MATURITY
1984 - 1997

In its 37th year Evergreen could certainly be described as mature. By now one of its quartets had won a gold medal. One of its members had served a distinguished year as the Society's president. The district had put on two remarkable and successful International conventions. Counsel of its members was respected and its contributions were welcome. Evergreen was a mature member of a mature Society. Its members would continue to pursue excellence in a style befitting its years and commitment.

1984

One thing that was not changed as the new year began was the make up of the District Board. Everyone stayed in the same position. The only difference was in the creation of the new Division 6. John Anglin (of the Spokane Chapter), who had been Vice President of the old Division 2 (which had been almost all of Washington) in effect stayed on as Vice President for the new Division 6 (eastern Washington and northern Idaho). Coming in as Vice President of the reconstituted Division 2 (western Washington except Anacortes, Bellingham and Fort Vancouver) was Norm Ediger of the Lake Washington Chapter.

As it had since 1972, QCED met in January at the Islander Lopez Inn on Lopez Island in Washington's San Juan Islands. Seven past Champion Quartets and a total of 36 men showed up for the gathering. As in past years, the attendees sang their way over to Lopez (on Washington State Ferries) sang most of the time they were there, and put on a show for guests at the Inn. They also met and elected officers, set goals and discussed means of supporting quartet activity, including the dispensing of their funds to quartet travel, education, the Leabo Fund and Logopedics.

This turned out to be the last gathering of QCED on Lopez. In a move to reach more people and further improve their ability to fund their goals, the group would move the site of their January meeting to Seaside, OR. The local Chamber offered accommodations in return for QCED providing a show and the fortuitous relationship of timing, audience and great talent has established a tradition of a great weekend for participants and audiences alike.

The Mount Baker Toppers (Bellingham) put on their ninth annual Young Men In Harmony contest at their annual show in April. John Boyd, past District Treasurer, had been YMIH Chairman for a number of years and had made a project of contacting high school music teachers throughout the district. One of the features of the program was the annual high school quartet contest, open to any group from through out the district. Cash prizes were awarded to first, second and third place quartets. For the 1984 outing, four quartets competed and the harmonious effect was appreciated by all.

Early in the year word came in that John Lee Whitener, former lead of University Way, was directing the Anchorage Chorus.

The contest season came with spring and it brought a change in how quartets and choruses would be selected for competition at District in the fall. The minimum required score to qualify was raised from 325 points to 335. In division contests, Divisions 2 and 6, not quite ready for the new locations, held a joint division contest in Coeur d'Alene. The relatively new chapter there hosted a great convention and then the two divisions made their separation official. There was a different type of spring time joining for Division 5.

It joined with the Rocky Mountain District for the RMD Quartet Preliminaries (and RMD Division 1 Contest) in Idaho Falls. By all reports, this was another great convention.

Evergreen's Spring Preliminaries were held on the last weekend in April in Salem. Headquarters was the Chumaree Comfortel and the contest site was Smith Auditorium at Willamette University. The Division 4 contests were held in conjunction with the Prelims. An interesting feature of the division chorus contest was that Darwin Scheel directed both the Mount Hood chorus and the Portland chorus. There seemed no other way that both choruses could appear and George Cotton, as DCAJC, approved.

There were 25 quartets in the semi-finals on Friday night and eight in the Finals. There were three selected to go to the International Contest in St. Louis. And that trio of quartets looked just like the three that had represented Evergreen at Seattle in 1983. **Pacific Pride**, representing Tualatin Valley, Portland and Lake Washington (Dan Tangarone, Bob Swanson, Chuck Landback and Bud Roberts) earned the highest score (almost 130 points in front). They obviously rehearsed well when they traveled the 180 miles that separated the two sides of the quartet. Also in the top three were **Cascade Connection** from Eugene (Jim DeBusman, Jerry Harrison, Mel Knight and Reid Stewart) and the **South Sounders**, Tacoma and Snohomish County (Glenn Barnhart, Wes Sorstokke, Neal Booth and Tom Wilkie). The alternate quartet, missing by just three points, was **Harmony Heights** from Canby (Ken Daniels, Darwin Scheel, Caric Mitts and Chuck Stevens). **Harmony Heights** also won the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award.

Bob Cox of the Salem Chapter won the District Barbershopper of the Year award for 1983. Cited were his chapter and district efforts which included Program Vice President and chairman of the Division Contest along with work as an area counselor and a willing and supportive hand at anything that needed doing. Selected as Area Counselor of the Year was Chuck Gustafson of the Vancouver Chapter. It was noted that not only was Chuck a great area counselor, he was serving as a District Membership Counselor. Ted Chamberlain (of the Seattle Chapter) was named, for the second year in a row, as the recipient of an AIC Scholarship. It was noted that Ted was a section leader and quartet man and that he was attending Seattle Pacific University where he was a music major.

The Society, by 1984, was into the third year of its big, well-organized Five Year Plan for increasing membership to 50,000 by 1988. As with all plans, there had been changes, additions and subtractions, but the idea was still being pushed hard. Unfortunately, one of the changes was a reduction in the goal for total members. New people were showing up but not enough. At the Evergreen level, Harry Neuwirth retired in early spring as District Membership Development Coordinator. Harry had done good work, especially in extension. He had also served the district long and well and the resignation was accepted with regrets. John Marchi, of the Spokane Chapter, and already on the active membership Committee, was appointed in Harry's place. The challenge of how to increase membership remained.

St. Louis hosted the 46th International Convention. As always, the week fell around July 4th. As always, the host city celebrated on the Fourth. In St Louis that involved a larger celebration than most with over a million people expected in town that day (Wednesday, a day when a lot of people would be arriving and when the AIC Show would be held). Hotel security was stringent and Kenosha sent out special passes that would be necessary for anyone wanting to get into his hotel. The crowds were something, but the convention went on anyhow and harmony filled the air when we met in St. Louis.

There were 47 quartets entered in the competition and Evergreen's three contestants gave it their all to good applause. They were, however unable to break into the top twenty although **Pacific Pride**, at the 22nd spot, was only 11 points away from making it to the semi-finals. The **South Sounders** came in 34th

and **Cascade Connection** came in 39th. All three quartets improved on their scores from the year before. As has been noted about competition, so did all the other quartets. In the chorus competition, Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Mel Knight, came in 14th, losing some ground on the previous year's performance, but ready to go out and do it again, only better.

The Mid-Summer Glow was held for the ninth year at Virginia City, MT. Kenosha staffer Dave Stevens made it to the gathering and helped with the quartet training session on Saturday morning. He also gave his patented presentation on barbershop style. The weekend was the usual mix of woodshedding, performing, shows, training and some great meals, including a buffalo barbecue and a Saturday night (midnight) pancake feed. All just great camaraderie and harmony, ending on Sunday morning with hymns at the small Episcopal Church in town. Dave was impressed. Everyone was happy.

Mini-Harmony College was again held at UPS in Tacoma in the middle of August. Neal Booth took over the chairmanship of this event, building on the good foundation that Jim Blokzyl had established in previous years. He was aided by the District Director of Music Education, Tom Bates. The staff was built around Bob Johnson, Burt Szabo and Dave Stevens and was fleshed out with a group of great Evergreen experts. With 250 in attendance the gathering was described as the biggest ever.

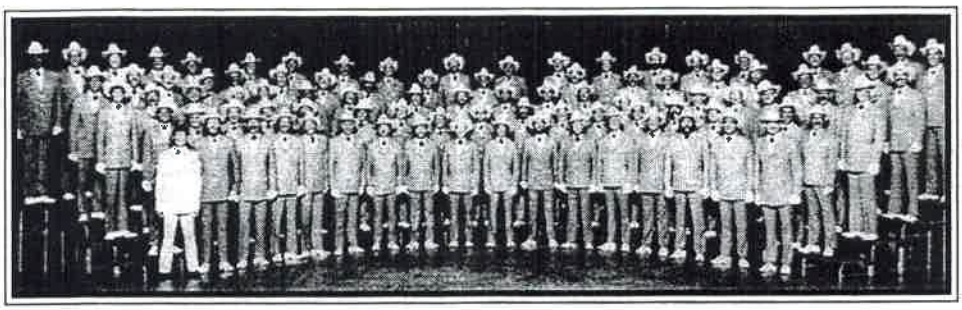
The fall convention was held on October 19 to 21 in Spokane. The weather was bright and clear, if a bit chilly. Barbershoppers soon warmed the air with harmony. Skip Stiles and his convention team welcomed everyone at the Inn at the Park headquarters hotel. This was only a short walk away from the contest site at the Riverpark Center Opera House.

