

Harmonotes

August 2002

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2002, Issue 8

I WAS A CHORUS NARCISSIST (BUT I'M BETTER NOW)

by John Winfiel

When I first joined the chorus I was placed in the bass section. Bass was a part that I had very little experience with, having sung melody most of my life. The newness of the part caused me to listen very closely to myself, to the exclusion of those around me. It didn't help that I knew in my heart of hearts that I was a natural lead trapped in the bass section. How could anyone deny me my right to the melody? Why, can't everyone hear the quality flowing from my mouth? But a strange thing happened to me.

When Jim stopped the chorus and asked "What do you hear?" The only honest answer I could give was "Myself, and, oh yeah, I could sort of hear my backup singers." Yes, I was an arrogant cuss. But only being able to give that answer was also unsettling. When I played trombone in jazz bands I prided myself on my ability to listen not only to the band as a whole but each section and even each individual instrument. I was able to blend and tune myself to the sound of my fellow musicians, to play my part in creating an awesome ensemble sound. I thought, "Why can't I do that now?" I came to the conclusion that I just don't hear voices the same way I do instruments. For quite some time I used this rationalization to justify my laziness. I don't think I ever heard the baritone part during my first two years as a barbershopper. No wonder I couldn't hear overtones!

It is true that our voices are not as distinct as the tones emanating from the bell of a brass instrument, but they can be heard just as clearly. It simply takes an adjustment in attitude.

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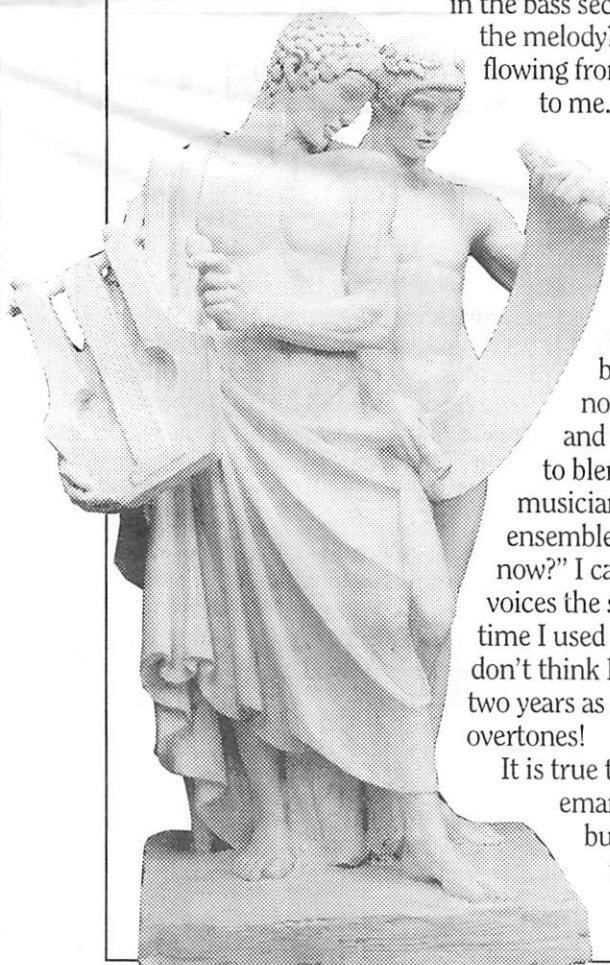
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Harmonotes

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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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CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 P.M. each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

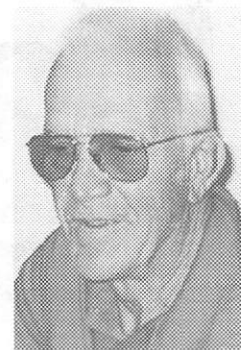
<i>HOA Website:</i>	www.hoachorus.org
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<i>Chapter Telephone:</i>	(816) 221-7888

Member Of



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker



John Stucker

Let's see, where was I. Oh yeah, I was talking about how well the treatments were going. Well, we had a small setback last week. Had to spend overnight in the hospital. We still are not sure what was wrong. Suffice to say that it was quite painful until they got me some drugs. All indications point to a kidney stone but various tests could not find it. The intense pain went away just as quick as it came on. So far it has not returned.

I saw my oncologist last Friday and he told me we now have a problem. Let me explain. The cancer indicator number the last time was 79 and was about a 40% drop from the pre-treatment number. The number this time was 35. Doctor said that this number was in the normal range for a person without cancer. So now we have no more indicator to watch! I will still have to get the chemotherapy treatments, but maybe in the future they won't have to be every week.

You have all been a pillar of support for me and I want to publicly thank each and everyone for your thoughts and prayers. I want you to know that I could not have a better support group than you guys!

Buckeye preparations are moving right along. The *Heartbeats* are making the breakaway vests. We had a demo last week and the effect is stunning. The chorus needs all of you now, even if you for some reason are not going to the Buckeye. The Buckeye is just part of the preparation for the fall contest in Wichita. The same competition package will be used for both events.

Stay cool and we will talk later.~

I WAS A CHORUS NARCISSIST

(Continued from front page)

If, like I was, you are new to vocal ensemble singing then a little more effort will help too. Yes, we all concentrate on our own sound when we are learning a new song, just as we should. But once we have the words and notes learned it is time to make music, not merely sounds. In order to do that, we must listen. The *Count Basie Orchestra* had the tightest sound of any big band ever. Did they accomplish that because Basie was a precise director? No, they were tight because they listened to each other. Basie just gave them the downbeat and then he played the piano for the rest of the song.

