

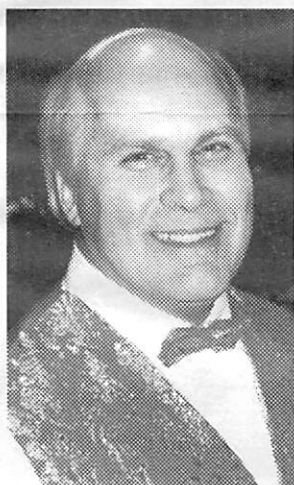
Harmonotes

August 2001

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2001, Issue 8

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



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

by Dick Irwin, HOA President

What a disappointment for me this year to not be able to attend the International Convention in Nashville. It's the first one I've missed since my first in 1997. One of the really good things that came about as a result of this convention is the expansion of the web casts.

For those not familiar with a web cast, it is basically a radio-type broadcast that is sent

over the internet via special programming tools. The result, for those able to "tune in" via their internet provider, is a chance to listen to all of the quartet and chorus competitions, the AIC shows, and the college quartet contest. So, if you couldn't be there, it was the next best thing. My understanding is that more than 10,000 tuned in to hear the quartet finals this year. That would make more than 20,000 people listening to our favorite music. *What a kick!*

Would you like an even better "kick"? Put yourselves to work very, very hard and let's all go to Portland, Oregon next July! We can be there if we all pull together as individuals. ~



This Issue

Page 3
THE VERY BEST
VOCAL COACH
You may own one!

Page 5
12TH STREET MOVES ON
Mark Fortino's take on Nashville's performance.

Page 6 & 7
MIKE NEFF VISITS AOH
What did he learn? The results may surprise you. Plus, his TOP TEN Nashville moments!

Page 9
WILL WEB WONDERS NEVER CEASE?
Jim Porter attended Nashville...without leaving his basement!

Page 14
WE SHOULDNTA LAUGHED
More from the archives of Ol' Dan Henry!

Harmonotes

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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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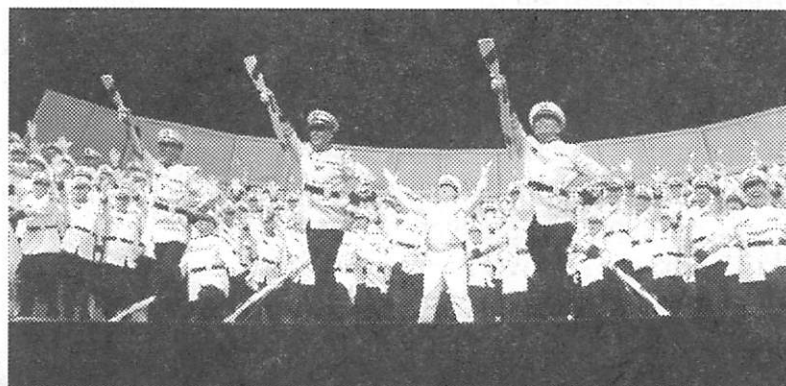
HOA SALUTES THE 2001 NASHVILLE CHAMPIONS!



REPRISE
2001 COLLEGE QUARTET A CHAMPIONS



MICHIGAN JAKE
2001 SPEBSQSA QUARTET CHAMPIONS



NORTHBROOK, NEW TRADITION
2001 SPEBSQSA CHORUS CHAMPIONS

THE VERY BEST VOCAL COACH

by Carol Johnson, Director, Manahawkin Chapter

I remember the first time I heard myself on a tape recorder. It didn't sound *anything* like me! My friend sounded exactly like herself, but that strange voice singing with her just wasn't mine. I was shocked to realize that it was indeed me. I suddenly know that the "wonderful voice" I have lived with all of my life isn't the *same voice* that everyone else hears.

For months, I taped myself singing in the chorus. I listened in amazement to this awful voice...it sang wrong notes, wrong words, bad vowels, made funny sounds, scooped, and even went flat! I became very aware of pitch and went right to work to produce a better voice.

Little by little, I improved myself as a singer under the cold truth of this heartless coach, *my tape recorder*. Yes, your tape recorder is the best coach you'll ever find! It gives you the opportunity to hear the voice that everyone else hears.

Remember that the only person who hears the voice in your head is *you!* Any time you are serious about good singing, the truth is there for you to hear. Just press the button. ~



Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Cathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilman, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)

Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Mark Grisham (bari), Mike Griffin (bass)

Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

From The Heart

Matt Bostick (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Gordon Lankenau (bass)

Heartland

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)

Old Mission Messengers

Reid Ecton (tenor), John Warrior (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Bryan Van Deun (bass)

Polecat Creek

Tom Elefson (tenor), Wayne Crawford (lead),
Dick Irwin (bari), Eric Weber (bass)

The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),
Randy Carney (bari), Burt Bray (bass)

Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

THE CARE AND FEEDING OF THE TAPE RECORDER

by Bruce Wenner, Music Vice-President

Yep, the tape recorder. It's going to play an important role in our lives as we get ready for contest this fall. We'll use it to make a tape of the contest numbers for our section leaders—recall the qualifying process described in last month's *Harmonotes*—but we'll get even better use in other ways.

Here's a strategy proposed by the Music Team for learning any new number. As soon as you're off the music, start recording your performance while singing it in the chorus, and check yourself after the meeting by listening to the tape. That will identify the parts you haven't quite gotten down yet, so work on those spots and record again the following Tuesday. Repeat the process as often as needed, and you'll have your part learned. Ask the guys who have been using this process—they'll tell you it works.

There's an additional payoff if you apply this method to the contest songs. Your section leader will need to have heard at least one tape from you by the time we start the designated contest rehearsals on September 4. If you're taping every week and learning from replaying it, you'll be ready to give a good one to your section leader much faster. In fact, it will probably be one you made for yourself! ~

HEART OF AMERICA... IN THE HEAT OF AMERICA

by Bruce Wenner, Music Vice-President

Every once in a while something happens to make me especially proud and grateful for the privilege of belonging to the *Heart of America Chorus*. Last night was one of those occasions—the *Overland Park Concert in the Park*.



