

# HarmonOtes

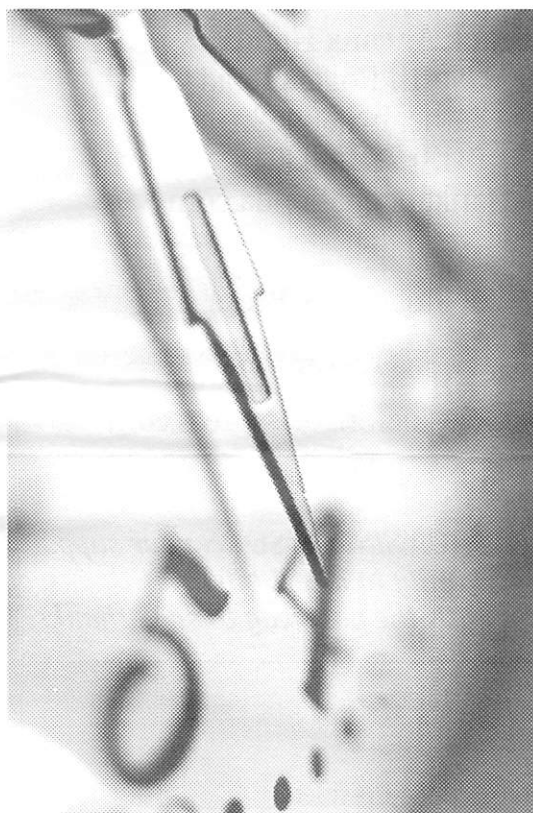
October 2003

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2003, Issue 10

## CEDAR RAPIDS *COUNTDOWN!*

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



Our preparations for Cedar Rapids are moving along nicely. All members of the competition chorus have been through the qualification process. **Vince Perry** is taking care of our hotel and ticket needs and is making sure that we all have our dues paid. Uniform chairman **Brooke Meyers** is making sure everyone has the correct uniform and, with the help of **Carol Ramirez** and the *Heartbeats*, jazzing up our vests so they'll have a greater impact from the stage. **Mike Mathieu** and **Charles Ramirez** have the Saturday night dinner planned. Musically, I think we're further along than ever before. As of this writing, we have 3 Tuesdays, 2 Thursdays and our weekend retreat left before October 11. If we can carry the improvement and the excitement

into the retreat on the weekend of September 26-28, I have no doubt that **Bill, Dwain** and **Jim** will take us to places we've never been before. We've worked this year at trying to improve our singing and performance abilities. Now is no time to let up. I ask that you give 15 minutes every day to HOA. Do the contest set at home in front of a mirror. Practice the open singing techniques we've learned from **Bill Biffle**. Use the "attitude" that **Dwain Brobst** and **David Krause** preach. Get inside the ballad using the emotional targets that **Shawn** has given us. Do the staging that our Presentation Team has drilled into us. Give a complete performance. Pretend you're on the contest stage in Cedar Rapids. Hear the introduction. Watch the curtain open. See the people in the audience. Hear the waves of applause before the final cutoff. And when you've finished, do it all over again. Be critical of your individual performance. Build up your stamina. The contest in Cedar Rapids could be something really special for HOA. Have you blocked out June 27 thru July 4 of 2004? ~



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Chorus Photo by Matt Bostick

# Harmonotes

...is published by the board of directors of the Kansas City, MO., Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit organization. Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles have been written by the Editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the officers and members of the chapter. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.

## Heart of America Chorus

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

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

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

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

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

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Web Address:	jmathieu@hoachorus.org
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## MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



The chorus finished recording the songs for the CD on June 21. But, lately, smaller groups are going back into the studio to record the control tracks, which allows the engineer to do the mixing required to produce a high-quality recording. There is a control group for each of the 4 parts. Each of the groups has spent or will spend an evening in the recording studio to do its part, which is not easy work! Thanks to all who are participating in this effort.

Also, the section leaders are learning new holiday show music. We have had several extra rehearsals during this learning process and then spent a Sunday afternoon in Mark Fortino's basement recording the new songs so that we can produce part-predominant CDs for your use in learning the new songs. Thanks to Mark, Jim and the section leaders for the extra time they put in to bring you the learning CDs.

