

HARMONOTES



The Monthly Bulletin of Kansas City's Heart of America Chorus

CHORUS AND QUARTET SINGING
IN THE BARBERSHOP STYLE



SECOND-OLDEST CHAPTER IN THE
BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

VOLUME 07 - ISSUE 2 - FEBRUARY 2007

After Almost 36 years, It's Still HOA Spirit that Lights My Fire

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director



BAGBY

January, 2007 did not start with a bang for me or, I think you'll admit, for the *Heart of America Chorus*. Meeting attendance was so sparse we could have gotten away with a half-dozen section of risers most nights, a carryover from the post-holiday show blahs in December. Even the one public relations coup we had, a great letter in *The Kansas City Star* about one of our Salvation Army bell-ringing concerts, referred to *HOA* as a chorus of 50 men. I can't remember the last time the *Star* even knew we were alive—and now the public got the impression we're less than one-third our actual size, because that was the size of our bell-ringing turnout.

Although as many as 90 members have indicated they intend to try to qualify for Denver, it appears we'll do well to put 70 in the March show chorus—with only one tenor past puberty. Yep, it's easy to get discouraged, or at best, puzzled by the ups and downs of a hobby organization.



BUT...then **Charlla Boise** calls to say that **Max** has died, at age 78. He hasn't been a member since 2002, and many of our guys don't remember this quiet, kindly bass. But on a snowy Thursday afternoon, 32 *HOA* singers drive an hour north to Holt, Mo., to sing for his funeral. And his family named their church and the Kansas City Chapter as the two memorial organizations. Rest in peace, Max. And man, you should have heard that mini-chorus!

Or at our annual installation/awards banquet, **Grant Hunget** is announced as the Ozzie Awards winner, joining **Ron Abel** as the

only members in *HOA* history to hold all three major chapter awards—Barbershopper of the Year, John Cross and Ozzie. I was chapter president when we started the Cross award, and the *Rural Route 4* initiated the Ozzie in honor of *HOA* and *RR4* coach **M.O. "Oz" Newgard**, so those awards have always been close to my heart. When a guy who gives so much, like Grant, is recognized, I remember again why this chapter is so special.

And on the same night, **Kent McClean**, who joined the chapter about the same time I did (1971) is named BOTY—awwright! Kent and I sang with **Bruce Wenner** in a quartet called the *Summer Hummers*, so long ago we were all as thin as Bruce and all had dark hair. It was an honor long overdue for Kent. He not only is a heckuva bass, but a chapter stalwart, musically and administratively. He isn't the most outgoing guy in *HOA*, and after his wife died, he could have withdrawn, or become a ski bum and foregone barbershopping altogether. But you missed a golden moment (as happens at every awards banquet) if you weren't there Jan. 13 when Kent said simply in accepting his plaque, "I love this hobby."

The spirit of *HOA* was in full bloom on a recent cold Saturday when 16 members of the music team devoted their entire day to planning our direction for the next few months, under the capable director of Music Veep **Carter Combs**.

How about young **Chris Smith**, quietly and efficiently leading great warmups? That kind of talented addition to our music team will help ease a lot of frustration. And Chris has joined veteran **Darrell McCune** to form a weekly dynamic duo of vocal coaching during chapter meetings. The results can be some of the most encouraging news any of us have heard—especially if everyone will carry the lessons over into the chorus.

(Continued on page 2 ♦♦)

After Almost 36 years, It's Still HOA Spirit that Lights My Fire

(Continued from page 8)

We are indebted to Chris and Darrell—and I wonder how many miles Darrell has covered between here and Ottawa over the years!

I also see good things happening with the *HOA* learning process. You said we need to do a better job learning away from the chapter meeting—and the evidence of late is that it's happening. We have some challenging show music, and the rehearsal part of our meetings has not been devoted to note learning. That's really encouraging!

