

# Chapter 6

## November 1971 - October 1976



**I**N LATE 1971, the Riverside Chapter donated a Braille typewriter to the Lighthouse for the Blind in San Bernardino. Also late in the year, the Orange and Newport Harbor chapters merged to become the Santa Ana Chapter. District Achievement Awards for 1970-71, based on chapter activity, went to Riverside Chapter (1st), San Jose Chapter (2nd), South Bay Chapter (3rd) and Simi Valley Chapter (4th). By the end of 1971, Riverside was still leading in the District Achievement Awards, but South Bay was now 2nd, Eureka was 3rd and Phoenix was 4th.



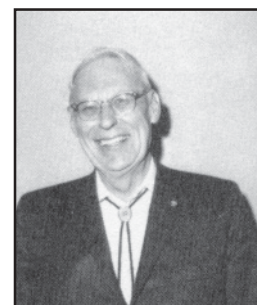
*The "Californians"  
1971 Far Western District Champions*

In January, 1972, the San Diego Chapter hosted the Society Mid-Winter Convention. The Aloha and Salt Lake City chapters were setting records for numbers of sing-outs. In

February, the Reseda Valleyaires Chorus closed a 19-hour "Stop Arthritis Foundation" TV extravaganza which also featured Jane Wyman, Gene Raymond and Bob Hope. Hope told them he'd love to get some of their jackets for his bowling team and asked if they needed another alto.

In March, 1972, chorus coaching sessions were held at the Santa Ana, Conejo Valley, San Luis Obispo, Oxnard, Napa, Berkeley, Vacaville, Yuma, Tucson, Las Vegas and Santa Barbara chapters. Coaches included Jack Hines, Dave Corley, Jim McKee, Burt Staffen, Al Mau, Joe Palmquist and Hap Bailey. Also in March, a 149-man chorus made of barbershoppers from Utah chapters, sang with the Utah Symphony Orchestra in the Mormon Tabernacle. The "Evans Quartet" also performed on the show. The NorCal Novice Contest was won by the "Gold Dusters" from Berkeley with "Kidder & (very young) Sons, Inc." from Vacaville placing 2nd. When the sons were 15 years older, "Kidder & Sons, Inc." would be District champs. At the March District Board Meeting the Board voted to not charge chapters for ads in the district magazine, *Westunes*, pertaining to FWD Conventions. The House of Delegates presented awards to the Aloha, Bakersfield, Berkeley, San Jose, South Bay and Tucson chapters for their 25 years as active chapters.

Many chapters were using the "Auditions for Admission" idea started by the Peninsula Chapter. The Las Vegas Chapter tried it resulting in 30 guests at their next meeting. Salt Lake City's AFA drew 11 guests. Roger Bates had attended a Pomona Valley Chapter AFA but left right away for a tour in Vietnam. As soon as he got back to the States, he joined the chapter. The Bountiful Utah Chapter planned to double their membership using AFA and also having each member send 10 letters to friends encouraging them to come out and sing. Area counselor Dick Zettlemoyer complained that chapters in his area were doing so well as a result of the auditions that there was little for him to do. He was quoted as saying: "Thank heavens Phoenix has steadfastly refused to use AFA or it might be as big as San Diego now!" The Santa Ana Chapter held an AFA at their chapter meeting with 34 guests in attendance. Of these, 25 came back the following week and brought 5 guests with them. The Monterey



*Lou Velzy  
President's Award 1972*



*The "Golden Staters"  
1972 International Quartet Champions*

Peninsula Chapter picked up 7 new members from one AFA.

In June, 1972, the Fresno Chapter hosted a District Chorus Directors' Seminar. In Anaheim at a Catholic elementary school, a priest had organized a barbershop chorus from the kids attending the school. The Provo, Utah Chapter appeared on local TV with chorus and four quartets. The Far Western District was reported to be the 2nd largest district in the Society in terms of membership.

