



Photo courtesy of **Matt Bostick**

Heart of America Chorus

CALENDAR

- Jan. 13 -** Installation/Awards Banquet @ Overland Park Doubletree
- Feb. 13-14 -** Singing Valentines
- Feb 18 -** Harmony Explosion @ Olathe East High School
- March 26 -** 60th Annual Show @ Music Hall
Featuring 2004 International Champs *Gotcha!*

THIRTEEN-TIME CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!

January 2006 Volume 06 - Issue 1

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's
Heart of America Chorus

The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society



*Drawn by Harmony,...
Bound by Friendship,...
Striving for Excellence!*

Bell Ringing Great Way To End Year by Jim Bagby, HOA Chorus Director



It started 35 years ago, in December of 1971, at Ward Parkway Shopping Center, with the *Heart of America Chorus* directed by **Don Webb**, **Percy Franks** playing during breaks and Smak's hamburgers. It was my first experience with *HOA* Salvation Army Bell Ringing concerts, and I was hooked.

Not many years before that, *HOA* members had gathered on a December Saturday outside Emery, Bird and Thayer, known as Kansas City's first de-

partment store, at 11th and Grand. What Saturday? To hear **Dan Henry** tell it, easy: the coldest one of the year. There wasn't much organized singing, because it was too frigid! Members would accost passersby, and take kettles out into the intersections when the traffic stopped for lights.

The sponsors also provided posters for the guys to wear announcing members of *SPEBSQSA* ringing for Salvation Army. Unfortunately, the long acronym of the Society provided a myriad of spellings. But you know Dan is sincere these days when he includes thanks to the mall management in his annual pitch, for allowing us to ring inside where it's warm! *(Continued on page 2 →)*

WOW! WHAT A GREAT SHOW!



*Participants in the 2005 Holiday Show
are shown providing the capacity audience
with one last glorious overtone!
More Matt Bostick/Don Fuson photos on pages 8 & 9!*

Photo courtesy of **Matt Bostick**



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
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Kansas City, MO 64145

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HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, 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.

Heart of America Chorus

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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:

Todd Anderson
17905 East 24th Terr. Ct. S • Independence, MO 64057-1332
(816) 373-8633 • Harmonotes@comcast.net

Chapter meets at 7 p.m. each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes • Kansas City, MO 64105

The HOA Board of Directors meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month. Place TBA. Chapter members are welcome!

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.com
Web Address: webstaff@hoachorus.com
Chapter Telephone: (816) 221-7888



(Continued from front cover)

One thing that didn't last indoors was the bells. The merchants complained about the noise of the bells, so we've been left with bells with paper clips for clappers, so they go "clpp" of maybe "dnkk" -- but no longer ring. And we've made the round of the malls, as management found they could rent the wide-open spaces where our risers used to sit for kiosks, stalls and mini-shops.

So after more than a dozen years at Ward Parkway, we've made stops at Independence Center (under a stairway), Bannister Mall, Oak Park Mall (in a far corner), Blue Ridge Mall (as it began its final decline) and the last four years on an island at Metro North.

Ward Parkway was my favorite. At the break we could scuttle off to Smak's to order a 25-cent hamburger (maybe 15-cent in the early days) and get back in time for the next set. The late, great Percy Franks had a grand piano set up behind our risers and would entertain energetically between sets. We had a couple of different spots in the main mall there, and always did well until the space ran out.

Some things have been constant every year. The big, iron kettle belongs to us, not the Salvation Army. It was designed and stored year to year by the late Bill Wall, a past president who also created the shell we still use in the Music Hall. Ron Abel now is the keeper of the kettle. Our music has always been well received by those who take the time to pause and listen, and many return for more than one set.

But the biggest reward, other than the money we've raised for the Army, has been the dedication I've seen year after year from HOA. It has to be our most physically demanding day of the year. Yet guys arrange their schedules to be there all day, or most of it, despite the other pressures of the holiday season. On Dec. 17, one week before Christmas, we had 63 members participate, and 36 of those were for all six sets.

Having 12th Street Rag and Tone-Henge available as headliners was...wait, I thought I heard a snicker somewhere...OK, having 12th Street Rag and Dan Henry to lead the way was a major part of a successful day, and we are especially indebted to Micah and Barry for stretching their weekend!

But if you miss a session, you may miss a magic moment. It happens every year. It might be a performance of "I Have Seen the Light." It might be someone from the audience who comes to sing with us, including an inactive or past member. This year it was a singalong.

For one brief moment, the chorus, our guest singers, the audience and shoppers on the lower and upper level lifted their voices in "Silent Night." It made my day, and reminded me again why I'm so fortunate to be a part of this hobby, and the wonderful HOA organization. ♥

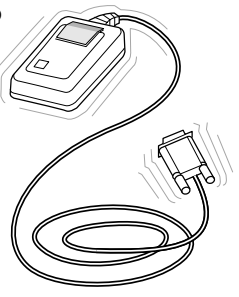
Attention HOA Members!

by Vince Perry, HOA Webmaster

Your HOA Installation & Awards Banquet Web Page is now ready! Don't miss our first official function of 2006!

