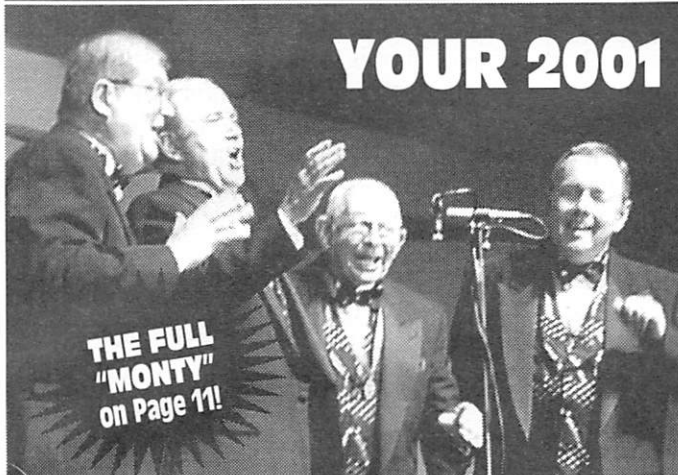


Harmonotes

November 2001

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2001, Issue 11



YOUR 2001 CSD SENIOR CHAMPS:

GENTLEMEN OF NOTE

HEART OF AMERICA IS BACK!

by Bruce Wenner, Music Vice-President

That's what we heard all Saturday evening in Topeka—"Heart of America is Back". Our colleagues all over the district told us that we did what we came to do. I've sung in a lot of second-place choruses before, and never heard the heartfelt compliments that we got this time. Be proud of yourself, guys—you earned the right.

It felt great on stage, didn't it? We knew we had two wonderful songs, and that we understood how we wanted to present them. That's when a contest is really fun. We know we sang our hearts out, especially on the ballad. How often do you hear an audience break into applause before the end of the last chord of a ballad? We had them, and we knew it.

We had the judges, too (at least part of the time), and that's a tougher sell—they're paid the big bucks to be critical. A third of the chorus stayed for the evaluations. That says something about the morale of this bunch. These guys told us more good things than bad, especially considering that the weak spots they identified were what they called "nit-picking". We learned that we had a good plan, and that we were working on the right things in our preparation. The small things we didn't get done on stage were all things we have been working on. No surprises. The main avenue to getting better is to carry out our plan consistently, for a full five minutes—maintain the energy throughout, and the intensity, and the attitude!

Meanwhile, let's savor the memories. Most of us competed two years ago in a fourth-place chorus, and we didn't like that feeling at all. We cruised past two of the three choruses that beat us then, and scared the other. In the last few weeks these sixty-nine guys came together emotionally as well as vocally, and I have never felt better about being a member of *Heart of America* than I was for those magic moments on stage. ~

(Gentlemen of Note photo courtesy of Matt Bostick)

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Harmonotes

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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 Telephone: (913) 221-7988

Member Of



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

by Dick Irwin, HOA President

May we have the doors closed please! Representing the Kansas City Chapter, under the direction of **Gordon Lankenau**, the *Heart of America Chorus!* We're ba-a-ck!!!

What a thrill it was to stand and watch the curtains open, from behind them this time! After all of our hours and days of rehearsal and practice, we finally made it back to the competition stage. Not only did we make it back, we made it back in pretty good style! We finished in second place with our next-closest competitor trailing us by 60 points. Who did we finish second to? Only the fourth-best chorus in the world! Pat yourselves on the back, gentlemen. You earned something more than second place. You earned the respect of hundreds of other barbershoppers at the Central States District Contest. Congratulations on a job well done.

Speaking of jobs well done, let's thank all who helped make our trip to Topeka possible. Thanks to **John Stucker** and his assistants for making our arrangements. Thanks to **Matt Bostick** for taking on the makeup at such a late date. Thanks to **Gordon, Mike, Jim, Bruce**, our section leaders, and our coaches for giving us so much instruction and support to help us achieve a higher level of singing and performing. Thanks to **Don Young, Mike Schumacher** (who wasn't even able to be with us), and **Sheri Watts** for their hard work with our choreography. A GIGANTIC thanks to **Chuck Ames**, again, for all of his work with the risers and equipment. And thanks to each member, on stage or not, for your effort and support! ~

BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH!



What do you do with your Thursday evenings? Well, if you're like **Mike Neff** you might just spend them on the road to St. Charles, Missouri, at least a few. During June and early July that's exactly what Mike did. He spent 5 straight weeks travelling to participate as an observer and student with the *Ambassadors of Harmony* (AOH). His trips were part of a special effort, suggested by Mike, to have our directors gain some specialized training. During his visits he observed and received coaching from **Jim Henry** and his wonderful staff at AOH. Because of this dedication to help improve HOA by self-improvement, Mike was awarded the Barbershopper of the Month for July. Congratulations and thank you, Mike! ~

(Photo courtesy of **Ron McIntire**)

THEY'RE BAAAACK.

by Gordon Lankenau, Director, Heart of America Chorus



And so it was voiced over and over all weekend long about us, the members of the *Heart of America Chorus* at the CSD Convention in Topeka, Oct. 12-13, 2001.

Anytime a chorus of our stature stands down from contest for a year; the level of anxiety is heightened around the district. There were many that knew that we'd come back with a vengeance and others just had to be shown what we could do.

Yes, HOA had been gone from the contest scene for a year, but we came back with more than just new accessories to our outfits. We had ten new faces performing with the contest chorus for the first time. We had nearly a dozen members return to competition with us, and we had a fantastic new package that proved to all, WE are a force to be reckoned with. Congratulations to our new members **Steve, Alex, Reed, Jerry, Mike, Cameron, Frazier, Shawn, Harry, and Harvey**. Welcome to life in a competition chorus. To almost a dozen guys who had missed the last competition in 1999, welcome back and thank you for being a part of our return. We had a new package that showed CSD that we are a different chorus than any had seen or heard the last time.

