

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

