

# Harmonotes

January 2002

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2002, Issue 1



## "WELCOME BACK, JIM!"

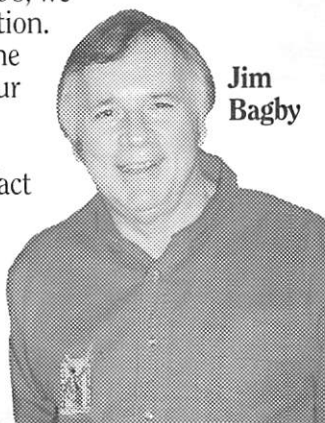
by Keith Schweer, Music/Performance Vice-President

The *Heart of America Chorus* is very fortunate to have someone with **Jim Bagby's** talent and energy as our musical director ...again. As **Gordon** said in his article last month, being the director of the *Heart of America Chorus* takes a lot of time—time between Tuesdays in planning and preparation. Well, Jim's done it before. He knows what it takes and he's ready to do it again!

For those of you who are not long-time members or for those who have forgotten, Jim led HOA to its first Central States District championship in 1978 here in Kansas City. That was followed by our first International competition in Minneapolis in '79 where we placed 8th and we were ecstatic about it! He followed that with CSD victories in '79, '80, '81, '82, and '83. Those championships led to International appearances in '80 (Salt Lake City), '81 (Detroit), '82 (Pittsburgh), '83 (Seattle) and '84 (St. Louis). He resigned the first time after the '83 CSD District Contest, taking a break until his return in 1990 starting another string of 3 CSD championships that qualified us for International Contests in '91 (Louisville), '92 (New Orleans) and '93 (Calgary). Between 1994 and 1998, we qualified as a wild card entry twice more under Jim's direction. It was during that break that Jim's *Rural Route 4*, one of the most popular and entertaining quartets in the history of our Society, won the gold in Salt Lake City in 1986. **WHAT A RECORD!!**

The *Heart of America Chorus* can also take pride in the fact that our director is the only Society-Certified Master Director in the Central States District.

This is only the beginning of Jim's barbershop credits, but it should be enough to make us all proud and thankful that he is "OUT FRONT" again. ~



Jim Bagby

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*John Stucker at the helm!*

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*The final installment of this memorable trip.*

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**MORE THAN JUST A "NEW YEAR"**

*See why our Music Team is excited about 2002!*

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**SALVATION ARMY BELLRINGING**

*2001 was a tremendous effort. Observations photos and interesting stats await you!*

**Once again, HOA sings to benefit the Salvation Army!**



**Total amount raised during our 2001 campaign: \$3,382.36!**

*Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire*

# 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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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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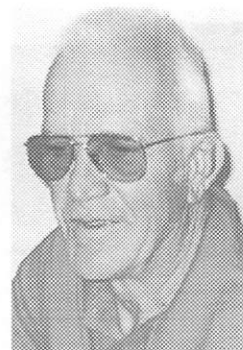
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**Member Of**



## MEET HOA'S NEW PRESIDENT FOR 2002!



**John Stucker**

I could not imagine what I had done when **Kent McClean** asked me to go to the kitchen last October. When I got there, **Kent, Jon Gathright** and **Ron Abel** were there. Then one of them asked me if I would accept the office of president for the next year. In all truthfulness, that was the farthest thing from my mind. I was completely dumbfounded. After collecting my senses, I responded that I would like to think about it for a while. You guys know the rest. I have been a member of HOA since the spring of 1978 and in that time have come to appreciate the wonderful administrative leadership we have had over the years. For me to think I belong at the helm of this chapter is mind-boggling. I accepted the job knowing I can call on everyone of you to assist when asked. Believe me when I say that I will indeed ask a lot.

As you all know we are going through a director change. **Gordon** has submitted his resignation and **Jim Bagby** has agreed to come back again as director. Please join me in thanking Gordon personally for all his hard work over the last several years. On a personal note, "Gordon, Thanks for all you have done for HOA."

The 2002 board has already developed plans for the coming year. The emphasis will be quite simply to improve our singing. We are going to have singing coaching early and often.

I sense a new level of commitment to bring HOA back to our rightful place on top of Central States District and among the elite choruses of the Society and I pledge to all of you I will work very hard in achieving that goal.

In the coming months, I hope to get better in communicating to ALL of you. So, if you think you have a better way of doing things—have a problem of any kind, need to vent some steam—please just let me know and I will try to help. ~

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE? WOW!

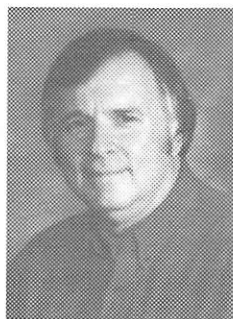
You now have the capability to pay your membership renewal online. On the Society Members Only site (<http://www.spebsqsa.org/members>), click the "Renew your membership online" link. You can pay with either a Visa or MasterCard. If your dues are not correct or if you're changing chapters, you should contact the Membership Department and renew using the normal paper form (800-876-7464, extension 8471).

If you've already mailed your renewal, please do not use the online method, this year. ~



# ATOP MY LIST: SPELL IT HOA-M

by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director



You know what's odd about that byline, other than I didn't expect to see it again? When I'm teaching chorus director classes, or coaching and evaluating choruses, I frequently refer to HOA as "my guys." As in, "my guys woodshed regularly." Or "my guys would never miss a taping deadline."

Okay, sometimes the truth gets stretched a little. The point is, I guess I never stop thinking of HOA as "my guys," regardless of what title or role I held in the chapter. So it's a real pleasure—and honor—to be HOAM and out front again. I hope we all think of HOA as our guys...and get everyone involved!

Next month, watch this space for some specifics about what I expect from you, and what you can expect from me. We have lots of work to do. But as I said in the last *Harmonotes*, I believe it all starts with singing well.

For now, I find myself making lists: things to do now, do tomorrow, next week, next rehearsal, next show, next holiday performance. At my age (somewhere between middle-aged **Keith Schweer** and old **Dan Henry**), I know if it ain't on my list, it probably won't get done.

