

Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2002, Issue 3



MUSICAL NOTES by Keith Schweer

I want to thank each of you for your cooperation and attention as we prepare for our annual show. With **Jim** being unavailable on March 9, we're using several others to shoulder the directing duties. **Mike, Carter, Mark, David** and **Darrell** are all busy working to get their assigned songs in performance shape. We're very lucky to have that kind of talent to draw on, but it can make for some scheduling and organizational challenges. All of them, along with

Jim and PVP **Jerry Garrard**, have done an excellent job of keeping the rehearsals on schedule and productive. I'm looking forward to a fun and successful show.

I'd like to give you a short update on the status of our efforts to upgrade the way we make learning "tapes". A small committee made up of music team members is exploring ways of recording part-predominant "files" directly to a computer. From there, these learning files could be posted on the HOA website where members could listen and learn or download the file to their hard drive and "burn" themselves a CD on their home computers. After that, they could either use the CD in their car or make themselves a cassette tape.

After the show, we'll devote time at a chapter meeting to demonstrate or talk through how this could work. Don't despair, though. For those of you who don't have the necessary gear to make your own CDs or cassette tapes, we'll continue to make them for you. We know many of you will welcome these advances. We also know that if we wait until everyone has the same capabilities, we'll never make any advances.

Finally, in an effort to improve the quality of our singing, we have scheduled two coaching sessions over the next few weeks. The first will be March 19, with Kenosha staffer **Kirk Young**. The second will be April 2, when **Bill Biffle**, singing judge from Albuquerque, will visit HOA.

As you can see, we have a lot going on musically and it's probably not going to let up. So, jump on the bandwagon—we're going to have a fast, fun and challenging year. ~

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WALTER 'SURE BARB' YODER
Jim Bagby provides some warm insight into this former HOA member and "wellspring of RR4."



The final count is in the process of being completed, but gross receipts for the 2002 HOA Singing Valentine program are estimated to be in excess of \$21,000!

Approximately **417 orders** were booked for the two-day Singing Valentine program by HOA and Sweet Adeline Quartets. Deducting the non-deliverable orders, missed orders due to bad directions and recipients not being where they were supposed to be, the total delivered Valentine's is expected to be **over 375**. This may very well be a record for the Kansas City Missouri Chapter and Heart of America Chorus!

COMING MARCH 9!

The Heart of America Chorus Proudly Presents its 56th Annual
BARBERSHOP SHOW!

Featuring PLATINUM, 12th Street Rag and Gentlemen of Note!

Harmonotes

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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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CHAPTER INFORMATION

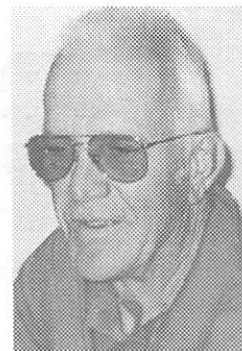
Chapter meets at 7:00 P.M. each Tuesday night, at: St. Peter's United Church of Christ
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A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker



John Stucker

This has been an incredibly busy month for me. The month started out with my wife flunking a stress test, followed by a heart catherization, followed by an angioplasty and stent in one artery. She made it through all this very well, so I went ahead and went on the first of my planned ski trips about a week after she came home.

I returned home in time to deliver some 30 valentines. My quartet started at 7:45 AM and delivered the last valentine about 7 PM. One valentine was particularly memorable.

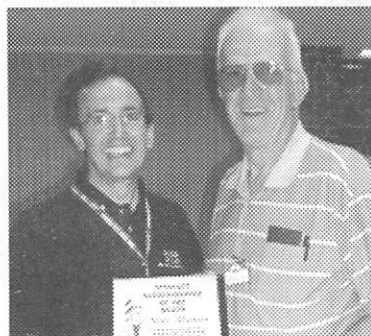
We were to deliver a valentine at a dental office. When we arrived, the victim (recipient) was busy cleaning the teeth of a patient. Not having time to wait, the quartet gathered around the dental chair and presented the valentine package. It did not take long to draw a crowd. Before we were done, several more patients were looking on, as well as the rest of the staff of the dental office.

The next day I left for my second (and last) ski trip. This trip took me to Taos, New Mexico. The scenery was beautiful, the mountain difficult, and I returned early Tuesday morning exhausted but satisfied.

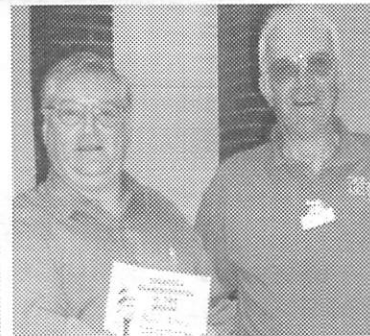
As I write this article we have only four or five rehearsals left before the spring show, which is our main source of income for the entire year. The music is coming along very nicely. Ticket sales are going well but could be much better. Did you do your part? Did you sell tickets? Did you learn ALL the music and choreography? Were you happy with your performance?

Speaking of performances, we have two paid performances coming up real soon. One is the day after the show and the second is on April 7 in Richmond, MO. Let's get our names down on the sign-up sheets and bring 75 singers to both performances. ☺

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH!



Mike Mathieu
 December 2001



Reed Alberg
 January 2002

Both men are shown receiving their award from chapter president, **John Stucker**. Photos courtesy of **Ron McIntire**.

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK

by Jim Bagby

In this usual pre-show rush and crush, let's not hesitate to look ahead. How come? Because I see this as a most important period in determining how successful—and how rapid—will be the HOA comeback.

We will take the stage March 9 with only those who have worked hard, and qualified vocally and visually. We'll be missing a number of regulars, stalwarts and wanna-be's who could not, for one good reason or another, be with us this time. But we needa encourage them to jump in as soon as the show is over.

