

Harmonotes

February 2002

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2002, Issue 2



Mike Neff directs the Heart of America chorus in a rehearsal of "How Deep is The Ocean"

AMES, STUCKER HONORED AT HOA DINNER

John Stucker's elevation to be the 56th president in the 64-year history of the Kansas City Chapter came with an exclamation point. The longtime HOA activist and Leavenworth, Kan., commuter also was announced as winner of the prestigious **John Cross Award**.

The top honor at the Jan. 12 installation and awards banquet went to *Mr. Do-Everything*, **Chuck Ames**, who was named 2001 Barbershopper of the Year. Chuck is a previous Cross winner (see details of both awards elsewhere).

No Ozzie Award, for musical excellence, or Heartbeat of the Year, were chosen for the past year.

Central States District President **Bill McLaurine** of the St. Charles Chapter, accompanied by First Lady **Kathy**, called on **Dr. Suess** to help in a delightful installation ceremony.

Other officers and board members installed in the Trail Room at *Golden Ox* were: **Keith Schweer**, **Mike Schumacher**, **Jerry Garrard**, **Dick Korek**, **Chuck Ames**, **Reed Alberg**, **Charles Ramirez**, **Bob Burdick**, **Carter Combs**, **Monty Duerksen**, **Grant Hunget**, **Dale Neuman**, **Marty Oldehoeft**, **Val Putzier**, **Carl Turlin**, **Phil Veltkamp**, and **Bruce Wenner**.

Outgoing President **Dick Irwin** made arrangements for the evening, and his wife, **Sheli**, provided the decorations. **Jon Gathright** invited all past presidents and **Jim Bagby** served as emcee.

The evening drew about 100 HOA members and guests. Included were 17 past presidents: **Nile Abbott**, **Dan Henry Bowser**, **Joe Costigan**, **Al Moritz**, **Ron Abel**, **Bruce Wenner**, **Dale Neuman**, **Keith Schweer**, **Jim Davis**, **Rich Huyck**, **Rod Rule**, **Bagby**, **Mike Mathieu**, **Don Young**, **Gathright**, **Kevin Beauford** and **Irwin**. ~



Chuck Ames



John Stucker

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Harmonotes

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

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<i>Special Correspondent</i>	Ron McIntire
<i>Staff Reporters</i>	ALL Our Chapter Members!

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

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

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

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

Todd Anderson
17905 East 24th Terrace Court S
Independence, MO 64057-1332
(816) 373-8633
toddworks@home.com

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

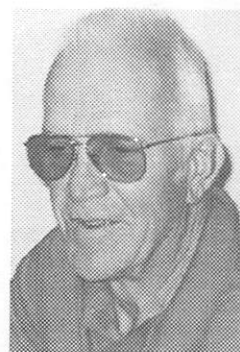
HOA Website: www.hoachorus.org
Web Address: jmathieu@hoachorus.org
Chapter Telephone: (913) 221-7988

Member Of



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker



John Stucker

As I write this article, I think back to last Monday and to the first board meeting I had the honor of presiding over. The board spent almost three hours discussing and deciding many things that will impact HOA for the year ahead.

One of the items of discussion was singing performances. We have a wonderful opportunity to showcase our special music on **March 10, 2002 to the Agra Bank Convention at Crown Center**. This is one day after our annual show and will add \$2,000 to our coffers. Being just a day after our most successful spring show, there is not much specific preparation required and we will still be "UP" after the show. Mark your calendars now for this important performance.

The board also approved an **April 7, 2002 performance in Richmond, MO in the recently restored Farris Theatre**. There will be additional information on these performances.

One of the most exciting items we discussed was the invitation to the **2002 Buckeye Invitational in August**. The Buckeye traditionally invites the second place chorus from each district to the competition. Each chorus is expected to present an eleven-minute performance package. The performance package includes two competition worthy songs judged by Society judges. The remaining part the presentation will be judged by a special portion of the audience. Since the chorus is not competing this summer at the "Big Dance" it gives us an opportunity to see how well we have progressed musically. It also gives us a short-term goal in developing a performance package that can be used for our audiences here in our own backyard. Most importantly it gives us a chance work together toward a common musical goal. There are still discussions on-going concerning our participation, and one of the most important considerations is the number of people that will commit to this endeavor. We strongly believe that we need at least seventy HOA singers to sign up. Your musical leadership will provide us all with much more in-depth information, but let's see how fast we can get seventy names on the sign-up list. My name will be first on the list.

As you read the article (you did read it real carefully, didn't you?), it becomes apparent what I hope to accomplish in the coming months. As I tried to say at the installation banquet, musical excellence is the real goal. The better you sing, the more fun you have, the more fun you have, the better you sing. Oh, and by the way, the better you sing, the easier it is to grow and sing better. It is a fulfilling circle that starts with singing better. ~

2001 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR!

by Ron McIntire

(Following is the presentation address made by **Ron McIntire** during HOA's annual Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet.)

The Barbershopper of the Year award is given each year to a member of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter who, in the opinion of the awards committee, has distinguished himself by promoting the well-being and betterment of the chapter. In most years it's hard to select a recipient because so many do so much for our organization. But this year our job was made a little easier; not because this individual is the most visible man in the chapter, not because he is the tallest or shortest or even the loudest. Our job was made easier because this man is a true magician when it comes to doing the thankless work of taking care of the chorus.

