Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2001, Issue 5



CSD's 2000 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR!

by Al Higgins



Hoorays and Hallelujahs for longtime barbershopper and Central States District manof-all-faces Lud Einess. At the just concluded CSD Spring Convention in St. Joseph, MO., Lud Einess

became the latest Kansas City Chapter member to be named the Central States District *Barbershopper* of the Year for 2000.

Citing his outstanding work as host chairman for the 2000 International Convention in Kansas City

last July and in his first year of eligibility for such an award, Lud became "weak kneed" and totally surprised as his past accomplishments were revealed to the packed house by **Jay Bond**, last years recipient.

Accompanied to the stage by his lovely wife **Betty**, Lud received a long and heartfelt standing ovation from the audience who joined in saying "Thank You" for his 13 years of caring and devotion to the Central States District.

The Kansas City chapter is proud to see the name of Lud Einess join the many from KC who have won this award in past years. HOA salutes Lud Einess for his caring, compassion, and his devotion to making barbershopping the fun "hobby" it is. We're very glad you're on our side!

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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

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

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

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

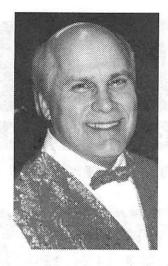
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CHAPTER INFORMATION

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





FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

by Dick Irwin, HOA President

We continue to show great growth and improvement in the number of members attending meetings each week as well as our performance. **Gordon**, **Mike**, and

Darrell are showing some of the tools they were given in the recent *Directors Workshop* hosted by HOA. I sense a change in many of the performers during recent weeks. I think we are on our way to becoming one of the best HOA choruses ever! I think all of you will see some things happen in the next few weeks that will probably boost your morale even further. No hints...just wait and see!

FROM THE WILD BLUE YONDER

by Gene Bowers

Greetings recently flew into my email from our friend (and former PVP) **Bill Power.**

Seems Bill has been travelling all over the globe to be trained in flying a myriad of different aircraft (including some with the wings that go around and around). Bill is really enjoying his new position as test pilot trainee with the Air Force. He does say that he has had to cut back on his involvement with the *Masters of Harmony* at least for a while. With all the time he's spending learning to fly different planes he just doesn't have much time left for the 113 mile trip (one-way) to rehearse. He plans to get back to barbershopping just as

soon as possible.
Good to hear from you,
Bill, and we hope all of
your landings are
walk-aways.



TONE-HENGE THANKS HOA

by Dan Henry

This quartet of chapter "coots" wishes to thank HOA for its generous response to our new musical offering titled, "Bumper Stickers". The lyrics were a joint effort (I



forget which "joint" we were in at the time) and the music came from Bruce's pen, leaking little noteblotches all over the manuscript paper.

Your response was so inspiring, we thought you might want to read some 'bumper stickers' we (1) like (2) aren't sure about (3) really aren't sure about:

- A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- Stupidity is not a handicap. Park elsewhere.
- Police station toilet stolen. Cops have nothing to go on.
- The meek shall inherit the earth, after we're through with it.
- The trouble with life is, there's no background music.
- Wrinkled was NOT one of the things I wanted to be when I grew up.
- Chaos, panic and disorder. My work here is done.
- You! Off my planet!
- Procrastinate NOW!
- ...and some others we're SURE we're not sure about.

And this ancient 4-some wishes to thank all those HOA-ers who attended the CSD Contest in St. Jo for the rousing support offered as we entered the seniors contest...AND WON!!!! All Tone-Henge asks at this point is, please ignore the fact that there were no other eligible senior quartets entered. It's just a minor detail anyway.

Thanks, guys! Tone-Henge

(Editor's Note: Yes, Bruce did write the melody and do the arrangement. The concept and lyrics and most of the bumper stickers came from the creative well that is Dan Henry.)

Heart o

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

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 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

DO IT NOW! by Mike Schumacher

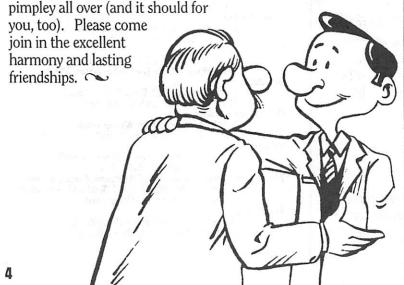
Our first "Guest Night" is over and I think it was very successful. We had 16 guests and several inactive members. We had some good fun and hopefully learned something as well.

