

Harmonotes

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2000, Issue 10

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



BARBERSHOPPING IN ST. PETERSBURG

By Donna Lefholz

The people in Russia *love* and *adore* barbershopping. It was a great trip and one that we will never forget. The trip from Moscow to New York was about 10 hours long—it was pretty boring after two hours. But, we made it—endured the long ride and are about back to normal.

It is hard to explain the feelings of the Saint Petersburg people. They do appreciate and love barbershopping...and they adore **Dr. Greg Lyne**. They think he is right up there next to President **Vladimir Putin**. However, after the submarine problem he may be *ahead* of Putin! Many concerts were held, and they were held in the halls that are acoustically perfect. The first concert was held in Capella Hall and the people never seemed to stop clapping. They bring flowers to the stage and never want to leave. It was as if they cannot get enough of Barbershop Harmony! Two choruses, one male, one female, and four Russian barbershop quartets sang. There were four monks that were fabulous, two other quartets and, of course, the one we couldn't get enough of—four little boys (probably about eight years old). They came out with black trousers, white shirts, bow ties and very sparkly vests. They were adorable!

When the lead stepped out (without a pitch) and sang "Sweet Adeline" and the others chimed in "Sweet Adeline", in perfect harmony, it was more than most of us could stand.
(Continued on page 3)



This Issue

Page 2

FALL RETREAT

Dick Irwin offers some quick information on this October opportunity!

Page 4

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE AT MY BEST VOCALLY?

Jim Emery, of the Great Northern Union Chorus, shares some tips on how to produce the best sound possible!

Page 5

QUARTET UPDATES

Four of our chapter quartets provide Harmonotes readers with an update!

Page 7

COTS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL AWARD WINNERS

Two CSD winners; one is from HOA!

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.

2000 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Dick Irwin
Immediate Past President	Kevin Beauford
Chorus Director	Gordon Lankenau
Music/Performance V.P.	Mike Neff
Membership Co-V.P.'s	Grant Hunget
	Dan Henry Bowser
Program V.P. (Acting)	Dick Irwin
Marketing V.P.	Dick Korek
Operations V.P.	Chuck Ames
Secretary	Don Young
Treasurer	David Bousema
Youth Outreach	Al Higgins

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE

Ron Abel	Win Cady
Kent McClean	Gordon Coleman
Jim Davis	David Miller
Tom Elefson	Jerry Snyder

HARMONOTES STAFF

Editor Emeritus	Wade Dexter
Co-Editors	Todd Anderson
	Dick Irwin
Special Correspondent	Jim Bagby
Staff Reporters	Chapter Members
Staff Photographer	Matt Bostick

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

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

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

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

Todd Anderson
17905 East 24th Terrace Court S
Independence, MO 64057-1332
(816) 350-3377

CHAPTER INFORMATION

Chapter meets at 7:00 PM each Tuesday night, at:
St. Peter's United Church of Christ
110th & Holmes
Kansas City, MO 64105

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



FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

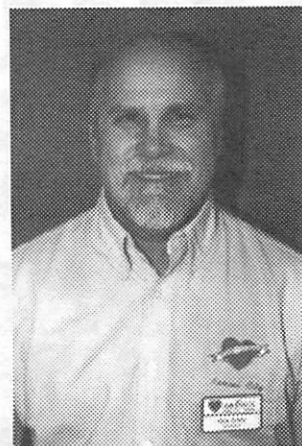
By Dick Irwin, HOA President

Wow, did anybody else have as good a time as I did at the "Sing with RR3" night?

I came along in barbers-hopping just a bit late to have known much about *Rural Route 4*. I have had the privilege of hearing the whole quartet sing only once at a retreat HOA held a couple of years ago. What a treat it must have been to

see them perform back when! Just getting the **Yoders** and **Jim Bagby** together to do some singing with the guys was great. Thanks so much to *RR3* and to all of you who participated and contributed to a really fun and charitable evening. If the article and pictures don't make it in time for this issue of the *Harmonotes*, look for them in the November issue.

