

# The Shampoo

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# NEWSLETTER



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ELECTRIC CITY CHORUS · SINGING BARBERSHOP HARMONY SINCE 1944

Chapter K44 of Barbershop Harmony Society

Volume 63: the April 2009 Issue

## Schenectady, NY Chapter

### Officers

President: Walt Lane  
Music VP: Jim Stearns  
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Mrktg/PR VP: Roger Murphy  
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### Directors

Director: Chuck Eaker  
Director Emeritus: Leo Mailhotte  
Assistant Directors: Joe Millett, Steve Lawrence, & Chris Jensen

### Shampoo

Editor: Jim Bowen  
Circulation: Ed Gifford

### Visitors Welcome

Rehearsals are every Tuesday (except Holidays) at 7:30 PM at the Faith United Methodist Church at the corner of Brandywine and Eastern Parkway, Schenectady. Park at the side of the Church and enter from Brandywine. If no one is at door, ring bell and wait.

[visit@electriccitychorus.org](mailto:visit@electriccitychorus.org)

## A Fantastic Weekend In Burlington

by Jim Stearns, VP Music & Performance

All of us who were able to make the trip up to Burlington have stated it already, but it's worth repeating.... the Division competition was a very successful and enjoyable effort. As the chapter's VP for Music and Performance I want to thank all of you again for your hard work and fantastic performance that resulted in a third place finish and the "Most Improved Chorus" award. If there's a down side to this it is that now it's apparent we can make some significant improvements to our performance.... and the directors know it! The heat is on guys to move on, and up from here.

In addition to some real accomplishments by the chorus in Burlington, I have to say one other thing sticks out to me. We had the opportunity to take part in some fantastic evaluations following the competition. To have the chance to meet with, and sing for, such accomplished and knowledgeable judges; not for just a verbal review of what we did well and not-so-well; but to have a chance to take a song apart and get top-notch coaching, was a real treat!! I'm glad so many of us were able to stay to experience this. I think we all learned a lot, and I'm sure our directors will be putting what they learned to work as we continue to develop as a chorus. Again thanks to all.... It's now on to District!!

**ECC Scores 64.8 to Make Third Place and Most Improved Chorus in Mountain Division**

## More of 2009 Mountain Division Contest

Saratoga Springs' Racing City Chorus under the direction of Kathy Mendenhall is the 2009 Mountain Division Chorus Champion with an average score of 67.8 from the judges. They are also the fastest growing chapter of 2008.

Burlington's Green Mountain Chorus came in second with an average score of 67.5 from the judges.

CVQ, (Central Vermont Quartet) from Burlington, Vermont, is the Mountain Division Quartet Champion. They are made up of brothers Charlie (tenor) and Neil (lead) Cerutti, Chuck Laufer (baritone) and Cal Briggs-Harris (bass). If you are asking who CVQ is, try this link for a video clip:

<http://www.soundclick.com/bands/default.cfm?bandID=160317>

Men In Black qualified to compete at International. You can hear them (stream music) on FaceBook: <http://www.myspace.com/meninblack>

Our own Fully Depreciated Four became Senior Champions of the Mountain Division.



Monthly Comments  
of the Electric City  
Chorus President,  
Walt Lane.



**Wow! 35 men on the risers**, plus a director out in front? I was both amazed and delighted as I stepped up in my place this evening. And there are six....that's right, Six new faces that have been up there with us of late. They may not all find singing in our chorus what they want to do on a Tuesday, but they are there, giving us the once over.

Are we responding to that audition properly? Are we shaking their hands, asking them about themselves, telling them why we LOVE doing this each week? I certainly hope so.

It is a terrific time for each of us to look around again to consider which of our acquaintances might also find some enjoyment in participating in our sound on a Tuesday evening, or a Friday performance, or whenever we get out for a sing together. Every night is a guest night at ECC, every night is a great time to bring someone along to give us an audition to see if we are doing something that is really fun. So come on everyone, **"Sell Something Special....Singing"**.

