

March 2005

HARMONYNOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

Heart of America Chorus



The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society

*Drawn by Harmony...
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CHAPTER, SOCIETY GIANT LEFHOLZ DEAD AT 74

by Jim Bagby

We'll remember him as a leader, jovial, loyal, passionate about his hobby and his family, an administrator at every level, a barrel-chested bass of the first order and most of all, dedicated.

But I suspect if you asked **Gil Lefholz** how he wanted most to be remembered, he'd say "quartet singer." I know that's what he said a few years back, because I picked his brain when I was once asked to do a Harmony College keynote address about quartetting. Gil spent much of his 50-year SPEBSQSA career having his brain picked, because he had so much to contribute.

The man who had the rare distinction of being a two-term president of the Barbershop Harmony Society, on top of so many other offices even he couldn't list them all, recalled his years with the Central States District champion "Kippers" as among his most satisfying experiences. He went on at length about the shows, afterglows, the travels, the people they met, the camaraderie with his quartet brothers, the USO tour and the **Kenny Gabler** stories that left everyone within earshot laughing until the tears rolled.

We in Kansas City owe Gil more than most because he was one of our most successful membership vice presidents, helping HOA rise into the modern-day ranks of the Century Club chapters, where we have remained. From there he became chapter president, CSD president, Society Board Member and then SPEBSQSA president from 1984-87. He remained on various Society committees for another dozen years, and kept his hand in even after that, dispensing advice via tele-



phone and e-mail. And he sang actively with the chorus most of those years, enjoying our district and international success. He chaired or co-chaired two International conventions here and was adviser for a third.

His lung disease and related health problems took their toll the past year or so, and he seldom ventured out, especially after his beloved **Donna** died last February. But when the chapter created the **Joe Stern** Lifetime Achievement Award and named him the first recipient, he agreed to bring an extra oxygen tank and attend the installation/awards ceremony barely six weeks ago, with daughter **Kim** wheeling him out in style. I hope you were among almost 150 chapter members on hand for that glorious Jan. 8 evening and the brilliant presentation by Gil's good friend and our fellow chapter member, Society Historian **David Krause**. Kim says it was the last time he left the house, before going to the hospital.

Gil was a native of Grand Pass, about 70 miles northeast of Kansas City and not far from where the Lefholz family for years operated an apple orchard. Gil worked 36 years as a maintenance inspector at TWA's KCI overhaul base, before retiring in 1992. He died Feb. 21 at age 74.

Kim requested three songs at Gil's memorial service. About 50 members of the HOA Chorus sang "Friends." A quartet composed of **Krause**, **Mark** and **John Fortino** and **Matt Moore** did "The Lord's Prayer." And from Gil's aunt's piano bench, arranged by Gil's lifelong good friend, **Greg Lyne**, "On the Farm in Old Missouri" was sung by the quartet it was arranged for, *Rural Route 4*.

Rest well, old friend. ♥



♦ **Command Performance** members (**Carter Combs**, tenor; **Jon Gathright**, lead; **Monty Duerksen**, bass; **Rich Huyck**, bari) croon to **Julie Estrada** at **Hannoush Jewelers**, **Oak Park Mall**, while **Dessie Gathright** and grandson, **Gabe Estrada**, watch.

There's MORE about Singing Valentines 2005 on pages 6 & 7!

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.

Heart of America Chorus

The Kansas City, MO. Chapter S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.

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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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GIL LEFHOLZ 1930-2005

Cards and expression of sympathy may be sent to Gil's daughter, **Dr. Kim Lefholz**, 3525 Stone Creek Lane North, Ft. Worth, TX 76137

Kim has requested that any donations be sent to Harmony Foundation in memory of Gil Lefholz to benefit Music Education. The Harmony Foundation address is 225 W. Washington, Suite 2330 Chicago, IL 60606

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NOTES FROM IRAQ

by Dr. Niel Johnson



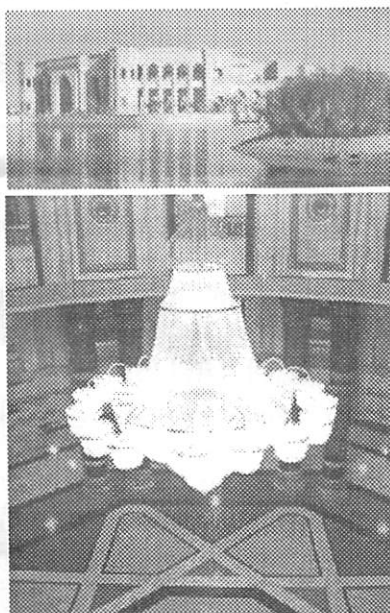
Greetings from Baghdad! I've arrived in one piece and I've finally begun work. I'm assigned as the Chief of Clinical Operations for the Multinational Corps in Iraq. The unit is the 18th Airborne Corps Headquarters. I mostly take care of administrative issues dealing with health care delivery in the area of operations. I'll figure out what that means shortly, because I just started work yesterday.

Things got off to a slow start once leaving Kansas. I went to Ft. Bliss, TX, for 2 weeks to go through a train-up period prior to coming overseas. I wasn't used to the long days and the incredible amount of waiting around. In the end, though, we got our stuff, learned about how to survive in theater, and left a day before the elections.

I arrived in Kuwait and waited around there for a week for a flight to Iraq. We stayed at a place called Camp Doha, which was essentially a large landfill with warehouses to sleep in. Very boring, but at least we got used to the weather and got to see a lot of movies. Overall, it's been mild (60s) but it chills at night (30s).

