

suffered a stroke and was recuperating. His recuperation was speedy and he got back to his district duties in good time. Paul made it back to the fall convention in Spokane — in the thick of things.

Part way through the year Gareth Evans resigned as DACJC (District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman). Jim McKee, Salem Director, Sound Judge and a past DACJC in both Far Western District and Southwestern District, was appointed to replace Gareth. At the same time Burt Staffen was appointed as assistant DACJC, replacing Bert Davidson who had worked long and well in that job.

Word came out in early March that the Tacoma Chapter, under Steve Mondau's leadership, had embarked on a Young Men in Harmony program at the Tacoma high schools. Aided and abetted by West Portland's **Done Deal** quartet, high schoolers were introduced to barbershop music and were able to join in the fun quickly. Everyone felt good about the sessions.

The 52nd International Contest was held in San Francisco. The convention had been sold out since spring. Contests were held in the Cow Palace, a good half-hour's bus ride from the hotels and down town San Francisco. In this writer's opinion the bus arrangements were the best ever. It seemed there were always enough busses, and the speed with which the crowd was cleared after the sessions were over was just amazing.

The contests were amazing, also. Evergreen's two quartets did their absolute best but were still unable to crack the top twenty. **Easy Street** came in 26th in a group of four quartets with only one point difference between them (two ties). **Vocal Attraction** earned a 45th place.

There were 17 entrants in the chorus contest. This year there was a chorus from Sheffield, England. Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Denny Stiers, sang in the tenth spot. The gang put on their pirate set to very good effect. The presentation concluded with the firing of the mock canon at stage right and it went off with a resounding report. So resounding, in fact, that there were tales, perhaps apocryphal, that the three Sound Judges did not get their hearing back before the contest was over. When the smoke had cleared (literally), Eugene had earned a twelfth place finish.

On Saturday night, after the finals, Eugene, the district and the Canadian government sponsored a hospitality room in honor of the Calgary '93 Convention. The location was the Parc 55 Hotel near headquarters.

The Evergreen District Harmony College was again held at UPS on the second weekend in August. While recent sessions had been outstanding educational successes, the finances were not very good. Each one had lost money. Considerable promotion went into this year's effort. The hope was that increased attendance would overcome the financial losses. That must have happened for the school broke even in 1990. DME Ken Pask was delighted — as were the attendees, for the educational quality stayed the same (in other words, very good).

In August Division 4 Vice President Bill Frazier moved to Los Angeles. Bob Cox, Salem, was appointed to replace him (Bob had run for the position at the previous fall's convention).

Chorus director changes made the news. Denny Stiers moved to the Mount Baker Chapter. Bobby Gray, Jr., bari of International Champion **New Tradition** was directing Bellevue, Tom Willkie was directing the Sea-Tac Chorus, Portland had a new director in Tom Cambell, Steve Kyes was with West Portland and Matt Coombs was directing at Eugene.

Spokane hosted the District Convention on October 19 and 20. Twenty quartets showed up for the competition and ten of them were chosen for the finals. Building on their fifth place finish at the Spring Prelims, **Sonic Boom** of the New Westminster and Vancouver Chapters (David Cotton, Dave Vincent, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger) showed, again, that youth and talent could win a Championship. In second place, still winning hearts, was Tualatin Valley's **Aliens** (Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry). Third place was taken by a new quartet, **Fourward Motion** of Eugene (Jim Schock, Kevin Stephens, Gary Sparks and Gary Weeber).



**Sonic Boom**, New Westminster and Vancouver, 1990 District Champions and two time International contestants. From left, David Cotton, t, Dave Vincent, l, Tom Metzger, bs, and Mark Metzger, br.

For the first time there was a Joe Barbershopper Chorus to open the contest as mike testers. DME Ken Pask had promoted this, participants had worked with tapes in advance, and sixty Joe's showed up to share the thrill of starting the show. They opened the way for the sixteen choruses that were there for the contest. With new director Bobby Gray, Jr., the **Northwest Sound** from Bellevue won a solid championship. Bellevue would represent Evergreen at International in Louisville in July, 1991. In second place, also under a new director, Tom Wilkie, was Sea-Tac's **Harmony Kings**. New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, under Charlie Metzger, had a great presentation based on a Wizard of Oz theme. It was good enough for a third place finish. For the first time, awards were presented to plateau winners. Bellevue, of course, won the award for Plateau I. Winner for Plateau II (30-49 members) was Mt. Baker's **Toppers**, in sixth place, overall, under new director Denny Stiers. The **Toppers** also won the Most Improved Chorus Award. Medicine Hat's **Gas City Chorus**, in their first district contest, directed by John Glockner, won the award for Plateau III.



Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr., 1990 District Champions and holder of a 12th place finish at the 1991 International contest in Louisville.



At intermission time on the Saturday night show Mel Knight was inducted into the Evergreen Hall of Fame. Mel was memorialized for his work as a director, coach, instructor and judge during his time in Evergreen, and for his contributions to the Society as its Director of Music Education and Services, and for his quarteting skills (including membership in District Champion **Cascade Connection**). The presentation was made by Paul Extrom, Awards Chairman.

Also memorialized was Alan Gowans, who recieved the Barbershopper of the Year Award for 1989. Alan was the Division 3 Vice President from Calgary who had so effectively (among many other things) worked to secure the International Convention scheduled for Calgary in 1993. Soft spoken but intense, Alan was an organizer and a worker. The presentation was made at this convention because presenter Paul Extrom had been unable to attend the Spring Convention due to ill health.

As promised, the year saw much promotion of the Bud Leabo Memorial Fund and, while contributions did not reach the annual goal, the amount was much in excess of previous years. This proved to be a blessing for, at the November Board meeting there was a \$2,000 shortfall in budgeted amounts for the Music Education line. The Leabo Fund trustees met that shortfall with a transfer of funds without affecting the amounts set aside for scholarships.

Membership for the year saw a slight increase, which was much appreciated. The increase came from the chartering of two new chapters, a second chapter in Calgary (Calgary Foothills) and a newly rejuvenated Medford Chapter.

The annual COTS session was held in mid-November at the Executive Inn in Fife (north of Tacoma). One of the beneficial outcomes was a revival of an idea first proposed in 1987. A new organization was formed to help the district music program. It was the Evergreen District Directors and Coaches Guild (EDDCG). Burt Staffen was elected president and Bert Davidson was elected assistant. Plans were formulated for a get-together in early March.

Part way through the year Mike Lanctot had informed the board that he wished to step down as editor of *Timbre*. He had been on the job for ten years, turning out six issues a year, each one filled with timely news, coverage of local, district and Society affairs, comment and pictures, all in a highly readable form. It was time to move on. The hunt for a worthy successor took the rest of the year. Large shoes to fill and, as it turned out, it seemed that it would take two men to do the job Mike had done. Actually, the team of Rob Mitchell and Ray Steckler already had considerable editing experience turning out the Lake Washington bulletin. They had earned two Bulletin Editor of the Year awards and Rob had won one on his own. *Timbre* would be in good hands.

A note at the end of the year stated that articles could be accepted for *Timbre* on floppy disks or by FAX. Things had moved a long way since Hub Stone had pecked out the copy on a ditto master.

Christmas celebrations had a special difference in the Seattle area when 280 barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines got together to join in with SeaFair's Christmas Cruise program on December 2. **Close Harmony Tradition** and **Burgundy Blend** joined in the singing and cruising and all felt that much was gained in seasonal good will and presence in spite of the chilly damp weather.

## 1991

Very few changes were made in the District Board for the new year. Bob Cox stayed on as Vice President for Division 4, having been appointed to the position late in 1990. A major change occurred with the election of Mike Lanctot, Lake Washington, as District Secretary. Paul Extrom had served in that capacity since 1976 — fifteen years of dedicated and effective duty. John Shadden retired as IBM and his place was taken by Bun Strom, Great Falls. A new position of Music Vice President had been created and Ken Pask, New Westminster, filled this position, a natural move from the job of Director of Music

Education. Lee Vogel, Sea-Tac, moved into the District Communications Officer slot and Jim McKee, Salem, stayed on as DACJC.

Arresting news came from the Mid-Winter Convention in Tampa. After wrestling with the Society Budget, which had grown to provide the programs to meet the goals of the Society, the International Board voted to increase dues by \$12 per year beginning March 31. It was a large increase, but the board felt it was essential and support was immediate. The district, also, had money concerns and District Treasurer Ken Fletcher worried all year long over cash flow. By the end of the year, however, with a financially successful convention at Calgary completed, Ken could breathe a sigh of relief and move on to the next challenge.

There was good news from Tampa also. Lead Wayne Halstrom, the "baby" of the **Model T Four**, had turned 55 so the **Model T's** decided to try the water at Tampa's Senior quartet contest. The guys came in second out of 22 quartets that entered. Along with Wayne the guys were Bob Wall, Abie Klassen and Gordy Cousins. Gordy was the only man left from the original gang of Charlie Pulham, brother Earl Cousins and Don Franks. The **Model T's** were the longest continuously registered active quartet in the Society. They were 1955 District Champions.

Sober news came of the end of another long-lasting quartet. The **Prosser Pops** came to the end of a long trail with the passing of bass Carl Crawford. The **Pops** had been singing together since 1952 and had been a Society quartet since 1957. Eastern Washington would miss these good gentlemen and their quiet harmony.

