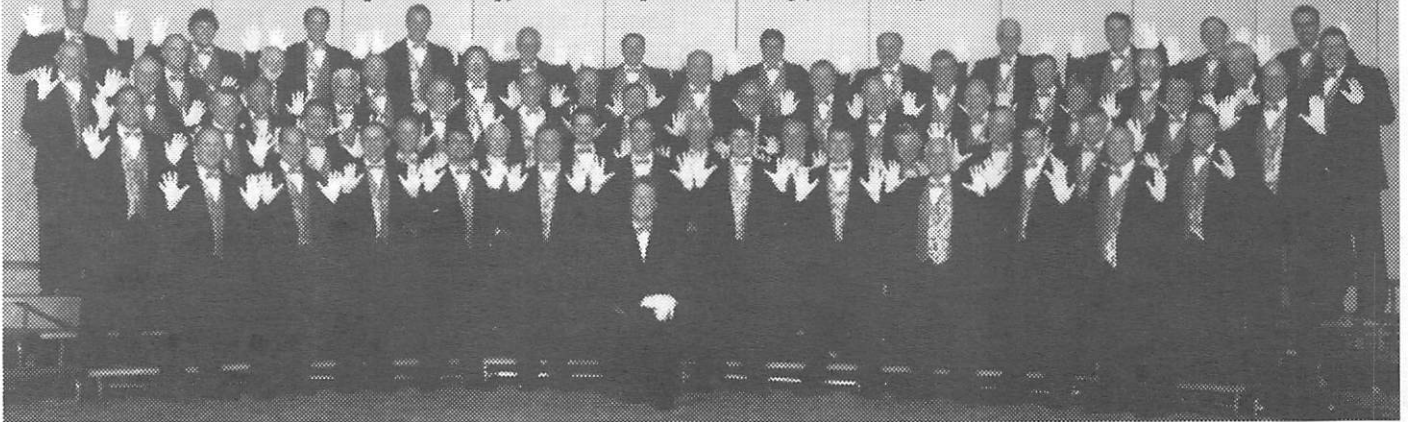


Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2001, Issue 3

"Drawn By Harmony, Bound By Friendship, Striving For Excellence."



"THE END OF AN ERA" by David Krause

Just returned from the funeral service for **Orval Wilson** and thought you would all appreciate a report. In case you happen to be someone who didn't know Orval very well, he was the last member of SPEBSQSA who had joined during the first year of its existence. He would have been 86 on February 20 and has been in very bad health in the last couple of years, so in many ways his passing was a blessing.

Orval was a retired Kansas City Policeman and an active Shriner. He loved singing baritone and was a two-time Central States District Champ in '52 and '57. One of his quartets was also an early performing group on the first TV station in Kansas City.

His quartet recording by the "Gamboliers" was played before and after the service. Letters from **Greg Lyne** and **Darryl Flinn** were read by **Dan Henry Bowser** and myself. The RR3, with me subbing on tenor, performed their version of "The Lord's Prayer" and a double quartet of the "Old Guard" sang Orval's version of "Sweet 16." The service concluded with at least 60 or 70 barber shoppers singing "I Believe" and "Keep the Whole World Singing."

The best of the shared stories by his three daughters was the one pertaining to his last words. Orval had been in very bad shape recently and often unaware or unresponsive to visitors. When a hospice volunteer, who'd become close to him, visited for the final time a few days ago, he was unable to get a response from Orval. As he prepared to leave he bent down and whispered in Orval's ear that he was sorry he'd been unable to ever hear him sing. Orval soon opened his eyes and sang "Do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do." According to his daughter, those were his last words.

As Greg said in his letter, "His passing marks the end of an era, as Orval was the last of our founding members of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Thank goodness we've had the chance as an Organization to honor and recognize **Orval Wilson**. I'll miss him very much. ~

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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

Chapter meets at 7:00 PM each Tuesday night, at:
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110th & Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64105

HOA Website: www.hoachorus.org
Web Address: jmathieu@hoachorus.org
Chapter Telephone: (913) 221-7988

Member Of



A SOCIETY BIDS FAREWELL

About 75 Kansas City barbershoppers, past and present, took part in **Orval Wilson's** funeral on February 19—one day before his 86th birthday.

