

MEET MADAME PRESIDENT

To say that Jacquie Jensen needs no introduction to Harmony, Inc. members may be a cliché, but one based on truth. We know her as a Harmony Queen, an award-winning Director, an Area Representative and an International Board Member. Many of us have sat in classes she has conducted or sung in quartettes she has coached. Those who have worked with her at the chapter level know her in many other capacities: as a Section Leader, Assistant Director, MC par excellence, Committee Chairman, Chapter Officer and Performer-of-the-Year.

The average member might take pride in achieving so much during a lifetime. It's taken Jacquie only fifteen years, although barbershop entered her life the same year she became a director for another worthy organization, the Summer Leadership Camp Program for the Illinois Association of Junior High Student Councils. She directed this program from 1973 through 1981 before being elected Executive Director, a position she still holds. When Jacquie first visited the VILLAGE VOCAL CHORDS, she had just returned from her first summer at camp and knew she had found her niche. She didn't really think she had time to take on another time-consuming hobby, intrigued as she was with the sound of barbershop.

Graduated cum laude from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa and armed with degrees in English, Math and Education, Jacquie accepted a teaching position in Portage, Wisconsin. Three years later she enrolled at Purdue University, from which she received her Master's Degree in Counseling in 1968, with another minor in Math. Since then she has both taught and counseled at O'Neill Junior High School in Downers Grove, Illinois. By 1970 she was "up to her ears" in a well-loved but demanding career which, coupled with her summer camp activities, kept her busy year round.

Although Jacquie had always loved music and had taken lessons on various instruments as a child, her busy academic schedule had pushed music into the background until that 1970 visit to the VVCs. Upon hearing the first ringing chord, she was instantly smitten. As the rehearsal progressed and she fell under the spell of the music, it was apparent to the director that the lady was hooked! Unlike many new members, Jacquie was as eager to participate in administrative affairs as in musical endeavors. Her strong organizational background and ebullient personality made her a welcome addition to every chapter activity. During her many terms as a Board Member, she served as Chapter President four times. Still she was just as likely to be found painting the rehearsal hall as she was to be transposing a piece of music for the director.

When Jacquie became aware that there was another alluring aspect of our hobby, she didn't hesitate to join THE VILLAGERS when they formed in 1974. Like many quartettes, all the members were busy people, so the quartette was organized "just for fun." You know — like "Let's compete just for fun." Winning a medal changed all that. Thus began the pursuit of the crowns which culminated in 1977 when THE VILLAGERS were proclaimed Harmony Queens. With occasional periods of inactivity due to family and career changes, THE VILLAGERS have survived to become Harmony's longest-standing, still-active championship quartette. When a good quartette was needed to produce learning tapes for Harmony, Inc., THE VILLAGERS were right there to volunteer, a project in which they are deeply involved.

Through her Area extension work, Jacquie had become acquainted with THE NOTATIONS Chapter of Kankakee. She did not hesitate to respond to this chapter's need for a director in 1979, despite the 100-mile round trip weekly drive. This led quickly to another success, when THE NOTATIONS won the Tait Trophy and the MacIntosh Award that year, repeating the latter in 1980, 1981, 1982 and 1984, under Jacquie's direction. It also led to the formation of a new quartette, MIDWESTERN UNION. This delightful foursome became known for its comedic talents, as well as its medalist-caliber singing. Those treated to the sight of Jacquie winning a medal with MIDWESTERN UNION and later, on the same stage, appearing as a past Harmony Queen, must have been scratching their heads!

One can hardly serve as Area Representative without being drawn into the arena of International affairs, so it was a short step for Jacquie, who responds to every challenge. Before her election as President in 1984, she served as chairman of Internal Affairs, Harmony Training and Education, Quartette Promotion, Q.U.I.T.S. and the Nominating Committee. She was also instrumental in establishing the first DAAT School, the first Quartette Coaching Day, and in organizing the first Area Presidents' Meeting (now Area Councils).

Is there a secret formula that enables one person to achieve so much? Certainly good health and physical stamina are ingredients, but a lot of healthy people don't accomplish much. Time is a factor, but this lady doesn't have it — she outwits it! A love for barbershop is necessary, but a lot of people who love it don't do anything but sing.

In Jacquie's case, we think the secret ingredient is her positive attitude, combined with all the above; and she believes — really believes — that Harmony, Inc. has a special place in the universe. She also believes that working together in harmony, we can achieve the great things for which Harmony, Inc. is destined. She gives full credit to those who paved her way and is forever seeking and inspiring others to travel with her and ensure Harmony's future. No one could ask more of any President.



Jacquie Jensen, 1984-1985 International President.