From east of Seattle word came of a joining — of an old chapter and a newer one. Actually, the idea of merging the Lake Washington and Bellevue chapters had been under discussion since mid-1990. Each chapter had a proud history (Lake Washington's dated back to the beginnings of the district) and each was a competitive chorus. However, they were draining each other and competing for parts of the same personnel and entertainment market. By the end of February both chapters had approved the merger and they were meeting and performing as one (and liking it). At Division 2 contest in March Bellevue exercised a bye and did not compete and Lake Washington, in the midst of awaiting approval of the merger, did not compete. That formal approval came at the District meeting in April.

The first Evergreen District Directors and Coaches Guild meeting was held in early March in Kirkland, WA. Sixty interested and committed directors, coaches and others attended and learned of directing skills and coaching techniques. All agreed that the need for improved performance was great and the promise of the Guild should match that need. The organization was formalized, dues were set and the mission was stated. The group met again in November at COTS for more training and reinforcement of the ideas behind the group. It appeared to be well underway.

For the 1991 contest cycle there was a change in scoring. Responding to concerns that not enough weight was being given to singing in the contest scores, the Sound category scores were to be raised by a factor of 1.5. Responding to this, scores needed at Division contests to qualify for appearance at the District Contest in the fall were raised to 395 for quartets and 378 for choruses. Also, International set the qualifying score for competition at International at 2041.

With the bookkeeping details taken care of, the spring contest season proceeded. The culmination, as always, came at the International Preliminaries which, this year, were held in conjunction with the Division 4 Contests in Hillsboro, OR on the last weekend in April. There were 21 quartets at the Friday night semi-final at Thomas Junior High School. The judges picked the top eight to appear the following

night. When the singing was all done the audience was excited to learn that four quartets had scored higher than the magic 2041 point threshold. This was the largest number of quartets that Evergreen had ever sent to International. The four excited quartets included, with the top score, **Northwest Spirit**, from Bellevue and Sea-Tac (Dan Tangarone, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Tom Wilkie), back for the fourth time. **Easy Street**, from Bellevue and Tacoma (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte), was back for the fifth time. **Heyday**, from West Portland and Frank Thorne (Paul Krenz, Bob Swanson, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell), together only six months, but all very familiar with the International stage, would be going. And rounding out the quartet of quartets was the current District Champs, **Sonic Boom**, from New Westminster and Vancouver (Dave Cotton, Dave Vincent, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger).

Tualatin Valley's **Aliens** were in the contest and made it to the finals. There they took advantage of their comedic talents to present a set in which they lip-sync-ed their way through two taped Boston Common numbers. The tape speed varied and the guys followed perfectly until the tape sputtered and stopped, whereupon Jim, Bob and Jay set upon Chuck and the set concluded to gales of laughter and applause. The judges rose, broke their pencils and gave the quartet a string of zeroes. After all, the rules were broken, but the **Aliens** had earned another perfect score in the hearts of everyone there (judges included).

In a separate contest, held on Saturday afternoon after the Division 4 chorus contest, four seniors quartets vied for the title of Seniors Champion. That contest was won by the **Model T Four** of Vancouver, confirming their second place finish at Tampa just three months earlier.

In presentations, Steve Mondau was given the award for being 1990 Barbershopper of the year. Steve's efforts as Logopedics Chairman had seen contributions rise to the \$30,000 annual level. Steve was also an indefatigable member of the Tacoma Chapter, officer, member bringer, and quartet singer. Dick Baysinger of the Columbia Basin Chapter was given the District Advisor of the Year Award for his efforts in Division 6.



In a special announcement, Milly Millington of Portland was inducted into the Evergreen District Hall of Fame. Milly was a lifetime member of the Portland Chapter and was present at the birth of the district. He was instrumental in its growth, serving as a traveling salesman of the Society along with his work as a music salesman.

The Portland Chapter passed its 45th birthday. It was especially noted that long-time member Paul Extrom had been putting out the chapter bulletin since 1971 — over 1,000 issues!

The 53rd International Convention was held in Louisville. The scoring threshold set for quartet entry to the contest had apparently been set too low for there were 66 quartets competing, including three from foreign affiliates. Singing in that 66th spot was Evergreen's own **Sonic Boom**. This is hardly a desirable place to be, for all but the die-hards have left the hall by then and everyone is weary of the process in spite of its importance. Nothing daunted, our guys sang their hearts out, and, in their very first International appearance, they came back with a 51st place finish. **Easy Street** earned a 40th place and **Heyday** gained a 37th slot. It was especially good to see a district quartet crack the top twenty for the first time since Harmonic Tremors had turned the trick in 1988. **Northwest Spirit** came back with a well-earned 14th place. It was the beginning of several years of such performances and it certainly indicated that the district's various educational efforts were bearing good fruit.

There were 17 choruses in the International Contest, including one from Sweden. Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr., came in twelfth. The 52 men on stage did not include any of the recently merged Lake Washington members. International had ruled that they could not be part of the group for this contest.

In early August the **Aliens** went to the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, OH to try competing in a contest where entertainment has more value than in a regular contest. In fact people are selected from the audience to provide an entertainment score which is combined with a "regular" score. The quartets sing a four song set in twelve minutes. This was right down the **Aliens'** alley and they won hands down. Finally, national recognition in a contest for the district's long-lasting and everlastingly entertaining guys, Jim Richards, Bob Wiggins, Chuck Olson and Jay Thornberry.

As usual, summer's end was marked by Harmony Hollow at White Rock, BC. This harmonious camp-out (cabins are available, too) is put together by a group of Division 1 chapters and is family-oriented as well as tunefully endowed. Each chapter is responsible for an event and the whole thing goes together in an informal and totally satisfying way. Attendees come away with fond recollections and look forward to a return in the next year. If summer has to end, here is a way to end it.

As a warm-up for the International Convention in 1993, Calgary hosted the District Convention on the first weekend in October. Based on previous outings in the Stampede City, everyone expected a great time. That's what everyone got. Think great hospitality, think free bussing to the contests at Jubilee Auditorium, think the Ladies Breakfast on Saturday morning (with great door prizes), think Paul Tomicich there with the Barbershopper's Shop, think a great time.

And think a great contest. Twenty quartets found their way to Calgary to search for this year's gold. Eight of them were picked for the finals on Saturday night (in a session MC'd by the inimitable George Meehan). The new District Champion Quartet, by a very large margin, was **Heyday**, from the West Portland and Frank Thorne Chapters. It was made up of members of previous champion quartets, Paul Krenz, Bob Swanson, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell. Second place was taken by **Revised Arrangement** of Edmonton (Darryl Bell, David Buffie, Stanley Ruthen and Ross Farrall). Third place went to **Free Trade** from the Anacortes, Lake Washington, Langley and Vancouver Chapters (Mike Wilcox, Mark West, Jamie Peterson and Stan Boon).



**Heyday**, West Portland and Frank Thorne, 1991 District Champions and three time International contestant. From left, Matt Campbell, br, Bob Swanson, l, Clay Campbell, bs, and Paul Krenz, t.

There were thirteen choruses ready for the chorus contest, including both of the choruses from Calgary. Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr. and now with the former Lake Washington members singing with them won the Championship with a solid score. Second place went to New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger and, only four points behind them, in third place, was Sea-Tac's **Harmony Kings**, directed by Tom Wilkie. The Plateau I award, of course, went to Bellevue. Plateau II was won by Langley's **First Capitol Chorus**, directed by Mike Wilcox and the Plateau III award went to Calgary

Foothills' **Western Hospitality**, directed by Randy Peters. Calgary Foothills had just 17 men on stage and came in fifth overall. Spokane's **Pages of Harmony**, directed by Dave Moyer, won the Most Improved Chorus Award.



Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr., 1991 District Champions and holder of a ninth place finish at the 1992 International contest in New Orleans.

The QCED show, an annual highlight at District Conventions, was held on Friday night, as always, in the headquarters hotel (the Westin). Past district champions were given a warm welcome and much applause. The largest measure went to **Easy Street** as Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Steve Barclay and Forrest LaMotte sang their swan song. The quartet had had a good run and would be remembered with much affection.

Another high light occurred when four more Evergreen stalwarts were inducted into the District Hall of Fame. The new inductees were:



**Elmer Burke** - member of the Seattle Chapter, instrumental in its formation, chapter officer and bulletin editor, Area Counselor, Division Vice President and District President. Proprietor of Elmer's Woodshed, a room in his basement where chapter and district business was done. Guiding light of the Puget Sound Chord Benders, an inter-chapter group. An active member until his death.



**George Cotton** - member of the Vancouver Chapter, chorus director, coach, instructor, arranger, COTS faculty member. George was in the Society judging program for 12 of his 38 years of barbershopping. Interpretation judge, serving on many panels, including International, Interpretation Board of Review, DACJC and, at the time of his death, was a candidate for Chairman of Judges.



**Frank Graham** - charter member of the Eugene Chapter, participant in the organizational meeting of the Pacific Northwest District in 1947, chapter officer, International Board Member for five years. Sang in the **Hills Creek Four**. Frank's contributions, both intellectual and financial, were a great asset to the chapter and district. Frank was an active member at Eugene until his death.



**E. C. "Murph" Murphy** - charter member of the Eugene Chapter, participant in the organizational meeting of the Pacific Northwest District in 1947, first District President, member of the 1950 District Champion **Lumber Lads**, International Board member for four years. Murph was a member of the Eugene Chapter until his death.

Not only was the convention a hospitable and harmonious success, it was a financial block buster. Almost \$13,000 was put in the treasury, more than making up for losses at the Spring Convention and putting the district back on a sound footing. General Chairman Alan Gowans and all of the Calgary crew could be well satisfied with their trial run for 1993.