Almost 60 of those were part of the HOA chorus that concluded the service with a rich rendition of "I Believe" and an enthusiastic version of "Keep the Whole World Singing." At the request of the family, former director **Jim Bagby** was out front.

The *Rural Route 4*, with **David Krause** on tenor, sang "Lord's Prayer." The RR4 then were joined by two of Orval's former quartet members, **Barney Wasson** and **Nile Abbott**, and **Dan Henry** for Orval's "signature" song, "Sweet 16."

Orval's three daughters, **Anne**, **Linda** and **Charlene**, and Linda's husband, **Steve**, handled the eulogy. They provided warm recollections of Orval's humor, his one-of-a-kind personality and his love of singing. There was a wonderful story of how the last sound from Orval was a scale, and what his first words would be when he saw the Pearly Gates: "Well, I'll be damned!"

Krause, filling in for pneumonia-ridden past Society President **Gil Lefholz**, read a letter from **Dr. Greg Lyne**, the Society's director of music education and a Central States District native from Wamego, Kansas. Greg recalled singing with Orval as a teenager, and how then police officer Wilson once bailed out his impounded car.

Dan Henry read a tribute from Society Executive Director **Darryl Flinn**, noting the passing of the last original SPEBSQSA member, and how much quartetting meant to Orval.

A flashing-light police escort of seven motorcycles and four patrol cars whizzed the funeral procession from the chapel to the cemetery, blocking off all three southbound lanes of Interstate 435 in the process—*during rush hour!*

Prominent at the visitation, funeral and grave site was a large floral basket from HOA, adorned with the one-foot, shiny Society logo. Orval wore a SPEBSQSA lapel pin and his CSD quartet championship tie clasp, with his Ararat Shrine fez propped nearby.

Darryl's letter concluded with "Long live Orval Wilson!" To that let us all add: *Amen!* ~

LIFE FRAGMENTS

by Dr. Dale Neuman

Fragments of life arise
during wakes and visitation
to give life anew
to that which the body has forsaken.

Caring words and careful too
pass among those gathered there
and meet in quiet rendezvous
in recollects all may share.

Comforting closeness with family and friends
is part of the ritual of closure
providing a cue to consider again
whether mortality is our final measure.

Each recounts something different
from the life that now has gone
the smiles, the deeds, the special bent
so that life in life fragments stays on.



REMEMBERING ORVAL: Photos of April, 1998 ceremony in Muehlebach Hotel, where Society Board met and rededicated founder's plaque:

TOP - Orval the Babe Magnet: He expounds as (from left) Yvonne Ward, Jan Mathieu and Madeline Tordoff drink it in. Behind Madeline is her daughter and Betty Kaat. To Orval's left is Society Board Member Gene Courts of Cincinnati.

BOTTOM - Orval getting 60-year membership card and proclamation from Society Executive Director Darryl Flinn; barely visible at right is then-Society President Ed Waesche. Visible in background (from left) are Paul Dexter; his father, longtime HOA member Wade Dexter, Society Board Member John Krizek of FWD and (between Darryl & Ed) Society Historian David Wright of St. Charles, who organized the event with CSD Historian David Wright of Kansas City. Dan Henry was (naturally) the MC.

To the Heart of America Barbershop Chorus and Rural Route 4...c/o Jim Bagby

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the beautiful flowers and for singing at our father's funeral this past Monday. Your overwhelming support and heartwarming beautiful performance meant more to us than it is possible to express.

We will never forget your beautiful voices or the barbershop organization, and the importance it has played in our fathers's life, and in our lives.

May God continue to bless your important and wonderful organization.

**The family of Orval Wilson (daughters)
Anne Sheffield, Linda Bresette and
Charlene Lonneke**

A Thank You:

In a time of sorrow, it became clear to my family and me the kindness and generosity of Barbershoppers.

My brother recently passed away at the age of 57 in Kansas City. He had been very ill with cancer and had the privilege of making his own funeral arrangements. He desired to have barbershop music.

Before his death, his wife called to ask if I would be able to sing or knew of anyone who could do it. I gave her the Web address of SPEBSQSA. She found it, went to Heart of America, and put out a request for someone to sing at the funeral. Within 20 minutes, 18 men committed to sing at the funeral. These men had never even met my brother. (Come to find out one of them use to work with Lynn and another was in my nephew and niece's Sunday school class.) Their willingness to come sing for us at this sad time was a blessing for our family. They were so friendly and the music was wonderful.

