

Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2000, Issue 8

"Drawn By Harmony, Bound By Friendship, Striving For Excellence."



Describe July in one word? Howsabout...

WOW!



**12th
Street Rag**
...en route to
their TOP 20
finish at
International!

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UP, UP AND AWAY!

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Ron McIntire shares a truly remarkable convention moment!

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FINAL VOLUNTEER RESULTS

How many served?

Harmonotes

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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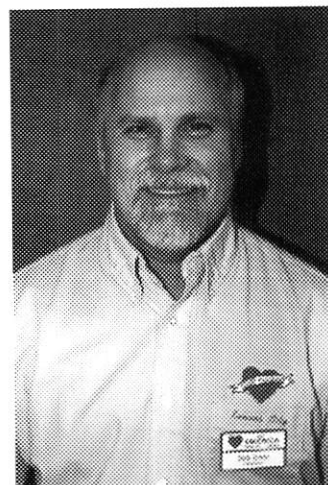
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FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

By Dick Irwin, HOA President

How many times can you say "Thank you"? I honestly believe I nearly exhausted my lifetime supply of those this past week! There was not a place I went during the week that I didn't receive some compliment about how well run this convention was! Praises came from everywhere...competitors, visitors and even from some of the Society staff. As your President I could not be more proud of the way my chapter members and their family and friends all chipped in with smiles to make Music Man 2000 the greatest convention ever!



It's not difficult to know where to begin giving out the at-a-boys for our convention effort. We begin right at the top, **Lud Einess**. His direction and constant supervision over the past two years guided the steering committee to be almost totally prepared.

Mike Mathieu was Lud's right-hand man. Mike was almost single-handedly responsible for getting the barbecue rolling. The other jobs Mike did are simply too numerous to list. He was tireless even with all of the stress and strain due to **Jan's** illness.

Busing was probably my biggest concern after experiencing the horrors of the last three internationals. I should have known **Bob Burdick** would make all of the right decisions about how to deal with transporting nearly 10,000 people all over the city.

And the volunteers,...**Ron McIntire**, how can we thank you enough for the job you did in organizing over 300 people who helped us look good all week!?

There were *so many* heroic efforts by *so many* heroic people this week it's impossible to name everyone. So let me simply say, on behalf of the Kansas City Chapter/Heart of America Chorus, **Thank You!**

This is the beginning my friends! We are building a chapter and chorus that the rest of the society will envy in the future! Nearly every chapter goes through peaks and lulls in it's life. We are climbing to the next peak! Uphill is never easy but together we can make the climb less of a chore. I am looking forward to the view from the top of the next peak! I've seen glimpses of the view and it will be spectacular! How many of you are ready to make the climb with the rest of the chapter? Dedicate yourselves now to becoming more than we are! Those of you who are already coming to meetings, way to go! Those of you who are standing on the side of the road waiting to see what comes next, you'd better get on board now! There may not be a better chance later! ~

DICK IRWIN
President



WOW!

by Lud Einess

Was this the greatest convention ever? I cannot tell you how many people made a point of coming up to me to tell me what a great convention we were

hosting, and I know that it happened to all of you too.

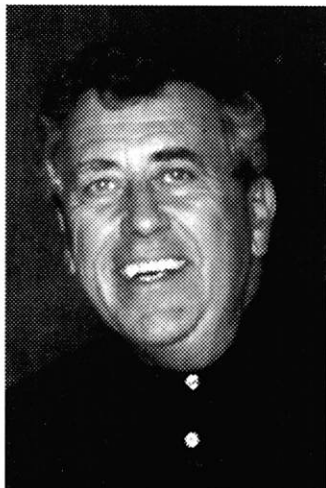
What can I say...I have told you many times what a great committee we had and how proud I was to be your chairman and how grateful I am to have you on the committee. The convention was almost flawless, because of you.

My eternal thanks to **Mike Mathieu** for his energy, enthusiasm and tireless work, to **Gil Lefholz** for attending all the meetings and keeping me on the right track, and all his work selling *Music Man* pins, to **Bob Howard** for being a great secretary and **Phil Youngs**, our super treasurer.

To the coordinators for the work they did getting chairman for their committees and overseeing them, to the chairman for all the countless hours of work and to all the volunteers for making this convention the best.

Everyone had a positive attitude and a smile on their face and our attitude was noticed and appreciated by the attendees.

Thanks to all of you for attending the many meetings we had and putting up with me and my cajoling. ~



You are the GREATEST!

Lud Einess,
General Chairman
Music Man 2000

FROM THE FRONT

by Gordon Lankenau

What a great week of teamwork that made International so successful. Congrats to Lud and his committee leaders for a super job. Working

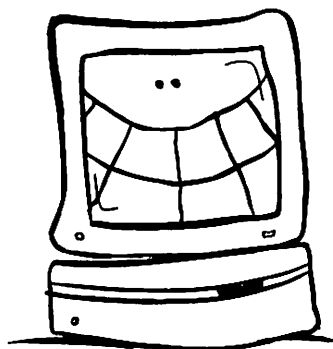
with **Vince** and **Val** in the Auditorium House, **Al** on the World Jamboree and **Don Young** on transportation from Kemper was definitely a learning experience for me but very rewarding.

The chorus of KC quartet men that sang at the "Ice Cream Sociable" did a great job representing the chorus. Thank you, **Monty**, for taking the reins on that one and running rehearsals since I didn't know for sure I'd get there to participate.

I am so proud to be a part of such a great chapter of barbershoppers and good friends who work so well together to do the best they can.

As to singing the best each of us can, during rehearsals and performances, the same attention to detail and desire to improve must be present at all times. Your leadership understands the importance of setting a fine example of appropriate riser discipline. Please let them know if you have questions about what is expected.

We have gained twenty new members this year. Let's all continue to bring those guests and keep them interested. Together, we can accomplish great things; actively, musically, and with the help of everyone who, through the years, have had a hand in making HOA the great chapter and chorus it is. Let's go!!! ~



CONVENTION E-MAIL

If you're on the internet, you've probably noticed a large amount of email testifying to the overall great time that Convention-goers had while in Kansas City. However, in case you have not had the opportunity to read some of these testimonials, we've reprinted a few of them here for your reading enjoyment!

Most of you know Dad's (Hal) recent condition and could recognize the good the convention was doing for him. It is so good that many quartets and individuals wrote in his book. We will also try to get some e-mail from the folks who didn't get a chance to write a message and I can just paste them into the book. Many folks were taking pictures and we'll be able to add those also. He should be able to savor the convention for months to come.

Would say he had a really good time? He has no real concept of all of the effort you all put into making sure he always has a great time but you know and I know and I thank you all for him.

So dear, dear friends - you are the best!

Much love, Mary Jo Pardee

Kudos to all who anything at all to do with what must go down in history as one of our very best conventions. What a job you all did! It was wonderful to not be able to tell the chiefs from the indians because all of you were working together both early and late in the day at any job that needed to be done and any particular time! So, from a guy who got to see you at work from the inside...all the way from Anaheim to Kansas City, WHAT A JOB! And that goes for your wives too! It's gonna be tough for any chapter to follow your act! — Gary Drown

*It was truly the most efficiently managed convention we have attended. We were proud to be able to identify with the "Redshirts" of HOA and to accept the many expressions of thanks on their behalf. We especially wish to thank the committee chairmen with whom we worked, **Vince Perry, Ron McIntire, Bob** (registration) and **Gordon Lankenau** for the courtesy and respect they showed toward the volunteers and their efficiency of organization. It was a sincere pleasure to work with them.*

The shuttle busses were the most efficient that we have experienced at conventions to the great credit of Bob and his committee along with Mike and Gordon.

*The Ladies Hospitality and Ladies Breakfast were smashing successes thanks to **Betty's** organization and leadership. — Helen & Gale Demaree*

This was the first time that my wife and I had been to a men's competition. I would like to add that so many people have come up to us and explained that the volunteers at this convention have been so helpful and nice. Most indicated that this was one of the best experiences they have had. Guess that it may be the cool weather that we had during the convention.

— **Larry McNall**, MCI WorldCom

Hats off to the KC committee. It seemed to me that the "red shirts" were everywhere. The 2000 convention will go down as one of the best organized ever. Please pass along my very best congratulations to all those involved in the convention.

— **Ken Buckner**, Chairman
Society Events Committee

Dick, on behalf of the GNU I want to thank you for all your help. The convention was nothing but smooth for me and I hope the rest of the GNUs. The contest was the best ever for me, and this is my third medal. We worked toward a goal and reached it. You and all of the volunteers helped us do this too.

Thanks also to Heart of America for the use of the risers on Saturday morning. This helped us immensely not having to worry about getting our own risers there and all that entails. We were able to get in our "zone" with minimal distraction all the way around.

— **John Kleiber**, Lead & President
Hilltop, MN Chapter, SPEBSQSA
The Great Northern Union Chorus

HOA did a fabulous job with the convention. Everyone went out of the way to be friendly and helpful. What a great Hobby!

— **Bobbie Bostick** (ed note: SAI Queen of Harmony, Crackerjills, 1957—mother of some chapter member)

*At our wrap-up meeting Tuesday, July 18, nearly all the staff reported hearing many, many favorable comments from attendees about the wonderful organization and smooth running convention. Many attendees called it the best convention ever. **Lud Einess** and several other committee members told me the intent was to make everyone feel welcome. You exceeded your own hopes and brought the whole idea of being a convention host to a new level. The bar has definitely been raised. Congratulations, one and all.*

*In gratitude and harmony,
Reed Sampson, SPEBSQSA*



THE 20 WAS THE GOAL

By John Fortino, Baritone of the 12th Street Rag

For those of you who have known **Mark** and I for sometime, you know that one of our goals, since the time we joined the society in 1984, was to make it into the Top 20 at Internationals. And now that it has happened, I can tell you that many blessings from the man upstairs as well as hard work and determination by not just ourselves but also by our coaches made it possible.

When I think back on the week and think about the things that stand out, most of these things didn't happen during the actual singing time. For instance, one of the biggest highlights was getting met backstage by all the HOA guys who took care of us and treated us like we were royalty, leading us right up to the stage. Then after the sets, greeting us with hugs and at-a-boys when we came off the stage. Gentlemen, you have no idea what a comfort zone you put us in to be able to perform, but trust me it helped immensely.

Other things were the reaction of the crowd when we finished the tag on "A Tree in the Meadow", being mobbed by our friends and coaches when we came out into the audience after the Wednesday night set, the cheers when we stepped out on stage Thursday night and when we finished "12th Street Rag", not to mention the standing ovation from the Central States District at the pep rally. You can't help but love the people in this district.

Probably the biggest highlight was on Wednesday night when they were calling the singing order and they got to 18th and everyone knew that Platinum had not yet been called and then being called to sing 19th. Frankly, I think my heart skipped a beat that night.

On a different note, for those of you who are wondering where our new CD is, it will be sent off to print in a couple of weeks. The project got delayed because a drunk driver hit an electric box and blew up the hard drive in the studio while it was in the middle of a back up destroying some of the work we had done. Trust me, it really happened. Even I couldn't make up such a hair brained story like that.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our coaches especially **Jim Bagby** for their hard work. And to all of you who made this the best convention ever, the 12th Street would like to send you our sincere thanks and appreciation. ~

***"I can't recall
a time in my
Barbershop life
that felt as
good as this
past week."***

— Mark Fortino

You could say... "well, sure, you've never been in a quartet that broke the top 20 before this past week" and that would be true, but much of what made this past week so special was each of you.

I'm sorry that many of you had to work and couldn't attend the CSD Pep Rally, but as I told the district at the Pep Rally, you have no idea how incredible it is to be singing on the International Stage, and have the guys from your chorus walking side by side with you all the way to edge of the stage, and waiting to greet you with hugs and congratulations as you leave the stage. **WOW!!!**

After you have practiced, and practiced, and picked, and picked, and worked and worked,...at the time you hit the stage, 95% of what determines your success on the International Stage is how comfortable you feel when you're up there. One of the quotes from the *Harmonet* reporter on our first night's set was "they make it seem so effortless". We attribute that comment and the many many others that said things like "we have never seen you so relaxed on stage" to all of you in HOA who made us feel like we were at home.