No, I don't want to do this forever. Or even for much longer. But for now, the spirit and the good times and the overtones still outweigh the challenges...♥

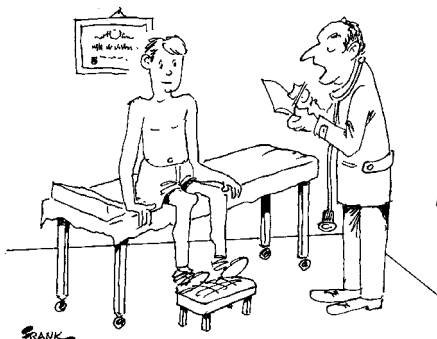
"Well, I just got a teary message from my sweetheart that the Heartbeats honored her as Heartbeat of the Year. Then, the chorus sang her her favorite song, "Friends."

My good friends, you and the Heartbeats have reached through her heart, then across the sea to me on this day. You've made a very lonely place a little brighter! **Jim Henry** told us that barbershop can make a weighty difference in people's lives. That may sound corny, but is profoundly real as I type these words.

My best to all of you, and Thank you, Thank you, Thank you."

Bill Campsey

FROM THE MAIL BAG



**"LET'S TAKE
YOU OFF THE
PILLS AND
SWITCH YOU
FROM TENOR
TO LEAD."**

Plan Your Work and Work Your Plan

by Tony Strub, HOA President



I am sure that all of us are aware of how important organization and preparation can be to achieving success in any endeavor. The *HOA* membership has sent a very clear message that we need to make better use of our time in all areas of operation in our chapter. This message

applies to all of us, not just to people in positions of responsibility. We all need to do a better job of planning our work and working our plan. When we do our homework, the results are impressive.

Since our first meeting of 2007, I have noticed a definite change in the ethos of our chapter rehearsals. The organization and schedule seem to be tighter and the pace of activities more rapid. So far, I have been surprised at the end of rehearsal how quickly the time has passed. Kudos to our music team and PVP **Carl Turlin** for doing a great job.

So far in 2007, I have noticed better preparation for rehearsal and an accelerated learning process of the literature from all of us on the risers. I also sense that the expectations in this area have been raised somewhat. I am sure that **Jim Bagby's** weekly *In-Time* preview with homework assignments three weeks out is a big help for all of us. It tells us what to prepare and where to focus. If we happen to miss a rehearsal, we know what we have missed, what we need to do to catch up and how to prepare for the next meeting. All of the things that I have seen so far in 2007 are very positive developments. Now, it is our job to sustain the effort.

Our chapter is also in the process of putting together a committee to design a strategic plan for our future. The committee will consider our recent survey results, our mission statement, our culture and activities in order to identify strategic initiatives that will help us go where we say that we want to go. Ideas are wonderful and create lots of optimism, but making them reality is the challenge. I feel very good about *HOA* in 2007. ♥

Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter

Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just let me know.

As of Wednesday, Jan. 24th, and 10 drawings:

The total raised for Harmony Foundation in the past month is \$146. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 14, 2006) is \$439. Last year, the total raised to this point was \$1,154. One year ago Jan. 31 there was a big winner (\$1,511) in the drawing. ♥



Music & Performance Team Changes Announced

by Carter Combs, Music/Performance Vice-President



The new year usually brings changes, and this year is no exception for the *HOA* Music & Performance Team. Several key players are moving out of roles they have held for some time, and new guys are coming on board to fill their talented shoes. (I think I mixed at least three metaphors in that last sentence, but you get the idea.)

Of course you know that I am attempting to follow the inestimable **Keith Schweer** as the new Music & Performance VP. I confess it is a somewhat daunting task, since Keith filled this role with such apparent ease and professionalism. I will do my best to do the chapter proud as we move forward while I learn the ropes. Thankfully, Keith is staying on the team as Bass section leader, so I will have the benefit of his advice and council when needed. I'm certain he'll keep me on the straight and narrow.

Al Fehlauer is replacing the indefatigable **Grant Hunget** as Baritone section leader. Multi-talented and multi-tasking Al is a dual-member with *HOA* and *Leavenworth*, where he already wears many hats, and performs with several active registered quartets on several different voice-parts...everything except tenor, I think! "Conscience of the Chorus" Grant will continue to be active with the teaching quartet, *New & Used Parts*, as well as new district champs quartet *Quadrio*.

