

Harmonotes

December 2001

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2001, Issue 12



Gordon Lankenau

HOA DIRECTOR TO STEP ASIDE

As a 22-year barbershopper and a three-year front line director for the *Heart of America Chorus*, I have experienced more thrills than anyone can imagine. Seeing and hearing the chorus improve, especially in the area of pitch retention, has definitely been a high priority that has paid off. The excitement felt when dynamics change and energy in our phrase endings are accomplished effectively and consistently make being a director a pleasure.

However, responsibilities of a director for a chorus such as HOA have requirements that sometimes makes one reevaluate whether time enough to do the job is available for a hobby such as this.

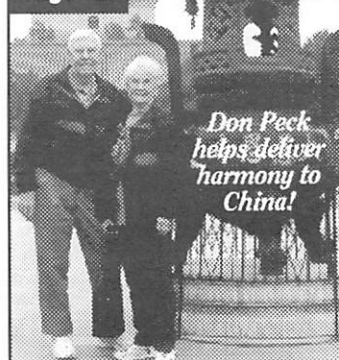
It is with a great deal of pride I've felt working with HOA that I have decided to step aside from my

front line directing role. Having discussed this with **Bruce** and **Jim**, a reappointment of **Jim Bagby** into the role of front line director would be most appropriate at this time, to enable the chapter to continue on its quest of excellence. If I am to continue with any directing or coaching responsibilities for the chorus, it will be occasional but not on a regular basis. If necessary, I will assist in a short transitional period to fulfill our holiday performances. At this time, I cannot say how involved I will be, but you can bet that I'll be seeing you.

To all our barbershop friends and family, **Becky** and I both wish you all the happiest of holiday seasons and thank you for this time spent in front of you. ~

Carter Combs photos courtesy of Ron McIntire. China photo courtesy of Don Peck.

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Don Peck helps deliver harmony to China!

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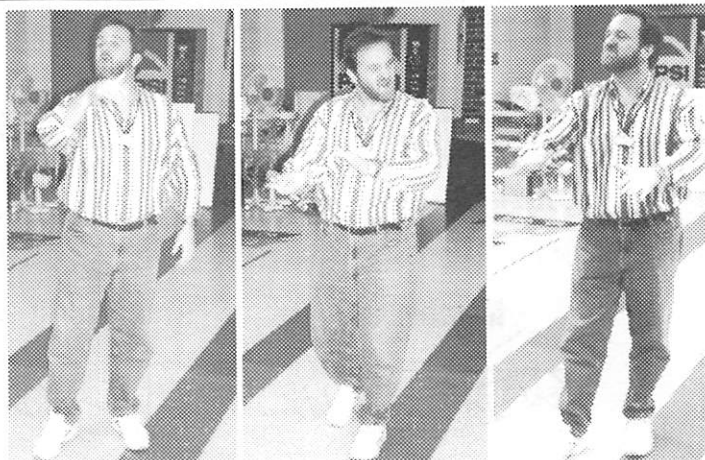
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...and back again!**



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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Member Of



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

by Dick Irwin, HOA President

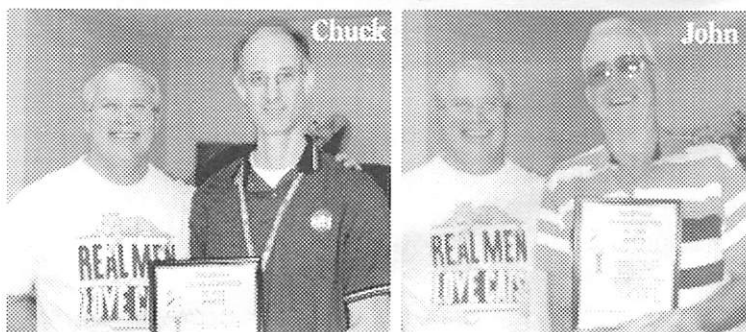
After nearly two years, I am writing my last article for the *Harmonotes*, as your President. So many things have happened to this chapter during my tenure. We have survived hosting another (our fifth) international. We have gone from finishing a dismal fourth at districts in Cedar Rapids, to not competing, to a strong second-place finish in Topeka. We have changed our uniforms, our sound and, I think, we have changed our attitude about how we perform. There have been many new faces added to the ranks. Some of the new faces are taking the initiative to step forward and become a part of helping this chapter to run. Some of the old faces are showing a renewed interest in this great chapter and chorus.

All in all, I feel like the last two years have been a learning and growing experience, not just for me, but for the chapter and chorus over all.

We have begun, with the help of **Don Fuson** of the Overland Park Chapter, to have communication with our brothers in the other local chapters. This was a goal I only dreamed about when my presidency started. It has a long way to go! But, it's on its way.

I will still be a very active part of the chapter leadership and the chorus. I intend to keep my front row spot for a long time. I look forward to performing and competing with all of you in our future. Thank you so very much for all of the support and encouragement you have given during my presidency. I know you will continue to show this same attitude for **John Stucker** as he takes over the reigns of OUR chapter. ~

BARBERSHOPPER(S) OF THE MONTH!



BOTM for August: Chuck Ames. There's little doubt that Chuck Ames deserves this award. He arrives early, sets up the risers, moves tables and chairs so guests have somewhere to sit, then reverses the process after the meeting is all over. More often than not, he is the last one to leave. True, he doesn't do it all, but he's always there to ramrod the activity.

BOTM for October: John Stucker. Al Higgins is usually the point man for arranging hotel accommodations and registrations for the chorus. But Al was in the hospital for a knee replacement surgery when it came time for contest. That's when John stepped in and got the job done. Those who have done this job can tell you it's not an easy one. ~ (Both BOTM are shown above, receiving their awards from **Dick Irwin**. Photos courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.)

MEET OUR NEWEST ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: *Carter Combs*

by Ron McIntire

Carter was born in Taylor Township, just outside of Detroit, Mich., but his family, including five brothers and four sisters, moved to Independence, MO., when he five. He was active in the concert and show choirs, band and theater at William Chrisman High School and became acquainted with barbershop harmony when his mother and older sister got involved in Sweet Adelines. After High School, he went off to Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, to study computer science, but he stayed active in theater and concert music.

Shortly after college, a job transfer moved him to Pensacola, Florida, where, among other things, he became active in community theater. He later joined the Pensacola Chapter and sang with the Fiesta Chorus. Not long after he joined the chapter he was invited to "fill in" for a missing tenor and eventually sang with the *Chord Commanders* quartet for 18 years. During some of those years he also sang with the *Song Peddlers* and later *Sunshine Express*, which went on to place 4th in the Sunshine District district contest.

In his barbershop career, Carter has served as Program VP, Music VP, President, Show Director, Asst. Director and finally as Music Director for the last eight years of his stay in Florida. Along the way he has attended various district and international conventions and Harmony & Directors Colleges.

