Central States
SERENADE

APRIL, 1957 SPENCER, IOWA VOL. 3—NO. 5

Topeka Set For Regional

CSA Mourns Death of Dwight Slater

Snow-On-Roof Four Tenor Also Served As CSA Treasurer

All of the Central States Association of Chapters of SPEBSQSA were saddened early in March with the news of the passing of Dwight E. Slater. Dwight was serving his second term as treasurer of the District and everyone who came into contact with him knew him to be a gentlemen, a friend and one upon whom you could rely completely.

In his own words, Dwight was "an old century product," having been born in Omaha in 1899. He attended regular grade and high school and after working for a year entered Nebraska University as an embryo electrical engineer. Using his own expression again, he "got shot full of trigonometry, calculus and physics," only to discover that the demand for electrical engineers was not particularly strong so he changed his course to that of business administration. His main occupation was that of a manufacturer and food merchandiser.

Dwight, possessor of a fine tenor voice, was connected with singing from his high school days as he "sang around lamp-posts and harmonized with the big Swede Buttermaker in Fremont." As a college student he and four other optomistic boys made up a quartet known as the Klef Klub Four. During the past few years he was the tenor in the popular foursome, the "Snow-On-The-Roof Four."

The following verse taken from the Ak-Sar-Ben Chapter Bulletin, KEY NOTER, expresses well the love that all CSA Barber Shoppers felt for Dwight:

"God took him home, it was His will; but in our hearts he liveth still. A silent thought, a secret tear, will keep his memory ever near. Some day we hope to meet again . . some day, we know not when . . . To sing a song in that better land, and ne'er to part again."

Dwight Slater

Delinquent Chapters A Major Problem to CSA

Word has come to the SERENADE from Herb Wall that many chapters of the Central States Association are delinquent in the payment of their per capita dues. The membership summary of February 28th showed that of 68 chapters in the District, 31 had failed to send in the required minimum of 20 members by January 31. This means technically that 45.4 per cent of the chapters were not in the fold of the Society.

This presents several serious problems. In the first place such chapters are in danger of losing their charters. Not only that, but quartets and choruses of delinquent chapters cannot compete in any Society contests until those chapters are in good standing and the per capita dues of those competing have been paid.

In a letter to Wall, International Secretary Robert Hafer, says, "All of the delinquent chapters have been reminded several times by this office of their status and the necessity of filing the monthly membership report forms contained in the new Secretary's Record Book, but the response has been sad. I sincerely hope, Herb, if you or your fellow District Officers haven't already done so, that you will immediately contact the delinquent chapters either by mail, telegram, telephone or personal contact through your officers and Area Counselors, urging dilatory officers of chapters which may be thriving, to carry out their responsibility and determining the exact situation of those chapters which are having difficulty in rounding up 20 men, offering District help to salvage them."

Wall urges that all of the membership of the Central States Association take this matter with great seriousness and do all possible to remedy the situation.

According to the list of delinquent chapters sent out by International, there are three such chapters in Colorado, nine in Iowa, 12 in Kansas, five in Missouri, four in Nebraska and one in Wyoming. These figures are as of February 28 and while some of these chapters have been placed in good standing, District Officers are anxious that all chapters take care of this matter at the earliest possible moment.

Judge Candidates Asked to Sign Up For Regional Go

Floyd Strong, Chairman of the Central States Contest and Judging Committee, has issued a call to all Judge Candidates who desire to participate in the program at the Regional Contest in Topeka. The proper procedure is to advise Strong, 214 Insurance Building, Topeka, if they wish to be included. It is necessary that this information be known in advance of the contest in order that sufficient judging forms and proper facilities can be obtained.

Entries Still Coming In From CSA Singers

The Central States Regional Preliminary Contest for Barber Shop Quartets and Choruses is all set to roll in Topeka on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 3, 4 and 5, according to Clair Robb, general chairman. Entries from at least twelve quartets have been received and a minimum of six to ten choruses is expected to compete by the time the contest date is reached. It is anticipated that twice the number of quartets so far registered will be on hand to vie for the privilege of representing the Central States District at the International Contest to be held in Los Angeles June 19-23.

Members of the Topeka chapter are sparing no efforts to make this annual affair one that all participants will thoroughly enjoy and talk about for many months to come.

One of the highlights will be the appearance by the Orphans, former International Champions who have not sung together regularly for some time since transfer of two members forced disbanding of this outstanding quartet. Last October these men had a reunion at the District Contest in Kansas City and their generosity with which they sang every place for anyone who asked them was exceeded only by the quality of harmonizing which carried them to the top rung of the Barber Shop ladder in 1954.

S. K. Grundy, well known arranger of barber shop music and coach of such famous groups as the Orphans and currently the Four Pitchikers, will be on hand Friday evening to conduct a craft session in the Florentine Room of the Jayhawk Hotel. The session will get under way at about seven-thirty and will be open to all who wish to attend.

Registration will commence at 6:00 p.m. Friday and will be resumed at 9:00 a.m. Saturday in the lobby of the Jayhawk, the headquarters hotel.

The quartet elimination contest will begin Saturday afternoon at one o'clock and will be followed immediately by the chorus contest. M. C. chores for the afternoon will be handled by CSA President Herb Wall and Vice President Ray Niblo.

The Finals of the quartet contest will begin at 8:15 p.m. in the spacious Municipal Auditorium, site of the afternoon sessions also. Of the ten quartets chosen to compete in the evening will emerge the four quartets and one alternate who will have the right to represent CSA at the International Contest. International Second Vice President, Bob Irvine will serve as master of ceremonies for the evening show. The winning chorus will be chosen immediately following the chorus contest in the afternoon.

Saturday morning the District Officers and the House of Delegates will convene in an important meeting beginning at 9:00 a.m. The final session of the Regional meet will be the critique to be held on Sunday morning.

THE SERENADE

Member of Association of Bulletin Editors

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GLENN E. SCOTT, EDITOR

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Quartet and other listings $15.00 one full year.

DISTRICT OFFICERS

Herb Wall, President	**P. O. Box 1416, Springfield, Mo.**
George H. Williams, Past President	1520 Grand, Spencer(Iowa
Ray Koenig, Vice-President	5429 Paseo, Kansas City, Mo.
Ray Niblo, Vice-President	611 5th Ave., Des Moines, Iowa
Dwight Slater, Treasurer	**4660 Williams St., Omaha, Neb.**
Austin Thames, Secretary	**4915 Main St., Kansas City, Mo.**

AREA COUNSELORS

Chief Area Counselor	Ivan Sedrel, 2908 6th Ave., Des Moines, Ia.
Area 1—Edward B. Zabriskie,	2945 Blake Street, Denver, Colo.
Area 2—W. W. Trego	124 Wood Terrace Dr., Colorado Springs, Colo.
Area 3—Ward W. Husted	Box 978, Laramie, Wyo.
Area 4—Lee Finecy	Box 567, Alliance, Nebr.
Area 5—Gil Carver	3115 Avenue B, Kearney, Nebr.
Area 6—Richard Curzon	1427 South 13th Street, Omaha, Nebr.
Area 7—Albert A. Francke	R.F.D., Walton, Nebr.
Area 8—Gale McCord	Ulysses, Kans.
Area 9—John Lockyer	Box 681, Russell, Kansas
Area 10—Glenn H. Miller	Box 427, Salina, Kans.
Area 11—Bob Bridewell	2214 Random Road, Wichita, Kans.
Area 12—Sam Cohen	c-o Chicken House, Junction City, Kansas
Area 13—Howard Olson	809 Quincy, Topeka, Kansas
Area 14—Carl Blackwell	308 N. Catalpa, Pittsburg, Kans.
Area 15—Edwin W. Hirr	8619 Holmes Rd., Kansas City, Mo.
Area 16—C. M. "Cap" Bassman	122 W. 1st Street, Hermann, Mo.
Area 18—Walter W. Portmann, Jr.	9519 Echo Lane, Overland 14, Mo.
Area 19—Robert F. Brooks	408 Turner Avenue, Columbia, Mo.
Area 20—Edmond T. Kimball	623 Avenue D., Fort Madison, Iowa.
Area 21—George Biasi	1083 W. Third, Dubuque, Iowa
Area 22—R. L. Farmer	1st Nat'l Bank Bldg., Mason City, Iowa
Area 24—S. P. Delaney	112 West 5th St., Spencer, Iowa
Area 25—Clair Tiede	Wessington Springs, So. Dakota

To All Chapter Presidents

Gentlemen:

We of the Central States District have a problem, and we believe you can help us solve it. The problem-Area Counselors. Will you assist us in selecting the best man in your area?

