



Heart of America Chorus CALENDAR

- March 9 -** Extra rehearsal
March 16 - Extra Rehearsal
March 24 - Tech rehearsal, Music Hall
March 25 - 60th Annual Show @ Music Hall
Featuring 2004 International
Champs *Gotcha!*
April 4 - Sheri Hart teaches us RW staging
April 11 - Kevin Keller coaching
April 21-23 - CSD Prelims, Iowa City
May 2 - Darin Drown coaching

Photo courtesy of **Matt Bostick**

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Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
816 West 121 Street
Kansas City, MO 64145



THIRTEEN-TIME CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!

March 2006

Volume 06 - Issue 3

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

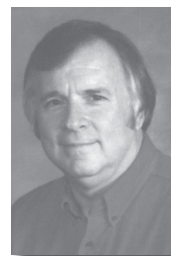
Heart of America Chorus

The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society



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

A Lotta Learnin' About Learnin' by Jim Bagby, HOA Chorus Director



One of my favorite emcee gags is about the mother with six kids who's asked if she had it to do over, would she have that many. She says "Sure -- but not those six." Now that we're approaching showtime with a half-dozen new songs just learned, would we choose that many again?

Well, that's not really that many. Oh, yeah (I hear you say)—it is when most of them came on top of new holiday show music and we didn't start on some of them until after Christmas. And (I hear you say) are there two tougher songs back-to-back than "Runnin' Wild" and "Happy Together" included in those newbies?

Good point. And what you might not have said is that we've got a raft of new members (aren't we glad!) who are learning as many as a dozen new songs. So it has been a hectic, busy, exciting few months in the life of HOA. And maybe we've all learned some things about the learning process along the way.

From a music team standpoint, we know we need to do an even better job of providing you with a learning media that matches the spots on the page, so you can sing along with either or both and not have to worry about which is right. We try to do that, but there still are a few bumps. You'd have to be at a recording session to see just how much time and effort **Carter Combs, Mike Neff, Grant Hunget, Keith Schweer** and ace technician **Mark Fortino** put in—plus the director of each song—to appreciate how demanding the process is.

We need to build in even more interpretation, including dynamics, to help you absorb artistry as you learn. And as directors, we're always going to discover some changes we want to make as the song develops in real time with you.

From an individual standpoint, I hope you've found that the earlier you start the self-recording and listening process, the better off you are—and the more you learn about your voice,

and your rate of progress. If you're as dedicated an talented as **Darrell McCune** and some others, you'll find some spots you want to bring to the attention of the music team: is this the right note on the CD? How about this breath spot? We learn from you, too.

Perhaps we've learned, as Mike suggested, we may need to do a better job of balancing our learning time. The songs that were announced for taping have gotten a lot of attention, and maybe the others have gotten less. Obviously, our audiences deserve to have all our show songs polished. End of sermon.

We've certainly learned (or rediscovered) there's never enough time in a meeting night to accomplish all we want to. Every director would like to have twice as much time as I can allot for his song or songs. Some of you would like to learn by repetition -- don't stop, just keep going regardless of mistakes or how it sounds. Others say "no, let's stop and fix it -- there's no percentage is singing it if it isn't right..." and that frustrates the repetition crowd.

You may know that my pet peeve is holes in the performing chorus lineup. That's why I encourage you to let your administrative section leader know in advance if you know you have to miss, for whatever reason, so I can ask "who's missing and why?" and they have the answer. If you are there and are absolutely physically unable to stand, we understand -- I never want someone on the risers who's back or feet or knees are hurting. But I encourage you to take your spot if your ailment is just a lack of voice -- you can still smile, mouth the words, do the staging and be a support to those around you who count on your presence. And then no one has to adjust for your empty space.

The bottom line about learning is you've done a lot, done it well and I'm looking forward to a bangup HOA performance on our 60th annual show. It is, as we've all noted, some of the most fun music we've ever sung! I'm grateful to the leadership and arm-waving efforts of Mike Neff, John Fortino and Carter Combs -- and all the music team -- as we head into the final days before the curtain goes up March 25th. ♥

HARMONOTES

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

Heart of America Chorus

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All chapter officers and quartets are expected, and chapter members encouraged, to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

The editorial staff reserves the right to deny publication of material deemed inappropriate for Harmonotes and to edit all submissions for reasons of space and clarity (grammar, phrasing, and spelling).

Permission to reprint articles is granted to barbershop chapters as long as the author and Harmonotes are acknowledged.

The utmost care was used in preparation of this newsletter. However, should you notice erroneous copy, please let the Editor know! Comments/submissions may be made to:

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

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

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

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



February Harmony Foundation Report

by Jim Porter



Note that we will have our raffle each time we meet in our regular location. Half of the proceeds is designated to Harmony Foundation. You can, of course, give money directly to Harmony Foundation any time we are together, just tell me at the time of your intentions and I'll direct your gift 100% to the Foundation.

As of Wednesday, February 22nd, and 12 drawings: In the past month, our chapter has raised \$660 for the Harmony Foundation. The total raised for this year (since Nov. 19, 2005) is \$1589. Last year, the total raised was \$766. In our best year (2003), the total raised was \$1064.