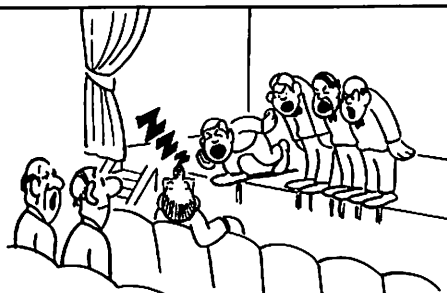
I know it's a lot to ask, but could HOA host the next 10 conventions so at least we'd have a shot at the Gold!? Just kidding, but it does make a difference. If anything, we will never forget the comfort level you all established for us to step on that stage. We will take that with us as valuable experience for future International performances, and will never forget this week, a week where we saw our dreams come true, and our friends walk right beside us all the way. ~

Thank You All Soooo Much,

Mark (Fortino)
12th Street Rag

JUST FOUR FUN

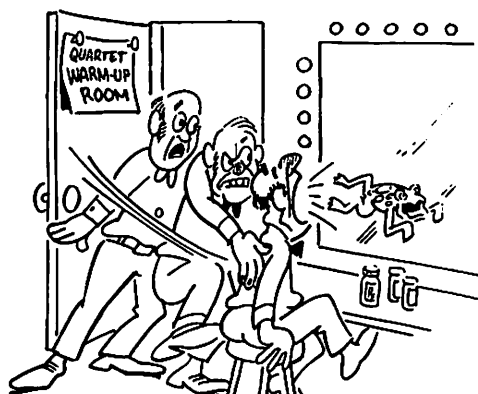
Feel free to submit humorous anecdotes and/or thought-provoking quotes to the Editor!



"It really bothers them if you don't pay attention."



"Are you sure you're well enough to go to quartet practice?"



"By George, he really **DID** have a frog in his throat!"

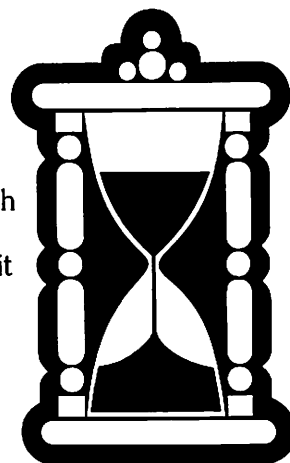
A LOOK AT PAST IN THE *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Boy, did I goof in "A Look at the Past" in the special commemorative edition of *Harmonotes* in July. When I visited with **Dennis Taylor** about his quartet's photograph in the *Kansas City Star* during the 1952 International convention, I thought he said it was the 1962 event. My thanks to **Frank Leone** who was the first to let me know that everything I included in the "Thirty-Eight Years Ago - July 1962" section...should have gone into the "Forty-Eight Years Ago - July 1952" section.

Dennis sent me a nice note by way of **Dale Neuman** that set me straight on the matter. But to add to the confusion, both Frank and Dennis explained that the personnel of Dennis' quartet (the *KC Moaners*, not the *Crosstowners*) were, besides Dennis, **Frank Leone**, **Bob Gall**, and **Mike Michel**, not **Dan Henry**. Golly, what a mess!

My apologies to all who may have been offended, but especially to **Dennis Taylor**, **Frank Leone**, **Dan Henry Bowser**, **Dick Irwin**, who asked that I prepare the article in the beginning, and *Harmonotes* Editor **Todd Anderson**.



Ten Years Ago—August, 1990

HOA Logopedics Chairman **Dave Hokanson** told how a group of Central States District choruses and quartets had agreed to donate funds to the *Institute of Logopedics* (now known as *Heartspring*) for the exclusive treatment of **Cassandra Ann Jones**, daughter of **Greg Jones**, a member of the Fremont, Nebraska chapter, who was in residence at the Institute at Wichita. Cassandra (they called her "Cassie") had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. Dave explained that \$4,700 had been pledged at that point by the chapters in Fremont, Omaha, Lincoln and Papillion in Nebraska and Algona in Iowa, plus the *Platte Valley Line* and *Stateline Celebration* quartets. At their July meeting, the HOA Board of Directors voted to designate \$500 of the funds accumulated for the *Institute of Logopedics* for the exclusive use for the treatment of Cassie Jones.

Twenty Years Ago—July, 1980

Chapter President **David Larson** had to resign because of job conflicts and was replaced by **Keith Schweer**.

Jim Davis described in detail an HOA performance for the *American Cancer Society* that was marred to a degree by a lack of adequate dressing room facilities and space for the chorus on stage. Although the audience appeared to enjoy the show, and the singers had a lot of fun, there appears to have been a distraction during the encore that involved a director—or the lack thereof. You'll have to ask Jim what it was all about. (continued on page 7)

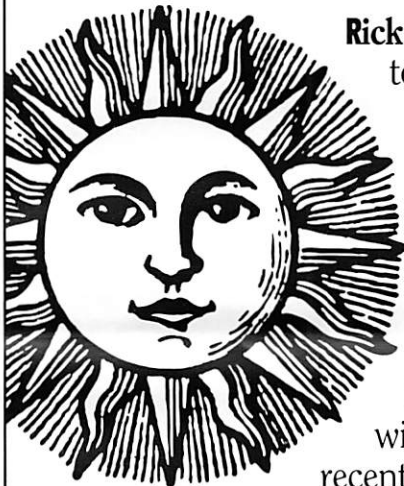
(continued from page 6)

Thirty Years Ago—August, 1962

Editor **Joe Costigan** reported on a trip by 38 members of the chorus to Joplin to put on a show for the new Joplin chapter. The program included the *Digits*, **Percy Franks** and his piano, **Dan Henry** as the MC, and the *Travelaires*—a quartet from western Kansas. The event was coordinated by **Gil Lefholz**. In a letter of appreciation, Joplin member **Loyd Reynolds** announced that the Joplin license application had been forwarded to Kenosha with a list of 38 paid members. ☺

SUNSHINE NOTES

by Max Boise



Rick Dunaway is reported to be home recovering from some oral surgery. We hope Rick is able to come back soon!

Also, **J.B. Witham** is the proud owner of a brand new knee.

J.B. was presented with his new knee in a recent "ceremony" at the

hospital. Also participating in the gala event were the his surgeon (the master of ceremonies) and a wonderful group of masked individuals whom J.B. was unable to positively identify. Get back on your feet soon, J.B. We are looking forward to the return of your wonderful bass voice.

As if being a chairperson for the international convention recently weren't enough, **Jan Mathieu** gets our vote for the "iron person" (I was going to say "iron man" but that didn't seem to fit here) award. Jan has been fighting blood clots in and near her lungs for several months now. She still found the strength, somehow, to be seen helping and participating in some way every day during convention week. Thank you, Jan, for all of your support. Now, please get well soon! ☺

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(SOME OF) JIM PORTER'S OBSERVATIONS

SPBSQSA International Convention • July 2000 - Kansas City, MO

As you know, I am a newcomer to the Heart of America Chorus, having come to Kansas City at the start of the year to take a new job.

Vacation days are still scarce, so I was looking to serve at the Convention but not during the weekdays. Despite this, I took Friday off as several attractive events were on tap, including the AIC show.

You also probably know I came from the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. It was their Christmas show that got me into Heart of America chorus, as *12th Street Rag* sang on that show, and I came to **Mark Fortino**, who told me where and when the chapter met. At the same time, I paid for registrations to the Convention for my wife and I at the Ambassadors practice, so my tickets were in the Ambassadors rooting section.

My service to the Convention was confined to Saturday, as I was one of the riser crew. At the quartet finals session, I also helped by monitoring traffic flow at one of the entrances to the arena. The greatest blessing of the day was the chance to meet the competitors up close and personal, see the excitement in their eyes as they came down off that stage and feel the emotion. It brought back memories of my own experience on that very same stage eleven years ago with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. Then, it was a very fast 10 minutes. This time, I felt it over and over again over the course of the entire afternoon.

The week started the previous Saturday, when I joined with about 30 others to sing a welcome to the top Society officers as they arrived at the Marriott for the Convention. It was interesting to see them singing along with us as we did "Everything Old is New Again", and they loved our "Kansas City" song, I'm sure. I was also impressed at how nicely downtown was decked out for the Convention (those banners looked sharp!), but I suppose we could have painted over that Big 12 logo in the street! That trip also allowed me to locate all the important venues for the upcoming week.

Monday, I also served by chaperoning a bus to the baseball game. As my wife is a White Sox fan from Chicago, she readily agreed to go along when I was asked to do this, so we got the tickets and came into downtown for the bus ride. **Mike Mathieu** had the list prepared and had me to distribute \$7 refunds to about a dozen people who bought rides for \$12. When the decision was made to go to yellow school buses, the cost was just \$5 each, and the list was one busload. Of course, lots of folks decided at the last minute to make the trip, so we wound up with a 2nd bus—and chaos! Mike and **Dick Young** helped to sort

it out and somehow we got off. I was briefly surprised when **Greg Lyne** approached me and I could only say "Why, hello Dr. Lyne—what have I done to deserve this?" (I got to know him when he coached the Ambassadors in the early 90s) He introduced me to his father and his son, who went with us to the game. The game, as you recall, did not lack for excitement (it wound up 14-10 Sox, after a grand slam by **Fabregas** staked the home team to a 9-3 lead in the 4th). However, when it was 10 PM and the game was only in the 5th, we knew it would be a long evening. Thankfully, both teams found a pitcher and the last 4 innings went quickly. I was feeling sort of guilty making all of them sit until the end of the game before we could get on the bus and return downtown. I enjoyed the fellowship, especially with a couple of folks from England who came to see what this American game was all about.

Tuesday, we both stayed away from the Convention and had a relaxing 4th of July.

Wednesday was a work day, but my wife used her ticket and watched the first of the quarterfinal sessions of the quartet contest. She then came back to pick me up, we grabbed a quick bite to eat, then we both went to Kemper for the evening session. While we were sitting in the area with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, few of them were there. We did, however, meet several folks we knew from Milwaukee, where I first got into barber-shop in 1984. Those young fellows from then sure look older now, but so do I, alas. Hey, if it is possible to overdose on great barbershop singing, Wednesday is the day for it. After 10 hours and 90 songs, my wife was ready for a good night's rest!

I tried to pick the semifinalists from the group that sung in the evening, and didn't do badly. We were both happy to see *12th Street Rag* make the cut, which is probably a first for the Central States District in the past few years.

Thursday was much like Wednesday, a work day, but this time my wife stayed home, then picked me up at work. We then had a meal out and went to Kemper for the semifinals. This time, most of the Ambassadors were in town, and we were able to renew acquaintances with many of them. I determined that their practice was to be the next morning and had a time and place. That set my plans for the next day. As for the quartets, we really wanted *Freestyle and Three Voices* to sing again, and didn't think *Excalibur* nor *Metropolitan* belonged. It was clear that *Platinum* had a lock on it, but we really hoped that *Bank Street* would at least medal. There ought to be SOME reward for perseverance!

Ah, **Friday**. Several things to do. First, the Gospel Sing at Immaculate Conception Cathedral. (*continued on page 9*)

(continued from page 8) I had it in my mind this ran 10AM - Noon, so I showed up at 9 AM, intending to see the Ambassadors strut their stuff for an hour, then to go over there. I found a parking spot outside the YMCA and walked to the cathedral, to see many barbershoppers walking in. I looked at my Convention program and saw that the Gospel sing was at 9 AM, not 10 AM! So, I just joined the crowd and walked in, then squeezed into a space between an older fellow from Florida and another fellow to my left I didn't identify right away. In a while, others also squeezed in, and the fellow from my left drew close to me. (We packed that old cathedral. It was standing room only!) I then noted it was **Dick Trepkow**, baritone of *Happiness Emporium*!