I thought this was a one night a week hobby!! ~

# SEND IN THE HOLIDAY CALVARY

by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

This is the busiest time of the year for HOA: fall contest in Cedar Rapids, followed by the holiday show, bell ringing, installation/awards dinner and then right into March show preparations. Make that one of the most exciting times, too!

As of mid-September, the competition chorus had dipped just under 80. So we need to regroup for December. We know not everyone could commit to the Cedar Rapids trip, but NOW's the time to plan to be part of the Dec. 6 joint performance with the Kansas City Sweet Adelines.

They were taking about 130 to their international contest this month in Phoenix. That means a Sweet Adeline horde on stage for our joint chorus songs—seven of them this year. We can use your help!

And the music will be worth learning. In fact, the learning CDs already are out, thanks to some concentrated work by **Mark Fortino**, **Carter Combs**, **Mike Neff**, **Grant Hunget** and **Keith Schweer** (you know those last four as section leaders, or *New and Used Parts*. They and recording guru Mark don't get the credit they deserve). Look for new arrangements from **Burt Szabo**, **Joni Bescos** and **Jay Gialliombardo**. We're also bringing back the rousing "Do You Hear the People Sing," in addition to the "Silent Night" medley and "O Holy Night" that have become such favorites. Gone is "With Two Wings."

Among the HOA numbers, we've kept "Shepherds Come Quick" (see Mike if you wanna audition for a solo), "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" and the uplifting "I Have Seen the Light," among others.

New members? Look at all the great ones we have. So, yes, your guest can still get aboard the HOA holiday bandwagon. Veteran member who's been gone? Ask **Bob Howard** or **Carl Turlin** if they're glad they recently returned. And for those members who don't want a long-term performance commitment, we'd be delighted to have you come just for the holiday shows. And our Salvation Army bell ringing concerts are Dec. 20.

Meanwhile, let's have a great time in Cedar Rapids. I urge you to take in the Friday night CSD Past Champs show, featuring *12th Street Rag*, an enthusiastic chorus directed by our own **John Fortino** and some surprises. The show will include a tribute to **Rob Henry**. ~



## 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),  
Ralph Tallmon (bari), Don Newman (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)

##### *New and Used Parts*

Jerry Garrard (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),  
Grant Hunget (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

##### *Sound Alibi*

Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),  
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Don Koehnlein (bass)

##### *Sounds Like Treble*

Niel Johnson (tenor), Rob Varney (lead),  
Al Fehlauer (bari) and \*Bill Bay (bass)

##### *SureFire!*

Carter Combs (tenor), Mike Neff (lead),  
Grant Hunget (bari), Don Young (bass)

##### *The 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*

Dale Neuman (tenor), Charley Drake (lead),  
Tom Steele (bari), John Stucker (bass)

\*Member of other chapters



## HOLIDAY HARMONY SPECTACULAR: DEC. 6

**M**ake your plans NOW for the 6th annual Holiday Harmony Spectacular.

Those of you who have been around a while know that this is always the most FUN event of the year. Some details:

Joint show with the Kansas City Chorus of Sweet Adelines (many time International competitor and Medalist). Saturday December 6, 2003 – shows at 2:00 and 7:30 PM at the Unity Village Activities Center. Technical rehearsal Friday evening. HOA will sing 25 minutes on our own plus seven songs with the combined chorus. Quartets include 12th Street Rag and ZING (SA Regional Champions). Cast Party at a location to be announced.

Joint rehearsals Monday Oct 27 (at their meeting), Tuesday Nov 11 (at our meeting), and Sunday Nov 23 1:30-4:30 PM.

**SELL TICKETS!** We have a great opportunity for a sellout with your help. Order forms will be available on the table at all meetings. Or call 816-765-5371 to order tickets. Remember, all seats are reserved, so the early bird gets the best seats. ~

## JAKE'S NAME by Ol' Dan



Didya ever notice how some lower case letters run together when printed in some fonts? Us old coots who work crossword puzzles run into that a lot. The letter "r" is the biggest culprit, with the little dangly thing on the upper right of the letter attaching itself to the next letter, and if that letter happens to be an "n", ya get something that looks for all the world like an "m". CORN becomes COM, adding hours to crossword puzzle answers for slow-witted guys like me.