Gradually over the years I began to listen more, but only recently have I made a wonderful discovery. I really can hear all four parts throughout a song. Did I unblock my ears? No, I unblocked my mind. It is amazing what you can hear when you open your mind. Suddenly the lushness of the chords comes through. I'm no longer guessing if I'm singing in tune, I can hear it. I automatically relax and employ the principles that **Bill Biffle** has taught us. My singing is effortless. The quality level of my singing goes up. My goodness, even my stage presence is better. I'm not working any more. I'm having fun! I'm making music! I'm a musician again! *Glory be!* I'm not simply singing, I'm a singer! There is a difference you know. You, too, can discover that difference. Learn your words and notes. Then relax and listen. You will be amazed at what you hear, from your chorus and your own voice.~

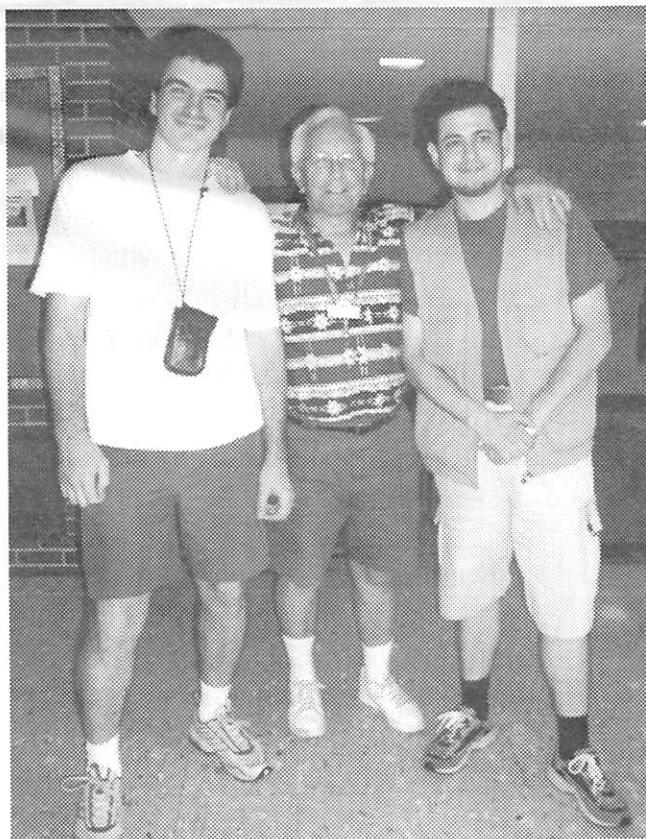
HOA IS TRULY INTERNATIONAL!

by Dick Korek

Our recent visitors from the Ukraine, Bohdan Oksenenko and Vlad Los (shown below) got a real flavor of what the sound of barbershop harmony is all about. Obviously they didn't know what to expect when they came to two meetings while they were staying with Joan and me. The purpose of the trip to our country is to give them an opportunity to see their business /occupation in action in a free society, having just recently experienced "free enterprise". They were here to learn, went to "work" every day, and Joan and I gave them a U.S. home atmosphere, and evenings and weekends they would do and go along with us.

Oh yes, they commented about their visit with the chorus. Vlad wrote, "I wish you happiness, health, wealth and unescapable victory in chorus competition in August. Bohdan & me will cheer for you because we are something like your member now." (That is a direct quote from an Email)

Bohdan (the taller of the two) is a manager in the investment business, while Vlad owns a newspaper and advertising agency. ~



Bohdan Oksenenko and Vlad Los get introduced to American barbershop by All-American host, Dick Korek!
(Photo by Ron McIntire)

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),
Ralph Tallmon (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)
- New and Used Parts**
Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- Polecat Creek**
Lyle Wyly (tenor), Wayne Crawford (lead),
Dick Irwin (bari), Eric Weber (bass)
- SureFire!**
Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (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**
Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

AN URANIUM ISOTOPE APPEARS BRIEFLY

by Dale Neuman

As you may recall from a previous piece, *Uranium* was reconstituted a few months ago. We are now working with **Tom Steele** as our bari and I am the tenor. Our first planned public performance was to be May 5 as a surprise for HOA member **Bob Howard** at his retirement party. We had rehearsed as much as our various schedules would allow and were all set when Tom, with less than a week to go, learned of an event at his church that would require him to be there rather than with us. What to do?

Never to fear. **Grant Hunget** agreed to step in and do the bari as we were doing all but one of our pieces from the current chorus repertoire. Of course, I was and am still learning the tenor, but we knew that going in. Charley had mastered the lead! We also were to do a retirement lyric to the music of the "Singing Valentines" intro that was written by **Gordon Coleman** for a *Crosstown Four* gig and we modified to fit for Bob's party. Again schedules precluded all but a 45-minute get together on Saturday the 4th, to sing through each song and to learn the retirement lyrics. And, since there was no time on Sunday, both John and Charley were busy right up to the point where we would arrive and sing. We started each song once in the parking lot before we were called in to surprise Bob.

We entered, sang our opening retirement piece, invited Bob and **Marty Oldehoeft** who was present to join us in a sextet, and did "Sweet and Lovely." We then did the rest of our intentionally abbreviated program—with me missing several of the tenor lead crossovers and singing a couple of lead notes along with Charley. But we had a great time and we got a commitment out of **Bob Howard** that he is coming back to the chorus after he returns from his "retirement trip" and vacation. After we finished, we shook hands with several of the guests and received hugs all around from two of Bob's daughters. Grant wanted to do another set—if that was the result of singing with *Uranium*! ~



Uranium contents **Dale Neuman, Tom Steele** and **John Stucker**, with **Grant Hunget** filling in as bari. Exposing all in attendance to a maximum dose of strong harmony!

TONE-HENGE SLIDES INTO DEEPER TROUBLE

by Jim Bagby, Sometime Bari

We've decided the time has come to admit all, and give you a peak into the cobwebs and cactus that make up the mind of one

Dan Henry Bowser.

Whadaya suppose the world's most creative barbershopper dreams about?



Go to the head of the class if you immediately responded: *Props!* From the *Merry Mugs* through *Hubbub* to *Tone-Henge*, the stage has been littered with wigs, tambourines, headless bodies, hats, swords and shields, bones, PCV "pan pipes" and now, whooooooooooooooop: steel slide whistles.

