

## • Hobby Department

**B**ERNARD ACKERMAN (1953) became interested in singing in a barbershop quartet about three years ago and is now an ardent supporter of the local chapter, which was recently granted a charter in the international organization, otherwise known as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. His group is called the Brunswick Barbershop Chorus and has a membership of 35 men. Currently he is serving as president.



Barbershop quartet singing has come a long way from the old days of haphazard harmonizing, according to Dr. Ackerman. It is now a well-organized, precise blending of voices. The international organization conducts contests between local groups and between regional groups comprising several states. There are contests at the national and international level as well. The international final competition, to be held in Philadelphia this year, will probably be attended by 20,000 to 30,000 persons, he predicts.

The best-known quartet, Dr. Ackerman believes, is the group called Buffalo Bills, who achieved fame by starring in "The Music Man." In the beginning it was just one of the quartets in the big organization.

Dr. Ackerman is director of laboratories, industrial organic chemicals, Advance Solvents and Chemical Division, Carlisle Chemical Works Inc., New Brunswick, N.J. He is third from the left in the picture.

### Offers Translations

An European Translation Center, a cooperative effort between the United States and a number of European countries, has been established at the Technical University, Delft, Netherlands. Sponsored by the Office of the Technical Services of the United States Department of Commerce, the service will provide liaison among European countries handling Russian and East European translations, serve as a center for bibliographic information on the availability of translations, and collect noncommercial translations from countries prepared to contribute them.

### Begins Patent Service

John W. McCutcheon Inc., 475 Fifth avenue, New York 17, N.Y., offers a comprehensive type of patent service, both domestic and foreign, to firms. The service includes reports of all United States and foreign patents as they are issued, complete copies of the original patents with verbatim translations of foreign patents, inexpensive duplication service, and facsimile copies of all significant, expiring patents.

### Will Speak in June

The Gordon Research Conference on Lipide Metabolism will be held June 12-16 at the Kimball Union Academy, Meriden, N.H. Among the speakers will be members of the American Oil Chemists' Society: Jules Hirsch, chairman, E.C. Horning, C.Y. Hopkins, and E.H. Ahrens Jr.

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