Well, that's exactly what happened to the printing of **Jake Pirner's** last name under his picture in the September *Harmonotes*. It's not misspelled, it's a victim of the "lower case 'r' syndrome."

Since I sang with Jake's grandpappy, I sorta feel like it's my responsibility to call attention to the correct pronunciation of what looks like "PIMER", but is in reality "PIRNER". (Page 15 of the new chapter directory)

I might add that Jake inherited some mighty fine genes from grandpa! Sing a song or a tag with him sometime.

I might also add that I'd like to meet the squirrel who designed the letters we call an alphabet! As Bugs Bunny would say, "What a MAROON!" ~

## SOCIETY HISTORIAN

by David Krause

**I** was recently asked to accept the job of society historian and agreed to the appointment. I had been asked a couple of years ago to take the job, but was unable to find an actual job description and therefore decided against it at that time. This last year I accepted an appointment as a member of the Archives Committee, a group which meets once a year and coordinates, with a part-time staff member in Kenosha, the archives at our headquarters. After a couple of visits to Kenosha and perusing through the archives I became hooked on working in some way to help preserve our history. Part of my job will be to determine my own job description, which should be interesting. It should be an exciting time for the work, as we prepare for the possibility of additional headquarters space to hopefully include a much expanded museum. I look forward to working with some very capable and experienced men including our own CSD historian and Archives Chair, **Jim Nugent**, and our museum director, **Dan Waselchuk**. My guess is that the time I can devote to this will be somewhat limited for awhile, but when I retire from teaching, in about two to four years, it should increase significantly. I also plan to write a history of our chapter, complete with photos etc., as a retirement project and would love to involve anyone in the chapter who would like to help in that endeavor. ~



# TONE-HENGE ENTERS CONTEST

by Ol' Dan

It's reasonable to assume that the CSD fall contest will be history by the time you're reading this, but the thought of Tone-Henge entering any contest is enough to provoke the oft-asked question, "Why?" So here's an attempt to quell the curious, even though contest results may already be in hand.



A couple of years ago this foursome voted 4 to 0 in favor of leaving contests off our list of favorite things to do. What happened this time? I dunno. Everyone was going, we had shirts alike, someone said, "Let's enter" and it was downhill from there.

Now, contests aren't bad. "Evals" are bad. Many years ago we just knew those judges had the brains of a kumquat and furthermore were inflicting some sort of mathematical vendetta on us innocents. Many years hence we've revised our thinking, and during 'evals' we nod, hang our heads and pout.

So, "Why?" Well, singing is fun. Making the audience smile and laugh while you're singing is even more fun. We're not counting the judges as "audience" here. During contests, judges seldom smile and never laugh. Fact is, when Tone-Henge sings, some judges have been known to weep. And when we insert a few spoken gags into our presentation, some judges have been known to break the lead in their pencils in their haste to write the reasons we should be drummed out of the society, then shot at dawn.

So, it's fun. Is that enough reason to enter? Well, there is another. Judges miss us when we don't compete. It's true. When evaluating other quartets, judges need a good example of "what not to do". We fill the bill. ~

## Info for Dick Korek regarding SPONSORSHIPS FOR HOA 2004 MARCH SHOW

CHORUS MEMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Company to contact - Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Person to Contact \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*OK to use your name?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

*Would you like to be included in the presentation meeting?*

☐ Yes ☐ No

*Relationship of company/contact person to you?* \_\_\_\_\_

# JUST FOUR FUN

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

## THINK YOU KNOW EVERYTHING?

There are 293 ways to make change for a dollar.

There are more chickens than people  
in the world.

On a Canadian two dollar bill, the flag  
flying over the Parliament building is an  
American flag.

No word in the English language rhymes with  
month, orange, silver, or purple.

Maine is the only U.S. state whose name  
is just one syllable.