What in the world can a barbershop quartet do with four slide whistles? Yep, that sure was OUR first reaction, too. But you know Dan: "Well, we'll find something we can play on 'em!"

We're still looking. How do you tune a slide whistle?

You don't.

But, as usual, we're having a ball. We're looking forward to competing in the Buckeye Invitational Comedy Quartet contest (we know we can't place lower than sixth).

See you there! ~

SUMMER'S BEEN FUN!

by Todd Anderson, Lead Partner, *The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray*

The *Musical Firm* was thrilled to take part in the June 14 opening night festivities at Theater in the Park. *Hoo, boy!* Whatta crowd for the first night of *Music Man*, which featured HOA's golden-throated foursome, *Gentlemen of Note*. It was a real thrill presenting a pre-show concert for such a humungous crowd, under such absolutely splendid conditions (cool temps, low humidity). Even the announcer managed to get our name right.

I kidded G.O.N., "We'll set 'em up, you guys knock 'em down!" And did they ever? Were these guys cast perfectly or what? They lit up the stage and presented an absolute dynamite performance. What great ambassadors we have representing our hobby. I'd like to try bein' in *Music Man*, someday...except now I'd feel a huge wave of inadequacy thanks to their performances (buncha smart alecks)!

In other news: We're all pretty much back into our routines after surviving our family vacations. I took my family to Colorado for a couple of weeks. **Bagby** gave me the scoop on where to have my boy, **Barry**, feed chipmunks in Estes Park (Thanks, Jim!). **Randy** and **Burt** took their families to Colorado as well. (They always try to sing my notes, so it makes sense they'd emulate my vacation schedule.)

The four of us are trying to get our mutual schedules to gel so we can perform the national anthem at the upcoming August 18 *Wizards* game. This is every lead's dream come true...lip synching to a CD. Life is good.

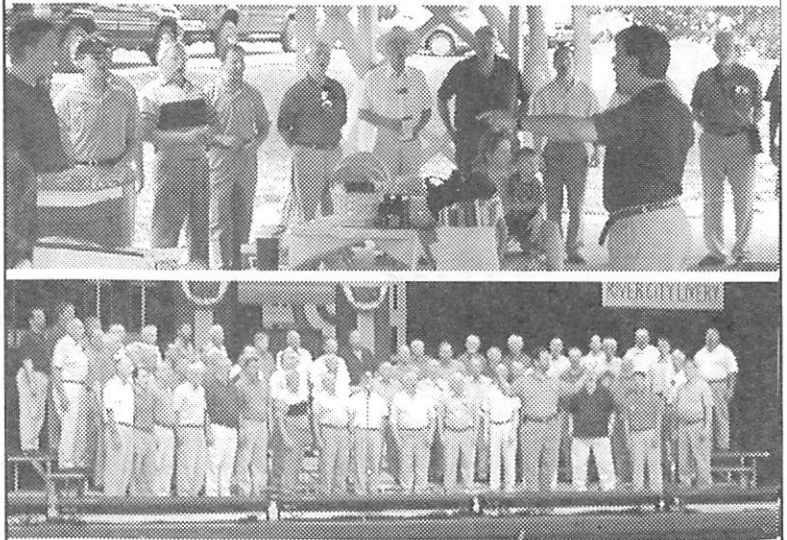
Our website has undergone some retooling. I've been trying to make us more presentable (dunno if that's even possible). We've added a calendar section. There's even a page that recognizes our sponsors, who afford us both the rehearsal time and the place to sing (ya gotta keep 'em happy). Heck, there's even a spot for guests to sign in, heckle, etc. This site's not gonna win any awards, but it gives us a place to hang our hats. It's a great place to visit, especially on those nights where you just can't seem to get to sleep. The cure for your insomnia may just be one click away at www.themusicalfirm.org. ~



A SUCCESSFUL SING-OUT!

by Al Higgins

(Photos by Ron McIntire and Don Fuson)



Hip Hooray for the *Gentlemen of Note* and the 16 HOA guys that were part of the chorus who sang at the Shawnee Mission Theater in the Park pre-show for *The Music Man*, on June 15. It was a great day and it turned out to be a rip-roaring success as we sang in front of a crowd of close to 3,000—one of the best-attended shows ever at the park.

Don Fuson, president of the *Overland Stage Chorus*, is to be commended for his efforts in putting together the idea for the rehearsal, barbecue and performance. 70 singers from Topeka, Leavenworth, Olathe, Overland Park, and HOA joined to make up the Greater Kansas City Area Barbershop Chorus.

The afternoon was spent in rehearsing and putting together the 40-minute program, with arm-wavers from all of the chapters taking their turns in front of the group (top photo). Following the rehearsal, there was a barbecue for all the singers and their families and friends. After the meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, chips, desserts, soda and plenty of water, the group moved to the theater for the performance (shown above) before a huge hillside audience and to enjoy the show.

The *Gentlemen of Note* as the school board in the show were GREAT! *The Buffalo Bills* would have been proud to know that such an excellent international ranking quartet portrayed the school board with such fun and ease. Their outstanding performance of the music only added to the enjoyment of the evening. HOA can not be more proud of **Rod Rule**, **Jon Gathright**, **Monty Duerksen** and **Rich Huyck**. You're the best!