They allowed me to practice with them and would have let me sing with them, but the arrangement they sing is a bit different from what our chapter sings. I did not want to goof them up and did not quite trust my emotions, so I sat with my family.

I would like to thank them very much for helping us. It helped so much at this sad time. — Terry Nanninga, Little Apple Chapter

THE PASSING OF ANOTHER GREAT BARBERSHOPPER

by Freddie King

It is with great sadness that I report the death of **Lou Perry**, one of the greatest barbershoppers of all time. He succumbed to ending leukemia, and he was ninety years old. How privileged I am to have known him. In ensuing messages, we will all hear from sources all over the country about his contributions to barbershopping.

He was of the most prolific arrangers of the barbershop style, and he emblazoned trails for all of us to follow. Having played trumpet in jazz bands in tin pan alley, he brought a rich understanding to this musical curio known as barbershop. He understood the essence of our improvisational style better than most.

Even before we knew he was so deathly ill, the AIC (Association of International Champions) had decided to do our annual AIC show featuring the music and arrangements of Lou Perry. What a fitting tribute it will become in Nashville.

Just last weekend, *The Boston Common*, '80 champs, **Val Hicks**, **Howard Mesecher**, and I went to see Lou at his home in Tucson. On behalf of the Society, I took him his 50 year pin. He recognized us all in turn, and he was, as always, deeply appreciative of our visit. The "Common" sang many of Lou's arrangements, and we all sang to our wonderful friend. He even sang along at times. We didn't stay too long so as not to tire him.

I overheard him say to **Terry Clark**, bass of the "Common", who's idea was this? Terry said, "Freddie King's". Lou retorted, "I might have known."

That, my friends, was the last thing I was privileged to hear him say. I'll carry that recognition until I meet him again.

Raise him up in your prayers, and let's remember him this weekend at the Woodshed Convention. ~



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

by Dick Irwin, HOA President



I was privileged to have met and sung with **Orval Wilson** only once. What a thrill to have had the opportunity to be together with one of our original society members, especially one of Orval's caliber. What a loss for our society and

chapter and mostly for his family.

We are well on our way to being ready for our annual show. We have a great start on preparing for October. Let's keep up the hard work and bring this chorus back where it belongs. Don't forget, **Tony** will be here on March 6th. Let's work on our music and be ready for his visit. ~

THREE QUARTET ARRANGEMENTS

by Dick Irwin

The HOA singing valentine effort this year found *Polecat Creek* chipping in on both Tuesday and Wednesday to bring some happiness to about 30 different valentines. Due to work schedules the quartet had some very good "relief" help from two other HOA'ers. On Tuesday **Kim Hoffman** starred as our lead, not only for the people we delivered valentines to, but also for the Channel 9 TV camera.

Early in the day we had a crew of two follow us to a couple of our shows and tape us as we drove down the highway warming up. Kim provided some really good interview footage that made the 10:00 news that night. The only criticism we heard was how "not clean" the outside of my car was. Oh, well!!! It only has 194,000 miles...*what do you expect?*

Wednesday found the regulars together until around 6:00 when Tom had to head for work. **Gerry Gerrard** did a great job filling in for the last few performances of the day. He and the rest of the guys even trekked from the Lee's Summit area all the way to Gladstone to sing one for my wife, **Sheli**, just before our Wednesday night bowling league started (I didn't bowl all that well...you know...fatigue?). All in all we had a great time and are already looking forward to next year.

Polecat Creek hopes you'll all be attending the Spring prelims in St. Joe. We're going to be on stage again and could use all the support we can get. This will be our first time performing at the prelims. It should be a great experience. *See ya'll there!* ~



CALLING ALL CHAPTER QUARTETS!



By Jim Bagby, CSD VP-Contest & Judging

Reminder—the next Central States District quartet competition is just one hour up the road, in St. Joseph. The date is the weekend of April 20.

No matter how far along you are, or what your plans are for the fall contest in Topeka, competition can be one of the most helpful endeavors you can pursue. We have an excellent double judging panel, and these guys will send you home with all sorts of good ideas for improvement.