In the spirit of presenting this award, it's been a tradition that the presenter do his best to keep the audience guessing who the recipient is until the very last second. But that is hard to do. So, here are the top ten facts about this year's Barbershopper of the Year:

- 10: He has been a member of the Barbershop Society for 19 years.
- 9: He transferred to the Kansas City Chapter from the Hays, Kansas City Chapter and he's a dual member of both chapters. (Our win, their loss.)
- 8: He endeavors to learn his music earlier than some.
- 7: He is friendly and courteous, though sometimes a little bossy-no, I take that back, he can sometimes get real bossy.
- 6: He is a hard worker, he's responsible, he's dependable and he doesn't complain...much.
- 5: He rarely misses chorus rehearsal, extra practices and chorus performances.
- 4: He sings bass (his friends think) and he stands on or near the back row of the risers.
- 3: He is on the job every Tuesday night, often with limited help, and is usually the first to arrive at the rehearsal hall and the last to leave.
- 2: He is nearly indispensable to the operations of the chapter. In truth, the chapter would be hard-pressed to replace him.

AND THE NUMBER 1 FACT ABOUT THE 2001 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR:

His official title is Vice President of Operations but most of us know him simply as *Mr. Riser Chairman*. He's is a worry wart when it comes to getting the risers to and from performances and he does much of the advance planning for getting the risers on and off the stage. You know him if you've been around for a while, and if you don't know him yet, you should step up and introduce yourself. Please join me in welcoming your 2001 Kansas City Missouri Chapter Barber shopper of the Year, **Charles E. "Chuck" Ames.**



Ron McIntire congratulates Chuck Ames upon receiving HOA's 2001 Barbershopper of the Year Award!

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)

Polecat Creek

Lyle Wily (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

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK by Jim Bagby

I promised (or warned) last month I'd share some thoughts on what we can and should expect from each other over the next year or two.

One thing comes to mind immediately: I and we need you make attendance a priority once you've committed to the performing chorus, or the contest chorus, whichever is working at the time. Our chorus lineup is based on voices supporting and reinforcing each other. Each time you are absent, fellows around you hear a different sound.

Although there are as many theories for how to align a chorus as there are choruses, our system incorporates stereo effect (essentially equal parts left and right), the physics of 3's and 1's, light and dark voices blending, as well as matching newer and experienced people, height, facial involvement and a touch of by-guess and by-golly.

I believe I have mellowed in some respects. But unexplained holes in the chorus still give me the willies. I recall a few years ago when it seemed attendance went through a sustained period of spotty behavior. But one feller was there every week, and I thanked him for that one night. He humbly responded, "Well, it's the least I could do, since I won't be at the show."

Seriously, most every one of the guys who has a March 9 clothespin could pass the *Vocal Majority* voice placement/audition. But one of the things that separates the VM and some others from the wanna-be's is the commitment expectation: you must be there, for rehearsals and performances. Lots of 'em. There are no good reasons for NOT being there. And we need to think more in those terms. It may mean a smaller chorus, for a time, but I suggest 90 percent is a minimal figure if you are in the performing chorus—and just about 100 percent if you accept the responsibility and glory of the front row.

Otherwise: I EXPECT you to read the weekly *In-Tune* (now being delivered electronically in advance to most of us), and come to the risers prepared with the music you need. I WANT you to tape, and to tape regularly, so you can coach and adjudicate yourself long before you hand in a tape to the music team. I HOPE you'll wear your name tag every week, because no matter how well you are known to some, it's daunting for new members to learn everyone's name. And we are getting new members all the time.

I EXPECT you to make use of the learning

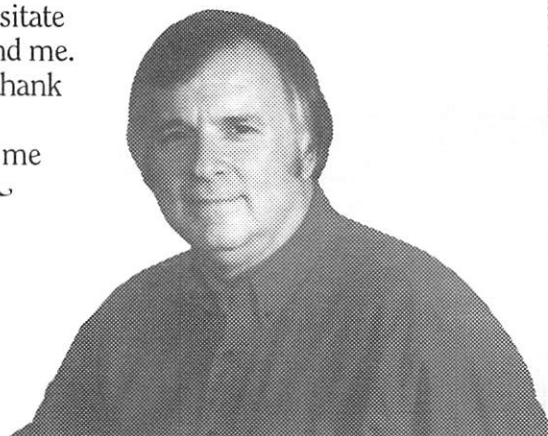
tapes/CDs produced by a very hard-working music team. The quality is improving all the time, and these guys even now are working on a better system of supplying and maintaining this very important tool. I URGE you to use the learning tapes/CDs in tandem with the sheet music, because it's proven you learn better that way.

Finally, for now, I PLEAD WITH YOU to let me know if you are not having fun. The history of our Society is that we allow members to drift away, because at the chapter level, we don't offer enough of whatever it was that made them sign up in the first place. Some of the most common reasons are "too much time on contest songs," "I didn't get to quartet" and, in various forms, "I didn't get enough enjoyment out of the hobby to keep me away from sitting home on Tuesday in front of a television set that offers me one-hundred-eleven-thirty-three channels of fun, entertainment and diversion."