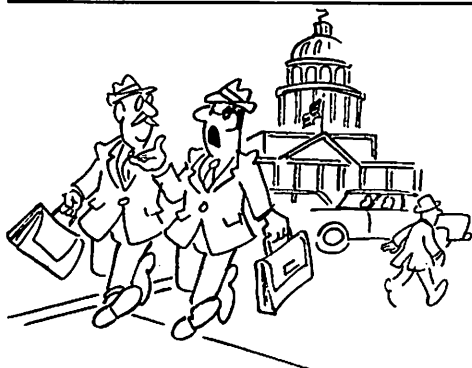
This social gathering (the first in several years) with all of the chapters in the Kansas City area was such a success, it is hoped that we can build on it and make it an annual event. Now that we know what is happening, there is no reason that this cannot grow and have a chorus of more than a hundred singing for the people. Even this first was the largest performing pre-show group ever at the Theater in the Park. If you were there, *congrats*. If you weren't there, mark your calendars for next year. ~

JUST FOUR FUN

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



"Here's a copy of 'Lida Rose',
our new minister is a barbershopper!"



"I'm sure we could negotiate with the
Russians, if they could only sing barbershop!"

Cartoons by John Morris

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by
MONDAY, AUGUST 19
For more information,
call Todd at 816-373-8633

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - August, 1992

As usual, following an HOA trip to International, there was a good bit of comment regarding the successes and failures incurred by the chorus during the venture in Pittsburgh. Chorus Manager **Jim White** reported a "justifiable grumble" about the poor seats that HOA got in the auditorium, explaining that "seats were assigned by the international office in the order that requests were received," and promising "we'll take a close look at this next time to see whether something can be done to improve our lot."

Otherwise, Jim had nothing but good things to say about the New Orleans convention. And of course, Music Director **Jim Bagby** flagellated himself by insisting on taking the lion's share of the blame for our 12th-place finish in the chorus competition. You're reminded, Jim, that there were 92 singers standing up there on the risers who must each accept his share of the blame for our not doing better. (Wouldn't it be exciting to be able once again to take 92 guys to contest? Wonder what happened.)

Congratulations were conveyed to **Matt and Jill Moore** on the birth of their first child, a son, **Jacob Andrew**, on July 4. (He must be in the third or fourth grade at school now. How time flies!)

We had 20 guests at our guest night on July 21. HOA Played host to **Chris Einess**, **Lud's** son, plus three barbershoppers from the Sedalia Chapter, two (**Byron "Bemo" Myers II** and **Vince Perry IV** from St. Joseph, who later became HOA members), one from Ames, Iowa, and a member of the Orlando, Florida, Chapter who heard about us through listening to recordings of our International contest performances.

Twenty Years Ago - August, 1982

There's not much of real interest in the August 1982 edition of *Harmonotes*. Just a general critique by **Bruce Wenner** (it doesn't say but appears he may have been Music Vice President) and Music Director **Jim Bagby** of our 8th-place finish in the International contest in Pittsburgh, a dissertation by Coach **Lance Heilmann** on attitude and preparation as being essential for participation in International competition, and a lengthy reflection on the overall success of the logistical aspects of our trip to Pittsburgh by **Clyde Menson**, thanking those who helped make it so—**Keith Schweer** (hotel room reservations), **John Stucker** (convention tickets), **Nile Abbott** and **Merlin Barcus** (transportation from hotel to airport in Pittsburgh), **Walt Bogdan**, (reception sticks for the banquet tables Saturday night), **Dennis Yeager** (for his support and assistance as *Harmonotes* editor), and the *Heartbeats* for their "everpresent support.")

HOA was then meeting at the Ridgeview Christian Church on Sni-A-Bar Road in Raytown. **Jerry Fullerton** was chapter president, and **Dennis Yeager** was *Harmonotes* editor (whatever happened to Dennis?).

Thirty-Five Years Ago - August, 1967

Editor **Don Thorne** describes how the *Missouri Pewkes* (it's true, that was their name! And it was pronounced just like it was spelled!), an HOA quartet, took second place in some kind of contest that was held in the meeting of the Honolulu Chapter in the Hawaiian Village Hotel on July 11. Although there were 10 quartets on the contest program, one might suspect that this was a pick-up international chapter affair something like our annual "Bush League" contest. Quartet members were **Don Thorne** (tenor), **Bill Wall** (lead), **Ed Eichman** (baritone) and **Joe Costigan** (bass). If you're wondering what all those guys were doing in Hawaii at the same time, Joe sheds a bit of light on the matter when he reveals in a separate article that several HOA members and their families apparently took the Society tour to the islands following the 1967 International convention in Los Angeles. ~

From the *Heartbeats*

by Carol Ramirez, President

What a wonderful group of ladies we have working together to get the new breakaway vests made for the chorus. Thank you to each of you who has been a part of this ongoing project. So far these ladies have been helping: **Ann Abel, Pam Beauford, Estyl Bowser, Marilou Coleman, Jennifer Combs, Sarah Fortino, Dessie Gathright, Joan Korek, Jan Mathieu, Mary Jo Miller, Donie Peck, Roberta Porter, Jan Putzier, Carol Ramirez, Sandy Rule, Janet Veltkamp and Cristy.**

Others have promised to come on a Tuesday night, when their schedule permits. Bring scissors, pins and needles, and we'll put you to work.

Our next official meeting will be at 7 p.m., September 17 with a pot luck at the home of **Estyl Bowser**, 6828 Woodson St., in Overland Park. After the business meeting, those who wish, may stay to hear Estyl tell us the ins and outs of investing, as she has her own investment club. What more timely program could we offer?

Please join us as one of the items of discussion will be how we can best support the chorus in Wichita.

Hope to see you soon! Until then, "on pins and needles." — Carol ~



Sewing their hearts out are **Dessie Gathright**, **Pam Beauford** (at back on sewing machine), **Janet Veltkamp** (holding the vests she's taking home to work on), and **Joan Korek**, who leads the ladies in making the most breakaway vests to date!