Here I am now, in Iraq. Not a bad looking place, but I've only seen a little of it. There are farms, hills, and towns dispersed among the vast desert. It still reminds me of a landfill, though.

I work at the Al Faw Palace, which was one of **Saddam's** summer homes (shown at right). I'm told the "Al" stands for "Al," and the "Faw" is an abbreviation for "**Fehlauer**." In Arabic, this loosely translates into "he who tells corny jokes," according to the translators here. It's actually a beautiful place. All marble floors and ceilings, with ornate fixtures at every turn. The chandeliers (at right) and artwork are truly amazing also. The latrine by my office has toilets lined in gold. *Seriously.* The office overlooks a lake which serves as a moat, and the olive gardens are pretty.



I guess I can't complain about where I am and what I'm doing so far. I feel pretty safe, although we hear bombs go off all hours of the day outside the compound. There's a men's chorus that meets somewhere close by, but I haven't tracked them down yet. I'll tell you all about it when I do.

I miss you all, take care. ♥



NIEL JOHNSON

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APO AE 09342-1400
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Heart of America Chorus

TWELVE-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 Keady (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 Keady (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)
- Crosstown Four**
Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)
- Grandstand**
Rob Mathieu (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Jeff Veteto (bari), *Adam Veteto (bass)
- Mother's Guys**
Rob Mathieu (tenor), and Mike Mathieu lead
Rick Mathieu (bari), Joe Mathieu (bass)
- New and Used Parts**
Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)
- Rewind!**
Marlin Weidler (tenor), Thom Tisdall (lead),
Dick Irwin (bari), *J.B. Witham (bass)
- Sound Alibi**
Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Darrell McCune (bass)
- Sounds Like Treble**
Niel Johnson (tenor), Rob Varney (lead),
Al Fehlauer (bari) and *Bill Bay (bass)
- SureFire!**
Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)
- The Buzz**
Mike Troyer (tenor) Jason Eggers (lead),
Kalin Tapp (bari) and Mike Louque (bass)
- Tone-Henge**
Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

ARM-WAVER'S OUTLOOK



If a busy chapter is a sign of a successful one, we oughtta be nodding a lot: "yep, uh-huh, you bet, that's us!" And with almost 90 guys getting ready for the annual HOA show, it's not only one of the busiest times, it's one of the most exciting.

It also could be one of the most rewarding, from a membership and financial standpoint, if we approach this show period—our 59th—with the attitude that it sure would be nice to sing for a couple of thousand folks each show at the Music Hall. We've done that before. In fact, our long-time ticket chairman, the late **Bill Wall**, used to call that a sellout, because he didn't count those second balcony tickets. Heck, I was here several years before I knew any better.

Back then, though, we had guys like **Gil Lefholz** and **Bob Gall** and **Frank Leone** who sold a couple hundred tickets apiece. Then we went to a central ticket number, and I guess we kind of assumed that all the folks we used to sell tickets to personally were just going to automatically call that number, or know to go to our Web site. As our Singing Valentine numbers might indicate, it doesn't seem to work that way.

So I hope we'll all be active in distributing those neat publicity cards **Dick Korek** has prepared, and in spreading the word. I KNOW this is gonna be one great show!... ♥

When I was doing the show lineup, I counted almost a dozen clothespins of folks who have either said flat out they plan to sing with us in Salt Lake City (**Elefson**, the **Yoders**, **Chris Kinghorn**, **Peck**, **Burdick**, **Bostick**) or have indicated they intend to. So I can see the possibility of having our first 100-member international competition chorus...

You're aware the Music Team reminds you constantly about the benefits of recording yourself regularly. Aside from the qualification process, we'd like you to do it every meeting. We'd be happy if YOU got so in the habit that you wanted to do it every meeting, just for the things you learn about your voice, and your tendencies. But there also are benefits that could prolong your vocal health.

David Epstein, a medical doctor who's a member of the Wilmington, Del., Chapter, passes along some pointers from Philadelphia ear, nose and throat surgeon **Robert Sataloff**, who is also a singer. Sataloff notes that if you record yourself before and after the rehearsal (or at least at the start and end), you can monitor for any indication that you sound more hoarse when you finish singing. If so, there's probably something about your technique or approach that should be corrected.

And that's where the HOA individual coaching program comes in. In order to help apply the free, open, resonant approach that **Bill Biffle** works with us on every time, we have reinstituted time between 9:30 and 10 p.m. most Tuesdays for you to work with individual vocal coaches. In that same time slot, staging and presentation work also will be offered, so the approach to pitch and physical/facial involvement also can be enforced. And other activities will be offered during the year in the same breakout period—I started to stay when we're not so busy, but forget that. Make that as part of the meeting! ♥

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12th STREET UPDATE

by Mark Fortino



Pretend for a minute that it is May 15, and we as a chorus need to be ready to perform at the top of our game on the contest stage in about 45 days, with only about a half dozen rehearsals left. Well, that's about where *12th Street Rag* is right now. However, due to our distance we only have THREE rehearsals left as a quartet, and three shows. So six total times left together to put the finishing touches on our packages...or at least learn the notes on our newest ballad...uh...

We have changed out three of the four songs for this International Preliminary Contest and are excited about our newest songs; two **David Wright** arrangements, *Yes Sir, That's My Baby*, and *Somebody Knows*, as well as a **Clay Hine** arrangement of *My Mother's Eyes* as sung by *Four Voices*.