The year wound down, as it always does, and all good officers and singers got ready for the new year by going to COTS at the Executive Inn in Fife (north of Tacoma). The EDDCG met there also. Bring on 1992.

## 1992

To start the new year out, Walt Paulsen, of Tacoma, moved up to the President's office. Taking over his previous slot as Executive Vice President was Alan Gowans (Calgary) who continued as Division 3 Vice President. Bob Huber, of Bellevue, took over as Division 2 Vice President. Tom McGowan had expected to come in as Division 5 Vice President, but his move to Oregon made the vice-presidential move impossible, so Ed Naughten, of Great Falls, stayed on as the vice president.

One of the changes that came along with the new officers was a change in how the district spent its money. The fall board meeting had involved an intense budgeting session devoted to trimming costs and/or raising dues. The latter step was not taken, but cuts were made. One of the cuts was to eliminate district assistance to district quartets traveling to International contests (this had been in the amount of round trip coach airfare to the contest). In an attempt to cover these costs a group was organized early in the year to produce and promote a "Go For The Gold 1992" show featuring the New Orleans-bound quartets. The show was scheduled for June 20 in Seattle. QCED added its weight to this idea by agreeing to donate \$2400 to the representative quartets. With other contributions to the Bud Leabo Fund and to EDDCG, this group had to forego its support of scholarships to Harmony College.

Good news came from Long Beach (California) where the Mid-Winter Convention was held. The **Model T Four** had gone there (from Vancouver) to compete in the Seniors Quartet Contest. The guys medaled again, coming home with third place hardware.

By 1992 increasing numbers of chapters were organizing singing Valentines programs. The program started out modestly enough but has grown into a substantial money raiser for many chapters.

News of director changes included word that young Gabe Caretto was directing at Eugene and Ted Chamberlain was directing at Tacoma.

The goal of quartets and choruses competing in the spring divisional contests was to reach the newly set "floor" so they could go on to district competition in the fall. That floor was 400 for quartets and 378 for choruses. All contests had been completed by mid-May.

The big one was held in Tacoma on the last weekend in April where the Division 2 contests were held in conjunction with the Spring Prelims. The floor for selection to International had been set at 2128 points. Twenty-seven quartets came to Tacoma for the division and Prelim testing. Of the eight that made it to the Saturday night finals, five were selected to go to International in New Orleans. Yes, five — the largest number of quartets that Evergreen has ever sent to an International contest. That was truly an exciting day for the troops. It seemed to indicate that the coaching and training were really paying off.

The five quartets, appropriately enough, included four past District Champions and one that would receive its crown in the fall of 1992. Veterans of four previous International experiences, **Northwest Spirit** of the Bellevue and Sea-Tac Chapters (Dan Tangarone, Wes Sorestokke, Chuck Landback and Tom Wilkie) would lead the way to New Orleans. **Seattle Sound**, Bellevue, was a new quartet with some veteran voices in Steve Barclay, Neal Booth, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Matt Rice. There were three quartets coming back for the second time: **Heyday**, West Portland and Frank Thorne (Paul Krenz, Bob Swanson, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell), **Sonic Boom**, New Westminster and Vancouver (David Cotton, Dave Vincent, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger) and **Vocal Attraction**, Bellevue (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Ted Chamberlain and Stu Turner).

The Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was given to **Pacific Standard Time**, New Westminster (Neal Phelts, Bill Kowk, Charlie Metzger and George Metzger). The award for 1991 Barbershopper of the Year 1991 was given to Chester Colpitts of the New Westminster Chapter, a hard working Joe Barbershopper who had held all chapter positions, organizer and high factotum of the Harmony Hollow celebration and Division Vice President.

The Board and the House were fairly busy at Tacoma — in fact the record indicates that the House of Delegates met at 7 AM on Saturday morning — that must have been an attention-challenging session for late hour woodshedders. In a move to make dues collection more efficient, the District agreed that International would collect all dues. The International District and Chapter dues would henceforth be collected in one bill from Kenosha to the individual member. The fall House of Delegates meeting was rescheduled so that it would be held on the COTS weekend rather than the District Convention weekend. The election of district officers was changed from HOD voice vote to a mail-in system. Divisional boundary changes were discussed. And a lot of “regular” business was concluded. All in all, not a bad piece of work for an early rising crew.

The EDDCG directors and coaches workshop was held in late May in Surrey, BC. The Guild brought in Larry Ajer, Stage Presence guru supreme, to lead workshops in how to better present the “show” of a song. The attendees were much impressed with the techniques demonstrated and the results that were obtained. All went home feeling that the right approach was being taken and that the district would surely benefit from activities such as this.

As always, July brought the International Convention, this year in steamy New Orleans. Evergreen was there with its five quartets, its much-grown Bellevue chorus, a contingent of Calgary folks to promote the 1993 convention, and all the supporters that could be mustered. It was a great time. The Calgary contingent worked hard in their booth all week long and sold over 3000 registrations — a record number.

The Evergreen quartets went looking for records also. There were 57 quartets set to try for the gold. In what must have been some kind of a record, **Sonic Boom** was drawn for the 57th slot, putting them in the last singing position for two years in a row — not a record they sought. For the first time since 1988,

Evergreen had two quartets in the top twenty. **Northwest Spirit** came in 15th, just 38 points out of making it to the top ten. **Seattle Sound** earned a 20th place. While the other three quartets did not make it to the top twenty, they were grouped considerably above the lower ranges. **Heyday** was 30th, **Sonic Boom** was 37th and **Vocal Attraction** was 39th, with only 44 points separating the three of them. It was a long way above the bottom slot.

The chorus contest had been reformatted for 1992. There were twenty slots to be filled. Four were open for representatives of the foreign affiliates, and any slots that were not filled by those representatives were open, on a score-ranked basis, to Society choruses. For this year, only BABS sent a chorus (from Sheffield) so there were three "extra" choruses in the line-up of twenty (the districts represented by two choruses were Far Western, Illinois and Mid-Atlantic). Bellevue's **Northwest Sound** sang in the third slot and put 91 men on stage under Bobby Gray's direction. Their larger size (up from 52) and much improved performance resulted in a score 153 points higher than 1991 and a jump to the ninth position in the standings. This was great progress and the Bellevue guys were pleased with the improvement.

Added to the proceedings in 1992 was a College Quartet Contest. In preparation for this the District got behind, modestly, a representative quartet from the University of Oregon. **Secret 4-mula** was made up of three UO students and a Springfield High School man. They were Josh Cox, Nick Larson (the high schooler), Brian Jardine and Gabe Caretto, the latter the well-known director of the Cascade Chorus. The contest was held Wednesday afternoon at the headquarters Hyatt Regency. **Secret 4-mula** did well enough to come in third in this contest.

Evergreen went home from this hot convention with a real feeling that by most measures, this was a real fine convention.

The day after most people got home from International the members of the Snohomish County **Windjammers** were on the other side of the world. They were in Sydney, Australia, performing at the Opera House there. More than two years earlier they had, as a "why not?" idea, submitted a bid to World Projects which was putting together an International Music Festival in Sydney. Incredibly, the chorus was accepted. So the gang went, toured the country, sang all over and had a great time. Moral: Impossible dreams can come true, especially if you work at making them come true.



**Seattle Sound**, Bellevue, 1992 District Champions and, with personnel changes, five time International contestants. From the left, Matt Rice, bs, Neal Booth, l, Steve Barclay, t, and Bobby Gray, Jr., br.

In an attempt to cut costs and generate some new funds, the district had, in 1991, selected a travel agency, First Choice Travel of Gig Harbor, WA, to act as the agent for all district travel (officers and judges), and to gain some funds through anticipated rebates of travel fees booked by district members through the agency. First year results appeared to be inconclusive, but the program continued through 1992 and members were urged to use the agency. First Choice ads were appearing in *Timbre*.

District Convention was hosted by Eugene on October 9, 10. Headquarters was the Hilton and the contest site was the Hult Center. With recent experience in hosting conventions the Eugene

people, under Tim Knight's chairmanship were ready to put on a great show.

Twenty-nine quartets arrived to add to the show and, after Friday night's semi-finals, that number was reduced to ten. Since there was no House of Delegates meeting (it had been moved to COTS weekend), there was time to get the chorus and quartet contests finished by late Saturday afternoon. When the scoresheets were totaled on the computer, the new District Champion quartet was Bellevue's **Seattle Sound** (Steve Barclay, Neal Booth, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Matt Rice). They earned the championship hands down. Second place went to **Regeneration** of the Mount Baker Chapter (Turner Stiers, Ted Stiers, Denny Stiers and Jim Bailey). Third place went to **Route 140 Four**, from the Rogue Valley and Frank Thorne Chapters (Jerry Grant, Kenne Horton, Wayne Horton and Paul Wietlisbach). This foursome from old Norway rode two parody sets to third place.



Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr., 1992 District Champions and holder of a ninth place finish at the 1993 International contest in Calgary.

There were 19 entrants in the chorus contest. For the third year in a row, Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr. won the gold. The win was narrower, though, as West Portland's **Vocal Gentry**, directed by Tim McCormic, was only 25 points behind. Third place went to Eugene's **Cascade Chorus**, directed by Gabe Caretto. Bellevue won the Plateau I Championship, Vancouver's **Thunderbirds**, directed by David Cotton, won the Plateau II Championship and Canby's **Oregon Trail Pitchpipers**, directed by Caric Mitts, won the Championship for Plateau III. The Kamloops **High Country Harmony**, directed by Wilf Epp came down to win the George Cotton Trophy for Most Improved Chorus.