There are only four words in the English  
language which end in "dous": tremendous,  
horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.

Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

The characters Bert and Ernie, on Sesame  
Street, were named after Bert the cop and  
Ernie the taxi driver in Frank Capra's  
"It's a Wonderful Life."

"Stewardesses" is the longest word that is  
typed with only the left hand.

## DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER ISSUE OF *Harmonotes*

Articles and photos are due by  
**TUESDAY, OCT. 21**  
For more information,  
call Todd at 816-373-8633

## Ten Years Ago: October, 1993

"Too many people report to the president," said Chapter President **John Pennington**. Accordingly, John announced the addition of two vice presidents—Marketing and Administration—to the organization by the chapter board of directors. The PVP, MVP, and the new marketing VP would all report to the Administrative Vice President. Said John, "we hope this will make a better chapter and be able to provide a more aggressive and smooth running team."

A new chapter quartet was unveiled. They called themselves Freefall, and KC members were **Darin Brown** and **Byron "Bemo"**

**Myers, Jr.** The other two were **Jim Clark**, a member of the Lincoln Chapter, and a four-week-old newcomer to barbershopping, **Don Bowlds**. These guys surely went on to make a name for themselves, didn't they?

New members included Veteran barbershopper and former HOA member, **Tom Shadley**, who sang bass with the K. C. Connection, our 1986 CSD champions; **Jim Beutel**, another old-timer with 27 years experience in the Society's Contest and Judging Program; and **Dave Boger**, who had held membership in seven chapters dating back to 1957. (Wonder what happened to these guys.) Then there was **Al Higgins**, and we all know what his record has been, particularly with HOA. What a contribution to our group and the Society in general this man has made. And he's still at it!

And after eight years of banging out each issue of *Harmonotes* on "Old Faithful," a several-years-old Smith Corona portable typewriter, your editor revealed the purchase of a brand-new Brother WP-760D word processor. He's still using it, too, to type copy for this column as well as the "Bulletin Browsing" column for the *Serenade*. And after a hundred bucks worth of reconditioning, the old Smith Corona is still doing its job. And I still don't own a computer.

## Twenty-Five Years Ago: October, 1978

Reproduced in the October 1978 issue of *Harmonotes* is a clipping of a column from one of the local newspapers entitled "About Town," by columnist **Ray Brown**.

Except for a couple of relatively insignificant inaccuracies, the second paragraph contains a bit of KC Chapter history you might like to know. Here's what it says:

"(Bert) **Phelps** was elected secretary-treasurer of the first chapter, organized here in August, 1939, at a meeting at the University Club. The late **Joseph E. Stern** was elected president. The quartet in which Phelps sang baritone appeared on the *Bob Hope Show* (and) the *Ted Mack Amateur Hour*, and won the Central States championship in 1949. The late **Landon Laird**, who founded and wrote this column for years, was a strong booster of the organization and used to attend its meetings regularly for a little harmonizing with the singers—Phelps was presented a bound volume of letters and other memorabilia in 1958 on the 20th anniversary of the association. (Next page →)



By Wade Dexter,  
Editor Emeritus

(Continued...)

The volume contained letters of congratulation from **Bing Crosby, Bob Hope**, and other celebrities. During World War II, Phelps' quartet toured training camps and army hospitals to entertain troops."

## **Fifty Years Ago: November 20, 1953**

There's an article with no by-line (**Dan Jacobson** and **Ham Meisinger** were the editors) describing a trip by the chorus to Ottawa for their new chapter's charter night. Also on hand was the Topeka Chapter, the new chapter's sponsor. **Russ Gentzler** MC'd the meeting and presented the charter to a Mr. Irvin, their president, witnessed by **A. Ross Neville**, Topeka Chapter president and our own **Don Thorne**. In addition to performances by the new Ottawa chorus and the Kansas City and Topeka choruses, there were five quartets on the program. Among them were Kansas City's Gamboliers, who were quite a sensation, according to the author, with their rendition of "The Little Red School House." **Ed Schliebs** rang the bell and looked very much like an old schoolmaster. In came **Orval Wilson** with short pants, as did **Jim Byrne**. Then came **Owen Fuller** with short pants and cap, licking a big lollipop." Other performers from Kansas City were **Perc Franks** and **Joe Sterns** as "Four Hands of Harmony" who "received a tremendous ovation after the audience warmed up to their ivory burnishing." wonder how many of those present that evening are still around and singing today? ~

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to the following chapter members!