For online information and sign-up about the big event, please go online to: https://www.hoachorus.com/installation_banquet06.htm

Hope everybody attends...what a night it will be! Make your reservations and pay for your dinners securely online or in person with Al Higgins! ♥



Worth Repeating: You Be Da Man!

by Tony Strub, Chapter President



Ron McIntire

WE NEED YOU. You are important to our chorus and to our chapter. When you are with us, we are stronger and more confident. We sing better and the quality of the sound improves. We accomplish more and as a general rule, we have more fun at our meetings. When you are absent, we are not the same. Of course God, family, job and health are the top priorities when it comes to making choices. We would hope, however, that all of us could make HOA and important priority as well. Dan Henry does not

Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to *your very own* charitable organization...HOA! As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used. *Be included in the list below, and proudly support your chorus...HOA.*

DONORS

Members And Friends Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the Heart of America Chorus 2005-2006

Gold Heart
(\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Thom Tisdall

Silver Heart
(\$400 - \$999)

Bronze Heart
(\$50 - \$399)
Arthur Gibson
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Tony Strub

Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program. The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization. Checks should be made out to: HOA Give to any HOA Board member or mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman 816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011 Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1,

sing with us on the risers on a regular basis, but his presence at our meetings is important. His personality, wit and encouraging comments add a lot to our meetings. We would certainly miss Dan if he were not there.

Perhaps we as fellow members are remiss in letting you know how important you really are to our success. If that is the case, we must correct that. A feeling of insignificance can lead to disinterest, apathy, lack of energy and weak commitment. It can take away the sense of accomplishment and the fun in our activities. Of course the exact opposite of that is true when we promote a feeling of personal significance. We will try to work on the personal significance part a little more.

I believe that we all need to make a greater effort to let you know that we miss you when you can't be with us. Perhaps a greeting from your friends when you return or a phone call if you have been gone for a while would let you know how important you are to all of us. Remember, our chorus is only as good as what YOU bring to it. ♥

Flavor Of The Month

by Todd Anderson, Harmonotes Editor



If you're in a registered chapter quartet, and can provide me with a great photo of your foursome ringing a chord, please send it to me. I'm looking for quality "head-on" pictures like performances or contests—even Singing Valentines.

I'll rotate such pictures for the front cover of Harmonotes, giving other registered quartets some exposure.

I'll tell you right now, though, it needs to show outstanding stage presence. I love photos where each member is "sold out"—where you can almost hear the overtones just by looking at the photo! Please don't send something where everyone looks like they can't wait for the song to end. I want just the opposite.

If you're unclear on what I'm wanting, 12th Street Rag provides you with a great example, right on the front cover of this issue! ♥



EDITOR'S NOTE: Dr. Niel Johnson sent a pdf of the following article which recently appeared in VICTORY WEEKLY. In it, Niel says, "The Hard Corps Chorale was recently featured in the Weekly Newsletter here in Iraq. We had 24 singers that day, and an audience of about 200! Long live the Yuletide Favorites Book!"

Coalition Forces Celebrate The Holiday Season

Story, photos by Pfc. Mark B. Matthews MNC-I PAO

Though thousands of miles away from home, the Christmas spirit was alive and well with carols, a Christmas tree and an opportunity for people from all corners of the world to join together during the holidays to celebrate a season of peace and good will.

The Annual Multi-National Force-Iraq and Multi-National Corps-Iraq Christmas tree lighting ceremony was held at the Al-Faw Palace Sunday to celebrate the beginning of this holiday season.

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., MNF-I commander, was present and seemed pleased to see faces from so many countries together to witness the lighting of the Christmas tree.

"The notion that countries from all over the world have sent their young men and women here to give the gift of freedom to the people of Iraq is about



The Hard Corps Chorale [under the direction of HOA's Niel Johnson] sang a number of Christmas Carols throughout the ceremony and encouraged everyone present to sing along to songs like "Joy to the World" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

the best Christmas gift of all that we can give," Casey said. "So thank you very much for all that you do to bring freedom and security to the Iraqi people."

Casey's remarks were followed by the tree lighting and carols sung by the *Hard Corps Chorale*. The

choir sang many carols and encouraged everyone present to sing along and to try to make things feel as much like home as possible.

"I've often told people that the more normal we can make our lives while we are here can make it easier to make it

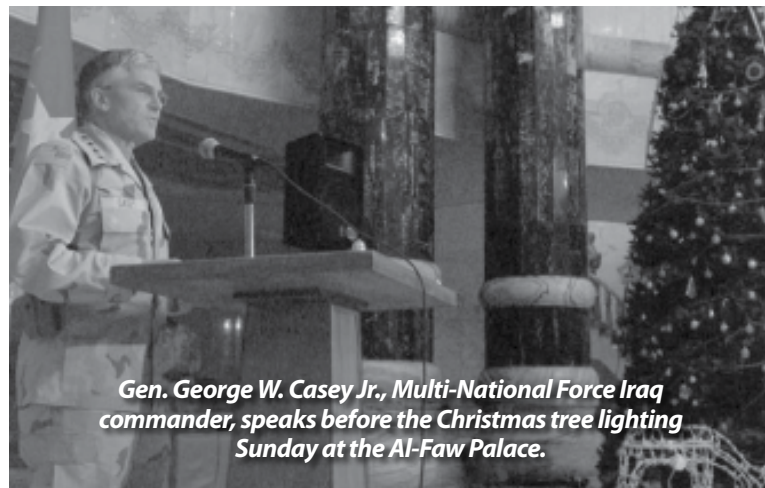
through stressful periods," said Lt. Col. Neil Johnson, *Hard Corps Chorale* director. "For a lot of folks this is their first Christmas away from home, and it's things like this and singing Christmas music that provide a great way to cope with the separation."

As Christmas music rang through the halls of the palace and refreshments were served, it seemed easy for most people to get into the holiday spirit.