Harmonic Tremors, Anacortes, Kitsap County and Mt. Baker, 1984 District Champions and five time International contestants. From the left, Ralph Scheving, t, Doug Broersma, l, Clay Campbell, bs and Matt Campbell, br.

The eighteen quartets that entered the contest were trimmed to eight for the Saturday night finals. The new champions emerging from that intense fray were the **Harmonic Tremors** from the Anacortes, Kitsap County and Mount Baker chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Cambell and Clay Campbell). This relatively new quartet had developed quickly, combining a lot of talent with hard work and the experience of tenor Ralph Scheving, formerly of **University Way**. Second place went to Canby's **Harmony Heights** (Ken Daniels, Darwin Scheel, Caric Mitts and Chuck Stevens), building on a good performance at the prelims. Third place was picked up by **Pacific Exchange** of the Mount Baker and Burnaby Chapters (Steve Kurtz, Dick Clark, Charlie Metzger and Gary Austin).

The Calgary chorus and three quartets faced a big concern for, while the weather may have been good in Spokane, the snow was flying in Calgary. On top of that their airplane needed repair work. Weather and mechanical difficulties could give any group pause, but the gang got in just in the nick of time and it was clear, when the chorus contest time arrived on Saturday afternoon, that the guys from Calgary, white hats and all, were loaded for bear. Under Randy Peter's direction the **Stampede City Chorus** won the District Championship and the chance to go to International the next summer in Minneapolis. With Chuck Olson back as director, after a brief sabbatical, the **Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters** took a well- deserved

second place after earning a standing ovation for their Caveman set. In third place, celebrating in their own hometown, was Spokane's **Pages of Harmony**, directed by Jeff Mahan. There was no Small Chorus Award because no small chorus had qualified to go to the district contest.



Calgary's **Stampede City Chorus**, directed by Randy Peters, 1984 District Champions and holder of a 13th place finish at the 1985 International in Minneapolis.

Eugene's **Cascade Chorus** did not compete, but the guys were there to pass along the chorus trophy and also a check for $1,000 to put in Calgary's travel fund. Spokane was celebrating the tenth anniversary of its World's Fair (Evergreen's District Convention had been there for that) and the celebration was climaxed with a fireworks display that coincided with the conclusion of the Saturday night show — a spectacular end to a great weekend.

The Portland area barbershoppers had been through some difficult times. The Fort Vancouver Chapter was dropping in membership in spite of good intentions. The Portland Chapter had been a long time finding a permanent director. They finally found a fine one in Dave Leeder, formerly director of the Tucson Chapter chorus. The core of a new group was forming in the area. For the present it was calling itself West Portland and, when chartering time came, Portland would be the sponsor. Another new group was showing life up river from Portland, encouraged by the Mount Hood Chapter, and had licensed as the Mid-Columbia Gorge chapter.

After hearing tales of the appetite-filling Tater Pigs for a number of years, *Timbre* Editor Mike Lanctot finally searched out the facts behind this epicurean delight. Mel Mueller of the Twin Falls Chapter, following up on something he had seen in California, sold the idea to the Magichords. Tater Pigs are made by baking a half pound Idaho potato with a link sausage inside. Turned out to be a great eating treat. And not a bad money maker at the County Fair.

COTS was held in mid-November, again at the Seattle Sheraton. A goodly crowd of almost 220 gathered to be instructed and entertained. Dean Bob Royce kept things moving and the location was again praised. Once again, though, the food got a poor rating. The goal of improving meals was not met. Sometimes one has to accept small failures.

1985

There were some board changes to go with the year change. John Shadden, of the Tualatin Valley Chapter moved up to the District President's post. Ray Heller, Mount Baker, took over the Executive Vice President's role in addition to his duties as Vice President of Division 1. Tim Knight, Eugene, became Vice President for Division 4. In important committee changes, Bob Cox, Salem, became Director of Music

Education, Bill Frazier, Eugene, became DACJC and Carl Nelson, Seattle, became District Communications Officer.

One of the first events of the year was the QCED meeting in mid-January. For the first time it was held at the Convention Center in Seaside, Oregon. Bob Swanson coordinated the get-together through the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. District President John Shadden attended the QCED meeting and emphasized that the group could have a strong positive influence on the district. The group, under President Reid Stewart's leadership, set out to improve arrangements for its annual show at District Contest.It agreed to provide financials to the district. It also sought to help provide a coaching session in 1986 for the quartets going to International and to donate money to Logopedics, the Bud Leabo Fund and to the quartets going to International.

The gang put on a cabaret show on Saturday night featuring the **Custom Arrangement** (one from the **Westernaires** and three from **New Rendition**), **South Sounders**, **Cascade Connection**, **Pacific Pride**, and **Harmonic Tremors**). The group also asked the **Aliens** to come in as the headliners. This gave QCED the chance to present the **Aliens** with a plaque making them lifetime members of QCED whether or not they were ever to win a district championship. About 700 tickets were sold to the show. That assured a financial success to go with the entertainment success that was assured from the outset. Everyone agreed that the venture was a great idea and, indeed, the January QCED show became an annual well-received fixture.

The **Aliens**, welcomed into QCED after years of entertaining service.
Jim Richards, t, Bob Wiggins, l
Jay Thornberry, bs and Chuck Olson, br.

Also early in the year word arrived from Kenosha that Tom Cogan, the Society's Manager of Membership Development, was no longer with the organization and his position had been eliminated. The Five Year Membership Plan's mileposts were still around, for John Marchi, the District Membership Development Chairman noted early on that 1985 would have to see a net increase of 275 members in Evergreen to meet the goal set earlier. But in spite of urging, promotion, programs and even some hectoring, there was not a big response. The gain for the year was only ten members. It was clear by now that there could not be 50,000 members in the Society for its fiftieth birthday in 1988.

The inability to grow, even to the 40,000 mark, would continue to be a major frustration for the Society. There would be new programs and new approaches, all aimed at increasing total membership. But the total seemed to hang between 35,000 and 38,000.

Spring arrived and brought the flowers and the division contest season. Division 4 held its contest in Eugene and welcomed a new entrant. The West Portland Chapter licensed early in the year, welcomed by the **Rose City Close Harmony Music Men** (the "new" guys even attended Portland's Officer Installation event). They took the name **Vocal Gentry** and received their charter just in time to enter the Division Contest. Under Tim McCormic's direction they came in third.

Divisions 2 and 6 combined their contests again, meeting this time in the Tri-Cities area of Eastern Washington. Eleven choruses and nine quartets showed up for this convention.

The Prelims were held in Burnaby on April 19 to 21. There were fourteen quartets entered in the competition. The three quartets that earned the right to go to Minneapolis included the **South Sounders** from Tacoma (Glenn Barnhart, Wes Sorstokke, Neal Booth, and Tom Wilkie). Also going would be **Harmonic Tremors** from the Anacortes, Kitsap County, Lake Washington and Mount Baker Chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Campbell and Clay Cambell) and **Pacific Pride**, Lake Washington and Tualatin Valley (Dan Tangarone, Bob Swanson, Chuck Landback and Bud Roberts). **Harmonic Tremors** would be making its first International jaunt, but the **Sounders** and **Pacific Pride** would be going for the third year in a row. The alternate spot was won by **Pacific Exchange** of the Burnaby and Mount Baker chapters (Rob Hood, Dick Clark, Charlie Metzger and Gary Austin). **Canadian Club**, of Langley (David Critchley, Gordon Harris, David Anderson and Rod McKenzie) won the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award.

John Marchi, Spokane, was named the District Barbershopper of the Year for his hard work as District Membership Development Coordinator and for being a spark plug of his own chapter.

The Calgary people had been working on a bid for the 1989 International Convention but had to withdraw when expected facilities became unavailable. Nothing daunted, the Calgary crowd would try again.

Two significant departures occurred over the year. Jim DeBusman left after school was out in June to go to Kenosha as a Music Generalist. Before the year was out, Mel Knight joined him there as a Music Specialist. As staff members they would now share their considerable knowledge, talent, ability and humor with the whole society rather than just Evergreen. At the time they left the Eugene Chapter they were assistant director and director, respectively, of the chorus and an obviously vital part of the chapter. As tenor and as baritone the two of them were, clearly, half of **Cascade Connection**. As with any good organization, the chapter did a great job of weathering their departure and the quartet found ways to stay together for the satisfaction of all its fans. Jim's and Mel's work at Kenosha and throughout the Society was and has been on the high level of all the Kenosha staff. It is the stuff that has energized and preserved the Society. We can all be proud that our Evergreeners, Jim and Mel, measured up to the standards set by all of the folks from Kenosha.