For my part, I offer total commitment to the *Heart of America Chorus*. I PLEDGE to make HOA, to the best of my ability and planning, my number one BARBERSHOPPING priority, ahead of *Tone-Henge*, ahead of *Rural Route 4*, ahead of judging, coaching, district duties and anything else I'm asked/required to do. (I'm waiting for some smart Aleck to say "Yeah? Are you gonna be here for the show?" That's a long, sad story).

The position of chorus director is the most-honored position in the Kansas City Chapter, and I suspect that all of the handful of men who've held the job in the past 64 years would agree. (Well, except for **Dan Henry**, who thinks ex-director is the best title). But there would be no need for an arm-waver without a chorus—so if it ever appears to you've I've lost track of who's serving whom, don't hesitate to remind me.

And I thank you for inviting me back. ~



12th Street Rag Tour Touches 15 Schools And Over 1,300 Kids!

by Mark Fortino

Well, it was a marathon day that started at 8:30 in the morning at Grandview High School on the Southeast side of Kansas City, and ended at 3:15 p.m. at Cure' of Ars Catholic Grade School at 92nd and Mission, in the heart of Johnson County, Friday January 18, 2002. When all was said and done, we had performed for 15 schools at 5 different locations, and over 1,300 kids!

The tour and schools represented was as follows:

- 8:30 a.m. Grandview High School
- 9:45 a.m. Frontier Trail Junior High
California Trail Junior High
Chisholm Trail Junior High
Indian Trail Junior High
Olathe East High School
Olathe South High School
- 11:10 a.m. Olathe North High School
DeSoto High School
Santa Fe Trail Junior High
- 1:00 p.m. Shawnee Mission West High School
Shawnee Mission South High School
Blue Valley High School
Pioneer Trail Junior High
- 2:30 p.m. Cure' of Ars Catholic Grade School

Thanks to **Dick Korek**, who sent out information on our tour to all of the news media, Channel 4, Channel 41, and the Kansas City Star all made appearances at the various performance sites, and hits to www.12thstreetrag.com since the tour have been overwhelming.

12th Street Rag attempted an all-out marketing blitz, printing up 2,000 flyers that were handed out to the kids to point them to www.12thstreetrag.com. With the help of our web-master, **Kipp Buckner**, Tenor of the little (notice the use of the word little) known quartet from somewhere on the other side of the state, our web-site was dramatically enhanced with pages highlighting:

1. **2002 Harmony Explosion** – Heart of America's youth outreach program to be held on February 9th, 2002 at DeSoto High School
2. **2002 Tour Of KC Schools** – Where pictures of the tour will be posted for kids to go out to look at themselves on-line.
3. **2002 HOA Chorus Show** at the music Hall on March 9th – Where a pdf file of the ticket order form may be downloaded and tickets purchased.

It is our hope that the pictures of the kids from the tour will draw them to the site, and they will be excited enough to want to partake of a little more of the Barbershop experience.

Since our inception, going on nine years ago, *12th Street* has been involved in numerous youth outreach activities, but this was undoubtedly the most far-reaching in terms of the number of schools involved.

This was due in large part to the efforts of **Al Higgins**, who coordinated the entire tour for us, contacting the teachers ahead of time, timing the routes between the schools to make sure we would stay on schedule, and working out numerous other details.

Probably the most rewarding part of the entire day, is that we sang BARBERSHOP music, and the kids loved it! Our presentation included a short history lesson on barbershop, and a demonstration of how each part sounds by itself. We invited one person to come up and sing the well-known Barbershop tag "BE-HIND", and the kids went nuts for their classmate! →

At several of the schools, the music for "Fun In Just One Lifetime" had been provided to the teachers ahead of time. **John** directed the kids on the first chorus, then *12th Street* sang the second chorus, and when we put them together, the kids really enjoyed the sound.

One of the questions most commonly asked by the kids was why we got involved in barbershop. I shared my story, letting them know that while in high school, I was involved in plays and choirs and really enjoyed music and performing on stage. But, since I had no plans to continue with a musical or theatrical career, I figured my opportunity to perform would end after high school. Then I found barbershop, and it not only allowed me to continue with my musical interests, it put me in to contact with some of the greatest people in the world. There is nothing quite like the Barbershop experience!

Our thanks go out to **Dick Korek** for his marketing efforts, **Kipp Buckner** for working so quickly to enhance our web-site, **Lud Einess** for following us around the entire day handing out flyers, **John Stucker** for following us with his digital camera, and last but not least, **Al Higgins**, without whom this entire event would not have been possible. With a team like that, how could we have gone wrong. Thanks guys!!! ~



12th Street Rag had no problems finding kids who enjoyed harmony!

PLAQUE RE-PRESENTED

Banquet attendees witnessed the re-presentation of a plaque to **Gordon Lankenau** for his three years service, by outgoing president **Dick Irwin**. The award was originally presented December 14, 2001 when he stepped down as director. Dick felt he would like to present it again to him at the installation dinner.

Gordon has done a lot for this chapter. He helped to move us (the chorus) up the ladder from fourth place to second place at the District contest and he has taught us a lot.

His plaque reads:

In grateful appreciation for the your 3 years of Dedicated Service in the Kansas City Chapter, SPEBSQSA and the Heart of America Chorus. Presented to Gordon Lankenau December 14, 2001. ~

TONE-HENGE

by Bruce Wenner

Won't take long to tell you what *Tone-Henge* has been up to for the past month. One "rehearsal" (our "rehearsals" are unlike anybody else's). One dinner party for the eight of us. (Don't need quotes for party—*Tone-Henge* knows how to PARTY!) This is our third annual Christmas dinner at *Pierponts*, in which we eat up the year's profits, complete with corsages for the ladies—they sure earn those flowers for what they put up with in this quartet. Apart from that **Bruce & Francie** spent their usual two weeks in Florida while the other six were seeing in the New Year at **Dan's**.