That was my first favorite barber-shop quartet from my Milwaukee days in the mid-80s, and I used that as an ice-breaker to introduce myself. He was a very pleasant and likeable fellow, and told me he was the 2nd baritone, and that he had since moved to Indiana, so was no longer with the quartet. *Happiness Emporium* contributed to the program, with a young fellow as baritone, so I asked Dick "Is he even old enough to remember 1975?" "Just barely." was the response. The other 3 fellows are original, of course, and they now look more distinguished (i.e. older), but still with those same mellow voices I swooned over 15 years ago. I was also delighted to hear *Rural Route Four* contribute to the program, but I wondered why **Jim Bagby** couldn't find a shirt to match his fellow singers! (Oh well, it was fairly close.) I came out with the 4 arrangements we all sung together and a glowing set of new memories.

From there, it was to the Convention Center where the Ambassadors were getting their act together. I recall singing "My Honey's Loving Arms" while in Milwaukee and loved it then, but that certainly was tame compared to what the Ambassadors did with it! I came in and plopped down right in front of them, next to **Sandi Wright**, where I could look at all my old buddies in the eye and try to figure out who was there and who wasn't. At the end of their time, the wives got together and sang for their guys, a parody of "My Honey's Loving Arms" to convey their love and support to their men. This was a new thing I recall from 11 years ago. Then it was pretty sloppy. This time it was quite a decent effort.

What was neat about that time was the support I was given by so many of them for my decision to get back into barbershop and sing with the Heart of America Chorus. That is the great thing about our hobby. We may be rivals, but we respect each other, and on a personal level, we are friends. I would see that more and more the next day during and after the chorus contest.

After that, it was a quick run back home to get my wife, then return downtown for the afternoon AIC show. That episode left both of us thinking that the *Midland Theater*

has much to be desired, both for ambience and for good management. We were there 15 minutes ahead of the show, to find a queue 2 blocks long outside the theater, simply because they didn't open the doors soon enough. By the time we finally got inside, it was past the scheduled start of the show, and the show was being delayed. That would cost us in the end, as we had to bail out after FRED's act in order to make our evening engagement. We got our tickets at the last minute, so we were in the very back of the balcony. That need not be a serious problem, as we could see OK from up there, but the lack of a decent sound system made it difficult to hear the dialogue or to appreciate the fine harmony we were hearing. The Midland could be a fine old theater, but they really do need to spend some money on it to fix it up. Despite all this, we enjoyed the show, and reveled in the sounds from *Gas House Gang*, *Happiness Emporium* and all the other fine recent quartets. Hearing *Boston Common* sing that tag just one more time had to bring goose bumps to a lot of people.

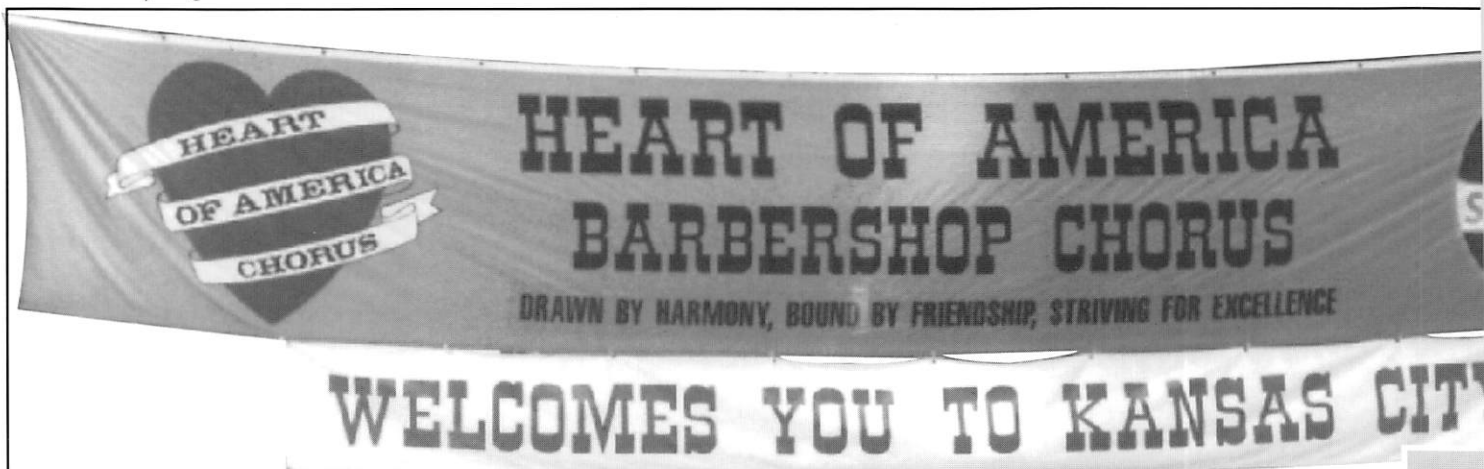
Thursday was my wife's 50th birthday, and I promised her I would

do something for a night out away from the Convention if she would let it be Friday night. That destination was the New Theater, near 91st and Metcalf, which is a dinner followed by theater place. The show? What else? The *Music Man*, of course! We shared a table in the back with a young couple from Shawnee who were neither barbershoppers nor knowledgeable about the show (it was new to them). We had to be careful not to divulge too much in our conversations over dinner! I looked at the program to see what quartet would be doing the Board of Education part, but could find nothing!

(continued on page 12)

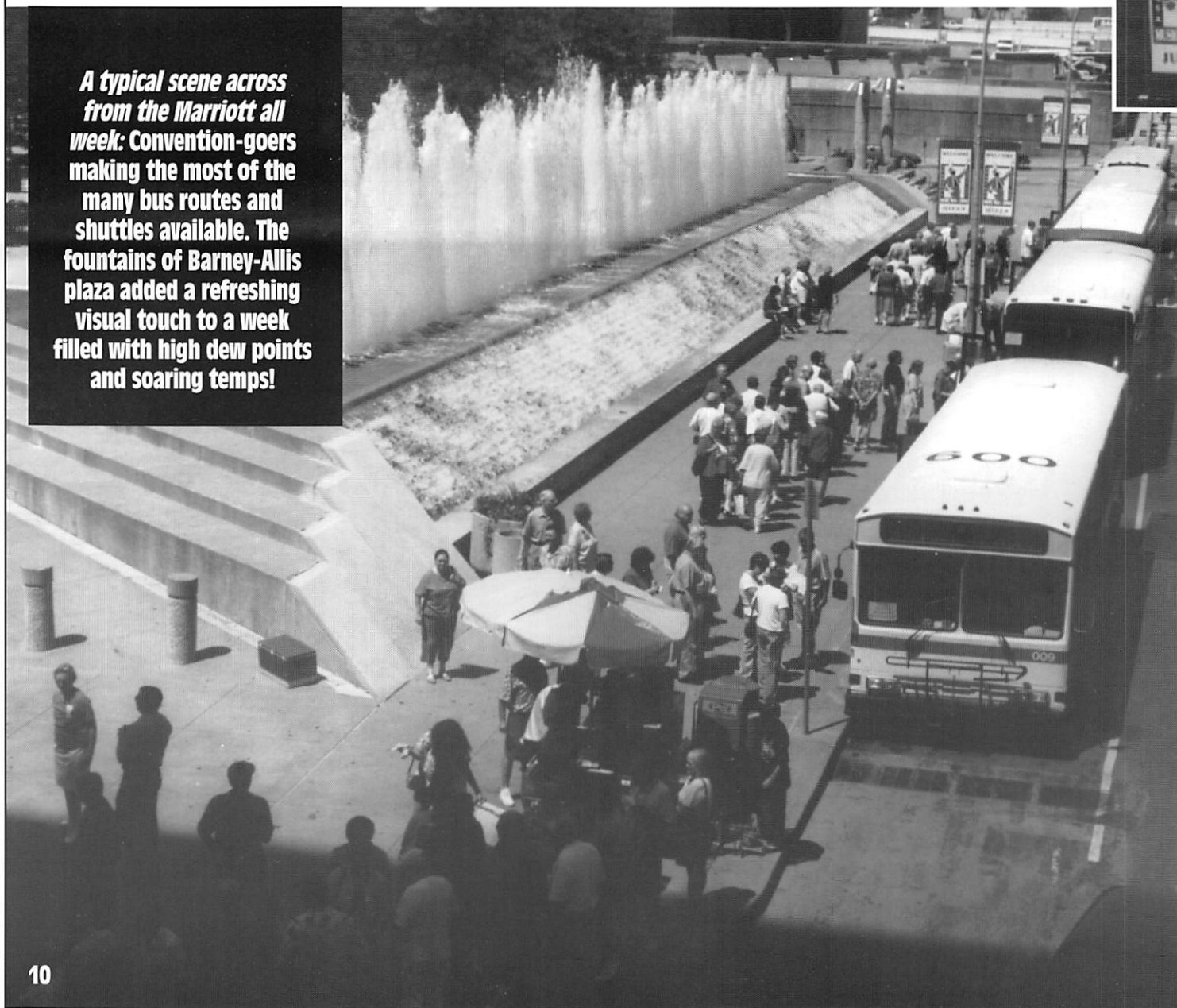
"Some that shook my hand had a quite cool hand, remarkable in all that heat and humidity. These were the tight ones, as in 'My God, I'm actually singing in front of 10,000 people for the championship of the world!' Others offered me a strikingly hot hand. These were the ones whose adrenaline was going 90 MPH in the thrill of the competition!"





This superb banner which hung in front of the Marriott (above), along with dozens of colorful MUSIC MAN banners lining the street around Barney-Allis Plaza (right), were crafted by HOA's own Randy Carney, who works for *All-Nations Flag Company*. These emblems of harmony and goodwill greeted barbershoppers from all corners of the world as they arrived in Kansas City for the 2000 Convention!

A typical scene across from the Marriott all week: Convention-goers making the most of the many bus routes and shuttles available. The fountains of Barney-Allis plaza added a refreshing visual touch to a week filled with high dew points and soaring temps!





A SMALL TASTE OF WHAT WAS A **HUGE WEEK!**

(Clockwise from top left)

1: Kansas City Mayor Kay Barnes gets a "quick dip in barbershop"—first with a must-visit to the Founders plaque, located in the Marriott Muehlebach, then...

2: to learn more about the international scope of the convention from Chairman **Lud Einess** and Kenosha's **John Schneider**.

3: HOA Prez **Dick Irwin**, **Chuck Ames**, **Don Sutton** and **Mike Hillenbur g**—tomorrow's gold medallists?

4: One of the *many* top-notch information crews who provided a continual, healthy dose of Kansas City hospitality!

5: Four of the Japanese contingent—crooning polecats with style at the barbecue dinner!

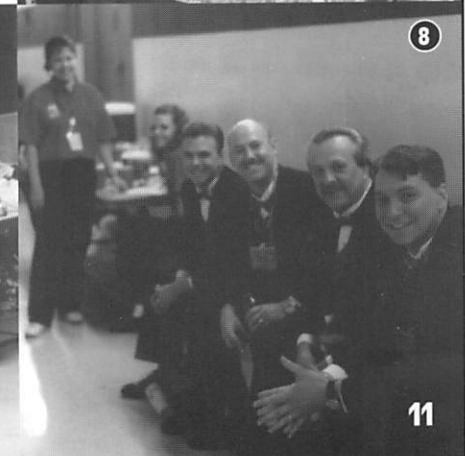
6: "Daffy" the Clown (aka **Lee Fisher** of Overland Park) visited the Barbertot room at Kemper arena to help keep the kiddos entertained,
7: More red shirts—serving snacks and smiles, and goin' that extra mile to make everyone feel welcome!

8: **Linda Schumacher** waits backstage with one of the many competing quartets,

9: Backstage technology—despite the hardware, you still need good people at the helm!

10: Convention MC **Dan Henry** greets the thousands in attendance for the contest,

11: **Dan Henry** and **Mike Mathieu**, find a rare moment to catch their breath!



JIM PORTER'S OBSERVATIONS

(continued from page 9)

All in all, the show was true to the story, and the setting perfect. Even from the back row, you felt right up there with the performers, and could hear every word clearly. We will go back there again and again.

Finally, the longest day. My day began earlier than you might think, as I meet for prayer and breakfast with a group of Gideons in Olathe every Saturday. This day was no different, so at 7 AM I am in an eatery in Olathe with my red convention shirt on, telling the other Gideons about the barbershop convention and participating in the prayer time.