(Photo by Carol Ramirez)

WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Question:

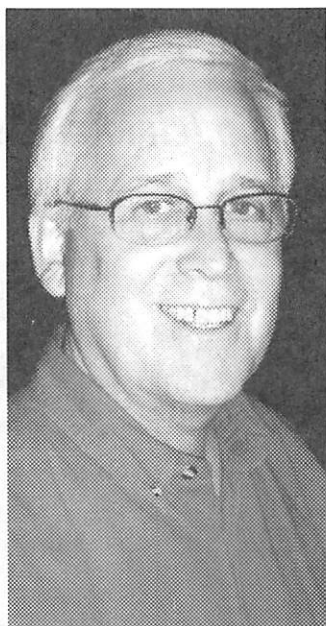
Name the quartet and its members!



Answer: KC Chord Company. Gene Bowers, Tenor, Dave Krause, Lead, Matt Moore, Bass, Wes Yoder, Bari.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY *to the following members!*

Lyle Wylly	August 2
Gordon Coleman	August 7
Monty Duerksen	August 7
Dennis Kinghorn	August 9
Harry Stewart	August 18
Mark Fortino	August 19
Dick Sutton	August 19
Dick Irwin	August 20
Charles Drake	August 25
Michael Hillenburg	August 30
Mike Schumacher	August 30
Carl Turlin	August 31



MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer
Vice President
of Music and
Performance

Buckeye is almost here. As of this writing (7/15), we have 5 Tuesdays, 2 Thursdays and a Sunday afternoon Presentation/Staging rehearsal left before we go to Columbus. You've worked hard. We've had

some good coaching. I'm proud of what we've accomplished together. The Buckeye Invitational will be a whole new kind of barbershop experience for most of us and my hope is that we can show them a new, better singing, high energy, fun *Heart of America Chorus* – one they haven't seen before. We have come a long toward preparing for Wichita as well. On our return from Columbus, our challenge will be to get those that didn't go to Buckeye up to speed by October 19. ~

ATTENTION: ALL MEMBERS OF HOA FAMILY *NOT* GOING TO BUCKEYE

Longtime HOA member **Charlie Greene** sends this invitation, addressed to the Kansas City Chapter, spouses and guests:

Please join us for a 50th wedding anniversary celebration, honoring **Marilyn** and **Charles Greene**, on Sunday, Aug. 18, 2-4 p.m., Red Bridge United Methodist Church, Family Life Center, 636 E. 117th Street, Kansas City.

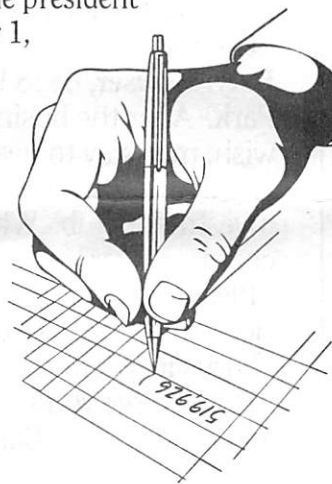
"There will be a musical program". ~

IT IS TIME TO CHOOSE

by Dale Neuman, Coordinator Presidents' Fund

Last year the Chapter Board decided to liquidate the building fund at the next maturity date of the CD in which it was placed. There were several reasons for the decision and they were discussed in my October article on the subject in these pages. It also was decided at that time to refund the contributions to those who made them, or permit them to request that their building fund donation be re-designated as a donation to the Presidents' Helpers Fund. Both types of requests have been received but not all donors have responded.

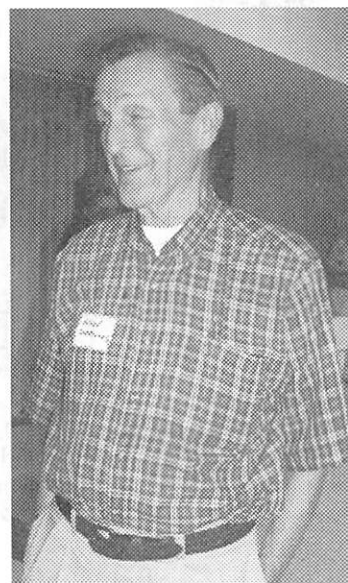
The CD has matured and we need to wrap up this matter, so I have been asked to write one last reminder article for those who have yet to make a choice. If you wish to choose, you must do so and notify the president in writing by September 1, 2002. Otherwise the Board will assume that you have left the money to the chapter to be used at the Board's discretion. If you are in doubt about whether you donated to the original fund, we have a record and can tell you if you did. ~



A VISITOR STOPS BY!

Old friend and past HOA member **Harvey Doemland** dropped by during our June 25 meeting. You may recall, he moved to Mexico around 1995. It was great to see Harvey again, and to know he's doing well.

(Photo by **Ron McIntire**)



GENTLEMEN OF NOTE CONTINUE "HOA" TRADITION!

by Monty Duerksen, *Gentlemen of Note*

What can we add to:

- Being selected to play the School Board in the "Music Man" production at Shawnee Mission Theater in the Park?
- Receiving warm applause from record breaking numbers of people in seven performances?
- Sharing the stage with a superb cast?
- Reading a feature story about the quartet in the *Kansas City Star*?
- Receiving an award of appreciation from the *Heart of America Chorus*?

We are happy to add: a number of foursomes and individual actors from the *Heart of America Chorus* that have initiated the tradition. Pictures and names of these performers are shown.

From the top: *Gentlemen Of Note*—**Rod Rule** (tenor, **Jon Gathright** (lead), **Monty Duerksen** (bass), and **Rich Huyck** (bari)—during their recent performance at Theater in the Park.

Matt Bostick, **Jim Bagby**, **Dick Shores** and **Jim Davis** delighted their audiences during their 1998 performances at the Raytown Community Theater.

The 1992 Starlight Theater version included quartet members **Rick Kready** (tenor), **Wes Yoder** (lead), **Bud Clark** (baritone) and **Keith Schweer** (bass).

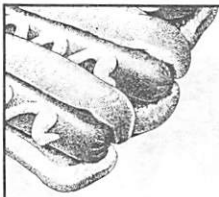
In 1985, **Rick Kready**, **David Krause**, **Bud Clark** and **Matt Moore** were employed to provide the overtones for Starlight Theater. That production ran to a full house of about 8,00 each night for a week!