Preparing for contest means getting a lot of coaching and Lord knows we need all the help we can get. We were able to squeeze in a session with **Mr. Bagby** following our tour of schools here in KC on Jan. 28. On Feb. 5 we attended the Central States District TOP GUN school in St. Joseph, MO. This school is sponsored by the District to assist the top quartets in our district prepare for the International Preliminary Contest. Other quartets there were *3 Men & A Melody*, *Noise Boys*, and *Two State Four*. Our good friend **Don Kahl** and **Bill Myer** (bass of *Revival*) were the clinicians. It was a great weekend and we got a lot out of the coaching. That weekend was followed up with a session with none other than **THE BILL BIFFLE** on Feb. 12. What this guy does to the sound of our quartet is still amazing to me. WOW! (If we could only bring the singing judges into my kitchen!) I guess we're just gonna have to figure a way to take that out there on the stage with us.

Finally, a great big THANKS to **Al Higgins** for yet another GREAT tour of schools here in Kansas City. On Jan. 28 we sang for around 1,000 kids with performances at Pioneer Trail Jr. High in Olathe, Bishop Miege High School, Pembroke Jr. and Sr. High, Paseo Academy For The Performing Arts, and Longview Community College...shew...a long day but we had a great time. Al did a great job of getting us into four NEW schools and kids from these new schools will now be attending HOA's Harmony Explosion Camp in February! GREAT JOB, AL!!!

We're looking forward to putting our new stuff on the HOA show this year, and sharing the stage with all of our HOA brothers once again! ♥

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President

On Saturday, Jan. 29, the Music Team had another of our all day meetings. At these meetings, we assess our methods and processes and try to make improvements. These sessions are different from our monthly meetings that we have on a week night. We try to look at longer-range topics and ways of improving our overall music program. I won't try to relate everything we discussed at the Jan. 29 meeting, but here are a few highlights:



Pitch Master - When **Kevin Keller** was here, he worked with the chorus on maintaining pitch and gave us 5 rules for singing in tune. We have adopted these rules and have appointed **John Fortino** "HOA Pitch Master." John will be spending time in front of the chorus monitoring, coaching, and encouraging us so we can make in tune singing something we do automatically.

Video Taping - The Presentation Team will be doing regular video taping of the chorus. They'll be taping the entire chorus to monitor overall effect, as well as smaller "wedges" to check out individual faces and staging. The team will be reviewing the tapes between chapter meetings to identify areas where we are doing well and areas where we can improve. Smile, you're on Candid Camera!

Breakout Sessions - We're going to start having special breakout sessions between 9:30 and 10 on Tuesday nights. We're not sure of everything we will be doing during these sessions, but some initial ideas we're starting with are:

1. Extra staging work
2. Individual Vocal Coaching
3. Music Theory Classes - **Dennis Kinghorn**
4. Video Tape Review Sessions

2005 Coaching Schedule - We also laid out our coaching plan for the year. There may be some changes as we go along, but here's what we have so far:

1. April 5 - **Rosemary Calderon** will be here to present and teach revisions to the staging for Dixie.
2. April 19 - **Bill Biffle** - GOSO
3. May 10 - **Kevin Keller**
4. May 31 - **Dwain Brobst**
5. June 11 (**Saturday**) - **Bill** and **Dwain**

In addition to the above, we have confirmed **Dwain Brobst** and **Jim Henry** as the clinicians for our retreat, Sept. 16-18.

We are continually looking for ways to improve our music program. We'd like to hear any ideas you may have. HOA is your chorus. Please let me, or anyone on the Music Team, know if you have suggestions on how to make our music program better. ♥

REWIND! by J.B. Witham

Rewind! started out with **Don Koehlein** as the original bass, but then he decided...err his wife's job...err, his job...err?? I'm so confused. Anyway they moved to Phoenix & he is singing with the *Phoenixians* chorus now. I heard that the guys were looking for a bass, so I threw my hat in the ring, & they all caught it! **Marlin Weidler** (Tenor), **Thom Tisdall** (Lead), **Dick Irwin** (Bari), & me **J.B. Witham** on the bass part. Thom is new to barbershop, been with HOA a little over a year. He's definitely new to quartetting, so we are trying to teach him how to be a fantastic lead. I knew the first time that I sang with him, that there was something special about singing with Thom, and as we practice more & more, that feeling just gets stronger and stronger. I tried taking Anti-Acid tablets for the it, but it still hasn't gone away?!

The guys kept twisting my arm...err... begging me on bended knee to come back & sing with HOA again. So I jumped on the bandwagon, & became a dual member with HOA and SOL. I came back just in time to hopefully qualify to sing on the March show. There's a lot of music I don't know, but thankfully there are a number of songs I know or are familiar with. With all the learning media available at the click of a mouse, I'm learning just about as fast and furiously as I can. I didn't come back in time to qualify to go to SLC, but I hope to contribute to HOA the next time they qualify for International.

The name *REWIND!* seemed to evolve when each of us were taping our rehearsals, & someone kept saying wait a minute, let me rewind my tape...hence...the name?! We've been singing together on a regular basis since September 2004. We are excited about singing on the HOA Show in March, and also about representing HOA in the Spring Prelims contest this year in St Joe. We've just started lining up a few coaches to get us whipped into shape for the show and contest! I think we've learned the requisite 2 songs that we will need for contest, other than that...who knows! Our sound seems to be getting better'n better as we get to know one another's abilities & strengths. We had a blast doing singing Valentine's, it was a great bonding session for the quartet. We're already looking forward to doing it again next year. ♥



ABOVE: *ReWind!* members (tenor; **Marlin Weidler**, bass; **J.B. Witham**, lead; **Thom Tisdall**, and bari; **Dick Irwin**) on one of their many Singing Valentines deliveries!