There was another well-deserved addition to the District Hall of Fame. Paul Extrom, twenty-seven year member of the Portland Chapter and loyal, conscientious worker for the district was inducted into the Hall on Saturday evening. Paul served his chapter as president, secretary and long-time bulletin editor. He worked as district secretary for 15 years and served on district committees too numerous to detail. He sang with the **Willamettes** quartet and he sponsored 26 new members.

The year, as always, wound down with COTS in Fife again and, this time, with a House of Delegates meeting combined. To help the year along, chapters moved to their Christmas music and the year went out harmoniously and successfully.

## 1993

That COTS meeting of the House of Delegates brought some changes. Division boundaries were altered. The old Division 5 (Montana and southern Idaho) was eliminated. The chapters in that old division

were divided up between Division 3 (Alberta) and a new Division 5 to be made up of old Division 6 (eastern Washington) and northeastern Oregon. The new division stretched some 700 miles north and south as well as east and west — big enough to fit a regular district in, if there were just a few more people.

There were a few changes in the board. Paul Derr of Spokane stayed on as a Division Vice President, taking over the realigned Division 5. Ed Naughten, who had been vice president of old Division 5, retired — something he had wanted to do the previous year. Bun Strom finished his term as IBM and Tim Knight, Eugene, moved into that position. Burt Staffen, Bellevue, became DACJC and Jim Hendricks, Bellevue, became District Communications Officer.

In a change that some folks still have trouble putting through their mouths, the Institute of Logopedics changed its name to Heartspring, based on the feeling that the new name had a more “caring” sound to it and made it more appealing than an institution. No matter, barbershoppers continued to support the idea with heartfelt contributions.

Kenosha began promoting the idea of Lifeblood and we all heard a lot about the concept of having a chapter meeting based on what the membership really wanted to do. The Central States District was the lead experimenter in this approach, and there are many CSD-ers who will still tell you that the idea is a great one. It had the thinking of some of the best minds of the Society behind it, and it surely was supported. There are always new approaches to try out, though, and Lifeblood is another thing of the past having left the Society a better place than it might otherwise have been.

The Bud Leabo Memorial Fund had grown to \$60,000. Contributions were encouraged. The principal remained untouched, but proceeds from the interest were used during the year to provide up to 30 scholarships to EDHC plus various costs associated with the district music program (to a total of \$4,000) per year. A good idea that continued to work well.

Another good idea had taken root in the form of the TAPROOT 2000 Committee. This group of District members had embarked on developing a plan for the district — one to provide a framework for goals and methods in an attempt to get away from the old reactive approach.

As spring competitions approached, contestants were reminded that one chorus and one quartet, the champions of each of the five divisions, would be guaranteed a place at District Contest in the fall. The remaining contestants would be picked by taking the top ranked quartets and choruses (based on their division scores) for a total of 19 additional quartets and 13 additional choruses.

The Spring Prelims were hosted by the Sea-Tac Chapter and were held at the Auburn Performing Arts Center. The headquarters hotel was the Cypress Inn in Kent. Twenty-one quartets started out on Friday evening. This included, of course, the representatives of Division 2, competing for local honors. All the quartets knew that to make it to International they had to score better than 2136 points (of course, the top two quartets were guaranteed a chance at the big show. Ten quartets competed at the finals on Saturday and three ended up with scores higher than 2136, giving them the privilege of performing on the International stage in their own district. Coming out on top was **Northwest Spirit** from the Bellevue and Sea-Tac Chapters (Dan Tangarone, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Tom Wilkie). The top three were rounded out with **Heyday**, West Portland and Frank Thorne (Paul Krenz, Bob Swanson, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell) and, only two points behind them, Bellevue's **Seattle Sound** (Steve Barclay, Neal Booth, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Matt Rice). There was hope that a fourth quartet might make it, as **The Edge** was only twelve points below the threshold. In the end that proved to be a good hope. Not enough quartets, Society-wide, reached the threshold, and **The Edge** (Ed Dempsey, Dave Warkentin, Mark Metzger

and Tom Metzger), representing the New Westminster and Vancouver Chapters, got to sing on the International stage in their own country.

The Novice Quartet award went to **Singin' in the Rain**, from the Sea-Tac Chapter (Jim Williams, Scott Koppa, Phil Pagoria and Del Motteler). The Award for Barbershopper of the Year for 1992 was given, with much good feeling, to Ken Pask, since 1990 either the Director of Music Education or the Vice President, Music Education. Ken was an indefatigable worker in the field of spreading the word on education, on organizing schools and on scheduling Kenosha's field men through the district. His award was well earned.

The Calgary International Convention Committee, under energetic and capable General Chairman Alan Gowans, had been preparing for more than a year to get ready for the big event. Everyone was conscious of the fact that it had been 30 years since the last International had been held in Canada (in Toronto). For some while indications had been that this would be a record setting event and so it turned out. Official registrations totaled 11,092. That was a new record. Everyone fit in, though. Some of the housing was a little distant but Calgary Transit provided free transportation to all barbershoppers (so long as they had a convention badge). In this writer's observation, it all worked exceptionally well. The city was a delight, the weather was great, the townfolks were friendly and the facilities outstanding. The Calgary hosts (more than 170 of them) had a reputation to live up to, for the previous Internationals held in Evergreen had been great successes. The gang exceeded all expectations. According to the *Harmonizer* "proceedings went smoothly throughout the week. International staff members who worked at the convention remarked that it was one of the better international conventions operations in recent memory. Everything was either on time or ahead of schedule." An extraordinary amount of effort goes into putting an International together. It is rewarding to have the effort so well recognized.

There were 53 quartets ready to go for the gold at the Saddledome, just a short C-Train ride from the downtown hotels. **The Edge**, bringing along **Sonic Boom's** drawing luck, got to sing in 50th position — not quite the end. Support from the audience was strong and all four quartets did themselves proud. In effect, they kept position, which means they got better because everyone else got better. **Northwest Spirit** made it into the semi-finals and ended up with a 14th place finish. **Seattle Sound**, at 23rd, was not a long way out of the cut for the semi-finals, and **Heyday** was not far behind with a 30th place finish. **The Edge** came in 46th.

West Portland's **Vocal Gentry**, under Tim McCormic's direction set the stage for Saturday's chorus contest by doing a great job as mike testers. There were 21 choruses (four of them wild cards) ready to go. Bellevue's **Northwest Sound** sang in the 20th slot. None of those 95 guys got to see any of the chorus competition. Nothing daunted, they followed Bobby Gray's direction and came in with a ninth place finish, just the same as the previous year. It took a lot of work just to stay even — not a bad way to be.

There was another College Quartet contest and Eugene's **Secret 4-mula** (Josh Cox, Nick Larson, Brian Jardine and Gabe Caretto) went back for a second try. Their try was good enough for a second place finish.

All good things come to an end, and so it was for this 56th running of the International Show. But the accolades poured in for weeks. The Calgary group and all of Evergreen could be pleased and very proud of the efforts to live up to the memory of the Toronto show and of the two previous Evergreen outings. Indeed, in the minds of most, it had exceeded the earlier ones. Everyone could be happy.

Following in the tracks of the **Aliens**, Medford's **Route 140 Four** (Jerry Grant, Kenne Horton, Wayne Horton and Paul Wietlisbach) found its way back to Columbus, Ohio for the Buckeye Invitational. They combined their "Dead Bari" set (in Viking garb) with the "Viking" package (for which they added the helmets and weapons). They fit it all into the required twelve minutes, earned a standing ovation and a third place finish overall. Those guys yust bane happy!

Since 1991 there had been discussion and concentrated study of a change in the judging system. The study developed a new system that had been approved at the Mid-Winter Board Meeting in Corpus Christi. The new system was built around three categories. The Music Category was to consider the song and arrangement as performed and to compare it to the tenets of the barbershop style. The Presentation Category was to consider how well the song was given to the audience, to measure its effect and believability. The Singing Category was to measure the achievement of artistic singing, including intonation, unity and consistency; it was to consider vocal skill. For the first time, all three categories shared common ground in judging, moving away from the old idea that each category was a stand-alone division in judging performances. The idea was to judge the total performance in much the same way that any audience member judges it

The new system brought some other changes. Time penalties were eliminated. Members of the competing groups were permitted to enter or leave the stage at any time. Briefings were eliminated.

The new system had been tested in parallel with the existing system as the year progressed and the training and testing of judges in the new category had proceeded. The new system was to be used in the fall cycle of contests. As that date approached, Evergreen's DACJC announced the names of the men who had qualified to be judges in the new categories. Those men were:

#### **Music**

Bob Brock  
Ron Carlson  
Jim Kahlke  
Mel Knight

Frank Torne  
Frank Thorne  
Bellevue  
Tualtin Valley

#### **Contest Administrator**

Mike Lanctot  
Bob Thomas

Bellevue  
Mt. Baker

#### **Singing**

Charlie Metzger  
Burt Staffen

N. Westminster  
Bellevue

#### **Presentation**

Bobby Gray, Jr.  
Marty Lovick  
Reid Stewart

Bellevue  
N. Westminster  
Eugene

After many years of dedicated service, some of the current judges retired. These included Jim McKee, Gareth Evans, Rae Seely, Brian Ayers and Murray Lieberman. Retirement also came for the computer named George, bought with funds given in George Cotton's name shortly after his death. This "George" simply became out dated and couldn't handle the software anymore. He was replaced by two computers — one of them duly dubbed "George."