We as a chorus have an opportunity upcoming in late October to experience some of the best coaching available to anyone in our society. **Mr. Tony DeRosa** will be with HOA at our fall retreat at the Airport Hilton. If we expect to see Tony again after this planned weekend, we had better all be there. The plans are to work on basics vocally, visually and mentally. We will be working with more than 2 songs this year. We're even planning to use some of our Holiday show tunes. The retreat is LOCAL, it's not expensive if you want to stay at the Hilton Friday and Saturday night. The food is reasonable. The coaching is going to be Fantastic! The chance to grow and to help build YOUR chorus into something that is first-rate is there. You have no reason for not showing up this year. Sign up now !!!!! ~



Dick Irwin
President

BARBERSHOPPING IN ST. PETERSBURG

(Continued from front)

They were great singers. The lead was very handsome, the bass was just as handsome and the tenor, a handsome fellow with a tenor voice so beautiful it was unreal. The baritone—well, he was the cutest of them all. A darling little blond that sang baritone like a pro! They were great, as were all of the Russian Quartets.

The *Gas House Gang* was great. They couldn't get off the stage. The Russian people yelled "Bravo" and continued to clap for them. They took a bow, but those people wanted more singing. As usual, the GHG were outstanding and very cordial to all of the people.

Dr. Greg Lyne had about 63 people in his *Great American Chorus* and the *Pathfinders Chorus* from Nebraska, directed by **Larry Monson**, had about 40 members. There were also about 40 other singers that were included in the final five songs and you can bet that **Gil Lefholz** enjoyed the final performances. I might add that he was also introduced as a Past International President and everyone received certificates for their performances.

The people of Russia seem to be very depressed, and since they are living under a new form of government, not many of them make a lot of money. Our interpreter told us that her Dad was an engineer and he makes about \$80.00 per month. Most everyone lives in apartments with very small kitchens and one large room for sleeping. We saw some homes coming and going to the airport, but frankly they looked like tumbled down shacks. The people seem to always be out picking greens from their yards or gardens. Their annual income does not allow for a great amount of food. There are always people on the street, regardless of the hour of the day. There are many watermelons

for sale and also many, many flowers. Flowers are probably one of their biggest incomes.

We were told that many "Ladies of the Evening" hung around the hotel and sat on the couches in the lobby. Well, guess what—they didn't get a chance to sit down, the

barbershoppers were always hanging out on the couches. Wouldn't you know it the barbershoppers would rather sing than look at the "Ladies" as they entered the hotel.

It was a great event and we had a great time. There were many tours each day for us to see and, of course, to buy souvenirs. We met many new friends and had a wonderful time with them and catching up on things we had all seen. In 2003 Saint Petersburg will be celebrating the 300th anniversary of its founding in 1703. They are renovating all of the famous buildings and in fact, the people working on the buildings are making more than the professionals in Russia. Seems strange!

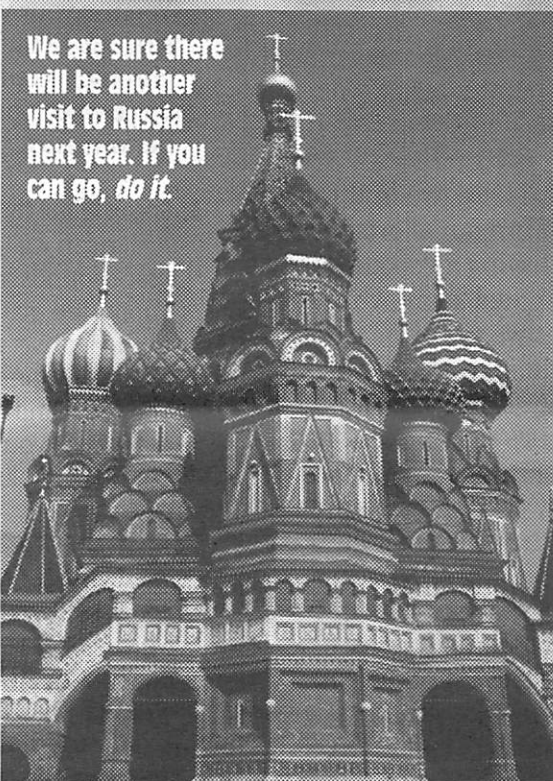
We are sure there will be another visit to

Russia next year. If you can go, do it. Ours was a trip given to us for Christmas from our daughter, **Kim**, and we are indeed grateful for the opportunity to go there and for all of the performances. It will certainly make you more appreciative of the good old United States of America. When we landed in New York, Gil and I both sang "God Bless America". We sang it softly because we didn't want to offend any of the Russian folks on the plane. A visit to that country will certainly make you appreciate what we have here and, of course, appreciate barbershopping and all the good things that go with it. ~

The Gas House Gang



We are sure there will be another visit to Russia next year. If you can go, do it.



