dodson, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Dick McCormic). Not only did the quartet earn the right to go to International, but, as a new quartet with new men untried at the prelim level, it won the Al Frazer Quartet Award for "novice" quartet. Right behind the **Rollers** was **University Way** ('79 Champions) from Seattle (Ralph Scheving, John Lee Whitener, Ron Carlson and Dan Cornelissen). The **South Sounders** ('80 Champions) from Tacoma (Glenn Barnhart, Neal Booth, Bill Thurman and Tom Wilkie) rounded out this talented group. The alternate spot was taken by Portland's **Four Cheers** (Bob Lorenz, Bob Swanson, Vern Emra and Bud Roberts), back together again and just missing another chance to go to International.

The District Barbershopper of the Year Award was given to Steve Kyes, director of the Portland chapter chorus, District Music Educator, instructor on the COTS faculty and coach (in his spare time!). A new award was given this year: Area Counselor of the Year. The first winner was Bun Strom of the Great Falls Chapter and a Division 5 AC.

International Contest was held in Detroit with contests sessions in the Cobo Arena, only a short walk from convention headquarters in the huge Renaissance Center. The **South Sounders** sang their way to a 22nd place finish, only two positions and seven points out of the semi-finalists money. **University Way** came in 32nd in a tightly packed group of quartets. The **University** guys were singing their way to a parting for lead John Lee Whitener had taken a teaching job in Kenai, AK and the travel distance would make commuting impossible. The **High Rollers**, in their first International outing earned a 41st position.

Once again there was an Evergreen supper on Friday night. Special guests included International President Bert Huish and wife Gloria, International Executive Director Hugh Ingraham (once of Calgary) and wife Kay and Bob Godfrey, writer of so many wonderful songs. Evergreen's three quartets were there to entertain. The **Skippers** were there to host things and to take everyone's best wishes for the chorus contest on the morrow. In that contest, with 43 men on stage and under the direction of Bob Jones, **Lake Washington** came in twelfth.

And, away from all of the contests and singing, the International Board approved a dues increase of $3.00, to raise annual dues to $33.00. Inflation was still very much a part of everyday living.

Recognizing talent, PROBE (Public Relations Officers & Bulletin Editors) elected Evergreen's own Ray Heller to be its president. Ray was the current district Director of Communications and past district bulletin editor. He was the second Evergreen representative in this important slot (Harry Neuwirth had filled that position in 1978).

The district suffered another loss in July. Al Fraser, long time member from Calgary, District President, judge, coach, and all around great person, died of the cumulative effects of multiple sclerosis. Because of his illness, Al was seen in barbershop circles only rarely during his last years, but from the

early fifties until the early 70's, Al was a living dynamo, bringing an intense intellect and high purpose to his hobby. He is another reason that the Evergreen District reached the levels it reached as quickly as it did.

As had been the case for a number of years the district put on a mini-Harmony College in the summer. In 1981 it was held on August 21-23, later than usual. The location was still UPS in Tacoma. Dean this year was Kenosha's Lyle Pettigrew. Given well-deserved credit for organizing the affair was the ever-present Jim Blokzyl, acting in his capacity as ADME for Division 2. There were 215 guys at the school, including 112 in 28 quartets. Not only was a lot of craft and wisdom dispensed, everyone had a heck of a fine time.

The Fall Convention was scheduled for the first weekend in October. The four Vancouver chapters would host the affair under the chairmanship of Tucker Goodwin. He faced an early problem when a strike shut down the Canadian mail service. Ever resourceful, Tucker established a mailing address in the town of Custer, Washington and preparations proceeded apace.

The strike did not appear to diminish the tempo of the convention. The usual events proceeded as scheduled. There was a Ladies Breakfast on Saturday and a well-attended mass sing on Saturday afternoon. Individual hosts met and guided quartets and choruses. The QCED Show on Friday night showcased the **Most Happy Fellows**, the **Four Do Matics**, the **South Sounders**, **Fish**, and the **Model-T-Four**. A great time was had by everyone.

The **High Rollers**, Portland, 1981 District Champions and two time International contestant. From the left, Keith Dodson, t, Mike McCormic, l, Tim McCormic, br and Dick McCormic, bs.