On a more personal note, there are several opportunities coming up that you should put on your calendars. The first, of course, is "Singing for Life" at the Rotterdam Elks Club on May 30<sup>th</sup>. You already know about that one.

Another is the Harmony College North East School on August 7-8-9 at Worcester State College in Worcester, MA. Air-conditioned rooms and classrooms, short walking distances, great food, and terrific choices of classes for singers and directors, plus a chance to gather together with over 200 of your barbershop friends from around the NED. You can sing all night if you want. Better yet, put together a quartet and spend Saturday learning how to get that "sound" working for the four of you. Five meals, two nights stay, learning and singing, lots of new friends.....what a way to spend a weekend!

Is it time for a picnic, yet? Anyone have a great location in mind for that? The last one was certainly unique and very enjoyable....or is that memorable? Sandy and I had a great time. In fact we have had a great time at them all. So let's have a picnic. See you on the risers.

### Westminster Champion Chorus Winning

Try this link to Youtube as Westminster sings Strike Up the Band at International Contest.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDgZ-\\_5GMeg&feature=channel](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cDgZ-_5GMeg&feature=channel)

If we all were thirty years younger, we would be singing and dancing like that. Right?

## Hanging around the Pole

with Jim Bowen



*"Spring has sprung  
the grass has riss  
where last year's  
careless driver is."*

Berma-Shave

Our remarkable Spring weather has brought this roadside slogan to mind. (For years the series of small signs decorated Route 7 east of Oneonta.)

Spring also reminds me that there is life. Sometimes all it takes is the shock of something new to get us out of the blahs.

Signs of life are about us: Doing well in contest, the presence of Ray Johnson, new songs to be learned and new members and guests.

Spring is also a time of dreams. Like the song says, "You've gotta have a dream to have a dream come true."

My Spring dream is to sing in the premiere singing group in the Capital District. Think Spring. Think of us as a constantly improving chorus, and think of us as being a hard working chorus. What is yours?

If you want to see more of the Burma-Shave slogans go to:

<http://www.fiftiesweb.com/burma.htm>

**E-Mail :**

[eccnews@nycap.rr.com](mailto:eccnews@nycap.rr.com)

# Father and Son Join ECC Together

**N**ick Hodges, our youngest member at 18 was born at Bellvue Hospital on a cold stormy February morning. Nick started singing in the seventh grade, when he was just twelve years old. Since then he's been in countless concerts and participated in Harmony Explosion three times, this upcoming summer to be Nick's fourth time.

Nick plans on going to UAlbany this August to study Russian. He has been studying Russian for six years now, and been to Russia twice. He has become a world traveler having also been to France, Italy, and Greece. After college, Nick plans on joining the Navy for a time, using the extended Russian he has learned.

*Not an everyday story: The following biographies have been provided by Mark and Nick. They both bring to ECC talent and excitement for singing. The sub-story is how Wally Adlemann's love for barbershop-ping and persistence played an important part. -Editor*

**New Members, Mark (center right) and Nick (left) Hodges, were brought to us by Wally Adlemann (center left). Both are excellent singers with dad singing lead and son singing baritone. No wonder president, Walt Lane, (right) is smiling. We hope that Nick will keep on singing with us right through college.**



**M**ark said he was born a child, as most other people on this planet were and had an unremarkable childhood growing up in a rural area north of Boght Corners, north of Latham. He attended elementary school near there, went to Shaker Jr./Sr. High schools and graduated with a Diploma in Business/IBM Methods and Systems. Mark attended SUNY Ag & Tech College at Cobleskill and Albany Business College followed by a semester at New Hampshire College. After the first semester he left to get ready to be married. He got a job working for the State of New York and still maintain a job in the State as a Supervising Computer Operator at the NYS Office For Technology. (OFT is otherwise affectionately (?) known as the Office of the Borg because it were created by assimilating many other State agencies into it.)

