

BIOGRAPHY OF SEV SEVERANCE

This is a Barbershop Biography of Radford H. "Sev" Severance.

Sev made his major career contribution by serving as a U.S. Naval Officer for 23 years. While a young Navy man stationed at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Sev caught wind of a movement which was underway to create a Barbershop Chapter in Manhattan New York. This was Sev's first exposure to Barbershopping and he ended up signing with the newly issued charter in December 1945.

In 1952, Sev became the first editor of the District publication, "Mid'l Antics," a name he coined for this new newsletter. Also in 1952, Sev sang LEAD in the Rythomats and placed Third in the District Contest. (Most of you will remember Sev as a bass.)

In 1956, Sev and John Neimer were commissioned to compile and publish a manual of all Convention Regulations which was finalized by Hal Schultz in 1957. Sev also became one of our most thorough Judging Panel Secretaries (and later as Panel Chairman) and in October 1957, Sev proposed and got approval from the C & J Committee and District leadership to publish contest scores at the competition venue, so competitors would have their scores when they went to evaluation sessions with judges. (Previously, the scores were received by contestants about 30 days after the Convention.)

Sev was elected Mid-Atlantic District Secretary and served in that capacity from 1957 to 1959. In 1959 he developed and ran the first District Chorus Directors Training School. He also served many years on International COTS faculty, teaching Chapter Secretaries.

In addition to his membership in Manhattan in the late 40's, Sev held memberships in the Washington DC Chapter, the Livingston NJ Chapter, West Towns, IL, Indianapolis, IN, Lansing MI, and Research Triangle, NC. and more. He was Chorus Director or Assistant Chorus Director in many of these chapters, and in the middle-90's he served as Chapter President of Research Triangle.

When he was a member of Livingston in the mid-60's he served as BOD-Member-At-Large, including 1964 when I served the chapter as President. Sev was a marvelous member of that Board because of his experience, intelligence and "no-nonsense" manner. He also sang actively with the Dapper Dan Chorus and was on stage when they won the 1967 International Champion.