

FIFTY YEARS OF HARMONY

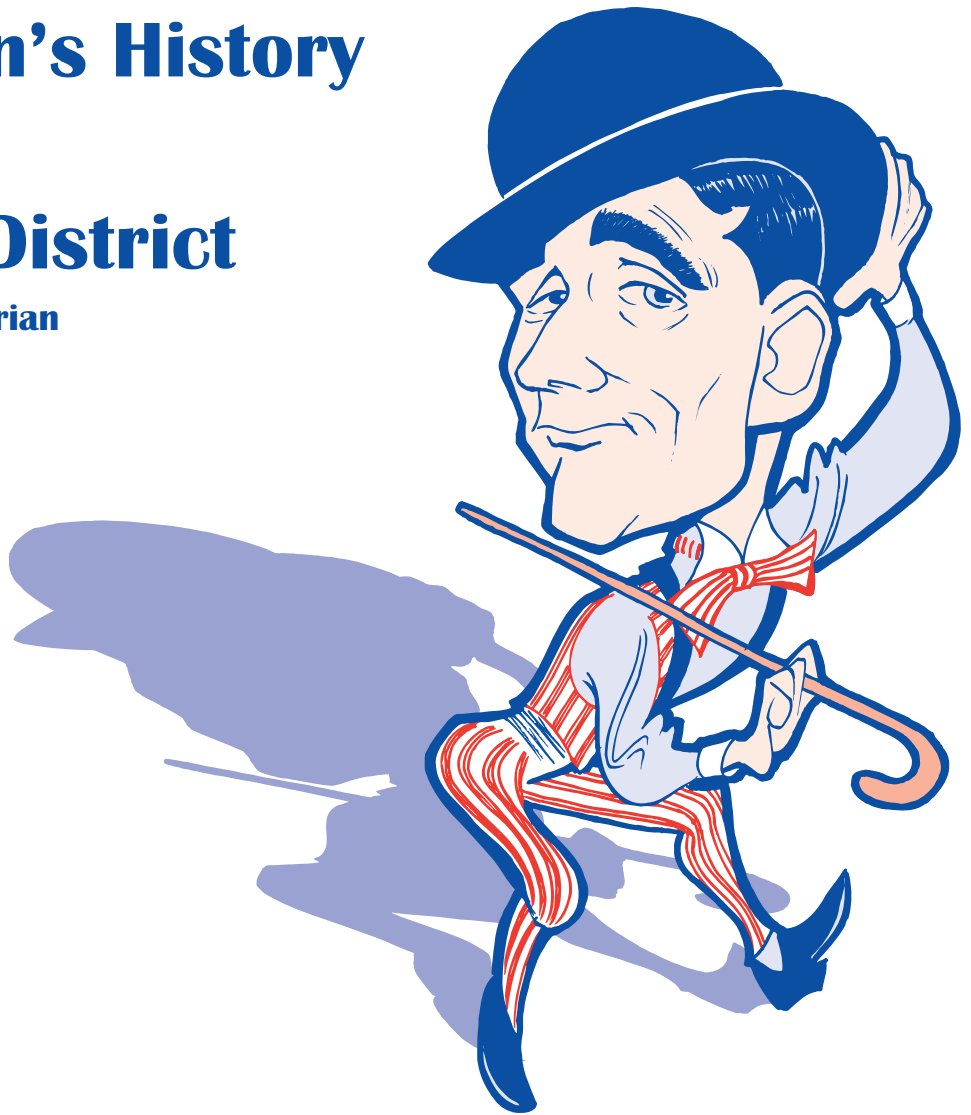
A Singing Man's History of the Far Western District

by Eliot "El" Wirt, FWD Historian

50TH



ANNIVERSARY



The Far Western District Association of Chapters

Fifty Years of Harmony

A Singing Man's History of the Far Western District

by Eliot "El" Wirt, FWD Historian

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Acknowledgments

THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT Association of Barbershop Chapters was authorized by the Society to be organized in a letter dated October 22, 1946 and signed by “International President” Frank H. Thorne and “International Secretary” Carroll P. Adams. The purpose of this book is to cover everything that has happened since in the 50 year life of the FWD. Contest leaders, District officials and District award recipients are listed in the Appendices. For the news items I relied heavily on back issues of the Far Western District’s *Westunes Magazine*, realizing that some similar items probably didn’t get in.

I am indebted to many people for the information contained in this history of the Far Western District. There are too many to mention but the following people were of particular help: Bob Bisio (my predecessor as District Historian), Floyd “Blackie” Blackwell (early FWD member), Ruth Blazina-Joyce (Society Museum Curator/Archivist), Dan Daily (Society Publications Editor), Howard Cooper (first FWD Historian) Lloyd Steinkamp (early FWD member) and EVERY *Westunes* Editor. Much of the information came from the *Westunes* which started in September 1951, edited by Dick DeBusk. Before that, District Secretary Dick Schenck kept District and chapter officers up to date with a newsletter.

In Harmony,

El Wirt
FWD Historian

Foreword



WELCOME TO FIFTY YEARS OF HISTORY of the FAR WESTERN DISTRICT. It has been my pleasure to serve as the District President during this Golden Anniversary Year under the motto, "Faith, Hope, and Barbershop."

The Far Western District has always been known as the "forward" district, and this anniversary celebration was no different—we started our celebration early. Society records indicate that the FWD was founded in March 1947; but El Wirt, the FWD Historian, found information in his voluminous files that the FWD was actually founded in October 1946. So how to resolve this conflict? We started our Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration at the Fall District Convention in October 1996, and completed it at the Fall District Convention in October 1997.

And what a great year it was. Thirteen Fifty Year Members were recognized during the Show of Champions at the 1996 Fall District Convention held in Pasadena. The "Phoenicians" won the District Chorus Contest, and "Metropolis," representing the Foothill Cities and Santa Barbara Chapters, won the District Quartet Contest. "Remember When The "Doors" Sang" won the Senior Quartet Contest. Six quartets qualified during the 1997 International Preliminary Quartet Contest held in Oxnard, and then competed at the International Quartet Contest in Indianapolis in July. Two Youth Harmony Camps were held for junior and senior high school boys, and nine quartets entered our annual High School Quartet Contest. Great things continue to happen in the Far Western District every year and our Anniversary Year was no exception.

El Wirt, a member of the San Jose Chapter, received the coveted President's Award for 1997 for his contributions to the FWD while serving as District Historian. El compiled the information on our fifty year history found in this book. It was a matter of love to hear El describe the hours necessary to dig out the information from countless sources. David Melville, a member of the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter, deserves accolades for the work he did in editing this publication.

And now we move forward into our next fifty years. I for one am looking ahead to even more barbershopping excitement and fun. It truly is great to be a barbershopper!

'Til next time. . .

Bob House
Far Western District President, 1996-97

Preface



THIS HISTORY of the Far Western District has been nearly two years in the making and is the product of countless hours of research, dedication, and commitment to quality on the part of three individuals: El Wirt, who poured through reams of documents, newspaper clippings, and back issues of *Westunes Magazine* to capture a lively chronology of our heritage; Joe Salz, who was the driving force behind its publication, and gathered nearly all of the photographs appearing in the book, many on loan from private collections; and David Melville, who edited and formatted the manuscripts, scanned numerous photographs

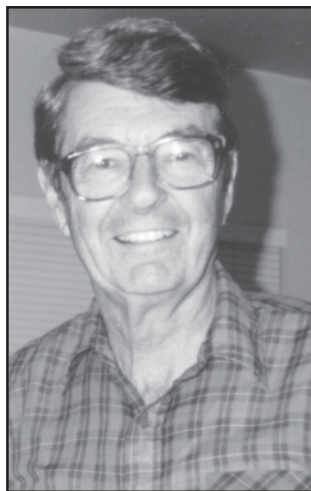
and illustrations, and combined everything into the final product.

Many of the photographs appearing in this book were taken from back issues of *Westunes Magazine* and were of marginal clarity in their original state. While every attempt was made to enhance their clarity using state of the art tools, some pictures may appear blurred. That is the nature of historical records and old reproduction technologies. We hope we have captured the essence of those days gone by, despite these technical difficulties, and encourage all of our members to provide our historians with quality photographs and accurate records as we endeavor to preserve our history for the future.

About the Author

Eliot "El" Wirt was born in Berkeley, CA February 13, 1925. He lived in Eugene Oregon for several years up until WWII when he joined the Navy, and ended up in the San Francisco Bay area after the war. El joined the Society in 1950 in the Berkeley Chapter. Almost immediately he became Secretary of the Chapter and found himself singing baritone in a quartet called the "Mellow Bellow Four". The bass was "Tiny" Hillman, who was 6 feet 7 inches and weighed 300 pounds. They went to the District Contest in Bakersfield in 1951 and came in last in Stage Presence and tied for first in Harmony Accuracy and placed 5th!

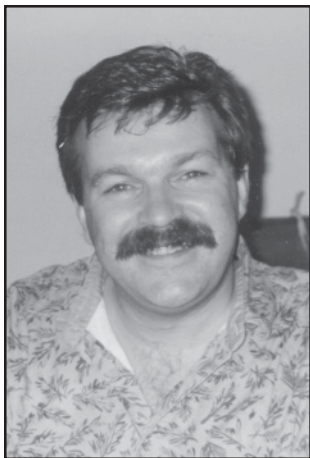
When the Korean Conflict arose, El went back into the Navy and was stationed on the eastern coast when he joined the Alexandria Virginia Chapter. He was a competitor in the first Society Chorus Contest, which was then by invitation -- after that you had to qualify. The contest was held in Detroit in 1953, and they put 25 men on stage with the great Bud Arberg directing. While in Virginia he sang in a quartet called "The Confederate Notes"; when he returned to California, current Society Historian Wilbur Sparks replaced him as baritone in the quartet.



After his discharge El returned to the Berkeley Chapter and sang with a quartet called the "Uncalled Four". They placed 3rd in the District Contest in 1954 and 5th the following year. He sang in the 1956 Society contest in Minneapolis with the Berkeley Chorus, and was privileged to sing a song with Society Founder O. C. Cash in the hotel lobby. After the convention he moved to San Jose and took a job teaching mathematics at what was then San Jose Junior College and is now San Jose City College. He transferred back to the Berkeley Chapter in 1957, just long enough to win a gold medal with their chorus in Los Angeles with Dave Stevens directing.

El has been San Jose Chapter Historian since 1963. He served on the Chapter Board in 1967 and 1971 and was Chapter President in 1975 and Chapter Delegate to the District Board in 1976. He sang with the "Old Time Harmony Four" quartet from 1964-1974 and with the "Fancy Dans" from 1981-1984, spending a month in New Zealand with the "Dans" in 1981. More recently he sang for several years with the "Kitchen Table Four" quartet and currently sings in a quartet called the "Fault Finders".

El edited the San Jose Chapter bulletin from June 1987 through September 1989 and was named District Bulletin Editor of the Year in 1988. He was San Jose Chapter Barbershopper of the Year in 1989 and was named to the San Jose Chapter Hall of Fame in 1993. He has been the Far Western District Historian since January 1990 and received the FWD President's Award in 1997.



David Melville, Editor

David Melville was born in International Falls, Minnesota and survived the cold to tell about it. His first exposure to music began at age four, studying piano. In 1967 his family moved to Bemidji, Minnesota where he attended high school and participated in band, orchestra and concert choir. He also studied commercial art, and created illustrations used for school productions. He was cast in a number of productions in a professional summer-stock theatre, and also worked on the technical crew. His first exposure to barbershop was in Bemidji while working on the stage crew for the local chapter's annual show.

David attended St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota from 1976-1980 and received his Bachelor's degree in Biology. While at St. Olaf he continued studies in piano as well as voice, and sang in the choir. After college, he moved to Bayfield, Wisconsin where he managed a country inn. The owners of the inn were musicians, and drafted him into their in-house chamber singers. In 1982 he resumed the collegiate life, completed another degree in software engineering and, while in school, worked as a recording engineer and announcer for Minnesota Public Radio and later on the crew for "A Prairie Home Companion."

After moving to the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, he met some fellows from the Greater St. Paul Area Chapter, and joined the Society shortly thereafter. Later that year he joined the Hilltop Chapter as a dual member, and formed a quartet named "Lake Street Bridge," so named because two members were from Minneapolis and two from St. Paul, and the Lake Street Bridge was the old landmark that had connected the cities for nearly a century. Tragically, a worker was killed during the construction of the new Lake Street Bridge just days before they were to perform on their first chapter show, so they searched frantically for a new name, and decided on "All Around Town" just moments before going on stage. That name stuck, and the quartet made many appearances until disbanding in 1993. While in the Twin Cities he served his chapters as Program VP, Music VP, Secretary, Bulletin Editor, and Show Chairman, and was Co-Chairman of the LOL District Spring Convention.

Early in 1993 he relocated to Phoenix and so far has survived the *heat* to tell about it! He arrived on a Tuesday afternoon and joined the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter that evening. Since then he has served as Bulletin Editor and Member at Large on the Phoenix Chapter Board, has designed the publicity materials and playbills for the Phoenicians for the past several years, and is currently their stage manager and webmaster. His career takes him all over the globe, and there is nothing he enjoys more while on the road than teaching barbershop tags to people of other cultures, and seeing that smile come over their faces when they ring that first chord.



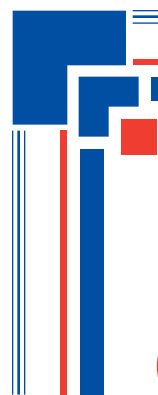
Joe Salz FWD 50-Year Celebration Chairman

Joe Salz has been singing nearly all of his life, getting an early start in barbershop during high school in Dubuque, Iowa. He later joined the Society in 1948 as a member of the Hollywood Chapter, and formed a quartet, the "Harmony H-Liters," at his first meeting. He has sung with choruses and quartets in Dubuque, Altoona, PA, Phoenix, South Bay, CA and Sacramento.

Over the years, Joe has held every chapter office, some of them several times. He was President of the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter when they first became a "Century Chapter," and sang with the Phoenicians to win a gold medal at Atlanta in 1972. He served nine years on the Far Western District Board of Directors as District Treasurer, and has also served on the Ethics Committee, Long Range Planning Committee, taught the Program VP class at the Arizona Division COTS and, most recently, was Chairman of the FWD 50-Year Celebration Committee. He is the proud recipient of the FWD president's Award, that honor bestowed in 1981.

Joe has sung in numerous quartets throughout the Far Western District, including the 1957 FWD Champion "Desert Knights" who, along with the "Knight Nurses" are still performing on chapter shows; the 1972 FWD Champion "Stage Four"; and the "Coastliners," International Representatives in 1963, 1964 and 1965 who placed as high as 11th in Society competition. Quartetting has taken him to the four corners of the USA, to Canada, and on tour with the USO to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba along with Bub Thomas and the "Four Bits of Harmony." He also sang at Carnegie Hall with the "Rolling Tones" from Altoona, PA during the Mid Atlantic District Convention. Other quartets include the "J-Walkers," "Nostalgia," and the "Gold Standard."

Joe has been a prominent figure in the Far Western District, and has been involved in making its history for most of its existence. Among Joe's many awards and mementos is one which he bears with great pride: his 50-Year Member Pin awarded to him at the Society Contest in Atlanta.



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Chapter 1

November 1946 - October 1951



THE FAR WESTERN DISTRICT of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA), was chartered October 22, 1946. According to the Society magazine, *The Harmonizer*, the following

chapters in this area were in existence before the District was formed: Long Beach, Santa Monica, Phoenix Saguro, Hollywood, San Francisco, San Gabriel, San Diego, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Reno, Guam Marines, Pacific Marines, Pasadena and Salt Lake City. Several of them received charters from the Society prior to the formation of the District. There is also evidence that chapters existed in Seattle in 1940 and Honolulu in 1941. Most of these early chapters became inactive for a period due to World War II.

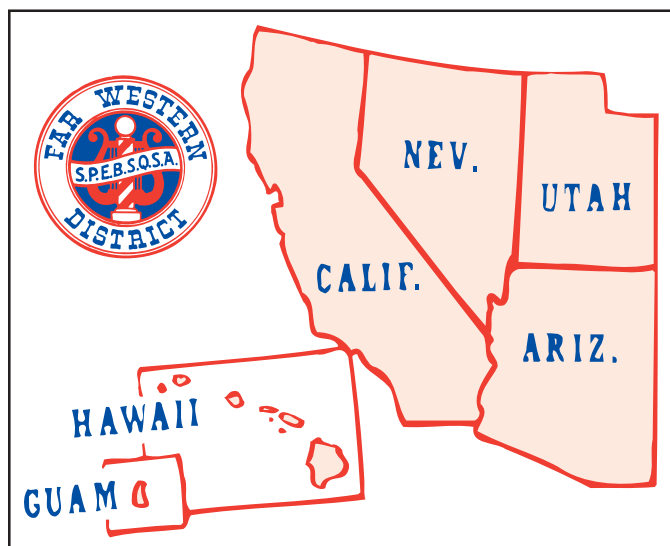
Long Beach appears to have been the first chapter formed in what was later to become the Far Western District. No charters were printed until March 1941 and theirs was #79, but the chapter was formed in June 1939. Santa Monica received its first charter in February 1942, Phoenix in March 1943, Hollywood in March 1945, San Francisco (which had existed for a time in 1941) in July 1945, San Gabriel in September 1945, San Diego and Sacramento in June 1946. Some other chapters that existed



*Russ Stanton
First President of the Far Western District*

in 1946 were Salinas, Tri-City and Glendale. The Pasadena Chapter was chartered in December 1946.

Originally the Far Western District included California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona and Nevada. In June 1947, Oregon and Washington were removed to the Evergreen District. In March 1949, Utah was added to the Far Western District, and in May 1951, the far northern part of California north of the 40th parallel was shifted to the Evergreen District and Hawaii and Guam were added to the FWD. The first District President was Russ Stanton



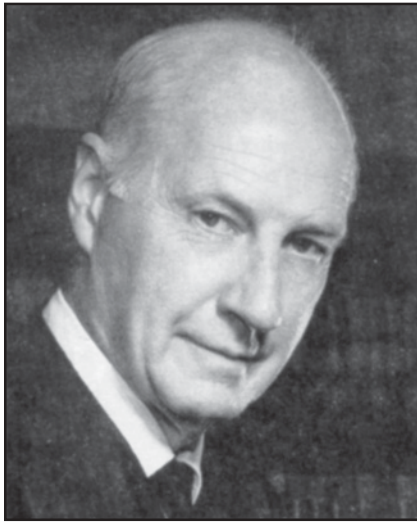
of the San Gabriel Chapter. Howard Cooper was the first District Historian and much of this history, prior to the founding of *Westunes Magazine* in 1951, comes from material collected by Howard. Some District official apparently made out some reference cards, and Howard sent one to Society founder O. C. Cash. A note from O. C. to Howard dated February 5, 1951 reads:

Bro Cooper:

Thanks for the Reference Cards. This is a new idea on me and a good one. Sure wish I could make a tour of the Calif. Chapters so I could meet all the Brethern and Sistern. Maybe I can do this some time. Until then best wishes to all.

*Yours etc.
O. C. Cash*

Before the District was chartered, the famous Bing Crosby was appointed to the Society Board for the years 1939-41. Charles M. Merrill of Reno was appointed to the Society



*Charles Merrill
First FWD International Bord Member
1946-47
International President 1947-48
Member of First FWD Champions, the
"Bonanza Four"*

Board, and served from 1944 through 1949. Charles was Society 1st Vice President in 1946-47 and Society President in 1947-48. He also sang baritone in the "Bonanza Four," the first quartet to represent the FWD at the Society Summer Contests of 1946 and 1947. Russ Stanton credited Merrill with getting the District chartered earlier than it otherwise would have been. Russ served on the Society Board from 1947-49.

Charter members of the Long Beach

Chapter included E. J. Del Porte, W. L. Farrow, E. L. Final, George W. Isaacs (their first secretary), Ed. M. Jones, Verl Keiser, Elliott Kirby, Carl Moss, Harry Schauer and Edison Thomas (their first president). Farrow, Kirby, Schauer and Keiser all served later as presidents of the Chapter.

Their best-known quartet was the "Four Bits of Harmony," formed in 1950; a very funny quartet that



*"Four Bits of Harmony"
1951 Far Western District Champions*

always appeared on stage in ancient swimming suits, and were District Champions in 1951. The Long Beach Chapter by-laws were the first ones used by the Society.

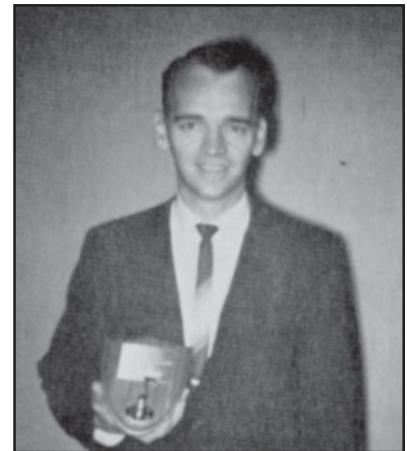
The Santa Monica Chapter was actually the first to receive a charter from the Society after the District was formed. Their first president was George Figuereda, who was Chief of Police, and their first secretary was Frank Otto, a Lieutenant in his department. They signed up over 60 members in the first year, with annual dues of \$5. The WWII draft soon cut into their membership, which dropped to 20. They were forced to move several times, but eventually got a nice hall under the City's Recreation Department, and their membership picked up. They were able to serve the City in many ways, gaining it's respect, and eventually were given an even better place to meet in the Adult Recreational Center. In the early 1950's they were fortunate to have a young lad in his early 20's by the name of Earl Moon as chorus director for a short time. This chapter eventually disbanded,

and was re-chartered in May 1976.

The first "Parade of Quartets" in the West took place in Phoenix, Arizona on May 21, 1943. The first "Parade of Quartets" in California was held at the San Gabriel Mission on October 5, 1946, just before the District was formed, and featured 22 quartets from chapters in what would soon be the District. The San Gabriel Chapter supplied the first District President, Russ Stanton. They had the first regular barbershop radio program which ran weekly for 3 years, and in 1948 they put on a show on KFI-TV, with Society Secretary Carroll P. Adams as MC. San Gabriel formed the first chapter orchestra, known as the "Haywire Orchestra," from chapter members in 1949, and they were the first District chapter to reach a membership of 100, which they did in 1955.

The Hollywood Chapter was chartered in April 1945 with a number of famous charter members including Bing Crosby. In one Society publication, Bing was listed as Hollywood Chapter President, but there are reports that he was generally too busy to attend meetings. As previously mentioned, he did serve on the Society Board from 1939 to 1941. Another charter member was Jack Barbour, a Movie Producer with Warner Brothers, and a great woodshedding baritone. Others were Los Angeles District Attorney Hatch Graham (who later died of a heart attack while attending a Society Summer Convention), General Electric Corp. Vice-President Vern Miller, a terrific bass, and General Electric Western Division Sales Manager Wayne Allen. The "Hollywoodsmen" quartet (Tom Moffat, Bob Moffat, Wayne Allen and Vern Miller) sang for some time on the Dick Sinclair Polka Party, televised Sunday nights on KTLA-TV Channel 5. Another member of the Hollywood Chapter was song writer Charlie Brown, who wrote "Somebody Else Is Taking My Place" and other songs.

The Hollywood Chapter disbanded in 1961. Probably the only members of that chapter still active in barbershopping are Joe Salz, who joined the Hollywood Chapter at age 18, and is now a member of the Phoenix Chapter and currently Chairman of the District 50-Year Celebration Committee, and Floyd "Blackie" Blackwell who joined the Hollywood Chapter while still a member of the U. S. Navy, and is now a member of the Palomar-Pacific Chapter.



*Floyd "Blackie" Blackwell
50-Year Member of the FWD*

Some other chapters chartered shortly after the District was formed were: Bakersfield in March 1947, Berkeley in April 1947, Honolulu in September 1947, San Jose in November 1947, Tucson in December 1947, West Los Angeles and Globe, AZ in May 1948, La Canada and Lakeside August 1948, Eureka in September 1948, Flagstaff in October 1948, Peninsula in

November 1948 and Whittier in September 1950. The "Angel City Four" (Gordie Fryer, Blackie Blackwell, Bo Gray and Ray Cullman) formed the Hollywood Chapter, and then went on to establish the Los Angeles County Chapter which was chartered in July 1950, and met on the 5th floor of the downtown YMCA. Some presidents of this chapter were Bob Moffatt, Blackie Blackwell, and Mike Senter, who would later sing bass with the Society Champion "Golden Staters." Some chapters chartered in 1950 were Martinez, Santa Ana and Arcadia.

The Los Angeles County Chapter was strictly a woodshedding chapter with no chorus, and by the second year their membership was up to 82. Some members drove 40, 50 and 60 miles to attend the meetings. The chapter met on Friday nights. In later years they changed their meeting place to a location away from the downtown area, their membership dropped, and they eventually disbanded in 1961.

A Huntington Park Chapter was formed in the late 1940's. Their best-known quartet was the "Roundeleers," with Les Woodsen on bari. Les directed the chorus, and Dr. Val Hicks also directed the chorus for a short time. This chapter disbanded in the 1960's. Another chapter chartered in the late 1940's was the Inglewood, California Chapter which met at the Elks Club in downtown Inglewood, and was chartered in June 1947. Their chorus was directed by Jim Gowdy, and their best-known quartet was the "24 Feet of Harmony," so named because its members were all 6' tall. This chapter eventually moved to Manhattan Beach, and became known as the South Bay Chapter which now meets in Redondo Beach.

As early as 1941, a chapter was formed in San Francisco but it was not chartered, and WWII caused it to be abandoned in 1942. San Francisco was finally chartered in July 1945 with 18 members, and was sponsored by the Reno Chapter. Their organizer at that time and first Chapter President was Don Grenfell, who became the first Vice President of the Far Western District. By June of 1946, they were up to 53 members. Their first quartets were the "Golden Statesmen" (Jack Hare, Warren Coutts, Stan Vose and Don Grenfell), the "Claim Jumpers" (Al Boatwright, Jerry Nyhan, Bill Gavin and Jim Shumate) and the "Lease Breakers" (Al Boatwright, Jerry Nyhan, Ed Davis and Warren Hanna). Bill Gavin directed the chorus. The "Golden Statesmen" sang on that first California "Parade of Quartets" in San Gabriel. San Francisco's Jack Hare was president of the FWD in 1947-48, and was a very active member of the chapter until his death in February 1951. Dave Stevens became their chorus director in 1950. In 1951 the San Francisco Chapter hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention, with the "Buffalo Bills" featured on the shows.

Although Reno's "Bonanza Four" competed at the Society Contest in 1946, the first Far Western District Contest, a combination District and Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest, was held in Long Beach in 1947. The judges were the 1944 Society Champion quartet "Harmony Halls" from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and the MC was radio and movie star Hal Peary, a member of the Long Beach Chapter. In 1948 it was again a combined contest held in San Francisco, and the judges were the 1945 Society Championship quartet "The Misfits" from Chicago. MC for this contest was Bill Gavin, who was mentioned in the



The "Four Staters"
1948 Far Western District Champions

previous paragraph, and worked at radio station KNBR. Winners were the "Four Staters", so named because they had lived in 3 states before coming to their 4th state: California. The "Four Staters" had their own 15-minute local radio show.

Many Chapters were chartered in 1947: Bakersfield and Arcadia chapters were chartered in March, Berkeley in April, South Bay in June, Aloha (Honolulu) in September, San Jose in November and Tucson in December. Two other chapters, Orinda and the Newhall Rebel Chapter were also chartered in 1947, and limped along for a while, but eventually dissolved or merged with other chapters. The Ventura County Chapter was organized in May, 1947 but was unable to attract enough members to be chartered, and folded in 1950. It would later be chartered in September, 1953.

The La Canada and Lakeside chapters were chartered in August 1948, followed by the Eureka Chapter in September, the Flagstaff, Arizona Chapter in October and the Peninsula Chapter in November 1948. The Salt Lake City Chapter, which



The "Westernaires"
1949 Far Western District Champions

was then part of the Far Western District, received its charter in February 1949. Three chapters, Martinez, Eden-Hayward and Whittier were chartered in September 1950; Crescent City was chartered in February 1951, and the Oakland Chapter in late 1951.

In 1949, the District Contest and Regional Preliminary Contests were separated. The purpose of the Regional Preliminary Contest was to determine which quartets would represent the District at the Society Summer Contest. The District Contest was simply to determine quartet standings within the District. The

District Contest winner would not be eligible to compete again in the District Contest. Winners of the Regional Prelims would be eligible to compete in that contest again unless they won the Society Summer Contest. The 1949 Regional Preliminary Contest was held in Long Beach in April, and the judges were Arvid Anderson of Chicago, Benny Loftsgaard of Klamath Falls, Oregon, J. H. "Bud" Leabo of Creswell, Oregon, Hatch Graham of Los Angeles and Russ Stanton of San Gabriel. The MC was Meredith Willson. The 1949 District Convention and Contest was held in San Diego in October.

The "Westernaires" from the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter won the district title for 1949, thus being the first quartet to be retired from district competition under the new system. They went on to compete in the 1950 Society Summer Contest, and Art Merrill, Society Treasurer, had this to report: "In Omaha I almost fell off my chair when George ["Tiny"] Pranspill, lead for the 'Westernaires,' held a tuning fork to his ear for the pitch for his quartet. I asked him afterward, and he said that he'd been brought up on tuning forks, and found them easy to use. He certainly wielded his with professional ease."



*The San Diego Serenaders
1950 FWD Champions*

The 1950 Regional Preliminary Contest was again held in Long Beach, with judges Joe Stern of Kansas City, Hatch Graham, Benny Loftsgaard and Mat Wilson of La Jolla. TV star Art Baker was the MC. The 1951 Regional was in Los Angeles, with two of the judges being members of the "Bonanza Four," namely Dayton Colville and Jerry Nyhan of San Francisco.

As has been mentioned, Bing Crosby was quite involved with the Society in its early days and a member of the Hollywood Chapter. He once wrote that, while on a U.S.O. tour of the European Theater during WWII, he had luncheon with General Eisenhower and his staff, and "since he [Ike] liked to sing barbershop harmony, we got up a quartet. The General sang baritone."



Chapter 2

November 1951 - October 1956



WESTUNES MAGAZINE, the District magazine was started in August 1951 with R. T. DeBusk as Editor. DeBusk listed as Associate Editors the 1500 members of the Far Western District, a subtle way of saying: "Get your news to me!" The cover of the magazine was drawn by Tom Wirick, tenor with the Crown City Four. In October 1951, the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter chartered a bus to take 35 of its members to the San Gabriel Chapter Parade. The "Mid-States Four," 1949 Society quartet champs, paid a surprise visit to the Arcadia Chapter and practically took over the meeting. The San Fernando Valley Chapter was holding a quartet marathon in which members sang week after week in quartets of different combinations. The quartets were judged and total scores for all members were maintained. After a certain number of weeks, the top scorers were honored. Among other things, it discouraged members from missing meetings. In late 1951 the San Gabriel Chapter joined with Pasadena and Arcadia to put on a 2-hour show for 2500 people in Alhambra, featuring the three chapter choruses plus six quartets, plus numbers by the combined choruses.



R. A. "Reedie" Wright
Far Western District President 1951
International President 1966
FWD Hall of Fame 1969

The Glendale-Burbank Chapter was host to the Hollywood and La Canada chapters, and a good time was had by all. In this pre-chorus-contest era, chapter visitations were quite

common. Chapters in Oakland and Orinda were making plans to merge with the Berkeley Chapter. The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter was giving paid-up Society memberships to interested local members of the armed forces. It was reported that in September 1951, the San Francisco Chapter participated in a Bay Cruise for members of the working press who were gathered in San Francisco for the Japanese Peace Treaty meetings. In addition to their chorus and quartets, they invited quartets from other chapters in the area to perform on the boat (*I sang with one of them - El Wirt*).

At the Society Mid-Winter Convention in Toronto in January 1952, the Far Western District's Dick Schenck was elected to the Society Board of Directors. When the San Diego Chapter appointed a committee to contact the Director of Music Education for the city's high schools, hoping to interest him in letting them promote barbershop quarteting among high school students, they were pleasantly surprised to discover that he was Dr. Alex Zimmerman, former director of the Joliet, Illinois Chapter Chorus. With the Korean conflict on at the time, the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter was putting on "Artery Party" shows that required the donation of one pint of blood for our armed forces in Korea for two seats at the show. They were commended by the Society Board of Directors for this activity.

The Spring District Convention and Regional Contest was scheduled to be held in Phoenix, but the District Board determined that it was too far for most representatives to travel and would result in poor representation by chapter officers and delegates, so it was again put out to bid, and would end up in Whittier. The Oakland Chapter reported that when working on a new chorus number, four men were picked at random to stand up and sing the number as a quartet. The Santa Monica Chapter staged a show at the Sawtelle Veterans' Hospital.

The Pasadena Chapter held a dance for members and friends, and *Westunes* Editor Dick DeBusk asked: "Who danced with the gals while all of you guys were woodshedding?" Dick also commented on the improvement in barbershop singing over the years, which he attributed to the "good old American spirit of competition". The Honolulu Chapter was busy performing in military hospitals as well as for island civic and social groups. They enjoyed a visit from 1949 Society champs the "Mid-States Four" and former Society President Jerry Beeler who were on their way back from a trip to Korea and Japan. The 3rd issue of *Westunes Magazine* (January 1952) announced that a decision had been made to accept advertising of chapter shows and other

events in the magazine, at a full page for \$20.

The Bakersfield donated \$300 from its treasury to the Physically Handicapped Children's Society. The San Francisco Chapter participated in a minstrel show put on by the San Francisco Ad Club. The Los Angeles Chapter was holding a quartet clinic for its own and visiting members. The Pasadena Chapter raised \$400 for the Sister Kenny Foundation with a benefit show. The Tucson Chapter put on a benefit show for the Polio Fund which raised \$425. District President Reedie Wright wrote of the controversy at all levels of the Society on chorus versus quartets. He mentioned the strong feelings on both sides, and expressed the opinion that one was just as essential as the other and that the only solution was to recognize this fact. The San Francisco Chapter Bulletin, presumably edited by a quartet man, had the following: "Old crows never die, they just sing in the chorus". San Francisco Bay Area chapters were holding joint meetings every time there was a fifth Wednesday.

Pasadena Chapter Chorus Director Paul McFatrige got his start in barbershop singing on the front platform of a trolley car in Peoria, Illinois. A past President of the Peoria Chapter was motorman, and one of the tenors was James Jordan, who later became famous as the comedian Fibber McGee. Los Angeles Chapter members reported that they had discarded chorus work, and were having the time of their lives woodshedding (impromptu harmonizing). The Berkeley Chapter had a standing date on the third Monday of every month at the Oakland Veterans' Hospital, where they sang in the auditorium while their quartets covered the wards. They were sometimes joined by other chapters, including Sweet Adelines.

The Culver City Chapter decided that it was too close to four other chapters, and it relinquished its charter. The Riverside Chapter received its charter in April 1952, and the Pomona Valley Chapter was chartered three months later. There was another new chapter in Kailua, Oahu (Territory of Hawaii). There were six certified contest judges in the Far Western District at this time, namely Bud Boyle (San Diego), Dr. Jack Pacina (Bakersfield), Don Keefe and Bob Bisio (San Francisco), Harrison "Hap" Bailey (Berkeley) and Dick DeBusk (Huntington Park). The District also had a number of judge candidates. The Bakersfield Chapter was in danger of folding but Jack Pacina and a few others were reviving it.

In the spring of 1952, the Arcadia Chapter put on a program that raised over \$300 for the Temple City High School Band. The Chandler, Arizona Chapter was turning over every dime it made on its shows to local charities. It raised \$1500 for the Arizona Boys Ranch, and two years earlier it had raised \$4250 for high school band uniforms. The San Francisco Chapter Chorus and Berkeley's "Uncalled Four" quartet appeared on a local TV show. The District's Area 11 (Hollywood, Los Angeles and Glendale-Burbank chapters) held its own quartet contest, judged by Reedie Wright, Dick Schenck, and Les Woodson. The seven competing quartets were very close, but the winners were the "Verdugo Dons," with Jack Blackhurst, Bufe Strange, Don Plumb and Dubb Stallings from Glendale-Burbank. A few months later they would win the District quartet championship in San Jose.

In the spring of 1952, the San Jose Chapter was attempting to sponsor a new chapter in Hong Kong (it was never

chartered). The August 1952 issue of *Westunes Magazine* was put out by "Fearless Frankie" Finnegan, as Dick DeBusk was on vacation. Finnegan mentioned a high mortality rate among quartets after they competed at a District Contest. Specifically, San Jose's "Travelaires" were losing their lead, Terry Bowman, to military duty; The "San Diego Serenaders" were losing their baritone, Rex Reeve, to a military transfer, and the "Crown City Four" had lost two members. Fortunately, "Crown City" picked up new lead Jim Powell, and their former bass, Art Huston; The "Serenaders" got Joe White back, and the "Travelaires" grabbed experienced quartet lead Dick O'Malley, so all three quartets were back in business.

Reedie Wright was elected to the Society Board in the



The "Crown City Four"
1955 Far Western District Champions
1949 International Representatives

summer of 1952. At his first meeting, he attempted to get the 1954 Society Summer Convention for the Far Western District. The first vote was a tie, and on the next ballot he lost by one vote. Twenty members of the Long Beach Chapter donated pints of blood to the Red Cross. In early September, the first District Preliminary chorus contests were held in NorCal and SoCal with the winners being qualified to compete at the District Contest in October. Choruses in Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Hawaii were invited to participate in one of these preliminary contests if they could arrange transportation. Santa Monica had a new Secretary, Pete Burger from Hawaii, who was a nephew of the famous "Hilo Hattie." With Dick DeBusk taking on the job of District Secretary, "Fearless Frankie" Finnegan assumed the editorship of *Westunes Magazine*.

