

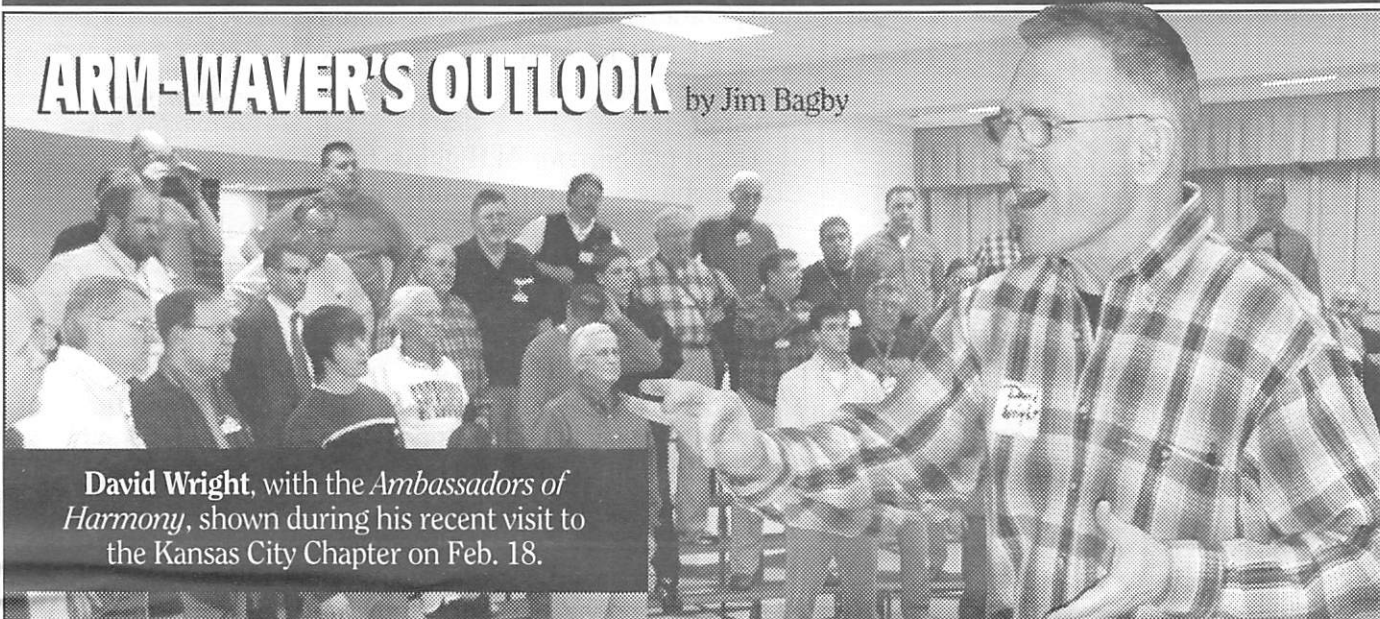
Harmonotes

March 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 3

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK by Jim Bagby



David Wright, with the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, shown during his recent visit to the Kansas City Chapter on Feb. 18.

I relinquish this space to **David Wright**, who spent a very helpful night with us a coupla Tuesdays ago.

If we were to list all of David's titles, accomplishments and honors, this column would be about as long as *War and Peace*, or an **Al Higgins** speech. Let's just say Bro. Wright is a premier composer, arranger, Music judge, director, three-time CSD champion quartet baritone, coach, barbershop historian and Washington University (St. Louis) professor with a ph-d in math.

Some key ways to do it *Wright* can be found on page 3!

Photos by
Ron
McIntire
and
Dick
Korek

THIS ISSUE:

REPORT ON
SINGING VALENTINES '03!

Great articles & photos
...in abundance!



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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CHAPTER INFORMATION

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St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes - Kansas City, MO 64105

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Web Address:	jmathieu@hoachorus.org
Chapter Telephone:	(816) 221-7888

Member Of



A VIEW FROM THE TOP

by John Stucker, Chapter President

Well, I think I have recovered sufficiently to write my monthly correspondence to the HOA family. You ask recovered from what? Well, as most of you know, I in a desperation move, (nobody else would take the job) agreed to co-chair the annual Singing Valentines effort of the chapter.

Had it not been for **Al Higgins**, the co-chair whose arm I turned rather hard, I most likely would have not survived the ordeal. As long as I am mentioning people, there are at least two others who were instrumental in any success we had this year. The first is **Ron McIntire** who spent countless man-hours developing a system that would accept the orders from the message service directly into the data base with no (well very little) re-entering of data. The second was my source of strength. **Phil Veltkamp** spent all of Thursday working beside me helping me through the monstrous learning curve of all that tasks that had to be done, and suggesting courses of action he learned the hard way last year. In addition to helping, he provided a laser printer and paper for us to use free of charge. The next time you see either one of these gentlemen, please give them a pat on the back and tell them what a good job they did.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the quartets that delivered some 300 Singing Valentines. It is too early in the process to tell you how we did financially, but very early figures look like about \$16,000 gross. As you can tell our numbers were down this year and the only factor I can attribute it to is the soft economy. Of the folks who ordered a Singing Valentine, cost did not seem to enter into the picture. We can only guess about the ones who did not order a Valentine.

Very exciting news! We have at least two dates scheduled in the recording studio. I am sure we will be hearing more about this as the time approaches, but suffice to say these dates are as important as anything we will do this year! Please keep May 31 and June 21 open. These will both be Saturday sessions and will take a major portion of the day.

As I close this message to you all, you may or may not know just about a year ago this month (March) I found out about my cancer. At that time the surgeon gave me about a year. Well it has been a year and I am still around feeling as well as most of you, so I guess a lot can be said about modern medicine. They are called "The Golden Years," after retirement. Well I think I now know why. It takes lots of gold to get through!



John Stucker sifts through the myriad of valentine orders, arranging quartet deliveries!

Photos by Ron McIntire

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK

(Continued from front cover)

The Wright way:

- Emphasize smoothness in the lyric, giving the word sounds both accentuation and lilt.
- Nothing but the best sound on every start. The "schlock" approach is never good enough.
- If you can tune DO-RE-MI, you can be a championship chorus. But that's a constant battle. The key is to make ALL 3rds and 6ths higher.
- All music must have dynamics and forward motion, as well as tone color. Use a range of colors, especially for background singing.
- We want to hear a little "cool" in the sound, particularly in swing passages.
- HOA is at the "pretty darn good" level. To climb from there takes individual dedication, discipline and hard work. But the hard work is rewarded in good singing that makes each meeting fun.
- Similar to **Greg Lyne's** "I'm talking to you" admonition, assume that instructions from the music team are meant for YOU.