With the judging system in place, it was time to travel to Spokane on the weekend of October 22-24 for the Fall Convention. Among the travelers were 19 quartets ready to sing on the contest stage of the Opera House. They were reduced to ten finalists, and in a very intense and tight contest, a new district Champ Quartet was chosen. It was **Milky Way**, from the Anacortes and Mount Baker Chapters (Tim Broersma, Doug Broersma, Charlie Boon and Stan Boon). Only nine points behind was **The Edge**, New Westminster and Vancouver (Ed Dempsey, Dave Warkentin, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger). Third place was taken by **Regeneration** of the Mount Baker Chapter (Turner Stiers, Ted Stiers, Denny Stiers and Jim Bailey). There was a real family connection in this collection of musical high achievers. **Milky Way**



**Milky Way**, Anacortes and Mt. Baker, 1993 District Champions and two time International contestants. Clockwise from left, Doug Broersma, l, Stan Boon, bs, Charlie Boon, br, and Tim Broersma, t.

had a father and son plus two brothers combination. **The Edge** had two brothers. **Regeneration** had a father and twin sons. It was also remarkable that this collection of connections all came from Division 1. Every division should be so lucky as to have such a group of singers. There is a thrill to be had from singing with one's son or brother. There is a thrill just to see and hear it.

Also among the travelers to Spokane were the 600 singers in the 15 choruses who came to try for the various honors. The new Evergreen District Champion was West Portland's **Vocal Gentry**, directed by Tim McCormic. It was West Portland's first championship medal. Second place went to Salem's **Senate-Aires**, directed by Steve Morin and third place was taken by the **Harmony Kings** of Sea-Tac, directed by Tom Wilkie. The Plateau I Award, naturally, went to West Portland. Plateau II Award was

taken by Vancouver's **Thunderbirds**, directed by David Cotton and the Plateau III Award went to Calgary Foothill's **Western Hospitality** under Randy Peters. The George Cotton Most Improved Chorus Award was given to New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger.



West Portland's **Vocal Gentry**, directed by Tim McCormic, 1993 District Champions and holders of a 17th place finish at the 1994 International contest in Pittsburgh.

Toward the end of the year good news came in the word that Mel Knight, recently retired from his Society job, had relocated in Oregon and was already singing and offering his considerable coaching and instructional skills.

News of a departure came also. Matt Rice, bass of **Seattle Sound** and **The Most Happy Fellows** had gotten a great new job in Chicago. Bob Hodge had been "fifth manning" with **Seattle Sound**. On top of all that word was spreading that **Heyday** and **Northwest Spirit** were hanging up the pitch pipe. As things developed, Steve Barclay left **Seattle Sound** (on very friendly terms) and, with **Northwest Spirit** winding down, Tom Wilkie moved over to the open bass slot in **Seattle Sound**. The quartet was still getting its feet under itself, so to speak, but all were optimistic. The foursome suggested it would not compete in 1994, but would see what 1995 might bring.

And, finally, news that no one cares to hear — the word of the death of three district notables. Gene Haworth, singer and barbershopper extraordinaire, member of three district champion quartets and many other foursomes, judge, director and all time great guy. Gordon Smith, tenor of the 1978 District Champ New Rendition and many others; a clear throated, smilingly happy, good guy. Don Robison, 40-year member of the Cascade Chorus, long time Secretary and Chairman of Judges, District President and member of the District Hall of Fame.

The year, however, ended with this good note. Although the Society lost membership for the year (183 men) the Evergreen District led all districts in growth. We grew a net of 80 good people. A number of good things happened. There were new chapters in Lethbridge and Red Deer, AB and Vernon, BC. Retention was better and new members came in at a good rate. The District was presented with the Quality District of the Year award. That made a good way to end a year. And plan for the future.

## 1994

In officer changes, to start the new year out, Alan Gowans, Calgary, moved into the President's office. Bob Cox, Salem, assumed the Executive Vice President's job along with his Division 4 vice presidential duties. Marvin Polachic, Medicine Hat, took over as Division 3 Vice President. Steve Kyes, Coos Bay, became Music Vice President. Tim Knight had resigned as IBM, so Bun Strom, Great Falls, had been appointed to fill out the remaining term.

In a long discussed (and passionately argued) move, the Mid-Winter Board in Sarasota approved the step of allowing non-members of the Society to be chorus directors. Plainly stated, that meant that a chorus could have a lady for a director. The idea was to try to get the best director available regardless of gender.

The Montana Centennial Chorus, looking for a reason to have a five-year reunion, settled on a mid-March date and sold the idea for an Irish show to the town fathers of Butte. Butte has a large Irish population, the show was a natural and the whole affair was a nostalgic reunion for the Montana Chorus and a great show for the attendees.

In April **Cascade Connection** went down under. Jim De Busman, Jerry Harrison, Mel Knight and Reid Stewart spent the whole month, acting as faculty at an Australian Harmony College, visiting and working with chapters in both Australia and New Zealand, performing in shows, engaging in a large Youth Outreach program in New Zealand, and even getting in a little sight seeing. The foursome was overwhelmed by the hospitality and good will of their hosts. Good things happen to good people.

The New Westminster Chapter hosted the Spring Prelims on the weekend of April 8-9. The prelims were held in conjunction with Division 1 contests. The local quartets and the choruses would perform for placement in the final selections for district competition in the fall. Quartets interested in making it to the International in Pittsburgh would have to reach a minimum score of 1800 (the new judging system led to lower scores). For the first time in three years the big three (Heyday, Northwest Spirit and Seattle Sound) would not be part of the prelim line up. A page had certainly been turned. But 17 quartets did show up and eight of them made it to the finals on Saturday afternoon. Out of that group, two quartets were chosen to go on to Pittsburgh. The current District Champs **Milky Way**, from Anacortes and Mount Baker (Tim Broersma, Doug Broersma, Charlie Boon and Stan Boon) won the Most Happy Fellows Award for best score. Joining them as Evergreen International representatives was **The Edge** from New Westminster and Vancouver (Ed Dempsey, Dave Warkentin, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger). Since no other quartets

exceeded the 1800 point floor, the District would send only the two quartets. The Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award went to Bellevue's **Rain City Four** (Rob Mitchell, Dick Bek, Jamie Peterson and Bob Thomas).

The District Advisor of the Year Award for 1993 was given to Don Craig of Calgary. Don was both Music Advisor and an advisor for EDDCG and, as a well-oiled human dynamo he made his good advisory presence felt throughout Division 3 and the District.

The Barbershopper of the Year Award was given to Paul Derr of the Spokane Chapter. He handled, for five years, division vice-presidential duties along with responsibilities in many areas and was noted for his consistent effort and dedicated service. Unfortunately, ill health forced Paul to resign his Vice President's job and in mid-July he lost a long battle with cancer.

The fifty-sixth International Convention was held in Pittsburgh. The Civic Arena, where the contests were held, was not at the top of a mountain, it only seemed that way when one had to hurry to get to the contest on time. Both of Evergreen's quartets made it on time. For a change **The Edge** got to sing in a decent slot — 39th out of 53 quartets — third onto the stage in the evening session. Better slot or better performing, these guys turned in a great one and came away with a 28th place finish. That was a big improvement over their 46th place finish in 1993. **Milky Way**, in its first International showing, came in 39th (in a group of four quartets with only six points between them). The district was proud of the performances.

There were 20 choruses ready for the contest on Saturday. Two were from foreign affiliates so there were two wild cards mixed in. West Portland's **Vocal Gentry**, with Tim McCormic directing and 58 men on stage, sang 18th in the order and came in 17th in the standings.

As summer had approached Medford's **Route 140 Four** had expected to go back to the Buckeye Invitational again. However, bass Paul Wietlisbach had broken his leg badly in a big fall. He could put no weight on the leg and rehab was expected to be lengthy. The quartet reluctantly gave up the chance to be in Columbus. Don't tell them, "Break a leg!"

Following the resignation of DCO Jim Hendricks, Del Knox, of the Seattle Chapter, took over. There was a flurry of communicatory activity, a new communications bulletin, *Timbre Chips* appeared and the word was put out. People didn't always pay heed, but the communications tool was used.

Music Vice President Steve Kyes had promoted the DMLT (District Music Leadership Team), trying especially to reach chapters with 20 to 40 members. The EDHC was held, as usual, in August with **Acoustix** on the faculty. There was a Directors School in Spokane. The EDDCG held another good meeting in May at Skipper's Hall in Kirkland. For anyone interested, there was training of a high order available.

District Contest was held in Tacoma on the weekend where September and October met. Evergreeners met at the headquarters Sheraton Hotel, handy to downtown. Contest sessions were held in the old Temple Theater, with busses providing transportation between the two — it was a long walk otherwise.

