

October 2004

HARMONOTES

The monthly newsletter of Kansas City's

Heart of America Chorus



The second-oldest chapter in the
Barbershop Harmony Society

*Drawn by Harmony,...
Bound by Friendship,...
Striving for Excellence!*

HOA: THE HEARTEST CLIMB? by Jim Bagby, Ye Olde Arm-Waver

I can't remember when I've been so eager for a district contest!

Yes, there was a time when we were used to the CSD chorus bull's eye being on HOA, and that challenge looms again. It's logical, given our Louisville scores, that we're favored on paper in Omaha, as well as the most eager to follow in the steps of our AOH Missouri cousins.

But the new money-raising plan by the financially struggling Society, to alter the wildcard plan for Salt Lake City, has added plenty of fire to the competition in our district—and virtually all the others. It's liable to be a shootout in Omaha!

However, I'm excited not because of the challenge, but because of the opportunity. And this is before the retreat, which always gets us so high we need someone to hold us back, or we'd be banging now on the stage door.

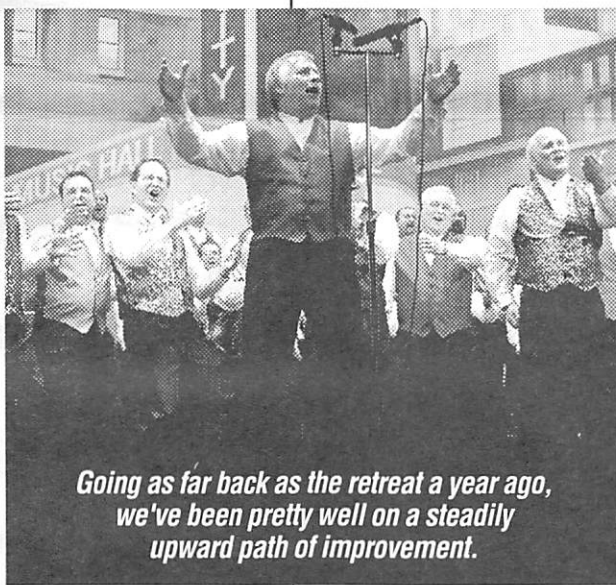
I'm pumped because of the commitment and effort by the entire HOA membership, the dedication to singing well, singing to the feel, incorporating the emotion, sharing the joy. Going as far back as the retreat a year ago, we've been pretty well on a steadily upward path of improvement.

I'm excited and proud at the rededication of veterans, the addition of new talent, the continued in-the-trench work of the section leaders and music team, the unflagging support of our families, and constant support and encouragement (and delicious special occasion food) from the *Heartbeats*.

Do you know we have a new member, bass **Dan Flatebo**, who's commuting more than two hours from Manhattan every week? Shades of young **Joe Mathieu**, keeping up with the competition chorus when he was at Kansas State. Dan and newbie tenor **Brian Marston** both came aboard late but signed on for the retreat to learn everything in a relatively short time.

We have, like a year ago, weathered some personal losses and problems, individually and collectively—some of them handled so well the majority of members were not

aware of them. We've experienced the joy of new arrivals, in the **Elfson** and **Johnson** households. We remain, in good times and tough, the HOA family. (Continued on page 3) ♦



*Going as far back as the retreat a year ago,
we've been pretty well on a steadily
upward path of improvement.*

Chorus photo courtesy of **Matt Bostick**

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HARMONOTES

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

Heart of America Chorus

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

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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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(Continued from front page)

When I'm around other choruses, rather than try to explain that spirit, or go into detail about who and why we are, I just take along "From the Heart." I ask in advance for someone to bring a boom box, and from our CD I play "I Have Seen the Light" or the ATB "Overlay." And I say "Oh, I've got some of those with me." I generally sell all that I have.

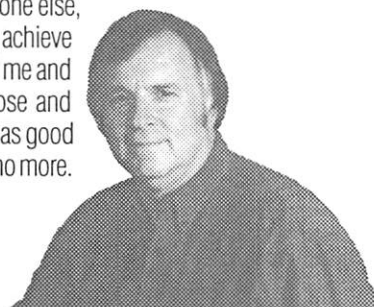
In the past couple of months, that has amounted to a lot of HOA distribution and appreciation in South Dakota, New York, Illinois, Iowa, West Virginia and Nebraska. And in Lincoln last week, associate Lincoln Continental director **Jon Peterson** came up to me after the meeting and said he was very familiar with the CD, because a member of our chorus, one of his former music students, had sent it to him with a note that said simply "Thanks for getting me into barbershopping."

Oh, that member was bari **Doug Brott**, one of our newer, better singers.

Is there a better hobby anywhere? Do we tell people that enough? We sure have the chance now, following up on the super-successful guest night orchestrated by Exec Veep **Steve Carruthers**. I know of at least a half-dozen good singers we're going to realize from there, and I suspect more.