There is a danger that old dogs can learn new tricks. Stay tuned for an impending debut in front of the chapter. You may have heard the song before, but not like this—another example of the fate of a perfectly good song when it falls into our hands. ~



ANNUAL SHOW: LOTS OF WORK GOING ON BEHIND THE SCENES

by Grant Hunget, Spring Show Chairman



Guys, work is being done from behind the scenes to help you put on a GREAT SHOW. From now til showtime, we ALL simply have to do OUR part by filling up seats at the Music Hall. "If it is to be, it is up to ME!"

Keep your TV tuned to Channel 5, and radio to KCMO Radio for some great

promo spots for our Show! **Dick Korek** has been hard at work securing advertising packages for us. We'll let you know specific airtimes when they come available. Also, if you did not catch it in your *SERENADE*, there are some super hotel/show ticket packages available for any showgoers.

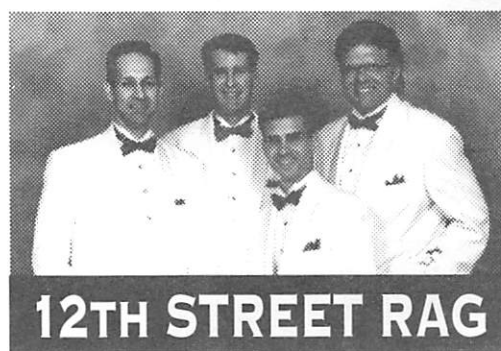
Mike Mathieu will be glad to book hotel/ticket packages. Call him at 913-345-9821.

Paul Winans is busy taking ticket orders. He may be reached at 816-537-0038. **Al**

Higgins will be happy to call ANY groups you have in mind, at 816-765-3434.

It's gonna be a great show! All of you are working hard to perfect the showtunes, and *PLATINUM*, *12th St. Rag*, and *Gentlemen of Note* are certainly preparing to give us their best effort.

See you on Stage! ~



HEY, GUYS!



by Dick Korek, Marketing and Vice-President

Saturday, February 9:

Harmony Explosion at DeSoto High School

Wednesday, February 13 thru Thursday, February 14:

Singing Valentines to be delivered

Saturday, March 9:

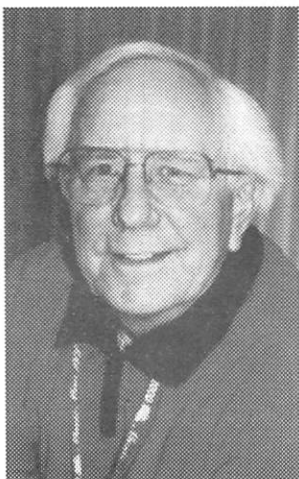
Annual HOA Show at the Music Hall

Sunday, March 10:

Paid Performance at the Westin Crown Center
1 hour show beginning at 7:45 p.m.. Set-up by **Al Higgins**

Sunday, April 7:

Paid Performance - Richmond, MO. 1-1/2 hour show -
Farris Theater - set-up by **Cameron LaBarr**



Remember, we put on a great show! We have much to be proud of. We, each and every one of us, are and must continue to be the best spokespersons for this great hobby. Talk it up and the pride will come through!

UP THE CREEK

by Dick Irwin

So where's *Polecat Creek*? A question we are asked far too often.

The quartet is doing fine. After a few months last year where we replaced our tenor (welcome to **Lyle Wiley**) and then suffered through a couple of months where lead **Wayne Crawford** was trapped at work for like 18 hours seven days a week, we're back on track. We've been working on getting Lyle up to speed on most of our old repertoire and adding some new songs we think are less heard in this area.

In December *Polecat Creek* was honored to perform with the *Heart of America Chorus* at their John Knox Village performance and at the Salvation Army Bell Ringing at Blue Ridge Mall. We also had a chance to perform for about 50 cat enthusiasts at the MO-KAN Cat Club Christmas party. The club members really enjoyed our rendition of "Let Me Hold You Kitty" (words by our baritone).

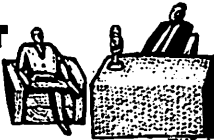
Looking to the future, we are hoping to be a part of the chapter annual show, as a quartet. We are also planning to get some competition experience by participating in the Spring Prelims in Columbia. We hope to see a lot of HOA'ers turn out to support all of the Kansas City Chapter members who will be competing there.



JUST FOUR FUN

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

LATE NIGHT LAUGHTER!



"You read about all these terrorists, most of them came here legally, but they hung around on these expired visas, some for as long as 10-15 years. Now, compare that to Blockbuster; you are two days late with a video and these people are all over you. Let's put Blockbuster in charge of immigration."

— Jay Leno

"Did you see President Bush throw out the first pitch of game two of the World Series? The White House said it was a strike. The Taliban said it missed and killed several innocent people." — David Letterman

"More and more facts coming out about Osama bin Laden. You know, he never sleeps in the same place two nights in a row...just like Clinton." — Jay Leno

"CBS News finally received anthrax in the mail. As usual, we're number three."

