

Central States Serenade

Central States District, SPEBSQSA—Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wyoming

October 1958

Volume 4 HALF A MILLION MILES OF MELODY IN MID-AMERICA Number 5

WELCOME MAT READY AT DES MOINES FOR CSA

DISTRICT CONTEST IS OCTOBER 18



1958 District Contest Chairmen: Left to right, seated, Sedrel, Thomas, Wilson; standing, Roberts, Ashbaugh, Willis, Groom.

NOVEMBER CHARTER NIGHT FOR NEW LAWRENCE CHAPTER

We charter our second new chapter this year on November 7th, and every barber-shopper is invited to attend the ceremonies at Lawrence, Kansas. Warren Zwink is chapter president.

The weekend potential is terrific. K.U. and Nebraska meet in the Homecoming football game at Lawrence on the 8th. And after the game you'll have just time to drive to Kansas City for a KC steak dinner before you take in the Heart of America Chapter parade at the Music Hall.

Lawrence will join St. Joseph in the ranks of new CSA chapters. And other chapters are in the making, several others, in different areas throughout the district.

WICHITRAVELERS TO PIKES PEAK SHOW

The Wichita travel agency of Patterson, Patterson, Randall, Cary, Bond, and Bigham closed shop in mid-August and with their wives motored to Colorado Springs to hear the CONFEDERATES, ORPHANS, TIMBERLINERS, SKYLINERS, DENVAIRS, HI CHORDS, and PIKES PEAK CHORUS.

Speaking of Wichita, Bob Bacheider reminds us that the CAVALIERS are registered from Wichita also. Our apologies to our boomiest chapter in the district and our thanks to Bob for bringing our error to light.

Also making news at Wichita are Wilbur Geeding, benefactor from the stork August 13th, Ball Balzerick, door prize supplier for chapter meetings, and Yentroc Lake, on whose shores the chapter picnicked September 7th.

Finish plans for your Hawkeye Holiday yet? It's the weekend of October 18th, Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday morning in Des Moines, a host city with the most.

This is coming around as one of our greatest district contests yet and the Des Moines chapter is abuzz planning for the influx of what will no doubt be the greatest number of CSA barbershoppers ever to attend a district contest.

Competition among the quartets should be tough, real tough, as the caliber of our quartets has been on the upswing for some time and the number of chapters represented grows each time we get together. Each year more and more quartets learn that the place to improve, the place to learn, and the place to have fun doing it is at the District Contest. Here are the fifth men, the guys who know what to listen for, how to develop it, and are willing to help whenever they can.

Cedar Rapids, the sixth best chorus in the Society, will be back to defend its district championship and bid for the opportunity to represent CSA in the International Contest at Chicago next year.

Chorus and quartet competition will be held in the auditorium of the new million-dollar North High School. Seating capacity is over 1800 and parking facilities are excellent.

General chairman for the contest is Art Thomas whose address is Municipal Airport, Des Moines, Iowa. His co-chairman is Art Roberts, chapter president.

Chairman for publicity and ticket sales is Hugh Groom, though advance orders should be mailed to Joe Elstner, Bankers Life Company, 711 High Street, Des Moines, Iowa. You can still make last minute reservations and tickets will be held for you at the registration desk.

The afternoon session begins at 1 p.m. Saturday, October 18, all tickets \$1, no seats reserved. For the evening finals and show curtain time is 8 p.m. The first 20 rows are reserved at \$2 a seat with the balance of the auditorium unreserved at \$1.

Following the evening show the afterglow will be held at the Fort Des Moines Hotel. Tickets bought in advance are 50 cents each, those purchased at the door one dollar.

This makes the advance ticket package \$3.50 including reserved seat for the evening finals, \$2.50 with a general admission evening ticket. Don't forget to get your order in to Joe today, particularly if you wish reserved seats Saturday evening.

Other committee chairmen for the contest include Ray Wilson, entertainment; Gene Ashbaugh, finance; and Darwin Willis, reception. Ivan Sedrel heads the committee for house and stage arrangements.

