



Barbershopping in the Carolinas 1948-2010

Volume I - 1948-1959

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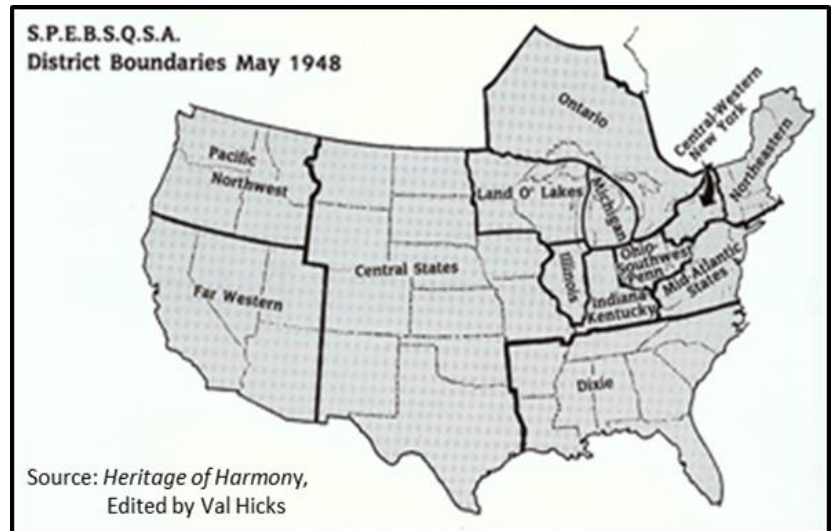
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The Barbershop Harmony Landscape in 1948

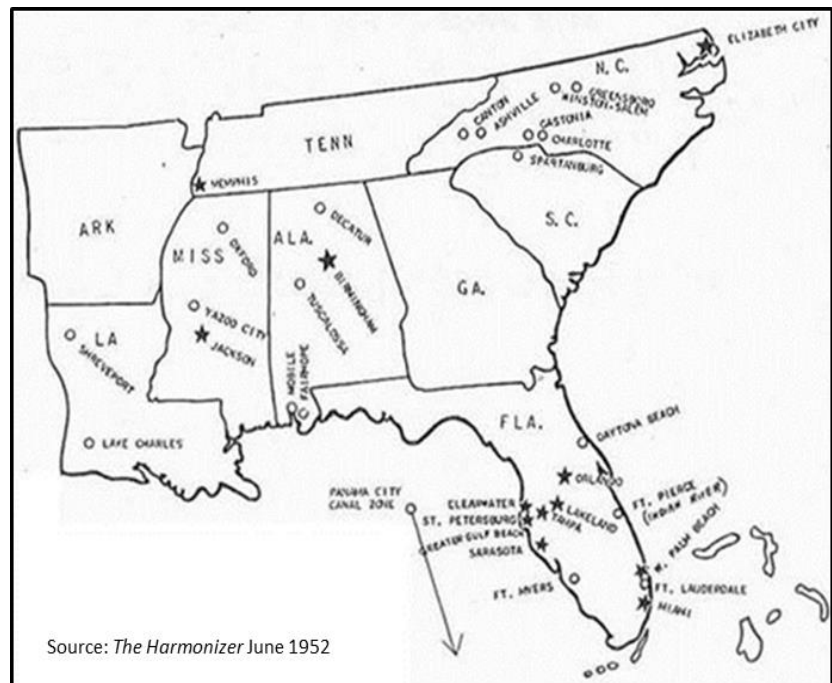
The Asheville, NC Chapter was the first chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.) in the Carolinas¹. It was chartered on June 14, 1948 with 60 members and was sponsored by the Louisville #1, KY Chapter. What did the barbershop harmony landscape look like in June 1948?



The top figure shows the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. districts as they existed in 1948. There were 13 districts covering the Continental United States and Ontario, Canada. (Chapters in New Brunswick, Canada were part of the Northeastern District.) The Society had seen exponential growth since its founding by O. C. Cash in 1938—from five chapters and 150 members in 1938 to 500 chapters with a total membership of 21,771 in 1948. Dues were \$3 per year.

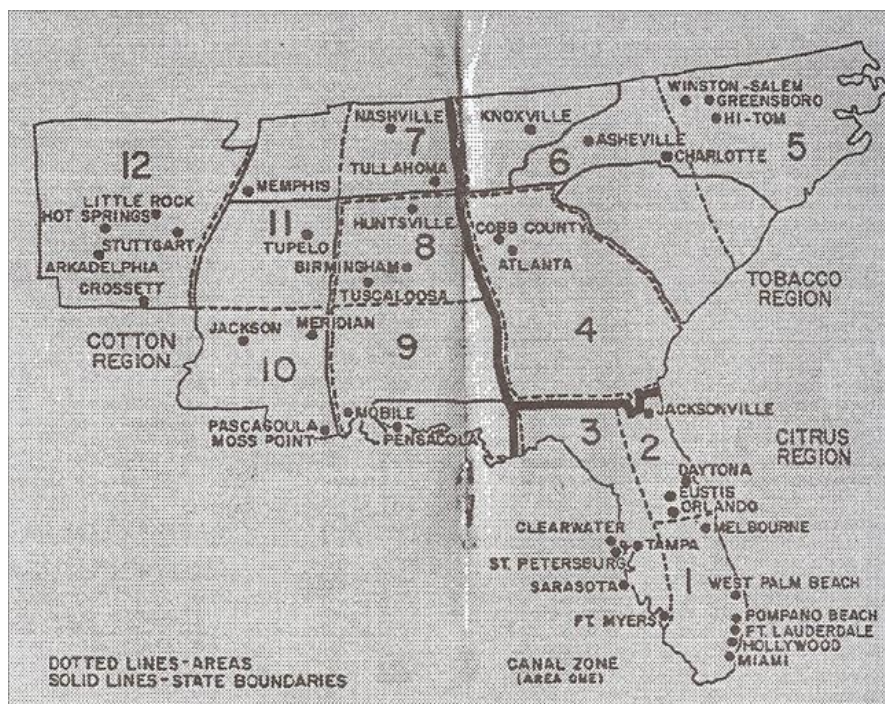


The Dixie Association of Chapters (also called the Dixie District) had been established on February 24, 1948 with 424 members from 10 chapters. The Dixie District (bottom figure) included the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The District was much larger in 1948 as compared to when the Carolinas District was established in 2010. In the west it included Louisiana and Arkansas that moved to the Southwestern District in 1953 and 1979 respectively. In the south the Dixie District included Florida, most of which became the Sunshine District in 1959.



¹ In this volume, “the Carolinas” refers to the SPEBSQSA chapters in the states of North Carolina and South Carolina, and not to the Carolinas District.

For the first eight years there were no regions or divisions in the Dixie District. One of the results of the significant growth of the District was the need to divide it into more manageable sections. The original regions were established in 1956 and consisted of the *Cotton Region* (Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida west of the Apalachicola River), the *Tobacco Region* (eastern half of Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina), and the *Citrus Region* (Florida east of Apalachicola River). The figure to the right dates to early 1958 since it includes the High Point-Thomasville, NC Chapter (called Hi-Tom) that was chartered in October 1957. All the Carolinas chapters were in the Tobacco Region.



Conventions and Contests

In 1948 there were two Society-level conventions as is still the case in 2019. The 1948 Mid-Winter International Board Meeting was held January 15-18 in Pittsburgh, PA. It included two days of meetings, a Saturday night Parade of Quartets show with four current International medalists quartets, the future 1948 Champion (*Pittsburghers*), and the *Pittsburgh Chorus*. Tickets for the show were \$2.40 and \$1.80. By 1956 the Mid-Winter Convention had started on Wednesday and had added more meetings (District Presidents and International House of Delegates) and sessions (Chorus Directors' Conference, College of Arrangers Meeting, Barbershop Craft Demonstration, and a Judges' School). Additional events were added over the years including Thursday and Friday night shows, a Seniors Quartet Contest in 1986, and a Youth Chorus Festival in 2008.

The 1948 International Convention and Contest was held June 9-13 in Oklahoma City, OK. A registration for all events was \$5. Executive Committee and Board of Directors meetings were held on Wednesday and Thursday (day and evening). Regional quartet preliminary contests were held on May 1st and 2nd with a total of 240 quartets competing to qualify for the International contest. Twenty quartets competed in Semi-Finals #1 Friday morning, 20 quartets competed in Semi-Finals #2 Friday afternoon, and the top 15 quartets from the semi-finals competed in the Finals on Friday night. Saturday brought more meetings in the morning, the *Jamboree* in the afternoon featuring the 25 quartets that did not make the finals, and an evening show. The top five quartets from the finals sang another set of songs in the Medalist Contest in the first half of the evening show from which the champion and the order of medalists were determined. The score were cumulative across all three



An example cover from 1948 of *The Harmonizer*, the Society's magazine

contest sessions. The second half of the show included the medalists performing again along with International Champion Quartets from previous years. The International Chorus Contest was added to the format in 1954. In 1958 the quartet contest format was changed to have two quarter-final sessions, a semi-final session with the top 20 quartets, and the top 10 quartets in the finals on Saturday night. Although the total number of quartets competing and the specific days the sessions were held would vary through the years, the format for the quartet contest would remain the same through 2017. The past quartet champions still sang on the second half of the Saturday night show until 1960 when a separate show, *Parade of Past Champions* (now called the Association of International Champions (AIC) Show), was added. A Collegiate Quartet Contest was added in 1992.

When the International Chorus Contest was added in 1954 the Dixie District annual contest schedule became fixed. The Dixie Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest was held in the spring to qualify quartets for the following International contest. Contests were held at the fall convention to crown the District Quartet Champion and the District Chorus Champion that would also represent the Dixie District the following year in the International Chorus Contest.

The Rebel Rouser, the Dixie District bulletin, was first published in 1951. In the 1950s it was a small publication—typically eight 5.25” by 8.5” pages. The cover of the issue to the right shows the Asheville Civic Auditorium, the site of the 1956 Dixie Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest.

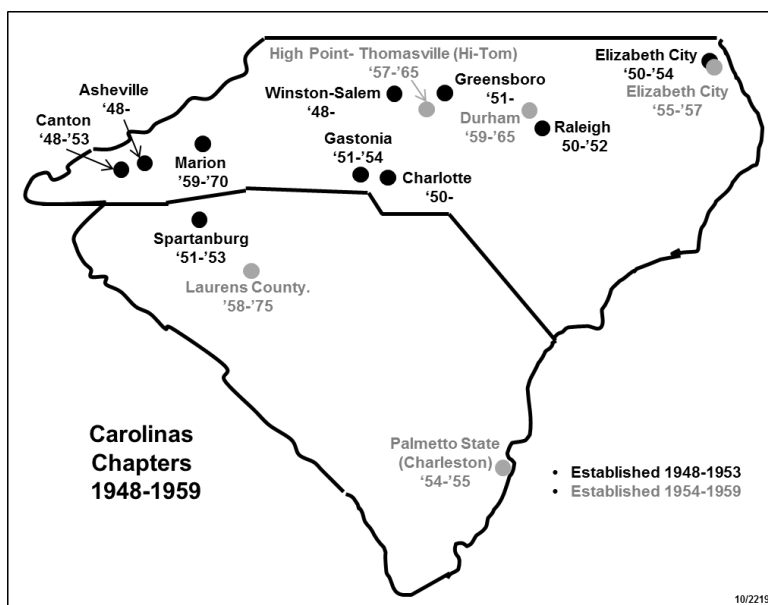


Chapter Growth

Between June of 1948 and May of 1951, nine chapters were chartered in the Carolinas:

Asheville, NC – June 14, 1948
 Canton, NC – December 30, 1948
 Winston-Salem, NC – January 24, 1949
 Charlotte, NC – February 15, 1950
 Elizabeth City, NC – February 22, 1950
 Raleigh, NC – March 3, 1950
 Greensboro, NC – January 12, 1951
 Spartanburg, SC – March 26, 1951
 Gastonia, NC – May 16, 1951

This growth in chapters helped the Dixie District increase membership from 424 on March 31, 1948 to 1,471 as of March 31, 1953. Eight of the nine Carolinas chapters (all but Raleigh) chartered from 1948-1951 were still active as of March 31, 1953. However, the list of Dixie District chapters in *The Harmonizer* (December 1955) included only five Carolinas chapters: Asheville, NC; Winston-Salem, NC; Charlotte, NC; Elizabeth City, NC; and Greensboro, NC.



Between 1954 and 1959, five new chapters were chartered, and one was re-chartered:

Palmetto State (Charleston), SC – July 26, 1954
Elizabeth City, NC – May, 19, 1955 (re-chartered)
High Point–Thomasville, NC – October 16, 1957

Laurens County, SC – August 6, 1958
Durham, NC – May 11, 1959
Marion, NC – June 15, 1959

Although there had been 15 chapters chartered in the Carolinas from June 1948 to December 1959—12 from North Carolina and three from South Carolina—as of December 1959, there were only eight active chapters: Asheville, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, Greensboro, High Point-Thomasville, Laurens County, Durham, and Marion. Only four of those chapters remained active when the Carolinas District was formed in 2010: Asheville, Winston-Salem, Charlotte, and Greensboro.

Notable Achievements

In addition to chapter growth, the Carolinas chapters had several notable achievements during the 1960s.

The first barbershop show in the Carolinas, presented by the Asheville, NC Chapter on August 13, 1949, received state-wide publicity when a review of the show was published by *The State* which is now the monthly publication *Our State*. The two-page article included photos of the chorus and several quartets.

Vagabonds (Winston-Salem, NC²) was the first International Competitor and Dixie District Champion (in that order) from the Carolinas chapters. The quartet competed at the 1950 International Contest placing 37th. They qualified for the 1951 and 1952 International contests making the finals, placing 14th and 15th. They were crowned the 1952 Dixie District Quartet Champion at the 1952 fall contest.

Southern Aristocrats (Greensboro, NC) competed at the 1958 and 1959 International contests placing 37th both years. The quartet would go on to be the 1963 Dixie District Quartet Champion and compete at International six times in the 1960s.



Vagabonds

Jap Comer (Bs), Robert Bennett (Br),
Pete Comer (L), Jack Bennett (T)



Southern Aristocrats

Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),
Jack Elkins (Br), Jim Henderson (Bs)

² Quartets, choruses, and members names are followed by the chapter(s) they represent.

The first official International Chorus Contest was held at the 1954 International Convention and Contest in Washington DC. The Dixie District was represented by two choruses at this contest: the ***Tobacco Belt Chorus*** (Winston-Salem, NC) and the ***Suncoast Chorus*** (St. Petersburg, FL). The ***Tobacco Belt Chorus***, under the direction of Archer Livengood, placed 22nd. It would be 26 years before another Carolinas chorus competed at an International chorus contest when the ***General Assembly*** (Research Triangle Park, NC) placed sixth in 1980 in Salt Lake City, UT.



Tobacco Belt Chorus
1954 International Contest
Archer Livengood, Director

Men from the Carolinas chapters took leadership positions at the Dixie District and International levels. John Dawson (Winston-Salem, NC) was the 1952-53 Dixie District President, and Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) was the first two-term Dixie District President 1956-57 and 1957-58. Edward J. West (Charlotte, NC) was an International Board Member 1952-53 and 1953-54. The Carolinas chapters also provided several contest judges: Edward S. Hubbard (Winston-Salem, NC) in Voice Expression, John T. Dawson (Winston-Salem, NC) in Balance & Blend, and Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) who judged the Voice Expression category in the 1958 International Contests.



Paul D. Amsbary John T. Dawson

In 1953 the Asheville, NC Chapter was the largest chapter in the Dixie District and fourth largest in the Society with a membership of 195.

In 1959 the Dixie District established the ***Barbershopper of the Year Award***. Baxter Westmoreland, director of the ***Greensboro Chorus***, was selected as the first award winner.

Several Carolinas chapters stepped up to host contests and conventions. Charlotte, NC hosted the 1952 Dixie Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest, and Asheville, NC hosted the 1956 Dixie Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest. Asheville, NC also hosted the 1958 International Mid-Winter Convention, the first, and as of 2019 the only, International Convention hosted in the Carolinas.

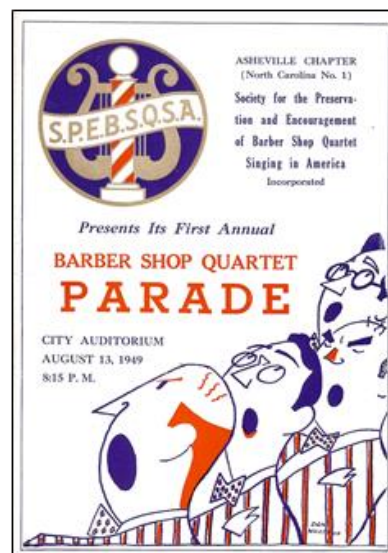
Asheville, NC Chapter • Asheville Chapter Chorus/Land of the Sky Chorus

The Asheville, NC Chapter was chartered on June 14, 1948 with 60 members. It was sponsored by the Louisville #1, KY Chapter. It was the first chapter in the Carolinas, the 13th chapter to be chartered in the recently-established Dixie District, and chapter #523 of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Roney Hilliard was the founder and president.