I'm proud of the Heart of America Chorus for performing a solid second-place finish behind the *Ambassadors of Harmony* from St. Charles, MO. I am also proud of the four quartets that represented the Kansas City Chapter. That is more than in any other chapter this year! The fact that three of the four quartets were in the top half of the field speaks volumes about the tenacity of our members. *Outstanding!!!*

Now that the impact of the weekend has passed, I can reflect on the events leading up to and during the competition itself with pride. I know that the chorus was ready to show that our absence last year did not weaken us. Instead it made us stronger, for we were able to take the necessary time to improve ourselves and hone our skills.

On Friday night, you came to the chorus rehearsal energized and enthused from the excitement you felt from watching the quartet competition. You exited the room anticipating the thrill of competition even more. Many of the quartet members shared the emotional high the applause and stage conditions would bring to you. They gave you a hint of what it would be like for you when the chorus stepped out in front of the audience. Your level of concentration on each song exceeded previous levels, for great was the dynamic contrast you exhibited. The section leaders were very supportive of their sections and insistent that the plan be followed. (Continued on page 13) →

Heart of America Chorus

ELEVEN-TIME Central States District Champion!

CHAPTER QUARTET CHAMPIONS

Rural Route 4 - 1986 International Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Calvin Yoder (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Gentlemen of Note - 2001 International Seniors Medallists

Rod Rule (tenor), Jon Gathright (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Monty Duerksen (bass)

HyPower Serenaders - 1948 Central States District Champion

Don McPherson (tenor), Ben Franklin (lead),
Bert Phelps (bari), Dale Warrick (bass)

Gambolliers - 1952 Central States District Champion

John Dooley (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Jimmy Byrnes (bass)

BMA Gambolliers - 1957 Central States District Champion

Barney Wasson (tenor), Eddie Schliebs (lead),
Orval Wilson (bari), Harold Robinette (bass)

The Kippers - 1962 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Tom Taylor (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Don Page (bass)

The Four Kippers - 1966 Central States District Champion

*Ken Gabler (tenor), *Byron Meyers (lead),
John Goldsbury (bari), Gil Lefholz (bass)

The Morning Times - 1974 Central States District Champion

Dave Snook (tenor), Roger O'Dell (lead),
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Corner Quartet - 1981 Central States District Champion

Don Kahl (tenor), Lance Heilmann, (lead)
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

Gene Bowers (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Willard Yoder (bass)

Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Bud Clark (bari), Matt Moore (bass)

KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

Rod Rule (tenor), Wayne Lankenau (lead),
Rich Huyck (bari), Larry Wilson (bass)

12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

*Rick Kready (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

*Micah Jeppesen (tenor), Mark Fortino (lead),
John Fortino (bari), *Barry Moore (bass)

Arpeggio

Marlin Weidler (tenor), Rick Dunaway (lead),
Mark Grisham (bari), Mike Griffin (bass)

Crosstown Four

Dale Neuman (tenor), Gordon Coleman (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Val Putzier (bass)

Heartland

*Rick Kready (tenor), David Krause (lead),
Matt Moore (bari), *Dale Comer (bass)

Old Mission Messengers

Reid Ecton (tenor), John Warrior (lead),
Ron Abel (bari), Bryan Van Deun (bass)

Polecat Creek

Lyle Wily (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)

Uranium

Carter Combs (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),
Dale Neuman (bari), John Stucker (bass)

*Member of other chapters

FROM COACHING SESSIONS...



TOPEKA COMPETITION LEVEL ENCOURAGING

by Jim Bagby, CSD C&J Vice-President

The *Heart of America Chorus* return to respectability and the excellent representation by our four chapter quartets were part of a larger, encouraging picture at the fall CSD competition in Topeka.

Among the largest field of quartets in years – 34 – and 16 choruses, there was not one D-level performance. Let me say that again: 50 competitors, and no D's. For a district that has no division contests or minimum qualifying scores, that's an amazing statistic. Ask any judge you know if he remembers a similar experience.

To put it in perspective, a C-level performance is from 41 to 60 points. On a triple panel, the minimum C would be 123 points. The 34th-place quartet averaged 141 for its two songs. A B score is 61-80, or a minimum of 183 for the triple panel. We had quartets who scored B down through 23rd place!

In the chorus contest, only Society medalist St. Charles (with another brilliant performance) had all A scores. But the next 11 choruses achieved B-level scores, ranging up to the 76.5 average of HOA. 🍷

From top to bottom: HOA sendoff night at St. Peter's, Oct. 2. Before donning new vests and tux coats, chorus works with **Tony DeRosa**, who keeps pushing for intensity in the performance, spark in the sound. HOA Performance Coach **Jim Bagby** demonstrates: down before you go up, more knee flex to achieve growth in final "Sweet Georgia Brown" move. Tony reminds front row: attitude, attitude, attitude. (Photos courtesy of **Ron McIntire**)



...TO PERFORMANCE TIME!

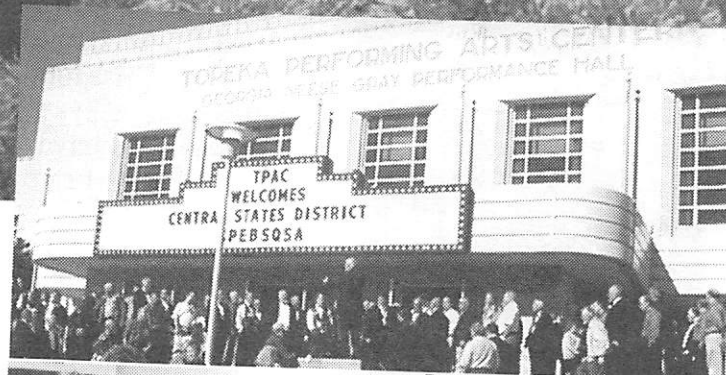


TOPEKA HIGHLIGHTS

by Jim Bagby, CSD C&J Vice-President

Central States District President **Bill McLaurine** of St. Charles had the idea to open each contest session with a patriotic song.