The International Convention in Minneapolis saw the usual gathering of Evergreen devotees and the support for its representatives was as strong as ever. The three quartets went out and did their best in the evermore intensive competition that International is. **Harmonic Tremors**, in its first such effort earned a 31st place finish. The **South Sounders** came in 34th and **Pacific Pride** was 44th. In the chorus contest, Calgary's **Stampede City Chorus**, 90 strong and directed by Randy Peters, came in 13th.

Late in August a special gathering occurred in Portland, fostered by some "old-timers" in the hobby. Called "Four-Part Memories" it was designed as a Northwest Reunion of Barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines. Most of the weekend was given over to reminiscing, but there was a Saturday evening show scheduled to include Bob Perkins as MC and the **Bay Shore Four**, **Bright Side**, the **Four Do Matics**, the **Representatives**, and the **Most Happy Fellows** plus Sweet Adeline Quartets. A good weekend for all.

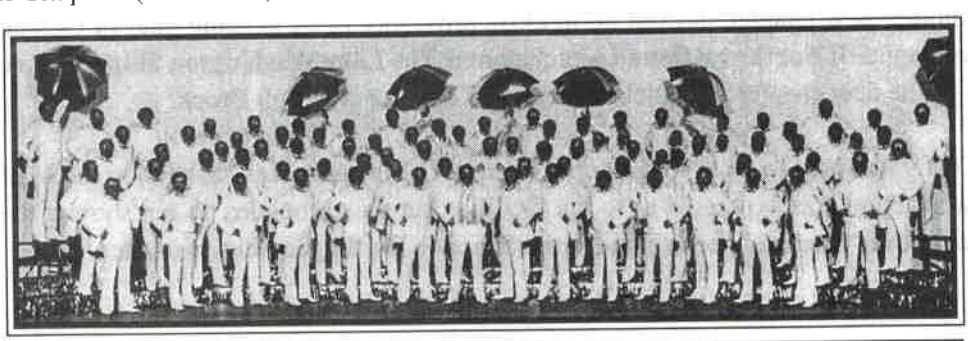
As usual, summer officially ended with the Harmony Hollow celebration held on Labor Day weekend. This year it was celebrated at a new location, the Cultus Lake site no longer being available. The new location was at White Rock, BC, just north of the border, with generally better facilities perched on a

high bank above Boundary Bay. The fellowship and harmony quickly fit into the new location and all had a great weekend.

For the fall contest new rules had been instituted regarding registration of choruses and quartets to compete. These were designed to overcome the problems of determining just who was going to compete. A drawing for position of the eligible groups was held in mid-June. Those not intending to compete were expected to communicate that intention so potential substitutes could be contacted. Finally, all those who intended to compete were required to confirm their intentions by registering no later than two weeks in advance of the contest.

Golden Heritage, West Portland, 1985 District Champions and one time International contestants. Tim McCormic, br, Paul Krenz, t, Mike McCormic, l and Lowell Smith, bs.

Following these procedures, 19 quartets and 12 choruses (out of the 27 quartets and 20 choruses that had qualified) showed up in Portland on the weekend of October 18 to 20. The headquarters hotel was the Marriott, only a block and a half away from the Portland Civic Auditorium. A recently organized quartet from the recently organized West Portland Chapter won the Championship. The quartet, filled with good, experienced singers was **Golden Heritage** (Paul Krenz, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Lowell Smith). In second place, making a legitimate try for the championship, in spite of already being accepted into QCED, was Tualatin Valley's **Aliens** (Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry). Third place was won by **Pacific Exchange** of Burnaby and Mount Baker Chapters (Bob Hood, Dick Clark, Charlie Metzger and Gary Austin.



The Eugene Cascade Chorus, directed by Denny Stiers, 1985 District Champions and holder of a 14th place finish at the 1986 International at Salt Lake City.

In the chorus contest it was exciting to see the presence of the **Cascade Chorus** from Eugene. Director Mel Knight had only recently left for his new staff position in Kenosha and the group needed a good replacement quickly. They could hardly have done better than to obtain Denny Stiers, who moved in and quickly took over a group that was already trained and raring to go. The Eugene crew took the championship with more than sixty points to spare. They would represent Evergreen at Salt Lake City the next July. In second place, leading his knights, was Chuck Olson and the **Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters**. Third place was won by the Salem **Senate-Aires**, directed by Jack Cutsforth.

A quick look at the medalists showed that Division 4 had taken five of the available six spots — they missed only the third place medal in the quartet contest. Those Ducks and Beavers were a pretty proud bunch — and deservedly so.

Lee Wynne, Chairman of the Logopedics Committee, retired after ten years. Lee was a strong supporter of the Institute and had gone to considerable lengths (including bike rides to San Francisco and Philadelphia, a walk from his Spokane home to Seattle, and one jump from an airplane) to publicize the need for donations. His efforts worked, for during his time as Chairman, Evergreen annual donations increased from very nominal amounts to more than $20,000. He helped make us all better people, a legacy anyone should aspire to. The man who would seek to fill his shoes was Steve Mondau of the Tacoma Chapter.

The District noted that it was one issue short of a full year for *Timbre*. Toward the end of the year the man who did the printing suffered a heart attack and there was no fall issue. However, following by-pass surgery, he was back and the November/December issue made it out to the district. Editor Mike Lanctot noted, though, that there would be only five issue in 1986. Budget constraints pushed the district into a position where cuts had to be made and cutting one issue of *Timbre* would help cut costs.

From this another tale hung. The Board, meeting in November, spent considerable time on how to overcome the deficit situation the district was facing. Several options were considered, but the brass really wanted to avoid a dues increase. Among other things, a plea went out to the general membership, asking that the members: "Tell us what we can do to cut costs or increase revenue without increasing dues."

In changes of note, the **South Sounders** reported that they would be retiring due to bass Tom Wilkie having to move to California. Also, Brian Ayers, after twelve years, was retiring as director of the Snohomish County **Windjammers**.

Another new chapter showed up in close proximity to an existing one. In October the Bellevue Chapter, calling itself **Northwest Sound** was chartered. The **Lake Washington Skippers** served as sponsors. President of the new chapter was Dick Dybvad and director was Bob Brock.

COTS was held in mid-November in Seattle. The location was changed to the Madison Hotel and general satisfaction was expressed as to the facilities but the chronicles do not show if the food was any improvement over what had been served at the Sheraton for the previous two years.

1986

The year started out with a Board that showed only one change. The position of Division Vice President for Division 2 was filled by Walt Paulsen of the Tacoma Chapter. The expected strength of continuity did not last, however. Before the Spring Convention even arrived Executive Vice President Ray Heller had resigned due to a move to California. John Anglin, Division 6 Vice President, moved into the Executive Vice President's office to finish out the year.

QCED put on its annual show in Seaside on January 18 and entertained a sell-out crowd. Profits were sufficient to assure that QCED would be able to sponsor a weekend clinic, staffed by Internationally recognized coaches, to work with the three quartets selected to compete at International in Salt Lake City. Also, QCED would be providing four scholarships to Harmony College to worthy Evergreen applicants.

The move to Seaside had provided the means for QCED to make this significant contribution to the potential betterment of the district.

Late in January, in Tucson, at the Mid-Winter Convention, the first International Seniors Quartet Contest was held. The requirements were simple. The quartet had to be registered, the cumulative age of the members had to be at least 240 and all members had to be at least 55 years of age. Quartets simply filled out the registration form and showed up. Seattle/Lake Washington's **Close Harmony Tradition** figured this was just what they were looking for. Baritone Bob Mahony expected to be leaving shortly for a job-related transfer to Massachusetts and this would give them a chance, before that transfer, to try International competition. So, Dick Merritt, Mitch Mitchell, Bob, and Chuck Benson went to Tucson, entered the competition, along with 17 other quartets from around the Society and did well enough to win a third place medal. That made a fine going away gift for Bob although he didn't actually depart until September.

Bob Mahony's departure resulted in another change. He had been operating the Barbershopper's Shop since early 1981 (when he set the shop up at COTS). The shop was a mini-sized version of the Harmony Hall merchandise operation where tapes, records, clothing, emblems and other good barbershop stuff could be bought at standard prices (no shipping). Bob set the shop up at contest sites and other special events. Profits were turned over to Logopedics, following the direction of his predecessor in the job, Lee Wynne.

