

# Harmonotes

July 2002

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2002, Issue 7

## THE QUEST CONTINUES by Mike Neff, Assitant Director

Can you FEEL the excitement? Can you SENSE the energy? Are you HAVING FUN singing in the chorus right now? I'll go out on a limb and say the answer to those questions is probably a resounding "YES!" I also want to share some thoughts with you about what I believe lies ahead for HOA.

We are in a great "place" right now. We're learning some wonderful new music, receiving fantastic vocal coaching from **Bill Biffle**, got a great staging plan for "Changes Made" from **Rosemary Calderon**, a trip to the Buckeye Invitational in August and our return to the Central States District chorus contest this fall in Wichita. Along the way, we'll have more coaching, a retreat weekend, "Concert in the Park" in July, and later in the year, the Holiday Harmony Spectacular returns with the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines. The rest of the year is chock full of GOOD STUFF!

So with all of those things lined up, how can we use each of them as building blocks to improve? There are loads of opportunities in what I just mentioned, so how can we capitalize on each of them? Let me share with you some ideas about what I think we can do to continue our quest for outstanding music and performance:

1). Come to rehearsal prepared and ready to sing. As **Dr. Greg Lyne** would say, "Bring all of yourself to the party." Each Tuesday presents another opportunity for us to better ourselves, practice and reinforce the guidance and techniques our coaches have given us, and at the same time, share in the joy of making great music with each other. I look forward to the three hours we get to spend together every Tuesday. When I arrive at rehearsal, I am ready to throw

myself into the evening and walk out of the hall later on knowing that I got better at something. Have that attitude!

2). Find ways to make the best singing and vocal production techniques "second nature." Our coaches and Music Team are committed to teaching and promoting the best singing techniques possible. But it's

impossible for us to monitor each and every voice all the time. We strive for excellent singing in rehearsal and performance, but what can each of us do individually, outside of Tuesday nights, to help HOA get better?

Consider these possibilities:

- Tape yourself regularly and listen to your tape. What do you hear? What would you change or do differently next time? Does

the tone and volume of your voice match the lyrics and interpretation of the song? Think about these things when you listen to your tapes and adjudicate yourself as best as you can.

- Practice with your learning tape, CD or MP3 file.

- Practice at home in front of a mirror and see if you are making the proper vowel shapes.

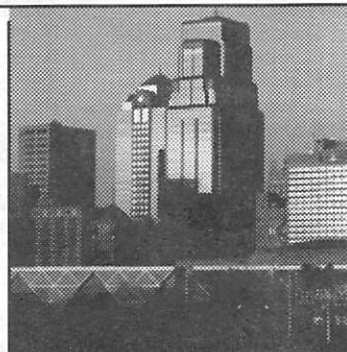
- Listen to yourself when you are on the risers and see if your voice matches the sound within your section, as well as the whole ensemble.

- And remember **Bill Biffle's** challenge to us: "Sing alike, sing in-tune, sing together." Not rocket science, is it? It's amazing how simple, yet effective that statement is.

(continued on page 3 ♦)



Rosemary Calderon



## THIS ISSUE:

### Page 2 GETTING OFF TO A BETTER START

*Making the MOST out of each rehearsal.*

### Page 4 A SUCCESSFUL SING-OUT!

*Five chapters—a 70-man chorus—performs for Theater in the Park!*

Page 4  
**ON THE RIGHT ROAD**  
*12th Street Rag looks forward to Portland and applying some exciting things they have learned!*

Page 5  
**IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS!**  
*2002's Holiday Harmony Spectacular slated for December 7.*

Page 7  
**HEARTLAND HARMONY HAPPENING!**  
*Lud Einess attended and gives us his take of this annual event!*

# 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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Member Of



## A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker



John Stucker

Hello All. Let's get the health news out of the way up front. The day after returning from my vacation trip to Ireland, I saw the Oncologist for an update on how things were going with my treatment. The first thing he said was that the cancer indicator in the bloodstream had gone from 179 to 90. This means that the treatment IS WORKING. I have to thank everyone who has come up to me and said that they were praying for me. It really means a lot and I can assure all of you that prayer is what did it.