He first met his wife, **Jeffi**, a few years ago at a charter party for the then-new Sweet Adelines Pensacola Sound Chorus, and proposed to her on the Alaska Barbershop Cruise in May of 2000. When the opportunity to work for Helzberg Jewelers arose, the temptation to "come home" to Kansas City was just too great.

What a treat it is to have Carter in the Kansas City Chapter. His strong musical background will be a great addition to our highly talented music committee. *Welcome aboard, Carter!* ~

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 Gathright (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 Heilmann, (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)

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

Lyle Wyly (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)

Uranium

Carter Combs (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Dale Neuman (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

SALVATION ARMY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY/ FUND-RAISING KICKOFF

by Ron McIntire

When I arrived at the Salvation Army headquarters Wednesday night, November 14th, the *Gentlemen of Note* had just finished their part of the program to help kick off the Salvation Army 2001 fund raising campaign. They were standing in front of a large Christmas tree perched on a grassy knoll between the headquarters building and a convenience store to the north. The evening was warm and the traffic along Broadway was brisk.

Mike Mathieu had arranged for those who came early to have a hot dog and a bowl of chili before we sang, so I headed for the tent at the rear of the building. As I zigzagged my way through dignitaries, the Salvation Army band and a myriad of supporters and volunteers, it felt good to be part of the HOA Chorus.

Soon the chorus was ushered to a spot in front of the tree and we wedged a couple of songs between pieces by the band, speakers from the Salvation Army and others who said a few words about donations to help the needy and Bryan Busby, Gary Lezak, Mike Thompson and Katie Horner, weather personalities from the local TV stations, offered their take on the weather for the Christmas season. After three more songs from the chorus, everyone turned toward the tree, the meteorologists threw the switch and the tree came alive with light. The entire ceremony was over in less than 20 minutes.

Somewhere in those few minutes while the crowd was leaving, the cleanup crew collected trash and the TV camera-men packed tripods and sound equipment to head off toward the next story, the evening grew quiet. It was then that I noticed how secure I felt in the heavy wool sweater I was wearing, the scarf I had wrapped around my neck and the Santa's hat that kept slipping down over my ears. We are indeed fortunate. ~

The forty barbershoppers who braved the 68 degree weather and clear November sky to be part of the festivities were:

Bob Rutherford	Jon Gathright	Ross Lankenau	Ron Abel	Denis Kinghorn
Kent McClean	Monty Duerksen	Gordon Lankenau	Al Higgins	Mike Mathieu
Barry Sanders	Marty Oldehoeft	John Stucker	Dan Henry Bowser	Kevin Beauford
Don Koehlein	Val Putzier	Bob Burdick	David Miller	Tom Owen
Shaun Jeffries	Paul Winans	Carl Turlin	Grant Hunget	Jim Bagby
John Starcke	George Park	Jerry Snyder	Lyle Wyle	Gordon Coleman
Rich Huyck	Don Young	Roy Manade	Bruce Wenner	John Winfield
Rod Rule	Ron McIntire	Dick Korek	Vince Perry	Frazier Allen

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

by Mike Mathieu

I wish all of you could have been with me at the Bellringers Advisory Board Meeting held before the Treelighting Ceremony. At the end of the meeting someone said, "Special Thanks to the *Gentlemen of Note* for the singing during last Monday evenings Bellringing Kickoff." Then all the people chimed in that they thought it was the best kickoff we ever had, and the Singing by "that quartet" was what made the evening so special. Again thanks to the GON, and I sure am proud to be associated with such giving guys.

The evening performance-what a blast! As I had stated earlier, we had to be extremely flexible, but I think it all turned out great. First the GON sang live to Katie Horner while she was doing the 6 p.m. weather forecast. The timing on the song they sang worked out perfectly.

Then the chorus sang our mini-concert. Because of time, we thought we'd only do three numbers, but then the Colonel said "do one more," and when the Colonel speaks, we jump. We sang one more to a most appreciative audience.

The real frosting on the cake was as I was heading to my car in the parking lot, someone who's a spouse of a Salvation Army official walked over to me, said the singing was super, and wondered, "How much the Salvation Army had to pay you all to come and sing?" The person must have thought that a performance as good as that had to be paid for, and I considered that a high compliment.

Again I heard comments that this was the "Best Treelighting Ever" and the singing made it so super. Thanks for all who came and shared their valuable time with the Salvation Army. Special thanks to our out-of-town troopers, Gordon Lankenau, Vince Perry, John Stucker, Val Putzier, and also thanks to the "local" HOA'ers. I hope you all enjoyed being there as much as I did.

Thanks for all the extra efforts, and "Keep The Whole World Singing." You're the greatest. ~

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: HOA's incoming President for 2002...

John Stucker - Bass

Our member-of-the-month was born in Leavenworth, Kansas, over 60 years ago (a lot over we'd guess). He has lived in Leavenworth nearly his entire life, with short visits to the U.S. Air Force. **John Stucker** currently holds the position of chapter secretary. He has served in many different capacities with the Kansas City chapter over his 23-year membership. John is also a certified contest administrator for our Society.

As a child, John attended grade school only 4 blocks from home, was in junior high school (that's what they called them way back then) only 5 blocks from home, and graduated from high school only 6 blocks from home. I guess the older he got the more his parents trusted him to get farther from home. He had a cousin who graduated as valedictorian two years ahead of him, a sister who graduated as valedictorian one year ahead of him, and he, well, he just graduated. After high school, John joined the Air Force because he didn't have a clue what he wanted to do with his life. He spent eleven weeks in basic training, then returned to Leavenworth to get married. John and **Jane** have now been married for more than 46 years. (John, that's nearly as long as I've been around!)

The Stuckers have two sons, **David** and **Matthew**. David used to sing with HOA back in the 1970's. The first time HOA went to the international contest in Minneapolis, MN, David was a student in Manhattan, KS. He would drive back and forth to rehearsals (about 4 hours each way). On his way he would stop in Lawrence, KS and pick up **Gordon Lankenau** (yes, our director). John visits his other son, Matthew, in Larned, Kansas (I never "larned" where that place is, John) quite frequently to play golf and visit with Matthew and his wife. Matthew is a game warden with responsibilities covering three counties.

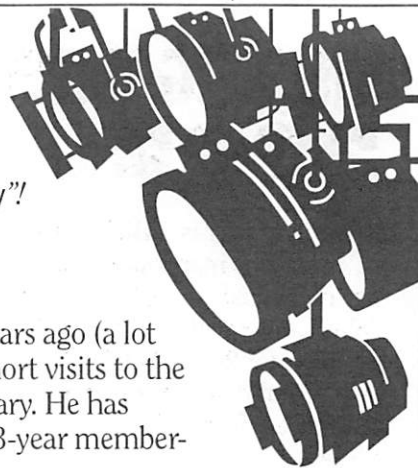
John received some intensive electronics training in the Air Force. It has served him well over the years as he worked in a TV repair shop then eventually as a government employee at Fort Leavenworth. He retired from federal service after 34 years but was only able to stay "retired" for about six months. He worked for about three years as a government contractor, doing the same job he did prior to retiring. Then, he signed on with a friend and worked for about three more years. After this last contract expired, he decided it was time to concentrate on his hobbies.