Mark has had a large amount of volunteerism starting with a local PTA. After a few years on and off, Mark became more involved and was then moved up to the region level of the PTA to take on more responsibilities for the betterment of schools, school environments and curriculum through PTA legislation. He also worked for about 10 years as a soccer referee in Travel and Girls High School teams. Mark also has volunteered in Boy Scouting. For about nine years he has been a member at large which led to becoming an Assistant District Commissioner for Twin Rivers Council, Fort Orange District, located here in Albany. That is where he met my good friend, Wally Adelman.

He met Wally a few years ago in an adult scout management course called Woodbadge for the Twentfirst Century. Wally was the guide in my Woodbadge patrol and we became friends. Once Woodbadge was over, my patrol and Wally stayed in close contact and we'd go to dinners and camping together as a group a few times a year.

It was on these camping trips that he found out the beauty and fun of singing around the campfire, mainly with Wally and one other member of our patrol. Seems every time we get together now we end up singing, so it was just a natural progression (albeit with Wally's encouragement for the past 3-4 years) that he should end up in barbershopping. Unfortunately Scouts met the same night and we had to wait until his son Nick aged out of Scouting to join ECC.

"So," Mark says, "here I am and wondering... WHY did I wait so long to join such a wonderful and fun group as Barbershopping! I look forward to many, many years singing. I thank you ALL for welcoming me into the group and I hope to never disappoint anyone here." LET'S SING!



**Watsup!**  
**Coming Events**

Apr. 16-7:00 PM; Kingsway Long-Term Care Facility

May 30 -8:30 AM - 2:00 PM Singing for Life / Red Cross Blood Drive

Sept.19 (11:30 am to 12:30 pm, Malta Community Day.



## ECC Board Meeting Highlights for April 2009

By Wally Adelman, Secretary

- Jim Stearns discussed Interchapter events with the Keene, Pittsfield, Poughkeepsie, and Troy Chapters.
- Summer performances are still in the planning stages.
- Planning for the upcoming Annual Show is proceeding.
- The treasurer reported a current balance of \$17,214.05.
- Singing for Life / Red Cross Blood Drive – scheduled for May 30th, from 8:30 AM to 2:00 PM – all three local chapters, Schenectady, Saratoga, and Troy, are involved.

## Historic Moments for Electric City Chorus Members




**Bob Weinhold** is seen here receiving his new membership card from chapter secretary, Wally Adelman. Can you believe sixty-one years? When Bob was asked to make a comment about this historic event, he said, “I’ve enjoyed every minute of the sixty-one years and have a lot of good memories.”



**Ray Benoit** will not be saying that he has been singing barbershop for forty-nine years. He has reached a historic moment of his fiftieth year as a barbershopper. Along the way he has sung with the Poughkeepsie Chapter, the now defunct Albany Chapter and nearly forever with the Schenectady Chapter. To the right we find chapter president, Walt Lane, taking Ray by the hand to congratulate him.

Chapter. To the

Here's to the  
**Birthday Boys**



APRIL:	
Varro Clarke:	4/5
Ed Gifford:	4/6
Harrison Hall:	4/15
Ray Kidalowski:	4/16
<hr/>	
MAY:	
Don Flom	5/8
Richard Lenehan	5/8
Mark Hodges	5/26
Bob Weinhold:	5/30

## Harmony University— a School and an Experience

Register Now! March 15 is the last day to receive the discounted \$550 price. After that, it increases to \$600 until June 15. From June 16 on, registration will cost \$700.