A fine replacement for Bob was found in the person of Paul Tomacich. Paul not only brought the shop to contests and special events, he would bring it to any annual show if the show chairman sent in a request and Paul had the time. This selfless service has continued to this date. The effort required to move the merchandise from home to show site and back on so many weekends each year is something akin to moving most of your household goods over a year's time. The district is most fortunate to have Paul around. As faithful as Paul is his wife, Betty, who can usually be found with him, moving the goods into the shop, operating the cash registers, and then moving the material back home. The dedication and generosity of this couple is matched by their good nature. It is truly a heartening story.

During the first months of the year there was considerable discussion of what to do about the district's continuing financial concerns. While there was reluctance to ask for a dues increase it was noted that it had been ten years since the last increase and that two years of deficit operations could not be continued. A number of thoughtful alternatives were developed by the board and presented to the House of Delegates. The solution adopted was to increase the annual district dues by $5.00 and eliminate the existing $5.00 fall contest registration fee. This provided more money while the district would still make a contribution to the Chorus to International travel funds. Raising funds is an always taxing activity, not well-liked by any of the participants, but this solution seemed appropriate and was expected to keep the district solvent for a time.

The House of Delegates meeting was held at the Executel in Federal Way, WA, site of the Spring Prelims hosted by the Sea-Tac Chapter. Contest sessions were held at the Performing Arts Center in Auburn. Along with the prelims Divisions 2 and 6 combined their annual competitions. There were 31 quartets at the Performing arts Center on Friday night. They vied for the three slots at International and for Divisions 2 and 6 honors. The three who won the chance for a trip to Salt Lake City were **Harmonic Tremors** (back to try it for the second time) from the Anacortes, Bellevue and Mount Baker Chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell), **Golden Heritage** (primed by their winning the District Championship the previous fall) from the West Portland Chapter (Paul Krenz, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Lowell Smith), and **Easy Street** (a new quartet with some highly seasoned

singers) from the Bellevue and Tacoma Chapters (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte).

Earning the Alternate's role for the third time was **Pacific Exchange** of the New Westminster (the Burnaby Chapter had officially changed its name this year) and Mount Baker Chapters (Bob Hood, Dick Clark, Charlie Metzger and Gary Austin). This foursome missed the chance at Salt Lake City by just seven points so the disappointment may have been more intense. The winners of the Al Fraser Novice quartet award were the guys in **Razzmatazz** of Eugene (Denny Stiers, Kevin Stephens, Gary Sparks and Gary Weeber).

The criteria for selecting a Barbershopper of the Year were, at the time, under review. No award was given for the year 1985. The convention itself reported a profit in excess of projections, the first time in a number of years that this had happened. That sort of occurrence helps over come district financial woes.

With Salt Lake City relatively close (almost nearby), many more Evergreeners than usual would be attending the International there. Many would drive, including a special caravan of RV's that set up the stops ahead of time, including one night at Tom McGowan's place (on Monday of Convention week) and then on into a KOA RV Ground in Salt Lake City. The **Cascade Chorus** was billeted to the Little America Motor Hotel in Salt Lake. The members urged all district people to try to stay at the same hotel, to come by their rehearsals, to visit their hospitality room and to provide the support and camaraderie that would make the International experience all that more personally satisfying.

There were some changes in the International format this year. For the first time there were quartets from outside the Society competing on the International stage — one quartet each came from England and from Sweden for a total of 50 quartets. Also, on Saturday night, instead of a big show, the finals of the quartet contest would be held. This freed up time on Friday. The big thing which occurred that night was a "Light of Liberty Show" produced by the Osmond Brothers. It was staged in the stadium at Brigham Young University. The fireworks were spectacular, including some natural ones when a fast-moving thunderstorm drenched early arrivals at the stadium. Over 4,000 Barbershoppers and their families attended and got to join in the festivities by singing a few old favorites (great if you could take the feed back from a pre-recorded tape of the same songs).

At the AIC show on Wednesday night the **Most Happy Fellows** sang their swan song to much approbation. They had been, truly, Evergreen's ambassadors to the whole Society and the applause was an acknowledgement of the love and admiration that everyone had for "our" guys. The quartet may have sung its "swan song" but it would be around. First with Matt Rice and, later, with Tom Wilkie it met a number of engagements most years – an active retirement. And, occasionally, Ken Hawkinson could be coaxed to sing with the group.

Evergreen's quartets did not break into the top twenty semi-finalists but their placement was a little better than in recent years. **Harmonic Tremors** placed 25th, just 22 points out of the magic top twenty. **Golden Heritage** came in 37th and **Easy Street** was 47th.

The chorus contest, held as usual on Saturday afternoon, still had just 16 choruses, one for each district. Eugene's 85 man **Cascade Chorus**, under Denny Stier's direction, came in a creditable 14th.

In summer activities, a note indicated that Alaska's Summer Solstice get-together was still going on (for the twelfth year). It was still held at the National Park, and it had been held long enough that the Park was now called Denali. As an added attraction this year, Kenosha staffer Bill Myers was present for a day's worth of training.

The **Most Happy Fellows** were in Alaska too — passing through on a tour. They stopped by a Juneau meeting of a group of singers trying to grow to licensing size and gave the group the benefit of their singing and ideas.

Membership was a constant theme. John Marchi, District Membership Development Coordinator, had reminders in every issue of *Timbre*. Kenosha was in touch with every chapter. In a new development, Kenosha launched a new project called Rejuvenation. Each district was to select one sound chapter that needed growth and Kenosha would give it special attention. Evergreen's choice was the Great Falls Chapter. Jim DeBusman spent time with the chapter and gave special emphasis to the Music Team approach. All agreed it was a great concept. Then the director left. Slowed down again! The Music Team approach was emphasized at the summer mini-Harmony College (run by a very capable Director of Music Education, Bob Cox). Finally, the Society unveiled a great new program, DYNAMO (Develop Your Numbers And Musical Organization). This program would be used to the benefit of a good number of chapters and its purpose would be covered in COTS. One of the tools was the new "Music Leadership Team Manual." It was well written by Mel Knight and was most useful in aiding musical growth (if one followed the directions). But when the end of this year arrived, Evergreen would be down by 142 members to 2,215 men. The Society, as a whole, would be down almost 300 members to 37,345. Clearly, a never-ending effort just to hold your own.

The problem showed up in places like Fort Vancouver where director Barrie Best felt it was time to leave and the chapter struggled with almost no one showing up. This sort of condition occurred in too many struggling small chapters.

Calgary served as host for the Fall Convention. Coincidentally, there was effort afoot to establish a second chapter in the environs of Calgary. And word was about that Calgary would be submitting a bid for the 1991 International Convention. But Evergreen had more specific purposes in mind when delegates and competitors and visitors arrived for the district Convention on the first weekend in October.

Northwest Spirit, Bellevue, 1986 District Champions and six time International contestants. From the left, Dan Tangarone, t, Wes Sorstokke, l, Tom Wilkie, bs and Chuck Landback, br.

Among those that showed up were 22 quartets to compete for the District Championship. The winners of that crown turned out to be a newly organized quartet, but one made up of highly experienced (and able) performers. **Northwest Spirit**, from the new Bellevue Chapter, was made up of two former members of **Pacific Pride** (tenor Dan Tangarone and bari Chuck Landback) and two from the **South Sounders** (lead Wes Sorstokke, and bass Tom Wilkie). In second place, still trying and still winning hearts, were the **Aliens** from Tualatin Valley

(Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry). Third place was taken by **Easy Street** from Bellevue and Tacoma (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte).

Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bob Brock, 1986 District Champions and holder of a 14th place in the International contest held at Harford in 1987

In addition to the quartets, some 400 chorus members from twelve choruses made the trek to Calgary to seek the district gold and earn the right to make a trip to International in Hartford. The Bellevue Chapter demonstrated that they were a hard working bunch dedicated to first class performance. Not even a year old yet, and with just 34 men on stage, the **Northwest Sound**, under Bob Brock's direction, won the gold, an exciting sweep. In second place was New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger, and in third place was Calgary's **Stampede City Chorus** with Randy Peters directing.

And the delegates made it to the Saturday morning House of Delegates meeting. Hugh Ingraham, Executive Director of the Society, and once a member of the Calgary Chapter, addressed the House, giving particular attention to the new Music Team Leadership concept. The meeting was more spirited than usual with two 1986 offices contested on the floor (president and division 3 vice president). The nominating committee slate was approved.

COTS was again held in mid-November, again at the Madison Hotel in Seattle. It was again described as a very successful session. There was a new class this year — one for the new position of Music Vice President for chapters. The music team approach was really being emphasized.