One of the long-term lists is new music. One of the short-term lists is who is gonna direct what on the March show, when I'll be performing elsewhere in a *Rural Route 4* reunion (it's a long story). Fortunately, we have—as Music Veep Schweer has noted—probably our strongest music team ever, so my absence may scarcely be noticed.

Certainly we have an associate director in **Mike Neff** who lives and breathes barbershopping as much as, well, some folks are accused of doing. **Carter Combs** is developing nicely as an assistant. For the show, **David Krause**, **Darrell McCune** and **Mark Fortino** all have agreed to help Mike and Carter with arm-waving duties. And with **PLATINUM** as headliners and fiery **Grant Hunget** as show chairman, we've got a heckuva start toward a great March 9 (if, of course, we sell tickets).

I know you join me in thanking **Gordon Lankenau** for his enthusiastic contribution to our musical program. The music team and I have assured him he's welcome at any time to return as part of the arm-waving team, or to contribute his considerable vocal talents to the chorus.

I'm grateful to the chapter for your warm welcome back, and especially to those who have gone the extra step to thank **Joann** for her support of this two-year project. I suspect she thinks of you as "my guys" as well. ~

**THIS JUST IN - Our Jim Bagby will be on  
the Society Judging Panel in Portland!**



# Heart of America Chorus

## ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

### CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

#### Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

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

#### Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

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

#### HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

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

#### Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

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

#### BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

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

#### The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

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

#### The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

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

#### The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

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

#### Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

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

#### Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

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

#### Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

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

#### KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

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

#### 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

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

### OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

#### 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

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

#### Arpeggio

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

#### Crosstown Four

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

#### Heartland

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

#### Old Mission Messengers

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

#### Polecat Creek

Lyle Wyly (tenor), Wayne Crawford (lead),  
Dick Irwin (bari), Eric Weber (bass)

#### The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

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

#### Tone-Henge

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

#### Uranium

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

\*Member of other chapters



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

*Editor's Note: Our December 2001 issue featured an article by Don Peck regarding his incredible trip to China. It turns out some of the story got lost in transit! Following is the missing portion. Thanks again, Don!*

On board ship we find that our rehearsals go much better when we stand so that we sway side-to-side rather than front-to-back with the ship's movement. Hey, those Chinese words are tough! Our show shirts are black with a wide red slash across the left shoulder and a Barber Pole World Harmony emblem, and are to be worn with black pants and shoes.

The next day we stop in Fengdu, a small ancient river town to visit the Shibaozhai Pagoda and the narrow streets of the market place. New American dollar bills are king in China, and you must bargain or the Chinese will be offended.

We take our last look at the Yangtze as we depart our cruiser in Chongqing, a city built on the side of a mountain and home to several million people. No bikes are allowed in this mountainous city.

Everyone has sturdy legs from climbing these streets. We visit the zoo to see the famous Pandas.

The next stop is the

People's Meeting House where the Communist leaders meet and was opened only recently to the public. We cannot resist singing a couple of songs in the huge domed auditorium. The very large city market filled with all kinds of fish, fowl, meat, fresh vegetables, eggs (some aged for 30 days in manure) and other items defying description are fascinating. In the afternoon we fly to Xi'an (She-an) the former capital of China for over 1000 years and the only completely walled city left in China. Following dinner, another chorus rehearsal.

We visit Banpa Museum, the meticulously restored ruins of the living quarters and artifacts of a 6000-year old Neolithic village. The afternoon is spent visiting the Museum of the Qin Emperor's Tomb, the first emperor of China. This archeological site, still under excavation, displays the life-size army of over 6,000 terra cotta warriors and horses that guarded the tomb over 22 centuries ago. It is considered the "Eighth Wonder of the World".

We have a delightful evening attending an "Imperial Dumpling Banquet" at a famous restaurant followed by the Tang Dynasty music and dance show. The costumes are tremendous with the girls looking every bit the China Dolls, the dancers so graceful using the beautiful flowing sleeves of their gowns to accentuate their moves. Their singing is extremely high-pitched and very different to our American ears. Next day we visit the Wild Goose Pagoda.

Our first official concert is at the Foreign Language Institute in Xi'an. The students put on a short singing performance before we take the stage. We are well received and the students clamor to visit with both the singers and clappers in our group. The students are extremely polite and very interested in America and our music. Our local guide here in Xi'an is a pretty 25 year-old college graduate who speaks beautiful English and sings several love songs to us in Chinese. Needless to say, we all fall in love with her!

We leave the next morning for an hour's flight to Beijing and a 3-hour bus ride to Shijiazhuang (Sue-John-Dwong),

a small city of only 7 million people. It is the capital of Hebei Province that surrounds Beijing with a population of 66 million. You never saw so many bicycles in your life. Lots of traffic but no one seems to get angry or upset if you are cut off or cross the white line or go through a red light. Our buses have no problems

with the congested traffic as we have a police escort in this town as well as in Xi'an. Local dignitaries including the Lt. Governor of Hebei Province and the City Mayor host a banquet that evening with many speeches. We sing for them, of course.

We have a joint rehearsal the next morning with the Senior Mixed Chorus of Hebei Province. We figure out how to get our combined choruses on stage for the finale to sing in both English and Chinese, and then run through our program.

The performance that evening in the beautiful new 3,000-seat symphony hall at the Hebei Art Center is a great success. Each chorus gives a performance before combining for the finale. Lots of young people and students are in the audience who speak English and are delightful to talk with. They ask for copies of our music.

On one crisp morning we get up early to participate in the early morning exercises in a city park. Hundreds of people of all ages are doing all sorts of exercises such as a form of line dancing, simple stretching, traditional Tai Chi (with swords), and group singing. After joining in the exercises, we sing a couple of songs that are hugely appreciated. Then we climb back on our buses, they on their bicycles, and we are off for whatever the day has in store.

After driving back to Beijing, we visit Longxing Temple where statues of Buddhas and their accompanying buildings have been collected from all over China and



*Don and Donie Peck record a moment of their time spent in China.*

brought to this location for protection and preservation.