And yes, we had a big winner (record jackpot) January 31. See separate article on page 5! ♥

Attention All Members Of HOA!

Consider directing your tax-deductible contributions to *your very own* charitable organization...*HOA!*

As you can see, it has already started. Certainly not everyone has the financial ability to participate, but consider that this is an opportunity to know how your charitable dollars are being used.

Be included in the list below, and proudly support HOA.

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

Gold Heart (\$1,000 - \$4,999)
Thom Tisdall
Silver Heart (\$400 - \$999)
Bronze Heart (\$50 - \$399)
Arthur Gibson Dick & Joan Korek Hugh & Nancy McCreery Tony Strub

Donors will be listed in HOA's monthly bulletin and the March 23, 2006 Annual Show program.

The Heart of America Chorus is a 501(c) (3) organization.

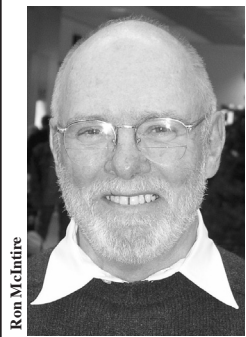
Checks should be made out to: HOA

Give to any HOA Board member or mail to:
HOA, c/o Dale Neuman
816 W. 121st. St. • Kansas City, MO 64145-1011

Donors are listed from June 30, 2005 through July 1, 2006

Together Power

by Tony Strub, Chapter President



Ron McIntire

When I became president of our chapter, I was confident that the character and spirit of our membership was second to none. It was always present, but not always visible. It was as though it was reluctant to be in the bright lights. Recently we have seen this character and spirit step forward and take center stage. It was there when we asked for help with the risers, when we needed a successful Singing Valentines project, when we worked with the youth at the Harmony Explosion project and in our efforts to sell tickets for our Spring Show. It has never been as visible, however, than in our rehearsals for the March 25 show. Our directors and section leaders have given us guidance and specific homework assignments that have helped us be better prepared and enhance the quality of our performance.

Perhaps the most gratifying rehearsal experience in my four years with HOA came on Feb. 7 when after section rehearsals, the chorus started to work on "Run-nin' Wild." Our bass section seemed to be in an unlisted area code. They stepped forward and took control of the chorus. The energy was electric and it immediately infected the rest of the chorus. The result was magic. I have never seen **Keith Schweer** as animated as he was that night. The expressions on the faces of **Mike Neff** and **John Fortino** were as though they had just discovered that they had the winning Power Ball ticket. We really came together as a chorus that night. It was fun to be a part of it and it convinced me that the only limit that we have when we work together is "HOW HIGH DO WE WANT TO FLY?" ♥

Win A Full Scholarship to Harmony College!

by Carol Ramirez

Applications are now being accepted for one full scholarship to the newly named Harmony University July 30-August 6, 2006 at Missouri Western State University in St. Joseph, MO. This scholarship is open to any first-time participant. Sessions are tracked three ways:

Quartets, Directing, and the regular Harmony University classes. Applications are on the table and should be given to **Charles Ramirez** no later than May 2, 2006. A committee will then decide the winner who will be notified in mid-May. ♥



Dear Jim & HOA Chorus Members:

Please express the thanks of myself and the family to those who came and provided the barbershop memorial in song for Rob.

Blessings to all,
Millie Robinette
(See you in March)



The Songs We Sing

The following item was taken from the "Heritage of Harmony Songbook," edited by Burt Szabo, by Elbert Ford, editor of *The Chorister*, chapter unknown, and borrowed by Editor John Conrad of By-Lines, the St.Louis Suburban Chapter bulletin.

There is "Sweet Genevieve," there is "Sweet Sue," and there is "Sweet Rosie O'Grady." But without doubt, the best known, best loved, and most often sung of the songs with similar titles is, "Sweet Adeline," whose complete title is, "You're the Flower of My Heart, Sweet Adeline."

Harry Armstrong composed the melody in 1896 and titled it, "My Old New England Home," while **Richard Gerard's** lyric was originally titled "Sweet Rosalie." The two writers were introduced by **Jimmy Walker**, a lyricist (later to be mayor of New York), and they combined efforts, changing a few melody notes and words. "Rosalie" became "Adeline," supposedly suggested by an advertisement for the great Italian opera singer, **Adelina Patti**, who was appearing in New York City.

The song, especially the chorus with its harmonizing voices echoing the solo part, has been a standard—almost the national anthem—of barbershop singers. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

Ron McIntire	March 4
David Krause	March 6
Eric Weber	March 16
Don Young	March 17
Charles Ramirez	March 23
John Winfiel	March 24
Jim Kinyon	March 24
Jerry Meier	March 29

Singing Valentine Review by Jim Porter

As I made my way to the Northland from Olathe in the predawn darkness of Valentines Day, I was ready for a bunch of blessings. What a wonderful feeling it is to know what you are doing will delight not only the recipient, but also the one who thought to send it! Those smiles, compliments, even hugs sometimes, makes all that practice time worth while! When **Marty Oldenhoeft** asked me to sing with him, **Carl Turlin** and **Rod Flatebo** for Valentines Day, I wasted no time accepting, even though their plans would take me across the city from my surroundings in Johnson county.