Headquarters hotel is the Hotel Fort Des Moines. Other hotels suggested by the committee are the Kirkwood and Savery. The three are within walking distance of each other in downtown Des Moines. You are asked to make your arrangements directly with the hotel of your choice and the following rates are given for your information in making these requests:

| | Single | Double |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Fort Des Moines | \$4.50/8.00 | \$7.00/11.00 |
| Kirkwood | 4.50/7.50 | 6.50/10.50 |
| Savery | 5.50/11.00 | 7.50/14.00 |

All entrants in the contest must have paid their district dues, \$2.00 per year per member payable to the district treasurer, Pat Patterson.

We hope to see representatives of every chapter in the district in Des Moines for our Hawkeye Holiday weekend for both the contest and our business meeting on Saturday morning. CSA is on the move, really on the move, and it behooves every chapter to have a representative at the business meeting.

So don't forget. Order your tickets from Joe today and have them held for you; and make your own hotel reservations at the hotel of your choice. Des Moines is a wonderfully hospitable town, smack dab in the middle of a rabid barbershop country. You owe it to yourself to be on hand, to see the old friends and to make new ones. And the entertainment, well it's always been the best and it always will be.

The CENTRAL STATES SERENADE

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DAVIS WINS CEDAR RAPIDS AWARD

Bob Davis, Cedar Rapids' chapter secretary 1949-58, was last month named "Barbershopper of the Year" by an appreciative chapter. Bob is a charter member of the chapter, had been secretary since the first, was instrumental in all parade work, and guided many influential citizens into "crow" membership.



The awards committee gave him a unanimous vote over such hard and effective workers as Len Bjella, W.C. Pickard, Ding Sather, Bill Brauer, Otto Knutson, Harold Miller, Bill Rogers, and Al Hagedorn.

Other notes from Cedar Rapids: THE GAY NOTES had to cancel the Cedar Rapids parade in order to appear with their chorus in district competition, the same fate that befell the chapter with the LADS OF ENCHANTMENT last year; work is progressing well toward the institution of a new chapter at Iowa City; and the chapter bulletin, QUOTE-R-NOTES, informs us of the death in July of Lew Lewellen, a member for a good many years and a leading citizen of the city.

COOL QUARTERS AT SPRINGFIELD

Our Heart of the Ozark chapter has been holding practice sessions in the new Red Cross Building, air conditioned for more comfortable workouts.

Other news from Norm Shryer's OZARKEY: The KLIPPER KORDS, in for the "whoop-up" welcome for the FOUR PITCHHIKERS, serenaded lead Keith Keltner, celibated lead, with "All Alone with You;" Clyde Dennis is a grandpapa; and the BUCCANEERS recently broke watermelon with their "friends and neighbors" at Monett.

DISTRICT CONTEST PROGRAM

Des Moines, Iowa
October 17-19, 1958

Friday, October 17

1-5, 7-9 p.m. Registration
8 p.m. Craft Session

Hotel Fort Des Moines

Hotel Fort Des Moines,

South Ballroom

10 p.m. Woodshed

Hotel Fort Des Moines

Saturday, October 18

7:30 a.m. Area Counselors' Meeting

Hotel Fort Des Moines

9-12 a.m. Registration

Hotel Fort Des Moines

9 a.m. CSA Business Meeting

Hotel Fort Des Moines

9 a.m. Bulletin Editors' Meeting

Hotel Fort Des Moines

1 p.m. Quartet Preliminaries

North High School

Chorus Contest follows Quartet Preliminaries

8 p.m. Quartet Finals

North High School

11:30 p.m. Afterglow

Hotel Fort Des Moines

Sunday, October 19

8 a.m. Aspirin Breakfast

Hotel Fort Des Moines

To be held in Wedgewood Room and followed by critique

FOR CSA--AN EFFECTIVE COUNSELOR SYSTEM, BY GEORGE

(Editor's Note: Your district roster in this issue does not include the names of the Area Counselors. Appointments have not been completed since George Biasi, CAC, has laid out a program that calls for careful selection of working men to each post of AC. The following was written by George for an earlier issue of the SERENADE but it is a good, timeless article and will give you some idea of just what a fiery fellow George can be. This year we'll have an effective counselor system, by George, by George Biasi.)

Hi, Barbershoppers!

I'm George Biasi, a chubby tenor from over here at Dubuque in Eastern Iowa. Ray Niblo has appointed me to the most important post in our Society's organization, I believe, Chief Area Counselor.

The Area Counselor can be the KEY to our future growth--membership, chapters and district. This is possible if he is willing to give the area his time, his talents and his encouragement. With the cooperation of the chapters, there is no stopping us.

