

BOMBS AWAY

1974



1974 International Chorus Champions — NORTHERN-AIRES (Rosemere, Quebec), Judy Comeau, Director.

CAPE COD is a place of peaceful beauty, right?

With many lovely historic sights to see, an affluent atmosphere, a charming facility in Dunfey's Hotel, not to mention an experienced and dedicated hostess chapter in THE HARMONETTES, Harmony members looked forward to the 1974 convention with no inkling of the excitement in store for us.

Things proceeded smoothly through the quartette competition. As we awaited results with the usual breathless anticipation, our outgoing Queens, MOLINE TRADITION, raised our duck bumps with their swan song. Suddenly a fireman walked on stage, interrupting the Queens' performance. His terse announcement that we were to leave the auditorium immediately raised duck bumps of a different kind. A bomb scare in old CAPE COD??

The firemen conducting a search for a bomb were even more alarmed by the composure of our members, who filed out in leisurely fashion, laughing and chatting about this unexpected turn of events, without any sign of panic.

No bomb was ever found, but the scare disrupted the order of events, especially for the competing quartettes and the hostesses. After milling about the lobby, going out for a

bite to eat, and otherwise occupying the next tense hours, we learned we would have to wait until morning for the contest results and crowning ceremony. You can be sure competing quartettes did not sleep much that night! Imagine going through the A & R session without any idea where you placed in the contest. The beautiful champagne reception for the new Queens, so lovingly planned by THE HARMONETTES, was regretfully cancelled.

The only person who knew the results that night was Chairman of Judges Barbara-Ann MacIntosh. No amount of arm-twisting could persuade her to share the information with anyone!

As we filed back into the auditorium the next morning, we were amazed that we were able to pick up right where we left off, as the lights went down. The feeling of excitement and anticipation returned as MC Mary Jane Betts coolly said, "We hope you didn't mind our little intermission!" MOLINE TRADITION returned and smoothly finished their program, going on to crown ESPRIT DE CORPS, the third quartette from the VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS to win top honors. It was a somewhat rude awakening, when it was over, to realize there was no time to honor the new Queens properly, since we

had to prepare for the chorus contest immediately.

The NORTHERN-AIRES of Rosemere, Quebec became the second Canadian chapter to win the blue, exactly ten years after the GAY TEMPOS had won.

Noticeable for her absence from this convention was Lois Bruce, past president and longtime parliamentarian. We were shocked and saddened to learn that Lois had sustained serious injuries in an automobile accident from which, thankfully, she fully recovered.



1974-75 Harmony Queens, ESPRIT DE CORPS, Chicago, Illinois, (left to right): Sharon Schneider, tenor; Betty Gunterman, lead; Jeanne O'Connor, bass; Joanne Dubois, bari.