

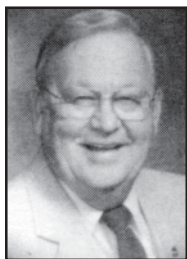
Chapter 9

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.

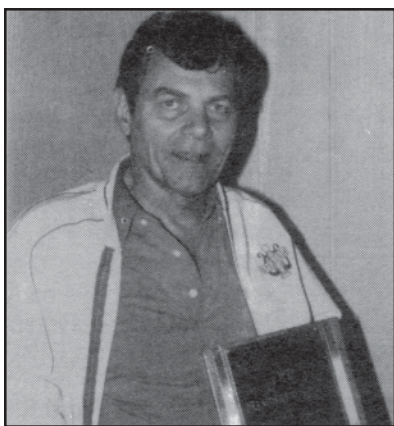
During 1987 International Staff visits to the FWD were made by Mel Knight, Tom Gentry, Bill Myers, Burt Szabo and Jim DeBusman. District Historian Bob Bisio developed a first-of-a-kind history display for the Regional Preliminaries in Anaheim in March, 1987. Gene Hartzler stepped down after 14 years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

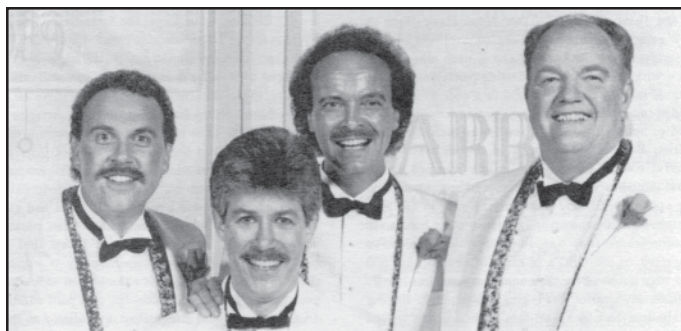
At the 22nd annual Comedy Quartet Contest hosted by the Palomar-Pacific Chapter, the winner was "Tortilla Flats" with members from the Crescenta Valley, Pomona Valley and Riverside chapters. In August 1989, an International Judges School was held at Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo. The Santa Ana Chapter 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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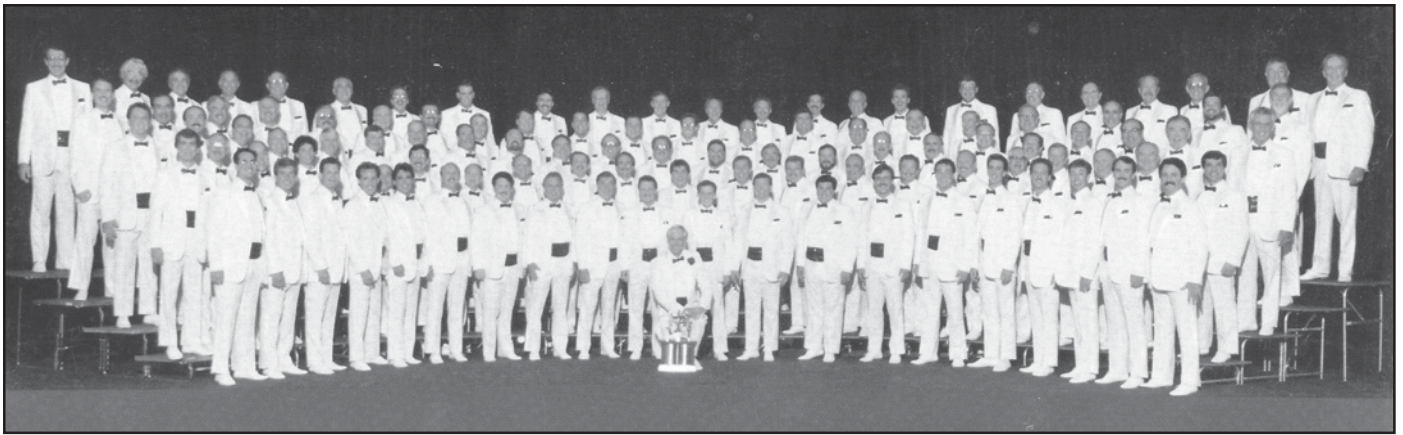
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Ad Copy for the 1989 Long Beach Chapter's 50th Anniversary Show



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