The First District Chorus Contest was held at the District Convention in San Jose on October 25, 1952 with the Eden-Hayward Chorus, under the direction of Norm Cory, nosing out

the Pasadena Chorus, directed by Paul McFatridge. The convention was to have been in Bakersfield, but an earthquake caused a last minute switch. Elderly movie actor Burt Mustin had moved from Tucson, and was now a member of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, but he returned to perform on the Tucson Chapter Show with his old quartet, the "Promissory Notes". The directors of the Phoenix Chapter voted to return dues to members who were not active in the chapter. The San Francisco Chapter blindfolded their director, Dave Stevens, and then would have three chapter members come up and sing a song with him. Then Dave was asked to guess who the other three were and, according to their Bulletin Editor, Bob Bisio, he never missed.

The Huntington Park Chapter had entertained at the Veterans' Administration Hospital in Long Beach a total of 15 times during 1952. By the end of 1952, the Far Western District consisted of 36 chapters and 1269 members. The Indian Wells Valley Chapter, consisting mainly of employees of the China Lake Naval Base, was chartered in February 1953. The San Francisco Chapter filed, successfully, for admission tax exemption after their show, saving \$181.

On April 12, 1953, the Long Beach Chapter conducted a High School Quartet Contest with about 12 entries. The winning quartet was "The King's Men" from Bell Gardens High School. Singing tenor in this quartet was Dave Panther, who would go on to sing tenor with the "Gala Lads" quartet when they were District champs in 1960 and Society champs in 1962. Chapter Activities Vice President Rudy Thuor pointed out that there were two major changes in the past year: one was the first District Chorus Contest, and the other was the establishment of the District Achievement Award.

Area Counselor Jerry Brentnall in SoCal spoke out against the annual "Parades" of quartets put on by most chapters, feeling that they tended make each parade very much like the previous one, even to the songs sung by the quartets. He called them "Run 'em on, sing two, run 'em off" types. He liked the idea that some chapters were dropping the term "Parade" and using the term "Show," implying that they were changing the format and getting more chapter members involved in the show. The Berkeley Chapter bulletin was called the *Burp-ley Press*, possibly because they met in a restaurant. *Westunes* Editor Dick



The "West Coasters"
1954 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1956, 1957, 1958

DeBusk raised the common question: Is it correct to say the "Roundeleers" *are* a quartet, or the "Roundeleers" *is* a quartet?

Area 11 (L. A., Hollywood and Glendale-Burbank) was holding an annual woodshed contest, and invited surrounding chapters to participate. In 1952, the winner was the "Verdugo Dons," who (which?) went on to win the District Contest. In 1953, the winner was "The Harmony Hunters." The Santa Ana Chapter was in danger of folding, and a former president of the Chapter, Bill Young, was trying to revive it. New *Westunes* Editor "Fearless Frankie" Finnegan tried his hand at poetry and came up with:

*The tenor tried to hit high Cee,
While listeners groaned in agon-ee.*

Finnegan also proposed that the District give awards for the best song arrangement, the best song, the finest chapter, the most entertaining quartet, and to the man contributing the most to barbershopping for the year.

The first Far Western Achievement Award went to the Whittier Chapter, and was presented at the District Spring Convention in Long Beach by Society Board member John Means of Manitowoc, Wisconsin. Second and third place awards went to Arcadia and San Gabriel. Phoenix' 1953 "Artery Party" featured Society champs the "Four Teens" from St. Louis, Missouri, plus the "San Diego Serenaders," San Jose's "Travelaires," Pasadena's "Crown City Four," and others. The newly elected Executive Committee of the District Board of Directors voted to grant \$1000 each to the "San Diego Serenaders" and Sacramento's "Statesmen" quartets, who had tied in the Regional Contest and would represent the District at the Society Contest in Detroit. It was pointed out that the following year they might have to come up with three grants, since a slight increase in membership would entitle the District to send three quartets to the Society Contest. One solution suggested was to bring the Society Contest to California.

The District received 60% of the proceeds from the Long Beach Spring Convention, which amounted to \$1420. In July 1953, the Ventura Chapter was chartered. The Eden-Hayward Chapter claimed to be thinking of installing showers at their meeting hall for members who do most of their singing in the shower. They were scheduling one chapter visitation per month. The Sacramento Chapter, whose "Statesmen" quartet had placed 5th in the Society Contest in the summer of 1953, reported that they were working toward the formation of a chapter chorus. Many chapters reported performances at hospitals. At the NorCal Chorus Preliminary Contest, the San Francisco Chorus was declared the winner and, as such, sang on the San Jose show that night. The next day, the judges' addition was checked by Bob Bisio, who discovered an error, and Eden-Hayward was declared the winner.

On September 27, 1953, the Pomona Valley Chapter hosted a show at the Los Angeles County Fair. The show included six choruses from SoCal and nine quartets, and the finale was a massed chorus of all participants. The show was well received, and a half hour of it was broadcast over a local radio station. On October 30, the San Fernando Valley Chapter put on a show with all proceeds going to the Valley Association for Handicapped Children. The show featured top quartets from SoCal, plus San

Gabriel's "Haywire Orchestra," an instrumental group of chapter members playing barbershop/dixieland, and raised \$1475.25 for the Association. The Eden-Hayward Chapter put on a benefit show for the Tamarack Branch of the East Bay's Children's Hospital. The Peninsula Chapter put on a benefit show for Boy and Girl Scout camps, featuring their chorus and eight quartets. At the District Quartet Contest in Pasadena in November 1953, seven of the eight finalists came from NorCal.

By the end of 1953, the Far Western District had 35 chapters and 1304 members. The "Crown City Four" quartet was quite active, having made 147 appearances with their repertoire of 26 songs. *Westunes* Editor "Fearless Frankie" Finnegan wrote: "If your chapter doesn't tell it to *Westunes*...it never happened." Here's some more of Finnegan's humor: "If some visiting barbershopper calls your town 'unique,' don't feel too flattered. The word may have been derived from the Latin *unus* meaning one, and the word *equus* meaning horse." "What this country needs is a good five-cent anything." Art Harris, President of the Tucson Chapter, told of having received a phone call from a young lady asking if the Tucson Sunshine Chapter was a nudist club.

The Los Angeles Chapter was said to be devoting more time to quartet singing than any other chapter in the District. The San Fernando Valley Chapter was planning a quartet contest based on their chorus songs, and using one "hot shot" singer and three timid souls to make up each quartet. The Riverside Chapter put on a "Gifts for Yanks" show, featuring their chorus plus the Pomona Valley Chorus, and a large number of quartets from surrounding chapters. Service men were admitted free, but others were charged for admission, and the proceeds went to purchase Christmas gifts to be distributed to Service and Veteran personnel who were patients in military and veterans' hospitals in SoCal.

District Secretary Jerry Graham was offering to award a pair of barbed wire shorts to each chapter secretary who failed to mail him the Chapter Activity Report. Graham also favored slow-murder for a 5th member joining a woodshedding quartet (*even if he just adds 9ths to 7th chords?...El*). In January 1954, the Long Beach Chapter staged a Blood Bank Show for the benefit of the Armed Forces, featuring the "Verdugo Dons," "Edenaires," "San Diego Serenaders," "Adams of Eden," "Twenty-Four Feet of Harmony," "Uncalled Four," "Hoarse Doctors," "Parkaires," and "Travelaires" quartets, plus the San Diego and Long Beach choruses. An impromptu quartet got a big hand from the audience; it consisted of the show's MC, radio and TV star Art Baker, two Air Force pilots, and a stewardess. The Marin, California and Ogden, Utah Chapters were chartered in March 1954.

"Extension" was a popular word at this time; it referred to the practice of one chapter sponsoring another in a new area. For example, the Sacramento Chapter was trying to get a chapter started in Lakeport, and a dual-city chapter in the Chico-Oroville area, and a tri-city chapter in the Red Bluff, Corning and Los Molinos area. The San Francisco Chapter was sponsoring one in

Marin County, and San Gabriel was sponsoring one in Downey. The only state in the Union without a barbershop chapter was Idaho, and the Salt Lake City Chapter was working on one in Jerome, Idaho. The "Crown City Four" reported that they had now made over 350 appearances in a year and a half, covering seven states, and had performed with such radio and TV personalities as Art Baker, the Mills Brothers, Donald O'Connor, Danny Thomas, Judy Garland, Harry Babbitt and others.

Harry Price, editor of the Pasadena Chapter Bulletin reported that he had a new Underwood typewriter. He wrote: "It doesn't spell any better than my old one but it sure is easier on my two fingers." Bob Northup sang lead with the "Twenty-four Feet of Harmony" quartet, and was president and Bulletin Editor for the Inglewood Chapter; his bulletin was said to be the first chapter bulletin in the District to feature pictures. *Westunes* Editor Finnegan wrote: "According to the name of our Society, [we] barbershoppers are pledged to Preserve and Encourage Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. How are we doing?"

- San Gabriel, 84 members—2 quartets
- Glendale-Burbank, 65 members—2 quartets
- Tucson, 25 members—1 quartet
- Los Angeles, 46 members—1 quartet
- Pasadena, 62 members—1 quartet
- Long Beach, 51 members—1 quartet
- San Diego, 54 members—2 quartets



Jerry Graham
FWD Secretary
1954-1962
Int'l Board Member
1959 & 1960

Pretty sickening, isn't it." This resulted in a lot of activity to increase the number of quartets, particularly in the chapters mentioned.

The Riverside Chapter Chorus was being directed by a lady, Lola Withrow. "Fearless Frankie" Finnegan stepped down as *Westunes* Editor after the April 1954 issue, and Bob Northup took on the job. Bob Hokanson reported that at the upcoming Regional Contest in San Jose, the traditional afterglow would be replaced by hospitality rooms. Six rooms were set aside in the headquarters hotel, to be maintained by the various chapters for visiting friends, snacking and quartet singing. A "Harmony Special" train was bringing barbershoppers to San Jose from SoCal. Joe White, San Diego Chorus Director, was awarded a genuine Fur-Lined Pitchpipe by the chapter, with the fur coming from Tom Leonard's daughter's hand muff. Riverside's George Dohn wrote: "Anyone who is blowing his own horn is always on the little end of it."

The Downey and Marin chapters were both chartered in May 1954. In July, the "Kord Kings" quartet from Illinois stopped in San Francisco on their way to perform for the troops in Korea. While in San Francisco, their lead, Al Hobik, became suddenly quite ill and was taken to a hospital, where it was learned that he would need several pints of blood. Bay Area barbershoppers fell all over themselves in a rush to volunteer to give blood for him. Al had to return home, but the quartet went on to Korea, planning to pick up a substitute lead when they got there.

At the Society Summer Convention, six Far Western District members were appointed to International Committees. Past President Marv Brower was on the District Advisory Committee and also on the International Woodshed Committee; District

Secretary Jerry Graham was on the Armed Forces Collaboration Committee; Pasadena Chorus Director Paul McFatridge was on the Barbershop Craft Committee; District VP Homer Aspy was on the Chapter Advisory Committee; Salt Lake City's Secretary and Chorus Director, Munson Hinman was on the Public Relations Committee; and San Jose's Hal Winget was on the Old Songs Committee. District VP Howard Cooper listed, as advantages to inter-chapter visitations: choruses learn new songs, new arrangements and new ideas in music direction; quartets get good practice singing for other chapters, and become better known so that demands for their services may increase; individuals learn woodshedding songs, make new friends and have fun. The Stockton Chapter received its charter in October 1954. Other new chapters were Salinas and Fallbrook.

At the District Executive Board meeting in Bakersfield in October 1954, Jim Arnold, who had been loaning stop-watches to contest judges for years, got the Board to vote to purchase two stop-watches for contest use. District Secretary Tex Modlin built a velvet-lined carrying box for them. Sacramento's twice-medalist "Statesmen" quartet was forced to break up when baritone Harry DuVall and bass Jack Gilstrap were called to active duty with the Navy. The Tucson Chapter was planning to put on a show at the Arizona State Prison where, as they put it: "At least the audience can't walk out on us!" District President Jim Clarke issued a plea

for more judge candidates, saying: "The District is badly in need of additional judges." The community service activities by the Ventura County Chapter took two-thirds of a page to list. The Salt Lake City and Ogden chapters in Utah were proud of the fact that 50% of their chapter members were in registered quartets. District Quartet Promotion Committee Chairman, Vern Lind observed that quartets in contests are not competing against each other, but rather against perfection.

The Davis County Chapter in Layton, Utah was chartered in December 1954. The Marin "Saltaires" Chorus was featured on radio and TV on New Years Day, 1955. For several years, Reddie Wright had been trying to get the Society Summer Convention to the Far Western District. At the Society Mid-Winter Convention in Louisville in early 1955, Reddie and Jim Clarke again put in a bid for the convention and this time, for the first time, the 1957 convention was granted to the Far Western District, to be held in Los Angeles. On January 28, 1955, the Pomona Valley Chapter was a big part of a fund raiser show for the March of Dimes. The Clear Lake, California Chapter received its charter on March 5.

Also in March 1955, the Pomona, Riverside and Whittier chapters combined to hold a Novice Quartet Contest in Whittier, with the proceeds to go to the Chorus Travel Fund. The Reno Chapter was said to be in danger of collapsing. The Society Office published a list of prospective chapters which included the following in the Far Western District:

- Coolidge and Yuma, Arizona
- Alameda, Concord, Fresno, Herlong, Lakeport, Lancaster, Monterey, Newport Beach, Northridge, Oceanside, San Clemente and Santa Barbara, California
- Las Vegas, Nevada
- Brigham, Huntington, Provo and Tremonton, Utah.



*Jim Clarke
FWD President
1954
Int'l Board Member
1957 - 1960*

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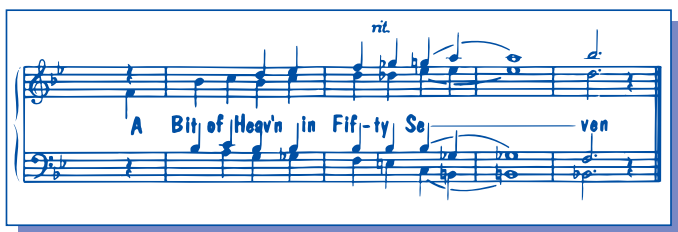
The Salt Lake City Chapter set up a High School Scholarship Fund to be supported by profits from their annual show. The Kailua Chapter reported that the "Marines had landed" and were regularly attending their meetings. The Ogden, Utah Chapter learned that the boys at the Utah State Industrial School weren't permitted to attend any shows outside the school, so they took their chorus and quartets to the school, and put on a show for the boys. District Secretary Jerry Graham had this sign on his desk: "If you want to see someone with a little authority, I have as little as anyone around here."

In these days, the Society was publishing an annual book of song arrangements called *Songs for Men*. In the 1955 version, which was Book 8, there was a song "The Old Sea Shore," written by John Cinnamon of the Eden-Hayward Chapter, and arranged by Norm Cory, director of the Eden-Hayward Chorus. The Salt Lake City Chapter was the winner of the District Achievement

Award for 1955-6, with San Gabriel 2nd and Pasadena 3rd. The Peninsula Chapter put on a show for the boys at a camp operated by the Santa Clara County Juvenile Probation Department. This was reported to be a season for moving as the following chapters changed their meeting places: Tucson, Riverside, San Jose, Ogden Peninsula, Pasadena, Los Angeles and Centinela Valley. The Downey Chapter donated \$200 from their show proceeds to the Downey Little League. The Pasadena Chapter took part in a benefit show that raised \$500 for the purchase of wheel chairs for the handicapped.

Newly certified contest judges in the Far Western District were Bob Bisio in Stage Presence and Dick DeBusk, already a certified timer, in the Secretary category. The Los Angeles Chapter was promising to come up with something new for them—a chorus. The Santa Monica Chapter had a device for discovering chorus-directing talent as well as promoting quarteting: as members entered on meeting nights, each was asked to write the title of his favorite song plus his own name on a slip of paper and put it in a hat; as a song was drawn from the hat, the person who named the song was asked to direct the chapter in singing it; next he was asked pick three members to sing the song with him as a quartet, after which another slip would be drawn. The San Gabriel Chapter donated \$60 to the San Gabriel High Booster' Club to be used for band uniforms.

In July 1955, the Society Board voted down a motion to limit Society members to a minimum age of 16, but, for some reason, did ask chapters to consider this as the "recognized" age limit. Many chapters ignored this request, and members as young as 10 or 12 were common in the FWD. Since the Far Western District would host its first Society Summer Convention in 1957, the phrase: "Bit of Heaven in Fifty-Seven" or "BOHIFS" was coined. A tag written by Munson Hinman was modified by some folks in the Riverside Chapter as follows:



At this time, many of the chapters were incorporating in order to protect members from lawsuits or claims. The San Gabriel Chapter reached the magic number of 100 members; the only one in the District to do so.

Emerson Johnson, President of the Publicity Club of Los Angeles, wrote a nice article about barbershopping which concluded: "In these days and times, when many musicians not only have expensive instruments, but electric amplifiers on them; when automobiles are equipped with thousands of gadgets for running up windows and running down pedestrians; when business is turning to 'automation' to eliminate human functions, it seems just plain wonderful to me that four men, with nothing but the vocal chords God gave them...no gadgets at all...can produce such a wonderful result."

A Far Western District Association of Quartets was being

formed to encourage the formation of quartets and to assist the existing quartets. The organizational meeting was held in Whittier in September 1955. There was the usual concern over dropping enrollments. Ray Starkey suggested that each chapter have a committee of several members to handle visitors, saying that each one should have a host for the evening who will explain the aims of the Society and the chapter, introduce him around, tell him of the fun and relaxation that come from barbershop singing, try to get him to sing a song with three others, thank him for coming, get his phone number and call him a couple of days before the next meeting inviting him to come again. The San Fernando Chapter held a "Guitar and Ukulele" night.

The FWD Chorus Travel Fund, which had been used to help choruses travel to the District Contest, was terminated following the 1955 District Convention in Phoenix. In the future, such travel funds would come from the Divisional Contests. Chris McElravy, wife of John McElravy who sang bass with the "Uncalled Four," was elected National President of Sweet Adelines. The first Society chapter to be chartered in 1956 was the Yavapai Chapter in Prescott, Arizona. The Monterey Peninsula Chapter, whose President was Navy Captain Paul Spangler, also received its charter in January 1956. In February, the Crescenta Valley Chapter was chartered. Roger Hoffman, tenor with Tucson's "Bachelaires" quartet, put the name in jeopardy by getting married.

The San Jose Chapter headlined a Christmas party show for Food Machinery Corp. attended by over 5,000 (mostly children). The Honolulu and Kailua chapters were very active at Christmas time, entertaining at seven hospitals, a high school, and on the streets in downtown Honolulu. Heavy rains in NorCal caused many people to be moved to evacuation centers. The Stockton Chapter members, after spending most of Christmas Eve distributing sandbags, spent Christmas Day performing for the 4,000 evacuees. Jim Powell, lead with Pasadena's "Crown City Four," told how difficult it was to sing with his quartet, when all through each song, "we are watching [tenor] Tom [Wirick] out of the corner of our eyes waiting to see what that screwball will do." Jim went on to say, "...there would be no 'Crown City Four' without Tom, because the fire and continued newness would be taken out of it. Tom doesn't know what he did for me personally when he asked me to stand up there and sing beside him five years ago."

The Utah chapters were forming a "Utah Inter-Chapter Council". The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter challenged the Salt Lake City Chapter to a contest in which the winner would be the one that retained the highest percentage of its 1955 members as of April 30, 1956. Former District President Marv Brower complained that he had reached the "Metallic Age"...with silver in his hair, gold in his teeth and lead in his feet. Don Scholtz had a job transfer to Spain, so Tucson's Hal Harris took over his District Vice-President job. It was rumored that Scholtz planned to form a quartet called the "Barbers of Seville." With San Gabriel's help, an East Los Angeles Optimist Club Boy's Benefit Show raised \$750. The San Diego Chapter was on a radio forum, in which a panel asked questions about barbershop singing, and the chorus or a quartet answered, often musically. Explaining that his verbal diarrhea had run its course, Bob Northup stepped aside as Editor of *Westunes* and George Dohn took on the job.

At the House of Delegates meeting at the FWD Spring Convention in Sacramento, delegates from the Honolulu and Kailua chapters introduced Miss Hawaii (Phyllis Pacheco), who presented each new District officer with a lei and a kiss. The Martinez Chapter put on a benefit show for NorCal flood relief. The Monterey Peninsula Chapter donated \$180 to the Girl Scouts, and the Long Beach Chapter put on a two-hour show to raise



The "Sharpshooters"
1956 Far Western District Champions
1957 International Representatives

money to send teen-age girls to summer camp.

The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter gave their paid-up members free admission to the afterglow following their annual show. The Ventura Chapter did likewise, and also admitted card-carrying Sweet Adeline members free. The Far Western District had the greatest percentage of increase in membership in the Society for 1955-56. Fallbrook's Avocado Empire Chapter Chorus and two quartets performed in the convalescent wards at Santa Marguerita Naval Hospital at Camp Pendleton. Including this one, they made a total of ten appearances in twenty-three days. Past Society President Phil Embury did a Society-wide survey, and found the following to be the songs barbershoppers most enjoyed singing: "I Had a Dream, Dear," "I Want a Girl," "Mandy Lee," "Oh, Honey," "I Love You the Best of All, When You Were Sweet Sixteen," "Heart of My Heart," "Curse of an Aching Heart," "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," "Down by the Old Mill Stream," and "Sweet Roses of Morn."

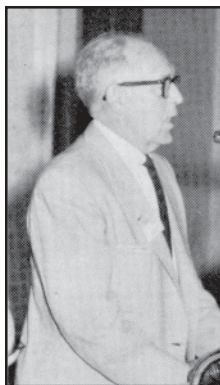
The Arcadia Chapter raised \$800 for the Claiborne School for retarded children. The San Gabriel Chapter raised a total of \$550 for the benefit of three separate programs for children. The Salinas Chapter raised \$222 for the Salinas Optimists Club Boys' Work Fund. The Santa Monica Chorus entertained the Captain and several hundred crew members of the aircraft carrier Philippine Sea. In September the big Region 11 Sweet Adeline Chorus Contest was held in SoCal, judged by SPEBSQSA members, and the winning Crown City Chorus was directed by barbershopper Russ Blakely. The Monterey Park Chapter (in SoCal, not to be confused with the Monterey Peninsula Chapter in NorCal) received its charter in September 1956.





Chapter 3

November 1956 - October 1961



Bill Parry
FWD President
1956

THE MONTEREY PARK CHAPTER in Southern California received its charter in late 1956. Crescenta Valley's "Verdugo Dons," 1952 District champions, were singing at a San Gabriel Chapter Afterglow and the door was open for air. A policeman drove by and stopped to see what was going on. He was so impressed with the singing that he persuaded the "Dons" to sing for the entire police force over the police radio in his car! In the November 1956 *Westunes Magazine*, District Secretary Jerry Graham reminded quartets that they

could enter the District Contest right up to the time for the afternoon eliminations.

The San Fernando Valley Chapter sent the following questionnaire to each of its members, and asked them to return it as soon as possible:

- Are you interested in singing in a quartet?
(Yes, No)
- Kind of quartet?
(Contest, Show, Chapter, Woodshed)
- How often could you practice?
(Once a week, Twice a week)
- How often could you sing out?
(Once a month, Twice a month)
- Can you read music?
(Yes, No)
- Can you learn your part of an arrangement at home?
(Yes, No)
- Can you "fake" your part?
(Yes, No)

Most of their members responded and every man responding said he did want to sing in a quartet.

The Huntington Park Chapter had a float in the local parade and a booth in the exhibition tent, spreading the word about our hobby. Floyd Blackwell, Secretary of the Los Angeles

Chapter, proposed that a special pin be issued to long-time Society members (it took more than 20 years but eventually the Society would issue "Golden Oldies" badges). Peninsula Chapter's very funny "Hightones" quartet was quite active on stage and pratfalls were a part of their routine. After one show, tenor Ozzie Palos felt pain in his shoulder and went to a doctor who informed him he had a shoulder separation and asked how he had done it. Ozzie's reply: "Singing". Not long after this the "Hightones"

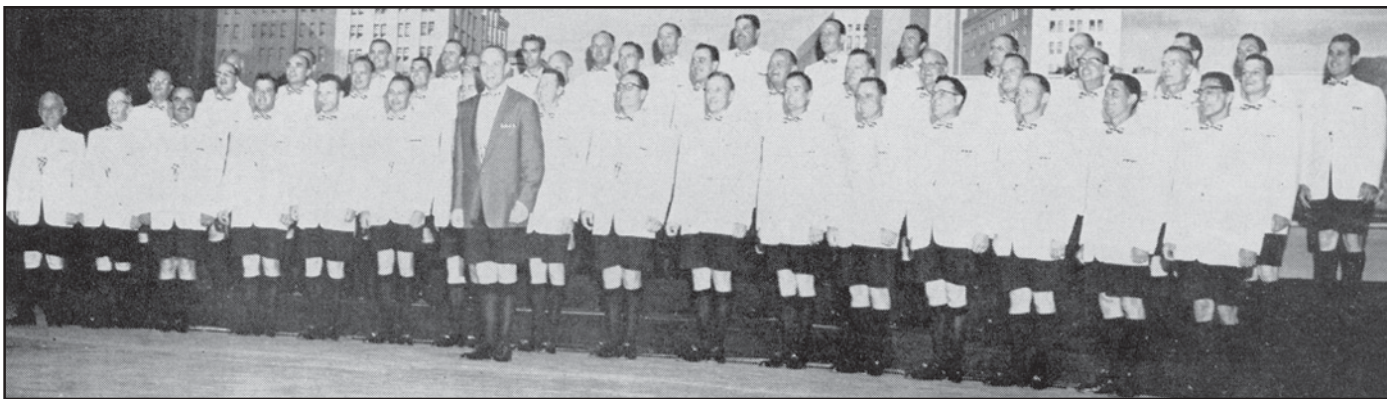


The "Hightones"
Popular Show Quartet

appeared on the San Francisco PBS TV channel.

The Crescenta Valley Chorus was featured at the Glendale Music Festival. The Phoenix Chapter Chorus and the "Desert Knights" quartet were singing at The Retreat House, Casa De Paz y Bien, to help raise funds. In the middle of their performance, someone loosed a duck which proceeded to join in the singing although it only knew one word: "Quack". Two members of a Chicago Chapter visited the Marin Chapter on the same night, each coming with a different Marin Chapter member, and neither knowing that the other was within 2000 miles of him. Quite a reunion!

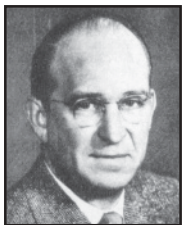
Westunes Editor George Dohn must have been psychic when he wrote that if Berkeley's "Californians" Chorus could



The Berkeley "Californians" - 1957 International Chorus Champions - Dave Stevens, Musical Director

beat Arcadia and Phoenix, they can beat anyone, for a few months later, they did.

Buck Hay, who sang lead with the "West Coasters" quartet when they made the finals in Minneapolis in 1956, quit his job in Los Angeles to accept a better one in Denver. Upon arriving in Denver with his family, Buck discovered that the company had moved to Georgia without notifying him. Imagine his dismay at arriving in this city late in the evening where he knew no one, after quitting his job in Los Angeles and selling his house. After parking his family in a hotel he attended a Denver Chapter meeting. When the Denver Chapter members learned of his predicament, they found him a nice home for his family and one member gave him a job very similar to the one for which he had come to Denver.



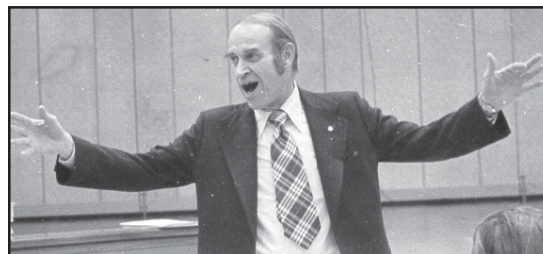
*Joe Trousdale
FWD President
1957*

The Far Western District ended 1956 with 6 more chapters than at the start of the year. The South Bay Chapter (nee Centinela Valley Chapter) was holding a woodshedding (harmonizing without written music) session at every chapter meeting. The Hollywood Chapter bulletin was called the *Hollywoodshedder*. The Long Beach Chapter was making sure that their visitors had an opportunity to sing in a quartet on their first night, and the next and the next and... In February 1957 the "Verdugo Dons" disbanded. In March 1957 the Coachella Valley Chapter received its charter. Also in March, the Society Headquarters were moved from Toledo, Ohio to Kenosha, Wisconsin.

The Santa Barbara and Fontana chapters were chartered in April bringing the number of District Chapters to 51. The Pomona Valley Chapter donated \$500 to the Pomona Valley Hearing Society. The San Fernando Chapter put on a benefit show for the Valley Handicapped Children which raised approximately \$1400 for them. "Fearless Frankie" Finnegan, editor of the San Fernando Valley Chapter bulletin, *Klinker Korner*, complained that the "Doc says the water on my brain has rusted my nerves of steel". The San Gabriel Chapter put on two very successful benefit shows for local charities. Bakersfield's "Cotton Pickin' Four" sang at so many dinners that the members, Tom Blankenship, Tom Maxwell, Eldon Jenkins and Jim Erwin, reported gaining an average of 14 pounds each.

Members of the Hollywood Chapter's "Film City Four" quartet were nursing sore shins. At the end of their singing on a show whose proceeds were going to a local park, they followed directions and exited through the break in the curtain. Unfortunately, someone had placed a bench directly behind this break without telling them. The Los Angeles Chapter had an award-winning booth at the California Hobby Show at which they took names and addresses of 54 men who visited the show and expressed an interest in barbershop singing. This information was sent to the chapters nearest their homes.

The first Society Convention to be held in the Far Western District was held in Los Angeles in June 1957 with Reddie Wright as General Chairman. Reddie was greatly assisted by Marv Brower, Bill Parry and MANY others. It was called "BOHIFS" for "Bit Of Heaven In Fifty-Seven". The "Lads of Enchantment" from Albuquerque in the South West District won the quartet contest but in second place were the "West Coasters" from the San Gabriel and Pasadena chapters, with Barrie Best, Jim Powell, Jim Potter and Bill Cockrell. This was the first time



*Dave Stevens
Director of the Berkeley "Californians"
First Far Western District Chorus Champions*

a FWD quartet had placed higher than 4th. The Chorus Contest was won by the FWD's "Californians Chorus" from Berkeley, directed by Dave Stevens. This was the first time a FWD Chorus had even placed in the top 5. Jack Evans of the Salt Lake City Chapter was quoted as saying: "No competitor in the International Contest can ever lose, for by watching and listening they can get an education that will help put them up to the top in the future." Jack must have known what he was saying since his "Evans Quartet" would be champs in 1960.

The Fullerton and Modesto chapters were chartered in July 1957. The San Jose Chapter sent representatives to Fresno

who sang on a local TV station and then spent the rest of the day promoting a new chapter in that city. The first regional chorus contests were held in Northern and Southern California in July. People attending the Orange County Fair were entertained by the Downey, Whittier, Arcadia and San Diego chapter choruses as well as the "Sharpshooters" and "Four Bits of Harmony" quartets. *Westunes* Editor George Dohn mentioned that barbershoppers usually didn't like to "solo" and gave as evidence



Jim Arnold
FWD President 1958

the number of well known barbershoppers in the District that had recently been married.

Jim Arnold, baritone with the "Crown City Four", was appointed to the Society's Quartet Encouragement and Development Committee, and the lead with that quartet, Jim Powell, was editing a quartet column in *Westunes*. New Pasadena Chapter member, Val Hicks, was conducting a barbershop craft session at each chapter meeting. Val, a Society contest judge, had recently moved from Salt Lake City and was also directing the Huntington Park Chapter Chorus. The Crescenta Valley Chapter was sponsoring a Girl Scout Troop. The Salinas Chapter made a healthy

donation to the Boys' Camp Fund of the local Optimist Club. FWD Historian, Howard Cooper, requested that each chapter send him a history and picture of the chapter.

As of the end of August 1957, the largest chapter in the Far Western District was San Gabriel with 97 members, followed by Santa Barbara with 76, San Diego and Berkeley with 71, Sacramento with 66, Pasadena with 61, Phoenix with 52 and Long Beach with 50. By comparison, in early 1997, San Gabriel Valley had 20 members, Santa Barbara had 76, San Diego 131, East Bay (a merger of Berkeley and Eden-Hayward) 42, Sacramento 79, Pasadena 11, Phoenix 224 and Long Beach 39. In the FWD Achievement Awards for the first two quarters of 1957, the San Gabriel Chapter led, followed by Salt Lake City, Berkeley, Whittier, Pomona, Pasadena, Salinas, Phoenix, Crescenta Valley, Peninsula, Arcadia, Ventura, Stockton and San Diego, in that order.

The District Chorus Contest consisted of just two choruses. Eden-Hayward, winners of the north preliminary contest and San Diego, winners of the south. Eden nosed out San Diego in the final contest. The Mount Diablo Chapter held a joint picnic with the Contra Costa Sweet Adelins at the home of Al and Sarah Flower in Walnut Creek. In November, the Pomona Valley Chapter scheduled a get together of music students from Claremont Men's College, Pomona College, Chaffey Junior College, Citrus College, Mt. Sac College and Whittier College for a show and a demonstration of barbershopping, on the Pomona College Campus. The Society Board announced that it wasn't necessary to put periods between the letters SPEBSQSA.

Modesto boasted of having five chapter quartets, with

two of them consisting of singers under 18 years of age. The Society declared the Far Western District eligible to send three quartets to the Society Summer Contest (one quartet for each 646.6 members). In addition to their chorus and quartets, the San Gabriel Chapter boasted its own "Haywire Orchestra", which became known for playing "barbershop dixieland" and appeared on shows from San Diego to Salt Lake City. The Santa Barbara Chapter had its chorus of 42 men on TV on Valentines Day, 1958. In March the Berkeley Chapter put on a "Parade of Quartets"



San Gabriel Chapter's "Haywire Orchestra"
A Popular "Barbershop Dixieland" Group

with no MC. Each quartet simply introduced the next quartet. The Society was so impressed with the activities of FWD Secretary Jerry Graham that it decided to allow 2 FWD members on the Society Board of Directors, if Jerry was one of them.

There were several very funny quartets in the District at the time including Phoenix' "Desert Knights", Pasadena's "Crown



The "Desert Knights"
1957 Far Western District Champions
1958 International Representatives

City Four" and Peninsula's "Hightones" and all these quartets were singing every weekend. The Salt Lake City Chapter put on a benefit show for the Utah Society for Crippled Children and Adults. At a district Presidents' meeting it was decided to establish a school, possibly at the Society Headquarters in Kenosha, where

barbershoppers would be taught the fundamentals of chorus directing, arranging, quartet coaching, judging, showmanship and various other subjects "so vital to our continued existence". At the same meeting, the Society's Field Man, Floyd Connett said too many chapters were prone to let the chorus director run the



The "Bay Town Four"
1958 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964

meeting. He strongly advised against this, pointing out that it tended to lessen the effectiveness of the elected officials in trying to plan a diversified meeting with ample time for quartet singing, coaching and encouragement.

In April 1958 the Fresno Chapter received its charter. The Whittier Chapter Chorus directed by Les Woodson, and Val Hicks representing the Society, put on a demonstration of barbershopping at the Music Educators' National Convention (MENC) in Los Angeles. At the District House of Delegates meeting in Sacramento in April, it was announced that the Honor Chapters for the year 1957 were #1 Salt Lake City, #2 San Gabriel and #3 Whittier. At the same meeting a proposal that the District assist their champion chorus financially in its trip to the Society Contest was voted down. Possibly for this reason, the Far Western District was the only one that did not send a chorus to the Society Contest that summer. The first "Area Counselor of the Year" award went to Jud Baldwin.

The San Mateo Chapter received its charter in June 1958. At the Society Summer Contest in Columbus, Ohio, the Far Western District had two quartets in the top five for the first time. The "West Coasters" from San Gabriel and the "Evans Quartet" from Salt Lake City placed 4th and 5th, respectively. Pres Evans, lead with the "Evans Quartet," learned just before the contest that he had a broken back but he sang anyway and then flew home for an operation to fuse some of his vertebrae, which laid him up for several months. The first Chorus Directors' Workshop was held at the Society headquarters in Kenosha, Wisconsin in August. The San Francisco Chapter's "Frisco Four" quartet was selected to appear in a road company version of The Music Man, which would tour the Western States and then settle in Chicago.

The San Diego Chapter members conducted a raffle of tools belonging to deceased member Kent Manchester, raising

money for his widow, and then painted the house of deceased member Bud Boyle, who had sung lead with the "San Diego Serenaders" quartet. The "Serenaders" were District champs in 1950 and became the first Far Western District medalist quartet, placing 4th in Kansas City in 1952. Phoenix' Lloyd Steinkamp wrote: "People who search for the fountain of youth should travel in fours...harmonize...and they'll be young forever." In September 1958 the Fontana and Paradise Valley chapters merged to become the Inland Empire Chapter, meeting in San Bernardino. At the October District Board meeting in Santa Monica, after much discussion the Board finally voted to establish an "International Chorus Travel Fund".