While there were no Dixie District chapters close to Asheville, it seemed unusual that the chapter was sponsored by the Louisville #1, KY Chapter. It was the result of a chance meeting between Roney Hilliard from Asheville while he was on vacation in Miami Beach, FL and William H. Day a businessman from Louisville, KY. Day outlined his barbershop singing experience in the Louisville #1 Chapter and suggested Hilliard form a chapter in Asheville to be sponsored by the Louisville #1 Chapter.

The first annual show program included this historical note about the founding of the chapter: "In June of 1948, R.A. Hilliard invited a few friends who he had 'harmonized' with on occasion to his home to consider the proposition of applying for a chapter in S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Shortly thereafter the application for the charter was promptly granted by the international officers." Charter Night was held at the Battery Park Hotel on December 4, 1948. The chapter had phenomenal growth achieving 100 members by December 1948 and 140 by August 1949.

The chapter presented its *First Annual Barber Shop Quartet Parade* on August 13, 1949. It was a *Parade of Quartets* style of show popular at time—the chorus performed along with several quartets without a lot of dialogue unlike the more recent scripted shows with characters and a storyline. The show included an impressive group of quartets: **Pittsburghers** (1948 International Champion from Pittsburgh, PA), **The Chordettes** (renowned women's quartet from Sheboygan, WI), **Kentucky Troubadours** (Louisville, KY), **Firesiders** (Louisville, KY), **Buzz Saws** (Columbus, OH), **Four Flats** (Houston, TX), **Foresters** (Asheville, NC), and **Skylarks** (Asheville, NC). The 70-voice **Asheville Chapter Chorus** was directed by Dr. Arnold Dann.



The Asheville Chapter Chorus performing on the first annual show with Dr. Arnold Dann directing

Singing on the first annual show:

Skylarks (left)

Tommy Lane (T)
Jack Simmons (L)
Paul Amsbary (Br)
Bird Waddill (Bs)

Foresters

Jim Renshaw (T)
George Hepting (L)
George Jemison (Br)
Tom Evans (Bs)



There are three interesting facts to point out about this show. First and surprisingly by today's standards, every quartet sang only three songs. It did not matter whether it was a chapter quartet or an International quartet champion or a famous quartet like *The Chordettes*. It was three songs. Second, the intermission was advertised as eight minutes. Evidently, things moved a lot faster back then. The next year it was nine minutes, 10 minutes for the fourth annual show, and eventually 15 minutes for the seventh annual show. Third, there were no fees for guest quartets thus making the show a financial success with expenses of \$138.75 and net revenue of \$3,642.37.

The first S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chapter in North Carolina was also *news* in other cities. The *Raleigh News and Observer* carried an article about the Asheville Chapter's chartering, announcing the Asheville Chapter's first annual show in an article on August 4, 1949, sending a reporter and a photographer to the show, and published a short review of the show on September 4th. In addition, the *Greensboro Daily News* published an extensive review of the show including photos of *The Chordettes*, *Foresters*, and *Firesiders*. That article was also re-published by *The State* which is now the monthly publication *Our State*.

Chorus Directors

1948	Sam Fox
1949	Dr. Arnold Dann
1950-52	Thomas C. Evans
1953-54	Arthur J. Borgesen
1955-57	Dr. Frank Edwinn
1958-59	Rufus N. Norris

Presidents

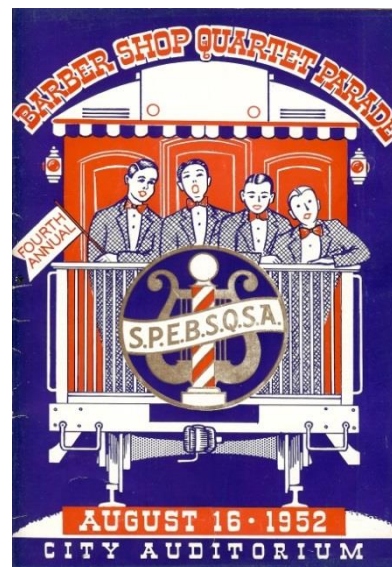
1948-50	Roney A. Hilliard
1950-52	James S. Howell
1952-53	Paul D. Amsbary
1953-54	O. E. Starnes, Jr.
1954-55	Dr. L. L. Klostermyer
1955-56	Eugene J. Bengé
1956-57	James F. Renshaw/ Dr. J. C. Bradley
1957-58	T. B. Waddill
1958-59	Albert W. Hargrove
1959-60	H. Doyle Keller

The chapter continued to present popular and financially successful annual shows. The venue for all shows was the Asheville City Auditorium.

The *Second Annual Barber Shop Quartet Parade* was presented on August 12, 1950. The show featured *Mid-States Four* (1949 International Champion from Chicago, IL), *Cardinals* (Madison, WI), *Kentucky Troubadours* (Louisville, KY), *Four Flats* (Houston, TX), *Skylarks* (Asheville, NC), and the 70-voice *Asheville Chapter Chorus* now directed by Tom Evans.

The *Third Annual Barber Shop Quartet Parade* was presented on August 11, 1951. The show featured *Buffalo Bills* (1950 International Champion from Buffalo, NY), *Antlers* (Miami, FL), *Kentucky Troubadours* (Louisville, KY), and chapter quartets *Skylarks* and *Melodons*. The chorus had 70-voices.

The *Fourth Annual Barber Shop Quartet Parade* was presented on August 16, 1952. The show featured *Westinghouse Quartet* (Pittsburgh, PA), *Antlers* (Miami, FL), *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), and *Peachtree Pipers* (Asheville, NC). The chorus had 75 voices.



The *Fifth Annual Parade of Quartets* was presented on August 1, 1953. The show featured **Vikings** (1953 International Champion from Rock Island, IL), **Four Chorders** (London, Ontario, Canada), and chapter quartets **Skylarks**, **Peachtree Pipers**, and **Melodons**. The 60-voice chorus was now directed by Arthur J. Borgeisen.



Asheville Chapter Chorus • 1951 • Tom Evans, Director

The Sixth Annual Parade of Quartets, *Carnival of Harmony*, was presented on August 21, 1954. The show featured **Atomic Bums** (Minneapolis, MN), **Templairs** (Muncie, IN), **Miamians** (Miami, FL), and chapter quartets **Skylarks** and **Melodons**. The 75-voice chorus introduced its new name, **Land of the Sky Chorus**, at this show.

The Seventh Annual Parade of Quartets, *A Riot of Harmony*, was presented on August 13, 1955. The show featured **Buffalo Bills** (1950 International Champion from Buffalo, NY), **The Confederates** (Memphis, TN), **The Big Four** (1953 Sweet Adelines Queens of Harmony from Chillicothe, IL), and **The Four Highlanders** (Asheville, NC). The 60-voice chorus was now directed by Dr. Frank Edwinn.

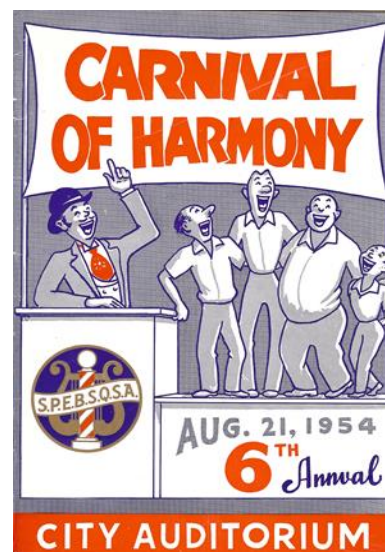
The Eighth Annual Parade of Quartets, *Harmony Cruise*, was presented on August 11, 1956. The show featured **The Confederates** (1956 International Champion from Memphis, TN), **Schmitt Brothers** (1951 International Champion from Two Rivers, WI), **Barber-Q Four** (Elmhurst, IL), and chapter quartets **The Four Highlanders** and **Dixie Mountaineers**. The chorus had 50 voices.

The Ninth Annual Parade of Quartets, *The Songs We Love*, was presented on August 10, 1957. The show featured **Schmitt Brothers** (1951 International Champion from Two Rivers, WI), **Buffalo Bills** (1950 International Champion from Buffalo, NY), and **Chickasaws** (Memphis, TN). The chorus had 50 voices.

The *Tenth Annual Parade of Quartets* was presented on August 2, 1958. The show featured **The Confederates** (1956 International Champion from Memphis, TN), **Schmitt Brothers** (1951 International Champion from Two Rivers, WI), **Mid-States Four** (1949 International Champion from Chicago, IL), and **Southern Aristocrats** (Greensboro, NC). The 40-voice chorus was now directed by Rufus. N. Norris.

The *11th Annual Parade of Quartets* was presented on August 22, 1959. The show featured **Short Cuts** (Miami, FL), **Four Chorders** (London, Ontario, Canada), **Dixie Misses** (Sweet Adelines quartet from Birmingham, AL), **Southern Aristocrats** (Greensboro, NC), **Dixie Colonels** (Hi-Tom, NC), and **Local Yokels** (Asheville, NC). The chorus had 47 voices.

In 1953 the Asheville Chapter was the largest chapter in the Dixie District and fourth largest in S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. with a membership of 195. Membership was in the 180s for several years while advertising a chorus of 70+ voices. This dramatic difference in members versus men on the risers was representative of



two facts. The first fact is that the chapter had two classes of membership: “(a) singers and (b) crows, which indicates those who do not and cannot sing, but who shall participate in the meetings and aid in promoting the welfare of the organization.” The chapter list of positions included a *Keeper of the Crows*. The second fact is that the chapter had a heavy social character with Monday night chorus rehearsals and regular Friday stag night dinners.



Land of the Sky Chorus • 1954 • Arthur J. Borgesen, Director

The Asheville Chapter had several registered quartets during the 1950s. The most successful quartet in contests was *Peachtree Pipers*. They were all members of the Asheville Chapter even though they were from Atlanta, GA. (The Atlanta Peachtree, GA Chapter was chartered October, 22, 1954.) They placed second in the 1952 District Quartet Contest and were fourth in the 1953 Regional Preliminary Contest. *Melodons* and *Skylarks* competed at the 1954 Regional Preliminary Contest. *The Four Highlanders* and *Dixie Mountaineers* competed at the 1956 Regional Preliminary Contest. Photos of *Skylarks* (1949) and *Foresters* (1949) are on page 7. Photos of the other chapter quartets follow.

***Skylarks* (left)**
(1950)

Jim Renshaw (T)
Paul Amsbary (Br)
Tommy Lane (L)
Bird Waddill (Bs)



Skylarks
(1951-52)

George Kiser (L)
Paul Amsbary (Br)
Bob Swain (Bs)
Jim Renshaw (T)

***Melodons* (left)**
(1951-52)

Charlie David (L)
Frank Johnson (Br)
Bob Murray (Bs)
O.E. Starnes, Jr. (T)



Skylarks
(1953-54)

Forest Brinson (Br)
Paul Amsbary (Bs)
George Kiser (L)
Jim Renshaw (T)

Melodons (left)

(1953-54)

Charles David (L)

O.E. Starnes, Jr. (T)

Frank Johnson (Br)

Bill McRary (Bs)

Peachtree Pipers

(1952-54)

Putnam Head (T)

Allen Harrington (Bs)

Ben Thompson (L)

Bob Mell (Br)



The Four Highlanders

James Renshaw (T), Charles Allen (Br),

George Kiser (L), Roger Neilson (Bs)



Dixie Mountaineers

Larry Richardson (T), Doyle "Doll" Keller (L),

Herbert "Hub" Miller (Br), Allen Duckett (Bs)

No photo is available for **Local Yokels** with O.E. Starnes, Jr. (T), Bird Waddill (L), Paul Amsbary (Br), and Roger Neilson (Bs).

The Asheville Chapter also provided one of the early leaders in the Dixie District. Paul D. Amsbary combined his musical and administrative skills to become an early leader in the Asheville Chapter and the Dixie District. Paul sang with the **Land of the Sky Chorus** from the very first meeting. He was a quartet man singing with the first Asheville quartet, **Skylarks**, and several other quartets along the way. He was a song arranger, show producer, and a certified judge in the Voice Expression category. He was selected to judge the 1958 International contests in Columbus, OH. He was the Asheville Chapter President in 1952-53 and was elected the Dixie District President in 1956. For the first time in the history of the Dixie District, a president was re-elected in 1957. The good work done by Paul in the first term was rewarded by a unanimous vote in favor of a second term.



Paul D. Amsbary

As would be expected as the first chapter in the Carolinas, Asheville sponsored several early chapters: Canton, NC in 1948, Winston-Salem, NC in 1949, Charlotte, NC in 1950, Spartanburg, NC in 1951, Palmetto State (Charleston), SC in 1954, Knoxville-Smokyland, TN in 1957, and Marion, NC in 1959.

The chapter hosted the Dixie Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest May 4-5, 1956. **The Confederates** (Memphis, TN) won the contest and went on to become the 1956 International Champion.

In January 1958, the Asheville Chapter hosted the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Mid-Winter Convention. It was the first, and to-date the only, International convention hosted in the Carolinas. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate. This is how *The Harmonizer* (March 1958) covered it. "As usual we had 'It's never been like this here before at this time of the year' weather for our Mid-Winter Convention at Asheville, North Carolina, January 29-February 2. The weather varied between topcoatless sunshiny days to rainy, sleety, snowy and foggy weather which kept the Asheville airport closed-in much of the time. Many delegates arriving by air had to land at an alternate point such as Spartanburg, South Carolina; Greenville, South Carolina; Knoxville, Tennessee; and Charlotte, North Carolina. Also as usual, however, inconveniences were accepted most graciously and good harmony prevailed."

Speaking of travel to Asheville... *The Harmonizer* (December 1957) published the rail and air fares to Asheville from various cities around the county. The prices and travel times (right) are fascinating.

A highlight of the convention was the formal presentation to the Society of a life-size oil portrait of its founder, Owen C. Cash, who had passed away in August 1953. The portrait would be displayed at Harmony Hall, the Society's headquarters building in Kenosha, WI.

The *Land of the Sky Chorus* opened the Saturday night show as reported in *The Harmonizer*. "The show opened with the Asheville Chapter chorus, some fifty strong, singing very well under the direction of Dr. (of music) Frank Edwin, a local voice teacher."

The Harmonizer also reported: "The Saturday night show moved along at a brisk pace, consuming exactly two hours and sixteen minutes (the Society considers two hours and fifteen minutes the ideal length for a barbershop show)."



FACTS ABOUT TRAVEL TO ASHEVILLE

TO ASHEVILLE, N.C. FROM	VIA RAILROAD			VIA PLANE	
	Time Hrs.	1st Class	Lower Berth	Time Hrs.	1st Class
Atlanta, Ga.....	8	\$ 19.55	\$ 5.80	1:10	\$ 22.40
Birmingham, Ala.....	19	30.60	6.95	2:40	38.00
Boston, Mass.....	22	81.45	9.20	5	101.20
Buffalo, N.Y.....	26½	74.95	12.10	6:25	73.40
Calgary, Alberta.....	68½	166.25	30.40	22	233.75
Chicago, Ill.....	22	56.95	9.50	4:12	71.20
Cleveland, Ohio.....	23	58.05	8.30	5	53.40
Dallas, Texas.....	27½	72.75	13.75	5	106.20
Denver, Colo.....	43	109.90	19.10	8	181.60
Detroit, Mich.....	24½	58.05	7.80	6	65.80
Ft. Worth, Texas.....	28½	74.65	14.05	5:30	106.20
Indianapolis, Ind.....	17½	43.05	7.55	4:30	61.70
Kansas City, Mo.....	29½	70.80	10.30	5	97.70
Los Angeles, Calif.....	62	172.70	27.50	12	214.00
Louisville, Ky.....	16½	31.30	7.30	3	41.00
Miami, Fla.....	22	64.65	10.50	4:45	88.50
New York, N.Y.....	17¼	58.60	9.20	4	78.10
Oklahoma City, Okla....	28	74.30	15.35	6	105.50
Omaha, Neb.....	32	78.85	14.70	7	121.20
Phoenix, Ariz.....	57	142.25	28.60	11	215.80
Pittsburgh, Pa.....	24½	63.05	9.45	4:15	47.50
Portland, Ore.....	62	171.55	32.15	12	223.30
San Diego, Calif.....	65	172.70	27.50	12	214.00
San Francisco, Calif.....	62	172.70	27.50	12	267.60
Seattle, Wash.....	66	171.55	32.15	12	223.20
St. Louis, Mo.....	23½	52.65	8.30	5	76.00
Tacoma, Wash.....	66	171.55	32.15	12	223.20
Toronto, Ont.....	27	76.20	13.60	8	87.40
Washington, D.C.....	13	36.45	6.70	3:20	57.97
Winnipeg, Manitoba.....	45½	110.99	23.20	19	217.35

Canton, NC Chapter

The Canton, NC Chapter was chartered on December 30, 1948 with 35 members. It was sponsored by the Asheville, NC Chapter. It was the second chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 17th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Stanley F. Smith was the founder and J. M. “Jimmie” Deaton was the president.