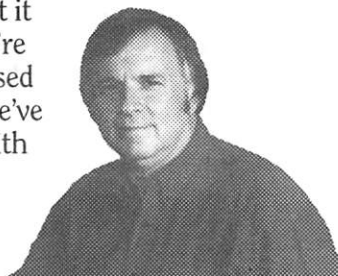
My personal goal is to put at least 90 guys on stage this fall—and we should! For the Buckeye Invitational this August, the board has agreed we need to be at least 70 strong to make the commitment. At this writing, we are just over 70 for the show, from an original sign-up of more than 80.

Here's a partial list of songs we hope to be learning in the near future: "Changes Made" (for contest); "Grand Night for Singing" (new opener); "Don't You Hate It When They Make You Sing Along" (comedy number for Buckeye and next year's show); "River of No Return," for the fun of it and audience reaction; "Let There Be Peace on Earth," for possible closer; "Friends," **David Wright** arrangement of **Michael W. Smith** song that has marvelous sentiment and even better tag (a *Tone-Henge* favorite...what other endorsement could we need?)

And we're gonna come out of the show with some dynamite new repertoire. We just proved we have at least 50 active and capable quartetters, from their participation in the ultra-successful Singing Valentines venture. As I said before, we have one of the most eager and dedicated music teams ever. And the new administration is working hard to back the musical approach that rightfully dominates our chapter mission.

Now the rest is up to us. How hard are we willing to work, week in and week out, to sing well? We have lots of blocking and tackling to do on fundamentals, improving our consistency and remembering to make the best sound all the time. We need to be able to transition more readily to performance mode, incorporating body, face and attitude.

And if we agree, as a chapter and as a chorus, that this is what we want HOA to be, can we persuade others not in the show chorus to join us? Size is not the ultimate determinate of our success—but it certainly indicates whether we're on the right track. I'm impressed and grateful for the progress we've made. But I hope you agree with me we can do and be so much more. ~



Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

- Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion**
Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists**
Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)
- HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion**
Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)
- Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion**
John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)
- BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion**
Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)
- The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion**
*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)
- The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion**
*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)
- The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion**
Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion**
Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion**
Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion**
*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion**
Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)
- 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion**
*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

- 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists**
*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)
- Arpeggio**
Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Mark Grisham (bari), Mike Griffin (bass)
- Crosstown Four**
Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)
- Heartland**
*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)
- Polecat Creek**
Lyle 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

SINGING VALENTINES 2002

by Jim Porter



This was to be my first experience delivering Singing Valentines, and it will be one of the most memorable days of my life. I was invited to take the tenor part with **Kim Hoffman** (lead), **John Stucker** (bass) and **Jim Davis** (bari) and cover the Olathe area on Valentines Day. We came together at 7:45 a.m., and it was to be a non-stop 12-hour day from that point, delivering nearly 30 Valentines to delighted ladies (and a gentleman) throughout southern Johnson County. The only regret is that we simply could not fill all the assignments we were given, and had to contact a handful of disappointed men to tell them their sweethearts could not be reached in time. Yes, there is an opportunity for YOU to join a quartet next year and share in the blessings!

I was the navigator, as I live in Olathe and had a good street map, and this proved to be an important function. Some people in Johnson County do a pretty good job of locating themselves in secluded areas, and getting to them is quite a challenge! Travel time is a serious consideration (we were in the van probably 8 of those 12 hours), but we never failed to find our target. Just consider how many little cul-de-sacs in Stanley are called "Beverly" and have house numbers in the 15700 block! Three or four at least!

The thing that makes the day is the variety of experiences. We saw them all, from people in cubicles to teachers in their class to dental assistants working on their patients. We were in Olathe Medical Center, Johnson County Community College, the Johnson County Administrative building, several schools, a restaurant or two, and in several people's homes. Our last gig in the evening was for four grade school age children from their grandfather (a barbershopper in Papillon, NE), which attracted the whole family and at least one neighbor family. Everywhere we went, we found surprised and delighted ladies and an audience of friends and co-workers, most of whom had cameras to record the moment. In many cases, they knew of us from the radio and TV spots, and I had no trouble giving out every card I had advertising our spring show.

One teacher at an Overland Park elementary school was surprised in the library of the school, together with her class of first-graders. In another school, the word was out before we came and several teachers and aides crowded into the room with the fourth graders and their teacher. We even invaded the Board of Education office and drew a crowd of workers there as we serenaded one of the workers. I especially loved the reaction as I presented the teddy bear with the "You are Loved" sweater as we hit the tag of our ditty. The smiles and squeals of delight were a perfect way to end our visit.

In the morning we delivered a valentine to a person in the office of a middle school in south Overland Park. Later in the day, we had another assignment at the same school. After we delivered that one, the lady we met in the morning came forward and asked us "Who sent that to me?" We checked our records, she looked at the sheet and exclaimed "That wasn't me! That teacher is in the elementary school just down the street!" We then went to the other school, found the correct person, and had perhaps our largest audience of the day! As we left, we realized how fortuitous it was that we were called to return to that school!

By the time we got to another school on the west side of Olathe, we found that the lady had left for the day. In this case, we called the gentleman and he invited us to visit her at her home, which we did in the early evening. In that

way, he was there and heard the presentation himself! Once again, things worked out for the best. It would not be the only time we worked out such an alternate arrangement.

Around noon, we visited a restaurant near I-35 in Olathe to sing for a lady who was sharing lunch with her date, and it was clear that we really hit it big as far as he was concerned! He thanked us profusely as we departed. We wish the two of them many happy years together!