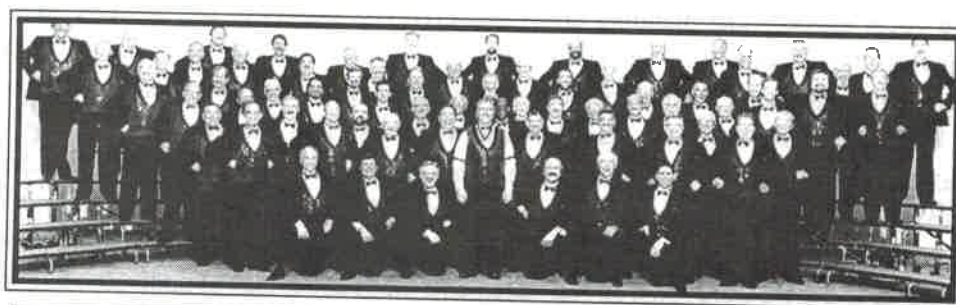
Sixteen quartets were at the Temple on Friday night to start the search for a new District Champ. Ten of that number went to the finals on Saturday afternoon. The new champion quartet was **The Edge** from the New Westminster and Vancouver Chapters (Ed Dempsey, Dave Warkentin, Mark Metzger and

Tom Metzger). Second place went to Spokane's **Night Magic** (Ron Reed, Mark Gross, Jerry Stiles and Larry Hommel). Third place was taken by **Audio Synchrasy** of the Canby and Portland Chapters (Dan Douglass, Darwin Scheel, Caric Mitts and Doug Salyers).

Chorus contest started at 9:30 Saturday morning, which meant there were some early risers that day. Dressing and warm-up rooms were available at the Sheraton, which meant that there were some uncertainly crowded rooms before choruses were bussed up to the Temple. That took 15 bus rides. When the scores were tallied Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, under Bobby Gray, Jr.'s direction, had won the gold for the sixth time and would be heading for International competition in Miami Beach. Second place went to New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger and third place was taken by the Mount Baker **Toppers**, Denny Stiers directing. The Plateau AAA Award went to Bellevue. Plateau AA Award went to Kitsap County's **Chorus of the Olympics**, directed by Ed Hartley and the Plateau A Award plus the Most Improved Chorus Award went to Canby's **Oregon Trail Pitchpipers**, directed by Caric Mitts.



**The Edge**, New Westminster and Vancouver, 1994 District Champions and two time International contestants. From the left, Ed Dempsey, t, Dave Warkinton, l, Tom Metzger, bs, and Mark Metzger, br.



Bellevue's Northwest Sound, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr., 1994 District Champions and holders of a 16th place finish at the 1995 International contest in Miami.

COTS was held the weekend of November 11, 12 in a new location, the Tyee Motel south of Olympia. The new location or better promotion or more desire produced much better attendance — almost 200 people. The schedule had been altered the previous year so that "break-out" sessions were included, and these proved quite popular.

The House of Delegates meeting included consideration of a new method of electing the division vice presidents. It was proposed that each division, through a division nominating committee, propose its own nominee for election to the District Board. The House approved the proposed bylaw change unanimously, finally taking a step that had been promoted by various scattered proponents from almost the earliest days of governance in the district.

That new bylaw had been crafted by Ray Greaves in his capacity as Laws and Regulations Committee Chairman. That job was one of his last contributions, of so many, as Ray was stricken with inoperable cancer and passed away just before Christmas. Ray was in his sixtieth year and for 38 of them he had been a mainstay of his chapter, his district, his quartet and his Society. Chapter officer, bass in the District Championship Quartet **Bay Shore Four**, District President, IBM, Historian and Member of the District Hall of Fame. The immensity of this man's craftsmanship, dedication, perseverance and love cannot be described in a short note. His going left a huge hole.

## 1995

The faces on the District Board did not change, but there was a significant change in duties. Ken Fletcher, who had been District Treasurer since 1973, moved into the IBM position. That 27 years of dealing with the district's finances had not turned Ken into a dusty number cruncher. He was just as bright and friendly as ever and ready for IBM responsibilities. After all, he had already served in that capacity in 1972. In fact, Ken had served on the board since 1967 when he started out as a division vice president — 28 years of continuous service, a record not equaled in the district. Walt Paulsen, of the Tacoma Chapter, moved into the Treasurer's position. Fred Nordgard, of the Lewis-Clark Chapter, had been appointed to the Division 5 Vice President's job in mid 1994, following Paul Derr's death. Fred stayed on as VP.

For the Society the new year brought final action on the Vision 2001 Report. This was a detailed and far-reaching plan to restructure the Society with the vision of "being a leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music." The planning effort had involved leaders of the Society, men who had been intimately involved in keeping the organization strong in spite of concerns over membership levels and the gradual aging of the members. The report and plan was adopted but a part of it generated more heat than was expected. Considerable emphasis was placed on a new charity, Sing America/Sing Canada, a plan to foster music in the school systems of both countries. The plan suggested the strong support of this charity along with a proposal to withdraw from Heartspring. Needless to say, the general membership did not respond to this with wholehearted approval. Heartspring had taken a very deep and emotional spot in the heart of the barbershop world and there were some strong statements made about lack of understanding of the real world of barbershopdom. To the credit of everyone, the obvious solution was rather quickly and harmoniously arrived at with agreement by all that the appropriate thing to do was to support both charities. Indeed.

Contest season sprang with spring, although it didn't look that way at the Division 3 convention in Havre at the end of March. Snow made driving treacherous but choruses and quartets showed up and the show went on, snow or not. Division 5 had different problems. The planned site at Missoula was lost due to a scheduling foul-up, so Spokane stepped in (and up) and hosted it on May 6 in spite of that being the day of the Bloomsday Race with 6000 participants. Veteran convention chairman Skip Stiles didn't let a little race faze him.

International Prelims (and Division 2 contests) were held in Bremerton, hosted by the Kitsap County Chapter on April 21 and 22. To receive an invitation to Miami Beach, a quartet would have to score 1800 points or more. There were 27 quartets ready to search for that score beginning on Friday night at Bremerton High School. Ten went on to the finals on Saturday afternoon. The crowd at the high school was delighted with the competition and was excited to learn that four quartets had reached the 1800 point floor.

Winning the Most Happy Fellows award for best score was the lately reconfigured **Seattle Sound** from the Bellevue, Sea-Tac and Tacoma Chapters (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Tom Wilkie). Their work together during 1994 had clearly been for the best. Two quartets made it back for the second year in a row: **Milky Way**, Anacortes and Mount Baker (Tim Broersma, Doug Broersma, Charlie Boon and Stan Boon) and **The Edge**, New Westminster and Vancouver (Ed Dempsey, Dave Warkentin, Mark Metzger and Tom Metzger). The fourth quartet made it in, literally, by the skin of its teeth, scoring exactly 1800 points. The quartet was called **West by Northwest**, and represented the Bellevue and Frank Thorne Chapters. The group was a new combination including lead Wes Sorstokke and bari Chuck Landback from the old Northwest Spirit quartet plus two far Western District guys, Frank Bidingier, tenor and Ron Brown, bass. Ron and Chuck had met in the fall of 1994 and hit it off. Rehearsing was a challenge (San Francisco is not just down the block from Bellevue), but the distance was overcome and the foursome did a fine job.

The District Seniors Quartet Champion was **Fatherly Advice** from the Bellevue Chapter (Dan Tangarone, Dick Bek, Bill Thurman and Burt Staffen). Winner of the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was **Fascination**, Bellevue and Tacoma (Bill Barry, Don Rose, Ted Chamberlain and John Rae-Grant).

Don Craig of Calgary was given the 1994 Barbershopper of the Year Award. Special mention was made of Don's energy and willingness to help out any chapter or chorus in Division 3 and some in Division 5. Much was made of his expertise in most things musical and administrative and especially of the top notch advice and encouragement which he dispensed. Division Advisor of the Year was announced to be August Storkman of the Tacoma Chapter for his work with the Bellevue, Centralia and Juan de Fuca Chapters.

On April 30 Joe Liles, Executive Director of the Society, suffered a sudden heart attack. Recovery and recuperation proceeded nicely and Joe was able to be present at International. Everyone was happy to see Joe so quickly back in action, however circumscribed. He was able to handle his duties as things proceeded toward a planned retirement at the end of the year.

The 57th Annual Convention was held in Miami Beach. It was steamy and hot but air conditioning made things OK. The crowd was a disappointingly small one — only about 6500 people. Not unsurprisingly, the hotels are strung along the beach. Busing to the contest site at the Convention center was a bit trying (the heat contributed) but most people got there and back on time.

There were 56 quartets lined up for the competition. After Thursday's quarter-finals, one Evergreen quartet made the cut for Friday's contest. **Seattle Sound** came away with a 17th place tie, a good return for this foursome. **West by Northwest**, in their first outing, came in 29th, also a tie. **The Edge** came in 33rd and **Milky Way** was 42nd. The scores around both quartets were close. It bears repeating that the competition does indeed get tougher each year.

There were 22 choruses on the list for Saturday, with just one from the affiliates (England). Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, directed by Bobby Gray, Jr., put 70 men on stage and put on a great performance. The guys felt they had done better than they had in their last appearance (in 1993), but it was good enough for only a 16th place finish, compared with ninth in 1993. See previous paragraph.

In August, following in the footsteps of **The Aliens** and **Route 140 Four**, Eugene's **McKenzie Touring Co.** found its way back to Columbus, Ohio where it participated in the comedy quartet part of the Buckeye Invitational. Gary Raze, Marty Bauer, Dale Fish and Tim Knight were pleased to find that the

**Aliens** were back in Columbus too, doing some special shows for the Buckeye. **McKenzie** presented its nuclear package with three songs (in order to meet the Buckeye's nine to twelve minute requirement). The audience reaction was great and the guys were excited to learn that they had won the contest (coming in ahead of a bunch of really big bikers in **Expanded Sound**). It was beginning to look as if Oregon quartets had a lock on this contest.

In October Music Vice President Steve Kyes was explaining and encouraging participation in a chorus directors improvement project. The effort was to be aimed at all directors with sessions held throughout the district, utilizing premier instructors with one-on-one coaching following actual directing activity. Much was expected as the potential was great.



