



PICNIC AREA



Extending hands of welcome to Friday's production of *Barbershop Broadway Style* are George Sigaty, Robert Bonjer, Brian Boudreau and Barry Smorenburg, all Central Valley members of the First Capital Chorus which hosts the harmony at Clearbrook Community Centre. They also form their own quartet, The Country Rogues. Hugh Harris photo

Barbershop is back, in Broadway style

Quartet and chorus harmony returns to a Matsqui-Abbotsford stage for the first time a decade as the Fraser Valley's barbershop chorus stages a show this weekend.

Barbershop Broadway Style in Clearbrook Community Centre (the former MEI Auditorium) at 8 o'clock Friday evening features:

The host First Capitol Chorus - division finalists;

Tacoma's Most Happy Fellows - international champs;

Portland's High Rollers - district champs; and

Many more chorus quartets.

There are 11-12 Abbotsford-area men in the Valley chapter, which is holding its first show here in 10 years, and looking forward to using a brand-new sound system in the auditorium.

The chapter is also looking for more men from Matsqui-Abbotsford.

Theme of Friday's show is Broadway musical hits in Barbershop Style — songs from *The Wizard of Oz*, *Mame*, *Cabaret*, *Oliver* and many more.

The show is also being presented Saturday night at 8:00 in Trinity Western College in Langley.





MAY 6/78 @tanglew



S P E B S Q S A B E R S H O P

BEER DRINK

FRIDAY AUG. 18 6 p.m. - 12 mid.
SATURDAY AUG. 19 11 a.m. - 12 mid.
FRASER HWY LANGLEY







Impromptu combination of barbershoppers at Harmony Hollow brought together Norm Stuart of Aldergrove, Rod Kenworthy of Haney, Richard Smorenburg of Aldergrove and Had Gregory of North Vancouver. *Sept 78*

Barbershoppers enjoy their hobby

By DEBBIE FIEGUTH

Nothing like singin' in the rain. The Labor Day weekend down-pour did not stop some 50 voices from belting out old favorites that took visitors at the United Church Camp on Cultus Lake back to the 1920s. The occasion was the eighth annual "Harmony Hollow," a weekend campout for four chapters of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBQSA). For the past four summers the chapters from Langley, Burnaby, Vancouver and North Vancouver have been meeting at the Lindell Beach location.

The get together was mostly for fun, although one of the featured groups, Sound Policy of Burnaby, will compete in a district convention in Spokane next month.

Sunday afternoon was an amateur hour, when "pickup" quartets, spontaneous foursomes practising specifically for the weekend's activities, entertained families, visitors and fellow barbershoppers. About 200 people were crowded into the recreation hall of the camp, and more than 20 quartets harmonized with renditions of numerous barbershop arrangements.

Barry Smorenburg, public relations officer for the Langley chapter, said the society of barbershop quartets began in 1938 when an Oklahoma man named Cash thought the barbershop harmony from the early century was dying away. "He started a chapter to

preserve it, and it blossomed to 38,000 members in the United States and Canada." The Langley chapter was chartered in 1971. It now has 62 members.

Music ranges from early century originals to recent compositions such as "Jeremiah was a Bullfrog." Mr. Smorenburg explained that each piece is arranged by the society in the barbershop style, and permission has to be given by the songwriter for a piece to be used. New music is coming to the chapters all the time, he said.

"We love to harmonize," Mr. Smorenburg said, pointing out that Sunday afternoon's entertainment was "not close to what we try to perfect." The Langley chapter meets once a week for singing and business. Members come from throughout the Fraser Valley.

Members range from young boys to men in their 70s. Mr. Smorenburg's 15-year-old son, Rich, has been singing in quartets for the last four years, although he will not become a chapter member until he is 16.

The Langley representative's daughter joined the women's version of barbershoppers, "Sweet Adeline," when she was 16.

For barbershoppers, families and visitors, the Lindell Beach camp did become a "Harmony Hollow" on the weekend, as voices drifted through the rain and trees, oblivious of the wet weather, happy to be harmonizing.