The perfect Area Counselor would have the following qualifications:

1. He would love Barber Shop Harmony.
2. Be willing to put out a little work for the Society.
3. Be able and willing to travel some at his own cost.

Perhaps, he is a man who does some traveling on his job, or, who is semi-retired and has the urge to promote SPEBSQSA. If he is a tenor too, FINE! We are looking for a good upstanding individual.

His chief function — to stimulate and keep enthusiasm in our existing chapters — to assist in starting new chapters in the area.

We need this information now. We will be grateful if you will give this your immediate attention. A note on the bottom of this letter giving his name, address and telephone number, if possible, will do the job. See you in Topeka.

Send your communication to:
Ray C. Niblo, Vice president
Central States District
1406 Watrous Avenue
Des Moines, Iowa

NOTE: In the event that some one who would like to act as an Area Counselor and has not been contacted by Chapter officers — write me at once advising the district where you wish to serve. The Central States need your help.

Directory of Quartets

(Advertisement)

Air Capital (Shrine) Quartet
Int'l semi-finalists 1951-52-53
Contact Edw. G. Fahnestock
730 East 13th St.,
Wichita 2, Kan.

Royalaires—
Int'l Semi-Finalists
2nd Place Winners CSA
Contact Arlo Moore
3015 S. 28th St.
Kansas City, Kan.

The Big Four
Int'l Sweet Adeline Champs 1953-54
Contact Sarah LeMaster
R.R. 2
Chillicothe, Ill.

The Hawkeye Four
Central State Dist. Champs 1955
Six times Internat'l semi-finalists
Contact Fred Owens
3408 Hickmna Rd.
Des Moines, Iowa

The Kansas City Serenaders
Central States Dist. Champs 1948-49
Contact Bert Phelps
6035 Park Ave.
Kansas City 30, Mo.

The Four Pitchikers
4th Place 1956 International
1956 CSA Champions
Contact: Joe Delzell
Rt. 1, Box 228
Springfield, Mo.

The Mississippi Misses
Int'l Sweet Adeline Champs, 1954-55
Contact Mary Paul
1121 Ave. F.
Fort Madison, Iowa

George H. Williams
CSA Past President.
Available for limited number of emceeing engagements.
1520 Grand avenue,
Spencer, Iowa.

The Barber-Q Four
Int'l Finalists '54
Illinois Dist. Champs '49-'50
Contact Tom Watts
856 South York Rd.,
Elmhurst, Ill.

Mello-D-Men
Contact Al Boughton
2912 C. Ave. N. E.
Cedar Rapids. Iowa

Crow Bars
3rd Place Central States, '54-'56
International Semi-finalists '55
Contact George Bacon
P.O. Box 390
El Dorado, Kan.

The B.M.A. Gamboliers
International Semi-finalists, '47-52-53.
Central States Champs, '52-53.
Contact Orval H. Wilson,
3646 E. 61st St.
Kansas City, Mo

The Plainsmen
Contact Don Braun
1016 Sherman St.,
Holdrege, Neb.

The Atomic Bums
Contact: Maynard W. Saxe
3437 South Girard Ave.
Minneapolis, Minn.

The Skymasters
District Champions
Contact: James S. Baird
5502 St. 76th St., Ralston, Nebr.

ATTENTION!!

Chapter Presidents & Secretaries

The Serenade Needs News About Your Chapter Activities. Mail the Information Regularly To:

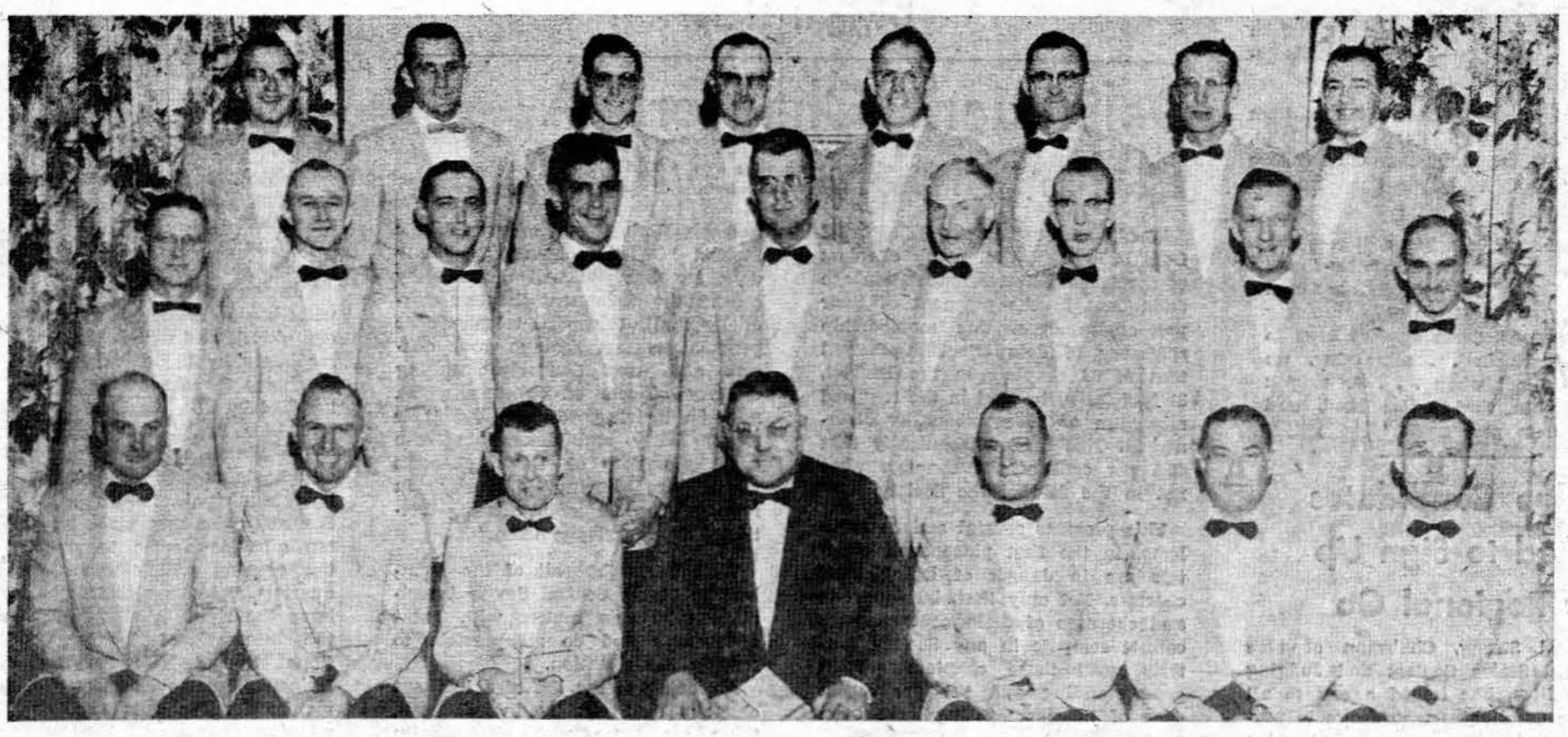
THE SERENADE

525 Grand

Spencer, Iowa

Next Issue in May

Advertise Your Parades In The Serenade



Buena Vista County Chapter Chorus —

The Buena Vista County (Iowa) Barber Shop Chorus, shown above, presented their first annual Parade of Quartets in the Linn Grove, Iowa, high school auditorium, Saturday, April 13. In addition to the B. V. chorus, the program included selections by the LeMars, Iowa, Barber Shop Chorus, directed by Dick Parker, and six quartets. The quartets were the Accidentals of Storm Lake, the River Rats of Linn Grove, the Midniters, also of Linn Grove, the Four Nubbins of Spencer, and the Plymouthaires and Nipcords, both of LeMars. Chorus members pictured above are: Top row (left to right) John Brown, Al Simon, Dick Phillips, Leonard Hadenfelt, Kenneth Dryzinski, Waldo Pingel, Noland Nelson, and Bob Cole; Middle row: Ray Spurlock, Dean Matthews, Bob Schulenberg, Duane Johnson, Bertyl Lyster, S. O. Knudson, Bob Eberle, Jim Mathias and Lyle Giddle; Bottom row: Stanley Rydstrom, Byron Reed, Lyle Fredrickson, Bob Anderson (chorus director), Bill Weik, Clare Pelly and Bud Ingram.

Wichita Parade Tops With Terrific Talent

By JOHN HAMMOND
Editor, Wichi-Tones

The Wichita Forum was indeed the vocal point for a goodly gathering of Sattiday Night lovers of Happy Harcony last March thutieth . . . in fact, that Tremendous Temple of Tune Tenders was (pardon the expression) four-fifths full . . . or was that the Afterglow? Anyhow, there were nigh onto 4,000 pipple who came to see a good show (in a time slot opposite all the biggies on TV) and went out talking to themselves about the best show yet in the 19 times the Annual Parade has been produced here. And And innybody that's bin around shows knows there's a lot of work involved in producing one of those kind. Lots of credit is due a lot of fellows from President Virgil Chambers right on down to the water (?) boy.

This here sing-sing started out with some sold bars from the WICHITONES . . . the Famous Forty whom have been a purty popular chorus around these here parts for some spell. The Master of Ceharmonies was our old friend and member BILL HARPER, whom has been taken in by the local Sweet Adelines . . . as a very fine Chorus Director, that is. Bill has performed here many times in the past as gang sing leader, as well as at some International Doin's. Next came the good ole standbys . . . the quartets who are always around when you call on them . . . like f'rinstance the COSMOPOLITAN GAY NINETIES (no relation of those Mirthful Muggers from Montevideo); the ELKS MELLOTONES (they ain't no moose on the loose . . . they toot their own horns); the ENGINAIRS (they figger and figger and all of a sudden . . . BOEING . . . Super Songics); the AIR CAPITOLS (they're flying higher than a B-sharp 52); and a recently formed four called the CAVALIERS (who are cooler than a cigaroot with a foot-long filter).

One of the sweet spots on the agenda . . . that's Spanish for stage . . . was the reappearance of those ever lovin' ORPHANS . . . who are still big big favorites with the local audience . . . they hadn't been together since K.C. last October, except for a show session the week previous at Gary, Indiana, where Bud Bigham now lives. But you wouldn't have known they had ever been apart when they hit the old goodies. Pete Tyree is still out Coloradot Springs way, and Bob Groom and Joy Bond are still knocking around town. The CONFEDERATES went and flooded the town with money again . . . you know what kind . . . and also with their own yummy Southern Style Cookin' on the Front Burner kind of singing'. It's easy to see how they got to be Champeens. Those young lads from Springfield, namely the PITCHIKERS . . . who waggle their tonsils instead of their thumbs when they want to get somewhere . . . have already arrived. They were audience favorites here a couple years back and were still show stealers . . . all these vets better keep an eye on them. And those Happy Hooligans from the wilds of Montivideo . . . the Smiling Ones . . . the GAY NINETIES with that priceless instrument of the dulcet tones that everybody knos the name of and if they don't they better not ask because it takes hours to tell them what it ISN'T. It must have taken years of practice to have as much fun as that gang does without ever cracking so much as one leetle smile.

The Afterglow . . . well, it was one of those things packed with fun and pipple . . . and you just can't have one without the other. And this was one of those singaroos that just wouldn't stop. All the show bunch relaxed and let their hair down plus a couple more quartets . . . the DELINQUENTS, a former local four in the teens, now of Oklahoma City, and the DOTTED QUARTERS of Wichita's Sweet Adelines, third placers in International Competition a while back.

Now you see, how this here story came about was . . . HERB WALL was at the show and the day after, he and me was just standing' around doin' nuthin' in particular. So he says to my shyn't you write sumpin' for the SERENADE . . . so I wasn't doin nuthin' in particular . . . so I did

N.E. District Chorus Contest Plan Explained

(Editor's note: The following letter is published in the hopes that it may prove enlightening to District Delegates who will be asked to consider the problem of the chorus contest date when they meet in Topeka on May 4.)

Mr. Herb Wall
P.O. Box 1416
SSS, Springfield, Missouri

Dear Herb:

Bob Hafer has asked me to write you about our Northeast District operation on Chorus Contests. Since it's present state represents a three year development, some "history" and "reasons for" may well be in order.

At that time the problem of our District Chorus Contests were a matter of concern. Their relative success was due in great measure to the calibre of the local contest chairman. As District Chorus Committee Chairman I was asked to work up and then assigned the responsibility of what we term "Sectional Chorus Contests."

The broad concept of these is to spread them out - get them where the chapters are - make them a major Inter-Chapter get-together - keep the Sectionals (and the Finals) such that we get maximum membership participation.