**Extra! Extra!**, Bellevue, Olympia and Frank Thorne, 1995 District Champions. From left, Mike Langthorpe, t, Bob Swanson, l, Forrest LaMotte, bs, and Roger Haag, br.

Also in October (the 20th to the 22nd to be exact) the District Convention was held in friendly Spokane on a beautiful fall weekend. Skip Stiles served as Convention Chairman again (practice had made him perfect), the headquarters was Cavanaugh's Inn at the Park and the contest site was again the familiar and comfortable Opera House.

Twenty-five quartets had qualified to be at District competition, and there were 21 ready to take the stage on Friday night. Eight were picked to enter the finals on Saturday evening and one was picked to be the new Champion. The new champs, from the Bellevue, Olympia and Frank Thorne Chapters were **Extra!**

**Extra!** (Mike Langthorpe, Bob Swanson, Roger Haag and Forrest LaMotte). The quartet had competed in the Spring Prelims but had chosen not to compete in the finals then because of scheduling difficulties. There were some obvious heavy hitters in the personnel — all but Mike Langthorpe had sung in previous championship quartets.



New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger, District Champions in 1995 and 1996 and holders of 17th place finishes at both of the International contests in 1995 (Salt Lake City) and 1996 (Indianapolis).

The quartet contest was close — only 23 points separated the top three quartets. Second place was taken by New Westminster's **Counterpoint**, featuring another foursome with the Metzger brothers Mark and Tom plus their dad, Charlie at baritone and another veteran, Marty Lovick at tenor. Third place went to **Way Out West**, from New Westminster and Vancouver (David Cotton, David Vincent, Mark West and Richard Smorenberg).

Eighteen choruses sang in the Saturday contest. The new District Champion Chorus was New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, under Charlie Metzger. With quartets at the second and third place level and a championship chorus, the New Westminster people could go home very pleased with their performances at Spokane. Bellevue's **Northwest Sound**, under Bobby Gray, Jr., took second place, and third place (by one point) went to the Salem **Senate-Aires**, directed by Steve Morin. The Plateau 3 Award was won by New Westminster. Plateau 2 hardware was won by Snohomish County's **Windjammers**, directed by Brian Ayres. And the Plateau 1 Award went to the Calgary Foothill's **Western Hospitality** under Randy Peters. The George Cotton Most Improved Chorus Award was given to Tacoma's **Totemaires**, directed by Ted Chamberlain.

COTS was held at the Tyee south of Olympia again. Emphasis was placed on a team approach to chapter administration. Throughout the district word was coming though about the total reorganization of the Society, the districts and the chapters. The aim was to make the organization more functional, reduce overhead and try to be more responsive. Well, if it's good for big corporate and public organizations it should be good for singing organizations.

Part of that change was a downsizing and reorganization of the International Board. Two new at-large positions were created. Charlie Metzger, of New Westminster, director, quartetter, coach and instructor, was honored by being appointed to one of those at-large positions.

Another new approach to membership also showed up at the end of the year. Kenosha began promoting Operation Harold Hill, with prizes and recognition to be given to men and chapters that exceeded goals or averages. The hype that accompanied the introduction sounded pretty Harold Hill-ish and skeptics might be forgiven for considering that here was another hard sell program that was going to be long on imagination and short on performance. Skeptics have been proven wrong before.

## 1996

There were some changes in the District Board for the new administrative year. Bob Cox, Salem, took over as president. Jerry Bray, Salem, became Treasurer. Steve Kyes, Coos Bay, moved into the vacated Division 4 Vice President's job. Mel Knight, West Portland, filled the vacated Music Vice President's job. New men filled two important chairmanships. Duane Christensen became District Communications Officer and Bob Thomas, New Westminster, became DACJC.

There was good news from Jacksonville, FL, site of the Mid-Winter Convention. Bellevue's **Fatherly Advice** (Dan Tangarone, Dick Bek, Bill Thurmon and Burt Staffen) won the Senior Quartet competition. Evergreen's Senior Champions took on a field of 22 quartets in a tight contest. The guys bested the second place quartet **Alumni** by just six points. Considering that there were International medalists in the bested quartets, the **Fatherly** guys did a great job. In fact, with two gold medals and three other medals, the Evergreen seniors have done quite well in the eleven contests that have been held.



**Fatherly Advice**, Bellevue, 1997 International Seniors Qartet Champions. From the left, Dan Tangarone, t, Dick Bek, l, Burt Staffen, bs and Bill Thurman, br.

In other news from Jacksonville it was learned that Darryl Flinn had been chosen to become the Society's new Executive Director, filling the vacancy created by Joe Liles' retirement.

In early March the first Chorus Director's Workshop Intensive was held in Vancouver. The workshop is the closest thing to private lessons that a chorus director can get. Led by Gabe Caretto the coaches worked with five area chorus directors. It was a good session.

DACJC Bob Thomas announced that the draw for order of appearance (in the District fall Contest) of the 24 quartets and 19 choruses would be made shortly after the completion of the spring contest cycle. Contestants were expected to respond by June 30 and those not responding would be replaced from the ranked pool of contestants. Seniors quartets were to compete at their division contests and the three highest ranking quartets were to be invited to sing at district contest, with the highest ranking one in that contest to be declared the District Seniors Champion.

The Spring Prelims were held in Tacoma on April 19 and 20, combining Division 2 contests with the contest for going to International in Salt Lake City. The required minimum score for making that trip was 1824 and there were 21 quartets on hand Friday night to seek that fortune. The contest was delayed because of a serious accident out on Interstate 5, gridlocking roads into Tacoma, but the contest was started after necessary personnel had arrived. Nine quartets were picked to compete on Saturday afternoon. Singing in that group was a quartet from the Far Western District, competing for score. They were **Late Night Barbershop** from Southern California and they sang well enough to earn second place with a score of 1910. Singing baritone with the group was Rich Hasty. Both the quartet and he would return in 1997, but Rich would stay.

The Evergreen quartet that earned the Most Happy Fellows Trophy for best score was **Seattle Sound**, from Bellevue, Sea-Tac and Tacoma (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Tom Wilkie) with a score of 1930. Back in the International circuit after eight years and sounding just as good as ever was **Harmonic Tremors**, from the Kitsap County, Mount Baker and Frank Thorne Chapters (Ralph Scheving, Doug Broersma, Matt Campbell and Clay Campbell). The third quartet earning the right to go to Salt Lake City was **Critics' Choice**, Anacortes, Bellevue and Mount Baker, a new combination of good singers, Matt Yorkston, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Stan Boon. **The Edge** also made a strong effort but fell just 17 points short of its goal.

Barbershopper of the Year 1995 Award was given to Mel Knight, coach, quartetter, instructor, district officer and efficient and conscientious worker in district music education efforts, this former Kenosha staffer had moved back home to Oregon and used his considerable talents to make a difference.

The District Advisor of the Year Award went to Jim Blokzyl, another highly appropriate award for another coach, instructor, quartetter, director and the never tiring perpetual motion machine that keeps Jim forever promoting harmony, good will, better singing and better relations.

Another Go For Gold Show was held in Vancouver on June 22 to support the Evergreen Competitors who were to go to International.

And then it was time to get to Salt Lake City, a bright, clean and hospitable city that had already hosted two recent Internationals. The location made it easier for district people to get to the big show, and many Evergreeners did just that.

The qualifying score for quartets to International had been set higher to reduce the number of quartets (only one quartet per district was assured). The result was a two session day on Thursday featuring 49 quartets — still a lot of singing. Of Evergreen's three quartets, **Seattle Sound** sang well enough to make it into the semi-finals where they performed right after crowd favorites **FRED**, and did a great job as a bunch of homeless guys. They put on a well done take-off of **FRED's** "I Can't Give You Anything but Love." The combination was good enough for a 16th place finish. **Harmonic Tremors** earned a 28th place and **Critics' Choice** came in 30th.

For the chorus contest there were again 22 groups on hand to try for the gold. New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune** sang in the third slot. With 86 men on stage and with Charlie Metzger leading them on, the **Gentlemen** gave it their best shot. It was good for a 17th place finish. One had to have been there to understand that this was a great effort in a really great contest.

Rob Mitchell and Ray Steckler, co-editors of *Timbre*, notified the district that, after five and a half good years of putting out the bulletin, they were ready to turn it over to another party. The search for that willing party took a bit more time than expected, but a good replacement was found in the person of Reid Stewart of the Eugene Chapter. Reid had previous editing experience. That showed in the first issue which came out just before the end of the year. It was a full 8 1/2 X 11" format on slick paper and full of graphics and different type faces.

By mid-year it was time for skeptics to eat some crow. Operation Harold Hill had significantly exceeded expectations. Six-month growth had been strong and steady, putting the Society at its highest point since December, 1993. Joy was reserved but deserved.



On September 7 the Eugene Chapter celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a gala show. Many former members made it back to participate in the proceedings. One of those former members was Jim DeBusman, one time director of the Cascade Chorus. It was an especially nice meeting for Jim for it was there that he (and the rest of the district) learned that he had been inducted into the Evergreen District Hall of Fame. Jim's services to the District and the Society were substantial. Director, teacher and very able coach. Sound Judge and Singing Judge and member of the Singing Category Board of Review. Jim had been a respected member of the Kenosha staff since 1985. His quartets include the **Barnacle Bills**, **Gang on the Corner** and **Cascade Connection**.