VALENTINE HIGHLIGHTS FROM MEN IN BLACK by John Winfiel

This year's schedule was much lighter than years past, but it still held some memorable moments. This year **Brooke Meyers**, **Kevin Beauford** and myself were joined by Singing Valentine rookie, tenor **Brian Marston**. All but one of our nine deliveries were to downtown or midtown businesses.

The other was to a home in a nearby neighborhood. When we arrived at the home a woman and two men were sitting on the steps near the street. We asked for the recipient of our delivery and the woman said "Don't you start singing to me. She's in the house." We waited on the porch while the woman went inside and brought out her teenage daughter. This young girl had part of her hair sticking straight up in a fan much like a Mohawk but on an angle. She enjoyed every minute of our presentation. As we were leaving her mother commented that she couldn't figure out why we were wearing red when we arrived. She was sure we were Jehovah's Witnesses.



The photo above is from our last delivery of the day. **Julie Shull** worked at a large Crown Center Law firm.

Our most memorable delivery had to be the one to the offices of James B. Nutter. Fellow HOA member **Matt Moore** met us in the parking lot. He works for Nutter in a nearby building. We stepped inside and asked the receptionist for the recipient, who's office happened to be just to the left of the receptionist. When she heard her name the lady came out from behind her desk and said "Is it for me? Oh! I saw you on TV yesterday. I was riding my bike in my basement, and you were singing (Of course it wasn't actually us on TV), and I was thinking wouldn't it be wonderful if I could afford to send one to each of my kids, and now you're here to sing to me! Oh, someone must have been in my basement reading my mind!" She was so excited she continued to talk as we sang. She cried, and when we sang "Heart of My Heart I love you." she cried out "I believe you! I believe you!" When we finished one of the several coworkers who had watched told her she should open the card. She said no, she couldn't be sure which one of her admirers might have sent it. She gave each of us a hug before we left and even came outside to say good-bye. Now that was an appreciative audience. ♥

MY FIRST SINGING VALENTINE

by Harry Stewart

Wow! What an experience! From never having sung in a quartet to delivering Singing Valentines! I was thrilled. And such a privilege.

This was a challenging experience, so I was anxious from the start. My quartet and SV coaches were essential in getting me up to speed. All of them were patient and helpful with my slow learning curve.

Our quartet, the *Dellphonics* (clever, huh?) delivered 7 SV's and the responses were overwhelmingly positive. Our deliveries included two automobile showrooms, a veterinarian's office, and a home where we sang for a woman in a wheelchair (who said afterwards "that's the best Valentine I've ever received.")

We also chose to deliver four "freebies" - to my 94 year-old father-in-law and his wife, customers/friends of **Doug Brott, Mike O'Dell's** daughter at her 5th grade classroom (the students were transfixed while we sang) and a family of seven with another on the way who attend **Jim Porter's** church.

I know this experience will help me as a chorus member and, bottomline, I'd do it again in a heartbeat. I'm planning to volunteer next year. ♥



TONE-HENGE VALENTINES by Ol' Bruce



The February highlight for *Tone-Henge* was, of course, Singing Valentines. We had the usual plethora of people looking at **Dan** and saying "don't I know you?" or "say-you're **Dan Henry**, aren't you?" or some such thing. But this year there was a new

development—we have a new lead. We got "hey, you're that fishing guy on Channel 4"—guess our new lead is **Harold Ensley**. As if that weren't enough, we got another who identified Dan as **Don Fortune**. We're so confused.

As usual, lots of tears, red faces, and hugs. One more new wrinkle, though. We went to Hallmark to deliver a Valentine, and they wouldn't even let us page the recipient, much less go to her desk. They told us that somebody recently had exposed himself while delivering some sort of message (wasn't a Valentine), so we ran into their (over)reaction. Wouldn't you think Hallmark, of all people, would bend over backwards to help people celebrate a holiday! Besides, our wives kindly pointed out that Hallmark had nothing to fear from us—if we were to try that kind of stunt, nobody would even notice.

After we finished the rounds, we treated our ladies to a Valentine dinner at *Tatsu's* (if you haven't been there, you've missed something—the food is great, and they're in the entertainment coupon book). Hard on the quartet treasury, but it's the least we could do after singing to everybody else's sweethearts all day. ♥



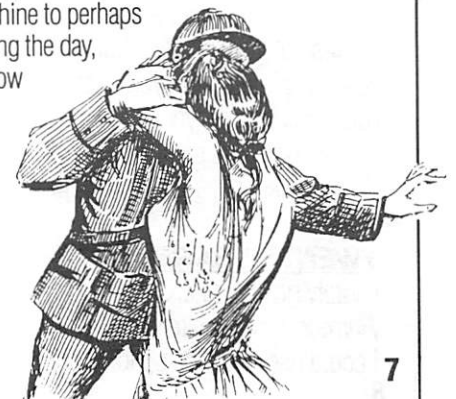
MY VALENTINES DAY EXPERIENCE by Jim Porter