Two main factors impacted the establishment of the Canton Chapter. The first factor was that two of the founding members of the Asheville, NC Chapter, Stanley F. Smith and Reuben B. Robertson, lived in Canton which is only 19 miles west of Asheville, NC. The second factor was both these men worked for the Champion Paper Company. Champion’s paper mill was the major industry in Canton, so it was not surprising the new Canton Chapter would be closely tied to Champion. *The Log*, a monthly magazine published with news across the entire Champion company, and *CHIPS*, a Canton Division weekly newsletter, were the sources for most of the information and artifacts in this section. (An interesting fact is that the Champion’s first paper mill and corporate administrative headquarters were located in Hamilton, OH. *The Log* had several articles about how Champion was involved with the Hamilton, OH S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Chapter that was chartered in February 1947.)

Stanley F. Smith decided he wanted to get some barbershop singers in Canton to start a chapter as reported in *The Log* (September 1948), and he received a lot of support for that effort since Reuben B. Robertson was the president of the entire Champion Company and H. A. Helder, manager of the Canton Division, was the first to “lay the cash on the barrel head” for his annual membership fee of \$3.00.

More than 25 singers of the barbershop style harmony met October 4th at the Champion YMCA to organize a chapter and elect temporary officers. It was voted unanimously to meet 2nd and 4th Thursday nights at 7:30 each month until further notice. It was not long before the first quartet performed for a Champion event. The quartet (right), composed of (L-R) Willis Kirkpatrick, Jeter J. Martin, J. W. (Bill) Harris, and W. Lee McElrath, sang at a surprise party for H.A. Helder on November 12 at the Battery Park Hotel in Asheville, NC. This was the first of many performances by the Canton Chapter chorus and quartets at Champion events.



The Canton Enterprise (December 14, 1948) announced that the official application for charter had been filed with the International Association, identified officers, and provided the names of all 35 founding members. The approved charter, dated December 30, 1948, arrived on January 10, 1949 which was two days after the first chorus’ performance. Amid a colorful setting more than 325 Canton Champion Old Timers enjoyed their 15th annual dinner meeting with the entertainment provided by the Canton chorus directed by Bob Mathews.

The official Canton charter presentation was held on November 18, 1949 at the George Vanderbilt Hotel in Asheville. Group singing followed a turkey dinner and a performance by *Foresters* (Asheville, NC). *The Asheville Times* carried a photo (right) of the charter presentation.



(L-R) R. A. Hilliard, Asheville Chapter President; Elbert Chambers, Asheville Chapter VP; Marshall Cooper, Canton Chapter VP; and Ralph M. Ricketson, Canton Chapter President

The Log provided two full-pages of coverage for the *Charter Night Program* held on April 22, 1949 at Lake Logan Lodge (photos below).



"DEAR OLD GIRL" was handled harmoniously by this foursome (L-R) Jimmie Haynie, tenor, Clyde Hamlett, lead, Lorenzo Smathers, bari, and Louis Gates, bass.



GROUP SINGING proved popular with all guests. Reuben B. Robertson, host, shown singing fourth from left, did not miss a number and knows all the old close-harmony songs.

The Canton chorus and quartets continued to perform at several Champion events. On two occasions in 1949 (a party for 15-year employees in June and 10-year employees in August), the entertainment they provided after dinner featured a special *Barberstrel*, an abbreviated minstrel show (photos below). The shows included other talent in addition to the songs performed by the chorus and chapter quartets. The second show included *Barberettes*, a women's quartet comprised of Champion employees.



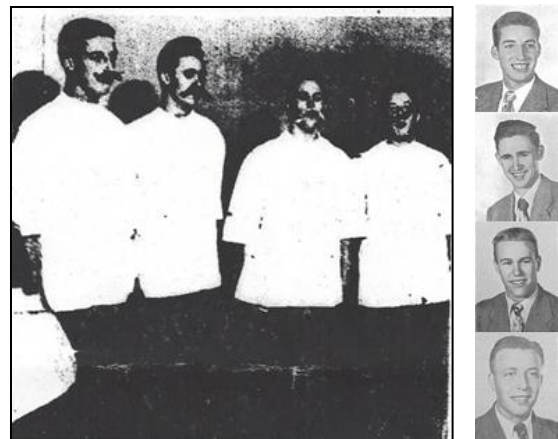
While multiple foursomes performed at various events in the greater Canton area, there were only two named quartets identified: *The Four Drinaires* and *The Four Mugs*.

The Four Drinaires consisted of Champion employees: Fleet Holland (T), Bryson Ledford (L), Jimmie Deaton (Br), and Jeter Martin (Bs). The name of quartet may seem unusual in general but not for a paper company. The first paper making machine to be installed at the Canton mill was a Fourdrinier with a 149-inch trim.

Chorus Directors		Presidents			
1948	Walter Cowart	Dec 1948	J. M. "Jimmie" Deaton	May 1950	Marshall Cooper
1949	Bob Mathews	Apr 1949	Lorenzo Smathers	May 1951	George Arthur
1950	Rev. Robert J. McCloskey	Nov 1949	Ralph Ricketson		

The Four Mugs was the first youth quartet in a Carolinas chapter. They were all members of the Canton High School Class of 1950 and members of the Canton Chapter.

The Canton Enterprise (February 23, 1950) included a photo (right) of the quartet's recent performance where they drew heavy applause when they entertained patients at Oteen Hospital near Asheville, NC. Because the photo quality is so poor, individual photos from their high school yearbook are added: (top to bottom) Francis Pless (Bs), Wayne Pressley (Br), Nickey Carter (L), and Lindy McGowan (T).



THE FOUR MUGS—These youthful Barber Shop singers, new additions to the Canton Chapter of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., vocalize in close harmony. Left to right: Francis Pless, bass; Wayne Pressley, bari; Nickey Carter, lead; and Lindy McGowan, tenor.

Reverend Lindy McGowan is the only surviving member of the quartet. He indicated that the quartet enjoyed performing many times at local venues for World War II veterans.

A ladies night banquet was held at the Lake Logan Lodge April 29, 1950. *The Log* (June 1950) included a two-page article and photos of the event. **The Four Drinaires** and **The Four Mugs** (with new lead Arthur Moon) staged a program before and after dinner. The chapter's 20-man chorus, under the direction of Rev. Robert J. McCloskey, rector of the Canton Saint Andrew Episcopal Church, drew enthusiastic applause from lady guests.

The only chorus photo found (below) was probably taken at the 15-year employee party in early May, 1950. Note that several members of **The Four Mugs** are in the chorus.



The chapter continued to be active in 1951 and through early 1952. The last two entries about the chapter in *CHIPS* (with a new format that had less news) were: February 6 – two Canton Chapter quartets will be among the musical features in the *Variety Show* by the Canton Women's Club on Monday and February 13 – the regular meeting is next Monday.

The exact date of disestablishment is not known, but it is after March 31, 1953 based on the active chapters listed as of that date in the Dixie District 50-Year History.

Winston-Salem, NC Tobacco Belt Chapter • Tobacco Belt Chorus

The Winston-Salem, NC Tobacco Belt Chapter was chartered on January 24, 1949³ with 21 members. It was sponsored by the Asheville, NC Chapter. It was the third chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, the 18th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District, and chapter #595 of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. John T. Dawson was the founder and president.

The Tobacco Belt Chapter had many *firsts* for the Carolinas chapters: the first International quartet competitor and Dixie District Quartet Champion (**Vagabonds**, 1950 and 1952, respectively), the first International chorus competitor (in the very first International Chorus Contest in 1954), and the first Dixie District President (John T. Dawson, 1952-53).

John Dawson joined a Chicago area S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chapter in the mid-1940s. When he was transferred by his employer to Winston-Salem, NC in 1947, he immediately started recruiting men for a new chapter. He penned some 350 letters and dialed countless phone calls resulting in 21 charter members when the Winston-Salem Chapter was chartered in January 1949.

“Harmony ran rampant last night at the charter meeting of the Winston-Salem (Tobacco Belt) Chapter, No. 595 of the S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.” as reported by the *Winston-Salem Journal*. The event was held on May 21, 1949 at the Hotel Robert E. Lee with approximately 150 members and guests attending. The program opened with some community singing and a few songs from the **Asheville Chapter Chorus** and **Foresters**, also from the sponsoring Asheville, NC Chapter. Paul Amsbary from the Asheville, NC Chapter presented the charter to John Dawson, Tobacco Belt Chapter President. Two local quartets also performed: **Pitch Pipers** from Western Electric and **Three Mugs and a Brush** from Reynolds High School.

As reported by the *Winston-Salem Journal* (September 30, 1949), “Old-time minstrelsy will begin a two-night stand today at Reynolds Auditorium.” *Twin City Minstrels of '49* was co-sponsored by the Winston-Salem Jaycees and included soloists, impersonations (one by Dr. Tom Prince of Eddie Cantor), selections by a Dixieland Trio, a Harmonica player, an orchestra, and songs by chapter quartets **Vagabonds** and **Metro-Gnomes**. The chorus was directed by Ed Hubbard.

The chapter's second show, *April Showers of Harmony*, was presented on April 15, 1950 at Reynolds Auditorium. The advertisement for the show billed it as “S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Barbershop at its Laughing, Sparkling, Singing Best.” Tickets were General Admission \$1.50 and Limited Reserved Section \$2.50 (including tax).

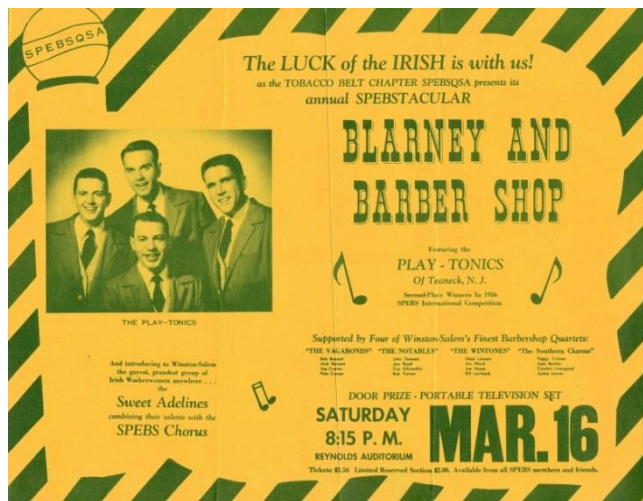
The only other chapter show during this period for which any information has been found was *Blarney and Barber Shop* presented on March 16, 1957. In addition to the “SPEBS Chorus” the show featured **Play-Tonics** (Teaneck, NJ), the Winston-Salem **Sweet Adelines Chorus**, and four of Winston-Salem's finest barbershop quartets: **Vagabonds**, **The Notables**, **The Wintones**, and **Southern Charms** (Sweet Adelines quartet).

Chorus Directors

1949-51	Ed Hubbard
1952	Paul Peterson
1954	Archer Livengood
1955-59	Paul Synder
1958-59	Joe W. Hayes

Presidents

1949-50	John T. Dawson
1951-52	R. C. Farren
1954-55	
1955-56	W. T. Lovell
1956-57	John Gilkey
1957-58	A. J. Ghirardini
1958-59	Joe W. Hayes



³ *The Harmonizer* (March 1949) announced January 19, 1949 as the charter date. A brief chapter history says January 24th.

The first official International chorus contest was held at the 1954 International Convention and Contest in Washington DC. The Dixie District was represented by two choruses at this contest: the **Tobacco Belt Chorus** (Winston-Salem, NC) and the **Suncoast Chorus** (St Petersburg, FL). The **Tobacco Belt Chorus** (right) was directed by Archer Livengood with 23 men on stage. The chorus placed 22nd. The Winston-Salem Chapter, with the chorus now called **The Auctioneers**, returned to the International stage in the 1983 contest held in Seattle, WA placing ninth.



Tobacco Belt Chorus • 1954 • Archer Livengood, Director

The chapter had several quartets during the 1950s. **Vagabonds** was the most successful. They were the first International Competitor and Dixie District Champion (in that order) from the Carolinas chapters. The producer for Winston-Salem Chapter's show in September 1949 needed a quartet and heard about "four boys who liked to kick a tune around and tried them out." They were two sets of brothers who became the **Vagabonds**. They placed second a few months later at the 1950 Regional Preliminary Contest, and when the winners had to drop out, they competed at the 1950 International in Omaha, NE placing 37th. They qualified for the next two International contests, making the finals (top 15 quartets) both years. They placed 15th place at the 1951 International in Toledo, OH and 14th place at the 1952 International in Kansas City, MO.

They were crowned the 1952 Dixie District Quartet Champion in October 1952. They qualified for the 1953 International Contest in Detroit but did not compete because the bass moved to Florida. The bass returned in 1956, and the quartet was the alternates for the 1956 International contest. **Vagabonds** was a popular quartet on the chapter show circuit.

Two local quartets sang at the charter night event: **Pitch Pipers** from Western Electric with Dave Mitchell, John Dawson, Ed Hubbard, and Ken Smith and **Three Mugs and a Brush**--all students from Reynolds High School with David Early (T), Ray Calaway (L), Bill Ware (Br), and Wayne Irvin (Bs).



Vagabonds

Jap Comer (Bs), Robert Bennett (Br),
Pete Comer (L), Jack Bennett (T)

Metro-Gnomes with John T. Dawson (T), Edwin S. Hubbard (L), William W. Parham (Br), and J. C. Ponder (Bs) sang on the 1949 chapter show and on the Elizabeth City, NC Chapter's *First Annual Concert* in 1950.

Air Fours was a popular quartet known for their novelty numbers. Barbershop quartets were popular in the military in the early 1950s. *The Harmonizer* (June 1952) featured a two-page Review of Armed Forces Quartets with photos of 34 quartets including **Air Fours**. The quartet was originally formed in 1951 at Donaldson Air Force Base in Greenville, SC. They toured around the country for 14 months entertaining Air Force troops. The quartet was registered in 1952 as members of the Winston-Salem Chapter. Tom Prince, the baritone, became Dixie District President in 1962-63 and was the baritone of **Dignitaries** (Knoxville, TN), seven-time International quartet representative and popular show quartet.



Air Fours

Tom Williams (T), Jack Jamison (L),
Tom Prince (Br), Bob Minteer (Bs)

The Notables was listed as a registered quartet in *The Harmonizer* (March 1956 and May 1958). They sang on the Gastonia, NC Chapter show in December 1954. **Accidentals** was listed as a registered quartet in *The Harmonizer* (March 1956) with Charles P. Smith as the contact. **The Wintones** was listed as a registered quartet in *The Harmonizer* (March 1956). They competed in the 1955 Regional Preliminary Contest. Among the shows they sang on were: 1955 Charlotte, NC Chapter show, 1956 Danville, VA Chapter show, and 1957 Winston-Salem, NC show.

The Notables (left)

Unknown
Bob Farran
Gus Gerridini
John Dawson



The Wintones

Bill Lineback (Bs)
Glad Lawson (L)
Joe Hayes (Br)
Jim Ward (T)



John Dawson's leadership ability was immediately evident to all after he founded the Winston-Salem Chapter. He served in every chapter office, many of them several times over the years. He was Dixie District Secretary 1950-51, First Vice President 1951-52, and President 1952-53. He was also editor of *The Rebel Rouser* in 1955. John was elected to represent the Dixie District on the International Board of Directors in 1961. He was elected again in 1963 for another two-year term. John was also a quartet man singing in one the first chapter quartets and many other quartets during his barbershop career. He was certified as a Balance and Blend judge, including serving as Category Specialist and judging at the 1967 International Quartet Contest, and as a Chairmen of Judges. His many contributions to the Society and the Dixie District were recognized by his induction into the Dixie District Hall of Fame in 1999.



John T. Dawson

The Winston-Salem Chapter sponsored several chapters: Roanoke, VA in 1949, Elizabeth City, NC in 1950, Raleigh, NC in 1950, Greensboro, NC in 1951, and High Point-Thomasville, NC in 1957.

Charlotte, NC Chapter • *Charlotte Chapter Chorus/Charlotte Harmony Chorus*

The Charlotte, NC Chapter was chartered on February 25, 1950⁴ with 36 members. It was sponsored by the Asheville, NC Chapter. It was the fourth chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, the 29th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District and chapter #481 of S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. Phillips T. Williams was the founder and F. Manley McWilliams was the president.

Organization of the chapter began in the fall of 1949. Temporary-permanent officers were elected at a January 9, 1950 meeting in the Hawthorne Center with 53 men attending. Frank Ward was the first chorus director with his daughter, Peg Robinson, as assistant director and accompanist.

The *Charter Night Celebration* was a banquet presented on May 6, 1950 at Hotel Selwyn and attended by 65 chapter members, their wives, and friends. The charter was presented by Elbert Chambers, Asheville Chapter Vice President. *Skylarks* (Asheville, NC) and *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC) entertained. *The Charlotte Observer* reported that “Eating was only incidental to the harmonizing as singing broke out over the cocktail, the main course, dessert and demitasse.”

The chapter’s first show, *Parade of Quartets and Melodies*, was presented on November 10-11, 1950 in the Piedmont Junior High School Auditorium. *The Charlotte Observer* (October 1, 1950) included a chorus photo (next page) with names of all the members.

The show was sponsored by the Junior League of Charlotte. In addition to the 42-voice *Charlotte Chapter Chorus*, the show featured *Columbians* (Washington, DC), *Kentucky Troubadours* (Louisville, KY), *Florida Knights* (Tampa, FL), *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), and *Skylarks* (Asheville, NC).