The many faces of David Wright...as taken by Ron McIntire

Thanks for a great night of work, David. He also had wonderful words to say about our choice of the new contest ballad, and it's composer. We'll start on that the first Tuesday after the show.

But we can't wait that long to shore up our membership. We're going to have the smallest show chorus I've directed since the '70s. All the dropouts undoubtedly have good reasons: job conflicts, health problems, school requirements, family obligations, maybe not enough welcome exuded by HOA (I'd be glad to hear your take on membership).

Some may have shied away from the taping requirements, but virtually all who submitted a tape passed...sooner or later (see **Keith Schweer's** article). The point is, we need to revitalize the veterans as well as continue to pull in the promising newcomers who've joined us in the past year or so.

Numbers aside, I predict an impressive HOA performance March 15. Thanks for your effort! ~

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),
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)

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



Photo taken from the Alexandria Harmonizers website

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO ALEXANDRIA

by Dr. Niel Johnson

A few weeks ago, I had the opportunity to visit with the *Alexandria Harmonizers*. Yes, I have one of those jobs that lets me snivel my way from time to time to a conference in a city with a great chorus. I had visited them before and it's an awesome experience each time.

I did a little homework before I got on the Metro by checking their website, just to make sure their chapter night hadn't changed or whatever. Good thing I did! I found out they had moved their rehearsal location. This was a problem because their old place was an easy Metro ride away (King St./Yellow Line) and their new place was a good \$25 taxi ride from the end of the Metro line. I also saw that they got a new director, something I had heard before, but I didn't know who or why.

I went anyway, because I knew it would be worth the adventure. But I was a little worried that something was wrong with this once-great chapter.

When I arrived, I went in and saw the welcome podium and signed in. A deep-voiced and friendly singer came down from the risers to welcome me and get my name tag. As he approached, I couldn't help but notice that the chorus was small. Very small. Like 45 guys small. I was trying to make sense of all these events—the new director, the new meeting location, the small chorus—but couldn't believe what I was seeing!

What a disappointment.

Or so I thought. The Membership VP welcomed me and got me a book. I apologized for being late and explained my trek from the Metro. He explained that we were doing sectional rehearsals first and what I saw was just the bass section. *Oh*. He added that

their usual rehearsal hall was being renovated, and that they would be back there soon. *Oh*.

It gets better. I went to the lead room and met up with about 40 leads learning Platinum's "Auld Lang Syne" (We really should learn this one—WOW!). Coaching the leads was **Richard Lewellen**, of *Riptide* fame. I thought, "Wow, what a lucky night to stop by. They have a guest coach tonight."

It turns out that Rich is their new director. *Oh*.

Well, the rest is a typical night for anyone visiting the *Harmonizers*. Nothing short of outstanding from start to finish. We sang several of their new songs and went through some repertoire material. There were over 130 men singing and it was moving. They really are champs, and they are no doubt going to be a favorite for taking back the gold medal this summer.

By the way, several members said to say "Hi" to **John Stucker** and **Jim Bagby**. I don't recall their names, however, but don't get upset. You have to understand that it's pretty much standard fare wherever you visit a chapter—someone always says "Hi" to Stucker and Bagby.

Also, they wanted to pass on congratulations for our recent successes. Seriously, HOA has not gone unnoticed, and they extended their best wishes for continued success.

I highly recommend that if you are ever in the D.C. area on a Tuesday night, that you take a short Metro ride to sing with the *Harmonizers*. They are a super bunch of guys who are extremely hospitable to their guests. Seeing their discipline on the risers is an inspiration to us all, and the opportunity to learn some vocal techniques from their outstanding music team is simply awesome. O.K., singing "Auld Lang Syne" tag with 130 guys is pretty awesome, too.

Now, if I can figure out a way to sham a trip to Anaheim... 🐸

VALENTINE MEMORIES

by Ol' Bruce, for *Tone-Henge*



Singing Valentines with *Tone-Henge* is a real experience. Everywhere you go: "Aren't you **Dan Henry**?" Or "Well, hi, Dan, remember me?" (silent answer: "no." spoken answer: "Sure. How are you?") Or (our favorite): "Didn't you used to be Dan Henry?" (Our

favorite response: "Well, I used to be.")

We ran the gamut this time, from a gaggle of music educators at the *Raphael* to the bikers bar we finished at. The music educators informed us that in their elementary music classes we got an A. Nicest thing anyone's ever said to us. As for the bikers bar, we thought that would really finish us. We sang to the (male) bartender—he was a great sport, by the way—and they turned off the raucous music for us and gave us a big hand. Go figure.

Think we set an HOA Kleenex record. The tissues were even coming out while we were blowing on the pipes (was it that sentimental, or just plain awful?). Except for the two guys we sang to—the aforementioned bartender, and a cop—and they took it all in good spirits. We missed connections on a couple for which the target had left work by the time we got there, and on another the dedicatee (dedicatrix?) didn't show up for work at all, apparently unknown to her husband—uh-oh. On the other hand, late in the day we sold a new one to a security guard at one of our stops—his wife works at a beauty salon, so we wafted in there to do that one. This was probably our wettest stop—the tears started before we had sung a note.

This year we only had one customer say "I'm gonna kill him," and she didn't really mean it—we think. All in all, a highly successful outing. ~

SUREFIRE! MISFIRES!

by Dr. Niel Johnson

By now you've all probably heard about the Singing Valentine we delivered that was more of a shock to the *SureFire!* quartet than its intended victim.

The way it went was like this: *SureFire* v1.2 (me substituting for Carter) had a couple of no-shows at the end of the day, so we had some time to kill. **Mike Neff** suggested we visit a friend of his and surprise her at work. Apparently he had done this before and she was the kind of girl who would make a great victim, especially if she was caught off guard.

Well, we showed up and started the package. Unfortunately, though, she was ready for a counter offensive. It started with incoming artillery in the form of office supplies (like glue). Then she started throwing freshly printed 8x10 color photos of Mike at us. A lot of them! We tried to keep singing, but had to finally raise the white flag when she threw signs at us like "Never Try To Outsmart A Woman," and "You Other Guys Should Be Ashamed With Yourselves."