Shortly thereafter, my wife joins me and we go together to Kemper Arena. I am there in time to connect with the riser crew and learn what it is all about, and go with the bunch to the right side to handle the riser changes. It wasn't the best place to watch the competition. The sound is all mushed up back there, and you can't see anything except from the back side of the video screens on either side (from my perspective, the images were all reversed). The choruses that did a lot of stomping around, like the *Big Chicken*, really woke you up, as it was like thunder from our position! There was nothing to do while the choruses were singing, so we took turns with the one chair that was there.

Why we were there at all was the few times when the riser configuration was changed. It was 11 risers for the Masters, 7 for the two European choruses that followed them, then back to 11 for all the rest of the choruses up to the first intermission, then back to 7 for the middle group, back to 9 for the last group, finally 11 when the Masters returned for the final set of the day. At each of these times, we were ushered on stage while the chorus was on the risers accepting applause from the audience. There was thus no opportunity to glad-hand the members of these choruses (so no chance to shake hands with a member of the Masters or the *Vocal Majority*). The first time was the most fun, because we really did not know what we were doing up there. We found ourselves fiddling with the shell while the Masters were still on stage! When they did a reprise of their tag, it was almost a really embarrassing moment! But we learned fast, and by the time the day was over, we were getting pretty good with shifting the risers around.

There were several interesting observations as the day wore on. First was the warmth of the handshakes. *The New Tradition* didn't shake hands with anybody, as they had a truckload of props to haul off stage. Louisville was also prop-laden, and the Victrola setup was left near us prior to their entrance. We helped them to set that up.

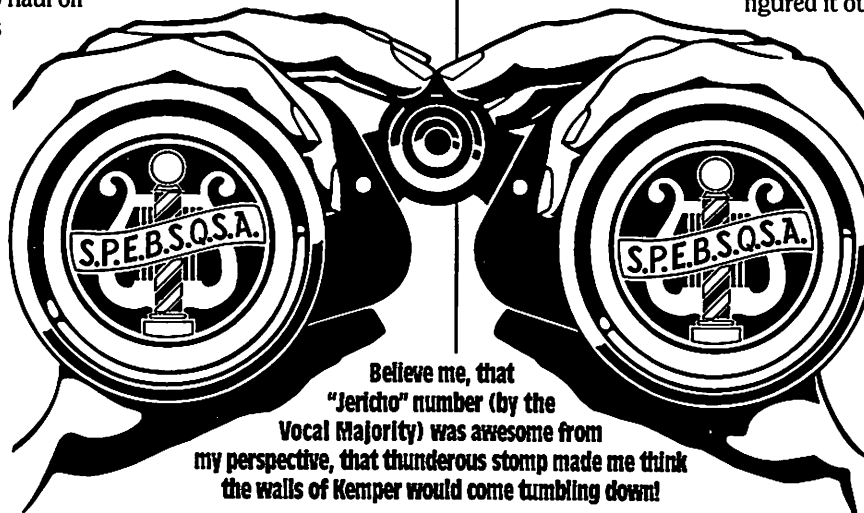
Most of the rest of them were happy to glad-hand us, and many had nice things to say to us about how the Convention was being run. Not a complainer in the bunch, so I reckon there was a good bit of truth in that assessment. Some that shook my hand had a quite cool hand, remarkable in all that heat and humidity. These were the tight ones, as in "My God, I'm actually singing in front of 10,000 people for the championship of the world!" Others offered me a strikingly hot hand. These were the ones whose adrenaline was going 90 MPH in the thrill of the competition! A few needed more than a handshake. One heavy-set fellow from the *Granite Statesmen* left it all on stage to such an extent that he really needed to sit down. We gave him our only chair and he was there for the rest of the competition. Finally I asked him if he was wanting to return to his buddies. He was content to remain, as he planned to participate in the father-son-grandson chorus. He did that, then went on his way after thanking us.

I really enjoyed the Swedes. Most of the fellows could speak and understand English, so we were able to interact with them, and it was clear they were having the time of their lives.

Once the Masters were on stage for the closing, we were free, and I walked out into the arena to be with the Ambassadors for the announcement of the winners. It wasn't the happiest of occasions, to be sure, and I knew as soon as Toronto and the Hilltop chorus were mentioned that there was no room left in the medals group for the Ambassadors. We were not surprised at **Greg Lyne's** chorus being announced as 3rd, since we have had previous experience with Greg Lyne and know that the man is a proven winner wherever he goes. As the disappointed Ambassadors dispersed, the length of the day began to close in on me. All of the day's excitement and anticipation was just that suddenly removed, and it was now just an endurance contest to see the way through the evening to the end.

Dick Korek asked me to help break down the risers in the Chorditorium, so it was on to downtown for that. By the time my wife and I got there, the job was well under way, but by no means complete, as it proved to be a non-trivial exercise to figure out how to pack the risers into the crates designed for shipping them. It took a while, but we finally figured it out.

About then, I realized that there was no time whatever to take a dinner break, it was time to get back to Kemper Arena. (continued on page 13)



Believe me, that "Jericho" number (by the Vocal Majority) was awesome from my perspective, that thunderous stomp made me think the walls of Kemper would come tumbling down!

OBSERVATIONS (continued from page 12) My wife and I bought a brat and chips from a street vendor, she drove back while I woofed it down, and I returned backstage to assist with the risers for the *Vocal Majority's* appearance to kick off the evening's festivities.

Once they were finished (believe me, that "Jericho" number was awesome from my perspective, that thunderous stomp made me think the walls of Kemper would come tumbling down!), we prepared the stage for the quartet competition. Our work was then done until the end of the evening.

I was asked to serve that evening in the Auditorium House, so I walked alone along the lower corridor from the stage to the back of the arena. One man was there ahead of me, a middle-aged fellow from the Vocal Majority looking like anything besides a gold medal winner. He was walking slowly, his uniform draped loosely about him, looking like he was about ready to collapse. I came up to him and said "Sure is a long day, isn't it?" He agreed, and we had a pleasant chat as we walked back together. Yes, he just won the medal we all covet, but this man and I had a lot in common at that point—we were both dead tired!

I then found my way upstairs to the back entrance and starting asking around to find where I was needed. Before long, I was outside the entrance at Sect. 230 directly back from the stage manning the velvet ropes and telling folks to keep it quiet. It was from this vantage point I took in the quartet finals. Here, I could hear fine, but had to rely on the TV videos to see anything. While we were supposed to be quiet, we could and did converse quietly with folks in the hallways.

It's fair to note at this juncture that I was wearing that red convention shirt to all of the events of the week. It was apparent Wednesday evening that this marked me as some sort of an expert at where things were, which I was not! People would ask such things as where the barbertots room was and I had no idea! By Saturday evening, it was clear I needed to find out the answers to some of these questions, so I started asking them myself to others out there with me. That helped a lot, and I observed with my wife as we drove away from Kemper at the end of the day "Now that we have this place figured out—how to get in here and out of here and where things are—we may not have to come back here again for a while!"

I then went inside to participate in the gang singing, then back to the Ambassadors area to hear the results of the quartet competition. Not many of them were there at that point. The disappointment of the day combined with the dearth of Central States talent in the competition had taken its toll. My wife wasn't there either, I just assumed she had found some Milwaukee friends and sat with them. Anyway, we sang "Keep the Whole World Singing", I bade farewell to the remaining Ambassadors, then had to fight upstream through the exiting multitudes to get backstage to break down the risers.

Once back there, I was surrounded by so much quartet gold that I could only remark "I don't think I've been this close to this much talent in my entire life!" (All ten quartets that appeared in the closing ceremonies were around.)

We were given two hours to break down the stage and get everything packed into the shipping crates. Ev Nau from Kenosha was supervising, and teaching us on the fly. Our previous experience with the risers in the Chorditorium proved useful. We got the job done in one hour. By 11 PM, the stage was bare, the arena was empty, and an overwhelming feeling of how temporary the excitement of the day was sank in. My wife, now relieved that the wallet she left in the car was left unharmed (which is why she was absent earlier), came and hugged me and we both walked slowly out, completely alone in the hot, muggy night air. The International Convention, Kansas City 2000, was emphatically and undeniably over. ~



HOA WILL BE IN DES MOINES

by Dick Irwin

Just because we aren't participating in the Central States District chorus contest this October does not mean we *aren't* planning to go to Des Moines to be a part of the CSD fall convention.

We want to show our support for all of our competing quartets and for the rest of the district. So, we are planning to take as many members as we can get together and trek to Des Moines for the weekend of **October 13, 14 and 15.**

There will be a sign-up sheet at each Tuesday meeting. Further details are being finalized at this time. They may include payment of your registration by the chapter and if we get enough interest a partially subsidized bus to travel there and back (a small fee of around \$25 per rider may be needed to help defray the overall bus expense). We'll keep everyone posted as we get the details ironed out.

Please come be a part of this fun weekend. We will have a chance to participate in all of the good parts of the convention and cheer our friends on as well. Plan on wearing your red Music Man 2000 shirt! ~

WORLD HARMONY *JAMS!*

by Al Higgins, Kansas City Liaison

WOW! What a show it was—performers from all over the world in concert at the Music Hall. There were fourteen acts from nine different barbershop organizations participating.

We had the *Whale City Chorus* from the Netherlands (complete with their plastic blow-up wooden shoes), English Men's Quartet Champion *Sounds Familiar*, *Jubilee Transfer* (from Garden City, MO and we claim them as KC's own), *The Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines* (a medalist chorus that was sensational), from Sweden came the 1999 SNOBS Quartet Champions, *The Rolling Tones* and the *Vocal Vikings Chorus* (complete with Nordic costumes), the *Shannon Express* (English Chorus Champions making their first US appearance), *Southern Harmony* (the 1999 New Zealand Men's Quartet Champions), the *Capital Connection* (National Chorus Champions of Lady Barbershoppers on En-



gland), *Images* (Harmony Inc. International Quartet Champions), *Rumors* (the 1999 Sweet Adeline "Queens" of Harmony), *The Toyko Barbers* (making their US debut and were the hit of the show. Their rendition of Bad Boys Singing Barbershop, choreographed by our old friend **Gary Steinkamp**, was a sight to behold), and lastly the cornerstones of the show, the reigning

SPEBSQSA champions *FRED* (what can you say and with a substitute tenor as well) and *The Masters of Harmony* (their **Sinatra** set was in a class by itself).

The show, which was sold out, lasted three hours and five minutes and had the audience on their feet several times cheering the performances (and deservedly so I might add). This was the eleventh World Harmony Jamboree and many who have attended all of them said this was the best one ever.

The money raised from this show is used to support and promote barbershop singing throughout the world through its eleven affiliated organizations. From the Anaheim show, each organization received a \$3,000 grant and from the Kansas City show it should be more.

Kudos go to the greatest staff ever. Those who make our show the best each year were on hand to show the world harmony people how it should be done. With **Bill Brown** (the Music Hall guru), **John Warrior** (the best stage manager), **Chuck Ames** (where would we be without this guy backstage), and **Gordon Lankenau** (our house manager), and some Harmony Explosion people and other volunteers holding down the fort, the show was fabulous. Without you it would not have happened.

Barbershop is alive and well throughout the world and Kansas City just played a BIG part in it's continued growth. This was just another part of the GREAT Kansas City Convention 2000. *How sweet it was!* ~

HOW SWEET IT IS

by Betty Einess

After so many months of planning and anticipation, Music Man 2000 was finally here. Red shirts are now the dress of the day and midwestern hospitality the prime focus.

Mary Jo and **Kim Miller** did a wonderful job with the hospitality room, planning special events, staffing, selling convention pins and barber poles and getting their daily article in by 4:00 PM for the *River City Rag*. Also making sure the room looked its best at all times.

Our room was ambience at its best and the location off the old lobby was perfect.

Sheli Irwin, super raffle and door prize chair, was "Johnny on the Spot", selling raffle tickets, collecting money, drawing hourly door prizes and listing winners on the announcement sheets.

A big "Thank You" to our volunteers from HOA, Central States District, Sweet Adelines and our own *Heartbeats* and of course the people who donated cookies.