There were only five issues of *Timbre* during the year, as budgeted. It was difficult to fit all the news fit to print into that reduced number of pages. The board said editor Mike Lanctot could return to six issues in 1987. A small change occurred during the year. In the third issue a redesigned Evergreen logo appeared. The evergreen trees that had surrounded the central SPEBSQSA logo were stylized and made more prominent. The smaller ones in the old version could not be seen when the logo was reduced in size. The redesign made a more legible logo.

1987

With the new year there were some new faces in the district board. John Anglin, Spokane, became the new District President. Bun Strom, Great Falls, became Executive Vice President along with his duties as Vice President for Division 5. Also, there were two new division vice presidents: Bill Massena, Calgary, in Division 3 and John Marchi, Coeur d'Alene, in Divison 6 (John also maintained his membership duties, although the post was now called District Membership Recruitment Officer). John Shadden moved to the position of International Board Member.

To start the year off right, QCED put on its third annual show at Seaside, OR on January 16 and 17. By this time, the show had been expanded to include a dinner show on Friday night and a cabaret show on Saturday. Entertainment was outstanding, as always.

Then, right after that, great news came from Florida - - from Sarasota, to be exact. That was where the Mid-Winter Convention was held. Evergreen's **Close Harmony Tradition**, from the Lake Washington and Seattle Chapters, had won the Seniors Quartet Championship. Dick Merritt, Warren Mitchell, Bob Mahony and Chuck Benson, in only their second attempt at International Seniors gold, had done the job. It was certainly a dream come true for these four great guys who had been singing together for ten years, improving while singing in every division and district contest they could enter. The quartet had been pleased with a third place finish in the previous year's Seniors outing, but this was a real thrill. They were able to win in spite of Bob Mahony's move to Rhode Island in September of 1986. Now Evergreen could claim two International gold medalists, one of the "regular" variety and one for the seniors.

The **Close Harmony Tradition**, Lake Washington and Seattle, 1987 Seniors Quartet Champions. From the left, Bob Mahony br, Warren Mitchell, l, Chuck Benson, bs and Dick Merritt, t.

With Bob Mahony away from his Evergreen "home," Bill Tobey took over the baritone slot so the quartet could go on singing and the quartet showed up for the Spring Prelims. Bill proved to be a fine substitute and hung around filling in even after Bob returned in 1988.

The prelims were held in Everett on the last weekend in April, sponsored by the Snohomish County and Sno-King Chapters. The contests included a combination of Divisions 1 and 2 along with the Prelims. The legislative bodies gathered and, among other things, took some corrective actions. For one thing the Board and then the House restored HOD voting rights to all District Presidents still residing in the district. This reversed an action taken two years earlier that, to comply with International recommendations, restricted the vote only to the immediate past president. That had been seen as a bit of a turndown to men who had selflessly served the district and the current action put things "back as they were." After a good bit of discussion with the affected chapters and the two divisions, the Alaska Chapters were "transferred" from Division 1 (British Columbia plus the Bellingham and Anacortes Chapters) to Division 2 (Western Washington). Alaska, although geographically close to British Columbia, was seen as more logically

connected to western Washington. The point of entry was really Seattle. So the move was proposed and accepted.

Of course, legislative matters did not take up the whole time. In fact, with 33 quartets signed up, a whole bunch of time went into the Friday night semi-finals. The hard working judges winnowed that number down to ten quartets for the Saturday night finals. Three quartets were picked to go to the International show in Hartford. **Harmonic Tremors**, from the Anacortes, Bellevue and Mount Baker Chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell) would be going to International for the third year in a row. **Northwest Spirit**, Bellevue (Dan Tangarone, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Tom Wilkie) would take the personal International experience of its members to the contest. **Harmony Heights**, from the Canby, Portland and Salem Chapters (Ken Daniels, Darwin Scheel, Carric Mitts and Steve Morin) would be going to the big time for the first time. **Fourth Dimension**, New Westminster, (Marty Lovick, Mo Jones, Tom Bates and George Metzger) earned the Alternate spot. The quartet that won the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was **Blue Chip** of New Westminster (Douglas Blue, Bradley Aitchison, Ross Hood and Byron Walton).

In one of the attempts to involve smaller chapters in division conventions, a Very Large Quartet contest was held as part of the division activities. This was provided for any group between five and nineteen members who wished to perform on the contest stage and be judged (though not critiqued). The Kamloops Rangemen, eleven strong, covered the 250 miles to Everett and performed well.

The method of selecting the Barbershopper of the Year had been changed. In the past the recipient of the award had been selected from the list of men who received their chapter's BOTY award. Beginning with the selection for the year 1986, the board also considered nominations (to be made to division vice presidents) for anyone considered worthy of the award. Under this new approach the man selected for this honor for the year 1986 was Paul Tomicich. He was the man who in 1986 had taken over the management of the Barbershoppers Shop, and then taken it on the road to any barbershop function that was ready to host it (when his schedule was clear). Indeed, Paul's continued service in this endeavor should have earned him the award every year since, along with the warm thanks of all Evergreeners. Winner of the Counselor of the Year Award was Bob Huber of the Sno-King Chapter.

Word came in that the men working to start a second chapter in the Calgary area had attracted Calgary director Randy Peters to their new aggregation. It was to be a select group dedicated to fine singing. Calgary found a new director in Terry Crowe, past Division Vice President. Proof that two chapters could live side by side was seen in a joint show put on by the Lake Washington and Bellvue Chapters in June at the Fifth Avenue Theater in Seattle.

The 49th Annual International was held in Hartford in July. Everyone remembered the ten foot by forty foot inflated balloon quartet that hung from the Civic Center while a tape played quartet numbers. The New England Yankees put on a good convention although some of the hotels were a long way from the Coliseum and headquarters.

Hugh Ingraham, Executive Director of the Society, did not make it to Hartford. He had taken a leave of absence as he battled cancer. A special tribute was made to him for his 25 years of service to the Society. Bob Johnson, former Director of Music Education, made the presentation and it was made especially meaningful by the Alexandria Harmonizer's singing of the song "A Place on the Risers for You."

Evergreen's three quartets went out on the stage and gave it their all, along with the other 47 quartets there. **Northwest Spirit** performed well enough to earn a 25th place finish, 48 points out of the top twenty. **Harmonic Tremors** came in 34th and **Harmony Heights** had a 44th place finish.

The chorus contest had a new format this year. The sixteen entrants sang in a semi-final contest on Friday night and the top six choruses then went to a final on Saturday night, sharing billing with the ten quartet finalists. That meant that if your chorus was any good at all it had to come with two contest sets ready to go. There was a lot of outstanding chorus singing. Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, under Bob Brock's direction, performed its way to a 14th place finish.

The Anacortes Salmon Barbecue was still a big summer event held on the last weekend in July. Folks arrived by car, RV or boat. This year, though, three arrived by bicycle — from the Langley Chapter. Henry Braun, Robbie Braun and Gary Powell traveled the 100 miles by wheel, securing pledges for Logopedics and being rewarded by a sense of accomplishment in addition to satisfying their craving for a great meal.

Word arrived from Kenosha that Ray Heller had come on board as Manager of Communications. Ray had a long time presence in and impact on the Evergreen District. He had been a member of the Mount Baker Chapter and during his stay here he had been *Timbre* editor, filled the position of Division 1 Vice President, served as president of PROBE and sang baritone in the District Championship Quartet the **Poets**.

Fall arrived before most people were ready and it was time for the District Convention, held, this year, in Eugene. Chairman Tim Knight tried to prepare for everything, including outstanding weather (in mid-October in Oregon?). Everyone agreed that he and the Eugene Chapter did a great job. The headquarters Hilton teemed with barbershoppers and rang with chords for almost the entire weekend, including a memorable QCED show on Friday night.

Among the teeming barbershoppers were the members of 31 quartets who came to vie for the district championship. They rang their chords on the stage of the Hult Centre Silva Hall. The judges picked the ten who would return to the finals on Saturday night. And of them they picked the new District Champs, **Easy Street** from the Bellevue and Tacoma Chapters (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte). The guys had brought their score up more than 100 points from the year before and obviously improved their third place standing of a year before. In second place was a quartet with a new grouping of familiar faces and a new name, **At Ease** from the Portland, West Portland and Tualatin Valley Chapters (Paul Krenz, Bob Swanson, Tim McCormic and Bud Roberts). Third place was claimed by **Harmony Heights** from the Canby, Portland and Salem Chapters (Ken Daniels, Darwin Scheel, Carric Mitts and Steve Morin).

Easy Street, Bellevue and Tacoma, 1987 District Champions and four time International contestants. From left, Bob Hodge, t, Neal Booth, l, Steve Barclay, br, and Forrest LaMotte, bs.

Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Denny Stiers, 1987 District Champions and holder of a tenth place finish at the 1988 International contest in San Antonio.

The real "teeming" was provided by the 640 barbershoppers in Eugene to take part in the chorus contest. Sixteen choruses showed up at the Hult to begin the contest at noon on Saturday. This contest may be remembered as the one where the staged set, acting and costumes won the day and the medals (when they were combined with good singing). Bringing home the bacon by just 16 points was Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Denny Stiers. The chorus had all of 1000 points and much of the total was in Stage Presence for a clown-themed set that had everyone dressed as a clown and really acting like one. Each costume was authentic and the acting was of the same high order. Now "all" Eugene had to do was polish the set for the 50th anniversary show in San Antonio the next July. Coming in second was Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bob Brock. These guys had an Egyptian set and did "M-U-M-M-Y" and "Tut, Tut Tootsie Goodbye." Third place was taken by Tualatin Valley's **Harmony Masters**, directed by Chuck Olson. This chorus put on its operating room set and brought down the house. In a fortuitous bit of scheduling, **Tualatin Valley** and **Northwest Sound** appeared one after the other and the **Cascade Chorus**, as hosts, appeared at the end of the contest for a grand finale.

At the Saturday night show it was announced that there were four new members of the Evergreen District Hall of Fame. Those men, all eminently deserving of this ultimate district honor were:

Ken Fletcher - Member of the Lake Washington and Sno-King Chapters, chapter president, chorus director, judge, Division Vice President, District President, IBM, and District Treasurer (since 1973) and other chapter and district roles. Ken sang in the **Rain-Aires, Pioneer Squares, Phog Bound Phour** and **Happy Faces** quartets

Ray Greaves - Member of the Coos Bay Chapter. Served as Chapter President twice. Area Counselor, District Vice President, District President, IBM and numerous District committee chairmanships, including District Historian since 1980. Ray sang in the **Forest Aires, Bay Shore Four** (District Champions), **Harmonious Commotion,** and **Four on the Shore** quartets.

Burt Huish - Member of the Idaho Falls and Twin Falls Chapters where he served as vice president, president and chorus director. Area Counselor, Division Vice President, District President and IBM. In 1978 Burt became only the second District man to be elected an International Vice President and he earned the respect of his colleagues, becoming International President for the year 1981. Burt is the only District man to have served in this high post. Burt sang in the **Gem Tones, Riff Raff Four, Gem State Four** and **South Central Idaho Music Company** quartets.

Don Robison - Member of the Eugene Chapter. Served as Chapter Secretary and President. Division Vice President and District President. Entered the Judging Program in 1965 and served in the Secretary Category and then as Chairman of Judges. He served as DACJC and on the International Board of Review in the Secretary Category. Don sang in the **Emerald-Aires, Emerald City Four, Barnicle Bills** and **Lucky Loggers** quartets

A potentially good development was seen in the organization of a Director's Guild to be concerned with the training and nurturing of chorus directors. Such a group was expected to supplement ongoing training efforts of the district still being ably overseen by the director of Music Education, Bob Cox. The DYNAMO program was being used to further the development of chapter music teams and the recognized district trainers were Bob Brock, George Cotton, Bob Cox, Don Goddard, Burt Huish, John Marchi, Tim McCormic, Tom McGowan, Charlie Metzger, Randy Peters, Randy Stewart, Mike Wilcox and Steve Young.

A good article in the December *Timbre* was written by AIC Scholarship winner Rob Mitchell, from the Lake Washington Chapter. It spoke of his gratitude for being able to go to and benefit from the week at Harmony College and remarked on his remarkable barbershop life, which had begun at age ten.

On a sadder note, the year had seen the passing of Dick McCormic, Portland and, later, West Portland member, for over 30 years and bass of the District Champions **High Rollers**.

1988

There was a change in leadership of the district to go with the change of the year. Bun Strom of Great Falls moved into the District President's office. Taking over as Executive Vice President was Tim Knight of Eugene. Tim, of course, kept his duties as Division 4 Vice President. Ed Naughten, Great Falls, became Division 5 Vice President. John Shadden, Tualatin Valley, served the second year of his IBM post.

Don Robison, longtime presence in the judges pit, announced his retirement as a Chairman of Judges. Don had been a member of the judging system since 1965 when he had started as a Secretary. He had served as District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman for five years.

There was a change in *Timbre* also. Budget trimming at the November, 1987 Board meeting had resulted in a decision to cut the cost of *Timbre* by 20%. This was to be accomplished by reducing each issue by one sheet (or four pages). Editor Mike Lanctot hoped to overcome part of this reduction by reducing the type size to 8 point. One might have to squint a bit more to keep up with the news.

Also, in January the Society announced that Joe Liles had been named Executive Director. Joe had been Acting Director since July 1987. As a follow-up it was later announced that Mel Knight would assume the position of Director of Music Education and Services for the Society.

In mid-April the Sea-Tac Chapter hosted a very special event, "A Tribute to the Haps" at Lindbergh High School in Renton. Some of Evergreen's greatest quartets were on hand to start the commemorative show, and the whole thing was MC-ed by no less a luminary than Burt Huish. But everyone had really come to see and hear the **Most Happy Fellows**. The second half of the show was filled with the joy of having this much-loved quartet on the stage again. The Haps Chorus performed first (the current members plus former members Bill Dergan, Harry Aldrich and Bill Thurman) and the crowd loved it. But the crowd wanted the quartet in the spotlight and when they came on stage they received a standing ovation before they even started. They sang most of their old numbers, with all of the humorous by-play, and everyone loved it. After a full set and departure they were called back by another well-deserved standing ovation and concluded the evening with a perfectly done and emotionally felt "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

After that highly charged show, the crowd dispersed slowly, wanting to savor and hold onto the magic that they had all experienced. There was, we're told, an impromptu afterglow (at a Shakey's Pizza Parlor) where there was more harmony and time to speak with and glow in the presence of a wonderful group and the good people who admired them.

One of the events of the evening was the first display of a large trophy called the "Most Happy Fellows Trophy." It was to be awarded to the highest scoring quartet in each spring's Quartet Prelims contest. The first award was made the next week at the Convention held in Hillsboro.

For the spring round of division contests there was a new qualifying number for quartets. Because of the large number of quartets at the previous fall contest in Eugene, the score to qualify for this year's district contest had been raised from 335 to 350 points. When the contest season was over, 27 quartets had met this higher number (down from the 42 that had qualified at 335 a year before). The chorus qualifying score remained at 335.

The Spring Prelims were held in Hillsboro, sponsored by the Tualatin Valley Chapter. Division 4 quartet and chorus contests would be held in conjunction with the prelims and there was a Seniors Quartet contest as well. Headquarters hotel was the Hallmark (with its double decker tour bus) and the contest site was only a five-minute drive away at the Thomas Junior High School.

Twenty-two quartets (including three of the Seniors variety) showed up to test the prelim waters or to try out for Division 4 or Seniors honors. The judging panel judged which eight made it to the Saturday night finals. And, in turn, they determined which three would go on to the International in San Antonio. In

first place, and winner of the brand new "Most Happy Fellows Award," presented by Jack Lyon, was **Northwest Spirit**, Bellevue (Dan Tangarone, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Tom Wilkie). This would be the **Spirit's** second trip to International. In second place by only two points, and back for their fourth shot at International, was **Harmonic Tremors** from the Anacortes, Bellevue and Mount Baker chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell). Rounding out the threesome was the current District Champion **Easy Street** from the Bellevue and Tacoma Chapters (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte). This was the quartet's first International appearance but obviously the personnel was experienced. All in all a talented gang of quartets to represent the district. The alternate quartet was talented and experienced also. The **Aliens** made it to this slot, using a substitute tenor, Paul Krenz, another talented guy, along with talented stand-bys Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry.

The winner of the Al Fraser Novice Quartet award was **Speakeasy** from the Langley Chapter (David Critchely, Jens Pedersen, David Anderson and David McEachern). The Seniors contest was won by a Roseburg quartet, **The Old Rocking Chair Four.**

Carl Nelson, Seattle, earned the Barbershopper of the year award, recognizing his eight uncomplaining years of turning out the much admired District Directory while continuing to serve his chapter as bulletin editor (three times District Bulletin Editor of the Year). A well-earned tribute. Area Counselor of the Year was not awarded for 1987.