FROM THE FRONT

by Gordon Lankenau

First, as the music director of the *Heart of America Chorus*, I would like to thank each member of the chorus who has continued to show support for the current membership drive by actively participating in our monthly performances. Thanks, **Dan'l** and **Dick Korek**, for your efforts in arranging these opportunities. Although we would always prefer to



perform for larger groups, you have to admit that new members are resulting from our efforts! My question to you is, "Are you having a good time while performing? Are you excited about what we are accomplishing every time we perform?"

Half of the enjoyment an audience gets from our performances comes from our sound and our choreography, which continues to improve. The rest is in our salesmanship of this hobby we have chosen from a rather lengthy list of possibilities to occupy our time because of the pleasure it gives us and those we perform for.

Thanks to **Grant Hunget** we have had several guest nights that have generated many guests, past members and potential new members. I'm proud of what we're doing! We have several new holiday songs in the works and will continue our push toward our fourth successful Holiday Harmony Spectacular under the chairmanship of **Kent McClean** (Thanks, Kent).

New quartets continue to spawn from the chapter ranks and at least four will be competing at district contest with several more simply too new to want to jump into the contest until prepared to do so. Good luck to all quartets competing or not. Your efforts help to strengthen the chorus from within. The retreat planned for the last weekend in October should provide for a fun, spirited and educational time. **PLAN TO ATTEND!**

Until next time. ~

WHAT CAN I DO TO BE AT MY BEST VOCALLY?

by craft artist Jim Emery of the Hilltop, MN Chapter Found in the GNU's News Vol 5, Issue #1

1. **Sing every day, even a little.** Even 5 minutes per day will help keep your voice in shape. The "week end warrior" phenomenon applies to singing too. A little singing every day beats marathon rehearsals once a week.
2. **Breathe correctly with good posture when you talk.** You use your voice more speaking each day than singing. Breathing correctly will help avoid chronic voice fatigue. That means you'll be in best voice when you come to an evening rehearsal or performance.
3. **Speak in the right pitch and vary your pitch.** Most American males speak too low. We believe a low voice sounds authoritative. On the contrary, a well supported, natural and resonant voice is most authoritative, regardless of its' pitch. Talking out of range sounds fake. Varying pitch is also good for the voice and for keeping the attention of the listener. If you've ever listened to a monotone speaker, you know what I mean.
4. **Drink lots of water.** Water is the best curative medicine for a sick voice and preventive medicine for a healthy one. A hydrated voice is a happy voice.
5. **Exercise your whole body.** Singing is a physical exercise that demands energy and endurance. The voice can't do anything that the body can't sustain.
6. **Rehearse mentally every chance you get.** The voice actually responds sympathetically to silent mental rehearsal. If you'd like to rehearse but you're somewhere where singing isn't appropriate, rehearse in your head. IT WORKS!

Note: Jim Emery is one of the vocal and craft coaches of the Great Northern Union Chorus of the Hilltop, MN Chapter. GNU is the 4th place medalist chorus from the Kansas City convention and contest this past July. Having worked and performed with Jim, as a member of GNU, I can attest to his skills. He is a top-notch technician and performer. - Dick

ARPEGGIO

by Rick Dunaway

After due deliberation, *Arpeggio* has decided not to compete this month at district contest. However, rest assured (or should I say "Be forewarned") that you haven't heard the last of *Arpeggio*.

Stay tuned for some changes, a new face and some new repertoire. ~

TONE-HENGE REHEARSAL AGENDA

by Dan Henry

1. See if we're still breathing
2. Try a tag
3. See if we can get it right
4. Solve the world's problems
5. Solve the Society's problems
6. Become overwhelmed by quartet's problems
7. Try a song
8. Try again
9. Give up
10. Beer



FROM THE HEART

By Gordon Lankenau

As one of the newer quartets in the chapter I feel blessed to have received such support from all of you. We have had some opportunities to grow together as a quartet. We spent a weekend at the Lankenau's new residence in Pleasanton, did some fishing and relaxing in their back yard (they have a 3 acre pond).