Sound Advice—**Bob Green**, baritone; **Mike Esser**, bass; **Darrell McCune**, tenor; and **Dale Fox**, lead—are shown in the spotlight during their 1977 run at Vassar Playhouse in Emporia.

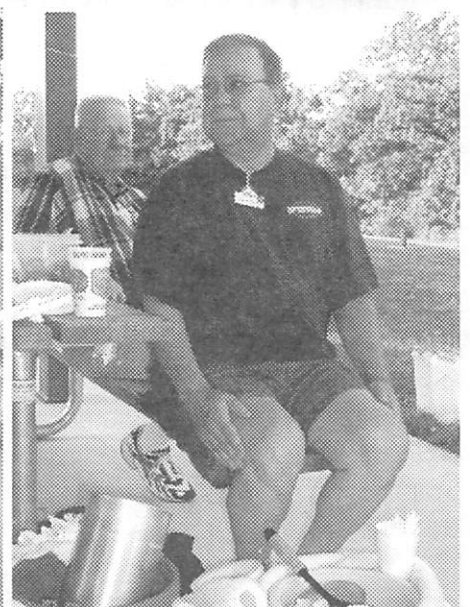
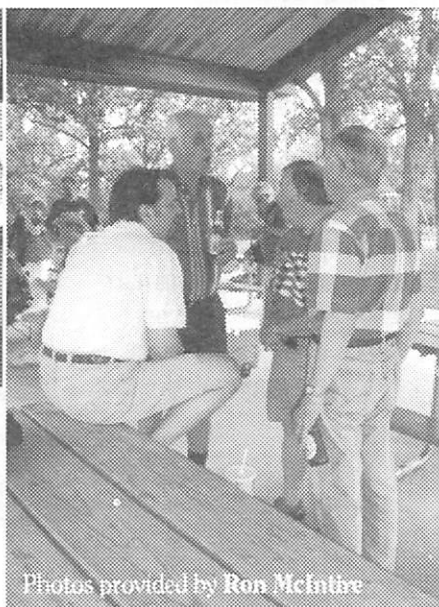
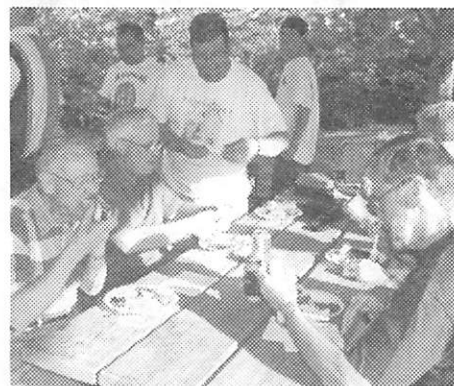
Of special interest, many of these men have continued to serve in leadership roles, music directors, section leaders and board members.

NOT pictured: **Jerry Garrard**, Program Vice-President, performed the tenor part of the School Board in college; **Tom Elefson**, past Program Vice-President, played the part of **Tommy Djelus** in a previous production. **Al Higgins**, *Harmony Explosion* chairman, has directed the production and also played the part of **Mayor Shinn**. **Steve Leone**, former Music Director of HOA, played the part of **Harold Hill** in the 1998 production starring **Matt Bostick**, **Jim Bagby**, **Dick Shores** and **Jim Davis** as the School Board. ~

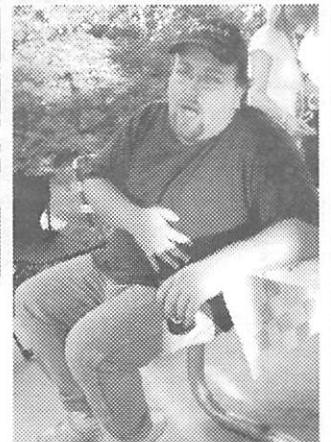
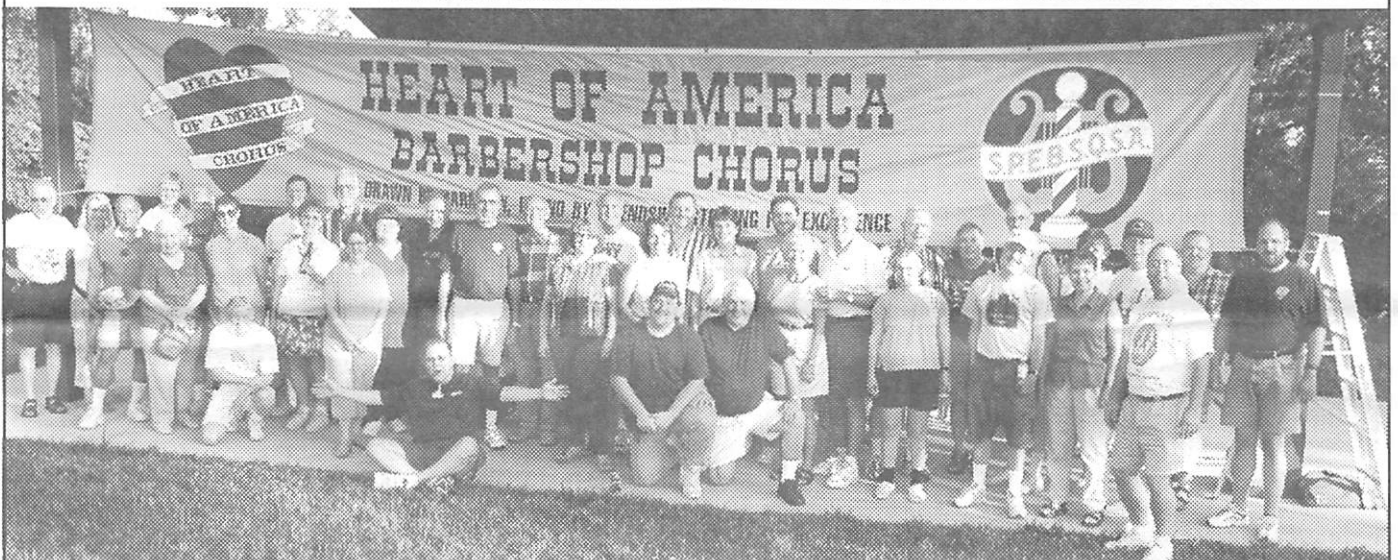
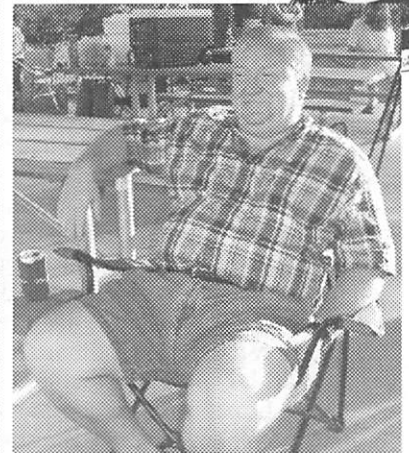
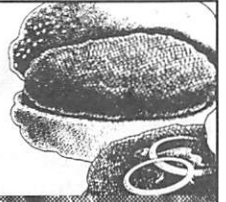