We all knew the miserable weather we were facing. That didn't deter the hardy band that showed up, armed with water bottles, misters, towels, and change of clothing. The attitude was so upbeat that you had to step away from the chorus to realize how hot it was. And the chorus sang a great show, despite being the only guys in the metropolitan area wearing long pants. (And the *Sweet Adelines* were the only gals in long pants. Wasn't it great of them to come in at the last minute and provide such a kick to the show!?)

Wish I had written down the names of the participants so everybody could know, but you know who you are. You are the heart and soul of a great chapter and a great chorus. First time I ever got goose bumps in 100-degree weather. ~



ARPEGGIO ON THE JUMBOTRON! by Rick Dunaway

Now, isn't that something! The quartet was lucky enough to be selected to perform the National Anthem on June 22 at Kauffman Stadium, prior to the game between the Royals and the Cleveland Indians.

It was on short notice that we were given the opportunity to "audition" for the chance to sing at the game, but we made the best of it. Within a day, we had chosen the arrangement. We learned it during our next rehearsal and taped it at the end of that rehearsal for submission.

Impatiently, we waited for word from the "powers that be," and in about a week we got the news we had hoped for. *Arpeggio* was to perform at Kauffman Stadium!

Whether we would go on the field as a complete foursome was in doubt for a while, as **Rick's** mother had major surgery just hours before, and he'd spent the day at the hospital in St. Joseph. **Ralph**, meanwhile, got stuck in traffic (thanks to I-70 construction). But finally, just moments before we were to meet the Royals representative outside the club's offices, we had assembled, and we couldn't resist the temptation of a quick sing-through.

It was about that time that we noticed some friendly faces—**Mike and Linda Schumacher**—who happened upon us outside the gates. Now the pressure was on, since our anonymity was lost.

After meeting with the Royals representative, and being taken by elevator to the press interview room, which served as a holding area, we were again taken by elevator to the field level, serenading our fellow riders on the trip down. **Ralph** swears that the man in the back of the elevator was **George Brett**. Rick isn't so sure, but it is a nice fantasy to believe we have sung for a Hall of Famer, anyway.

The wait along the warning track near the Royals dugout seemed interminable, but at last we were given the cue to move toward home plate. A moment later, we heard the words, "Please join in singing the National Anthem with the barbershop quartet, *Arpeggio*."

In one minute, 22 seconds, it was all over. It may be our 1:22 of fame, but it will be a lifelong memory. ~

12TH STREET MOVING ON

by Mark Fortino

I'd like to report that we had an unbelievable performance and broke the top 20 for the second year in a row!!!! I'd like to report that, but since we *didn't*,...I can't.

We came in 23rd. It was not a great outing for us, but after stepping back and evaluating, after all was said and done, we have to feel pretty good

that we had a very mediocre performance and still averaged 80.1 in Music, and 80.2 in Presentation. Had our singing scores been at the same level we would have been setting 17th place the first night. Going into this contest we were singing above this level, but for what ever reason it just didn't happen when we hit the stage, and we all

four new it as soon as we walked off...actually we knew it when we were on the stage, but it's tough to stop and evaluate why at that point in time...if a you know what I'm mean'a!

I told you guys last year, that we needed you to host every Internationals until we finally win the GOLD! Ok, every other one would be fine??? Well, anyway, another year is under our belt, and overall still an experience I plan to forget—I mean cherish—for many years to come!

One of the highlights for me was seeing **Barry** in a G.I. Joe outfit and winning another medal with the *Ambassadors*. Another highlight was when we asked if we could put our CD for sale in the *Harmony Market Place*, and they said sure. Well, it sold so well that the *Harmony Market Place* purchased 40 CDs and 10 tapes and plan to make them available in all barbershop shops at all of the conventions, starting with Harmony College in St. Joe, as well as in the *Harmony Market Place* Catalog.



Now it's time to move on, and finish learning several pieces of music that we started learning earlier this year.

John has turned out yet another arrangement, that will be a great show number, and potentially a great

contest piece as well. We hope to learn enough new pieces of music to start producing another CD this time next year.

I truly believe that *12th Street* is one of the most fortunate quartets in the entire society, to have the undying support of

people like **Rik Johnson** from *AOH*, **Jim Bagby**, and three outstanding choruses in *HOA*, *AOH*, and *Papillion* that stand behind us whether we are 43rd, 17th, or 23rd. You guys are awesome, and we sincerely thank each of you for your words of encouragement, and support. I don't know if we will ever win the Gold, break the top 10, the top 20, or heck even qualify for that matter. Hey, anything can happen. But I do know that the friendships that we make each year can never be taken away, and that is what is so incredible about this hobby!

On a personal note, a big thanks to each of you who have so embraced **Anthony's** presence on the risers. He is loving it, and if Dad can ever catch up to him, he might be joining him on the risers someday.

That's all the words from the Street... ~

THE AOH CHRONICLES

by Mike Neff, HOA Assistant Director

Congratulations to our CSD chorus champions, the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, on their 4th place finish in Nashville! The Central States District is blessed to have such a fine chorus representative. Some of you may not know this, but earlier this summer, I made several visits to the St. Charles chapter and thought a *Harmonotes* article would be a great way to let you know about it and why I went.

Back in May, I approached **Bruce Wenner** with an idea about how I could gain some additional chorus director development and training. I have to give **Don Young** credit for the idea, but the thought was this: "Wouldn't it be great to be able to go and watch a medallist level chorus director, at his weekly chorus rehearsal, for several weeks in a row?" The idea being that watching him work, teach and perform would be a great learning tool for a director that is trying to learn and improve.

