

# Chapter 7

## November 1976 - October 1981



**I**N 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.

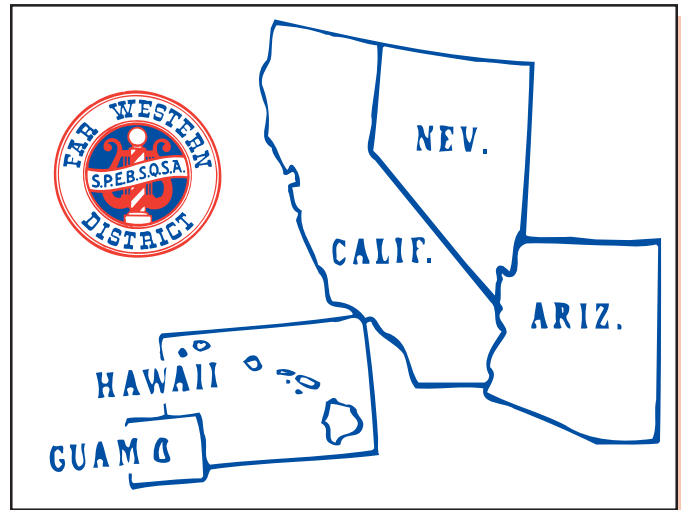
The Tucson Chapter was keeping busy. In March 1977 they hosted the Far Western District Spring Convention, and in January 1978 they would host the Society Mid-Winter Convention. At the March District Board meeting the Eureka Chapter made a case for relaxing the requirement that a chorus director be a 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.

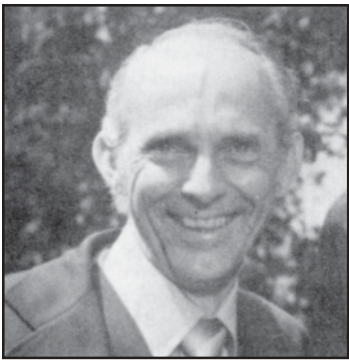
The Tucson Chapter hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention in late January 1978, featuring four of the five medalist quartets from the previous Summer Convention. Coachella Valley Chapter was originally chartered in March 1978. Jack Hines was starting up a FWD Flying Barbershoppers Association made 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.

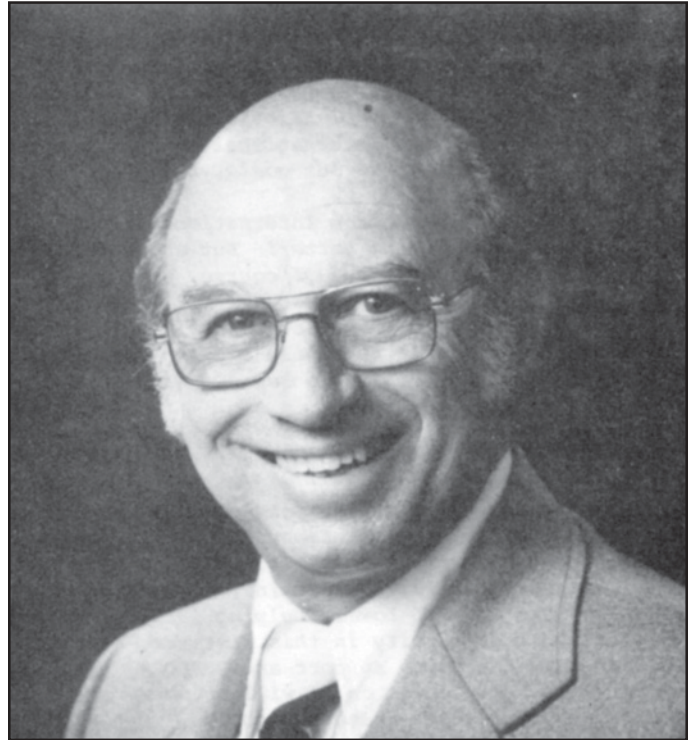
On November 9, 1978 the Santa Ana and Downey chapters put on a 5th annual show at Knott's Berry Farm, raising over \$20,000 for the Rainbow Acres ranch for mentally retarded adults. The show was emceed by Lloyd Steinkamp and featured "Gentlemen Songsters," "California Gold" and "Yer Fadder's Mustache" 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



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

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

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).

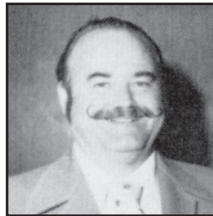
Two days after performing on the San Diego show on May 4, 5, 1979, Mike Senter, bass with the "Golden Staters" quartet, Society champs in 1972, passed away. Mike was a talented chorus director, coach, song arranger and composer. Among his compositions were: "Back in Those Days Gone By," "I Tried to Forget 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-Barberra 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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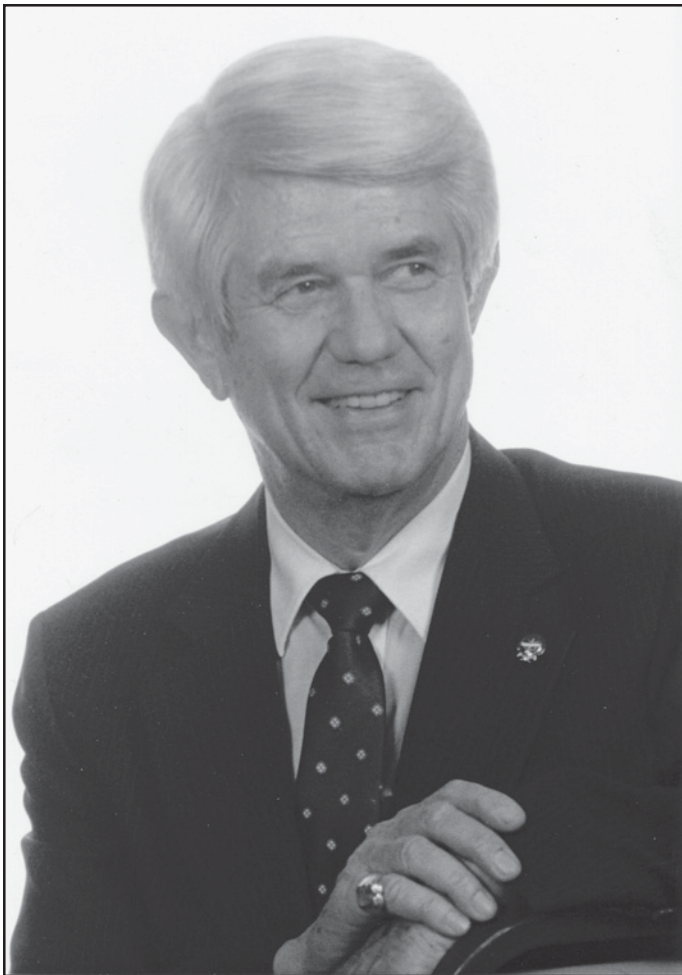
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*Vintage ad copy from the Monterey Peninsula Chapter*