Sixteen quartets showed up to vie for the championship of the district. Building on the momentum that they had been riding for the past year, Portland's **High Rollers** (Keith Dodson, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Dick McCormic) took the honors. Portland, as well as the Fort Vancouver Chapter, was also represented in the second place quartet, **Brothers and Others** (Will Fox, Darwin Scheel, Dick Williams and Fred Fox). And one of the convention host chapters, Burnaby, was represented in the third place quartet, **Vintage '81** (Marty Lovick, Wally Coe, Charlie Metzger and George Metzger).

Portland completed a sweep of singing honors when its **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men**, under Steve Kyes' leadership, won the chorus competition. Coming in second was Burnaby's **Gentlemen of Fortune** chorus, directed by Charles Metzger. Third place was taken by Eugene's **Cascade Chorus** now being directed by Mel Knight.

A sidelight to the chorus contest was the set put on by the Tualatin Valley **Harmony Masters**. The set had a cowboy theme and the chorus dressed to represent a down at the heels gang of old cowhands in a western setting, complete with cactus. In order to give the presentation some atmosphere, the chorus brought a bag of fresh cow manure to Vancouver (we're told that there was no trouble with this import at customs). The manure, in containers, was put under the risers and electric fans were placed to waft this subtle odor out into the auditorium and really set the tone for the set. The effect was not as desired. The

chorus almost gagged while waiting for the curtains to be opened and then, when the curtains were opened, there was a draft created (similar to when the damper is opened in a fireplace). The chorus gagged again, no odor made its way into the audience and our nose-challenged singers made the best of a stunt gone a bit askew.

The Portland **Close Harmony Music Men**, directed by Steve Kyes, 1981 District Champions. The chorus was unable to attend International in Pittsburgh in 1982, so the Burnaby Gentlemen of Fortune filled in for them capably.

Shortly after the convention the Portland Chapter notified the district that they would decline the opportunity to go to the International Convention in Pittsburgh. Director Steve Kyes had received word that he was to be transferred to the East Coast. The chorus did not feel it could quickly replace Steve and do a creditable job in the contest at Pittsburgh. Incidentally, Steve picked up on the east coast where he left off on the west, directing the Nashua, NH **Granite Statesmen** in a very creditable fashion, raising the chorus' level to the top rank of the Northeastern District. The Portland Chorus, of course, retained its Championship for the year 1981 but the bylaws of the district provided that the second place chorus could now represent the district at International if it wished. The Burnaby **Gentlemen of Fortune** did indeed wish to do just that and all hands immediately began excited preparations.

When Steve Kyes left Portland at the end of the year he was replaced by Tim McCormic (bari of the **High Rollers**) and Darwin Scheel (lead of the **Brothers and Others**) moved in as assistant. Each carried on as the son of a capable barbershop father.

The year saw the establishment of the District Hall of Fame. It was set up to give recognition and honor to those men who have made exceptional contributions to the district. The contributions were expected to have been made over a span of at least ten years. The committee to elect the members was to be made up of the district board. Any district member could recommend a person for this honor. District officers were to make nominations and the board would elect members.

Note should be made of the radio show that was heard twice a month on Sunday evenings in the Seattle area. Brian Ayres, director of the Snohomish County Chapter, hosted the hour long show of Barbershop music over radio station KRAB FM. Brian produced the whole thing using Society developed

tapes plus records of district quartets and choruses. "Barbershop Around the Sound" was a popular program and Brian did it almost single handed.

1982

Stability was the word for 1982. The entire board remained unchanged from 1981. Even the Director of Music Education, Chester Colpitts (of the Burnaby Chapter) and Associate Contest and Judging Chairman George Cotton (of North Vancouver) stayed on in their jobs. Ray Heller did step down as District Communications Officer. He was replaced by Ross Hood of the Burnaby Chapter.

COTS was again held early in January with 235 in attendance, including five officers from the just chartered (in December) Coeur d'Alene Chapter. The District Board met at the same time. As always, there was a lot of good fellowship, a lot of wisdom and a lot of harmony. However, the feeling had been developing that the date was too late for effective administrative planning, so, after a lot of discussion, efforts were made to determine if future COTS sessions could be held in November.

Although there was more than a year to go, organization for the 1983 International in Seattle was well underway as 1982 began. By April the winners of the Logo contest were announced: Cam Corey of the Seattle Chapter and Scott Corey of the Kitsap County Chapter did the innovative work (they each received registrations to the International). A similar request went out for the naming of the daily bulletin to be published all week at International. Evergreeners who went to the Pittsburgh convention in July helped by manning the booth that sold advance registrations to the 1983 event. The organization chart for managing the convention was imposing in itself and, not unsurprisingly, showed a page full of names of high achievers from around the Puget Sound area, including Chairman Dick Merritt (who must have been taking time off from his District Presidential duties) and Assistant Chairman Ray Packard.