We began the day with 12 assignments that would take us from Liberty to Kearney to Smithville to Platte City to Parkville and a bunch of places in between, probably nearly 200 miles of traveling before the day was done. As we went along, the orders kept coming in, and before we could get done, 7 more were added (we dropped one after the target lady was found to be in Johnson County that day), and in 9 hours we delivered 18 Singing Valentines. I'm happy to say that we made all of our appointments, only two of which were late (and those just 30 minutes late), and every one of the recipients were simply delighted we came, and delighted that someone thought the world of them and arranged to have us come! We were in several schools, a couple of businesses, a few private homes, the Social Security office (in Gladstone), the Board of Election Commissioners (in Platte City), the administration building of Park University, even KCI Airport. At the end of the day, we offered a freebie to the manager of Sam's Club in Gladstone, which recently donated \$500 to the chorus.

The experience always leaves some lessons behind to take to heart next year, and here is our list.

- 1. Start with enough supplies.** You WILL get additional orders. Have supplies for at least eight deliveries in addition to the ones you receive from the hotel the previous evening.
- 2. Plan ahead.** Have a good street map book and locate each delivery point before you begin to drive to it. (Of course, it helps to have a good navigator, one who knows the area, or one who can read maps well.)
- 3. Minimize the backtracking.** Arrange your deliveries with the idea of reducing the mileage between points. (The time windows will complicate this process, of course. Assume you can deliver 2 Valentines per hour.)
- 4. Practice!** Nothing is quite as embarrassing as a poor presentation or one that is obviously not together. (Practice between deliveries, too. Just do it inside your closed vehicle.)
- 5. Bring along a digital camera, one that uses a 3.5" floppy disk.** The recipient can get pictures simply by giving you a floppy, then let bystanders use the camera. Leave the disk with them as you leave.
- 6. If you can't make it in time to "hit the window", phone ahead before it is too late!** When we found it impossible to do both Platte City and Park City before noon, we were able to make arrangements.
- 7. Bring along some munchies.** You may find it difficult or impossible to take an hour to stop for lunch. (Water too, of course. Most places you stop at will have facilities for when you need them.)
- 8. Know your limits.** Don't take on additional assignments if you know you can't do them in time. (You might be able to bargain with the sender to work out a window you can handle.) ♥

Stew Served Hot

by Stew Grosser,
VP for Chapter Development



GIVE 100%, GET 100%. That's right. Thanks to your BHS you can bring new members into HOA and have your dues paid in 2007. It works like this:

For every member you bring in during 2006 you will get 20% deducted from your dues in 2007. Bring in five new members during the year and your 2007 dues will be completely paid: your Society dues, your District dues and your Chapter dues will all be paid in full. The program ends Dec. 31st so you have only ten months. Bringing more members into HOA means more tenors, more quartets, more tag singers, more people to sell tickets, more people to recruit, a bigger audience for shows and. . . Who knows maybe another Jim Clancy or Jim Henry will emerge ready to get into Barbershop-ping for the long haul.

Get behind your chapter and society. You love to sing and there are many future members out there who would love to share in this exciting hobby. Use show brochures, pictures from shows and HOA business cards to get the interest started. Contact your prospects, be sincere, be patient and begin with inviting them to a guest night. Drive your prospect to rehearsal. Invite them back and give them space to feel comfortable about wanting to come back. Ask for help.

Remember, The Greatest Legacy You Can Leave to Barbershopping is bringing in a new member. ♥

**Alas for those
that never sing,
But die with all
their music in them!**

- Oliver Wendell Holmes



New Member Spotlight

by Ron McIntire

With this column, we introduce new members of the Kansas City, Missouri Chapter!



Maurice Smith is a 21 year veteran of *HOA*, having first joined in 1974. He sang in the first *HOA Chorus* to compete at District. Job interference forced him to step aside for awhile but now he's retired and lives in Kansas City Missouri with his wife **Brenda**. Musically, he played the clarinet in High School, has sung in his church choir and sings Bass in *HOA*.



Rodney (Rod) Rivard has been a barbershopper for 16 years and sang with the *Cody Choraliers* in Leavenworth, Kansas before joining *HOA*. He's retired and lives in Leavenworth, Kansas with his wife **Gladys**. Rod sings Bass in *HOA*.



Simon Tady (pronounced Toddy) is new to barbershopping but he's sung in the K State Glee Club and choir. He's a draftsman at a cooling tower manufacturer in the Kansas City area and sings Bass in the *HOA Chorus*. He lives in Kansas City, Kansas and will marry his fiancé, **Tami**, in October, 2006. ♥

**"Welcome,
Gentlemen!"**



Photos courtesy of Ron McIntire

January's Record Report

by Jim Porter



The setup was perfect. Our last white marble winner was **Neil Johnson**, when he visited the chorus last July 26 while on furlough from his stint in Iraq. He then won only the minimum \$50 prize, but he was nevertheless thankful and elated. In the six months since, there was 25 drawings with no

white marble winner, with the jackpot mounting toward record levels and the number of blue marbles dwindling down to a precious few. When new member **Jim Clark** pulled a blue marble Jan. 24, reducing the bag to a single blue marble with one red and the white one, the stage was set. The next week, Neil Johnson returned from Iraq, his stint done, and he joined his *HOA* friends in a frantic rush for tickets for the biggest raffle jackpot in the history of the chorus. When **Jim Porter** was finished counting a mountain of cash and his wife **Roberta**, **Jeannie Snyder** and **Mary Fortino** had filled the bucket six inches deep with tickets, the jackpot stood at an astounding \$1,511. All that was needed for a true Hollywood ending was for Neil to win the drawing and pull the white marble.