I am a firm believer that every man has terrific ideas on how to promote our most enjoyable hobby, barbershopping. I also believe that most of us act as if we are afraid to share it, so we do little or nothing about it.

Have you ever taken part in the chartering of a new chapter? Have you ever offered a hungry baby a bottle of milk? There is little difference. Chartering a new chapter is the healthiest thing that can happen to a chapter. There is no explanation for the renewed interest taken by old members. The opportunities for inter-chapter relations give a chapter's program a tremendous boost.

Central States is BIG: It's proud. It has given some of the finest quartets to the Society. International has drawn heavily from CSA for its leaders. Our growth, for years, was not to be matched. Then we became self-satisfied. How long this has been creeping up on us no one can tell, but it must stop. We, you and I, as members must get behind the greatest effort for new chapters and increased membership ever seen in barbershopping.

Let's start with at least one new chapter per area. Do you want help? Do you need a little knowhow? A planned approach? If you drop me a line, I'll know you are really interested and if you have a problem you'll get a real fast solution. If I can't help you I know several men that will be pleased to try. Don't wait--DO IT NOW.

"Don't ask God for lighter burdens--pray for stronger shoulders."

Much harmony,

George

OPERATION GROW

As we turn into the last three months of the year here's how the leaders stack up:

| MEMBERSHIP | | TOP TEN RETENTION | |
|----------------|----|-------------------|------|
| Wichita | 94 | Davenport | 180% |
| Des Moines | 71 | Cedar Rapids | 133% |
| Kansas City | 63 | Humboldt | 125% |
| Cedar Rapids | 60 | Columbia (Mo.) | 115% |
| Denver | 54 | Boulder | 109% |
| Spencer | 51 | Cheyenne | 107% |
| St. Joseph | 48 | Buena Vista | 106% |
| Mason City | 47 | Ulysses | 104% |
| Omaha | 44 | Elkader | 100% |
| Ye Olde Tymers | 42 | Pittsburg | 100% |
| | | Russell | 100% |



President Ike Davis, left, and Vice President Milton Huneke, right, watch President Bill Jay of the Burlington chapter present a check for \$400 to a representative of the Retarded Children's Association of Des Moines County. In the background are Ed Weidemann, chorus director, and Harold Brueck.

Our thanks to Del Scull for the photo. And Del also passes along the information that the TUNE TANGLERS won the FOE quartet contest held for all Eagles' quartets in the state of Iowa. We'd like to hear from more chapter secretaries with news of their groups.

CALIFORNIA GAINS A WORKER

Darwin Ennis, Spencer's able and hard-working secretary, has moved to California. We'll remember him as being very faithful to his chapter in getting news to the SERENADE.

The new Secretary is Bob Alexander whose address is 213 East 5th Street.

MASON CITY PUBLISHES "PITCH": PLANS HIGH SCHOOL QUARTET CONTEST

RIVER CITY PITCH is what Mason City christened its new bulletin. Its banner reads "'Music Man' Home Town Chapter..." and the man with the blue pencil is Roy Stuart. Get this bit from Vol. 1, No. 1: "She'd look more spic if she had less span."

On the docket in Mason City are plans for a high school quartet contest. Invitations have been sent to schools in the area and a preliminary meeting for those interested has been planned. Dick Farmer is chairman of the committee in charge.

THE WAY I SEE IT

(Ed. Note: This series of articles, by CSA judges, is intended to acquaint our quartets who have not competed in contests and those many of you who will one day sing in quartets yet to be formed with the five basic divisions of quartet analysis. We sincerely hope you will take the time to read each of them as nothing about the Society is more misunderstood by its members than the judging system.

Comments in this series are not to be construed as official. They are simply explanations of a specific category by a judge qualified in that category.)

STAGE PRESENCE

By Floyd Strong

Why have a Stage Presence Category? When quartets appear in view of an audience they are engaged in a presentation for the eyes and ears of that audience. Primarily, our appeal is to the ear. That's why 80% of the possible points are given to the musical categories. But what is seen is also a highly important part of the overall presentation. For example: How would audiences react if contesting quartets stood behind an opaque screen? Not much fun for the audience? Right! They would stay away in droves. Just as no quartet can win an SPEBSQSA Contest on Stage Presence alone, no quartet can win without pretty good Stage Presence. Stage presence is equal in value to each of the other categories.....