As part of the promotion for the shows, *The Charlotte Observer* ran a photo (left) of four “Preservers and encouragers of barber shop quartet singing.” The photo shows (L-R) Roger Gilbert (T), Victor Shaw (L), Art Jones (Br), and David McLeod (Bs). All four of the men sang solos

on the shows. Victor Shaw was the Mayor of Charlotte 1949-1953 and an honorary vice-president of the chapter.

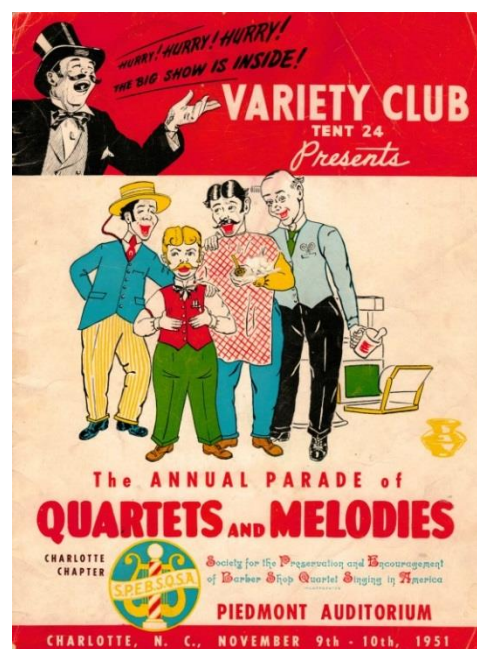


⁴ *The Harmonizer* (June 1950) announced February 15th as the charter date but the charter clearly is dated February 25th.



The Annual Parade of Quartets and Melodies was sponsored by the Charlotte Variety Club and was presented on November 9-10, 1951. Featured on the show were *Westinghouse Quartet* (Pittsburgh, PA), *Four Chips* (Evansville, IN), and *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC). As reported by *The Charlotte Observer*: "The Four Chips are a group of boys whose ages range from 7 to 13 years. 'The Chips' as they are familiarly known, appeared recently on the Arthur Godfrey TV show. These youngsters are said to provide the sweetest harmony being offered by any quartet in the USA." The show announcement in *The Charlotte Observer* stated the chapter now had 90 members.

The Charlotte Chapter hosted the Dixie District Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest May 9-10, 1952. It was the first Dixie District event to be hosted by a Carolinas chapter, and it was a big deal in Charlotte. Major Victor Shaw proclaimed May 4-10 as *Dixie Barber Shop Quartet Harmony Week* resulting in an unusually large crowd of more than 1,500 people attending the Saturday night quartet contest at the Armory Auditorium to see and hear the singers. *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC) and *Antlers* (Miami, FL) won the right to represent the Dixie District at the International contest in June. *The Charlotte Observer* reported that the audience favorites, although not always with the judges, were *Air Fours* (Donaldson Air Force Base, Greenville,



SC), *Cotton Chords* (Gastonia, NC), and *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC). Other Carolinas quartets competing were *Peachtree Pipers* (Asheville, NC), *Melodons* (Asheville, NC), and *Gate City Four* (Greensboro, NC).

In conjunction with the contest, the Charlotte Chapter also staged a special Friday night show at the Hotel Charlotte that included visiting quartets. The show also featured the “Charlotte barbershoppers and the 12-voice *Dixie Belles* girls chorus, both under the direction of Frank W. Ward.”

The annual *Parade of Quartets and Melodies*, co-sponsored by the Charlotte Variety Club, was presented on February 20-21, 1953. Because of the popularity of this type of entertainment and the annual increase in attendance, the show was presented at the Charlotte Armory Auditorium. *The Charlotte Observer* reported that over 1000 attended the Friday night show. Headlining the show was *Arthur Godfrey's Chordettes* from Sheboygan, WI. Also featured on the show were *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), *Air Fours* (originally from Greenville, SC), *Dixie Belles* (from Charlotte, NC) and the 40-man *Charlotte Chapter Chorus*. The show was a reunion for *Air Fours* who were now assigned to different Air Force bases across the Carolinas and Tennessee.

There were two shows in 1954. The spring show was presented on April 23, 1954 and featured *Flying Daytones* (Daytona Beach, FL), *Carolinians* (Charlotte, NC), and the *Charlotte Chapter Chorus*. The *Barbershop Harmony Festival* was presented on November 4-5, 1954. It was sponsored by The Charlotte Women's Club. The show featured *Pittsburghers* (1948 International Champion from Pittsburgh, PA), *The Confederates* (Memphis, TN), *Carolinians* (Charlotte, NC), *Gate City Four* (Greensboro, NC), and the 37-voice *Charlotte Chapter Chorus* with a new director, S. Loy Kutz.

Chorus Directors

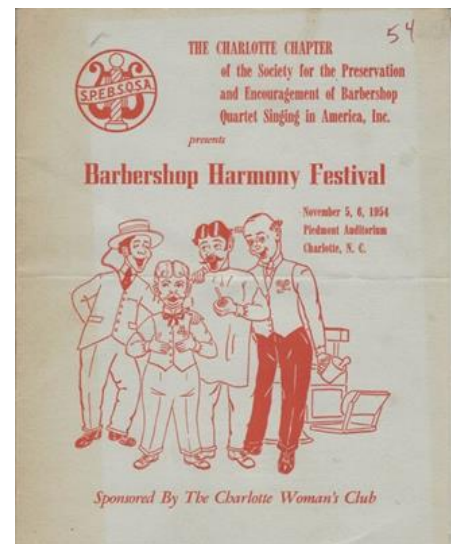
1950-53	Frank W. Ward
1954	S. Loy Kutz
1955-56	Lonnie R. Sides
1957-58	S. Wallace Clark
1958-59	William A. Thomas

Presidents

1949-50	William D. Wornall
1950-51	F. Manley McWilliams
1951-52	Robert M. Gamble
1952-53	Martin W Tail
1953-54	Al S. Jones
1954-56	Edward J. West
1956-57	
1957-58	George Phelps
1958-59	Roger K. Gilbert



Charlotte Chapter Chorus performing in 1956



The *Festival of Barbershop Harmony* was presented on October 29, 1955 at the David Ovens Auditorium which would continue to be the venue for annual shows. The show featured *Mid States Four* (1949 International Champion from Chicago, IL), *The Confederates* (Memphis, TN), *The Wintones* (Winston-Salem, NC), *Carolinians* (Charlotte, NC), and the 37-voice *Charlotte Chapter Chorus* now directed by Lonnie R. Sides.

The *Festival of Barbershop Harmony* was presented on September 29, 1956 and sponsored by The Charity League. Over 1,500 attended the show. The show featured *The Confederates* (current International Champion from Memphis, TN), *Pittsburghers* (1948 International Champion from Pittsburgh, PA), and chapter quartets *Carolínians* and *The Rebels*. Lonnie R. Sides continued to direct the 30-man *Charlotte Chapter chorus*.

The annual *Barbershop Quartet and Harmony Show* was presented on January 31, 1958 and was sponsored by the Mecklenburg Kiwanis Club. The show featured three of the 1957 International Medalist Quartets: *Lads of Enchantment* (Champion from Albuquerque, NM), *Westcoasters* (Silver Medalist from Pasadena, CA), and *Pitchikers* (Fourth Place Medalist from Springfield, MO). Also performing were the recently re-named *Charlotte Harmony Chorus*, directed by S. Wallace Clark, and chapter quartets *The Rebels* and *The Cotton Chords*.

The annual show was presented on March 21, 1959. The show featured *Pittsburghers* (1948 International Champion from Pittsburgh, PA), *Easternaires* (1959 Fourth Place Medalists from Jersey City, NJ), and *Southern Aristocrats* (Greensboro, NC).

The name of the Charlotte Chapter chorus has changed several times over the years. Originally known as the *Charlotte Chapter Chorus*, the name was changed to *Charlotte Harmony Chorus* by 1958, *Carolínians* by 1966, *Carolina Chord Company* in 1973, and *Gold Standard Chorus* in 1995.

The Charlotte Chapter had several quartets during the 1950s. *Crow-Matics* were registered in 1953 with Martin T. Hall as the contact. *The Cotton Chords* were registered in 1958 with Thom Hopper as the contact. *Carolínians* were first registered in 1953 and sang on chapter shows until 1956. *The Rebels* sang on shows starting in 1956.



Carolínians (left)
 Roger Gilbert (T)
 Joe Turner (L)
 Willis Hopper (Br)
 Fred McDonald (Bs)



The Rebels
 C.S Livengood (L)
 Stan Livengood (T)
 Bob Keeter (Br)
 George Phelps (Bs)

The Charlotte Chapter made the “bigtime” three times with coverage in *The Harmonizer*. The photo below) was in *The Harmonizer* (March 1952) about a trip by the Charlotte chorus to Ft. Bragg, NC.

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA ENTERTAINS AT FORT BRAGG



A troupe of 60 made the trip from Charlotte to Ft. Bragg. There the Vagabonds of Winston-Salem met them. Charlotte's Chorus,

the special feature Dixie Belles Chorus (female), and the Vagabonds put on a total of thirteen shows.

The Harmonizer (June 1952) carried this notice: “Ft. Bragg gets Special Attention – Charlotte, N. C. has made ten trips in recent months to Fort Bragg and Pope Air Base entertaining wounded vets as well as troops in training. Letters of thanks and appreciation continue to pour in on Ed West, Charlotte’s secretary. Personnel for these shows total 68 and filled two buses.”

Tar Heel Tunesters Tangle in Tonsil Tussle (*The Harmonizer*, December 1953)

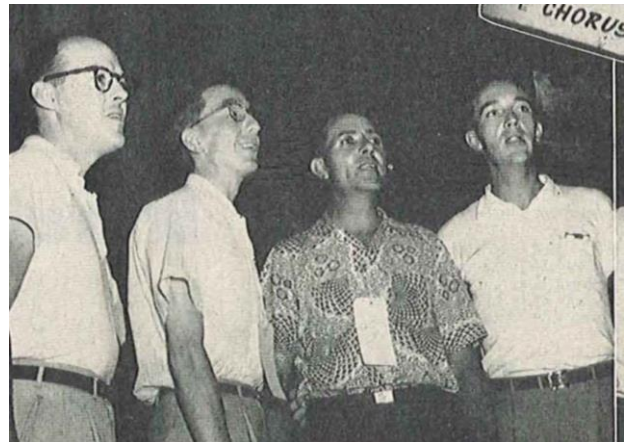
Put two hundred and twenty-two happy barbershoppers into a September sun-filled Tarheel mountain, add a picnic basket of Hush Puppies, loads of prizes for contests and they’ll make the sun drenched hillsides reverberate with friendly barbershop harmony.

Man is a singing animal. The woods at Morrow Mountain State Park were full of quartets. Highlighting the gala was the downright theft of the prize trophy “The Little Brown Jug” by Charlotte in Chorus competition. ... “Also rans” choruses were Greensboro, Gastonia and Winston-Salem. Bob Keeter directed the Tarheel Hush Puppy Fry Champs from Charlotte.

Lightning never strikes twice, but on the heels of the victorious Charlotte chorus came the Carolinians from the Charlotte chapter. Entered in the “Organized Class” (those quartets that retched chords together for at least one week), they easily were the top number and got the nod from Ed Hubbard’s judges.



Immediate Past Dixie District President John T. Dawkins (left) presenting the chorus trophy to Al Jones, the Charlotte President, who is playing “Come Out, Come Out Wherever You Are” from behind the microphone.



The Carolinians: Roger Gilbert, Joe Turner, Willis Hopper, and Fred McDonald winners of the Organized Class.

The Charlotte Chapter sponsored the Gastonia, NC Chapter in 1951 and the Atlanta Peachtree, GA Chapter in 1954. While it was normal for a chapter to try to help organize and sponsor other nearby chapters, it seemed a little unusual that the Charlotte Chapter would sponsor the Atlanta Peachtree, GA Chapter. An article published in *The Harmonizer* (March-April 1955) told the story.

For nearly two years the Albany, Georgia chapter was the only S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chapter in Georgia. In late July 1954 a past president of the Charlotte, North Carolina chapter, Bob Gamble, now an Area Counselor in the state of Georgia, wrote to Detroit telling of his plans to call a meeting of a dozen interested men to discuss the project in further detail. This group of men included the **Peachtree Pipers** who were then members of the Asheville, NC Chapter. Organization of the chapter moved along with remarkable swiftness following the initial meeting and within the short period of nine weeks, the Atlanta chapter had eighty charter members and plans for a charter night show were completed.



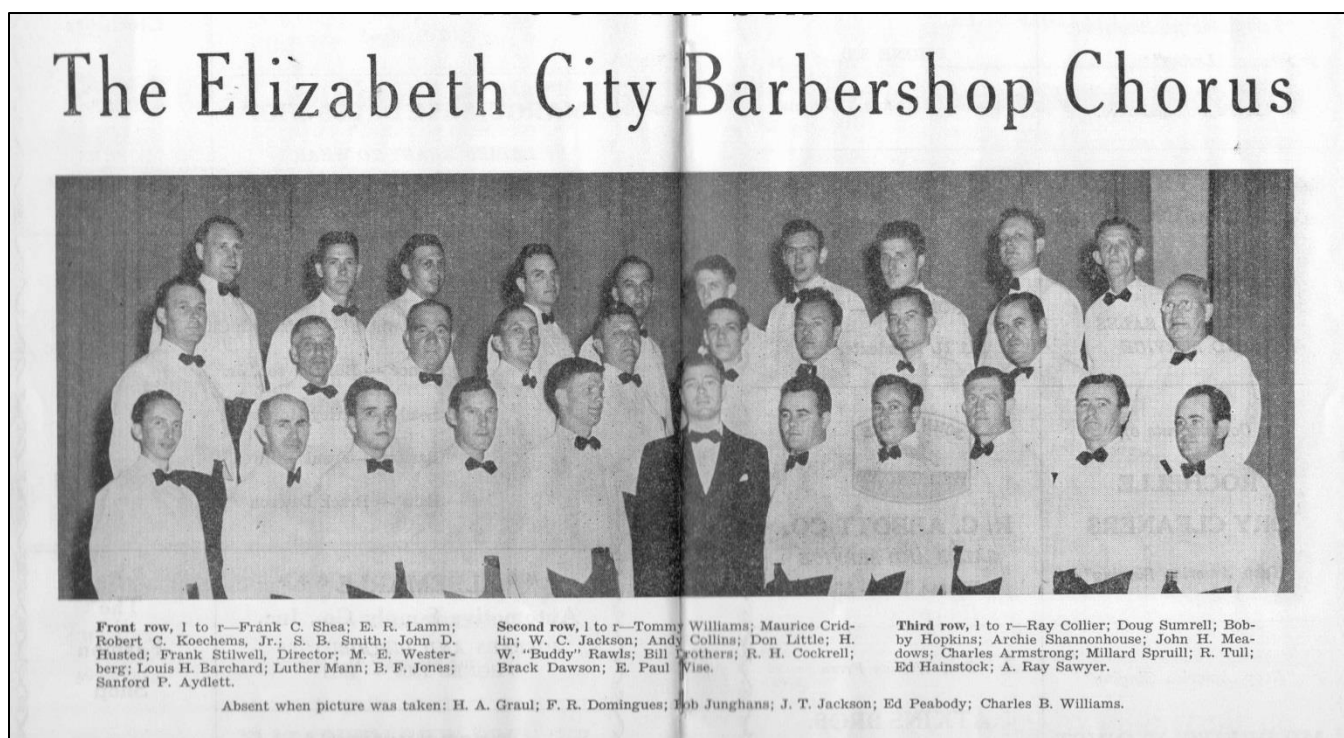
ATLANTA PEACHTREE barbershoppers as they tune up for their first singing session. Left to right, Founder Bob Gamble, and the Peachtree Pipers: Putnam Head, Alan Harrington, Bob Mell, Ben Thompson.

Elizabeth City, NC Chapter • Elizabeth City Barbershop Chorus

The Elizabeth City, NC Chapter was chartered February 22, 1950 with 34 members. It was sponsored by the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter. It was the fifth chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 30th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Frank Stilwell was the founder and Sanford Aydlett was the president.

The First Annual Concert was presented May 20, 1950 at the S. L. Sheep School Auditorium to celebrate the chapter's first anniversary. The **Elizabeth City Barbershop Chorus**, under the direction of Frank Stilwell, opened the show with *The Old Songs, Ridin' Down the Canyon/You Tell Me Your Dream Medley, and Silver Threads Among the Gold*. The Elizabeth City Mayor, S. A. Twiford, welcomed the audience. The Elizabeth Chapter charter was presented to Sanford P. Aydlett, Elizabeth City Chapter President, by John Dawson, sponsoring Winston-Salem, NC Chapter President.

The concert featured **Columbians**, (1949 Mid-Atlantic States Champion from Washington, DC), **Vagabonds** (Winston-Salem, NC), **Virginia Hams** (Norfolk, VA), **Dominonaires** (Hampton, VA), **Metro-Gnomes** (Winston-Salem, NC), and **Sundowners** (Elizabeth City, NC).