Alas, Hollywood would have to wait. But good fortune fell into needy hands as **J.B. Witham** won the drawing and pulled the white marble. Now he has enough to pay his way to Indianapolis, and he assures us he will be there, something he wasn't ready to commit to before luck smiled on him. Enjoy your windfall, J.B., and we all look forward to having your bass voice with us on the back row as we compete in Indianapolis. ♥



Above: **Dr. Niel Johnson** eyes his welcome home cake,
Below: **Yesiree-Bob**, **Dr. Niel** is back from Iraq and
he's on a tear. Welcome home, Niel!

Photos above courtesy of Don Fuson & Ron McIntire

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN HARMONOTES

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

TEN YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1986:

"Singing Valentines" Coordinator **Monty Duerksen** reports on the results of the campaign on Feb. 13 and 14. Says Monty, "Thanks to eight quartets on Tuesday and nine on Wednesday, they were on target 341 times, raising close to \$13,000 for the *Heart of America Chorus* Education Fund and Children's Mercy Hospital Audiology Department.



Ron McIntire

Then, in another article, in his capacity as Membership V.P., Monty mentions the "HOA Notables," a program established "to tell you that you're important, your accomplishments are important, your friends are honored when you share something of yourself." With help from **Ron McIntire**, four members were given the opportunity to bring to each chapter meeting "a shirt box full of awards, pictures, news articles, quartets you've sung with, family

trivia, hobby news, creations, arrangements, compositions, anything you wish to share with your friends that would be of interest to them. It was Ron's job to hang the "HOA Notables" display for all to see. Members were assured they could take the stuff back home with them after the meeting.

In still another item, under the heading "Strategies for Growth," Membership V.P. Monty reminds the membership about the "Singing Skills" classes offered on an eight-week cycle "as a part of our 'Perpetual Open House' program." Apparently this was an orientation program for prospective chapter members BEFORE they joined. Familiar names of students in the current class included **Todd Anderson** and **Dick Korek**. Is it not a wonder that we picked Monty Duerksen for the "FOCAL POINT" in this issue of *Harmonotes*?

TWENTY YEARS AGO - MARCH 1986

Not much of interest in this edition of *Harmonotes*. Although the editor himself had contributed an unusually lengthy commentary, the issue came out with only 12 pages. He went to great pains to plead the case for the acquisition by the chapter of its own meeting place, offering as an example the Grand Rapids, MI, chapter. He and **Joyce** had become acquainted with a member of the Great Lakes Chorus and his wife during the 1979 international convention in Minneapolis.

As she usually did when she'd met someone she liked, Joyce for several years then had carried on a correspondence with the woman. In a recent letter, the lady described how the Grand Rapids guys had purchased what had been a small theater. Over the years it had been permitted to fall into disrepair and required a lot of hard work and dedication before it could be put into useable condition. There was the usual obstacle of lack of funding for the purchase, but the lady said that "someone had power," and the deal was consummated. She told us that the group was more than satisfied with the end result.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if "someone had the power" to help the Kansas City chapter acquire its own meeting place? Think about it.

FORTY YEARS AGO - MARCH 1966

Editor **Warren Edmonds** doesn't provide a great deal of detail, but he does announce that the Kansas City chapter had received awards from International headquarters for membership increase, as well as membership retention during the preceding year. He quotes International President **Al Smith** in his remarks at last year's BOTY dinner (I suppose that was something like our installation banquet) that "it is much easier to get a membership of 100 members than it is to keep that membership." Wonder why that's so true. ♥



"Insufficient Memory At This Time"

by Todd Anderson, *Harmonotes* Editor

I'm a lot like my computer...just not enough memory to tackle all the tasks life throws at me. Sure wish I could "upgrade" and become more efficient!

Normally I send out an email note each month, reminding everyone of the bulletin deadline. However, for the first time since becoming editor...I forgot to do so. As a result, many of you were unable to send your normal input. I humbly apologize and will try to do better in the future.

In a frantic scramble to garner articles for this issue, I discovered that Presidente **Tony Strub** has the flu and pneumonia—a terrible combination that has him flat on his back. So I wanted to hurry and remember to extend our well wishes to you, Tony, before my "system" overloads again. *Get well quickly!* ♥

Kids Enjoying Singing... What A Great Thing!

by Grant Hunget, Bass!



On Jan. 28, Region 7 of the Sweet Adelines had a Music School here in Kansas City at the Radisson on 95th & I-35. Their evening concluded with a "Variety Show", which featured all sorts of entertainers, including Dancers, Solo Vocalists, Quartets, and yes - Mixed Quartets.