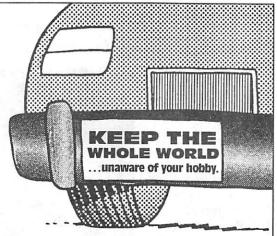
Thanks to *Gentlemen of Note, Tonehenge, PoleCat Creek* (with **Gordon Lankenau** woodshedding the bass) and *From the Heart* for some excellent entertainment. Also thanks to all who participated to educate and lead us in the learning of our songs. I learned a few things about future guest nights and have more ideas to keep it interesting.

Usually, our chapter membership gurus have scheduled a "Guest Night" after a major performance. This might happen 2 or 3 times in the year BUT we cannot rely on these nights alone! Membership has to be an ongoing effort. Every night should be a guest night and only a couple of times a year (before a show or contest), would we really ever ignore the guests. And I hope that never happens, period. So, invite those guests and let's build on our successes.

If you look at this year's calendar, what better time would there be than RIGHT NOW to join or think about re-joining the chorus? We are just getting started on the new up tune, "Sweet Georgia Brown". And the Music Team is busy teaching a new interpretation to the ballad, "I'll Be Seeing You". We need your glorious voices and interpretive faces to make this chorus strong and vibrant. We want to make sure the choruses of the Central States District know that we mean business again and we are serious about our chapter slogan, "Drawn by Harmony, Bound by Friendship, Striving for Excellence". With the contest being held in Topeka this year, even the cost can be held to a minimum. Invite those guests and encourage them to join.

If you've had to stop competing or singing with us for a while, NOW is the time to come see what we are doing and get excited again. I think the plan the music team has come up with, is going to recharge this chorus and makes me feel all goose-





Church recruiters are fond of this one: If you were accused of being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you?

I sometimes wonder the same thing about Kansas City barbershoppers. If it's true the Society is the world's best-kept secret, I think I can offer one possible explanation. It came to me not long ago when I was late for a meeting.

I had to park at the far end of the St. Peter's lot, so I passed a lot of cars on the way to the door. Suddenly I noted a colorful "Harmony" license plate. Yep, this is the place. There ought to be a lot of those...wait a minute. Only one other. Well, how about SPEBSQSA window decals. Yes, there's one, and one more. Hmmm, how about ANY kind of Society identification?

So I went back where I could see the whole lot and counted almost 70 vehicles. Without doing a door-to-door search, I spotted only a handful of indications of Barbershop Harmony Society membership. That's just plumb discouraging. And it sure doesn't help make us more visible in the community.

I bet Membership Veep **Mike**Schumacher would be glad to order a bunch of bumper decals, or window stickers, or license plate holders. Those shiny foil SPEBSQSA emblems come in all sizes. Even a small one in the corner of your window would at least say "Yes, I am proud of my barbershopping affiliation."

Right now, it appears only a few of us are in danger of getting convicted of being a barbershopper.

—A puzzled member



CARA WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The Contemporary A Cappella Society of America has announced its winners in this year's CARA competition (Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards). Barbershop harmony winners were:

Best Barbershop Album:

PLATINUM / Be Our Guest
Runner up:
Michigan Jake / For The Record

Best Barbershop Song:

Michigan Jake / I'm Beginning To See The Light

Runner up:

12th Street Rag /12th Street Rag



Best Christmas Album:

Rockapella / Christmas
Runner up: (tie)
The Gas House Gang / Some Children
See Him;
GLAD / Voices of Christmas

Best Christmas Song:

The Gas House Gang / Go Tell It On The Mountain

Runner up:

Rockapella - Silver Bells ~

(Editor's Note: Our congratulations to 12th Street Rag for the strong way they continue to represent our chapter! Also, readers take note: the best barbershop album was awarded to PLATINUM, ...who just happens to be the headline quartet for HOA's 2002 Annual Show!)

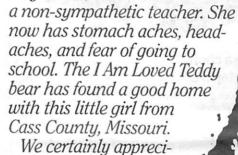
VALENTINES PAYOFF

by Dick Sutton

Sometimes we never know how much good we do with our Singing Valentines program. I received the following letter from **Dr. Cynthia Jacobsen** at Children's Mercy Hospital. I think it's one of those things that makes the effort worthwhile.