The very funny "Manhatters" quartet from the South Bay Chapter was scheduled to sing on a show in Billings, Montana but their plane was late leaving LA so they arrived at Denver too late to make the planned flight to Billings. By coincidence, the Denver Chapter was having its show that afternoon and evening, and the comedy quartet they had scheduled, missed its flight and wouldn't be there in time for the matinee show, so guess what? The "Manhatters" were talked into singing on that Denver matinee show and then took a later plane which got them to Billings in time for their one show in the evening.

At the June 1972 District Board meeting, a chapter name change was approved for the Berkeley Chapter to become the "Oakland East Bay Chapter." The Board set the District Convention registration fee at \$5. The name of The Arizona Division was changed to "The Arizona, Southern Nevada Division." The Board also voted to cover 75% of the cost of "Auditions for Admission" for chapters with less than 40 members, to a maximum of \$100/year. The Board then voted that all proceeds from the registrations at the spring 1972 District Convention should go to Logopedics, the Society charity.

The Far Western District dominated the 1972 Society Summer Convention in Atlanta, Georgia. "The Phoenicians," directed by Lou Laurel, won the chorus contest and the "Golden Staters" from the Arcadia Chapter won the quartet contest. In addition, the "Pacifcaires" from Reseda took 2nd. The "Far Westerners" quartet from Whittier and Riverside held 3rd place after two sessions but were nosed out by the "Regents" from Wilmington, Delaware in the Saturday finals and still came away with the 4th place medal. While in Atlanta, arranger, director and historian Val Hicks, of the FWD, was married to Joan Olson of Bountiful, Utah, in the headquarters hotel, with most of the Society bigwigs in attendance. Val would be teaching at Fresno State in the fall.

The Monterey Peninsula Chapter entered a barbershop float in the Seaside, California 4th of July Parade and sang away with 3rd place. They also had a booth manned for 5 days, providing information on barbershop harmony. The Fresno Chapter was looking for a director and came up with Howard



*The "Phoenicians" - 1972 International Chorus Champions - Lou Laurel, Musical Director*





*The "Stage Four"  
1972 Far Western District Champions  
International Representatives 1973*

Mesecher from Davenport, Iowa. The Victor Valley and Ukiah chapters hosted barbershop campouts in the summer of 1972. The San Luis Obispo Chapter hosted the Bakersfield and Fresno chapters at a picnic. Late in July, the District Contest and Judging Seminar was held at U.C. Riverside with these faculty members: Jack Hines, Emmett Bossing, Jim McKee, Earl Moon, Lou Laurel, Burt Staffen, Marv Yerkey and Bill Spooner.

The Walnut Creek Chapter was chartered in August 1972 and the Santa Maria Chapter in September. The Riverside chorus sang at Dodger Stadium in July and again in August, receiving free box seats and radio and TV coverage for their trouble. The next day they sang at the Corona Raceway, receiving good free seats and even some money. In September they sang for their admittance into Disneyland and in October they did likewise at Knott's Berry Farm.

At the District Convention in Bakersfield in October, Bob Allen of the Peninsula Chapter was named Bulletin Editor



*The "Dapper Dans" of Disneyland  
"That Fabulous Tag Quartet"*

of the Year and Bob Peden of the Hanford Chapter placed 2nd. At the District Board meeting at that convention, the Board voted to waive the first year's FWD dues for the newly forming Guam Chapter and to only charge them 2/5 of the normal District dues after that. The District also agreed to pay the Area Counselor's registration fee for the Int'l. C.O.T.S. session in Fresno in January.

At the December District Board meeting in Los Angeles, the Board voted to allocate \$1419 to Logopedics from the proceeds of the Bakersfield District Contest registration. The Board also voted to donate \$2000 to the San Diego Chapter to help them get to the Society Summer Contest in Portland, and \$1000 to the current Society Champion Phoenicians chorus to aid in their presentation at Portland. A motion to award "Certified Judge" pins to each newly certified judge in the FWD carried.