Have you ever wondered how to start out the day? Dave Colland's 2008 Harmony University Morning Warm Up is just thing to get you started. Not only does it prepare you to sing, it also increases the energy you take into your morning. You will find it at this link:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwscIfZVq30&feature=channel>



# JOE BARBERSHOPPER

## Super Hero

Created by Jim Stearns

### More Super Hero

Joe was nearly himself again as Rinnie re-entered the room proudly carrying a sizeable piece of the lower portion of Gloomy's evil-doing costume. Slowly, the Hog Callers and their director, Goober, came back to normal; ready to make beautiful music on pitch and with a gusto and animation that all barber shop music is meant to have. Another great day for the hobby, and the crime fighting duo we've come to know and love; Rin Tin Tin-ear and: **JOE BARBERSHOPPER – SUPER HERO**



### BOTH GREAT NEWS AND OPPORTUNITY

**L**ast weekend at the Patriot Division Contest, the college quartet, Blend

Tech, from McGill University qualified to represent the NED at the College Quartet Contest at International in Anaheim this summer with an impressive score of 70.8. Wow!

We now have the opportunity to step up and help these young guys out - financially!

### Episode 11: Final Score: Wonder Dog - 2 and Evil Doers - 0

by Jim Stearns, VP Music and Performance

**T**he last time we were together, Joe was in a real mess and it was looking like he might be meeting his maker there in the heart of Arkansas. Now, assuming you read on, you'll learn if he somehow turned things around and our two crime-fighting heroes got out of Catfish in one piece.

The two villains, Gloomy and the Prince; preoccupied with their apparent advantage over their arch enemy, totally forgot about the presence of Joe's ever faithful wonder dog! Rin Tin Tin-ear now quickly sprang into action. His first victim was the Prince, who had Joe nearly doubled over, almost unidentifiable as the super hero we all love. Now bear in mind that, in addition to being tone-deaf, Rinnie is not too bright as dogs go; a few milk bones short of a full box, if you get my drift. The combination of these two characteristics; what otherwise may be considered disabilities, resulted in his being immune to the spineless one's evil deeds.

Rinnie, using his incredible speed, circled the stage and prepared to attack; like any sensible dog, directly from his adversary's rear. And that's exactly what Rinnie bit..... **HARD!!** The Prince, normally in a perpetual stoop, actually straightened up as he lifted clear off the floor with Rinnie firmly attached to his hip pocket. His normally slimy, muffled and clearly off-pitch voice rose to an ear splitting scream. He no longer moved with that characteristic reptilian slither, but rather when his feet hit the floor, he was smokn' across the room and flew right out the hole in the wall Joe had made on entry.

This spectacle was not missed by the other foul villain, who was still working Joe over pretty good. Gloomy shifted his attention to Rinnie, hoping desperately that he could gloom-up the dog enough to save his posterior from the same fate suffered by his fellow evil doer. His cloud of gloom began to envelop Rinnie but the dog continued to wear his usual goofy grin; his tongue extending out his mouth and over his lower lip - his white teeth clearly visible. Gloomy



Gus began to get nervous; he had weaved this spell a million times on singers around the world..... what was going on? What Gloomy forgot to take into account was that, not only was Rin Tin Tin-ear not a singer (at least not one that humans could hear) but he was also just a good old happy dog! And the smile was his way of saying "I'm gonna love sinking my teeth into you". Gloomy saw that he was in for it and started to back toward the door. Rinnie slowly stalked him. Gloomy Gus turned to run and Rinnie jumped nearly the width of the room with his eyes firmly focused on his target. He landed teeth-first, firmly sinking them into the villain's gloomy little butt!! The evil one's exit from the premises was hastened considerably and neither villain has been spotted in Catfish, Arkansas since that fateful day!

## Mark Your Calendars for Life

by Walt Lane, President

This is a request for you to mark your calendar to sing with the chorus on May 30, 2009 at the Rotterdam Elks Club on Curry Road starting at about 9:00 AM that day.

As you have already heard, we will be repeating our “Singing for Life” program in support of the American Red Cross blood drive that morning in cooperation with both the Troy and the Saratoga Springs chapters.

The chorus will start singing at 9:00 AM and will probably finish at about 12 noon. We anticipate that chapter quartets will sing from 8:00 to 9:00 AM and again in the afternoon. A more detailed schedule will follow once we have determined how many groups other than the Electric City Chorus will be joining us that day.