In November 1958, the Music Man show, featuring movie actor Forrest Tucker in the title role, Joan Weldon as Marion, and the "Frisco Four" quartet, came to San Francisco. Berkeley Chapter's Dan Knapp arranged for a large block of tickets for NorCal barbershoppers at a matinee performance at which the quartet sang some extra songs during the intermission and directed the barbershoppers in the audience in some songs. Later that evening (after the San Francisco Chapter's annual show), there was a reception for the cast of The Music Man in the War Memorial Building. It was planned to present Music Man writer-composer Meredith Willson with a certificate of thanks for all he had done for the barbershopping hobby. Unfortunately, at the last minute he was called away because of a death in the family so the show's musical director, Michel Perriere, accepted it for him. There was lots of quartet singing at this monster of an afterglow, titled the "Spirit of 76" (trombones) and the Music Man cast loved it.

In December 1958, 21 members of the Long Beach Chapter took a boat and joined the Naples Pageant of Floats and Chorus Singers, and filled the boat channels with barbershop harmony. Because it was high tide, they had to duck down when



The "Saints"
1959 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1960 & 1961

going under bridges where the acoustics were especially good. The "Desert Knights" quartet, FWD champs in 1957, sang for a 114-year old lady, in their local County Hospital. She hadn't spoken a word in 5 months but when they finished, she whispered "thank you". Palm Springs received its charter in December.

On January 27, 1959, four Downey Chapter quartets entertained the patients at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital. In February 1959, the Eden Chapter put on a benefit show for the March of Dimes in the Oakland Auditorium with TV star Art Baker as MC. The Stockton Chapter purchased a Braille typewriter and presented it to the local Visually Handicapped Children group. They also paid the expenses for three diabetic children to attend



*George Dohn
FWD President 1959
Int'l Board Member 1961*

a two-week Diabetic Camp at Whittaker, California. The San Gabriel Chapter put on a show and raised \$1200 for the underprivileged children of their city. The Avocado Empire Chapter moved to Vista, California and changed its name to Palomar-Pacific.

The Fullerton Chapter was encouraging quartet formation by picking four likely quartet candidates at a meeting and then having them coached by the top talent in the chapter, while the rest of the chapter looked on and listened. The Santa Barbara

Chapter raised \$1500 for a local Boys' Club which would be used to form a boys' chorus. Two Salt Lake City quartets, the "Evans Quartet" and the "Tonichords" appeared on the Tacoma, Washington Chapter show. The San Jose Chapter was experimenting with just two meetings per month.

At this time a chapter needed 10 members to receive a license to operate as a chapter and 25 members to receive a charter. Licensed chapters could only be so designated for one year and could not register quartets with the Society or compete in Society contests. If a chartered chapter fell below 25 members, it was placed on "inactive status" and, while its quartets would remain registered, it was banned from contests.

When the South Bay Chapter of Manhattan Beach found its chapter meeting night coinciding with St. Patrick's Day, it became "Wear Green Night" and all attendees were expected to comply with the title. At the 10th anniversary party of the Downey Chapter, gay nineties costumes were the rule. The Salinas Chapter's annual "Parade of Quartets" was a financial success and a goodly portion of the proceeds went to the Crippled Children's Society. At the April District Board meeting, the Board voted to turn over the total amount of the District Chorus Fund (\$1002.32) plus \$50 donated by the Downey Chapter, to the Eden Chapter Chorus to help them get to the Society Summer Contest in Chicago. The Board then voted to give the Eden Chapter an additional \$500 from the General Fund.

One of the big items being discussed throughout the Society at this time was the Expansion Fund. Each chapter was asked to come up with a sum of money to be used to expand the services from the Society Headquarters. Part of the money would go to purchase the new facilities in Kenosha and expand them, but much of it would be used to increase the number of "field men", expand the publications including music, show scripts and various manuals, produce quartet and chorus champion

recordings, and put on various training schools. In April, the Society decreed that each chapter should have a minimum of two Vice- Presidents. One would be in charge of membership and the other would be responsible for programs at the meetings. The Indian Wells Chapter was handling the program problem by assigning each section of the chorus the responsibility for the program, on a rotating basis.

In July 1959, *Westunes* Editor George Dohn gave up the job in order to become District President. The new *Westunes* Editor was Stan Manning of Altadena, California. The West Valleyaires Chapter (formerly Canoga Park Chapter) received its charter in July, as did the San Fernando Valley Chapter. District expenditures, at this time, were running around \$10,000/year. The Downey Chapter attended a Dodgers baseball game, sang for the fans and got their picture in Life Magazine. The PalPac Chapter entered a float in the Days of San Luis Rey Parade (a street parade...not a "parade of quartets") and used amplifiers to sing for the crowd. It was their first parade and they won second place.

At the October District meeting it was decided that Area Counselors and Past District Presidents would be voting members of the House of Delegates. Also at that meeting it was announced that Stan Manning had to resign as Editor of *Westunes*, the District magazine, upon advice from his doctor. Phoenix' John Hagopian would assume the job. The "Jerry Graham Award Trophy" was established, to be given each year on the basis of activity in the fields of extension, membership and member-retention. The Phoenix Chapter had 11 registered quartets at this time, and 103 members. In 1951 the Far Western District had 36 chapters and 1134 members, but by 1959 there were 57 chapters and 2200



*Wesley Meier
FWD President 1960-63
Int'l Board 1962-65
International President 1968
FWD Hall of Fame 1971*

members. The following chapters were in danger of losing their charters by having less than 25 members: Glendale-Burbank, Indian Wells Valley, Los Angeles, Mt. Diablo, Monterey Park, Newport Harbor, Placer County, Honolulu, Kailua and Ogden. The Los Angeles Chapter was suspended in January 1960.

The FWD received an award from the Society Headquarters for Achievement in Membership during 1959, placing well ahead of the 2nd place North-eastern District. The San Jose Chapter received an engraved gavel from the Society for an increase in membership of 103% over the previous year.

Because of this and some other accomplishments, San Jose President Chuck DeFreitas was awarded 2 registrations to the Society Summer Convention. The San Gabriel Chapter was holding a drawing for a prize at the start of each meeting, which was very successful at getting mem-



The "Evans Quartet"
1960 International Champions
International Representatives 1957, 1958, 1959, 1960

bers to the meeting on time. The Fullerton and San Diego chapters had started Woodshedder's' Guilds which met prior to the regular meetings. The Vallejo Chapter received its charter in early 1960.

The first official "Barbershop Harmony Week" was established in 1960. Jack Hines, of South Pasadena's "Music Men" Chapter, was working on getting a chapter started in New Zealand, and Sacramento's George Doan and Monterey's Bill Monroe were working on spreading barbershop singing to several other countries. The Antioch and Westside (of Los Angeles) chapters received their charters in March 1960. In the first three months of 1960, the Pomona Valley Chapter raised \$200 each for the Pomona Hearing Society, the Casa Colina Salvage and the First Christian Church, this with a total membership of just 34. The San Gabriel Chapter raised \$900 for the Arroyo High School A Cappella Choir. The South Bay Chapter received an award for "Outstanding Community Service" from the Manhattan Beach Coordinating Council.

Dave Stevens, Chairman of the District's Song of the Year Committee announced that for this year, the song selected was "When You And I Were Young, Maggie", and he recommended that all choruses learn this song. *Westunes* Editor John Hagopian pointed out that war was against everything that barbershopping is for, and that is HARMONY. At the House of Delegates meeting in April, the Phoenix Chapter received the first place Achievement Award, followed by Salt Lake City and San Gabriel. Phoenix also won the first annual Jerry Graham award for membership and member-retention. In this competition, San Jose was second and Downey third.

Northern California chapters put on a 1960 Easter Parade of Harmony at the Oakland Auditorium, featuring several quartets from the area plus choruses from the Eden Chapter and the Oakland Sweet Adelines and Emceed by the always humorous Dave Stevens. In May the Pasadena Chorus and quartets entertained attendees at the Avalon-Catalina Island Buccaneer

Day Celebration. Pasadena's "Crown City Four" made a recording entitled "Sing a Song of Sickness" featuring songs such as "Leave the Slums Alone", "The Richer They Are the Slower I Cure Them" and "Fifty Million Commies Can't Be Wrong". The San Gabriel Chapter's famous "Haywire Orchestra" donated \$100 to the Society's Expansion Fund in memory of the orchestra's first president, Marv Marvel.

The first FWD Chorus Directors' Seminar was held in Santa Barbara in June 1960. Past Arcadia Chapter President Chris Valencia was sent to Australia on business for nearly four months, and wrote: "I hope to train three kangaroos so I can form a quartet, otherwise I'll go crazy not being able to sing." The Far Western District was the only Society district to pay transportation for its quartets to the Society Contest, furnishing airline tickets and \$60/day per quartet. The Glendale, Arizona "Thunderbird" Chapter received its charter in June. Lloyd Davis, editor of the PalPac bulletin, proposed that the folks at the Society headquarters in Kenosha look into the possibility of a U.S. Postal Stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of SPEBSQSA. They did this but were told that it would not fit the Post Office's rules for commemorative stamps.

At the 1960 Society Summer Convention in Dallas, Texas, the Far Western District came away with three of the five medals in the quartet contest, with Salt Lake's "Evans Quartet" placing 1st, Berkeley's "Bay Town Four" 4th and South Bay's "Saints" 5th. Berkeley's "Californians" took second in the chorus contest. At the Society Board meeting at Dallas, the Board voted to increase the Society dues by 225% with the Far Western District representatives voting against it. Their concern was that it would necessitate raising chapter dues to around \$25. Harry Hall, lead with the "Bartlesville Barflies", winners of the first Society



The "Mystics"
International Representatives 1960 & 1962

Quartet Contest in 1939, attended the Dallas convention but passed away shortly after returning home.

The Yuma, Arizona "Territorial Prisonaires" Chapter received its charter in Sep-

tember, 1960. Two Phoenix quartets, the "Humdingaires" and the "Desert Knights" gave a total of 29 performances in three months. Fourteen Downey Chapter members donated blood at the local blood bank. When they were finished and standing outside the building singing, a nurse came and asked them to come inside and sing for them. This they did but in a few minutes the same nurse came and apologetically asked them to stop, since the singing was keeping the nurses checking blood pressure from hearing the pulse beats. The Crescenta Valley Chapter held a benefit show for the Sun Air Foundation for asthmatic children.

The Eden-Hayward Chapter was holding a quartet contest at every chapter meeting. San Bernardino's Inland Empire Chapter appointed a Quartet Promotion Chairman to work with new quartets at every Chapter meeting. Santa Barbara's Program

Chairman was picking members for several quartets at each meeting and giving them 20 minutes to develop a song to sing for the chapter. Most chapters were holding picnics this summer. The Aloha Chapter Chorus and quartets sang at the Kaneohe Mental Hospital. The Salt Lake City Chapter donated \$400 to the local YMCA. *Westunes* Editor John Hagopian wrote: "If you ever see an Editor who pleases everybody, he will be neither sitting nor standing, and there will be a lot of flowers around him." Marin Chapter's "Roostaires" quartet sang for some friends at a restaurant in the town of Occidental. They concluded their numbers with "I'd Love to Live in Loveland." Later a couple seated at a nearby table declared: "We were having marital troubles, but after that wonderful group of singers, our hearts mellowed and we've made up!"



*The "Merry Chords," Downey Chapter
Popular Show Quartet*

The PalPac Chapter entered a float in Oceanside's "Days of San Luis Rey" Parade, advertising their annual show to be held in November. On the float was the "Grunionaires" quartet with Rusty Pipes singing bass. In late 1960 the Far Western District was the second largest district in the Society with more than 2600 members. The Eden-Hayward Chapter put on two shows raising a total of \$1300 for the Oakland Civic Center Hospital and the San Leandro Boys' Club. In December, the Mojave Desert Chapter of Barstow, California, made up hundreds of Christmas stockings filled with things kids like, and passed them out at the Inspection Station to kids coming into California in cars from the east. Their quartets and chorus were there also to sing barbershop arrangements of carols to visitors entering the state during the Christmas Season. Each car received a greeting package containing "Why It's Great to Be a Barbershopper", "What is the SPEBSQSA?", a copy of the December *Westunes* Magazine and a greeting card from the Mojave Chapter.

The "Merry Chords" did 51 performances between October 7 and December 23, 1960. The Las Vegas Chapter received its charter in December 1960. The Downey Chapter donated Christmas baskets to needy families in their city. In January 1961, a Leadership Conference (a predecessor to C.O.T.S. — Chapter Officer Training Seminar) was held in San Gabriel,

with about 75 barbershoppers from quite a number of SoCal chapters in attendance. The South Bay Chapter was selling license plate holders with "SPEBSQSA" and "Keep America Singing" at \$2.50 for a pair. District Historian Howard Cooper advised us that the September 1939 Readers Digest had an article describing



*The "Manhattans," South Bay Chapter
Popular Show Quartet*

the formation of SPEBSQSA.

The "Devilaires" quartet from Glendale, Arizona, received considerable publicity for singing a song while aboard the Thor Missile at the Arizona State Fair. Santa Barbara's "Four Fifths of Harmony" quartet rode around on its bicycle built for four. District Chorus Contest records were selling for \$3.98 each. The Far Western District won the Society's International Achievement Award for the second year in a row. On January 28, a pickup quartet from San Jose (Shipp, Hildebrandt, Bray & Gonzalez) participated in a choral workshop for 4th, 5th and 6th grade children from four schools in Los Altos. Up to this time, admission to quartet eliminations had been free. The District Board, voted to begin charging 50 cents for admission to these sessions at District and Regional contests, starting at the Regional contests in Fresno in May. The "Saints" quartet appeared on the Truth or Consequences TV Program on February 15, 1961. The



*The "Feenstra Brothers," Downey Chapter
Popular Show Quartet*

Napa Valley Chapter was chartered that month.

The Bakersfield Chapter hosted a fraternal get-together of nine chapters. Their hall was jammed with many standing, for an evening of fun and good singing. Some District members were suggesting that the Society's motto should be changed to "Keep America Singing the Old Songs" (KASTOS). The San Gabriel Chapter put on a show for 1300 inmates at the California Institution for Men at Chino, with their chorus, their "Haywire Orchestra," and several of their chapter quartets plus the "Sidewinders" from Inland Empire and "Aristochords" from Pomona Valley. San Gabriel also put on a benefit show for under privileged youth, this time with help from the "Chordsmen" from Whittier, the "Manhattans" from Manhattan Beach and the



The "Forte Niners"
1961 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1962 & 1963

"Feenstra Brothers" from Downey. At the Regional contests in Fresno it was announced that the 1960 District Achievement Awards went to 1st Phoenix-Saguaro, 2nd San Gabriel and 3rd South Bay. The Jerry Graham Award went to South Bay, with San Gabriel and Whittier placing 2nd and 3rd.

At the Summer Convention in Philadelphia, the Far Western District again took more than its share of the top-five medals as again, the "Baytown Four" from Berkeley placed 4th and the "Saints" from South Bay placed 5th. Pasadena's "Gala Lads" just missed a medal, placing 6th. The Society's Contest and Judging Chairman asked the FWD to experiment with having all judges except the Stage Presence judge face away from the stage, and having the quartets announced by number and not by quartet name. The idea was to eliminate any bias on the part of the judges. This was tried at the District contest in San Diego in October 1961 but was never used again. The Westminster and Eureka chapters were chartered in October.

BAKERSFIELD Chapter presents

WHIFFENPOFFS ASSEMBLED

A Show dedicated to the right of man to raise his voice on High - and cast Spells with the Magic of his Singing!

THE EVANS

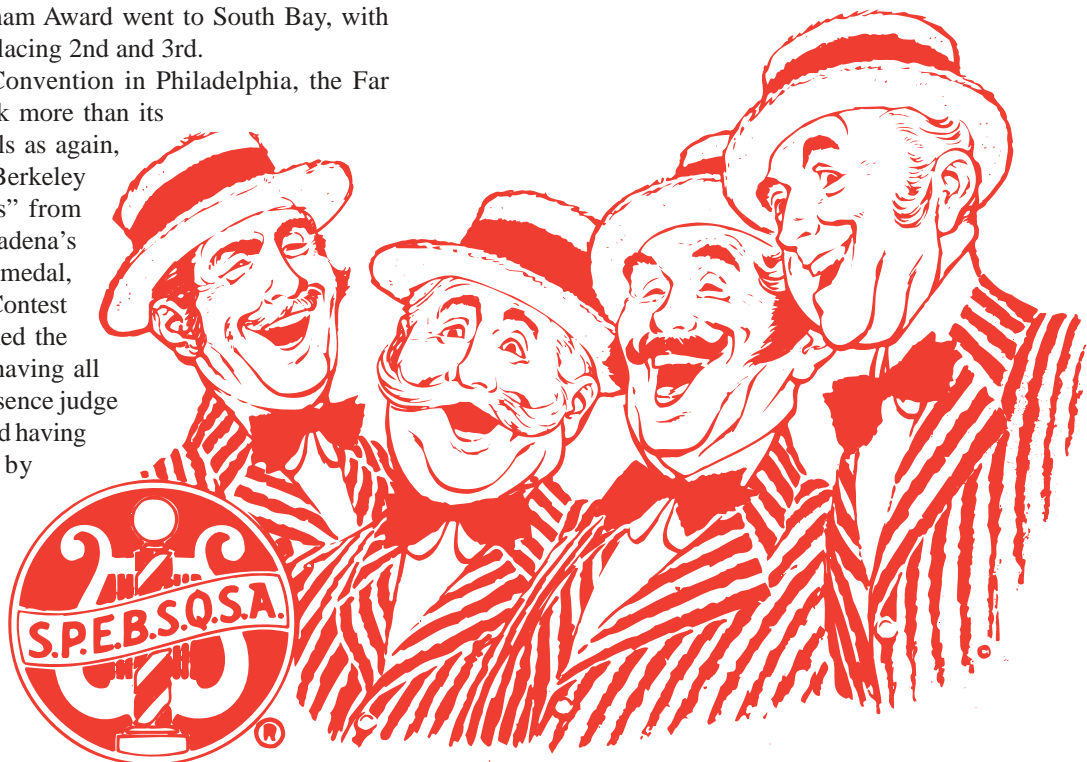
THE GALA LADS

and a variety of other Gentlemen songsters

THE HAYWIRE ORCHESTRA

Harvey Auditorium ... Saturday March 12, 1960
ALL SEATS RESERVED
CONTACT LOU CLARK - 1021 RADCLIFFE
BAKERSFIELD

Vintage ad copy for a Bakersfield Chapter annual show



Chapter 4

November 1961 - October 1966



IN LATE 1961, the Inland Empire Chapter received District permission to revert to its original name, the Riverside Chapter. New chapters in Santa Maria, Marysville-Yuba City, Feather River and Taft-Cuyama had received their charters. At this time, 25 members were required to maintain a charter. Tom Alspach, Yuma, Arizona chorus director was quoted as saying: "My feeling is that this is primarily a fun organization and our chapter is a living example of this to the rest of Barbershopping. Somebody said that we have two ways to go: Our present way — lots of fun with fairly rapid progress, or a suggested way — professionalism—fast progress, personal animosities, boredom, small turnout, contest winning (if we have enough to qualify)." The first chapter to reach 100 members in 1961 was the San Diego Chapter followed shortly by the San Gabriel Chapter. The San Francisco Chapter chorus and quartets appeared on local TV stations KQED and KTVU.



*The "Plus Four," Monterey Peninsula Chapter
Popular Show Quartet*

Mike Senter proposed that the District stop supporting the District Champion choruses financially for their trips to the International contest, stating that the money was needed for *Westunes*, training chorus directors, and for sending top choruses to perform on smaller chapter shows. In November 1961, the Whittier Chapter held a "Woodshedders' Jubilee". In the November issue of *Westunes*, the San Jose Chapter advertised its annual show featuring the "Mid-States Four," with tickets going for as high as \$2.50! Berkeley's Dan Knapp was selected to write the "Share the Wealth" column, a regular feature of the Society magazine, *The Harmonizer*. Also in November, the Hollywood Chapter, which had chartered in April 1945 and had once included Bing Crosby as a member, came to an end.

At the December 1961 District Board meeting, the Board voted to support the championship chorus in its trip to the Inter-

national contest up to 50% of its transportation costs from the General Chorus Fund, and all of the Special



*The "Osmond Brothers"
circa 1962, as they started their career
on FWD chapter shows*

Chorus Fund provided that it didn't exceed their remaining costs. The Aloha Chapter was exempted from the District assessment by 50 cents/member. The Garden Grove Chapter sang Christmas carols at the Fairview State Hospital. The Fullerton and Aloha chapters (and probably others) performed Christmas programs at several local hospitals.

The Antioch Chapter hosted a Novice Quartet Contest which was won by the "Dave Stevens Cried When He Heard Us Four". The Novato, California Chapter was chartered in December. The Berkeley "Californians" Chorus joined the Dundalk, Maryland chorus, and the "Suntones", "Schmitt Brothers", "Rascals" and "Town and Country Four" quartets on an ABC TV show near Christmas time. The Mojave Desert Chapter in Barstow celebrated Christmas by handing out 248 gifts to incoming tourist children at a border inspection station.

In January 1962 the Huntington Park and Mid-City (Lakewood) chapters merged. The first FWD H.E.P. (Harmony Educational Program) school was held in Inglewood in January. Arthur Godfrey, of TV fame, who was in San Antonio with the "Buffalo Bills" quartet to tape a show, was asked if he would appear at an International Convention to receive an honorary membership in SPEBSQSA, and replied: "What's that?" (He didn't appear.) The Yuma "Territorial Prisonaires" Chapter titled their annual show: "Hanging in Harmony". In a 5-year Expansion Fund set up by the Society, the Far Western District was the first district to reach its quota and the only one to reach it by the end of the 5 years. Whittier put on a show for the Muscular Dystrophy fund drive. The Garden Grove Chapter held a novice quartet contest which was won by San Diego's "Four Part-Ners" quartet.

The Stockton Chapter donated money to the Diabetic Youth Foundation and performed at Stockton College in February at a program in recognition of newly naturalized citizens.



The "Gala Lads"
1962 International Quartet Champions
1960 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1959, 1961 & 1962

The Pomona Chapter donated \$200 to the church where they met, and also raised \$650 in a benefit show for the Pomona Hearing Aid Society. Palomar Pacific's Lloyd Davis wrote a letter to NBC-TV objecting to their "absurd image of our hobby" in the program "Car 54 Where Are You?". The Aloha Chapter was holding a weekly novice quartet contest at its meetings with a quarterly prize for the quartet accumulating the most points. The Monterey Peninsula Chapter performed for a Multiple Sclerosis drive. The San Diego Chapter established two \$250 scholarships to San Diego State College in the names of Bud Boyle and Kent Manchester, two chapter members who were killed in a car accident on the way home from a board meeting. The fund was started with \$1500 and \$500 would be added each year. Bud Boyle sang lead with the 1950 District champion quartet the "San Diego Serenaders" which became the first FWD medalist quartet in the Society Contest when they placed 4th in 1952.

In February 1962 the Music Men Chapter changed its name to the Alhambra Music Men Chapter (the Society Board had decreed that chapter names should contain the geographical location of the chapter). Antioch Chapter's Dr. Bernard Hoehner performed a Caesarian Section to deliver twins, and then joined his quartet in an adjoining room for their regular rehearsal. The Salt Lake City Chapter put on a show in Pocatello, Idaho in a effort to get a chapter started there. The Crescenta Valley Chapter sang on the launching program for the local Community Chest Drive. The Yuma Chapter was producing a weekly barbershop harmony show on a local radio station on Sunday nights. In March, the Fresno Gold Note Chorus performed on a Cerebral Palsy

telethon and were introduced by movie star Jane Mansfield.

Long-time Sacramento Chapter member Ernest Smith suggested: "Since we are an international destined organization, [...] I suggest that 'Keep America Singing' be changed. The change to 'Keep the World Singing' would be more favorable insofar as the SPEBSQSA is projecting to broader situations." It was announced that Dave Stevens, Gene Smith and Turk Evans of the Far Western District would be members of the Society's H.E.P. faculty and would be teaching at H.E.P. sessions in Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Texas, Florida and California. At the April 1962 Board Meeting, the District Achievement first place award went to the South Bay Chapter, followed by Downey and Ventura County. It was reported that past Society President O. H. "King" Cole had retired to Palm Springs and was active in the local chapter. It was also reported that Society President Lou Laurel had been suspended at the FWD Spring Convention (he was stuck in an elevator between floors at the headquarters hotel).



The "Frisco Four"
In the touring production of "Music Man"
Starring Van Johnson (center) as Professor Harold Hill

In April and May, movie star Van Johnson played the lead in a Los Angeles production of The Music Man, held at the Coconut Grove. The barbershop quartet in the show was the "Frisco Four" which now consisted of Lew Bolyard, Jim Ingram, Morris Rector and Art Huston, and at the end of the run, Van Johnson joined the Alhambra Chapter. A convention of the Arizona chapters was held in May. To encourage quartet formation, the San Jose Chapter was paying the registration fees for all its quartets. In June the Ventura County Chapter hosted its fourth annual Woodshed Quartet Contest.

In July 1962, Downey Chorus Director Earl Moon announced that he and Millye were moving to Florida. At the Society Summer Contest, the FWD's "Gala Lads" and "Sidewinders" quartets took first and fifth place medals and all FWD quartets were in the top 20. In early September, the Berkeley Chapter, with some help from quartets from neighboring chapters, participated in a two day festival for the benefit of the California Historical Society, including 16 performances. At the September District Board meeting, John Hagopian of Phoenix resigned as *Westunes* Editor and was replaced by Whittier's Ed Rainey. After 10 years as District Secretary, Jerry Graham announced that he was resigning the position as of the end of the year (he would be replaced by Lou Velzy). The first District Chapter Bulletin Contest was planned for the year 1962, to be judged by the District

President, the Int'l. Board Member, the Secretary and the Public Relations Chairman.



Barrie Best
FWD President 1962-63
SPEBSQSA Executive Director 1963-77

In August 1962 a fire in the San Gabriel Mountains required the evacuation of patients from the Olive View Sanitarium to another home which required the making up of extra beds. The Downey Chapter appeared in costume ready to sing, but wound up making beds. It must have made an interesting scene as they made the beds in their costumes including their derby hats. In September the El Monte Chapter chorus and quartets put on a half-hour show at the L. A. County Fair. At the District Fall Convention in San Francisco, a pick-up quartet of Pete Neushal, George Sanders, Sterling Tallman and Tom West from the Mid-City, La Crescenta, South Bay and Downey Chapters, respectively, sang "Love Me and the World is Mine". As they finished an elderly lady applauded and said she had sung the same song but in German on an opera stage in Berlin, Germany, 45 years earlier. She then proceeded to sing the song for them in German.

At the October House of Delegates meeting, the Indian Wells Chapter was suspended and the following chapters were put on a non-voting associate basis: Antioch, Clear Lake, Garden Grove, Mt. Diablo, Newport Harbor, Palm Springs, Placer County, Taft-Cuyama and Las Vegas. While in San Jose in November to sing on San Jose Chapter annual show, the Osmond Brothers (actually their father) received a phone call inviting the quartet to sing on the Andy Williams TV Show in Hollywood, which launched their TV career. At the December District Board meeting the merger of the Antioch and Mt. Diablo chapters was approved. The Eureka Chapter was reassigned from the Evergreen District to the Far Western District

In February 1963, District President Barry Best wrote: "There is an argument of long standing throughout our Society as to which is more important — the chorus or the quartet. [...] Then the woodshedder comes along and says neither of them were the original intent of our founder, and that all music books and arrangements should be thrown out so we can go back to the good old art of woodshedding." Barry went on to say that they are all right to a degree but that they all need each other for survival. In March, Q.W.E.P. (Quartet Workshop and Education Program) sessions were held in Whittier for SoCal and Oakland for NorCal. The first 20 registered quartets applying could attend. It was noted that only 36 of the 62 chapters in the Far Western District were sending their bulletins to the District magazine *Westunes*.

In April 1963, District Treasurer John Thomson found it necessary to resign due to a job transfer with additional duties.

The Pasadena Chapter's Russ Blakely stepped in and took over the job. Chapter Visitations (one chapter visiting another) were very common at this time. The Whittier Chapter had its own blood bank for emergency use by members or their families. Chapter members had donated more than 20 pints over a period of 9 months. The Reseda Chapter was declared to be the District's Honor Chapter for 1962 followed by Feather River and Sacramento. This was based on membership, membership increase, and sponsorship of successful chapters. At the May District Board meeting in San Jose, permission was given to the Marin and Novato chapters and also the Mt. Diablo and Antioch Chapters to merge. The Palm Springs Chapter was allowed to change its name to Coachella Valley. It was decided to discontinue the Area Counselor of the Year Award.

In July 1963, District President Barry Best was hired to replace Bob Hafer as Executive Director of the Society. Wes Meier was selected to replace him as District President. A Society H.E.P. session was held at Pepperdine



The "Coastliners"
International Representatives 1963, '64, '65

College in Los Angeles that month. In late July, the first District Spectacular was held in Los Angeles with a very large chorus made up of many different chapter members and the following quartets: "Town and Country Four" (recently crowned Society champs from Pittsburgh, PA), "Renegades" (from Illinois), "Four Nubbins" (from Iowa) and these FWD quartets — "Gala Lads", "Sidewinders", "Knights of Harmony" and the "Dapper Dans." Proceeds went to the District treasury, which was in need at that time. At the August District Board meeting in Los Angeles, the Mid-Cities Chapter was allowed to change its name to Lakewood.

The San Luis Obispo, Redding and Simi Valley chapters received their charters in October 1963. The Downey Chapter



The "Golden Staters"
1963 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1964, '65, '66, '67, '68, '69, '71



The "Sidewinders"
1964 International Quartet Champions
1962 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1962, '63, '64

reported that Earl Moon had moved back to California and was again directing their chorus. In December the Reseda Chapter put on shows for the Camarillo State Hospital and for the boys at Rancho San Antonio in Chatsworth. The Downey, Riverside and Eureka chapters and probably others caroled at several local hospitals. The Fullerton and Pomona Valley Chapters put on a benefit for the Pomona Hearing Society and also sang for a number of hospitals. The Salinas Chapter's "Casual T's" quartet was interviewed about the barbershopping hobby and then sang on a local TV station. As a result they were asked to come back and put on a special half hour show on the same channel on Christmas Day.

The SoCal Q.W.E.P. (Quartet Workshop and Education Program) was held in Downey in January 1964 and the NorCal one was in Oakland in February. In February, the Alhambra Chapter's "Californians" quartet sang at a benefit for the widow of an Alhambra policeman who was killed in a holdup. The Alhambra chorus and quartets put on a benefit show to raise funds

for people needing eye operations. The Salt Lake City chorus and quartets put on a program to raise money to send badly needed filters for a kidney machine in a hospital in Ankara, Turkey. The 1964 Rose Queen and her Court were on the Pasadena Chapter annual show in March. In January the Fullerton and Pomona Valley chapters again got together to perform



Don Galvin
FWD President 1964-65
International Board Member 1966

on a show at Chapman College in Orange to raise money for the Athletic Scholarship fund. The Crescenta Valley Chapter was establishing a musical scholarship fund.

The San Gabriel Chapter had name badges made for their ladies to wear at barbershop functions. The Far Western District's "Sidewinders" quartet took all the marbles at the Society Summer Convention in San Antonio, Texas and then appeared on the Ed Sullivan TV Show filmed in New York City the next day. Later in July 1964 another Barbershop Spectacular was put on in Los Angeles, again to help the District treasury. The Arcadia and El Monte chapters were merged. Eden-Hayward's Ed Darby gave two tickets for their annual show to the local City Editor, which resulted in six pictures and two pages of publicity in the paper for their chapter and the Society. Will Cook, author of a 25-year Society history book, "Melodies for Millions", and Chorus Director for the newly licensed Ukiah Chapter, passed away.

In August 1964, about 200 barbershoppers from 7 NorCal chapters, plus families and friends, gathered in San Jose for an informal quartet contest and picnic. In September, the Placer County Chapter manned a booth at their county fair to publicize barbershopping and dispense information about the hobby. In



The "Western Continentals"
1964 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1965, '66, '67

November, District President Don Galvin wrote: "If you have less than fifty men in your chapter, you are being unfair to your Director." He went on to point out that the top four choruses in the Southern Division competition each had more than 70 men on stage, and that none of them was a "hand-picked" chorus...just guys who show up week after week to have fun. The Santa Barbara Chapter put on a half-hour show on the local TV station, featuring the chorus and three chapter quartets, plus interviews with several chapter officers. C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officer Training Sessions) were held in Arizona, NorCal and Utah in November and in SoCal in December. Also in December, the first B.A.S.H. (Barbershop Advancement and School of Harmony) for bulletin editors, judges, judge candidates, chorus directors and director aspirants, was held in Manhattan Beach. The Stockton Chapter reported that they lost a guest! (He became a member.)

In January, Bob Roberts replaced Ed Rainey as Editor of *Westunes*, the District Magazine. At the January District Board Meeting, it was reported that the Clear Lake, Danville, Santa

Monica and Taft-Cuyama chapters had folded. President Don Galvin proposed the formation of a "Trouble-Shooter" team of two or three men selected for their "enthusiasm and knowledge of how to get a chapter back on its feet". Lloyd Steinkamp was later appointed to head such a team. Lloyd expressed the hope that one day he could be singing in a quartet with his three sons, who were too young at the time. The Sacramento Chapter received an "Award of Merit" from the County Historical Society. The El Cajon Chapter was chartered in February 1965. In April, the City of Los Angeles held its annual barbershop quartet contest. The Reseda Chapter put on a show for Rancho San Antonio (Boys' Town of the West).

In the April 1965 issue of *West-tunes*, a new feature, "*Ku a r t e t K o r n e r*" written by Dutch Holland, appeared. Turk



The "Fresnotes"
International Representatives 1965

Evans of the "Evans Quartet," Society champs from Salt Lake City in 1960, wrote an article entitled "*Let's Keep it Barbershop*" in which he decried the use of musical instruments, and modern arrangements. Jim Wheeler, tenor of the "Salt Flats" quartet from Salt Lake City, took exception to Turk's idea, comparing it to a man who eats nothing but beefsteak thereby suffering from malnutrition. The Downey Chapter received a Certificate of Merit from the County of Los Angeles for singing for the patients at the Rancho Los Amigos County Hospital every last Tuesday of the month for four years.

The Alhambra Chapter's annual show featured three choruses, Reseda, San Gabriel and Arcadia, in addition to its own. Inviting other choruses to sing on your show was common at that time. The Berkeley Chapter chorus sang 29 songs on its annual show in April. The Berkeley Chapter had developed a "short chorus" of 12 members who sing well together, used for quick and short singouts. The Palomar-Pacific Chapter sang for 30 minutes on a local radio station. The West Covina Chapter was chartered in April 1965. Riverside's "Sidewinders" quartet, 1964 Society champs, were summoned by Meredith Wilson to appear on a B'nai Brith function in Los Angeles which also featured Jack Benny and Danny Kaye.

San Diego's May 1965 annual show included an intermission salute to San Diego which featured acts from the famous San Diego Zoo, the San Diego Chargers and Padres (professional football and baseball teams), Miss San Diego, the Navy and Marines, and several other local organizations. The Phoenix Chorus, known as the "Copperstatesmen" back then, did a complete voice part recheck. Director Lloyd Steinkamp ran the show but actual part placement was up to a vote of the members.

District President Don Galvin complained that some quartets were charging considerably more than their expenses to appear on chapter shows and said that they were violating Canon

7 of the Code of Ethics and that larger chapters that paid these amounts were hurting the smaller chapters. He urged chapters not to put such quartets on their shows. The new El Cajon Chapter had a small treasury but still donated \$25 to the Riverside Chapter to help their chorus get to the Society Contest in Boston. The Long Beach Chapter, the District's first organized chapter, sang for an L.D.S. Church and the Long Beach Beauty Contest on the same night. Lloyd Davis, PalPac Bulletin Editor won the District Bulletin of the Year Contest. The Reseda Chapter hosted a multi-chapter picnic on Memorial Day. The Far Western District's Reddie Wright, founder of the Pasadena Chapter, District President in 1951, and many-time convention chairman, was elected Society President for 1966.

A barbershop show in Riverside, California outdrew a previous concert there by the Rolling Stones rock group. The Riverside Chapter donated \$1,000 to the San Diego Chapter to help their chorus get to the Society contest in Chicago. The Pomona Chapter's Ed Boynton pointed out that at this year's Society Summer Convention in Boston, the arrangements had the tenors singing considerably higher and the basses lower, with corresponding changes in the other parts, compared with earlier Society contests. Long-time district Secretary Jerry Graham passed away in July 1965. The third barbershop spectacular was held at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles in July 1965 with a 148-man chorus of men from many different chapters plus the Riverside Citrus Belters Chorus and several top quartets. The



The "Bunster Freely Quartet"
1965 Far Western District Champions

proceeds went into the District treasury.

The Placer County Fair was enhanced by a barbershop harmony booth manned by the Placer County Chapter members and by a car in the parade carrying the "Fourmost Quartet" which won a prize for the best decorated car. The Santa Rosa Chapter was chartered in August 1965. The Whittier, Fullerton and Downey chapters held a joint picnic and golf tournament in South Gate. The South Bay Chapter was the largest in the District with 93 members. In September, the 2nd annual "Notes at Knotts" barbershop gathering at Knotts' Berry Farm was held with

members from 13 different chapters, including the Omaha, Nebraska Chapter, in attendance. The Eden-Hayward Chapter received a plaque for their participation in the Alameda County Fair in Pleasanton. The Napa Chapter hosted a picnic at the Beringer Winery in St. Helena, drawing barbershoppers from all over NorCal.