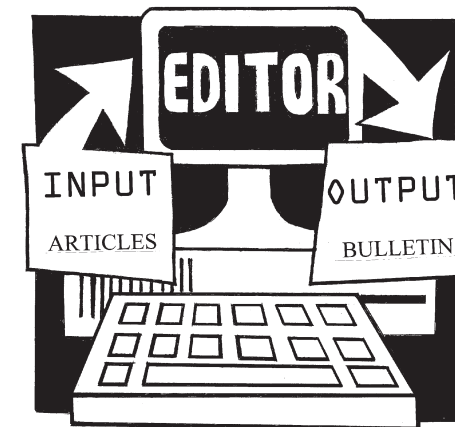
The "Von-Hun-can-4" (Hunget-Duncan, get it?) made its formal debut. **Michelle** is singing Lead for

the first time since her High School Quartet days, I'm singing Bass (good thing these songs are pitched up!), **Steven's** mailing in the tenor, and **MaryBeth** is laying in a nice Bari.

After a Trio opener by Mom & kids on "This Land is Your Land" (I accompanied on tambourine), we followed with, "Holy, Holy, Holy" & finished with "Ride in that Chariot." The kids said they were nervous, but it sure didn't show. They did great & each of them had solo parts. MaryBeth even told a GREAT joke: "What do you call a Lead who can read music? A BARITONE!"

Many of the Kansas City Chorus ladies (especially proud Grandma, **Pat Duncan**) were in tears watching, as many have known Steven & MaryBeth since birth. Pretty neat stuff.

We haven't locked in our tour schedule just yet, but we'll keep you posted on upcoming performances. ♥



Deadline for the APRIL issue of
HARMONOTES
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Those Touring, Temperamental, yet Tantalizing Troubadours - ToneHenge

by Mike Neff, Special Correspondent for "Ole Bruce"

The day – February 14, 2006

The time – 6:45 a.m.

The place – Fox 4 News

It was a brisk Tuesday morning and I was about to make my debut on the pan flute, the PCV calliope, aka "the pipes," with *Tone-Henge*. Man, what had I gotten myself into with this outfit? Luckily, I didn't have to learn the words to "BumperStickers" or "Curse of an Aching Heart." But I did have to play those blasted plastic pipes.

I'd practiced til I nearly lost all my top teeth and even met with **Jim**, **Bruce** and **Dan** on a couple of occasions to rehearse "my part." Man, those things took a lot of hot air to make noise—I see why *Tone Henge* is so good at them. I was seeing stars after the first couple of runs.

We arrived at the studio early, did a run thru in the lobby of Fox 4, and then were whisked back to the studio. It was a real treat for Dan to see some of his old friends still at the station. We even teased **Don Harmon** about "getting the forecast right" that day.

After our TV appearance, **Joann Bagby** and **Connie Schweer** served as pilot and first officer in the Bagby buggy and shuttled us around town all day. Many thanks ladies, for your lightning speed (and patience) driving us to and fro.

We had a number of memorable deliveries, including one where the recipient stood up in the meeting room and proclaimed "I have tickets to their annual show! You should ALL GO!" We didn't even have to do a sales pitch...it was great!

We also delivered a valentine in Jim's old office building, so we got to serenade the folks at the Associated Press, and capped off the day singing to a friend of Connie's at the Atriums and then to a charming young lady at Victoria's Secret at Oak Park Mall.

After that, we sent Dan home to take a nap! Bruce was off vacationing in Florida, but trust me, he missed out on a mighty fun time. The highlight of the day was the woman who looked at Dan and said, "I know you. You're...you're...ummm, uh, you're DON FORTUNE." ♥



Command Performance

by Carter Combs

It's been quite a whirl-wind couple of weeks for *Command Performance*, including one quick TV spot, and singing on six (count 'em, 6!) radio stations over the course of three way-too-early mornings. Of course, all these were to promote our Singing Valentines, so well worth getting up at oh-dark-thirty...yeah, right!

HOA has been delivering Singing Valentines for a decade now, and I actually have closer to 15 years under my belt. In that time I've had to opportunity to sing for literally hundreds of sweethearts of all ages, from grade-school students to senior citizens. I've had the pleasure playing Cupid's assistant at schools, homes, restaurants, and all manner of businesses. And a few of the couples have made the occasion even more special by proposing on the spot!

But this year included something even more special, something I never expected... *Command Performance* was invited to sing for a birth!

Mid-morning on St Valentine's Day, we received a call from **Mike Mathieu**, asking if we had time to stop by the hospital. Seems **Rob & Haley** were eagerly awaiting the arrival of the newest member of the *HOA*...ummm...Ma-thieu family, and had some time on their hands. So the quartet hurried through the rest of our early appointments to make time, and pointed **Frazier Allen** (our driver/escort/bodyguard for the day) toward the hospital.

We arrived about mid-afternoon to find the Mathieus and some of Haley's family all waiting for the stork. Since the stork seemed to be a little stubborn, we decided some harmony was in order. First, **Monty & Rich** joined papa- and grandpa-to-be to sing a beautifully touching valentine to Haley. Next,

Command Performance launched into "Honey's Lovin' Arms." About the time we got to the tag Haley glance over at the monitor, and we all saw a spike.

Now, I have seen absolutely NO evidence that ringing overtones can have ANY effect on contractions, so I'm not claiming anything. Suffice to say that **Dane Robert Mathieu** arrived a few short hours later, and, from all accounts is a fine tenor in the making!