As was true last year, if you can come for only an hour, plan on that. One hour of your time is far better than none.

Thanks. More to follow as soon as possible.



photos by Pam Palmer

## Busy Month of Singing for Others

### Sheldon Hills

At the invitation of Bill Palmer the chorus sang in the club house for this senior housing development in Mechanicsville. The room was alive and the audience appreciative. (We might see a couple of the men at rehearsal.)



### Kingsway

ECC sang three times at the Kingsway Manor complex during the month of April. Each time a different level of care was entertained.



photo by Sandy Lane

## Ray Johnson Gave Us the “You Know What”

**R**ay Johnson, the bass in our district champion quartet, Men In Black, gave it to us in the first of three coaching sessions on April 14, 2009. He demonstrated how to breathe and to prepare ourselves for singing. Bending stretching, hissing, bubbling, and sissing, Ray taught us how to breathe from the diaphragm. By the look on Chuck's face it worked.

It was this routine that Ray gave credit for lifting *The Men In Black* from nineteenth place in 2007 to eleventh place in the 2008 International Barbershop Contest in Nashville last July.

*(I was there, I heard the difference. I remember turning to my wife and saying they sounded and looked like a different quartet. Wow, I say. How can just practicing good breathing and posture make that much of a difference? Ray insists it did. -Editor)*



Ray Johnson says Chuck Eaker is the man and we are lucky to have him.

## You need to breathe to sing!

Larry Clow agrees with Ray and in an e-mail to the editor he said that he was embarrassed. Others agree. The break had gone on and on that night. For someone who sings with a chorus that doesn't take a break it must be a shock. Then, after being asked again and again to get to the risers, some of our company still had business to finish. Ray reached down into his bass voice and let us know that we were insulting our director with our behavior. The truth has a way of stinging—and it did sting.

## New Members Shine in Contest and Performances

by Ron Messersmith, VP for Membership

We are excited to have two new members in March, Mark Hodges, lead, and Nick Hodges, baritone. Nick was instrumental in our exhilarating third place finish in the Mountain Division contest in Burlington. Fred Simon provided a culinary masterpiece at rehearsal to enjoy with coffee to relish our accomplishment.

Mark and Nick experienced their first father-son appearance in the Kingsway Long-Term Care Facility performance, with Nick singing tenor in “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” Welcome to “Off-Broadway.” As in the movie, “Pay It Forward”, if Mark and Nick enjoy their singing experience each Tuesday, we hope they will invite others to join them. Hmmm... Let's all do the same!



**Nick Hodges Excited and Dave Matice**

## Itza First Prize...Frank.....

by Wally Adelman

**I**t's a wiener!!! I want to thank everybody who had anything to do with my photo earning first prize. It's a photo taken last summer from Uracca Mesa at Philmont Scout Ranch, New Mexico. My Boy Scout Crew and I were about 7 miles on day two into an 85 mile journey heading north on the ranch. Uracca Mesa is about 8600 feet above sea level. Schenectady's altitude above sea level is between 211 to 275 feet; I guess depending on whether or not it's spring or summer... This shot is the “best in five,” looking east – remember; the sun rises in the east and sets in the west...

So thanks again.

(All winning photos and winning photographers on page 9.)

We were also glad to see Mike Sargalis and Jack Arnold return for a visit. We had a record attendance of 35 for 2009 on March 31 and the coaching session with Ray Johnson. Larry Clow provided cards for our members who were out with illnesses. It was great to see so many from the chorus talking to the audience after our performance at Kingsway Village and Long-Term Care. We should all remember to stay and talk with the audience, including staff or others, after our performances.

## Sidebar Humor

**A** man and his wife were having an argument about who should brew the coffee each morning.

The wife said, 'You should do it because you get up first, and then we don't have to wait as long to get our coffee.'

The husband said, 'You are in charge of cooking around here and you should do it, because that is your job, and I can just wait for my coffee.'