In Beijing we walk through the largest public square in the world, Tiananmen Square. Beijing was the ancient capital of Imperial China and is the capital of present-day China. In the middle of the square is their equivalent of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, with a 24-hour guard. At the opposite side of the square from the Forbidden City—and it seems like a mile in distance—is Mao's Tomb, with spectacular sculptures on each side. We tour the Forbidden City. This walled city forms one side of the square. Many of you may have seen the movie "The Last Emperor". Well, we saw it all with our own eyes. You know you are in China when you see this display of the ancient world. After lunch we visit the Summer Palace on the shores of Kurng Lake. In the evening, the gourmet level goes up yet another notch—the traditional Beijing Duck Banquet (At this point, we would have much preferred a Kansas City steak or Bar-be-que!)

We have our last performance in Beijing at the number one university in China, Qinghua University. Preceding our performance, we are thrilled by one of the most beautiful student acappella choirs we've ever heard. They sing familiar classical pieces in several languages. We are treated to a "solo" performance by the Chinese National Student Champion operatic tenor, and a perfect rendition of the "Vienna Waltz" by a pristine quartet of young girls.

**Kenny Hatton** realizes we will never be able to out sing these young singers so we will have to focus on entertainment. And that we do, much to the delight of the audience. Our program consists of "Rainbow Sister" (well known Chinese folk song sung in Chinese), "America, I Love You" (as intro to "Wait Till the Sun Shines, Nellie"), "Coney Island Baby", "I Love You Truly", "Red River Valley" (part in English, part in Chinese), "Down Our Way", "Edelweiss" (tag in Chinese), *Hao Yun Qi Singers Quartet* (**Holly Beck**, tenor; **Brian Beck**, lead; **Kim Orloff**, baritone; **Jerry Orloff**, bass), "Jingle Bells" (chorus in Chinese, directed by Brian Beck, and including a sing-along with the audience), "Auld Lang Syne" (English and Chinese), "Home on the



*Top to bottom: Bicycle traffic in Hijiashunag, Ornamental dancers appear in a Tang Dynasty Show in Xi'an, visiting the famed Terra Cotta soldiers, and a gorgeous sunset on the Yangtze River.*

Range", "Bye Bye Blues" (directed by **Val Hicks**), and "Keep the Whole World Singing."

At the end of our program, the student chorus, which is seated in the audience, spontaneously breaks out in their rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" and then rushes on stage to greet us. Emotions are very high and there isn't a dry eye on the stage. They all want our music. Hey, what can I say—they love our Barbershop style!

Our last day is spent visiting the main tomb of Emperor Wanli, which is an excellent example of the grandeur of the Ming Dynasty. Then the Great Wall, itself! The construction of this wall started in the seventh century B.C. and continued until the sixteenth century A.D. and extends nearly 4,000 miles through China's seven northern provinces. It is very impressive and beyond description. Here at the Wall, the weather turns against us, cold, windy and finally some snow. We are to have a performance on the Wall in our uniforms and a photo shoot. None of us is willing to

shed our coats but we do manage a couple of teeth chattering songs before heading for the warmth of an indoor market for our last chance to buy pearls, jade, cloisonné, terra cotta soldiers, fans, silk scarves, bells, coffee table picture books and baseball caps for a buck!

Our last evening is spent eating, listening to farewell speeches, singing, and saying good-byes. So there you have it! We did everything a typical tourist would do plus enjoyed the singing, the fellowship and the camaraderie found only in a group of Barbershoppers. We also had the privilege of introducing Barbershop Chorus singing to China. The Chinese people are friendly and accommodating with lots of smiles and hand waving. Never once did we have the slightest fear for our safety and were treated with the utmost respect and courtesy by everyone with whom we came in contact. We feel we made many new friends and left a good impression of Americans. We say "dzai jien", China (good-bye, see you again)! ☺



# NOT MUCH TIME UNTIL IT'S SHOWTIME!

by Grant Hunget, Spring Show Chairman



In just a few short weeks, YOU get to SHOW OFF! It will be the culmination of many weeks (months!) of hard work YOU have put in, and time away from family/friends, to make it a great show.

Every Tuesday (and certainly many more hours between Tuesdays), YOU pour YOUR heart into YOUR product, in preparation for YOUR next performance. The question is: How big an audience will it be? Answer: Who the heck knows?! What we DO know is that each of us can affect the size of the audiences.

Are we fired up enough about what we do, to try to fill more seats at the Music Hall? I believe so. Are we excited that *PLATINUM* (one of the greatest musically talented Champ quartets to ever walk the stage – one guy with 3 golds; and another with 2!!) will be our headliner? I believe so. Are we proud to have *12th Street Rag* (who've been as high as 17th at International) back with us? I believe so. Is it wonderful that our own *Gentlemen of Note* (3rd Place International Senior quartet) will perform on the show? I believe so.

We could all sulk about how few attendees there were at last year's show, or we can do something about it! If you're as proud as you say, then MENTION YOUR SHOW to everyone you meet. Hand them one of the neat "tools" **Dick Korek** has created for YOU. This means going outside of your ring of work/church/neighbor friends (DO still promote to them!!). Next time someone is humming on an elevator (or wherever!!), hand them a "tool" and say, "Hey! Sounds like you enjoy music! Cool! Here's some info on a show some friends & I will be putting on March 9th at the Music Hall. Come check us out!" Walk away.

Do this at the mall, the oil change shop, the barbers, Hy-Vee, EVERYWHERE! I know, I know, you're "not in sales." Well that's bull-hockey! You are indeed! Each time you take that stage, YOU sell YOUR product – the wonderful gift of music!

Unfortunately, we cannot solely depend on the groups **Al Higgins** is working hard to secure (refer groups YOU know to Al at 816-765-3434; or me at 816-421-7050); or what comes from print/radio/TV Ads that Dick Korek is tending to; or **Mike Mathieu's** package deal offers to the district; or the tickets which **Paul Winans** is mailing out. WE NEED MORE BUTTS IN SEATS, MEN!