The year 1988 was the Society's fiftieth year and the golden glow suffused publications, shows and operations all year long. One particular high point was the actual April date when that fiftieth milestone was passed. Great was the number of proclamations and high was the praise given in memory of that first meeting at the Alvin Hotel in Tulsa. We all made special note, at least mentally, of our gratitude to O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall for organizing that first get-together and then for polishing and promoting the product. Otherwise our own lives would not have been so harmoniously blessed.

The other high point of golden observances occurred at the International Convention in San Antonio. The AIC Show included songs by twenty past Champions (the **Most Happy Fellows** were there) making it a truly memorable show. On Saturday morning there was a parade through downtown San Antonio featuring 21 golden quartets, each in an automobile matching the vintage of their championship year. The parade ended up with the largest mass sing in recent International memory — all singers massed along the river and pouring out golden sound in the warm Texas air. Each district had a display of its history and Ray Greaves was there with his handworked display books and collection of photographs picturing Evergreen History from its inception to the present. There was much effort and loving care in the work that Ray had done and it was rewarded with a third best placement of the sixteen there. The Barbershoppers Shop was selling a brand new "Heritage of Harmony" song book as well as Fiftieth Anniversary pins, plates and other memorabilia.

Of course, there was a competition, too, and Evergreen's quartets did better than they had done in some time. Two of the quartets made it into the top twenty and competed in the semi-finals on Friday night. **Harmonic Tremors** earned a 14th place finish, the best since the **Four Cheers** had done the same ten years before. **Easy Street** was only three places behind the **Tremors** in 17th place. And **Northwest Spirit** had a good 25th place spot, only 20 points out of the top twenty themselves. Overall it was the best Evergreen had done since the time when it was sending only two quartets to International (try the **Journeymen** and the **Four Do Matics**, eighth and ninth in 1964).

Eugene's **Cascade Chorus** went to San Antonio to clown around. They did it with all of the splash of any Ringling Brothers circus. The action on the stage was just outstanding and the stage presence score of 514 points was bettered by only two chorus sets, one by Dallas (the winner) and one by third place Scarborough with 515 points. However, the rest of the categories did not measure up as much as all would have liked and the gang took a tenth place — the best since Eugene had done the same thing five years before. Director Denny Stiers and his 67 clown compatriots had every reason to be proud of their performance.

Just two weeks after that fiftieth celebration concluded, Hugh Ingraham passed away following a long bout with cancer. Hugh had been on leave for a year. This one time Evergreener had a long distinguished career in barbershopping, ending with a ten year stint as executive director of the Society. "Sunset and evening star..."

The annual Midsummer Glow, held for 11 years in Virginia City, was scheduled to move to Red Lodge, Montana, closer to Billings than to Bozeman. The same 42-hour afterglow was promised.

The Evergreen District Harmony College (EDHC, no longer "Mini Harmony College") still brought people into UPS in Tacoma. This year it was held in mid-August. As a follow-up to the desire to organize a chorus director's guild, a Saturday afternoon class was devoted to getting such a group started.

Beginning in July the Society provided a new service for members. A toll free number (1-800-876-SING) was set up. It was to be paid for by charging chapters based on size and anticipated use. The expectation was that the reduced rate would turn out cheaper than having a member call Kenosha and then bill his local chapter for the call. The idea was a good one and, not unsurprisingly, proved far more popular than anticipated — after all, it has the appearance of a free lunch. The idea, however, is still sound, the system is highly used, and total costs are probably lower.

Four Cryin' Out Loud, West Portland, 1988 District Champions. From left, Paul Krenz, t, Darwin Scheel, l, Joe Eckstine, br, and Steve Morin, bs.

The fall convention was held in Spokane on the first weekend in October. Billed as a "Heritage of Harmony" it memorialized fifty years for the Society and forty-one years for the District. Special note was made of all Evergreeners with 30 or more years of membership. The program named all of those stalwarts and there were historical notes prepared by District Historian Ray Greaves. It was to be a gala convention, commemorating history and people.

It also left memories of a different kind. The chorus contest was in full swing on Saturday afternoon and as the Vancouver Thunderbird Chorus was leaving the stage, director George Cotton collapsed. He never regained consciousness and died the next day. George was the best of barbershoppers. Not only a director and coach, but an Interpretation Judge of long standing and an outgoing and friendly man and singer—just the person to visit with, sing with or learn from. Only 61 years old, he died doing what he loved. His final words, to his chorus, were, "Way to go, guys."

The contest sessions from that point on were more subdued but they were all carried out. Twenty-two quartets were entered in the competition and ten of them made it to the finals on Saturday night. The winner and new District Champion came from the West Portland Chapter. **Four Cryin' Out Loud** was a newly organized quartet made up of veterans of the contest stage, Paul Krenz, Darwin Scheel, Joe Eckstein and Steve Morin. In second place was New Westminster's **Fourth Dimension** (Marty Lovick, Mo Jones, Tom Bates and George Metzger). In third place were the old faithful **Aliens** from Tualatin Valley (Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry).

Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bob Brock, 1988 District Champion and holder of a tenth place finish at the 1989 International contest in Kansas City.

In the chorus contest Bellevue's **Northwest Sound** climbed back into the Championship with a solid performance under Bob Brock's direction. Second place was won by West Portland's **Vocal Gentry**, directed by Steve Morin and third was taken by Salem's **Senate-Aires**, directed by Jack Cutsforth.

Word came out at the convention that Steve Kyes had returned from New England and that he would be directing the Canby chorus. On a more sombre note, Don Welden, who had so capably directed the Calgary Chorus in its early years, passed away.

1989

To start the new year off there were two changes in the District Board. Alan Gowans of the Calgary Chapter took over as Vice President in Division 3 and Paul Derr of Spokane filled a similar position for Division 6. George Cotton had been slated to take over as District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman but his untimely death intervened. Garreth Evans, the newly minted Interpretation Judge, took over this important job. Other major committee chairmanships stayed in the same hands.

Exciting news came from the Mid-Winter meeting in Honolulu. Building on experience gained in five years worth of attempts to obtain the International Convention, Calgary sent a committee of twenty people (including Constable Bob Marsh of the RCMP) to support a bid for the 1993 convention. The lobbying was intense. The Calgary contingent figured that the recent successful winter Olympics held in Calgary helped give them recognition and a professional assessment that the Saddledome was one of the acoustically best auditoriums on the continent surely helped. All of Evergreen was delighted that for the third time in thirty years there would be an International Convention held within its borders.

The Society's fiftieth year celebration was behind it but now it was time for Montanans to celebrate 100 years of Statehood. The state's barbershoppers were ready. Montana chapters had spent 1988 organizing a barbershop chorus of all members to be part of the celebration. One has to spend time getting around in Montana to begin to have an appreciation for the vast distances involved in getting from one place to another. Almost half of the state membership joined the Centennial Chorus. It appeared on all of the chapter shows throughout the state and performed at Centennial functions. It was seen as a great historical and cultural vehicle.

Membership numbers for the year 1988 had shown that the Society, at 36,000 members, had lost 800 men. Evergreen, during that period, looked like a paragon of success, losing only one member and standing at 2,111. To try to overcome the continuing poor showing in numbers International came out with a new program brightly titled "Membership Begins With ME." Efforts were renewed, revitalized and reinvigorated but membership remained in a reclined mode. It was clear that all the work would not even keep the Society and the District even.

With membership a continuing concern it was always nice to emphasize good examples. The Columbia Gorge chapter at Hood River, OR had licensed some years before and almost chartered, but lost its director and was worried that it would lose everything else. Sixty miles down river the Mount Hood Chapter in Gresham had a director in Ron Uphoff, but not very many members. Meeting people half way is almost always a good solution to problems and it worked in this case. The Mount Hooders went upstream 30 miles and the Columbia Gorgers went downstream the same distance to the town of Cascade Locks. Bingo! The combined chapter was thriving as 1988 turned into 1989.

The 1989 Spring Convention was hosted by the Kitsap County Chapter and was held in Bremerton. Twenty-three quartets arrived to vie for Division 2 honors and to try for the three slots at the Kansas City International. **Easy Street**, from the Bellevue and Tacoma Chapters, would be going back for the third time (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte). **Vocal Attraction**, a new group of talented singers from the Bellevue, Lake Washington and Mount Baker Chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Ted Chamberlain and Stu Turner), would also be going. And **Northwest Spirit**, from Bellevue, back for the third time (Dan Tangarone, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Tom Wilkie) rounded out the group. The alternate quartet was **Golden Heritage** from West Portland (Paul Krenz, Mike McCormic, Tim McCormic and Lowell Smith. Winner of the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was the **Chord Chasers** from Snohomish County, although due to naming problems, they had appeared on the score sheets as the **Mutual A'Chord.** Members were Chuck Strub, Gary Sewell, Jerry Dawson and Jim Muldowney.

