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SECTION C



Chorus brings harmony to concert

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**EMERALD COAST'S
WEEKEND GUIDE**

Chorus performance to hail barbershop quartets

By KRIS WHEELER
Daily News Staff Writer

The blending of voices in four-part harmony will be celebrated at 8 p.m. Saturday in the auditorium of Niceville's Okaloosa-Walton Community College.

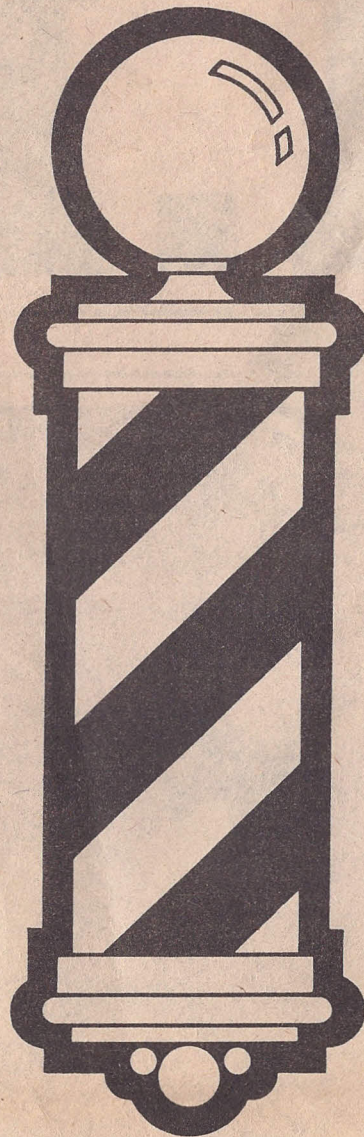
The Emerald Coast Barber-shop Chorus is presenting "Heritage of Harmony" to commemorate more than 100 years of barbershop singing in the United States.

A sixty-voice chorus represented by quartets from Fort Walton Beach, Panama City and Dothan, Ala., will don the traditional garb worn by barbershop quartets around the turn of the century to sing old standbys such as "Sweet Adeline," "Down By The Old Mill Stream," and "In The Good Old Summertime."

"Life was very simple back then," said Darrell James, one of the founders of the Fort Walton Beach chapter. "They were singing about very meaningful kinds of values."

The 10th annual show — sponsored by the Fort Walton Beach Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America — will feature Florida's own Cheerful Noise. The group sang at the 1987 International Quartet Competition in Salt Lake City.

One of the show's highlights will feature the Cheerful Noise teaming with The Sea Notes, The Chord Commanders, and Every Man Quartet to perform songs from the late 19th cen-



tury and Roaring '20s.

James said the show will be a new entertainment experience for those who can't remember the days of barber-

shop quartets and bring back memories for the young at heart.

"I think they'll find the show musically, very interesting," he said. "I just love the sound of four-part harmony. It's the kind of sound that when you hear it — it gives you goose bumps."

Barbershop quartets first died out with the advent of radio, James explained.

"Before radio, babershops were the hub of news and information in the town," James said. "It was a place where men met and socialized and sang for their own enjoyment."

Barbershop singing is one of the few art forms native to the United States, he said.

The show will turn back the hands of time and take its audience to the early years of babershop singing, tracing its rise and fall in popularity and ultimate rebirth in 1938 with the formation of the society, James said.

Today, the society numbers about 38,000 members in more than 800 chapters. The 41-member Fort Walton Beach chapter was formed in 1978. Anyone who can carry a tune is encouraged to join.

"We're not, typically, trained singers," James said. "Just individuals who happen to share a love for the sounds of four-part harmony. A lot of our members don't read music. The only requirement is that

you be able to carry a tune, and if you can do that, you can sing barbershop harmony."

Tickets for the show are \$6 and can be purchased at the Book Nook in Fort Walton Square, business offices of OWCC, many local barbershops and by calling 651-0540.

Proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Institute

of Logopedics in Wichita, Kan., a training and rehabilitation center for hearing- and speech-impaired children. To date, the national barbershop society has donated more than \$8 million to the institute.

For information on membership, call Bob Fitzgerald at 897-4589.



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