Well, I took that idea to my boss and he said, "Sure, go for it." And then I took it to Bruce Wenner, who took it to the board, and they said, "Sure, why not?!" So, on five different occasions, I flew over to St. Louis and visited the Ambassador's regular rehearsals, prior to Nashville, with the intent of watching **Jim Henry** prepare them for the International contest. The chapter gave me \$500.00 to use towards the travel expense, and also gave **Gordon** and **Darrell** that amount to use too, however they choose, for their own chorus director development. All I can say is "Thank God" that Southwest Airlines had special fares for \$71 bucks roundtrip!

Basically, I left work early every Thursday, drove to KCI, flew out, went to their rehearsal (and the afterglow, of course), grabbed a few hours sleep, caught a 6:30 a.m. (ouch!) flight home, and then went back to work on Friday. Yes, a LONNNNNNG couple of days, but well worth it.

So, *what did I learn?* Armed with a tape recorder, pen and pad of paper, I was prepared to take lots of notes. But, as I've told a few folks already, so much of what I saw, observed and learned was not something you can quantify or put to paper. I did learn a lot, but it's hard to put things into words and not tie them to specifics things that were happening at a particular time. I listened, watched and "tested myself" for things that Jim would try to get the chorus to improve. I did anticipate and "catch" a lot of what he fixed, before he fixed it. However, there were a lot of things that he fixed and improved that I did not pick up on and would have gone unnoticed. THAT was one of the great parts of the learning experience for me.

I did have the chance to visit with Jim and **David Wright** one-on-one a few times too. It was great to get their perspective on what the director's responsibility is. Jim and I talked extensively one night about key areas to be aware of as a director: 1) always have your ears on, but don't act like you do—you always have to be listening to what is going on, but don't show it, 2) when it is time to perform, the director has to perform—the chorus mirrors what the director does, and if the director isn't performing at the highest level, then the chorus will not either, and 3) be the leader—take them on a journey, make music together, and be part of the experience. It's something to treasure and share together.

Obviously, they have a great musical leadership team in St. Charles, and have several things to their advantage: a large chorus (about 110 on stage in Nashville),

one of the society's premier arrangers, **David Wright** (who is also their assistant director), and many other talented folks within the chorus who help coach, critique and observe. However, they are also challenged by exactly the same things we are: matching vowels, singing with a freely produced, open, resonant sound, and maintaining pitch consistently. But,

probably the most noticeable thing to me is this – there is a willingness by EVERY chorus member to step outside of themselves, commit to the performance, "push the envelope a bit" with music and arrangements, and to be the BEST that they can be.

Jim Henry has been, and will continue to be, one of my barbershop heroes. What a talent! Quartet man, chorus director, coach, professor of music education, and just a great guy...truly an inspiration to watch and learn from. If you ever read this, thank you Jim, for your help and direction.

I pledge to you, and I'm sure the rest of the music leadership would too, that I will continue to work at improving my skills and technique, and do what it takes to help take HOA to a higher musical level. I hope you will make that personal commitment as well. Sitting in the audience in Nashville was both awesome and maddening! I thought how great those other choruses were singing, and at the same time, how badly I wanted to be back on the contest stage with all of you.

Some of you will laugh when I say this, and I just turned a "mere 33 years old" yesterday, but I'm not getting any younger! I WANT TO SING ON THE INTERNATIONAL STAGE AGAIN SOON. I hope you do, too! Time is passing us by. Let's do what it takes to get there! ~

"...probably the most noticeable thing...there is a willingness by EVERY chorus member to step outside of themselves, ...to be the BEST that they can be."

MY "TOP 10" FROM THE NASHVILLE CONTEST by Mike Neff

Whew! Whatta contest in Nashville earlier this month. I'm sure those that went will agree, it was a heckuva convention! Great to renew old friendships, sing lots of songs and tags, and share the camaraderie of the week with folks from HOA and all over the society. If I could pick a top ten of my highlights of the week, this would be the list (in no particular order):

The Gas House Gang on the AIC show – If you have never seen them do "Lady of Spain," (ala the **Ed Sullivan** show), you've missed something special. I'll tell you this much, it involves a sombrero, guitar, hula hoops, stuffed animals, handstands, and **Jim Henry** in a "tutu," just to name a few things. Worth the entire price of admission to the AIC show just for THAT performance. I laughed so hard I cried. An added bonus – they also sang "Mary Did You Know."

AIC Tribute to Lou Perry – A slide show and presentation about one of the best arrangers the Society has ever known. **Terry Clarke**, bass of *The Boston Common* (1980 Champs) did the narration, and the AIC chorus sang several of Lou's arrangements. The program even included a copy of "Smilin Through," which we all sang together to close the show. Good thing someone had Kleenex handy...

Fireworks Wednesday night – Similar to the Indy convention in 1997, the July 4 holiday fell on Wednesday. That night, during the quarterfinals, the fireworks started. So, the intermission got bumped up early, and many folks wandered outside to watch. Within seconds, someone blew a "G" and the street was filled with the sounds of "God Bless America," followed by "The Star Spangles Banner" and "America the Beautiful." I've got goosebumps now just thinking about it.

Announcement of the Top 20 Wednesday night – Having missed the first round (our flight got in late in the day on the 4th), we didn't know what to expect, but everyone we talked to said that *Three Men and a Melody* had done an awesome performance earlier that day. Lo and behold, the emcee announced they would be singing 7th on Thursday night. WOW! Top 20 on their first trip to the "big dance." Way to go, guys!

CSD Pep Rally – Always one of my favorite parts of the International Convention week, I love the chance for all of the CSD folks to get together and root for our chorus and quartet representatives. Even more fun, watching the Ambassadors sing...BRACE YOURSELVES..."Don't You Hate It (When They Make You Sing Along)?" Remember that one?! I know, I know, how could we forget. Well, maybe you "hated it," but let me say this, as an audience member, it's an ABSOLUTE RIOT! Kudos to **Jim Bagby** for having HOA sing that one a few years ago...

