



Far Western District

Hall of Fame

Bob Oertel (posthumously) - 2004

Presented by Deane Scoville, Saturday, March 19, 2005, Burbank, California

This evening I have the honor of announcing the induction of Bob Oertel into the Far Western District Hall Of Fame. Our thanks to Dave Gunther, Milt Rhea, and Dick Stemen for providing much of the background herein.

Bob joined the Oak Park, Illinois, Chapter in April 1946. One of the featured quartets in that chapter was the "Barber Q 4," with our own Emmet Bossing and a bass named Tom Watts. Not only did the chapter get a new member, but Tom got a brother-in-law when Bob married Tom's sister, Jean.

The Oertels moved to California in 1950 and Bob transferred to the San Gabriel Chapter. When the word got out that Bob had been a choir director, he was pressed into service, and for the next 20 years directed choruses in Arcadia, Fullerton, Newport Harbor and West Covina. He also held membership in the Whittier Chapter as served as President in 1978. He and Jean were so active in the chapter that they were named "Mr. And Mrs. Barbershopper Of The Year" in 1981.

Bob was a certified Judge in the Balance and Blend, Voice Expression and Stage Presence categories, and served the district as Chairman of the Contest & Judging Committee for several years. He was instrumental in raising the level of our judging as well as our competitors. He was given the Judge Emeritus Award by the Society in 1985.

Bob served as a Vice President on the District Board and continued to share his expertise as a coach and arranger. He was also much in demand as an M.C. for shows and contests.

Jean Oertel now lives in Northern California and is not able to be with us tonight. To accept this honor, she designated Floyd Thaller, veteran barbershopper and Past District Secretary, and a man I am proud to count among my friends. Ladies and gentlemen, Please welcome Floyd Thaller.