We've been getting some coaching from **Jo Kraut**, **Jim Bagby** and of course **Becky** and **Jill**, and we continue to see improvement each time we're together. We had our first two performance day, singing the National Anthem and *God Bless America* for the Lineman's Rodeo (3500 electricians) and a half hour for the Cleveland, Missouri Town Festival. That's tiring stuff!!!!!! But enjoyable. Plan on seeing and hearing more from us in the future. Thanks for your continued support and encouragement. I

POLECAT CREEK

by Dick Irwin

At last,...I found a quartet!

Howdy to everyone! It's a pleasure to be together with **Tom Elefson**, **Wayne Crawford** and **Eric Weber**. We'll be travelling to Des Moines to compete in October. This quartet has amassed a significant number of years of barbershopping experience—17 or 18 I think between us. OK, so *Gentlemen of Note* have a hundred more years of experience than we do. *We're working on it!* Just so everybody hears it straight from one of the horses mouths. Our name was a suggestion from my wife **Sheli**.

As you may know Sheli and I travel back and forth between Kansas City and Minnesota quite a lot. As you drive up and down I35 you have a lot of chances to see things. About 90 miles north of Kansas City you cross over a bridge that spans a great waterway. The name of the massive flow of moisture is prominently displayed on signs at either end of the bridge...*Pole Cat Creek*.

Considering the importance of the "Polecat" name in our society and owing to the fact that the name kinda has a fun ring to it, we decided to adopt this "river" name as our quartet name. We all look forward to harmonizing together, and for all of you, in the future. Watch for us!

By the way, due to the fact that 3 of our members have never competed before we will be trying to win the novice championship in Des Moines. If it happens it would be my second novice trophy! Sounds kinda funny to me. ~



JUST FOUR FUN

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

THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES WERE ACTUALLY FOUND IN PATIENTS' CHARTS:

Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.

The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.

The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.

Discharge status: Alive but without my permission.

Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year old male, mentally alert but forgetful.

The patient refused autopsy.

Between you and me, we ought to be able to get this lady pregnant.

She is numb from her toes down.

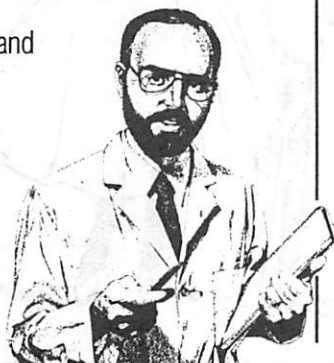
While in the Emergency Room, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.

The skin was moist and dry.

Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.

Patient was alert and unresponsive.

The lab test indicated abnormal lover function.



A LOOK AT PAST IN THE HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

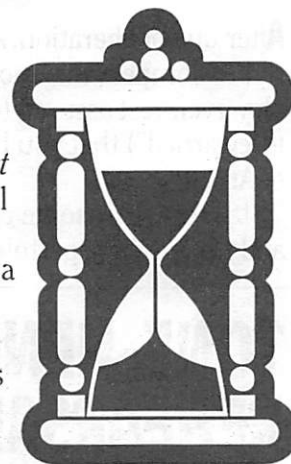
Ten Years Ago - October 1990

Does anybody remember this? The *Heart of America Chorus* was contracted to sell tickets for a Heartland Theater performance of "Black Patent Leather Shoes," a hilarious musical comedy booked for November 15. Each HOA member was committed to sell four tickets which was calculated to net us about \$3,700. We were also scheduled to sing in the theater lobby prior to the show and during the intermission. Stay tuned for a critique of the event in the November *Harmonotes*.

Bet everyone who was there remembers this—the HOA performance on September 15 with **Lee Greenwood** for the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the open field near the Starlight Theater in Swope Park. PR Coordinator **Mike Mathieu** said, "...our directors, **Darrell McCune** and **Charles Drake** (Jim was in Washington on business) did a super job in leading us on such an exciting evening. Sounded like a hundred! The finale had to be done without risers because of space limitations, but we got to sing the chorus of "God Bless The USA" twice instead of once." I recall the long, long wait between our performances at the opening of the show and in the finale.