Back to HOA Barbershop. We really got our "hot dip" in barbershop with the **Rosemary Calderon** coaching session on June 11. She brought a complete staging package for "Changes" and taught all of us "two left feet" people an outstanding routine. I am so excited I can hardly wait to get back next week and reinforce the effort. Thanks to Rosemary for coming up with a dynamite package on a real short time frame and presenting it on a regular practice night. In the past we have had all day Saturday sessions to learn much the same thing.

While the attendance has improved the last several weeks, we can do better. The performance package we are learning for the Buckeye contains the two songs we will use in Wichita this fall to get back to International competition and compete in Montreal in 2003. We need everyone. This means you. Even if for some reason you can't make the trip to the Buckeye (heaven forbid) we need you every week so there won't be a letdown after we win the Buckeye.

Talk with you later. ~

## WE CAN GET OFF TO A BETTER START

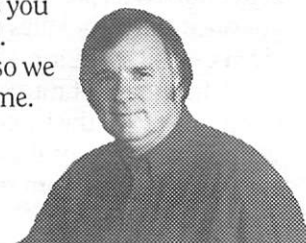
by Jim Bagby, Chorus Director

All hands note: considerable time and effort goes into preparing the weekly *In-Tune*. PVP **Jerry Garrard** is doing an excellent job of providing immediate, short-term and long-range information through this weekly meeting guide. It's a great tool to take home, so your family knows what's going on, too.

But we frequently have time getting our meetings off on the right foot, mostly because some guys take the risers unprepared. Our goal is to start the meeting at 7 p.m. and launch the singing at 7:10. It's hard to sing when guys are scrambling to find music or trying to look over a shoulder two rows away.

That's one major purpose of *In-Tune*: to let you know what songs will be covered each night. If you don't have them, see ace librarian **Reed Alberg** before 7:10. We're doing a lot of sight-reading these days, so look on the table as you enter for the stacks of music, new and old.

We need YOU to be responsible for you, so we don't waste valuable meeting/rehearsal time. Thanks! ~



# THE QUEST CONTINUES

(continued from front cover)

3). Live the Music! When we've created the best sounds, and as I mentioned above, when that becomes second nature, we have the chance to really explore and feel the music.

Surely you have been in a rehearsal where we've worked on specific singing skills and then the director says, "Okay, now let's perform!" That's a tough transition to make, isn't it? Left brain to right brain—180 degrees! I know I have never done that in front of you, now have I? Yeah, right...

Seriously though, I truly believe that when the fundamentals of great singing become natural to us, we have more opportunities to let go and live the music, instead of working on technique. The challenge to become better singers/performers/barbershoppers embodies many things—physical technique, visual expression, vocal inflection, dynamics, staging, you name it. A number of different elements. All of those things are very "left brain" though, aren't they? They are things we practice and think about.

But what happens when we master those things, concentrate less on technique and are able to focus on delivering the lyrics of the music? Remember how you sang "How far would I travel, to be where you are? How far is the journey, from here to a star? And if I ever lost you, how much would I cry?" from "How Deep is the Ocean?" Those are very emotional, powerful lyrics. If all of the techniques in the process are present and working properly, and you focus on that lyric (or the lyric of ANY song we sing), what does it feel like when you live the music and communicate the song? Those are the magical moments—when the performer and the music become one. It's happened to each of us before. It's like the moon and stars align and for a few moments, everything is just "right." Remember how good that feels, and how you want it to happen again? It can...and it will.



4). Lastly, rejoice in and cherish what we share together. What a wonderful chance we have to come together regularly, share the bond of music, become better friends and musicians, and give this gift to our families, friends and audiences. Music has the power to change people's lives. WE can touch people—whether it be on a Tuesday night, at a contest, or at a show, we may never know the impact we can have on others with our music.

