

# Leading singing group has adventurous times

By Carol Carpenter  
staff writer

In sweet harmony, the Pollard family of Livonia, who has more than 60 years of experience in "barbershop" singing, sings a winning chorus.

Dressed in his riverboat gambler's white tails, Jim Pollard, 24, refuses to take credit for leading the 62 members of the Farmington Hills chapter of the Sweet Adelines to their recent victory at the Masonic Temple.

Using a showboat theme, the four-part harmony group won the coveted silver medal with its renditions of "Here Comes the Showboat" and "Why Do I Love You?"

THE SWEET Adelines is comprised of women aged 16 to 70 from throughout the metropolitan area. A silent addition to the musical group is Flame, the Leader Dog who belongs to Laura Pappas of Farmington.

With their young, enthusiastic direc-

tor of 1 1/2 years, they outsang 18 other regional chapters. Now they are slated to compete for the gold medal against 30 regional winners in the 1985 international competition in Minneapolis.

The group's first taste of success came last year when, directed by Jim, they placed second in the regional competitions in London, Ontario.

In spite of his modesty, his family claims that it's Jim's skill which has guided the group and doubled the membership from 30 to more than 70.

"He has excitement, a natural ability to direct," said his mother, Gloria, who has been with the Sweet Adelines for about 22 years.

SECONDING her opinion were his younger brother Craig and his father, Tom, and they ought to know.

After all, they explained, for six months Jim was the assistant director of the Wayne chapter of the Barbershop Quartet Society. All three belonged to this group — Tom for 30 years, Jim for nine years, and Craig for five years — before two women from their church lured Jim away by convincing him to direct the Sweet Adelines.

But they couldn't blame him, they said, for choosing all those females. And since the two groups meet on the same night, Jim is no longer able to raise his voice with the barbershoppers.

"He's easy to sing for," his father said.

"You can tell exactly what he wants," Craig added.

"If you can get 62 women to tear up during a sad part in 'Why Do I Love You?' you've got to be good," his mother said, touching the silver medal that hung from a blue cord around her neck.

Debbie, Jim's wife of almost two years, agreed with her mother-in-law and tugged at the bustle on her confining satin costume.

THE COSTUME was getting too tight now that she was expecting a new Sweet Adeline or barbershopper in a few months, she said.

And for the Pollards, singing in four-part harmony is a family tradition.

Debbie, who graduated from Bentley High School in 1976, knew this when she first sang with Jim, a '76 Bentley graduate, in the school's concert chorus, directed by Jerry Smith. She was warned about it when she went with Jim's family to the competitions. She gave in to it shortly after she married Jim and joined the Sweet Adelines.

Both Craig, a '75 Bentley graduate, and Jim sang at home, with the Roosevelt Elementary School chorus, with the Riley Junior High School Choir, and with the Bentley chorus.

Even their other activities are family affairs. Jim works with his father who owns Technical Tooling in Redford Township.

THE ENTIRE family usually turns out to see Craig roller skate. Recently, he and his dance partner took fifth out of 33 teams in a competition at Virginia Beach.

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BILL BRESLER/Staff photographer

Enjoying their recent victory are young director, Jim Pollard of Livonia (in chair), and two members of the Sweet Adelines, wearing their silver medals — his wife, Debbie, in costume and his mother, Gloria.

Basking in the glory are Craig, his younger brother, and, Tom, his father — both members of a Wayne barbershop group.

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By Sol Luft, D.P.M.

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Metatarsalgia is caused by the compression of a small toe nerve between two displaced metatarsal bones. Inflammation occurs when the head of one displaced metatarsal presses against another and catches the nerve between them. With every step the nerve is rubbed, pressed, and irritated. Consequently, the nerve becomes enlarged with a sheath of scar tissue that forms to protect the nerve. The tissue enlarges into a neuroma that must eventually be removed to get total relief of the pain.

The podiatrist may accomplish relief of Morton's toe using techniques other than neuroma surgery. This is done with injections of a local anesthetic into the foot, followed by corticosteroids, and other medications. A pad may be placed in the shoe to spread the metatarsal heads away from each other. Or, orthotic appliances may be worn by the patient.

Surgery is the most effective procedure, however, and this is readily performed in the podiatry office or in the hospital. Seeking podiatry services will solve your difficulties with metatarsalgia. There is no reason to continue to suffer with toe pain.

Presented in the interest of better foot care by Dr. Sol Luft, 32905 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills, 553-9553

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