To enter, go to the Society Web page (www.SPEBSQSA.org) and find the CSD link, which includes a CJ-20 entry form. Yep, electronically is only way to enter contests any more, quartet and chorus. If you have any questions, gimme a holler!

Incidentally, the very first entry this spring season was from our own *Gentlemen of Note!* ~

SING! AND INTERNATIONAL!

SING!
AN A CAPPELLA CELEBRATION

**A SUMMER
OF GREAT
HARMONY!**



Register for both events online at:
<http://www.spebsqsa.org/2001/>

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 Cathright (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 Heilman, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)
- Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion**
Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)
- Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion**
*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)
- KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion**
Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)
- 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion**
*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

- 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists**
*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)
- Arpeggio**
Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Mark Grisham (bari), Mike Griffin (bass)
- Boomerang**
Lee Tubbs (tenor), Rob Mathieu (lead),
Matt Harader (bari), Joe Mathieu (bass)
- Crosstown Four**
Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)
- From The Heart**
Matt Bostick (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Gordon Lankenau (bass)
- Heartland**
*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)
- Old Mission Messengers**
Reid Ecton (tenor), John Warrior (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Bryan Van Deun (bass)
- Polecat Creek**
Tom Elefson (tenor), Wayne Crawford (lead),
Dick Irwin (bari), Eric Weber (bass)
- The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray**
Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),
Randy Carney (bari), Burt Bray (bass)
- Tone-Henge**
Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

SHOWTIME 2001

By Dale Neuman

On Saturday, March 24th, the Kansas City Chapter will present its 55th Annual Show at the Music Hall. We got a late start organizing its administration this year so now we have to work overtime to make up for lost time. The Music team has given us some wonderful new songs to perform and **Jim Davis** is employing his creative talents to stage an entertaining show. **John Warrior** is still looking for someone to assist him in technical production matters. **Dick Korek** designed the flyers we mailed and is handling the program as well. There will be some other advertising—based in part from what we found out from responses to a questionnaire included in the Holiday Show program.

Paul Winans reports that ticket sales are strong but we need to make sure they are overwhelming! He assures me that he can handle the task. **Tickets may be ordered by phone at 816-537-0038.**

It was not too long ago that we averaged over 1,600 tickets sold for each performance on our show date. One year we even went over 2,000 for each show. This year's budget requires us to sell at least 1,000 for each performance to meet its goals. If every man sold at least 10 tickets for each performance while Paul was selling to our subscribers and those who respond to our ads, we would be back to the sales levels of previous years. So, I challenge each man to sell 20 tickets (or buy some and give them to those who have not attended a previous show. You can bet they will come back next year on their own!)

Everyone is pretty much aware that *Gas House Gang* and *12th Street Rag* are to be featured. What is new is that the original *Special Touch* (1984 CSD Champions: **David Krause, Matt Moore, Bud Clark and Rick Kready**) will open the show as part of our radio days "live studio show" theme for the first half. Chorus members are aware of the new choreography because they have been sweating through the learning of it but others need to know that **Sheri Watts** has put together a show stopping package for "Puttin' on the Ritz." This may be the most exciting song we've done in years.

We are still planning a cast party in the rooms above the Music Hall for chapter members and those who have helped in the Music Hall or performed in the show's production. There will be a modest charge that will be collected BEFORE the party—to keep within the city's rules on such matters. See me for more details. And we still need some more volunteers to help with ushering, ticket taking and the like so that we do not have to hire city personnel to do these things. So if you can help us in anyway, please call me at **816-942-9091 or 816-235-2787 or Kent McClean at 913-491-1873.** ~



TONE-HENGE

by Bruce Wenner



The flu has slowed us down lately—and that takes some doing, to slow down an old crew like *Tone-Henge*. It started with me—last month I woke up one morn-

ing with no voice, and we were due for a performance at a retirement home that evening. Had to reschedule, and we just finished singing it as I write. Anyway, I finally found a way to shake the flu. I passed it to **Keith**. Doesn't do much for the quartet, but I sure feel better. Have to keep ducking, though—Keith is not exactly thrilled about the turn of events.