I continue to remind myself of how fortunate I am to be a part of this group. Be proud of what we do, yet never stop seeking out opportunities to grow and share. Let's find the champion in each and every one of us as we continue our quest through Columbus, Wichita and then on to Montreal. ~

## 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

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

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

##### Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),  
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Mike Griffin (bass)

##### Crosstown Four

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

##### Heartland

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

##### New and Used Parts

Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),  
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

##### Polecat Creek

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

##### SureFire!

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),  
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)

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

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

##### Tone-Henge

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

##### Uranium

Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),  
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

\*Member of other chapters



## A SUCCESSFUL SING-OUT!

by Al Higgins

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

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

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

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

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

## 12TH STREET ON THE RIGHT ROAD TO PORTLAND

by Mark Fortino

**W**ell, we couldn't ask for a better road to Portland...finishing first in our district at the preliminary contest which has us sitting 15th going into Internationals, followed by shows where we received standing ovations at every show...without my Mom & dad in the audience...followed by two sessions with **Bill Biffle**, and one coming up with **Joe Connelly** on our last rehearsal before we head for Portland.

The impact Bill has had on our singing is truly remarkable...I will be very surprised if we don't see improved singing scores from prelims. Bill is an incredible coach, and a wonderful person. He has become a member of the *12th Street* family, and you know, once youra INNA da family, YOURA INA DA FAMILY!!! Can't thank him enough publicly for all he has done for us.

Unfortunately, we have missed the advice and council of **Mr. Bagby**, who is sharpening his pencil to sit in the beloved pit in Portland, and is therefore precluded from working with any competitor 60 days before the contest. However, we've worked with Jim enough over the years, that when we rehearse, we find ourselves saying things like "...does that repeat mean anything...sure didn't sound like it, you sang it the same dang way you did the first one..." or "...does that bass pick up mean anything...oh I was just curious that's all..." Jim is always with us, whether he is there or not...mmmm...kind of sounds like he's dead or something...oh...you know what I mean! We look forward to getting with Jim again after Portland.

Finally, we can't thank all of you enough for your continued support. Several of you have asked what our aspirations or goals are for this Internationals, Top 20? Top 10? I truly believe if we just do what we did in Columbia, we'll be in the 20, and I think we are better now than we were then, especially from a singing perspective. However, cracking that Top 10, is such an elite group, that it's difficult to be as confident about that. It's always easier to have confidence and do something the second time than it is the first. But who knows...next month I might be writing about our 26th-place finish...with these contests, you just never know...you give it your best, the judges write down their scores, and then you come back next year to do the whole thing all over again no matter where you place!

It's nice to know, no matter what the outcome is, the HOA family will always be there supporting us. It was great to see so many of you in Columbia, and I am truly enjoying being back on the risers for Buckeye and Districts. We wish ALL of YOU could be with US in Portland. Can't wait till next year when WE will be with all of YOU in MONTREAL!!! ~



# TONE-HENGE EVALUATED (We Think They're Trying To Tell Us Something)

by Dan Henry

When our quartet appeared on the annual Papillion, NE show in May, CSD Exec VP **Ron Morden** was in the audience as an SRO official. You've heard of the Standing Room Only program that's been in place for a few years. Chapters and quartets receive an "evaluation" of their performances, so that such public presentations may be improved. I'm sure *Papillion* scored well. *Tone-Henge* was evaluated too.



In so many words Ron said, "I can't do anything for you." That could mean there's no room for improvement, but we've been told the correct interpretation is, "...beyond hope".

Then at our chapter's afterglow on June 4th, trying to make a lasting impression on

**Bill Biffle**, we attempted the screaming tag that made the "Nubbins" famous—"King's Highway".

We made a lasting impression alright! Bill pulled his Society membership card from his billfold and tore it up!!

Has the Society ever had a quartet that never sang ...only told jokes? We're giving it consideration. ~

# HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR 2002

by Kent McClean

Yes, there will be a Holiday Show this year! Mark your calendars for December 7. Show times 2:00 and 7:30. The location is the Unity Village Activities Center (near I-470 & M-350 highways). This is a great facility which seats a little over 1,000. We expect a sold-out house for both shows and a nice profit for the chapter.