In January 1973, the Guam Chapter received its Charter. Also in January, the Fresno Chapter hosted the International Chapter Office Training Seminar (C.O.T.S.). The Riverside Chapter held another successful Auditions for Admission and their membership reached 122. The San Francisco Logopedics Spectacular featured the "O.K. Four,"

"Kidder & Sons, Inc.," the "Crown City Good Time Music Company" and "Gentlemen's

Agreement" quartets and a chorus of around 400 barbershoppers directed by Dave Stevens. The San Francisco Chapter's A.F.A. drew 27 guests.

On February 4, the Reseda "Valleyaires" Chorus appeared on the Jane Wyman "Stop Arthritis" telethon, along with Bob Hope, Ann Blythe and Rosalind Russell. The chorus, directed by Burt Staffen, sang for about 20 minutes. Neil Tyree had to have his long hair cut short in order to join the "Dapper Dans" of Disney World. His golden curls were made available for \$2 each with the money going to Logopedics.

At the March 1973 District Board Meeting in Tucson, it was announced that the Bountiful, Utah and Placer County, California chapters had folded. The Board voted to allow two choruses and one quartet from Utah to enter the District contest regardless of their scores in the preliminaries. Another motion carried by the Board was to require chapters bidding to host contests (District, Int'l. Pre-lims or Divisional), to include a preliminary budget. Three days later, District President Gil Jacobs made the long flight to Guam to visit the new chapter there, taking in their charter party as well as a regular chapter meeting. 350 barbershoppers, including more than 100 from the Riverside Chapter plus 10 quartets, attended the 94th birthday party for "Pappy" Boynton of the Pomona Valley Chapter.



*Gilbert Jacobs  
Far Western District President 1972-73  
International Board Member 1978-79  
FWD Hall of Fame 1977  
President's Award 1976*

In April 1973, the Fresno Chapter took in its 100th member. Not long after that, the Utah Valley and Salt Lake City choruses and the "Evans Quartet" put on a joint show with the Utah Symphony Orchestra. At the NorCal Divisional Contest, the risers collapsed, injuring two members of the Sacramento chorus. Waiting in the wings was Vacaville and, in response to a frantic call from the contest officials, it turned out that in the Vacaville chorus were 3 physicians, 3 medical technicians, 1 dentist, 1 veterinarian, 1 optician and a Red Cross First Aid Instructor. (Some of these folks later formed a quartet called the "Double Paradox").

The Peninsula Chapter invited Lt. Cdr. Charles Stackhouse to one of their meetings and honored him in word and song. Stackhouse had been a POW for six years in North Vietnam and was one of 17 POW's who put together a chorus while in captivity, taking their pitch from the lid of a teapot. Another one of the 17, Bob Schweitzer, had been a member of



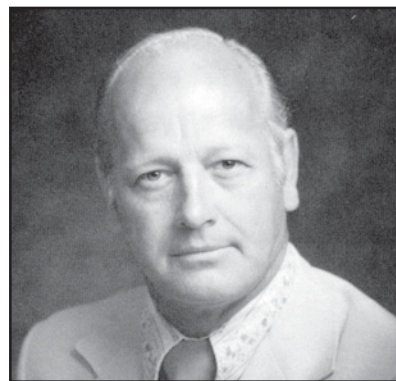
*"Harmony Express"*  
1973 Far Western District Quartet Champions

the Aloha Chapter and had sung with the "Tiki Tones" quartet. When he was released he arrived in Honolulu on March 18, 1973 at 3:45 a.m. but didn't want to impose on the chapter members at that hour. Somehow word got out and 22 of them met his plane, singing "Keep America Singing" with lumps in their throats as he stepped off.

In June, *Westunes* Editor Bob Roberts expressed his horror that some of the leading quartets in the Society were charging as much as \$400 to perform, suggesting that it was a violation of #7 in the Society Code of Ethics. Bob also pointed out that Eden-Hayward, Marin, Berkeley, Downey, Phoenix, Riverside and San Diego had all been District Chorus Champions, and he asked: "Who's next?" (It would turn out to be Peninsula.)