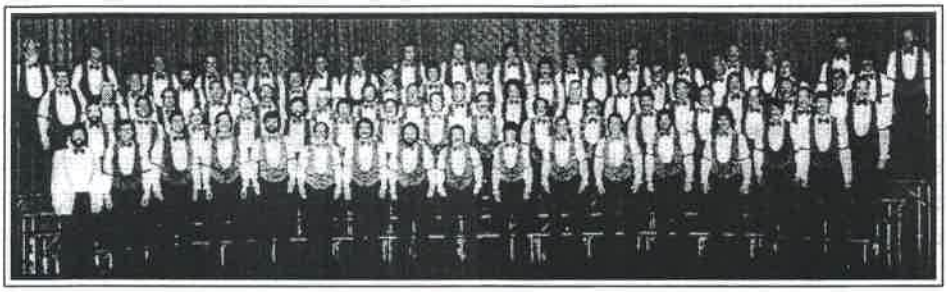
International Prelims and Division 2 Contests were held in Tacoma on April 23 and 24. Headquarters was the Sherwood Inn and the contests and show were held in the Mount Tahoma High School. Twenty-five quartets met in the semi-finals on Friday night and the eight finalists completed the job on Saturday. Three quartets won the right to go to the contest in Pittsburgh. The **South Sounders** (Tacoma), 1980 Champions (Glenn Barnhart, Neal Booth, Bill Thurman and Tom Wilkie) led the way. Burnaby's **Vintage '81**, (Marty Lovick, Wally Coe, Charlie Metzger, and George Metzger) building on a strong showing in the previous fall contest were raring to go and the 1981 Champions **High Rollers** from Portland (Keith Dodson, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Dick McCormic) made it three. Earning the Alternate spot was the **Queen City Four** from Snohomish County and Mount Baker (John Shay, Wes Sorstokke, Dick Dybvad and Stu Turner). The Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was presented to the **Boys' Night Out** from the Calgary Chapter (Rick Robson, Randy Peters, Bob Robson and Rob Macdonald).

Individual awards given at the convention included the Barbershopper of the Year (1981) which was presented to Bun Strom of the Great Falls Chapter. Bun had twice been his chapter's BOTY and had continued to serve as Area Counselor in Division 5. John Marchi of the Spokane Chapter won the award for Area Counselor of the Year, working in Division 2. And, in one of those neat things, Corey Knight of the Eugene Chapter (and son of director Mel Knight) won an AIC Scholarship. It's great that music runs in families.

The International Convention for 1982 was held in Pittsburgh as a result of a trade between Seattle and the old steel city. After originally scheduling it the other way around, concern had arisen over

availability of hotel space in Seattle in 1982 so the "readier" Pittsburgh filled in. Ready they may have been with hotel space, but the downtown area was deep in the construction (or reconstruction) of its subway. Crowds going to and from the Civic Arena and the headquarters in the old William Penn Hotel had to negotiate temporary walkways over and around the construction (which continued noisily into the night to avoid some of the traffic congestion associated with the work).

Evergreen's quartet entries in the 49 quartet International field performed well but could not crack the semi-finals. The **South Sounders** came in 32nd, the **High Rollers** were 44th and **Vintage '81** had a 44th place finish. **Vintage '81**, of course, was there with the **Gentlemen of Fortune** chorus from the Burnaby Chapter. The 78 guys that Burnaby put on the stage were highly pleased with their tenth place finish, only 61 points shy of a medal. The finish was the best an Evergreen chorus had done since Lake Washington had turned in a tenth place finish in 1966. Director Charlie Metzger had much to be proud of.



Burnaby's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger, reached a tenth place finish at the 1982 International in Pittsburgh.

Much was made of the fact that most of the Burnaby Chapter members were in Pittsburgh for the whole convention week, touring, site seeing, assisting at the Evergeen booth (where advance registrations were sold for the 1983 event). They also hosted a joint Evergreen-Ontario supper on Friday night and a joint hospitality room on Saturday night. As anyone who has been to one knows, International Conventions are a whole lot more than contests.