That was one of the funniest experiences

I've ever had with Singing Valen-

ties. Seeing Mike on the border of laughing and mad was really funny, especially when the other office folks weren't in on the inside joke between Mike and this girl.

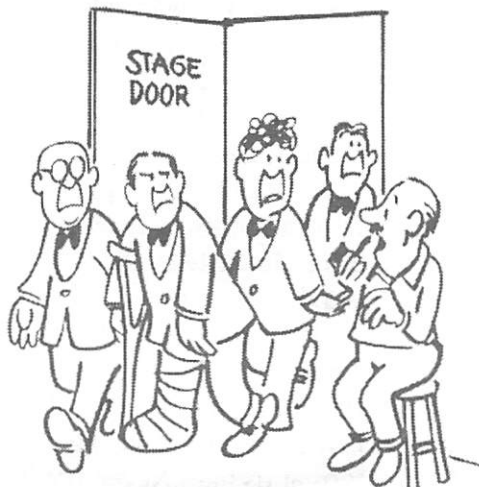
Come to think of it, we weren't either, at first. Maybe that's why it was so funny.

SureFire v1.3 should start planning next year's assault early. Maybe it's time to bring the news cameras back... ~

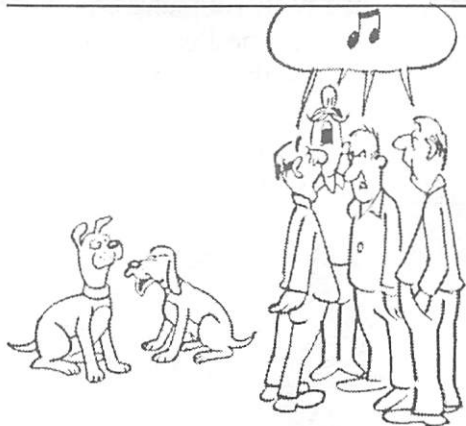


JUST FOUR FUN

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



"Break a,...oops, sorry!"



They used to let me "howl" along with 'em,
'til their Baritone got jealous!

DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by
TUESDAY, MARCH 18

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



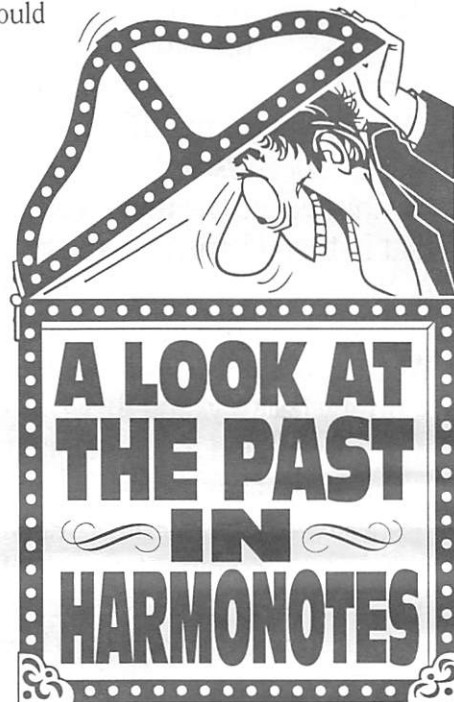
Wade Dexter

from 15 different contributors! I know other bulletin editors, who would kill for that kind of support, which eventually led to the selection of *Harmonotes* as the best chapter bulletin in the Society in 1998.

Ten Years Ago- March, 1993

Here are a few gleanings from the March 1993 issue: **Monty Duerksen** reported that the third annual "Singing Valentines" effort brought in over \$6,000 from the sale of 220 deliveries, compared with 12 deliveries and \$250 two years previously. Director **Jim Bagby** was shooting for an 80-man chorus on the risers at the international contest in Calgary and 100 singers on stage for our annual show on March 13.

Show ticket chairman **Jim White** was concerned with an unexplained falling-off of sales after the initial three weeks of the campaign. There was an announcement that our chapter had won the CSD chapter achievement contest for 1992 with a score of 1,645 points. We were in seventh place out of 40 chapters in our category Society-wide. Organizer **Mike Schumacher** proudly displayed the winning plaque for our plateau in collections for the Salvation Army during our all day singout at the *Ward Parkway Shopping Center*. We collected a sum of \$2,687.06. There were 70-plus members who were on hand for all six shows. Show chairman **Lud Einess** announced that our show theme would be "Songs Like Daddy Used To Play." (That song was the one on the program but I swear I can't remember how it goes!) **Orval Wilson** was recovering nicely from injuries incurred when he slipped on the ice on Feb. 18 as he was leaving *Waid's Restaurant* at 103rd & Wornall Road. His injuries included a fractured shoulder and a torn muscle in the groin and required treatment in a hospital emergency room. *Rural Route 4* bass **Willard Yoder** extended congratulations to **Jim** and **Joann Bagby** on the birth of their second grandchild, **Hayley Paige**, born to **Kristin** and **Mike**. (Continued on page 7)



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Thirty Years Ago - March, 1983

The over 100 members of the ladies' auxiliary (I don't believe they took the name *Heartbeats* until some time later) were embarked on a project to produce and publish a Society cook book. **Steve Hanrahan's** wife, **Harriet**, was to spearhead this project. The proceeds were to go to the *Institute of Logopedics*, now known as *Heartspring*. An article attributed to **Bruce Wenner** announced the formation of a new chapter quartet called the *Morning Times*, with **Alan Durick** (tenor), **Tim Flemming** (lead), **Bruce Wenner** (baritone) and **Stan Grossman** (bass). They were getting some coaching from **Byron Myers**, were planning on singing at the St. Joseph Chapter show on March 30 and 31, and competing in the international prelims at Denver on April 28. I recall that Joyce and I were on our way to Denver to take in the CSD convention (that was prior to the formation of the Rocky Mountain District in 1978, which took a sizeable chunk, including Denver, out of our district) and had made a lunch stop on the way when the *Morning Times* came trooping into the restaurant and sat with us. *It was fun!*

Fifty Years Ago - March, 1953

The banner headline for the March 20, 1953, issue fairly shouts that "5000 Tickets Must Be Sold," referring to the chapter's annual show on April 18 and 19. I've researched many back issues of *Harmonotes*, but I've been unable to find where the show was to be held. However, with 5,000 tickets to be sold for the two shows, one might assume that the show would be presented in the Music Hall. But the real shocker is that as of the date of this issue of *Harmonotes*, only 271 tickets had been sold! Panic!