Elizabeth City Barbershop Chorus from the First Annual Concert Program with Frank Stilwell, Director

The information and chorus photo about the First Annual Concert are from the concert program. The photo below appears to be the concert finale since the photo includes **Columbians** and **Dominonaires**. Both quartets had their photos published in *The Elizabeth City Daily Advance* prior to the concert. In the photo below **Columbians** are kneeling stage right and **Dominonaires** are standing stage right with striped vests and straw hats. Evidently, there was a last-minute change in the program to add the ladies quartet shown in the photo. The *Elizabeth City Daily Advance* reported (January 24, 1951) that the variety acts for the March of Dimes Talent Show would include "the Barber Shop Chorus and the Barberettes." Perhaps the ladies quartet in the photo is the **Barberettes**.



First Annual Concert Finale • May 20, 1950 • Frank Stilwell, Director

The chapter chorus and five quartets were featured on a show November 20, 1950 at the Perquimans High School Auditorium in Hertford, NC. It was a benefit show for the Belvidere Ruritan Club. *Dominonaires* (Hampton, VA) were the headline quartet along with two quartets each from Elizabeth City, NC and Raleigh, NC chapters.

The Harmonizer (March 1951) lists *Sundowners* as an Elizabeth City Chapter quartet. *Sundowners* consisted of Bill Dawson, Jr. (T), Shirley Morrisette (L), Frank Stilwell (Br), Brack Dawson (Bs).

No additional information about any annual shows or concerts has been found. However, the Elizabeth City chorus was active in Eastern North Carolina as reported in the *Raleigh News and Observer*:

- May 3, 1950 article on State Music Clubs Convention states “A barbershop chorus directed by Frank Stillwell will sing at the formal banquet that evening.”
- July 3, 1951 article about a show in Rocky Mount, NC states “A feature of the special night on Saturday will be the appearance of Elizabeth’s City’s ‘Barber Shop Quartet’ a musical group that has attained fame in Eastern North Carolina.”
- July 4, 1951 article about the Greater Albemarle Day in Manteo, NC states “A featured attraction of the Greater Albemarle Day will be the appearance of Elizabeth City’s famous Barbershop Singers, a 35-voice ‘quartet’.”
- September 1, 1951 article about Elizabeth City’s Seven-County Fair that states “Friday was Greater Albemarle County Day with the Elizabeth City Barber Shop Chorus of 30 voices under the direction of Frank Stillwell as featured event of the day’s program.”

The chapter disbanded at an unknown time. The *Dixie District 50-Year History* lists Elizabeth City, NC Chapter being re-chartered on May 19, 1955 with 42 members and sponsored by the Hampton Roads, VA chapter. It was the 11th chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas and the 57th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. The chapter was dissolved in 1957.

Raleigh, NC Chapter

The Raleigh, NC Chapter was chartered on March 3, 1950 with 42 members. It was sponsored by the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter. It was the sixth chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 31st chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District.

The *Raleigh News and Observer* (February 11, 1950) announced an organizational meeting for Wednesday February 15, 1950.

Loosen those vocal chords, you tenors. The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America is planning to invade Raleigh.

If you're the kind of bass who likes to swing low on Sweet Chariot, the SPEBSQSA has a place for you. Tenor, bass, baritone or catch as you catch can, you're invited to turn out next Wednesday for a charter meeting of the SPEBSQSA's first local chapter.

The time is 7:30 o'clock Wednesday night. The place is the north room of the State College YMCA.

The Requirements are high. Al Fennell, who is handling arrangements for the meeting, warns prospective members must be: male, adult, congenial and of good repute.

Raleigh has at least three quartets—one produced by the State College Glee Club, another by the Shriners, and another by the Kiwanis Club. All three have demonstrated their art here during the past two years.

The SPEBSQSA and its local missionaries figure where there's room for three quartets, there's room for more. They want their music to ring throughout the world.

So, sing out you tenors, see your Nellies home!

The *Raleigh News Observer* (February 16, 1950) included a quartet photo (right) from the first chapter meeting.

The *Raleigh New Observer* (February 22, 1950) carried an article about the second meeting of the new chapter to be held that evening. That article mentioned that a quartet from Winston-Salem, the sponsoring chapter, sang at the first meeting. Also mentioned were plans for a *Month of May Parade of Quartets*, and final selection will be made of officers for the coming year.

As reported by the *Raleigh New Observer* (April 6, 1950) the soon-to-be-chartered chapter presented a ladies night show. W. L. Horton acted as masters of ceremonies. A brief history of the club was given by Dr. Royster Chamblee and Dr. Sid Smith outlined plans for a charter night event planned for late May or early June. The barbershop singers offered selections by a 40-man chorus and specialty numbers by three quartets.

The Charter Night program was presented on June 3, 1950 in the Needham Broughton High School auditorium as announced in the *Raleigh News and Observer*. The program included the 50-voice chorus from Raleigh, under the direction of Ralph Watson, which was joined by 20 men from the Winston-Salem and Elizabeth City chapters. Four quartets from the Raleigh Chapter were on the program:



Here's one of the quartets that got together last night at the State College YMCA as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America organized its first local chapter. Left to right: the harmonizers are Walter Lee Horton, Cole Morris, Dr. Sidney Smith, and Lloyd Dawkins.

- ***The Flat Top Four*** – Harvey Maness, Walter Lee Horton, Ben Woodall, Bill Zack
- ***Raleigh Chordians*** – Al Pennell, Bob Sullivan, Walter Napowsa, Wendy Moser
- ***Four Barber Poles*** – Marvin Woodall, Lou Hinton, Mark Davis, Ed Cheek
- ***Carolina Gentlemen*** – Harry Milliken, Ben Park, Albert Root, Everette Ford

Also on the program were ***Sundowners*** (Elizabeth City, NC) and ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC). The officers were Al Pennell, president; Clifton Beckwith, vice-president; Fred Fletcher, secretary; and L. Y. Ballentine, treasurer.

After the charter night show, there is no evidence found of any other shows. There were multiple instances mentioned in *Raleigh News and Observer* where a barbershop quartet performed at various events including a recurring *Barber Shop Quartet Friday Night* at Cameron Village.

Evidently barbershopping was alive and well in the *General Assembly*, the North Carolina State Legislature. The *Raleigh News and Observer* had a column called *Under the Dome* that talked about things that were *happening* with the North Carolina Legislature. The March 15, 1951 edition had this interesting item.

HARMONY—The junkets to the coast are giving the General Assembly's song birds plenty of chance to test their vocal chords. In one of the ten buses making the trip to New Bern and Cherry Point, a sign in a side window carried the message: "Society for the Preservation of Legislative Harmony," that properly designated the headquarters of the barber shop singers, headed for the past two sessions by Representative T. J. Collier.

The Raleigh Chapter was listed as an active chapter in *The Harmonizer* (December 1951). The Raleigh Chapter was officially disestablished at some point prior to June 1952. A new Raleigh Chapter would be chartered in 1961.

Not directly related to the Raleigh Chapter but of casual interest are a couple of other barbershop-related events in the greater Raleigh area that were reported in the *Raleigh News and Observer*.

- ***Chi Quartet***, a Duke University barber shop quartet group, was one of four winners at a Horace Heidt talent audition in December 1951.
- An advertisement (right) appeared on September 9, 1951 for a barber shop quartet contest.
- A barber shop quartet and hillbilly band from the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity performed at the Chapel Hill annual beauty pageant in February 1952.



Greensboro, NC Chapter • Greensboro Chorus

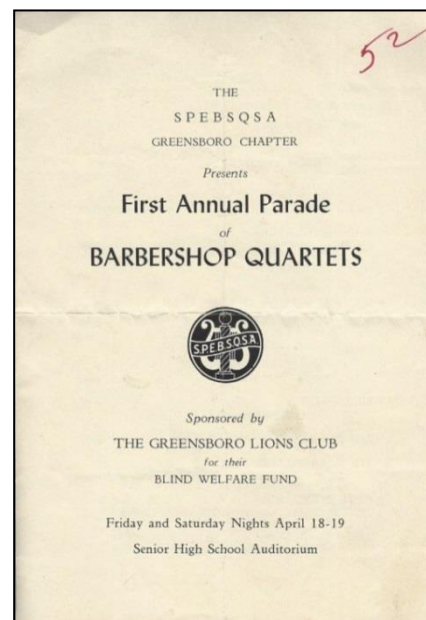
The Greensboro, NC Chapter was chartered on January 12, 1951 with 38 members. It was sponsored by the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter. It was the seventh chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 34th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Larry Sarra and Paul Frank were the founders. Paul Frank was president and Larry Sarra was secretary.

The Charter Night Concert, *An Evening of Close Harmony*, was presented on May 12, 1951 at the Odell Auditorium and sponsored by the Greensboro Lions Club. *The Harmonizer* (September 1951) included the photo to the right. More than a hundred people heard the quartets and choruses perform at the show. Mayor Ben Cone welcomed the audience and Robert C. Farran, president of the sponsoring Winston-Salem Chapter, presented the Greensboro Chapter charter. The program included choruses from the Greensboro, Winston-Salem, and Charlotte chapters. Quartets performing were *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC) who had just won the 1951 Dixie Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest, *D.C. Keys* (Washington, DC), *Gate City Four* (Greensboro, NC), *Piedmont Shaves Quartet* (teenage boys from the Greensboro Central Junior High School), and *Blue-Grey Quartet* (from Duke University).



The *First Annual Parade of Barbershop Quartets* was presented on April 18-19, 1952 at the Greensboro Senior High School Auditorium. The show was sponsored by the Greensboro Lions Club for the Blind Welfare Fund. The show featured *Pittsburghers* (1948 International Champion from Pittsburgh, PA), *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), *Gate City Four* (Greensboro, NC), *Barberettes* (women's quartet from Winston-Salem, NC), *Key Hunters* (the chapter's newest quartet), and the Greensboro and Winston-Salem chapter choruses. Dr. Austin C. Lovelace was the *Greensboro Chorus* director and Baxter Westmoreland was the assistant director.

Recognizing that the Charter Night Concert in 1951 was really the first annual show, the show presented April 17-18, 1953 was designated the *Third Annual Parade of Barbershop Quartets*. It was sponsored by the Greensboro Lions Club and held in the Greensboro High School Auditorium. The show featured *Antlers* (Miami, FL), *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), *Gate City Four* (Greensboro, NC), and *Queen's Men* from Greensboro High School.



The *Barbershop Harmony Fourth Annual Concert* was presented on April 17, 1954 for the benefit of the Cerebral Palsy School. The new venue for this and future shows was Aycock Auditorium. The show featured *Four Chorders* (London, Ontario, Canada), *Volunteers* (Baltimore, MD), and *Gate City Four* (Greensboro, NC). Baxter Westmoreland became the chorus director in 1954.



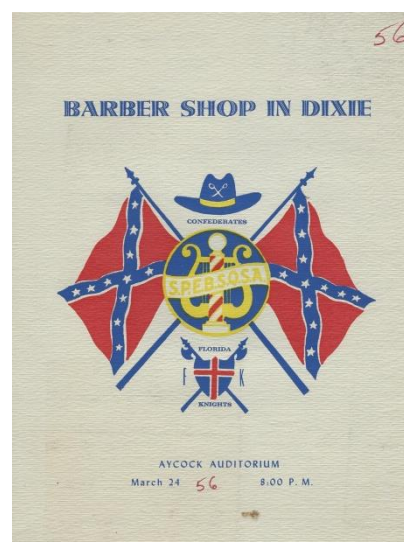
Greensboro Chorus • 1954 • Baxter Westmoreland, Director

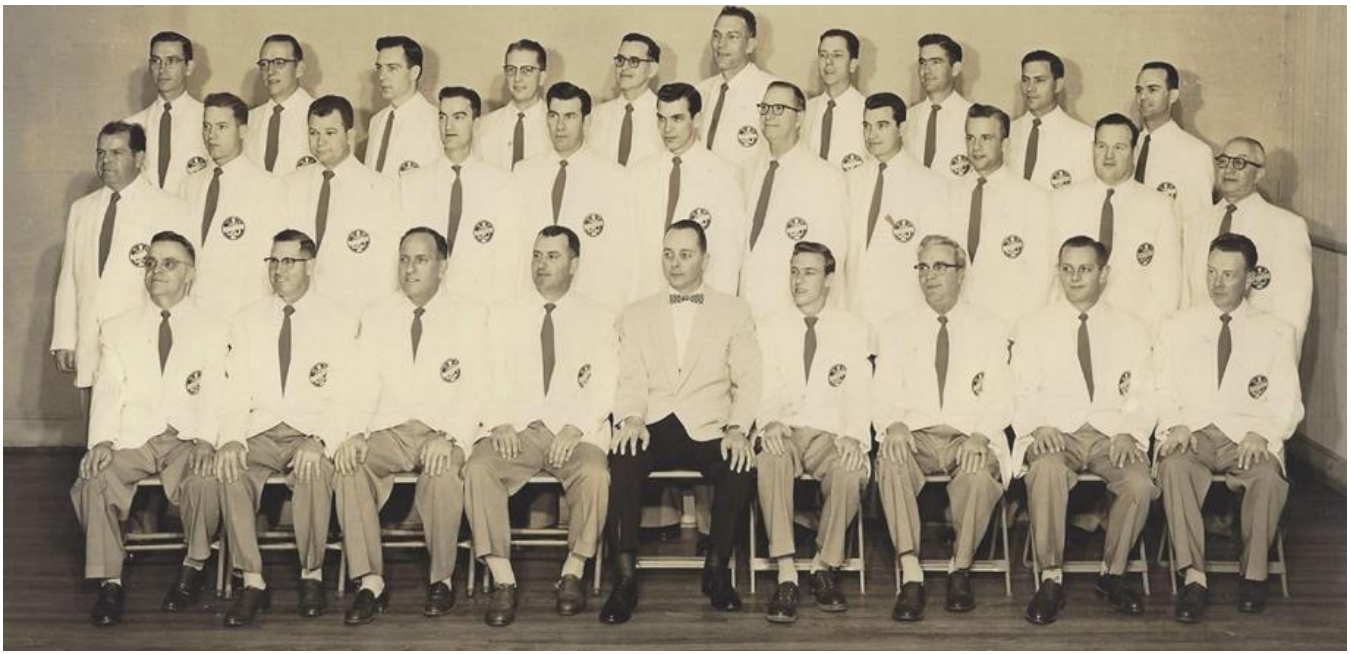
The *Fifth Annual Parade of Quartets* was presented on April 2, 1955. The announcement in the *Greensboro Daily News* advertised a 40-man chorus. The show featured **Four Chorders** (back by popular demand from London, Ontario, Canada), **Columbians** (Washington, DC), and **Gate City Four** (Greensboro, NC).

The Sixth Annual Concert of Barber Shop Harmony, *Barber Shop In Dixie*, was presented on March 24, 1956. The show featured **The Confederates** (future 1956 International Champion from Memphis, TN), **Florida Knights** (Tampa, FL), and chapter quartets **Gate City Four**, **Mello-Chords**, and **Tar Heels**. The show program included the list of 53 members and advertised a 40-voice chorus.

The Seventh Annual Concert of Barbershop Quartets, *Barber Shop Harmony Jubilee*, was presented on March 30, 1957. The show featured **Mid-States Four** (1949 International Champion from Chicago, IL), **Four Chorders** (London, Ontario, Canada), **Vagabonds** (Winston-Salem, NC), **South Chords** (Danville, VA), and chapter quartets **Gate City Four**, **Mello-Chords**, **Tar Heels**, and **Carolina Chorders**. The *Greensboro Daily News* reviewed the show this way.

More than 2,000 persons jammed Aycock Auditorium last night for an evening crammed with music and comedy. ... From the beginning when the Greensboro chapter chorus sang a medley of songs as a curtain-raiser until more than two and a half hours later the presentation drew sustained applause from the packed house.





Greensboro Chorus • 1956 • Baxter Westmoreland, Director

The *Eighth Annual Concert of Barbershop Quartets* was presented on February 22, 1958. The show featured *The Confederates* (1956 International Champion from Memphis, TN), *Play-Tonics* (Teaneck, NJ), and chapter quartets *Southern Aristocrats*, *Mello-Chords*, and *Carolina Chorders*.

The *Ninth Annual Concert of Barbershop Quartets* was presented on April 4, 1959. The show featured *Mid-States Four* (1949 International Champion from Chicago, IL), *Easternaires* (New Jersey City, NJ), and chapter quartets *Southern Aristocrats*, *Mello-Chords*, and *Carolina Chorders*. The chorus was still advertised as having 40-voices.



Greensboro Chorus warming up for 1958 annual show.

The chorus placed third in the 1957 District Chorus Contest.

The Greensboro Chapter sponsored the Durham, NC Chapter in 1959.

Chorus Directors

1951-52	Dr. Austin Lovelace
1953-	Herb Williamson
1954-80	Baxter Westmoreland

Presidents

1951	Paul Frank
1952-53	William McIver
1954	Harry Clements
1955-56	Howard Adair
1957	Cleo Honeycutt/ Ed Rolander
1958	Cleo Honeycutt
1959-60	W. B. Baucom

Gate City Four was the chapter's first registered quartet. They sang on every annual show from 1951 through 1957. The anchor for the quartet was Paul Frank who was the chapter founder and first president. The original members were James Henderson (T), Carl Webb (L), Paul Frank (Br), and Bill Baucom (Bs). By 1954 Baxter Westmoreland had joined the quartet as lead. Baxter also became the chorus director in 1954.