Jim Bagby directed "America" Friday night. **Gary Drown** of Kearney, Neb., led the audience in "America the Beautiful" before the Saturday chorus contest. Jim directed a stirring "Star Spangled Banner," with almost 1,500 people lifting their hearts and voices, to open the Saturday night session. And St. Charles arm-waver extraordinaire **Jim Henry** led the repeat champion *Ambassadors of Harmony* and the crowd in a rousing "God Bless America" to cap the convention Saturday night. ~



From top to bottom: **Gordon Lankenau** delivers some words of wisdom as chorus awaits buses to take HOA from headquarters hotel to Topeka Performing Arts Center. TPAC—waiting in line for makeup at the chorus hotel. **Jim Davis** giving new member **Cameron LaBarr** his first contest makeup. **Jim Kinyon** gets some much needed make up from **Carl Turlin**. **Jim Davis** doing his best to keep makeup out of **Roy Manade's** eyes. Front row works in HOA hotel: *How did Sheri say to do this?* Final backstage room at TPAC for HOA and last reminders from **Gordon**. (Photos courtesy of **Matt Bostick** and **Ron McIntire**)

URANIUM'S GLOW by Dale Neuman

In the last report on *Uranium*, I said that we looked forward to a "radiant" experience in contest in Topeka. I think it is fair to say that, from the quartet's perspective, it was that indeed! Our first time out of the gate and a 17th place finish was in the range we hoped for but not what we expected given the fact that we had to change our approach during the last week. Why would we change anything in the last week? The answer is that **Carter Combs**, our tenor, developed a severely painful back problem that left him with no feeling in his left leg and hence he was barely able to walk, let alone stand. Our planned

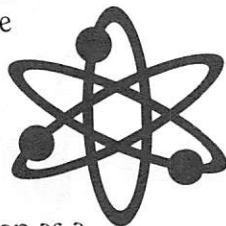


routine with tuxes had to be scratched for an old-clothes-by-the-lake-watching-the-sunset-and-moon-rise routine with Carter sitting in a chair and the rest of us clustered around him. We had one rehearsal on Wednesday the 10th before taking it on stage on Friday, the 12th! (We even forgot to spray some WD-40 on the chair which creaked in the

wrong key as I opened it for Carter.)

We want to thank **Jim Bagby** for his help and encouragement and for being back stage as we left the stage to hug us and share the excitement we felt as we soaked in the warm feelings that had just come to us from the cheers of our friends in the audience. I have been singing for over 30 years now, and with the possible exception of how I felt during the audience reaction in Detroit after HOA finished singing "That Old Quartet of Mine" in International, I can remember no feeling like the one I had Friday night as we finished—and for hours after. I suspect the other guys had similar emotions. We also want to thank *12th Street Rag* whose best wishes card left for us at the photographer's station in the pattern as we were leaving to perform was a nice touch from good friends. And to all of the men, wives and friends of HOA, St. Joe, Overland Park and other chapters that stopped us Friday night and Saturday to congratulate us, we say a special thanks. Even more special is the thanks that **Charley, John** and I owe to Carter for toughing it out so that we could compete.

One last word for those who have not competed because they are concerned about how well they might do or worry about being too nervous. We approached this as a chance to perform rather than as a challenge to succeed. We think it worked. Competing is fun; it has many rewards; it does take some focused work—and we'd have benefitted from a lot more of the latter as our scores and the judges' comments told us. But above all, it was one more chance to sing to an audience that wanted to listen. (And it was a lot easier to sing there than in front of the Chapter!) ~



LOVE THAT HARMONY!

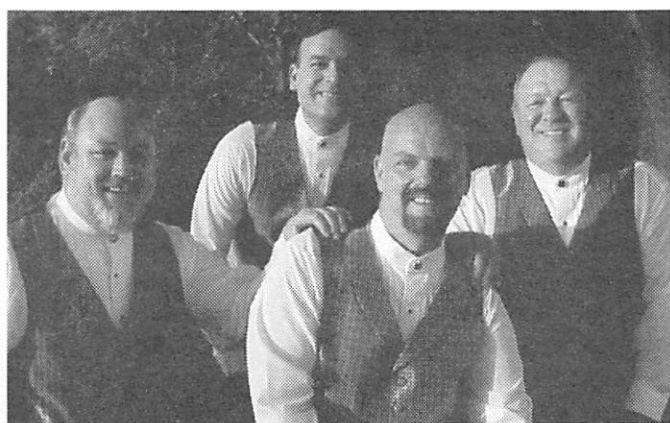


From top to bottom: More pics of quartets during their performance in Topeka!

Arpeggio, a novice foursome, is **Ralph Tallmon, Rick Dunaway, Mike Griffen and Marlin Weidler**. Below them is novice quartet *Double Take* from new liberty chapter; members include former HOA baritone **Duane Lawson**, now liberty chapter president. Other members are **Rick Crouch, Kip Mathew and Brian Bliss**.

Our newest chapter quartet is *New and Used Parts* (from left) **Jerry Garrard, Mike Neff, Keith Schweer and Grant Hunget**—also known as HOA section leaders. Three had competed before, so they were not eligible for novice.

New and Used Parts tied for 13th; *Double Take* was 24th and *Arpeggio* was 25th in field of 34 quartets. ~
(Photos courtesy of **Matt Bostick**)



REFLECTIONS ON TOPEKA

by Rick Dunaway

Arpeggio got its baptism on the district contest stage on Oct. 12.

Although all four of us have competed on the international stage with HOA, we each now know that standing on a contest stage with nobody else but our three buddies to rely on is another matter entirely. It's kind of like bungee jumping: It's scary, but thrilling at the same time, and we all are ready to jump into it again, perhaps in the spring.

It was a thrill to hear the cheers of our barbershop brethren, and we appreciate every one of you. We also appreciated all the words of encouragement, before and after our on-stage experience.

The coaching sessions after the contest not only reinforced a few points we had already begun addressing, they also gave us several other things to consider. Particularly encouraging was the fact that the judges were surprised that we had only been together with the current personnel, singing their current voice parts, for 11 months.

Although we did not have the resounding success in the standings that we had dreamed about, our scores have indicated improvement. And since improvement is one of the primary reasons our great society holds contests anyway, we can consider the exercise a success, after all.

Since we missed the cut, you may have thought that *Arpeggio* was all dressed up on Saturday night with nowhere to go. Not so. We had a ball visiting a number of hospitality rooms (Lincoln-Beatrice, Mason City and Topeka among them) where we renewed acquaintances with old friends and made some new friends. We finished up our night with an appearance at the HOA-Ambassadors of Harmony hospitality room, where we had the distinct pleasure (??) of following *12th Street Rag* on stage.