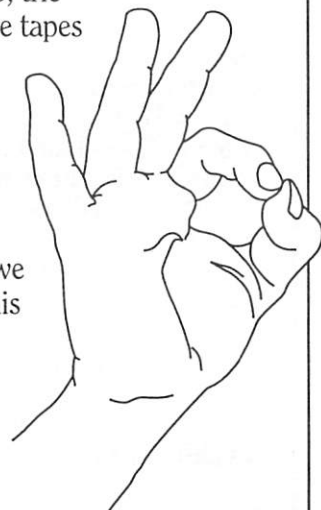
"But Grant, why does each of us have to do the work?," you might ask. Because YOU've worked hard; because YOU are proud of what YOU do for a hobby; because YOU want a LOT of people to see & hear YOU doing what YOU LOVE TO DO. Because YOU are a freeking Barbershop-aholic, and you go NUTS when you hear chords ring, and YOU want to share this with EVERYONE...BECAUSE IT'S YOUR SHOW!!!

HAVE SOME FUN WITH THIS, AND LET'S BREAK SOME ATTENDANCE RECORDS!! ~

# THANKS, MARK!

by Keith Schweer, Music/  
Performance Vice-President

We really wanted to get the latest learning tapes into your hands by Tuesday, 12/18, because chapter meetings weren't scheduled on 12/25 or 1/1/02. However, there were some quality problems with the first batch of tapes we were going to hand out on 12/11. While talking with **Mark Fortino** about our situation, he offered to help us record and create new masters of the learning tapes. All we would need to do would be to find a way to have them duplicated. So, **Mike, Grant, Jerry** and I met at Mark's house on Monday evening, 12/17 where we re-recorded 'Armed Forces Medley', 'How Deep Is the Ocean' and 'Gee, But It's Great to Be in Kansas City'. Mark then stayed up late that night creating part-predominant master CDs. The next morning, Jerry picked up the CDs at Bank of Blue Valley, where Mark works, and delivered them to **Dan Israel**, who did work on several *Rural Route 4* recordings and the latest *12th Street Rag* album. Dan did the duplicating during the day Tuesday, 12/18 and I picked them up after work in time for chapter meeting that evening. All this in less than 24 hours. PLUS, the quality of the tapes was excellent. So, next time you see Mark, let him know how much we appreciate his efforts. ~



## MORE THAN JUST A NEW YEAR

by Keith Schweer, Music/Performance Vice-President

By the time you read this we'll have started a new year. However, I'd like for it to be more than just the start of a new calendar year. I'd like to see it become the start of what turns out to be a new direction for the Kansas City Chapter and the Heart of America Chorus.

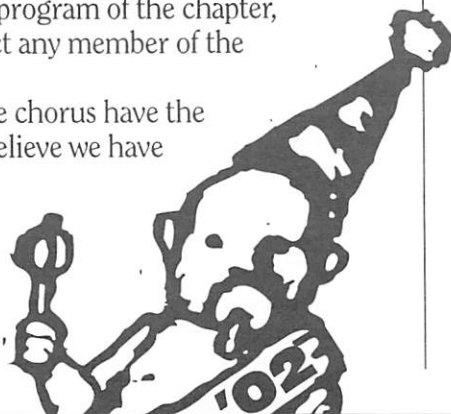
At the December meeting of the Music Team, we continued the planning work for 2002 that had already begun, and addressed some new issues. One strong point of emphasis for the coming year will be to improve the quality of our singing. And it was evident from our contest scores in Topeka that we need to do just that. It is my intent to have several coaching sessions throughout the year focused on improving our singing quality. To kick that off, we have scheduled **Kirk Young** of our International Office to visit our chapter on Tuesday, February 5th. Kirk is a certified Music judge and coach. Other coaching events, including our annual retreat, are in the planning stages and we'll keep you informed of details as they develop. Your Music Team believes that better singing leads to improvement in the other categories, as well as increased membership and more fun overall in our hobby.

We have the good fortune to have a talented, dedicated and enthusiastic staff of directors in place. Under the overall guidance and leadership of Mr. Heart of America, Director **Jim Bagby**, are Associate Director **Mike Neff** and Assistant Director **Carter Combs**. Also contributing will be **Darrell McCune** and **David Krause**, and we might even convince **Mark Fortino** to direct a song on our March show. With the section leaders we have and the rest of the members of the Music Team, I feel our music leadership will be stronger than ever.

We are also going to try to be more efficient in the overall planning of the music program. This will include such things as rehearsal planning, new music selection and its introduction to the chorus, learning tape (CD?) creation and maintenance, vocal craft and coaching, increased entertainment value and professionalism in our performances and better quantitative results in competition.

If you have any concerns, questions or suggestions regarding any aspect of the musical program of the chapter, please don't hesitate to contact any member of the Music Team or me.

I believe the members of the chorus have the desire to improve and I also believe we have the administrative and musical leadership in place to make 2002 a banner year for the Kansas City Chapter and the Heart of America Chorus. ~



## ENTERTAINMENT BOOK WRAP-UP

by John Winfiel

The entertainment book sale has concluded with 128 books sold. Each book earned the chapter a profit of \$4.00 for a total profit of \$496.00. The top salesmen were **Lud Einess** with 15 books sold, **Don Peck** and **Gordon Coleman** both sold 12, **Mike Mathieu** and **John Landry** both sold 8. Thanks to everyone who sold or bought books. The other good news is that only two members still owe for books taken on consignment. ~

## UPDATE ON



The *King Singers* concert in Portland is a definite go. It will be presented Tuesday night, July 2 in the Arlene Schnitzer Theater in downtown Portland, only a couple of blocks from the Hilton Hotel. Harmony Foundation is the official sponsor of the show (this will replace the *Celebrate Youth Ice Cream Social* usually held on Tuesday night during convention week).

Concert tickets are not expected to be available until March 2002. Availability and purchase methods will be announced at a later date.

### PORTLAND CONVENTION SCHEDULE CHANGES ANNOUNCED

The AIC show has been moved from Friday night to Thursday night, which will be the 4th of July. The AIC will do a patriotic theme for its show. The AIC show will be held in the Rose Garden, and there will be just one show.