When we finally cut through the afternoon traffic and reached the Johnson County Courthouse complex, we worked ourselves into the lady's department, but she was at a class in Johnson County Community College. (Hey, guys, before you sign up for this, know what your beau's schedule is for the day!) Her co-workers called her and we serenaded her over the telephone! She'll get the goodies from her co-workers on Friday. *(continued on next page ♦)*

**"As the day wore on,
our cell phone was
kept busy as new
orders flowed in.
We tried a couple
times to call and ask
for other quartets to
help, but the others
were in the same fix
we were in."**

In a doctor's office at Olathe Medical Center, we asked for the lady and she came out into our view, then disappeared again! It took some urging from her co-workers to get her to come out and accept our serenade, but she did, much to the delight of the co-workers and patients in the waiting room. She remained shy and overwhelmed, but the others did their best to make the occasion memorable for her.

When we visited a small dental office on Black Bob Road, we found our lady was a hygienist in the office, and was busy with a patient. No problem, we sang while the patient remained on his back in the chair, and soon had every person in the place in the little room with us. Consider what might happen next time you get your teeth cleaned!

One gal in her apartment was kind enough to invite us in despite the fact that her daughter had recently dumped so much stuff on her that her place barely had enough floor space for us to stand and sing. Funny how in these uncertain days that no one had any problem inviting four men dressed in flashy vests into their homes! It must be in the way we smiled, I guess.

Speaking of security, it is there, but for the most part, helpful and accommodating. When we reached the *Bayer* research facility, we had to sign in and get tags at the gate. We did so, but then were told our lady was out to lunch. They then allowed us to go out (with the tags) and return an hour later (after we had lunch), then drive to her building and serenade everyone in her place.

Later, at *Farmers Insurance*, the lady came down to the front door and accepted our valentine there. Seems that last year, she received one in her office space, and caught flak from management for allowing the quartet into the building. I suppose I should not say much about insurance companies as I have made my career with them! In the schools, we were first required to go to the office, but once they found out who we were, we were allowed to go into the classes.

Perhaps our most embarrassing moment (other than serenading the wrong lady) was at one work location in north Olathe where the paper said \$5 was paid for an "extra song". As we drove to the place, the three leads and a bass tried to determine what other song we could sing together, and we came up empty. We finally thought to do "My Wild Irish Rose", and sang it together a couple times in the van as we approached the location. We decided to go with it, but alas, when the time came to do it, we just could not get it going. We finally had to apologize and depart. I guess we owe someone \$5. There's something to be said for learning to sing the

polecats together in quartets, and to learn other voice parts!

All in all, it was a hectic, but delightful day. It became clear to us early that just getting from one place to another would make us time-tight all day, and there is a skill involved in ordering the pages to minimize travel time between gigs and avoid the high traffic areas. As the day wore on, our cell phone was kept busy as new orders flowed in. We tried a couple times to call and ask for other quartets to help, but the others were in the same fix we were in. We were able to cover most of the orders, some of them via alternate arrangements outside the targeted time period, but we missed a few, and we regret it, since we know each one results in a disappointed lady and a fellow with some explaining to do. But we got through, even though at times we weren't sure we could hold up.

To wrap up, a special thank you to our wives, who gave up their special day to let us sing for others and make their day special. Without you, Singing Valentines would never have happened at all. We sang for others, but the words were really meant for you. ~

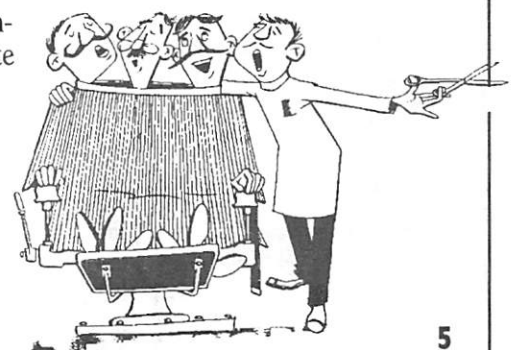
UP THE CREEK by Dick Irwin

Polecat Creek was all together for this years' HOA Singing Valentine program. We made ourselves available both Wednesday and Thursday.

On Wednesday we mainly delivered Valentines to customers in the northern area of the city. We went as far away as Kearney. We were very fortunate to have lunch donated by *First Watch* restaurant on Armour Road in downtown North Kansas City. Excellent food!

On Thursday we worked mostly in the Lee's Summit area. We had asked to be placed out there because two of our members live in that area. We actually performed two repeat orders from 2001. At lunch, we were standing in line at the *Fazolli's* restaurant on Missouri 291. The manager on duty asked if we were a quartet. When we replied yes, she said she would buy us lunch if we would sing for them. Well, they twisted our arms just right, got a couple of songs, and we got a great lunch.

We are still planning to participate in the CSD spring prelims in April down in Columbia. Sure hope to see lots of our HOA friends in the crowd! ~



GET THE WORD OUT!

by Dick Korek,
Marketing
Vice-President



The success we enjoyed delivering an unprecedented number of Singing Valentines is a result of MANY individuals and radio/television.

The individuals are us, every member of the chorus. Our willingness to participate made it happen. Wasn't it fun to be part of making so many people happy? The extraordinary cooperation of various radio and TV folks demonstrated the power of that media and just how effective they can be. It just plain worked!

Radio and TV will play a big part in "getting the word out" for our March show. Here's how:

KCMO Radio - Mike Murphy - will be airing commercials starting Feb. 25. Included in the package is about 30 minutes "live" with Mike Murphy on Monday, March 4. *Gentlemen of Note* will be there with **Dan Henry**. *WOW!!!*

TV-5 will be airing 30 second commercials starting Monday Feb., 25

KUDL will be airing commercials on radio about 10 days prior to the show.

STAR ads will appear in "Preview" Friday 1 and 8 and in the *Foods* section March 6.

Most important, tho, is YOU. Use the flyers and cards to promote your hobby.

With everyone's help the show will be a sellout. We are well on our way so let's keep promoting...promoting.

AND...a second mailing of direct mail flyers went out Feb. 15th. *WOW!!!*

This promises to be the "SHOW OF SHOWS".