Magic Mountain celebrated Father's Day with a two day (June 16-17) show featuring such barbershop quartets as "Crown City Good Time Music Co.," "Manhattans," "Kidder & Sons, Inc." and the "Pacificaes," as well as Doc Severinson and his Tonight Show TV band. The "Four City Four" won the PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest. The Marin Chapter put on an "Afterglow Without a Show," featuring quartets from all over the San Francisco Bay Area, and attended by Jodi Garland from Society headquarters in Kenosha.

In the 1973 Society Summer Quartet Contest in Portland, the Far Western District slipped from the previous year and only had two quartets ("Pacificaes" and "Far Westerners") in the top five. At the Society Board meeting in Portland it was decided to eliminate the judging categories of "Harmony Accuracy" and "Balance and Blend" and combine them into a single "Sound" category. A Contest and Judging Seminar was held at U. C. Riverside that August. Also in August, the Santa Barbara Chapter started a policy of having one ladies



*John Currin*  
International Board member 1967-69  
Far Western District President 1974

night per month, inviting the ladies to attend on the first Tuesday of each month. The Pomona Chapter hosted the SoCal Convention. The Saugus/Newhall Chapter (later to become Santa Clarita Valley) was chartered in September. Also in September, the Eden-Hayward Chapter hosted the NorCal Convention (tickets cost \$3).

Later in September, Fresno, known as the "Raisin Capital

1973

FWD

CHORUS & QUARTET

Champions

RECORDS

available about Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>

ORDER NOW...

\$4<sup>50</sup>

each

POSTAGE PAID

from

RANG HANSEN

19629 Sherman Way

RESEDA, CALIF.

91335



of the World,” titled the District Convention, which it hosted, “Rais’n Cain.” The two middle pages in the September 1973 *Westunes* were blank except for 3 lines stating: “This double page spread of nothing donated by the Modesto Chapter for their October 27 Show.” South Bay’s “Saints” quartet appeared on the Cerebral Palsy Telethon in Los Angeles. “Pappy” Boynton offered to analyze any chapter’s bulletin if the editor would send him one, writing: “After all, at my age there aren’t any problems that can’t be rectified!” The Harmony for Lunch Bunch idea was started by John Krizek in San Francisco. The first Palo Alto Harmony For Lunch Bunch meeting was held in October 1973 and hosted by Dick Smith.

The Santa Barbara Chapter was keeping busy with a rummage sale, a sing-out for shut-ins at a local hospital, a mystery bus ride to Oxnard, and singing “I Love You Truly” as Bill Borah and his new bride came down the aisle, when the organist didn’t show up. The Vacaville Chapter referred to its coaching session at U.C. Davis as a “concentration camp.” The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter donated its old chorus uniforms to the new Prescott Chapter to help it get started. It was reported that John Krizek



Burt Cunliffe  
FWD Hall of Fame 1973

was starting his own society, called STSPFCAJAJ for “Society To Stop People From Calling A John A John.”

In early January 1974, the Las Vegas Chapter hosted the annual COTS (Chapter Officer Training Seminar). At the District Board meeting there, it was decided to eliminate the Utah Division and to place the two Utah chapters into the Arizona/Southern Nevada Division (this decision was rescinded two months later). A realignment of chorus allotments to the District chorus finals gave the following division limits: Ariz./So. Nev. 2; NorCal 5; SoCal 7. In addition, the previous year’s champion chorus was automatically admitted, bringing the total to 15. Another Board decision was that the District Executive Vice President would have jurisdiction over all divisional quartet and chorus contests. Mary Kabacy, known as “Logo-Penny-Henny,” pointed out that wives of barbershoppers had donated over \$3000 to the Society charity, Logopedics, in 1973.