Here's an item for you real old-timers. Radio Station WHB, Kansas city, announced "Ed Birr Week" during March 22-28, celebrating Ed's tenth anniversary as a salesman in the WHB Client Service Department. Ed's wife was on the WHB staff as "**Sandra Lea**," the station's Director of Women's Activities. ~

From the *Heartbeats*

by Carol Ramirez, Heartbeats President

What I like about the *Heartbeats* is that the members are ready to help in a heartbeat. (O.K., so some of those barbershop puns are a little corny, too.) While **John Stucker** and **Ron McIntire** stayed glued to their computer screens and cell phones at the Singing Valentine Headquarters, we had a fine representation counting roses, spraying on rose scent, peeling off price labels from the chocolate candy, bagging up the teddy bears, writing the sentiments on the Valentine cards and keeping track of the control numbers under the direction of **Al Higgins**. Thanks to **Marilou Coleman**, **Jeffi Combs**, **Sarah Fortino**, **Dessie Gathright**, **Joan Korek**, **Mary Kuricina**, **Sharon Oldehoeft**, **Mary Jo Park**, **Roberta Porter**, **Carol Ramirez** and **Sandy Rule** for their help at Headquarters.

Thanks, too, to **Jan Mathieu**, who has volunteered to keep information about the *Heartbeats* current on the website.

One of our goals for 2003 is to increase fundraising projects and do we have a deal for you!

During April, **Jeffi Combs**, will be promoting our Pampered Chef party, which will be at our next regularly scheduled meeting, April 15, 7 p.m. at the church. Prior to the actual party, however, the gentlemen will be given the opportunity to take home *Pampered Chef* catalogs and encouraged to bring back orders from anyone they can—spouses, friends, co-workers, etc. Profits from the fundraiser will go toward helping the chorus finance their CD or other projects the *Heartbeats* deem worthy.

Another long-standing goal of the *Heartbeats* is to promote congeniality among the women. One way of doing that is to work together on projects for the chorus. We still are taking memberships and would welcome any ladies new to the chorus. Contact **Carol Ramirez** at 816-373-9311 if you would like to become involved. We would love to have you. ~



HARMONY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION TIME!

Applications are now being accepted for one full scholarship to Harmony College, July 27–Aug. 3 at Missouri Western State College in St. Joseph, MO. This scholarship is open to any first-time participant, so if you've never been but would love to experience a full week of barbershop harmony, check your calendars and apply today!

See **Val Putzier** or **Mark Fortino** for an application and return to him no later than April 30. The winner will be notified by May 15. Tuition needs to be paid by June 1 to avoid a late charge. ~



MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



We're well into our preparations for our March show. Everybody is spending time listening to their learning tapes or CDs in order to be as accurate as possible when performing the songs. By the time you read this, our qualification process will be over and those singing with you on the risers will have been listened to and passed as qualified to sing on our show. We have proven over the years that taping selected songs and having them critiqued by your section leader is the most effective way to assure that members of the chorus know their music. Having said all that, I'm looking forward to when we don't have to take time out of every rehearsal for organized taping and can move on to polishing our total performance. I want to thank everyone for their cooperation in the qualification taping process. Each individual and the chorus as a whole will be better for it. If you have a suggestion as to how we might improve the process, please pass it along to me or any member of the Music Team. ~

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the following members!

Eugene Bowers	March 3
Ron McIntire	March 4
David Krause	March 6
Josh Wolf	March 6
Don Koehnlein	March 10
David Upp	March 13
Eric Weber	March 16
Rodney Flater	March 17
Donald Young	March 17
Charles Ramirez	March 23
Jim Kinyon	March 24
John Winfiel	March 24
Joe Costigan	March 25
Pinky Johnson	March 25
Jerry Meier	March 29

MY ~~FUNNY~~, SOGGY SINGING VALENTINE

by John Winfiel

Monty Duerksen named my Singing Valentine Quartet *Winfiel's Warriors*. An appropriate name since it takes planning ability and flexibility of a general to successfully deliver 25 Valentine's day surprises all over the northland, one as far away as Kearney (Thank goodness it was Kearney, MO not Kearney, NE.). The wet weather conditions added a challenge to the day. Fortunately the baritone of our quartet is **Kevin Beauford**. Kevin volunteered once again to pick up our supplies the night before. But Kevin takes things a couple of steps further. He fills out all of the cards the night before (avoiding the practice of frantically writing the message on the card while the driver dodges potholes), and he plots all of our deliveries on a map and numbers them so that we will always know which delivery to make next. But just as in battle, Valentine's Day always brings unexpected events our way. We began the day with 22 deliveries scheduled. Things began well and on schedule. Then a call from the Command and Control Center (Otherwise known as the headquarters hotel), meant we had to meet a runner to pick up five more orders that were originally assigned to a quartet who lost their baritone. A sixth was later added by phone.

Now I know all you mathematically inclined readers are saying "Wait a minute, something doesn't add up! John wrote they delivered 25, but 22 plus 6 equals 28." You are correct, unfortunately we had so many orders within the same small time windows that we were unable to deliver three of them. Logistics problems can sometimes lead to setbacks no matter how good the plan or how motivated the troops. Hopefully those who ordered the deliveries we missed were understanding of our problems. The one I spoke with was very nice.

Our quartet had two new recruits. Bass **Brooke Myers** and tenor **Gerold Stephens** were along on their first Valentine mission. Both of them performed very well, even under pressure. They both were enthused by the first recipient who couldn't hold back her tears. Brooke made the same comment at the end of our long day that he made after Bush League. He said "It makes me want to do more quarteting, so I can get better." Now that is just the kind of attitude we all need to have! (next page ~)

(continued from page 8)

We sang in a wide variety of places. As usual several deliveries were to schools. Two were to private homes. Three were to casinos, and several to businesses.