Valentines were a blast again this year. We started before 8 a.m. Wednesday doing a radio spot at the top of the Hyatt with **Dan Hurst** on KUDL, and ended at the Infectious Diseases Unit of Children's Mercy at 7:15 p.m., singing for a nurse we had finally tracked down. Twenty-eight delivered in all, including a couple to Jim's cardiac rehab group at St. Luke's, and another to the waitress at the Pub & Grub, bought by **Dan's** Wednesday lunch group at the locale. Old-timers, remember **Steve and Peggy Lindsey**? Peggy is **Don Stewart's** daughter, and Steve sang bari in the chorus a while back. Well, we delivered the Valentine that Steve bought Peggy.

Life is speeding up for us now, getting ready for the John Knox performance and the Chapter Show, and then Prelims. Yes, *Pre-lims*. They moved the seniors quartet contest from fall to spring, so we'll take another run at it in April. So now we're trying to figure out which two numbers we can sing in contest without hacking off the judges—that's not easy, with our repertoire.

Think they'd buy our rap number? ("The Old Man and the Frog", with Dan playing the bones.) ~

12th STREET STAYING ACTIVE FOR HOA

by Mark Fortino

Well I believe I can claim that *12th Street Rag* was HOA's most active chapter quartet on Friday, January 19th. We went on a whirlwind tour putting on 8 performances at 7 schools including:

- DeSoto High School
- Olathe East High School
- Prairie Center Elementary
- Mid-American Nazarene University
- Shawnee Mission South High School
- Cure' of Ars Grade School

There were other schools included at several of these locations, as other schools bussed kids in for the performances.

This was a very exciting day for us representing the Heart of America Chorus before nearly 2,000 kids, pushing the *Harmony Explosion* program, and the March show at each performance.

(Thanks to **Dick Korek** for getting show flyers printed up to give out at the schools!)

The next time you see **Al Higgins**, make sure you thank him for all he is doing to reach out to our



youth. The reception we received at each of these schools was incredible, and it wasn't due to our singing. These kids wanted to sing tags with us, wanted to know more about barbershop, and were just outright excited about this hobby. Much of this excitement is due to Al's efforts. When we walked into several of these schools, the KIDS were saying "Hey Al, what's going on!". They love him... and so do we.

This past Saturday, I went to a father-daughter dance at Cure' of Ars. (My daughter **Mary** is a 1st grader at Cure') One of the fathers came up to me and said, "My daughter tells me you sing in a barbershop quartet...I used to sing barbershop when I was younger and lived in another city...is there a group around here?..." The doors we can all open if we just get out and share this hobby with the youth are unimaginable. ♦

TOP GUN SCHOOL

Other happenings for 12th Street included attendance at CSD Top Gun school on Saturday February 4, along with *Sibling Rivalry*, *Phase II*, and *Special Touch*. Six hours of solid singing...well, actually, it was three hours...lunch...then three more hours, was a true test of endurance and vocal stamina, but we had a great time and look forward to seeing more quartets qualify for Internationals.

SHOW TIME

Our next show is February 17th, in Omaha, NE for an LDS Stake Activity. Then March 2nd we will travel to Kearney, NE for a three show weekend, and from there we have a show every weekend except three (including Easter) before International Prelims. Of course our favorite appearance of the year will be March 24th at the Music Hall here in KC with HOA!!! We really pushed ticket sales at the schools, and I will working my customer list...*let's fill that hall!* We are so fortunate to have a featured group like the *GAS HOUSE GANG*. This is going to be a great show!

Well I could go on forever, but the editor of this edition can only take so much of this, so...although 12th Street can't be on the risers with you guys every week... know that we are doing everything we can to support the chorus and represent HOA as best we can, from the International Stage to the local schools, we're proud to be an HOA chapter quartet!! ~

WHY should you come as ready as possible to sing every Tuesday night?

According to **Scott Hansen** of the three-time gold medal *Masters of Harmony*, "The primary purpose of the warm-up is to warm up the ensemble, not the individual singer!"

JUST FOUR FUN

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

THINK IT OVER

*(The author is unknown,
but the message is clear.)*

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed,
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?

Do you attend the meetings,
And mingle with the flock,
Or do you stay at home,
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
To help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind that just belongs?

Do you ever work on committees,
To see there is no trick?
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?

So come to meetings often
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member
But take an active part.