Later in the month, the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter hosted the Society’s Mid-Winter Convention. Also in January, Don Webster, of the Long Beach Chapter, took over as editor of *Probemoter*, the Society-sponsored publication of PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors). The 13th Annual Novice Quartet Contest in Santa Ana in February drew 24 quartets (6 from San Diego and 4 from Riverside). It was a year for dues increases as both the Society and the District raised them (\$5 and \$3, respectively). The purpose of the District dues raise was to help send the chorus champions to the Society Contest, while the Society raise was to cover general cost increases. The Salt Lake City Chapter performed on a March of Dimes Telethon. A SoCal Mini-COTS was held in Anaheim in February.

In March 1974, the Hanford Chapter was chartered, and the Conejo Valley Chapter held its first annual barbershop campout at Trailer Village near Saugus. A Girl Scout troop was

also there and the others in the park were entertained by a show consisting of alternating songs from the girls and the barbershoppers. In April, the Pomona Valley Chapter celebrated “Pappy” Boynton’s 95th birthday. In May on Mothers Day weekend, the



The “Great Stage Robbery”  
International Representatives 1974

Riverside Chapter put on a show at the 2nd Annual Calico Ghost Town Spring Festival, which is sponsored by their Regional Parks Department. On the day of the Marin Chapter

annual show, a woman called the box office very worried because her dog ate her show ticket. Presumably she was allowed to attend, anyway. At the International Quartet Preliminary Contest in San Diego, for the first time the District went for a mandatory all-event ticket package (for \$5).

The Santa Maria Chapter was joined by Santa Barbara and Lompoc for a big show at the Allan Hancock College to raise money for the college *a cappella* choir which had been invited by the Romanian government to a three week “Ambassadors for Friendship” tour behind the “iron curtain.” The Reseda Chapter joined Giselle McKenzie, Ann Blyth and Jane Wyman on an Arthritis Telethon. Don Johnson, of the Vacaville Chapter was an amateur radio operator. One night he

was chatting with Ron McCall, another “radio ham,” on the radio in his car and mentioned that he was on the way to the barbershop meeting. As a result, Ron attended the meeting and became a barbershopper. The Eden-Hayward Chapter held a “Bird Roast” for member Bob Bird, featuring a song by a chapter quartet: “Only a



The “Command Performance”  
1974 Far Western District Champions  
International Representatives 1974 & ‘75

‘Bird’ in a Guilded Cage.” After being thoroughly roasted, Bird was given a Life Membership in the Society by the Chapter. The Porterville Chapter received its charter.

In June 1974, a quartet with four doctors called “A Double Pair of Docs” won the annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest. Also in June, the Fresno Chapter again hosted the FWD

Chorus Directors' Seminar. In Southern California, Society Music Education and Services Director Bob Johnson, with help from a number of barbershoppers, developed a nearly 200 boy barbershop chorus from 19 schools, and put on a show for the Music Educators' National Conference. In addition to the boys' group, the show featured Society championship quartet "The Dealer's Choice" plus FWD quartets "Pacifiques" and "Golden Staters" and the Reseda Valleyaires Chorus.

The Society Summer Convention in Kansas City proved to be a "silver one" for the FWD as it won silver 2nd place medals in both the quartet (Pacifiques) and chorus (Peninsulaire) contest. The "Peninsulaire" nosed out the Dallas "Vocal Majority" chorus by 14 points. A "C & J" Seminar for contest judges and judge candidates, was held in Bakersfield in August 1974. The Prescott Chapter received its charter in September. Also in September, the Santa Ana chorus and their quartet "Yesterday's Heroes" performed in the John Wayne Theater at Knott's Berry Farm as part of a benefit for the Rainbow Acres Ranch for mentally retarded adults, in Camp Verde, Arizona.