Announcement of the Top 5 Quartets – Fast becoming one of *Michigan Jake's* biggest fans, I was thrilled to see them get the gold medal this year. Sure they have a distinct sound and sing some very demanding arrangements, but musically, you'd be hard pressed to find a better quartet. I talked to **Mark Hale** earlier in the summer and he said if they didn't win this year, they'd probably hang it up. I'm glad they won! And, there were four other great quartets rounding out the Top 5 too. *Uptown Sound* (who did the HOA show two years ago) was second. If *Four Voices* don't win in Portland though, I'll eat my hat. Someone buy me a hat, just in case.

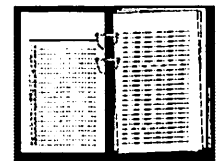
50th Anniversary of the Schmitt Brothers Quartet – Every year, the society pays tribute to the champion quartet from 50 years ago. So, this year, it was the *Schmitt Brothers*. Only one of their members survives today, **Joe** (the Lead). After a video tribute to them, he spoke briefly about the quartet and said, "Ya know, I bet you'd rather hear some of the Schmitt's sing, instead of listening to me talk." The curtain opened and there stood about 85 members to the Schmitt family, kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. The 4 members of the quartet has a combined total of 35 children! Anyway, their families sang a couple songs in tribute. *Pass the Kleenex again...*

Lobby singing at the HQ Hotel – Finding 3 others to ring some chords with and rip tags is a given at the International convention. Whether it was with old friends or new ones, we did plenty of that. But, I have to say, of those moments, my fondest one will be when I sang one of our new repertoire songs (*I'm Beginning to See the Light*) with **Keith Schweer**, **Grant Hunget**, and **Gordon Lankenau** (on tenor) on Saturday night at the Renaissance Hotel. Thanks, guys.

Harmonizer's rehearsal – A visit to the Alexandria chorus rehearsal on Thursday afternoon was FANTASTIC. Two great songs, wonderful choreography, past time International Champions four times. It was wonderful. At that particular time, I started to doubt if anyone could beat them, and questioned my initial "picks." But, I hadn't seen Toronto or Northbrook yet either. But even though they didn't win, Alexandria captured my heart during this particular rehearsal. It was magical. And I heard a phrase I won't soon forget: "It's not about you. It's about the music."

The New Tradition Chorus – Northbrook, Illinois Chapter – the curtain opened and as I thought, it was FINALLY Northbrook's year. Without a doubt, they had won the contest. They didn't have to sing one note. Truly awesome, and certainly "deserved." A testimony to never giving up on their quest for the gold medal. Next year should be a "battle royal" in the chorus contest (*Masters of Harmony, Northern Lights, Alexandria, AoH*, etc.).

Yep, WHATTA WEEK! Are you counting? Only 345 days left 'til Portland! I know...I'M A NUT FOR THIS STUFF! ~



NASHVILLE CONVENTION

by Ron McIntire

My wife and I arrived at the Ramada Hotel in Nashville on Monday. We were only three or four blocks from the convention center, Gaylord Entertainment Center (the contest venue) and the Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) complex. We were surprised and delighted to see that we were within walking distance from all three venues. Last year, following the KC2000 convention, I heard that there would be two other conventions plus the fireworks display within a few blocks of the convention center, all going on at the same time and I feared a giant boondoggle with traffic snafu's, buses stacked ten deep and tempers on the boil. What we found was a well-run, well-planned, highly organized, relaxed and friendly town with the convention staff doing everything possible to keep things running smoothly. All my fears were put to rest within minutes of our arrival.

During the year, I was in contact with the fellows who ran the volunteer staff, helping them understand what we did and the things they should do. Toward the middle of March, I began to worry that they weren't able to get as many volunteers from surrounding chapters as they felt they needed. When I talked with **Frank Christina**, the staffing chairman, in the last week of June, they had 270 volunteers and, as it happened with me, volunteers began to come out of the woodwork. Why we worry so much about things like this I don't know. Barbershoppers seem to always come through when you need them. **John Schneider**, the Society man in charge of conventions, must be a total wreck every year. To top it all off, Frank later told me that just before the doors opened Monday, they had logged 10,002 registrations.

Brenda and I went to the last session of the Quartet Quarterfinals, the Semifinals and the Chorus contest and Quartet Finals on Saturday as well as the World Harmony Jamboree. What a treat—all of it. The only drawback was sitting in the back corner of the last seats near the roof but even at that we could see everything, even if it was small. I'm glad we took our binoculars. And, we could hear well too. There were even enough empty seats near us that we could stretch out a little if we needed to. The highlight for us on Wednesday, as with almost everyone else, came during the first intermission of the Quarterfinals shortly after the fireworks started. From inside the auditorium, it sounded as if Nashville was under siege. Overhead, bomb bursts

rattled windows, rockets hissed skyward and the muffled explosions of star bursts popped in rapid succession as the celebration got underway. Because the display was so close to the convention facilities, those that could get to the big glassed-in front of the center had a spectacular view of fireworks lighting the riverfront. As we watched, from somewhere in the crowd, almost imperceptible at first but growing to a majestic roar, the crowd began to sing the "Star Spangled Banner". Then the trills of "O Beautiful for Specious Skies..." broke out and finally "God Bless America". Nowhere had we all heard such perfect barber-shop harmony. And where on earth would performances

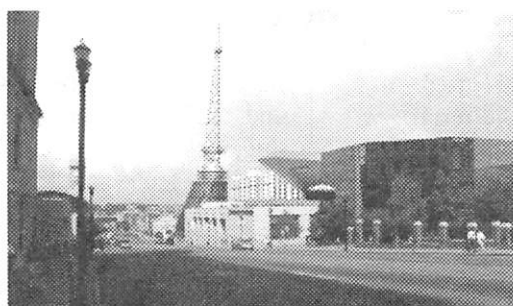
like these have erupted so spontaneously? I wonder. There's no doubt in my mind that had we been deeper into the crowd, much of the singing would have been punctuated with the blowing of noses and the clearing of throats.