— David Letterman

"I don't mean to harp on this, but it's like the networks are a how-to manual for terrorists. You see them on the news. This reporter is standing outside a water treatment plant, going, 'If they poured the poison here it could wipe out thousands because the guard is off duty from noon until 1 every day!'"

— Jay Leno

"President Bush has urged people to get back to normal and today Congress announced that they are accepting bribes again." — Jay Leno

"Do you remember the good ol' days when Congress was only unsafe if you were an intern?"

—David Letterman

"The big question now is: Who will take power in Afghanistan once the Taliban is defeated? I was thinking, how about Al Gore? He's not doing anything, he needs a job, and he's already got the beard." — Jay Leno

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - February 1992

Ten Years Ago congratulations were in order for **Jim and Joann Bagby** on the birth on January 8 of their very first grandchild, a boy to be named **Michael Blake Calhoun** (actually, he was to be called "Blake"). His mother is **Kristin**, Jim and Joann's daughter. (He must be in the third or fourth grade by now. Tempus fugit!)

International convention coordinator **Jim White** got space on the front page of *Harmonotes* for an update on plans for HOA to compete in international competition at New Orleans next July 2-4. Jim provided details on procedures for reserving rooms at the Inter-Continental Hotel.

Collections at the Salvation Army performance at the Ward Parkway shopping center on December 21 amounted to \$2,612.70. There were 71 guys on the risers for the 12 noon and 1 p.m. presentations. Photos showed that a nice-sized audience was on hand for the program. A good time was enjoyed by all, thanks to the efforts of **Mike Schumacher**, who coordinated the day's activities with Ward Parkway and the Salvation Army.

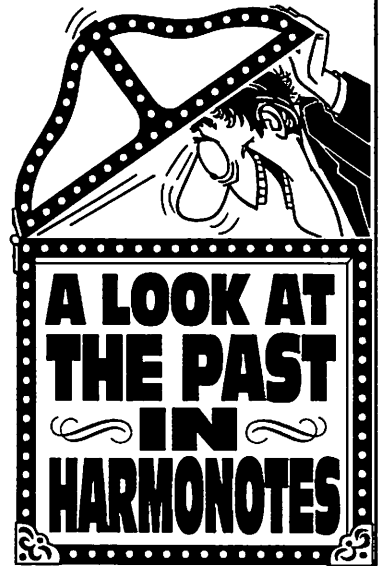
Monty Duerksen, with lots of help from **Brian Williams** and **Mike Schumacher**, was busy coordinating the second annual "Singing Valentines" effort to be implemented on Valentine's Day. **Vic Stensrud** was taking orders for singing valentines from HOA members. We'll provide additional coverage of this event in next month's *Harmonotes*.

Twenty Years Ago - February 1982

Because of inconveniences associated with our meeting place in the Federal Building, the Kansas City chapter moved to the old Pacific House at 4th and Delaware, thanks to the efforts of **Jean and Fred Whisman** who were using space on the first floor of what was once the finest hostelry in the city. The hotel was occupied by Union troops during the Civil war, and it was in this building that General **Thomas Ewing** issued the infamous order No. 11, which required all residents of Jackson County to swear allegiance to the U. S. Government or forfeit their homes. Said **Jim Bagby**, "The sound at 401 Delaware is so big it's almost overpowering, but the fidelity is much better than at the Federal Building."

HOA barbershoppers, were anticipating visits by Society field representatives **Dave Stevens** and **Joe Liles** who would conduct coaching sessions in arranging, repertoire, barbershop craft directing, and sightreading. The meeting was scheduled for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on February 13 at St. Peters Church at 110th and Holmes.

(continued on next page ♦)



Thirty-Five Years Ago February, 1967

As most of you old-timers may recall, the emphasis on early barbershop chapter annual shows was on *quartet* performances. Indeed, we used to call them "Parades of Quartets." In the February 1967 edition of *Harmonotes*, Editor **Don Thorne** reveals that the *Merry Mugs*, the *BMA Skyliners*, and the *Intervals* would appear on the first half of the March 18 show with the *Kippers*, the *Salt Flats*, and the *Four-Do-Matics* performing on the second half. Our 1967 show did include a significant portion by the HOA chorus. Editor Don says, "The chorus has been given more time on the stage and will be enhanced by a parcel of beautiful girls in the "Charleston" number. For the "Straw and Cane" number, the front row will be doing some fancy stepping. **Chuck Lazenby** will be working out the motions. The final chorus number will be done in "band" hats doing "76 Trombones" to the accompaniment of the Shawnee-mission East marching band." *Pretty ambitious, don't you think?* ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following members!