The Ladies Breakfast was also something very special, thanks to **Jan Mathieu** and her committee. The period costumes worn by all the hostesses added that special touch, something that has not been done before.

Donna Lefholz did a super job as emcee and **Donna Maddox** at the piano, playing tunes from the *Music Man*. Sixty-two door prizes and twenty-six center pieces were taken home by many lucky ladies. Beautiful ball point pens with *Music Man 2000 Kansas City* were given to each attendee as a memento.

My thanks to all who stepped forward to help make this convention such a great success. ~

Betty Einess

Chair, Ladies Hospitality
Music Man 2000

AND THE BEAT GOES ON...

by Dessie Gathright, President



Wondering how we would ever get through putting on a convention for 10,000 barbershoppers, has occupied my mind ever since I first heard the news that Kansas City would be the host this year! It was mind-boggling to even contemplate such a thing. However, seasoned veterans assured me we could do it—and they were 100% correct. IT WAS AWESOME! Heartbeats, wives, daughters, sweethearts, significant others appeared from the woodwork and pitched in with smiles and unbelievable efforts! The most fun of all was the Ladies Breakfast and the “wearing of the Pick-a-little Ladies costumes!” **Donna Lefholz** was an elegant mistress of ceremonies!

Jan Mathieu looked lovely in spite of her battle with illness and pulled off a fantastic event!

The ladies' hospitality room was a beautiful haven of rest, refreshments, and events and articles for sale and raffle. It was the neatest place to be because all the attendees had wonderful comments to impart on their joy of being in Kansas City and the good times they were having. The people from Nashville kept telling me they needed to “pick our brains” and how could they ever do as well as we were doing!

“Sing With the Champs” was a lot of hard work, but well worth the efforts. The crowd loved it and I even enjoyed helping make the signs for it at 1:30 a.m. and running on very little sleep! I also got to help with the AIC show all day—what a super thrill that was!

I was soooooo impressed with all of the participants from the chorus and just everyone who participated in pulling off an outstanding event! Yes, I would even go through it again!!!! H.O.A. and *Heartbeats* you deserve a million thanks, applause, hats off, pats on the back, etc. etc. etc. I wish I could name everyone of you who deserve this and more, but you know who you are. Smile and feel warm fuzzies! You are the GREATEST!

Heartbeats, we are going to celebrate on **Tuesday, September 19**, with a picnic and an evening of camaraderie. We will tell our “war stories” and dine and laugh together. I will send out the next newsletter about a week ahead of that date to tell you where we will gather. I'm guessing at this point the site will probably be Minor Park since it is close to the church!

Just bring yourselves, your smiles, and your love to share. I will provide food, service, drinks, etc. The only business we will do is to plan our November party and talk about a slate of officers for 2001.

Enjoy your summer and your triumph of a job well done!

Positively Yours,

Dessie Gathright

Photos from top to bottom: The *Heartbeats* were dressed as “Pick-a-Little” ladies and served as hostesses for the July 6 Ladies breakfast. Approximately 250 guests attended,...**Lud and Betty Einess**, **Al Higgins** and **Kenosha's Reed Sampson** discussed things over morning coffee in the Ladies Hospitality Room,...Breakfast Hostesses **Bev Weidler**, **Julie Gathright Estrada** and **Dessie Gathright** in full plumage,...Mistress of Ceremonies **Donna Lefholz** and Chairperson **Jan Mathieu**, enjoying a moment of levity.





A MOVING EXPERIENCE

by Ron McIntire

This was one of the greatest weeks this chapter has had for a long time and everyone, no doubt, has a story to tell. For me, there was one event that I'll not soon forget.

On Thursday morning, two hours before the participating choruses would gather at the Music Hall for the World Harmony Jamboree, a member of the Japanese chorus, performing in the Jamboree, stepped into the Staffing Office and said in his distinctive Japanese accent, "We would like to perform for you." Though they had just sung minutes before in the room next door, and we had listened from the hallway, we were surprised and excited when they offered to sing for us.

Fifteen smiling Japanese men, filed through the doorway into our room, lined up quietly and sang two numbers. Their version of "Mary Lou" was fun to watch and I was surprised at how their accent didn't get in the way of their music.

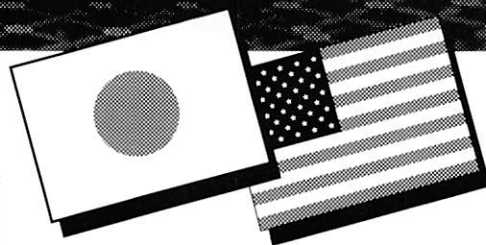
But, it wasn't until they were halfway through their second number—a song arranged for them in the

barbershop style and sung in Japanese, and one of the men in the front row stepped

forward to sing the English translation of their song—that I understood the real meaning of the words. His voice was beautifully clear and he sang in flawless English "... we would always be friends." As I watched and listened, I was overcome by the spirit of friendship that filled the room in those few minutes.

Who could have imagined fifty-nine years ago—during and after the attack on Pearl Harbor—that we would truly be "friends," and come together in such a fitting and tender way. If there was a dry eye or a heart not filled with emotion in that room that day, I don't know where it was.

This simple act was but one more sign to me that our hobby is truly a universal language. ☺



FINAL VOLUNTEER RESULTS

by Ron McIntire

All in all, I'd say we had a very successful convention. You'll note the statistics on the volunteers shown below.

It didn't strike me until the first day of the convention that most of my work had been done and whatever decisions I had made up to that point, had to stand. When I completed my tally of volunteers on Sunday before the convention started, there was something like 315. I thought "Oh man, If this thing flies, it'll be a miracle."

It's no secret that by the end of the third week in June I didn't have enough people to man the different committees comfortably. The large groups of volunteers had stopped coming in and only one or two would call now and then. My only alternative was to work many of the Auditorium House people four or five contests plus assigning them transportation duty before and after the contests. But the week began very quietly.

Tuesday, I thought I'd better take a few minutes to see what was going on upstairs. It was so quiet in our office that I worried something was wrong. As I stepped off the escalator and headed toward the registration booths, I ran headlong into a solid wall of humanity. So, I thought, this is where all the people are. Then I began to worry that as soon as everyone finished their registration, they would bottleneck somewhere else and I would get a hundred requests for volunteers I didn't have.

Some of those who attended the Anaheim convention began to tell me "Boy you're really gonna be busy Wednesday, just you wait." I teetered on the brink of panic.

But Wednesday, came and went, then Thursday and then Friday. I kept waiting and waiting but nothing of any real consequence happened. It was so quiet in fact that there was even time for a tag or two amongst some of the volunteers.

There were only two major requests for extra people: One from **Chuck Ames** who said only eight of the fourteen volunteers for the World Harmony Jamboree showed up and **Mike Mathieu** who put in an urgent request for all able bodied and walking wounded to work transportation at the Kemper.

My greatest excitement on Thursday and Friday morning was waiting to hear Mike Mathieu say "We emptied the Kemper in...45 minutes."

The convention is history now, and in a way I'm sorry its over. To the people who helped pass out shirts and keep the office running while I fiddled with the computer: my wife, **Brenda**, **Bob Howard**, **Joan Korek**, **George Park** and others, I say "Thank you for doing more than your share of the work in the Staffing Office."

Now, like a college student at the end of finals week, I'm still in motion. It's hard for me to keep from getting into my car and racing to the Muehlebach each morning.

What a memory. And what a tribute to the people who actually did the work of making the convention hummmm. *Good Work!* ~



HERE'S THE BREAKDOWN:

Total Volunteers

347

(139 Ladies / 208 Men)

- 164** Barbershoppers representing various chapters (not including wives)
- 109** Kansas City, MO
- 14** Overland Park, KS
- 10 each** Beatrice, NE; Topeka, KS
- 3** Des Moines, IA
- 2 each** Leavenworth, KS; Lincoln, NE; Greater Ozarks, AR; and Wichita, KS
- 1 each** Omaha, NE; Cedar Rapids, IA; Columbia, MO; Emporia, KS; Hastings, NE; Mason City, IA; Olathe, KS; Springfield, MO; Waterloo, IA; Punta Gorda, FL
- 55** Sweet Adelines representing various chapters (not including husbands)
- 49** Kansas City Chorus
- 3** City of Fountains
- 3** North Kansas City Sweet Adelines

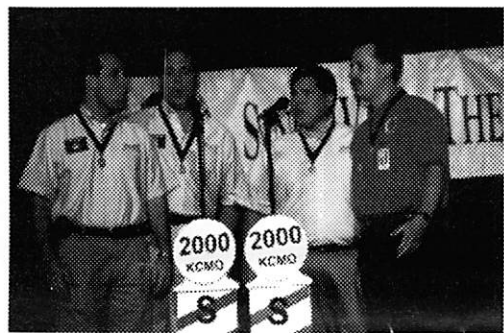


*At Top: Bob Howard, Ron McIntire, Don Young and Dick Sutton, all at work making sure that the service was flowing smoothly.
Bottom Right: Jon Gathright, Val Putzier, an unknown gentlemen from Nashville, Phil Youngs and David Miller enjoy a tag. Hey, no wonder it sounds so good...there's a fifth note! Ron McIntire, hard at work in the background, enjoys the sound!*

SINGIN' WITH THE CHAMPS!



Wyn Cady croons with the Ritz!



Tom Elefson joins Nightlife!

Thank You Very Much

...to the Kansas City Chapter, Central States District, and SPEBSQSA for all the wonderful business given to the J. Wilbur Company for promotional items for the KC2000 convention!! The red staff shirts, lapel pins, prize golfballs, committee head desk mementos, badge holders, ladies' breakfast/judging panel pens, and "I Played" ribbons were all produced through our company, and we SINCERELY appreciate you placing some food on our tables!!

Steve & Elaine Wilbur, Owners
Grant Hunget, Lowly Salesperson & K.C. Chapter Member

DEPUTIES, LET'S RIDE!

by Grant Hunget

On July 11, Membership Sheriff **Grant** swore in approximately 65 attendees as DEPUTIES to rustle up as many INACTIVE members as possible (watch out those of you who haven't been to meetings as of late, as you may get a phone call or 2!). No one's gonna beg anyone to come to a meeting, because quite frankly, *LIFE HAPPENS!* You know where we are, and what we do. We simply are making a total POSSE effort to keep in better touch with the entire TOWN to let you know we care about you, and we miss you. And IF per chance you CAN make it to just 1 or 2 meetings a month, that'd be great! IF not, we understand!

Here are just a few upcoming major events that you need to plan for:

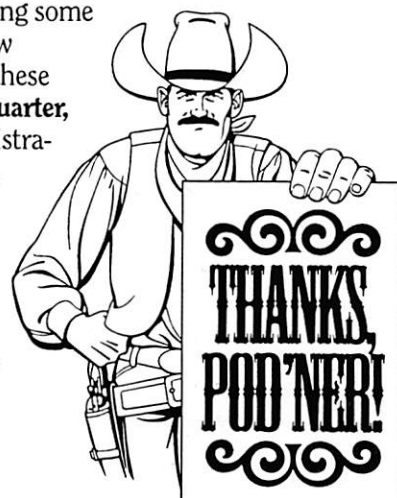
1) 2000 District Convention....Even though we're not competing the chapter will travel to Des Moines October 13-15. AS USUAL, EACH MEMBER'S REGISTRATION WILL BE PAID BY THE CHAPTER! Pending is a possible chartered bus, but if that does not develop, then it's only a 3 hour drive from K.C. We want to support our district convention, and make a good showing at District '01 (see #3).

2) Fall Retreat....Yes, we will have one on October 27-29 with "PLATINUM" baritone, **Tony DeRosa**...site is t.b.a., but wherever it's held, it'll be great, so don't miss it! We will concentrate on fundamentals, and improving our overall singing...you think Tony knows a thing or 2 about that? *How 'bout a 32 second hanger Tony?* We will sing a VARIETY of songs vs. the normal contest-prep 2-song drill...EVERY MEMBER IS WELCOME & ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.