This is a joint effort between HOA and the Kansas City Sweet Adelines Chorus, where we sing mostly holiday theme songs, including a number of songs by the combined chorus. Also featured will be our own *12th Street Rag*, *ZING* (Sweet Adelines regional quartet champion), and other quartets from both chapters.

More details will follow in the coming months. ~

# HEARTLAND HARMONY HAPPENING

by Lud Einness, SBM



I just returned from Missouri Western College in St. Joseph, MO, after attending "Heartland Harmony Happening", formerly mini-hep school. This event is Central State Districts condensed version of the Society's Harmony College.

We checked in Friday night, had a general session and then adjourned to the dining room for all the ice cream you can eat, and some woodshedding and tag singing.

Saturday started with a great breakfast, the general session and then classes all day, with breaks for lunch and dinner, then the parade of quartets and the Beatrice, NE chorus show, then more ice cream and singing.

We had a great faculty, including our own **David Krause** and **Raymond Schwarzkopf**, and classes to satisfy any barbershopper, regardless of their interest.

And all of this for less than \$100, such a deal.

Of the 90 plus attendees, I am sorry to say that aside from Dave and Raymond, and *Arpeggio*, who were there for coaching, **Tom Millot** and I were the only members of the Kansas City chapter there.

Because we are continually trying to improve in all aspects of our performance, and the coaching is at a very high level, I would think the chapter would make every effort to recruit as many members as possible to attend this most worthwhile event. This is an opportunity to digest a lot of barbershop craft, and enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow barbershoppers.

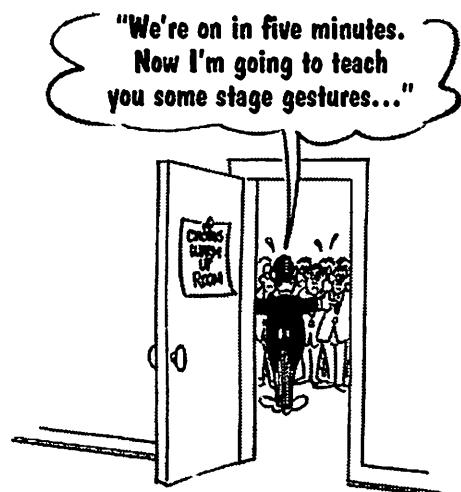
Won't you please consider attending en masse next year—June 6 & 7? You will have a guaranteed good time, while improving our barbershop skills. ~

*(Editor's Note: Lud's article reminded me of the time I attended what was then called "Mini-Harmony College." I remembered the entire weekend—being immersed in tags and classes designed to help me be a better barbershopper. I was blown away by the knowledge of the leaders...and how little sleep any one got!*

*Lud's right on target. It's a true bargain and a whale of a time. Heck, this editor may just have to take some vacation time to attend the 2003 version!)*

# JUST FOUR FUN

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



"I sold two hundred show tickets  
...to my mother."

Cartoons by John Morris

**DEADLINE FOR THE  
AUGUST ISSUE OF**

## Harmonotes

Articles and photos are due by

**MONDAY, JULY 22**

For more information,  
call Todd at 816-373-8633

## A LOOK AT THE PAST IN *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

### ***Ten Years Ago - July, 1992***

David Krause announced that *Special Touch* would perform their final public appearance at the Northwest Missouri University Music Camp. According to David, the immediate reason for the retirement of one of HOA's best-ever quartets was that **Matt Moore** had expressed a desire to "sing bass again and has recently been distracted from barbershop by his work and a very shortly due first child." David didn't know at the time what the future held in store for *Special Touch*, but I seem to recall that after a change or two in personnel, they were right back at it again.

We found this "Briefly" in the July 1992 *Harmonotes*:

"In case you haven't seen the announcement in the Kansas City Star (or heard it on Channel 4), TV weatherman and longtime HOA member **Dan Henry Bowser** will retire on November 27. Dare we hope that Dan, who was the baritone of the popular comedy quartet, the *Merry Mugs*, and one of the finest barbershop MC's ever to tear up a bad joke, will be able to spend a little time with us on Tuesday evenings? Well, it took a little time, but he's been back for some time now, as active as ever, and the other three *Tone-Henges* couldn't be happier.