"Even though we can't be at home right now it is nice to be able to come out and share your holiday spirit with everyone," said Capt. Darwin Maul, Multi-Nation-

al Corps-Iraq Fires and Effects. "If you can't be home for the holidays at least be with people you like and the people you work with." Although separated from families and friends this holiday season, troops from all over the world can make the best of the situation and continue providing freedom and stability to Iraq.

"This tree can give us all something that can remind us of home," Casey said. "I know it is hard to be away from loved ones over the holidays, but I very much appreciate your sacrifices and the sacrifices of your families this holiday season."



Gen. George W. Casey Jr., Multi-National Force Iraq commander, speaks before the Christmas tree lighting Sunday at the Al-Faw Palace.



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter who have joined since January 2005.



Phil Owen is a Desktop Computer Technician for IT-21 providing support for Russell Stover Candies. He is a 7-year, dual-member barbershopper with the Leavenworth Chapter and sings Lead in the chorus but can handle Tenor and Bari as well. He and his wife, Jessica, live in Overland Park, KS.



Mike Owen is a dual-member barbershopper with the Leavenworth Chapter and sings Bari in the quartet Escape. He is a government Contract Analyst and lives in Leavenworth with his significant other, Margo. Brother, Keith, directs the *Leavenworth Cody Choraliers*.



Tom Wenner is a first-time barbershopper singing Bari in the *HOA Chorus*. Musically, he plays drums and bass guitar in a dance style band called "The Band That Saved the World." Though he is new to barbershopping, he's been a spectator at chapter shows and International contests with his barbershopper father, **Bruce**. ♥

"Three more GREAT voices to add to our risers!"



Sacred Gold Commemorative Poster

taken from the Barbershop Harmony Society's *LiveWire!*

If you were in Salt Lake City for our 2005 International Convention, you probably witnessed one of the most spectacular concerts in barbershop history! The *Mormon Tabernacle Choir*, *Acoustix*, *Power Play*, *Four Voices*, and nearly 600 men of the Society's Gold Medal Chorus—over 900 men and women of song—joined together for this incredible event.

Now you can own this keepsake to treasure and keep the memory alive! All performers names are listed in alphabetical order!

Order now—<http://store.yahoo.com/harmonymarketplace/sagocopo.html>, \$9 + shipping and handling. The 16" x 20" poster will be mailed in a specially designed tube for protection. ♥



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 tell me at the time of your intentions and I'll direct your gift 100% to the Foundation.

As of Wednesday, Dec. 14, and 4 drawings: In the past month, our chapter has raised \$533 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 19, 2005) is \$533. Last year, the total raised was \$196. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$207.

Thank you all for your interest and participation! ♥

Salvation Army Donation Help

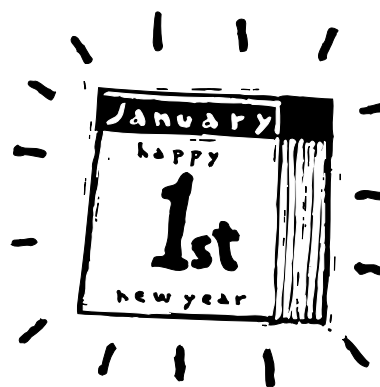
by Mike Mathieu

If anyone would like help in making certain your donations get credited to HOA, here are some directions I just received from the Salvation Army Divisional Headquarters.

On-line, go to armykettle.com. To insure that we get credit, in the specific use field under donation details, just type instructions to credit this to the bellringing campaign and the organization or group name.

By telephone, call (816) 968-0346 and instruct the operator to credit to bellringing campaign and the organization or group name.

DO NOT USE THE MAILING ENVELOPE THAT THE SALVATION ARMY MAILS TO YOUR HOME. If you use those, the Army mailing campaign gets credit and our chapter does not get credit! ♥



Christmas With *The Ambassadors*

by Jim Porter



The Ambassadors of Harmony have come a long way with their shows. 15 years ago when I was with them (and they weren't a bad chorus then), they did their Christmas show in a 400-seat high school auditorium, 2 shows on a Saturday, and they didn't sell out either one. Now, they have 5 shows (Fri. eve, two Saturday, two Sunday) in a beautiful 1000-seat theatre at the University of Missouri St. Louis, and they probably are selling out most of them. They certainly sold out Saturday evening, when I was there. **Charlie Ramirez** was also there, and I asked him if he'd like the challenge of doing 5 shows in one weekend instead of 2, and he looked at the theatre and the crowd and said right away "I sure would!" Good attitude, Charlie!

Last spring I went to Des Moines to see what I thought was the last show by the *Gas House Gang*. Turns out that was a bit premature. At that time, they had appeared in 48 of the 50 states. They now proclaim they have visited all 50, plus 15 foreign countries. They recently completed a tour of Japan, and as **Jim Henry** related to the audience, they all felt they had to close it out in front of the home town supporters. This was truly their last show, and for you trivia buffs, the last song they sang together was their "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" number (or the "magic flute"). Another highlight of the evening was a reprise of their "Calypso" sthick, which originally featured **Rob Henry** playing **Harry Belafonte**, and doing his "Day-O" from offstage at the urging of **Kipp Buckner**. This time, JIM Henry played the role, adorned with a ridiculous wig with two-foot-long tornado curls like you see some of the black football

players wearing these days. At the end, after a lengthy standing ovation, they challenged the audience to support the next generation as well as they supported the *Gas House Gang*. They then invited *Vocal Spectrum* (who had completed their set ahead of the *GHG* set) to come out, and the eight of them sang "Scarborough Fair" together. The ringing chords from that ensemble had to be heard to be believed!