Myron Hultgren	February 8
Charles Greene	February 12
John Renfro, Jr.	February 13
Jim Bagby	February 14
Salvatore Iannazzo	February 18
John Fortino	February 18
Ross Lankenau	February 19
James Porter	February 20
Lud Einess	February 24

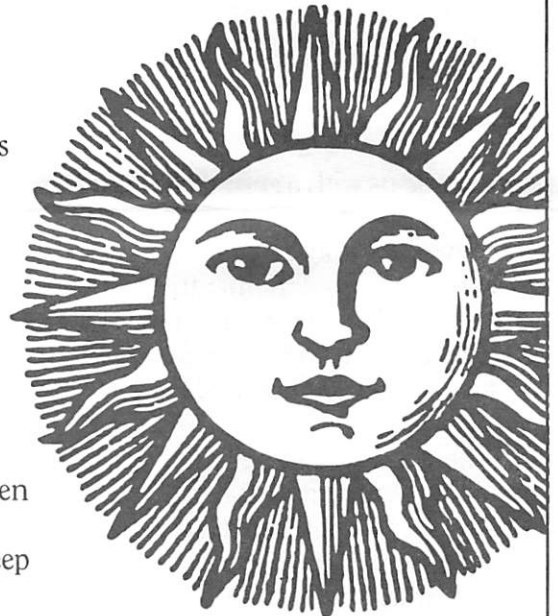
SUNSHINE REPORT by Jerry Snyder

At press time, we hear that **Gordy Coleman's** wife, **Mary Lou** is in the hospital for surgery. We'll look forward to more information as it becomes available. We certainly hope that she's back in action quickly!

We've learned that **Gil Lefholz** was released from the hospital on January 25. Gil went in because he'd started having brief seizures. Tests found a brain tumor, about walnut size, calcified, benign and apparently there since a head injury in his youth. It's deep and likely inoperable, but also non-growing. He's due for some more tests and perhaps a second opinion, but medication is controlling the seizures, the rest of him is pronounced healthy.

Gil's wife, **Donna**, had double pneumonia around Christmas. Then she was diagnosed with diabetes.

Both Gil and Donna say they are feeling good. Let's be sure to keep them in our prayers! ~



WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Question:

Name the quartet and its members!

*Harmony Spectrum,
Gene Bowers, Tenor, Dave Krause, Lead,
Willard Yoder, Bass, Jim Bagby, Bari*

Photo and trivia info courtesy of Dale Neuman. Photographer unknown.



BUCKEYE BOUND

by Keith Schweer

Mark your calendars! The *Heart of America Chorus* has been invited to compete in the Buckeye Invitational. The Buckeye Invitational is an International Barbershop convention and contest held in Columbus, Ohio each year since 1989. This year the dates are August 15-18. The choruses that are invited to the Buckeye are the top-scoring choruses in each district that did not qualify to go to International. The Buckeye also includes quartet contests, mixed quartet contests, comedy quartet contests, past champ quartets and many other fun events. The Music Team has recommended and your Board of Directors has approved HOA's acceptance of this invitation. We believe there are a number of benefits to participating in this event:

- Provide us with a springboard for this fall's convention in Wichita
- Provide a means to capitalize on the enthusiasm and momentum generated by the annual show
- Provide a fun and beneficial experience for chorus members and families

There is much more to tell you about the Buckeye Invitational, but rather than take valuable rehearsal time prior to our show, I would like to wait until afterwards. At that time, we'll ensure that there is ample time for questions and discussion. ~

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF

Harmonotes

Articles and photos are due by

**TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 19**

SINGING VALENTINES 2002: NEW FACES, NEW PLACES

Yes, the show has been **Dick Sutton**, and, unknown to most, **Mike Mathieu** performing a major assist on promotion. But the show goes on with new faces, and the deliveries to new places.

The new faces are **John Landry** and **Phil Veltkamp** shoring up the administrative end of things, and **Dick Korek**, our own VP of PR and Marketing, heading up the promo end. Mike again has done a major assist on the prizes for the three drawings and other behind the scenes work. **Kim Hoffman** is also assisting as a right hand man to the three of us.

The new places are where the hundreds and hundreds of deliveries are a goin'. But they don't just happen on their own. It is YOU GUYS, the chapter members, that make all of this happen! At the time of writing, we have eleven chapter quartets signed up. Now they just need to get ready to go. **Jim** and **Gerry** are makin' sure that we all sound great and are including several run-throughs during rehearsal. *Gentlemen of Note* are following up on that by individually qualifying and offering Gold Medal suggestions for each quartet. Thanks guys for your hard work!

"Well," you say to yourself, "I'll just sit back and watch this big event happen, the thousands of dollars a bein' raised for Children's Mercy Hospital, the thousands of dollars going into the chapter coffers, the quartets and drivers all havin' fun,...Hey, wait...I need to be in on this!"

Yes, you do.

It is not too late to get a quartet assembled and ready for February 13 and 14. You remember how much fun it was the last time that you participated, right? Not been yet? Well just ask someone who has, if they had fun. That'll get ya hooked.

You can be a driver and greatly help out a quartet while havin' fun on your own.

You can distribute the flyers and informational cards that have been prepared to places where they will be effective.

Let us, each one of us, do a part and pull our own weight, and make Singing Valentines 2002 a roaring success, bringing a smile, joy, and happiness just by doin' what ya love. Each one of us can be, and should be, part of the New Faces, New Places. ~



MEMBERSHIP IS PARTICIPATION AND GROWTH



by Mike Schumacher, Membership VP

As you have no doubt read in any article that has to do with membership in any organization you have ever been a part of, without new members eventually your group will shrivel and die. Now no one wants that to happen, I'm sure. Our Society is still a pretty well kept secret for the average citizen on the street. I think that's a shame. Using **Dick Korek's** pocket cards that advertise the Singing Valentines and Spring Show, we have a great opportunity to also talk to those we give cards to about our chapter meetings. Last year we had around 10 or 12 new members and that was great, because all but 2 are still active in our chorus and chapter. That ain't all bad. We could do better, but it takes participation from everyone!!