Our *Harmonotes* editor announced there would be a complete report on our accomplishments at the International contest in New Orleans in the August issue. He gives no reason, but it was probably because by the time we got home, it was well into July. Also, **Jim Bagby** gave us a clue when he referred in the "Armwaveers Outlook" to what he called the "Louisians Lunacy."



### ***Twenty Years Ago - July, 1982***

HOA Convention Chairman **Clyde Mensen** used the front page and two additional pages to provide complete details for the HOA trip to Pittsburgh for the 1982 International convention and contests. We stayed at the Marriott Inn, and the convention headquarters were in the William Penn Hotel.

**Al Moritz** describes the trip to Meramec State Park to join fellow barbershoppers for the 28th Annual No Fishin'-No Huntin' weekend (I believe it was hosted by one of the St. Louis chapters). Traveling in motor homes driven by **Barney Wasson** and **John Stucker**, the group also included **Nile Abbott**, **Terry Smelcer**, **Al Moritz**, **Keith Schweer**, **Ed Fleeman**, **Rod Rule** and the **Lankenau brothers**, **Ross**, **Gordon** and **Wayne**. The idea was to spend Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning doing a great deal of woodshedding, with a horseshoe pitching tournament and a Saturday evening show for the campers in general. Oh, yes, there was supposed to have been a float down the river. However, bad weather plagued the guys for most of the weekend, and many of those in attendance chose to stay in camp and try to keep warm.

### ***Thirty-Five Years Ago - July, 1967***

Editor **Don Thorne** reported the passing of **Ben Franklin** on May 24. Ben sang lead with the old Barberpole Cats, later known as the Kansas City Serenaders who finished in second place at the 1941, 1942, 1943, 1946, and 1947 International contests. They also won the CSD championship in 1948. When Ben joined the Kansas City Chapter in 1939, he was the only barber in the entire Society. ~



# A TIP OF THE HAT



**A tip of the hat goes to:**

**Rosemary Calderon**  
(from El Paso, Texas) for  
her choreography coaching  
June 11, 2002. She did a super job.

**Bill Biffle**, from Albuquerque, NM, for  
his super singing coaching June 4,  
2002.

**Mike Neff, Jim Bagby and Mike Mathieu** who spent their time to transport **Bill Biffle and Rosemary Calderon** to the rehearsal hall. ~

 **HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
*to the following members!*

<b>Marv Faulwell</b>	<b>July 6</b>
<b>Alex Scott</b>	<b>July 10</b>
<b>Al Moritz</b>	<b>July 12</b>
<b>Matt Moore</b>	<b>July 18</b>
<b>Jake Pirner</b>	<b>July 19</b>
<b>Lee Tubbs</b>	<b>July 20</b>
<b>Mike Neff</b>	<b>July 21</b>
<b>Calvin Yoder</b>	<b>July 22</b>
<b>Paul Raikula</b>	<b>July 24</b>
<b>David Miller</b>	<b>July 26</b>
<b>Vince Perry IV</b>	<b>July 30</b>

# WHACHA THINK?

*Test your barbershop trivia skills!*

**Question:**

Name the quartet, its members and its claim to fame in 1987.



**Answer:** "4-Ever Pals", L to R: **Michael Tryor**, **Dan Engelhardt** (Bass), **Wesley Yoder** (Lead), **Dennis Roth** (Bari) Were CSD Novice Champs in Fall, 1987.

# SUNSHINE REPORT

**JoAnn Bagby's** mother, **Violet Robbins**, passed away recently. She had been ill for some time. Our prayers go out to the Bagbys for their loss.