The *Greensboro Record* reported that **Four Sharps**, with Joe Breedon, Baxter Westmoreland, Jack Elkins, and Bill Oden, sang at events in December 1950 and April 1951. **The Key Hunters**, described in the program as the chapter's newest quartet, sang on the 1952 annual show. No member names were provided.



Gate City Four (1951-54)
Carl Webb (L), James Henderson (T),
Bill Baucom (Bs), Paul Frank (Br)

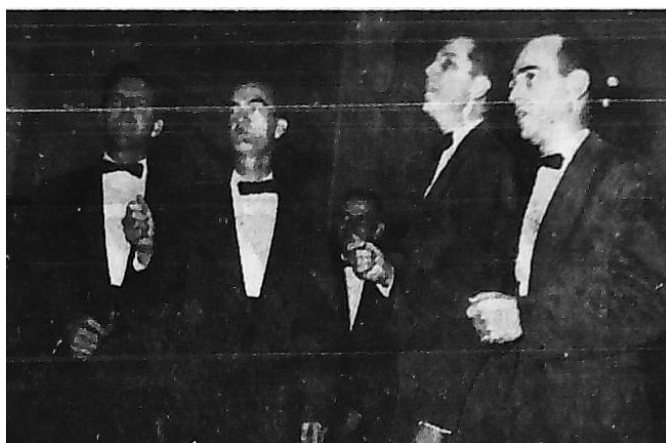


Gate City Four (1954-56)
Paul Frank (Br), James Henderson (T),
Bill Baucom (Bs), Baxter Westmoreland (L)



Mello-Chords (1956)
Harry Clements (L), George Stentz (T),
Frank Hill (Bs), Albert Sherrill (Br)

Two versions of the **Mello-Chords** are shown above right and below left. In addition, the quartet performed in 1958 with Bob White singing bass. **Tar Heels**, shown below right, performed on the 1957 and 1958 annual shows.



Mello-Chords (1959)
George Stentz (T), Harry Clements (L),
Howard Adair (Br), Bill Baucom (Bs)

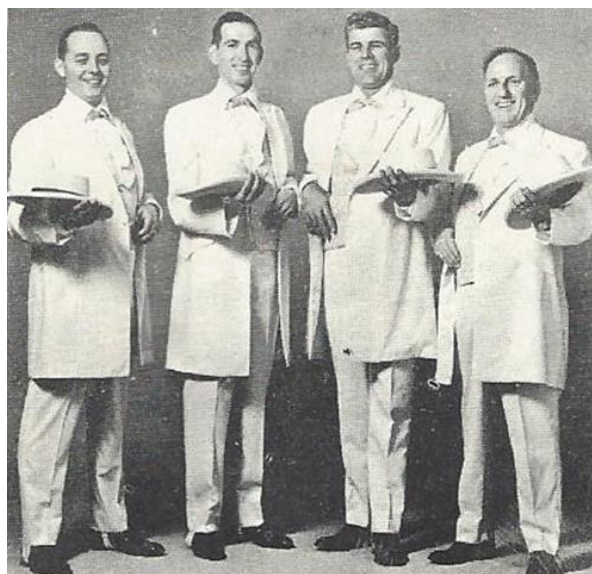


Tar Heels (1957-58)
Dick Bacchus (L), Al Connell (T),
Bill McIver (Bs), Paul Wilson (Br)

The premier Greensboro Chapter quartet was *Southern Aristocrats*. They were organized in July 1957. They qualified at their first Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest in 1958 and over the next nine years represented the Dixie District at eight International contests and were the 1963 District Quartet Champion.

The first version of the quartet (right) included Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T), Jack Elkins (Br), Jim Henderson (Bs). This version of the quartet competed at four International contests placing 37th in 1958 at Columbus, OH; 37th in 1959 at Chicago, IL; and 29th in 1960 at Dallas, TX.

"The Aristocrats" was a very popular show quartet performing on chapter shows all over the south and at many local events. Their additional accomplishments will be covered in *Volume II – 1960-1969*.



Southern Aristocrats

Baxter Westmoreland (L), Al Connell (T),
Jack Elkins (Br), Jim Henderson (Bs)

As reported in *The Rebel Rouser* (December 1956): The Fourth Annual Hushpuppy Fry and Jug Contest was held on Sunday September 16th. "With competition keener than in any years past the judges nevertheless found for Greensboro in the chorus competition making it three in a row for the Pivot of the Piedmont as Director Baxter Westmoreland put the clincher on the Jug." Greensboro took permanent possession of the Little Brown Jug.



The ***Greensboro Chorus*** poses with the Little Brown Jug in 1954



Baxter Westmoreland, Director and Ed Rolander, President with the trophy the Greensboro Chapter now "owns."

In 1959 the Dixie District established the *Barbershopper of the Year Award*. *The Rebel Rouser* (June 1960) reported "The award will be presented to the individual who, in the judgement of the BOTY Selection Committee, has contributed the most to the preservation and encouragement of barbershop quartet singing within the area of the Dixie Association of Chapters." The first Dixie District BOTY award was presented to Baxter Westmoreland (pictured to the right with his wife Irene). "Selected from a large list of contenders, for this great distinction from many chapters throughout the district, Baxter has given much of his time and musical talent to promote our great society at home, throughout Dixie and around the states and provinces covered by S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc."



Spartanburg, SC Chapter • *Spartanburg Barbershop Chorus*

The Spartanburg, SC Chapter was the first S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chapter in South Carolina and was chartered on March 26, 1951 with 29 members. It was sponsored by the Asheville, NC Chapter. It was the eighth chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 35th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Hubert L. Rawlins was the founder, John McClement was the chorus director, and Lonnie Jennings was president. Hubert Rawlings was president 1952-53.

The chapter put on its first, and last, show on December 6, 1952 at the brand-new Memorial Auditorium. The show was in cooperation with the Spartanburg Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Girl Scouts of America (who were the ushers for the event). The show titled, *Show Boat Minstrels*, was of incredible scope and produced by and starred Skeets Mayo of Nashville, TN. The show had two acts, an olio that included a parade of chapter quartets and other vaudeville acts, an afterpiece, and according to the program “many other innovations to keep you entertained until the grand Finale.” Over 40 members of the chapter were on stage to play parts, perform in quartets, and sing in the chorus. An orchestra of nine musicians provided accompaniment. The quartets are shown below.

The chapter turned in its charter in 1953.



JUST PART OF THE CAST DURING REHERSAL — SOME OF THE CHORUS — QUARTETS — PRODUCER — SPECIAL ACTS AND MUSICIANS



Four Flats

Bill Hamilton, Julian Reese,
Carisle Henderson, Lonnie Jennings



Four Shadows

Tip Turner, Hill Hutchins,
John McClement, Lee Simmons

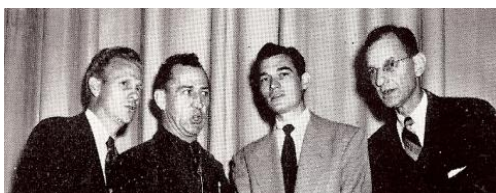


Meldaires

George Von Seth, John Williams,
Harry Weir, J. D. Morrison

Pitchblenders

Ray Parker, Pat Thomas,
Paul Wilson, Hubert Rawlins
The quartet continued to be
registered through June 1954



Gastonia, NC Chapter • Gastonia Barbershop Chorus

The Gastonia, NC Chapter was chartered on May 16, 1951 with 40 members. It was sponsored by the Charlotte, NC Chapter. It was the ninth chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 37th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Robert McCluney was the founder and Andrew Champion was the president.

A Charter Night program was presented on June 30, 1951. The upcoming show was reported in *The Gastonia Gazette* (June 20, 1951).

Singers Slate Charter Night

The mayors of Gastonia and Charlotte will be on stage at Wray Junior High School on the night of June 30 when the Gastonia barbershop singers get a charter from the national association of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America.

Mayor Victor Shaw of Charlotte is a member of the Queen City chapter of SPEBSQSA. Mayor Harrelson Yancey of Gastonia, although he won't be singing, will be on stage that night to introduce the numbers and act as master of ceremonies. The Charlotte chapter is sponsoring Gastonia for membership in SPEBSQSA.

A big charter night program has been arranged. Taking part will be three choral groups including the famous Vagabonds from Winston-Salem. This quartet went to the national finals last year in barbershop competition. They have sung many times over on radio.

Just as much a treat will be offered by Charlotte's full chorus, which is directed by Frank Ward. The Charlotte chapter is getting ready for its annual show, and will sing some of its more select numbers here.

The Gastonia chapter will present a skit at the start of the program and perhaps will introduce a local quartet that is at yet unnamed.



BARBERSHOPPERS HARMONIZE—Clyde Moss, left, director of the Gastonia chapter of SPEBSQSA, and three members of the Gastonia board of directors celebrate in the expected manner the arrival of the local chapter's charter. Bursting out in song with Director Moss are, left to right, C.E. Blackwell, Roger Grier, and Hugh Stoupe. A big charter night show will be staged at Wray Junior High School on the night of June 30, when the charter will be officially presented to the Gastonia barbershop singers. The Charlotte chapter is sponsoring the Gastonia group.

The Gastonia Gazette (July 3, 1951) provided this review of the Charter Night program presented on June 30th.

Hail the SPEBSQSA

The Charter night program presented Saturday night by the Gastonia chapter, SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America) was one of the most enjoyable events Gastonians have been privileged to attend in a long while.

The skit presented by the Gastonia singers, all rigged out in Gay Nineties attire, was an outstanding one, featuring many old familiar songs of long ago.

The numbers presented by visiting SPEBS from Winston-Salem and Charlotte proved most enjoyable.

The large audience present for the program demonstrated the fact that many people still find great delight in listening to the barber shop type of harmony.

Personally, it is our favorite brand of music.

Congratulations to the Gastonia Chapter, SPEBSQSA. May it grow and prosper. And may it not wait too long between shows.

The Gastonia Chapter presented *A Little Close Harmony* on December 7-8, 1951. The show was a benefit for the school lunch fund which provided meals for hundreds of Gastonia children. Judge Julius Sanders, who administered the school lunch fund, was the master of ceremonies. The show featured *Air Fours* (from Greenville, SC), *Skylarks* (Asheville, NC), *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), and chapter quartets *Tune Twisters* and *Cotton Chords*. The first half of the program was built around a Barber Pole theme with the five quartets taking turns performing. The second half of the show was a Christmas program with a North Pole theme. The show advertisement is shown on the next page.

The only record found of any additional chapter shows was in *The Gastonia Gazette* (December 8, 1954). It included an article titled *Barbershop Festival Friday Night*. According to the article, appearing on stage would be the *Gastonia Barbershop Chorus*, *Charlotte Chapter Chorus*, and several top-notch quartets: *Carolinians* (Charlotte, NC), *The Notables* (Winston-Salem, NC), and chapter quartets *Tune Twisters* and *Chordaires*.

The Gastonia Chapter had two registered quartets as reported in *The Harmonizer*: *Tune Twisters* and *Cotton Chords*. They were active 1951 thru 1954. They also had at least one other quartet, *Chordaires*, that sang on the December 10, 1954 show.

The Gastonia Gazette, November 22, 1951

Chords of Justice Sprung By Press

Is someone trying to mute the chords of harmony? Or stifle Sweet Adeline down by the old mill stream? Or was it just a gremlin in the press?

At any rate, the Gastonia group of SPEBSQSA (That's pronounced "Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America") presented special music at the Masonic Temple Tuesday night.

But the printer who turned out the evening's printed program somehow did his work with a sprung tuning fork, because it came out of the program: "Society for the PREVENTION and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America." The boys sang right prettily nevertheless.



Tune Twisters

Clyde Moss, Sr. (T), Deuel Redding (L),
Cramer Little (Br), Winston Crawford (Bs)



Cotton Chords

Bob Hood (Br), Clyde Moss, Jr. (T),
John Goff (L), C. E. Roberts, Jr. (Bs)

The exact date that the Gastonia Chapter was disestablished is not clear. *The Gastonia Gazette* (January 25, 1955) published a plea for new members for an expanded chorus (singing more than just barbershop). No additional information was found about the *Gastonia Barbershop Chorus* in later issues of *The Gastonia Gazette*. The list of chapters in *The Harmonizer* (December 1955) did not include the Gastonia Chapter.

THE GASTONIA BARBERSHOP CHORUS

SPEBSQSA

presents
"A LITTLE CLOSE HARMONY"

**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7 AND 8**

**GHS AUDITORIUM
8 P. M.**

For the Benefit of the
SCHOOL LUNCH FUND

Featured as soloist on this program will be Miss Therese Galligan, winner of the recent Woman's Club Talent Contest, and now a student at Sacred Heart College in Belmont.

**GENERAL ADMISSION \$1.20
SCHOOL CHILDREN 60c**

General Admission Ticket Sale to be Handled by the Gastonia School System

PATRON'S TICKETS (Reserved) \$2.50

Patron's Tickets on Sale at the Following Places:

McCLUNEY'S

WARREN GARDNER'S YOUNG MEN'S SHOP

CARSON SPORTING GOODS COMPANY

EAGLES CLUB

ELKS CLUB

MOOSE LODGE

MUSIC BOX

RANDY'S

**"A LITTLE CLOSE HARMONY"—Your ticket
admits you to the show and an underprivileged
child to the cafeteria.**

(*Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet
Singing in America, Inc.)

This Advertisement Sponsored in the Public Interest by:

Carolina Cleaners
Gastonia Mill Supply Company
WGNC - AM & FM



(At left)

THE AIR FORCE from Greenville Air Force Base, a group offering superb showmanship with close harmony. Left to right are Pfc. Tom Williams, Lt. Jack Johnston, Lt. Tom Prince, and Sgt. Bob Minner.



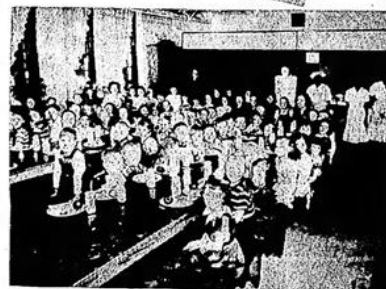
(At left)

THE SKYLARKS, Asheville, N. C. The oldest SPEBS Chapter in the State. George Kiser, Bass; Jim Res-shaw, Baritone; Paul Amthury, Lead; Bob Swain, Tenor.



(Below)

THE VAGABONDS, Winston-Salem, N. C. Outstanding and Nationally Known Harmony Group. They are Dixie District Champions and International Finalists for the Current Year. Pete Crooner, Lead; Bob Bennett, Baritone; Jack Bennett, Tenor; "Jap" Crooner, Bass.



(Above)

One of the many lunchrooms in Gastonia schools where underprivileged children enjoy the benefits of free lunches provided through the School Lunch Fund.



(Above, at left)

THE TUNE TWISTERS, One of Two Local Quartets This Year Organized in the Gastonia SPEBSQSA Chapter. A Versatile, Entertaining Group. Clyde Moss Jr., Tenor; David Redding, Lead; Crooner Little, Baritone; Winston Crawford, Bass.



(Below, left)

THE COTTON CHORDS, Probably the Best Known Group in the Local Chapter. They have appeared before many Civic and Fraternal Organizations as well as Church and Industrial Groups. Bob Hood, Baritone; Clyde Moss Jr., Tenor; John Goff, Lead; G. E. Roberts Jr., Bass.

Palmetto State (Charleston), SC

As published in *The Harmonizer* (September 1954), the Palmetto State (Charleston), SC Chapter was chartered on July 26, 1954 with 47 members. It was sponsored by the Asheville, NC Chapter. It was the tenth chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 49th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. In many ways this is a phantom chapter since it was not included in the *Dixie District 50-Year History* or the list of chapters in *The Harmonizer* (December 1955).

The intent to start the chapter was announced in the *Charleston Evening Post* (April 19, 1954) with a photo (right) and article.

Barber Shop Quartet Singing Is Making A Comeback Here. A harmony as effervescent as shaving lather and as old fashioned as handlebar mustaches is making a noteworthy comeback in Charleston. Matter of fact, it was never really forgotten. The striped barber pole had been a reminder, and though Grandpa's shaving mug is dusty, the Charleston chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America is being organized.

The "chief instigator and organizer" was Cotesworth P. Means who had sung in a quartet while in college at Georgia Tech and was chairman of the South Carolina Ports Authority. While on a business trip selling South Carolina's shipping centers he met Harold R. Corey of the Beacon Manufacturing in Swannanoa, North Carolina who was a member of the Asheville, North Carolina Chapter. The trip turned out to be business as well as pleasure—Mr. Means sold Mr. Beacon on the port and Mr. Corey sold Mr. Means on the idea of organizing a close harmony group.

The local group will have a full membership chorus, but will also be organized into quartets within the group to enter regional and national singing contests. Mr. Means said the chapter is interested in singing as well as non-singing members called 'Crows' because they sit on the fence and listen. Mr. Means said qualifications for joining the local chapter, which will have a membership quota are: male, free, adult, congenial, good repute, who can sing, who can't sing. "Citizens of Charleston who can live up to the stern qualifications for membership and who are interested in doing something about it, can receive all necessary information for joining by sending in their names to SPEBEQSA, PO Box 745, Charleston," Mr. Means said.