Have you ever joined a group or organization and not participated? How much fun is that? Personally speaking, I get a lot more out of my chorus and chapter when I take an active role in the chorus. Being a member means more than knowing your notes and words and singing in tune, it's also finding somewhere in the chapter and chorus where you can give a little extra and make the *Heart of America Chorus* that much better. I'm sure if you asked any of the committee chairman they could tell you some where they needed help in running something or organizing something. I'm going to tell you right up front...I NEED HELP!! Doing What?

Right now, I need a Sunshine chairman, at least a couple of guys to help greet guests (and members) as they arrive on Tuesday evenings, and at least one guy from each section (maybe 2 from the leads and basses) to act as administrative section leaders. I don't believe any of these jobs are excessively time consuming but the membership chairman (or any other chairman, for that matter) can't do it all. Some of these jobs could be done by a non-singing member if they were still able to come and be at rehearsal, on occasion. I would appreciate any help any one could give me. I will not be waiting for volunteers because I have already been making phone calls to fill these positions but please let me know if you would like to help.

Let's make a concerted effort to build strong participation in every aspect of our chapter and chorus. Many hands make light work...as the saying goes!! (Stay tuned next month for more details on the new members from 2001) ~

RURAL ROUTE WHO?

by Jim Bagby

Every year the blank looks increase, and the apologetic responses. "What was the name of your quartet?" "What year did you win?" Or, "I know you sang with somebody famous, but..."

As **Dan Henry** says in the live introduction to the RR4's "Friends and Relatives" recording at the Music Hall, "The first international champion in the long and proud history of the Kansas City Chapter..." And three of us remain chapter members to this day, although we don't see **Calvin** and **Willard Yoder** very often. They still live in Cass County, about 45 minutes southeast of my house.

Gold Medal Tenor **Don Kahl** transferred from KC in the late 1980s to the Dallas Metro *Vocal Majority*, and now is singing tenor with the current silver medalists from Alliance, Ohio, *Uptown Sound*. **Wes Yoder**, Calvin's son who replaced Don in 1991, is the tenor of the current Evergreen District champs, *Flashpoint*.

We won in Salt Lake City in 1986. That was dang-near 16 years ago—a half-dozen fellers in the HOA March show chorus were not even born then, or barely born. But this will make some of you really feel old: when the RR4 appear at the CSD spring convention in Columbia April 13, we'll be observing a 30th anniversary.

It was April of 1972, in St. Joseph, that the original RR4 first competed: the Yoder brothers, bari **Rufus Kenagy** and tenor **Everett Roth**. I replaced Rufus in December of 1976 and Don succeeded Everett early in 1983.

We retired in 1994 and sang only at our own holiday gatherings and a couple of special funerals until 2000. Then we got together with both Don and Wes to do the CSD chorditorium at the KC International, with Senior Champs *Jurassic Larks* of Des Moines and the *Gas House Gang*. We had so much fun, we decided maybe we could do one show a year, with whichever tenor was available.

That led to at least one annual performance since then (it's a long story) and the invitation to headline the CSD Saturday night Showcase in Columbia. Hope to see you there! ~



Rural Route 4

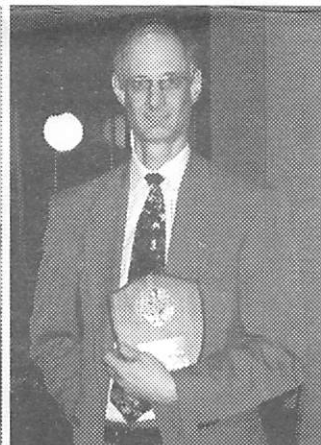
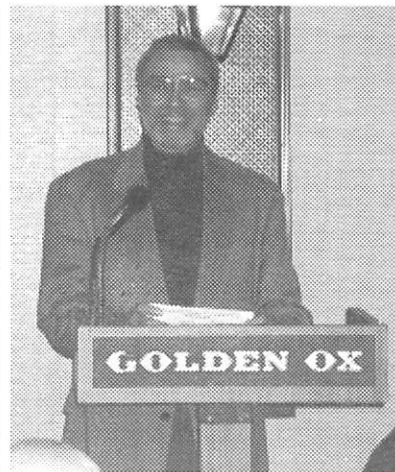
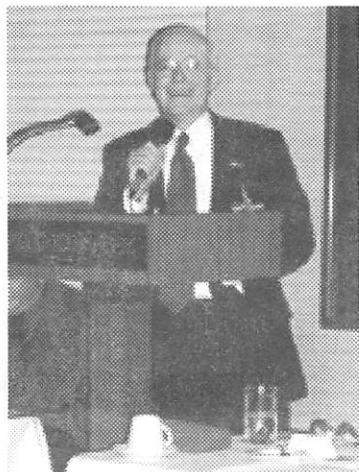
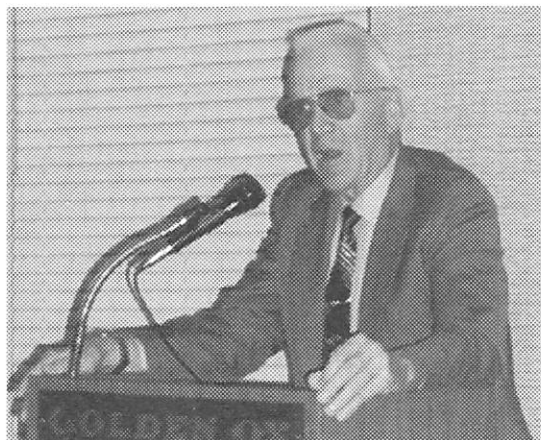
From left to right: Jim Bagby (needs a shave!), Willard Yoder, Calvin Yoder and Don Kahl.