**Dave Upp** has been hospitalized 5 times since last September, for 3 different problems. Nothing that is immediately life-threatening, but 3 of the 5 hospitalizations were for GI-bleeding, and one of those times involved being transfused with 14 units of blood, packed cells, plasma, etc. Dave says he is doing fine—is just feeling very weak. He says send sympathy, cards and chocolate. If pressed for time, omit the cards. If VERY pressed for time, omit the sympathy! ~

**We received this recent note from long-time member Dick Sutton:**

"This chorus I'm directing in Columbia City, (Indiana) is growing nicely, up to 23 members from about 15 a year ago. Our singing is getting better also. My 23 years of training in HOA really is paying off!" —**Dick**

## ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK

By Jim Bagby

I hafta apologize to the chapter and the CSD for not making a bigger effort to get our chapter members to attend the district's annual "Harmony Happening" harmony education program (HEP) school, this month in St. Joseph. It's a very worthwhile effort that the district's second-largest chapter should be supporting—just 60 miles up the road.

The CSD HEP was the same weekend as the annual Associated Press Broadcasters meeting I head up here. So, I had to drop off the faculty and kind of lost school in the shuffle. But let's all plan to do better next June!

I was reminded of our CSD education effort when I was part of the Harmony College East coaching staff a couple of weekends back in Salisbury, Md. (Crab country!). The Mid-Atlantic District HEP is the second-largest in the Society, second only to Harmony College each August at Missouri Western.

Under Dean **Ron Knickerbocker**, who'll be remembered as bari of the Regents (winners here in 1974), the school this year attracted 33 quartets, 6 choruses, 15 high school boys quartets, 4 high school girls foursomes and several hundred students. If you ever get a chance to take in that weekend, do!

One final word about the MAD school: look out for their several qualifiers for the MBNA Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest in Portland. They have some impressive and hard-working talent. The MAD qualifiers for the regular Portland contest also were on hand, along with Saturday Evening Post from the SWD—but those of us on the Portland panel didn't listen to their performances...

Elsewhere in this issue, I commend to you the reminders from dedicated assistant director **Mike Neff**, and a look at the hard-working music team, as described by my whip-cracking superior, Music Veep **Keith Schweer**. ~



## FATHER & SONS!

At our June 11 rehearsal, **Phil Veltkamp** brought two of his sons by!

**Chad**, shown on the far left, is 10. **Timothy**, shown standing directly in front of Phil, is 8!

How thrilled we were to have them present. Sure hope they can come back again soon, and share in some harmony! ~

## UP THE CREEK by Dick Irwin

*Polecat Creek* has been continuing to get together as often as we can. During the late spring and into the summer months, we find more conflicts with extended work schedules. We're hoping to be able to come and perform for the chorus on a Tuesday evening in the near future.

Recently we had the privilege of performing, along with **Mike Mathieu** and his sons, for the American Cities convention in Washington Park. We greeted the arriving representatives at the gate with "Gee, But It's Great To Be In Kansas City" and some others they would recognize. The quartets combined before the festivities began and sang the National Anthem and "God Bless America." There were several hundred in attendance. At one point as PCC started to perform, the generator went down and we had to wait for about 10 minutes while a secondary power source was connected. We all had a great time, in spite of yours truly running a fever of about 103. ~

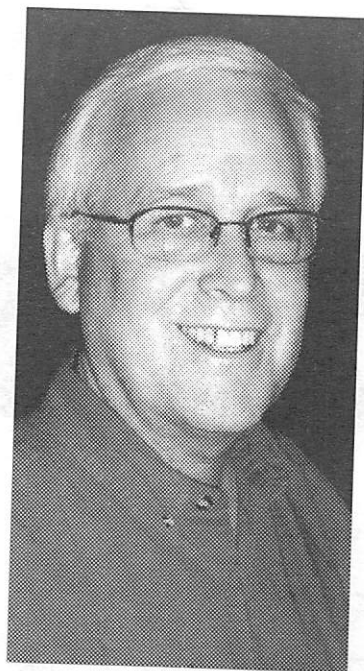


## BRING YOUR HANKY

A key part of the opening segment to the new "Changes Made" staging involves some flashy pocket hanky work. So plan to bring one with you every week; the actual ones will probably be at least a foot long. And you'll do yourself a favor if you bring a coat to meetings, too.