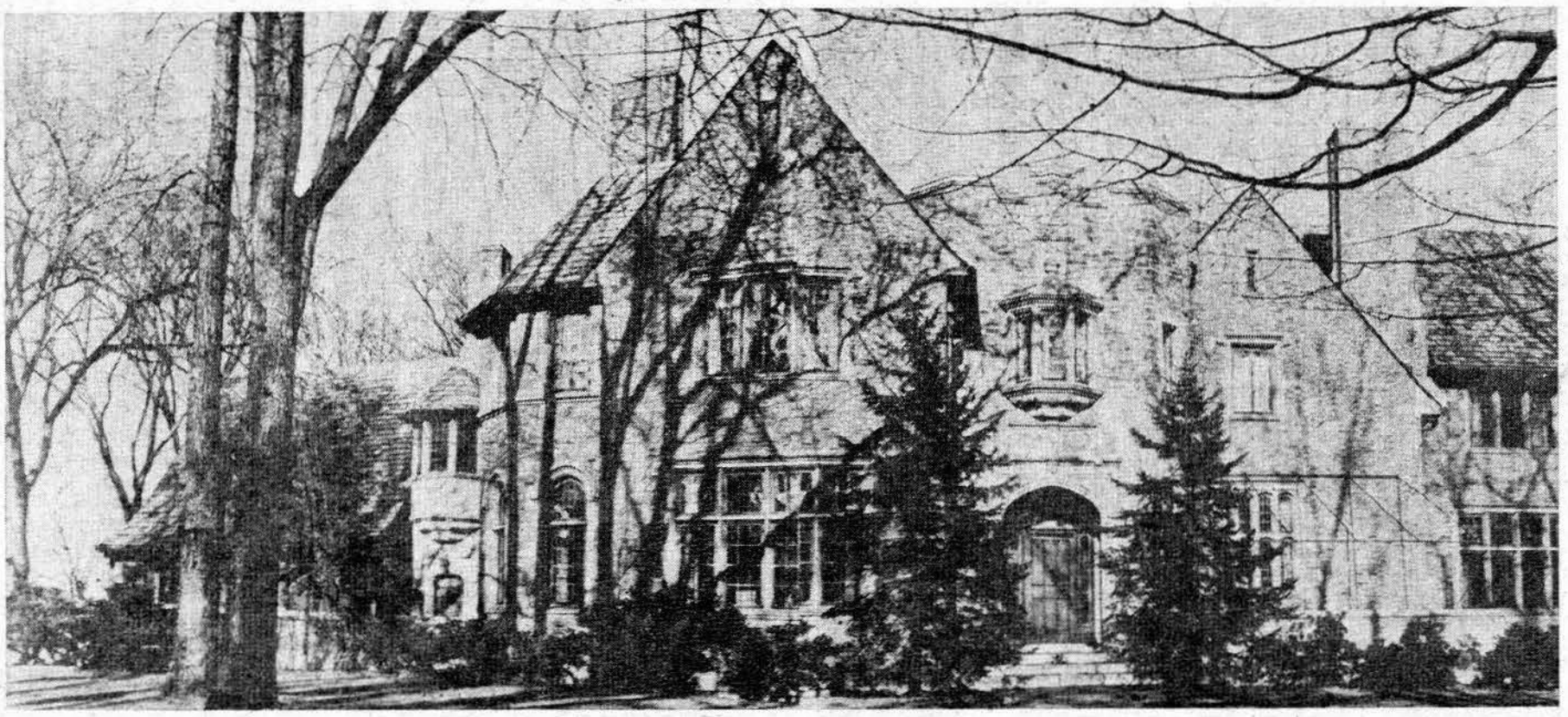
The Sectionals are a problem to be solved by plain common sense. Good knowledge of travel times and natural geographic associations is a help to the chairman. It is also a pretty good thing for him to consider more than just numerical membership in arriving at the number of Sectional Winners to go to the Finals. A Section, according to membership, may deserve only two choruses in the Finals and have two outstanding groups that are bound to win but we allot a third chorus to their quota. This situation we must face in four of our seven Sections. Maybe it isn't "democratic" numerically, but we sure have open competition in each Sectional.

For two years we held these Sectionals during the eight or ten weeks following New Years Day. Mid-Winter Chapter and Inter-Chapter activity was high all over the District. Ed Stetson swears this accellerated our membership recovery to a point where he could brag

Continued on page 8

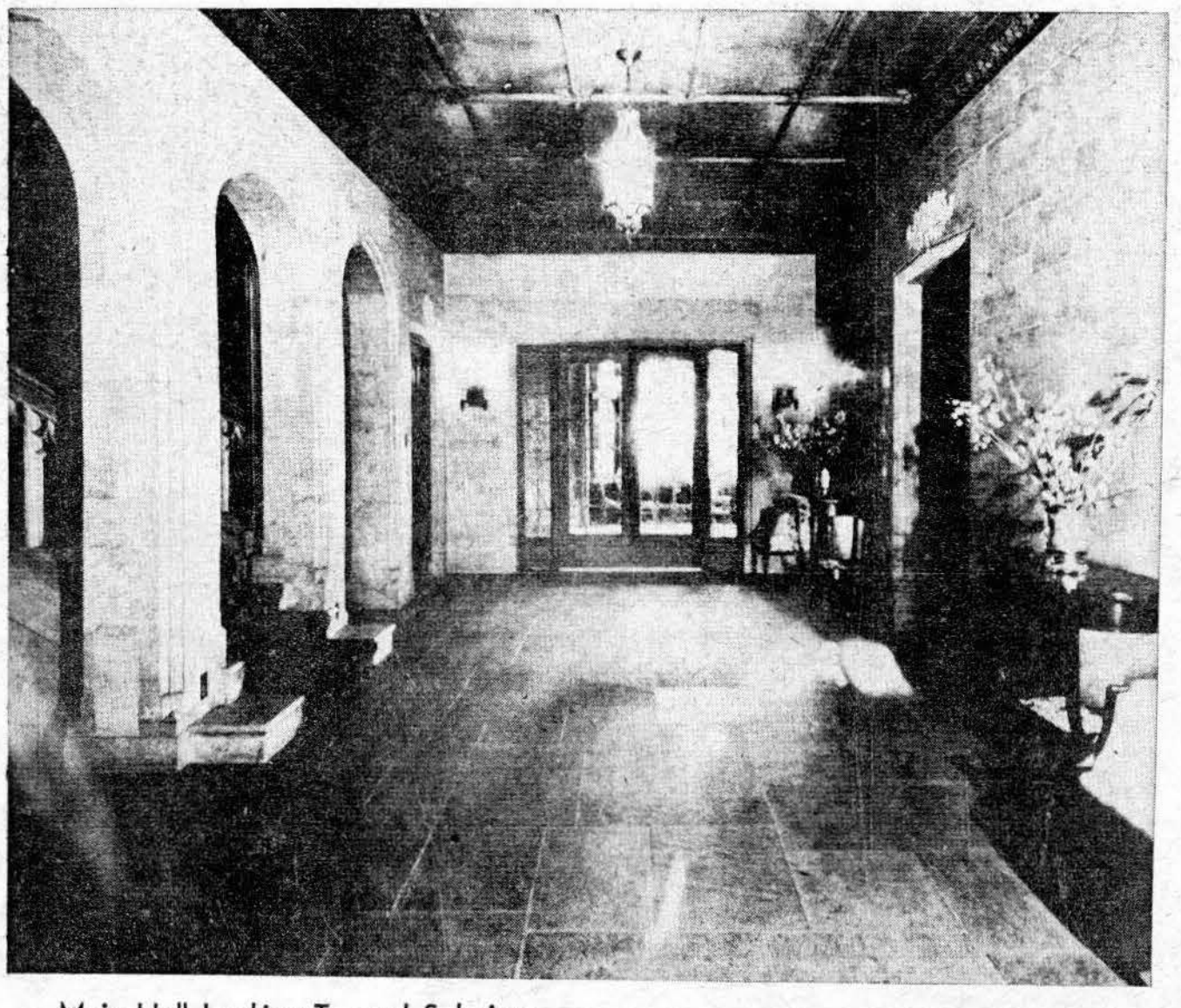
Pittsburgh's SE KANS —
Curt Pearson, shown on the right above, is a man of many talents, as evidenced by the baseball scene in front of which the SE KANS are singing. Pearson, bass in the quartet, does all the stage settings for the shows given by the Pittsburgh chapter and from the drawing shown here, it is not surprising that the backgrounds greatly enhance the singing of the quartets and chorus. Other members of the quartet include, left to right, Jim Garrison (chorus director), tenor, Tony Baima, lead, and Al York, baritone. Al is also secretary of the Pittsburgh chapter.

'Harmony Haven' Is N



View of Front of New Home —

If you should travel down Third Avenue in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and come to a beautiful mansion bearing the house number 6315, you would be looking at HARMONY HAVEN, the new permanent home of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. It was on Friday, March 15, that International Secretary Robert G. Hafer, acting on the authority of the International Board of Directors, officially signed the final documents completing the purchase of this outstanding property. This is the climax to eight years of dreaming, planning and investigating and now the Society has achieved a symbol truly worthy of its stature and maturity. Plans call for taking occupancy on June 1 but headquarters personnel have intimated that there is a possibility of their being in business at the new "stand" earlier. Art Merrill, former International President, heads the contributions and pledges section of the Headquarters Project Committee and sends the information that special recognition will be given individuals, quartets and chapters according to the contributions they make toward the Expansion Fund. If an individual contributes $100 ($20 per year for five years), he will be entitled to have an individually labeled shaving mug displayed on a prominent shelf in the new Headquarters. Quartet contributions amounting to $100 ($20 per year for five years) entitle the quartet to have a framed 8x10" picture of themselves placed in a prominent place on the wall. Individual and quartet contributions will also be credited to the chapter of those making the contribution and when the amount given in the name of the chapter reaches $10 per member in the chapter, the group will qualify to be listed on a bronze plaque in the front hall of the new Headquarters. The new housing facilities for the International Offices will not only make for improved and expanded services to districts, chapters and individuals, but will serve as a fitting shrine symbolical of the high purposes for which the Society stands.