Those include bowling (he used to carry a 205 average), skiing with the Kansas City Ski Club (he loves making as many trips as possible to Colorado in the winter), golf (a sport he says he took up way to late in life, but he's making up for lost time), and, of course, barbershopping. He started in barbershop with the Leavenworth chapter in 1968 (the year I graduated from high school, John). After about 10 years he visited HOA and has been making the 50-mile drive ever since. He became a certified secretary in the 1980s and when the categories were refined in 1993, he recertified as a contest administrator.

John admits to having many special memories in barbershopping. Probably his most exciting moment was the first district contest that HOA won in 1978. "We were in the Music Hall, had sung last and were strung out when the news filtered back that we had won. Total chaos!!"

He also recalls a very moving moment at Harmony college, "There were 700 plus folks in the auditorium during Harmony college. **Joe Liles** had just introduced his latest arrangement, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. There was not a dry eye in the house."

Take a minute to say "Hi" to John the next time you see him. I'll bet he'd gladly sing a tag! ~



John Stucker

SINGING VALENTINES 2002

by John Landry

And the answer is...**Dick Sutton**. The question is...what one man did such a superb job that it takes two individuals to replace him. **Phil Veltkamp** and **John Landry** will co-chair the Singing Valentines program for 2002. Dick left huge shoes to fill. The last several years, Dick has pushed our Singing Valentines effort to become one of the best in the Society.

The Singing Valentines fund-raiser is extremely important to the financial stability of the chapter. This year even more so, due to the cancellation of the Christmas Show. Gentlemen, we have an opportunity before us. We will blanket this city with quartets for two days in February. We will have incredible media exposure again (thanks to the efforts of **Mike Mathieu** and **Dick Korek**.) With the recent success of the Bush League Quartet Contest, I know we will have fantastic, qualified foursomes representing the chapter. We WILL make money.

HOA needs total involvement from the membership to maximize the potential of this venture. We need quartets. There is a signup sheet at the meeting. You can signup for an individual part or you can signup a quartet (hey, bush leaguers,...gonna stay together?)

We need headquarters staff. Computer literates, phone help, folks to put the quartet supplies together. We need liaisons for Children's Mercy and the Sweet Adelines. We need someone to procure the flowers, candy and cards and someone to coordinate the answering service.

We need everyone to market the program. Do not rely on the advertising to sell singing valentines. Everyone of us needs to market to our own friends and business contacts. We will have flyers available to place in your businesses.

If you haven't ever delivered a singing valentine, surprising someone at work or in a restaurant, well...we will have some of the veterans relate a few stories for you. Even if you need to schedule some vacation time, plan on February 13 and 14, 2002 as chapter days. You WILL have some fun. You WILL help your chapter. You WILL be glad you participated in Singing Valentines 2002. ~



**"Grand is
the effect
of an
HOA quartet!"**

WHAT ARE YOUR HOA GOALS?

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Performance Coach

I wanna wind up the year with what I hope is a note of realism that doesn't sound pessimistic, followed by a note of optimism about the coming year.

If you read the last issue of *Harmonotes*, you might have gotten the impression we won the fall CSD contest in Topeka. Not so fast there, pitchpipe breath. Yes, we improved, and yes we were respectable, and yes, our chapter leaders responded enthusiastically.

But thanks to Harmonet huggers like **John Landry**, who keep relaying those #!@!* composite Society chorus scores, we can easily see we're pretty far down the line when it comes to the big picture. And if we were really honest, we might agree we don't sing any of the rest of our repertoire as well as we perform our two contest songs.

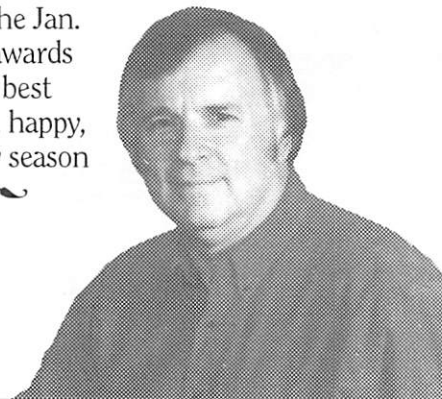
So I ask you to join me in pledging for 2002: **singing comes first**. Or as incoming Society President **Roger Lewis** says, "Singing is life...the rest is just details." Roger is a Presentation Category judge and a *Rural Route 4* fan, not to mention a committed quartet man and veteran Society leader. Even if he does hail from Battle Creek, Mich., he has exceptional wisdom and vision.

If we can make singing our top priority—good singing—I suggest the rest of our hobby priorities will fall into place. At the risk of rolling eyes and some HOA old-timers starting to hum "Battle Hymn" in the background, I refer you to one of my alltime favorite approaches. It's called the *Golden Circle*, and it goes like this:

The better we sing, the more fun we have. The more fun we have, the more singers we attract. The more singers we have, the better we sing.

If you agree, 2002 should be a banner year for HOA.

Joann and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Jan. 12 installation and awards dinner. Meanwhile, best wishes for a healthy, happy, harmonious holiday season and the new year! ~



CHAPTER SHOW PREPARATIONS? *ALREADY?*

by Bruce Wenner. Music Vice-President

Yep. Your Music Team is hard at work putting together the chorus part of the March 9 Chapter Show. Current repertoire numbers in the program include *I'll Be Seeing You*, *Sweet Georgia Brown*, *Puttin' on the Ritz*, *Gee But It's Great To Be In Kansas City*, and *It Had To Be You*.

Some good new numbers too. We've pretty well learned *I'm Beginning To See The Light*, that rocking uptune performed so well by our 2001 Champs *Michigan Jake*. This is a **Rob Hopkins** arrangement, with a new verse written by **Eric Jackson**—sound familiar? (Hint: if you don't make the connection, I'll be seeing you.) Another that we've seen now, and heard from our section leaders (both in front of the chapter and in the fall CSD contest, now registered as *New And Used Parts*), is the gorgeous **Irving Berlin** ballad *How Deep Is The Ocean*, another Rob Hopkins arrangement—we're gonna stay with this guy!