ST-H and S.V. GO TOGETHER LIKE MILK AND GERITOL

by Jim Bagby

Sure, we like doing Singing Valentines, but there are some special hurdles for us to overcome. One of them is starting at the crack of dawn, when we can't be heard over the creaking of **Dan's** bones. And **Keith** needs special guidance until he's had a least three cups of coffee. **Bruce** can only do a couple of deliveries before he starts asking "Is it beer time?"



Well, you get the idea. But the biggest obstacle is fending off the waves of blue hairs who fling themselves at Bowser, croaking "Oh, Dan, we miss you so much...see, Agnes, I told you it was him!" And at least every other stop, some bright soul hollers, "Hey, Dan, what's the weather gonna' be like?" And Dan always smiles and says, "I have no idea." As if he ever did.

But amidst our many delightful experiences with weeping wives and embarrassed girlfriends and cubicle dwellers surrounded by chortling and/or envious workmates, there was one especially bright spot for us three regular Dan Henry groupies. At one stop, a woman in the background kept whispering to a colleague, and as we left she asked our so-called lead, "Didn't you use to be at *Tiffany's Attic*?" Bruce, Keith and I assured her that yes, he was the world's oldest Kazoo.

We delivered a couple-dozen SV and had almost universally enjoyable experiences, including at schools and hospitals, law offices and retirement homes—despite the fatigue that made our advanced age so evident. Ask us about sweet **Merle**, whose arthritic hands would not allow her to open the envelope. Or about the square-jawed nurse who smiled throughout and never lost her composure, while a young lady behind her wept copiously throughout (yeah, yeah, it coulda been our pipe playing or singing). And at Union Station, we threw in "Sweet and Lovely" for a recipient so we could bounce the high-F tag off the soaring ceiling.

We could not have done it without the expert driving of my wife, Joann, and the here's-the-next-stop assistance of her navigator, Keith's wife, **Connie**. And we were most impressed with the way the headquarters staff made the assignments so we were able to get logically from one stop to the next.

Suspect we speak for all the participants when we say we were proud to be part of the record effort.

THE TAX MAN COMETH

by Reed Sampson,
SPEBSQSA Public Relations Manager

Some things you do as a Barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize you deductions, you may be entitled to include some expense for barbershop activity.

If you had verifiable out-of-pocket expense in connection with a chapter duty as an elected or appointed officer or board member, or, if you sang in one or more local shows, such expenses as travel (14¢ per mile, or actual cost) telephone, postage, parking, etc., for which you were not reimbursed are deductible.

Expense of travel to chapter meetings is not deductible unless you hold an office directly involved in conduct of the meeting.

A different rule applies to travel away-from-home. Transportation, meals and lodging may only be deducted if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the trip. If golf games, sightseeing, and similar activities heavily overbalance singing and participation in meetings as a duty for the away-from-home expenses, these expenses would not be deductible.

The cost of tuition at schools is specifically barred as a deduction as well as dues.

If you use these deductions, here is the procedure. With Form 1040, use Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, other than cash or check," enter the total of your out-of-pocket expense. (Remember the words "non-reimbursed" and "verifiable.") If over \$500 attach the appropriate schedule and categorize expenses by groups (lodging, transportation, etc.), captioned "Expenses incurred in connection with contributions of services to an organization classed as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)." Then state the name and location of your chapter and the full name of the Society.

Your chapter should have a list of events that are applicable to this expense tabulation.

Your cash contributions to the chapter or the Society or to Harmony Foundation Inc. (for the General Fund to support our service projects or to the

Endowment Program) are directly deductible. Include this figure in Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, cash or check." Be sure to retain verifying records such as appointment books, calendars with notes, etc. Additional information is available at: <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Operations/taxdeduct.htm>.



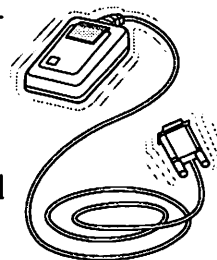
What's 'Net To Like?

by Carter Combs

Have you checked out www.hoachorus.org lately? If you haven't, because for a while there wasn't much to see, it's time to look again!

Joe Mathieu is putting the public portion of our chapter website back together, and it is starting to shape up nicely. We lost most of our files when we changed servers, so he's reconstructing most of it from memory, and enhancing as he goes.

Not only that, but Jerry Gerrard is adding a brand-spanking new *Members* section. It will very soon contain megabytes of "stuff" you've only been able to get on Tuesdays... directories, *In-Tunes*, and some surprises that will astound you! (If you don't have internet access, don't worry! The "stuff" will still be available the old-fashioned way!)



Now, with all this web-building in progress, we need your help. Chorus pictures, chapter history, calendar items, public relations and most anything else we might want on our website would be very much welcome. If possible, please get material to me in electronic format, via email or on disc. I will also accept "hard copy," but it'll just take longer to convert. I will then pass the information on to the appropriate Web Master, along with any other suggestions and ideas.

Oh, and remember to thank Joe & Jerry for all their hard, completely voluntary, work! ~

**DEADLINE FOR THE
APRIL ISSUE OF
*Harmonotes***

Articles and photos are due by
**TUESDAY,
MARCH 19**

For more info, call 816-373-8633

JUST FOUR FUN

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

OH, PLEASE!

Two boll weevils grew up in South Carolina. One went to Hollywood and became a famous actor. The other stayed behind in the cotton fields and never amounted to much. The second one, naturally, became known as the lesser of two weevils.

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, but when they lit a fire in the craft, it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it, too.

A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West. He slides up to the bar and announces: "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

A woman has twins and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Ahmal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Ahmal."

Mahatma Gandhi, as you know, walked barefoot most of the time, which produced an impressive set of callouses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. This made him... a super calloused fragile mystic hexed by halitosis.

And finally, there was the person who sent ten different puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. Unfortunately, no pun in ten did.