3) 2001 District Convention....Gents, don't miss the chance to get back in the hunt for a district title, IN TOPEKA!! RIGHT IN YOUR BACK YARD!! October '01 may be 15 months away, but you KNOW how quickly the months go by. We will have contest music available by August! We will have over 1-year to prep this music, and be raring to go by next October. WE NEED YOU!! That means all members. How would it feel to be part of a 100+ man chorus 15 months from now? Well, we now have 177 "on the books", so that should be easy to reach. So come on out to some meetings guys. Heck, you spend \$111 per year to be a member of this great hobby—come see what you're missing!!

"One-A-Day" Membership Incentive Drive: If you all want to have a chance at earning some great rewards, bring potential new singers to meetings. Look what these guys have won by doing so: **1st quarter, Ken Neujahr** - 2 paid District registrations for Topeka '01; **2nd quarter, Dick Korek** - 2 paid INTL registrations for Nashville '01; **3rd quarter prize = 1 paid Harmony College for '01.**

Bring singers, win great stuff!
It's up to YOU. Let's GROW!! ~





WELL-DESERVED "ATTABOYS"

by Todd Anderson

What a super convention! It was amazing to see all the months of organization come together into such a gigantic act of service. There's no need for me to ramble on about the details. You've already *just* read *plenty* of great articles that communicated far better than I would anyway. Let's just say that if *you served*, even for a day, during the 2000 Convention, you deserve a huge pat on the back for representing HOA so well. I heard lots of praise—from Floridians to Californians, from the Swedish contingency to the Japanese representatives—each was tickled to be in Kansas City and were enjoying the abundant help we provided!

Now let me switch gears for a second. *Did you just enjoy reading this issue?* I'll bet you did. I'll also bet you don't know *why* you did! The reason this issue was so fun to peruse was because HOA members contributed lots of material! Some may say, "But, Todd, YOU designed it!" Well, true. But piano players like me can't do a thing without the sheet music! (Probably a *weak* analogy.) Just consider this...

The abundant, quality **photography** in this issue all came from **Matt Bostick, Carol & Charles Ramirez, Dick Korek,**

Ron McIntire and Sandy Rule. Thanks, gang, for investing the time and energy to provide us all with these great candid shots. *Click away, for us, any time!* We'll buy the film! (Oops. Guess I should get board approval before offering such perks, huh?)

Then, the **articles**...all have authors who chose to take the time to pen their reflections and/or experiences. Just *think* how bland these pages would be if these folks had shrugged their shoulders and thought that someone else would do the job. Many thanks to all of you for giving us your unique perspective!

Now, if you had nothing to submit for this particular issue, don't sweat it. However, let me encourage you to consider doing so in future *Harmonotes*, OK? I'm not talking about writing something in *each* issue, or running around flashing pictures like a cub reporter. But how about contributing something for, say, *one* issue per *year*? See,...I *know* how awesome this newsletter could be, each month, if we had more folks (just like you) providing yours truly with the ingredients—an article, a joke, a picture, you name it! *This issue is proof of that!*

Switching gears *again* (editor's can get away with that). I just gotta mention *two things* before closing out this issue:

- Howsabout *12th Street Rag* breaking into the Top 20!? I'm so happy for 'em, I can't stand it! I spoke with **Mark Fortino** and **Micah Jeppesen** afterwards—you'd think you were talking to guys who just caught a homerun ball from **Mark McGwire**! The excitement and elation in their faces was a joy to witness. HOA couldn't have four better ambassadors.

- **Rick Dunaway's** *River City Rag* was super! Gathering the up-to-the-minute info, designing the piece, getting it printed, etc. *had* to be tough. Each issue contained so much timely convention info that visitors were snatchin' 'em up as soon as they hit the pavement. Without this publication, visitors would have been lost. *Great job, Rick!*

I've heard it said that this was the fifth time Kansas City had the honor of hosting the convention. Well, whenever we get a shot at a return engagement, I know this chapter will be ready, willing and able to roll out the red carpet once again. I've seen it firsthand! ~

TODD ANDERSON
Harmonotes Editor

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3323 Red Bridge Road, Apt. 3
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August & September Performance Calendar

July 31 through August 6 ▶

August 6 - 7:00 PM ▶

August 27 - 7:00 PM ▶

September 12 ▶

Harmony College, St. Joseph, MO
Park College Chapel, Parkville, MO
Music in the Park, in Overland Park, KS
Prairie Village Presbyterian Church
67th & Mission Road

Harmonotes

July 2000

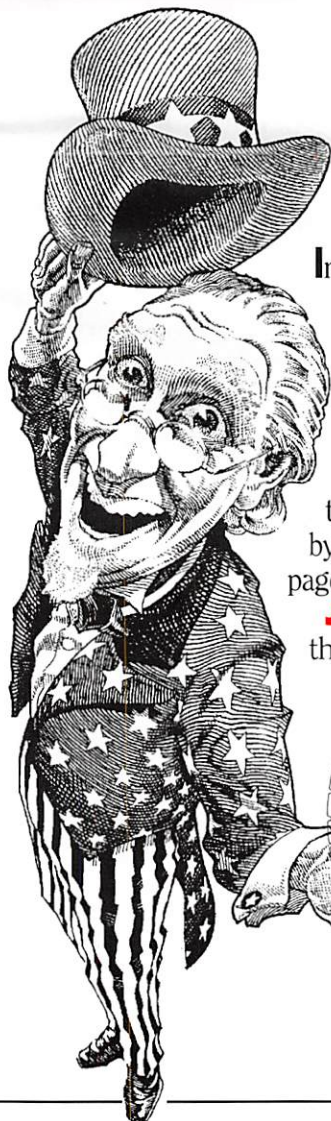
The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

"Drawn By Harmony, Bound By Friendship, Striving For Excellence."



KANSAS CITY PROUDLY HOSTS THE 62ND ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL BARBERSHOP CONVENTION!



THE MUSIC MAN IS ALMOST *HERE!*

by Mike Mathieu

In just a few days, the big event we all have been awaiting will be here! In case you haven't been fully informed, please read all these details.

July 3rd will be the Royals vs. the White Sox. Picnic buffet begins at 5:15 and opening pitch is 7:05 PM. If we get 500 to attend we get to throw out the opening pitch, and a lottery drawing determines who throws it. Tickets must be ordered through the Royals by fax or mail on the official form, or through our web page. Prices are on the form or on our web page.

July 4th we'll have the "Ice Cream Sociable" at the Madison Park/Count Basie Ballroom starting at 8:00 PM. We'll have college quartets, the

Mason City River City Chorus doing their Music Man set, and Freefall renewing their Bugler's Holiday trumpet/trombone routine. Naturally there will also be free ice cream for all. If we can get it together, we might even have an HOA Father/Son/Grandson chorus, and we hope you'll be a part of that.

(Continued on page 3)

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FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

President **Dick Irwin** is primed and ready for this historical moment!

Page 3

LET'S TAKE A LOOK BACK!

After 37 Internationals, **Jim Bagby** attempts to recount some pretty magical moments!

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CONVENTION RECOLLECTIONS

Joe Mathieu steps up to share HIS contest reflections! Way to go, Joe!

Page 6

MUST READING!

Wade Dexter sifts through years of Society Gold to provide a plethora of convention history!

Harmonotes

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for *Harmonotes* and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and *Harmonotes* are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

Todd Anderson
17905 East 24th Terrace Court S
Independence, MO 64057-1332

CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 PM each Tuesday night, at:
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110th & Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64105

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.org
Web Address: jmathieu@hoachorus.org
Chapter Telephone: (913) 221-7988



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

By Dick Irwin, HOA President

'Cause it's comin', comin',
comin' down the street
...heck, it's not comin' any
more, *it's here!!!* For the
fifth time the Kansas City
chapter is hosting the
International Convention
and Contest and the week
is upon us! In a way I feel
like a dad about to have the
family reunion in my back
yard. But, this family
reunion will include better than 9,000 family mem-
bers from all over the world and it will be happening
in our town, not just my back yard! I am really
excited about what's about to happen! *You gotta feel
it too!!!!*

There has already been a ton of work done for this
convention. **Lud Einess** has led the KC2000 com-
mittee all the way. Their preparations have been an
enormous task. With the convention upon us things
will only get busier for all of the committee chair-
men and their helpers. If you can't count yourself
among those already signed up as a volunteer you
darned well better do it now! There should be 100%
involvement by all chapter members. No amount of
assistance will be turned down. Get a hold of **Ron
McIntire** now and help!

I want to give **Dick Korek** a big pat on the back
for his tremendous effort in making the June 10th
Barbershop Harmony at Yardley Hall program a
great evening of singing and fun for all who at-
tended. Both choruses did a great job and *Sibling
Rivalry* sounded fantastic!

We were very saddened that Dick was called away
at the last minute due to his brother **Ray's** illness. As
of this writing I don't know Ray's status, but I know
we are all wishing him the best. He has travelled on
several occasions to be at our meetings and shows.

Time for me to get ready to work at Music Man
2000...see everybody there! ~

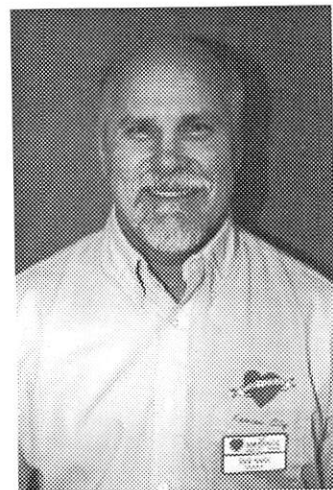


Photo by Matt Bostick

THE MUSIC MAN IS ALMOST HERE!

(Continued from the front page)

July 5th, the quartet contest starts in earnest. We'll have a huge BBQ in between contest sessions at the Hale Arena, just across the street from Kemper. Tickets for the full meal are \$12. *(Note: While you may order tickets in advance through Kenosha by June 1st, tickets will still be sold after that date. If you buy tickets after June 1st, just remember that your tickets must be picked up in the convention office anytime before Wednesday.)* We'll be entertained by the *Pick-a-little ladies*, *Harold Hill*, and a fifty piece Sousa Band. When the night session is completed we'll have a chorditorium featuring *Jurassic Larks*, *RR4*, and the *Gas House Gang*!

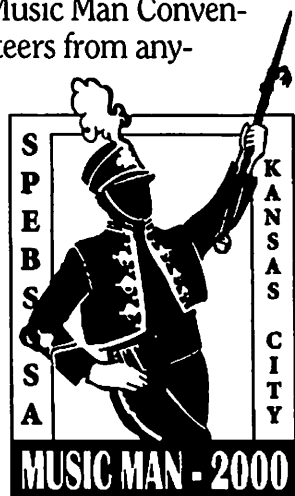
Thursday, **July 6th** starts with the ladies breakfast at 9:00 AM featuring *Fred* and all the lovely HOA hostesses in costumes dating from the Music Man era. The massed sing will begin at 12:00 noon in Barney Allis Plaza. After the evening Qtet semi's the Chorditorium will feature *BlueGrass Student Union* putting on their Music Man set in the Music Hall. *(continued on page 3)*

July 7th - Friday is a free day.

Saturday, **July 8th** features the chorus contest beginning at 10:45 AM, followed by the quartet finals beginning at 7:00 PM followed by a great big party.

If you haven't signed up yet to be a volunteer, please contact **Ron McIntire** at 816-229-8223, or sign up on our web page at www.HOAchorus.org. Remember that two 4-1/2 hour shifts entitle you to a commemorative Music Man Convention souvenir shirt. Volunteers from anywhere in the Society are encouraged, and appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact **Mike Mathieu** at 913 345-9821, or SingMM@aol.com.



AFTER 37 CONVENTIONS: '62, '64, '86 STAND OUT

By Jim Bagby,
Special Harmonotes Correspondent

The "Music Man 2000" convention here will be my 38th, and 31st in a row. **Gil Lefholz** and maybe others in other chapters have been to more, and our erstwhile Minneapolis coach, **Doug Miller**, is working a string of 35 or so in a row. But I suspect all of us—and all Society members—can reel off the most special ones.