The Quartet Semi-Finals will be moved to Friday night. The rest of the basic convention week schedule will stay the same. ~

# JUST FOUR FUN

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

## MORE Church Bulletin MISPRINTS!

Next Sunday is the family hay ride and bonfire at the Fowlers'. Bring your own hot dogs and guns. Friends are welcome! Everyone come for a fun time.

During the absence of our Pastor, we enjoyed the rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.F. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

Attend and you will hear an excellent speaker and have a healthy lunch.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 P.M. There will be a hymn sing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Our next song is  
"Angels We Have Heard Get High."

## A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

### Ten Years Ago - January 1992

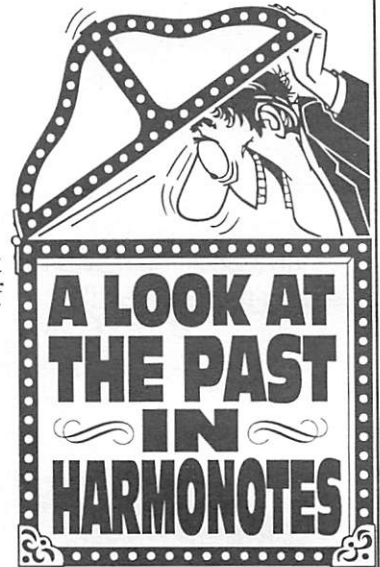
The HOA "Barbershopper of the Year" award for 1991 went to Outgoing chapter president **Bob Howard**. In addition to his accomplishments in that office, Bob was also general chairman of the 1991 CSD fall convention, which was hosted by the Kansas City Chapter.

Three new members joined HOA during December by way of dual membership with the Overland Park Chapter. They were **Marlin Weidler**, **Dennis Kinghorn** and **Jim Harford**.

**Mike Mathieu** was elected chapter president for 1992. Other officers were:

**Ron Abel** (Music VP), **John Pennington** (Membership VP), **Joe Davis** (Program VP), **John Stucker** (Secretary) and **Mark Fortino** (treasurer).

**Jean Whisman** was the 1991 recipient of the "Heartbeat of the Year" award. **Aileen Beard** became the new *Heartbeats* president.



### Twenty Years Ago - January 1982

Show Chairman **Marvin Faulwell** claims that a sellout of the matinee performance of the upcoming annual Show on March 13 will bring in an additional \$6,227.58 in profit. Says chapter president **Jerry Fullerton**, "This seems like an easy way to earn some of the money we need so desperately for [our trip to the international contest in] Pittsburgh."

In very poor reproductions of a couple of **Manley Vance's** photos of the activity at the annual installation dinner (I'm sure Editor **Al Benz** learned very quickly that you can't photocopy glossy snapshots), we recognize a very youthful-looking **Gordon Lankenau**, **Jim Bagby** and a mustachioed **David Krause**. All others involved are unidentifiable.

### Thirty-Five Years Ago - January, 1967

Editor **Don Thorne's** account of HOA's day of bellringing for the Salvation Army (in those days the event was always held on the sidewalk outside the Emery Bird Thayer department store), indicates that on the big day in December of 1966, HOA's efforts brought in total donations of \$519. Don's report contains a whole bunch of strange names and items on the program. For example **Percy Franks** acted as "pitchman" and, of course, played the piano provided by the Wurlitzer Company. And there were two guys named **Bill Coil** and **Bob Sims** who performed on the banjo and wash tub! There was also a combo of **Bob Borden**, **Horace Gilmore** and **Tom Gardner**. Coffee was donated by the U.S.O. at 1127 McGee. Later, Percy Franks was one of only two individuals to receive the Certificate of Appreciation (from the Salvation Army, I suppose) for "outstanding services rendered (on) behalf of less fortunate citizens of our community."



# TONE-HENGE HIJINKS

by Keith Schweer



**H**appy to say we're still getting around as well as can be expected for four guys that saw the pyramids being built.

Did a gig at the "Fountains" in November. That's **Harriett Gall's**

home. We sing there on occasion, whether invited or not. Audience always seems to enjoy us. We act like we don't see 'em turn off their hearing aids.

**Schweers** and **Bowers** spent Thanksgiving in Noo Yawk City. Package deal that includes four Broadway shows. (Had to hold Connie back when she wanted to join the Rockettes on stage for the high-kick routine.) So much fun we're goin' again in 2002. *Wanna join us?*

**Bruce's** bad back prevented the **Wenners** from accompanying the rest of us on an overnight visit to Ft. Scott. We missed **Francie's** company. (That was naughty. We missed Bruce too, 'cause didn't sing a single note the entire trip!) Took in several 1800's homes seasonally decorated plus tour of the old Fort, after a 9-course meal duplicated from an 1840 menu. Good ...except for the buffalo meat that broke Keith's fork! (True!)

What can we say about bell-ringing. Two (sorta) Christmas songs is all there is in the *Tone-Henge* repertoire. Anyway, we enjoy doing 'em, hoping folks won't take money OUT of the Salvation Army kettle while we're on. Chorus, your applause after we sing is MOST appreciated! ~

# From the Heartbeats

by Carol Ramirez, President

The first meeting of the new year for the *Heartbeats* will be at 7 p.m. February 5 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 110th & Holmes. We would love to see both current and new members spend the evening planning activities to support HOA.

The *Heartbeat* Board will meet prior to that, however, at 7 p.m., January 22 at the *Guacamole Grill*, 11134 Homes.

Officers and Board Members for this year are:

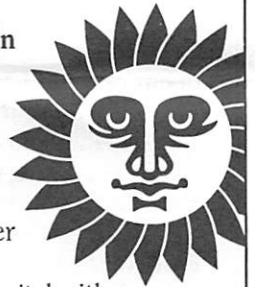
President	<b>Carol Ramirez</b>
Vice-President	<b>Jan Putzier</b>
Secretary	<b>Sandy Rule</b>
Treasurer	<b>Marilou Coleman</b>
Board Member	<b>Joan Korek</b>
Board Member	<b>Doni Peck</b>

# SUNSHINE REPORT

We're sure glad to hear that **Dick Irwin** is on the mend after undergoing an angioplasty with a stent insertion on December 7th. One of his arteries was 95% blocked. All is going fine, even to the point of Dick bowling a 288 game with a 703 series less than 2 weeks after the procedure!