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - March 1992

The HOA board of directors held its February meeting in the CEC building at the Johnson County Community College. Present as guest were Kathryn Lee, Director of Sales and Marketing for the Kansas City Municipal Auditorium, and a representative of JCCC. Prior to the meeting, the JCCC representative took board members on a tour of the auditorium and theater facilities in the CEC Building with a view to determining whether they would be suitable for our annual show. Later, the meeting began with a lengthy discussion of the various problems that had come up. Mainly, the malfunctioning of sound and lighting equipment, over recent years during our annual shows in the Music Hall. Ms. Lee confessed to a complete lack of knowledge regarding these problems and promised to look into them and get back to the board. As I recall, the board was mainly interested in Yardley Hall which they found to be a bit too small and without a curtain on the stage. Wonder whether the situation at the Music Hall ever improved?

Chapter President **Mike Mathieu** reported a profit of over \$1,300 from the sale of 52 "Singing Valentines." Remember, this was only the second effort at what would later become a very significant source of revenue for the chapter. Coordinator **Monty Duerksen** gave a great deal of the credit for this success to **Vic Stensrud**, who handled the collection of money.

At the "Sweetheart Dinner" following the Singing Valentines campaign, **Ed** and **Ruth Sundermeyer** won the prize for the longest marriage, and **Jim** and **Betty White** were the most recent newlyweds.

Ed Sundermeyer reported that the *Crosstown Four* finished in a disappointing 20th place at the international seniors Quartet Contest in Long Beach, CA. Ed blamed the poor showing on a late start in preparation for the contest. He said they had only about two weeks to rehearse. Besides Ed, who sang the lead, members were **Ron Abel** (bari), **Dale Neuman** (tenor), and **Fred Whisman** (bass). Ed's report also indicates they all had a good time.

Twenty Years Ago - March 1982

On Saturday, Feb. 13, 80 or so CSD barbershoppers, including 50 from HOA, assembled at St. Peter's Church for a coaching session with **Joe Liles** (then our Society's Director of Music Education and Services), and the incomparable **Dave Stevens** (now deceased). Joe gave us pointers on how to take care of our voices and how to maintain pitch while singing. Dave also explained the requirements a song must meet in order to qualify as a good contest song. The last of these was the "melody must lay still once in a while in order to create opportunities for tiddleys."

Al Benz announced his resignation as editor of *Harmonotes*. Said Al, "A bright, energetic, efficient and dedicated barbershopper, **Dennis Yeager**, will be taking over this position."

Congratulations were extended to **Lance** and **Pat Heilmann** and their new valentine, **Stephen Lance Heilmann**.

And, we thought this was kind cute: "FOR SALE: One lady's *Heartbeat* shirt, size XL asking \$10 (ten dollars). Please call **Sandy Rule**, 268-6684 (I used to wear X-large, but not now)."

Thirty-Five Years Ago - April, 1967

Chapter president **Sam Solomon** announced that for the first time "in many years," the Music Hall was sold out for the annual show. Sam said that 95 percent of the tickets were sold by chapter members. The other 5 percent were sold at the box office. Times were different back in those days, *weren't they?* ~

From the Heartbeats

by Carol Ramirez, President

Thanks to **Juli Weber** for sharing at our Feb. 5 meeting how to put together creative photo albums our families and friends can treasure forever. Great job, Juli!

Thanks to **Sandy Rule, Joan Korek, Roberta Porter, Dan and Estyl Bowser and Sarah Fortino** and girls for fluffing the *Helzberg* teddy bears and making deliveries of extra supplies during the *Singing Valentines* days.

Gentlemen, it's not too early to start thinking about attending Harmony College.

Again this year a full scholarship will be offered through the **Orval Wilson** Memorial Fund. Be watching for further details

Our next *Heartbeat* meeting will be at 7 p.m., May 14 at St. Peter's United Church of Christ, 110th and Holmes. ~

SUNSHINE REPORT



Gordy Coleman sends a note containing good news, "Thanks to all of the HOA Barbershoppers and *Heartbeats* for your prayers and expressions of concern for **Marilou** before and after her surgery on Jan 24. The prognosis is excellent and she is recovering on schedule. She will be resuming normal activities gradually and expects to be active on the tennis court and golf course by his summer."

We are sad to hear that **Dick Irwin's** father is now in the Pleasant Valley Manor. He is terminally ill diagnosed with congestive heart failure and end-stage renal disease. Our prayers for an extra measure of God's strength and comfort go out to Dick and his entire family. ~

VINCE PERRY RECEIVES EXTRA MILE AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2002

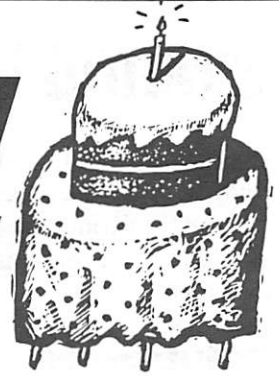


"Dumb!" "Dumb!" Vince was heard to say as he accepted his award from chapter president, **John Stucker**.

In retrospect, he sorta wishes he had reconsidered before driving from St. Joseph to South Kansas City in the face of the worst ice storm the Kansas City area has seen in a long time. Don't you wish everyone had that level of commitment? ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following members!



Ronald Stowell	March 2
Eugene Bowers	March 3
Ron McIntire	March 4
David Krause	March 6
Donald Koehnlein	March 10
David Upp	March 13
Eric Weber	March 16
Rodney Flater	March 17
Don Young	March 17
Charles Ramirez	March 23
John Winfiel	March 24
James Kinyon	March 24
Gerald Meier	March 29

CHAPTER DIRECTORY

by Ron McIntire

Production and collection of the chapter directory information is currently under way. At the present time I'm trying to add a new section, probably located near the back, that will be a listing of what I call "Friends of the Chapter." It will include long time members who, for one reason or another, have become inactive, members, like **John Pennington** and **Bill Power** who sang with HOA for a number of years but who have transferred to other chapters and non-member supporters of HOA. The section will be small at first but will grow. Estimated publish date will be the first week in March. ~



BILL POWER PAYS HOA A VISIT

Bill is a pilot in the USAF, and sang bass with HOA for three years before being relocated to Edwards

AFB in California, in late 2000. He is currently singing with the *Masters of Harmony* in Santa Fe Springs, CA. He and his wife, **Carrie**, have one child who was born shortly before they moved to California.