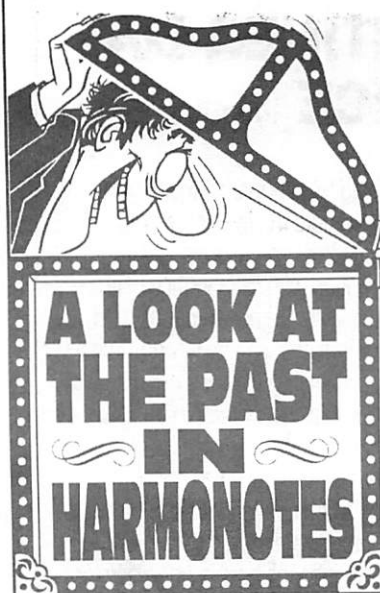
The greatest thing about delivering Singing Valentines is the opportunity to bring some sunshine into the lives of people. Seeing the delighted reactions of ladies (and some guys) certainly makes it worthwhile to put up with the sacrifice of time and the aggravations of obscure or misleading directions, bad timing, or any of a host of other things that can go wrong. What a joy it is to be able to bring happiness into the lives of others!

Our first delivery was to a fellow in a car dealership on 103rd St. close to the hotel. When we arrived, the one who greeted us let us know that the poor guy had just been chewed out by his boss, and was not in a good mood! At length, we were summoned into a conference room, where the fellow greeted us. I told him before we sang "We hear it hasn't been a good day for you. We hope this will help things a bit." We then started, and it was clear at the outset that this man was in no mood for it. But as we went along, the scowl melted into a smile, and by the end, he was thanking us profusely for coming, and thinking lovely thoughts about his wife, who ordered the Valentine.

Later in the day, we were in Grain Valley delivering a Valentine to a young lady who was at work in a medical clinic. Like several other occasions, this gal was the center of attention as her co-workers gathered around to take it all in. I provided my digital camera to one of them, who delightedly took pictures of the occasion (I then left her with the floppy), and all clapped and cheered as we completed our presentation. As we were leaving, one fellow approached us and asked if he could arrange one for his wife, who lived less than 2 miles away. We took down the details, accepted his \$50, quickly filled out a blank order form and went over to the house. The wife was incapacitated and in a chair, but she was a singer, and joined us as we sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart". She was so delighted that she told us "This is the best Valentine I've ever received! How did my husband find out about you?" We were wise enough to say "We'll let him tell you that!" After all, here was a guy who realized at 3 PM on Valentines Day that he had not yet done anything for his wife, and an idea just fell into his lap!

All in all, it was a great day, and timed out perfectly. We had two to deliver in Belton, one before 5 PM, the other after 5 PM. When we got to the first one, it was 4:50. We thus got both done in good time and returned to the hotel rejoicing, having completed all deliveries given to us. Not only did we bring sunshine to perhaps a dozen recipients during the day, the four of us got to know each other better, and we're looking forward to doing it again next year! ♥





By Wade Dexter,
Editor Emeritus
wadeliberty@aol.com

TEN YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1995:

Preliminary details regarding what Coordinaator **Monte Duerksen** referred to as the biggest, most successful "Singing Valentines" campaign ever for the *Heart of America Chorus*. Monte estimated that the some 300 presentations grossed approximately \$11,500, of which Marketing Vice President **Mike Mathieu** reports, in a separate article, \$2,200 went to children's Mercy Hospital for the purchase, I believe, of a

piece of equipment for their hearing therapy clinic. And Monte singled out many individuals, with special honors to **Mike Mathieu, Gordon Coleman, Al Higgins, and Jim White**, for their valuable contributions to the organization and operation of the campaign. The "Singing Valentine" program was conceived by **Mike Mathieu** way back in 1991 and became widely successful throughout the Society as an important source of chapter operating funds. For this contribution, barber shoppers everywhere owe Mike a great debt of gratitude.

And Mike Mathieu (how is it that that guys name appears repeatedly throughout this issue of *Harmonotes*?) is shown with the "Bellringer of the Year" award from the Salvation Army for his efforts toward the success of HOA in their bellringing program back in December. And there's a photo of Chapter President **Dale Neuman** holding the plaque and crystal bell awarded to the chapter by the Salvation Army for exceeding by a considerable margin their collections for 1993.

And there's a real nice item by **Joann Bagby** with an update on Jim's condition after undergoing quadruple bypass surgery at St. Luke's Hospital on Feb. 16. Joann explained that Jim had required surgery (he was only 52 years old) not because of a heart attack but because of a family history of heart problems. Glad you're still with us, Jim, but we wish you'd quit waving your arms so darn much!

New members included **Eric Weber** and **Jerry Snyder**. Congratulations, guys, on reaching the big "One-Oh."

TWENTY YEARS AGO: MARCH, 1985

I surely get a big kick out of going through these old issues of *Harmonotes*. They're so full of good stuff for this column, that I could use twice the space (only kidding, Todd).

For example, **Mike Mathieu** (there's that name again) had an item about Sweethearts Night, commenting that it was a "rousing success." Says Mike, "We had about 110 members, guests, and Sweethearts in attendance, and as far as I was concerned, it was a most enjoyable evening." Also in attendance were five couples from NOJOCO (now know as the Overland Park chapter—Ed.), six couples from St. Joe, six members from **Dave Krause's** high school quartet, the *Journeymen* (wonder how Dave managed THAT—Ed.), and Past International President **Bert Huish**, and his wife, **Gloria**. Without a doubt, they won the man-and-woman award, having come all the way from Twin Falls, Idaho, for our special evening.