**More
Barbershop
Country Style**

presented by

**LANGLEY'S
FIRST CAPITOL CHORUS**

**Saturday, May 31
8:00 p.m.**

**TRINITY WESTERN COLLEGE, LANGLEY
SPECIAL GUESTS:**

**Common-Taters Idaho
Four Cheers Oregon**

ADMISSIONS

Reserved \$6.00
General \$5.00
Children \$3.00

TICKET INFORMATION

**856-6296
859-2714**





Sweet Adelines sing barbershop-style close harmony at Fraser Valley College, Abbotsford at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. A men's chorus of Valley barbershoppers will also entertain in the concert, part of Studio Series.



COOKIN' UP SWEET HARMONY at Langley's Pizza Palace is a specialty of the First Capital Chorus [left], local chapter of the Society for the Preservation of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America [SPEBSQSA]. The group is conducted here by former director Josh Kramer. The chorus features several individual quartets, both competitive and impromptu. The Quarter Sounders [above] has Gordon Keith at bass, baritone Neil Hamilton, lead Barry Smorenburg, and Keith Westerlund at tenor. The Unsung Heroes [above left] is comprised of bass Marty Tucker, baritone Dave Anderson [Neil Hamilton fills in here in his absence], lead Mike Wilcox, and tenor Tom Harris.

Don Sangster photos

Local News, Wednesday March 8, 1978



An historic chapter in barber shop harmony

First Capital chorus

What does Langley have in common with Anchorage, Alaska? What do both Langley and Anchorage have in common with Anacortes, Washington? Give up?

All three have local chapters in Division One of the Evergreen District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing

in America, which, in the interest of larynx conservation is more popularly known as SPEBSQSA. And in case this all sounds like utter nonsense to the uninitiated, perhaps a little clarification is in order. The beginning is an appropriate place to start...

In 1938, a few fellows with an affinity for harmony formed a society to furnish a forum for their forte. At the time, acronyms were gaining wide popularity so the harmonizers, being good-humored folks, decided to spoof the fashion of the day. Thus, SPEBSQSA was born.

Some 32 years later, circa 1970, a local RCMP officer by the name of Ron Long wanted to get in on the act. So he gathered together a group of neighborhood song-lovers and eventually got them to sing on-key in four-part harmony. Now this was no simple task, but being a police officer, he carried plenty of clout.

Thus, the Langley Chapter of Division One of the Evergreen District of SPEBSQSA was born.

NOWADAYS

Today that chapter is somewhere between 55 and 60 voices strong and can never be caught off-key, even though Officer Long is no longer with them. The Langley Chapter, better known as the First Capital Chorus, is so strong, in fact, that Arnold at the local Pizza Palace insists they drop in for a few numbers each and every Thursday night after their weekly practice.

The Langley Chapter has evolved over the last eight years into more of a Fraser Valley congregation, since it incorporates members from Langley, Maple Ridge, Surrey, Delta, White Rock, Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack and Cultus Lake. But because its roots are here and this is a central location, it remains the Langley Chapter.

The First Capital Chorus is a community-minded, non-profit function as well as a charitable organization. Like the other 699 SPEBSQSA chapters

throughout Canada and the U.S., all proceeds from the various annual functions are turned over to the Institute of Logopedics in Kenosha, Wisconsin. The philosophy behind that kindness is epitomized in the society's motto: "We sing that they shall speak."

LOCAL SHOW

Aside from the two major competitions each year, divisional and district, the First Capital Chorus stages an annual local show at Trinity Western College, this year's edition slated for May 6. A special feature this time around is a matinee performance with reduced rates for senior citizens.

The First Capital Chorus travels to Kelowna next week for the Division One competition, March 17 to 19, but it isn't necessary to go that far to hear them. They are generally available and ready to perform for local groups and worthy causes. And of course, they can be found at the Pizza Palace after 10 p.m. every Thursday. Give a listen, hmmm?

The Fraser Valley's "Unsung Heroes" won fifth place in barbershop quartet competition at Spokane, Washington, last month singing among top-rated four-somes from five states and two provinces.

The four members of the First Capital chapter of the SPEBSQSA (Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America) were the first quartet from the Langley-based chapter to compete in the Evergreen District competition.

Tom Harris of Abbotsford, Marty Tucker of Langley, and Dave Anderson and Mike Wilcox of Surrey set a goal for them-

selves in the semi-finals at Spokane by aiming for the top eight quartets which would make it into finals.