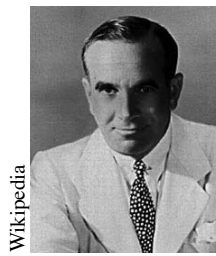
The rest of the show was the *Ambassadors*, of course, doing two sets. The opening set had the Santa Claus and children's songs, and the closing set was entirely songs of the season and the birth of the Christ Child. Several of their songs are also songs we do, such as "Happy Holidays", which was their opener. Others are songs I sang with them 15 years ago. I reckon there are just not all that many Christmas songs out there! Anyway, people keep coming back because it seems every year they add something and, of course, they just plain do it better and better. They had a different Hanukkah song this year, a very lively number that they added guitar accompaniment to. The show closed with "Silent Night", during which they all walked off stage and filled the aisles in the theatre, after which everyone was invited to sing along as they re-did the first verse. Several of them were nearby where I was sitting, so singing with them at that point was practically like being on stage with them.

Next year, they are offering a two-for-one deal. Buy tickets for their June show and you can have tickets in the same seats for the Christmas show with a 10% discount. My brother and his wife have become fans now. We're probably going to do it! ♥



The Songs We Sing

by Bob Niedringhaus, borrowed from *By-Lines*, the St. Louis Suburban Chapter bulletin, edited by John Conrad



Wikipedia

Many great movies were made in the early 1930s, along with great music. One of these was the Warner Brothers production of "Say It With Songs." This was the beginning of the "talkie" movies, as it was billed as a "Warner Brothers Vita Phone Talking Picture."

This gem starred the forever famous **Al Jolson**, who in my opinion was one of the greatest entertainers ever on the Broadway stage and early movies, and a fellow named **Davey Lee**.

Some of the many songs in this wonderful oldie were "Little Pal," "Why Can't You?," "Used to You," and "I'm in Seventh Heaven." These songs were all written by the song writing trio of **B. G. DeSylva, Lew Brown, and Ray Henderson**, along with Al Jolson.

DeSylva and Brown were outstanding writers for many years and when Ray Henderson joined them, they wrote even more tremendous tunes. They were, as far as I know, the only truly famous writing trio that lasted for any length of time. These three guys were indeed brilliant, and their songs entertained us for a lifetime.

Weren't the old movies, music, and song writers wonderful?

From the guy who likes to sing. ♥

Singing Valentines: Next Big Event On HOA Calendar

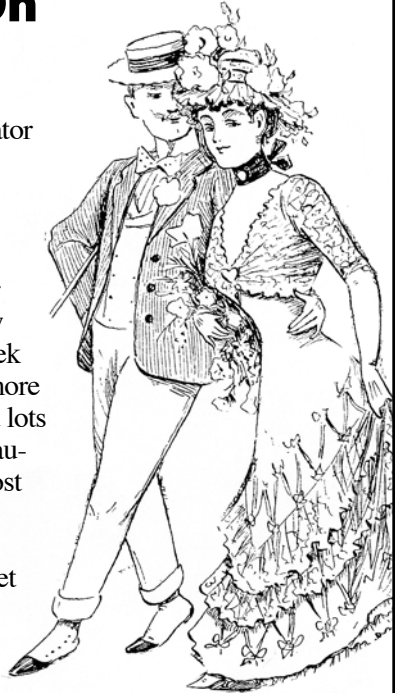
by Marlin Weidler,
2006 Singing Valentines Coordinator

Monday, Feb. 13 and Tuesday, Feb. 14 have been designated for delivery of singing Valentines for 2006. As you remember, last year we only had one week day so now we are back on track with two week days. This will mean potentially more orders than last year (for sure) and lots of orders to deliver at offices, restaurants, bars, malls, homes and almost anywhere one could think of.

If you are already planning on participating in a quartet—either let Tom Tisdall, or myself know who is in the quartet and the part(s) singing and the day or days you will be able to participate.

If you are not in a quartet and would like to be—let us know that as well so that we can organize one for you. If you would like to participate but don't want to sing you can help at the headquarters. I myself would like to deliver them as well. There will be quartets that will need drivers so make sure that we know if you are interested and if you have a vehicle or someone needs to provide one.

Since this is the first year of me doing Singing Valentines—besides delivering them—I will do my best to coordinate as well as those in the past. Since I have not done anything like this before I would appreciate all the help I can get. ♥



Survey Cards Are Doing Their Job by Dick Korek

The Holiday Show was huge success and the "survey cards" worked well giving us important info regarding...

- Interested in tickets for the March HOA Show...40 interested & Vince has the names
- Interested in joining the mens chorus...7... names to **Stew Grosser**
- Interested in joining the Sweet Adelines chorus...7... names passed on to **Jeffi Combs**
- The "DRAWING" for the 22 items listed on the survey card is completed. All winners were called and are listed on the HOA website. All were sent out in the mail with a "thanks."
- All 886 Survey Cards were turned over to **Rich Huyck** to check for new entries onto the HOA data-base for future mailings. The HOA "family" is growing! ♥



DEADLINE FOR
THE FEBRUARY

HARMONOTES

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 20

Holiday Harmony Spectacular 2005!