Dear Dick,

Thank you so much to the Barbershoppers for the donated teddy bear. I am writing to let you know a little background on the child who received the bear. I saw this little girl who is in first grade. She is very smart, but with some learning differences and



we certainly apprate all that the Barbershoppers do for the hearing and Speech Department at Children's Mercy.

Children's Mercy.

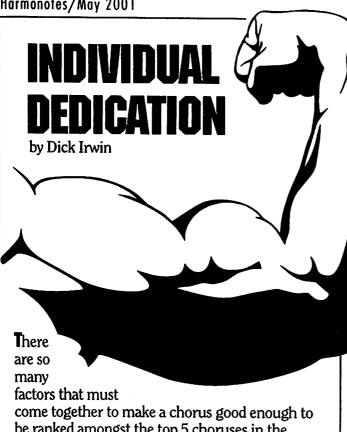
Thanks again,

Cynthia Jacobsen, Ph.D., Fellow ASHA

Director, Hearing and Speech/Cleft Palate Clinic

Scottish Rite Clinic for Childhood Language Disorders
ciacobsen@cmh.edu





be ranked amongst the top 5 choruses in the world. Many think it takes great singers, or a great director, or great music written or arranged by the best artists. Some think you can become one of the best just because you receive coaching from the best coaches available. In reality all of these things can be factors. But, it is the individual performer who is the master key to the entire product.

Each individual member of a chorus must perform to the top of his abilities. There can be no holding back, no leaning on others. You simply must do everything you can to be the best you can possibly be. This requires a dedication to complete and total involvement in what the chorus and its' musical and performance leaders are trying to accomplish. It is their responsibility to explain to the chorus what the plan is. It is their responsibility to see that the plan is understood. It is their responsibility to work with the chorus until every individual on the risers knows the plan without thinking. Your responsibility as an individual is to give the musical and performing leaders the chance to do their job. Basically, you put them in their position because you felt they would be the best to design, teach, and lead the plan. You must now allow them to perform their duties.

The Great Northern Union Chorus of the Hilltop, MN Chapter has been a top 10 international chorus for more than a decade.

They have finished in the top 5 on numerous occasions.

They are known as one of the finest singing choruses in our society. They have not achieved this level by having only the best or the youngest performers. They have made it by having individual dedication at the highest level. Rehearsals begin on time, on the risers, with almost no talking amongst the performers no matter who is "out front" providing direction or giving instruction. Each individual puts forth the effort to know the songs by practicing and learning on their own time in addition to the repetitions and further instruction received during weekly rehearsals. Each individual arrives at the rehearsal men-

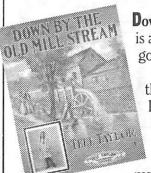
tally and vocally prepared. Each individual takes their place on the risers and allows the "out front" person to do their assigned job by being attentive and not talking with their riser neighbors. Each individual's dedication makes it possible for all other individuals to gain the most from the chorus' time together.

These individual dedications in no way detract from the fellowship and friendships within the chorus. The Great Northern Union is one of the most friendly groups I have visited or participated with in my barbershop career. They have a camaraderie all choruses should strive to attain. They have FUN and they are good.

My point is this. Our chorus can achieve this same level if we each individually dedicate ourselves to the simple principle of being the best we each can be. Each individual must dedicate himself to learning the music outside of rehearsal time. Each individual must apply himself to work on our plan while we are on the risers. Each individual must dedicate himself to allow the "out front" person to do their job without the need of talking over others. When we stop while working on a song, DO NOT TALK. With almost no exceptions there is no need to turn to your neighbor and start talking when the director stops to work on a problem. We get together each week to have fun. If we each show this dedication to being the best, I guarantee we will have fun. It will happen because we all feel good about our accomplishments. It will happen because we feel good about ourselves. Your individual dedication will take US to the top! ~

DOWN BY THE OLD MILL STREAM

by Fred Hinesley, Editor of the Macon, GA Sharptalk



Down By The Old Mill Stream is a fine arrangement of a truly good old song.

Tell Taylor, who composed the melody and wrote the lyrics, was an Ohioan. He later moved to Chicago, where he died while he was still a young man. Among many other songs, he com-

posed "Hello! My Baby."

Not only is "Down By The Old Mill Stream" a good song, but it has its place in barbershop history. After the 1939 international quartet contest, the Society contracted with RCA Victor of Chicago to make a record album, and "Down By The Old Mill Stream" was among the songs in this recording. (For those who are too young to remember, a record album is a collection of songs on vinyl, packaged in a folder.)