A couple of the new show songs are actually old show songs—not real old, just not from last year. *Armed Forces Medley* is in your hands now, with four service songs and *America the Beautiful* to finish it. We plan to stage it as we did some 5-6 years ago, with a uniformed jarhead/swabbie/dogface/jet jockey marching out for the appropriate segment, and we'll use a different director for each segment—for the math-challenged among you, that's five. Also back after a hiatus of some 10 years is *Battle of Jericho*, complete with soloist (then and now) **David Krause**. The bad news is that this is not the **Jim Clancy** arrangement done so spectacularly by the *Vocal Majority*. The good news is that this is not the Jim Clancy arrangement done so spectacularly by the *Vocal Majority*—that one would require much too much rehearsal time to prepare, and we have a much more accessible one by **Jim Massey** that works very well. Other possible new ones are a demonstration number called *How to Build a Chorus*, and a *Mills Brothers Medley*, arranged by **Ed Waesche** (another of our favorite arrangers over the years, including *Sweet Georgia Brown*) and as performed by the '78 Champs *Blue Grass*.

Student Union. The latter is 12 pages long—that's the bad news—the good news is that quartets will be used for a substantial portion of it, so the chorus won't have as much of it to learn.

The taping went so well in the contest preparations that we're going to do it again in the show preparations. Each section leader will be designating the numbers he wants to hear, and we'll want to hear a first tape at least by Jan. 22. Feb. 5 will be the last chance to tape on the risers—if there's any fine tuning left it will be done off the risers with our section leaders. As in the fall, the section leaders will make every effort to help get every man on the risers, and we know you will respond to that with maximum effort, as you did for the CSD contest. Let's give PLATINUM an act so good they won't want to follow it! ~

NOW WE CAN LAUGH, BUT *NOT THEN!*

by Dan Henry

You've undoubtedly seen *Tone-Henge's* balloon routine; shootin' those long, thin inflatables into the audience while singing, "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles". The number is a holdover from an afterglow bit the *Merry Mugs* performed in the 60's, and has since bounced through the antics of *Hubbub* to the present. It takes a lot of 'setting up', and the singing suffers when we're firing those balloons, but it's worth it, seeing folks scramble for 'em, and seeing how far we can make 'em fly.

Well, the "Mugs" appeared on our chapter show so many times, we ran out of "show" repertoire and had to dip into the afterglow stuff...and we thought it'd be neat to sing, "Bubbles", and fire the balloons from the Music Hall Stage. *BIG mistake*.

Many HOA members have appeared on the Music Hall stage many times, but it's my guess none have noticed when the act curtain goes up there's a current of air that flows from the audience toward the stage. *Ever been aware of that?* Neither had *we*, 'til we started firing those balloons into the audience...and having every one of them return to us on stage. *How embarrassing!*

We laugh about it...*now*. ~



Topekan Bob Hoover has been a mortician since 1969. Nothing he has seen in those 32 years prepared him for what he saw when he was called on to assist New York City in the wake of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

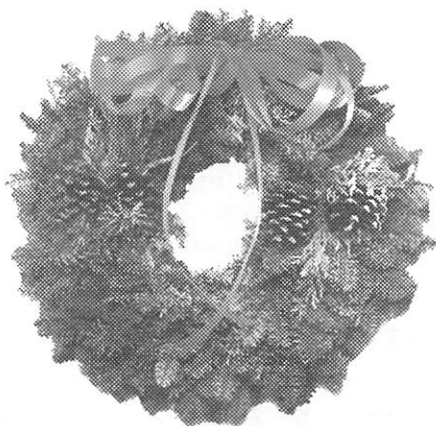
"The New York people have opened up to the rest of the world so much. I have never seen such a caring for people as there was when we were there.

"I had never been to New York City in my life, and I was thinking New York City is a place that says, 'Get out of my face,' but these people were so happy to see us there so we could do our job."

Hundreds of organizations have contributed to New York's recovery effort, but one sticks out in Hoover's mind.

"I know everybody believes in the Red Cross, and it's a great organization," he said, "but some of the most generous people I met there were from the Salvation Army."

"The Salvation Army gave us food, gave us clothing, gave us everything we needed 24 hours a day at every outpost we had. They gave us things to send back to our family. They had ministers and people there talking to you. I would say to the people of Topeka, 'Do not ever walk away from the Salvation Army this holiday season without giving something.'"



(Our thanks to the Associated Press for allowing us to reprint this information!)

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - December 1991

Two major upcoming events dominated HOA planning at the end of 1991. Of immediate interest was the 1992 annual show, scheduled for Saturday, March 7. Show Chairman **Manley Vance** announced that we would present a show that featured "a minimum of talking and MCing" for "a very fast paced evening of barber-shop entertainment." **Jim Bagby** would serve as producer/director. The afterglow would be handled by **Stan Ackers**, and **Ed Sundermeyer** would serve as ticket chairman. Meanwhile, the chapter board had decided that the contest set for the International contest in New Orleans next summer would be the same two songs we had used to win the CSD contest back in October, "That Old Quartet of Mine," and "There'll Be Some Changes Made." The board felt there was not enough time to learn two new songs and bring them up to International standards by July.

The 1991 HOA "Bush League" quartet contest was won by the *Four Man Vocal Band*, with **Matt Bostick** (tenor), **John Fortino** (lead), **Brian Williams** (bass), and **Jerry Meier** (baritone).

New HOA members were **Dick Leines** and **Jim Farina**. HOA lost a member when veteran Barbershopper **Clarence Crow** passed away on November 16 after a long illness. Word had come that thirty-year barbershopper **Frank Lasta** had transferred to a chapter in the Johnny Appleseed District.

Twenty Years Ago - December 1981

The format for the annual Salvation Army bell ringing event at the Ward Parkway Shopping Center on December 19 was slightly different than it's been the last few years. We presented only five shows, the last one at 3 p.m. instead of 4 p.m. as we currently do. This may have been because the chorus was later to present a one-hour concert, blue tuxes and all, in the lobby of the Crown Center Hotel.

The annual "Bush League" quartet contest was won by a foursome called *The New Beginnings*. Other than their baritone, **Ron Wolkey**, who wrote the article for *Harmonotes*, the members were identified only by their first names: **Gary**, **Tim**, and **Al**. Anybody recall who they were?

Board members for 1982 were **Jerry Fullington** (president), **Jim Davis** (membership VP), **Larry Wilson** (program VP), **Wes Rutherford** (secretary), **Phil Youngs** (treasurer), **Jim Bagby** (member-at-large) and *Harmonotes* editor **Al Benz**. (Continued on page 9) →



(Continued from page 8)

Thirty-Five Years Ago - December, 1966

The annual chapter installation banquet was to be held on December 6 at the "Top of the Towers," described by editor **Don Thorne** as one of Kansas City's "newest and swankiest buildings." Anyone remember where it was/is? Guests would include SPEBSQSA Executive Director **Barrie Best** and his wife, CSD President-elect **Pierce Brane** and his wife, Missouri Division VP-elect **Harvey Parker** and **Mrs. Parker**, and our area counselor, **Stew Vaughn**, and a friend.