Sadly, Dick's father is back in the hospital with a congestive heart condition. The family is uncertain when or if he will be going home again.

**Raymond Schwarzkopf's** dad is still fighting poor health. We pray wisdom for the doctor's and strength for the family during this tough time. ~



# WHACHA THINK?

*Test your barbershop trivia skills!*

**Question:**

**WHO** are these beautiful babes?

In this Bush League Quartet from some time past, the "beautiful babes" are **Mark Smith** and **Rod Rule**. Mom is **Dave Marti** and Dad is **Kent McLean**. No one seems to remember the quartet's name —any help from our readers?

**Answer:**



# WHAT IS BARBERSHOPPING? by James Moynihan

When I consider barbershopping I think of a continuum. On one end there are choruses like the *Harmonizers* and the *Vocal Majority*. They are big, awesome and always medal in international competition. Somewhere in the middle is HOA. We aspire to medal, competed several times in international competitions, and finished as high as sixth place in Detroit in 1981. At the other end is a chorus like *Overland Stage* which does not aspire to medal and has not competed in international competition.

Consider *Overland Stage*. The chorus meets once a week, sings barbershop songs, has a treasury and a slate of officers and sings barbershop at its annual show. When the chorus competed at district the director said that the goal was to have fun and it did not matter where we finished. The members had no quarrel with this outlook and were not upset when the chorus finished dead last.

The chorus is composed of older men who are some of the nicest people you would ever want to meet. They have a good time and enjoy the evening. The experience is pleasant and it is barbershop.

The recent resignation of **Gordon Lankenau** as our chorus director got me dreaming about barbershopping, HOA style. The other night my wife woke me up and I asked why. She said I was thrashing about and screaming something about **Greg Lyne** becoming our director with **Freddie King** as assistant director. We had just won the gold medal on international stage and the audience was applauding wildly. Then reality set in.

I realized that with Gordon as director for the past three years the grazing was pretty good. He is a professional musician who teaches music and band at the high school level; he knows his stuff. He had been our tenor section leader in the good old days when I could sing tenor.

Under Gordon's leadership we won second place in district competition in Topeka. Once again **Jim Bagby** is taking the helm. A barbershopper named **Ed Fleeman**, who has since deceased, told me that when Jim Bagby became director he immediately got the chorus's attention by telling the men to sit up straight and put their feet on the floor. He said HOA could rise from also-rans to a championship chorus if that was their goal. The rest is history.

HOA has so many problems. We could be directed by **Darrell McCune** who also teaches music and is always right when it comes to music. He told me his son learned to play piano at age four, which is really scary.

Then there is **Mike Neff**, who does not know about making wax but is always striving for perfection.

When we sang and he said, "Leads, that is not acceptable", I knew I had returned home.

Then there is **David Krause**, who said he did not work this hard to come in second place when he directed the chorus. We came in second but I knew we had done our best. His cool intensity was tremendous. Then there is **Steve Leone**, who directed us and sang some unforgettable solos.

We are told that **Mark Fortino** will direct on our upcoming spring show. Isn't this enough? *Of course not.* We have now inherited a man named **Carter Combs** from the State of Florida, where the people do not know how to count or follow simple directions.

He has been chapter president, has wide quartet experience and directed his chorus for several years. He will just have to settle for assistant director until **Greg Lyne** comes along.

So where are we now and where do we go from here? I am not sure. If we had a tape recorder running over the years and could play back the tapes, we would hear talk about winning medals in international competition and then going for the gold.

Just for curiosity at chapter meeting, ask the members how many recall the mission statement or the five-year plan developed when **Don**

**Young** was president. Could we even find these documents? If so, should we revisit that statement or do we need a new mission statement?

After all these discussions, I believe that a bedrock principle has been established. That principle is that it is still my responsibility and the responsibility of the other chorus members to learn the words and notes cold. Then add choreography, since we are not singers but entertainers.

We often fail at these important tasks. We have heard ad infinitum around Christmas time about *een excelsis deo* when singing "Come All Ye Faithful." Then there is **Keith Schweer** singing the notes for the basses "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" for "Silent Night." I have heard this correction so many times that I could sing the notes myself but not with bass quality. (I would give my right ventricle (not) to sing bass like **Stan Grossman**, **Tom Shadley**, **Larry Wilson** or **Jeff Oxley**, but, alas, this is not to be.) Retention is a problem for us.

Then comes the hardest part, smile. **Dale Neuman** is always reminding me of this and I try to remember but I am getting older. I try to envision the Giants winning the Super Bowl and **Paul Tagliabue** is giving the **Vince Lombardi** trophy to the Giants owner.

I don't know where we are going or exactly where we are headed. The ride has been pretty good so far and will probably get better. Things are not perfect and there are hurdles to be surmounted. We are always raising the bar and we are never satisfied. But we are in good hands and we are on our way to achieving our goals. ~



# NEW MEMBERS RECEIVE CERTIFICATES by Ron McIntire

*Two new members of the Kansas City Chapter received first year membership cards on December 11, 2001. Robert Coleman and Tom Owens, both new to barbershopping but not to music, have joined the chapter. Welcome gentlemen, we know you'll enjoy this hobby. See biographical sketches below.*



## Robert "BOB" Coleman

**Robert Coleman**, known to his friends and neighbors as Bob, is our newest Bari extraordinaire. He lives in south central Kansas City, MO, and though he is new

to singing our style of music, he has attended our barbershop shows for years. *That should count for something, eh, guys?*

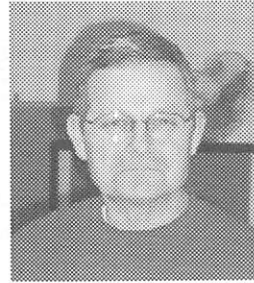
As to his musical background, Bob has played piano since he was six years old and holds a degree in music education from Drake University. Over the years he has accompanied church school choral clubs and taught music in the town of his first music teaching job, Truro, IA.