Recently, Bill was town couldn't pass up an opportunity to see old friends. *Welcome Bill*. It's good to see you!

SINGING VALENTINES 2002 WRAP UP by Phil Veltkamp

The successes that we are able to enjoy from SV02 campaign are completely attributable to volunteer work and donations from our sponsors.

Volunteers

John Landry - I would like to thank him for co-chairing this massive project. When under fire, he simply hunkers down and gets to work. When under more fire, he hunkers down further and works harder. We would have had a complete meltdown and disastrous day on the 14th if it were not for the efforts of one John Landry. He handled all of the quartets, their supplies, made the zones, assigned the deliveries, and personally phoned about one hundred orders to quartets.

Dick Korek - Dick is working huge amounts of hours every week for the benefit of our chapter. He works tirelessly and with excellence as his goal. Thanks to Dick for seeing the unprecedented radio and TV campaign thru this year.

Mike Mathieu - Mike was always available to do the tough stuff. He organized most of the quarteting for the promos. He acquired the phones and the three prizes for the drawing. Thanks to Mike for his steady work in making SV02 a success.

Kim Hoffman - Kim made himself available for organizational meetings, donated supplies bags from his business, and worked on ideas for promotion and with the message service.

Ron McIntire - Ron worked several days getting ready for the order entry tasks that he headed up again this year. He also handled the wrap up tasks of messages, moneys, and reporting.

Susan Landry - Susan came in and ran the order entry system on

the 14th and speed thru entry on hundreds of orders. Thanks to Susan for working some long days so soon after the surgery that you are recovering from. Get better soon!

Joan Korek - Joan was willing to do anything that needed to be done. She worked on preparing the supplies, acquiring cards when we ran out, and ran all over the city resupplying outlying quartets.

Sandy Rule - Sandy was a supply queen. She resupplied outlying quartets and hustled to acquire additional bears, candy, and flowers. Next time you see Sandy or Joan, tell them thanks for their efforts on SV02.

Gordy Coleman - at them time of this writing, he was waiting for the credit card info so that the chapter could realize credit card revenue from SV02. Thanks to Gordy for heading this up. This is thankless (unless you thank 'im) work spread out over many weeks.

Marilyn Roberts - She coordinated the most successful SA-TKCC SV02 campaign to date. Thanks to Marilyn and The Kansas City Chorus for working side by side with us in delivering so many valentines to men. Their participation in the promotion was excellent and unprecedented.

Carol Ramirez - Carol coordinated a SV week schedule in handling supply preparation. In an effort not to forget anyone, I won't mention anyone by name. There were a dozen or so *Heartbeats*, *Sweet Adeline's*, and others who helped her in this cause. Thanks *Heartbeats* and thanks Carol!

Spouses (and families) of those who were in quartets making the deliveries - Thanks for allowing them to take time out to participate in this great fund raiser. SV does take up family time, vacation time,

and all of Valentine's Day. Thanks for allowing the men and women to go out and have fun with this hobby, bringing joy to hundreds of recipients, and raising money for Children's Mercy Hospital and our two barbershop chapters.

The quartets - Thanks to all of you, who participated on the front line and actually made the deliveries, from all of us, who did not. Your work is what makes Singing Valentines possible year in and year out. I'm sure that it is a great feeling to know that you truly delivered joy to dozens of valentine recipients. That's what Singing Valentines is all about.

Sponsors

Helzberg Diamonds - What can I say? They have become a major part of Singing Valentines. Helzberg donated 600 bears for us to use for promotion and deliveries. They donated the tennis bracelet Grand Prize. Great thanks to **Tyrone Myrick** of Helzberg for continuing to sponsor SV and making what we can deliver so much better.

Homewood Suites - What they do for us gets better and better each year, too. **Kim White** is very generous by donating our suite to us for the week, and feeding us to boot. Thanks to Kim and her staff for making us feel welcome the entire week and for proving us with absolutely everything we asked for - tables, chairs, trashcans, dollies, workers, etc . . .

Verizon Wireless - They continue to provide the cellular communications for SV. Our need for cellular services continues to increase. Without Verizon, what we do would either be impossible or evasive on everyone's personal cellular minutes.



(continued from page 10)

KC Marriott Downtown and Hotel Phillips – Thanks to them for providing great first prizes for our drawings.

Children's Mercy Hospital – Our SV charity. They have been extremely supportive of HOA and SV. I am looking forward to presenting a very large check to purchase a piece of equipment for the Hearing and Speech Center.