On one of our casino deliveries, the husband of the casino employee we were to sing for met us outside the casino. That was fortunate for us because we might never have found the employee entrance we needed. We had to sign in and leave our driver's licenses with security before we could go up to the office where she worked. When we got there the husband loudly said "Hi Baby, Happy Valentines Day!" as he handed his very embarrassed and very pregnant wife a box of roses he had brought along. She reluctantly came from behind her desk to the door of her office where we sang to her. As it often happens, she forgot about being embarrassed once we began singing. Her husband stood behind her with a big grin on his face while other employees gathered around to listen and watch. As we began "Let Me Call You Sweet-heart" he held up three fingers and proudly said "Three songs!" to the watching coworkers. When we finished he commented that he "had been waiting three years to do this." Now that was a satisfied customer.

One of our school deliveries was to a young girl from her mother. She was a very mature little lady of about ten years old. She didn't seem overly embarrassed in spite of her classmates and other students coming out of their classrooms to watch. Each time she was handed a gift she said thank you. When the rose came out she even exclaimed "Oh my!"

The surprise was nearly spoiled on one of our home deliveries. We simply couldn't deliver it within the time window we were given. So Kevin called the only number we had. Fortunately the woman's daughter answered the phone. She assured us that her mother would be home later in the day. When we were able to make the delivery the husband was home from work. As we approached the door we saw several children and the parents inside the door waiting for us. The husband motioned for us to come on in. But we hesitated to open the door because of three large brindle boxers who were just inside the door. The man of the house assured us that none of the dogs would bite and we went inside. I blew the pitch pipe and we began to sing. Just a few measures into the introduction song one of the boxers jumped up and

drove both front paws into Kevin's stomach, pushing his diaphragm up and the air out. I had to fight back a chuckle as we continued to sing. Their master got the dogs under control and we finished the songs to a very happy audience.

One of the children videotaped the whole event. When we finished the wife told us that her husband, who works for the Justice Department, had told her a delivery was coming from the FBI. She also said her daughter who answered our phone call was "A little liar." She told her mother it was just someone calling for her dad.

We had so many daytime deliveries that we were unable to stop for lunch. We finally had about 90 minutes in the early evening when we could stop to eat and relax for a while, before making our last three deliveries.

The first of the evening deliveries was at a Valentine party at a private home. The man hosting the party bought it for his wife and all of the ladies. He told us after we sang that he is a friend of

HOA's own **Jerry and Jeanne Snyder.**

The second evening delivery was for the entire congregation of a Methodist Church. They were having a dinner and we had to wait for the staff to finish serving all the people before we could sing.

It began to thunder and lightning as we pulled in to the church parking lot. Kevin went back out to his truck to get the two large umbrellas he had brought along. It is a good thing he did, because it was pouring down when we left. We got pretty wet despite the umbrellas. When they were finally ready for us to sing, we had the pastor's wife come to the front of the room and we sang to her and gave her the card addressed to everyone.

From the church we made our wet way to the last delivery of the day. To a casino. This time it was for customers instead of an employee. We sang to a very gracious lady who was there with her husband and another couple eating dinner in a casino restaurant. They told us that they already have their tickets to the March 15th show. A fine way to end a long, tiring, but thoroughly enjoyable day.

We came, we sang, they laughed they cried and one lady was so touched she gave us each a hug. I don't know about you, but I think I will do this again next year. ~



FROM THE DRIVER'S SEAT: A VALENTINE'S DAY RETROSPECTIVE

by Jeff Garrard

I began to question why I had upgraded the sound system in my recently acquired Honda Odyssey as I sat in the umpteenth traffic delay last Friday evening. Despite the fact that I had spent the last 12 hours behind the wheel (that's enough time to drive to Atlanta, Minneapolis, or Denver) the stereo hadn't even been turned on once. You see, I was a volunteer driver for this year's HOA Singing Valentines with **Tom Elefson, Jerry Garrard, Don Keohline** and **Shawn Jeffries**—better known as *Sound Alibi*.

With this bunch of misfits I had to lay down the ground rules early. I had to make sure the guys understood that even though they live to 'ring a chord' I wouldn't hesitate to wring their collective necks if they caused us to miss a delivery commitment for a valentine or wreck my vehicle because of the chaos they were constantly causing—completely oblivious to everyone and everything around them. Thanks to Dr. Jeffries, I was soon diagnosed with a rare psychiatric disorder known as *Low Frustration Tolerance*, or *LFT* for short. Simply put I wasn't going to take any guff from this group of goofballs! Do you have any idea how difficult it was to get these four out of the three-story, marble-lined atrium at *Applebee's* world headquarters? My nine-year-old wouldn't dream of giving me this much grief!

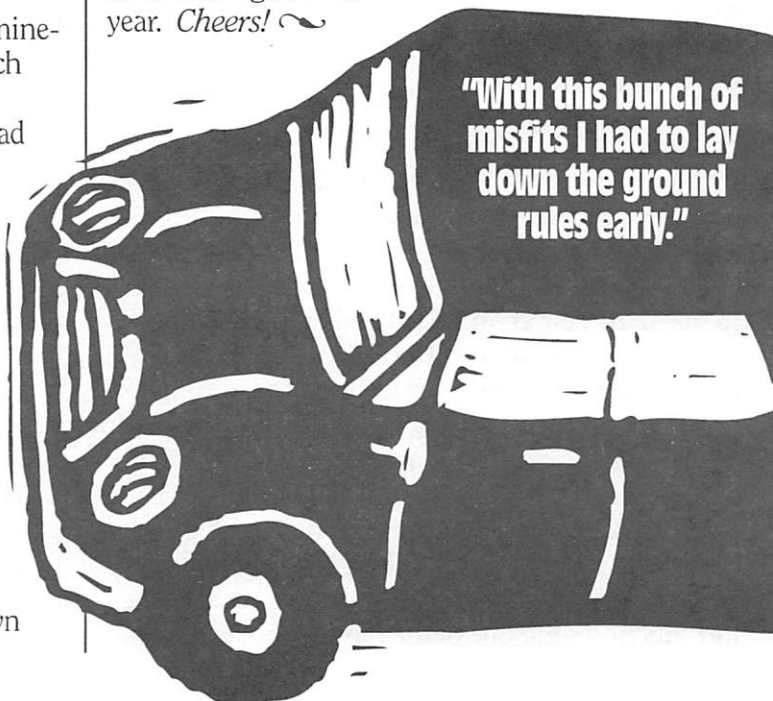
By noon on this drizzly Valentine's Day we had delivered nine separate sound bites to unsuspecting patrons throughout Johnson County and it was time to 'sing for our supper' at *First Watch*. The guys and I dropped in on our hosts at their Prairie Village location. We were greeted like visiting dignitaries and ushered to a table in the center of the dining room. The manager asked if we would care to share a tune or two before lunch or after. Most of you have witnessed the raw carnage when you turn a quartet loose at a lunch table, it should be a special on the Discovery Channel, so they opted for a medley of love songs befitting the holiday before snarfing down

their mid-day meal. Good thing, because we were on a tight schedule!