Later on we'll use the actual tuxes, to get very comfortable with the hanky moves. ~





## MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer  
Vice President of Music  
and Performance

We are about halfway through the year and I think we've come a long way. I think chapter meetings are well planned, effective, interesting and fun. I think, with our new emphasis on better singing, that we have made significant improvement in that area (and will continue to do more). I am encouraged by the positive attitude shown by our members and their

desire to improve. The primary focus of this article is to recognize and thank the members of our Music Team. They have put lots of time and effort into making the *Heart of America* a better chorus. They are enthusiastic, dedicated, enthusiastic, talented, enthusiastic, motivated, enthusiastic, energetic, and, in case I forgot to mention, enthusiastic. They all share a common goal—to return HOA to its rightful place—to be recognized as one of the very best performing choruses in our Society. We believe in this chorus and know we are on the right track. So, I'd like to thank **Jim, Mike Neff, Carter, Grant, Jerry, Kent, Dennis, Bruce, Darrell, Don, Shawn, John, Mike S., Mark, David, Reed, and Eric.**

## REMINDER TO ALL BUCKEYEROOS!

by Keith Schweer

The 2 songs we will be taping for qualification for Buckeye are, "I'm Beginning to See the Light" and "There'll Be Some Changes Made". The deadline to submit a qualifying tape is Tuesday, July 9. The standard for qualification is no more than 2 mistakes per song. A mistake is defined as a wrong word, wrong note or breathing in a place where we have been told no one should be breathing.

Most of you should be in pretty good shape with these 2 songs, so I encourage you to begin taping right away and not wait until the last night. That way, you'll have time to fix any errors you may have and not put too much of a burden on your section leaders. If you have any questions about the process, please ask me or anyone on the Music Team.

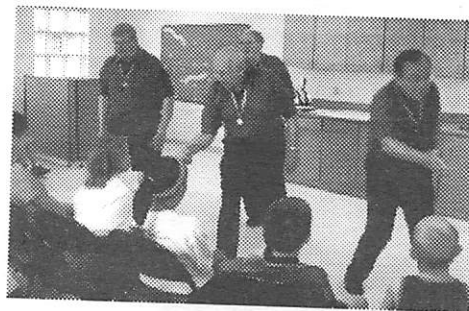
## JUNE: Another busy month for *Gentlemen Of Note!*

by Rich Hyuck

*The Music Man* has presented a real challenge as well as being a great deal of fun. The cast, orchestra, and crew are as near to Broadway professional capability as can be found anywhere! We hope that all of you *Harmonotes* readers will have had the opportunity to see the the production before the run is complete. We enjoyed *The Musical Firm* and the Mass chorus as pre-show entertainment for the first two nights of the production.

In addition to the Music Man, GON have had other engagements, not the least of which was for the Mission Parks & Recreation Summer Arts Camp. We presented the barbershop style of music to about 40 youngsters ages 6-11. They really seemed to enjoy the harmony (see photo below). **Diedre Brown**, assistant director of the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines, assisted us in the presentation and she will be working with the interested kids through the rest of the summer.

Needless to say, we will be looking forward to some evenings with nothing to do but regular quartet and HOA rehearsals as we gear up for the fall contest in Wichita!



*Gentlemen of Note warming up the young crowd of excited youngsters!*



# Heart of America



## July-August Calendar

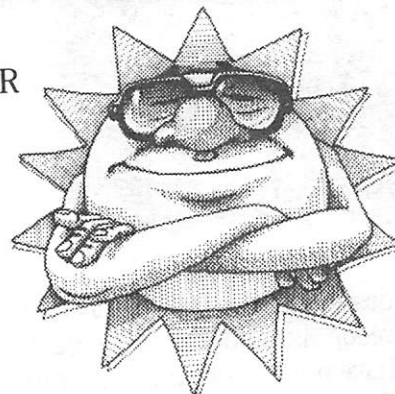
**June 30-July 6** SPEBSQSA contest and convention, Portland, OR

**July 21** HOA Music in the Park, Overland Park

**July 25** Extra Buckeye Rehearsal

**July 26-28** Society C&J Candidate School, St. Joseph

**July 28-Aug. 3** Harmony College, St. Joseph



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