In all, it was a great weekend. We're making our plans to see you, our fellow HOA members, in Columbia, if not several times before. ~

FLASH!

HOA's own
LUD EINESS
elected Society
Board Member,
representing
Central States
and Illinois districts.
See details in December
Harmonotes!



CHRISTMAS REPERTOIRE – DECEMBER, 2001

Here are the songs we need to know for the two upcoming Christmas performances – Dec. 14 at John Knox, and the bell-ringing Dec. 15:

Separate Sheet Music

Songs of Christmas Medley
Tiny Little Baby in a Manger
Do You Hear What I Hear
Ring De Bells
Chanukkah Medley
Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas
Deck the Halls
White Christmas

From the Christmas Book

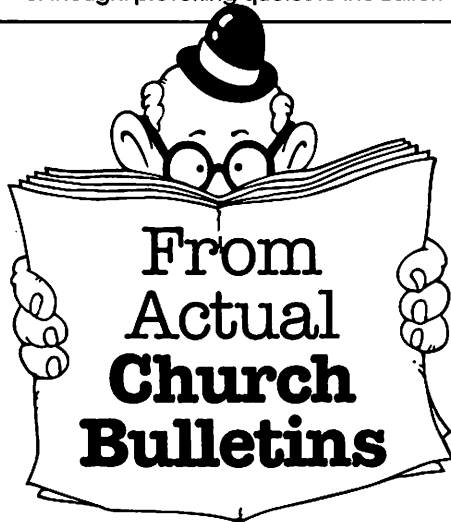
Silent Night
Jingle Bells
O Come All Ye Faithful
Angels We Have Heard On High
O Holy Night
While By My Sheep (Echo Carol)

*Editor's Note:
This clipart below IS of a quartet.
The Lead merely stepped away
for hot chocolate!*



JUST FOUR FUN

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



The Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

Evening massage - 6 p.m.

Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

Don't let worry kill you off
—let the church help.

The choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

A LOOK AT THE PAST IN *HARMONOTES*

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

Ten Years Ago - November 1991

HOA ran its string of CSD championships to 10 with a victory at the 1991 fall contest in Kansas City. And get this! We outscored our closest competition, the *Ambassadors of Harmony* from across the state, by 57 points! And two of our chapter quartets, the *K.C. Chord Company*, with **Gene Bowers** (tenor), **David Krause** (lead), **Wesley Yoder** (baritone), and **Matt Moore** (bass), and the *Sound Impression*, with **Dick Henderson** (tenor), **Mark Fortino** (lead), **John Fortino** (baritone), and **Don Koehnline** (bass), finished among the top five in the quartet competition.

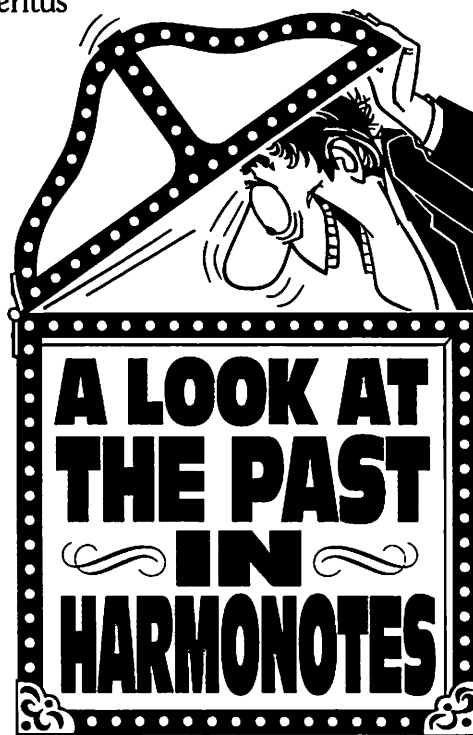
New HOA members were **J. B. Witham**, **Jim Morris** and **Martin Oldehoeft**.

Twenty Years Ago - November 1981

For the first time ever, the CSD chorus and quartet championships were won by two KC groups. And it was a rare occasion, indeed, when the our success was covered by an article in the *Kansas City Star*! A copy of the piece was reproduced on the front page of *Harmonotes* by then Editor **Al Benz**.

The quartet trophy was brought home by our own Corner Quartet. The membership is not mentioned in *Harmonotes*, but as I recall it, **Don Kahl** sang tenor, **Lance Heilmann** carried the lead, **Steve Leone** was the baritone and **Stan Grossman** handled the bass.

Jim Bagby provided a stirring eulogy in *Harmonotes* for **Don Stewart**, who had passed away recently. *The Harmony Handful* (remember them?) provided the music at Don's funeral. (Continued on page 9) →



(Continued from page 8)

Thirty-Five Years Ago - November, 1966

Editor **Don Thorne** reported very little news regarding HOA's performance in the 1966 CSD contest in Des Moines. I could dig into my collection of Serenades to find out for sure how HOA did in the competition, but they're all packed away (from our move from Lawrence four years ago), and I'm too lazy to dig out the real old ones. However, Don did include a brief item by outgoing Chapter President **Gil Lefholz** in which Gil talks about "five points—so close, but still so far away." It would appear that those five points separated HOA from the *Pony Expressmen* of St. Joseph who won the trophy that year (of that I'm quite certain because I was on stage with them).

The quartet contest that year was won by the *Four Kippers*, with **Ken Gabler** (tenor) and **Byron Myers** (lead) from St. Joe and **John Goldsberry** (baritone) and **Gil Lefholz** (bass) of Kansas City. ~

From the Heartbeats

by Sandy Rule, President

First of all, the *Heartbeats* send our warmest congratulations and "bravo's" to the *Gentlemen of Note* for winning the Seniors Division of the quartet contest and coming in 9th overall, and the same to the HOA chorus for winning second place in the chorus competition!! It was a great contest/weekend and so nice to be close to home!