"The roast of our own **Gil Lefholz** was hilarious and a most well-deserved tribute to a member who has virtually dedicated all of 1985 to his hobby." You'll all recall that Gil was our international president during 1985 and continued in that capacity into 1986 following the untimely death of **Bill Park**.

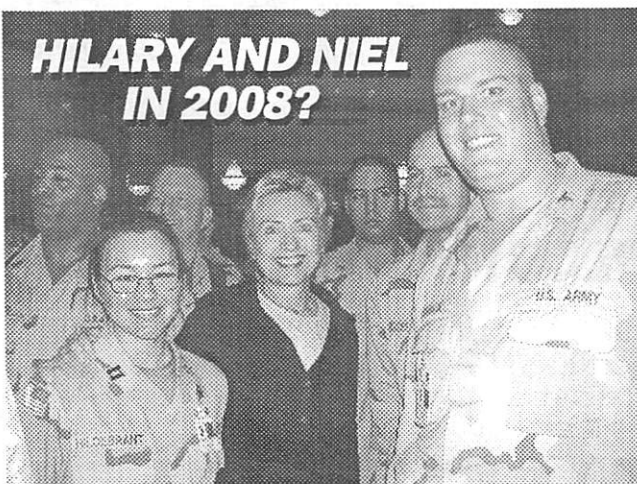
Then, in another article in the same issue, Gil had this to say about the big evening, "If the directions for the evening (had) said, 'Roast until well done . . .,' it might be said that the mission was accomplished! It wasn't until we walked into the banquet room and I spotted the place mats that I smelled a rat! I should have suspected something when Bert Huish called and merely invited himself to 'my chapter' party! And now that I think back, our house sure received a lot of 'wrong number' (calls) a week or ten days before the shin-dig." Sounds like it was a real bash, doesn't it?

Then there's an article entitled "Grace Notes," presumably compiled by Editor **Dale Neuman**, advising us that former HOA member, **Ed Rooker**, who was the tenor with the *Merry Mugs* at the time he departed, had become a member of the Cypressaires of the Monterey Peninsula chapter in California, and had been MCing contests and other events. He even went to COTS to find out what he was doing! In parentheses, Dale says that Ed "reports that his chapter sent him away to COTS, but he came back anyway."

And finally, Dale included a copy of a study published in the *West Towns Crier*, the bulletin of the Lombard, Illinois, chapter, a summary of the standings of each of the 32 choruses that would be singing at Minneapolis the following summer, in the order of their scores, in their respective district contests. Probably not a valid measurement of their relative competence, but interesting nevertheless. The top scorer was Manhattan, NY, with 1,071 points, a chorus that was quite a flash in the pan when it was first organized but never won the gold at international. The next four were Scarborough, Ontario; Dallas Metro; Alexandria; and Lombard, IL—all of which went on to become international champions. HOA was in 12th place, with 991 points. And our friends from St. Charles were 16th with 975 points. It would appear that those choruses who score the highest at the district level usually finish in the medalist category at international—sooner or later. ♦

FORTY YEARS AGO: MAY, 1965

Since Editor **Warren Edmond's** collection of 1960s *Harmonotes* is missing the March and April issues, I've had to dig down into the May edition for items of interest this time around. HOA President **Dan Henry Bowser** announced that the chapter had exceeded its goal of becoming a member of the Society's "Century Club" with a current total of 104 members. Dan attributed this success to **Orville Martin's** (presume he was the MVP at the time) "tremendous efforts toward 100 percent of membership at the close of '64". He also averred that **Gil Lefholz's** "magnificent work deserves much more applause, as does the efforts of our never-idle secretary, **(Len) Bellus**, for keeping on top of the '65 retention picture so we wouldn't lose any along the way." ... Warren reports that **Harold Robinette** beat out his competition in ticket sales for the annual show again that year. Running a close second was Nile Abbott, followed by **Bob Gall, Pete Peterson, Frank Leone, Max Waterman, Orval Wilson, Gil Lefholz, Ed Eichman, and Sam Soloman**. ... *The Pony Expressmen* of St. Joseph were asking HOA for help in selling tickets for their upcoming annual show in order that they would be able to raise money for their trip to the international contest the following summer. It would be their fifth quest for the gold medal at Boston that year. ... And there's a historical article that tells us that the Music Hall was nearly sold out for the HOA annual show in 1965. Can you imagine that? We grossed nearly \$7,000 in ticket sales that year. The show featured the *Auto Towners* from Dearborn, Michigan, (**Matt Bostick's** dad sang the baritone), who went on to win the international quartet championship at Chicago the following year (that was my first experience on the international contest stage). ♥



Thanks to **Vince Perry** for forwarding this photo (above) that **Niel Johnson** (far right) had obtained during **Sen. Hilary Clinton's** recent visit to Iraq. Niel's only concern came as a question: "Do you think this photo will get me kicked out of the **Rush Limbaugh** Fan Club?"
(You can read more from Neil on page 3 of this issue!)

2005 ANNUAL SHOW SHOULD PROVE TO BE ONE TO REMEMBER!

by Grant Hunget, 2005 Show Chairman



Our theme is "Love at Home," and all HOA Members and male singers from their families have been invited to perform in the "HOA Family Chorus." They will all join *Power Play* (2003 INTL CHAMP) on a great arrangement of "When There's Love at Home," one of the touching numbers they won with in Montreal.