Ace photographers **Matt Bostick** and **Don Fuson** captured, through their cameras, this grand look at what was a very successful Holiday Show! Audiences thrilled not only to the harmony provided by the *Kansas City Sweet Adelines* and *Heart of America Chorus*, but the fantastic quartets, laughs galore and of course, the, uh, boisterous kiddie chorus!





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

Away back in the October issue of *Harmonotes*, in this spot under the “Thirty-five Years Ago” segment, I noted that **Millie Robinette** had referred to our ladies’ auxiliary as the SPEBSQSA Auxiliary and raised the question, “Does anybody remember when the present name, the *Heartbeats*, became official and who was responsible for suggesting the name?” Well, veteran *HOA* member **Ron Abel** lost no time in



dashing off a note to me with just the information I asked for. Here it is: “The chapter board authorized formation of a Ladies’ Auxiliary in April, 1969. **Bev Wasson** was the first president. With regard to your inquiry, the name, *Heartbeats*, was suggested by **Della and Clyde Mensen** in 1978 or 1979 when a *Heartbeats* Cookbook was published.” Turns out that I inadvertently filed Ron’s note with a bunch of stuff I was holding for my column in the *Serenade*. My profound apologies and many thanks to you, Ron. What would I do without you?

TEN YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1996:

The entire content of the 22-page January 1996 issue of *Harmonotes* was overshadowed by news of the unexpected and untimely death on Dec. 15 of 47-year barbershopper and member of the Kansas City chapter, **Bob Gall**. He had just turned 70 years old.

Bob joined the Society and our chapter in 1949 and almost immediately became involved in chapter administration. He served on the board of directors in 1952 and 1953, as secretary in 1954 and 1955, and as president in 1956. In 1962 and 1963, he served the Central States District as secretary and was elected district president in 1964 and 1965. He became a member of the international board of directors in 1966, first vice president in 1968, and was elected our international president in 1969.

Bob’s musical contribution to the chapter and our hobby was equally impressive. Over the years, he was a part of the *Cross Towners*, the *K.C. Moners*, the *Rudy Fisk Royalties*, the *Crackerjacks*, and the *Merry Mugs*,

which will be remembered as one of the most popular comedy quartets in the Society during the 1950s and 1960s. It’s interesting to note that until Bob’s death, all four of the original members—**Dennis Taylor**, **Frank Leone** and **Dan Bowser**—were still members of the Kansas City chapter. Just prior to his death, Bob sang with a newly organized quartet called *Hubbub*, with **Jim Bagby** (tenor), **Manley Vance** (lead), and **Dan Bowser** (baritone). The quartet had competed in the CSD fall contest in the preceding October.

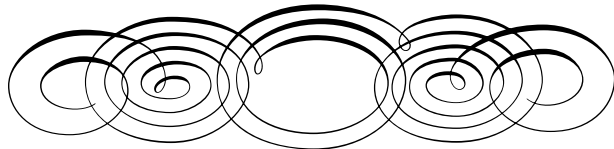
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO: JANUARY, 1986

The “Bellringers’ Honor Roll” included a list of the names of the 42 *HOA* members who showed up for all six performances for the Salvation Army at the Ward Parkway Shopping Center on Dec. 14. But only 18 members had slogged through the sleet on Dec. 10, “the coldest, wettest, freezest, icest weather of the winter” to Crown Center to sing their program of Christmas carols, only to find the store about to close for lack of business and to let their staff go home before things got really bad.

FORTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1966

If you’re wondering about the missing January and February 1966 issues, the apologetic tone taken by Editor **Warren Edmonds** in the first two paragraphs of the March 1966 issue may provide a clue. His first paragraph implies that something had occurred to prevent the publication of the two missing issues. Then, in the second paragraph, he includes the words “nine weeks on the road,” which would indicate that he’d been traveling (don’t know what Warren did for a living) and had been unable to put out a bulletin.

Under the heading, “Chapter Quartet News,” we learn that **Dennis Taylor** had given up the tenor spot with the *Merry Mugs* to **Ed Rooker**. Apparently Dennis’ job with TWA prevented him from continuing with the quartet. Then there’s a note that **Al Moritz** had taken the bass position in the **B.M.A. Beacons** that had been vacated by **Byron Werges**, who’d been transferred out of the Kansas City area. The *B.M.A. Beacons* were the oldest quartet in the chapter and were planning to compete in the spring prelims at Burlington, Iowa. ♥



SPONSORS

Thank You For Making A Difference!
We gratefully acknowledge your generosity to the
Heart of America Chorus
2005-2006

**Benefactor
(\$10,000 & Up)**

**Platinum Heart
(\$5,000)**

**Gold Heart
(\$2,500)**

**Silver Heart
(\$1,000)**

David F. Hokanson Family Foundation
Sam’s Club

**Bronze Heart
(\$600)**

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Russell Stover
Ryan Lawn
Sheridan’s Frozen Custard
Sonic
Sound Trek

Thanks to Sam’s Club, a second location (Sam’s Club on North Oak Trafficway) has come on board as a SPONSOR for HOA.
Thanks to all Sam’s Clubs for their support!

Sponsors will be listed for 12 months.
The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c)(3) organization.
Checks should be made out to:
Kansas City Chapter/
Barbershop Harmony Society
Mail to: HOA, c/o Dale Neuman
816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011

Heartbeats Hilites

by Sandy Rule, 2005 Secretary

The *Heartbeats* send you our best wishes for a Happy New Year and hope that your Christmas was blessed and cherished!!

Here’s a look at our productive year.