Thursday was the World Harmony Jamboree. No one can say that Nashville doesn't have a beautiful auditorium. I doubt if there is a bad seat in the house. The program was great with performances by choruses and quartets from all around the world: the U.S., Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Canada and a highlight of the day, the *Nightingales*, a boys quartet from Russia.

In my mind, they richly deserved their standing ovation for their ability to sing to an audience half a world away and in a language not their own. It makes me wonder why the U.S. government doesn't put the whole of the barbershopping community and the Society to work in international relations. Maybe make it a cabinet position and make the Secretary of State report to the Society. It could be called "Secretary of the World Relations." Bet we'd have fewer wars. Picture this, a REAL International convention and contest. No doubt we'd have one problem—it would be hard to get things *done* because everyone would be *singing* all the time. *Oh, Well!*

Friday and Saturday went as planned. Brenda and I visited relatives who live in Nashville and Saturday was occupied with the featured contests of the week. As we left Sunday, we threaded our way through the lines of barbershoppers waiting at the front desk of the hotel to check out. It's over for another year. For a fleeting moment, I thought of the convention staff and volunteers and how they must have felt as I did a year ago. "I'm glad it's over but I'm not ready to go home yet."

Now...let's see. *What's the best way to Portland?* ~



The Gaylord Entertainment Center shown from down the street. The Gaylord is the glassed pinnacle structure on the right. The Convention center is directly across the street to the left and the Tennessee Performance Arts Center is farther to the left out of view. This picture was taken about two blocks from the Ramada Hotel. Note the bridge across the Cumberland River in the background. This is where the fireworks display was.
(Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire)

IF YOU CAN'T COME, TUNE IN AT HOME by Jim Porter

Since it wasn't in my plans to go to Nashville, I was resigned to waiting to hear about the convention after it was over, and visiting the SPEBSQSA Web site to get the scores. I would have to settle for testimony from my friends with the Ambassadors or from HOA and let that be it.

Not any more! I've often told people who would ask that I might wish to be younger physically, but in many ways, these are the "good old days" and the things we can do today were unthinkable just a few years ago. I would never want to go back.

My wife led me to it. Wednesday, she visited the Web site just to see who was singing, and saw the invitation to tune in, so she did. Soon our home was filled with the sounds of the best barbershop quartets in the world. I was so thankful we made the investment in a computer system with good speakers, because it all came through so well! Yes, there were a few glitches along the way, as the transmission would be interrupted and we had to re-start it, but for the most part it was excellent, and the commentary added to the experience greatly. We are thankful to the AIC for their taking the initiative to make this Webcast available.

That, of course, redefined the rest of the week for us. We didn't miss a bit of the contests, or of the AIC show Friday. It may have been 100 degrees outside that Saturday, but we didn't care, as the whole day was in the coolness of our basement, where the computer is. There are so many advantages of this over being there!

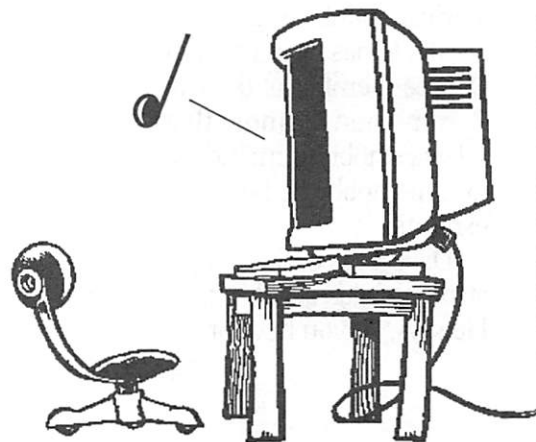
1. You can relax in comfort as you listen, and do whatever else you wish.
2. If you want to sing along, go ahead, crank it up and enjoy.
3. We had the scores in a Word file only moments after the contest was over.
4. No scrambling for dinner Saturday evening. Just do it in the kitchen.
5. When it was over, just turn off the computer and go upstairs to bed!
6. The running commentary was very informative and entertaining.
7. You could even E-Mail the commentators and share your opinions!

What did we enjoy most? Perhaps the Big Chicken Chorus coming out and singing "you stink" to their competitors, and several other choruses giving it back to them in kind, especially the Toronto Northern Lights chorus.

What did we miss by not being there? The sights, of course. You can hear, but you can't see. Also, the electricity of being part of the crowd, meeting people from all over, renewing friendships, the other events of convention week.

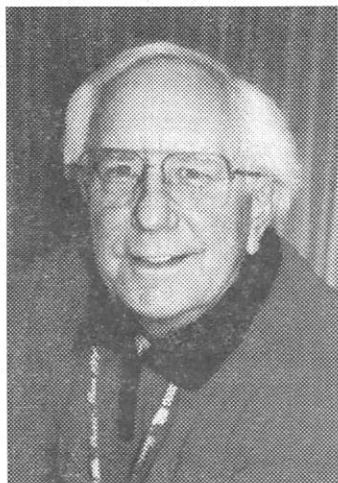
Bottom line: it was great, but it wasn't the real thing. You still can't beat being there in person.

Next year, *Portland*. I hear it is delightful there in July. I hope my life is enough in order by then that we can make the trip, perhaps also see the country in between. But if not, I'll be tuned in again. ~



WHO'S THAT GUY? by Dick Irwin

In future issues of Harmonotes, we will place the spotlight on one of HOA's members. By doing so, we hope to learn more about our barbershop "family"! This month:



Dick Korek - Bass

Introduced to this great barbershop hobby about 6 years ago by my friend **Mike Mathieu**, I've been doing everything I can to tell everyone I meet about our favorite pastime. It hasn't hurt that most of my life I've been doing something in the advertising world. It all started back in Milwaukee, Wisconsin a long time ago in a galaxy far, far away...