Convention doings included awarding the Barbershopper of the Year Trophy to Mike Lanctot, *Timbre* editor, District Communications Officer, Secretary of Judges applicant, District Board hard worker and all around good guy - a well-deserved award. The District Board reported on the formation of the George Cotton Memorial Computer Fund for monies given in memory of George to go toward the purchase of a district computer for aiding and abetting the tallying of contest scores. When the $1200 was duly collected, the computer was aptly named "George." In another area, the Barbershopper's Shop, under Paul Tomicich's selfless efforts was bringing in good funds due to its presence at all district functions and many chapter affairs. One of the hot items in this year's wares was a district pin, designed by Cam Koury and available for $4.00.

In people news, Dan Dailey, long-time Lake Washington member and bulletin editor there, took over editorship of the *Harmonizer* in Kenosha. And Salem found a new director in the person of Jim

McKee of the Far Western District, who, in his capacity as Sound Judge, coach and instructor, had made numerous appearances in Evergreen. Another transplanted Californian showed up in Washington. Burt Staffen, Interpretation Judge and another long-time coach and instructor, was welcomed into the Evergreen ranks. Burt also had served many assignments in the District.

The 51st International Convention was held in Kansas City. The three quartets from Evergreen were not new to competition and they went in with their best shots. However, none of the three were able to crack the top twenty. It is a cliche to note that the contests get tougher every year, but it is still true. **Easy Street** came in 25th and **Northwest Spirit** was 28th. **Vocal Attraction** was 42nd.

The chorus contest, after a two-year trial, reverted to a standard 16 chorus contest with no final contest for the top six choruses. The contest was held on Saturday, beginning at noon. Bellevue's 41 man **Northwest Sound**, under Bob Brock, sang in tenth position and came in tenth in the standings. This equalled the position of Eugene's performance the year before.

Board action at International resulted in a rule change to allow members of the Frank Thorne Chapter to compete in quartet contests for the first time. Action also was slated to change the way in which chapter achievement awards are determined. In the process District Achievement Awards were to be dropped altogether and new arrangements were to be made so that chapter achievements could be better highlighted.

The summer passed with the usual trips to all of the usual summer spots. Alaska's Summer Solstice celebration was moved to the town of Valdez and was graced by the instructional presence of Mel Knight and Jim Blokzyl. The Anacortes Salmon Barbecue hauled the crowds in for the last weekend in July and the La Pine Campout for Oregon Barbershoppers was its usual harmonious self, with good warm singing, at camp and in nearby Sun River on the first weekend in August. The annual Evergreen District Harmony College was again held at UPS in Tacoma on the second weekend in August. Many described it as the best yet — professionally instructed and very well run. Unfortunately, attendance was not as high as hoped and that combined with some budget difficulties led to returns not being at budgeted levels.

As usual, fall arrived too quickly. The District Contest was held on the weekend of October 20-22 in Portland, with the Close Harmony Music Men acting as hosts. Headquarters was the Portland Hilton and the contest site was the Civic Auditorium. Twenty-six quartets showed up for the semi-finals on Friday night and, by the time the QCED Show started in the Hilton Ballroom, that number had been reduced to ten. When the finals were over on Saturday night the new District Champion was clearly **Vocal Attraction**, from the Bellevue, Lake Washington and Mount Baker Chapters. The experienced and talented members were Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Ted Chamberlain and Stu Turner. In second place was Lake Washington's **Innovation** (David Brasher, Steve

Vocal Attraction, Bellevue, Lake Washington and Mt. Baker, 1989 District Champions and three time contestants at International. From left, Ralph Scheving, t, Doug Broersma, l, Stu Turner, bs, and Ted Chamberlain, br.

Stevens, Robert Schumacher and Richard Gode) and in third was New Westminster's **Fourth Dimension** (Marty Lovick, Mo Jones, Tom Bates and Charlie Metzger).

Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Denny Stiers, 1989 District Champions and holders of a 12th place finish in the 1990 International contest at San Francisco.

There were 17 choruses entered in the contest which began at 12:30 on Saturday afternoon. It turned out to be an Oregon lock. The top three spots went to Division 4 choruses. Pirating the top spot was Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, captained by Denny Stiers. Second place went to the West Portland **Vocal Gentry**, directed by Steve Morin and third place was taken by the Tualatin Valley **Harmony Masters** with Chuck Olson directing. The new George Cotton Memorial Trophy for Most Improved Chorus was awarded to the Sea-Tac **Harmony Kings,** directed by Jim Blokzyl.

The convention committee had encouraged the Montana Centennial Chorus to perform at district but the distance involved was simply too daunting to ensure that a representative number of the guys make it. They had already covered miles and miles of miles and miles just to meet their performance schedule in Montana.

Big news out of the convention was the induction of the **Most Happy Fellows,** Bob Hodge, Larry Hassler, Jack Lyon and Ken Hawkinson, into the Evergreen District Hall of Fame. Everyone knew it was the right thing to do. Everyone felt good about it. Certainly their trip down the yellow brick road favored all who got to view any part of the journey.

Smaller but important word came out of the legislative sessions where finances and policy matters were sorted out. The boundary between Evergreen and Rocky Mountain Districts was modified to run along county lines rather than along highways. This eliminated the potential, where the highways ran through them, for splitting a city into two districts. In an efficiency generating move, the district agreed to acquire two boxes filled with contest judging material (lights, pencils, clips, etc.) to be kept, one in Canada and one in the U.S., for use at all contests in the district. This was seen as eliminating a cost and a concern for the host chapter. Finally, much effort was going into encouraging donations to the Bud Leabo Memorial Fund to try to get it up to a level where its principal would support funds for operation of much of the district's music education efforts. A real push was being made to encourage donations of $12.50 per member per year for a two-year period. With modest contributions over the eight years of its life the Fund had grown to $20,000. The goal was to grow the fund to $70,000.

In the interest of reducing costs, COTS was moved. The rooms were a good bit less expensive at the La Quinta Inn in Tacoma and busses were provided to get the participants to classes at UPS which wasn't too far away. Secretaries were especially urged to attend because of new reporting methods for chapter achievement points.

1990

As always, the new year brought a number of changes in the District Board. Tim Knight of Eugene moved into the President's office and Walt Paulsen of Tacoma added the duties of Executive Vice President to those of his Division 2 vice-presidential duties. In addition, there were two new divisional vice presidents, Ray Reuble of Anacortes in Division 1 and Bill Frazier of Eugene in Division 4.

There was also a change in the Director of Music Education. The new man was Ken Pask of New Westminster. He would have big shoes to fill for Bob Cox, Salem, had held the job for five productive years. Over that time the district harmony college had improved greatly and there had been a good series of International-supported training sessions for directors, quartets, and just plain barbershoppers. In terms of musical knowledge the district had grown.

Also, there were no more Area Counselors. The guys were still out there but they were called Division Advisors now. And, in addition, there were Division Advisors - Music to help out. These men reported to the DME and were especially well grounded in music education. It might be noted that the Division Advisor for Division 4 was one Bob Cox – well grounded, he.

In a move to make chapter chartering easier, the requirement for licensing was reduced (by the International Board) to twelve people and the minimum for chartering to sixteen. Also, the minimum requirement for men on stage for chorus competition was set at twelve. That made it possible for a small chorus to compete at either division or district level.

Division contests arrived in April and May. At the end of April, hosted by the Lake Washington Chapter, the Spring Prelims were held in Renton, WA. The method for selecting quartets to go to International was changed for 1990 as part of a two-year experiment. Each district was to send its top two quartets and there were to be representatives of BABS, SNOBS and DABS. Then another 18 quartets were to be selected by achieving a predetermined qualifying score. The Mid Winter Board meeting set that floor at 1828 points. That level proved to be a daunting one for Evergreen. The two top quartets at the finals did not reach that "floor" so only two quartets were selected to go to International in San Francisco. Those two quartets were **Easy Street** from Bellevue and Tacoma (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay, and Forrest LaMotte), on their way to International for the fourth time, and **Vocal Attraction** from the Bellevue, Lake Washington and Mount Baker Chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Ted Chamberlain and Stu Turner), making their second appearance.

The Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was won by **Sonic Boom** of the New Westminster and Vancouver Chapters (David Cotton, Dave Vincent, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger). There were some new faces there with old names — great to see.

One thing missing at the spring meeting was the presence of Paul Extrom. Paul, from the Portland Chapter, had been District Secretary for 14 years and was always at District meetings. But Paul had