We met Feb. 15, May 17, Sept. 13, and Nov. 15 this year. During the weekend of the Chorus Retreat, Sept., 17, 12 of our members took a little “day trip” to Weston, Mo., shopped, and had lunch together there. It was fun to get together outside of “business.”

We had three different fund raisers this year: a book sale/garage sale at **Carter/Jeffi Combs**’ home, in June. Also, several members/husbands ushered at the Music Hall for the **Billy Joel** show, and some others might be doing the same at the Midland Theater on 12/21. (Some members and Sweet Adelines also voluntarily ushered for the annual March Show, and again for the December Christmas Show with the chorus and Sweet Adelines.) With the help of the chorus, we also collected used cell phones, earning money from Pace-Butler Corp., in Oklahoma.

We donated the \$44 collected from last year’s Friendship Basket to the Ronald McDonald House. Several gals helped with the Singing Valentines at the headquarters hotel. THANKS!! **Linda Schumacher** did a great job of heading-up the annual luncheon for the March 19 show. THANKS to her and all the members who provided food and who helped with serving the lunch! We also provided refreshments for “Guest Night” for the chorus March 29. That was not limited to the *Heartbeats*, but also some non-*Heartbeat* members sent goodies with the husbands that evening, so we want to THANK and recognize their contributions!!! Due to the Send-off for International being held at the Doubletree Hotel, we were not allowed to furnish any refreshments for that event. We did, however, provide/serve refreshments for the October District Contest Send-Off, and again, THANKS to all who were supportive of that with your donations!! Also, at that Send-Off, **Dessie Gathright** presented the chorus with a *Heartbeats*’ check for \$1,100.00 for one section of new risers for the chorus. We will also be making lunch for the chorus members ringing bells for the Salvation Army on Dec. 17 at Metro North Mall.

Mary and Sarah Fortino handled applications for the scholarship to Harmony College, of which *Heartbeats* paid half. THANKS!! **Brian Marston** was chosen to receive that scholarship, which was presented to him in front of the chorus. He was most appreciative!!

We had our annual potluck dinner Sept. 13 at the beautiful home of **Jan/Mike Mathieu**. And, as always, we had delicious food, good company, and a good meeting. THANKS to Jan for being such a gracious hostess!!

At the November meeting, we elected new officers for 2006: President, **Eileen Campsey**; V.P., **Jeffi Combs**; Secretary, **Joan Korek**, Treasurer, **Sarah Fortino**, and Board Members **Mary Fortino** and **Mary Jo Miller**. They will be installed, along with the chorus officers, at the January, 2006, Installation Banquet. THANKS to the officers who served in 2005!

So you can see that we had a busy, productive year in 2005! I would close with an invitation to all the chorus wives, sweethearts, mothers or friends to join us for 2006! We have a lot of fun and would love to have you with us! ♥

Board of Directors December Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary/Ron McIntire

MUSIC and PERFORMANCE: Keith Schweer

Bell Ringing is set for Saturday Dec. 17. The March show music has been chosen. Keith will send out a list of old songs, we plan to keep, for the newest members to learn. Staging for the *Runnin' Wild* song is being done by Sheri Hart. Some of the new songs will be challenging, but will be fun.

MEMBERSHIP: Stew Grosser

A survey questionnaire is being designed in an effort to improve membership satisfaction. Future membership drive planning includes a possible Special Olympics and barbeque. Planning is under way to contact members who have left the chorus.

MARKETING and PR: Dick Korek

The tickets sold for the two holiday shows are as follows:
2 p.m. show: 1,033 seats sold
7:30 p.m. show: 877 seats sold.
The questionnaire included in the show program have been gathered and the information passed to the appropriate choruses. Chapter board meetings will not be held at the Drivers License Bureau for the months of January, February and April. The meeting place for these months will be determined.

TREASURER: Charles Ramirez

Expenses have exceeded receipts for the past month. The largest expenditures were toward international contest. The signature card on the checking account will be switched to the new treasurer, Ron Fortino.

HOTEL SELECTION FOR INDY: Vince Perry

Recommended List of hotels within the area of the International Convention in Indianapolis (ranking is based on price, practice rooms, location, free parking, and free breakfast):
1. Crowne Plaza - \$118/night
2. Radisson City Ctr - \$123/night
3. Hilton - \$126/night
4. Courtyard by Marriot - \$138/night
5. Embassy Suites - \$149/night
6. Hyatt Regency - \$139/night
7. Omni Severin - \$138/night
8. Marriot - \$151/night
Vince will recommend the hotel.

Old Business:

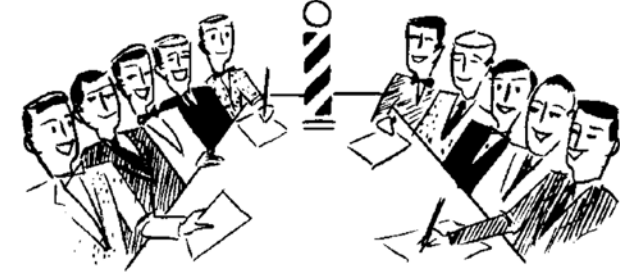
SINGING VALENTINES: Marlin Weidler
New Singing Valentine Prices:
8-hour window - \$50; 4-hour window - \$55; 2-hour window - \$60; 60-minute window - \$85
One quartet from the Liberty Chapter will cover the Liberty area with the follow stipulations:
HOA will set the boundaries the Liberty quartet will cover. *HOA* will qualify the quartet as with other quartets delivering Singing Valentines
Revenue will be shared with the Liberty chapter using the same formula as with the Sweet Adelines.