In October 1965, the Phoenix Chapter put on a Parade of Past FWD Champions, featuring ten past District champion quartets, as part of the District Convention which they hosted. The "Valley Notables" quartet won Reseda's Novice Quartet Contest. The Salt Lake City Chapter came up with a



William D. Bennett
Far Western District President 1966

gimmick for getting members to meetings on time. Anyone arriving on time got a number and later one of the numbers was drawn and the holder got a prize. They said the number of members arriving on time had increased by 50%. The South Bay Chapter was selling chrome SPEBSQSA/Keep America Singing license plate frames for \$3 each. At the October District Board meeting, a telegram from the Society headquarters in Kenosha advised that because of low membership, the following FWD chapters were now in "Associate" status and hence their representatives were not entitled to vote at the meeting: Antelope Valley, Cache Valley, Feather River, Indian Wells Valley, Redding, Reno and San Fernando Valley.

In December 1965 the Ukiah Chapter was chartered. The Newport Harbor Chapter changed its name to the Costa Mesa Chapter. FWD's George Dohn took on the job of editing the "Share the Wealth" column in the Society's magazine, *The Harmonizer*. The Cache Valley and Murray chapters put on a big show in Logan, Utah with proceeds going to a Federal program of cooperation between Utah and Bolivia. In a District first, the Aloha Chapter put on a joint show with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, two days before Christmas. John Krizek was quoted as saying: "Chapters with 50 or more members generally have enough tenors to go around." The Santa Barbara Chapter entered a float which took 2nd place in their local Christmas Parade.

On New Years Eve 1966, the "Western Continentals" quartet sang on the Jimmy Dean (TV) Show. The Orange Chapter sang at three different sanitariums in one night. The wives of Simi Valley Chapter members got together on the sly and brought baby pictures of their husbands to a meeting where they gathered in a back room and put the pictures on a bulletin board. They then voted on several categories, such as "The Sweetest Baby", "The Grouchiest Baby", etc. etc. Finally they brought the board into the meeting and announced the category winners. Needless to say, a hilarious time was had by all. Later in January the Orange Chapter hosted a Novice Quartet Contest which was won by the

"Upside Downies", from Downey, of course. The Stockton Chapter was using the 5th Wednesdays as guest nights, with special programs to entertain the guests. The "Barberlinks Quartet" from Riverside had a bicycle built for four which they used for parades and shows.

The South Bay Chapter reported that their quartets did 262 sing-outs during 1965 and that 38% of these were for charity or community services. The Monterey Peninsula Chapter members got a pleasant surprise at their Installation Dinner when their wives got together as an impromptu chorus and entertained their husbands with some songs. The Orange Chapter received a plaque from the Orange Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the city in appreciation of the Chapter's spreading joy through barbershopping. The "Four Part-Ners" quartet from San Diego flew their own plane, with bass Marv Yerkey as pilot, to San Luis Obispo to sing on that chapter's 3rd annual show in February 1966. The FWD's Lloyd Steinkamp was appointed as Society Administrative Field Representative, covering Land O' Lakes, Central States, Illinois and Michigan Districts.

In April 1966 the Peninsula Chapter hosted a get-together of the San Francisco, Berkeley, Eden-Hayward and San Jose chapters featuring a film of the 1965 Society Convention, and woodshedding until the wee hours. In May, Val Hicks took exception to the idea of "Keep America Singing the Old Songs," stating that many of the old songs are inappropriate and arguing that we are running out of old songs that are adaptable to the barbershop style and appeal to both singers and listeners. He suggested dressing up some of the old songs through rearranging; taking some of the songs done by top quartets and rearranging them so the average singer can handle them; and talking current song writers into writing new songs suitable for barbershop singing. Downey held a chapter quartet contest but handled it in a unique way: no organized quartets were eligible and they had Emmett Bossing make up the quartets by matching their voice qualities which made for a tight competition.

The Marin Chapter had a Novice Quartet Contest between their chapter and Eden-Hayward with Napa Chapter members as judges. After the first 4 places were announced, it was discovered that somehow the remaining 15 quartets all tied for 5th place. Would that make them all medalists?



The "Pacesetters"
International Representatives 1966

Hank Rodrigues, Editor of the Simi Valley Chapter bulletin, explained that the word "music" was taken from the name for the daughters of Zeus, the Muses, who were said to govern all beauty and harmony in the world. Corny Smith of the Riverside Chapter became the District Historian when Howard Cooper, district Presi-

dent in 1955 and District Historian since then, passed away. In June 1966, a large number of barbershoppers and their wives flew to Hawaii where they were royally entertained by the Aloha Chapter members, and enjoyed the annual show which featured the "Salt Flats" quartet. It was a honeymoon for "Salt Flats" bass Carl Hancuff and his new bride Mitzie. In July, a number of barbershoppers took issue with Val Hicks' idea that we were running out of songs, claiming that the problem was with the arrangement judges who discouraged quartets from singing some of the good old songs. The Phoenix Chapter scheduled a hayride for their members and guests with lots of quartet singing and group singing led by Phoenix' new director, Lou Laurel.

Dave Burkhart, of the PalPac Chapter owned a 1932



The "Golden Staters," 1963 FWD Champs, demonstrating barbershop craft in Hawaii ...

Ford Fire Engine which they loaded up with chapter members and sang their way around in local city parades. In August 1966 the new Scottsdale and Victor Valley chapters received their charters. In the second annual Society Bulletin of the Year contest, South Bay's Bob Northup placed 4th. The Ventura Chapter held a barbecue picnic in August and invited the Conejo Valley, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Simi Valley chapters, charging them just \$1 for adults and \$0 for children (could you do that now?). Also in August, the Salt Lake City Chapter hosted a barbershop campout at Bear Lake, inviting the surrounding chapters and anyone else who might be in the area on vacation.

The Pomona Valley Chapter had a way of getting every man to wear his badge. Anyone found without a badge was charged 25 cents which went into the Logopedics pot to go to the Society charity (the Far Western District had given \$116,804 to Logopedics during the previous year). "Mystery Bus" rides brought members of the Monterey Peninsula, Eden-Hayward, San Jose and Marin chapters to Salinas where they descended upon the Salinas Chapter and a great evening of chorus and quartet singing was enjoyed by all. On September 24, 1966, anyone

joining the Orange Chapter at Knott's Berry Farm received a derby, a badge and a new member kit. The PalPac Chapter bulletin supplied this bit of information: The word "chord" comes from the Greek word *chorde* meaning intestine. This referred to the fact that the strings in many instruments were (and still are) made from animal intestines. When you hit a "gutbuster" of a chord, you can thank the Greeks.

In the fall of 1966 some barbershoppers in the Los Angeles area were trying to start a chapter devoted to woodshedding, for those not interested in chorus or competition. They hoped to attract barbershoppers who had dropped out of the local chapters. They apparently did attract quite a few singers, but never did develop it to the point where it became a chapter. There was a push on at this time to get all chapters up to a membership of at least 50. Whenever a chapter reached this mark it was reported in *Westunes* and the chapter received an award from the Society headquarters in Kenosha. In October, it was announced that the San Francisco Chapter had reached 50, thanks to Jerry Orloff, the top recruiter in the Society, who later helped build up the Peninsula, Bay Area Metro and San Jose chapters.



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Ad copy for a Westside Chapter show in the Mid-60's, depicting the flavor of the times--note the "groovy" title!

Chapter 5

November 1966 - October 1971



IN NOVEMBER 1966 the Riverside Chapter reported that their chorus had been invited to sing in a local production of the opera *Aida*. At their Ladies' Night, each chapter member was required to bring a picture of himself between ages 3 to 6. The South Bay Chapter scheduled a spook night for October 31 for the whole family, with a movie for the



The "Thermalaires"
1966 Far Western District Champions

kids. The Napa Valley Chapter was listed on the Napa Valley Arts Council Cultural Calendar. PalPac's quartet "Odds & Ends" sang on the Sun-Up program on TV. The Berkeley chorus and quartets were invited to sing on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier, U.S.S. Enterprise. At the October District House of Delegates meeting the South Bay Chapter was given the District 1st Place Achievement Award, with Riverside 2nd and Downey 3rd. A chapter in Victorville, California was chartered in November.

The Yuma, Arizona Chapter Chorus recorded some numbers at a local radio station to be used as publicity for their chapter show in December. It was reported that Hap Bailey had flown his plane to Ontario where he was to pick up fellow judges Emmett Bossing, Bert Staffen and Jack Hines. From there they would fly to San Diego to pick up Marv Yerkey and to Phoenix to get Lou Laurel and then to Houston, Texas to judge a Southwestern District Contest. Upon reaching Ontario, Hap's plane was grounded by fog and all had to go by commercial air to Houston. Chapter visitations, where one or more chapters would visit another chapter on its meeting night, were very common at this time. Just before Christmas the San Luis Obispo Chapter sang at the Chris Jespersen School for retarded children, and

presented them with boxes of instruments and a check.

The Salinas Chapter held a combined Christmas Party and Old-Timers' Night. Some Simi Valley barbershoppers took first place in the Simi Valley "Happy Days Parade." They all rode bicycles and their director, Creighton Hogan, sat backwards on a two-seater in front of the other bikes and directed the singing. El Cajon barbershoppers put on a benefit show for Cerebral Palsy, with quartet help from PalPac and San Diego chapters.

In January 1967 the Salt Lake City Chapter performed on the Salt Lake March of Dimes Telerama and then donated \$100 to the cause. The "Forerunners" from the Orange Chapter won the Southern Division Novice Quartet Contest and the "Hi-Fliers" from the Eden-Hayward Chapter won the Northern Division one. The Napa Valley Chapter sang for the hospitalized GI's at Travis Air Force Base. The Reno Chapter was bringing old copies of *The Harmonizer* (Society magazine) and *Westunes* (District magazine) to the local Holiday Inn for the guests to read. The Long Beach Chapter members were visiting local high



"Four Bits of Harmony"
On USO Tour in Guantanamo, Cuba, February 1967

schools and leaving them copies of the booklet "Male Call."

At the District Board Meeting in March 1967, the 1969 District Spring Convention was awarded to the San Diego Chapter to be a part of San Diego's 200th year celebration as a city. The

Board also voted to charge quartets a competition fee of \$20 for District Conventions which would include seats for themselves and their wives at all functions in an unreserved section at the back of the auditorium. In another action, the Board rejected an offer from the Society Office in Kenosha, Wisconsin to do the District's billing on an annual basis. A former requirement that to be a member of the Frank Thorne Chapter, you had to live at least 40 miles away from the nearest regular chapter, had been voted out by the Society Board. At this meeting the District Board asked the Society to reinstate it for at least 25 miles. In July the Society Board would vote to deny this request. The San Francisco Chapter received the Society's First Place Banner Chapter Award,



The "Far Westerners"

1967 Far Western District Champions

International Representatives 1966, '67, '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73

the first time any Far Western District chapter had received such an award.

Prior to the April 1967 District Board Meeting, NorCal Vice President Lynn Brittan had told his NorCal chapters that if any of them had a 40% increase in membership, he would roll a peanut across the floor with his nose. At the April meeting, it was determined that there were three chapters that achieved this increase. While, some thought he should do it three times, Lynn settled for just one rolling across the Board meeting room. The new Carson City Chapter was receiving its charter in April. For Bob Morrison of the Peninsula Chapter, the District Spring Convention in Stockton was his first and he reported that the only thing more exciting than the convention was having Hap Bailey fly him there and, while at 30,000 feet, suddenly decide that 3,000 feet would be better. Some Judges for the contest were stranded in San Francisco when bad weather there kept them from flying their own plane to Stockton so Jerry Orloff had to drive them there in his car. The Carson City, Nevada Chapter was chartered in April.

The California State Assembly was debating whether to

change the California State Song from "*I Love You California*" to "*California Here I Come*." To help in the decision, Sacramento

Chapter founder Joe Trousedale's quartet "Fort Sutter Four" sang both songs for them. Possibly as a result, the State Song of California remained "*I Love You California*." As part of the Redwood City, California, Centennial Celebration the Peninsula Chapter Chorus sang at 4 different banquets in one evening. The South Bay Chapter bulletin, Bob Northup editor and the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter bulletin, Bruce Gray editor, were selected to represent the District in the Society Bulletin of the Year contest.



Sam Aramian

Far Western District President 1968-69

International Board Member 1970-71

FWD Hall of Fame 1972

International President 1977

The San Luis Obispo Chapter Chorus provided the entertainment at a banquet to raise money for the Chris Jespersen School for the retarded children. The Cache Valley Chapter held a contest to see who could sustain a note the longest. Each year, the Pasadena Chapter was staging a benefit show for the Rebounders, an organization of the physically handicapped people which existed to help handicapped people less fortunate than themselves. The show was the main source of revenue for the organization and all proceeds went to it. The Riverside Chapter had its own radio show on both AM and FM, featuring top quartets and choruses. The "Far Westerners" quartet were on the Truth or Consequences program on TV. They were supposedly chosen randomly from the audience and a music teacher was asked to teach them a song. To the frustration of the teacher, they acted as if they could hardly sing with bass Bill Merry singing in a monotone and bari Earl Moon singing a half tone flat. During a short commercial they changed into their quartet costumes back stage and following the commercial, they came out and totally surprised the teacher by singing at their medalist best.

In July 1967, ten years after the first International Convention held in the Far Western District, which had been held in Los Angeles and labeled "BOHIFS" for "Bit of Heaven in '57," the second International Contest in the District was also in Los Angeles. This one was titled "MOHISS" for "More of Heaven in '67." At the Association of International Champions (AIC) Show, Jack Evans of the "Evans Quartet" was quoted as saying: "We're not trying to out-sing each other, just outlive each other." Also in July the Conejo Valley Chapter received its charter. Peninsula Chapter's Jerry Orloff was International winner of a trip to the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita where he was met by the Wichita Barbershop Chorus and was given a key to the city by the Mayor of Wichita.

District Secretary Lou Velzy wrote: "If you receive a

request for a sing-out from an organization located within the territory of another chapter, especially within the home town of that chapter, *please* contact the other chapter and get their approval for you to enter their territory and make the appearance.” Ed Boynton pointed out that since February, the Post Office will not deliver bulletins that have no zip code. The PalPac Chapter entered a small float jammed with barbershoppers in the Oceanside 4th of July Parade.

In September 1967, many SoCal choruses and quartets participated in the 4th annual “Notes at Knott’s,” an all-day song-fest at Knott’s Berry Farm and Ghost Town in Buena Park. The “Tiki Tones” quartet from the Aloha Chapter visited the Tripler Army Hospital and sang for the Vietnam Casualty Ward. Lloyd Davis of the PalPac Chapter opined that: “A pitch pipe is a gadget you sound after a song to see how far you’ve dropped.” The Crescenta Valley Chapter held its 4th annual Veterans’ Night, in which members of their chapter and surrounding chapters showed up in their old military uniforms. Awards were given for, among other things, the raunchiest uniform, won by Bufo Strange. Wars

represented were the French & Indian, World Wars I & II, Range Wars, the Korean Conflict, and a few the world hadn’t heard of.

In what was probably a first, the Tucson Chapter held its election of officers for the next year on a bus while traveling to Phoenix. At the October District House of Delegates meeting it was announced that the District Achievement Awards went to the Riverside Chapter (1st), the South Bay Chapter (2nd) and the Reseda Chapter (3rd). The Downey Chapter float took 3rd place in the City of



*The “Salt Flats”
USO Pacific Tour 1967
International Representatives 1968*

Downey Christmas Parade. The “Salt Flats” quartet were joined by their Salt Lake City Chorus on the Aloha Chapter Holiday Show, and then went on to spend Christmas 1967 on a U.S.O. tour of the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan, covering 23,000 miles in 21 days and doing 121 shows at 14 hospitals and many clubs, theaters and other rooms. The Far Western District’s Wesley Meier was elected Society President for 1968. At the January 1968 District Board meeting, the Westside Chapter was given approval to change its name to the Culver City Chapter.

In March 1968, a Logopedics benefit show was held in San Francisco, featuring Fred Waring and his singers and orchestra, plus the “Western Continentals” quartet from Phoenix, the “Plus Four” from the Monterey Peninsula Chapter and A 76-man chorus of NorCal barbershoppers. The show was a big success despite a newspaper strike which limited the pre-show publicity. Also in March, the Salt Lake City Chapter again



*The “Gaslight Harmony Four”
1968 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1969*

appeared on the March of Dimes Telerama. Talented singer and dancer, Lynn Obermiller was named Modesto’s Miss Barbershop Harmony. In April, the Downey, Riverside and Arcadia chapter choruses together with the “Gas Light Harmony 4” and “Far Westerners” quartets put on a show with the Cerritos College Orchestra at the college. The Murray, Utah Chapter held a “Colorful Vest” night. Ten past chapter presidents attended the Fresno Chapter Installation Dinner. The “Deck-O-Chords” quartet from Las Vegas joined other entertainers from the area on a 4-day tour of six U. S. Air Force bases in North and South Dakota, Montana, Idaho, California and Nevada.

In April 1968, the San Gabriel Chapter sponsored a second annual “Young Men in Harmony” show featuring local high school quartets, a combined chorus and top quartets from neighboring communities. The “Fort Sutter Four” from Sacramento, with Joe Trousdale on lead, sang for Ronald Reagan



The “Fort Sutter Four” with (then) Calif. Gov. Ronald Reagan

who was then Governor of California, and presented him with a straw hat, eliciting the comment: "Now that's my kind of music," from the Governor. The Santa Barbara Chapter held a Woodshedding Contest (some people think that's an oxymoron). The "San Andreas Faults" sang for their San Francisco Mayor Joe Alioto and reported that he had a good lead voice. John Krizek



*The "Western Continentals"
1968 International Quartet Champions*

was hosting a 15 minute barbershop radio program on Monday nights on the College of San Mateo FM station.

Eighteen couples from the Salt Lake City Chapter attended the Aloha Chapter annual show in Honolulu, Hawaii in May 1968, and their "Salt Flats" were the featured quartet. Art Scott of Pasadena won the FWD Bulletin Editing Contest with Ken Shields of Riverside 2nd and Ken Bushman of West Covina 3rd. The Downey Chapter held a progressive dinner for themselves and their ladies, moving from home to home of four chapter members. The Stockton Chapter hosted a "Double Quartet" (octet) contest. The PalPac Chapter held its first Comedy Quartet Contest in May 1968 with the "Classmates" from Orange placing first. The Ventura County Chapter hosted a woodshedding contest.

At the June 1968 District Board meeting, the Board voted to get out of the business of producing records of District Contest performances, since they were losing money. The Record Committee was asked to investigate the possibility of having a private record company handle the records but with the District controlling the contents. This committee was authorized to sell

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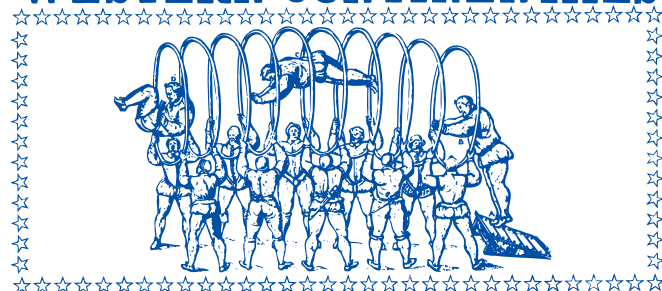
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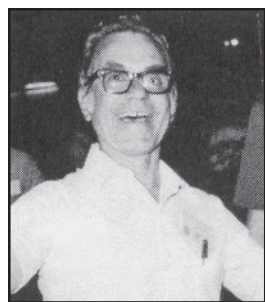
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the existing stock of records at "any acceptable price." The board also voted to do away with the position of District Field Vice President. Another decision was to establish 4 divisions within the District, consisting of Utah, Arizona, Northern California and Southern California. Each division was divided into a number of areas each containing from 2 to 6 chapters. Another decision at this historic meeting was to establish the District Hall of Fame and the District President's Award.

Phoenix' "Western Continentals" quartet took first place in the Society Summer Contest in July 1968. (Two years earlier, this quartet was looking for a tenor and they tried the other Arizona chapters but finally found Al Mau singing lead in their own chapter!) The "Golden Staters" were 3rd. The "Salt Flats" didn't make the cut but were a smash hit at the Chorditorium. Bob Roberts, Editor of *Westunes*, the District magazine, complained that space was set aside at Society functions for outside camera crews, TV and other, but the same was not true for barbershop district magazine editors and their crews.

Whittier's "Chordsmen" quartet made an 18-day U.S.O. tour of Pacific military bases and hospitals in Japan, Okinawa and the Philippines. The San Jose Chapter Ladies Night featured a night at a nearby horse race track in July. Quartets entertained the audience between races and one race was dedicated to the barbershoppers. During the year of 1968, a series of meetings entitled "Harvest of Harmony" were held throughout the District with presentations on what barbershopping was all about. At an opening of a marine entertainment and oceanography complex in Redwood City, a pickup quartet from the Peninsula Chapter sang a song written by the baritone, Bob Allen, titled "Marine World on Redwood Shores." The Society HEP (Harmony Education Program) was held at Redlands in August '68.

September 7, 1968 was declared Barbershop Day at the State Fair in Sacramento and quartets and choruses were invited to sing. More than 300 male and 400 female barbershoppers attended and chords rang from 3 in the afternoon until 8:30 in the evening. While donating blood at the local Red Cross headquarters, a San Jose quartet entertained the others in the room with their singing. The Stockton Chapter built 2 floats and entered them in 4 parades, taking 1st place in one and 2nd in another.



*Emmett Bossing
President's Award 1969
Hall of Fame 1970*

The 1968 District Harmony Education Program (HEP) was held at the University of Redlands. That December, the Lompoc Chapter received its charter.

In January 1969 the District Contest and Judging Committee put on a Quartet Workshop and Education Program (QWEP) and also an Arrangers School in Anaheim. Ed Boynton of the Pomona Valley Chapter, expressed the opinion: "There are three men in each chapter

who make or mar it. The Director, the President and the Bulletin Editor, and which is the greater is sometimes hard to tell." The San Francisco Chapter put the following want ad in a San Francisco paper: "MEN—would you like to sing BARBER SHOP style? Come and try or listen. Every Monday night at 8 at Lowell

High School, room 71. All welcome." The Santa Barbara Chorus had three sing-outs in one week! Seven San Francisco Bay Area chapters got together and formed ABAC (Association of Bay Area Chapters). The first meeting was held in Berkeley in January for the purpose of developing inter-chapter cooperation and communication and to avoid schedule conflicts.

At the January District Board meeting the Board voted to limit the number of choruses to compete at the District Chorus Contest as follows: Utah 2, Arizona 2, NorCal 4 and SoCal 6. The Board also voted to establish perpetual trophies to be presented to the winners of each Division Chorus Contest, each year, and also to the winner of the District Bulletin Editor of the Year contest. Another Board decision was to establish the position of District Executive Vice President to take effect in 1970. In the event that the District presidency was vacated, the Executive Vice President would take over. Another January occurrence was the Downey Chapter's "Upside Downeys" quartet's 17-day U.S.O. tour of the Far East. They performed at numerous military



*The "Upside Downeys"
On Pacific Tour with the USO in January 1969*

hospitals and camps in Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii. It was reported that radio station KIDD on the Monterey Peninsula was playing barbershop music for a half-hour every Sunday night.

At the District Spring Convention in San Diego in March 1969, the very first inductee to the District Hall of Fame was Reddie Wright. The Vacaville and Oxnard chapters received their charters in March. The Ventura County Chapter changed its name to the Ventura Chapter. The Berkeley Chapter held a "wake" to honor the leaving of their esteemed Director Dave Stevens who was taking a job with the Society Headquarters. District Bulletin Editor of the Year for 1965 was announced as Carey Buhler of the Reseda Chapter, followed by the South Bay and Whittier bulletin editors, Bob Northup and Ken Shields.

In May the Arcadia Chapter's "Golden Staters" quartet appeared on national TV on Vin Sculley's NBC program "It Takes Two." They learned that Vin had been a barbershopper when he was in college. Later in May, the PalPac held its second annual Comedy Quartet Contest with their own "Odds & Ends" the winners. A Japanese-American Boy Scout Troop in Berkeley was

planning a trip to Japan and wanted to take something strictly American with them. They decided on barbershop harmony and called on the Berkeley Chapter to help them learn some barbershop arrangements. That summer, barbershop campouts were held at Bear Lake, Utah and Lake Tahoe, California/Nevada.



The "Pacifiques"
1969 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives
1969, '70, '71, '72, '73, '74

"Valleyaires" Chorus and the "Pacifiques" quartet performed before 7,000 people at the Hollywood Bowl. In September, ABAC sponsored a barbershoppers' San Francisco Bay Cruise. In October, the Merced and Dublin chapters were chartered. In September, Jim Asolas, original tenor with the "Far Westerners" was killed in a car accident on the way home from a performance by the quartet he was in then, "The Jay Walkers" on the Downey Chapter show. At the October District Board meeting the Board voted to recommend that chapters be encouraged to increase their membership. Toward that end, the District would subsidize chapters holding membership promotional sessions (such as "Auditions for Admission") up to \$50.

The Far Western District received the 1969 First Place International Achievement Award from Society headquarters. The Peninsula Chapter received the first place International Achievement Award for Plateau 2 and the Reseda Chapter received first place for Plateau 5. At this time, the District was regularly "adopting" young men at the Society of Logopedics, meaning that it would pay all or part of their expenses. Logopedics, an official SPEBSQSA service project since 1964, was an institution in Wichita, Kansas which dealt with speech and hearing rehabilitation for children.

The Whittier, Reseda, West Covina, Pomona and Riverside choruses all met in Riverside for a "chorus marathon." Each of the five choruses sang at least 10 songs, all in the one evening. The San Luis Obispo Chapter was charging members 25 cents for appearing at a chapter meeting without a name badge. In February 1970, the Bishop Chapter disbanded, and the China Lake Chapter invited its members to join them. The San Jose Chapter had 11 registered quartets. At the March Board meeting in Sacramento the Board voted to allot \$1,000 to start a program of chorus director development. The Stockton and Sacramento chapters had a competition based on their scores at the NorCal Chorus Contest, with the loser preparing a meal for the winner. Whittier's "Beaver Inn Four" won the PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest.

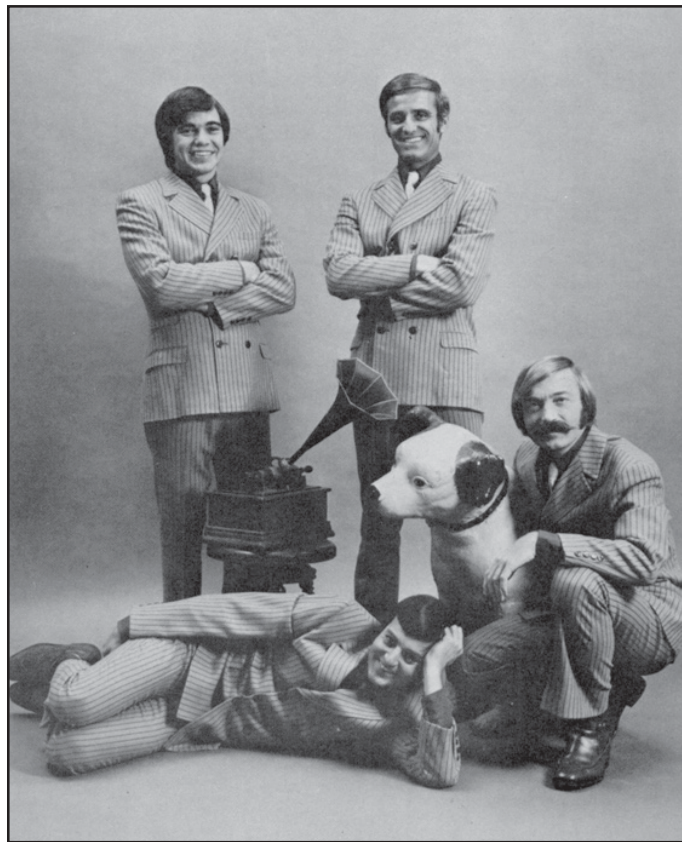
An outdoor picnic and quartet contest was held by ABAC (The Bay Area Association of Chapters). Winners of the contest were the "Blenders" from San Jose.

In August 1969, the Reseda



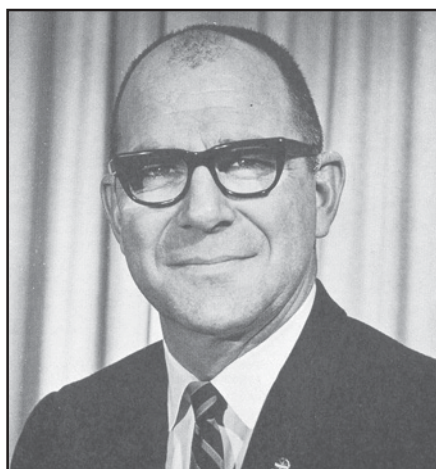
The "Chordsmen"
A Quartet with Dignity (?)
Twice on Pacific Tour with the USO

In June 1970 the Ukiah Chapter hosted a barbershop campout at Lake Mendocino which drew participants from the Vacaville, Sacramento, Santa Rosa, Napa, Marin and Peninsula chapters. In July 1970 the Victorville Chapter sponsored their annual Hi-Desert Campout which drew more than 300 barbershoppers. The Modesto Chapter entered a float in their Fourth of



The "Crown City Good Time Music Company"
1970 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1970, '71, '72, '74

July Parade featuring a real barber shaving a chapter member, a P.A. system playing some top barbershop quartets, and a group on the float mouth-ing the words, and they took first place honors in the parade. In September 1970 the "Chordsmen" quartet from the Fullerton and Long Beach chapters made their second U.S.O. sponsored tour of the Pacific area including Japan, the Philippines, Guam and Korea. The Berkeley Chapter sponsored a golf and octet contest which drew participants from chapters throughout Northern California. The first annual FWD golf tournament was held in San Diego in October as part of the District Convention.



Lynn Brittan
Far Western District President 1970-71
International Board Member 1972-75
FWD Hall of Fame 1979

The District was supporting five boys at the Institute of Logopedics at a cost of \$16,606 a year. A chorus of 115 barbershoppers from the Provo, Salt Lake and Murray, Utah chapters

performed with the Utah Symphony Orchestra at the Mormon Tabernacle. In January 1971, the first all barbershop NorCal Logopedics Spectacular was held in San Francisco with a chorus of 440 men from seventeen NorCal chapters and directed by Dave Stevens. The quartets were the "Western Continentals," the "Pacifcaires," the "Cavaliers" and the "Nubbins" and they sang to a sold-out house. The Peninsula Chapter chorus director, Sam Gonzalez, had offered to donate \$100 to the chapter if they reached a membership of 100. They reached this number in early 1971 with much help from the "Auditions for Admission" program which they developed, and Sam made good on his promise.

In February 1971, the PalPac Chapter hosted a chorus marathon featuring choruses from PalPac, Riverside, Downey and San Diego. Each chorus member paid one dollar for the evening of fun and the money went to the District Travel Fund.

At the March 1971 District Board meeting in Anaheim, the Murray, Utah Chapter was allowed to change its name to the Bountiful Chapter. It was also decided to add to the selection committee for the District Hall of Fame the past winners of this award. Another decision was to allow Hawaii to enter one quartet and chorus in the District contest without competing at a preliminary level. At the House of Delegates meeting which followed, an added stipulation was made that a chorus competing at District that had not competed in a preliminary contest would be assessed \$1 per man. Dave Bishop of Oxnard won the 1970 District Bulletin Editor of the Year award. In May 1971, the Marin Chapter hosted the District Chorus Directors' School. The

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*The "Villains"
A Popular Show Quartet*

Scottsdale Chapter annual show included a tag quartet with 12 chorus members on the song "Bright Was the Night." The audience loved it and wanted more.

Also in May, the winner of the PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest was "The Major Social Problems" quartet from Whittier. Chuck DeFreitas, Mayor of Los Gatos and a San Jose Chapter member, arranged for San Jose quartets to sing weekly on radio station KTAO-FM in Los Gatos. The programs included repartee between the Mayor and the quartet members. Thirty members of the Vacaville Chapter Chorus sang at a chapel service at Travis Air Force Base. In the summer of 1971, the Victorville Chapter hosted a barbershoppers' campout at the Hacienda Guest Ranch in Apple Valley.

At the Society Summer Contest in New Orleans, 3 of the 5 medalist quartets were from the Far Western District, and the San Diego Chorus took 2nd. The annual summer barbershoppers' campout at Bear Lake in Utah drew over 525 people from as far away as Pocatello, Idaho. The Victorville campout drew over 400. Chapters were being encouraged by the District officers to make use of the "Auditions for Admission" program. In August, another District Directors' School was held in Fresno.



Chapter 6

November 1971 - October 1976



IN LATE 1971, the Riverside Chapter donated a Braille typewriter to the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Bernardino. Also late in the year, the Orange and Newport Harbor chapters merged to become the Santa Ana Chapter. District Achievement Awards for 1970-71, based on chapter activity, went to Riverside Chapter (1st), San Jose Chapter (2nd), South Bay Chapter (3rd) and Simi Valley Chapter (4th). By the end of 1971, Riverside was still leading in the District Achievement Awards, but South Bay was now 2nd, Eureka was 3rd and Phoenix was 4th.



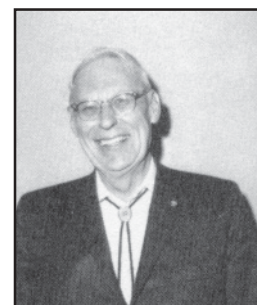
*The "Californians"
1971 Far Western District Champions*

In January, 1972, the San Diego Chapter hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention. The Aloha and Salt Lake City chapters were setting records for numbers of sing-outs. In

February, the Reseda Valleyaires Chorus closed a 19-hour "Stop Arthritis Foundation" TV extravaganza which also featured Jane Wyman, Gene Raymond and Bob Hope. Hope told them he'd love to get some of their jackets for his bowling team and asked if they needed another alto.

In March, 1972, chorus coaching sessions were held at the Santa Ana, Conejo Valley, San Luis Obispo, Oxnard, Napa, Berkeley, Vacaville, Yuma, Tucson, Las Vegas and Santa Barbara chapters. Coaches included Jack Hines, Dave Corley, Jim McKee, Burt Staffen, Al Mau, Joe Palmquist and Hap Bailey. Also in March, a 149-man chorus made of barbershoppers from Utah chapters, sang with the Utah Symphony Orchestra in the Mormon Tabernacle. The "Evans Quartet" also performed on the show. The NorCal Novice Contest was won by the "Gold Dusters" from Berkeley with "Kidder & (very young) Sons, Inc." from Vacaville placing 2nd. When the sons were 15 years older, "Kidder & Sons, Inc." would be District champs. At the March District Board Meeting the Board voted to not charge chapters for ads in the district magazine, *Westunes*, pertaining to FWD Conventions. The House of Delegates presented awards to the Aloha, Bakersfield, Berkeley, San Jose, South Bay and Tucson chapters for their 25 years as active chapters.

Many chapters were using the "Auditions for Admission" idea started by the Peninsula Chapter. The Las Vegas Chapter tried it resulting in 30 guests at their next meeting. Salt Lake City's AFA drew 11 guests. Roger Bates had attended a Pomona Valley Chapter AFA but left right away for a tour in Vietnam. As soon as he got back to the States, he joined the chapter. The Bountiful Utah Chapter planned to double their membership using AFA and also having each member send 10 letters to friends encouraging them to come out and sing. Area counselor Dick Zettlemoyer complained that chapters in his area were doing so well as a result of the auditions that there was little for him to do. He was quoted as saying: "Thank heavens Phoenix has steadfastly refused to use AFA or it might be as big as San Diego now!" The Santa Ana Chapter held an AFA at their chapter meeting with 34 guests in attendance. Of these, 25 came back the following week and brought 5 guests with them. The Monterey



*Lou Velzy
President's Award 1972*



*The "Golden Staters"
1972 International Quartet Champions*

Peninsula Chapter picked up 7 new members from one AFA.

In June, 1972, the Fresno Chapter hosted a District Chorus Directors' Seminar. In Anaheim at a Catholic elementary school, a priest had organized a barbershop chorus from the kids attending the school. The Provo, Utah Chapter appeared on local TV with chorus and four quartets. The Far Western District was reported to be the 2nd largest district in the Society in terms of membership.

The very funny "Manhatters" quartet from the South Bay Chapter was scheduled to sing on a show in Billings, Montana but their plane was late leaving LA so they arrived at Denver too late to make the planned flight to Billings. By coincidence, the Denver Chapter was having its show that afternoon and evening, and the comedy quartet they had scheduled, missed its flight and wouldn't be there in time for the matinee show, so guess what? The "Manhatters" were talked into singing on that Denver matinee show and then took a later plane which got them to Billings in time for their one show in the evening.

At the June 1972 District Board meeting, a chapter name change was approved for the Berkeley Chapter to become the "Oakland East Bay Chapter." The Board set the District Convention registration fee at \$5. The name of The Arizona Division was changed to "The Arizona, Southern Nevada Division." The Board also voted to cover 75% of the cost of "Auditions for Admission" for chapters with less than 40 members, to a maximum of \$100/year. The Board then voted that all proceeds from the registrations at the spring 1972 District Convention should go to Logopedics, the Society charity.