Chapter officers for 1967 were **Sam Solomon** (president), **Don Wickers** (membership VP), **Barney Wasson** (program VP), **Pete Peterson** (secretary) and **Joe Costigan** (treasurer). Directors-at-large were **Ron Able**, **Bob Coe**, **Todd Crittenden**, **Bernie Geier**, **Bill Hullett**, **Al Moritz**, **Louie Rigg**, **Don Thorne** and **Bob Wessley**.

A new member was **Jack Levison**. Recent guests included one **Vince Perry**, who lived at 625 E. Armour Blvd. in Kansas City. Could that be *our* Vince Perry? When I joined St. Joe in July of 1965, there was a Vince Perry on their chapter roster. *Same guy?* ~

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Max Boise

We found out on Tuesday, Nov. 21 that **Vince Perry** had undergone some gall bladder surgery up in St. Joseph. Reports are he's doing well and looking forward to a quick recovery.

Ken Neujhar is having tests/treatment for a variety of medical problems, and **Paul Winans** is going through adjustments to medications following his recent heart surgery. Please keep these guys in your thoughts and prayers!

After five years of being your *Sunshine* reporter I have asked **Mike Schumacher** to replace me, due to my not having internet connections and to taking a less active role in the chorus.

Much health and happiness to all as we go through the holidays into 2002! ~

From the Heartbeats

by Sandy Rule, President

The Heartbeats had their Holiday meeting Tuesday, Nov. 13th, at the church where the chorus rehearses. Because we had had a pot-luck dinner at our last meeting, we decided not to have a holiday dinner as-such. **Joan Korek**, **Dessie Gathright** and **Sandy Rule** provided refreshments in the holiday spirit, of pumpkin pie, cookies and cider! We held our election of officers for 2002, with the slate being: President, **Carol Ramirez**; Vice President, **Jan Putzier**; Secretary, **Sandy Rule**; Treasurer, **Marilou Coleman**; and our two board members, **Joan Korek** and **Donie Peck**.

Our topics for business included discussion of, and an addition to, the By-Laws regarding the *Heartbeat of the Year* award. Also, to/not to accept an offer to usher for the *Nutcracker* as a fund-raising project: we did not accept that offer. However it might be considered at a later time.

For our program, **Shawna Mathieu** presented a Home Interior selection of holiday items plus some of the regular merchandise.

Our old/new officers' transition/board meeting will be held Jan. 22, 2002, at the Guacamole Grill. The next regular meeting of Heartbeats will be Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2002, at the church.

We all send the chorus/families best wishes for a blessed holiday season! ~

WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Questions:

What was the name of the 1975 HOA Bush League Contest winning quartet?
Who were the members?

and Bruce Wenner.

Jim Bagby, Ed Lippincott, Kent McClean,
Answers: "Summer Hummers"



Photo courtesy of Dale Neuman. Photographer unknown.

WE NEED TO CHANGE by Dale Neuman, C.D. VP for Member Services

Some of you are already asking yourselves "what do we need to change and why?" since you are thoroughly engaged in and enjoying this wonderful hobby of singing and service. Well, unless you want to try to sing four-part harmony with only three or two or even one part present—something that **Ev Nau** so cleverly demonstrated can't be done at the recent Leadership Forum and again on his 5,500 road trip on behalf of membership development—without changes, that is the future barbershoppers face.

Let's consider the "why" question first. The Society has been doing research on its membership base for several years and has employed firms that analyze such things for organizations and make projections based upon demographic trends in society at large as well as within the organization itself. Those data were then given over to an actuarial firm to make additional projections about the size and composition of SPEBSQSA over the next 30 years—if current recruitment and retention trends continue. *Guess what?* From over 35,000 men several years ago, we are down to under 32,000 in 2001. And, it is predicted that we will be below 30,000 in 2003; around 28,000 in 2005 and it goes down from there to a membership of about 18,000 by 2020.

Now many things will change over the years that cannot be anticipated in these estimates. But there is no reason to believe they will be changes that will improve the numbers UNLESS they are changes that we make and steps we take to do so.

The "why" question was easier than the "what" question. I can only suggest some things to consider. Each existing chapter will need to work on different approaches to recruitment—currently, one-third of our "first year" members nationally are over 60 when they first join. We need to also bring in the fathers and uncles of the *Harmony Explosion* crowd. Existing chapters will have to recall the grand old tradition of sponsoring new chapters—even in their own backyards if that is what it takes to provide a place to sing for men who love to sing. A basic theme of this year's Forum was that one size does NOT fit all. Chapters have different missions and different cultures. Men need options in those as well as in meeting times, places and driving distances.

If everybody meets on Tuesday nights, then we miss those who can't make Tuesdays or nights or both.

HOA membership is down from these former "golden years" as well. From numbers around 170, our rolls now have held constant around 147 for three years. But, since only 60 to 70 of these are active, what does that say about our future?

One project that came out of a brainstorming session held among the Membership folks at the Leadership Forum is *United We Sing*. This is a program to promote group-based and mass community "sings" around a packet of patriotic music to be made available through the Society. Chapters and quartets would be present to "lead" the singing and could, if they wished, demonstrate the barbershop style on another song or two.

There will also be "show closer" materials also developed around the theme with appropriate music available to chapters to use. We already have plans to do something similar on our March Show and I hope our Marketing Team is looking for some community sing opportunities to do the other part. ~

CHORUS CONTEST PHOTOS ARE IN!



If you ordered a chorus photo from the district convention in Topeka, please pick it up as soon as you can. The 8 x 14 size is \$9.75 and the 8 x 10's are \$7.

Ron McIntire will have them at the meeting every Tuesday night! ~

TONE-HENGE TAGS IN CORN-HENGE

by Keith Schweer

As the year ends, *Tone-Henge* has some scheduled performances, including ringing bells for the Salvation Army with the chorus on Dec. 15. That performance is a very satisfying experience for us and we look forward to it each year.



For fun, the quartet and wives are traveling to Fort Scott, KS., for the December candlelight tour of the Fort and a nine-course dinner (with an 1800's menu) at one of the local bed and breakfasts. As

Dan says, "This

quartet eats up (drinks?) its profits!"

We are looking forward to another great year of barbershopping in 2002 and want to wish each of you and your families a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year! ~

NEW TRADITION DONATES PROCEEDS

Chicagoland's own *New Tradition* men's a cappella chorus will be donating the proceeds of it's newly released "America" recording to the September 11 disaster relief efforts.

This recording features "The Star Spangled Banner," "This Is My Country," "America The Beautiful" and "God Bless The USA." In addition, the songs that won them their first international competition, "There's Something About a Soldier", "The White Cliffs of Dover" and many of our nations favorite patriotic tunes.