Chapter Insurance:

The chapter insurance was increased to \$30,000. It covers replacement value less \$1,000 deductible.

New Business:

Discussion on a new mission statement for the chapter was tabled. ♥



Musical Notes

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



As we look forward to next year, your Music Team is busy selecting and learning new music for our 2006 Spring Show and beyond. We're planning to have new learning CDs available for you on January 10. We believe you're going to enjoy the selections we've chosen for you. Some are relatively easy while some are more challenging, but all of them are fun to sing and, we feel, sure to please our audiences. A couple of the new songs are more demanding from a breathing and stamina standpoint. The better condition you're in, the better chance you'll have of being as strong at the end of the song as you are at the beginning. Sounds like a New Year's resolution in the making. As always, if you have a favorite song, old or new, that you'd like to have the chorus sing, please let any member of the Music Team or me know.

From Connie and me to all of you Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Harmonious New Year. ♥

Tone-Henge News

by Ol' Bruce



It's a busy holiday season for *Tone-Henge* once again – performing with the chorus and quartet in the two Holiday Shows, and the six gigs during the Salvation Army bell-ringing. Throw in our annual *Tone-Henge* dinner with the *Hengettes* and Christmas contributions from the treasury, and these four old guys come out

of the month exhausted and broke. Every January we swear 'never again,' but by the next December we've forgotten about it and we're back doin' it. The memory loss that comes with advancing age isn't all bad.

The Holiday Show this year turned out to be more of an adventure than we expected. Friday night Keith showed up with a nasty case of laryngitis—we didn't know till Saturday whether or not we would even be able to go on. A complicating feature was that we were using a new song, in which each quartet member has a solo. Everybody knows that the bass is expendable in singing four-part harmony (the tenor creates the bass part by cranking down the undertones, right?)—but it gets pretty obvious when a guy steps forward for his solo and nothing comes out. The story had a happy ending—Keith had just enough to swallow the mike and croak out his piece.

That wasn't quite all of the adventure. In the matinee, we were lined up ready to march on stage at the designated time, and instead of a *Tone-Henge* announcement the gals went on into the next song. OK—after that one we're on, right? Not so. Somehow we had gotten lost in their script. But—the backstage crew got the word to Sparky, and we finally got on—two songs late. And in the night show the glitch was fixed and we were announced on schedule.

Of course, by next December all of this will be forgotten and we'll be charging right back in there. And by Christmas we'll be saying (once again), "Why?" ♥

Command Performance Update

by Monty Duerksen



First, and foremost, THANK YOU, Grant Hunget and Don Young for singing at a "COM-MANDERS" performance with Carter & Jon. I understand it went very well.

We were also honored to be a part of the HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR performance. The talent in this performance was AWESOME! Sharing the spotlight with the *Kansas City Sweet Adeline Chorus* was a memorable thrill!

Evaluation of our scores at the CSD Contest showed a higher number than in the past. We had fun testing the microphone, we wish to do better in the future. Selecting the songs for a contest earlier than two weeks prior to the event is part of our future goal. Since this was the initial contest for this "foursome," we consider it a "beginner's experiment."

Our goals for the future include: assembling a unique contest and entertainment package, and attaining consistent coaching that will provide a *Command Performance* wherever we go. Along with these goals, we are in the process of developing a "Quartet Personality" that pleases our audiences AND ENHANCES OUR ENTERTAINMENT VALUE. That is, performances which encourage our audiences to invite us back. We plan to go to the Spring Pre-lims, as well as the International in "Indy."

This guy is thrilled to be a fourth of *Command Performance*...hopefully I can continue to learn a lot more about singing and keep my job as the bass. ♥

Barbershopper Of The Month

November: Harvey Shapiro

In grateful appreciation for your work in organizing, promoting and selling the 2006 Entertainment Coupon books, for the Kansas City Missouri Chapter. ♥



FOCAL POINT: Up Close And Personal!

by Wade Dexter

Many years ago, back in the 1960s, when I was still in the Army and stationed at Fort Leavenworth, I used to do a bit of fishing in my leisure time. I'd drive down to the lake at Tonganoxie and toss a line, either from a rented boat or off the shore. On the way down there, I'd have my car radio, and later a portable set, tuned to Radio Station WDAF in Kansas City so I could enjoy listening to my favorite disc jockey, who played all of my favorite songs and delivered a clever chatter between records. Little did I know that the day would come when I would be writing about the guy in this column.

Dan Henry Bowser was born and raised in Coffeyville, KS, where he graduated from high school. His mother and two brothers were singers, and as Dan says, "Lots of harmonizing at home."

While he was attending Coffeyville Junior College, he played the sousaphone (the big tuba) in the band. It was there in 1942 that Dan met Estyl, who played the flute. He joined the Navy in 1943, served to the end of the war and was discharged in 1946. He and Estyl were married shortly thereafter. Dan continued with his education and earned a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University and a master's degree in education from KU.

It was while he was a general science teacher at Roosevelt Junior High School in Topeka that he started a boys' ninth grade barbershop quartet. A friend of some of the boys in the quartet who attended another Topeka junior high school happened to be Greg Lyne, former Society director of music services. As Dan tells it, "All this led me to say for years, 'I introduced Greg Lyne to the barbershop Society.' As far as I know, that's true, but it may be a stretch."

Like most schoolteachers, Dan found himself searching for a source of summer income. He applied for a position at Radio Station WIBW and was hired as an announcer. He worked in that capacity for several years, and in 1956, was offered a full-time job at a salary, according to Dan, "as large as I would have been making (after) teaching 10 years hence."