Just like a cross-country road trip with a bunch of rowdy preadolescents, I had to threaten to pull over and knock some sense into the four-pack on more than one occasion. Endless whining to the likes of; "Are we there yet?", "Get off my note!", "Can we stop for a drink?", "I need to go to the bathroom!" and even "He's touching me again!" rang through the minivan. It's a miracle I made it through the ordeal with my sanity intact. Lucky for me, hindsight being 20/20 and all, I was charged with four contemporaries who truly love the craft of barbershop harmony and sharing their passion with anyone willing to listen—even a captive audience, like myself.

It was 8:30 when we made our 25th and final stop, a party in a very opulent home in Lenexa. *Sound Alibi* was the surprise entertainment for the guests at this affair. The guys pulled out all the stops and made it a night to remember for this lucky group of party-goers. They led with "Singing Valentine" and then broke out into a bevy of love songs and closed their performance with a medley of tags that brought the house down. It's a good thing we received payment up-front, because these guys would have done this all day for free!

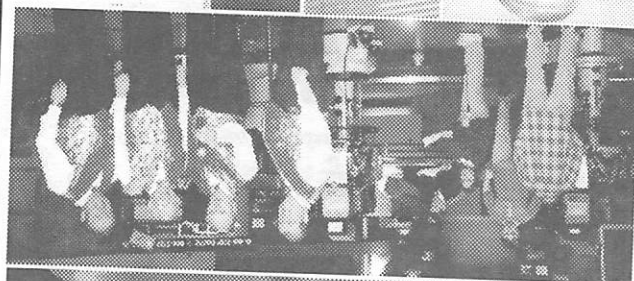
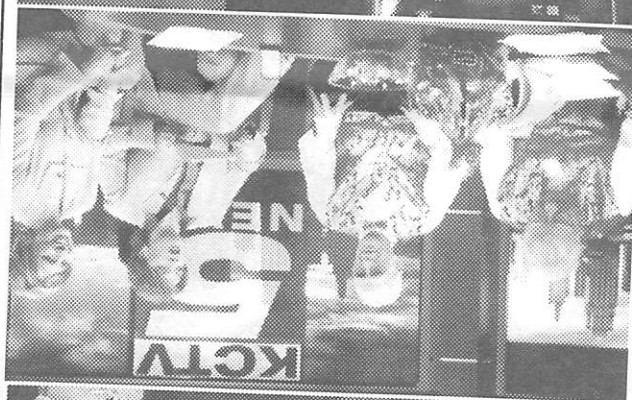
I had no idea what was in store for me when I accepted my brother's invitation to drive the guys around that day. But I can tell you this; it was one of the most enjoyable rainy days I've ever spent stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic and I can't wait to do it all again next year. *Cheers!* ☺



"With this bunch of misfits I had to lay down the ground rules early."

VALENTINES SNAPSHOTS!

Thanks to Dick Korek and Ron McIntire for providing these tidbits for our scrapbook! Below: Gentlemen Of Note (Rod Rule, Jon Gathright, Monty Duerksen and Rich Huyck) promote Singing Valentines on KCFX. Al Higgins and John Stucker appeared on KCTV, G.O.N. got in on the tv promos at Channel 41, KCMO's Mike Murphy helped us spread the word, THE RESULTS: Recipients displayed their surprised smiles. Top-notch quartets, such as the foursome of Ron McIntire, Mike O'Dell, Eric Weber and Dick Irwin delivered 300 valentine's throughout the Kansas City area!



A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT!

by Monty Duerksen



SINGING VALENTINES 2003 has come to a successful conclusion again, due to the superb direction of **John Stucker** and **Al Higgins**. Everyone who helped at the Headquarters deserves a BIG THANK YOU! All of you who sang in quartets, (SPB as well as SWEET ADELIN), took the assignments and delivered the messages with organized, enthusiastic excellence! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Rod, Jon, Rich and I appreciated the opportunity to promote the program on TV & Radio.

Dick Korek gave us a wonderful schedule that taught us discipline as well as being educational. We found that one, two & three-minute sound bites are possible...the voice can respond to "brain directions" at 5:00 a.m....alarm clocks DO GO OFF at 3:45, 4:00, or 5:00 a.m....Television and radio folks are some of the nicest people in the world. FURTHERMORE, WE WERE FOUR CHEERFUL SENIORS...NOT FOUR GRUMPY OLD MEN. Must have been the coffee we had?

As in the past, we had three unique experiences this year:

ONE: Ed Stamper, a resident at John Knox Village, reached the wonderful age of 100 YEARS on Valentine's Day. His son ordered a SINGING VALENTINE for him and requested that we deliver it. Ed sang "Me Call You Sweetheart," then requested "Down By The Old Mill Stream"...again...tenor, "The Old Songs" and "Down Our Way" were also part of his repertoire.

TWO: A Psychologist/Marriage Counselor, Dr. Mayfield, requested that we intersperse love songs within his after-dinner speech about love. We sang five of our love songs, which made an impressive presentation. Some even wept—must have been musicians. **HA!**

THREE: After a performance at a church, we met a limousine at the west door of the church that was carrying 18 people, one of which was celebrating her 30th birthday on Valentine's Day. Her husband had arranged this for her as a surprise. Well, we presented the traditional Singing Valentine and Happy Birthday in the shelter of the overhang of the church during a thunderstorm. Could this be called a DRIVE-BY SINGING VALENTINE WHILE SINGING IN THE RAIN?



IT'S A GRAND NIGHT FOR SINGING, PARTYING, & SLEEPING! by Mike Mathieu

The annual show is rapidly approaching, and it is time to focus in on just exactly who will be joining us that weekend, what you will be doing, where you will be, and when you will be there. If you are interested in some of the various options, please continue on in this letter.