Wife replies, 'No, you should do it, and besides, it is in the Bible that the man should do the coffee.'

Husband replies, 'I can't believe that, show me.'

So she fetched the Bible, and opened the New Testament and showed him at the top of several pages, that it indeed says 'HEBREWS'



## Frankie the Flatfoot

by Frank Mauriello.

**W**ell, here we finally go, this is the first article of what I hope is a series of a flat foot who spent 22 years, 1948 to 1971, on the now very active Schenectady Police department. No comment please.

The first question you will have will probably be "Why?" Well, while in the air force I was trained as a long range navigator / technician. With those skills, the closest related employment was in Rochester, New York. Both of my parents were quite ill so my wife and I decided to come to Schenectady and stay with them as they needed our help.

My Dad, I later learned had slipped 500 big ones to a person unknown to me, so I could I take the civil service exam to become a police officer. I was in the top 3 on the exam list.. I believe the top man just signed his name or put a x on his exam. (Please remember this took place over 60 years ago.) Seven men were hired that day. We all tried to sign the payroll register first in order to gain an advantage in seniority over the other six men 10-15 years down the road.

Only six name's appeared in the daily papers the next day. Mine was not there. The chief of police had me already assigned me as a new member of a special undercover operation. New officers in those days were given a free whistle, hat pair of hand cuffs pair of twisters and a large black belt with 38 caliber revolver in it. The only thing that worked for me was the "twisters." Oh yes, we were also approved for a \$100 loan from a local bank that we had to pay back. This was to buy a pair of shoes, shirt, tie and pair of pants.

You will have to wait for the excitement of my big under cover assignment,.So tune in next time for the "undercover kid operation".

*(We have asked Frank to give us some words on his early days on the "force," and here it begins -Editor)*



**A much younger Frank Mauriello then a Schenectady Flatfoot with an attitude**

## THE TENOR'S WISDOM

A tenor was eager to help his host at their quartet's dinner party. When the dinner was nearly over, he went to the kitchen and proudly carried in the first piece of apple pie, Giving it to the bass who passed it to the guest seated down the table.

Our tenor came in with a second piece of pie and gave it to the bass, who again passed it down the table.

This perplexed the tenor and he said, "It's no use,. The pieces are all the same size."

## FIRST PRIZE



SUNRISE AT URACCA MESSA  
by Wally Adelman

Twenty-four excellent photographs were submitted in this our first Shampoo February Photo Contest. You chose these five as winners.

## SECOND PRIZE



MOUNTAIN FLOWERS  
by Steve Lawrence

## CO-THIRD PRIZE



MOUNTAIN LAKE  
by Steve Lawrence



BUTTERFLY  
by Sandy Lane

## HONORABLE MENTION



PANCAKE THE CAT  
by Don Flom



Winners of Photo Contest:  
Steve, Wally, and Don

# The Schenectady Chapter in the 50's Versus Today

By Don Flom

**A** number of issues earlier in the Shampoo I questioned whether the early days of the Chapter were really the "good old days". Without belaboring the point I've thought again about the comparison of two distinct eras – the 50's and our current era. Such a comparison may not be valid because so many things in the world have changed such as emergence of TV, the computer, the internet, etc. However, at the expense of jumping in where "fools should not tread" let me give you some personal observations. In the early days we emphasized quartetting more than today and the achievements of our quartets in competition bore this out. Also, our quartets coached each other and this was a huge plus. On the other hand, we did not get the kind of vocal instruction that Chuck Eaker and Joe Millett give us today.

As stated before, in the 50's we met in the Pine Room of the First Methodist Church on the corner of State and Lafayette Streets. That room was smaller than our current rehearsal site and we did not use risers. As a result, I believe we did not sing our best as a chorus even though we had many good singers in all four parts. We also did not sing many, if any, ballads. And do-whop songs were not even a possibility! It's only my opinion but I think our current repertoire is more interesting and is certainly helped by the use of learning CD's. In the early days we didn't worry about clearing our songs. Many of them were taken off records anyway.