John Landry	October 1
Cameron LaBarr	October 3
Fuzzy Harford	October 6
Wesley Rutherford	October 17

## **ANY GALLON GUYS IN HOA?**

We know of several active blood donors in the chapter. If you are one of them, tell us how long you've been doing it, and what total you're up to. We could run a list in *Harmonotes*, about this worthwhile community service. ~

## **FROM THE Heartbeats**

by Carol Ramirez, Heartbeat President

The most recent Heartbeat meeting was a potluck dinner at the home of **Joan Korek** where we dined on brisket, quiche, three salads and five desserts, mostly chocolate. Now that's my kind of meal! Thanks, Joan, for opening your home to us and thanks **Mary Jo Miller** for being the co-hostess.

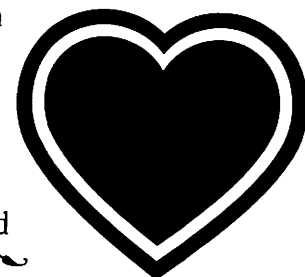
**Jan Mathieu**, in the midst of moving, arranged for a buffet dinner Saturday, October 11 at 5 p.m. for HOA at Cooper's Mill, the Best Western Hotel where the chorus is staying in Cedar Rapids. Adults are \$15.00 and Children under 12 are \$7.00. The menu includes a Salad Bar, Beef Burgundy, Chicken Primavera, Au Gratin Potatoes, Green Beans with Bacon and Onions, Rolls and Butter, and French Vanilla Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce. Coffee, Tea or Milk are also included. Seating is limited to the first 100 and reservations are not secured until HOA treasurer, **Charles Ramirez**, receives payment. Deadline is Sept. 30.

Still on the subject of food, I would encourage all ladies going to Cedar Rapids to register for the Central States Ladies' Breakfast. Registration forms are found on page 6 of the September/October Serenade, but if you can't find yours, let me know and I can see to it you get the information.

To present a unified cheering section the ladies plan to wear navy slacks or skirts, white blouses and the red, white, and blue HOA collar at the district contest. We still have some collars left and would love to see them used. Give me a call if you need one.

The *Heartbeats* invite all ladies who can to come on Tuesday evenings to help sew some trim on the breakaway vests. Even if you don't sew, there are still other tasks that need to be done. We meet in the educational wing of the church.

In closing the *Heartbeats* wish the contest quartets and the HOA chorus the very best of luck in Cedar Rapids. This has been a difficult year with some serious illnesses striking the chorus, but many hours of hard work have still been accomplished. The rewards are out there and HOA deserves the best! ~





# ROB HENRY: I STILL CAN'T SAY GOODBYE by Jim Porter

When my wife and I saw the news of Rob's passing in our E-Mail, there was no doubt in our minds we would go to show our respects. Rob was more than a great singer in a great barbershop quartet. He was a friend. For four years, I had the privilege of singing with his chorus, learning from him and his brother, and sharing in their success. That evening, we got out the *Gas House Gang* tapes and played their songs once again. Rob's tribute to his father was especially poignant and brought forth the tears. Rob lived and died almost exactly the same way his father did two decades before. Now, Rob's song would be a part of the legacy he would pass on to his son, **Ryan**.

My wife and I arrived at the funeral home around 4 p.m. Sunday, and waited our turn with the Henry family. You could sense the sadness, of course, but you could also sense the spiritual strength that was sustaining them in this difficult time. Each of them, Rob's wife **Sue**, his mother **Rose**, his brother **Jim**, Jim's wife **Geda**, received each visitor with love and thanks. It's so difficult to know what to say at such a time, but then again, you don't really need to say much. Just the fact you are there is saying enough. I could only bring myself to say "thank you," thank you for allowing me to have a share of Rob's life, his love, his talent, his energy, his success.