An article in the *Charleston Evening Post* (September 21, 1954) announced the plans for a charter dinner. Thomas P. Stony, president of the new chapter issued a call for all local barbershoppers and crows to attend and hear several of the Asheville, NC Chapter quartets sing. The meeting was to start at 7:30 at the Means Clubhouse in Avondale. The officers were also identified: Thomas P. Stony, the former Mayor of Charleston, was president; J. D. Capplemann was vice president; R. M. Hitt Jr. was secretary; Daniel E. Huger, Jr. was treasurer; Dr. Henry W. Mayo Jr. was chorus director; Robert McFigg Jr. was general counsel; and Cotesworth P. Means had the title of permanent assistant and program manager.



BARBER SHOP HARMONY—Newly organized Barber-shoppers give Robert Mc. Figg Jr. a close shave in Robby Ingliss' East Bay Barbershop. Known as the "H-Bums of the Charleston chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, they are (left to right) Franklin Robison Jr., Cotesworth P. Means, Herman Schwacke Jr., William Schroder, H. William Hopke, Dr. Henry Mayo Jr. and Richard J. Voigt. (Photo by Schwartz.)

The *Charleston Evening Post* (September 25, 1954) reported that the Charter Night celebration was presented.

Palmetto State Barbershoppers Receive Charter

The Palmetto State Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing In America, Inc. received its charter Saturday night at a meeting attended by 34 members of the sponsoring Asheville Chapter.

Dr. L.J. Klostermyer, president of the Asheville Chapter which boasts 187 members and is the fourth largest in the country, presented the charter to former Mayor Thomas P. Stoney, president of the Charleston group.

Harold R. Cory, general manager of the Beason Manufacturing CO. of Swannanoa, N.C., presented members of the Asheville chorus and the quartet known as the Skylarks.

Under the direction of Tom Evans, the chorus sang several selections from their "Parade of Harmony" which last month played to a capacity audience of 3,300 in the Asheville auditorium. The chorus and quartet responded to demands for encores.

Two Charleston quartets were presented and after the formal program there was a session of woodshedding—a barber shop term denoting unregimented harmony.

Preceding the program was a reception and a buffet dinner. Among the guests was William Hall of Miami, president of the Dixie District of SPEBSQSA, Inc.

There has been no record found of the chapter having a show or any other activities after the Charter Night celebration. However, there is evidence of barbershop quartet activity before and after the chapter. The *Charleston News and Courier* November 3, 1955 included a quartet photo (below left) with an article on the Charleston Choral Society show. The *Charleston News and Courier* (March 4, 1954) included this photo (below right) of a Navy quartet. Both quartets include Commander Donald R. Childs. One could assume that he was a member of the chapter.



(News and Courier Staff Photo.)
Teacher, Dentist, Engineer, And Officer Make Up Barbershop Quartet
Cmdr. Donald R. Childs, Col. M. S. Lewis, Dr. Henry Smathers and Richard H. Hair (seated) Rehearse



The Original Barbershoppers

Cmdr. Donald R. Childs, Lt. R. B. Comeau, HM3 Tom Evans and CPO James Fowler, as the original barbershoppers, bring memories of days past to "Plum Duff of 1954" audiences. Closing performance will go on stage at 8:15 o'clock tonight in Memminger Auditorium. (Navy Photo.)

High Point-Thomasville (Hi-Tom), NC • *Hi-Tom Chorus*

The High Point-Thomasville, NC Chapter was chartered on October 16, 1957 with 21 members. It was sponsored by the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter. It was the 12th chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 65th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Richard “Dick” C. Wright was president and Red Sechrest was chorus director.

The story of the chapter’s founding as told by Jerry Livengood. Jerry and his brother David were singing with the Winston-Salem, NC Chapter. They thought there were enough guys in Thomasville and High Point area to establish a new chapter. Archer, their older brother, was the Winston-Salem Chapter director when the *Tobacco Belt Chorus* went to the first International Chorus Contest in 1954. Archer also directed a men’s chorus in Thomasville, and many of those men joined the new chapter.

The chapter charter was presented at the *First Annual Parade of Quartets* in October 1957. No other information about the show that has been found.

Bells, Beaux and Barbershopping was presented on April 3, 1959 and was the first of three annual shows to be sponsored by the Pilot Club of High Point in Memorial Auditorium at High Point College. The show featured the 25-voice *Hi-Tom Chorus*, *Dixie Colonels* (Hi-Tom, NC), and *Southern Aristocrats* (Greensboro, NC). The first half was a production with elaborate scenery, costumed ladies, and Gay 90s story line. The second half was a parade with the chorus and quartets.

Dixie Colonels was formed in May 1957, and by November of that year they had placed high in Dixie District competition. Red Seacrest, a gospel quartet singer who could hear all the parts, and was a great ear singer, joined with Glad Lawson, a Winston-Salem barbershopper who had recently moved to High Point, and Jerry and Dave Livengood to form the quartet. “The Colonels” were runner-ups in the 1958, 1959, and 1960 International quartet preliminary contests. They were a popular quartet singing on many chapter shows. Their additional accomplishments will be covered in *Volume II – 1960-1969*.



Dixie Colonels serenading Carolyn Livengood, Jerry’s wife and a member of the ***Southern Charms*** quartet.



Dixie Colonels
Glad Lawson (L), Dave Livengood (Br),
Gilbert “Red” Sechrest (T), Jerry Livengood (Bs)

Laurens County, SC • Southland Chorus

The Laurens County, SC chapter was chartered on August 6, 1958 with 20 members. It was sponsored by the Atlanta, GA chapter. It was the 13th chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 71th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Robert L. Jones was one of the founders and the president.

Twenty-one men attended the Charter Night program, and Oren Nabors was the chorus director.

The *First Annual Parade of Quartets* was presented on September 21, 1963 and was sponsored by the Lions Clubs of Clinton, Laurens, and Hickory Tavern. Featured on the show were *Southland Chorus* (Laurens County, SC) under the direction of Bob Wassung, *Dixie Ramblers* (Laurens County, SC), *Rock Hill Barbershoppers* (Rock Hill, SC) under the direction of Dick Hair, *Columbia Chorus* (Columbia, SC) under the direction of Dave Sennema, *The Unmentionables* (Columbia, SC), and *Dignitaires* (1959 Dixie District Quartet Champion from Knoxville, TN). The Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Tom Prince, the 1962-63 Dixie District President and baritone of the *Dignitaires*.

Little information about other shows had been found. The 1965 annual show was presented on April 24th and featured the *Southern Aristocrats* (Greensboro, NC), the *Palmetto Statesmen* chorus (Spartanburg, SC), and other unknown groups. There were annual shows on September 10, 1966 and January 25, 1969. Edsel Culberson was chorus director in 1969.

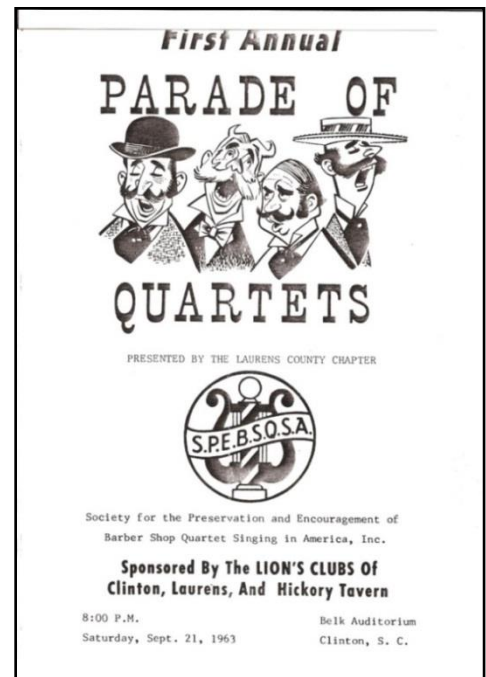
A quartet from the Laurens County Chapter, *Tonsorial Troubadors*, was mentioned in *The Rebel Rouser* (June-July 1963). By 1965 *Dixie Ramblers* was the official registered quartet with members Allison Pugh (T), Edsel Culbertson (L), Joe Kirby (Br), and Robert "Bob" Jones (Bs). *Windpipes* became the second active registered quartet in 1966. *Piedmont Four* competed in the 1969 Dixie District Fall Contest.

Dixie Ramblers actually had a television show in the late 1950s carried by the local channel 4 then WFBC and now WYFF. The show's host was Monty Dupuy who was a local celebrity. The show was filmed on Friday night and aired on Saturday. The setting was a barbershop. Monty was the barber and the four quartet members were customers taking turns sitting in the barber chair. There would be some conversation then when a keyword was mentioned one member would say, "Hey, that reminds me of a song." They would gather up and sing.

The Laurens County Chapter sponsored the Spartanburg, SC Chapter. The chorus helped kick off the Spartanburg Chapter's first annual show presented on April 3, 1965. Spartanburg Chapter's first chorus director, Tom Taylor, was first a barbershopper in the Laurens County Chapter.

The Laurens County Chapter was active in the Piedmont Summer Songfests including hosting the event on August 17, 1969. The chorus competed in the 1969 Dixie District Chorus Contest in Spartanburg, SC. The chorus also performed at a concert in Brevard, NC on July 28, 1974 with the Transylvania Music Camp Symphony Orchestra. Other barbershop choruses performing in the concert were from Asheville, NC and Rutherford County, NC (chartered in 1969).

The Laurens County Chapter continued to be active until 1975. No additional information for the 1970s has been found.



Durham, NC • *Durham Chapter Chorus*

The Durham, NC Chapter was chartered on May 11, 1959 with 30 members. It was sponsored by the Greensboro Chapter. It was the 14th chapter chartered in the Carolinas, and the 77th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. R. W. Harrington from Duke University was the president.

The Rebel Rouser (August 1958) noted that the Greensboro, NC Chapter was making contacts in Durham, NC and Greenville, NC to organize new chapters. The *Raleigh News and Observer* (March 26, 1959) reported on that the Greensboro, NC Chapter was trying to start a chapter in Durham. Those efforts resulted in the Durham Chapter charter being signed May 11, 1959.

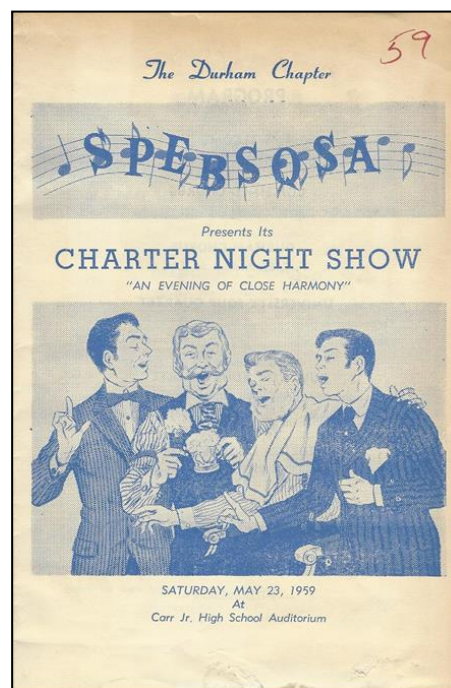
The *Charter Night Show*, which was presented on May 23, was announced in the *Durham Sun* (May 1, 1959).

Greensboro and Durham chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA) are working together on plans for the Charter Night celebration and show, S.B. Neal, president of the recently-formed local unit, said today.

The Durham Chapter will receive its official charter in the national organization at the Charter Night event, which will also feature the Greensboro chapter's chorus and quartets. The Greensboro chapter sponsored the organization of the local group.

The Durham Chapter now has approximately 40 members, but has its sights on a goal of close to 100 members before the Charter Night Festivities, Neal said.

The show featured *Southern Aristocrats* (Greensboro, NC), *Carolina Chorders* (Greensboro, NC), *Durham Chapter Chorus* directed by F. E. Southerland, *University Four* (Durham, NC), *Bull City Four* (Durham, NC), and *Greensboro Chorus* directed by Baxter Westmoreland. The combined choruses sang under Baxter Westmoreland's direction.



The *Raleigh News and Observer* (April 29, 1960) announced the second annual show on.

DURHAM – The “Annual Parade of Quartets – An Evening of Barber Shop Harmony” will be held on Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Durham High School auditorium.

The announcement was made by Dr. Roderick B. Ormandy, president of the Durham Chapter of the SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America).

Starring in the show will be the Southern Aristocrats from Greensboro, the Dixie Colonels of High Point, and the Vagabonds of Winston-Salem. These quartets finished first, second, and third respectively in the recent regional competition to determine the Dixie district representatives to compete in the International Barber Shop Harmony Contest. Featured will be the Dukes of Durham, a quartet from the local chapter; the Johnny Reb Chorus, comprising members of the Winston-Salem, High Point, and Greensboro Choruses and the Durham Chapter Chorus.

No record has been found of additional annual shows other than *Southern Aristocrats* (Greensboro, NC) sang on the Durham, NC Chapter show May 6, 1961.

Members of the Durham Chapter joined 250 barbershoppers and their wives and friends attended the Seventh Annual Tar Heel Outing and Hush Puppy Fry hosted by Winston-Salem, NC Chapter in the fall of 1959.

Two chapter quartets sang on the Charter Night Show: **University Four** with Justin Floyd (T), Curtis Russell (L), Ben Taylor (Br), and Mac Campbell (Bs) and **Bull City Four** with Buster Martin (T), Bill Bryan (L), Bobby Capps (Br), and Rod Ormandy (Bs).

Two chapter quartets were listed in *The Rebel Rouser* (March 1960): **Dukes of Durham** with Buster Martin (T), Mac Campbell (L), Bobby Capps (Br), and Rod Ormandy (Bs) and the **Footnotes of Harmony** for which no member information is available.

The *Durham Morning Herald* April 8, 1961 included a photo (right) of the Mayor of Durham presenting a proclamation for Barbershop Harmony Week. The proclamation is being presented to the **The Lamplighters** quartet from the Durham Chapter: Rod Ormandy, Tom Stowe, Shannon Phillips, and Bill Stallings.

The **Carolina Lamplighters** were registered in 1962 (probably a new name for **The Lamplighters**). **Just Plain Four** and **Dukes of Durham** were still performing in 1963.

The Rebel Rousers from this time included a *Chapter Chatter* Section. Excerpts from the *Durham Doings*:

- March-April 1963. "Who sez nothing is doing in Durham? Weekly attendance averages better than 85% of the roster so I'll bet our members are the most faithful! Durham joined the Raleigh

chapter to stage a package show for the Eno Fire Department featuring both choruses, the Raleigh Sons of Fun and Rag Pickers, and the Durham quartets Just Plain Four and Dukes of Durham."

- August 1963. "Rod Ormandy and his Dukes of Durham have kept barbershopping jumping in the tobacco area. Recently the chorus and two quartets put on an old-time minstrel show at Hillsboro, NC, under the sponsorship of the Hillsboro Exchange."
- January-February 1964. "Claiming the best average attendance in the Dixie District, the Durham chapter made many appearances before various church groups in and around Durham. Fifteen members and the director visited the Raleigh chapter on November 25, 1963. Although Durham has only 19 members, it has three organized quartets."

The **Durham Chapter Chorus**, **Southern Aristocrats** (Greensboro, NC), and **Dixie Colonels** (Hi-Tom, NC) sang on the Roanoke, VA Chapter show April 13, 1961.

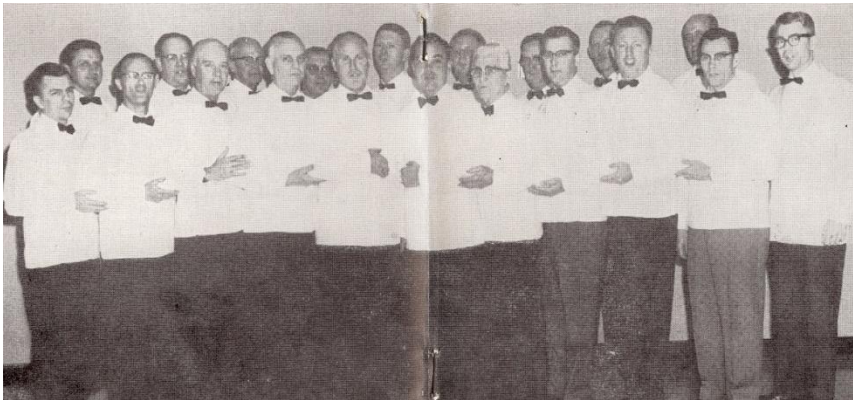
The Durham Chapter was no longer listed as an active chapter in *The Rebel Rouser* (September-October 1965).