The Far Western District dominated the 1972 Society Summer Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. "The Phoenicians," directed by Lou Laurel, won the chorus contest and the "Golden Staters" from the Arcadia Chapter won the quartet contest. In addition, the "Pacifcaires" from Reseda took 2nd. The "Far Westerners" quartet from Whittier and Riverside held 3rd place after two sessions but were nosed out by the "Regents" from Wilmington, Delaware in the Saturday finals and still came away with the 4th place medal. While in Atlanta, arranger, director and historian Val Hicks, of the FWD, was married to Joan Olson of Bountiful, Utah, in the headquarters hotel, with most of the Society bigwigs in attendance. Val would be teaching at Fresno State in the fall.

The Monterey Peninsula Chapter entered a barbershop float in the Seaside, California 4th of July Parade and sang away with 3rd place. They also had a booth manned for 5 days, providing information on barbershop harmony. The Fresno Chapter was looking for a director and came up with Howard



The "Phoenicians" - 1972 International Chorus Champions - Lou Laurel, Musical Director



*The "Stage Four"
1972 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1973*

Mesecher from Davenport, Iowa. The Victor Valley and Ukiah chapters hosted barbershop campouts in the summer of 1972. The San Luis Obispo Chapter hosted the Bakersfield and Fresno chapters at a picnic. Late in July, the District Contest and Judging Seminar was held at U.C. Riverside with these faculty members: Jack Hines, Emmett Bossing, Jim McKee, Earl Moon, Lou Laurel, Burt Staffen, Marv Yerkey and Bill Spooner.

The Walnut Creek Chapter was chartered in August 1972 and the Santa Maria Chapter in September. The Riverside chorus sang at Dodger Stadium in July and again in August, receiving free box seats and radio and TV coverage for their trouble. The next day they sang at the Corona Raceway, receiving good free seats and even some money. In September they sang for their admittance into Disneyland and in October they did likewise at Knott's Berry Farm.

At the District Convention in Bakersfield in October, Bob Allen of the Peninsula Chapter was named Bulletin Editor



*The "Dapper Dans" of Disneyland
"That Fabulous Tag Quartet"*

of the Year and Bob Peden of the Hanford Chapter placed 2nd. At the District Board meeting at that convention, the Board voted to waive the first year's FWD dues for the newly forming Guam Chapter and to only charge them 2/5 of the normal District dues after that. The District also agreed to pay the Area Counselor's registration fee for the Int'l. C.O.T.S. session in Fresno in January.

At the December District Board meeting in Los Angeles, the Board voted to allocate \$1419 to Logopedics from the proceeds of the Bakersfield District Contest registration. The Board also voted to donate \$2000 to the San Diego Chapter to help them get to the Society Summer Contest in Portland, and \$1000 to the current Society Champion Phoenicians chorus to aid in their presentation at Portland. A motion to award "Certified Judge" pins to each newly certified judge in the FWD carried.

In January 1973, the Guam Chapter received its Charter. Also in January, the Fresno Chapter hosted the International Chapter Office Training Seminar (C.O.T.S.). The Riverside Chapter held another successful Auditions for Admission and their membership reached 122. The San Francisco Logopedics Spectacular featured the "O.K. Four,"

"Kidder & Sons, Inc.," the "Crown City Good Time Music Company" and "Gentlemen's Agreement" quartets and a chorus of around 400 barbershoppers directed by Dave Stevens. The San Francisco Chapter's A.F.A. drew 27 guests.

On February 4, the Reseda "Valleyaires" Chorus appeared on the Jane Wyman "Stop Arthritis" telethon, along with Bob Hope, Ann Blythe and Rosalind Russell. The chorus, directed by Burt Staffen, sang for about 20 minutes. Neil Tyree had to have his long hair cut short in order to join the "Dapper Dans" of Disney World. His golden curls were made available for \$2 each with the money going to Logopedics.

At the March 1973 District Board Meeting in Tucson, it was announced that the Bountiful, Utah and Placer County, California chapters had folded. The Board voted to allow two choruses and one quartet from Utah to enter the District contest regardless of their scores in the preliminaries. Another motion carried by the Board was to require chapters bidding to host contests (District, Int'l. Pre-lims or Divisional), to include a preliminary budget. Three days later, District President Gil Jacobs made the long flight to Guam to visit the new chapter there, taking in their charter party as well as a regular chapter meeting. 350 barbershoppers, including more than 100 from the Riverside Chapter plus 10 quartets, attended the 94th birthday party for "Pappy" Boynton of the Pomona Valley Chapter.



*Gilbert Jacobs
Far Western District President 1972-73
International Board Member 1978-79
FWD Hall of Fame 1977
President's Award 1976*

In April 1973, the Fresno Chapter took in its 100th member. Not long after that, the Utah Valley and Salt Lake City choruses and the "Evans Quartet" put on a joint show with the Utah Symphony Orchestra. At the NorCal Divisional Contest, the risers collapsed, injuring two members of the Sacramento chorus. Waiting in the wings was Vacaville and, in response to a frantic call from the contest officials, it turned out that in the Vacaville chorus were 3 physicians, 3 medical technicians, 1 dentist, 1 veterinarian, 1 optician and a Red Cross First Aid Instructor. (Some of these folks later formed a quartet called the "Double Paradox").

The Peninsula Chapter invited Lt. Cdr. Charles Stackhouse to one of their meetings and honored him in word and song. Stackhouse had been a POW for six years in North Vietnam and was one of 17 POW's who put together a chorus while in captivity, taking their pitch from the lid of a teapot. Another one of the 17, Bob Schweitzer, had been a member of



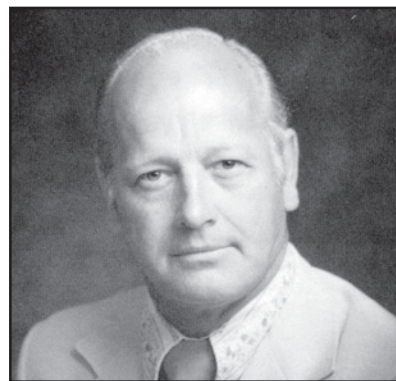
"Harmony Express"
1973 Far Western District Quartet Champions

the Aloha Chapter and had sung with the "Tiki Tones" quartet. When he was released he arrived in Honolulu on March 18, 1973 at 3:45 a.m. but didn't want to impose on the chapter members at that hour. Somehow word got out and 22 of them met his plane, singing "Keep America Singing" with lumps in their throats as he stepped off.

In June, *Westunes* Editor Bob Roberts expressed his horror that some of the leading quartets in the Society were charging as much as \$400 to perform, suggesting that it was a violation of #7 in the Society Code of Ethics. Bob also pointed out that Eden-Hayward, Marin, Berkeley, Downey, Phoenix, Riverside and San Diego had all been District Chorus Champions, and he asked: "Who's next?" (It would turn out to be Peninsula.)

Magic Mountain celebrated Father's Day with a two day (June 16-17) show featuring such barbershop quartets as "Crown City Good Time Music Co.," "Manhattans," "Kidder & Sons, Inc." and the "Pacificaes," as well as Doc Severinson and his Tonight Show TV band. The "Four City Four" won the PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest. The Marin Chapter put on an "Afterglow Without a Show," featuring quartets from all over the San Francisco Bay Area, and attended by Jodi Garland from Society headquarters in Kenosha.

In the 1973 Society Summer Quartet Contest in Portland, the Far Western District slipped from the previous year and only had two quartets ("Pacificaes" and "Far Westerners") in the top five. At the Society Board meeting in Portland it was decided to eliminate the judging categories of "Harmony Accuracy" and "Balance and Blend" and combine them into a single "Sound" category. A Contest and Judging Seminar was held at U. C. Riverside that August. Also in August, the Santa Barbara Chapter started a policy of having one ladies



John Currin
International Board member 1967-69
Far Western District President 1974

night per month, inviting the ladies to attend on the first Tuesday of each month. The Pomona Chapter hosted the SoCal Convention. The Saugus/Newhall Chapter (later to become Santa Clarita Valley) was chartered in September. Also in September, the Eden-Hayward Chapter hosted the NorCal Convention (tickets cost \$3).

Later in September, Fresno, known as the "Raisin Capital

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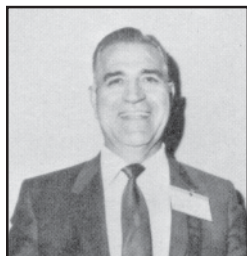
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of the World,” titled the District Convention, which it hosted, “Rais’n Cain.” The two middle pages in the September 1973 *Westunes* were blank except for 3 lines stating: “This double page spread of nothing donated by the Modesto Chapter for their October 27 Show.” South Bay’s “Saints” quartet appeared on the Cerebral Palsy Telethon in Los Angeles. “Pappy” Boynton offered to analyze any chapter’s bulletin if the editor would send him one, writing: “After all, at my age there aren’t any problems that can’t be rectified!” The Harmony for Lunch Bunch idea was started by John Krizek in San Francisco. The first Palo Alto Harmony For Lunch Bunch meeting was held in October 1973 and hosted by Dick Smith.

The Santa Barbara Chapter was keeping busy with a rummage sale, a sing-out for shut-ins at a local hospital, a mystery bus ride to Oxnard, and singing “I Love You Truly” as Bill Borah and his new bride came down the aisle, when the organist didn’t show up. The Vacaville Chapter referred to its coaching session at U.C. Davis as a “concentration camp.” The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter donated its old chorus uniforms to the new Prescott Chapter to help it get started. It was reported that John Krizek



Burt Cunliffe
FWD Hall of Fame 1973

was starting his own society, called STSPFCAJAJ for “Society To Stop People From Calling A John A John.”

In early January 1974, the Las Vegas Chapter hosted the annual COTS (Chapter Officer Training Seminar). At the District Board meeting there, it was decided to eliminate the Utah Division and to place the two Utah chapters into the Arizona/Southern Nevada Division (this decision was rescinded two months later). A realignment of chorus allotments to the District chorus finals gave the following division limits: Ariz./So. Nev. 2; NorCal 5; SoCal 7. In addition, the previous year’s champion chorus was automatically admitted, bringing the total to 15. Another Board decision was that the District Executive Vice President would have jurisdiction over all divisional quartet and chorus contests. Mary Kabacy, known as “Logo-Penny-Henny,” pointed out that wives of barbershoppers had donated over \$3000 to the Society charity, Logopedics, in 1973.

Later in the month, the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter hosted the Society’s Mid-Winter Convention. Also in January, Don Webster, of the Long Beach Chapter, took over as editor of *Probemoter*, the Society-sponsored publication of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). The 13th Annual Novice Quartet Contest in Santa Ana in February drew 24 quartets (6 from San Diego and 4 from Riverside). It was a year for dues increases as both the Society and the District raised them (\$5 and \$3, respectively). The purpose of the District dues raise was to help send the chorus champions to the Society Contest, while the Society raise was to cover general cost increases. The Salt Lake City Chapter performed on a March of Dimes Telethon. A SoCal Mini-COTS was held in Anaheim in February.

In March 1974, the Hanford Chapter was chartered, and the Conejo Valley Chapter held its first annual barbershop campout at Trailer Village near Saugus. A Girl Scout troop was

also there and the others in the park were entertained by a show consisting of alternating songs from the girls and the barbershoppers. In April, the Pomona Valley Chapter celebrated “Pappy” Boynton’s 95th birthday. In May on Mothers Day weekend,



The “Great Stage Robbery”
International Representatives 1974

the Riverside Chapter put on a show at the 2nd Annual Calico Ghost Town Spring Festival, which is sponsored by their Regional Parks Department. On the day of the Marin Chapter

annual show, a woman called the box office very worried because her dog ate her show ticket. Presumably she was allowed to attend, anyway. At the International Quartet Preliminary Contest in San Diego, for the first time the District went for a mandatory all-event ticket package (for \$5).

The Santa Maria Chapter was joined by Santa Barbara and Lompoc for a big show at the Allan Hancock College to raise money for the college *a cappella* choir which had been invited by the Romanian government to a three week “Ambassadors for Friendship” tour behind the “iron curtain.” The Reseda Chapter joined Giselle McKenzie, Ann Blyth and Jane Wyman on an Arthritis Telethon. Don Johnson, of the Vacaville Chapter was an amateur radio operator. One night he

was chatting with Ron McCall, another “radio ham,” on the radio in his car and mentioned that he was on the way to the barbershop meeting. As a result, Ron attended the meeting and became a barbershopper. The Eden-Hayward Chapter held a “Bird Roast” for member Bob Bird, featuring a song by a chapter quartet: “Only a



The “Command Performance”
1974 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1974 & ‘75

‘Bird’ in a Guilded Cage.” After being thoroughly roasted, Bird was given a Life Membership in the Society by the Chapter. The Porterville Chapter received its charter.

In June 1974, a quartet with four doctors called “A Double Pair of Docs” won the annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest. Also in June, the Fresno Chapter again hosted the FWD

Chorus Directors' Seminar. In Southern California, Society Music Education and Services Director Bob Johnson, with help from a number of barbershoppers, developed a nearly 200 boy barbershop chorus from 19 schools, and put on a show for the Music Educators' National Conference. In addition to the boys' group, the show featured Society championship quartet "The Dealer's Choice" plus FWD quartets "Pacifiques" and "Golden Staters" and the Reseda Valleyaires Chorus.

The Society Summer Convention in Kansas City proved to be a "silver one" for the FWD as it won silver 2nd place medals in both the quartet (Pacifiques) and chorus (Peninsulaire) contest. The "Peninsulaire" nosed out the Dallas "Vocal Majority" chorus by 14 points. A "C & J" Seminar for contest judges and judge candidates, was held in Bakersfield in August 1974. The Prescott Chapter received its charter in September. Also in September, the Santa Ana chorus and their quartet "Yesterday's Heroes" performed in the John Wayne Theater at Knott's Berry Farm as part of a benefit for the Rainbow Acres Ranch for mentally retarded adults, in Camp Verde, Arizona.

At the October District Board meeting, the Board voted to waive District dues for the 27 Frank Thorne Chapter members in the FWD and send them the District magazine *Westunes* at no charge. They also voted to waive C.O.T.S. dues for new chapters' principal officers. The House of Delegates voted to accept the Society's recommendations for reduced dues to seniors and students.



Jack Hines
Far Western District President 1975
International Board Member 1976-77
President's Award 1971
FWD Hall of Fame 1975

Riverside Chapter's "Auditions for Admission" resulted in 50 guests at their next meeting. The Santa Rosa "Redwoods Chordsmen Chorus" led off the annual summer concert series at Armstrong Redwood State Reserve at Guerneville. Membership in the Guam Chapter was up to about 50. A new policy for ASCAP licensing for shows was announced in September. Henceforth, ASCAP licenses would be handled through the Society office in Kenosha. Besides simplifying the process for chapters, an additional benefit was a reduction in fees. The Saddleback Valley Chapter was chartered in December 1974.

During 1974, the South Bay Chapter conducted a series of 7 quartet contests within the chapter. Fifty chapter members took part in 33 quartets. The finals were held in November and the winning quartet was the "Tune Taggers" with Charlie Cox, J. Price, D. Wyckoff and Max DeZemplen.

On January 4-5, 1975 the District C.O.T.S. seminar was held in Anaheim and included classes for chorus directors. On January 24, a SoCal Logopedics Spectacular was held in Pasadena. The next day a NorCal Spectacular was held in Berkeley. For the second year in a row, the Far Western District hosted the Society's Mid-Winter Convention. This time it was hosted by



The "Sound Committee"
International Representatives 1975 & '77

the Aloha Chapter in late January. Bill Downing (age 86), who had attended the first meeting of SPEBSQSA in Tulsa and sang with O. C. Cash in the "Okie Four," paid a visit to Fremont, California to see his daughter. Someone in the Eden-Hayward Chapter learned of it and 14 Chapter members visited him and sang for him. The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter advertised their annual show in February, 1975 with a full-sized bill board.

After several years as "Logo-Penny-Henny," Mary Kabacy stepped down and Betty (Mrs. Maury) Carlson, of San Raphael, took over the title. Three chapters, San Diego, El Cajon and San Clemente made "mystery" trips (most riders didn't know where they were going) all winding up at the PalPac Chapter for a great fun evening. In January the PalPac Chapter hosted the SoCal Novice Quartet Contest with their own "Raisin' Cain" the winner. In February, 1975, the Walnut Creek Chapter hosted the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest, with 18 competing quartets. The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter honored its sole remaining charter member, Everett Manning with a Lifetime Membership in the chapter. The award was signed by Chapter President Terry Aramian and Secretary Carl Cross.

At its March, 1975 meeting, the FWD Board voted to send Emmett Bossing and Jack Hines to Honolulu to conduct a mini-C.O.T.S. and coaching session for the Aloha Chapter. The



The "San Francisco Storm Door and Whale Oil Company"
a.k.a. The "Doors"
1975 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1975, '76, '77, & '78

San Francisco Chapter was indebted to Scott Beach, a local TV personality, for Emceeing several of their shows and arranging for their chorus to sing at the half of a Warriors basketball game, so upon learning that he was a "patch freak," they sent him a Society patch. In return, they got a nice letter from him telling that his love of barbershop harmony stemmed from the days when, as a young boy, he loved to hear his father, Mark Beach, singing with the great "Lake Oswego Four" quartet from Oregon. The Pomona Valley Chapter celebrated another birthday of member "Pappy" Boynton, this time his 96th.

The annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest was taken over by Utah, with the "Remnants" from Salt Lake City and the "Provokers" from Provo taking first and second place, respectively. The "Great Stage Robbery" quartet, which was one of three quartets that qualified at the March International Preliminary Quartet Contest to represent the Far Western District at the Society Summer Contest, was disqualified when one of its members was suspended from membership for a year for repeated on-stage ethics violations.

The June 1975 District Board meeting was held aboard Bill Hanna's 65-foot yacht in the Long Beach Harbor. At that meeting, a chapter name-change from Casa Grande to Pinal County was approved. The Pinal County Chapter celebrated by hosting their division Novice Quartet Contest which followed a day of swimming, golfing, woodshedding and a banquet. In July, the Riverside Chapter hosted a barbershop "Desert Campout" with representatives of ten chapters from SoCal in attendance. A chorus of 315 NorCal barbershoppers sang at the Oakland Raiders-Pittsburgh Steelers football game under the direction of Sam Gonzalez. The "Infernos" quartet from Santa Rosa was aptly named. While they were singing for the NorCal Presidents' Council meeting in Oakland, the kitchen caught fire! In September 1975, the Santa Ana Chapter performed two nights in a row at California Angels' baseball games. Vacaville Chapter President Cecil Groulx offered to match the chapter's contributions to Logopedics on a particular night, and it cost him \$9.81. Thinking he could easily afford that amount, President-elect Don Webb offered to do likewise the following week but found that it cost him \$30!

In October, the Island of Saipan voted to become a Commonwealth of the United States. To help celebrate the occasion, the Guam Chapter members, including 3 quartets, flew to Saipan

and put on several shows throughout the island. The Marysville/Yuba City Chapter was chartered in October. Ken Koch of the Santa Ana Chapter was named FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year. At the District Board meeting in October, the Area Counselor of the Year Award was established, to be used at the discretion of



Bob Roberts
President's Award 1975
FWD Hall of Fame 1976
Westunes Editor 1965-77

the District President. In other action the Board decided that show clearance would not be awarded to a chapter on the same weekend as its Division Quartet or Chorus Contest. Two chapter name changes were approved: From the Dublin Chapter to the Livermore (Amador Valley) Chapter, and from the Scottsdale Chapter to the Valley of the Sun Chapter.

Dick Smith invited San Francisco Bay Area barbershoppers to attend the Palo Alto Harmony for Lunch Bunch, which was starting its 3rd year, saying: "Come and sing with your mouth full!"

The Whittier Chapter hosted a Show Production Seminar, attended by members of eight SoCal chapters. Sixty directors and assistant directors attended the FWD Chorus Directors' Seminar at Pacific College in Fresno in September. The Merced Chapter entered a float, featuring chapter members, a barberpole, a barber chair, and signs saying "Keep America Singing" and "Yosemite Gateway Chorus" in the Merced County Fair Parade. The Reno Chapter was chartered in December 1975. The "Prime Time" quartet, with movie and TV actor Burt Mustin subbing on bari, performed on the Johnny Carson show on TV. The Phoenixians Chorus sang the National Anthem at the Fiesta Bowl football game the day after Christmas.

1976 started off with the FWD C.O.T.S. and (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) and District Board Meeting held in Anaheim in January. The Board voted to hold two C.O.T.S. meetings in 1977, one in NorCal and one in SoCal. Following the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, the Board voted to divide the NorCal and SoCal Divisions each into two division (NorCal East, NorCal West, SoCal East and SoCal West) making a total of 6 divisions with Arizona/Southern Nevada and Utah being the other two. Santa Ana hosted the SoCal Novice Quartet Contest later in January and Walnut Creek hosted the one for NorCal in February. The Far Western District received the First Place Achievement Award from the Society Headquarters, and the Tucson and Phoenix Saguaro chapters each achieved first place in their plateaus.

The Crescenta Valley Chapter honored member George Sanders for his many years of service to the chapter, with a cake on his 80th birthday. The Walnut Creek and Stockton chapters honored Lyle Stevenson for helping to found the Stockton Chapter and his service to Walnut Creek, with a "This Is Your Life" party. The Salt Lake City Chapter made its annual appearance on the



Bill Park
Far Western District President 1976-77

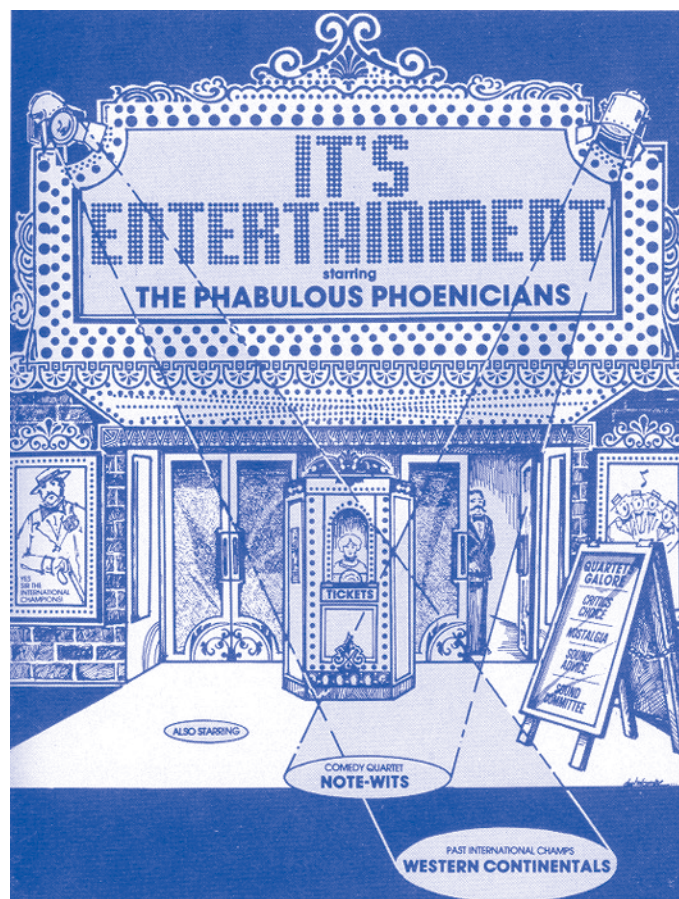


The "Phoenicians" - 1976 International "Bicentennial" Chorus Champions - Lou Laurel, Musical Director

local March of Dimes Telethon, along with Julie London and Cloris Leachman. The Aloha Chapter Chorus performed for 20 minutes at the Honolulu City Hall and were covered by local TV. The Riverside Chapter hosted a chorus marathon, attended by five additional chapter choruses plus a chorus made up of Presidents and Area Counselors from SoCal. The Santa Monica Chapter had been one of the early ones in the District but had folded some years later so in May 1976 it was re-chartered. At the June District Board Meeting, Don Richardson was appointed District Historian and Carl Walters was picked as Chairman of the Young Men in Harmony Committee.

The Society Summer Convention in 1976 was held in Northern California for the very first time and only the third time in the District (the other two were in Los Angeles). This time it was in San Francisco with the contest being held in the Cow Palace, with John Krizek serving as General Chairman, and featuring, among other things, a mustache contest. No Far Western District quartet medaled (placed in the top 5) that year, but the Phoenicians Chorus from Phoenix won the chorus contest. The Evergreen District had challenged the FWD to a contest to see who could raise the most money for Logopedics on a bike ride to the convention. The FWD used a bicycle built for four and used various foursomes on the trip from San Diego. The Evergreen District covered 1000 miles and out-earned the FWD by about \$12,000 to \$5,000.

In October, the San Jose Chapter hosted a NorCal quartet coaching session featuring Mac Huff from the Society Office and a number of coaches from the District. District President Bill Park expressed concern over the drop in membership and suggested that too often new members or potential members are left on the outer edge while the chapter goes about its business. He recommended that chapter members think about how they felt when they first joined, and then go from there.



Vintage ad copy from The Phoenicians

Chapter 7

November 1976 - October 1981



IN 1976, UTAH WAS STILL PART of the Far Western District and Bob Roberts of Layton, Utah, was editor of *Westunes*. A NorCal "Mystery Night" was canceled for mysterious reasons. A NorCal Chapter Officer Training Seminar (COTS) was held in San Mateo in December and

international Youth Hostel Federation with delegates from many countries. The barbershop group on Guam did a sing-out on a day when 5 inches of rain fell. The Tucson Chapter's Cabaret Show was a success despite a dust storm.

The FWD's Sam Aramian was elected Society President for 1977. FWD Bulletin Editors of the Year for 1976 were Ralph Fuller, San Diego (large), Chuck Hunter, San Jose (small) and Philip Field, Phoenix (mini). Phoenix' "Nostalgia" quartet sang for the second time on the Prime Time TV show. Having performed at Dodger Stadium earlier in the fall, the Pomona Valley chorus did a pre-game show in the LA Coliseum before an LA Rams football game, ending it with the National Anthem. They later performed for an L. A. Lakers professional basketball game and still later for the opening of the professional soccer season. In pushing the Society's Complete Manual for a Barbershop Quartet, Wes Meier, District Director of Music Education wrote: "...let me remind you that a chorus is nothing more than a batch of quartets and the same instructional techniques apply."

On January 29, Burt Mustin, movie and TV actor and member of the Tucson Chapter passed away at age 92. On the 30th, the Salt Lake City Chapter chorus performed on a local telethon for the March of Dimes. Chuck Northup, of the Santa Rosa Chapter, came up with a handicap system for quartets, based on levels of success of the quartet members in previous contests. The idea was to award quartets of varying abilities and experience, and it was adopted by the District Contest & Judging Committee. Three

chapters, San Luis Obispo, Lompoc and Santa Maria, got together for their Installation Dinner, hosted by the Santa Maria Chapter.

Two months into 1977, District President Bill Park was forced to resign due to a job transfer, and the District Board elected Executive Vice President Andy Dill as President. Al Tolpingrud



The "139th Street Quartet"
1976 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives

1976, 1977, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996

the SoCal COTS was a month later in Anaheim. In January the district Board voted to prohibit chapter show clearance within 100 miles of a previously cleared show unless that chapter gives its approval. The Eden-Hayward Chorus performed for the In-



Andy Dill
FWD President 1977-78
Int'l Board Member 1980-81
FWD Hall of Fame 1986



Dwight Wood
President's Award 1977

took over the Executive Vice President job and his job as Arizona/So. Nevada Divisional Vice President was assumed by Fred Koch. "Yer Fadder's Mustache" quartet performed in Palm Springs at a big fund raiser for the Eisenhower Medical Center. People like Bob Hope and Tony Martin were in attendance and nearly two million dollars was raised for the Medical Center. The sponsors were so

grateful for the performance by the quartet that they made a donation of \$1,000 to Logopedics in the quartet's name.

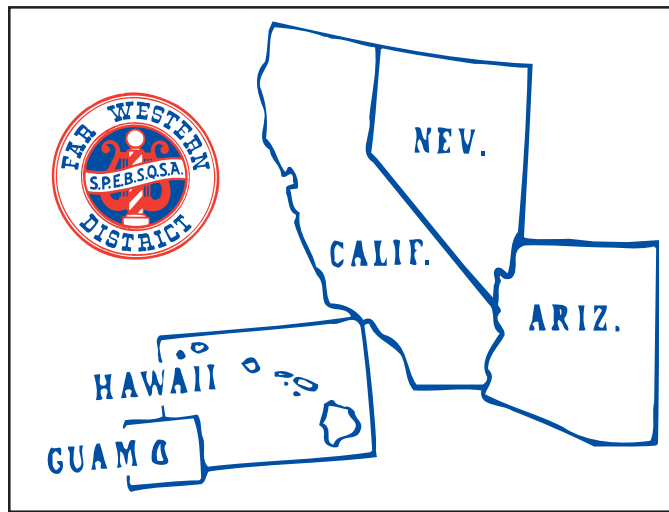
The Tucson Chapter was keeping busy. In March 1977 they hosted the Far Western District Spring Convention, and in January 1978 they would host the Society Mid-Winter Convention. At the March District Board meeting the Eureka Chapter made a case for relaxing the requirement that a chorus director be a member of the Society. The Board voted to pass this resolution on to the Society Board and recommend that it be passed. The House of Delegates first voted similar approval but then rescinded their approval of the Eureka Chapter proposal. The Board and House of Delegates recommended to the Society Board that the new Rocky Mountain District be approved. In April, Jerry Nyhan, a former Vaudeville performer, a Society member since 1938 and an early contest judge, passed away. The San Mateo County Chapter received its charter in March 1977.



The "Occidentals"
1977 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1975, 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1980

In May 1977 "A Tonic Explosion" from Fresno won the tenth annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest and "The Highlighters" from Fallbrook High School won the third annual PalPac Student Quartet Contest. A special night was held for Edmond "Pappy" Boynton of the Pomona Valley Chapter, featuring three choruses and 8 quartets. Pappy was the Society's oldest member at 98 and a few weeks after his special night, we lost him. In June, the Eureka and Ukiah chapters hosted a barbershoppers' campout on the Russian River which they termed the "Benbow Bonanza."

At the Society's Summer Convention, the "139th Street Quartet" won its first of seven medals, placing 2nd at Philadelphia. The San Bernardino Chapter was chartered in July 1977. In August, the Long Beach and Downey chapters hosted a 1st Annual Bar-B-Q Family Day in Compton. The annual Utah Area Campout was held at Bear Lake. The Oakland-East Bay Chapter put on another one of their annual Golf and Octet contests. The Long Range Planning Committee came up with a suggestion (which was never adopted) to get away from the "two-song" chorus problem. It was suggested that a month or two before the contest, each chorus submit a list of six songs and then, just before the contest, two songs would be picked at random, and they would be sung in the contest.



The Far Western District at the end of 1977

The Rancho Bernardo Chapter was chartered in October 1977. Both the Far Western District and the Society were having financial problems in 1977, necessitating a cut back in services offered and a dues increase by both. In an effort to gain valley-wide publicity for its events, the Reseda Chapter changed its name to the San Fernando Valley Chapter. In October the Simi Valley and Conejo Valley chapters merged.

Late in 1977, the new Rocky Mountain District was formed and it included the State of Utah which had been in the Far Western District. One immediate result was that Bob Roberts, who had been Editor of *Westunes* since January 1965, was no longer in the FWD. Another result was that the FWD bade goodbye to its first Society championship quartet, the "Evans Quartet" from Ogden and Salt Lake City. With the December 1977 issue of *Westunes*, Dick Girvin, who had been editor of the Pomona Valley bulletin, took over as *Westunes* Editor. One immediate change was that the size of the magazine was increased in size from 6" X 8" to 8½" X 11", and the cover was made of lighter stock so that production could be better automated, allowing a decrease in cost.

At the FWD House of Delegates meeting in October, a silent prayer was held in memory of Bing Crosby and a plaque was presented to outgoing *Westunes* Editor Bob Roberts. Late in 1977, the Whittier, San Fernando Valley, Pomona and San Diego choruses and the top quartets from the four chapters were taped



"A Tonic Explosion" - a popular show quartet

for a nationally syndicated TV series *"America Sings."* The series would include Sweet Adeline choruses and quartets as well as glee clubs and gospel singing groups.

In early January 1978, Bulletin Editors' Contest winners for 1977 were announced as Dick Girvin of Pomona (large bulletin) and Dennis Brown of Butte County (small). Hanford's "Saturday Night Bandstand Review" quartet appeared on San Francisco's TV Channel 4 and gave a plug for the upcoming Logopedics Spectacular. On January 14, 1978, the NorCal chapters put on "Super Spectacular '78" in San Francisco, featuring the 1977 Society quartet champs "Most Happy Fellows," plus the "Salt Flats," "Happiness Emporium" and "Desert



*"The Grand Tradition"
1978 Far Western District Champions*

Knights" quartets as well as the Mission Valley Sweet Adeline Chorus from San Jose, and a 485-man chorus made up of members of different NorCal chapters and directed by Bob Johnson. It earned \$5,000 for the Society Expansion Fund. A few months

before, a similar massed chorus made up of SoCal chapter members provided pre-game entertainment at a Dodgers baseball game; the group was directed by Carl Walters; the first ball was thrown out by SoCal East VP Elmer Lee, and caught by Area Counselor and *Westunes* staff member Dennis Burke.

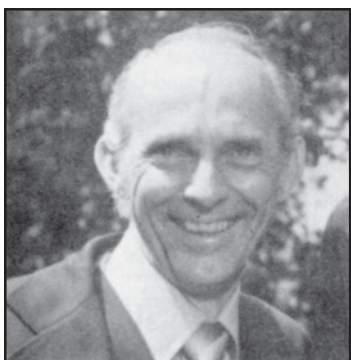
The Tucson Chapter hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention in late January 1978, featuring four of the five medalist quartets from the previous Summer Convention. Coachella Valley Chapter was originally chartered in March 1978. Jack Hines was starting up a FWD Flying Barbershoppers Association made up of barbershoppers who were pilots. Also in 1978, the term HEP (Harmony Educational Program) was replaced by "Mini-Harmony College." Lloyd Steinkamp recalls



*"Nostalgia"
International Representatives 1978*

that it was later changed to "Harmony College West" at the suggestion of Bobby Gray Jr. The SoCal Mini-Harmony College was held in Los Angeles in April. In May the "California Sunshine" quartet nosed out "Saturday Night Bandstand Review" for the 11th annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest championship. Also in May, Fred Young, an 80-year old charter member of the Conejo Valley Chapter was severely injured in an auto accident. Chapter founder Bob Mayer started a fund to help the family with its many expenses connected with the injury. To help with this, chapter member Max Sallisbury offered to fly anyone over his or her home for \$5, with Max's employer picking up the tab for the fuel.

A SoCal Spectacular was held in Pasadena on June 17, 1978 with proceeds going to the Society's Expansion Fund. On June 28, a large chorus consisting of members from the San Di-



*Earl Moon
FWD Hall of Fame 1978*

ego, Rancho Bernardo, PalPac and El Cajon chapters performed between games of a double-header between the Padres and Giants baseball teams directed by Tom Neal. At the June FWD Board meeting, the decision was made to institute a Small Chapter (40 or under) Chorus Contest to be held at the Spring Convention and with the top two choruses being eligible to compete at the

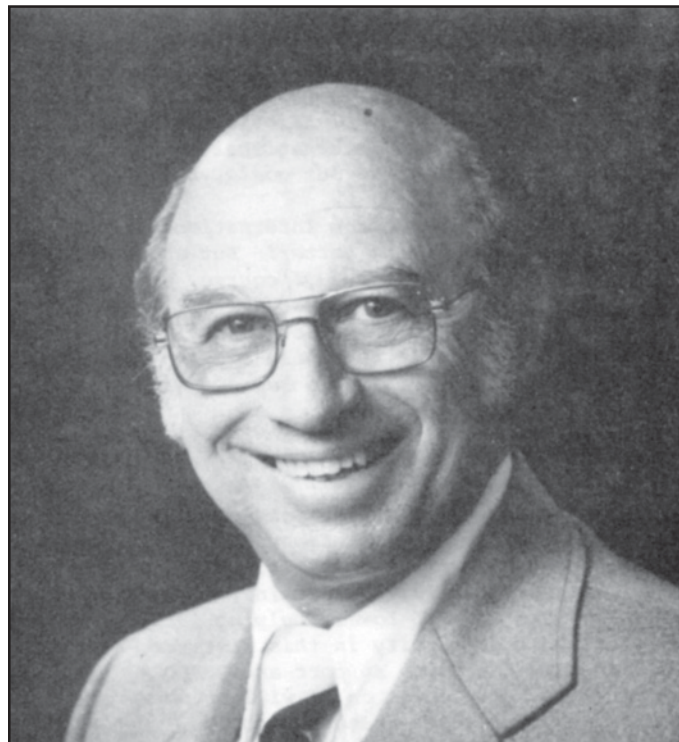
District Contest in the fall. On the 4th of July, the Tucson chorus performed for more than 17,000 people at a fireworks show in the University of Arizona stadium.

The first Far Western District Flying Barbershoppers Association "fly-in" took place in July at Riverside Municipal Airport. NorCal's Mini-Harmony College was held in Davis in September. The Fall District Convention was held in Long Beach in October with the Queen Mary ship serving as headquarters hotel. NorCal C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) was held in San Mateo in December 1978 and the SoCal C.O.T.S. was in Los Angeles in January 1979.