Word preceded the July convention that Bob Johnson, the Society's Director of Music Education, would retire on September 1. The convention was memorable for its roasting of Bob at the Saturday chorus contest. More emotionally memorable, however, was the mass sing at the Oliver Plaza on Friday morning, culminating in a heart-felt and spontaneous "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow." There was a lot of love felt and expressed in those simple lyrics.

Bob's departure brought another familiar face into the Director's office. Joe Liles was confirmed as the new Director of Music Education.

A new look came with the September/October issue of *Timbre*. Bulletin Editor Mike Lanctot reported that he had acquired a typesetter for his business and it was possible to use the machine to turn out *Timbre*. The "look" indeed was much better, but the real bonus was that the process permitted much more copy per page. Now, maybe, all the fit news could be fitted in.

From the Society's beginnings, financial transactions across the "border" had been handled with the Canadian dollar at par as each country's dollar advanced or declined. The differences were generally

less than 10% one way or the other. Starting in about 1978, however, the Canadian dollar began dropping relative to the U.S. one until it had reached a difference greater than 20 cents on the dollar. A serious consequence of this condition was that the Society calculated there had been a loss in excess of $33,000 in operating funds during 1981. Following study by a group of Canadian members, it was decided that it would be necessary for all purchases and services to be paid for in U.S. funds. The International Board, after much discussion, approved this step. Evergreen's Board and House of Delegates also approved the step, and, beginning on January 1, 1983, U.S. funds were required.

Portland was the site of the fall District Convention. It was held on October 22 - 24. The Marriott Hotel served as headquarters, and it was only a block from the Civic Auditorium where the contests were held. Twenty quartets and fifteen choruses showed up to test the judges' ability and to seek the crowd's wild approval. The quartet contest was a close one. First and second places were separated by only six points. The new District Champion Quartet was the **Cascade Connection**, a relatively new quartet from the Eugene Chapter made up of Jim DeBusman, Jerry Harrison (who had been there before with the **Bayshore Four**), Mel Knight and Reid Stewart. Just behind them, in second place, was another new combination, **Pacific Pride** from the Tualatin Valley, Portland and Lake Washington chapters and including Dan Tangarone, Bob Swanson, Chuck Landback and Bud Roberts. The **Aliens** made it back into the top three again, perennial favorites, loved by all. They still represented Tualatin Valley and included Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry.

The **Cascade Connection**, Eugene, 1982 District Champions and two time International contestants, From left, Jim DeBusman, t, Reid Stewart, bs, Jerry Harrison, l and Mel Knight, br.

Eugene made a sweep in the contests when the **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Mel Knight, took first place in the chorus contest. This meant that Eugene would get to sing on an Evergreen stage in Seattle in July

The Eugene **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Mel Knight, District Champions in 1982 and 1983 and International contestant in 1983 at Seattle (eight place) and in 1984 at St. Louis (14th place)

of 1983 (plans were already afoot to defray travel to International based on mileage rather than the full amount collected at the convention door). In second place was Burnaby's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger and in third was the Lake Washington **Skippers** chorus, directed by Bob Jones. Spokane's **Pages of Harmony**, directed by Ed Jeffers, won the Small Chorus Championship.

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

BUD LEABO **HUB STONE**

The district's Hall of Fame Committee had considered the names of twelve people nominated for membership in the Hall of Fame and had selected two names. Paul Extrom, chairman of the committee, announced that Bud Leabo and Hub Stone would be the first inductees to the Hall of Fame. It could have been no one else. Charter members of their chapters, pillars of the district from its inception, models for all to emulate, indefatigable leaders and great guys, these two men certainly deserved their honor. The Hall of Fame banner was displayed. It had been hand worked by Caroline Neuwirth. Also shown was the Hall of Fame Book with the names recorded.

For more years than most liked to consider, Society membership had stalled at about 37,000 men. Many programs to improve this number had been tried. Late in 1982 the most ambitious of all was laid out. The plan was a five-year one with the goal of 50,000 members by 1988, the Society's fiftieth year. The whole plan was gone over in detail and some really heavy hitters served on the organizing group. Much would be heard over the ensuing years from IMC's (International Membership Counselors), DMDC's (District Membership Development Coordinators) and a host of other good folks. The effort was intense, serious and sincere and it was pushed hard. It is a shame that, for whatever reasons of demographics, national attitude or lack of receptivity, the American male just does not seem ready, in significant numbers, to respond to the idea of harmony-induced fellowship. The program was followed, men came in and men went, but the overall numbers did not grow. The overwhelming question continues to be: if barbershop harmony is so great for the soul (and most of us believe it truly is), why do we have so much difficulty getting others to see the light? We can be grateful that the succeeding programs have succeeded to the extent that they have brought new people in. Without those new faces we would long since have dwindled away to a rag-tag few. The efforts have not been in vain, but it would be better if there were more of us.