Think it over, brother,
And know right from wrong;
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN THE *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - March 1991

HOA members extended condolences to the **Dan Jacobson** family on the occasion of Dan's passing on February 15 at the age 93. Dan was a well-known professional artist who operated his own advertising art studio for 46 Years before he retired. He served as president of the Kansas City Chapter in 1954-55 and was among the 22 past chapter presidents who were recognized at our installation banquet last December.

Dan was the editor of *Harmonotes* for a period back in the 1950's and was an early editor of the CSD *Serenade*. Indeed, he took credit for suggesting the name of that publication when it first appeared nearly 50 years ago now. He was a frequent contributor of artwork to both newsletters.

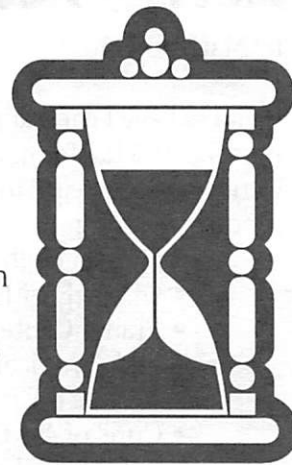
General Show Chairman **Marvin Blakeman** warned us all that there would be lots of competition for parking space at the Municipal Auditorium during our annual show on March 16, with the Home Show in Bartle Hall, the Police Circus in the Arena, the Great American Train Show in the Exhibition Hall, and a wedding reception in the Little Theatre, *all at the same time!*

There was a photo of **Mike Schumacher** holding the plaque he received from the Salvation Army in recognition of HOA's contribution to the SA's Christmas bellringing program back in December. Our collections totaled \$1,278.44, which earned us the fourth place trophy at the Victory Dinner following the campaign. Mike was our coordinator of this activity and deserved a big hand for his hard work.

Twenty Years Ago - March 1981

Editor **Al Benz** put out an eight-pager that included lengthy articles by Show Production Manager **Lance Heilmann**, Music Committee Chairman **Lance Heilmann**, and Corner Quarter "Image Coordinator" **Don Kahl**. That seems to be the way it goes for a bulletin editor. Most of the time, you have to hustle like the dickens to get the articles you need, but occasionally you get almost more than you can use.

(continued on page 6) ♦



♦ (continued from page 5)

Thirty Years Ago - February 1971

(Sorry...we're missing the March, April, May and June issue of Harmonotes.)

Chapter quartets included the *Digits* (contact **George Closson**), the *Kansas Citians* (contact **Nile Abbott**), the *Foursome* (contact **Bruce Wenner**), and the *Mid-Ameri-Chords* (contact **Lance Heilmann**—there's that name again). Quartet promoters were **Arlo Moore**, **Larry Brett**, and **Bruce Wenner**. ~

WHAT KIND OF A MEMBER ARE YOU?

by Mike Schumacher

Wow, that could be a very loaded question. Are you active or inactive? Are you a participating member, a singing member, an involved member, a hands on member? There are as many names as there are individual circumstances and I'm not here to judge good, bad or otherwise. We have a great group of very active singing members that work very hard to improve their skills and ultimately help improve the chorus' skill levels (a good thing to pursue since we are aiming to do a great job at fall competition). We also have some very "active inactive" or non-singing members, who actively help with whatever they can when they can. We have about 165 members on our chapter roll and approximately 80 of those guys are singing at this time. We are actively encouraging several of the non-singers to come back and join us on the risers. But for those of you that cannot, we still need your help. Your participation in selling tickets for the show, maybe working on a committee, maybe ushering at one of our shows would really help our chorus grow. Your help in actively recruiting new singers for the chorus will not only keep the chapter alive, it could strengthen the music program overall. I hope no one takes this the wrong way because what I'm really trying to say is even if you can't sing with us, you are still an important resource for this chapter. And we need you!!

At **Orval's** funeral, one of his daughters talked about Orval being the light of a candle—not covered by a bushel basket, but set out on a candlestick for everyone to see. Not that he liked to show off but he led by example and his light spread his love and enthusiasm for life. What would happen if every one of us displayed our light so that others could be lead by our example and pure joy for the music that we all share? ~

Saturday, February 24

...a long day at the "Pavilion" located at John Knox Village in Lee's Summit. A part of a concert series organized by the Lee's Summit Community Concert Association.