At the October District Board meeting, the Board voted to waive District dues for the 27 Frank Thorne Chapter members in the FWD and send them the District magazine *Westunes* at no charge. They also voted to waive C.O.T.S. dues for new chapters' principal officers. The House of Delegates voted to accept the Society's recommendations for reduced dues to seniors and students.



Jack Hines  
Far Western District President 1975  
International Board Member 1976-77  
President's Award 1971  
FWD Hall of Fame 1975

Riverside Chapter's "Auditions for Admission" resulted in 50 guests at their next meeting. The Santa Rosa "Redwoods Chordsmen Chorus" led off the annual summer concert series at Armstrong Redwood State Reserve at Guerneville. Membership in the Guam Chapter was up to about 50. A new policy for ASCAP licensing for shows was announced in September. Henceforth, ASCAP licenses would be handled through the Society office in Kenosha. Besides simplifying the process for chapters, an additional benefit was a reduction in fees. The Saddleback Valley Chapter was chartered in December 1974.

During 1974, the South Bay Chapter conducted a series of 7 quartet contests within the chapter. Fifty chapter members took part in 33 quartets. The finals were held in November and the winning quartet was the "Tune Taggers" with Charlie Cox, J. Price, D. Wyckoff and Max DeZemplen.

On January 4-5, 1975 the District C.O.T.S. seminar was held in Anaheim and included classes for chorus directors. On January 24, a SoCal Logopedics Spectacular was held in Pasadena. The next day a NorCal Spectacular was held in Berkeley. For the second year in a row, the Far Western District hosted the Society's Mid-Winter Convention. This time it was hosted by



The "Sound Committee"  
International Representatives 1975 & '77

the Aloha Chapter in late January. Bill Downing (age 86), who had attended the first meeting of SPEBSQSA in Tulsa and sang with O. C. Cash in the "Okie Four," paid a visit to Fremont, California to see his daughter. Someone in the Eden-Hayward Chapter learned of it and 14 Chapter members visited him and sang for him. The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter advertised their annual show in February, 1975 with a full-sized bill board.

After several years as "Logo-Penny-Henny," Mary Kabacy stepped down and Betty (Mrs. Maury) Carlson, of San Raphael, took over the title. Three chapters, San Diego, El Cajon and San Clemente made "mystery" trips (most riders didn't know where they were going) all winding up at the PalPac Chapter for a great fun evening. In January the PalPac Chapter hosted the SoCal Novice Quartet Contest with their own "Raisin' Cain" the winner. In February, 1975, the Walnut Creek Chapter hosted the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest, with 18 competing quartets. The Phoenix Saguaro Chapter honored its sole remaining charter member, Everett Manning with a Lifetime Membership in the chapter. The award was signed by Chapter President Terry Aramian and Secretary Carl Cross.

At its March, 1975 meeting, the FWD Board voted to send Emmett Bossing and Jack Hines to Honolulu to conduct a mini-C.O.T.S. and coaching session for the Aloha Chapter. The



The "San Francisco Storm Door and Whale Oil Company"  
a.k.a. The "Doors"  
1975 Far Western District Champions  
International Representatives 1975, '76, '77, & '78



San Francisco Chapter was indebted to Scott Beach, a local TV personality, for Emceeing several of their shows and arranging for their chorus to sing at the half of a Warriors basketball game, so upon learning that he was a "patch freak," they sent him a Society patch. In return, they got a nice letter from him telling that his love of barbershop harmony stemmed from the days when, as a young boy, he loved to hear his father, Mark Beach, singing with the great "Lake Oswego Four" quartet from Oregon. The Pomona Valley Chapter celebrated another birthday of member "Pappy" Boynton, this time his 96th.

The annual PalPac Comedy Quartet Contest was taken over by Utah, with the "Remnants" from Salt Lake City and the "Provokers" from Provo taking first and second place, respectively. The "Great Stage Robbery" quartet, which was one of three quartets that qualified at the March International Preliminary Quartet Contest to represent the Far Western District at the Society Summer Contest, was disqualified when one of its members was suspended from membership for a year for repeated on-stage ethics violations.