After a hitch in the U.S. Army, he went to the University of Missouri in Columbia to study law. After school, and with sheepskin in hand, he came to Kansas City and spent his first year working as a law clerk for a federal judge. Following a six-year tour practicing law and another six years at the Gas Service Service Co., he joined H&R Block, where he founded their legal department. He retired 20 years later as the vice president and corporate council.

Life after retirement isn't as hectic now as it once was, and because he enjoyed music and had seen many of our barbershop shows, now seemed the right time to check us out. He found the church all right and they referred him to **Jerry Snyder, Gordon Lankanau and Mike Schumacher**. Now he's back where he has wanted to be for a long time. And, he can make the music that he has come to see for so many years.

Bob is not married but we can bet that his three dogs provide a willing audience when he practices at home. *Who the heck else could love baritone?*

Welcome, Bob. We know you'll enjoy this hobby. ~



## Tom Owens

Tom has always loved music and singing. In fact his whole family is musical. His mother has played the piano for as long as he can remember and although his father never

had a lesson, he was always singing or humming something. In high school, Tom sang in his high school chorus, the Men's Glee Club, Boys Quartet and his church choir. At the University of Arkansas, he studied music and attended opera workshops and sang with the Collegiate Singers and the Schola Cantorum Church Choir. In a small church in Springdale, AR., he directed the children's choir and later the church choir. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education and while he was in the USAF he sang with the Chapel Choir and community theater.

At Holloman AFB, in New Mexico, Tom was introduced to the barbershopping when he joined the *Alamagordo Harmony Chorus*. When he retired from the USAF he moved back to Kansas City, but it wasn't until lately that he decided to get back into singing. He is currently working as the director of records at Polsinelli, Shalton & Welte, a law firm located in the Country Club Plaza.

His only quartet experience is singing with what he calls a "made up" quartet for a Valentine's Day special when he was in the Alamagordo barbershop chapter. But, one day, when the time is right, he says he would be interested in getting into a quartet. If you've ever stood next to him you know he sings a mean lead.

Tom has three children: daughter **Kellye**, and sons **Todd** and **Andy**.

Welcome, Tom. We're glad to have you. Hey, wait a minute. You say you have *two* boys? We know a quick way to pick up a couple of *Men Of Note* awards if you're interested. ~





## PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

by Lud Einess

On Saturday, December 15, I was one of 60 plus HOA'ers who showed up at Blue Ridge Mall for our annual bell ringing and singing for the Salvation Army.

This has always been my favorite gig and I believe I have participated in every one since I moved to the Kansas City area in 1986.

However, this one was, without a doubt, the most meaningful to me. We had large crowds at every performance and they were the most enthusiastic I have ever seen, and it seemed to me that more men from the audience came up to sing with us than ever before.

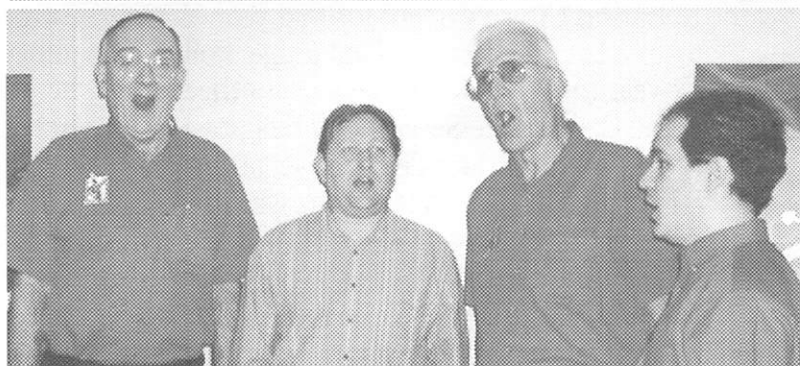
Our last song of our last performance was, "God Bless America," about four bars into the song, the entire crowd stood up, some with hands on their chest. With about six bars of the song remaining, I choked up and could not finish.

If there is any good to come out of September 11, it has to be how all Americans have come together as one, and stand up for our country.

God, how I love this country. I thank God every day for allowing me to be an American. ~

## BELLRINGING 2001

(Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire)



### Page 12 from top to bottom:

Folks begin to arrive in anticipation of some great singing (they weren't disappointed!). **Darrell McCune, John Landry, David Geiss** and David's wife, **Tammy** share some holiday cheer. **Steve Leone, Al Moritz** and Steve's wife, **Jan**, say "cheese." "**Cardiac Carolers**" led by **Jim Bagby**. **Dale Neuman, Charlie Drake, John Stucker** and **Shawn Jeffries** ring some chords!

### Page 13 from top to bottom:

Chief Bell Ringer **Dan Henry Bowser** eyes a potential contributor! "**Polecat Creek**" members **Lyle Wyly, Wayne Crawford, Eric Weber** and **Dick Irwin** add to the merriment. The Heart of America Chorus delivers its finale after a long, long day!

# GREAT JOB!

by Mike Mathieu

Congrats on a great job at Blue Ridge Mall! Our total raised for the Salvation Army was \$2,775.36...plus the \$541 raised in my counter top kettle through the donations and discount coupons...plus \$66 raised by setting the kettle on the registration table gives a subtotal thus far of \$3,382.36. Pat yourselves on the back—that already beats last year by almost \$500, and gives us the second best year ever! ~