COTS was rescheduled so that it occurred on the weekend of November 20, 21, still in the Greenwoood Inn in Bellevue. You can bet that the five-year membership plan received plenty of play there.

Notes to the ending year: word came along that one of the district quartets was retiring. The **Commencement Bay Flounders and Seafood Conspiracy** passed out an O-Fish-Al statement that after these many good years it was time for the 1976 District Champs to retire from active appearances. Also, early in the year it was learned that the Fort Vancouver had a new director in the person of Barrie Best, once the Society's Executive Director. He was responsible for breathing new life into the chapter.

1983

The new year saw a number of changes in the administration. Tucker Goodwin of the Vancouver Chapter became the new District President. Ray Heller of the Mount Baker Chapter moved into the vacated Division 1 vice-presidency. There were two other new Division Vice Presidents: Terry Crowe of Calgary in Division 3 and Bun Strom of Great Falls in Division 5. John Shadden (of the Tualatin Valley Chapter), in addition to his Division 4 vice-presidential duties, took over as Executive Vice President. Immediate Past President Dick Merritt became International Board Member but more importantly, his retirement from the District presidency gave him more time to work as General Chairman of the fast approaching International Convention in July.

Indeed, this 45th Annual Convention would be the biggest event of this 36th Evergreen year. Preparations would take lots of time, but the groups that were set up to handle the affairs of the convention would work well and the July 3 to July 9 week would see a great convention.

The eight chapters around Puget Sound (Seattle, Lake Washington, Sno-King, Sea-Tac, Kitsap County, Snohomish County, Tacoma and Olympia) would provide the manpower and womanpower to make the Convention go. People were being assigned to jobs (contacts and guides for choruses and quartets, for instance), facilities were being lined up, tours were being planned, equipment was being consigned and a lot of effort was being expended. Everyone wanted this extravaganza to reflect well on Evergreen.

But before the International Convention, Evergreen had to decide who would go. This required a trip to Great Falls where the Prelims were held (along with Division 5 contests). Headquarters was the Sheraton and contests were to be held in the Civic Center. Sixteen quartets showed up for the Friday night contest, eight of them from Division 5. Cost concerns resulted in a single panel of judges although the District C&J Committee felt a double panel would have been more appropriate. Double or not, three quartets were chosen to make the shorter and much more exciting trip to International in Seattle. Leading that trip was **Pacific Pride**, building upon their strong position in the Fall Contest. The quartet represented the Tualatin Valley and Lake Washington chapters and was made up of Dan Tangarone, Bob Swanson, Chuck Landback and Bud Roberts. The **South Sounders** had lost bari Bill Thurmon to an out-of-state transfer, but they had quickly reorganized, moving Neal Booth to bari and replacing him with Wes Sorstokke at lead. Glenn Barnhart and Tom Wilkie stayed on at tenor and bass. The third quartet selected was Eugene's **Cascade Connection** (Jim DeBusman, Jerry Harrison, Mel Knight and Reid Stewart). The alternate spot was taken by **Pacific Exchange** representing Mount Baker and Burnaby Chapters (Steve Kurtz, Dick Clark, Charlie Metzger and Gary Austin). The Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was won by Calgary's **Expressions**.

The Barbershopper of the Year Award (for the year 1982) was given to a well-deserving Tim Knight of the Eugene Chapter. Tim had served four times as chapter president and worked for the district as Area Counselor and ADME. Also, of course, he sang bass with the popular **McKenzie Touring Company**. Area Counselor of the Year was awarded to Ed Abel of the Kalispel Chapter.

Everyone who was at Great Falls remembers the mass sing on Saturday afternoon, held in the seven-story atrium of the Sheraton Hotel. If atriums have rafters they rang that afternoon. The trail led from Great Falls to Seattle, and the Puget Sound area was busy getting ready for everyone who would go from prelims to the big show.

