



## Far Western District

### Convention Honoree

### Barrie Best – 2000 FWD Spring Convention Honoree



Barrie commenced his barbershopping career in 1948 as a charter member of the Winnipeg (Manitoba) Chapter. He immigrated to San Gabriel, CA in 1954, becoming the tenor of the Westcoasters who won the District Championship six weeks later at the Bakersfield Convention. The Westcoasters went on to International Competition, placing 8th in Minneapolis 1956, 2nd in Los Angeles in 1957, and 4th in Columbus in 1958, before the quartet retired in 1959.

Barrie served as chorus director of the San Gabriel, Arcadia, and South Bay, CA, chapters as well as Kenosha, WI, and Vancouver, WA. He was a certified Harmony Accuracy Judge. Administratively he served two terms as San Gabriel Chapter President, a District Area Counselor, District Vice President and two terms as District President. He also served as District and International Chairman of the Expansion Drive to purchase

Harmony Hall, leading the Far Western District to be the first district to achieve 100% of its goal.

In 1963 he became the Society's third International Executive Director, moving to Kenosha, WI where he served until 1977. During his international office tenure the Society grew from 26,900 members to over 38,000. The international COTS program was established based on the program he started in the FWD. As the Society grew, Barrie also spearheaded the transplanting of barbershop harmony to Great Britain, organizing the first two barbershop tours to England, Belgium and Germany, which led to the establishment of the British Association of Barbershop Singers.

Dear to Barrie's heart was his role in the formation of the Society's International Serviced Program "We Sing...That They Shall Speak" and the millions of dollars that have been subsequently raised.

He married Mary Anne Schenck, daughter of the late Dick Schenck, a former San Gabriel Chapter President, District President and International Board Member. They have three children and ten grandchildren. Although Barrie and Mary Anne do not reside in the District, (business took them to the Northwest), Barrie is still a member of the San Gabriel Chapter and their roots and many treasured barbershop memories are deeply entrenched within the Far Western District.