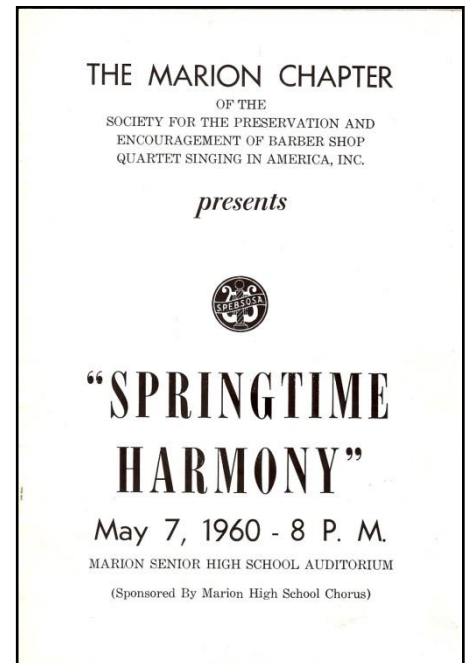
Marion, NC • *Marion Barbershop Chorus*

The Marion, NC Chapter was chartered on June 15, 1959 with 22 members. It was sponsored by the Asheville, NC Chapter. It was the 15th chapter to be chartered in the Carolinas, and the 78th chapter to be chartered in the Dixie District. Frank Stilwell was the founder and the first chorus director. He was the Minister of Music at the First Baptist Church and had been a member of the Spencer, IA chapter. He was also the founder of the Elizabeth City, NC Chapter in 1950. Hugh T. "Bud" Conley was president.

Their first annual show, *Springtime Harmony*, was presented on May 7, 1960 at the Marion High School Auditorium. It featured the *Marion Barbershop Chorus*, *Land of the Sky Chorus* (Asheville, NC), *Four Bassos* (Asheville, NC), *Vagabonds* (Winston-Salem, NC), *Southern Aristocrats* (Greensboro, NC), chapter quartets *Sharp Shavers* and *The Bapteers*, and the presentation of the charter.



Marion Barbershop Chorus • 1960 • Frank Stilwell, Director



The Marion Chapter had several early quartets. The *Sharp Shavers* and *The Bapteers* sang on the first annual show.



Sharp Shavers

Billy Joe Davidson (L), Albert Hewitt (T),
Winslow Ballew (Br), Boots Wilson (Bs)



The Bapteers

Charles Bolick (T), Jack Walker (L),
J. B. Walker, Jr. (Br), Frank Stilwell (Bs)

In mid-1963 the chorus changed its name to the *Lake City Chorus*. The chorus would go on to become the 1965-66 Dixie District Chorus Champion.

Inter-Chapter Activities

The First Annual Hushpuppy Fry and Jug Contest was held in September 1953. The event was also known as the Annual Big Brown Jug Contest because “a huge, over-sized Little Brown Jug was awarded yearly to the best barber shop chorus competing in the Jug Contest.” In addition to the chorus contest, each chapter was also represented by one or more quartets who competed in two classes: “The Organized Quartet – one that is officially registered with the National Headquarters; and the Disorganized Quartet – one whose members might possibly know each other’s first names for the duration of the contest.”

As reported in *The Harmonizer* (December 1953): “The First Annual Hushpuppy Fry and Jug Contest was held in September 1953 at Morrow Mountain State Park. The Little Brown Jug was won by Charlotte in the Chorus competition. Also singing were Greensboro, Gastonia and Winston-Salem. The Carolinians (Gilbert, Turner, Hopper, MacDonald) from the Charlotte chapter won the Organized Quartet Class contest. The Re-Fours (Billy Lovins, tenor of current Air Force Champs, Aire Chords), Tom Prince (bari of the former U.S.A.F. Air Fours), Jim Lovins, J.C Ponder) won the Disorganized Quartet Class.”

Second Annual Hushpuppy Fry and Jug Contest was held in 1954.

As reported in *The Rebel Rouser* (December 1955): “The Third Annual Hushpuppy Fry and Jug Contest was hosted by the Greensboro chapter with between 250 and 300 people assembled on Jug day at Camp Herman. Choruses represented were Charlotte, Greensboro, and Winston-Salem with Danville, VA (a new chapter recently sponsored by Greensboro chapter) as a guest chapter. They also supplied qualified judges for the chorus contest. The Grand Prize, the Big Brown Jug, was carried away by the Greensboro Chorus under the direction of Baxter Westmoreland for the straight second year. In the Organized quartet class, The Wintones from Winston-Salem were first; Carolinians from Charlotte were second; and Gate City Four from Greensboro were third. The Dis-Organized class was won by the Key Hunters who at least were true to their name. They were from no particular place and no particular place claimed them.”

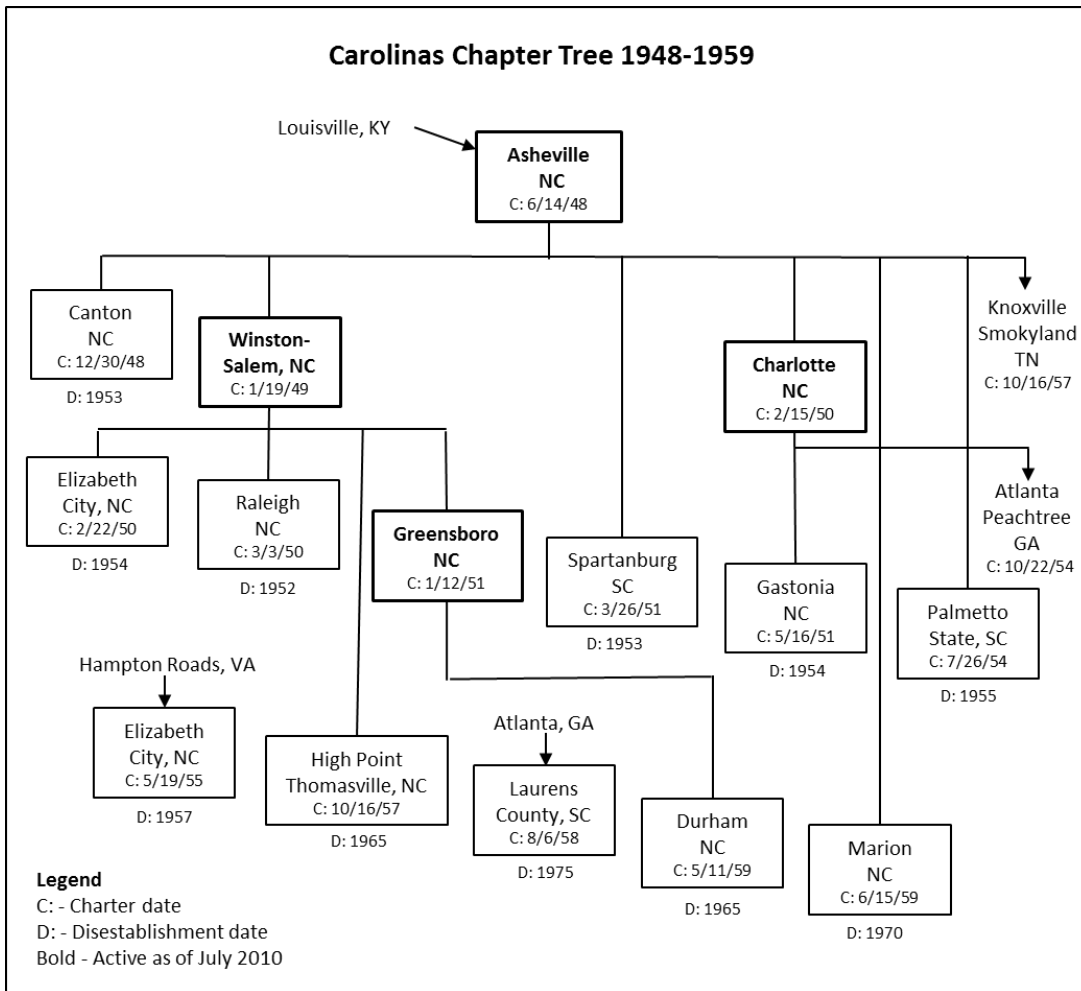
As reported in the *The Rebel Rouser* (December 1956): “The Fourth Annual Hushpuppy Fry and Jug Contest was held on Sunday September 16th, hosted by the Winston-Salem chapter. With competition keener than in any years past, the judges nevertheless found for Greensboro in the chorus competition making it three in a row for the Pivot of the Piedmont as Director Baxter Westmoreland put the clincher on the Jug. Greensboro took permanent possession of the Little Brown Jug. In the quartet contests the Vagabonds from Winston-Salem won the Organized class and Four False Starts from Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Greensboro won the Dis-Organized class.”

The Fifth Annual Carolina Hushpuppy Fry was held on August 25, 1957 at Camp Stewart. The Charlotte chapter played host to the Greensboro and Winston-Salem chapters.

As reported in *The Rebel Rouser* (October 1958): “The Sixth Annual Tar Heel Hushpuppy Fry was held on Sunday September 21, 1958 and hosted by The Greensboro chapter at Camp Herman. The newest chapter in the Carolinas, High-Point Thomasville (Hi-Tom), NC joined the festivities. Results of the Organized quartet contest: 1st – Dixie Colonels (Hi-Tom), 2nd –Mello-Chords from Greensboro, and 3rd – Carolina Chords from Charlotte. Jug II was awarded (for a second year in a row) to Greensboro. Southern Aristocrats (Greensboro) entertained.”

As reported in *The Rebel Rouser* (December 1959): “The Seventh Annual Tar Heel Outing and Hush Puppy Fry was hosted by the Winston-Salem chapter at Tanglewood on September 20, 1959. Over 250 barbershoppers and their wives and friends attended from the Danville, VA, Martinsville, VA, Durham, Charlotte, Hi-Tom, Greensboro, Salisbury, and Winston-Salem chapters. Danville won Big Brown Jug for the best chorus rendition. Southern Aristocrats from Greensboro won the quartet competition.”

Summary Information



Chapter Membership

Chapter	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
Asheville, NC	60	136	132	155	183	193	181	138	110	97	98	75
Canton, NC	35	X	X	X	X	X						
Winston-Salem, NC		21	X	X	X	X	34	57	57	32	27	X
Charlotte, NC			36	90	X	X	38	37	34	34	39	X
Elizabeth City, NC			34	35	X	X	22	42	25	X		
Raleigh, NC			42	X	X							
Greensboro, NC				38	X	X	45	52	60	47	54	48
Spartanburg, SC				29	X	X						
Gastonia, NC				40	X	X	X					
Palmetto State (Charleston), SC							47	X				
High Point-Thomasville, NC										21	26	25
Laurens County, SC											20	X
Durham, NC												30
Marion, NC												22
Total Chapters	2	3	6	9	9	8	7	6	5	6	6	8

Chapter Quartets

Quartet	Chapter	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59
Foresters	Asheville, NC	S										
Skylarks	Asheville, NC	S	H	H	H	H	H					
Pitch Pipers	Winston-Salem, NC	S										
Three Mugs and a Brush	Winston-Salem, NC	S										
Vagabonds	Winston-Salem, NC	S	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
Metro-Gnomes	Winston-Salem, NC	S	S									
The Four Drinaires	Canton, NC		S									
The Four Mugs	Canton, NC		S									
Sundowners	Elizabeth City, NC		S	H								
The Flat Top Four	Raleigh, NC		S									
Raleigh Chordians	Raleigh, NC		S									
Four Barber Poles	Raleigh, NC		S									
Carolina Gentlemen	Raleigh, NC		S									
Melodons	Asheville, NC			H	H	S	S					
Cotton Chords	Gastonia, NC			S	H	H	H					
Gastonia Tune Twisters	Gastonia, NC			S	H	H	H					
Gate City Four	Greensboro, NC			S	H	H	H	H	H			
Four Sharps	Greensboro, NC			B								
Air Fours	Winston-Salem, NC			S	H	S						
Peachtree Pipers	Asheville, NC				H	H	H	R				
Key Hunters	Greensboro, NC				S							
Carolina Pitchblenders	Spartanburg, SC				S	H	H					
Four Flats	Spartanburg, SC				S							
Four Shadows	Spartanburg, SC				S							
Melodaries	Spartanburg, SC				S							
Crowmatics	Charlotte, NC					H						
The Four Highlanders	Asheville, NC						S	S	H			
Carolinians	Charlotte, NC						H	S	H			
Accidentals	Winston-Salem, NC						H					
The Notables	Winston-Salem, NC						S		H	H	H	
Chordaires	Gastonia, NC						S					
The Wintones	Winston-Salem, NC							S	H	S		
Dixie Mountaineers	Asheville, NC								S			
The Rebels	Charlotte, NC								S		H	
Mello Chords	Greensboro, NC								H	H	H	
Tar Heels	Greensboro, NC								H	S		
Southern Aristocrats	Greensboro, NC								R	R	H	H
Dixie Colonels	High Point-Thomasville, NC									R	H	S
Carolina Chorders	Greensboro, NC									S	S	S
The Cotton Chords	Charlotte, NC										H	
Local Yokels	Asheville, NC											S
University Four	Durham, NC											S
Bull City Four	Durham, NC											S
Sharp Shavers/Tar Babies	Marion, NC											S
The Baptists	Marion, NC											S

Legend: B - chapter bulletin, H - *The Harmonizer*, R – *The Rebel Rouser*, S - show program/newspaper article

Dixie District Leadership

- 1950-51 John T. Dawson (Winston-Salem, NC) – Secretary
Wm. H. Stevenson III (Winston-Salem, NC) – Area Counselor
- 1951-52 John T. Dawson (Winston-Salem, NC) – First Vice President
- 1952-53 Edward J. West (Charlotte, NC) – International Board Member
John T. Dawson (Winston-Salem, NC) – President
Richard C. Blackburn (Winston-Salem, NC) – Secretary
Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) – Area Counselor
- 1953-54 Edward J. West (Charlotte, NC) – International Board Member
Robert C. Farran (Winston-Salem, NC) – Assistant Secretary
- 1954-55 Robert C. Farran (Winston-Salem, NC) – Secretary
- 1955-56 Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) – First Vice President
Edward J. West (Charlotte, NC) – Second Vice President
- 1956-57 Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) – President
Harry Clement (Greensboro, NC) – Vice President Tobacco Region
Burton Peak (Asheville, NC) – Secretary
- 1957-58 Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) – President
Baxter Westmoreland (Greensboro, NC) – Vice President Tobacco Region (resigned)
Edward J. West (Charlotte, NC) – Vice President Tobacco Region

Dixie District Honors and Recognition

- 1959 Barbershopper of the Year – Baxter Westmoreland (Greensboro, NC)

Contest Judges

- 1952 Edward S. Hubbard (Winston-Salem, NC)
- 1955 Edward S. Hubbard (Winston-Salem, NC) – Voice Expression
- 1956-59 John T. Dawson (Winston-Salem, NC) – Balance & Blend
- 1956-59 Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) – Voice Expression
- 1958 Paul D. Amsbary (Asheville, NC) – Voice Expression, International Contest in Columbus, OH

Conventions and Contests Hosted

- 1952 Charlotte, NC – Dixie Regional Quartet Preliminary Contest
- 1956 Asheville, NC – Dixie Regional Quartet Preliminary Contest
- 1958 Asheville, NC – International Mid-Winter Convention

Dixie District Chorus International Contest Representatives

- 1954 *Tobacco Belt Chorus* (Winston Salem, NC)

Dixie District Quartet Champions and International Contest Representatives

Vagabonds (Winston-Salem, NC)

- 1950 International Contest Representative – placed 37th
- 1951 International Contest Representative – placed 15th
- 1952 District Champion
- 1952 International Contest Representative – placed 14th
- 1953 International Contest Representative (qualified but did not compete)

Southern Aristocrats (Greensboro, NC)

- 1958 International Contest Representative – placed 37th
- 1959 International Contest Representative – placed 37th
- 1960 International Contest Representative – placed 29th
- 1962 International Contest Representative – placed 28th
- 1964 International Contest Representative – placed 32nd
- 1963 District Champion
- 1965 International Contest Representative – placed 37th
- 1966 International Contest Representative – placed 20th
- 1967 International Contest Representative – placed 25th

Dixie District Chorus Contest Competitors

(Note that complete contest results are not available. Places are shown if known.)

1957 District Contest: 3rd – Greensboro, NC and Charlotte, NC competed.

Dixie District Quartet Contest Competitors

(Note that complete contest results are not available. Places are shown if known.)

1950 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: 2nd – ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC)

1951 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: 2nd – ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC)

1952 District Quartet Contest: 1st – ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC), 2nd – ***Peachtree Pipers*** (Asheville, NC), ***Air Fours*** (Winston-Salem, NC), ***Cotton Chords*** (Gastonia, NC), ***Melodons*** (Asheville, NC), ***Gate City Four*** (Greensboro, NC)

1952 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: 2nd – ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC)

1953 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: 2nd – ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC), 4th – ***Peachtree Pipers*** (Asheville, NC)

1954 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: ***Melodons*** and ***Skylarks*** are the only known competitors
The DixieDistrict Quartet Championship moved to the fall in 1954. The Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest remained at the spring convention.

1955 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: ***The Wintones*** (Winston-Salem, NC)

1955 District Quartet Contest: 4th – ***The Four Highlanders*** (Asheville, NC)

1956 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: 3rd – ***Vagabonds*** (Winston-Salem, NC), 5th – ***Gate City Four*** (Greensboro, NC), ***Dixie Mountaineer*** (Asheville, NC), ***The Four Highlanders*** (Asheville, NC), ***Tar Heels*** (Greensboro, NC), ***Mello-Chords*** (Greensboro, NC)

1959 Regional Preliminary Quartet Contest: 2nd – ***Southern Aristocrats*** (Greensboro, NC), Alternate ***Dixie Colonels*** (High Point-Thomasville, NC)