Nothing could top that, but our week was far from over. We finished the week at the "Harmony Explosion" at Olathe East, serving as teaching quartet and contest judges. The kids get better every year, and this year *HOA* was well represented by **A. J. Meier** performing in a medalist quartet.

As tenor section leader, I just have to say... it's been a GREAT week for *HOA* tenors! ♥

April 4 : It's Baseball Night With The HOA All Stars!

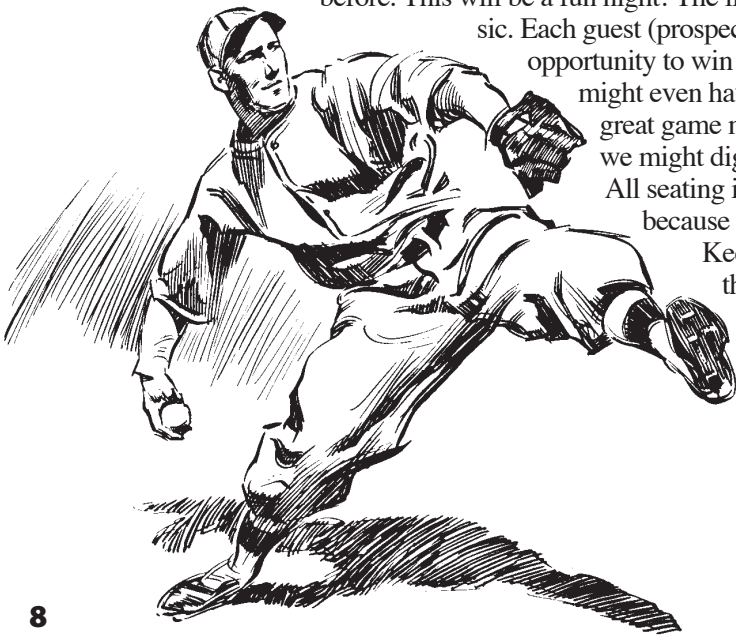
by Stew Grosser

We are in Spring Training with the *HOA* District Champions and starting April 4 the season begins. It looks like the beginning of another great season but we need a large group of rookies to fill the slots of Leads, Tenors, Baritones and Basses. The need is great and there is plenty of space for all positions. It is important that the regular players bring recruits to fill the many slots and that will take effort. The important thing to remember is that everyone wants to be on a winning team and that is *HOA's* reputation.

What does this mean? Our April 4 Guest Night is baseball night. Invite all those prospects from last year and the year before. This will be a fun night! The line up of players is in tact as well as the line up of music. Each guest (prospective member) you bring in gives you and your guest an opportunity to win two tickets each to a Royals ballgame. In addition we might even have a hot dog and a coke vendor around. It should be a great game night of hot hitting songs and after a victorious evening we might dig into a delicious Sheridan Sundae. Lets fill the seats. All seating is special and with a great view. Don't come alone because you will be booed.

Keep in mind that if you get a hit and bring a guest home the 100% Club rules apply. and you will get 20% off your 2007 dues. Get 2 hits and you get 40%. How about 5 for 5 and a free ride for 2007 season?

Be a Player on the April 4 Baseball Guest Night. Don't strike out with your guests. Show enthusiasm and excitement. Come to play and let's recruit for the International World Series in Indy. Rookies with the right stuff can make it there. ♥



Board of Directors February 2006 Meeting Highlights

by Kevin Tritsch, Secretary, and Ron McIntire

CHORUS PERFORMANCES ACCEPTED

- Richmond, MO. - One show May 13 at 7 p.m.
- John Knox Village - Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.
- Trenton, MO. - April 14, 2007.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Ron Fortino

- Total Operating Funds: \$18,932.77
- Preliminary budget review shows some budgets may have to be cut. Budget committee will reconsider after the spring show.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCE REPORT: Keith Schweer

Spring Show:

- Show preparations – on target
- Taping deadline – Feb. 28
- Thursday rehearsals set for March 9 & 16
- Front Row Audition process completed

Coaching Plan

- **Kevin Keller** – April 11
- **Sheri Hart** – staging development and teaching for Runnin' Wild
- John Fortino – Singing and Music coaching from within the chapter

MEMBERSHIP: Stew Grosser

- Board agreed to accept Society and District 100% Club Promotion plan and forego 2007 chapter dues when a member brings in 5 new members during 2006.
- Voice Placement of perspective members program is working well. Need to know ahead of each rehearsal which music team member will do placements.
- Guest Night scheduled for April 11. It will include a baseball theme
- **Simon Tady** accepted as new member.
- **Maurice Smith, Rod Rivard, Jim Page, Jeff Clymore** accepted as a new members

2006 SPRING SHOW REPORT: Jerry Garrard

Show Committee:

- Chairman - **Jerry Garrard**
- Chairman Advisor - **Grant Hunget**
- Ticket Chairman - **Vince Perry**
- Show Operations - **John Warrior**
- Sound - **Joe Hart** - (Sheri Hart's hubby)
- Marketing - **Dick Korek**
- Director(s) - **Jim Bagby, Mike Neff, Carter Combs, John Fortino**
- Quartet Host(s) - *Command Performance*
- Show Lunch - *Heartbeats*