Ten years after its first hosting of an International Convention, Evergreen got ready for its second, the 45th International Convention in Seattle. Articles and ads had been appearing in the *Harmonizer*. Registrations were running very well. Bookings for tours of Seattle, or to Snoqualmie Falls, to the Boeing 747 plant at Paine Field and for cruises were approaching sold-out status. There was additional action for cruises and tours to Alaska or the Canadian Rockies before and after the convention.

Sunday, July 3 arrived and the first guests began checking in at the headquarters Westin Hotel as well as all the other hotels in the circuit. Kenosha staff was setting up the Barbershopper's Shop in the Westin. Last minute details were ironed out. All the planning and hard work paid off with a very successful and long-remembered convention. There were some complaints that the sun didn't shine the whole time, but dampness was only an occasional concern — there wasn't any real rain. The mass sing on Friday morning was moved inside because of the threat of rain. The inside of the former World's Fair Food Circus made a fine place with the balconies and stairways filled with harmonious humanity. Busses ran from hotels to the Coliseum (where all the contests and the AIC show were held). The monorail hauled its share of passengers. Publicity was good. Seattle mayor Charles Royer proclaimed Harmony Week and the guests and participants demonstrated just what that meant.

Spokane's Lee Wynne, still Logopedics Chairman for the district, attracted pledges, this time, by walking — from Spokane to the Seattle Convention. He arrived at the Westin Hotel after noon on Wednesday of Convention week with checks totaling almost $2,000. Lee then joined other Logopedics Chairmen in selling tickets to the Logopedics Raffle. They were so successful that they exhausted the supply of tickets ahead of the raffle and netted $9,000 for the Institute.

Quartet quarter-finals were scheduled for noon on Thursday. Working as mike testers for both sessions was the district alternate quartet, **Pacific Exchange**. Handling the afternoon session as MC was Burnaby's own George Meehan, one-liner extraordinaire. Those first sessions required extraordinary MC's for there were delays. One was for a noisy fan. Of the air-circulating variety — too much of a whirr. And the other was for what was described as an electrical leak. The delays were long — almost an hour. MC Terry Clarke (bass of the **Boston Common**) did an absolutely masterful job of filling in. Amazingly, there was little grumbling.

When those quarter-finals were completed it was learned that one Evergreen quartet, **Pacific Pride**, had made it to the semi-finals. When the score sheets showed up later it was learned that the other two Evergreen entries had placed 27th (**South Sounders**) and 44th (**Cascade Connection**). The semi-finals were held Friday afternoon and **Pacific Pride** earned a very creditable 17th place finish. It had been six years since an Evergreen quartet had gotten beyond the quarter finals (back when the **Most Happy Fellows** were competing — and they had already performed at the AIC Show).

The chorus contest was held Saturday afternoon at 1 PM with 16 choruses doing their best. To test the mikes and warm the crowd, Burnaby's **Gentlemen of Fortune** chorus, with Charlie Metzger directing, served well. Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, with Mel Knight directing and with 101 men on stage, sang in the number 10 position, two spots after intermission. The Coliseum had a large partisan crowd and the ovation that Eugene received almost caused another electrical leak. The **Cascade** guys performed their way to an eighth place finish. It was the best placement for an Evergreen chorus since 1961, when Eugene had come in at the very same spot, eighth.

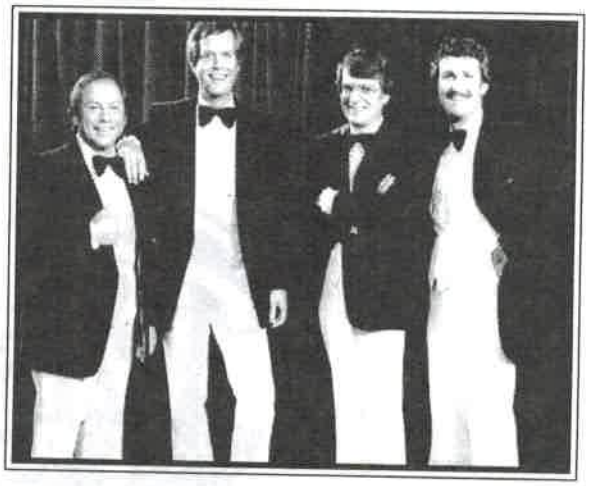
Sitting on the judges panel, judging Interpretation was Evergreen's (and Vancouver's) George Cotton.