Our monthly chapter board meetings were held on nights other than regular meeting nights in the YWCA on Washington Ave. These were buffet dinner meetings, inexpensive but with good food. The concerns of the board were the usual but with some differences. I remember Stub Taylor, who had to stand on tiptoe to reach 5 feet tall, complaining that we had too much money in the treasury and that we should spend it -- wisely, of course. And we did spend it by giving two \$200 music scholarships annually to deserving students from area high schools. This started in 1946 and continued for at least 15 years – perhaps longer but my records don't cover the period from 1960 to 1970. Even though we always had good officers, I think our current administration is handled better than it was in the 50's.

We put out a Shampoo in the early days but not nearly as complete and as professionally done as today's Shampoo. But then we didn't have Jim Bowen in the 50's either! We printed the Shampoo on a Multigraph machine which had a revolving drum operated by a handle. I was a bachelor at the time and we kept the Multigraph in my apartment. Many were the times when we ended up with purple ink all over our hands after a printing. Thankfully, we got rid of that machine.

Our annual shows at Proctor's were better attended in the 50's than our shows have been recently and we always brought in Gold Medalist quartets; in 1959 we had two – the Schmitt Brothers and the Pitchikers. In 1960 we had the Mid States Four and the Easternaires (almost Gold Medalists). Some question whether or not the greater attendance was due to these quartets; I won't even try to answer that question. Quartet fees were less, there was no competition from TV and other shows, and the environment was completely different. Our current printed programs are



much nicer and fuller than the early ones – but the latter didn't cost as much to print either.

If I remember correctly, we held more ladies' nights during the 50's -- and not only on installation nights. Those were fun events and it wouldn't hurt us to pay more attention to the ladies. Many of them who give us their support don't even like barbershop!

On balance it is well nigh impossible to say whether barbershopping was better in the old days than it is now. I am thankful that I was able to sing in both eras and I think that both Ed Gifford and Bob Weinholt would agree, or we wouldn't still be sticking around.



**Ready and Waiting to Get Their Six Minutes in the Contest Spotlight**

# off the Cuff

by Ed Gifford



## Where's the Movie House Gone?

**L**ast week, I needed ballast for the fluorescent light in the plant room (our indoor greenhouse), so I went to the electrical supply store on Albany Street near Hamilton Street. As I was leaving, I asked the men there if they knew when was the last time a movie was shown in their building. They didn't know, of course, but I got to thinking what a lot of neighborhood movie houses there used to be in Schenectady 'BTV' (before television).

There was that one on Albany Street in what is now known as Hamilton Hill. There was the "American" on Brandywine Avenue between Albany Street and Odell. There was one in Bellevue, one in Mont Pleasant, probably one in Woodlawn, the "Cameo" on Upper State Street, the "Rivoli" on Upper Union, the "Strand" on Barrett Street in Downtown, competing with "Proctors" (which avoided the wrecking ball by a whisker) and the "State" and the "Erie", both now parking lots. And then there's the "Scotia" which still operates (we went there last night to see "Slum Dog Millionaire"). Before the 'talkies', there was one on the corner of Albany and Summit, where in April, 1924, my mother watched a Tom Mix movie and got so excited that she walked home to 41 Kelton Avenue, went into labor and had ME!

PS. The names of some, which I've forgotten will probably be filled in by readers; Bob Weinhold has reported seeing Fred Palangi, (scissors grinder) at the Stock Broker's and Joe Ryan (newspaper hawker) at Central Park at the baseball games.



The Newsletter of the Northeast District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, "The Nor'easter," is now published on the web. To access the newsletter go to: [http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page\\_id=144](http://www.nedistrict.org/index.cfm?page_id=144).



The Shampoo  
**Newsletter of the Electric City Chorus**  
 % Jim Bowen (Baritone and proud of it)  
 PO. Box 845, Guilderland, NY 12084