It is interesting that, although the *Bartlesville Barflies* had won the international championship at that first contest, they were not asked to do the recording. Instead, **O.C. Cash** asked the *Capitol City Four*, the second place finishers to do the honors.

Shortly before the recording was made, the quartet's bass singer, **Fred Raney**, died suddenly. Baritone **Glenn Howard** switched to bass, and the son of tenor singer **Dwight Dragoo**, **Gene Dragoo**, sang baritone. The recording was a success.

As was characteristic of this period in our Society every arrangement was woodshedded. After hearing the recording, **Tell Taylor** wrote to **Glenn Howard** and told him the *Capitol City Four* had recorded "Down By The Old Mill Stream" the way it should be sung.

None of the songs on this first Society recording is probably better known or more frequently sung than "Down By The Old Mill Stream." Indeed, as noted in the *Heritage of Harmony Songbook*, "No close harmony songfest is complete without it."

Source: **Dr. David Wright's** class on the history of barbershop harmony and the *Heritage of Harmony Songbook*.



CHORUS APPEARANCES ANNOUNCED

Society President **Chuck Watson** and the Planning and Program Development Group held the draw April 6th for the 2001 International Chorus Contest in Nashville. Here's how it stacks up...

- 1. Big Chicken Marietta (DIX)
- 2. Ambassadors of Harmony St. Charles, (CSD)
- 3. Senate-Aires Salem (EVG)
- 4. Heralds of Harmony Tampa (SUN)
- 5. Saltaires Wasatch Front, UT (RMD)
- 6. Alexandria Harmonizers Alexandria (MAD)
- 7. New Tradition Northbrook (ILL)
- 8. Heart of Texas Central Texas Corridor (SWD)
- 9. Chorus of the Genessee Rochester (SLD)
- 10. Pot O' Gold Bay Area Metro (FWD)
- 11. Toronto Northern Lights Toronto (ONT)
- 12. Cambridge Chord Company (BABS)
- 13. Great Northern Union Hillton (LOL)
- 14. Southern Gateway Western Hills Cincinnati (JAD)
- 15. Singing Buckeyes Buckeye-Columbus (JAD)
- 16. Midwest Vocal Express Greendale (LOL)
- 17. The Alliance Chorus Greater Central Ohio (JAD)
- 18. Granite Statesmen Nashua (NED)
- 19. Thoroughbreds Louisville (CAR)
- 20. Great American Chorus Gurnee (ILL)
- 21. Great Lakes Chorus Grand Rapids (PIO)

Heart of & Ca

May Calendar

May 14
Board Meeting - 6:30 PM
Doubletree Hotel - Downtown Kansas City, MO

JUST FOUR

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



"Talk about a dead audience!"



"If you can't sing the notes, don't hang around here humming!"



"It's a great song!
All we have to do is change
the melody, develop new lyrics
and think up a new title."

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN THE *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago -May 1991

With a Society-imposed cutoff score of 2,041 points, CSD was able for the first time since 1951 (see "Fifty Years Ago" later in this article) to qualify five quartets for the International Contest in Louisville in July. Among them was our own *Special Touch* with **Rick Kready** (tenor), **David Krause** (lead), **Matt Moore** (baritone), and **Keith Schweer** (bass) who was performing with the quartet for the first time at the international level.



Sound Impression, with Dick Henderson (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead), John Fortino (baritone), and Don Koehnlein (bass), made the top ten in the quartet prelims at Springfield. They tied with Sound Advice of Lincoln; the tie was broken in favor of Sound Impression based on superior Sound scores by our guys.

Harmonotes was picked as the best chapter bulletin in CSD for 1990.

Thirty Years Ago - May 1971

President **John Garbet** was beating the bushes for singers to make the trip to Joplin to sing on the charter show of the new Joplin Chapter. We were their sponsors, which to John's way of thinking, made it especially important to have a good turnout.

New officers for the Ladies' Auxiliary (they weren't called the *Heartbeats* then) were **LaVerne Moritz** (president), **Rita Matusiewicz** (vice president), **Dorie Wall** (secretary), and **Betty Wilson** (treasurer).