Starting at 2 p.m., the risers were set...the men were there and the rehearsals began. The effort was fun and intense. Changes were made. They all worked. Water was there. The luncheon worked. The pace was relaxed and everyone enjoyed the afternoon and evening. IT WORKED! THE MAGIC WAS THERE. I wondered why and how. Many folks commented that it was the best, finest, most entertaining concert they ever experienced. My wife, **Joan**, commented that it was probably our best performance. Our sponsors were excited! The audience was excited!

HOW DID WE DO THAT????? How did we manage to do, as promised, a show that lasted exactly 2 hours including a somewhat loose 20 minute intermission?

- Was it Monty instructing crowd reaction?
- Was it the inclusion of 7th Heaven to do several songs?
- Was it "Luigi," a last minute addition in the form of **Matt Bostick**?
- Was it the intensity of the entire chorus...the smiles...the fun?
- Was it *Gentlemen of Note* who easily won over the entire audience?
- Was it *From the Heart* with a polished sound?
- Was it Tone-Henge cracking up the audience?

YEP...it was all that and more. It worked. Everyone should be proud to be part of a chorus that is making it happen, creating magic that is truly quality entertainment. We were great Saturday...we're prime for the "SHOW". Let's grow to 90 on the risers! - **Dick Korek** ~

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Max Boise

Joe and Shawna Mathieu are the proud parents (one more time) of **Emily Machayla Mathieu**. She was born February 8, 2001 and was 8 lbs., 4-1/2 oz measuring 20". Proud Pop and Mom say she has lots of black hair.

Ken Neujahr underwent kidney surgery in early February. He would like to extend a very special thanks to *Crosstown 4* who brought a singing valentine to Ken and his wife in the hospital.

We were saddened to hear of the death of **Jana Moynihan's** father, **Jim's** father-in-law. Our thoughts and prayers got out to Jim, Jana and their family.

There are other articles elsewhere in this edition of the *Harmonotes* about the passing of **Orval Wilson**. I was so very glad to hear that over 50 of Orval's barber-shop friends and family were able to attend his funeral. He will be sorely missed. Farewell and thanks for the memories old friend! ~

2001 SINGING VALENTINES! *WHAT A GREAT TIME!*

by Dick Sutton, 2001 Singing Valentine's Chairman



When all parts of a plan come together and work like they are supposed to, great things are accomplished. This year's Singing Valentines program worked that way.

Mike Mathieu did his thing with all the TV and radio. We can't do without the publicity.

The men and women of the quartets gave of their time and talents for two days. If we don't have the people power, the Valentines won't be delivered on time.

If the headquarters doesn't function properly, nothing happens correctly. What often the quartets don't see is all the activity that goes on at headquarters. **John Landry** and his knowledge of Overland Park and Olathe and the full day he gave was a very important part of H.Q.

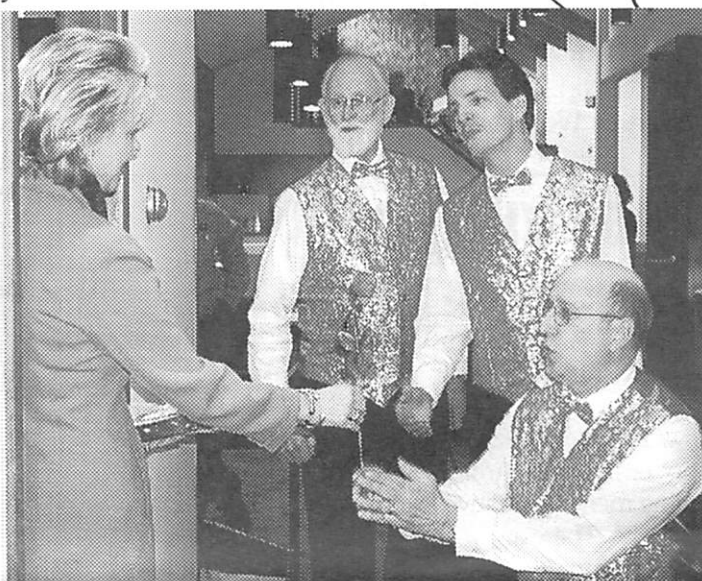
Kay Sutton and the other gals that pitched in working nine hours on Tuesday just putting the boxes and supplies together—*couldn't do without that!*

Our recognition night, this year, will be Tuesday after the show. I will properly thank all who took part.