The "Heroes" achieved this and in the finals were bested only by "The New Rendition" of Seattle, "The Aliens" of Mt. Hood, Oregon, "The Jackson County Roadshow" of Medford, Oregon, and "The University Way" of Seattle.

Only the top five quartets of the eight finalists are announced at the district competition. The Valley four also were rated third-best over-all for "sound" by the barbershop judges.

The Evergreen district involves barbershoppers in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana as well as from B.C. and Alberta.

The barbershop chorus of Fraser Valley men from Langley chapter competed in chorus competition, placing seventh in sound and 14th over-all. First and second were groups from Portland, Oregon and Calgary, Alberta.

Grant Ward of Langley was appointed an area counsellor for division one, stretching from the B.C. Interior to Bellingham and Anacortes, Washington. His responsibilities are for Langley, Burnaby, Vancouver and North Vancouver chapters.



ABBOTSFORD, SUMAS & MATSQUI NEWS — WED., NOV. 1, 1978

"Unsung Heroes" Dave Anderson, Marty Tucker, Mike Wilcox and Tom Harris were hailed by fellow Fraser Valley barbershop singers when they finished fifth in competition for Evergreen district, which encompasses two provinces and five states.

'Heroes' hit high notes at Spokane competition



Mid Centenaries
Aug 78





Banquet was treated to some old time renditions by the "Unsung Heroes" of Langley.

—Rick McIlwain Photo



INTERNATIONAL HARMONY NITE

Fri., February 10 - 8 p.m.
EL MATADOR ROOM

• Door Prizes • Food Available •

Admission \$1.00 Per Person

CAFE INTERNATIONAL EAST
Sumas, Washington - 988-9661







White Rock May 26, 27, 28/78







Langley's 1st C.A.P.T.A.L. Chorus



Organ
Shaw Chairman
Tom Ruick
David Rutley

Gene Lane





Chorus of admirers enjoyed chorus of barbershop singers at Sevenoaks when First Capital Chorus performed for Friday evening shoppers.



THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF LANGLEY

5549 - 204TH STREET, LANGLEY, B.C., V3A 1Z4

PHONE 530-3131

FROM THE OFFICE OF Mayor Duckworth

PLEASE QUOTE FILE NUMBER

1980-06-04

The President and Members
First Capital Chorus
The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
c/o E. W. Muir,
4547 Southridge Crescent,
Langley, B.C.

Gentlemen:

It is indeed with pleasure that I extend to you
congratulations on your tenth anniversary of Barbershop Quartet
singing in Langley.

I and a great number of citizens of Langley have heard
the Barbershoppers sing and know what a true asset your
organization is to our community. It is with pleasure that I
extend to you on behalf of citizens of Langley City, the very
best wishes for the future and many more years of Quartet
singing in Langley.

Yours Sincerely,

W. G. Duckworth, Jr.
Mayor



Langley's First Capital Chorus

★ presents

BARBERSHOP SALUTES DISNEY



Featuring -
Music & Characters
From your favourite Disney Shows



Special Guests

The Peace Arch Chapter of Sweet Adelines
and
The South Sounders
(Championship Quartet from Seattle, Washington)

June 7, 8, & 9, 1984
8 p.m.

Surrey Arts Centre
13750 - 88th Avenue, Surrey

Tickets \$8.00

Special June 7
Thursday Show \$4.00

Tickets Available

588-4771
576-9758
or Phone 530-8730
530-6462

Dr. Tryon, 20461 Douglas Cres., Langley

Midnight Express Printing, 20620 - 56th Ave., Langley

The Barber Shop Harmony Society is alive and well in Surrey. The Surrey Arts Centre will house "Barber Shop Salutes Disney", Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Gordon Harris, show chairman, says this is the most exciting, fun show the "First Capital Chorus" has ever produced. Included as headliners of the Disney production are Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Minnie Mouse, Mary Poppins and lots of other cartoon characters such as Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The show will also present the men's chorus, the Peace Arch Sweet Adelines and a cavalcade of quartets including Mint Edition, First Choice, Coastal Connection and Canadian Club. Past district champions The South Sounders round off the top notch barber shop talent. For tickets, call Gord Harris, 530-4795.

Take it from me . . . you must not miss this show - see you there!



EVERGREEN DISTRICT
SEATTLE '80



Installation 1980 Exec.





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