Dick Korek, also known to friends and family (at different times in his past) as "Peanuts" and "Dicki Corn" hails from the land of cheese originally. He prefers not to say exactly when he was born, but the modern calendar was still in the design phase. When he was young all of the kids in his neighborhood called him "Peanuts" because he was the smallest kid on his block.

Dick received a degree in Fine Arts from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. All through high school and college he worked with advertising and the newspaper world at the *Milwaukee Journal*. It seems he had a knack for that type of work. After serving a couple of years with the Army during the Korean conflict, he, his lovely wife **Joan**, and daughter number one moved to California so that Dick could study at the prestigious Art Center School in Los Angeles. He then went to work for the largest advertising company in the world (at that time), Foote, Cone, & Belding located at Wilshire and Figeora (a really fancy area).

After 10 years of the high-life in sunny southern California, and a second daughter, Dick accepted a position with the company as their "creative department" in Houston, Texas. While in Houston a third daughter arrived, and Dick was hired by a different advertising company that was then sold to another company in New York. Dick decided to step out on his own with a new advertising and design company. He continues to this day doing what he loves and having some fun along the way.

His family has been the biggest challenge over the years. He says that Joan has one brother who has 8 children. He also had a brother and 2 sisters all living in Wisconsin. There have been lots of trips to "cheeseland" to play uncle to all of his nephews and nieces. Somewhere along the way he bragged about being the best corn-on-the-cob cooker alive. So, all of the family get-togethers became known as Dicki-corn time. There was plenty of bratwurst, beer, fresh, picked-that-morning corn, and ...more beer. With the "unexpected" addition of some favorite brandy, the parties would last into the wee hours of the morning. Needless to say, a good time was had by all.

During his life Dick has had the chance to experience and participate in many activities. He has been a private pilot, sung in choirs with his wife Joan, including a choir that sang in Rome, Italy in February, 2000. He has been involved with Toastmasters and other public speaking organizations. He is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. He has been involved with the Overland Parks Arts Commission for more than 10 years. He and Joan co-chair the "Over 50" social group at their church.

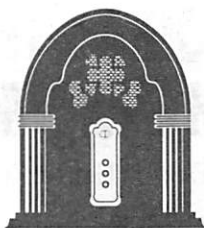
Dick's hobbies include swimming, tennis, racquetball and, of course, barbershop. As part of a photographic hobby he has had several photographs of Kansas City fountains included in Smithsonian exhibits.

Dick loves barbershop with a passion most can't understand. With his outgoing personality and his strong background in advertising, he has been a wonderful spokesman for this hobby and our chapter. He says, "If you have an idea and don't know how to follow through on it, call me!"



REMOTELY ENTERTAINING

by Todd Anderson, so-so Lead of
The Muscial Firm of blah-blah-blah



In my last update I mentioned that KCFX's *Morning Show with Chris and Ally* had asked us to be their official quartet during a remote broadcast, which ended up taking place on July 9th at a place called *Governor Stumpy's*. It's the type of place that'd be pretty nice for an afterglow. Thankfully, the bar wasn't open at that early hour, which meant **Randy** and **Burt** remained coherent.

Raymond had one of those mexican-breakfast-burrito-with-salsa-things while we waited to sing. Totally *disgusting* (the burrito, I mean). They had 'em on sale for a buck.

Turns out this remote was a karaoke contest that pitted adults against their own kiddos. Moms and pops had to sing stuff from *N-Sync*, while the kids had to sing tunes from their parents era. *The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray* became barbershop "filler" for the mayhem that took place. The crowd received us very well and we had our usual great time. (Would've been even better if it *hadn't* been scheduled for 7 am, but since **Burt works** for KCFX (I use the term *loosely*), we had to take what was afforded us.) Our thanks to the "Fox" for a grand time.

Finally, some free advice from yours truly if you are wanting to form a quartet. Make sure at least one of your members has ties to some form of media exploitation (newspaper, radio, etc. like **Burt**), can create quality custom banners, print promotional material, or design websites. Now...if you can get guys that do *all that*, it sure helps a bunch when it comes to marketing your brand of harmony.

However...DO make sure those *other* three guys can sing first. ~



TONE-HENGE REMEMBERS REV. SPOONER

by Old Dan

Webster says a *spoonerism* is an unintentional interchange of sounds (usually initial sounds) in two or more words. The term got its name from the **Reverend Spooner**, an early 1900's Oxford College prof who made such verbal slips rather frequently.

Those of us who are equally ancient may fondly remember quartets with members who were well-versed in the "art". Ask **Frazier Allen** or **Monte Duerksen** about their Wichita quartet's inclusion of "Prinderella and the Since" in their act, including a hilarious description of the "sisty uglers"...or **Aesop's** fable of the dog and the mill pond. The dog saw his "remection in the flawter", and thought it was a "duther nog with a miece of peat lice as twarge as the one he held in his mipping drouth!"

Well, *Tone-Henge* is learning a pure and simple "straight" barbershop song. It's got a ton of neat barbershop chords and it's fun to sing...but it ain't funny. Now, we're old, but we're wise enough to know that we ain't gonna get many bookings based solely on our singing. So we're thinking maybe old Spooner's malady might be incorporated in such a fashion as to "funny up" the song.

We'll peep you coasted. ~

JUST FOUR FUN

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

JUST ASK THE KIDS

The following questions were answered
by elementary school students...

HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming. - Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they're going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you're stuck with. - Kirsten, age 10

WHAT IS THE RIGHT AGE TO GET MARRIED?

23 is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then. - Camille, age 10

No age is good to get married at. You got to be a fool to get married. - Freddie, age 6

HOW CAN A STRANGER TELL IF TWO PEOPLE ARE MARRIED?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

- Derrick, age 8

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOUR MOM AND DAD HAVE IN COMMON?

Both don't want any more kids. - Lori, age 8

WHAT DO MOST PEOPLE DO ON A DATE?