Dan says that he would have joined the Society long

before he became a member of the Topeka chapter, but "I thought you had to be invited." Kind of scares you doesn't it, when you think there may be thousands of other highly talented singers hanging back because they aren't "invited" or may have to pass a strenuous audition for membership. Dan was finally "invited" to join the Topeka Chapter in

1949. It wasn't long before he joined a quartet called the *Interurbanaires*. Two members were from the Topeka Chapter: Dan (bari) and Bob Bobo (lead), and two were from the Kansas City Chapter: Dennis Taylor (tenor) and Don Page (bass). He says they only went to one contest, but finished in 12th or 13th place. Dan also directed the Topeka chorus for a few years. Is there anything this guy can't do?

In the fall of 1959, Dan was called and hired by WDAF in Kansas City and transferred his Society membership to the Kansas City Chapter. He served as chapter president in 1965 and directed the HOA chorus for a few years in the late 1960s and early 1970s, but had to resign when he was offered the WDAF-TV weather reporter job, which required night work. So for the next 20 years, we had to be content to watch Dan give us the weather report each evening at 10 p.m. on Channel 4 if we wanted to see him at all. Dan retired from WDAF in 1992.

When I asked Dan to name the one barbershopping experience that brought back his fondest memories, I fully expected him to name the visit by the *Merry Mugs* to Guantanamo Bay in 1965. But he couldn't be satisfied to name that single adventure. "The Gitmo trip, the Far East trip in '67, MCing numerous international contest sessions, teaching COTS for two years, and two years' attendance at Harmony College rise frequently as fondest Society memories. However, I have to include the wonderful memories being constantly increased by the current quartet, *Tone-Henge*. It's a blast singing and socializing with Wenner, Bagby, and Schweer and their ladies. Estyl and I are lucky!"

Well, there you have it. Yeah, I know, I only skimmed the surface of the record of Dan's accomplishments for the Society and the Kansas City chapter over a 57-year career. But Todd's going to raise Cain with me if I use any more of his precious space. All I can say is that I hope you all enjoy reading this account as much as I did putting it together. ♥



Where Are They Now?

by Wade Dexter



Had a nice chat the other evening with former HOA member Manley Vance, who is living with his lovely wife, Spike, on 68 acres about halfway between Liberty and Kearney. Some of you may recall that the two of them ran a summer camp for children there for about 15 years, "until the insurance cost too much," as Manley tells it. Their address is 12600 Plattsburg

Road in Kansas City (64060). Manley assured me that he'd be delighted if some of you guys gave him a call at (816) 781-3358.

I'd heard that Manley had surgery some time back for the removal of a brain tumor. He confirmed this and explained that he and Spike had just returned from a visit to the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, where they had conducted a thorough examination and prescribed a program of chemotherapy and radiation which Manley had just begun at Liberty Hospital. I was happy to hear that both he and Spike are feeling well.

I asked Manley about his barbershopping experiences. He told me that he'd originally joined the newly formed Northland Chapter, but when it folded in 1968, he and several other members transferred to the Kansas City group. He let his membership expire a few years ago after back surgery had made it impossible for him to spend the required time on the risers.

I inquired about some of the chapter offices Manley had held while he was an HOA member. He admitted that his recollection was poor, so I reminded him that he was the chapter president at about the time I joined back in the early 1980s. He also recalled that he served as show chairman once and even acted as chapter secretary at one time.

Manley was an active quartetter almost from the beginning when he joined a foursome called "*Principle* (he said that was the way it was spelled) *Ingredient*." He sang the lead with Dick Henderson on tenor, Rod Flater on baritone, and Wendell Cochren singing the bass. But he considers the one barbershopping experience that he remembers with the greatest pleasure came when he sang with a quartet called *Hubbub*. Again, Manley sang the lead, Jim Bagby was the tenor, Dan Bowser was the baritone, and the bass was Bob Gall. (Jim tells me that Willard Yoder sang the bass after Bob died). What a combination that must have been!

Like so many other long-time members who spent so many years with the *Heart of America Chorus*, Manley says he still has warm thoughts and memories about the chapter and the guys he sang with—especially one guy by the name of Bagby. ♥



A TIP OF THE HAT!

The Tip 'O The Hat is recognition to both members and non-members men and women who have made a contribution in time and effort to the betterment of the Kansas City Missouri Chapter over the past month.

A Tip of the Hat goes to the 63 brave souls who forged through blowing snow and slick streets to sing at Metro North Mall Dec. 17; To Marty Oldehoeft, Tony Strub, Bob Howard, Walt Patterson, Chuck Ames, Kevin Tritsch, Rich Huyck, Jon Gathright, Mike Schumacher, David Miller, Jerry Snyder and Charles Ramirez who helped set up and take down the risers and put the sound system in working order at the Mall; And a big Tip of the Hat to the *Heartbeats* who fixed sack lunches for the chorus. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

Tom Steele	January 1
James Moynihan	January 1
John McConnell	January 1
Shawn Jeffries	January 1
Don Newman	January 3
Harvey Shapiro	January 7
Robert Rutherford	January 9
Chuck Blair	January 10
Oly Oldehoeft	January 10
Roy Manade	January 13
Kent McClean	January 14
Steve Carruthers	January 15
Gary Mehalic	January 20
Brian Marston	January 21
Bob Burdick	January 25
Rick Foreman	January 30