Secondly, the *Heartbeats* will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 13th for our holiday gathering and the final meeting of 2001. We will have the election of officers for 2002, and **Shawna Mathieu** will be conducting a Home Interior party for our enjoyment. **Dessie Gathright**, **Joan Korek**, and **Sandy Rule** will be furnishing refreshments. (Since we had a potluck supper for our last meeting, we decided to just have refreshments for this one.) Come join us at 7:00 at the church! See ya! ~

SUNSHINE REPORT

by Max Boise

We're sorry to report that **Carter Combs** had to step down from the risers for fall competition due to a slipped disk in his back. He's says he's slowly recovering and that, although saddened that he could not compete with HOA, he loved the performance.

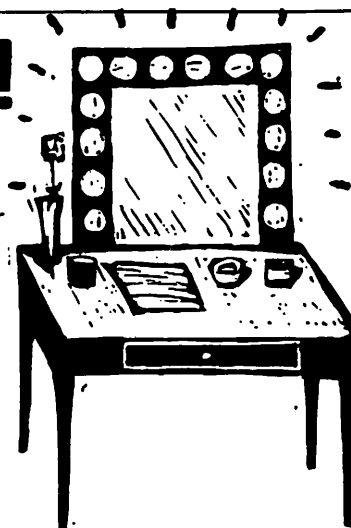
Dick Irwin's dad has returned to North Kansas City hospital with congestive heart failure. He suffered a mild heart attack shortly after being admitted. An angioplasty was performed the next day to insert a stent in one of his three existing bypasses. While the procedure was successful, only two of the three bypasses are open and he is not a candidate for any further surgery. Please keep Dick and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, we're glad to have **Dennis Kinghorn** feeling better. ~



MAKEUP!

Hats off to **Jim Davis**, **Matt Bostick** and **John Stucker** for their help in applying makeup to chorus members prior to our Topeka performance. It was a lot of WORK, but you somehow managed to make us look GOOD! ~



WHACHA THINK?

Test your barbershop trivia skills!

Question:

Who holds the distinction of winning the most Society medals of any kind?

Answer:
Jim Gentil (11),
1976-1981, 1983 Roaring '20s,
1990-1993 The Naturals

DO I HAFTA...? by Raymond Schwarzkopf, Certified Music Judge

The phone rang at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, October 11th. It was **Roger Payne**, MUSIC Category Specialist for the Society's Contest & Judging Program. There had been a flight schedule change that precluded **Steve Jamison** from being able to make it into Kansas City until 10:00 p.m. on Friday, which would have precluded him from judging the quartet contest. Other judges were unavailable for various reasons...and, while the C&J community tries diligently to use out-of-district judges, the baton was being passed to me. Luckily, I hadn't coached or interfaced with ANY of the competitors during the previous 30 days due to the amount of time I've spent up in Chicago lately, taking care of my parents.

So, instead of attending and having a great time enjoying the convention, I was forced to work AND enjoy the contest!!! What a terrible thing to have to endure! <insert BIG GRIN here>

And what a contest it was...34 quartets...16 choruses...120 songs...hundreds of competitors AND the added attraction of 49 guys from 15 chapters who participated in the CSD Mike-Tester's Chorus who got the opportunity to perform on the contest stage (including going through a 90-minute rehearsal and the entire pattern) just like the other choruses. And the overall quality of every performance was wonderful! No one "crashed and burned" on stage (although we did hear some MAJOR clunkers coming from the hotel lobby AFTER the contest)!!! More Novice quartets, more Seniors quartets... more quartets ready to share their talents with a very appreciative (and critical) audience!

Evaluations went on into the wee hours Friday and Saturday nights...and I want to thank the competitors for their willingness to receive information and guidance on what it takes to get to the next level. Everyone, even those unhappy with the results, were open to discussing the results and working toward "preserving and encouraging" better results next time. And, as far as I know, only one competitor didn't show up for their evals (which I can tell you doesn't happen that often). Hard to help them if they don't even show up. So, much applause and congratulations to all of the competitors.

Congrats to *Gentlemen Of Note* (who gave one of their best contest performances I've seen) on earning the right to go to the Mid-Winter Seniors Competition in Riverside, CA...poor souls gotta go to California in January! Congrats to the other HOA quartets...good to see **Dale Neuman** and **John Stucker** walking the boards again...and a great surprise to see **Phil Hunget** (Grant's dad) onstage in a quartet (his first time competing since the 60s I think he told me)...great to see a lot of other "first-timers," too...always good to see new faces enjoying this wonderful hobby.

Congrats to HOA for one of the most consistent performances I've seen you give in years...way to go, **Gordon**...looks like the guys are taking ownership of their performance and enjoying themselves, too.

Kudos to **Jim Bagby**, for another great event...and, especially to his wife, **Joann**, for the wonderful hospitality shown to the judges (I LOVE your sloppy joes, Joann!). They kept us "fed and watered" as we went about our duties.

Most importantly, I want to thank the Topeka chapter members who went out of their way over and over and over again to make sure we all had a great time. When I left Topeka at 12:30p.m. Sunday, they were still cleaning up and moving risers and making sure everyone got on their way home ok. You guys should be very proud of what you did (add a personal thanks to **Don Newman** - great to see you again).

As I drove home, I couldn't help thinking how wonderful it was to see so many people, so many families, enjoying themselves with this great hobby. Young and old, doing something special...creating harmony. And I felt proud to be giving something back to my fellow barbershoppers, even if it meant I had to sit up front with a pencil in my hand! Isn't it GREAT to be a Barbershopper?! ~



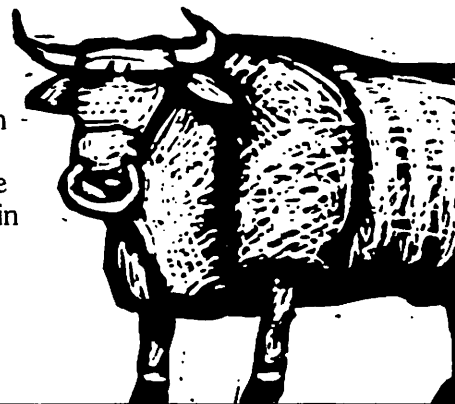
INSTALLATION/AWARDS BANQUET by Dick Irwin

The annual Kansas City Chapter Installation and Awards Banquet will be held on Saturday Jan. 12, 2002. We will once again have the opportunity to enjoy the fare of The Golden Ox Restaurant.