A note from **Don Roemer**, president of the St. Charles Chapter, informed President **Bob Howard** that the *Daniel Boone Chorus* (they're called the *Ambassadors of Harmony* today) would not be competing in the fall CSD contest because of a recent "surge in growth and...some community projects" they'd taken on. Their new director was **Jim Henry**, who replaced **David Wright**. Our own director, **Jim Bagby**, hastened to remind us that "there's no reason, in theory, that the courageous decision by St. Charles to pass up the Cedar Rapids competition should alter our approach" toward preparation for the contest. We must have taken his remarks to heart because after finishing in second place for three consecutive years, we won the CSD championship for the ninth time.

There's a nice photo of **Mike Mathieu** and his three barbershopper sons, **Joe**, **Rick** and **Rob**. Mike had been picked as "Barbershopper of the Month" for his efforts in coordinating the visit of the Whittier, California, Chapter during the weekend prior to Harmony College. Mike insisted that his boys be recognized equally for their help. Doesn't seem like 10 years ago, does it, Mike? (Continued on page 7)



(Continued from page 6)

Twenty Years Ago - October/November 1990

HOA won the CSD chorus trophy for the third time in competition at Cedar Rapids. Director **Jim Bagby** was frustrated by the fact that 98 guys initially signed up to participate but only 78 wound up on the risers for the contest. Jim blamed the dropout for the low 28-point winning margin. Things haven't changed much in 20 years, have they, Jim? Although in today's level of competition, a margin of 28 points is really quite comfortable.

Dale Neuman and **Keith Schweer** got their first quartet competition experiences at Cedar Rapids in a quartet called *Four the Fun of It*. Other members were **Jim Davis** and **Jim Bagby**. Although they finished in 22nd place, a long detailed account by Dale reveals that everyone had a lot of fun,...and that's the name of the game.

Editor **Joe Costigan** announced that the December issue of *Harmonotes* would be his last. No replacement had been named.

Thirty Years Ago - October 1970

The men of the Heart of America Chorus were bent on winning their first district chorus championship in Davenport on October 17. I was a member of the now long defunct Lawrence Chapter then, and **Joyce** and I drove over to Davenport in our brand-new 1970 Olds Delta 88. Wasn't that the weekend when it rained so hard and because of overbooking by the Holiday Inn, the convention hotel, the convention registration process was set up in a tent, in the mud, out behind the hotel?

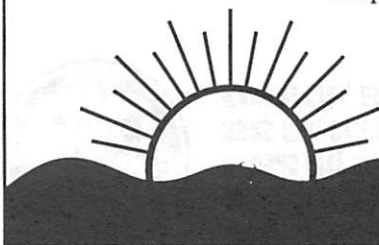
The ladies of the HOA auxiliary (apparently they weren't called the "Heartbeats" until later) were planning a Halloween hayride for Friday, October 30, at Benjamin Stables. The ride would be preceded by an old-fashioned weiner roast. Coordinators were **Millie Robinette**, and **Fran Fleeman**. **LaVern Moritz** was auxiliary president. ~

SUNSHINE NOTES

by Max Boise

Paul Nyman, one of our newer members, joined the "zipper club" around the 21st of August. He was in the hospital just 5 days and is recovering nicely from quadruple heart bypass surgery.

Jan Mathieu is recovering now from a "scraped knee". Just too many miseries for such a nice lady to have to endure. Best wishes, Jan. ~



OUTSTANDING INSTRUCTORS OF THE YEAR:

Two CSD representatives included in the list!

by Lowell Shank, Bowling Green, Ky.,

Chairman of the 2000 COTS committee

At the annual COTS breakfast, held during the International Convention in Kansas City, certain individuals were named outstanding instructors of the year. Included in the ranks of award winners were a couple of CSD members:



Jim Bagby

- Chapter Coach Instructor, **John Marshall**, Iowa City;
- Chorus Directors, **Jim Bagby**, Kansas City.

Each recipient received a certificate honoring their "high skill, dedication and tireless efforts." HOA congratulates these men on their achievement. The Central States District is fortunate to have them on board! ~

A REQUEST! by Dr. Dale Neuman

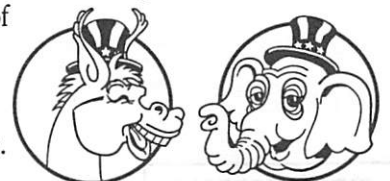
For a research project that I am working on, I am asking people all over the metro area to save all of the political mail (including the envelopes it comes in) they receive this election cycle and send it to me (or I will even come get it).