On November 9, 1978 the Santa Ana and Downey chapters put on a 5th annual show at Knott's Berry Farm, raising over \$20,000 for the Rainbow Acres ranch for mentally retarded adults. The show was emceed by Lloyd Steinkamp and featured "Gentlemen Songsters," "California Gold" and "Yer Fadder's Mustache" quartets. The November 1978 issue of *Westunes* had a first...the first appearance of a song arrangement by Dan Wilson of the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter. The song was titled "Write Me A Song" and was arranged by attendees at the Arizona/Nevada Arrangers Seminar, and is included at the end of this chapter. Due to a strike in the paper industry, the printer of *Westunes* was

short of paper and as a result, the December 1978 and January 1979 issues came out in a smaller (7 1/4" X 10") size. This was still larger than the early issues of the magazine. The shortage was apparently over by February when the magazine was back to standard letter size.

District Bulletin Editors of the Year for 1978 were Floyd Thaller of Whittier (large bulletin) and John Coburn of Arcadia (small). At the Spring Convention in Sacramento, the Reno Silver Dollar Chorus placed first, followed by Hanford, Carson City,



*Beryl Caron
Far Western District President 1979
International Board Member 1982-83*



*The "Gentlemen Songsters"
1979 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1976, 1978, 1979, 1980*

Stockton and Merced, in the FWD's first Small Chapter Chorus Contest. A newly registered quartet from the Oakland-East Bay Chapter was "Western Sun" in which Ron Bass sang tenor.

At the District Board meeting in March it was learned that the Antelope Valley Chapter had folded. The PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest was won by "Et Cetera" with tenor Gary Stamm (who would later become Society Director of Marketing and Membership), lead Joe Palmquist (I thought he was a bass), baritone Sam Feenstra (of the "Feenstra Brothers" quartet) and bass Tony Bonafede (a former singing waiter).

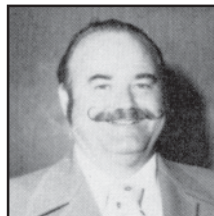
Two days after performing on the San Diego show on May 4, 5, 1979, Mike Senter, bass with the "Golden Staters" quartet, Society champs in 1972, passed away. Mike was a talented chorus director, coach, song arranger and composer. Among his compositions were: "Back in Those Days Gone By," "I Tried to Forget You in Vain," "What Ever Happened to Mary?," "Oh How We Roared in the Twenties," "It Must Be That Look in Her Eyes" and "Gotta Be On My Way." It was reported that the "Pacificaes" quartet had sung for The Lost Chord Club, an organization of people who have lost their larynxes due to cancer. One member



*Charles "Chuck" Lowrey
President's Award 1979*

of the club was a former barbershopper.

The Modesto Chapter Chorus and two chapter quartets, the "Traveliers" and "The Classic Rendition," put on a half-hour show at the Stanislaus County Fair in 100+ degree heat. San Jose's "Bayshore Sound Express" quartet sailed into Tiburon on Elmer Fairbanks' 27-foot sloop, singing all the way. They then performed for a national hotel chain convention. The San Bernardino Chapter hosted its first annual Woodshed Contest on August 4, 1979.



*John Burby
President's Award
1980*

Only one FWD Mini-Harmony College was held in 1979, at U.C. Davis in September. Society regulations specified that directors must be members of the Society, but four chapters in the Far Western District had lady directors at this time because they couldn't find good Society directors in their areas. The SoCal C.O.T.S. was held aboard the Queen Mary in November. The Arcadia Chapter hosted the second annual 2 X 4 Double Quartet Contest, won by "The Golden-Eighters" from Arcadia. The 2 X 4 judging panel consisted of "The Gentlemen Songsters" and "Four Points West" quartets.



*Val Hicks
FWD Hall of
Fame 1980*

At the October District Convention in Bakersfield, San Fernando Valley Chapter member Bill Hanna, of Hanna-Barbera Productions, was honored by the Society for his continual service to the Society. He was given a flag with the Society emblem to go on his yacht. The San Francisco Chapter had a quartet called "The Four Generations" with members ages 75, 70, 56 and 22. The District championship quartet was "The Gentlemen Songsters," and it was the third District championship for bass Bill Merry and the fourth for lead Bill White.

The Clear Lake Chapter received its charter in October

1979. Chapter visitations are not uncommon, but in November, 1979, the Vacaville and Peninsula chapters paid a visit to the Aloha Chapter in Honolulu. In addition to visiting with Aloha Chapter members, both the Vacaville and Peninsula choruses, along with some of their quartets, performed on the annual Aloha Chapter Show. The finale, with a combined chorus of about 150 men from the three chapters, brought the audience to their feet. While there, the two visiting chapters also gave performances at other locations on the island. The Oakland-East Bay Chapter chorus sang the National Anthem for a Golden State Warriors vs. Phoenix Suns professional basketball game and were heard on radio stations in San Francisco, Phoenix, Tucson and Prescott.

At the end of 1979, Russ Blakely, who had been singing barbershop since 1912, and was one of two charter members of the Pasadena Chapter (Reedie Wright was the other), resigned as editor of the chapter bulletin, having served in this capacity for twenty years. The Carson City Chapter entered a float in the annual Nevada Day Parade, and took first place in their category. The San Fernando Valley Chapter named Fred Dregne their "Barbershopper of the Decade." The FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year--large bulletin--for 1979 was Gil Berggren of the Conejo Valley Chapter with Fred Davis of the Walnut Creek Chapter placing second. The small Bulletin Editor of the Year was Bob Arthur of the Aloha Chapter.

C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officer Training Seminars) had always been held in both the NorCal and SoCal divisions, but at the January 1980 District Board meeting, a committee was formed to look into the feasibility of holding just one C.O.T.S. for the entire District. At the March Board meeting it was decided to hold a single C.O.T.S. in Fresno in November. Also in March 1980, the "Fancy Dans" quartet, renamed "The Californians" for the event, spent three weeks in New Zealand. District members with the most "Men of Note" awards for bringing in new members were: Peninsula Chapter's Jerry Orloff with 79, San Jose's Chuck Hunter with 41, Phoenix Saguaro Chapter's Robert McDonald and Stockton's Bill Legg with 26, Tucson's Fred Koch with 25, San Luis Obispo's Gil Brown with 24, and Modesto's Buz Smith with 19. The Long Beach Chapter was rated Number 1 in the Society for their size plateau.



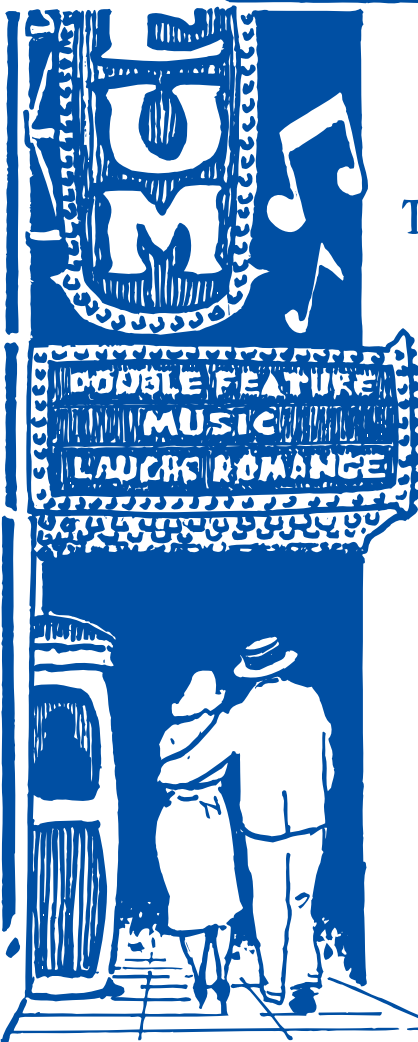
*"Remember When"
1980 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives
1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985
1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990*



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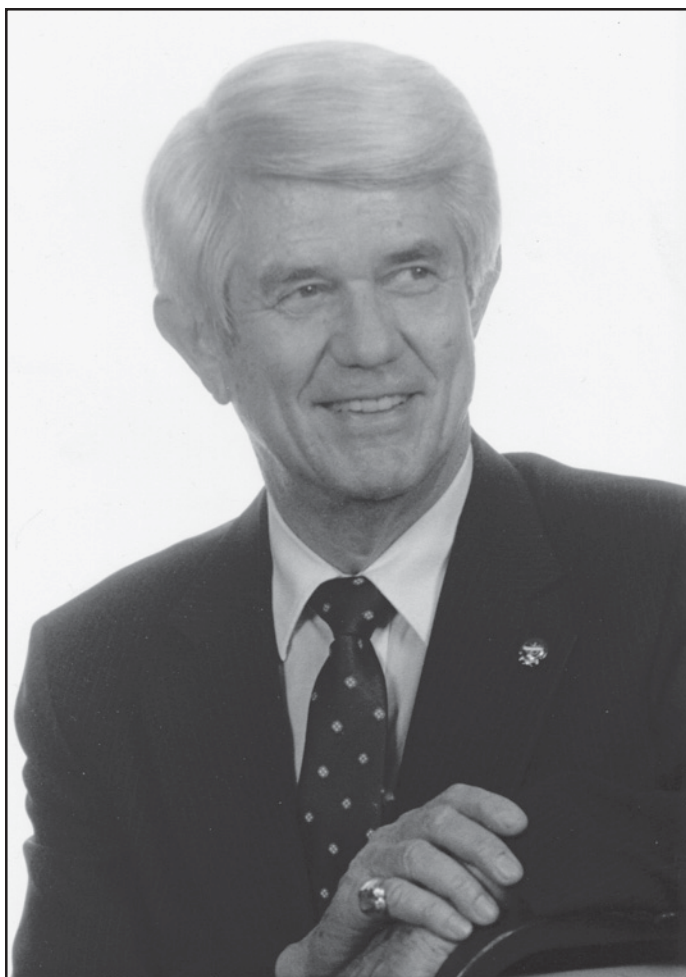
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Vintage ad copy from the Monterey Peninsula Chapter



*Lou Laurel - Musical Director of the "Phoenicians"
International Champions 1972, 1976, 1983
International President 1962
Far Western District Hall of Fame 1985*



*Joe Salz
President's
Award 1981*

Hanford won the second annual Small Chapter Chorus Contest in March 1980, with San Luis Obispo placing second. These two choruses automatically qualified to enter the District Chorus Contest in the fall. The FWD's Reddie Wright was

International Chairman for Logopedics, the Society's adopted charity. PBS taped the "Music Appreciation 101" quartet's entire repertoire and released it to all PBS stations nationwide for use as "filler" spots. In April 1980, Marv Yerkey, director of the San Diego Sun Harbor Chorus, the San Diego Sweet Adelines Chorus, and a local church choir, died of lymphoma at the young age of 48.

In May 1980, the Santa Rosa Chapter entered a float in the Luther Burbank Rose Festival Parade, featuring the chorus and resulting in 23 guests at their next chapter meeting. Winner of the 13th annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest was the "San Diego Padres" quartet. In June the Oxnard and Ventura chapters were given permission to merge and change their name to the Channel Islands Chapter, and the San Clemente Chapter was permitted to change its name to the Saddleback Valley Chapter. The District champion quartet



*"Main Street Revue"
International Representatives 1981*

"Remember When" sang for U.S. Vice President, George Bush. In July 1980 the Stockton Chapter hosted a NorCal barbershoppers' picnic in Lodi.

Floyd "Blackie" Blackwell arranged for a "Harmony Express" train to take 127 FWD barbershoppers and their wives to the Society Convention in Salt Lake City. *Westunes* Editor Dick Girvin put out a special Convention Issue of *Westunes*, featuring the Peninsula Chapter chorus and the five quartets--"139th Street Quartet," "Occidentals," "Grand Tradition," "Gentlemen Songsters," and "Remember When"-- that would



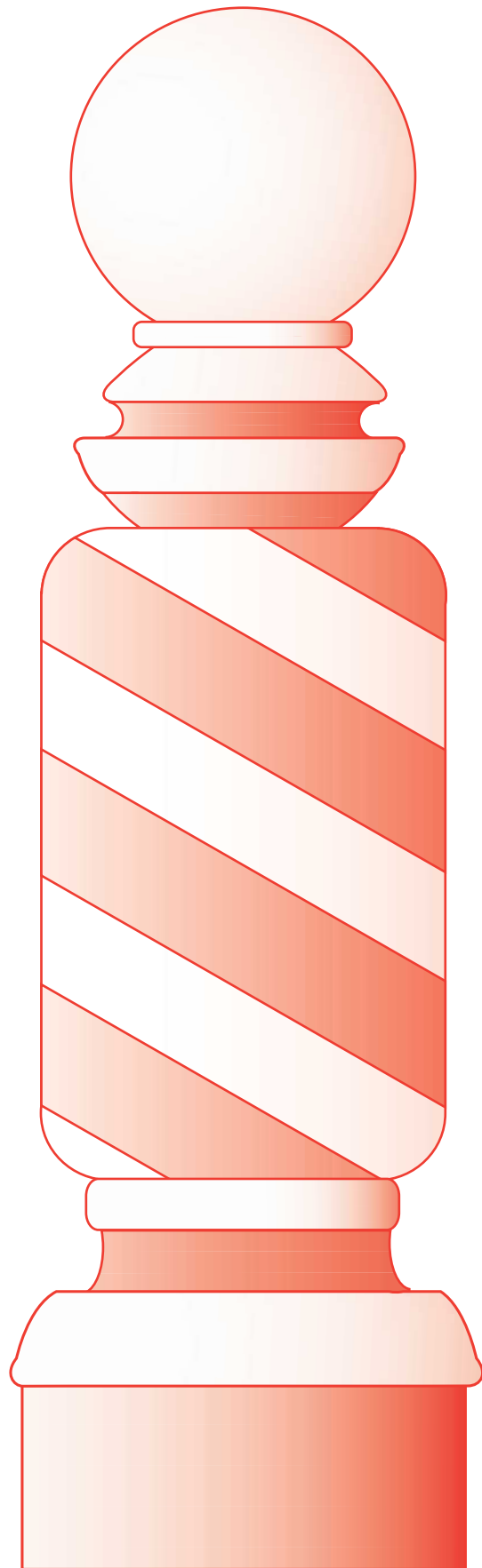
*Jerry Orloff
FWD Hall of Fame
1981*



*Fred Koch - Far Western District President 1981-82
International Board Member 1984-85*

represent the District at the Society Contest. The Society office announced that the two Society members with the most Men of Note awards for bringing in new members were Jerry Orloff with 85 and Bob Allen with 58, both members of the FWD's Peninsula Chapter. The Guam Chapter folded in late 1980. In January 1981, the NorCal Logopedics Spectacular featured a 542-man chorus and a near-sellout house. Also in January, the Society Mid-Winter Convention was hosted by the San Diego Chapter, and was declared a success despite two days of rain. Reddie Wright gave the keynote address. The Oakland-East Bay Chapter did a one-hour TV show for the cable Showtime channel. The "Gentlemen Songsters" quartet appeared on the John Davidson TV Show. At the FWD Spring Convention, the small chorus winner was Santa Monica with Santa Clarita also qualifying for the District Fall Contest. At the Spring Convention, Fred Davis and Greg Gavlock of Walnut Creek won the Bulletin Editor(s) of the Year award for large bulletins, and Roy Hagel of Eden-Hayward won the small bulletin award.

In February 1981, the Vacaville Chapter put on a half-hour show on their local TV station. The 1981 PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest was won by the "Silly Savages" quartet from PalPac, featuring Raymond Davis (of later "Special Feature" fame) and his dad Lloyd. The "Fancy Dans" quartet returned to New Zealand for a month that summer, performing on both the North and South Islands, and on television three times. "The Upstarts" quartet from Ukiah had a bass named, appropriately, Randy Bass. They performed for a local elementary school, and got the kids to sing some Pole Cat songs. In July, barbershoppers from 19 NorCal and Nevada Chapters and their families and friends--a total of 300 people--attended the 3rd Annual Lodi picnic sponsored by the Stockton Chapter.



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BY DAN WILSON

'Write Me A Song'
New Barbershop Arrangement

ARRANGEMENT BY
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ARRANGERS CLASS-1978

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SONG TO BRIGHT-EN MY DAY ———; AND IF YOU SHOULD ASK ME WHAT
EV-RY DAY

I LONG TO HEAR, I'D PO-LITE-LY TURN AND SAY ———: WRITE ME A

CHORUS:

SONG THAT I CAN HUM AND TAP MY TOE TO, A SIMP-LE MEL-O-

OLD MEL-O-DY ———; MAKE IT A HAP-PY TUNE TO WHIST-LE NIGHT AND NOON THAT WILL
OLD MEL-O-DY

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PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Original Song "Write Me A Song" by Dan Wilson - First Published in the November 1978 Westunes - Reprinted with Permission

Chapter 8

November 1981 - October 1986



The 1981 District Contest and Convention was held in Sacramento but sponsored by the Vacaville Chapter and drew a record number of attendees. Three new members were elected to the 1982 District Board, namely Terry Aramian, Floyd Thaller and Chuck Lowrey. The SoCal West Antelope Valley Chapter, which had come close to folding, was revitalized mainly through



"California Fever"

*1981 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1981 & 1982*

the work of a West Virginia transplant, Jack Hall. Over 400 newly elected chapter officers attended the C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) at Fresno in November, 1981. In late 1981 George Dohn passed away. George was FWD president in 1955-6 and again in 1959-60, and served the District as International Board Member in 1961 and 1962. He was an early Editor of *Westunes Magazine* and had much to do with the format that is still being used.

Another late 1981 event was a historic barbershop marriage. Talented chorus director and quartet baritone, Bob Gray, Jr. was married to Lisa Diane Morrison at a church in Arcadia with quartet performances by "Grand Tradition," "California Fever" and "Four Points West." In addition, an octet sang which included father-of-the-groom Bob Gray, Sr. and father-of-the-bride Dick Morrison. If that wasn't enough, the service was performed by Navy Chaplain and San Diego Chapter member

Joe Frazier. A chapter in Yuma, Arizona was licensed in December, but it wasn't chartered until about 11 years later. The Aloha Chapter performed with the Honolulu Symphony. Six of their chapter members ran in the Honolulu Marathon on December 13.

In January 1982, the Tucson Chapter hosted the Society Midwinter Convention. FWD "Sharing" Chairman, Chuck Hunter reported that the Tucson Chapter also put together a set of directions on how to put on a successful cabaret show and made them available to District chapters. The Las Vegas Chapter did likewise with a set of instructions for putting on a pancake breakfast. The Fresno Chapter earned \$600 when some of their members and their wives helped with the county election. Don Dorsey of the Whittier Chapter was named FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year for 1981. In March, Buz Smith received the "Area Counselor of the Year" award. In April, FWD's Reedie Wright was the recipient of the "Distinguished Service Award," the highest award given by the Institute of Logopedics, the Society service project.



*"Music Appreciation 101"
Popular Show Quartet*

In March, 1982 the Salinas Chapter, which had been in existence since the late 40's, disbanded. In the same month the Sonora, CA and Kingman, AZ chapters were chartered. A name change for the Clearlake Chapter to the "Lake County Chapter" was approved. Three brothers performed in the SoCal East chorus



Lou Perry
FWD Hall of Fame
1982

contest. If that doesn't surprise you, how about the fact that they were in three different choruses? Hal Palmer sang with Riverside, Charlie Palmer with San Diego and Bob Palmer with Santa Ana. After producing a radio program "Close Harmony" for ten years in his chapter city of Phoenix, Don Richardson offered to make his weekly 30-minute barbershop music program available to any other radio station that would air it. In May the Merced Chapter put on a show in a hangar at Castle Air Force Base, helped out by guest choruses from Modesto and Sonora, and a guest quartet, "A Tonic Explosion" from

Fresno.

The Santa Rosa Chapter held a non-registered quartet contest with a Vice-Mayor of the city and a County Supervisor as judges, and the story was carried, with pictures, in the August 1982 issue of *Sunset Magazine*. In August, it was announced that the Far Western District had been in first place in the Society achievement program for two months and by quite a wide margin. A Mini-HEP school was held at U.C. Davis in September with



"Pacifica"
1982 Far Western District Champions

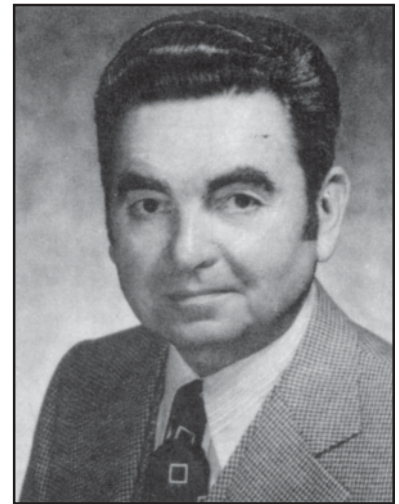
Society staff members Joe Liles, Dave Stevens, Paul Mayo and Dave LaBar.

In September another Mini-HEP was held in Santa Barbara with Stevens, Mayo and LaBar on the faculty as well as Brent Graham of the host chapter. Also in September, Bob Johnson, Society Director of Music Education and Services, retired and moved to Tucson. The FWD Flying Barbershoppers Association had a joint fly-in and sing-out at Columbia, California, September 18-19. The Sierra Vista, AZ Chapter was chartered in October 1982 and became the furthest south and furthest east chapter in the FWD. At the fall District convention in Pasadena, since the Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties were

on or near the Pacific Ocean, the Board decided to move chapters therein from the NorCal East division to NorCal West. By some different logic, chapters in the State of Hawaii would fall in NorCal East. Solano County chapters would also be in NorCal East.

In the fall of '82, the Long Beach Chapter received a Society PR Award for performing the National Anthem at a local sports event which appeared on Cable TV. Peninsula Chapter member Jerry Orloff set a record, that still stands at this writing, when he brought his 100th new member into barbershopping. The Whittier Chapter donated several sewing kits to Logopedics. The Downey Chapter, chorus and quartets, performed at Shakey's Pizza on Thursday nights for three hours, receiving 20% of the gross revenue on food sold during the time they were there. The C.O.T.S. sessions to train new chapter officers for 1983, were hosted by Fresno in November 1982 with a record number ("nearly 400") in attendance. Christmas shows were becoming popular in the District with at least twelve chapters doing them in 1982.

District President Don McAvoy declared 1983 to be the "Year of the Quartet." He called for a 20% increase in registered quartets, increased quartet activity in every chapter, more quartets competing at the Division level and two FWD quartets in the top



Don McAvoy
Far Western District President 1983
International Board Member 1989
FWD Hall of Fame 1990

10 at the Society convention in Seattle in the fall (there would be three). In January 1983 the NorCal chapters put on another Logopedics Spectacular in San Francisco with newly retired Bob Johnson directing the massed chorus in ten songs and featuring "The Classic Collection," "Four-Do-Matics" and "Music Appreciation 101" men's quartets and "Easy Street" from the Sacramento Sweet Adelines. The Placerville, California Chapter was chartered in January 1983 and the Visalia, CA Chapter was chartered in March 1983.

As a strong advocate of "keeping it barbershop," 1982 District Hall of Fame member Lou Perry was asked if minor chords had a place in barbershop arrangements. Lou replied that they do, saying: "They create the tension, but then the barbershop sevenths bring you back to the happiness." John Sasine, 22 year-old member of the Fullerton Chapter received the AIC (Association of International Champions) scholarship. (John would later switch to the Foothill Cities Chapter and sing lead with the 1996 Society champion "Nightlife" quartet.) 1982 Bulletin Editor of the Year award for large bulletins went to John Butcher of the San Diego Chapter and for small bulletins to Bob Tobias of the Carson City Chapter.

In 1983 the Tucson and Rancho Bernardo chapters took

advantage of a new Society program to present the "Award of Harmony" to members of their areas for community service. It was pointed out that the Far Western District had contributed more money to Logopedics than any other district in five of the previous eight years. For the third year in a row, the San Francisco Chapter hosted a "Barbershop on the Bay" cruise featuring the San Francisco Cable Car Chorus and several area quartets. In mid-1983 Whittier was the largest chapter in the Society with just under 200 members. The Young Men In Harmony program

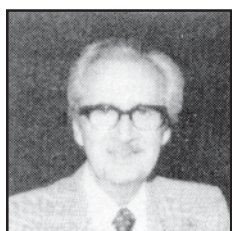


*Carl Campbell
President's Award
1983*

was a past president of the Downey Chapter and sang in several quartets including the "Merry Chords" and the "Four Bits of Harmony" and he was an active quartet coach. In June the Association of Far Western District Champions (AFWDC) was sanctioned by the District board. Also in June, the Downey

Chapter's Gary Stamm moved his family to Kenosha where he would become the Society's new Director of Audio-Visual Services.

In 1983, the SoCal Mini-HEP school was scheduled for U. C. Irvine in July, the NorCal Mini-HEP at U. C. Davis in September. C.O.T.S. was to be in Fresno in November. In May, Thomas E. "Dutch" Holland passed away. "Dutch"



*Gene Hartzler
President's Award
1983
FWD Hall of Fame
1983*

In early July 1983, a "Harmony Express" train started in San Diego and was taking barbershoppers and their families to the Society convention in Seattle when a hijacker threatened attendants on the train and demanded to be taken to Miami. Police boarded the train near Sacramento and removed the hijacker. In late July, the Stockton

Chapter hosted a picnic which drew barbershoppers from as far away as Hawaii. In August, the Reno Chapter hosted its 2nd annual barbershoppers' campout at Lake Tahoe.

The FWD supplied 16 faculty members to the Society's

Harmony College in St. Joseph, Missouri that summer. The Nevada-Placer, CA Chapter was chartered in August 1983. Also during the summer, the Fullerton Chapter staged its 5th annual Logopedics Spectacular featuring several nearby chapter choruses and a number of top quartets from SoCal. The Napa Chapter



*"Special Request"
1983 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1983 & 1985*

hosted a wine-tasting, barbecue and golf tournament that drew barbershoppers and their wives from all over NorCal.

In October the Santa Ana Chapter held a YMIH Harmony Jubilee at Santa Ana College and invited students from 35 high schools and junior colleges with the "139th Street Quartet" and the "Upper Classmen" quartets to teach the young about barbershop harmony. Music teacher Steve Diamond of the Santa Monica Chapter was taking a quartet to local schools to demonstrate the art and then teaching the school chorus a tag. Near the end of 1983, the Whittier Chapter reached their Membership VP, Ralph Bishel's goal of 200 members. The Whittier Chapter was blessed with a 3-generation family which included Don Shively (father), Paul Shively (son) and Donnie Shively (grandson). A family quartet was out of the question since ALL THREE sang bass!

1984 saw new members to the District Board in Mike Hatfield, Chuck Hunter and Terrel Perkins. The Society Mid-Winter Convention was hosted by FWD's Aloha Chapter and chaired by Dr. Hank Hammer. The FWD Spring Convention was hosted by the San Jose Chapter with Chuck Hunter as Chairman.



The "Phoenicians" - 1983 International Chorus Champions - Lou Laurel, Musical Director



*"Nevada" Sam Barger
Far Western District President 1984-85
International Board Member 1986-87*

The 1983 and 1984 FWD Directories erroneously showed Chuck's area code as 404 instead of 408, which resulted in many phone calls to him re the contest going to someone in Atlanta, Georgia. At the convention, Bulletin Editor of the Year awards went to Bob Allen (San Mateo) and Bert Keifer and Harry Shearin



*Bob Bisbo
President's Award
1983*

(Pasadena). Tom Costello of SoCal East was named Area Counselor of the Year. The Lompoc Chapter was honored for the highest-ever per capita contributions to Logopedics of any chapter in the District (\$105/member).

District President Sam Barger challenged District Service Chairman John Burby to lose one pound for each \$2000 raised by the FWD for Logopedics during 1984.

Based on the total raised (the goal was \$40,000) for each pound that he failed to lose, John would contribute \$10 and for each extra pound that John might lose, Sam would contribute \$10.

In March 1984, the District Board voted to revoke the Yuma Chapter charter due to inactivity and to dissolve the Association of Far Western District Champions (AFWDC) as a District sanctioned organization (it would be re-sanctioned in 1986). Also in March the District achieved its highest membership to date (4118). In June the Arcadia Chapter hosted a "2 X 4 Bash" which was a double quartet contest, for the purpose of developing more chorus members into quartet singers, won by "Eight the Hard Way" from Whittier. Upon learning that the California State Assembly was preparing to vote on the selection of a State Song, the Peninsula Chapter chorus quickly learned arrangements of "I

Love You California" and "California Here I Come" and made a recording of them which received air time on several NorCal radio stations.

The Far Western District supplied 15 faculty members and 84 students for the Society's Harmony College at St. Joseph, Missouri, in August 1984. The Vacaville Chapter toured Alaska, putting on shows in Anchorage and Valdez. The Reno Chapter hosted its 3rd annual barbershoppers' campout at Lake Tahoe, with District President Sam Barger as Camp Director, and with campers coming from throughout the District. In September the Fullerton Chapter hosted its Sixth Annual Logopedics Spectacular.

The Davis-Woodland, CA Chapter was chartered in October. Also in October, the Bakersfield Chapter hosted its 7th FWD Convention, putting it one ahead of Pasadena and Sacramento. For the first time, a barbershop quartet entered the San Francisco Bay-To-Breakers foot race. San Francisco Chapter's "San Andreas Faults" quartet entered and even sang while running, receiving TV coverage. Lee Nickerson of the Rancho Bernardo Chapter sold over 500 copies of his song "That Crummy Old Quartet of Mine" with proceeds going to Logopedics.

In November, the San Diego Chapter sponsored a 2-day barbershoppers' cruise from Los Angeles to Ensenada and back on the SS Azure Seas, featuring top quartets from the District.



*"The New Tradition"
1984 Far Western District Champions
1985 International Champions
International Representatives 1984 & 1985*

The District purchased ten electronic keyboards to be used by FWD students at Mini-HEP schools. Don Sprouse, editor of the Monterey Peninsula Chapter bulletin "Hot-Aire" was named FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year for large bulletins, and Ralph Bryant and Hank Gomez of the San Francisco Chapter and co-editors of The Foghorn, won the award for small bulletins.

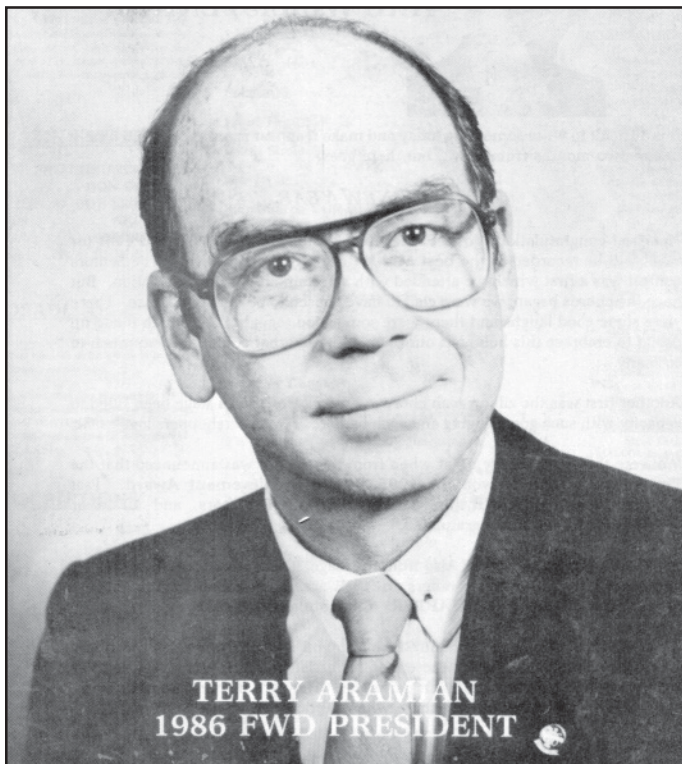
The Chico Chapter was chartered and the Crescent City Chapter was re-chartered in March 1985. The Livermore Chapter folded. Pomona Valley's "Sentimental Gentlemen" quartet performed in the Ontario Civic Light Opera production of The Music Man. Rancho Bernardo's "Ranchtones" quartet was



The "Knudsen Bros."
1985 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1984, 1986, 1992

performing regularly at Disneyland Park in Anaheim. The District Board voted to donate a redwood clock to the Logopedics raffle at the Society summer convention in Minneapolis.

When the City of San Francisco reneged on its commitments to the District and placed insurmountable financial restraints upon it, the 1985 District Contest had to be moved to San Jose to be hosted by the San Jose Chapter. In May, the Santa Rosa Chapter won first place for its colorful float in the Santa Rosa Rosa Luther Burbank Rose Parade. Pal-Pac's 18th summer Comedy Quartet Contest was won by the "San Diego Extension



Terry Aramian
Far Western District President 1986-87
International Board Member 1988
International President 1992
Far Western District Hall of Fame 1995

Chords" with Gary Mathews, Rich Phinney, Stan Christman and Bob House. The Reno Chapter presented its first annual Award of Harmony to TV executive Bill Andrews. At the May-June District Board meeting the Board voted to declare San Diego's "Four Staters" quartet as 1948 District champs. The Board also decided to cut the number of issues of *Westunes Magazine* back to 9 per year. It was also decided that each division would be represented by at least one chorus at the District contest, regardless of its score in the division contest. In addition, any chorus scoring 760 point or above (double judging panel — 380 with a single panel) would be eligible to compete in the District contest.

At the Society summer contest the "New Tradition," with



The Far Western District in its present state.

John Sherburn, Dan Jordan, Bob Gray, Jr. and John Miller, became the 6th FWD quartet to become Society champs. Foothill Cities, CA Chapter was chartered in October 1985. At the District convention in San Jose, District Historian Bob Bisio arranged for a reunion of members of the 1957 Society chorus champion from the old Berkeley Chapter, which was the first FWD chorus to win this distinction. At the convention, the Phoenicians won the District Chorus Contest for the 10th time and Phoenix' "Knudsen Bros." quartet won the quartet contest. Long-term judges Lou Benedict, John Ford and Joe White were honored as were Wesley Meier and Bob Oertel for their long support of the judging program. The Board voted to disqualify any quartet that changes personnel between the division and FWD contests.



Jerry Graham
FWD Hall of Fame 1986

"Mixed Metaphor," one of the first male-female barbershop quartets in the west, toured Sweden, Norway, Scotland, England and Wales. Members were Jerry Orloff and Paul Eastman of the Peninsula Chapter, and Kim Orloff and Bev Wesley of the Cabrillo Del Mar Sweet Adelines Chapter. Mini-Harmony College was in Sunnyvale in September. The FWD Chapter Officer Training Seminar (C.O.T.S.) was held in Anaheim in November. After 7 years of serving as Editor of *Westunes*

Magazine, Dick Girvin resigned and Fritz Grunenwald took over the job. In November the District Board gave approval to a proposed merger of the Pasadena, San Gabriel and Arcadia chapters (later only San Gabriel and Arcadia merged to become the San Gabriel Valley Chapter).

In late 1985, 102 members of the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter went to Hawaii and performed with the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra. Around that time, Bill Scavo of the Whittier Chapter was making up 300 walking sticks, from the shafts of golf clubs, which would be given away over the Christmas holidays to local rest homes. In February 1986, Bill would host a "Barbershop Logopedics Benefit" at his restaurant in Downey.

Tucson hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention in

January 1986 featuring the "World's Largest Chorus" directed by Bob Johnson, as well as the medalist quartets from the previous Society Summer Convention and the first annual Seniors' Contest. At this convention it was announced that the Far Western District had won the 1985 District Achievement Award!

In February 1986 the "139th Street Quartet" performed on the TV show "Cheers." "Yer Fadder's Mustache" quartet performed on the daytime program "General Hospital." Joe Liles directed the 430-voice chorus for the 1986 NorCal Logopedics Spectacular in San Francisco in May. Joe was then the Society Director of Musical Activities and would later assume the job of Executive Director of the Society. At the District Board meeting in March, bulletin editor awards were made to Don Sprouse of

Monterey Peninsula (large bulletin) and Ray Rosenbaum of San Fernando Valley (small bulletin). Sprouse went on to become First Place Editor in the Society-wide contest and Gale Sherrodd of Whittier was third. A trophy was presented to Gunnor Ryge, Logopedics Chairman of the Marin Chapter, for their record donation of \$124.33 per man. Jerry Orloff received recognition from the Society for his 105th Men Of Note award. The "Knudsen Bros." and "The New Tradition" quartets received Society recognition for participating in the Music Educators National Conference in Anaheim.

Mini Harmony Colleges were held at Chapman College in Orange, California in July and U. C. Davis in September 1986.

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At left: Vintage ad copy from the Long Beach Chapter appearing in the January 1984 edition of Westunes Magazine.

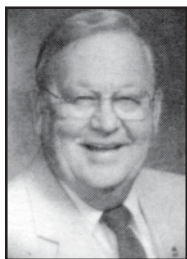
Chapter 9

November 1986 - October 1991



*The "Great Western Timbre Co."
1986 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1987 & 1988*

In late 1986 the Hayloft Restaurant in Torrance, which had featured barbershop quartets on Sunday afternoons for more than ten years, closed. The newest chapter in the District was the Lassen County Chapter of Susanville which was licensed in May and chartered in November 1986. The new Redlands Chapter put on a big charter show in December of 1986, receiving its charter in 1987, and went on to win the small chorus contest in Anaheim in March 1987. The 1986 Bulletin Editor of the Year was Herb Bayles of the South Bay Chapter. In 1986 the FWD contributed \$98,000 to Logopedics, the Society charitable project. The Hall of Fame Award went to Jerry Graham (posthumously). The Lassen County Chapter was chartered in November.