It's hard to choose. *How about these:*

1965: Our first major vacation, to Boston, climbing (ouch) the Bunker Hill Monument, Shea Stadium, the World's Fair, Coney Island, the Statute of Liberty, the Yankees at Baltimore and our first open-mouthed tour of Washington—and the all-time great *Renegades* winning by a record margin;

1974: Hosting the Purdy Corral at our house, where the *Regents* practiced on a family room mob of about 75—five nights before they took the gold;

1977: My first competition with the *Rural Route 4* at Philadelphia, and the delightful shock of bursting into the top 10;

1979: HOA's first competition at Minneapolis, with a chorus that included nine father-and-son teams and enough support from our families that we'd have been delighted even if we didn't surprise ourselves by hitting the top 10;

1981: HOA finishes 6th in Detroit, where **Steve Leone** and I co-directed "Gotta Be on My Way" and "That Old Quartet of Mine;" *(continued on page 4)*

AFTER 37 CONVENTIONS: '62, '64, '86 STAND OUT

(Continued from page 3)

1984 in St. Louis, where three generations of **Yoders** sang with HOA and a feller named **Don Kahl** made his first international quartet appearance with the *RR4*, who a year earlier had considered retirement, and...

1989, the efficient work of cochairmen **Gil Lefholz** and **Bob Gall** that made being on the steering committee almost fun as K.C. hosted a record-tying fourth Society convention.

But if I had to pick my favorite, most memorable...well, *I couldn't do it*. I've already skipped over some incredible times, thrills and disappointments in San Francisco, Atlanta, Louisville, Seattle, Portland, Chicago, Cincinnati, New Orleans (the first time), Indianapolis, Los Angeles, Miami and Calgary to name a few.

I could pick my top three. So if you ain't been bored away already, here they are, with some brief highlights:

KANSAS CITY, 1962—My first convention, with my parents and my brother **Terry**. I'd been attending Oklahoma City Chapter meetings about two years and was in my first year of college. We stayed with relatives who lived just east of Stephenson's Apple Farm, on old U.S. 40, and drove back and forth every day—well over 30 minutes, before I-70 was built. All four of us sang all night, got home just before daylight, slept till noon and rushed back to do it again. Our hosts thought we were crazy. We were, with the rookie thrill of it all! The *Thoroughbreds* winning the first of their seven championships with "South Rampart Street Parade;" the *Gala Lads* mellowing their way to the gold with songs like "My Ideal" and "Honeymoon Lane." **Tom O'Malley** leading the massed sing from a hotel balcony overlooking Barney Allis Plaza. I got to sing in the lobby of the Muehlebach with folks like **Bill Busby**, **Buzz Haeger**, **Jim** and **Joe Schmidt**...heroes then and now. I could write pages, but will move on to...

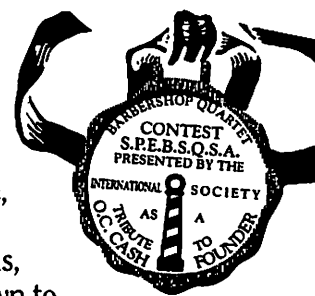
SAN ANTONIO, 1964—Joann and I had been married less than two months and flew from Norman, Okla., in a 4-seat plane (a

story in itself). The *Sidewinders* won and to this day, Joann will tell you they are the best champions of all time—period. They are four of the finest people we ever met (the following year in Boston, lead **Joe Daniels** came over to our car and welcomed us, just because he saw the Society decal and Oklahoma plates and said something like, "It's great that you drove all this way." Classy). The chorus winner was El Paso, of the host Southwest District, dressed in peon outfits that cost 'em about a buck-75 each while director **Lou Laurel** was magnificent in Spanish black and silver. It was one of the best-run conventions ever, under Chairman **Jimmy Gaus** of the *Checkmarks*.

SALT LAKE CITY, 1986—I could write pages, but I won't. In the wake of the I-swear-totally-unexpected *Rural Route 4* announcement by **Kenny Buckner**: "Four of the nicest guys you'll ever want to know," we got the Landino Trophy from our own chapter member, International President **Gil Lefholz**. As far as we know, it's the only time that's happened. We have written individually in the *Harmonotes*, *Serenade* and *Harmonizer* about our recollections, feelings and some of the backstage highlights and drama. But I will remember always:

Joann recounting her growing confusion and fear as they reeled off the medalists and didn't mention us, while Coach **Harriett Gall** kept telling her: "higher." **Calvin** and **Willard** yucking it up backstage, chatting with the other contestants while the announcements went on, while **Don** and I, both in knots, made trip after trip to the water fountain. And then-Society staff member and good friend **Tom Gentry's** admonition after the favored Interstate Rivals were announced for silver medals: "Just stand there where I can see your face."

And finally, as we stumbled, bounded and fell onto the stage, the first thing I saw after those gleaming, gorgeous gold medals, was my dad, who had come down to the judges pit to take pictures. I couldn't reach him very well, but I knelt at the edge of the stage to grab the hand of the man who took me with him to my first chapter meetings. And he told me later, "That was the proudest moment of my life." ~



CONVENTION REFLECTIONS

by Joe Mathieu

The first international convention I remember was St. Louis in 1984. I wasn't a member yet, as I was only 11. Two years later I would join HOA. I have attended International Conventions in Hartford in 1987, San Antonio in 1988, KC in 1989, Louisville in 1991, New Orleans in 1992, Calgary in 1993, Indianapolis in 1997, and Atlanta in 1998.

My first experience on the international stage was in 1989 in Kansas City when HOA was the mike tester chorus. But my first experience competing was standing in the middle of the front row in Louisville in 1991. I remember the CSD pep rally at our hotel when we heard the *RR4* sing "Humpback Mule" with Wes and when the chorus got a rousing standing ovation when we sang our contest set. I think the MC said he thought we had a good chance to medal that year, but none of us really knew what to expect. We sang "Old Quartet" and "Changes Made". I remember picking up **Charlie Drake** and throwing him back into the front row during our bit. On stage, we didn't give our best performance and we came off kind of disappointed (at least I did). I remember after the contest, **Donna Lefholz** came running up to me saying "Let me tell you how good you guys did!" When she told me we got 7th place, I didn't believe her until I saw the score sheets. I remember we were all feeling pretty good that night and it lasted for quite a while.

In 1992 in New Orleans, we came to medal. Things didn't quite work out that way. The thing I remember is **Jim's** pants almost falling off and him standing there trying to direct us with one finger. I think we got 12th that year. We still did pretty well, even though we were expecting more.

In 1993, we competed in Calgary and got 13th. The most memorable thing about the convention is that on Saturday night after the quartet finals, **Vince Perry Jr, Mike Neff, Tim McCune** and I somehow snuck into Purdy's Corral annual post contest party. From what I understand, usually this is invite only to gold medal winners. We got to see a lot of our barbershop heroes, but for some strange reason none of them would sing a tag with us. We eventually found someone to sing tenor and stood there and sang tags for a long while.

I missed the big hurrah in 1995 because I was away at college. I hear about it all the time though.

Dad will never stop talking about that "Bright was the Night" performance.

In 1997, we sang in Indianapolis. I had been married for just under a year and **Dylan**, our first child, had just been born and we had no money. I had been going to chapter meetings with the intent on competing but wasn't sure if I was going to make it. Well, Dylan was born the 23rd of June. **Rick Huyck** gave me one of those employee airline tickets and I flew standby on the Friday before the contest. I got to the hotel in time for the last practice before Saturday's contest. I then hitched a ride back on Sunday with **Kent McClean**, who had driven to Indianapolis. Didn't get to enjoy much of the contests that year, but I didn't want to give up chance to compete. We finished 12th that year.

My last contest competing was in Atlanta. We all knew this was Jim's last contest as director and I remember him getting emotional on the Friday night run through when the chapter presented him with a gift for his years of service. It was also a memorable contest because from the stage, you could see all the faces of the people in the audience, which was a first. I remember being pretty nervous when the curtain opened. Guess you never get over that, even though I'm a veteran now. Can I say I'm a veteran when I've only been singing for 14 years?

I guess the point of all of this is that every time we competed at International was memorable in some way. Those are memories you never lose.

Friday night run through when the chapter presented him with a gift for his years of service. It was also a memorable contest because from the stage, you could see all the faces of the people in the audience, which was a first. I remember being pretty nervous when the curtain opened. Guess you never get over that, even though I'm a veteran now. Can I say I'm a veteran when I've only been singing for 14 years?

I guess the point of all of this is that every time we competed at International was memorable in some way. Those are memories you never lose.

Some other memorable International moments:

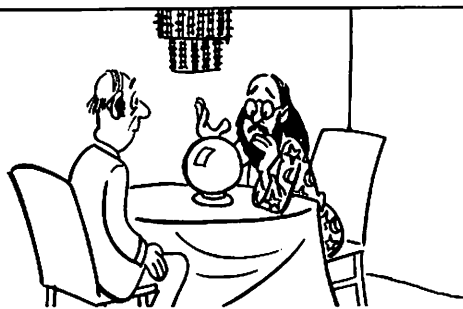
- The best chorus performance I've ever seen was the VM in San Antonio doing "Robert E. Lee". I was only 15 but still remember it as the best performance I've seen by a chorus.
- The best quartet song I've seen was "Bright was the Night" by the *Gas House Gang* in the finals in New Orleans in 1992. I never remember an audience that couldn't wait to applaud until the tag was over with. That night, they were applauding before the song was over.

But the best thing about Internationals is the friendships you make and the camaraderie. I'd like to compete in International again and maybe someday win a gold medal. Now, *THAT* would be cool! ~

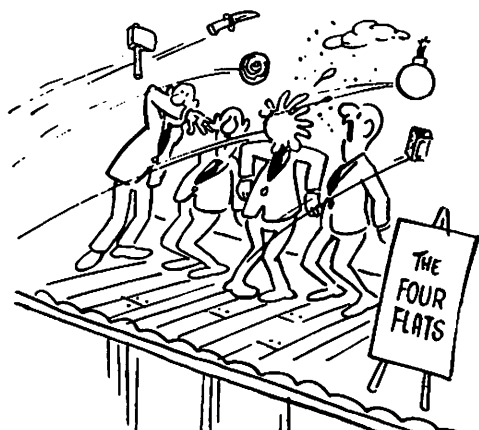
"The thing I remember is Jim's pants almost falling off and him standing there trying to direct us with one finger."

JUST FOUR FUN

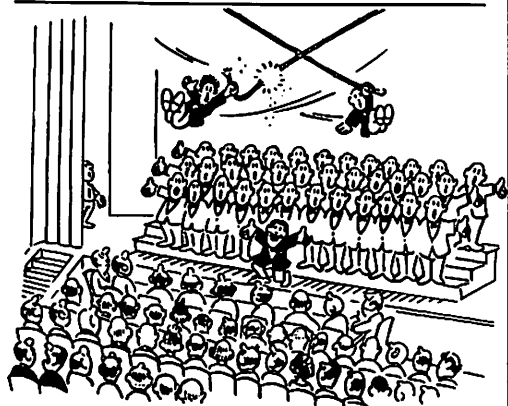
Feel free to submit humorous anecdotes and/or thought-provoking quotes to the Editor!



"You're going to sing in a **BIG** contest. You'll look beautiful, you'll sound great, ...you will lose by 900 points."



"Better sing one we know. The audience is getting restless!"



"**THAT'S** gonna cost them stage presence points."

A LOOK AT PAST INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ...IN THE *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

When President **Dick Irwin** asked me to put together a special nostalgia piece on the four past International conventions hosted by the Kansas City Chapter in 1952, 1962, 1974 and 1989, I was happy to comply, although admittedly with some trepidation. My collection of back issues of *Harmonotes*, while quite extensive, is by no means complete. Here's what my search yielded. *I hope you enjoy the memories!*

Eleven Years Ago—August, 1989

Gil Lefholz and **Bob Gall** were co-general chairmen of the 51st International Convention. **Jim Bagby** was our chapter president, Jim's lovely wife, **Joann**, was president of the Heartbeats and **David Krause** was music director of the chorus, which, as convention hosts, got to perform as mike tester for the chorus competition.