The recording may be purchased online at <http://www.newtradition.org> ~

GET THE SCOOP ON PORTLAND



The Portland section of the Society web site now features tourism and convention information, including answers to frequently asked questions. Check it out at <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Portland/>

YOUR STOCK DONATION CAN HELP OTHERS SING...FOR LIFE

The donation of stocks or bonds can benefit the SPEBSQSA charitable mission and bring you a nice tax deduction for your generosity.

When a donor directly transfers an appreciated security to a charity, the capital gains tax can be avoided and the donor qualifies for a charitable tax deduction equal to the market value of the security. This can be an easy way for you to provide a gift to a charity you love. Harmony Foundation can assist with direct transfers of stocks and bonds to either the General Fund or the Endowment Program. For details, please contact **Larry Gilhousen** at 1-800-876-SING extension 8448. ~



SENDING MAIL TO KENOSHA?

by Reed Sampson, SPEBSQSA Public Relations Manager

While we certainly do not anticipate circumstances that would put any of the headquarters staff at risk, we must accept and acknowledge the reality of the times in which we live. Therefore, we feel it is prudent for the headquarters to publish some basic guidelines for mail sent to Harmony Hall.

All mail sent to Harmony Hall should be addressed to a specific individual or at least to a specific department.

Return addresses should clearly identify the sender as a SPEBSQSA chapter, Society member or member of an affiliate organization.

It is presumed that other businesses and organizations would use stationery bearing a corporate logo.

Any suspicious mail or packages will be dealt with according to U.S. Postal Service directives.

Again, although there have been no threats nor do we anticipate any problems, we must, in the interest of safety, exercise caution to protect the staff.

We appreciate your assistance in providing this information to every member of your chapter. ~



THE GLOBAL MUSIC EXCHANGE BARBERSHOP CHORUS TOUR OF CHINA - OCTOBER 27 - NOVEMBER 13, 2001

by Don Peck

When **Don and Donie Peck** were attending the Mid-Winter Convention in Jacksonville, Florida, in January they were excited to see a brochure for the planned Barbershop Chorus tour to China sponsored by Ed Pio Travel. They had been thinking of a trip to China for some time and this seemed just what they were looking for. They signed up on the spot.

The tour to China begins in San Francisco on Oct. 27, when we meet our group of 114 (62 singers) from 19 states, Canada, England and Scotland. The name badges that we are issued allow us to start off on a friendly first name basis.

We board an Air China wide body Airbus jet at 2 p.m. Enroute we cross the International Date Line losing a day, and arrive at the huge modern air terminal in Shanghai in the evening.

Our group is split into three bus groups, each with it's own China Government Tour Guide, as well as a local guide for each city. Our guide's name is **Zhang** ("call me John"), who is very knowledgeable, speaks good English, and keeps us well informed and on schedule for the entire trip.

On our way to our beautiful hotel, we get a good look at Shanghai at night—a city of 16 million people, with its skyscrapers lit up in a dazzling display, while our guide tells us about the city and our schedule for the next couple days. We collapse into bed.

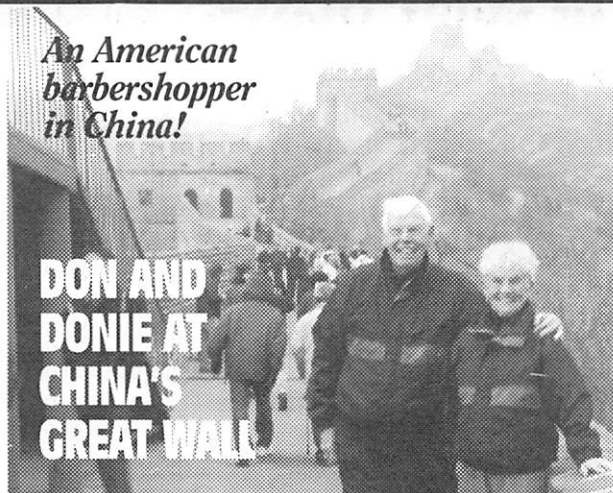
After the first of many great Western style breakfasts, we head for the Jade Buddha Temple, followed by a 15 to 20-course lunch, then a visit to the Yu Gardens and Palace with its ancient Tea House and Rockery (very fancy giant rock gardens).

Most all our lunches and dinners are served family style at a table for eight with a giant Lazy Susan in the middle where plate after plate of various Chinese foods are presented. Forks are optional but most of us work hard to master the chopsticks.

In the evening we attend a great acrobatic and gymnastics show. The following morning we have a city tour before flying to Wuhan, located at the junction of the Yangtze and Han Rivers. We have our first rehearsal after dinner where we meet our director, **Kenny Hatton**, Gold Medal lead of the *Blue Grass Student Union* and director of the *Louisville Thoroughbreds*. There are 44 SPEBSQSA, 3 Harmony International, 7 Sweet Adelines, and a few choir members that make up our chorus of 65. We have 29 leads that Kenny has to keep shushing till we get the

*An American
barbershopper
in China!*

**DON AND
DONIE AT
CHINA'S
GREAT WALL**



message not to drown out the rest of the singers. We have all worked hard to get ready with music and learning tapes provided us back in July. The toughest part was learning the correct pronunciation of the words to the songs we were to sing in Chinese.

Much credit is to be given to **Brian and Holly Beck** and **Jerry and Kim Orloff**, who were tireless in their efforts to provide us with arrangements and parts tapes. Brian and Holly worked many hours with an interpreter to get the phonetic words and arrangements for five songs that we sang in Chinese. Brian is a two-time gold medal winner with *Dealer's Choice* and *Side Street Ramblers*. Jerry Orloff has 154 "Man of Note" awards. **Val Hicks**, a well-known arranger, added color to every performance.

In the morning we visit the beautiful Yellow Crane Pavilion in Wuhan before heading out via deluxe motor coaches through Shashi City to Jinzhou where we board our 4-star "Star Dipper" cruise ship. On our way we have passed through the Chinese countryside with it's many small planted fields, peasants working with hoe, shovel and water buffalo. We also visit a museum where the contents of the tomb of an early emperor are on display. This was centuries ago, and they believed in preparing for the next life and they must take everything with them to befit an emperor's lifestyle, and I do mean everything! This emperor must have loved music, as he took along a large set of tuned bells, measuring about 25 feet long and 10 feet high. The details and quality of the work is extraordinary.

(Continued on page 13) →

(Continued from page 8)

In the morning aboard the "Star Dipper" we pass through the locks at the massive 230 feet high Gezhouba Dam at Yichang. Continuing we pass the first of the Three Gorges, Xiling (She-ling) Gorge, the largest of the Three Gorges. Our cruiser then passes through the world famous new Three Gorges River Dam construction site. This dam will measure one and one-half miles wide and 600 feet high and will be the largest electric generating facility in the world when completed in 2009. We pass through the Wu Gorge before docking for the night at Wushan.