Now for some results! On Tuesday the 13th, 5 men's quartets and 1 ladies quartet were and out and about in Kansas City delivering 50+ valentines. On Wednesday, 12 men's quartets and four ladies quartets delivered 263 valentines! *WHEW! What an effort!*

I don't have all the numbers put together as of yet, but the gross is **\$16,659**. A complete financial report will be forthcoming as soon as all the bills are in. We should be able to make a nice contribution to Children's Mercy Hospital.

With this year's 313 delivered valentines, next year's chairman will have something to shoot at. *HOA IS THE BEST!* ~



CROONIN' WITH STYLE!

Gail Dicus is pictured receiving a Singing Valentine (sent to her by her husband **Jim Yarrington**) at the J.C.Nichols Residential office. The delivering quartet was made up of HOA members **Tom Millot, John Winfiel, Bob Rutherford** and (not pictured) **Jim Kinyon**.

SINGING VALENTINE MOMENTS

We asked for some memories from Singing Valentine's 2001. Let's start out with an email we received!

"I was the VERY lucky recipient of a barbershop serenade in the 5-story atrium of the Environmental Protection Agency building. People from all 5 floors came to the railings around the atrium and enjoyed the men's singing.

I shall never forget the singing treat given to me by my son in Springfield, Mo. People have continued to stop by my desk yesterday and today to tell me how much they enjoyed it, and how wonderful the idea was. One lady said it was the classiest tribute she'd ever seen. Men, too, got ideas for next year. I was so shaken, though, I can't remember the words to the beautiful songs that were sung first or last.

All I remember is that it was beautiful, and they were singing to ME. Thanks from the bottom of my heart."

From **Dale Neuman**, we received these classic moments to remember...

1. *Crosstown Four* delivered to *Noah's Ark*—a Vet clinic in Brookside. A dutch door separated the clinic area from where we were to sing. As the recipient was seated and we began to sing, two large dogs stood up and looked over the door top and joined us in our serenade. It was hard to keep singing instead of laughing with our new chorus mates.

2. We were leaving Baptist Hospital after delivering a valentine. Our driver (**David Miller**) was waiting in an adjacent parking area out of sight from where we were. **Win Cady** jokingly remarked that he'd clap his hands and get us a ride—he did and here came David right on cue. A young man standing there apparently waiting for a cab had heard Win, and said that since that worked so well, he would try it too. He was clapping his hands as we got into our van and drove away. We there after always clapped to signal David that we were ready for him to pick us up! ~

Heart of America

March-April Performance Calendar

March 6

Coaching Session with Tony Derosa
Regular Meeting Place

March 10

Harmony Explosion
DeSoto, Kansas High School - all day

March 12

Board Meeting
Doubletree Hotel - Downtown Kansas City, MO

March 24

55th Annual Show at Music Hall, KCMO
Featuring the *Gas House Gang*

April 9

Board Meeting
Doubletree Hotel - Downtown Kansas City, MO

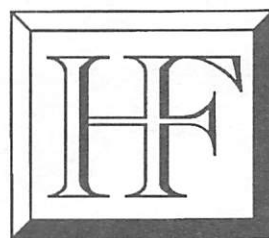
April 20-22

CSD Spring Prelims - St. Joseph, MO

The Kansas City Chapter is contributing weekly to *Harmony Foundation*, through our marbles drawing. But if you would like to do more specifically for *Heartspring*, the Wichita institution still is collecting Campbell's Soup labels.

In fact, you can bring to the chapter Franco-American, Prego, Swanson, Pace, V8, Pepperidge Farm and Goldfish labels. Old Reliable **Chuck Ames** has been collecting them.

Heartspring says it collected almost 698,000 labels in 1999-2000. And the goal for 2000-2001 is 700,000. ~



Gas House Gang Invades Kansas City Music Hall!

An Explosion of Sound!

Saturday, March 24, 2001

Two Shows: 2:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Master of ceremonies...

Dan Hurst from KUDL FM 98.1!

All reserved tickets: \$18, \$13, \$8

For ticket information call...

816-537-0038



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