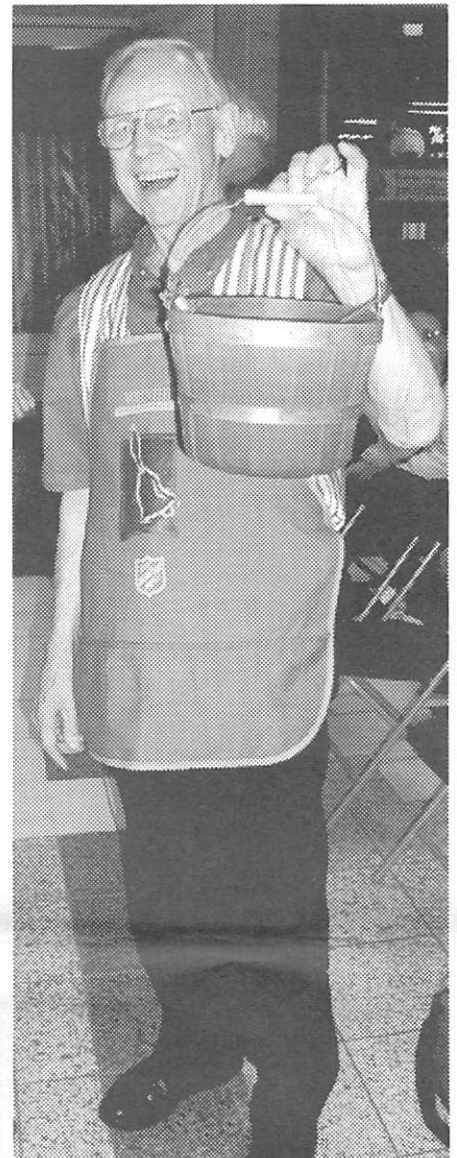
# A TIP OF THE HAT

by Ron McIntire



**A TOTH to Mike Mathieu** for his hard work coordinating and arranging the 2001 Salvation Army/Heart of America Chorus Bell Ringing on December 15, 2001, at the Blue Ridge Mall. In addition, Mike was instrumental in persuading the Mall to provide a one-day discount coupon to patrons who donate \$5 to the Salvation Army. Good work Mike!

**A TOTH to Chuck Ames** and the fellows who put up and took down the risers at the Blue Ridge Mall! We appreciated all your hard work, fellas! ~





# BELL RINGING AT THE BLUE RIDGE MALL:

## *Observations and Reflections* by Ron McIntire

This was one of the better Salvation Army bell ringing performances we've done. The crowds were large and responsive and many in the audience stuck around for two, three and even more sets. Not counting the guests that came up from the audience, 65 men showed up to sing and ring bells. The highest total we had on the risers for any performance was 62 men; the lowest was 52. Compare these numbers with last year's totals of 44 on the risers for nearly every performance. From where I stood, if the sound didn't float all the way up and down US40 and I-70 Highways, I don't know why.

Not as many old friends dropped by as in past years, but it was good to see the ones that did. Each year I look through the crowd to see if **Orval Wilson** and **Bill Wall** are out there. Though when I joined the chorus in 1981 they were long past their singing prime, they never failed to spend the day ringing bells and having a laugh or two. And **Walter Cochran**, with his smile as broad as any mall concourse, loved to climb on the risers and sing a couple of carols with the chorus, years after he had become inactive. Bill, Orval and Walter are gone now, but they and many others remain in my thoughts each year about this time. I'll bring a new pitch pipe, fellows, when next we meet. ~

*Photo courtesy of Ron McIntire*



*HOA making the season brighter, with some help from some invited guests!*

### **Old Friends who stopped by**

While we were singing at the Blue Ridge Mall on Saturday, December 15, some of our old friends that we have seen for a while stopped by to say hello. We saw:

**Burdett Tordoff, Jeremy Kaat, David Geiss, Kim Hoffman, Gene Bowers, Al Moritz, Charlie Drake** and an old timer who used to sing in the Independence Chapter, "**Oby**" Oberhelman.

### **Other stats of interest:**

#### *Attendance*

11am	55 men
12pm	55 men
1pm	62 men
2pm	62 men
3pm	58 men
4 pm	52 men

65 men participated in the Bell Ringing Performances
43 men stayed for all 6 sessions
7 men stayed for 5 sessions
10 men stayed for 4 sessions
2 men stayed for 3 sessions
2 men stayed for 2 sessions





# BELL BRINGING: A MEMORABLE DAY!

By Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

For 31 years, one of my favorite HOA days of the year has been our annual Salvation Army bell ringing outing.

I don't go back to the days of standing on the Emery Bird Thayer sidewalk downtown, collecting from pedestrians and drivers. **Orval Wilson** used to tell those stories with delight; **Dan Henry** recalls them with a shiver.

When I arrived in Kansas City in 1971, our bell ringing outings were at Ward Parkway Shopping Center. Piano great **Percy Franks** used to play between chorus sets, sometimes joined by **Herb Kratoska** on the banjo—great entertainment. Herb played on our show at least once.

Since then we've been at a variety of malls, with a variety of success. But one thing has been constant: the enthusiasm of the chorus for this worthwhile project, producing loud appreciative audience response. It used to be only a couple-dozen guys who made every performance. Now look at **Ron McIntire's** list of those who were there for all six 30-minute concerts on Dec. 15 at Blue Ridge Mall.

Even more impressive was the musical effort. You sang with spirit and emotion, even while adapting to different interpretations—some of them intentional and others attributable to my feeling my way through songs I'd sung but not directed. Most important, to me, was that the level of musicality increased through the day, even when we should have been starting to show some wear and tear. I thought **Mike Neff** was gonna come apart after the first performance of "Beginning to See the Light." It was that kind of day.

So I'm grateful for your considerable effort to make this another memorable day.

And in this brand-new 2002, I offer some (stolen) words of intended inspiration. They come from **Vince Lombardi**, who did NOT say "winning is the only thing." Here's the meat

of his often-twisted quotation (the capitalization is mine):

"Winning is not a one-time thing, it is an all-time thing. You don't do things right once in a while, you do them right all of the time. Winning is a habit. Unfortunately, so is losing."

"It's a reality of life that men are competitive, and the most competitive (ventures) draw the most competitive men. WE'RE HERE TO COMPETE."

"I firmly believe that any man's finest hour...his greatest fulfillment to all he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out

IN A GOOD CAUSE and lies exhausted on the field of battle."

To all the HOA family, we have numerous good causes to anticipate in the coming months. Happy New Year! 🍷



# Heart of America

## January-February Calendar

- January 12** Installation Banquet - Golden Ox - 6:00 p.m.  
Special Guests: **Bill McLaurine**, CSD president,  
and *12th Street Rag!*
- January 22** Deadline for turning in FIRST TAPE!
- February 5** Coaching session with **Kirk Young!**
- February 5** Deadline for turning in a QUALIFYING TAPE!
- February 13 & 14** Singing Valentines 2002!

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