Here's the mailing address:

Dr. Dale Neuman
Professor of Political Science
Room 213 - Haag Hall
University of Missouri/Kansas City
Kansas City, MO 64110

I am one of over 20 researchers across the country who are monitoring what is called the "ground war" of political mail by candidates, parties and interest groups. If those receiving the mail wish to remove their names from the items that is fine with me since I am only interested in which groups are sending out which materials and when they are mailed.

Thanks for you help! ~



4-1+1= FUN!

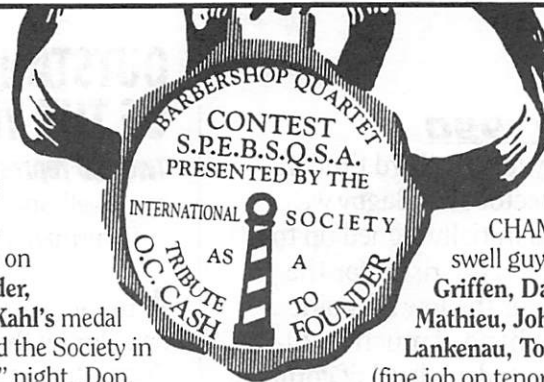
by Grant Hunget

The Rural Route 4 helped contribute \$220.00 to the Harmony Foundation on Tuesday, September 19th. Calvin Yoder, Willard Yoder, Jim Bagby, and Don Kahl's medal GAVE to the Kansas City Chapter, and the Society in the form of a "Sing with the Champs" night. Don, thanks for sending your medal. We ALL DID wear it with PRIDE, as you had hoped. Jim assured the chapter he would return it to you. If he doesn't, please let us know and we'll come up with something real nice for you!!

Going into the evening we'd received an underwhelming (Dan Henry, thanks for that new term I learned from you!) response of 4 sign-ups to step in and sing a tag or a song with 3 of the Society's greatest quartetters!! A few more signed up as they arrived for the meeting, but still only 7 at the 8:15 start-time! This was looking to be a 21 minute event, and an early "RR3" departure.

Once things got rolling, and guys saw how much fun they could have (while feeling good about a \$5, \$10, or \$15 contribution!!), we were OFF AND RUNNING, and didn't finish until 9:45pm! It was a BLAST!

As Calvin, Willard, and Jim bounced around on parts to accommodate each singer (Willard, you sang a GREAT



baritone! Kudos to Gordon Lankenau, who assisted with hand/note language for Willard on bari!!), the following fine lady and 18 members took part in a memorable quartetting experience with our 1986

CHAMPS: DONNA LEFHOLZ (didn't she do swell guys?, Dale Neuman, Grant Hunget, Mike Griffen, Dan Henry Bowser, Mike Neff, Joe Mathieu, John Winfiel, Jim Porter, Gordon Lankenau, Tom Elefson, Lee Tubbs, Jim Moynihan (fine job on tenor Jim!), Ross Worth, and Carl

Turlin...and the "Gentlemen of Note" (Rod Rule, Jon Gathright, Monty Duerksen, Rich Huyck) stepped up with a \$60.00 check, and helped with the perfect finale, "Sweet Hour of Prayer". One other singer had signed up, but departed early due a sudden case of "I'll freak out, man!", Vince Perry...but he left us with the \$5.00 donation! Thanks, Vince!

Special Thanks to Matt Bostick, as he handled camera and video work, so that each participant will receive a photo of their "sing". Also to Jerry Snyder and Gil Lefholz, who each donated \$5.00 WITHOUT singing. Jerry's was for the cause, but we believe Gil gave because he really didn't think DONNA would go sing her tag...Well, guess she proved him wrong!

Great job to all singers! And THANKS SO MUCH to Calvin, Willard, and Jim for your time, effort, and willingness to give in such a wonderful way to the Kansas City Chapter and Society. It's always a treat to have you with us!!!! When did you say you'll come again?!

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kansas City, MO
Permit No. 1215

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement
of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America
Kansas City Chapter, Inc.
3523 Red Bridge Road, Apt. 3
Kansas City, MO 64137-2145

