

OAKLAND COUNTY CHAPTER

**S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.**

PRESENTS



# HARMONY IN REVIEW

Oak Park High School

October 21, 1967

# WHAT IS BARBERSHOP HARMONY?

The Society is an International organization. Its headquarters is at Kenosha, Wisconsin, administered by an Executive Director with the aid of a fulltime working staff. Outstanding leaders in business and in the professional fields are numbered among its executive officers and they serve without remuneration. Its membership glistens with celebrities of stage and screen, radio and television, and "show-biz" in general—most of whom have joined because they enjoy the relaxation of barbershopping.

**The Contest System . . .** Each year the Society selects an International Champion Quartet at its general convention and contest held in the month of June. In preparation for the contest, each of the 15 districts stages a Regional Preliminary Contest to establish which quartets will compete at the International event. Hundreds of quartets enter these regional contests and 45 are judged as "qualifying" for the International competition. At the International Contest, 20 of these 45 are judged to appear in the semi-finals. Then 10 are selected from the 20 to enter the Medalist Contest. In this final phase, they are rated by the judges in first to fifth place and given medalions according to these ratings.

In addition to this contest system, each of the Society's 15 districts stages each year a District Quartet Contest to establish Champion quartets in those organizations.

**The program is simple . . .** Barbershoppers have no political, religious, or social axes to grind. The "program" is simple: To preserve and encourage the barbershop style of singing; to sing in harmony and to live in harmony with your fellow men. The Society has one goal toward which it is constantly striving, and that is to "Keep America Singing."

In 1938 one man rebelled against a trend toward practically eliminating self-produced harmony brought about by the increased popularity of radio, and subsequently changed the music patterns of North America. The man was the late Owen C. Cash, tax attorney, of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Cash, a true partisan of quartet singing, decided to attempt to preserve an American tradition. He found a sup-

porter in Rupert I. Hall, an investment man of the same city. They dictated a half-serious, half-humorous letter which they sent to friends. It read—"In this age of dictators and government control of everything, about the only privilege guaranteed by the Bill of Rights, not in some way supervised or directed, is the art of barbershop quartet singing. Without a doubt, we still have the right of peaceable assembly, which we are advised by competent authority, includes quartet singing. The writers have for a long time thought that something should be done to encourage the enjoyment of this last remaining vestige of human liberty. Therefore, we have decided to hold a song-fest on the roof garden of the Tulsa Club on Monday, April 11 at 6:30 P.M."

**A Spectacular Growth . . .** The letter was signed by Rupert Hall, Royal Keeper of the Minor Keys, and O. C. Cash, Permanent 3rd Assistant Temporary Vice-Chairman. Twenty-six "rebels" attended the first meeting.

A story reporting the meeting was published in the local paper and the wire services picked it up. In a matter of weeks, chapters were springing up all over the Middle West. The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc., was on its way. Today its International membership roster numbers many thousands of men from every station of life, organized into more than 650 chapters in every state of the United States, several Canadian provinces, and the Canal Zone.

**Degrees in music not Required . . .** One factor contributing to the Society's fast growth was the knowledge that a man did not have to be musically trained to fit in with the "barbershoppers." It is a rule that the Society welcomes into its membership good citizens, young and old, from every walk of life who get satisfaction from being a central part of a chord of music whether it originates from the heart, or from a musical arrangement. Chapter organization offers not only musical self-expression, but a wholesome and harmonious fellowship.

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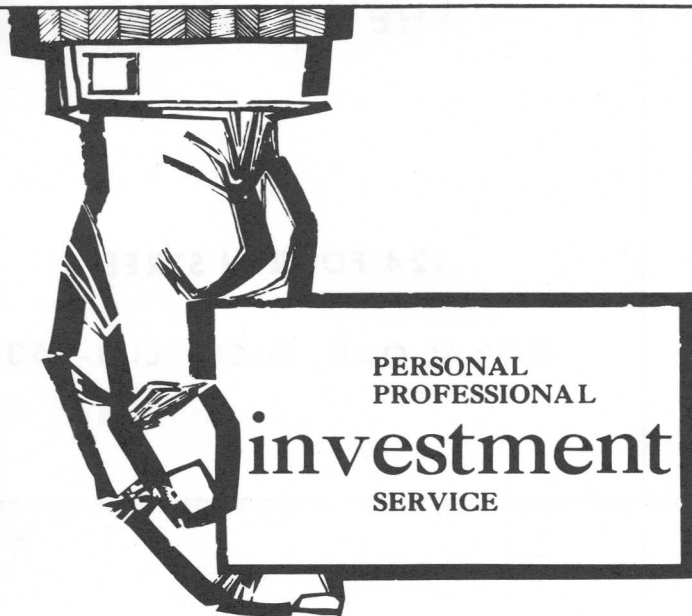


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Welcome ..... Del Badgley, President  
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Master of Ceremony ..... Tom Rafferty

The Wonderlads ..... Detroit and Oakland  
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The Merri-Men ..... Lansing, Michigan

Intermission ..... Ten Minutes



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Community Singing ..... Everybody Sings  
S.O.C. Suburbanette Chorus ..... Marion Greene, Director  
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The Sundowners ..... Chicago, Illinois  
Barbery Host Chorus ..... Dick Liddicoatt, Director  
Finale ..... Ensemble