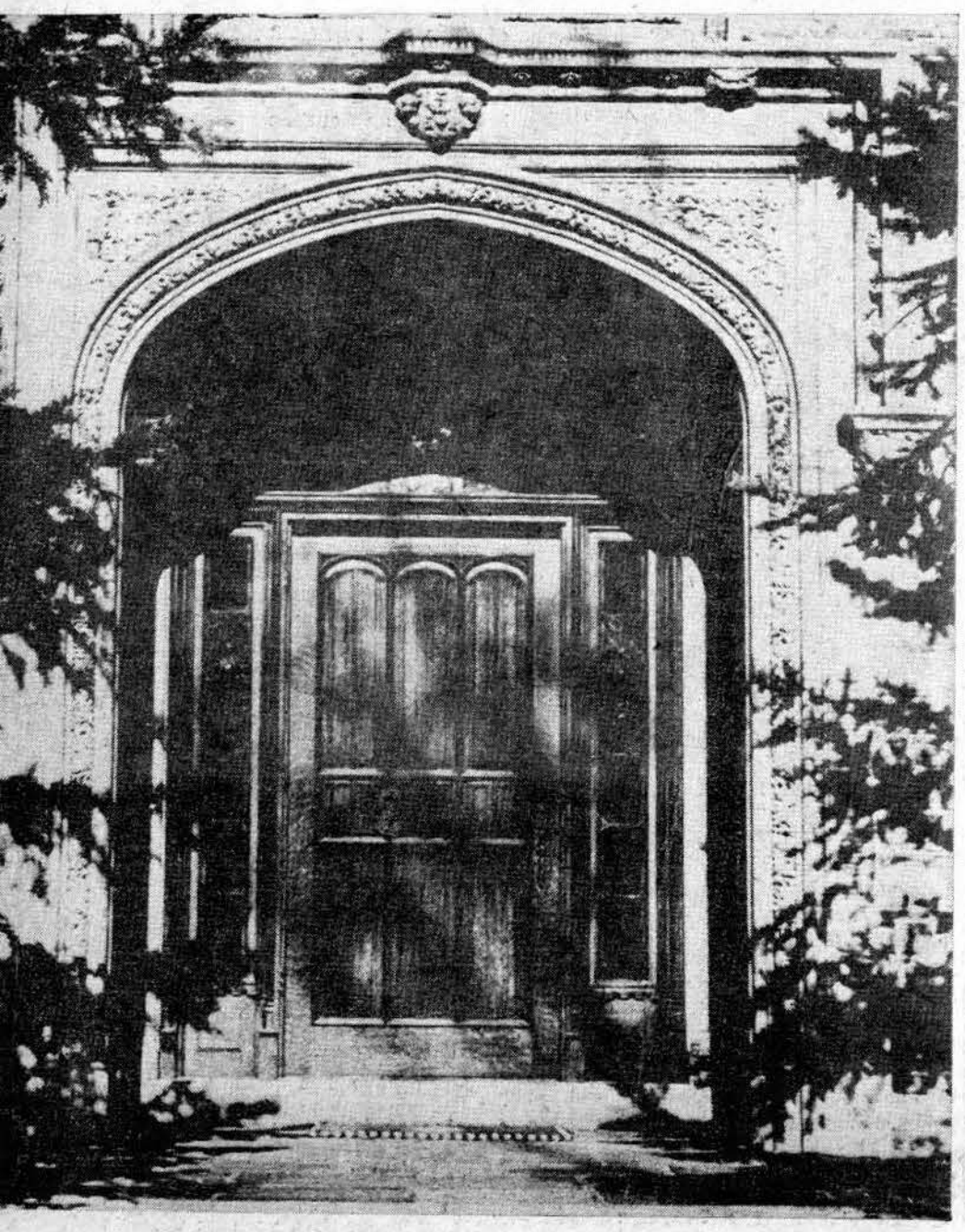
Main Hall Looking Toward Solarium —

It is in this beautiful main hall that the receptionist will greet all who come to International Headquarters, either on business or just for a visit. This view of the hall looks toward the Solarium, which has been proposed for use as a lounge.

Proposed Board of Directors Room —

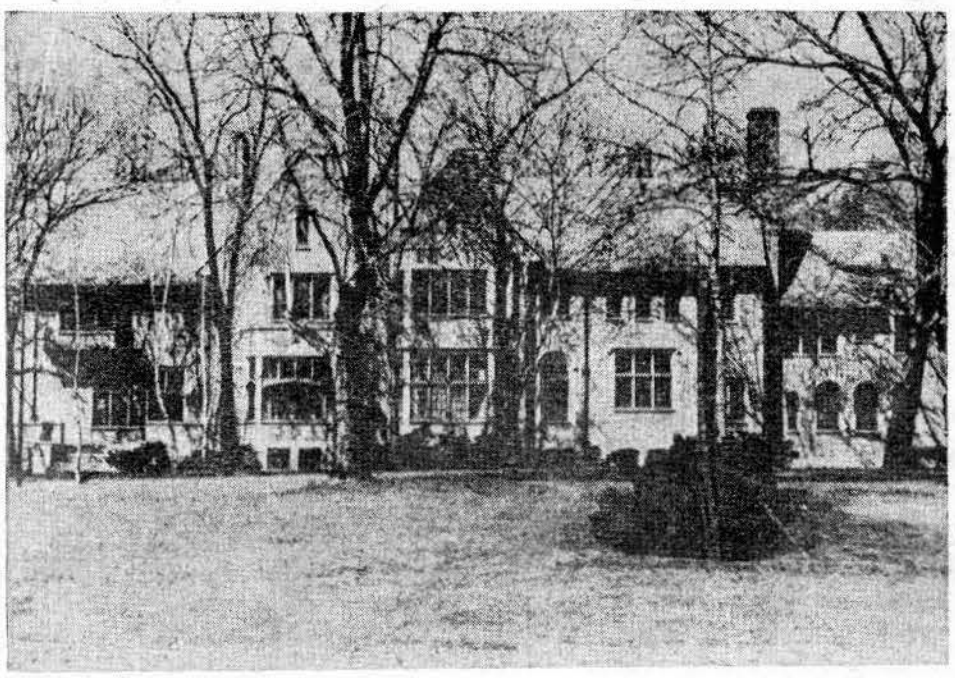
Shown above is the dining room which has been p
Directors. Room can be combined with Solarium
making it possible to accommodate meetings of l