Before anyone could really believe it, it was early Sunday morning. There was still a lot of woodshedding to be done and the hospitality rooms and Chorditorium would be lively for a few hours yet, but things were winding down. Most of the Barbershopper's Shop had been packed up. The last score sheets had disappeared. A few copies of editor Mike Lanctot's *Seattle Line* bulletin were still around. Slightly more than 10,000 registrants had signed in for the second largest convention in Society history. Financially this was the most profitable of International Conventions to date. There would be reviews and stories to tell and retell, but the main thing to say was that this "show" had been a great one. The encomiums were plentiful, sincere and highly positive. Evergreen and the Puget Sound chapters and a lot of dedicated people had pulled off a great one.

The summer was certainly not anticlimactic after that, but it did seem shorter than usual with hardly enough time to sample the Midsummer Glow in Bozeman, the Salmon Barbecue in Anacortes, the Chordbuster Campout in LaPine, the mini Hep School at UPS. There were many chapter and inter-chapter get-togethers while the warm weather lasted. One has to hay while the sun shines.

Division 2, made up of the state of Washington except for the chapters in Anacortes, Bellingham and Fort Vancouver, had been for some time the largest division in the district (in terms of the number of chapters). Beginning in 1979 a study had been initiated to determine how to efficiently manage a division this large. This study bore fruit in 1983 with a proposal that a new Division 6 be created out of the chapters in eastern Washington plus northern Idaho. The Board approved this arrangement in the spring of the year but the approach was not formalized until the House of Delegates meeting in the fall. The year 1984 would see the new division in place.

The District Contest was held September 30 - October 1 in Eugene. Convention Chairman Tim Knight promised a great weekend with the headquarters Hilton Hotel just across the street from the almost brand-new Hult Center for the Performing Arts. Things were as fine as promised and the attendees were properly impressed. Twenty-three quartets showed up to compete for top honors. The winner, by a 200 point margin (earned through a lot of recent experience), was **Pacific Pride** from the Lake Washington, Portland and Tualatin Valley Chapters (Dan Tangarone, Bob Swanson, Chuck Landback and Bud Roberts). Second and third place featured quartets new to the medal experience: **Harmonic Tremors**, representing the Anacortes, Mount Baker, Lake Washington and Olympia Chapters, (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell) and **Boy's Night Out**, Calgary (Rick Robson, Randy Peters, Bob Robson and Rob Macdonald).



Pacific Pride, Lake Washington, Portland and Tualatin Valley, 1983 District Champions and three time International contestants, From left, Dan Tangarone, t, Bob Swanson, l, Bud Roberts, bs and Chuck Landback, br.

Sixteen choruses went to the stage of the curve-laden Silva Concert Hall to seek the district championship along with the honor of going to the International Contest in St. Louis. The Eugene Chapter not only hosted a heck of a convention, the **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Mel Knight, put on a heck of a package, and, for the second year in a row, claimed the championship. Second place was won by the Lake

Washington **Skippers**, directed by Milt Christensen, and third went to Burnaby's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger. The Small Chorus Championship was awarded to Fort Vancouver's **Columbianaires**, directed by Barrie Best. The definition of a small chorus had been changed to reflect the size of the chapter rather than the number of singers on stage. The winner of the award was the best scoring chorus from a chapter with fewer than 40 members.

It is interesting to note that the judging panel, except for the Secretaries and Chairman, was made up entirely of Far Western District judges. The Evergreen people were all either on stage or otherwise tied up. In a sidelight, DACJC (District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman) George Cotton reported that International was not yet ready to allow the use of computers to produce official scoring summaries. Although there were programs that could produce such summaries, the concern was that they be compatible with other systems. The potential was understood, but things were not quite ready.

Harry Neuwirth reported that the five year membership plan was moving along with purpose. Two new chapters were welcomed into the fold, one at La Grande, OR and one at Port Angeles, WA. The latter was especially welcome for it marked the rebirth of a chapter that had been the first officially chartered chapter in what was to become the Evergreen District. That first chapter was the Elks Naval Lodge Chapter at Port Angeles, chartered on June 13, 1946.

COTS was held in mid-November at a new location, the Downtown Sheraton Hotel. Response, as always, was quite favorable — the faculty was praised, the courses were good, the location was acceptable. There was loud grumbling about the quality of the food, but strong representations were made to the effect that that would be changed for 1984 — after all an organization does have to set attainable goals.