The incomparable **Phil Veltkamp's** job as Librarian will now be filled by the team of **Dick & Mike O'Dell**. This is one of those behind-the-scenes jobs that is nearly invisible when done right, but otherwise can bring the chorus to a grinding halt. Phil was so expert in this position that many in the chorus had no idea what he accomplished each and every week. He is coaching Mike & Dick, so I have no doubt they will be equally excellent.

Also new to the Music Team is **Chris Smith**. You have already seen him out front running the new chorus warm-ups. Chris comes to us with a wealth of knowledge and experience in directing and vocal coaching from the superb Central Missouri State University Music program. He joins **Darrell McCune** as vocal coach, and is also tasked with providing invaluable feedback to the directors.



As you might expect, there are a few other changes in the works...some old faces in new places, and vice versa...well, not "old" old...you know what I meant! Meanwhile, I

hope you will take a moment to help me thank these gentlemen for their past service, and/or welcome them in their new tasks! ♥

Mentoring our Future

by Bob Murphy, Membership Vice-President



I am now beginning my second month in this position. By now we have had the Reunion for inactive members on Jan. 30, but at this writing it is too soon to know how it went. I know that we sent out at least 85 invitations, and contacted several more by email and phone.

It is now time for us to turn to recruiting new members, and keeping them active. I believe that the last part of the sentence before this one is the key, keeping them active.

I have heard from several newer members that the first year is really the toughest. New members have lots of questions. New members have much need for support. New members need someone that they can turn to with their questions and concerns. I am also aware of at least one recently new member who has now decided to give up this wonderful hobby because in part he had questions, but really did not have anyone to turn to for the answers. For this reason, I would like to begin a system of mentors.

A mentor will be someone that a new member can turn to during that critical first year. A mentor will have a one-on-one relationship with new a new member. A mentor will be available to answer questions, give suggestions, provide support and help the new member through that first year.

I can recall my first year. There were times I really didn't have a clue what I was doing, what I needed to do and how to get the information I needed. I stumbled along and as I look back, I really don't know how I made it through that first year without really doing something wrong, especially in Salt Lake City.

We all know that we need to grow our membership and participation. Now is the time to bring in new members that might be able to qualify for Denver. My request to each of you that are on the risers now, bring in prospective new members as often as you can. I also will ask any who will consider being a "mentor" for a new member to step forward, let me know of your interest, and then plan on your help to develop this much needed support. ♥

"Barbershop harmony really begins at the end and works backwards. If a quartet is well equipped with 'wicked' endings, the body of the song may be fairly conventional. It is the close that leaves the final fragrance of the barbershop, and if this be beautifully flavored with a nostalgic aroma, it matters little what has gone before. The most obvious harmonies are forgotten in a really subtle finish."

(Source: "Barbershop Ballads and How to Sing them," Dr. Sigmund Spaeth, 1925)

Rehearsals: Now *There's an Idea!*

by Ol' Bruce



Tone-Henge has had a quiet January in terms of performances, but we have a full calendar for the next three months. Among other engagements, we're headlining shows in Viborg, SD, and St. Louis Suburban (their annual St. Patrick's corned beef and cabbage dinner show, which we did several years ago), plus quartet spots on several upcoming

HOA shows. That's all in addition to all of the individual coaching and judging activities – we'll blame most of that on **Jim**, although we can't pin all of it on him.

So we're actually trying to get something accomplished in our rehearsals. A little out of character for this quartet, but we have no choice. Even learning a couple of new numbers – we could tell you about them, but then we'd have to shoot you. And scraping the barnacles off some of our older repertoire. If we're going to whiff on something, it's better to have it happen in rehearsal – that way we can immediately fix it by tipping a cold one.