New Home of Society

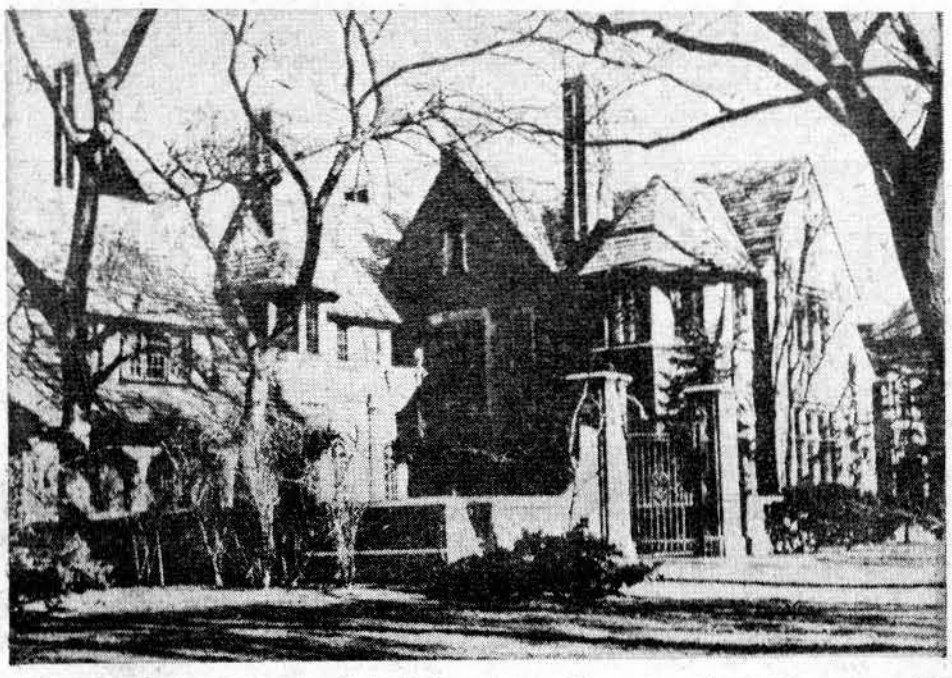


ront Door of Mansion —

hrough this massive yet artistically designed entrance that people will enter the Headquarters. Society members and visitors will always find the latch string out warm welcome awaiting them.

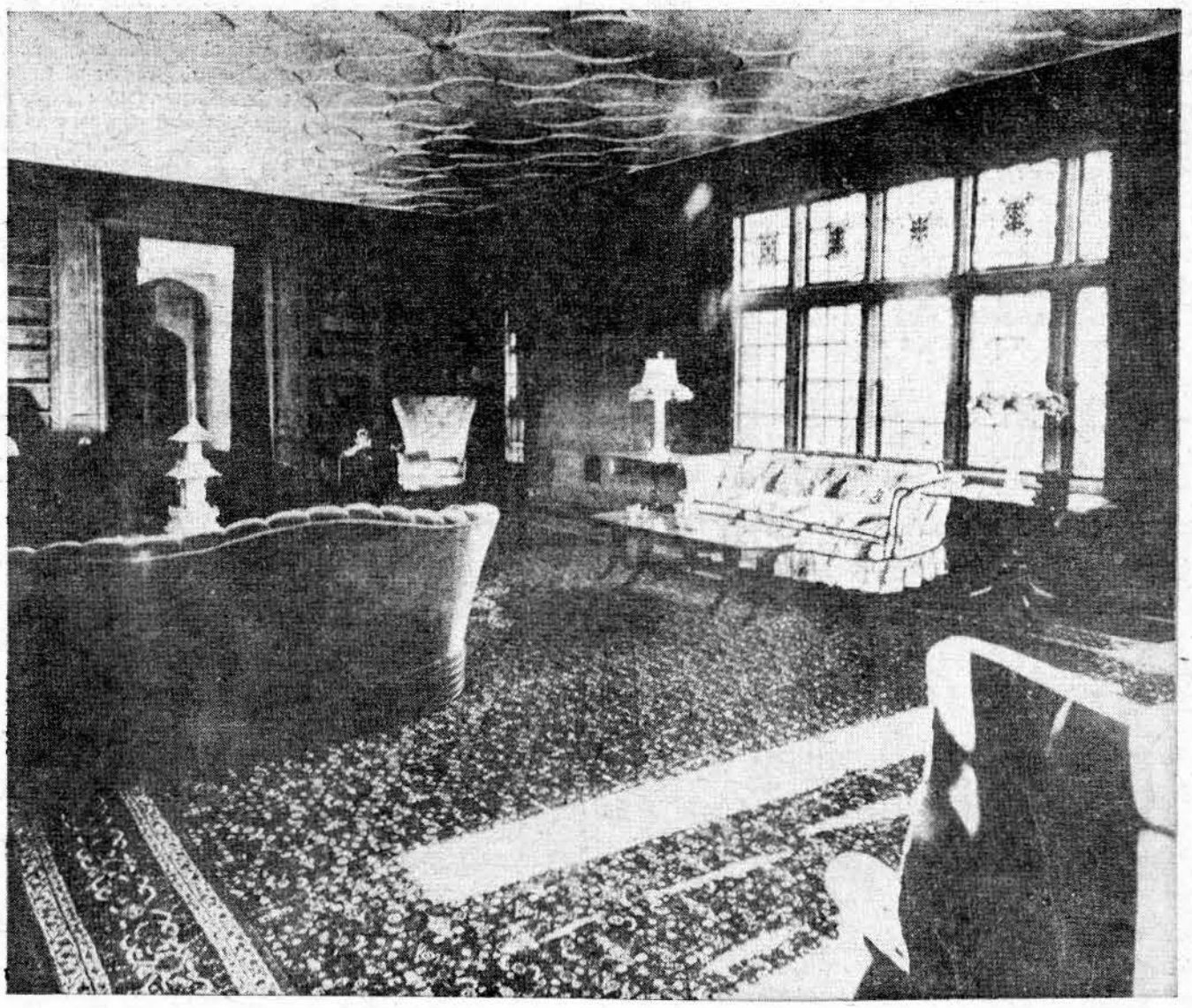


Rear view shows lawn which runs to concrete and granite rock sea-wall on western shore of Lake Michigan.



Angle shot of front of building taken from northwest corner of property. There is a three car garage at the left.

oposed as a room to be used by the Board of by opening glass doors shown on the left, thus rger groups.



Living Room May Become Shrine —

Looking toward the main entrance, this view of the living room gives a picture of what may be the Shrine Room, commemorating the Society's Founder, O. C. Cash. Persian rug and luxurious drapes are included in the purchase of the building.

The New Air Capitol Quartet —
In the last issue of the SERENADE an account of the Air Capitol Quartet's singing as replacements for the Mid States Four was related along with a picture of the group. It has been brought to the attention of the district newspaper that there has been considerable change in the personnel of the foursome and the above picture is made up of the current members. They are (left to right) Wilbur Geeding, tenor, Virgil Chambers, lead, Homer Watson, baritone, and Harry Beacham, bass. (Editor's note: a thousand apologies, fellows. We just didn't know.)

Herb Wall Submits Yearly Report to CSA

In this, my swan song report to the Central States District, I want to urge some pertinent suggestions to you, the members and officers of this segment of this wonderful organization. After four years as a District officer, I've had a chance to objectively observe the operations and the following should be considered.

Due to the fact that we spent approximately $1,000.00 more last year than we took in and the fact that the District functions need adequate financing in order to do an effective job, the officers have considered requesting District dues from the membership beginning January 1, 1958. Practically all of the 14 Districts in the Society do have assessments one way or another and perform more needed functions than Central States for their chapters. We feel it is good for CSA to seriously consider such a move. Our deliberations seem to point to an assessment of $2.00 per member per year, $1.50 to go to District expenses and 50 cents toward the publishing of the Serenade. The District now depends entirely for its revenue on one-half the profit of District contests and the 50 cents per capita rebate from International. The last two years' profit from contests has been below $700.00 per year and the per capita rebate approximately $1,100.00. Also many chapters have failed to pay their 50 cents per capita Serenade subscriptions. I feel that we are selling Barbershopping short financially. If we could get our membership dues up to around $15.00 per year, much more could be accomplished.