Our emcee will be **Jim Bagby** with very special guest **Bill McLaurine**, CSD President, who will perform our installation of new officers. There will also be presentations by last years' Ozzie, John Cross, and BOTY award winners. You won't want to miss our very own *12th Street Rag*!

And, there may be more entertainment yet to come! Plan now to be there!

Watch for more details here and in the *In-Tune*. ~



MONTY: SO NEAR AND YET SO FAR ARE THE GENTLEMEN OF NOTE

by Monty Duerksen



SO FAR, we have been obedient to the coaches of Harmony College and **Jim Casey** who said, "Sing to three or four people. Go for an ensemble sound. Loud singing is out!" Following these instructions brought us SO NEAR to the top five in Topeka, on our first set, yet SO FAR from the "higher scorers", that we are experiencing "contesta-tional motivational confusion".

Furthermore, on our second set in Topeka, we were SO NEAR to showing intended technique, that it was obvious — we were SO FAR from believability.

Our goal in Topeka — sing to earn the right to represent CSD in the Seniors International contest in January. We were SO NEAR to making that goal that we will now have the opportunity to travel SO FAR to compete in Riverside, CA.

We are presently SO NEAR to enjoying barbershop quartetting that we suddenly realize that we must go SO FAR, muscially, to sing well enough to win something and merit Society RESPECT!

P.S. Is this purti-NEAR interesting? ~

A GREAT GIFT IDEA!

by Grant Hunget, Show Chairman



Want to get some Holiday shopping done early? How about grabbing some early stocking stuffers? Need to provide some prizes, or gifts at the office for incentives & rewards? How about putting a few in a raffle drawing, at the next big event at your church, school, or business? What about the people with whom you promote our Singing Valentines — offer early tickets to them! Fliers will be available at the meeting hall soon, so you may hang them at work, church, etc. Or, just make your own. Help promote YOUR show!!

Tickets for the HOA Spring Show will soon be available! Show date is March 9, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., Music Hall, Downtown KC. Ticket prices range \$18, \$13, and \$8 each, based on location. You may purchase tickets by phone, beginning Dec. 3, through our own **Paul Winans**, at (816) 537-6847. Paul is back again, after doing a great job with ticket handling last year. Please treat him with your best HOA hospitality. *He deserves it!*

PLATINUM, 2000 International Quartet Champion, will headline the show with one of their final performances. Yes, they will officially retire after the 2002 Portland



Convention. Two members of this quartet are multi-gold winners! Don't miss this rare opportunity to see and hear one of Society's most fabulous quartets ever!

12th Street Rag will be with us once again! Their performances just keep getting better and better, and couldn't be a nicer bunch of guys! Having finished 23rd at Nashville's International Convention, we've seen them as high as 17th Place right here in KC the year before. Come out & share in the fun and great sounds they provide. You'll be glad you did!

The Heart of America Chorus is just back from a second place finish at District Competition, after laying out a year from competition. Work has begun on some new numbers, and their portion of the show should be a fine one!

Some GREAT promotions are being developed right now, in order to make this one of HOA's best and funnest events! WATCH for further details! ~

TONE-HENGE IN CORN-HENGE by Dan Henry

Ever been to Mitchell, South Dakota? That's the home of the famous "Corn Palace", an edifice that defies description, and the city that presented it's annual barbershop show/afterglow/ever-glow Oct. 6. And all three performances featured *Tone-Henge*, if you can feature that. It was a fun show. Any show from which *Tone-Henge* can escape without an angry



crowd on our heels is a fun show. I mention the ever-glow to allow an un-exaggerated description of our host's home. Something near 150 persons attended the ever-glow in that house, (true) which covers

a few hundred acres and has two zip codes. (not quite as true, but nearly) Numerous redwood pavilions lead from the house to its lake-side marina. (You don't call it a "dock" if the Queen Mary can anchor there). Most of the singing took place in a sun room that could accommodate Lenexa. (almost) So, *Tone-Henge* came away happy, but with a question: "If there's that much money in corn, how come *Tone-Henge* ain't rich?"

Of course you know we loaned our bass to *New and Used Parts* for the fall contest in Topeka. We thought they made first place, with *GON*, *Uranium* and *Arpeggio* all tied for second. We were so mad when we discovered that wasn't the case we only sang in seven hospitality rooms.

October was a busy month for us old "hengens". On Thursday the 18th we had an appearance at the Uptown Theater; a fund-raiser for a worthwhile endeavor called CASA. We were part of a neat lineup that included *Four's Company* and *Ida McBeth*. *Four's Company* and *Ida* killed 'em. We only wounded a few, but the "bubbles" (balloons) were a hit.

And on Saturday the 20th we were proud to appear on Columbia's annual show with the Society's bronze medallists, *Four Voices*. Man-oh-man can they sing!!! Naturally, we take credit for teachin' 'em everything they know. Columbia's chapter is really enthusiastic and growing; four active quartets too. *A ton of fun!*

Three more T-H appearances in November and two in December. **Bruce, Jim and Keith**, who are just kids, are holding up well. Ol' Dan's a basket case. ~

MEMBER SERVICES VP —WHAT IS IT? by Dale Neuman

At the recent Central States District House of Delegates Meeting in Topeka, I was "sworn in" as the CSD Vice-President for Member Services. Rumor has it that I can thank **Jim Bagby** for tossing my name in the hopper and **Byron Myers** for pushing it forward. Since both of them will have to serve with me on the CSD Board, I appreciate their votes of confidence. **Bill McLaurine**, the district president, is from the St. Charles Chapter and I'd worked with him on chapter matters when I was HOA president. He explored with me some needs that I might be able to help with if I took on the job. So, I decided to accept.