What is Stage Presence? For our purposes, simply how the quartet looks and acts from the instant the first man becomes visible to the audience until the last man has disappeared from view. It includes naturalness, eye appeal, poise, grooming, and general showmanship as well as refinement and good taste in all their actions.

Apparently some quartets and even some judges have been under the misapprehension that in a contest a quartet is limited in what it may do, that it must behave in a restrained fashion--do everything exactly alike, including gestures, etc. Nothing could be further from the fact. As a Society we are perform nearly as much interested in the presentation of our singing as in the singing itself. Development of imaginative, sparkling Stage Presence and costuming is much to be desired.

There can not be too much difference of opinion on what constitutes good Stage Presence for our purposes. We do not expect our quartets to be polished actors. On the other hand we do not want them to look and act like four apes from the heart of darkest Africa.

How is Stage Presence Judged? An experienced judge with the elements of Stage Presence in mind should be able to call a quartet's performance:

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| Grade A | 161-200 points |
| Grade B | 121-160 points |
| Grade C | 81-120 points |
| Grade D | 0- 80 points |

On the Judge's Scoring Sheet there are plenty of printed performance factors for check marking that will enable the Judge to jog his memory, if necessary, after a quartet has finished its stint, to decide whether a Grade A quartet barely rated 161 points, or should get 180 or 193. Here the Judge's experience and good judgment is the sole guide. There can be no mathematical or mechanical guide.

(To be continued in our next issue-- "Some of the points for which a Stage Presence Judge is on the watch").

CEDAR RAPIDS' HARMONY HAWKS CHORUS



Official photo (Firestone) of our district chorus entrant at Columbus. The Hawks missed the top five by the narrowest of margins. Director Len Bjella is front row, center.

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CENTRAL STATES SERENADE

DISTRICT DIRECTORIES

Your 1958-59 CSA Directory is included with this issue. If your barbershop work requires that you have more than one just let us know. We will be glad to send more.

KANSAS CITY PARADE NOVEMBER 8

Kansas City's Heart of America Parade will be held in the Music Hall of the Municipal Auditorium Saturday night, November 8th. The FOUR PITCHKERS and GAY-NOTES will headline the show with the KERNELS and 5' 2's also on the bill.

Ed Schliebs, lead of the CSA champion BMA GAMBOLIERS, suffered two heart attacks late in September and at this writing is at St. Mary's Hospital.

JOSE CAN YOU SEENG
BY THEE DAWN'S EARLEE LIGHT

Hola, Santral States gringos: We read thees beeg spiel frawm thees Weenter fallow een thee HARMONIZER por Septiembre y by Bolivar, he ees pooting thee bug een our thoughts. Maybee we go El Paso thees weenter, no? The sawnshine weel be good por our sneefles y who knows, maybee between siestas we have time to seeng y leesten to awl thee good seengers who cawin frawm averywhere.

Thee beeg cheese weeth awl the dinero y thee raservashawns ees Julio Spooner, 7410 Alpha Avenue, El Paso, Texas. I theenk after I wake op I write thees hotshot y tal heem, "Quatro, por favor." Than I take my eenlaws y who knows, maybee they weel like El Paso y stay.

GAY NINETIES, HUT FOUR TO
W-CF SHOW

The GAY NINETIES and HUT FOUR will drive down to headline the Waterloo-Cedar Falls Chapter show November 15th. In addition to the chapter chorus and FOUR RUSTY HINGES, the show will also feature Cedar Rapids' HUMBUGS.

At the chapter meeting on September 16, three new members were welcomed.

LONG DRIVE? CALL A "CAB"

Buzz Swank of ST. LOUIS #1 reports that Cab Calloway drives 130 miles to attend each chapter meeting. And Cab is a double man of note, two of his guests having signed on the dotted line for membership. This Cab Calloway's Cotton Club is for Cotton-Pickin' go getters.



(Above) Cedar Rapids chorus members getting ready for the trip to Columbus. Will your chapter be making the trip next year? All you need to do is win the chorus contest at Des Moines.

(Right) Springfield's BUCCANEERS in a self-explanatory pose to any layman. From top clockwise--Morris Toalson, Bass; George Robinson, lead; Frank Matherly, tenor; Norm Shryer, baritone. They'll be competing at Des Moines. Will your quartet be there?