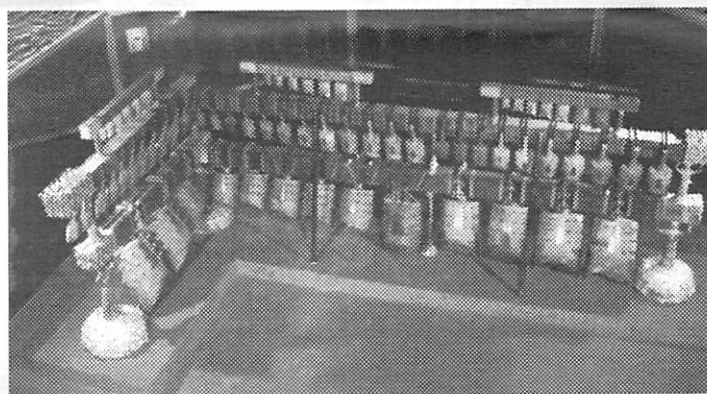
Lunches and dinners on board ship are served cafeteria style with many, many dishes from which to choose. Some of my Barbershop friends will be glad to know that beer, as well as water and green tea, is served with the meals.

In the morning we board small rapid-running boats for a trip to the Daning River and the Three Lesser Gorges. We pass under a 175-meter high (576 feet if my math is right) suspension bridge that will be completely covered by water in 2009 when the water in the new dam reaches its maximum level. This is a stunning area of dramatic mountainside caves, bamboo forests, wild monkeys, clear water rapids and ancient plank walkways built into the cliffs many centuries ago. Our local guide explains that even though this area will be flooded, there will still be mountaintops and cliff walls and many new sights to see in future years.

After re-boarding our cruiser, we continue upstream through the Outang Gorge, the last of the Three Gorges. All along the riverbanks we see large billboards pointing out future water levels (135 meters in 2003 and 175 meters in 2009). All buildings below these levels will be removed and new cities, villages and fields are being built above these levels. This is a tremendous undertaking and controversial, but China must have the electric power which this dam will generate for future growth. ~

From top to bottom: Don performing with American Barbershop Chorus and combined chorus, Qinghua University Chorus in Beijing, 25 foot set of tuned bells displayed at an Emperor's tomb, the music team shown from left to right: **Brian Beck, Holly Beck, Kenny Hatton, Kim Orloff, Jerry Orloff**, with **Don Peck** kneeling. (Photos by **Don Peck**)

(Editor's Note: I kidded Don and told him he was Harmonotes newest international correspondent! Our apologies if we messed up any captions, Don. Readers: Ask Don for the complete details when you see him!)



BUSH LEAGUE 2001:

by Dan Henry



Ten quartets, six from HOA, and two each from *Overland Stage* and *Sons of Liberty* chapters competed in this year's Bush League Contest, with 1st, 2nd and 3rd place trophies awarded to winners from each chapter. *Heart of America* winners were *The Eightballs*—**Rob Mathieu, Mike Neff, Sean Jeffries** and **Alex Scott**—taking the bronze; *Pitchblend*—Elefson, Carruthers, Garrard and Combs—capturing silver, and *The Bushwhackers*—**Gordon Lankenau, Mike Mathieu, Sean Jeffries** and **John Stucker**—squeaking past the pack to grab the gold.

Stuber's Studs took the *Sons of Liberty* silver and bronze. (a 3rd quartet had to cancel, so 2nd and 3rd place trophies were awarded the *Studs*) and *Front And Center* took the *Sons of Liberty's* first place.

Overland Stage brought 2 quartets; *The Stage Coach 4* took the silver and *Freds et al* won *Overland Stage's* gold medals.

Sean Jeffries was the most active HOA member, singing in 3 quartets and walking away with 2 trophies.

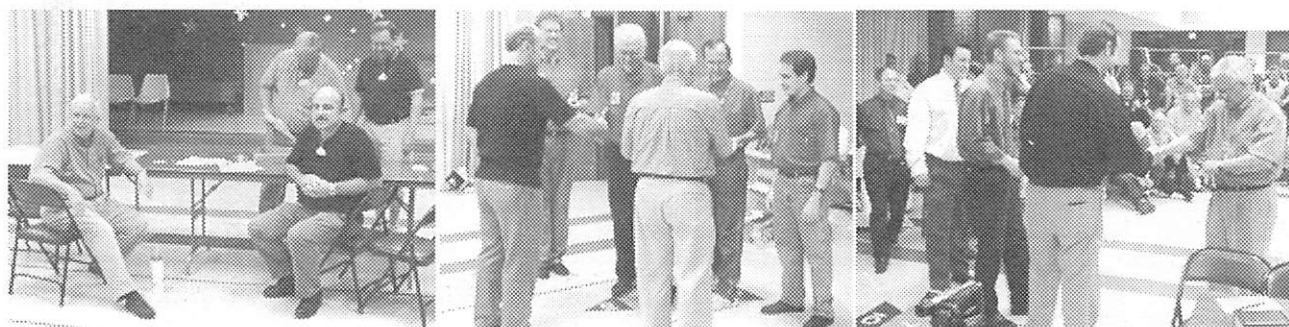
My personal thanks to the judging panel, **Kent McClean, Vince Perry, Darrell McCune, Keith Schweer** and **Gene Bowers** for readily accepting the jobs and performing in a stellar fashion.

All participants, HOA members and guests experienced a fun evening! Bush League—the tradition continues! ~