Like all conventions, there were glitches which, fortunately, the convention committee members and others who worked so hard were able to rise above and resolve in good fashion. Perhaps the most disappointing personal crisis came when **Val Putzier's** car was stolen from the Kemper Arena parking lot. He got it back, but there was \$2,000 worth of damage.

Speaking of glitches, I recall standing in line outside the Hereford House waiting for a table, watching the intersection flood form a huge break in a water main just a block away. A lot of folks were without water in their hotel rooms that night, but there wasn't much the convention committee could do about that.

A good representation of HOA singers turned out on the Saturday afternoon prior to convention week to provide a rousing musical welcome for the International President **Jim Richards** and his wife, **Eby**, in the lobby of the headquarters hotel.

Second Edition took the quartet gold, and the *Alexandria Harmonizers* were the top chorus that year.

Twenty-Six Years Ago—July, 1974

Despite the best efforts of old-timers like **Orval Wilson**, **Frank Leone**, **Dennis Taylor**, **Ron Abel** and **Jim Bagby**, an issue of *Harmonotes* published during the summer of 1974 was not to be found. However, Ron suggested that I consult the June 1974 issue of the *Serenade*, the CSD Bulletin, edited at that time by **Dr. Don Doering** of the Davenport chapter. In no time at all I'd found my copy, still in the box it was packed in when **Joyce** and I moved from liberty to Lawrence. And, *bingo*, there was a gold mine of info on the upcoming 36th annual convention to be hosted by the K.C. outfit—no doubt with plenty of help from neighboring chapters. *(continued on next page)*

Ken Schroer and the men of the *Daniel Boone Chorus of St. Charles* (now known as the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, one of the finest choruses in the Society) had volunteered to host the Saturday night afterglow with the theme of "The Fabulous Fifties." Plans called for the serving of sweet corn that had been grown on the farm of **Rufus Kenagy**, president of the Harrisonville chapter and original baritone of the *Rural Route 4*.

Thirty-Eight years ago—July, 1962

I wasn't able to dig up a copy of the July, 1962 *Harmonotes*. But in the process I enjoyed a brief visit with **Dennis Taylor**, the original tenor of the *Merry Mugs*—one of the society's most popular comedy quartets in the late 1960s. Dennis is still a member of our chapter, but has been inactive for many years. He told me that one of his most prized barbershop souvenirs is a copy of the front page of the *Kansas City Star* that was published during the 1962 convention in Kansas City. At that time Dennis was singing for a quartet called the *Crosstowners* that was the mike tester for the quartet contest that summer. The *Star* picked up on it, and the guys got their picture on the front page, and the convention got a nice plug. With Dennis were **Dan Henry**, **Bob Gall**, and **Mike Michel**.

The quartet gold was won by the *Gala Lads* of Alhambra, California. The chorus trophy went to the *Chorus of the Chesapeake*, directed by **Bob Johnson**. They were from Dundalk, Maryland and had 166 singers on the risers.

Forty-Eight years ago—July, 1952

When I began to search for material my first concern was "Do I have copies of the issues put out around the 1952 convention?" Much to my relief I found not only one but four copies of the July, 1952 issue, edited by **Dan Jacobson**, **Ralph Cooper**, and **Ham Meisinger**.

The entire front page was devoted to a collection of congratulatory messages from Society officials to General Convention Chairman **Russ Gentzler**. Among them were Immediate Past International President **James F. Knipe** who wrote, "*Your Kansas City gang did a marvelous job, and I hope that at the next [chapter] meeting, you will pass to them my thanks and appreciation.*" Newly elected International President **Edwin S. Smith** wrote, in part, "*It was heartening to see the ready response from the members of your chapter. They were deserving of the finest commendation...and you, my friend, have placed this Society forever in your debt.*"

In addition, International Secretary **Carroll P. Adams** had this to say, "*A great convention, Russ. Give my heartfelt thanks to all the Kansas City Chapter members for their help...many many thanks for everything you did to make the convention a success.*"

Chairman Russ uses practically the entire first inside page to thank all the folks who were involved in the planning and execution of the convention. Some of these names may be familiar to you old-timers (*real* old-timers).

Joe Stern chaired the advisory committee (wonder if that's what they call the steering committee today?). **Don Thorne** was in charge of ticket sales (that was before that chore was taken over by the International office). And **Ed Birr** of radio station WHB took care of the publicity which involved radio stations WDAF, KCKN, and KCMO, as well as the coverage in the *Kansas City Star* by **Ken Haggerty**.

Past Chapter President **Orval Wilson** also helped with ticket sales, as well as cochairmen **Carl Neve**, **George Beecham**, **Leonard Tampa**, **Jack Saglimben**, and **Walker W. Cramer**.

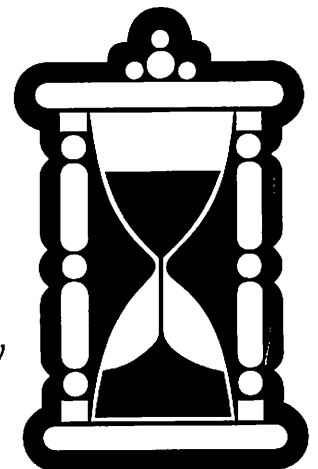
During the quartet contest (there was no chorus contest in 1952); that didn't come until the following year in Washington, D.C.), **Lou Riggs** kept busy "checking point on the blackboard" (it would be a long time before that could be done with computers).

Ray Koenig put up and took down the "Woodshed". Don't know where they put it, but **Austin Thames** provided a picture on page 3. This was a feature at every International convention where quartets could perform informally for anyone who wanted to listen. It's been extinct for years.

Martinez Franks and **Vesta Gentzler** drew kudos "for keeping our visiting girls happy." That was long before the *Heartbeats* were formed.

Russ even went outside the chapter to thank **Herb Boning** of the Chamber of Commerce and **Clarence Hoff** of the Municipal Auditorium for their support and cooperation.

There is also a clipping from the *Stars and Stripes/Korea*—a newspaper published by the Armed Forces—of the 1952 International Quartet Champions, *The Four Teens*. All were members of the U.S. Air Force who were stationed at Scott Field, Illinois. ~



MEMORIES, LIKE THE CORNERS OF MY MIND

by Dick Irwin

A lot of you probably think that mostly I'm missing a goodly portion of my mind and that there are probably no corners in what's left! Well, I resemble that remark.

Anyway, I was thinking (a dangerous activity) that since we are dedicating this issue to a great deal of International memories from everyone that maybe I had a few of my own.

I have only been a Barbershopper since 1994 and honestly had almost no contact with the hobby prior to joining. But, I did have a chance to attend one of the preliminary rounds of the quartet competition when Internationals were in Minneapolis back in 1979. I remember being very impressed with the sound the quartets were creating. I also remember thinking that the quartets seemed to use a lot of the same songs.

How, refreshing in the past 3 years to have had the opportunity to hear and experience the tremendous variety that exists in today's international competitions. I believe we still need to keep our focus on performing songs in the barbershop style. But, isn't it fantastic to have the opportunity to watch some of the most talented performers in the world showcase their talent with a variety of songs and styles?!

Now that I am a society member and a member of HOA I wish I had been more interested back in 1979. I note in our 2000 Directory that HOA was the Central States District chorus representatives that



year. It would have been fun to have seen some of you perform way back then. OK, maybe fun is a stretch, but interesting anyway! ~

MR. 20/20 HINDSIGHT

by Todd Anderson, Harmonotes Editor



This commemorative issue, which focuses on Kansas City hosting the 2000 International Convention, was a notion born just a few short weeks ago. I apologize to you, the reader, for my not having enough foresight to plan a more glorious issue. *How so?*

Consider the trinkets, programs and, more importantly, the **experiences** of some of the guys in our midst (No, I won't name 'em cause I'd end up missing somebody). For example, . . . I can't begin to imagine the vast array of photos these wily veterans have tucked away in some shoe box. Selfishly, I would have loved to have spotlighted **THOSE** types of historical photos rather than portrait shots of **Dick Irwin** and myself (*especially* Dick!)

Not only that, but the *Harmonotes* message I cast out on the net a while back did not yield as many articles as I would have enjoyed.

Don't get me wrong, the contributions you have enjoyed on the previous pages are top-shelf material. Each writer receives my special, coveted, editorial **ATTABOY** for timeliness and solid quality! But imagine articles from, perhaps, another 10 to 15 of our sage members! *Hoo, boy!*

Wouldn't it have been great if your editor had enough brain-power to build in sufficient time for interviewing folks like **Orval Wilson** (a 62 year, charter member!) and **Gil Lefholz** (Past International Society President)? Shoot, Gil has been a member for 46 years, . . . and has missed only **TWO** International Conventions! (*He's SUCH a slacker!*)

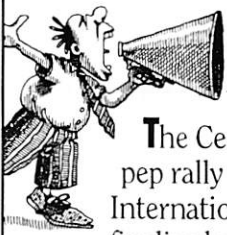
What, in the wide world of sports, was I thinking?

Honestly, I'm not mad at our members for my lacking more editorial material—I know how bonkers all our schedules are, . . . and how much crazier they are gonna get in just a few days! (whew)

Just do this editor a huge favor, *will ya?* Be sure to *thank* the writers of these July articles, who found a tiny window of opportunity to share their memories with us. Consider this: without them, you would have just had Dick and me circulating our *vast* knowledge of this wonderful hobby.

Scary, ain't it? ~

TODD ANDERSON
Editor



CSD PEP RALLY!!!

The Central States District will be holding a pep rally on Friday July 7th during Internationals week. The site had not been finalized as of this writing. Plan on the show starting around 5:00 or so. Everyone who can should try to turn out to show our support for the CSD International competitors, *The Ambassadors of Harmony*, *12th Street Rag* and *Sibling Rivalry*. Watch and listen for more details during the convention week. ~

DO NOT MISS THE JULY 18TH CHAPTER MEETING!

If you like being part of a huge chorus sound, and wish to hear a top-notch quartet perform, you'll attend this one, guys!! *That's all!* ~

"ONE-A-DAY" MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM:

If you are not familiar with this program, come to a chapter meeting, give me a call at 816-283-3662-h/816-421-7050-w, or email me at: grant@jwilbur.com

Basically, potential new members = points = great prizes, including a full blown travel package for 2 to Nashville International in 2001! Numerous guys are participating on a weekly basis, with 12 new members resulting (through May).....Here are top point-getters by month so far: January-**Ken Neujahr**; February-**Lud Einess**; March-**Dave Bousema**; April-(tie)**Darrell McCune & Gordon Lankenau**; May-**Dick Korek**. *These guys win dinner for 2 to a local spot!*

Also, **Ken Neujahr** took honors for 1st quarter totals, and won 2 paid registrations to District Contest 2001! Looks as though **Dick Korek** may take 2nd quarter honors! Great Job to All Thus Far! Take part and WIN great stuff!!!

Grant Hunget
Membership V.P. 2000



SUNSHINE NOTES

by Wade Dexter



We are all saddened by the loss of **Ray Korek**, **Dick's** brother, on Saturday, June 17. Ray was one of HOA's greatest supporters over the years that Dick has been a member. We will all remember his smile as he sat and watched us rehearse or after a show. He will be missed. All of our thoughts and prayers go to Dick and his family in this loss.

After struggling with a very painful illness in the past couple of months, it's great to see **Jan Mathieu** up and around again. *Here's a note, from Jan, that we were unable to get in the last issue:*

"Thank You" for the calls, visits, e-mails, cards, food, flowers, and especially the prayers from all of you during her recent hospitalizations. The support of friends is extremely important during times of critical illness. I'm proud to call all of you friends. Thank you one and all.

— Jan Mathieu



NEW children and grandchildren of HOA members!

• **Christian Ludwig Einess** was born June 2, 2000, weighing in at 9 lbs., 8 oz., 21" long at Overland Park Regional Medical Center. Proud parents **Chris and Melissa Einess** of Raymore, MO

• The **Bostick** family is very proud to announce the arrival of a brand new Sweet Adeline candidate, **McKenna Jill**. She was born to **Matt and Jill Bostick** on Thursday May 25th. ~



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
3323 Red Bridge Road, Apt. 3
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