

Six deadly sins of close harmony

Research by **Tom Pearce**, Charlottesville Chapter

Who is **Ring Lardner**, nee **Ringgold William Lardner**? Well, if you're not a culture vulture, let me remind you, courtesy of my Encyclopedia Americana: "While **Lardner** is thought of primarily as one of the major American humorists, critics have pointed out that his satire is caustic, often picturing his characters as unhappy, shabby, exhibitionists. His stories are read, however, for their shining humor and the excelling character delineation of the lower middle class."

Long before our Society was founded, **Sigmund Spaeth** wrote a book, published by **Simon and Schuster** in 1925, *Barber Shop Ballads*. **Ring Lardner** wrote the introduction, which enumerated the six deadly sins of close harmony:

A tenor who, being the only tenor, takes a high tonic instead of a third for his finishing note.

A lead who says he knows a song when he doesn't.

A man who thinks there is nothing to baritone except winding up on the fifth.

A man who thinks bass is just the lead two, three octaves lower.

A tenor who would rather sing baritone.

And a girl who sings tenor and says it's alto. ♪



An Adventure with Harry Harmony

Harry Harmony was driving down the road and ran out of gas. Just at that moment, a bee flew in his window.

The bee said, 'What seems to be the problem?'

'I'm out of gas,' the man replied.

The bee told the man to wait right there and flew away. Minutes later, the man watched as an entire swarm of bees flew to his car and into his gas tank. After a few minutes, the bees flew out.

'Try it now,' said one bee.

The man turned the ignition key and the car started right up. 'Wow!' the man exclaimed, 'what did you put in my gas tank?'

The bee answered,BP



President Bob Swenson presents director Ken Lang with the Barbershopper of the Month Award for August.

The board unanimously agreed that **Ken Lang** should be our Barbershopper of the Month for August, even though his contributions toward contest preparations have exceeded the span of that month. Ever since the board first decided we should sing in Kansas City, **Ken** has contributed greatly toward readying the chorus for that event.

We know **Ken** has spent many hours listening to individual tapes, critiquing them, and reporting back individually to those who submitting them. He developed the system which we now will be turned over to section leaders.

Ken has shown excellent cooperation with the coaches we've had and has been a true leader in getting the chorus to "Buy-in" to the performance standards we are trying to implement. Thanks, **Ken**, for your excellent leadership - - - and CONGRATULATIONS!

Bob Swenson President ♪

Barbershop history quiz

by

Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ.

- 1- What is the proper musical term for the chord we all know and love as the barbershop 7th?
- 2- From what non-society event did SPEBSQSA get the idea of the format for our own competitions?
- 3- When did choruses begin to compete?
- 4- Who won the first international chorus contest and where was it held?
- 5- When did the society headquarters move to Kenosha, and where was it previously. Answers on page 6.

Barbershop 101

By
Loren Alexander

Do you find, as I do, that you would like to get info about many different aspects of singing barbershop music with our Chapter? If you became a member of The Little Apple Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society during the past three years, **Don Thomson, Bill Hanson** and I encourage you, especially, to attend the sessions of Barbershop 101 that begin October 25 at 7 p.m. I am a new member and will lead the sessions, where we will get answers to questions, one way or another; **Don, Bill** and others will help us as needed.

Please arrive a bit before 7:00 p.m. on the 25th, sign the attendance sheet, go into the parlor, and we'll discuss anything and everything as time allows; we will emphasize basics at first. I will have an example of one of my first questions that gradually got answered, and I have the beginnings of a manual with ten sections (scratching the surface, of course!). We'll share our knowledge with each other and call on individuals in the Chapter who have lots of experience with barbershop for knotty problems where we need help.

Knowledge equals power, right? And knowledge of the details of our organization, of music, of singing, of membership, etc. brings the power to solve problems and tackle goals. These sessions will continue as we find questions and ideas to pursue.

I plan to end the session by 7:25 each time. And I plan to keep the sessions open to anyone who wishes to join us. See you the 25th. ♪

We need you back

By
Terry Nanninga

It seems like a long time since we started special preparations for contest completion. I think we are ready to compete. Now we need to get all of our members back at chapter meetings. If you feel like you have been left out it was not intentional. We learned from our coaches how to sing better and really feel the songs. If you have not been coming regularly or leaving early come back to enjoy the fellowship. We need all members to have a good time each week. **Ken Lang** has really stepped up his game to lead us to be better singers and performers. We have several performances coming soon and we need you to be there. Veterans Day, Christmas Caroling and Singing Valentines will interrupt our spring show preparations so come back to help your chapter be the best it can be. ♪

Burglars beware!

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables; and when he picked up a CD player to place in his sack, a strange, disembodied voice echoed from the dark saying, "Jesus is watching you."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head, promised himself a vacation after the next big score, then clicked the light on and began searching for more valuables.

Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, "Jesus is watching you." Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice.

Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the parrot.

"Yep," the parrot confessed, and then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you."

The burglar relaxed. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

"The kind of people that would name a Rottweiler Jesus."

Quiz answers

1- the dominant seventh, so called because it is built on the dominant (or 5th degree) of the scale and on the 7th degree of the scale.

2- the NYC Parks Department Barbershop Quartet Contest, run by the dearly loved or hated, mostly hated, Parks Commissioner **Robert Moses**. This was an annual event from 1923 to 1960

3- although choruses existed since the mid-1940's (I have thus far been unable to pin down the exact start-up date of the first one), chorus competitions did not occur until 1952, but then only two districts, **Johnny Appleseed** and **Land O' Lakes**, entered contestants. The following year the chorus competition became a society-wide event.

4 - the Washington, D.C. Chorus in their own hometown
5- SPEBSQSA headquarters moved to Kenosha, WI, in 1957, from its earlier site in Detroit, MI, where it had been since 1943. With the move came a new name... Harmony Hall.

Guest night agenda

By

Bill Hanson

Membership and Chapter Development VP

6:30 -7:00

Prepare rehearsal hall and the parlor

Risers in normal location

Chairs placed forward from normal location

Chairs for ladies to sit behind the chorus

Tables to hold liquid refreshments prior to rehearsal

Chairs in the parlor for ladies to use for their "get acquainted"

Tables in the parlor for refreshments at end of meeting

7:00 -7:30

Receive Guests

Registration w/name tags, etc.

Chapter Brochures handed to each guest

Tag Singing

Liquid refreshments served in rehearsal hall

7:25

Everyone moves to be seated in chairs provided

7:30 -7:40

Meeting opened by the President (Singing)

- Welcome by the President (Speaking)
- Short History of Chapter
- Performance Objectives
- Introduce Chapter VP's and the Director

7:40 -7:45

Short Warm-up and Woodshed

7:45 - 8:00

Sing from Pole Cat Book and/or JPB

8:00 - 8:10

Chorus performs Contest songs from the risers

8:30- 8:40

Introduce a new song (in seats) "*Music Man Medley #2*"

8:30- 8:40

Introduce Guests

Have them come forward and stand in front of chorus

Have them tell us about their singing background

Have them introduce their spouse (if in attendance)

8:40 - 9:00

Guests go into chapel with the director

Ladies go into the parlor

Chorus rehearses Patriotic songs for performance on November 9th.

8:55

Guests return to chorus

9:00 - 9:05

Charades perform for chorus (in seats)

9:05 - 9:15

Charades perform for ladies (in parlor)

9:15-9:25

Sing Show Songs

What A Wonderful World

River Jordan

You Raise Me

9:25

Social Time in Parlor Cookies and Drinks

NOTE: I have prepared the schedule. It is up to others to coordinate and execute it! ♪

Wanna sing? It's good for you

By

Bill Hanson

VP Membership and Chapter Development

Those few words made up the title of recruitment program sponsored by the Society several years ago and though we have used several themes over the years, these words can be a good approach to men you would like to have sitting or standing next to you during our Thursday night Chapter Meetings.

Even though member recruitment is an ongoing activity of our Chapter, we have another *formal* opportunity to introduce the joy of singing to more members of our community. That opportunity is scheduled for 7:00 PM on Thursday night, November 8, 2007. (full schedule located elsewhere in this newsletter). Please ask your friends and acquaintances "WANNA SING? *it's good for you!*" and ask them to join for a fun evening of socializing, singing and refreshments. Just think what you would be missing if someone hadn't invited you to join the great Singing Society!

In order for my committee to formally invite your guests to the November 8, Open House, please send your list of Names, Addresses, Phone Numbers and email addresses to me at whanson1@cox.net as soon as possible. ♪

Manhattan, Kansas
 Axtell, Kansas 66403
 1379 26th Road
 Karen Nanninga



**Chapter meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.
 Quartet/polecat practice begins at 7:00 p.m.**

Calendar of Events:

October 18	Chapter Meeting
October 25	Chapter Meeting
November 1	Chapter Meeting
November 8	Open House
November 12	Board Meeting Ladies Night
November 18	Chapter Meeting
November 22	Thanksgiving

Deadline for submitting articles for the next InCider is November 12

Up Coming Events

Oct. 19-21 CSD Fall Convention, Kansas City MO.

Nov. 10 COTS, Des Moines IA

Nov. 17 COTS, Lincoln NE

**Quartet in Nameplate
 Late Night Edition**

Thanks to the following for contributing articles-Bob Swenson, Loren Alexander, Terry Nanninga, Harvey Kiser, Bill Hanson, and Don Thomson