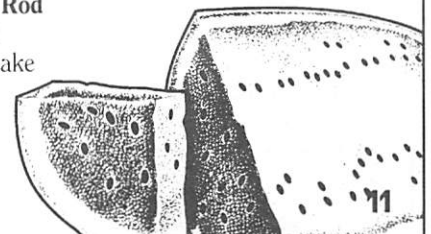
HOA'S 2002



CHAPTER PICNIC!



Whatta Picnic! Let's start on page 10 and work our way to 11. Top to bottom: Dick Irwin, Jerry Garrard, Sheli Irwin and event coordinator Carl Turlin stoke the coals; Dan Henry arrives with refreshments (*hic*); Carl and his friend, Gale, arrange the groceries; *Time to eat!* John Winfiel and company lead the charge!; Dan Henry, Keith Schweer, Rod Rule and Bruce Wenner sample the fare; Overtones by Mike Neff, John Stucker, Jim Bagby and Dan Henry; Vince Perry demonstrates his "Portland Pose" to Al Higgins (or are they guarding the ice cream?), Rod Rule and Ron McIntire enjoy the festivities; More tags? *You better believe it!* Clockwise: Phil Veltkamp, Todd Anderson, Dan Henry, Keith Schweer, John Stucker, and Bruce Wenner make sure all four notes get sung!; Reed Alberg look like he's having a great time; Most of the attendees pose for a shelter shot; *Tone-Henge* provides the perfect musical dessert; Jerry Garrard, Don Koehnlein, Bruce Wenner and Tom Elefson enjoy one more song before departing; Jerry Garrard made it through the picnic, but can he make it through the night?



ST. LOUIS SHOW A REAL DELIGHT

by Jim Porter

Now that I have a job that required I drive 200 miles every day, what to do on a Saturday to relax? Why, drive to St. Louis and take in a barbershop show, of course!

We made the decision to do it only a week ago, and visited the AOH Website <http://www.aoh.org> to check for tickets. You can buy tickets there on-line, and a great number of their ticket sales come from on-line orders. However, we saw that the matinee was sold out, only single seats were available. Rather than order on-line, we called **Rose Manion** (mother of the Henry's) and explained our predicament. As we wanted to make a round trip without staying over in St. Louis, the matinee was the thing to do. Besides, *Expanded Sound* was scheduled for the matinee, but NOT the evening show. (They have a new baritone, **Tom Hegley** has been replaced by **Ed Coco**) Rose said she could get us a pair of tickets in the nosebleed section, top of the balcony, limited view. We took 'em and drove across the state Saturday morning for the show.

In the "it pays to know someone" department, Rose Manion did us a huge favor. She gave us a pair of tickets on the left side, 6th row, next to **David Wright's** wife, **Sandy**. The view from there was a bit one-sided, but we heard every wonderful sound that came out in the next three hours. The 1,200-seat auditorium was truly packed. I asked Sandy how they were able to sell out, and she said that between the well-developed mailing list the chorus has maintained, the availability of on-line ticket sales and the chorus' growing reputation, they have no trouble.

The *Ambassadors* led off with their contest package. They had around 100 on stage—it was pretty much what we saw in Topeka, but they've made several changes in the package, so there'll be fresh laughs for those who watched them in Nashville. It is all very effective, and the hall was filled with their sound as we enjoyed this delightful package.

Jambalaya was next, and they are truly a lively, entertaining group. It's hard to think these four are from Sweden, as they sing and speak in English, and seem quite comfortable before American audiences. It is also clear that they are delighted to be in the same show with the *Ambassadors*, and to have the fellowship that comes from being a barber shopper that reaches across oceans and cultures.

Then it was the *Gas House Gang's* turn. These four remain the best in the business, no doubt about it. They did a couple new songs, and another take on their Jamaican set, which is always good for a hearty laugh as Rob jumps in with his "Day-o!". We've seen it several times before, but it's still a hoot!

Then, here come the Swedes, all dressed in their fearsome looking Viking costumes (recall the contest in 2000, where that was their costume), entering from the rear of the auditorium, coming down the aisles looking and acting like *Hagar the Horrible* (that's a comic strip, for those who think they've outgrown that), then coming onstage to do their set. This segment wasn't their contest set, it was their entertainment package. All in all, these fellows may sneak up on some in Portland. (As you read this, you'll know)

That was it for the first half. No *Expanded Sound*. No explanation, either. **Sandy Wright** let us know that **Ed Coco**

was beset with severe back pains and could not even stand up, forcing the quartet to scratch. According to **Bill Benner**, these problems have been going on for several days. It's serious enough to raise concern that an operation may be needed.