Since more rehearsals are necessary, it's fortunate that we're finding creative ways of making them more interesting. Our latest wrinkle is to take the *Hengettes* out to dinner at a restaurant that has a deal on Happy Hour appetizers in the bar; we've located a surprising variety of such establishments. Then we all adjourn to one of our homes, where the *Hengettes* socialize and the *Hengers* "rehearse." Try it – you'll like it! ♥

"LET'S SING
"IDA LEE."
IT TAKES A
LONG TIME TO
GET TO THE
45TH FLOOR!"



The Editors of *Harmonotes*

based on research by Editor Emeritus Wade Dexter

After some questions were raised about our bulletin history, former International bulletin champ **Wade Dexter** performed an extensive report. **Ron McIntire** shared some of Wade's exhaustive findings recently. Tracking down chapter history is daunting, given the few resources that are available. However, we truly appreciate Wade taking time to focus on our proud heritage.

Following is a chronology of *Harmonotes* Editors. As Wade begins, "...there are so many breaks in the sequence of editions where editor changes could have been made but can't be confirmed without the editions to back it up. But how does this look? It's the best I can do, believe me."

Harmonotes Editors:

June, 1938 - July, 1950 **Hamilton, "Ham" Meisinger**

announces that he has been appointed the "new" editor of *Harmonotes*.

July, 1953

Ham Meisinger is joined by **Dan Jacobson** and **Ralph Cooper**.

June, 1955

Rift in my collection from this date to March 1964, except for issues for April, May and June 1962.

September, 1960

Don Thorne

January, 1964

Warren Edmonds

July, 1966

Don Thorne

January, 1969

David Ritz and **Bob Nash**

September, 1969

Dick Hamm

January, 1971

Joe Costigan

September, 1973

Warren Edmonds

February, 1974

Ron Abel and **Al Moritz**

December 1975

Floyd Lankenau

February, 1977

Gil Lefholz

July, 1979

Joe Costigan

January, 1981

Al Benz

April 1982

Dennis Yeager

December, 1983

Dale Neuman

December, 1985

Wade Dexter

June, 1997

Dexter resigned

July, 1997

Dale Neuman and **Todd Anderson**

January, 2000

Todd Anderson and **Dick Irwin**

June, 2000

Todd Anderson

If you wish to read the full, unedited version of Wade's report, send your request to **todd anderson@comcast.net**. ♥





12th Street Rag School Tour

by Al Higgins

Continuing what has become an annual event, *12th Street Rag* toured schools again on Friday, Jan. 19, 2007. In the past, they have gone to area junior and senior high schools. This year the tour was for the college students in the area.

The schools visited were Mid-America Nazarene, Johnson County Community College and UMKC.

The program at each school was a master class which included several songs performed by *12th Street Rag* and a discussion of the barbershop history, structure, music development, singing techniques and a question-and-answer period.

Many in the audiences at each school were Harmony Explosion participants while they were in junior and/or senior high school. In fact, there were some audience members from other colleges from Missouri and Kansas who had been told of the *12th Street Rag* appearance. An added bonus was the attendance of many adults and college faculty members.

By going to the colleges, *12th Street Rag* is hopeful of creating interest and recruiting young men to sing in the Collegiate Quartet Contest and to sing with a society chorus (*HOA* is a good choice, right?).

Don Fuson, CSD President, visited some of the stops and took pictures of the event. ♥



An enthralled group of youth listen intently as 12th Street Rag members John Fortino, Mark Fortino, Barry Moore and Micah Jeppesen provide the class with a strong dose of barbershop harmony. Who knows? Maybe 12th Street kindled a flame and created some new barbershop enthusiasts! (Photo courtesy of Don Fuson)

Harmony University!

***The Barbershop Harmony Society returns to St. Joseph
July 29-August 5, 2007***

New Classes:

- Professional Show Production for Amateurs
- Elements of Coaching
- Directing for the Non-Director
- Recording Barbershop
- Membership Matters
- Entertainment at a New Level
- Finale for the Computer Illiterate
- Finale for Arrangers
- Arranging for Directors
- Development of the Quartet Personality
- The Honors Chorus
- Permanent Performance Committee
- *and many more...*



The Best Barbershop Faculty You'll Ever Experience

People like: **David Wright, Jim Henry, Ev Nau, Tom Gentry, Farris Collins, Joe Liles, Cindy Hansen, Kirk Young, Royce Ferguson, Russ Young, Nick Papageorge, Bill Myers, Brandon Guyton, Mel Knight**, and many, many more come from all over the Society to share their talent with you.