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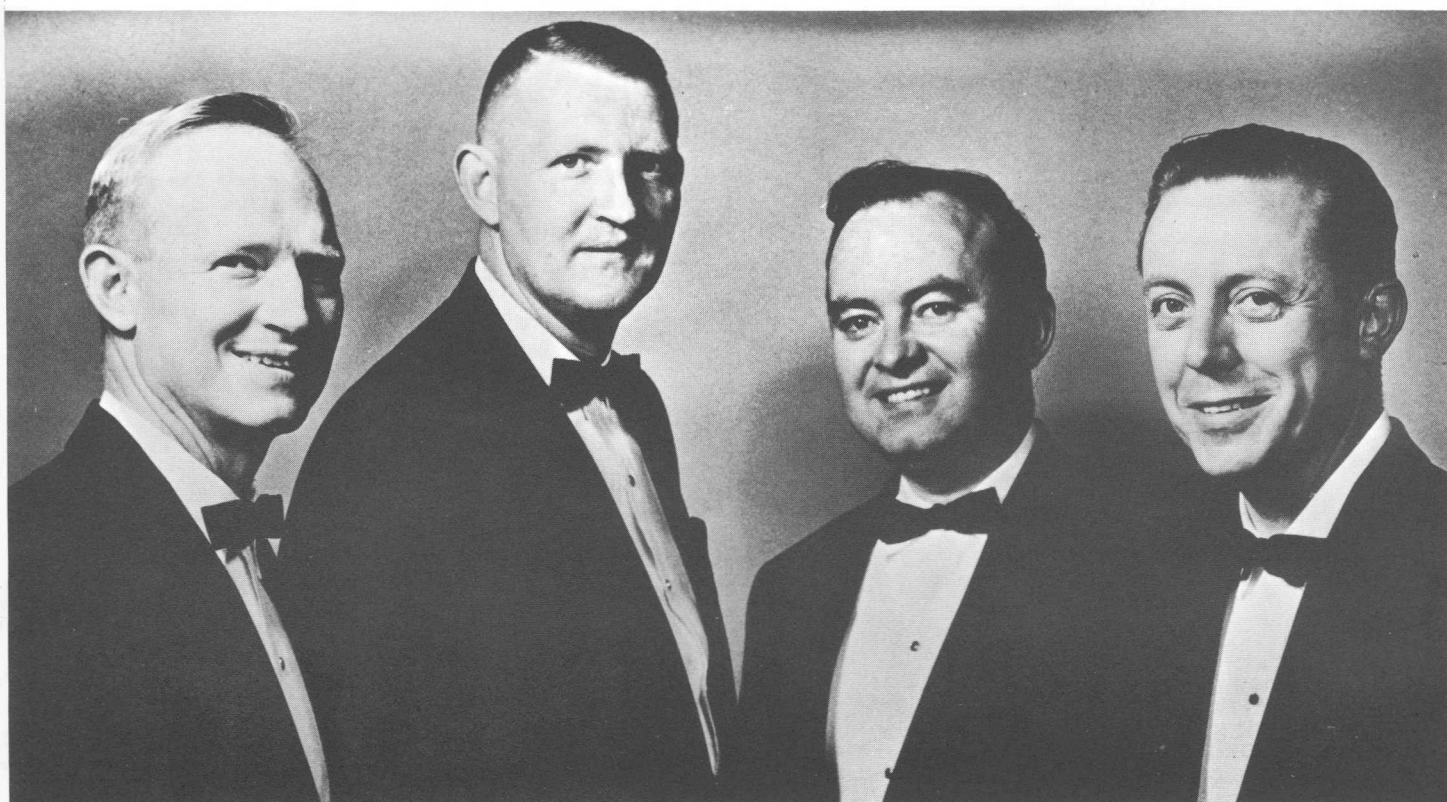


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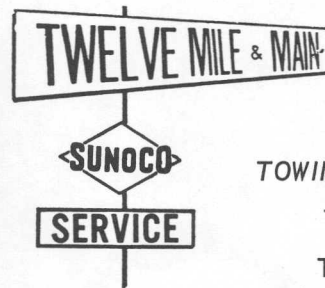
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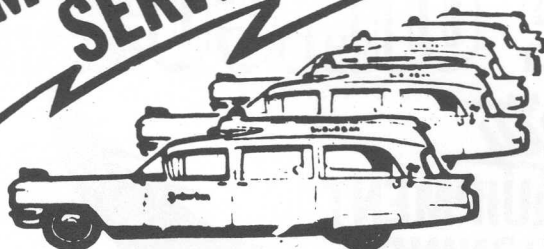
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# WE SING . . . . THAT THEY SHALL SPEAK

The Institute of Logopedics  
International Service Project of  
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement  
of  
Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Barbershop Harmony has a new ring these days — one with a deep and joyous purpose to it. For Barbershoppers are willingly lending heart and voice that silent children throughout the world may be given speech. S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. is proud indeed of its International Service Project, the Institute of Logopedics in Wichita, Kansas.

In every community there are men who love to use their God-given talents to sing. In every community, too, there are silent children who cannot express even the simplest song or thought imprisoned in their hearts. They look to the Barbershoppers for escape from their lonely prisons of silence. We are humbly grateful that God has granted us the privilege and talent to sing — *that they shall speak*.

Communication, as every Barbershopper knows, is mankind's most vital tool. As a pioneer in the field, the Institute has brought speech to more than 30,000 persons throughout the world; and has become the largest residential habilitative center. Today more than 3 children per day are restored to their communities to take their rightful places as speaking members of society.

But countless thousands still plead mutely for our help . . . your help. We cannot — nor do we wish to — ignore their unspoken appeals.

Without speech a human's world is dark and his potential unknown.

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As we sing, we hear in our hearts a chorus of voices once silent who are joining us in song . . . they are the 30,000 who found speech at the Institute of Logopedics which we proudly claim as our own.

But we are mindful also of the millions who silently look to us — and to YOU — for their birthright — *Speech*.

**WE SING . . . . THAT THEY TOO SHALL SPEAK !!**