We took some time to review the things of Rob's life, all of which were there—the trophies, the medals, the photo albums, the thick binders with all the letters and E-Mails they got, and more. *Gas House Gang* music played softly over the PA system. We were about to go on our way when we noted more and more *Ambassadors* guys were arriving. They were coming to sing their final tribute for Rob, so we decided to delay our dinner and take it in. Just let me say I've sung "Friends" many times, but never have I heard it sung with such genuine emotion and feeling. The hundred or so men were lined up on both sides and the rear of the crowded room as they sang this and "I'll Walk With God," a song I knew from my days with them 11 years ago. In this time, I had the opportunity to meet and greet many of my old friends, now looking older than I remember them, but I suppose they would say the same about me.

As we left, I realized that, indeed, a barbershop chapter is very much like a large family. We were all family at that point, saying farewell to a dear brother. I have every confidence to believe that should we in HOA have to do a similar thing, we will be family just as the *Ambassadors* were family that Sunday. We left with a warm glow of belonging that competed with our grief over Rob's passing.

The funeral service was Monday morning at a large church in St. Charles. This wasn't the Henry's own church, that church would not hold the crowd. We arrived early, but there were already more than 100 present. Before the service started, the 400-seat auditorium was packed. The service lasted 90 minutes, but no one was

anxious about the time, as the whole time was a celebration of Rob's life and his dedication to his music, his work, the *Ambassadors of Harmony*, and the community. The service opened as the *Ambassadors*, seated together in the rear of the auditorium, rose and sang "I'll Walk with God" with a sound that filled the place and spilled out into the street, and an emotion that led me and many others to tears as the reality of the occasion surrounded us. As the last chords died away, **Rev. Derks** was led to exclaim "Wow!," which was also the response of all the rest of us.

It was then testimony time, as one by one, members of the family, or the chorus, or others, came forward to give their stories of their life experiences with Rob. This is what took the time, and there were times of laughter and mirth as they related these experiences to us. The occasion was one of celebration more than it was one of mourning, as we knew

that God was welcoming a new voice into His choir, not just any voice, but one of the best baritone voices He could find. **David Wright** took his turn and stated that he had been through this before, burying his parents and others, but that he never felt as close to another as he felt to Rob. David broke down as he said this and struggled to finish his presentation.

**Jim Henry** was the last to speak. His strength through this ordeal was something to see, and it remained evident at this point. Jim held up the two thick binders with the many E-Mails and thanked us all for our support of the family through the summer. He spoke of what went through Rob's mind when he received the diagnosis of cancer in late May, how Rob realized that he needed to get right with God and rededicated his life to Christ. He spoke of the spiritual support he received from his family, his pastor and others, then challenged us all to get right with God so that we could leave that place with the same confidence of faith that he and Rob had, since sooner or later all of us would face death as well.

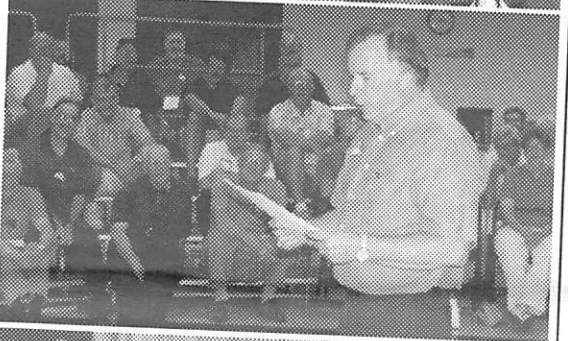
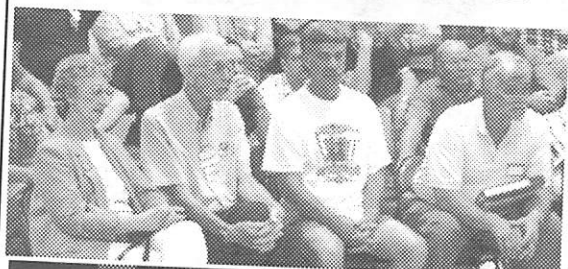
After the service, we formed the funeral procession and made our journey to the gravesite. I've heard it said that one mark of the success of a man is the size of his funeral procession. If that is true, **Rob Henry** was a very successful man, indeed. Rob was committed into the hands of God as a hundred or so stood by on a beautiful late summer day in a peaceful setting by a small pond. The crowd then began to filter away, one by one. **Rick, Kipp** and **Joe Fink** were among the pallbearers, and at this moment, their professional look dissolved into genuine tears. Rob's mother **Rose** was bent over the coffin weeping loudly, and Jim was at her side giving her support. This is the image we took with us as we, too, returned to our car and began the long trek west across the state towards home.