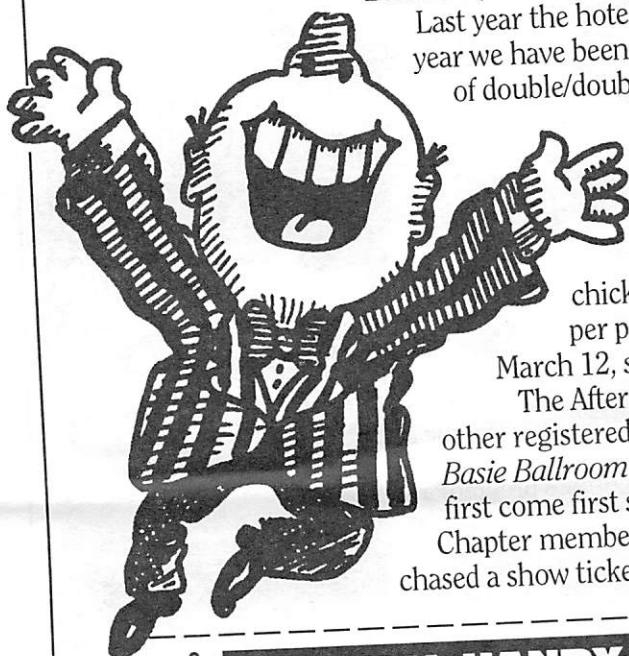
For those of you who would like to have the most relaxing time, why not make a weekend of it? We have negotiated a very good rate at the Downtown *Marriott* of \$80 per night. What to do for the between show meal, how 'bout a "chorus dinner" in the *Pam Pam Restaurant* in the *Muehlebach Tower*? Prime Rib buffet with all the fixin's, including desert for \$13.95. Then the Afterglow in the *Count Basie Ballroom*, at an additional \$5 per person, including snacks. See details below.

Last year the hotel rooms were \$92, with \$9 per day parking additional. This year we have been given the \$80 rate with free daily parking. We have a block of double/double, or king rooms. To reserve a room for either one night or two nights, return the bottom portion to **Mike Mathieu** by Feb. 25. After that day all rooms have to be released back to the hotel.

The between show meal will be in the *Pam Pam Restaurant* beginning around 4:30 p.m.. Prime Rib Buffet, chicken and fish, vegetables, potato or rice, and desert for \$13.95 per person. I have to furnish the final count to the restaurant by

March 12, so I need your reservation by that date.

The Afterglow, featuring *Michigan Jake*, quartets on the show, and other registered chapter quartets will be right after the show in the *Count Basie Ballroom*. Tables of 10 may be reserved by contacting **Mike Mathieu**, first come first served. Snacks will be furnished. The Afterglow is open to Chapter members, their guests, or the general public. You must have purchased a show ticket to be able to attend the Afterglow.



OFFICIAL HANDY-DANDY RESERVATION FORM

HOTEL ROOMS - DEADLINE 2/26

Reserve _____ room(s) for _____ night(s) at \$80 per night. Room includes free parking.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____

ZIP _____

PHONE _____

Credit Card: ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ American Express

Exp. Date: _____

Card Number: _____

CHORUS DINNER - DEADLINE 3/12

I would like to participate in the Prime Rib Buffet. Please plan on _____ people attending with my party.

Your name: _____

No payment required, but if you sign up, please show up!

AFTERGLOW - DEADLINE 3/12

I would like _____ Afterglow tickets at \$5 each. Tables will be reserved, 10 seats per table. Afterglow tickets must be cash or check. Make checks payable to Kansas City Chapter, SPEBSQSA.

After completion, return this form and necessary payment to **Mike Mathieu**, or mail to 12720 W. 116th St. Overland Park, KS. 66210, or e-mail to SingMM@aol.com, or fax to 913-345-9186. ~

THEORY CLASSES PROVE BENEFICIAL

by Dennis Kinghorn



There were 19 men who attended. The general consensus is that all want to have more schooling. So, if we have the OK from the music team, we will have classes again after the spring show. We will probably start at 6 p.m. and use the church choir room upstairs. We'll have a real blackboard and a keyboard! We will start from the very beginning of the lessons, so any new people will not miss out. It will also be a good review for the others. Here are a few comments from some students:

I think the classes were great but just the tip of the iceberg. I'd like to see them start about 6:15 p.m., or as early as possible each Tuesday. The attendance at the classes shows how much interest there was, and I bet if you had more, the attendance would probably increase. There are a lot of information-hungry people in the chapter, and if you are willing to impart your information to us, we will probably absorb it like a bunch of thirsty sponges.

Keep up the good work, and let me know when the classes start again. As for me, I have a big case of CRS, and I need a few weeks in a row of repetition to ingrain the vast information in my memory. I would definitely like to see the classes continue, and expand as both you and the class attendees see fit — Mike Mathieu

Dennis,
Yes! I did learn a great deal, since I was one who started from "0". The info came a bit quick but then we just couldn't slow down the clock. Your handout is very helpful (when it gets opened). Will try to use it from time to time as an excellent reminder. If more classes are offered I will try to be in attendance. Thanks for the work you put into this for us. — Marty Oldehoeft

Dennis,
I agree, I wish you would of had more time. This could easily be a series of four one-hour classes in order for you to cover the basics and have the interaction you need from the students. Yes, I learned a lot in the brief exposure I had as I missed the first session. However, your study guide was well done and most helpful. The classes allowed me to get reacquainted with and relearn many of the things that I had forgotten from years ago and never taken the time to get back up to speed. Determining the key the song is written in, to be specific. There are many other things that we could learn together to improve ourselves individually and thereby benefit the chorus as a whole. Getting on the same page for example. Your classes were very beneficial and I would highly encourage participation by everyone, especially the new, newer, and newest members of our chorus. It might be wise to include these classes as part of the new member orientation program. Thanks very much for your efforts. Keep up the good work. Sign me up for the next class. — Steve Carruthers



A TIP OF THE HAT!

A special TOTH to **John Stucker** and **Al Higgins** for their excellent running of the 2003 Singing Valentine's program!

A TOTH to all the unsung heroes who assisted with the 2003 Singing Valentine's program:

Monty Duerksen (quartet recruiting & organization), **Vince Perry** (website orders, office clerical), **Phil Veltkamp** (organizational assistance & office clerical), **Ron McIntire** (computer records and records finalization), **Gordon Coleman** (credit card), **Dick Korek** (office clerical), **James Speck** (office clerical) and **Kent McClean** (computer). Our apologies to those we've missed. So many did so much that it was hard to keep track of them.