The June 1975 District Board meeting was held aboard Bill Hanna's 65-foot yacht in the Long Beach Harbor. At that meeting, a chapter name-change from Casa Grande to Pinal County was approved. The Pinal County Chapter celebrated by hosting their division Novice Quartet Contest which followed a day of swimming, golfing, woodshedding and a banquet. In July, the Riverside Chapter hosted a barbershop "Desert Campout" with representatives of ten chapters from SoCal in attendance. A chorus of 315 NorCal barbershoppers sang at the Oakland Raiders-Pittsburgh Steelers football game under the direction of Sam Gonzalez. The "Infernos" quartet from Santa Rosa was aptly named. While they were singing for the NorCal Presidents' Council meeting in Oakland, the kitchen caught fire! In September 1975, the Santa Ana Chapter performed two nights in a row at California Angels' baseball games. Vacaville Chapter President Cecil Groulx offered to match the chapter's contributions to Logopedics on a particular night, and it cost him \$9.81. Thinking he could easily afford that amount, President-elect Don Webb offered to do likewise the following week but found that it cost him \$30!

In October, the Island of Saipan voted to become a Commonwealth of the United States. To help celebrate the occasion, the Guam Chapter members, including 3 quartets, flew to Saipan

and put on several shows throughout the island. The Marysville/Yuba City Chapter was chartered in October. Ken Koch of the Santa Ana Chapter was named FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year. At the District Board meeting in October, the Area Counselor of the Year Award was established, to be used at the discretion of



*Bob Roberts*  
*President's Award 1975*  
*FWD Hall of Fame 1976*  
*Westunes Editor 1965-77*

the District President. In other action the Board decided that show clearance would not be awarded to a chapter on the same weekend as its Division Quartet or Chorus Contest. Two chapter name changes were approved: From the Dublin Chapter to the Livermore (Amador Valley) Chapter, and from the Scottsdale Chapter to the Valley of the Sun Chapter.

Dick Smith invited San Francisco Bay Area barbershoppers to attend the Palo Alto Harmony for Lunch Bunch, which was starting its 3rd year, saying: "Come and sing with your mouth full!"

The Whittier Chapter hosted a Show Production Seminar, attended by members of eight SoCal chapters. Sixty directors and assistant directors attended the FWD Chorus Directors' Seminar at Pacific College in Fresno in September. The Merced Chapter entered a float, featuring chapter members, a barberpole, a barber chair, and signs saying "Keep America Singing" and "Yosemite Gateway Chorus" in the Merced County Fair Parade. The Reno Chapter was chartered in December 1975. The "Prime Time" quartet, with movie and TV actor Burt Mustin subbing on bari, performed on the Johnny Carson show on TV. The Phoenixians Chorus sang the National Anthem at the Fiesta Bowl football game the day after Christmas.

1976 started off with the FWD C.O.T.S. and (Chapter Officer Training Seminar) and District Board Meeting held in Anaheim in January. The Board voted to hold two C.O.T.S. meetings in 1977, one in NorCal and one in SoCal. Following the recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, the Board voted to divide the NorCal and SoCal Divisions each into two division (NorCal East, NorCal West, SoCal East and SoCal West) making a total of 6 divisions with Arizona/Southern Nevada and Utah being the other two. Santa Ana hosted the SoCal Novice Quartet Contest later in January and Walnut Creek hosted the one for NorCal in February. The Far Western District received the First Place Achievement Award from the Society Headquarters, and the Tucson and Phoenix Saguaro chapters each achieved first place in their plateaus.