- Music Team Meal - **Joann Bagby**
- Between Show(s) Dinner - **Mike Mathieu**
- Afterglow Chairman - **Mike Mathieu**
- Ushering Co-Chairs - **Mike Schumacher & Jeffi Combs**

MARKETING: Dick Korek

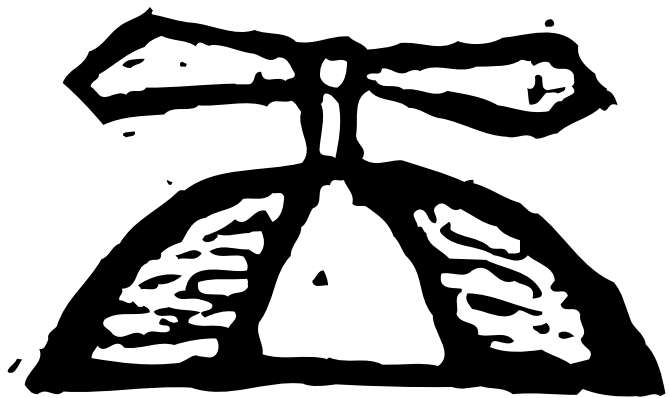
- Theater in the Park performance is scheduled for July 21.
- Drawing for the free stay at the Muelbach hotel set for March 21.
- Sheridens will provide ice cream April 4.
- Pulte Homes donated \$600.00 to the chapter.

SINGING VALENTINES: Marlin Weidler

Total income from Singing Valentines as of Feb. 18 is \$10,070.

OLD NEWS:

Next board meeting: 6 p.m.at the Drivers License Bureau, the second Monday of March. ♥



A TIP OF THE HAT!

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

A Tip Of the Beanie to the Singing Valentine crew, **Marlin Weidler, Al Higgins, Ron McIntire** and the quartets who traveled around the city delivering Singing Valenentines.

And a big TOTH to **Al Higgins** who has never been known to sleep when Harmony Explosion is going on.

To **Sheri Hart**, the choreography team and the high-steppin front row who are working hard to get the "Runnin' Wild" choreography down, we say, here's one to ya.♥

FOCAL POINT: Up Close And Personal!

by Wade Dexter



Ron McIntire

Wonder how many of you never knew that **Monty Duerksen's** real first name is "**Monroe**?" And all these years, I've thought it was "Montgomery." Really!

Our subject for this month was born in Salem Hospital in Hillsboro, KS and for the first 12 years of his life lived on a farm near Lehigh (about 23 miles north of Newton) in a house with no electricity, no running

water, and no plumbing. Pretty rugged, huh? When he was halfway through the sixth grade, his family moved to Newton, where Monty attended high school and graduated from Bethel College with a pre-medical degree. Monty professes no formal education in music but attributes his understanding of a cappella singing by ear to having been brought up in a Mennonite family living in a Mennonite community. At the age of three, he was singing solos at church, city, and county events.

As a result of such early exposure, it was no wonder that Monty's first experience with barbershopping came with a quartet in high school called the *Newtones*, which led to his joining the *Barbershop Harmony Society* and the Newton chapter in 1949. He directed the Newton chorus of 51 members in 1957. In 1960, he joined the Emporia chapter where he was the chorus director from 1970 to 1979 and again from 1982 until 1985. He became a member of the Kansas City chapter in 1989.

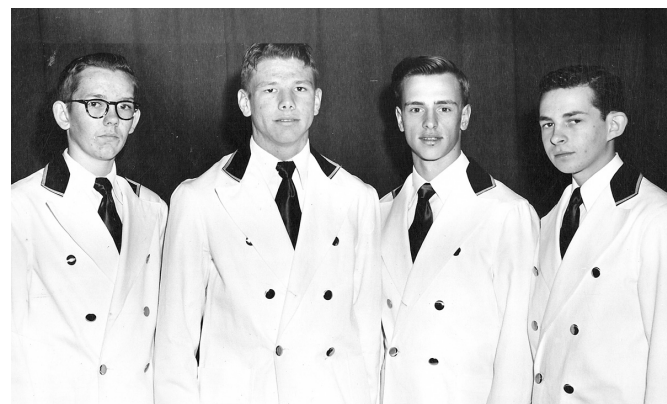
Monty claims membership during his barbershopping career in a total of 12 quartets, two of which qualified to represent their districts in international competition. These were the *Springsingers*, whom he joined when he was in the Army stationed at Fort Carson, CO, in the Rocky Mountain District, and the *Four Cavaliers*, who finished in second place behind the "Buccaneers" in CSD competition in 1958. In the international senior quartet contest, the *Gentlemen of Note* represented CSD and finished in third place at Jacksonville, FL, in 2001.

Monty admits quite frankly that when he joined *HOA*, he planned to limit his participation in chapter activities to simply standing on the risers and concentrating on good singing. But a fellow by the name of **Mike Mathieu** had other ideas, and recognizing Monty's administrative talents, had him deeply involved in administrative projects almost from the beginning. Mike persuaded

him to work with him with the Spring Fling and the Bush League quartet contests for several years. But easily the most significant contribution was Monty's collaboration with Mike in the organization in 1990 of the annual Singing Valentines campaign. Their initial effort resulted in the sale of seven Singing Valentines at \$25 per delivery. But it wasn't long before the annual sale brought in several thousand dollars in revenue.