Photo courtesy of Dale Neuman. Photographer unknown.

AWARD BANQUET PICS!

Enjoy these candid shots of the January 12th Installation and Awards Banquet, taken by our own Ron McIntire!

From top to bottom: Incoming 2002 President **John Stucker**, Central States District President, **Bill McLaurine**, **Bruce Wenner** introduces past Ozzie Award winners, **John Stucker** receiving the John Cross Award from **Ron Abel**, **Ron McIntire** introduces past BOTY winners, **Chuck Ames** receiving the BOTY Award, *Gentlemen of Note* performing (she's not shown but **Monty** has his eye on **Kim Alberg**), *12th Street Rag* members provided attendees with some top-notch melodies! ~



JOHN CROSS AWARD GOES TO JOHN STUCKER

by Ron Abel

In 1989 the KC Chapter authorized the presentation of an award each year to the member who excelled in attendance at chapter meetings as well as participation in chorus performances and other chapter functions. The *John Cross Award* was in honor of long-time member **Johnny Cross**, now deceased, better known as "Coffee John", who claimed to never having missed a chapter meeting for 43 years!

This award was presented to **John Stucker** for 2001 at the Installation Banquet held at the Golden Ox restaurant Saturday, January 12th. John attended all but three chapter meetings during the year, participated in chorus performances, and was always there when something had to be done.

A member of the Society since 1968, John Stucker became a member of the Kansas City Chapter in 1978. He and his wife, **Jane**, have two sons, **David** and **Matthew**. John has been active at the District level as well, having served as the CSD Contest Secretary since 1981, served as CSD Contest and Judging, Chairman in 1996, then elected as CSD VP Contest and Judging for four years, 1997 through 2000. He also became a Certified Secretary for the Society in the 1980s and subsequently recertified as a Contest Administrator in 1992 when the judging categories were redefined.

Congratulations, John Stucker! You're a good example for each of us to follow in your regular attendance and participation in all chapter functions and activities. ~

WOODSHEDDING: AN INTRODUCTION

(Part 1 of 5 in a series)—provided to PROBE
by Toban Dvoretzky, President of AHSOW



Authentic woodshedding is the way our Society began—a tenor, bari and bass harmonizing to a lead's melody without referring to a printed or familiar arrangement. Authentic woodshedding is one of the most productive and fulfilling activities that barbershoppers could choose to do.

The question has arisen: "Is woodshedding an art that one has to be born with, or can it be learned?"

As with most other skills, effective woodshedding is—and can indeed be—learned. A basic sense of circle-of-fifths (barbershop) chord-progressions is necessary. Barbershoppers can gain this sense in several ways. Folks with jazz or piano backgrounds have a beginning advantage, as should anyone with a year or two of college-level music theory. Barbershoppers who have sung more than one voice part in their chorus or quartet also have an initial advantage.

Barbershoppers who don't read music, or those whose first or only musical experience began when they entered barbershopping, can also most definitely learn to woodshed. The prerequisite is an understanding of scales and intervals (the space between one note and the next). AHSOW strongly recommends that prospective woodshedders invest in the voice-part-predominant Barberpole Cat tapes produced by SPEBSQSA. The Barberpole Cat songs are especially strong, pure barbershop, and listening to them intently and repeatedly will impart a strong sense of the "patterns" typical of each of the barbershop voice-parts.

Another brand-new resource is the Barbershop Multimedia CD-ROM, recorded by the Studio One quartet (http://www.studioonequartet.com/CDs_and_Software/recordframe.htm). Studio One has recorded all 65 songs in the *Heritage of Harmony Songbook*, with four-part separation. Each recorded song is available for playback from CD-ROM software. Go to the web address above, or contact **Dave Warkentin** (d-warkentin@usa.net) for more information. This sounds like a wonderful way for barbershoppers of all levels to learn more about the various barbershop voice parts and the patterns most common to each.

Feel free to contact AHSOW, Inc. at any time with inquiries about woodshedding. ~

ANCIENT HARMONIOUS SOCIETY OF WOODSHEDDERS, INC.

Toban Dvoretzky, Pres. TBone@selec.net (H)
14531 Ella Blvd., #3806
AHSOW web page: <http://www.ahsow.org>
Houston, TX 77014-2558, U.S.A.

Heart of America

February • March • April Calendar

- February 5** Deadline for turning in a QUALIFYING TAPE!
- February 9** Harmony Explosion at DeSoto High School
- February 13 & 14** Singing Valentines 2002
- March 8** Tech rehearsal for Annual Show
- March 9** HOA's Annual Show
- March 10** Performance at Westin Crown Center, 7:45 p.m.
- April 7** Performance in Richmond, MO.
1-1/2 hour show - Farris Theater
- April 12 & 13** CSD prelims in Columbia, MO.

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Kansas City, MO 64137-2145