What does all this mean—except that I've now traded in a little more of my 'retirement spare time'? In truth, I can't really answer that in detail until I attend the Society's Leadership Training Forum in Racine, WI. Oct. 31 through Nov. 4. There we will meet with the committee that has been working on membership recruitment and retention strategies over the past year and develop a game plan for the next several years. There appear to be a number of items on the table for consideration—from support for existing chapters efforts to get new men to help for start-up chapters in areas that do not have the barbershop opportunities we all take for granted. Getting new members seems more likely than getting former ones back that we've lost in some fashion. But getting new members that will stay is another issue. And getting new members who can bring both interest in the music we sing with a willingness to do the non-music work associated with successful chapter organization and administration is also important. We are a "graying" organization like many other service-hobby organizations founded in the mid-20th century. We tend to recruit from our own age cohorts, which adds to the "gray." We need to figure out some

other approaches if we wish to see this hobby stay viable. Total membership was recently reported at below 32,000, down

from numbers just a few years ago around 35,000. This impacts not only local chapters but the Society's budgetary ability to support our educational and competition activities. CSD is fortunate in that its membership has held fairly constant—but good fortune is no substitute for good plans and effective programs. I hope to be able to contribute to the latter in my tour of duty as CSD VP for Member Services. I may well call on a number of you for help. ~



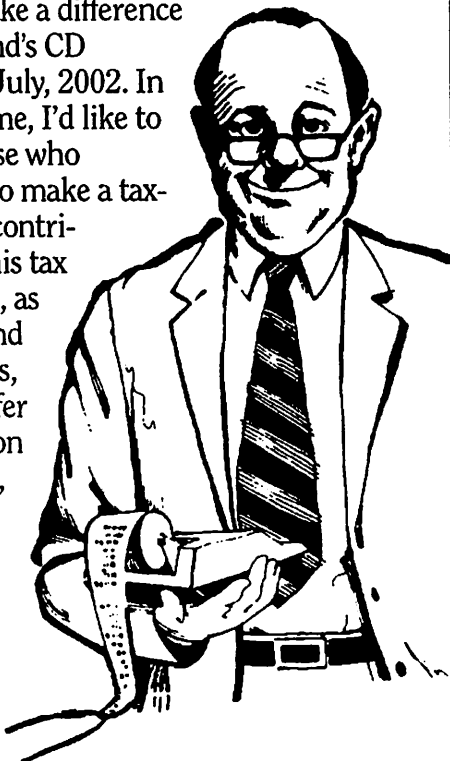
UPDATE ON HELPERS FUND

by Dale Neuman

Several issues ago I reminded folks about the **Presidents' Helpers Fund** that provided financial assistance to members whose cash flow situation created problems for them in attending our retreat, going to contest or getting a tux for contest. I want to thank the several men who made contributions after that article appeared. Now I want to provide an update on the fund.

We provided a little over \$525 in assistance for those two events. We have received \$375 in contributions since the article appeared. We started the period with about \$800 in the account. If my math is correct, we have about \$650 remaining. While this seems like a lot, we've usually tried to have closer to \$1,000 minimum available to address the variety of chorus-related needs that can arise for men who may need some short-term assistance.

Last month I announced the liquidation of the **Building Fund** come this next July, and some of those contributors have already notified the President of their desire to transfer their contribution to the "Helpers Fund." We thank them and that will make a difference after the fund's CD matures in July, 2002. In the meantime, I'd like to remind those who might like to make a tax-deductible contribution in this tax year or who, as building fund contributors, could transfer that donation to this fund, we can still use the help. ~



THEY'RE BAAAACK.

(Continued from page 3)

All of the extra work by **Don Young, Mike Schumacher** and the front row with their hats, ensured that the presentation for "Sweet Georgia Brown" was going to have the desired impact on the audience. Along the way, coaching by **Tony DeRosa, Darin Drown** and **Gary Wulf** was very beneficial. However, the essential and meaningful work done by **Jim Bagby** made everyone aware of what needed to be presented visually, vocally and emotionally by all involved. Thank you very much, Jim. You are truly and unarguably an asset to the chorus.

Contest day arrived and every one of you kept the momentum going. Last-minute instructions and phrase work kept you focused. We were ready! As the contest pattern progressed, unforeseeable events altered our time in the holding rooms, but did little to deter our mission to show CSD what we're all about. All the hours of preparation culminated in just six short minutes on stage. "I'll be Seeing You" was magical! The audience knew it, you knew, I knew, and the judges only served to confirm it. It felt wonderful and the audience was extremely responsive. "Sweet Georgia Brown" started with a bit more volume than we had planned, but the energy was there. When the song was over, the audience reaction was even better than I had anticipated. The applause just kept coming and the curtain was kept open much longer than usual. When the curtain finally closed, a celebratory whoop came from each of us. The emotion of the moment led to congratulatory handshakes, high fives and hugs. When Jim Bagby announced the chorus placement, my heart caught in my throat. I knew, I just knew, we were not going to be denied our rightful place in this contest. What an incredible feeling, an absolutely exhilarating feeling! Yes, CSD, WE'RE BACK!!!

It has been a very successful venture. Our success will continue to grow only by our discipline and determination. Let's keep improving the dynamic variety of all the songs in our repertoire. Let's continue to improve our consistency, dynamics, vocal production, balance and visual presentation. I would like to thank each of you for your participation in the *Heart of America Chorus* under my direction. It is a great thrill for me to be a part of this ageless legacy.

Speaking of a legacy, the undying love of barbershop was shown by our own **Frazier Allen**, who performed with the chorus after being absent from the contest stage for 35 years. WELCOME BACK, FRAZIER, and a special thanks to **Monty Duerksen** for his contact with Frazier that brought him back. Additionally, I would like to thank **Chuck Ames, John Stucker**, all the members of the Music Team, **Don Young, Mike Schumacher, Al Higgins** and **Tom Elefson** for their hard work and support of HOA. ~

WHY NOT NOW?

by Mike Schumacher

First let me say, congratulations to the guys on the risers that took this chorus several steps ahead of where we were the last time HOA competed. And I believe that's saying something because not only did you guys get better but so did the rest of the District, so your second place finish should really feel good. Yes, I know, there are always things we can do better but if we strive to keep getting better and not take the usual two or three steps backward, think about (and work toward) where we could be next year!

That said, here's the proverbial question that has lingered in my mind ever since I joined this chorus: "When's the best time to join the chorus?", and a close second question should be: "Why don't more guys invite guests?"

