

SALEM SINGERS FIND

Barbershop Harmony Found Means to Send Blues Away

Chordsmen Practicing for Contest



By ROBERT ROBINSON Capital Journal Writer

They sing their blues away! That sentence may sound a little bit trite, but it aptly describes the Salem Senate-Aires, a barbershop singing group. They are one of 600 chapters which make up the National Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Just what it probably will be asked, is this organization with such a lengthy name? It is simply a group, made up of people from all over North America, Hawaii and the Canal Zone, which has as its primary goal to "Keep America Singing." That is its motto.

This society had a rather unimpressive beginning. C. B. Cash, a corporation attorney in Tulsa, Okla., is credited with having the original idea in 1938. At that time he organized a group of 14 persons who gathered periodically for an evening of social singing. The group naturally got the idea of forming a couple of barbershop quartets.

Had No Idea This original group probably had no idea what their actions were about to bring. The members simply organized because they liked to sing and singing seemed like an excellent way for them to relax and forget their troubles.

Other cities heard about the idea, however, and established similar groups. A mushrooming process then took effect.

Now the society has more than 26,000 members. Most of them are in the United States but there are also some in Canada, Alaska, Hawaii and the Canal Zone.

Each year the society sponsors an international barbershop and chorus contest for its member

groups. In order to keep the entry list from being too bulky, the organization has broken down its members into regional districts. These districts in turn are made up of the chapters, which are organized in the district's various cities.

33 Chapters The regional area, of which the Senate-Aires are a part, is called the Evergreen district. It contains 33 separate chapters similar to the one in Salem. The Senate-Aires, with a current membership of 30, rank 12th in size in the district.

The local group is now seeking new members in hopes of bringing its total membership to about 50. The Senate-Aires meet every Monday night at the Senator hotel. At the sessions, "we have a good time singing and having fun," one Senate-Aire said in an interview this week. "Some of us may have troubled minds when we get here, but by the time we leave we have forgotten all our worries," he continued.

"Singing does that for you." The Senate-Aires are busier than usual right now. They are making plans for the regional barbershop quartet contest which they will host, May 3-5, in the North Salem high school auditorium.

The way the program is set up, the top two quartets in this contest will automatically qualify for the international competition. This year the international event will be held in Los Angeles, June 19-23.

"Have Good Chance" "We never have won a trip to the international," said Andy Staat, secretary of the Senate-Aires. "But this year we have a good chance."

Staat went on to explain that the Capitol Chordsmen, the local chapter's best of four quartets, has high hopes of nailing one of the regional berths. The Chordsmen placed sixth in the regionals last year. At that time they had only been organized a week. Now, after

a whole year of working together, their chances of improving on the sixth place finish seem good.

The Capitol Chordsmen foursome is made up of Dick McClintic, Dick Roth, Bill Hills and Al Smith. In the past couple of months it has sung for several gatherings in the Salem area. These performances were designed to season the quartet for the contests ahead.

But, no matter how the Chordsmen fare in the competition, no one will be too disappointed. Winning prizes is not the Senate-Aires' singing goal. They just do it for the fun and relaxation. And that even goes for the "crows," a nickname given to non-singing members of the group.

ALL OF US CHICKENS WAUKESHA, Wis. — The Chicken Delight eatery here is located on White Rock Avenue.

Plane Falls in Bay

RIO DE JANEIRO — A twin-engine plane overshoot Rio's Santos Dumont Airport yesterday and plunged into the bay. Firemen rescued the seven passengers and crew of six before the plane sank. None were injured.

CLEVER BUT CARELESS

FORREST CITY, Ark. — Joe Williams, a junkyard employee, found a 1957 Kansas auto tag and a 1956 Arkansas truck tag and by clever cutting and patching came up with a pretty convincing version of a 1957 Arkansas truck tag. Things went well until he carelessly parked the truck in a no-parking area. When the officer bent close to read the license plate in uncertain light the fake was discovered.

It cost Williams \$125 for using a fictitious license.

House Halves

FNMA Budget

WASHINGTON — The House has voted to give the government another \$500 million dollars to help increase the flow of home mortgage money.

In doing so Wednesday, the House cut in half President Eisenhower's request to increase by one billion dollars the amount of money which the Federal National Mortgage Assn. can use between now and July 1 to buy government-backed home loans.

A Senate banking subcommittee took a similar action two days ago.

An increase in FNMA's mortgage-buying authority is aimed at making more private capital available for home loans at a time when the supply of such funds is tight.

It looks like fun but its also work as the Capitol Chordsmen, one of four organized barbershop quartets in Salem, practice for a regional contest here, May 3-5. The quartet includes (left to right) Bill Hills, Dick McClintic, George Dow, filling

in for absent Al Smith, and Dick Roth. The contest is part of national competition for groups belonging to the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. (Capital Journal Photo).

Advertisement for WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY sale. Features a large 'Sale' graphic and text: 'We've cut prices with Grants big hatchet for... WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY ONE DAY ONLY-FRIDAY OPEN 'TIL 9:00 P.M. Once a Year We Lose Our Heads and This Is the Time for You to Get Some FANTASTIC BUYS! Even if you don't need any of these items, you can't afford not to buy them - Sorry, all are in limited quantities and broken sizes... There are more not listed here...'

Advertisement for Lipman's mattress clearance. Includes the Lipman's logo, store hours (Monday and Friday 9:30 a.m. 'til 9 p.m. Other week days and Saturday 9:30 a.m. 'til 5:30 p.m.), and a list of mattress options with prices: 39.95 discontinued numbers (24.50 ea.), 149.50 floor sample set (79.95 set), \$159 floor sample set (\$119 set), 79.50 foam rubber set (59.95), 139.50 foam rubber set (109.50), 29.95 ea. odd pieces (17.95). Also includes a 'SAVE AS YOU SPEND WITH GREEN STAMPS' banner.

Advertisement for W.T. Grant Co. featuring a grid of clothing items and prices: PERCALE SHEETS (\$1.50 each), WOMEN'S SLIPPERS (80c), 51-GAUGE NYLONS (9c), BOYS' RIBBED HOSE (9c), LONG PLAY RECORDS (38c), 12-PC.-BONED CHINA LUNCHEON SET (99c), LADIES FALL HATS (25c), VELVET JUMPER (\$1), COMBED COTTON UNDERSHIRTS (17c), ASSORTED SKIRTS (76c), TRENCH COAT (\$7), BOYS' CIRCLE "G" JEANS (1.22), MEN'S TIES (10c), WOMEN'S 2.49 SLIPS (\$1), 30 ONLY WOMEN'S DRESSES (\$1), WILLIAMS SHAVE SET (30c), GIRL'S COAT (4c), WOMEN'S HANDBAGS (88c), BROADCLOTH PJs (77c).