This Show will be a great opportunity for the Chorus to perform our Salt Lake City Contest Set—*Tie Me to Your Apron Strings Again*, and

Look Me Up When You're in Dixie. We'll hear some new stuff from our own 11th Place International Finalist, *12th Street Rag*, and we will hear from 5 of our current Chapter Quartets: *Rewind!*, *Command Performance*, *Tone-Henge*, *Sound Alibi*, and *Sounds Like Treble*.

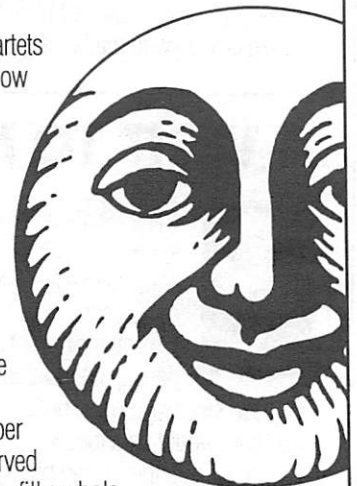
The Jr. and Sr. High Champ Quartets from Harmony Explosion will once again appear & they're always a hit. Oh, come out early to take in the great sounds of **Marvin Faulwell** on the Grand Organ at Music Hall!

Tickets are once again \$20-\$15-\$10, and valid groups of 15 or more can receive a discount. To order tickets, call **Vince Perry** at 816-478-4165, or purchase online at www.hoachorus.com.

Move those tickets, guys. Advertising is great for us, but it's really up to EACH of us if we want to fill up the house! ♥

ANNUAL SHOW AFTERGLOW

Wouldn't you like to see the quartets who performed on the Annual Show from an audience viewpoint? *It's easy!* Come to the afterglow! We will be gathering in the Imperial Ballroom in the Muehlbach Hotel about 30 to 45 minutes after our second show ends. We will be featuring quartets that perform in the show including our headliners, *Power Play*. There will be snacks and two bars to purchase drinks. The cost is \$5 per person. The only way to get reserved seating is to buy enough tickets to fill a whole table. See **Vince Perry** or **Dick Irwin** for tickets or more information. ♥



YOUTH SHINES AT HARMONY EXPLOSION!

by Al Higgins, Harmony Explosion Coordinator

On Saturday, Feb. 19 over 260 boys and girls from 17 schools gathered at Shawnee Mission West High School for the 9th annual Harmony Explosion. What a day it was!

The day started with **Jim Bagby** teaching a tag followed by *Sound Alibi* singing for the masses and then **Carter Combs** conducting a warmup for all. Chorus practice followed, then quartet preliminaries started for both the boys and the girls. The Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines handled the girls and HOA the boys. After lunch came the quartet finals where the top six in each category advanced to the finals. There were 22 boys and 24 girls quartets competing. Mic testing was done by the *Old School Quartet* (a collegiate quartet from Wichita, KS) and then the finals in Jr. Girls, Jr. Boys, Sr. Girls, and Sr. Boys. A panel of 8 judges had their scores added to the preliminary scores from 4 judges to declare the winners.

Several firsts happened. Ties for sixth place added a seventh quartet to both the Jr. Girls and the Sr. Boys competitions, a Jr. Boys double quartet medaled, the Jr. Girls winner came from a first time participating school, the Jr. Boys winner was an at large quartet with members from three Olathe Junior High Schools, and the largest finals audience of students, parents, and friends.

Both mass choruses performed before the announcement of results. The girls chorus of about 150, directed by **Sheri Hart**, sang "That's What Friends Are For" and the boys chorus of about 110, directed by Carter Combs, sang "In My Room". Both did an outstanding job.

The winners will perform on HOA's show in March. Medalists quartets are: Jr. Girls - 1st, *Miege Maids* (Bishop Miege High School), 2nd, *Take Four* (Pioneer Trail Junior High, Olathe), 3rd, *Razzmatazz* (California Trail Junior High, Olathe); Jr. Boys - *Trail Mix* (California Trail, Frontier Trail, and Pioneer Trail Junior Highs, Olathe), 2nd - *Encore* (Pioneer Trail Junior High, Olathe), 3rd, *Men In Black* (Pioneer Trail Junior High, Olathe); Sr. Girls - 1st, *Half & Half* (Olathe East HS), 2nd, *Four of A Kind* (Rose Hill (KS) HS), 3rd, *The Diminuettes* (Shawnee Mission West HS); Sr. Boys- 1st, *4 Guys* (Rose Hill (KS) HS), 2nd, *Double Stuff* (Olathe East HS), 3rd, *The Accidentals* (Shawnee Mission West HS).

Thanks to all who made it a great barbershop day for the kids! ♥



From top to bottom: Jim Bagby and Monty Duerksen give final instructions to Rose Hill's 4 Guys as they prepare for their preliminary round; Olathe East's Double Stuff smile for the camera as they get ready for the prelims.; Jana Henderson, Contest Administrator, and Al Higgins, HE Coordinator, check the final scores before announcing the results; Shawn Jeffries, Sheri Hart, and Tom Eletson smile after doing their jobs as finals judges for the quartet contest.

A VISIT TO HARMONY EXPLOSION! by Marty Oldehoeft, Chapter President



I just returned home from the annual Harmony Explosion event sponsored by the HOA chapter. What an exciting experience to see kids from middle school thru high school age singing barbershop music. Over 200 energetic, vibrant young folks who enjoy the same style music that us more mature folks enjoy. One quartet after being told the song they had chosen was over one hundred years old had a look of disbelief that something they "wanted" to sing was that ancient. It would be well for us to look at this type of event with the idea of expansion. Unless my eyes deceived me when I looked at the program, all the participants live on the Kansas side of the metroplex. Perhaps that means there are hundreds more young folks on the

Missouri side waiting for the chance to have the same kind of singing enjoyment. The co-operation that I saw from the coaches and music educators would go a long way in helping us set up regional competition with a finals competition for the entire area. Just some thoughts running around thru a tired brain.