A month later, on October 4 to 6, the District Contest was held in Portland, hosted by the West Portland Chapter. Headquarters was the Hilton and the contests were held in the nearby Schnitzer Concert



**Critic's Choice**, Anacortes, Bellevue and Mt. Baker, 1996 District Champions and two time International contestants. From the left, Matt Yorkston, t, Wes Sorstokke, l, Stan Boon, bs and Chuck Landback, br.

Hall. Nineteen quartets were at the "Schnitz" on Friday night and eight went on to the finals, which were held as part of the Saturday night show. The new District Champion Quartet, by a substantial margin, was **Critic's Choice**, from the Anacortes, Bellevue and Mount Baker Chapters made up of Matt Yorkston, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Stan Boon. Second place was taken by New Westminster's **Counterpoint** (Marty Lovick, Mark Metzger, Charlie Metzger and Tom Metzger) and third place went to **DICE**, Salem and West Portland (Duane Christensen, Eric Christensen, Ian Christensen and Steve Morin). There were two Seniors Quartets in the contest and the winner (by the narrow margin of three points) of the Evergreen District Seniors Quartet Championship was **Golden Opportunity**, from the Sea-Tac, Tacoma and Frank Thorne Chapters (Jim Blokzyl, Dick Latimer, Larry Siemon and Bob Hillstead).

Fifteen choruses warmed up in the Hilton on Saturday and then got over to the Concert Hall for the contest. Winner of the Championship, for the second year in a row, was New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune**, directed by Charlie Metzger. The **Gentlemen** were hard pressed, though, because only two points behind them was Salem's **Senate-Aires**, directed by Steve Morin. Third place was won by Mount Baker's **Toppers**, directed by Denny Stiers. The Plateau Awards were distributed as follows: Plateau 3 to New Westminster, Plateau 2 to Mt. Baker and Plateau 1 to Wenatchee Valley's **Applechords**, directed by Doug Randall. The Most Improved Chorus Award went to Central Oregon's **High Desert Harmonizers**, directed by Russ Seaton.

COTS was held in mid-November at a new location, the Quality Inn, right next door to Sea-Tac Airport. The session took on special significance due to the big changes in administrative procedures and in the philosophy of its management. The District Board would no longer have Division Vice Presidents. Instead there would be vice presidents responsible for one function. No longer would a vice president have to try to handle many functions in a geographical area. As always, much was expected from this new philosophy. It would be a major reorganization.

## 1997

For the new year, the offices of President, Secretary and Treasurer stayed the same, with the same occupants. Beyond that, however, things were different. The new position of Vice President - Member Services and Support was filled by Bob Huber, Bellevue. Ken Fletcher, also Bellevue, and ever willing to stay on the board and help, took the position of Vice President Chapter Support and Leadership Training. A new face on the board was Bruce Foreman, Tacoma, who came in as Vice President Chorus Director Development. Duane Christensen, West Portland, moved up, naturally, from his job as DCO to the position of Vice President - Marketing and Public Relations. Alan Gowans, Calgary, also stayed around to take over as Vice President - Events. Finally, Bob Thomas, New Westminster, formerly DACJC, became Vice President - Contest and Judging. Part way into the year a brand new man was put into the position of Vice President - Music and Performance. Rich Hasty, baritone of Far Western District's **Late Night Barbershop** was back in the Northwest and ready to settle down. He brought a strong musical background with him and was willing to settle into this slot.

The new titles said as much as was needed about the change in administrative philosophy. The plan and the hope was that now there would be expert help in a number of very important areas. Whether this help could be made available to the far-flung reaches of the district would be as much a question as ever. In the meantime, most Joe Barbershoppers would probably keep on showing up at meetings without realizing that things were different at the top. The most notable change would probably be a diminution of the feeling of being a part of a smaller unit of the big district.

QCED did a little more than put on a show in mid-January. In March, coinciding with St. Patrick's day, the QCED chorus, along with **Fatherly Advice** and **Cascade Connection** toured Ireland and made a quick side trip to England. They performed as part of the Barbershop Show of Champions — part of the Guinness Roaring Twenties Festival in Kilarney. A great time was had by all.

Spring Prelims were held in Bend on the last weekend in April. The get-together was billed as a Fun-vention, and indeed it was, enhanced by beautiful weather and friendly hosts (although the traffic did seem heavier than it should have been).

Traffic or no, 16 quartets found their way to the Bend High School Auditorium for the first round of the competition. The entry to a trip to International in Indianapolis was again set at 1824 points. The eight quartets that were selected to appear on the Saturday night show would be pushing for that mark. Once again, **Late Night Barbershop**, from the Far Western District, was with the competitors and they sang just well enough to earn the trip to Indy at 1830 points. At the top of the list was **Seattle Sound**, from Bellevue, Sea-Tac and Tacoma (Bob Hodge, Neal Booth, Bobby Gray, Jr. and Tom Wilkie), back for their fifth trip to International. Their score earned them the Most Happy Fellows Trophy. Two other Evergreen quartets would make the trip to Indianapolis. They were **Critics' Choice**, Anacortes, Bellevue and Mount Baker (Matt Yorkston, Wes Sorstokke, Chuck Landback and Stan Boon) and New Westminster's **Counterpoint** (Marty Lovick, Mark Metzger, Charlie Metzger and Tom Metzger). Winner of the Al Fraser Novice Quartet Award was Salem's **Now & Then** (Jerry Butler, Ryan Jensen, Frank Sutcliffe and Ben McGowan).

At the conclusion of the afternoon contest session on Saturday, the District Barbershopper of the Year Award for 1996 was given to Ken Jones of Salem. Ken was a long-time member, a spark plug and officer of the Salem Chapter and was best known for his quiet purposeful work as Trustee Chairman of the Bud Leabo Memorial Fund.

As Evergreen's fiftieth birthday approached, barbershop-dom gathered for the 59th Annual Convention in Indianapolis. Things were busy at the headquarters Westin Hotel and the sky bridge-connected Indiana Convention Center where Registration and the Harmony Marketplace were located. Contests were held at the Market Square Arena, a short shuttle bus ride away (or an easy twenty minute walk, if the air wasn't too warm).

There were 43 quartets lined up to appear at the Arena on Thursday. All three of Evergreen's entries appeared in the afternoon session, with **Critic's Choice** and **Seattle Sound** showing up back to back in the eighth and ninth slots. **Seattle Sound** performed well enough to make it into the semi-finals on Friday night. That contest was delayed by the Indianapolis fireworks display which occurred too close to the Arena for unimpeded competition. Many in the audience adjourned to the roofed parking area and sang patriotic songs while watching the display. When the display concluded the contest recommenced. **Seattle**

**Sound** sang in the 19th slot and came in 19th. **Critic's Choice** came in 29th and **Counterpoint** came in 31st.

On Saturday there were 21 choruses ready for the competition. New Westminster's **Gentlemen of Fortune** sang right after intermission. With Charlie Metzger directing, the 60 singers performed well enough to come in 17th, equaling their position of the previous year. The score was 46 points better this year, however.



OLD LOGO



CURRENT LOGO

## EVERGREEN GOLD

The fiftieth birthday of the Evergreen District passed quietly. July 30, 1997, fifty years to the day, was a Wednesday. The six district chapters with a scheduled meeting that night made no special note of the birthday, but it speaks to the growth of the district that those six chapters equaled in numbers the six that existed at the birth of the district. It is safe to say that the membership of those six chapters probably exceeded the membership of the district at its inception.

Of course, growth is about a lot more than numbers. Those seventeen men who gathered in Portland in July of 1947 knew they were starting a new venture. They and their immediate successors and followers were the ones who, out of good purpose and strong devotion, created the entity that is the Evergreen District. It's pretty amazing that a strong, friendly unit of 2400 men can be built around the simple concept of singing a well-tuned chord.

When the old Pacific Northwest District was organized, everything had to be done at once. New members had to be found and chapters had to be encouraged and set up. Contests had to be organized to determine champion quartets and to find suitable district representatives for International competition. The judging program had to be brought into the district. It would shortly become apparent that improved singing would depend upon the introduction of training. All of the above would depend upon the establishment of a financial base. That was just for openers. The programs we see around us today hardly existed in 1947 in the Northwest. All of the things that we take for granted were created and nourished by that early group of organizers and the well-intentioned and hard working men who followed in their footsteps.

It is remarkable that the district (and the Society) achieved its growth and performance level in spite of the turmoil of national wars, economic upheavals, political set-tos and global warming. It is especially remarkable that this has happened in spite of "changing times" marked by a cultural change that sees our population much less inclined to "join" groups and much more inclined to allow others to provide popular entertainment. If O.C. Cash thought there wasn't enough singing in the late thirties, he should try things now.

But O.C. had a solution for the lack of singing. Thanks to him and to those early Portland pioneers, we have an organization which is indeed "a leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music." In the bargain we get to enjoy participating in singing some of the most personally gratifying music that man can produce. We are all in harmonious debt to those men who first felt the need to do something and then did it.

So Evergreen celebrates its Golden year. A celebration of growth of numbers, people, quality, charity, brotherhood, education and purpose. Spending any time at all reviewing the efforts, talents, dedication, generosity, perseverance and success of the past fifty years is a humbling experience. So many good men. So many good times (plus a few poor ones). So much harmony. So much love. So much golden time. Your humbled author is happy to have been a very small part of it. If the readers gain even a small part of the pleasure from the reading that your reporter received from the writing, then this Evergreen Gold is more than worth the effort.