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Jim Henry (Bass of The *Gas House Gang* and Director of the *Ambassadors of Harmony*) will be spending some time with us all that the opening session on Sunday evening.

Awesome Saturday Night Show

The 1,200 seat Missouri Theater
Featuring the *Next Generation Chorus*, *Directors College Chorus*, *Honors Chorus* (directed by Dr. Jim Henry), and *Vocal Spectrum*, 2006 International Quartet Champions
Open Enrollment

Plenty of room for ALL Barbershoppers of ALL stripes, from around the world! Bring you, your quartet, or your entire chorus! There is enough room, classes/coaching, and ICE CREAM for all.
Scholarships Available!

Quartet College

- Bring Your Baritone For Free! The first 20 quartets who register will receive a full tuition scholarship for one of their members.
- Larry Ajer Scholarship

Harmony College

- Earl Moon Scholarship general studies scholarship
- Lou Perry Scholarship for aspiring arrangers

Directors College

- Up to 100 full tuition scholarships will be given to Directors College

Weekend Session-August 2-5, 2007

With almost 80 students at last year's Weekend Session this Thursday through Sunday experience captures the essence of Harmony University for those people who might not be able to make the entire week. This is definitely fly-across-the-county GREAT! ♥



PHOTOS FROM HOA's JANUARY 13 INSTALLATION & AWARD BANQUET

Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire



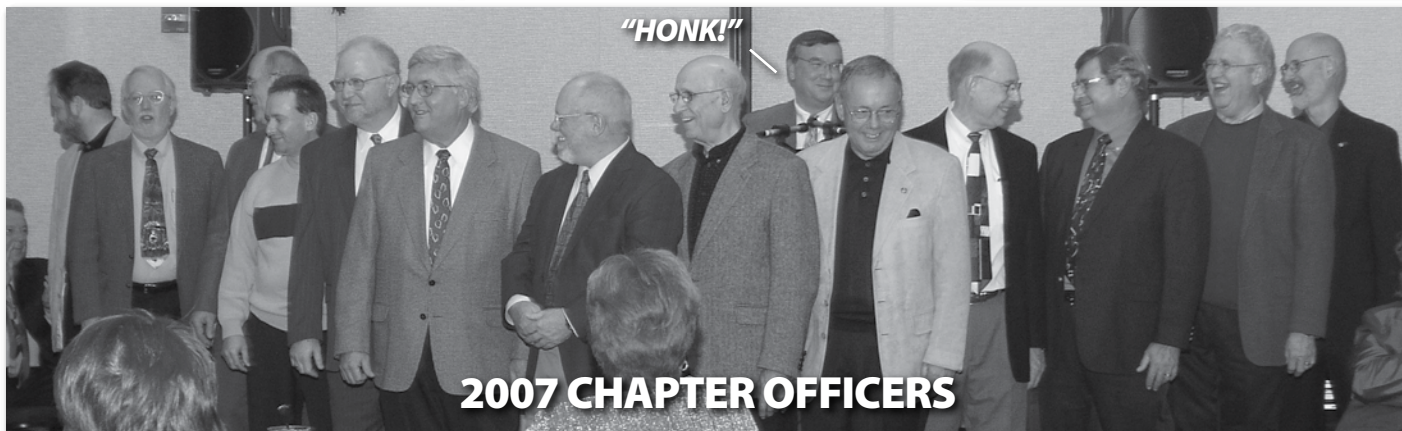
Val Putzier, Ron Abel & Gordon Coleman



Ron McIntire and Charles Ramirez



Jim Porter (right) gets busy at the buffet!