As I talked briefly to the winners of the senior boys and girls group, they were very excited about the opportunity to appear on the annual show on March 19. My hope is that our chorus has much of that same excitement and determination to make this another grand show for the community. Sell tickets. Sell tickets, gentlemen! ♥

ANOTHER BIG HARMONY FOUNDATION RAFFLE WINNER!

by Jim Porter

"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth"
(Matthew 5:5)

Perhaps it wasn't the earth, but long-time barbershopper **Ron Abel** defied odds of nearly 400-to-1 on Feb. 15 and walked off with the third \$1,000-plus pot in the past 3 years in the Harmony Foundation drawing. Ron's 10 tickets were among 668 in the bucket as the chorus members put down \$300 total for their chance to win enough (\$1,049) to have an all-expenses paid trip to Salt Lake City in July.

Ron went nearly 3 years without ever having his ticket drawn until it happened last Dec. 7, at which time he drew a blue marble. On this, the 2nd time, he got it right, pulling the white marble from the bag with a red and 4 blues in it. This was the first big winner since last August, with 26 drawings since that time.

Thank you all for playing. So far this fiscal year, \$744 has been collected for Harmony Foundation, in 10 drawings. There is still time for one more big winner before we leave for Salt Lake City. It could be YOU! ♥

TAXES, TAXES AND TAXES

by Charles Ramirez, Treasurer

Maybe you thought that other than social camaraderie, health enhancement, personal enjoyment, and providing pleasure to the listeners, there really weren't any benefits to membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. Well, how wrong you are, kiddo. The IRS, those lovable rascals, have given members of the society some financial benefits since the Society is a 501(c)(3) organization. There are some tax deductions available to members.

Chapter members can deduct:

- Out-of-pocket expenses for uniforms and performances
- Travel, meals, lodging to contests where no significant element of personal pleasure was derived
- Travel to performances where services are donated

Chapter Board Member:

- As above, plus...
- Travel to and from board meetings

Chapter Officers:

- As above, plus...
- Travel to and from Chapter meetings
- Out-of-pocket costs associated with attending COTS

For our chapter, expenses not reimbursed related to the international in Salt Lake City will be deductible for 2005 since we will be official contestants and not attending simply as a society member. Expenses related to the International in Louisville are deductible for 2004. These contributions are reported as "Contributions other than cash" as part of the itemized deductions.

The information comes from the Treasures' Manual. The complete information is available on the Society WEB site. ♥

A TIP OF THE HAT!

...to **Rich Huyck** for the excellent job he did planning, organizing and managing the 2005 Singing Valentine effort; to **Ron McIntire** who ran the computer and logged the orders, **Al Higgins** who manned the phones and helped manage the delivery routing, **Jon Gathright** who managed the quartets and **Eileen Huyck** and the ladies who helped put the card/candy/rose packages together.

...to the Singing Valentine quartets and their drivers who worked Sunday and Monday delivering 150 plus Valentines around the Kansas City metro area.

...to **Ron McIntire** for publishing the new 2005 HOA directory.

...to members and assistants of the HOA Music Team **Grant Hunget, Carter Combs, Dennis Kinghom** and **Mike Neff** who devoted their time and energy to listening and critiquing the 2005 HOA Spring Show qualification tapes.

...and to the HOA Music Team Quartet who spent many hours making and recording the songs for the Spring Show Learning CD; to **Phil Veltkamp** who ram-rodged getting the masters to the guys who burned the CD's and distributing them to the chorus; and to **Mike O'Dell, Rich Huyck** and **Ron McIntire** for burning the CD's. ♥



HEARTBEAT HILITES

by Sharon Oldehoeft, Heartbeats President

Seventeen *Heartbeats* attended the first meeting of the year, Feb. 16th, to discuss events and goals for the coming year.

Our first activity will be providing lunch for the men for the March 19 Show. Please contact **Linda Schumacher** if you can donate food items. Thanks, Linda, for chairing this event.

HOA Guest Night is March 29 and we will be serving snacks and drinks that evening. Please contact **Sharon Oldehoeft** if you would like to help by providing a snack.

Heartbeats will be having a Book and Bake Sale at **Jeffi Combs** home June 4. More details will be forthcoming on this event. Please save and donate your used books.

We thank **Dessie Gathright** and **Joan Korek** for hosting the Feb. meeting. Our next meeting will be May 17 hosted by **Mary Fortino** and **Sarah Fortino**. Please join us then. ♥





Heart of America



MARCH-APRIL CALENDAR

- March 5** - Men's Choral Festival (Overland Park)
- March 10** - Thursday Rehearsal
- March 18** - Show Tech Rehearsal
- March 19** - HOA's Annual Show with *Power Play*
- March 29** - *GUEST NIGHT!*
- April 5** - **Rosemary Calderon** (Coaching)
- April 15-16** - CSD prelims, St. Joseph, MO
- April 19** - **Bill Biffle** (Coaching)
- April 25-27** - Garden City Community Easter Cantata, directed by **Calvin Yoder**
- April 30** - Overland Park show



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