The HOA chorus and/or the Kansas City chapter is a hard working bunch of guys, full of energy and always ready to take on a new project. Think about it, when does this chorus do NOTHING? We have activities year around and to tell you the truth, I'm proud of that fact. We are always trying to learn smarter and get better. We are usually working for show or contest or performance or putting together a class or participating in district activities or getting preparing to embarrass someone with a singing valentine.

My answer for the first question is the title to this article,...*why not now?* We're starting to get wrapped up in the music for the best season of the year and it would be great to have 10 or 15 guests join us at the Blue Ridge Mall when we sing the Holiday music and collect for the Salvation Army. It would be nice if you invited them "last week" and it would be unbelievable if they came several weeks in a row to really get involved in the spirit of the songs.

The second question every member has to answer for themselves. Every member needs to feel the friendship that permeates the rehearsal hall when we "ring those chords" and truly encourage all of our members and guests to do their best. Invite those guests, offer to go pick them up, sponsor them and introduce them to the others when you get to rehearsal. Why can't we spread that awesome joy amongst 100 guys as easily as we can the 70 we see every week?! I know we can, we just have to do it. Remember the sign I wrote on the white board before you guys went to contest? *Think It! See It! Feel It! Do It!* I'd like to apply that to invitation, recruitment and retention of guests and new members just like we did for our musical product. You've got to love this hobby!!

(Guest night - Nov 13) ~



FORMER RR4 MEMBER TO SING WITH UPTOWN SOUND

by Jim Bagby

There will be a former Kansas City Chapter member involved in what promises to be a red-hot, wide-open race for the quartet gold in Portland.

Don Kahl of our own *Rural Route 4* has been named new tenor of silver medalists *Uptown Sound*, from the Johnny Appleseed District. They were featured on the HOA show last March, then placed second in Nashville.

Don is a 36-year Society member (he says there's a generation and a half between him and the rest of the US members) who began his career with the *Tulsa Founders* Chapter. He joined Kansas City in 1968, left in 1970 to finish the degree that led to his career as a respiratory therapist, then rejoined the chapter in 1974. He competed with HOA at international almost a dozen times before moving to Dallas in 1989, where he has won four times with the *Vocal Majority*.

Don also sang with the 1981 CSD champs, *Corner Quartet*, with **Steve Leone**, **Lance Heilmann** and **Stan Grossman** before replacing original *RR4* tenor **Everett Roth** in the spring of 1984. The quartet had laid out of Society competition in 1982 and '83; with Don they placed 11th, 5th and 1st. Don also is a certified judge in the Singing category, a Harmony College staff member and one of the Society's top coaches—which is how he first got involved with *Uptown Sound*. ~



SALVATION ARMY TIME IS DRAWING NEAR by Mike Mathieu

Saturday, December 15th will be the day that the *Heart of America Chorus* will once again be singing and ringing for the Salvation Army. We will again be at the Blue Ridge Mall.

With all the happenings in the world this year our bellringing efforts will be an unknown quantity. There are two questions that only time will answer: 1) Will everyone voluntarily give more than they have in the past? Or 2) Has everyone already given as much as they can give? Hopefully number one will be the answer, but no one knows.

What we do know is that the *Heart of America Chorus* will be there in force starting with setup at 9:00a.m., warm-up at 10:00a.m., and our first concert starting promptly at 11:00a.m.. We will perform 30-minute concerts on the hour, with the last concert starting at 4:00p.m.. Uniforms are still being decided, but all the details will be in the next issue of *Harmonotes*. Any chapter quartet interested in performing with the chorus, please notify me ASAP so we can put you in the schedule. We ask that quartets please perform mainly Holiday Songs, as this is a Holiday Concert raising funds for the Salvation Army.

Before that concert, we have other requests to perform, or we should at least be aware of their existence. On November 2nd, at 12:00 Noon, Mike Murphy will be having a fund-raiser at the Woodlands for the Salvation Army. I have offered some assistance, but have not yet heard back. The Woodlands has said that whatever funds are raised for THE WOODLANDS will MATCH the Salvation Army DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR. What a great way to kick off the Bellringing.

The official start of the Bellringing takes place at Italian Gardens on Monday evening November 5. We have been asked to provide a quartet, and I am looking for a volunteer quartet.

The affair begins at 4:30 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. Italian munchies (enough for a meal) provided by our host **Carl DiCapo**.

The Salvation Army Treelighting ceremony takes place Wednesday, November 14 at Headquarters, located at 3637 Broadway. The Army hosts sort of an open house for residents of the neighborhood around their building, while serving chili and/or hot dogs for all. In recent years there have been tents set up in the parking lot, because the event has gotten too large to hold inside in their meeting room. The chorus has been asked to sing informally during the meal portion, then the festivities shift to the north side of the building for the lighting of the Christmas Tree.

Most years all area TV weathermen are there, along with 50 or so dignitaries, and everyone "predicts" what a great year it will be for the Army fund raising. We will sing a few more Christmas songs outside, and we have also been asked to sing "God Bless America". Our last three or four songs will be in a more "concert" setting, although outside. There will be a sign-up sheet, so please indicate your intention of performing. Uniform will be navy blue uniform pants (black if you don't have navy blue) dark shoes and a BRIGHT COLORED CHRISTMAS

SWEATER. If we have a good turnout, I would think that "God Bless America" would make a great trailer for every channel's 10:00 News. Most television stations cover this event with cameras rolling the entire time. Wear your biggest smile!

Mike Murphy Radio Days telethon at KC Masterpiece on the Plaza will be December 7, 2001, live on 710 KCMO. 7 A.M.-12:00 Noon. Other than that, there's not much going on at the Salvation Army

these next eight or nine weeks. Great way to get in the Holiday Spirit. Any Questions, please contact me direct. ~



Heart of America

November-January Calendar

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| November 6 | Bush League Quartet Contest |
| November 9-10 | COTS in Omaha, NE |
| November 14 | Salvation Army Tree Lighting Ceremony |
| November 12 | Board Meeting - Doubletree Hotel, KCMO 6:30 p.m. |
| November 13 | Guest Night |
| December 10 | Joint Board Meeting - St. Peters Church 6:30 p.m. |
| December 14 | John Knox Village Holiday Concert |
| December 15 | Salvation Army Bell Ringing - Blue Ridge Mall |
| January 12 | Installation Banquet - Golden Ox |

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