After the break, *Cheers!* came out and put on a dynamite performance. **Kevin Keller** has found his quartet at last. Lead **Chuck Sisson** already has one gold medal, and the others are rising to his level. **Opie Lancaster** was one I knew for a time while with St. Charles, but he's started a new chapter in the Peoria area, so these four are Illinois District people, except for **Kevin Keller**. This group has the distinction of owning TWO district championships, and it seems to me they have what it takes to make it to the Saturday evening show in Portland.

Then the Swedes came out and did their contest set. Now, they all looked like **Emeril Lagasse** as they build a package around Swedish meat balls and had a great time lobbing celery sticks around, plus, of course, one quite large stuffed chicken (*Big Chicken*, get it?) that landed in front and provided an obstacle to step over as they did their thing. I give 'em credit, they policed the area for celery when they were finished. The audience loved it, and I'm sure the audience in Portland will love it as well.

Then the *Ambassadors* came out for their closing set, adorned in their formal attire (yes, they too have black tuxedos). **Jim Henry** took his position in front and picked up a piece of celery and wondered out loud why it was there. The group then did a set that included the "Short People" song where Jim plays the fall guy surrounded by eight of the biggest guys in the chorus. One song in this set was a **David Wright** arrangement for "Stars and Stripes Forever". Be listening for it next time you hear the *Ambassadors* in a show. You'll like it.

The curtains closed and some who had a heartfelt need to be first out of the parking lot bolted for the doors. Their loss. In a couple of minutes, the curtains re-opened, and everyone was there, 150 strong, shoulder to shoulder. "It looks like a bunch of cooks and maitre'd's", my wife exclaimed. They launched into "I'm Sitting on Top of the World" together, then closed the show by singing "Friends". I had to really stifle myself from singing along with them. When they reached the first chorus, the syllables sounded strange. We realized that all were singing the song in Swedish for that chorus. At the key change, they went back to English to finish the song. The message of the song was so appropriate at that juncture, as it was clear that these two choruses had found true friendship across the miles as they shared the joys of this hobby with one another.

In the time after, we thanked Sandy for making our day that much more special. We let her know that HOA was also learning "Friends" and that I hoped our two groups could get together in Wichita and sing the song together. She thought that would be great. We spent a while renewing acquaintances with several of the *Ambassadors*, then headed for home, delighted with what we had seen and heard and glad we made the choice to go. Two plays of the *Ambassadors* "Applause" CD got us to Columbia, and we then drove into the sunset toward Kansas City.

This was our Portland. It's great to be a barbershopper! See you in Wichita. ~

A TIP OF THE HAT

A tip of the hat goes to:



Gentlemen Of NOTE for their Theater in the Park performance in *Music Man*.

The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray—**Raymond Schwarzkopf** (tenor), **Todd Anderson** (lead), **Randy Carney** (bari), and **Burt Bray** (bass)—for their pre-concert performance, presented on the opening night of *Music Man*.

Carl Turlin for his work in putting together the Chapter picnic at Lake Jacomo, July 13, 2002.

Dick Korek for putting together the HOA Music in the Park performance.

Chuck Ames for ram-rodding the setup of the risers and the guys who helped: **David Miller**, **Marty Oldehoeft**, **Carl Turlin**, **Mike Schumacher**, **John Starcke**, **Bernard Brink** and others.

The 49 men of HOA (that includes **Anthony Fortino**) who showed up at the *Music in the Park* performance to brave the 95+ degree heat to sing their hearts out for the good folks of Overland Park.

The mysterious ladies from the *Sweet Adelines* and others who passed out flyers to promote the Christmas show in December.

The good ladies of the *Heartbeats* who worked and are working feverishly to modify the chorus vests for HOA's Buckeye Invitational appearance in Columbus, OH.



HOA's newest member is **Niel Johnson** from Watertown, NY, who, in the midst of moving to Kansas City, downloaded the music and choreography package for the Buckeye Invitational and will qualify to sing in Columbus with the

HOA Chorus. The last we knew, he was just completing his transfer papers. *Talk about dedication!*

HOA's newest quartet, *Surefire*. **Carter Combs** (Tenor), **Mike Neff** (Lead), **Don Young** (Bass), **Grant Hunget** (Bari).

Ron McIntire, for his consistent help in providing top-notch photos which makes our monthly *Harmonotes* bulletin candy to the eyes! ~

BOTM for May, 2002: Ken Neujahr



In grateful appreciation for your work in planning, organizing and coordinating the New Member orientation classes for the Kansas City Missouri Chapter and *Heart of America Chorus*, you have been chosen as the

Barbershopper of the Month for May 2002.

BOTM for June, 2002: Vince Perry



In grateful appreciation for your work in organizing, scheduling, registering and manning the entire effort to see that the *Heart of America Chorus* gets to the 2002

Buckeye Invitational in Columbus, Ohio, this certificate is presented to you for June 2002. ~





Heart of America



August-September Calendar

July 26 - 27

July 28 - Aug. 3

August 4

August 5

August 12

August 8

August 15 - 17

Society Candidate School, Missouri Western, St. Joseph

Harmony College, Missouri Western, St. Joseph

Extra HOA PRES rehearsal, 1:30-4:30 p.m.,

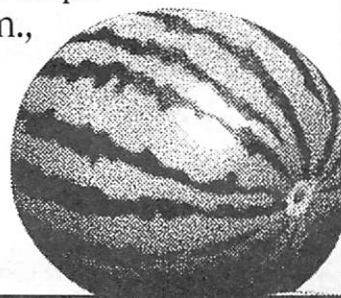
St. Peter's United Church of Christ

Music Team meeting

Board Meeting

Extra Buckeye rehearsal, St. Peters

Buckeye Invitational, Columbus, Ohio



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