On the first date they just tell each other lies, and that usually gets them interested enough to go for a second date.

- Martin, age 10

HOW WOULD YOU MAKE A MARRIAGE WORK?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty even if she looks like a truck. - Ricky, age 10

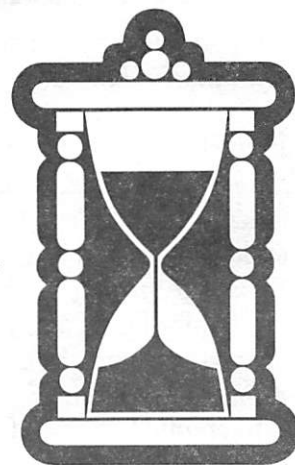
(This has to be a cool kid)

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN THE HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - August 1991

With 90 singers on stage, HOA took seventh place at the International chorus contest at Louisville, our best finish since we came within 57 points of a fifth-place medal at Detroit in 1981. In his analysis of our performance, Music Director **Jim Bagby** points out that we missed a sixth-place finish by only two points and blamed it on "the lack of stage command" (that's a fancy way to describe stage fright) that was a result of his decision "to bypass the Friday walkthrough." You were too hard on yourself, Jim.



Twenty Years Ago - August 1981

Disbelief was a common reaction among the members of HOA and their supporters when it was announced by Chapter President **Keith Schweer** at the chapter banquet after the chorus contest (they didn't have computers providing almost instantaneous contest results in those days) that HOA had finished in sixth place, their best ever effort in International competition. Keith recalls that one of his most vivid recollections is "having **Jim Bagby's** parents spontaneously write out a check to kick off the travel fund for next year," they were that sure that HOA would medal at New Orleans in 1982.

Thirty-One Years Ago - August, 1970

(We're missing the August 1971 issue of Harmonotes so we'll go back another year to August of 1970.)

On July 18, 38 members of HOA journeyed to Joplin to put on a show for the new Joplin chapter. In addition to the HOA chorus, the show included the *Digits*, **Percy Franks**, **Dan Henry** as the master of ceremonies, and a special treat, the *Travelaires* from Western Kansas. ~

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Max Boise



This issue finds **Al Higgins** recovering from knee replacement surgery. His roommate, **Chuck Ames**, says that the surgery went just fine and that Al should be back on his feet in no time. *We're all pulling for you, Al.* We look forward to seeing you back on the risers soon.

Jerry Snyder reports that wife **Jeanne** is doing great following surgery on her other eye (we reported surgery she had on one eye previously). We're just wondering if she'll still feel the same about Jerry once she can see him better (just kidding, of course)! *We hope your recovery continues to go well, Jeanne.*

Recently we've been missing **Jim White's** smiling face at the meetings. We just found out that he has been dealing with a general malaise that has been leaving him very weak. He says that the doctors are unable to determine the cause but that he is beginning to feel somewhat better lately. He wants everyone to know that he will probably not be able to perform with us in Topeka this fall. We wish Jim a quick recovery and look forward to any time he may be able to visit us on Tuesdays.

We just heard from **Ron Abel** that his wife **Ann** had to undergo gall bladder surgery on July 24th. Ron said the surgery went just fine. He was hoping to take her home that evening. All our best wishes Ann and Ron! ~

WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

1. What family had the first combination of father and three sons as HOA members?

2. What family has provided three generations in the Heart of America chorus at one time?

3. Other than the Lankenau's and Mathieu's, name two HOA members who've had two sons in the chorus.

Answer: 1. The late **Floyd Lankenau**, with **Gordon, Ross and Wayne**. Later came the **four Mathieus**. 2. The **Yoders**. 3. **Ron Abel and Darrell McCune**.



GENTLEMEN OF NOTE: P.F.P.W.3 S,1 S.I.W.

by Monty Duerksen, F.O.G.

Since our last visit to this *prestigious* publication, we have been **INVOLVED!**

• **"PRE-LIMS"**...We were the "*Gentlemen of NOT*". The "E" for EXCELLENCE was left in the wings! Rain, hail and chaos en route, hotel to stage wiped out our focus! 'Twas a learning experience!

• **WEDDING**...We sang "*The Wedding March*" while the bride walked to the front. No words. Loo, loo...we could have used Dum, Dum, Dum, Dum (not good) or Dooh, Dooh (not good, either!). So just Loo, Loo, Loo, Loo. "*If I Gave My Heart To You*" brought tears to the eyes of the bride. Don't know whether we were that bad or that good!?

• **P.F.P.W.3 S, 1 S.I.W.**...*Performing For People With 3 Standing, 1 Sitting In Wheelchair* has not curtailed our activity one bit. **Rod** (as many of you know), lost an argument with a tree limb and a ladder. However a "rehab ankle and leg" have not affected his voice, so we went for coaching to Mini-HEP and **Jim Casey**. We also scrambled up and down hills at Kearney, Missouri for an Independence Day celebration.

WHAT'S NEXT?...Harmony College for a week of intensive coaching. This F.O.G. (Fairly Old Geezer) will attend for the first time! We look forward to another learning experience! ~



MEMORABLE BARBERSHOP MOMENTS

**OR...
WE
SHOULDN'T
LAUGHED**

by Dan Henry

You have to be approaching "ancientness" like me in order to remember when the comic strip titled *"The Toonerville Trolley."* It ran in most papers and featured about a dozen characters that were always aboard a rattletrap trolley car that was apparently designed to hold no more than four, and was frequently jumping the tracks or suffering other mechanical ills.

"Toonerville" has a nice barbershop ring to it. "TOON-er-ville". So, back in the '60's, a big Land-o-Lakes chapter bought a show package from some "out-of-town Jasper" who produced and directed the annual show, based on the comic strip. It was an excellent show...with one exception. No, not the fact that our quartet was on it. It was the trolley itself.