2007 CHAPTER OFFICERS



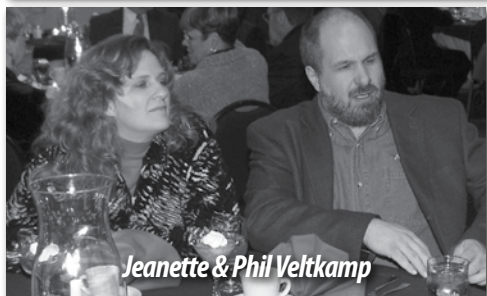
Tone-Henge



CSD Champs: Quadrio



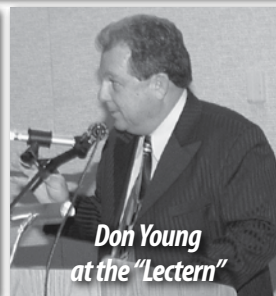
Command Performance with Anthony Fortino stepping in for Carter Combs!



Jeanette & Phil Veltkamp



Marty Oldehoeft and Friends



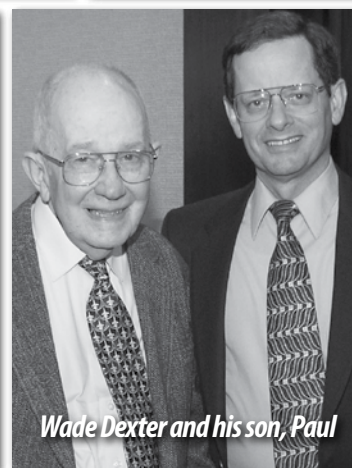
Don Young at the "Lectern"



Jan Mathieu, John Landry and Mike Mathieu



Charlie & Marilyn Greene



Wade Dexter and his son, Paul



Linda & Don Fuson



Beverly & Mike O'Dell



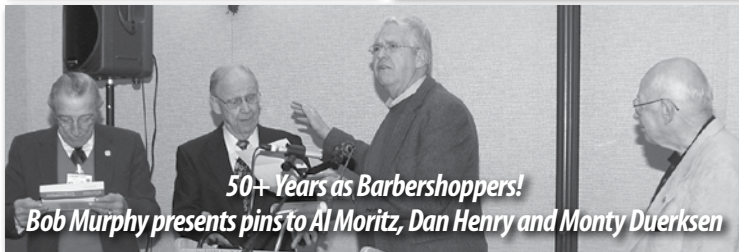
Rick & Yvonne Foreman



Harvey & Ginny Shapiro



Harry & Betsy Stewart

Dessie Gathright (at left) chats
with barbershop wives50+ Years as Barbershoppers!
Bob Murphy presents pins to Al Moritz, Dan Henry and Monty Duerksen

Eilene Campsey recognizes and announces 2007 Heartbeats officers

There Once was a Chapter

by Don Fuson, Central States District President



FUSON

There once was a chapter that had a desire to succeed. It had a proud tradition of involving its members in creating the common goals of the chapter. The community recognized the musical talents and efforts the chapter members shared with the

various groups in the area.

This chapter had just **FOUR MEMBERS** and at least **ONE** was present in every chapter activity.

EVERYONE had a particular view of what was necessary to bring in more members, involve and engage the members who were in the chapter already, develop better chapter musical performance standards and have the chapter run smoothly.

There were many jobs that **ANYONE** could step up and do to help the chapter.

Several jobs were assigned to **SOMEONE** and they worked with other members to draft plans and get other members involved. Other jobs went begging, because **NO ONE** took ownership of them.

EVERYONE thought that **SOMEONE** was going to do them. But in the end, **ANYONE** could begin to work to accomplish them but **NO ONE** did it.

EVERYONE wanted to have **NO ONE** leaving tasks unattended.

Each chapter wants **EVERYONE** and **ANYONE** bringing ideas and alternatives to the table for consideration.

Every member wants **SOMEONE** to coordinate the jobs, big or small, to help the chapter and not to have them default to **NO ONE**.

EVERYONE will benefit when **SOMEONE** and **ANYONE** pick up the jobs that **NO ONE** took care of.

What type of "ONE" person are you?