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

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



*Joe Salz  
President's  
Award 1981*

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



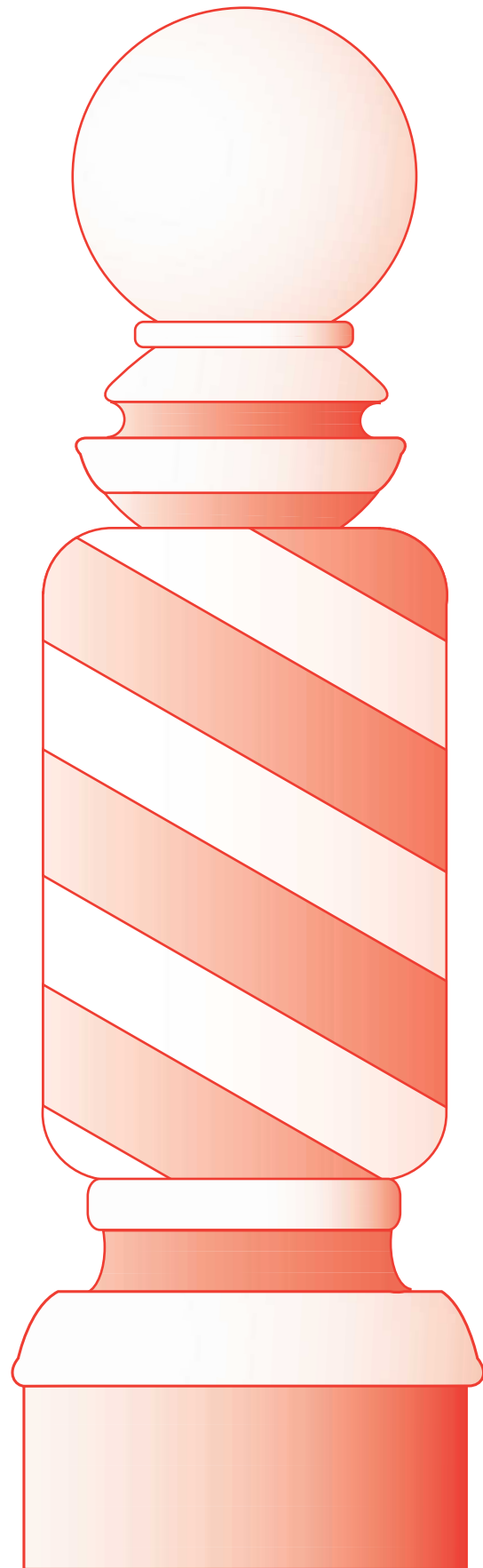
*Jerry Orloff  
FWD Hall of Fame  
1981*



*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.





WORDS & MUSIC  
BY DAN WILSON

# 'Write Me A Song'

New Barbershop Arrangement

ARRANGEMENT BY  
ARIZONA/NEVADA DIV.  
ARRANGERS CLASS-1978

VERSE:

WELL, I NEED A SONG LIKE THE FLOW-ERS NEED RAIN, A

EV-RY DAY 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

© 1978 DAN WILSON  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

WRITE ME A SONG - PAGE 2

NEV-ER SET ME FREE  
 NEV-ER SET ME FREE; WRITE ME A SONG THAT I CAN DO AN  
 OLD SOFT SHOE TO, AND SING IN HARM-O-NY; GIVE ME SOME  
 WORDS TO SING, GIVE ME SOME CHORDS TO RING, COME ON AND WRITE A SONG FOR  
 ME... SA MARCH WITH LOTS OF BIG BASS DRUMS, OR A  
 MAKE IT A SOUL- SA MARCH WITH LOTS OF BIG BASS DRUMS  
 CO-HAN EX-TRAV-A-GAN-ZA FAIR. JUST LET MY DAY BE-GIN WITH GERSHWIN

WRITE ME A SONG - PAGE 3

OR BER-LIN AND A LIT-TLE BIT OF ROD-GERS HERE AND THERE... WRITE ME A  
 HERE AND THERE.  
 YOND THE RAIN-BOW WHERE SKIES ARE NEV-ER  
 SONG TO TAKE ME WAY BE- YOND THE RAIN-BOW WHERE SKIES ARE NEV-ER  
 GREY; MAKE IT A HIGH-LAND FLING OR AL-MOST AN-Y-THING BUT WRITE A  
 SONG FOR ME TO- DAY, I SAY PLEASE WRITE A LIT-TLE TUNE A- BOUT  
 JUNE AND SPOON AND MOON TO- DAY TO- DAY