



It's hard to believe that this is the Harbormen's 25th Show. How often do we get to celebrate a quarter century sharing our hobby with each other and our community. The faces and songs change but that great barbershop sound rolls on! JH

HARBORMEN'S CHORUS Twenty-five Years of Tid Bits

In 1965 two energetic men with a deep love of the "Barbershop" music style believed that there were enough qualified male singers in the North Brookhaven region to make a new chapter "start-up" effort worthwhile - and they were right.

Chris Moritz and Ray Gape developed a plan in coordination with Long Island SPEBSQSA officials and launched an advertising campaign (with their own funds) covering Smithtown east to Wading River and from Long Island Sound south to Islip.

The first meeting took place at the Moose Lodge in downtown Port Jefferson and drew approximately 12 potential members. Pete Danielson, a seasoned barbershopper, made a tremendous contribution in the start-up process by organiz-





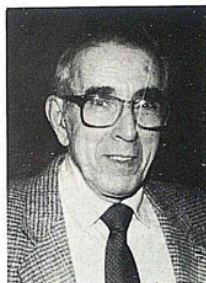
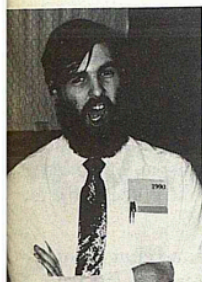
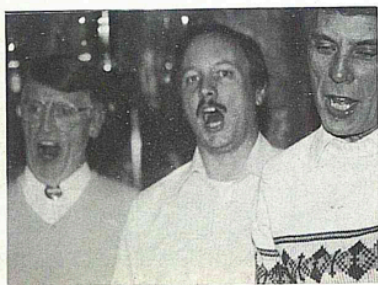
ing and conducting the meetings supported by Chris and Ray for the first six months as the chapter began to take hold.

In 1966, the North Brookhaven Chapter, sponsored by the neighboring Islip Chapter, received its charter as a new member of the Mid-Atlantic District SPEBSQSA.

In the fall of 1966, the chapter produced its first show with a chorus of some 25 men under the direction of Chris Moritz and fledgling chapter quartets including the Three Village Four, the Harbortones and the Atom Smashers.

The chorus and quartets matured musically entering their first competition in the spring of 1967. The chapter was fortunate in having a number of highly qualified musicians as its director as its director including Mike DeGir-olamo, Fuller Blunt, Frank Imperiale, George Graf and Rob Ozman. Also, during this period, the chapter experienced significant growth in membership reaching a high of 85 members in the early 1970's. Quartet activity also increased to include several additional groups including Long Island Sounds, Suffolk Sounds and currently The Big Apple Corps, Mutual Agreement, Sound Pilots and Harmony Hotline.

The chapter also grew socially developing a wide range of programs and events to enhance the comradie so fundamental to our society. This included an annual "across the Sound" interchapter picnic with the Bridgeport Ct. Chapter each alternating as host with travel between Bridgeport and Port Jefferson by ferry; a weekend camp out; golf tournament and various dinner parties for members, spouses and friends.





The chapter experienced many unusual and funny experiences over the years. The most daring and hilarious party over the years was the "Boatload of Barbershoppers", a 1968 moonlight sail on the Sound offering a complete lobster dinner with never ending harmony served to 300 guests!

The timing of events was critical to the success of such an undertaking since the sail could not begin until the last scheduled ferry trip was completed. To ensure rapid loading of food and beverages Chairman Hank McDowell had arranged for the caterer to drive his three trucks directly on board

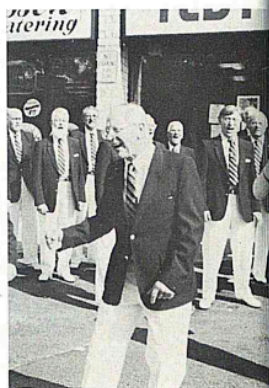
the ferry; setting up of tables and food lines to take place as the ferry was underway.

To the dismay and chagrin of Hank and cries of displeasure from the guests, the caterer's trucks **could not fit** through the loading dock of the ferry! The need to manually transfer the food, beverages and equipment delayed the departure by 1½ hours. What ensued was unbelievable chaos.

On another occasion the Clorette (appearing again this year) were

featured quartet in our annual show. As they began to perform, the tape recorder's batteries began to go dead, and the music started to go slower and then faster again leaving the group to "wing it". The result was a far funnier performance than planned.

Over the 25 year span of the chapter's existence, many members gave generously of their time and skills resulting in an outstanding series of annual shows, formal recognition and certification by International and District leadership, citations for service and contributions of time and money.





from local non-profit groups.

As the chapter continued on a steady course in pursuit of musical excellence, it spawned lasting friendships from all walks of life - the mailman, the plumber, the teacher, the business manager, the lawyer and yes, the clergy.

Along the way we were privileged to have meeting facilities made available at the Moose Hall, the Old Field Club, the Brookhaven Senior Citizen's Center and currently the Literary Center in Centereach.

It's been a great 25 years and hopefully the base is solid enough to produce 25 more.

Hal Briggs