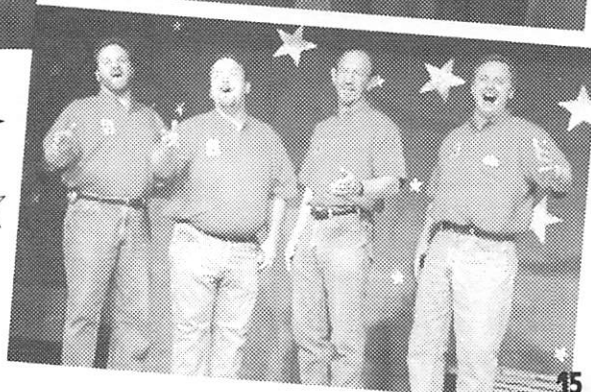
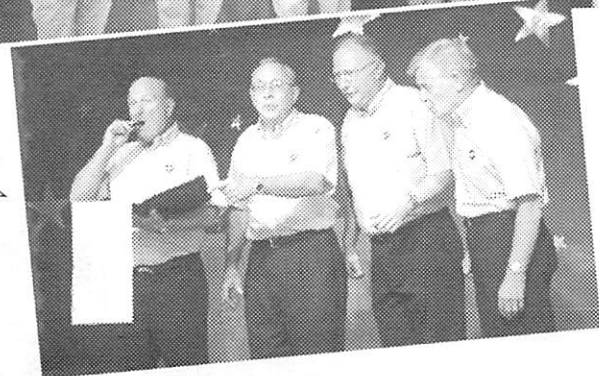
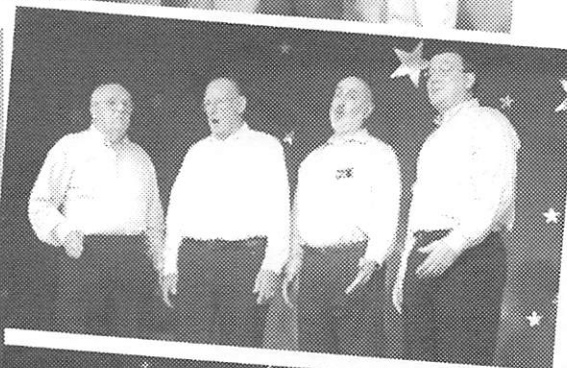
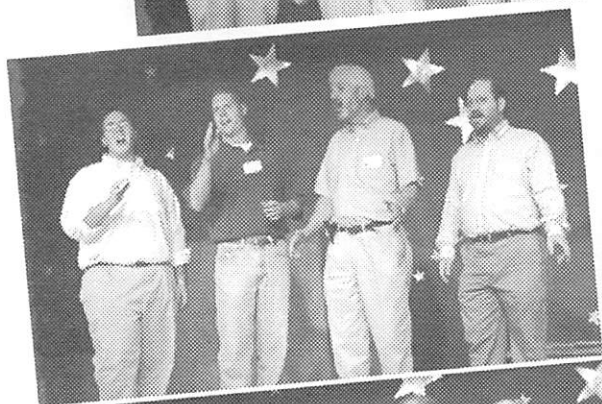
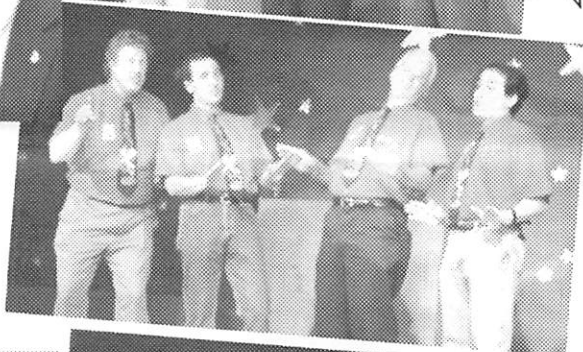
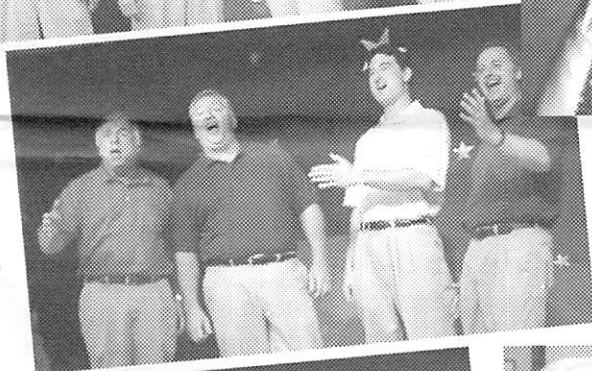
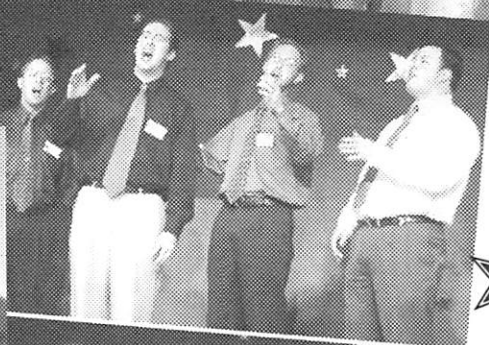
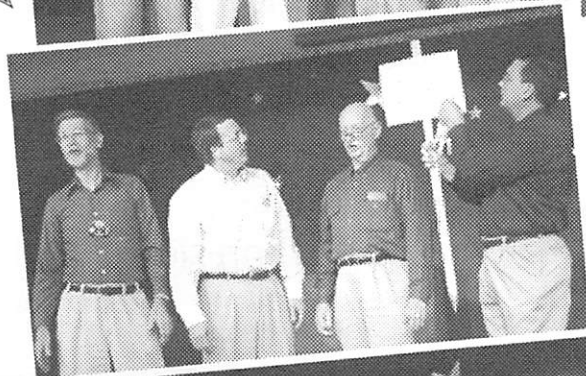
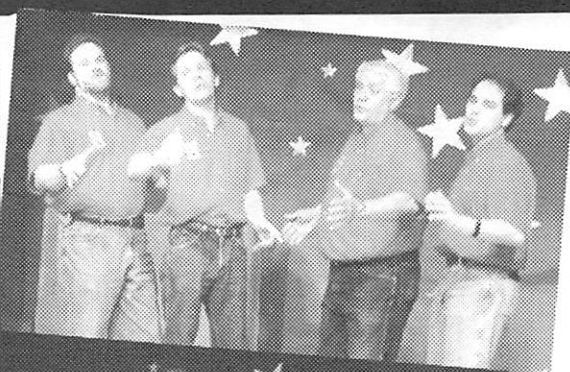
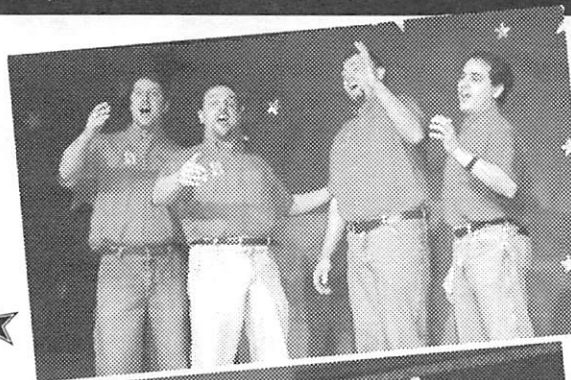
Photos of Bush League night November 6, 2001

(Photos courtesy of **Matt Bostick**)

Shown below and on page 15 are candid shots of our judging panel in action and MC Dan Henry with the many quartet contestants! Whatta night!



A BIG SUCCESS!





Heart of America

December-January Calendar

December 10	Joint Board Meeting - St. Peter's Church, 6:30 p.m.
December 14	John Knox Village Holiday Concert, 7:00 p.m.
December 15	Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Blue Ridge Mall, 10:00 a.m.
December 25	NO MEETING
January 1	NO MEETING
January 12	Installation Banquet - Golden Ox - 6:00 p.m. Special Guests: Bill McLaurine , CSD president, and <i>12th Street Rag!</i>

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