A TOTH to all the *Heartbeats* who prepared, gathered and watched over the Singing Valentine candy, flowers and cards to help make the 2003 Singing Valentine's program a success.

A TOTH to ALL the quartets who represented our love of music in such a professional way.

A big TOTH to the Music Team for bringing in **David Wright** for the Feb. 18 coaching session.

OTHER SINGING VALENTINE RECOLLECTIONS:

POLECAT CREEK 2 +2 (**Ron McIntire** (T), **Mike O'Dell** (L), **Dick Irwin** (Bari), **Eric Weber** (B)) sang for a delightful lady who was featured on the cover of the Feb. 9 issue of the *Star* magazine. The recipient, **Helen Toplikar**, had just that morning told her husband, "You're just not romantic anymore." The lesson learned is that while it's okay to say such things on Feb. 15, one should be careful what they say to them on Feb. 14. *You never know what's in store that day!*

The same quartet got to meet **Carter Combs'** sister (see photo on front cover)!

From Jim Bagby: One of best parts of *Tone-Henge* SV day was having two sweethearts along. **Joann** drove (and opened the van doors for **Dan**) and **Connie** navigated. Then **Estyl** and **Francie** joined us at *Pierpont's*, where we literally were surrounded with wine, women and song!

*Here's our winning team of participants
in the 2003 Singing Valentine quartets:*

Heart of America



Ron Abel
Chuck Ames
Jim Bagby
Kevin Beauford
Matt Bostick
Gordon Coleman
Carter Combs
Jim Davis
Charles Drake
Monty Duerksen
Lud Einess
Tom Elefson

Jerry Garrard
Jon Gathright
David Glastetter
Dan Henry
Grant Hunget
Rich Huyck
Dick Irwin
Shawn Jefries
Dennis Kinghorn
Jim Kinyon
Don Koehnlein
David Kraus

Ron McIntire
Brooke Meyers
Jim Moynihan
Mike Neff
Dale Neuman
Mike O'Dell
Marti Oldehoeft
Rod Rule
Bob Rutherford
Barry Sanders
Barry Sanders
Mike Schumacher

Keith Schweer
Harvey Shapiro
Gerold Stephens
Lee Tubbs
Carl Turlin
Phil Veltkamp
Eric Weber
Marlin Weidler
Bruce Wenner
John Winfiel
Lyle Wylly
Don Young



Sue Prunte
Teal Haas
Ruby Pitzer
Anita Wolf
Betty Smead
Alvinia Axford
Sandi Davis
Linda Schumacher
Carol Schumacher
Jill Bostick
Cheri Boydston



IS IT JUST MAGIC?

Dick Korek shares what it takes to put our Annual Show together!



So the question was asked, just how does marketing a show happen? A click of the finger? A couple meetings? Make a couple phone calls? Big Deal!

Well, **Grant Hunget** is the guy on the hot seat. Chair of the show. **Dick Korek** knows how to spend money, ads for radio, TV spots, pocket hand-outs, flyers by the thousands, more pocket hand-outs.

MORE FLYERS! Free mentions from the *Star*, if the "right" person is contacted. Dealing with the radio stations and TV stations about Public Service announcements, and don't forget to FAX to the different cable and TV stations for the "crawl" mention.

Ooops, almost forgot, someone needs to design, write and produce the ads and TV commercials. Our very own **Dan Henry** came through with that great, reliable, highly recognizable voice. **Jim Bagby**, with his word-merchant expertise, worked with Korek to write commercials that had "the right stuff." **Mike O'Dell** helped Dick design and write an ad that he "gave" us to run in the March issue of his hotel magazine, *Travelhost*.

The heat is constantly on **Vince Perry** for "giveaway" tickets for radio and TV promo and various comps. We gave four tickets away on the Valentine Drawing Feb 15, on TV-5. Almost forgot to inform Vince.

Jim Bagby Emailed Dick the show line-up, critical in designing the final show program. **Ron McIntire** is gathering final list of paid membership to be included in the program. Korek still digging out information about *Michigan Jake*.

Just in, Thursday, Feb 20: Got the word that **Stacey Uthe**, the wonderful lady that appeared with *Gentlemen Of Note* in the Theater in the Park's *Music Man*, last summer, will appear on our show as "Marian, The Librarian" with GON.

AND, in spite of what you may have read about *Everest Communications*, they are sponsoring our 2003 show. As a reminder, *Blue Valley Bank* sponsored our 2001 show, *Frank Ancona Honda* was our 2002 sponsor, and for our Holiday Show, 2002 we were fortunate to have **David Hokanson**, family wealth counselor, as sponsor.

Sound like everything is ready and done? *Nope*. TV commercial is still not produced. TV-5 producer has all the elements, checking them over, then we do it! The program is far from ready for the printer—am getting final run of pocket hand-outs and flyers going. NOTE: this run of pocket hand-outs includes a variety of pics of quartets, chorus members including **Mark** and **Anthony Fortino** as a demonstration of many ages.

WHY, you may ask? Korek reasoning is to help the members show pride in the chorus and all the quartets. A tool to help promote the show with real live fun people—us!

By now Grant is getting tired of Korek phone calls about costs. **Rich Huyck** and the *Gents Of Note* are working with Stacey for the *Music Man* bit. Getting close—just want a sell-out crowd!

This is a request for everyone in or related to the chorus to beat the bushes and make this the greatest show ever! We can do it! ~





Heart of America



March-April Calendar

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| March 3 | Music Team Meeting |
| March 6 | HOA Extra Rehearsal |
| March 10 | Board Meeting |
| March 14 | HOA Tech Rehearsal at Music Hall;
<i>New Offspring Singlers Ltd. '03</i> rehearses at 6 p.m. |
| March 15 | HOA Annual Show at the Music Hall, 2 & 7:30 p.m. |
| March 30 | HOA Package Show, Richmond, Mo. |
| April 4-6 | CSD Spring Convention and Contest, Lincoln, NE |
| April 8 | HOA Package Show, John Knox Village, Lee's Summit |

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Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
210 West 100th Terrace - Apt. #204
Kansas City, MO 64114-4431