Conclusion

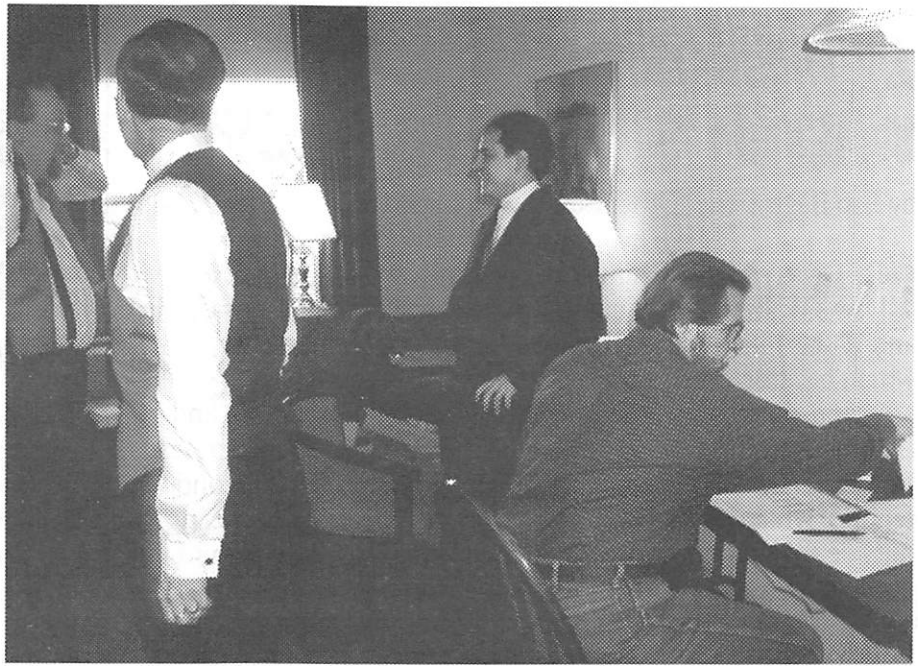
I'll be providing the board with a wrap up and ideas for SV03. Be thinking ahead on how you can help next year to make this project even better. Do you have skills in the following support areas?

Pre-Valentine Week – Quartet Recruiting / Qualification, Supply Acquisition, Headquarters Acquisition, Phone Acquisition, Prizes Planning and Acquisition, and Radio / TV promotion.

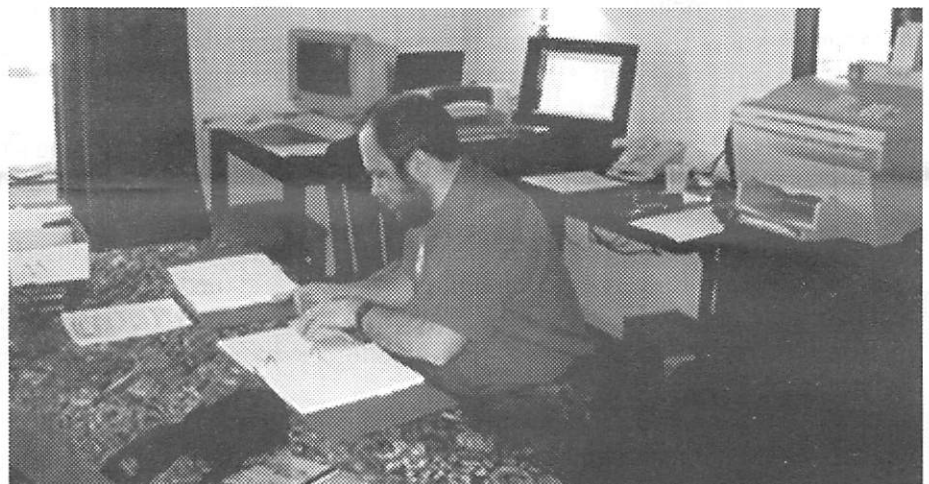
Valentine Week – Message Service Coordination, Order QA, Message Processing, Quartet Communications, Supply Coordination, and Order Entry.

Post-Valentine Week – Revenue Coordination, follow-up with those who ordered and those who received deliveries, and publication reporting.

Now lets go have a record breaking Spring Show (or should I call it the SS02?!)



John Landry manning the phones and organizing quartets. Left to right: **Jerry Garrard, Mike Mathieu, Shawn Jeffries, John Landry.**



Phil Veltkamp hard at work organizing valentine orders. Not shown are **Ron McIntire** and **Susan Landry**, data entry gurus! (Above photos courtesy of **Ron McIntire**)

A TIP OF THE HAT by Ron McIntire



This month's TOH goes to everyone who worked on and supported the 2002 Singing Valentine Program. Especially, **Phil Veltkamp** and **John Landry** for management of the program, **Dick Korek** for his marketing efforts in advertising the Singing Valentine program, to the *Gentlemen of Note*, **Mike Mathieu** and all who sang in quartets on what seemed like daily radio and TV advertisements, and to all the Singing Valentine Quartets, both male and female, who did a lot of fancy hustling and gave up lunches to deliver almost 400 Singing Valentines all over the city. You're a big part of the engine that makes our chapter tick. Good work!

IN MEMORIAM: WALTER 'SURE BARB' YODER

by Jim Bagby, the "Other Son"

We always referred to him as the wellspring of the *Rural Route 4*. It was **Walter Yoder's** quartet that set the example sons **Calvin** and **Willard** later followed in forming their own foursome, which became the *Rural Route 4*.

A cappella music was part of their Mennonite tradition, and in their church the Yoders learned to read music by shaped notes. In the same Cass County church, Walter was tenor or second tenor of what was just called "the men's quartet." If they sang outside the church, they were known simply as "the Mennonite quartet." If their's was not always the stuff of overtones, their choice of songs and the Christian message was sweet and clear.

So from 1971 on, Walter was always one of the biggest fans and supporters of the *RR4*. He joined the Kansas City Chapter, with his sons and Calvin's son, **Wesley**. They sang in several chorus contests, including the 1984 international at St. Louis. As far as we know, they are the only three-generation family on stage at the same time with the Society's second-oldest chapter.

Walter can be heard with Calvin, Willard and Wes on the third and final *RR4* recording, "My Life, My Love, My Song," singing one of the songs he did with his quartet, "Praise, O Praise Jehovah."

Walter, married for 61 years to **Elizabeth**, had a stroke Feb. 13, was transferred to Research Hospital in Kansas City and died just before dawn Feb. 15. He was 87. As some of our chapter members can attest, it took over three hours for the line at his visitation.