Financial Assistance to Winning Chorus: Practically all of the Districts in the Society assist their choruses and many of them their quartets in financing their trips to International contests. It would seem to be a good thing since the winning chorus sometimes is the loser because of the necessity of raising large quantities of money for transportation costs. In fact it might get to where the best money-raising chorus would be the one who represented the District rather than the best singing chorus. Part of the reason for the District dues would be to assist choruses and quartets to International contests.

Date of Official District Chorus Contest: When your president attended the Mid-Winter meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, it was urged on him that it would be more in line with other Districts to hold our District Chorus Contest at the mid-year meeting in October instead of our present practice of holding them in May at the Regionals. Eleven of the fourteen districts hold theirs at the mid-year meeting.

The arguments for are: there is more time at District contests, it gives the choruses more time to raise money to attend International contests, it gives the winning chorus more time to practice and makes it possible for the District to arrange some kind of financing assistance.

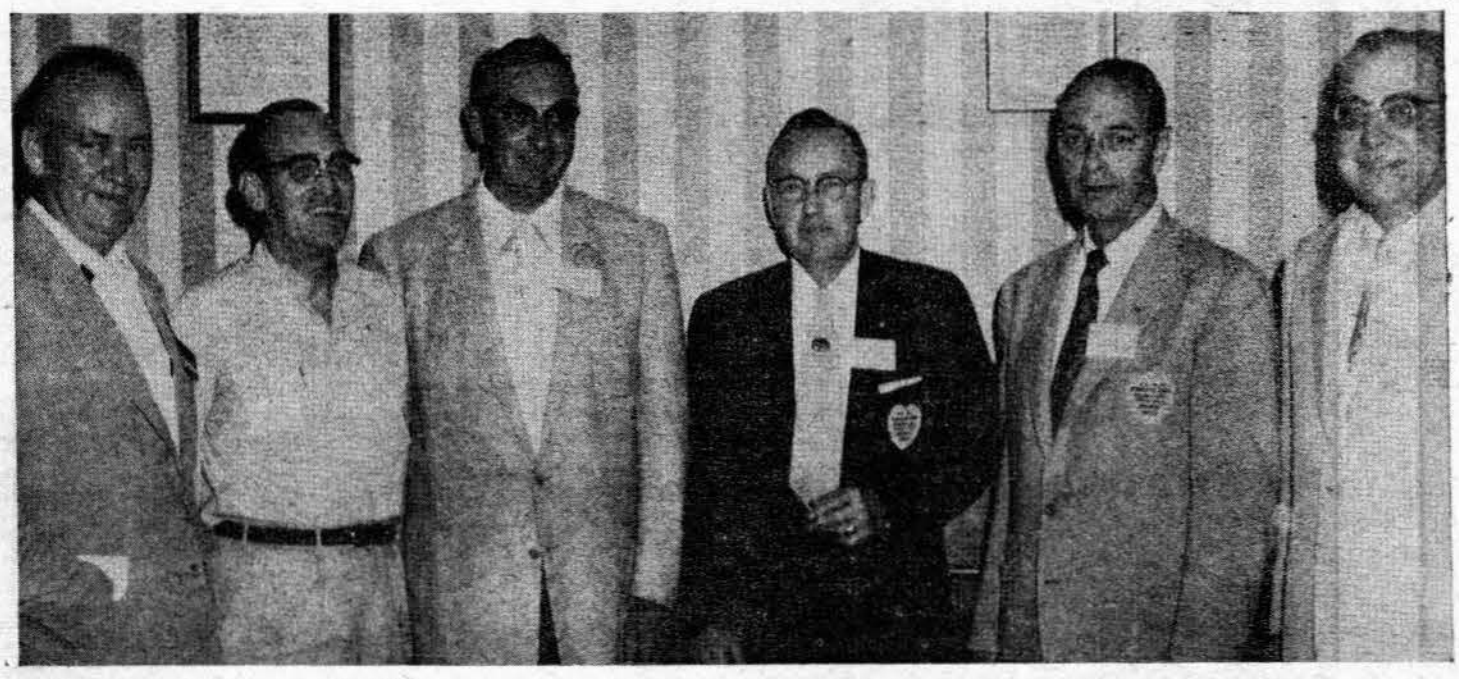
The objections in Central States are: that we attempt to have our Regional Preliminary contest as close to the center of the District as possible so as to attract more good quartets and choruses and our Mid-Year District contest more in the fringes of the District. Many times a chorus contest at the District function amount to just a contest of choruses in a very small area surrounding the town in which it is held. It is expensive to send choruses to the outer fringes of the district. Your officers have concluded in the past that the May chorus contest is better since the winning chorus is in top form, it is more likely to retain its existing personnel, and is just as likely to raise the money in the six weeks between the chorus contest and the International contest as it would if it had several months to do it. The Regional Preliminaries provide more choruses ordinarily than District contests do.

These three items of importance will be on the agenda for the May 4th meeting and I would appreciate the delegates' considering them seriously so as to discuss them intelligently at that meeting. We hope to have more time in our limited allotment of time for general discussion.

It has been quite a job to say the least and many wonderful accomplishments have been made in my tenure of office. The pay-off is in the swell times I've had being with Barbershoppers throughout the District and the extreme pleasure of making many new friends that I otherwise would never have known. Many things need to be accomplished and I am sure that under the direction and guidance of your new officers, Central States and the entire Barbershop Harmony Society will go forward by leaps and bounds.

I want to thank my fellow officers who have performed so diligently through the past four years for ex-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



Retiring Officers of CSA —
An important part of the Regional Contest to be held in Topeka May 3, 4 and 5 is the election of officers of the Central States District. Shown above are the men who have been guiding the CSA during the past year. They are, left to right, George Williams, immediate past president, Austin Thames, secretary, Ray Niblo, vice president, Herb Wall, president, Ray Koenig, vice president, and Dwight Slater, treasurer.

Niblo Reports On Extension

(Editor's note: the following is the annual report of Ray Niblo, vice-president of the Central States Association of Chapters, to District Officers and Delegates)

This year in Chapter Extension we borrowed an outline prepared by International Headquarters. Here it is briefly:

(1) We drew a circle, 50 to 100 miles, around each Chapter.
(2) Selected a community within that circle. (With the help of Herb Wall in Missouri, Floyd Strong in Kansas, Clare Wilson in Nebraska and Ivan Sedrel in Iowa).
(3) Sent the attached letter to the Chapter President.
(4) Sent copies of each letter to the Area Counselor responsible.

Up to date we have accomplished nothing tangible but I do know we have some Chapters active on Extension as a result.

In a district as wide spread as ours, we need Area Counselors with lots of fire, enthuiasm and love for our Society, to make our plans work. We are striving to make this group stronger for the coming year. I think we are on the march!

Respectfully submitted,
Ray Niblo, Vice President, CST

(The attached letter is as follows:

Over the past several years there have been many words spoken, and written, on the subject of Extension —getting new Chapters.

To do the job right, some "prospecting" has to be done by your Chapter. From here, it looks like ..... would be a logical, and desirable, location for a Chapter.

If you have not already done so, won't you appoint an Extension Chairman for your Chapter, and discuss with him the approach to the job?

If the location I have mentioned is not a prospect now, perhaps there is a location near-by that you can line up. Will you make some plans?

Our Society needs extension of its membership. Certainly you and I are agreed there is a market for barber shop harmony. Will wou pick your location and plan your activity? It will help to make your Chapter a healthy one.

Let's stop talking Extension and start doing!

Important Meet For Delegates At CSA Regional

By RAY L. KOENIG
Vice President, CSA

CHAPTER DELEGATES ! ! ! MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THE REGIONAL CONTEST AT TOPEKA MAY 3, 4, 5.

The Regional Preliminary Contest this year is being held in a centrally located city and Topeka is making plans to give us one of the finest Regional meetings in the history of our Central States District. Because of the central location and accessible means of transportation there should be a very good turnout from the various chapters throughout the district.