A special performance for the Institute of Logopedics (now called *Heartspring*) to be cohosted with the NOJOCO (now the Overland Park) Chapter was being planned for September 11 at the RLDS Auditorium. Guest quartets would be the *Oriole Four*, then current International Champions, the *Far Westerners*, sixth place finalists in 1970, and the *Fanfares*, 10th place finalists in 1970.

<u> Fifty Years Ago - May 10, 1951</u>

(Several years ago, the late **Orval Wilson** approached me at a meeting with a large cardboard box which he claimed contained "nothing but junk" and asked me whether I wanted it. It turned out that the contents included a bulletin editor's dream, in my case a handful of *Harmonotes* dating back to the early 1950s. (continued on page 7)

♦ (continued from page 6)

At that time, Harmonotes was published every two weeks. The earliest edition was printed on both sides of a single legal-sized sheet of paper and was dated July, 18, 1950. The editor was "Ham" Meisinger. I thought it would be interesting to see what the men of HOA were doing just 50 years ago this month.)

The chapter was meeting bimonthly on the second and fourth Mondays in the English Room of the Phillips Hotel at 12th and Baltimore in downtown Kansas City. Editor "Ham" Meisinger (does anyone remember what his real first name was? Perhaps "Hamilton"?) wrote all of the material in the May 10 issue, starting with a summary of the results of what appears to have been a district-level quartet contest at Springfield to pick the representatives for the international contest later that summer.

Ham writes, "Five quartets have been selected to try for higher honors including the Hu-Power Serenaders of Kansas City, the Air Corps Four of Wichita, the Four Tones from Omaha, the Colonels, also from Omaha, and the Hawkeye Four from Des Moines." (He doesn't explain why he named six quartets instead of five), The Four Orphans of Wichita, who went on to win the gold in 1954, were selected as alternates. Our own Crosstowners were among the first ten."

Carroll Adams, then International Secretary Emceed the Springfield contest. He was in our district to meet with members of the Kansas City chapter to iron out the details of the 1952 international convention which was to be held here.

Chapter officers for the coming year were Milt Grafrath (president). John H. Yonts (first vice president), Arthur Babcock (second vice president). Clarence Mayer (secretary), Don R. Thorne (treasurer), and Bert Phelps (delegate to the Central States Association).

Harry Maurer and Carl Lampley were reported on the "sick list," but nobody seemed to know what was wrong with them.

WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Which chorus has won the MOST medals?

the most medals with 22 The Southern Gateway Chorus has won Answer:

SUNSHINE REPORT by Max Boise

This month finds HOA in pretty good health overall. We have no news of any big events in our members lives to report. So. I guess this makes this months report full of nothing but Sunshine! ~



THANKS, HEARTBEATS!

by Sandy Rule, Heartbeats President

I would like to especially say THANK YOU to Carol Ramirez for heading up the committee for the men's luncheon at the Annual Show. March 24th!!! Also for getting the sandwiches and making sure that they got there, and for the hours she took to get everything arranged!!! She just accepted the job and carried it out without a hitch!!! What a trooper! Thank you soooo much, Carol!!!

And THANK YOU to all the ladies who baked cookies and brought fruit, chips, etc.!!! "We couldn't have done it without you!" is an oldsaying, but true!

And, of course, THANK YOU to the gals who volunteered of their time and service to help make it another success by setting-up the tables & arranging the food, cleaning-up, etc! It's wonderful to have such a great and dependable "crew".

And I know that some of you were there alllll day, ushering and taking tickets for one or both shows as well!! Thanks to each of vou!!!

Our next Heartbeat meeting will be at the church on May 8th, at 7:00 p.m. Hope to see vou there!

Hugs to all, your HB President, Sandy Rule

CONGRATULATIONS to:

Tonehenge - Senior's Quartet Champs
Denison, IA Chorus (16 men) - 1st Place Chorus
Columbia, MO Chorus (24 men) - 2nd Place and Most Improved
...and the FIVE (5) Quartets that QUALIFIED for
Nashville International Contest!

12th Street Rag • Tulsa Tradition (SWD) • Sibling Rivalry
Heyday (SWD) • 3 Men and a Melody

To Central States District Barbershopper of the Year 2000:

→ LUD EINESS ⇒

Congratulations! Well done and well deserved!

Kansas City, MO Permit No. 1215

DAG

NON-PROFIT ORG. U.S. Postage Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America Sazs Red Bridge Road, Apt. 3 Kansas City, MO 64157-2145