At his funeral on Feb. 18 in Sycamore Grove Mennonite Church, about 45 miles southeast of here, near Garden City, Calvin and Wesley joined Willard and his son, Daniel, to sing another of the "men's quartet" songs, "I Have a Friend." The *Jubilee Transfer* (Calvin, **Willy**, his sister-in-law, **Darla Zook**, and her sister, **Ranae Almos**) sang "Known Only to Him." And then joined by Calvin's son-in-law (**Gwen's** husband), **Chris Meeks**, the eight of us did "He Touched Me." At the cemetery, the *RR4* got through "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder."

It was a memorable weekend, befitting a memorable man. When Calvin has time, we'll try to get him to tell you more about Walter—whose first visit to the Kansas City Chapter, in the early 1970s, was to compete in an HOA Bush League quartet contest. That's a story in itself. So is "Sure Barb." And many more.

But meanwhile, let me share the biggest lift I got in an emotional week with this unique family. The funeral program they prepared identifies all the singers, and next to my name it says "Walter's 'other son.'" ~

CROSTOWN FOUR'S VALENTINES EXPERIENCES



by Dale Neuman

This was a busy and generally less eventful "Singing Valentines" effort for us. Once again **Win Cady** filled in for **Val Putzier** on bass and **David Miller** was our driver. In fact, it was David's selling of a Singing Valentine to his employer that created one of our most interesting episodes because there was the condition that David sing to the employer's wife. To prepare, David came and rehearsed with us several times prior to last week. So, once we got the order, we set out to deliver the Valentine. But headquarters kept asking us to pick up and squeeze in additional orders, so what started out to be a 10 a.m. delivery got there a little after 2 p.m., only to discover that the intended recipient had locked her keys in her car and had spent several hours going to and from the parking lot to see if help had arrived. When she was called back into the office so that we could "surprise her" she was gracious but clearly not a happy camper. It seems that she had anticipated what her husband was intending and had given him stern warning not to do it. Well, he did it, we did it, and David Miller did a great job on lead. He did so well and had such a good time that I suspect we will be looking for another driver next year and he will be singing to many more ladies as part of a quartet.

We also took advantage of the free lunch offer at *First Watch* and sang to two tables of ladies who were there. Afterwards, one of them who had teared-up during the songs came over to us and said that she'd not been sung to by a man in over 20 years and never in her life by five men at once! ~

THE WOODSHED LEAD

(Part 2 of 5 in a series)—provided to PROBE by Toban Dvoretzky, President of AHSOW



The woodshed lead needs a certain set of skills beyond what he may have learned in chorus rehearsal or for quartet performance. The purpose of woodshedding is to ring chords rather than to sing songs. Thus, the woodshed lead who wishes to find himself most in demand will sing more slowly than he might opt to sing in a performance environment. He will be aware of where harmony-part swipes may or should occur, especially at phrase-endings or where the harmony of the song is changing. He will realize that chords falling on "weak beats" in a measure of music (beats #2 and #4 in 4/4 "foxtrot" meter, beat #3 in 3/4 "waltz" meter) are equally as important to tune/lock/ring as are chords falling on stronger beats. He will be constantly alert to melody-notes he should "hold" for as long as it takes for one or more harmony-voices to locate a good note. He should ensure that songs are pitched wherever the singing is most comfortable for the participants, especially if someone is off his natural voice-part (e.g., a bass 'shedding the bari part). The woodshed lead gains credibility and authority when he refrains from singing until the first four-part chord of the song to be woodshedded is locked and rung, with everyone sure of his starting note. This keeps one or more 'shedders from being lost for several notes or measures before finally getting a harmonic bearing. The woodshed lead needs to listen, too.

The savvy woodshed lead will choose melodies to which written or familiar barbershop arrangements do not commonly exist. This lessens the risk of replicating existing repertoire and enhances the experience and value of truer woodshedding. Especially when one or more harmonizers is new to this art, the woodshed lead will ideally sing a melody through, solo, at least once, before the harmonizers join in. This helps everybody's ears.

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

ANCIENT HARMONIOUS SOCIETY OF WOODSHEDDERS, INC.

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

WANNA BE IN A TEACHING QUARTET?

Our section leaders stay really busy learning and teaching (not to mention performing as a registered quartet). We could use additional teaching quartets—and they don't have to be the organized kind. If you can read music well and sing it accurately, with interp provided by directors, you're a candidate. See Jim or Keith. We have new some wonderful new music to start on right after the show, for Buckeye and beyond.

Meanwhile, some thanks are in order for Jerry, Mike, Grant and Keith (and their assistants!) for the hours and effort they put in! ~

FROM THE RISERS

by Monty Duerksen



After looking at our chorus contest scores from the past, compared to those of today's winning scores, I see that every competitor is singing better today than ever before. Improvement must occur rapidly.

This is true for quartets too! We have a board of officers, music team, & directors that are determined and very capable to take us to new levels!

We have just completed the most successful Singing Valentines program ever—the fulfillment of the dreams of Mike Mathieu and myself when we started the program!

Our annual show, plus other scheduled performances, are providing opportunities for exposure of our music to new audiences!

The news media has recognized us as a viable part of the community and that our events are newsworthy!

We are constantly challenging ourselves to become better singers & better performers! Let's keep going! ~

SENIORS INTERNATIONAL

by Monty Duerksen, Bass-Gentlemen of Note

Eighth Place?

Disappointing. *Top*

Ten? Sounds Better.

What Now? We're out making Lemonade. Still Friends.

Promoting HOA events. Performing for people. On the day of the contest, this bass had lived through 5,598,080 (six minute segments)...that was only one of them. ~



Heart of America



March • April Calendar

- March 8** Tech rehearsal for Annual Show
March 9 HOA's Annual Show
March 10 Performance at Westin Crown Center, 7:45 p.m.
April 2 Bill Biffle Coaching Session
April 7 Performance in Richmond, MO.
1-1/2 hour show - Farris Theater
April 11 SPEBSQSA's 64th Birthday!
April 12 & 13 CSD prelims in Columbia, MO.



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