Let's **ALL** put **FUN, FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE** and **SINGING** back on the "front burner" for **SOMEONE, ANYONE** and **EVERYONE** to see. Let **NO ONE** be left on the side. ♥

2006 Award Winners,
left to right:
John Cross Award
recipient Kevin Tritsch,
Heartbeat of the Year
Eilene Campsey,
Barbershopper of the Year
Kent McClean and
Oz Newgard Recipient
Grant Hunget
(Photos courtesy of
Ron McIntire)





by Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus · wadeliberty@aol.com



TEN YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY 1997:

In the January *Harmonotes*, we commented on the fine photographs in the issue. We were equally impressed by some of the shots that were included in the February 1997 edition.

On the front page, we find a picture of the guys who participated in the fundraiser for the Salvation Army via the “**Mike Murphy** Radiothon” that was aired on December 13 from K. C. Masterpiece on the Country Club Plaza. HOA members were **Ron Abel, Marlin Weidler, Don Young, Mike Mathieu** (natch), **Grant Hunget, Monty Duerksen** and **Todd Anderson**. Also shown are Colonel **Ted Dahlgren**, commander of the Salvation Army headquarters in Kansas City, and a guy named **George Brett**, who was a candidate for the United States presidency a few years back. Well, I saw his name on some bumper stickers. He played third base for the Kansas City Royals. Is there a connection there?

Don’t know who took the picture, but it was Todd who got it to the editor.

Then on page three, there’s a photograph of the winners of the 1996 “Bush League” quartet contest. The members were **Rob and Joe Mathieu, Grant Hunget and Matt Moore**. Now there’s a bunch of talent. And it was long before Matt cut off all of his hair.

On page nine there’s a really large photo, taken by **Betty Einess**, of the committee for the *Heartbeats*’ Christmas meeting/party/auction back in December. Depicted

are **Jane and Adam Rutherford, Kim and Mary Jo Miller, Cathy and Connie Schweer, Stacy and Linda Schumacher, Madelyn Tordoff, Betty White, Joann Bagby** and “Colonel” **Monty Duerksen**, (aha, that’s where the auction comes in!). The auction proceeds amounted to \$502.71, which was to be used to send an HOA member to Harmony College.



TWENTY YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY, 1987

With ill-concealed excitement, Music Director **Jim Bagby** announces the pending visit of **Bob and Rosemary Calderon**, specialists in stage presence, who were to spend an entire day working with the chorus on their two contest songs for the international contest at Hartford the following summer. Their visit was the result of the efforts of our new Music VP, **Dale Neuman**.

Bob, a member of the El Paso, Tex., chapter, was a three-time member of the Harmony College faculty, where his “Staging a Chorus,” according to Jim, “has become one of the biggest draws.” Rosemary had been the director of the El Paso Sweet Adeline chorus for seven years. Jim told us that, “Her greatest claim to fame may be that last summer, she became the first-ever female on the Harmony College faculty.”

The session ran from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., and was held at the Liberty Elementary School in Liberty. But why do you suppose most of us paid more attention to Rosemary than we did to Bob?

FORTY YEARS AGO: FEBRUARY, 1967

There’s plenty of evidence in this issue of *Harmonotes* that the Kansas City Chapter was not at all hesitant about putting on a really spectacular annual show—or “Parade of Quartets,” as they were called back in those days. Here’s how Editor **Don Thorne** described plans for their March 18 performance:

The chorus performance was to be enhanced by “a parcel of beautiful dancing girls in the “Charleston” number. For “Straw Hat and Cane,” **Chuck Lazenby** was working out some fancy stepping for the front row. And in their final number, “76 Trombones,” they would be accompanied by the Shawnee Mission East High School band. They were followed by the *Merry Mugs*, *BMA Skyliners* and *Intervals*, all local quartets. And that was only the first half of the show.

For the second half, there were three foursomes—the *Kippers*, a local group that was CSD champions in 1962 and again in 1966 (after the required personnel change was made), plus the *Salt Flats* and the *Four-Do-Matics*, both well-known international Quartets. Boy, those Kansas City guys were no slouch when it came to putting together a big show! ♥