When asked to describe his single most vivid barbershop memory, in typical Monty Duerksen style, our subject came up with FIVE!. They are: Organizing a Christmas Spectacular in 1973 that involved all Kansas chapters coming together for a performance on the Emporia State University campus, with the revenue from ticket sales going to the Institute of Logopedics (I remember those mile-high risers, Monty); the wedding in 1983 of Monty's daughter, **Angie**, who had her sister, **Jill**, (currently **Mrs. Matt Bostick**) arrange the *Love Song* in the barbershop style to be sung by all of the Kansas chapters who attended the wedding; hearing the contest administrator announce that the *Gentlemen of Note* would represent CSD at the international seniors quartet contest; hearing the international seniors contest administrator report that the *Gentlemen of Note* were bronze medalists; and being inducted into the Central States District Hall of Fame in 2004.

One more story. Monty was very active several years ago in the organization of the annual Kansas Division chorus contest. One year, the Emporia chorus went to the contest as a group of "old" men—from a nursing home. According to Monty, "The contest judges laughed so hard, they forgot to give us a score!" That was Monty, all right. ♥



Above: Monty's first quartet—The *Newtones*—from back in 1949. Monty is shown on the far right!

Where Are They Now?

by Wade Dexter



Ron McIntire

You might think that the reason we haven't seen much of **Fred Whisman** over the past few years is that he's lost interest in the Kansas City chapter and barbershopping in general. But when I visited with Fred a few days ago, he told me that if a helicopter were to pick him up at his place every Tuesday evening and set him down in the parking lot at the church, he'd be

there for every meeting. I daresay there are a lot of us old-timers who feel the same way.

A local boy from the beginning, Fred was born, raised, and attended elementary and high school in Kansas City, KS. Upon graduation from Central High School, he entered the Navy's flight training program. Three years later, he qualified for his wings just as World War II ended.

Like most of the rest of us, Fred has an interesting story of how he became involved in barbershopping. It was back in the late 1960s when Fred was a traveling salesman covering a five state area for a propane gas distributing company. He'd made a stop in Springfield, IL, and planned to spend the night in a local hotel. He had prepared for bed when he heard the sound of male voices singing loudly, coming from somewhere near his room. Knowing that it was probably a case of "if you can't lick them, you might as well join them," Fred got dressed again and went down the hall and found that the music was coming from the local chapter of SPEBS-QSA that met regularly at the hotel.

He got a chance to sing with them and found that he enjoyed it. He asked if there was a similar outfit in Kansas City and was told that they had one of the oldest chapters in the Society. He was so impressed with what he had heard that on the following Tuesday evening, he attended a meeting of the Kansas City chapter, which was at that time meeting in the American Legion Hall.

But initially, Fred was disappointed. It was during the period in our Society's history when greater emphasis was placed on quartetting, rather than the choruses, and most of the members there were engrossed in singing with one quartet or the other and paid no attention to him. However, in time, then Chapter President **Ed Rucker** noticed him and "assigned" him to none other than **Ron Abel**. And Fred insists that had Ron not taken him under his wing and made him feel more comfortable as a guest, he'd probably never have joined our chapter. Close call, huh?

I'm sure you old-timers will agree that Fred was certainly one of the most dedicated members during the years he was active in the chapter. He served as chapter president in 1979 when the CSD champion *Heart of America Chorus* competed in international competition for the first time at Minneapolis. **Jim Bagby** recalls that Fred bought every member a billfold engraved with the date of the achievement. Jim says he still has his. With nearly a hundred singers on the risers, that must have cost Fred a pretty penny. In 1987, Fred was selected as *HOA* Barbershopper of the Year.

Fred recalls with great fondness his involvement with the formation, at the suggestion of Jim Bagby, of a minichorus called the *Harmony Handful*. Its purpose was to provide a group to perform at times when it would not be practicable to assemble the entire *HOA* chorus. As Jim, who was the director, describes it, "We did mainly church services when the choirs were out in the summer but also a lot of other performances." Jim tells how, with a membership of around 15 singers, each member had to be able to sing more than one voice part in order to cover for members who couldn't be present. According to Fred, the group would frequently take over the complete music program of a church service, including the anthem.

Ron Abel, who was a member of the group, tells how Fred wrote a "*Harmony Handful* Proposed Organizational Format" addressing (a) Objective, (b) Chorus Size, (c) Performances, (d) Rehearsals, and (e) Music. Fred describes the difficulty in maintaining a proper distribution of voices, which ultimately led to the group's demise. I understand there were similar groups that preceded and followed the *Harmony Handful*, but were short-lived.

Fred assures us that he's in good health and fairly "active for an 81-year-old." He's currently engaged in the property rental business. He and his wife, Jean, live comfortably in their home on Hiway 92, almost exactly halfway between Kearney and Excelsior Springs. Their address is 25217 Hiway 92, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. But if you want to contact them by snail mail, don't use that address, says Fred. They get their mail at P. O. Box 7447, North Kansas City, MO 64116. You can give him a call at (816) 628-4966. He'll appreciate it. ♥