The Crescenta Valley Chapter honored member George Sanders for his many years of service to the chapter, with a cake on his 80th birthday. The Walnut Creek and Stockton chapters honored Lyle Stevenson for helping to found the Stockton Chapter and his service to Walnut Creek, with a "This Is Your Life" party. The Salt Lake City Chapter made its annual appearance on the



*Bill Park*  
*Far Western District President 1976-77*

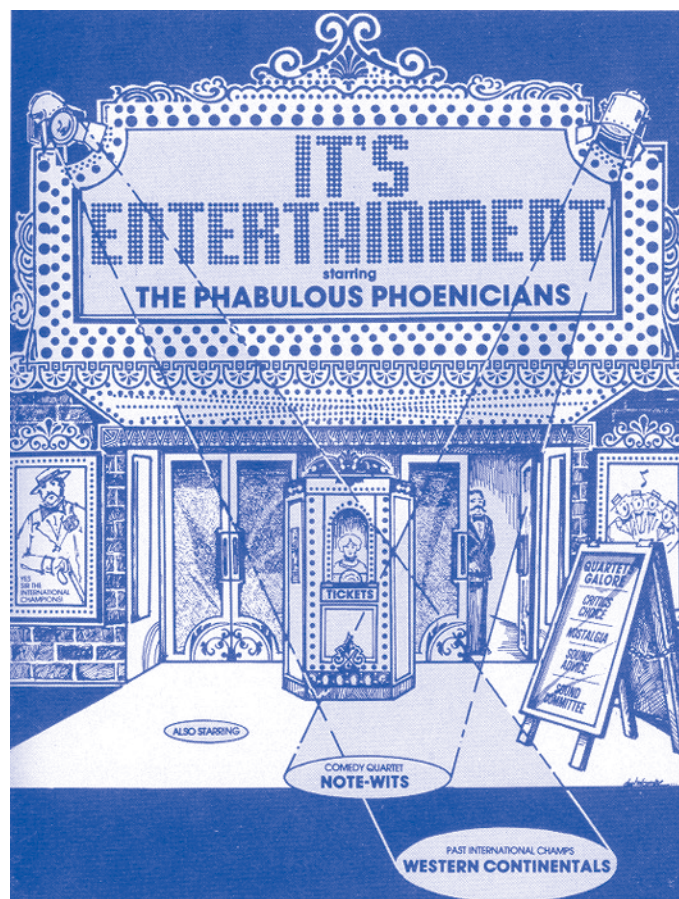


*The "Phoenicians" - 1976 International "Bicentennial" Chorus Champions - Lou Laurel, Musical Director*

local March of Dimes Telethon, along with Julie London and Cloris Leachman. The Aloha Chapter Chorus performed for 20 minutes at the Honolulu City Hall and were covered by local TV. The Riverside Chapter hosted a chorus marathon, attended by five additional chapter choruses plus a chorus made up of Presidents and Area Counselors from SoCal. The Santa Monica Chapter had been one of the early ones in the District but had folded some years later so in May 1976 it was re-chartered. At the June District Board Meeting, Don Richardson was appointed District Historian and Carl Walters was picked as Chairman of the Young Men in Harmony Committee.

The Society Summer Convention in 1976 was held in Northern California for the very first time and only the third time in the District (the other two were in Los Angeles). This time it was in San Francisco with the contest being held in the Cow Palace, with John Krizek serving as General Chairman, and featuring, among other things, a mustache contest. No Far Western District quartet medaled (placed in the top 5) that year, but the Phoenicians Chorus from Phoenix won the chorus contest. The Evergreen District had challenged the FWD to a contest to see who could raise the most money for Logopedics on a bike ride to the convention. The FWD used a bicycle built for four and used various foursomes on the trip from San Diego. The Evergreen District covered 1000 miles and out-earned the FWD by about \$12,000 to \$5,000.

In October, the San Jose Chapter hosted a NorCal quartet coaching session featuring Mac Huff from the Society Office and a number of coaches from the District. District President Bill Park expressed concern over the drop in membership and suggested that too often new members or potential members are left on the outer edge while the chapter goes about its business. He recommended that chapter members think about how they felt when they first joined, and then go from there.



*Vintage ad copy from The Phoenicians*