Some very important items of business should be taken care of at our District Officers and House of Delegates meeting which will be hed at 9:00 a.m. Saturday, May 4 Your District Officers are extremely grateful and greatly encouraged with their duties, as your officers, when there is a large turnout of the chapter delegates.

One item of business is in regard to financing our Central States Association of Chapters. At the present time with the services now rendered and district obligations as they are, it will be necessary to vote a per-capita assessment to each Chapter member which would be paid as part of his membership dues to the Society.

All of us know that we pay less dues in SPEBSQSA than in any other club, lodge, society or what-have-you of like caliber. If you have any kind of hobby such as hunting, fishing, golf, collecting anything worth while, home work-shop activities, rocks and lapidary, dogs, etc., etc., you know you will spend many tinues what your SPEBSQSA costs. In our Society we have both a club and a hobby so why not give just a little more for membership dues so that we may receive in return an abundance in service and aid towards our mutual enjoyment.

Make sure that your chapter is represented officially at this meeting, of course everyone is welcome, but you owe it to yourself, your District and your Society as well as your chapter, to have representation when matters of finance, policy, organization, activity etc., are decided.

Will be seeing you in Topeka.

ABE Breakfast To Be On May 4 At Hotel Jayhawk

Bill Townsend, secretary of the Topeka Chapter, has announced that there will be a meeting of the members and prospective members of the Association of Bulletin Editors in Topeka, Saturday morning, May 4, at 8:00 o'clock. The group will meet for breakfast in the Coffee Shop of the Hotel Jayhawk, the headquarters hotel for the Regional Contest.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss ideas on the subject of Bulletin publication. As Townsend says, "Am sure you all have a good many ideas on the subject and will be able to help each other on the matter. In other words, the Bulletin editors are just going to have a gab fest."

Both members and visitors are urged to notify the Topeka secretary at 938 Winfield, Topeka, Kansas, if they wish to attend the breakfast in order that proper reservations may be made.

Tops in '56 Regional

1956 Championship Guartets —

Selected to represent Central States at last year's In ternational contest were the four quartets shown above. They are, from the bottom row to the top, th e Hawkeye Four of Des Moines, the Four Pitchikers of Springfield, the Hi Neighbor Four of Kansas Cit y, and the BMA Gamboliers, also of Kansas City. Members of the Hawkeye Four, left to right, are Bob Langerak, Bob Boudewyns, Fred Owens and Jerry Pike; Pitchikers: Larry Hedgpeth, Keith Young, Joe Delzell and Keith Keltner; Hi Neighbor Four: John M. L. Goldsberry, Bill Hamm, Jim Conover and Tom Saunders; BMA Gamboliers: Orval Wilson, Ed Schliebs, Harold Robinette and Barney Wasson.

Regional Chorus Champ Last Year —

Topping either other choruses at last year's regional contest was the Springfield, Missouri, chapter chorus, shown above with Bion McCurry as director. This outstanding choral group will be in competition again this year at the Regional to be held in Topeka on May 3, 4 and 5 and there is little doubt that they will be out to repeat their victory of a year ago.

Chorus Contest

Continued from page 6

about it - which is something for us up here! However, Boston and New England had about eighteen inches of snow the day of our Contest Finals and they decided to move the Finals from late March to Mid-May and our Sectionals this year, in general, were from mid-February on. I believe our membership recovery rate has slipped because of this six week later start.

These Sectionals - where local talent really do a job on it - have became a terrific factor. Most of them (and I wish all of them) are held Saturday Nights. A District Executive Board Meeting is held at one of them. Each one of them has a clinic immediately following the contest. The better Sectionals have Craft Sessions and Judge Candidate meetings in the Afternoon which are open to and very well attended by local members who otherwise would never experience these activities. Our better Sectionals this year were broader in scope and more comprehensive than District meetings were less than five years ago. They should get bigger and more important with each passing yr

Finals have become a real to-do ever since we started, but the Sectionals have assured us of District-wide instead of limited representation among the competing choruses. Sectional Competition has lent much greater importance to the Chorus Contest. For two years we had eighteen choruses in Boston's Symphony Hall with nearly 500 men competing. Six choruses traveled more than 200 miles one way, two of these over 300 miles and one of them almost 500. Our miles are up and down over whatever hills we don't go around, so it's not 60-70 mph travel! But the choruses point toward it. They're pointing toward two trains to Montreal for May 18th. There'll probably be five cars of us in all. Our Chorus Finals have now grown in stature and popularity to the point our District Brass want's to move this Contest to the District Meeting but that poses many problems. It sure would give us a "District Convention" though!

The date of a Chorus Contest seems to become a trumped - up problem. Although we hope our Champion will compete at International, the District is on record that it is not obligatory on our champion to make this trip. Where our champions repeat so often it can and has meant a discouraging financial problem on an annual basis. Our International Competing Chorus must be in our top five and approved by the District Executive Board.

New Spencer Chapter Officers —

Elected recently to govern the affairs of the Spencer, Iowa, chapter are four Barber Shoppers shown above. They are, left to right, Dick Workman, second vice president, Dr. John Buchanan, first vice president, Darwin Ennis, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Leonard Larson, president. This picture was taken by Vern Hofsommer, chapter member, who just happened to have his camera along. (Editor's note: next month will be the final issue of the SERENADE before next September. Since elections have been held throughout the CSA, pictures of new officers would be welcome items.)

With this procedure, we have been very happy to date. There is sufficient time for practice, because they already have trained for Sectional and District Finals. Finance is the major problem - other chapters help as they can and competing members, when their chapter asks to go, can't look to the District Treasury - they help themselves! So far we've gotten along okay - except for winning - and different chapters are able to experience an International each year which is an intangible benefit.

In all chorus contests, Sectionals and Finals, each competitor has to pay $1.00, either personally or his chapter for the group. This assures a back-log for the host chapter and requires it to provide seats for competitors instead of treating them like herds of cattle. Tickets, as available, are sold to local public and camp-followers at nominal rates. Judges expense is limited to out-of-pocket amounts only. Let's live modestly! Usually a gang supper is scheduled. With this and the craft and judging meetings we create a program that is more than just the contest. I didn't like the idea of craft, chapter officer and judge candidate meetings horning in when they were first started - but I was mighty wrong. They give something for the losers to reflect on besides their shortcomings as a contestant.

Another benefit of our Sectionals lies in judge training. We have seven preliminaries where our judges can sharpen up by participating and candidates can learn by doing. Stand-bys are always welcome. The program has been a great boon to our judging personnel because it has given District C & J a workshop to prove out their list, weed out the drones and incompetents, develop those who prove their value and sincerity.

I have no doubt that my "observations" are too lengthy and that some portions may smack of "heresey." But the program is working for us and making Chapter and District Officer jobs easier - and busier - than they used to be when I was at it. In the last analysis it is a district - wide activity with a very broad member-participation factor that gets out in to the grass roots. If you can get this grass - roots activity throughout the District, the date and place of a Final Chorus Contest is no more important than what's for desert after a good steak dinner.

See you in Los Angeles. Maybe we could talk this over then, if you wish.

BASSically,
W. P. Hinckley, Chairman
Chorus Contest Committee
Northeast District

Herb Wall

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

cellent cooperation and congenial relations. It's amazing to me how so many men are willing to give up so much to see that this soul - satisfying type of male pastime and pleasure continues to exist. May this only be the beginning of an upsurge in interest and membership which will result in an ultimate Central States membership of six or seven thousand and an International membership of 100,000 or more. It can be done.

I pledge my best efforts in the future to help wherever I can and will look forward to the pleasure of further activities. Keep them singing lustily wherever you are.

Respectfully Submitted
Herb Wall, Pres., C. S. A.

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