

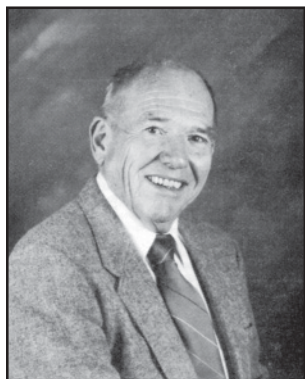
# Chapter 10

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.

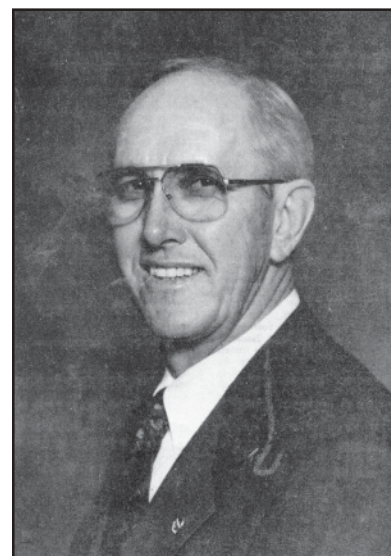
Early in 1996 Operation Harold Hill, a Society plan to increase membership, was put into action. Among other perks, any new member joining in January and February was given a free ticket to the District Spring Convention. In June 1996 the Far Western District conducted the first ever Youth Harmony Camp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

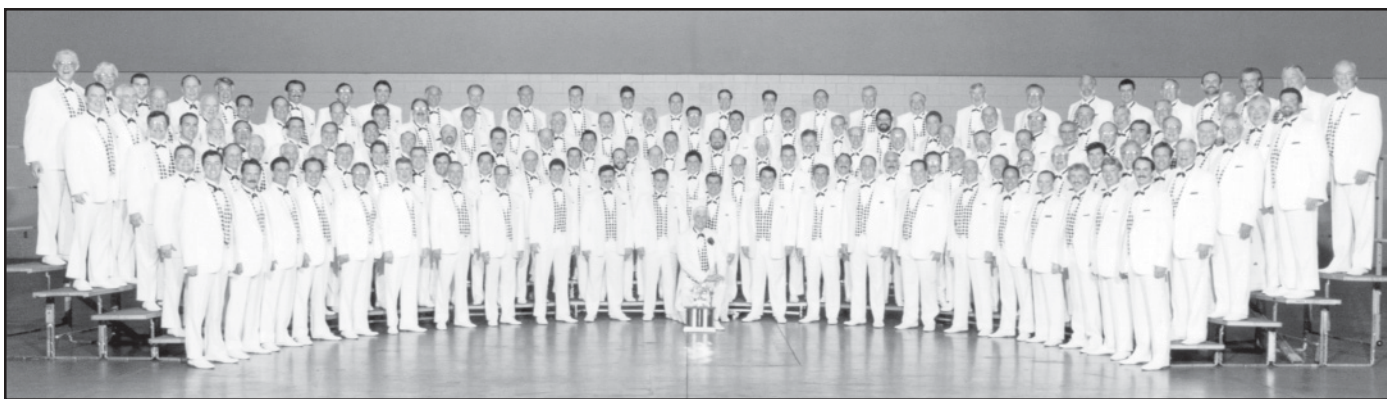
In February of 1996 District quartets did a total of 1952 Singing Valentines. In March the "Santa Monica Oceanaires" quartet appeared on the PBS special, "The World's Largest Concert." Also in March the San Fernando Valley Chapter conducted a Barbershop Invitational Sing-off in a local shopping area 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 Dons" 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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! ☺