*Howard Mesecher
FWD Hall of
Fame 1987*

The Coachella Valley Chapter was chartered in March 1987. The 1987 FWD Hall of Fame award went to Howard Mesecher. FWD Achievement Awards went to Foothill Cities, Napa Valley, Reno, Palomar-Pacific, San Luis Obispo, Sacramento and Whittier chapters. In April, the "Razzle Dazzle" quartet from the San Fernando Valley Chapter paid a visit to the Fairbanks, Alaska Chapter and were given a deed to a square inch of land at the North Pole. Long time FWD Treasurer Carl Campbell resigned and was replaced by Jim Sherman, bass with the 1975 District champion "San Francisco Storm Door and Whale Oil Company" quartet. the District Board voted to award trophies to the choruses scoring highest in each of the six membership plateaus.

District goals for 1987 were developed by a committee

chaired by Ken Custer. The number-one goal was musical director development since there were more than 15 chapters in the District without musical directors and a survey showed that only 7 out of 70 chapters were completely satisfied with their directors. The first Musical Directors' Forum was held in Fresno that June. Other goals were to encourage every chorus in the FWD to participate in its divisional contest, and to encourage more participation in the chorus coaching program.

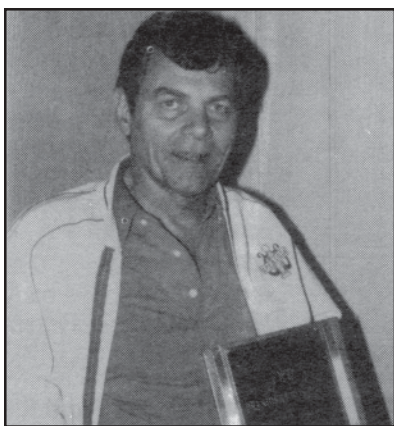
During 1987 International Staff visits to the FWD were made by Mel Knight, Tom Gentry, Bill Myers, Burt Szabo and Jim DeBusman. District Historian Bob Bisio developed a first-of-a-kind history display for the Regional Preliminaries in Anaheim in March, 1987. Gene Hartzler stepped down after 14 years as FWD Secretary and Floyd Thaller took over. A plaque



*Kidder & Sons, Inc.
1987 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1987 & 1988*

of appreciation was presented to Gene at the Spring Convention. Long Beach, the oldest chapter in the FWD (chartered in 1939), was changing its meeting place to the basement of the University Lutheran Church. Jerry Orloff, then a member of the Peninsula Chapter, received a special pin from the International Office for bringing his 110th member into the Society. In March, "The Good Old Boys" quartet from the Crescenta Valley Chapter appeared on the Ken and Bob Show on KABC radio.

In 1987 the FWD Chorus Directors Guild was formed for the purpose of recruiting, retaining and educating chorus directors and developing a chorus director pool. Howard Mesecher was the Guild's first chairman. In June it would hold a chorus directors' seminar in Fresno. It was reported that the "139th Street Quartet" had competed at 10 International Contests, and each of its members had competed many times with other quartets



*Don Kidder
President's Award 1987*

George Kabacy, former contest judge, District Treasurer and Logopedics Chairman, Fullerton Chapter President and bulletin editor, and active quarteter, Joe Daniels, lead with the 1964 International Champion "Sidewinders" quartet, Lou Micco, tenor with the "Villains" quartet and very active Berkeley and Oakland-East Bay member, Lou Velzy who had served the District as Treasurer or Secretary for many years and was FWD President's Award recipient in 1972 and Jack Evans who sang bass with the 1960 International Champion "Evans Quartet."

In 1988 Larry Mires, a member of the newly licensed Bay Area Metro Chapter, took over from Fritz Grunewald as



*Chuck Hunter, Sr.
Far Western District President 1988-89
International Board Member 1990-91*

Editor of *Westunes*. The NorCal chapters put on a big Logopedics Spectacular show in San Francisco with a 400 man chorus directed by Bob Johnson. The Foothill Cities Chapter moved from Covina to Santa Fe Springs, California and hired Greg Lyne, who had directed the West Towns Chorus from Lombard, Illinois to the International championship in 1987, as chorus director. Smoke

before joining this one. The charter of the Imperial Valley Chapter was revoked by the District Board in accordance with a request from the survivors of the chapter.

The SoCal Mini-Harmony College was held in Redlands in August and the NorCal Mini-Harmony College was in Sunnyvale in September.

In 1987 we lost



Members of the Downey "Revelaires" Chorus at a "dress rehearsal" in preparation for their fourth annual singout at Glen Elen Nudist Resort. No last-minute alterations needed!

Tree Travel Agency of Palm Springs was adopted as the official FWD travel agency. The decision was made to allow any chorus to compete in a division other than its own. The 2nd annual FWD Chorus Director's Seminar was held in Fresno in June.

At the Spring convention in Anaheim the 1987 FWD President's Award was given to Don Kidder. First prize in the Society song-writing contest went to Paul Olguin, Musical Director of the Fullerton Chapter and member of the Foothill Cities Chapter, for his arrangement of "I Was Born Seventy Years Too Late." Second prize also went to a FWD composer, William Nielson of the Whittier Chapter for his song "Main Street on Saturday Afternoon." Making three of the top five in the FWD, the fifth prize went to Brent Graham of the Santa Barbara Chapter for his song, "Cuddle Up Close in My Old Model T."

In February 1988 we lost Fred Dregne, highly respected former San Fernando Valley Chapter President and Hall of Fame member and bari with the "Pacifcaires" quartet which placed 2nd three times in International competition. For better news, at the 1988 summer convention in San Antonio, Texas, FWD's Terry Aramian was elected International Vice President. The Chorus Directors' Seminar was again held in Fresno in June at which awards were given to the following directors: Ron Black, Lou Laurel, Rick Gulliver and (posthumously) Joe Daniels. At the June Board meeting, dates for division contests were established for the next ten years, and also it was determined that a majority vote of the District Board would be required in order for a chapter to relocate its meeting place to another town or city. A District Songwriters' Guild was formed with Division VP Dan Wilson playing a big part in its formation. At the October Board meeting it was decided that each district vice-president, in addition to his regular duties, would be responsible for at least one standing committee. Also at that meeting it was decided that the convention registration fees for young people 12 years and under would be one-half the adult fee which was raised from \$12 to \$15.

Gil Jacobs, former FWD President and International Board Member, recipient of the President's Award and member of the FWD Hall of Fame, quarteter and holder of many District and chapter offices, passed away in October 1988. Also in October, the Los Angeles Chapter, which had originally been

chartered in 1950 but disbanded in 1959, was re-chartered. At the District convention in Bakersfield, 50% of the District Board members competed in the quartet contest. C.O.T.S. (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) was held in Sunnyvale and Anaheim in November. Forty-five members of the San Luis Obispo Chapter made a two-week concert tour of New South Wales, Australia. We lost another big FWD name in November when Don Galvin passed away. Don had been a chapter and FWD President and International Board Member and was well-known for singing lead with the very funny "Manhattans" quartet. In late 1988 Bob Allen of the San Mateo Chapter took over as Editor of *Westunes*.

In February 1989 we lost Howard Scanlan, a long time member of the El Monte and Arcadia chapters and active quarteter.



"Musician's Choice"
1988 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1988, 1989, 1990

Howard knew hundreds of old songs and a number of "139th Street Quartet" novelty tunes were suggested to them by Howard. The 1989 Society Mid-Winter Convention was hosted by the FWD's Aloha Chapter in Honolulu. In March the FWD Board voted to move the deadline for chapter officer elections for the next year back to August 1, with the suggestion that they be held in July. The 1889 FWD International Prelims in San Jose were interesting in that 7 of the top 10 quartets either were, or would later become District champions. In attendance at that contest was Betty Anne Cash, daughter of Society founder O. C. Cash.

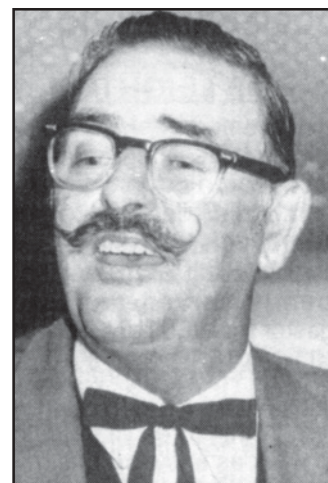
Plans for a 1990 Logopedics Spectacular in San Francisco were scrapped since potential planners would be too involved with the 1990 Society Convention in San Francisco. The FWD Board directed the Songwriters' Guild to hold a song writing contest in connection with that 1990 San Francisco convention. In May the Redlands Chapter sponsored a chorus marathon that featured six choruses and seven quartets. Also in 1989 the Pasadena Chapter announced that it was now a "chapter of quartets" rather than a chapter chorus with a few quartets as backup." At the June FWD Board meeting it was voted to have the Association of Far Western District Champions (AFWDC) put on a show at the Fall District Convention on Friday night following the quartet semi-final contest. The Board also voted to

have a double panel of judges for the fall contest. Mini Harmony Colleges were held in July at Riverside and September in Sunnyvale.

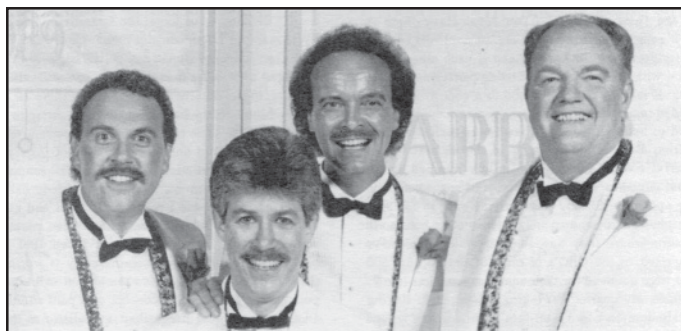
At the 22nd annual Comedy Quartet Contest hosted by the Palomar-Pacific Chapter, the winner was "Tortilla Flats" with members from the Crescenta Valley, Pomona Valley and Riverside chapters. In August 1989, an International Judges School was held at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. The Santa Ana Chapter was allowed to move to Westminster and change its name accordingly. The Channel Islands Chapter changed its name to the Ventura Chapter.

The Board voted that no editorials can appear in *Westunes*. C.O.T.S. sessions were again held at Anaheim and Sunnyvale in November. On October 18 the FWD Chorus Directors' Guild honored Steve Carrick, posthumously, for his many contributions to barbershopping including directing the Berkeley/Oakland-East Bay and Walnut Creek choruses as well as the Marin Sweet Adelines. An enthusiastic crowd showed up for the function, considering that the Loma Prieta earthquake occurred the day before. Steve medaled as tenor with the "Baytown Four" quartet and toured with the road company of "The Music Man" singing tenor with the "Frisco Four." He was in good company as the Guild had previously honored Marv Yerkey and Joe Daniels, also posthumously. The Fall District Convention included a high school quartet contest for the first time.

In May 1989 we lost Chet Hodapp, tenor with the 1948 District champs "Four Staters" and 1950 District champs "San Diego Serenaders" which had its own radio and TV shows in San Diego in the '50's. In December, Bob Paschke, bass with the "Sentimental Gentlemen" passed away. Bob had made quartet tours to New Zealand and Hong Kong and had toured several other countries with a choral group.



Bob Allen
President's Award 1989



"Harmony Spectrum"
1989 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1989, 1990, 1991

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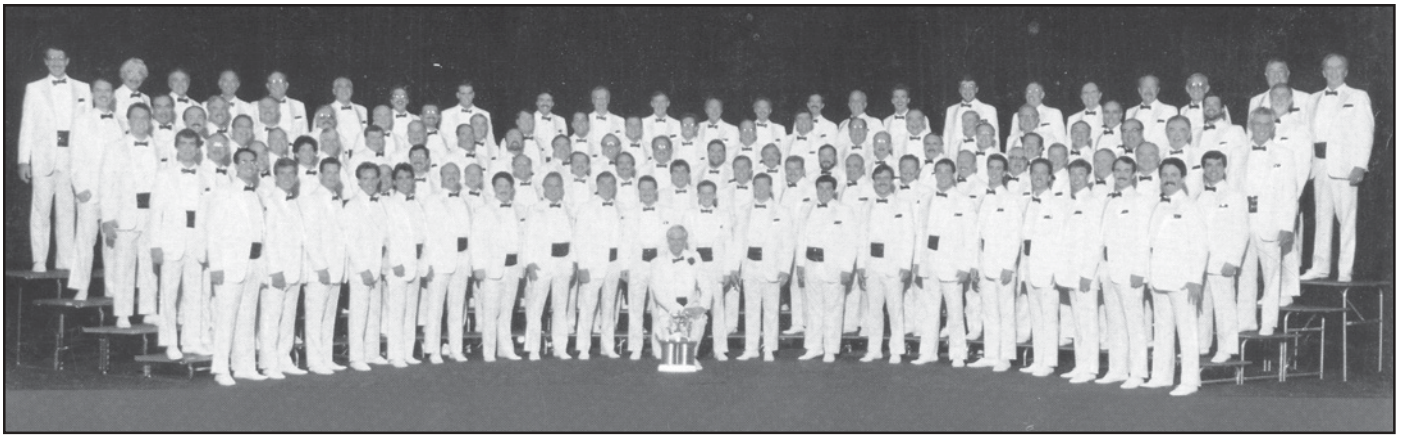
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Ad Copy for the 1989 Long Beach Chapter's 50th Anniversary Show



The "Masters of Harmony" - 1990 International Chorus Champions - Dr. Greg Lyne, Musical Director

1990 was a big year for the Far Western District. The Society's Mid-Winter Convention was held in Tucson and the Society's Summer Convention was in San Francisco. Even the Pasadena Rose Parade had as its theme "World of Harmony."



*Lloyd Steinkamp
Far Western District
President 1990-91
International Board
Member 1992-93
FWD Hall of Fame 1974*

Possibly because the Society Seniors' contest was held at the Midwinter Convention in Tucson, the FWD senior quartets took 3rd ("The Survivors"), 5th ("Four Old Parts"), 6th ("Plus Four"), 7th ("Patchwork of Old Quartets"), 9th ("Yesterday's Rascals"), 10th ("The Old Dogs"), 15th ("3 Century 4") and 16th ("Quatro Nostro") places and the 8th place quartet ("Hal's Senior Class") was part FWD and part MAD (Mid-Atlantic District). At the Midwinter Convention, the Society Board, with an eye to the membership decline, voted to lower the requirements to license (12 men)

and charter (16 men) a new chapter, and 12 to compete as a chorus. *Westunes* Editor Bob Allen wrote: "Now if they could just do something about aching feet, lower back pain, tired leg muscles and fading memories, perhaps some of us old codgers could get back on the risers."

The FWD held its own song-writing contest with two objectives: 1) To commemorate barbershopping and 2) to recognize San Francisco, the host city for the summer convention. Paul Engel and his wife Monica won with a song "When You Ring a Chord on a Cable Car" which was published in the March-April issue of *Westunes* that year. It was expected that the San Francisco Convention would break the Society Convention attendance record of 10,300 set the last time the convention was in San Francisco. Then, perhaps because of the earthquake a few months earlier, the fire marshall reduced the possible seating in the Cow Palace from 10,700 to 9,400 so there went the new record, but every seat was sold by March. In April, the "Standing Room Only" quartet sang over the telephone on a local FM radio station. If you think doing a sing-out over the phone is unusual, consider that each singer was at a different phone in a different location!

For the first time a chapter sent most of its members to the Society's Harmony College in St. Joseph, Missouri in late July and early August. That chapter was FWD's Whittier Chapter.



*"L. A. Tymes"
International Representatives 1990*

In 1990 it was announced that the 1989 FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year was the editor of the San Mateo Chapter bulletin who just happened to also be *Westunes* editor Bob Allen. The 4th annual Chorus Directors' Seminar was held in Riverside in June. Under a new system for qualification, the FWD sent 7 quartets to the

contest in San Francisco. At the San Francisco convention a Russian quartet, "Rostov-On-Don" (or "The Quiet Don") quartet appeared



*Ray & Bev Magill
President's Award 1990*

on one of the shows but did not compete. In June the Porterville Chapter was disbanded. John Krizek was appointed FWD Communications Officer. Three new chapters were chartered in 1990:



"Special Feature"

1990 Far Western District Champions

International Representatives 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1996

Apple Valley, Rohnert Park and Folsom.

A system of establishing three choruses as winners according to chapter size on December 31 of the previous year which had been in effect for Division contests was extended to the District contest. The categories were A (40 or less members), AA (41-75 members) and AAA (76 or more members). Due to *Westunes* Editor Bob Allen's illness, Assistant Editor Ray Thomas put out two issues and then Owen Edwards of the San Fernando Valley Chapter took on the job.

On August 30 we lost Andy Dill who was a past District president and Int'l. Board member, and very active in Contest and Judging. He was also a member of the FWD Hall of Fame. The Sacramento Chapters -- men's and ladies' -- held an "Old-Tyme Barbershop Quartet Jamboree."

The first FWD Seniors' Quartet Contest was held at the 1991 Spring Convention in Sacramento with the "Erin Boys" winning. Also in 1991 the first High School Quartet Contests were held at the Division contests with the top three in each division to be eligible to compete at a contest held in conjunction with the District Fall Convention. A new chapter in Orange, California was being formed with more emphasis on quartets and fun and less on chorus and competition. The 1990 Bulletin Editor of the Year was Bob Rice, editor of the San Diego *Sun Harbor Light*. Larry Mires, editor of the BAM *Gold Standard* won the small bulletin contest. The 5th annual Chorus Directors' Seminar was held in Sunnyvale in June.

In March 1991 the District Board voted to move the deadline for chapter elections ahead to September 30. The Board decided that requests by choruses or quartets to compete in divisions other than their own must be approved by the two District Vice Presidents of the divisions involved. If they can't agree the District President will make the decision. The Board also decided to combine the July and August issues of the District magazine *Westunes* each summer. District champion quartets would be allowed to have their business card appear in *Westunes* for the rest of the year at no charge to them. The Board decided to change the official District travel agency to the Society agency, Classic World Travel. The Santa Cruz and Sonora chapters were allowed to disband per their request. The Board also approved a

non-scoring performance category for division and District chorus contests for a one-year trial in 1992, subject to approval by the Contest & Judging Committee (the committee did approve).

The FWD sent a record number of quartets (8) to the 1991 Society summer contest. During the year a number of chapter choruses made appearances on radio or TV including the Aloha, Sacramento and Foothill Cities chapters. The BAM chorus sang the National Anthem for a Giants/Phillies game for the third time. After a hiatus of four years, the San Francisco Chapter held another "Barbershop Harmony on the Bay" cruise which is a four-hour ferry cruise for barbershoppers featuring the Cable Car Chorus and a number of quartets, male, female and both, from NorCal. On July 16, the Riverside Chapter sponsored their 2nd annual Barberpole Cat Quartet Contest, which was won by "Four Spacious Guys" from the Palomar-Pacific Chapter. Shortly after the Santa Cruz Chapter was disbanded, the Scotts Valley Chapter was moved to Santa Cruz. The Hemet Chapter was chartered in August 1991. We learned that Bob Richardson, bass with the



"California Gentry"

International Representatives 1991

1961 District champion "Forte Niners" quartet and director of the Eden-Hayward Chapter chorus for many years including 1957 and 1958 when they were District champions, had passed away in February.



"Swingtime"

International Representatives 1991



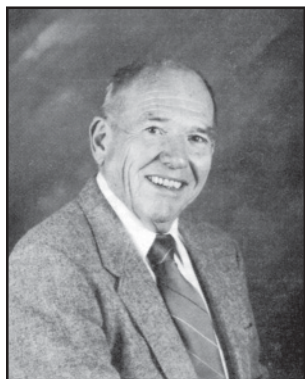
Chapter 10

November 1991 - October 1996



"Nightlife"
1991 Far Western District Champions
1996 International Champions
International Representatives
1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996

This period began with the District fall convention in San Diego with "Nightlife" winning the quartet contest and San Diego the chorus contest. Joe Trousdale of Sacramento and George Dick of South Bay were honored for 50 years of Society membership. Jack Hines received the FWD President's Award from District President Lloyd Steinkamp. One feature of the



Dick Girvin
FWD President 1992-93
Int'l Board Member 1994-95
FWD Hall of Fame 1984
President's Award 1979

District convention was the first annual High School Quartet Contest, won by "Harmonic Institution" from La Crescenta High School. There was much concern over the steady drop in Society membership. The Orange (CA) Chapter was chartered with the aim of emphasizing quarteting and holding meetings much like those in the early days of the Society.

In January of 1992 the Long Beach Chapter hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention for the first time. Later in 1992 a new event made available to choruses

at District conventions was the "Performance Class" which would allow a chapter not wishing to compete, to put on a mini-show of up to 12 minutes that could include emcees, quartets, chorus, jugglers, musical instruments or whatever. Also in 1992, the second annual FWD Senior Quartet Contest was held at the Spring convention. Still another event in 1992 was the merger of the Riverside, Redlands and San Bernardino chapters into one big chapter known as the Inland Cities Chapter.

Contest judging categories at this time were Sound, Interpretation, Stage Presence and Arrangement. There was a proposal to change the categories to Music, Singing and Presentation. One feature of the proposed system was a common ground, consisting of singing in tune, quality of sound, barbershop style and suitability to the performer, which would be covered by all judges. This change did become official at the Society Mid-Winter Convention in Long Beach, to take effect in 1993.

In 1992 the District lost former *Westunes* Editor Bob Allen, Harmony for Lunch pioneer Dick Smith and past District and Society president Wes Meier.



"Standing Room Only (SRO)"
1992 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives
1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997



The "Masters of Harmony" - 1993 International Chorus Champions - Dr. Greg Lyne, Musical Director

In 1993 the High School Quartet Contest was moved to the spring convention which now included District Senior Quartet and Small Chorus contests in addition to the traditional contest to determine the quartets that would represent the District at the Society contest in the summer. In that summer contest, the FWD



*"California Forte"
International Representatives 1993, 1994*

had 7 quartets with 4 of them placing in the top 7. In the Society chorus contest, the "Masters of Harmony" chorus from Santa Fe Springs, CA and the FWD won the gold. Lou Laurel, past Phoenicians director was named "Society Judge Emeritus" at that summer convention. Dean Scoville received the 1993 FWD President's Award.

In January 1993 the Bay Area Metro Chapter chorus performed for the Bay Area High School Music Educators' conference. Movie and TV actor Tim Conway appeared on the Los Angeles Chapter show. In February the South Bay Chapter chorus appeared on the CBS "Good Morning" show, and the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter celebrated its 50 years of existence. The Westminster Chapter, finding itself in danger of folding, inaugurated a program of having fun with emphasis on Barberpole Cat singing, and survived. That summer the "Rostov-On-Don" (or "Quiet Don") barbershop quartet from Russia toured the Far Western District with their singing wives.

In the Spring of 1993, six small chapters of Northern California got together for a joint meeting and sang Pole Cat Songs. In November, the six chapters put on a show in Yountville

featuring the combined chorus, with each chapter responsible for a part of the program which earned over \$1800 for local high school music programs. The chapters were Rohnert Park, Marin, Santa Rosa, Ukiah, Lake County and Napa Valley.

In 1993 the District and Society lost Reddie Wright who passed away in March. Reddie was founder and first president of the Pasadena Chapter and a past District and Society president and holder of many District offices.

The first FWD "Harmony College West" was held in Irvine in August 1993. In December of that year, the Mesa (AZ) Lamplighter Chapter received its charter.



*Dean Scoville
President's Award 1993*

Because of a major earthquake in Southern California which broke ground 2 miles from *Westunes* Editor Owen Edwards' house, the January 1994 issue of *Westunes* was delayed and combined with the February issue. Membership in the Society was still dropping but the loss was declining. In June 1994, Emmett Bossing, Fritz Grunewald and Tony Keith were credited with extending the life of a patient



*"Rhythm & Rhyme"
1993 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996*

who had been sent home to die within 15 days by his doctors. These three began singing with him and three months later he was still singing and laughing.



*"The Rad Dads"
International Representatives 1994*

In October 1994, the "Sound Investors" quartet from San Jose with Chuck Hunter filling in on bass, performed on the Paula Poundstone Show on ABC TV. It was announced that membership was holding steady within the division. The SoCal quartet "Variety" appeared on a segment of the TV show "Burke's Law." Three NorCal quartets, "Delta Music Society," "Noteworthy" and "Mother's Delight" appeared on PBS TV in Sacramento. A major issue was the decision by the Society Board to allow non-Society members to direct choruses in the Society.

In 1994 John Krizek was inducted into the FWD Hall of Fame. The new Show Low (AZ) Chapter was chartered as were the North Valley Chapter in Paradise, CA and the Banning-Beaumont Chapter which meets in Beaumont. The Lake County Chapter disbanded, and Eden-Hayward merged with Oakland-East Bay to form the East Bay Chapter. Many chapters reported working with local elementary and high schools to introduce barbershop style singing and support their music programs. For the second year in a row 40% of the medallists (top 5) at the Society summer contest were from the FWD.



*John Krizek
FWD Hall of Fame
1994*

Another change in 1994 was the elimination of the District Barbershoppers Shop inventory with plans to simply acquire merchandise on an event by event basis. The 1994 FWD President's Award went to Doug Maddox. As the "Keep America Singing" program aired on PBS television stations, many FWD barbershoppers manned the phones for their local PBS station fund drives. The FWD membership decreased by more than 100 members in 1994. The Aloha Chapter Chorus performed and competed in New Zealand. In 1994 we lost some very active barbershoppers including Don Webster and Leon Sewell and Paul "Doc" Spangler.

1995 was a big year in District history. In early 1995 there was still concern over enrollment in the District and in the Society but there had been a slight increase in enrollment in the District in 1994. Of the District chapters responding to a poll, the use of non-member chorus directors was favored by a margin of 2 to 1. The Coachella Valley, Prescott, Whittier, Ventura, South Bay, San Luis Obispo and Phoenix Saguaro chapters received

Charitable Award Certificates from Kenosha. Bulletin contest awards went to San Fernando Valley's Don Heist and Fullerton's Bob Hein. Emmett Bossing and Jack Hines received Judge Emeritus Awards. The Tucson Chapter did their usual fine job of hosting the Society Mid-Winter Convention. At the spring convention in Fresno, Val Hicks received a special award from District President Don Gubbins. As a sign of the times, the FWD Directory listed FAX and e-mail addresses of members along with the usual information.

The San Jose Chorus was invited to compete at the Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio in August and did so. In September the Stockton Chapter Chorus and their quartet "That Good Feeling" sang for a business conference with former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and movie actor Charlton Heston in the audience



*Don Gubbins
Far Western District President 1994-95
International Board Member 1996-97*

The District voted to assist chapters in paying for outside coaches. Outstanding Achievement Awards for charitable donations went to Merced, Orange, Santa Barbara, Las Vegas and Fullerton chapters. Bulletin editing awards went to Gale Sherrodd of Whittier and Bob Hein of Fullerton. A new chapter was licensed in Pahrump, Nevada. The Scotts Valley Chapter changed its name to the Santa Cruz Chapter. The District Board reduced convention registrations for children and full-time students and created a competitor-only registration and also voted to waive the District dues for any resident with 50 or more years in the Society. The Board voted to set the qualifying score for the District contest at 760, and to integrate the senior contests with the other Division and District contests and they voted to dedicate the Fall 1996 contest to Earl Moon.



*"Western Union"
1994 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993*

**MUSICAL
MEMORIES
OF THE
BIG BAND ERA**

THE BEST OF BARBERSHOP 1995 PRESENTS

**"I'LL BE
SEEING
YOU"**

STARRING
THE PHOENICIANS
DIRECTED BY GARY STEINKAMP
THREE TIME WORLD CHAMPIONS!

CO-STARRING
FRED
DIRECT FROM MARIETTA, GEORGIA
AND FEATURING
THE HONEYBUNS

**40's
JIVE!**

**TICKETS
NOW
ON SALE**

LIVE AT
GAMMAGE
AUDITORIUM ON THE ASU CAMPUS
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 8:00 PM
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1:00 & 8:00 PM

Ad Copy from the Phoenixians' 1995 Annual Show

During 1995, because of increasing numbers of chapters and contests in other countries, the term "International" to describe activities in this country was to be replaced by "Society." In November, the Downey Chapter, which had been in existence for 42 years, and whose chorus had been District champs three times and had placed 3rd and 4th in Society contests, and whose quartets had two firsts and one second place in District competition, disbanded. In December "The Winning Combination" quartet from the Whittier Chapter toured New Zealand



"Brass Ring"
International Representatives 1995

Also in 1995, Dick Girvin's phone number was wrong on a COTS registration form resulting in many calls going to a bed-ridden lady instead of to Dick. She later called Dick to say



"Vintage Blend"
1995 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1995, 1996, 1997

that she enjoyed the calls from the barbershoppers who were all "polite, friendly and outgoing" and considered them a Christmas present. The San Diego Chapter put a Christmas show charging \$6 plus a container of food to be turned over to the Salvation Army for needy families.

In October of 1995, the Board voted to provide free registrations for the Spring Convention to District barbershoppers new to the Society in 1996. The Far Western District was named the Society's "Quality District of 1995." The leading recruiter for the FWD was Jack Woodard and Phoenix Saguario was the top chapter for bringing in new members.

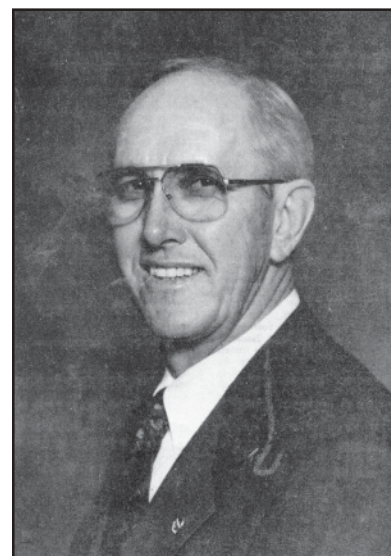
Early in 1996 Operation Harold Hill, a Society plan to increase membership, was put into action. Among other perks, any new member joining in January and February was given a free ticket to the District Spring Convention. In June 1996 the Far Western District conducted the first ever Youth Harmony Camp near Victorville with Lloyd Steinkamp serving as

"Kampmeister." Lu Quinney of the San Diego Chapter was named winner of the large bulletin contest and Dick Mack of the Ukiah Chapter was named winner of the small bulletin contest for 1995. Ventura won the Small Chorus Contest.

In 1996 new chapters were licensed in Covina, CA, San Ramon Valley, CA, Antioch, CA, Truckee, NV, Sun Cities, AZ, North Hills, CA, San Clemente, CA and Fremont-Milpitas, CA. The San Ramon license was later withdrawn. The Hanford Chapter disbanded. It was announced that for 1997, chapters could now elect a minimum of four chapter officers to include at least a President, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President

for Chapter Development and Vice President for Music and Performance. District officers were to include, at least, the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President for Chorus Director Development, Vice President for Events, Vice President for Chapter Support and Leadership Training, Vice President for Contest and Judging, Vice President for Marketing, Vice President for Member Services and Vice President for Music and Performance.

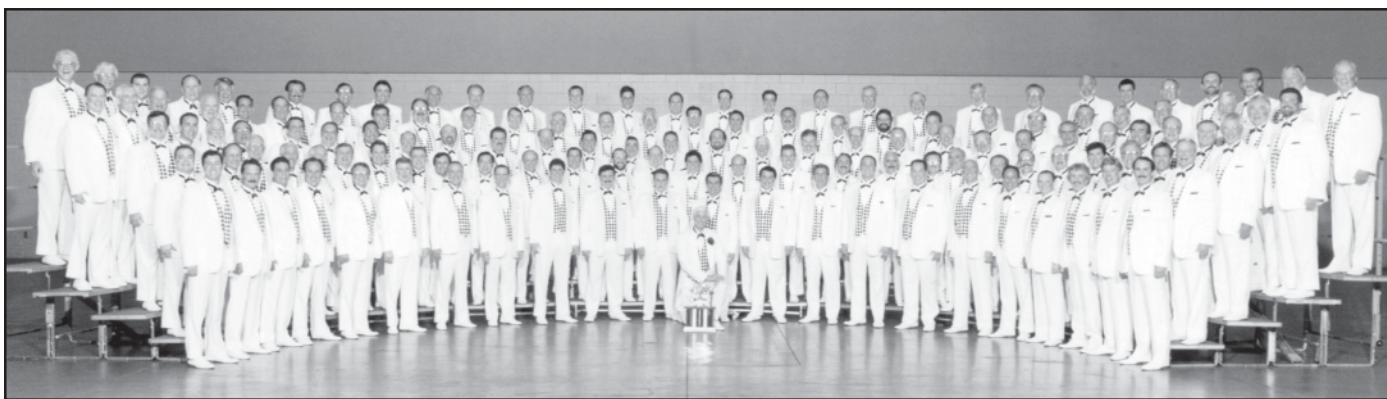
In February of 1996 District quartets did a total of 1952 Singing Valentines. In March the "Santa Monica Oceanaires" quartet appeared on the PBS special, "The World's Largest Concert." Also in March the San Fernando Valley Chapter conducted a Barbershop Invitational Sing-off in a local shopping area and wondered if it might be the start of an FWD version of the Buckeye Invitational which is held in Columbus, Ohio each year. In April the "Harold Hill Chorus," consisting of 31 young



Bob House
Far Western District President
1996-97



"Revival"
International Representatives 1996, 1997



The "Masters of Harmony" - 1996 International Chorus Champions - Dr. Greg Lyne, Musical Director

men and women from 10 different high and middle schools, performed as a featured act on the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter show.

The "139th Street Quartet" became the first barbershop quartet to receive Gold and Platinum Awards from the Record Industry Association of America, for their part in arranging and performing on Neil Diamond's Christmas Albums Vol. I and II which had sold over 5 million copies.

In 1996 the FWD NorCal East Division decided, with approval from District officials, to test a program whereby a chorus could compete and receive evaluation without its score being published. It was thought that this might get more chapter choruses to participate. Achievement Awards were earned by the Chico, North Valley, Redding Riverside, Stockton, Visalia, East Bay, Santa Cruz and Scottsdale chapters. Joe Salz was named chairman of the FWD 50-Year Celebration Committee.

In January, 1996, we lost Leo Hawel, a backbone member of the Santa Barbara Chapter. In March we lost Earl Moon, a big loss to both the District and the Society. The Whittier Chapter put out a special publication "Light of the Moon" containing various barbershoppers' fond memories of Earl and held a special

Bakersfield. "Metropolis" was the winner of the quartet contest and the "Phoenicians" won their unprecedented thirteenth championship and would represent the district at the Society



The "Dapper Dans" of Disney World



*"Metropolis"
1996 Far Western District Champions
International Representatives 1994, 1995, 1997*

night in his memory.

In late July, the San Jose chorus and quartets flew to New Zealand to compete in a chorus contest and assist with workshops and with their first Harmony College.

In October, the Far Western District began its year-long 50th Anniversary celebration at the fall convention held in

summer convention in Indianapolis.