Thank you, Rob Henry, for being a part of my life experience, for sharing your talents and your love of Christ. Rejoice now in His presence, I look forward to meeting you again in Paradise. ~





# JOHN STUCKER: JUDGE EMERITUS



*Above, top to bottom: Surrounded by supportive HOA members, the Stucker family—Jane, John, Matt and Dave—listen to a myriad of letters from all across the Society, outlining John Stucker's contributions to our Chapter and Society. The honor concludes with John being named Judge Emeritus by SPEBSQSA! Photos courtesy of Vince Perry*

*Dear Jim,*

I'd like to take a moment to express my family's heartfelt gratitude and appreciation for all of the behind-the-scenes effort that I know went into the Judge Emeritus nomination, lobbying and cajoling the powers-that-be for my father. The last time I checked, Judge Emeritus is awarded five years after retirement. Somehow, I strongly suspect that there were some very taut strings leading to the International C&J committee from somewhere very close to you.

Add to that background the experience of the warmth and personal touch of HOA taking valuable time out of their busy contest preparation schedule to make such a well-orchestrated presentation, and you get a lifetime experience for a great judge and person, my father. What a wonderful honor you bestowed on my father last evening!

I suspect that only a few people outside the judging cadre understand the amount of behind-the-scenes work that Dad put in and how he did it so professionally and selflessly to the benefit of others. This was a labor of love for Dad that he truly enjoyed. I also know that Dad never asked for any credit or recognition. That fact made it particularly gratifying to see all of Dad's long-time friends participating in the public testimonials for all of his hard work and dedication.

These kinds of events don't happen to ordinary people in the company of more ordinary people. Barbershoppers are a very special breed of very special people, with the Kansas City Chapter being the best of the best.

Words do not suffice to describe the bond that Dad and I share with the larger barbershop community and HOA, in particular. I have not had the personal pleasure of being a member in such a fulfilling chapter as HOA since I moved away from the Kansas City area (Manhattan is the Kansas City Area if you are determined enough!) in 1979.

Let's all pray to the higher power for a continuation of the quality of life that Dad is having now, for however much time he has left. He wants to be able to travel to Cedar Rapids in the worst way—I think that he'll be there. In any event, I know that there will be a song in his heart forever. That eternal song will be due in large part to the wonderful gift from God of such fabulous people like **Jim Bagby, Darryl Flinn, Greg Lyne, Roger Lewis, Ron Morden, Dwain Chambers, Larry Clemons** and too many other lifelong friends to mention.

With a song in my heart,  
**Dave Stucker**

P.S. - I hope that when the time comes for Dad's final performance with us in this life that I can count on you and HOA for an appropriate memorial tune or two. I know that's the way Dad would like it done.





# Heart of America



## October-November Calendar

- Oct. 2 Final extra rehearsal, HOA competition chorus
- Oct. 7 HOA Cedar Rapids send-off, 8:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10-12 CSD convention and contest, Cedar Rapids, IA
- Oct. 18 CSD Harmony Explosion, Topeka, KS
- Oct. 25 - Nov. 1 Caribbean Cruise with *Aliens* and **Jim Bagby**
- Oct. 27 Joint rehearsal at K.C. Sweet Adelines Rehearsal Hall
- Nov. 8-9 COTS, Omaha
- Nov. 11 Joint rehearsal with K.C. Sweet Adelines at St. Peter's
- Nov. 23 Joint rehearsal, location to be determined

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