Are you old enough to remember the comic strip? The trolley was wide at the top, narrow at the bottom, and lurched violently left and right. Well, somebody built the trolley for the show, and it had all the above characteristics plus a few other undesirables.

The songs are going well, the script is being well-read by the actors, then on lumbers the main feature. The trolley—stage right—crossing to stage left.

What seemed like fifteen minutes later, it made it—rocking back and forth all the way—with the octet on board wishing for *Dramamine*. If the guys on board were singing, you couldn't hear 'em above the grinding of the gears necessary to turn those off-set wheels. Obviously it was a show stopper, but not in the proper sense. It halted the show.

It's nice to have an audience laugh with you, not *at* you. We laughed. We shouldn'ta laughed.



RISER-ING TO THE OCCASION

by Jim Bagby, HOA Performance Coach

At the risk of showing my age, I wanna remind you about "the old days." I'm referring to the time when the Heart of America Chorus used both chairs and risers. Basically, we learned music, checked repertoire and rehearsed in the chairs. When we took the risers, it was performance time.

That made adopting a performance attitude easier—new place, new look, new approach. Time to pretend the crowd is there. But even on risers, you can't perform (totally) with music in your hand, or with the weight on one foot while another section is singing, or when the focus is on fundamentals. So now our cue to adopt a performance attitude is—anyone? *Right*, when the feller out front says "let's perform."

How do we make that switch, psychologically? *C'mon*, let's not see the same hands all the time. *Right*—we rely on our experience, and guidance from our leadership, to know that NOW is the time to distribute the weight shoulder width, get the outside foot slightly forward, hold the arms (put a bend in your elbows that helps lift the chest and roll the shoulders out) and **ACTIVATE THE FACE**.



Wait a minute, shouldn't we do that all the time? Well, yes, the A-level choruses certainly do all those things most of the time. That would be a good target for all of us, if we hope to accomplish our short- and long-term goals. But let's be realistic and concede we are not at the point now. So let's take it in logical steps: learn the performance craft, apply it during the performance section of the meeting and then extend our performance attitude to as much of our riser time as possible.

While we're pursuing that objective, and especially in the time between now and the Topeka competition this fall, let me offer my services to anyone who'd like more help learning the aforementioned craft. I know **Don Young**, **Mike Schumacher** and the music team also are eager to help you be your best when we get to that time when the leader says: *Performance Time!*

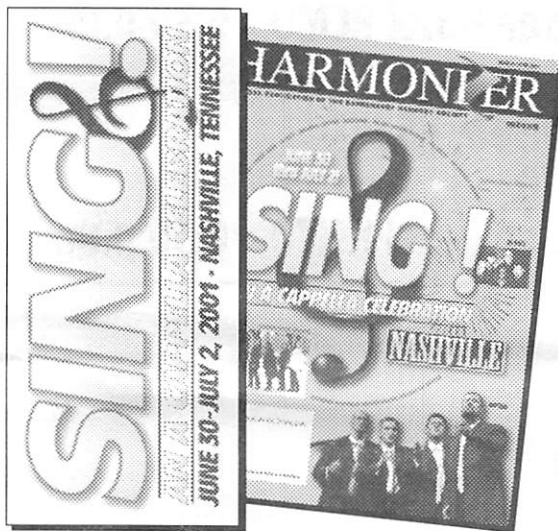
OL' TODD (*Blush*) AND BAGBY HONORED IN NASHVILLE

by Todd Anderson, Editor

Last July, during the 2000 International Contest held here in Kansas City, I was contacted by **Robb Ollett**. Robb was in charge of public relations and marketing for the *SING!* celebration that was to be held in Nashville. He needed some brochures produced quickly for distribution during our convention. I was recommended by **Jim Bagby**. Robb said he really liked what I gave him, and soon asked me to develop the marketing and ad materials for this first-ever *SING!* event. Shortly thereafter, *Harmonizer* Editor **Lorin May** in Kenosha also afforded me the chance to draw attention to *SING!* by having me design the March/April 2001 cover of *Harmonizer*. What a treat! Plus, I had no idea that some of my efforts would also partner with a feature article written by Jim (p.13, March/April issue)!

I enjoyed being a part of such a ground-breaking. It was a real treat to create material for the Society and to have a role in what's hoped will be an on-going event!

Following is a surprise note I received from *SING!* Chairman **Tim Hanrahan**...



Hi, Todd!

Haven't had the chance, until now, to send you a note on SING! It was a SMASHING SUCCESS. The audience and performers LOVED it and are clamoring for more. All want to make it a regular event. They seemed to think that we pulled off a miracle and all agreed that SING! was spectacular.

We had about 1,500-plus people on Saturday and Sunday and a sold-out house (about 2,400) on Monday night. All of the daytime events were crowded...some to SRO crowds.

*Todd, the programs were great...had many comments on how nice they looked. PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) has awarded the SING! Public Relations Team with its Outstanding Achievement Award. I'll mail the certificates to you and **Jim Bagby** (who wrote the successful *Harmonizer* advance article on SING!)*

THANKS,...you ready to do it again in three years?? ~

Tim Hanrahan

**Chairman—Sing! An A Cappella Celebration
Nashville 2001**

LIKE MUSIC **AND** HOME-MADE ICE CREAM?

The *Garden City Community Choir*, directed by **Calvin Yoder**, stages its annual fund-raiser on Saturday, August 4.

It'll be held at the First Christian Church, on Main Street in Garden City, with the serving starting at 5:00 p.m. The choir performs at 7:30. By then, organizers figure to go through about 40 gallons of freezer-made ice cream, along with cake, ice tea and coffee. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children. ~



Heart of America

August-September Calendar

July 29 - August 4

Harmony College/Directors College, St. Joseph, Missouri

August 13

Kansas City Board Meeting - Doubletree Hotel KCMO - 6:30 p.m.

September 7 - September 9

HOA Retreat - Atchison, KS

September 10

Kansas City Board Meeting - Doubletree Hotel KCMO - 6:30 p.m.

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