There have been a great many tales and a steady stream of activities during these past fifty years. We have shared many joys and suffered many losses along the way. We have made many friends, traveled many miles, told many stories, and sung many songs. We have grown to become one of the outstanding districts in the Society, and can boast many championships, yet we have not lost sight of the man who simply likes to sing for fun. Our founding fathers would be pleased to see the tremendous progress we have made, and may rest in peace knowing the harmony lives on. We owe them a lot! ☺



Appendix A

District Officers



1946-47

President Russel C. Stanton
 Int'l. Board Member Charles M. Merrill
 Vice President Don Grenfell
 Secretary/Treasurer James O Blethen

1947-48

President James C. "Jack" Hare
 Int'l. Board Member Russell C. Stanton
 Vice President Bill C. Balsley
 Secretary/Treasurer James O. Blethen

1948-49

President James O. Blethen
 Int'l. Board Member Russel C. Stanton
 Vice President A. L. Clapp
 Secretary/Treasurer Hatch Graham/Jud Baldwin

1949-50

President Dayton Colville
 Int'l. Board Members Earl B. Reagan & Dayton Colville
 Vice President George O. Pranspill
 Secretary/Treasurer Richard N. Schenck

1950-51

President Dayton Colville
 Int'l. Board Member Richard N. Schenck
 Vice Presidents George O. Pranspill/
 Harvey Dixon
 Secretary Richard N. Schenck
 Treasurer Wayne Allen

1951-52

President Reddie Wright
 Int'l. Board Member Dick Schenck;
 Secretary Dick Schenck
 Treasurer O. H. Davidson
 1st V.P Extension-Membership-
 Inter-Chapter Relations Wayne Allen
 2nd VP Community Service-
 Quartet Promotion-
 Armed Forces Collaboration John MacDonald

1952-53

President R. N. "Dick" Schenck
 Int'l Board Member Reddie Wright
 Secretary R. T. "Dick" DeBusk
 Treasurer O. H. Davidson
 1st VP Extension Wayne H. Allen
 Temporary 1st VP
 (in Wayne Allen's absence) Verne Miller
 VP Community Service Claude Greerty
 VP Inter-chapter Relations Paul Smith
 VP Chapter Activities C. R. "Rudy" Thuor

1953-54

President G. Marvin Brower
 Int'l. Board Member Reddie Wright
 Int'l House of Delegates Member .. G. Marvin Brower
 Secretary Jerry Graham
 Treasurer H. A. "Tex" Modlin
 1st VP Chapter Achievement Jim Clarke
 VP Inter-chapter Relations Budd Boyle
 VP Community Service A. J. Wagner
 VP District Magazine Dick DeBusk

1954-55

President James Clarke
 Int'l. Board Member Reddie Wright
 Secretary Jerry Graham
 Treasurer Tex Modlin
 1st V.P Extension Budd Boyle
 VP Community Service &
 Public Relations Homer Aspy
 VP Inter-chapter Relations Howard Cooper
 VP Membership Don Scholtz
 Chief Area Counselor Bob Bisio

1955-56

President	Howard Cooper/George Dohn
Int'l. Board Member	Homer Aspy
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Don Plumb
VP Leadership Training	Don Scholtz/Hal Harris
VP Inter-chapter Relations	Lou Velzy
VP Extension	Bill Parry
VP Membership	Carl Hancuff
<i>(who replaced George Dohn when he took over the presidency)</i>	
Chief Area Counselor	Bill Miller

1956-57

President	Wm. Parry
Int'l. Board Member	Homer Aspy
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Lou Velzy
V.P Quartet Promotion	Bill Manthei
VP Extension	O. R. Marvel
VP Membership	H. Edw. McKinney
VP Long-Range Planning and	
Inter-Chapter Relations	Mahlon Kilgore
Chief Area Counselor	Joe Trousdale

1957-58

President	Joe Trousdale
Int'l Board Member	Jim Clarke
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Lou Velzy
VP Membership &	
Quartet Promotion	Bud Wagner/Jim Arnold
VP Extension	Royal Forbes
VP Contest and Judging	Bob Oertel
VP Leadership Training &	
Barbershop Craft	Joe White
Chief Area Counselor	Jim Powell

1958-59

President	Jim Arnold
Int'l. Board Member	Jim Clarke
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Bill Henne
V.P Inter-Chapter Relations	H. E. McKinney
VP Quartet Promotion	Don Plumb
VP Membership	Lloyd Steinkamp
VP Extension	Les Woodson
Chief Area Counselor	Jim Powell

1959-60

President	George Dohn
Int'l. Board Members	Jim Clarke, Jerry Graham
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Bill Henne
VP Barbershop Craft and	
Leadership Training	Val Hicks
VP Contest and Judging	Wes Meier
VP Chorus Preliminary Contests	Lloyd Steinkamp
VP Extension	Les Woodson
Chief Area Counselor	Bob Stitt

July - December 1960

(As of January 1961, the start of the one-year period of office switched from July 1 to January 1.)

President	Wes Meier
Int'l. Board Members	Jim Clarke, Jerry Graham
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Casey Feenstra
VP Chorus Contests,	
Expansion Fund	Barrie Best
VP Contests and Judging	Bob Bisio
VP Membership	Bill Merry
VP Chapter Methods	Chuck DeFreitas
Chief Area Counselor	Jack Hines

1961

President	Wes Meier
Int'l. Board Member	George Dohn
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Casey Feenstra
VP Contests and Judging	Bob Bisio
VP Expansion and	
Preliminary Chorus Contests	Barrie Best
VP Chapter Methods	Russ Humphreys
VP Membership	Bill Merry
Chief Area Counselor	Jack Hines

1962

President	Barrie Best
Int'l. Board Member	Wes Meier
Secretary	Jerry Graham
Treasurer	Lou Velzy
Division V.P's	Don Galvin, Jack Hines, Jerry Nicholson, Fred Stewart
Chief Area Counsellor	Dutch Holland

President	John Currin
Executive V.P.	Jack Hines
Int'l. Board Member	Lynn Brittan.
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Joe Salz
Division V.P.'s	Andy Dill, Bill Esmeier, Jim Hickman, Cliff Valentine
Public Relations V.P.	John Krizek

President	Jack Hines
Executive VP	Bill Park
Int'l. Board Member	Lynn Brittan
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Joe Salz
Division VP's:	Andy Dill, Jim Hickman, Bill Merry, Al Tolpingrud
Public Relations VP	Howard Mesecher

President	Bill Park
Executive VP	Andy Dill
Int'l. Board Member	Jack Hines
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Joe Salz
Division VP's	John Burby, Bill Merry, Dave Thorell, Al Tolpingrud
Public Relations VP	Howard Mesecher

President	Bill Park/Andy Dill
Executive VP	Andy Dill/Al Tolpingrud
Int'l. Board Member	Jack Hines
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Joe Salz
Division VP's	John Burby, Beryl Caron, Elmer Lee, Howard Mesecher, Dave Thorell and Al Tolpingrud/Fred Koch

President	Andy Dill
Executive VP	Beryl Caron
Int'l. Board Member	Gil Jacobs
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Joe Salz
Division VP's	George Campbell, Floyd Holmquist, Fred Koch, Rick Leal and Don McAvoy

President	Beryl Caron
Executive VP	Fred Koch
Int'l. Board Member	Gil Jacobs
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	George Andrews, Stu Brown, John Burby, Floyd Holmquist and Don McAvoy

President	Beryl Caron
Executive VP	Fred Koch
Int'l. Board Member	Andy Dill.
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	George Andrews, Stu Brown, John Burby, Don McAvoy and Don Stephenson

President	Fred Koch
Executive VP	Don McAvoy
Int'l. Board Member	Andy Dill
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	George Andrews, Sam Barger, Stu Brown, Dick Garstang and Gary Larsen

President	Fred Koch
Executive VP	Don McAvoy
Int'l. Board Member	Beryl Caron
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	Terry Aramian, Sam Barger, Gary Larsen, Floyd Thaller and Charles Lowrey

President	Don McAvoy
Executive VP	Sam Barger
Int'l. Board Member	Beryl Caron
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	Terry Aramian, John Burby, Gary Larsen, Floyd Thaller and Charles Lowrey

President	Sam Barger
Executive VP	Terry Aramian
Int'l. Board Member	Fred Koch
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	Mike Hatfield, Terrel Perkins, Chuck Hunter, Floyd Thaller and Charles Lowrey

President	Sam Barger
Executive VP	Terry Aramian
Int'l. Board Member	Fred Koch.
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	Lloyd Steinkamp, Terrel Perkins, Chuck Hunter, Sr., Floyd Thaller and George Andrews

President	Terry Aramian
Executive VP	Chuck Hunter, Sr.
Int'l. Board Member	Sam Barger
Secretary	Gene Hartzler
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
District VP's	Lloyd Steinkamp, Terrel Perkins, Dick Hillis, Malcom Lincoln and Bob Wilkie

President	Terry Aramian
Executive VP	Chuck Hunter, Sr.
Int'l. Board Member	Sam Barger
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Carl Campbell
Division VP's	Lloyd Steinkamp, Dwight Wood, Dick Hillis, Bill Merry and Bob Wilke

President	Chuck Hunter, Sr.
Executive VP	Lloyd Steinkamp
Int'l. Board Member	Terry Aramian
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
Division VP's	Dan Wilson, Dwight Wood, Jim Hendricks, Bill Merry and Dean Scoville

President	Chuck Hunter, Sr.
Executive VP	Lloyd Steinkamp
Int'l. Board Member	Don McAvoy
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
Division VP's	Dan Wilson, Dwight Wood, Jim Hendricks, Bill Merry and Dean Scoville

President	Lloyd Steinkamp
Executive VP	Dwight Wood
Int'l. Board Member	Chuck Hunter, Sr.
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
Division VP's	Dale Weatherford, Henry Hammer, Don Gubbins, Dick Girvin and Dean Scoville

President	Lloyd Steinkamp
Executive VP	Dick Girvin
Int'l. Board Member	Chuck Hunter
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
District VP's	Deane Scoville, Chuck Wines, Hank Hammer, Don Gubbins and Dale Weatherford

President	Lloyd Steinkamp
Executive VP	Dick Girvin
Int'l. Board Member	Chuck Hunter
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
District VP's	Deane Scoville, Chuck Wines, Hank Hammer, Don Gubbins and Dale Weatherford

President	Dick Girvin
Executive VP	Don Gubbins
Int'l. Board Member	Lloyd Steinkamp
Secretary	Floyd Thaller
Treasurer	Jim Sherman
District VP's	Sam Stimple, Roger Mills, Henry Hammer, Chuck Wines/Bob House and Tom Raffety

1993

President Dick Girvin
Executive VP Don Gubbins
Int'l. Board Member Lloyd Steinkamp
Secretary Floyd Thaller
Treasurer Terry Blumenthal
District VP's Tom Raffety, Bob
House, Jim Sherman,
Robb Ollett and Sam
Stimple

1994

President Don Gubbins
Executive VP Bob House
Int'l. Board Member Dick Girvin
Secretary John Ford
Treasurer Terry Blumenthal
District VP's Tom Raffety, Bill Shova,
Jim Sherman, Robb
Ollett and Don Webster

1995

President Don Gubbins
Executive VP Bob House
Int'l. Board Member Dick Girvin
Secretary John Ford
Treasurer Terry Blumenthal
District VP's Todd Woolley, Bill
Shova, Sam Gonzalez,
Robb Ollett and Carl
Truman

1996

President Bob House
Executive VP Carl Truman
Int'l. Board Member Don Gubbins
Secretary John Ford
Treasurer Jim Sherman
District VP's Todd Woolley, Dan
Fullerton, Sam
Gonzalez, Jim Turnmire
and Al Mau



Appendix B

District Contests



Long Beach, April 25, 1947

Quartets

1. Bonanza Four Reno
2. Four Staters San Diego
3. Westernaires Phoenix Saguaro

San Francisco, May 1, 1948

Quartets

1. Four Staters San Diego
2. Wranglers Tucson
3. Bonanza Four Reno

San Diego, October 22 , 1949

Quartets

1. Westernaires Phoenix Saguaro
2. Crown City Four Pasadena
3. Tri-City Bell Huntington Park

Berkeley, October 21 , 1950

Quartets

1. San Diego Serenaders San Diego
2. Travelaires San Jose
3. Angel City Four Los Angeles

Bakersfield, October 13 , 1951

Quartets

1. Four Bits of Harmony Long Beach
2. Uncalled Four Berkeley
3. Travelaires San Jose

San Jose, October 25 , 1952

Quartets

1. Verdugo Dons Glendale-Burbank
2. Crown City Four Pasadena
3. Travelaires San Jose

Choruses

1. Eden-Hayward Chorus* ... Eden Hayward
2. Pasadena Chorus Pasadena

** The first Society chorus contest was held in Detroit in 1953 with districts limited to 2 choruses to be selected by the District President. FWD choruses were unable to arrange transportation.*

Pasadena, November 14, 1953

Quartets

1. Statesmen Sacramento
2. Crown City Four Pasadena
3. Travelaires San Jose

Choruses

1. San Diego Chorus(17) San Diego
2. Eden-Hayward Chorus Eden-Hayward

Bakersfield, October 16 , 1954

Quartets

1. West Coasters San Gabriel
2. Tired Travelers San Jose
3. Uncalled Four Berkeley

Choruses

1. Saltaires Chorus ** Marin
2. Arcadia Chorus Arcadia

***Marin was unable to make the 6200 mile round trip to Miami.*

Phoenix, October , 1955

Quartets

1. Crown City Four Pasadena
2. Sharpshooters Whittier
3. Bachelaires Tucson

Choruses

1. Berkeley Chorus (7) Berkeley
2. Arcadia Chorus Arcadia
3. Phoenix Chorus Phoenix Saguaro

San Gabriel, November 10 , 1956

Quartets

1. Sharpshooters Whittier
2. Desert Knights Phoenix Saguaro
3. Smog Lifters Whittier

Choruses

1. Californians (1) Berkeley
2. Phoenix Chorus Phoenix Saguaro

Bakersfield, October 12, 1957

Quartets

1. Desert Knights Phoenix Saguaro
2. Devil-Aires Phoenix Saguaro
3. Evans Quartet Salt Lake City

Choruses

1. Eden-Hayward Chorus * .. Eden-Hayward
 2. San Diego Chorus San Diego
- * The Far Western District did not send a chorus to the Society Contest in 1958.*

Santa Monica, October 25, 1958

Quartets

1. Bay Town Four Berkeley
2. Gala Lads Pasadena
3. Forte Niners Eden-Hayward

Choruses

1. Eden-Hayward Chorus (?) Eden-Hayward
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Phoenix Chorus Phoenix Saguaro

Alameda, October 24, 1959

Quartets

1. Saints South Bay
2. Feenstra Brothers Downey
3. Mystics Sacramento

Choruses

1. Californians (2) Berkeley
2. Saltaires Marin
3. Salt River Beachcombers . Phoenix Saguaro

Long Beach, October 22, 1960

Quartets

1. Gala Lads Alhambra
2. Forte Niners Eden-Hayward
3. Mystics Sacramento

Choruses

1. Revelaires (3) Downey
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Californians Berkeley

San Diego, October 14, 1961

Quartets

1. Forte Niners Eden-Hayward
2. Sidewinders Riverside
3. Mystics Sacramento

Choruses

1. Revelaires (4) Downey
2. Californians Berkeley
3. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego

San Francisco, October 20, 1962

Quartets

1. Sidewinders Riverside
2. Mystics Sacramento
3. Golden Staters Arcadia

Choruses

1. Californians (3) Berkeley
2. Eden-Hayward Chorus Eden-Hayward
3. Revelaires Downey

Long Beach, October 12, 1963

Quartets

1. Golden Staters Arcadia
2. Coast Liners South Bay
3. Rumors Scaramento

Choruses

1. Citrus Belters (5) Riverside
2. Capitolaires Sacramento
3. Phoenix Chorus Phoenix Saguaro

Sacramento, October 10, 1964

Quartets

1. Western Continentals Phoenix Saguaro
2. Coast Liners South Bay
3. Thermalaires Bakersfield

Choruses

1. Citrus Belters (6) Riverside
2. Californians Berkeley
3. Coast Liners South Bay

Phoenix, October 16, 1965

Quartets

1. Bunster Freely Sacramento
2. Pacesetters Downey
3. Salt Flats Salt Lake City

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (5) San Diego
2. The Copper Statesmen Phoenix Saguaro
3. Californians Berkeley

Fresno, October 15, 1966

Quartets

1. Thermalaires Bakersfield
2. Far Westerners Downey
3. Ringers Berkeley

Choruses

1. The Phoenicians (3) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. South Bay Chorus South Bay

San Diego, October 21, 1967

Quartets

1. Far Westerners Downey
2. Four Partners San Diego
3. Fresnotes Fresno

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (3) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Citrus Belters Riverside
3. Gaslight Chorus Arcadia

Las Vegas, October 28, 1968

Quartets

1. Gaslight Harmony Four ... Arcadia
2. Salt Flats Salt Lake City
3. Pacificaires Reseda

Choruses

1. Citrus Belters (5) Riverside
2. Gaslight Chorus Arcadia
3. Beehive Statesmen Salt Lake City

San Francisco, October 25, 1969

Quartets

1. Pacificaires Reseda
2. Ringers Berkeley
3. Crown City Good Time Music Co.
..... Pasadena

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (2) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Valleyaires Reseda
3. Beehive Statesmen Salt Lake City

San Diego, October 24, 1970

Quartets

1. Crown City Good Time Music Co.
..... Pasadena
2. Trebletonics Reseda & Conejo Valley
3. Ringers Berkeley

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (2) San Diego
2. Valleyaires Reseda
3. Citrus Belters Riverside

Santa Monica, October 9, 1971

Quartets

1. Californians Reseda
2. Stage Four Phoenix Saguaro
3. Pacific Union Club Peninsula

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (1) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Citrus Belters Riverside

Bakersfield, October 14, 1972

Quartets

1. Stage Four Phoenix Saguaro
2. Harmony Express Whittier
3. Pacific Union Club Peninsula

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (4) San Diego
2. Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Valleyaires Reseda

Fresno, October 18, 1973

Quartets

1. Harmony Express Whittier
2. Great Stage Robbery South Bay
3. Golden Gate Quartet Walnut Creek

Choruses

1. Peninsulaires (2) Peninsula
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Citrus Belters Riverside

Pasadena, October 12, 1974

Quartets

1. Command Performance Phoenix Saguaro
2. San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co.
..... Peninsula
3. Sound Committee Phoenix Saguaro

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (2) Phoenix Saguaro
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Citrus Belters Riverside

Sacramento, October 13, 1975

Quartets

1. San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co.
..... Peninsula
2. 139th Street Quartet Indian Wells & Whittier
3. Occidentals Whittier

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (1) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. The Peninsulaires Peninsula

Fresno, October 9, 1976

Quartets

1. 139th Street Quartet Indian Wells/Whittier
2. Occidentals Whittier
3. Gentlemen Songsters Whittier

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (3) San Diego
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Gold Note Chorus Fresno

Los Angeles, October 15, 1977

Quartets

1. Occidentals Whittier
2. Gentlemen Songsters Whittier
3. Sound Committee Phoenix Saguaro

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (6) San Diego
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Choralaires Whittier

Long Beach, October 14, 1978

Quartets

1. Grand Tradition El Cajon/San Diego/La
Crescenta
2. Gentlemen Songsters Whittier
3. Four Points West Whittier

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (4) Phoenix Saguaro
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Choralaires Whittier

Bakersfield, October 13, 1979

Quartets

1. Gentlemen Songsters Whittier
2. Kidder & Sons Vacaville
3. Remember When Phoenix Saguaro

Choruses

1. The Peninsulaires (3) Peninsula
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Citrus Belters Riverside

Phoenix, October 11, 1980

Quartets

1. Remember When Phoenix Saguaro
2. California Fever South Bay
3. Four Points West Whittier

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (3) Phoenix Saguaro
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Valleyaires San Fernando Valley

Sacramento, October 10, 1981

Quartets

1. California Fever South Bay
2. Main Street Review Peninsula/San Jose/
Walnut Creek
3. Gentlemen's Quarterly Phoenix Saguaro

Choruses

1. The Peninsulaires (5) Peninsula
2. Citrus Belters Riverside
3. Choralaires Whittier

Pasadena, October 9, 1982

Quartets

1. Pacifica Santa Monica
2. Four Points West Long Beach/Whittier
3. Santa Barbara Sound Santa Barbara

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (1) Phoenix Saguaro
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Choralaires Whittier

Pasadena, October 8, 1983

Quartets

1. Special Request Channel Is./Crescenta
Valley/South Bay
2. Four Points West Long Beach/Whittier
3. Santa Barbara Sound Santa Barbara

Choruses

1. Gold Note Chorus (7) Fresno
2. Choralaires Whittier
3. The Peninsulaires Peninsula

Bakersfield, October 13, 1984

Quartets

1. New Tradition San Fernando Valley/
Whittier
2. Route 66 Fullerton
3. Great Western Timbre Co. Fresno/Walnut Creek

Choruses

1. Gold Note Chorus (7) Fresno
2. The Peninsulaires Peninsula
3. Choralaires Whittier

San Jose, October 12, 1985

Quartets

1. Knudsen Bros. Phoenix Saguaro
2. Great Western Timbre Co. Fresno/Stockton
3. After Hours Phoenix Saguaro/Scotts-
dale

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (4) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Gold Note Chorus Fresno
3. Valleyaires San Fernando Valley

Sacramento, October 11, 1986

Quartets

1. Great Western Timbre Co. Fresno/Stockton
2. After Hours Phoenix Saguaro/Scotts-
dale
3. Margerry Shardon's FBQ .Phoenix Saguaro

Choruses

1. Valleyaires (9) San Fernando Valley
2. Choralaires Whittier
3. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego

Reno, October 11, 1987

Quartets

1. Kidder & Sons Inc. Santa Monica
2. Musician's Choice Long Beach/Whittier
3. Harmony Spectrum Santa Barbara

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (5) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Garden City Chorus San Jose

Pasadena, October 8, 1988

Quartets

1. Musician's Choice San Gabriel Valley/
Sacramento/Pomona
Valley/Long Beach
2. Nightlife Crescenta Valley/Foothill
Cities/San Diego
3. Margerry Shardon's Favorite Quartet
..... Phoenix Saguaro

Choruses

1. Masters of Harmony (4) ... Foothill Cities
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Garden City Chorus San Jose

Bakersfield, October 14, 1989

Quartets

1. Harmony Spectrum Santa Barbara
2. Special Feature San Diego/Fullerton/Pal-
Pac
3. Nightlife Foothill Cities/San
Diego

Choruses

1. Masters of Harmony(1) Foothill Cities
2. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego
3. Pot O' Gold Chorus Bay Area Metro

Bakersfield, October 12, 1990

Quartets

1. Special Feature Reno
2. Amigos Colorado Springs/San
Diego/Crescenta Valley
3. Standing Room Only Phoenix Saguaro/
Foothill Cities

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (5) San Diego
2. Pot O' Gold Chorus Bay Area Metro

3. Garden City Chorus San Jose

San Diego, October 12, 1991

Quartets

1. Nightlife Foothill Cities
2. Western Union Rancho Bernardo/San
Diego
3. California Gentry Ventura/Indian Wells/
South Bay

Choruses

1. Sun Harbor Chorus (10) ... San Diego
2. Pot O' Gold Chorus (7) Bay Area Metro
3. The Phoenixians Phoenix Saguaro

Phoenix, October 10, 1992

Quartets

1. Standing Room Only Phoenix Saguaro/
Foothill Cities
2. Rhythm & Rhyme Foothill Cities/San
Gabriel/South Bay
3. Western Union Rancho Bernardo/San
Diego

Choruses

1. Master of Harmony (1) Foothill Cities
2. The Phoenixians (5) Phoenix Saguaro
3. Pot O' Gold Chorus Bay Area Metro

Pasadena, October 9, 1993

Quartets

1. Rhythm & Rhyme San Gabriel/South Bay
2. Western Union Rancho Bernardo/San
Diego
3. Phonics Fullerton

Choruses

1. The Phoenixians (5) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Pot O' Gold Chorus (9) Bay Area Metro
3. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego

San Jose, October 8, 1994

Quartets

1. Western Union Rancho Bernardo/San
Diego
2. Vintage Blend Los Angeles/South Bay
3. Metropolis Conejo Valley/Foothill
Cities

Choruses

1. Pot O' Gold Chorus (12) .. Bay Area Metro
2. Garden City Chorus San Jose
3. Harmony Express Inland Cities

Bakersfield, October 14, 1995

Quartets

1. Vintage Blend Los Angeles/South Bay
2. Brass Ring Bay Area Metro
3. Prime Ticket San Fernando/Frank Thorne

Choruses

1. Masters of Harmony (1) ... Foothill Cities
2. The Phoenicians (4) Phoenix Saguaro
3. Sun Harbor Chorus San Diego

Bakersfield, October 12, 1996

Quartets

1. Metropolis Foothill Cities
2. Revival Foothill Cities/San Diego
3. Late Night Barbershop Fullerton/Foothill Cities/Long Beach/Bakersfield

Choruses

1. The Phoenicians (8) Phoenix Saguaro
2. Garden City Chorus San Jose
3. Choralaires Chorus Whittier



Appendix C

International Preliminary Contests



Numbers indicate Society contest placement*

Note: The District wasn't founded until October 1946. "Bonanza Four" was selected at large to attend the 1946 Society Summer Contest. In 1947 and 1948 the District and Int'l Prelims were combined into one contest.

** Placement? In the early days, scores were released 30 days after the contest and then only to the participants. Only the top 5 places were made public. One of the "Four Staters" remembered their placement in the 1948 contest. As far as the public was concerned, any quartet not in the top 15 "tied for 16th". Quartets in the top 15 that didn't make the top 5 were "tied for 6th". The FWD's Reddie Wright had a hand in changing this policy.*

Long Beach, 4/25/47

1. Bonanza Four (*)

San Francisco, 5/1/48

1. Four Staters (22)
2. Wranglers ()

Long Beach, 4/12/49

1. Crown City Four (33)
2. Rondeleers (27)

Long Beach, 4/22/50

1. Westernaires (38)
2. Bonanza Four (26)

Los Angeles, 4/28/51

1. San Diego Serenaders (7)
2. Uncalled Four (32)

Whittier, 4/26/52

1. San Diego Serenaders (4)
Far Western District's first medalist quartet!
2. Travelaires (16)

Long Beach, 4/25/53

1. (Tie) Statesmen (5)
1. (Tie) San Diego Serenaders (8)

San Jose, 5/1/54

1. (Tie) Statesmen (5)
1. (Tie) Travelaires (14)

Los Angeles, 4/30/55

1. Travelaires (17)
2. Verdugo Dons (24)

Sacramento, 5/12/56

1. West Coasters (8)
2. Wizards of Ahs (23)
3. Verdugo Dons (Semi-finalists)

Berkeley, 5/4/57

1. Evans Quartet (16)
2. West Coasters (2)
3. Sharpshooters (33)

Sacramento, 4/26/58

1. West Coasters (4)
2. Evans Quartet (5)
3. Desert Knights (25)

Pasadena, 4/25/59

1. Evans Quartet (2)
2. Bay Town Four (9)
3. Gala Lads (17)

Salt Lake City, 4/23/60

1. Evans Quartets (1)
2. Bay Town Four (4)
3. Mystics (13)
4. Saints (5)

Fresno, 5/6/61

1. Bay Town Four (4)
2. Forte-Niners (26)
3. Saints (5)
4. Gala Lads (6)

San Gabriel, 4/28/62

1. Gala Lads (1)
2. Sidewinders (5)
3. Forte Niners (11)
4. Mystics (17)

San Jose, 3/11/63

1. Sidewinders (3)
2. Forte Niners (21)
3. Bay Town Four (11)
4. Coastliners (13)

Salt Lake City, 4/25/64

1. Sidewinders (1)
2. Golden Staters (7)
3. Coastliners (11)
4. Bay Town Four (10)

Pasadena, 4/24/65

1. Golden Staters (6)
2. Western Continentals (8)
3. Coastliners (17)
4. Fresnotes (29)

Reseda, 3/16/66

1. Golden Staters (4)
2. Western Continentals (21)
3. Far Westerners (10)
4. Pacesetters (12)

Riverside, 3/18/67

1. Golden Staters (5)
2. Western Continentals (2)
3. Far Westerners (9)
4. Thermalaires (37)

Salt Lake City, 3/23/68

1. Western Continentals (1)
2. Golden Staters (3)
3. Far Westerners (9)
4. Salt Flats (23)

San Diego, 3/22/69

1. Golden Staters (2)
2. Pacificaires (8)
3. Far Westerners (6)
4. Gaslight Harmony Four (16)

Sacramento, 3/21/70

1. Pacificaires (3)
2. Far Westerners (6)
3. Gas Light Harmony Four (15)
4. Crown City Good Time Music Co. (21)

Fullerton, 3/20/71

1. Pacificaires (4)
2. Golden Staters (3)
3. Far Westerners (5)
4. Crown City Good Time Music Co. (15)

Riverside, 3/18/72

1. Golden Staters (1)
2. Far Westerners. (4)
3. Pacificaires (2)
4. Crown City Good Time Music Co. (11)

Tucson, 3/18/73

1. Pacificaires (2)
2. Crown City Good Time Music Co. (13)
3. Far Westerners (5)
4. Stage Four (34)

San Diego, 3/17/74

1. Pacificaires (2)
2. Command Performance (8)
3. Crown City Good Time Music Co. (13)
4. The Great Stage Robbery (15)

Ventura, 3/16/75

1. Command Performance (7)
2. San Francisco Storm Door and Whale Oil Co. (25)
3. Great Stage Robbery
4. Occidentals (19)
5. Sound Committee (38)

Fullerton, 3/20/76

1. 139th Street Quartet (10)
2. Occidentals (15)
3. San Francisco Storm Door and Whale Oil Co. (30)
4. Gentlemen Songsters (24)

Tucson, 3/19/77

1. 139th Street Quartet (2)
2. San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co. (21)
3. Sound Committee (11)
4. Occidentals (16)

Fresno, 3/18/78

1. 139th Street Quartet
2. Occidentals (11)
3. San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co. (22)
4. Gentlemen Songsters (26)
5. Nostalgia (24)

Sacramento, 3/17/79

1. 139th Street Quartet (5)
2. Occidentals (11)
3. Grand Tradition (10)
4. Gentlemen Songsters (12)

Oakland, 3/15/80

1. 139th Street Quartet (6)
2. Occidentals (8)
3. Grand Tradition (4)
4. Gentlemen Songsters (17)
5. Remember When (11)

Sacramento, 3/15/81

1. 139th Street Quartet (7)
2. Remember When (8)
3. Occidentals
4. California Fever (12)
- 8.* Main Street Review (27)

** When Occidentals had to drop out of the Society contest in Detroit at the last minute the 5th, 6th and 7th place quartets (Grand Tradition, Gentlemen Songsters and 4 Points West) were unable to get away for various reasons but Main Street Review did make it and placed 27th out of 48.*

Fresno, 3/20/82

1. Grand Tradition (4)
2. 139th Street Quartet. (8)
3. Remember When (13)
4. California Fever (12)

Long Beach, 3/19/83*(Headquartered on the Queen Mary)*

1. Grand Tradition (4)
2. Remember When (8)
3. 139th Street Quartet (7)
4. Special Request (22)
5. San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co. (34)

San Jose, 3/17/84

1. Knudsen Bros. (8)
2. New Tradition (7)
3. Remember When (13)
4. 139th Street Quartet (10)

Fresno, 3/16/85

1. The New Tradition (1)
2. 139th Street Quartet (9)
3. Special Request (8)
4. Remember When (7)

Sacramento, 3/15/86

1. 139th Street Quartet (6)
2. Remember When (7)
3. Knudsen Bros. (8)
4. San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co. (42)

Anaheim, 3/21/87

1. Remember When (8)
2. Great Western Timbre Co. (23)
3. 139th Street Quartet (4)
4. Kidder & Sons, Inc. (17)

Anaheim, 3/19/88

1. 139th Street Quartet (6)
2. Remember When (10)
3. Great Western Timbre Co. (15)
4. Kidder & Sons, Inc. (28)
5. Musician's Choice (23)

San Jose, 3/18/89

1. 139th Street Quartet (3)
2. Remember When (11)
3. Nightlife (Didn't go)
4. Harmony Spectrum (17)
5. Musician's Choice (22)

Pomona, 3/17/90

1. Remember When (10)
2. 139th Street Quartet (2)
3. Special Feature (14)
4. Western Union (13)
5. L. A. Tymes (18)
6. Harmony Spectrum (15)
7. Musician's Choice (31)

Sacramento, 3/16/91

1. 139th Street Quartet (5)
2. Special Feature (7)
3. Harmony Spectrum (22)
4. Standing Room Only (25)
5. Western Union (30)
6. California Gentry (12)
7. Swingtime (39)
8. Nightlife (31)

San Bernardino, 3/21/92

1. 139th Street Quartet (4)
2. Special Feature (7)
3. Nightlife (11)
4. Western Union (23)
5. Knudsen Brothers (9)
6. Standing Room Only (12)
7. Rhythm and Rhyme (18)

Las Vegas, 3/20/93

1. Special Feature (5)
2. 139th Street Quartet (6)
3. Nightlife (4)
4. Standing Room Only (7)
5. Western Union (19)
6. Rhythm & Rhyme (15)
7. Knudsen Bros. (Didn't go)
8. California Forte (41)

Oxnard, 3/19/94

1. Nightlife (2)
2. Standing Room Only (5)
3. Rhythm & Rhyme (16)
4. 139th Street Quartet (12)
5. Special Feature (9)
6. Western Union (Didn't go)
7. California Forte (27)
8. Metropolis (25)
2. (In RMD contest) Rad Dads (46)

Fresno, 3/18/95

1. Nightlife (3)
2. Standing Room Only (4)
3. 139th St. Quartet (Didn't go)
4. Rhythm & Rhyme (14)
5. Western Union (Didn't go)
6. Vintage Blend (31)
7. California Forte (Didn't go)
8. Metropolis (Didn't go)
9. Brass Ring (34)

Reno, 3/16/96

1. Nightlife (1)
2. Standing Room Only (3)
3. Special Feature (8)
4. Rhythm & Rhyme (16)
5. Revival (15)
6. Vintage Blend (26)
7. 139th Street Quartet (25)

Appendix D

Senior Quartet Champions



1991-92

Erin Boys BAM/Chico/Walnut Creek

1992-93

Jest for Phun? Conejo Valley

1993-94

Shades of Grey Phoenix Saguaro

1994-95

Sentimental Favorites Placerville/Sacramento/BAM/San Jose

1995-96

Sixty Something Placerville/Sacramento/Nevada-Placer



Appendix E

Hall of Fame and Awards



Far Western District Hall of Fame

- 1969 - Reddie Wright
- 1970 - Emmett Bossing
- 1971 - Wesley Meier
- 1972 - Sam Aramian
- 1973 - Burt Cunliffe
- 1974 - Lloyd Steinkamp
- 1975 - Jack Hines
- 1976 - Bob Roberts
- 1977 - Gil Jacobs
- 1978 - Earl Moon
- 1979 - Lynn Brittan
- 1980 - Val Hicks
- 1981 - Jerry Orloff
- 1982 - Lou Perry
- 1983 - Gene Hartzler
- 1984 - Dick Girvin
- 1985 - Lou Laurel
- 1986 - Andy Dill
- 1986 - Jerry Graham (posthumous)
- 1987 - Howard Mesecher
- 1988 - Dick Schenck
- 1989 - Jim McKee
- 1990 - Don McAvoy
- 1990 - Russ Stanton
- 1994 - John Krizek
- 1995 - Dave Stevens (posthumous)



President's Award

- 1969 - Emmett Bossing
- 1971 - Jack Hines and Jim McKee
- 1972 - Lou Velzey
- 1975 - Bob Roberts
- 1976 - Gil Jacobs
- 1977 - Dwight Wood
- 1978 - Charles Lowery
- 1979 - Dick Girvin
- 1980 - John Burby
- 1981 - Joe Salz
- 1983 - Carl Campbell and Gene Hartzler
- 1984 - Bob Bisio
- 1985 - San Francisco Storm Door & Whale Oil Co.
- 1987 - Don Kidder
- 1988 - Lou Laurel
- 1989 - Bob Allen
- 1990 - Ray and Bev Magill
- 1991 - Jack Hines
- 1993 - Dean Scoville
- 1994 - Doug Maddox
- 1995 - John & Larry Gassman

Area Counselor of the Year Award

Note: This award was discontinued in 1963 and reinstated in 1977.

- 1957 - Jud Baldwin
- 1958-9 - John Brown
- 1959 - Syd Anderton
- 1961 - Dave Carrocci
- 1977 - Dennis Burke, Roy Kristensen, Carl Cross
- 1978 - Floyd Blackwell
- 1980 - Dean Sowell
- 1982 - Buz Smith
- 1993 - Carl Truman
- 1994 - Jim Turnmire

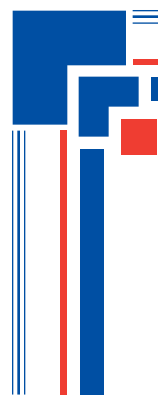
Appendix F

Westunes Editors



Dick DeBusk	Huntington Park,	September 1951 - August 1953
Frank Finnegan	San Fernando Valley,	October 1953 - April 1954
Bob Northup	South Bay,	June 1954 - May 1956
George Dohn	Riverside,	July 1956 - May 1959
Stan Manning	Pasadena,	June 1959 - October 1959
John Hagopian	Phoenix,	December 1959 - October 1962
Ed Rainey	Whittier,	November 1962 - December 1964
Bob Roberts	Salt Lake City,	January 1965 - November 1977
Dick Girvin	Pomona Valley,	December 1977 - December 1985
Fritz Grunewald	Whittier,	January 1986 - December 1987
Larry Mires	Bay Area Metro,	February 1988 - June 1988
Bob Allen	San Mateo,	November 1988 - June 1990
Ray Thomas	Eden-Hayward,	July 1990 - August 1990
Owen Edwards	San Fernando,	September 1990 - February 1995
Nathan Payne	Reno,	March 1995 - August 1995
Owen Edwards	San Fernando,	January 1996 - present





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Page numbers in bold type indicate photographs.

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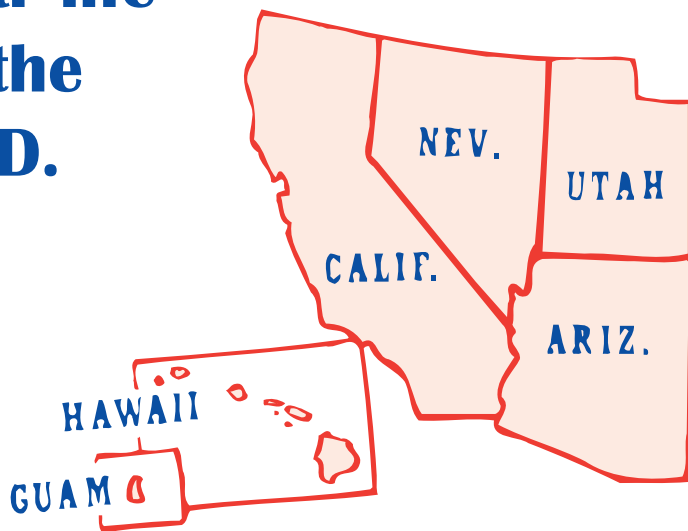
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The Far Western District Association of Barbershop Chapters was authorized by the Society to be organized in a letter dated October 22, 1946 and signed by “International President” Frank H. Thorne and “International Secretary” Carroll P. Adams. The purpose of this book is to cover everything that has happened since in the 50 year life of the FWD.



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America