And we have to accomplish in Omaha what I think is always the ultimate in competition: not beat someone else, not achieve a certain score, not even achieve a certain rank. My wish for you and me and all of us is to have the curtain close and know—not just say, but know—that's as good as we can sing now. We can ask for no more.

I can't wait! ♥



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)

Grandstand

Rob Mathieu (tenor), David Krause (lead),
*Jeff Veteto (bari), *Adam Veteto (bass)

Mother's Guys

Rob Mathieu (tenor), and Mike Mathieu (lead)
Rick Mathieu (bari), Joe Mathieu (bass)

New and Used Parts

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

Sound Alibi

Tom Elefson (tenor), Jerry Garrard (lead),
Shawn Jeffries (bari), Darrell McCune (bass)

Sounds Like Treble

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

SureFire!

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

Tone-Henge

Bruce Wenner (tenor), Dan Henry (lead),
Jim Bagby (bari), Keith Schweer (bass)

*Member of other chapters

WEBCAST PROS AND CONS by Jim Porter

Note: The following was prepared just after our return from Louisville. As you read it, you will either have been to Omaha for the District contest, or will soon be headed there. Another consideration in the question of being a participant or a spectator in these contests is the District contest experience.

What is the District contest to you, in light of our recent experience as a chorus?

1. A wonderful opportunity to get away and spend a weekend with friends.
2. An opportunity to show others in the District how great our chorus is.
3. A necessary first step toward the really big show at International.
4. An added burden on my time, resources and energy I could do without.
5. Please spare me! Not this time. Call me next spring.

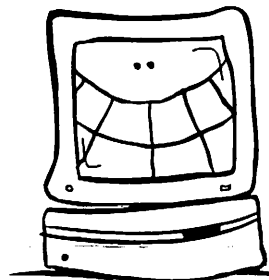
Then, I suppose a valid question would be "If a Webcast were available for the District contest, would you tune in?" Would it have an effect on your decision to compete with the chorus or stay behind?

With these thoughts in mind, consider the original premise, posed by Mike Mathieu just after our return from Louisville.

Since the Webcast makes it possible for you to enjoy the competitions at home on your computer, does that make it less likely you would travel to the convention, or would you be willing to pay for having the Webcast available to you?

Consider that:

1. There is no need to travel, no costs for hotels, or any of a hundred other things.
2. Your vacation days are available for other things. Your family will appreciate that!
3. You can eat when you like, where you like, and not worry about the crowds.
4. You get to sleep in your own bed, and don't have to worry about your house.
5. You can sing along with the contestants to your heart's desire!
6. You know the scores well before anyone at the convention does.
7. And last but not least, you don't have all those practices to endure ahead of it!



However, after a most exciting week at Louisville with friends near and far, consider this:

1. Really, it's true with any sport or other event—watching it on TV is NOTHING like being there!
2. When things happen that are exciting, you are part of the excitement!
3. You meet some of the most interesting people at a convention, besides friends from all over.
4. This is the World Series of Barbershop, and YOU are one of the PLAYERS!
5. It is a fitting reward for all that hard work you have done in the practices!
6. You get a chance to explore another part of the country, perhaps one you haven't visited before.
7. You get a chance to build friendships with barbershoppers from all over by singing tags with them.



So, the question is a difficult one, and you need to balance the joy of the experience against the cost. It comes down to the more fundamental question of "Why are you part of the *Heart of America Chorus*?" Our chorus offers a greater challenge to excel than do other choruses in the area, but that has its price as we work harder to perfect our craft than other choruses might. The contests are only part of the total experience, but they are a substantial part. There is no doubt that the experience is meaningful to you only if you are part of it. It isn't worth your time on Tuesdays to just come and watch!

As to helping to share the cost of the Webcast? Why not? It's something of value to me, I should be willing to give something of value for it. Most of us pay a cable bill every month and think nothing of it.

In conclusion, my thoughts on the matter are that this past summer was one of the most memorable times of my life, and it was because I was able to be with you all in Louisville, and not sitting on the sidelines. It was, of course, very special to me as a former member of the Ambassadors of Harmony. Being there for that was certainly priceless, and watching it on TV would have been like finishing last in comparison.

Thank you all for your hard work which made it all possible, and let's see if we can possibly top it, first in Omaha, then in Salt Lake City next July. ♥

"WITHOUT A SONG"

by Carter Combs

"Without A Song" was introduced in the 1930 Broadway operetta *Great Day!*... and yes, before you ask, the same show gave us "Great Day" that was recently recorded and released by *Gas House Gang*. It is extraordinary that this show, that also produced the popular hit "More Than You Know" ran a mere 36 performances. The fault, in part, was that of the composer and show producer, **Vincent Youmans**. The show had so many pre-opening problems and postponements that it became known as *The Great Delay*. At various times before its opening, *Great Day!* was to have featured **Duke Ellington, Louis Armstrong, and Fletcher Henderson**. None ended up in the show.

Vincent Youmans' professional songwriting career spanned only 13 years, from 1920 to 1933, and in that time he published fewer than 100 songs, working for 13 Broadway musicals and two musical motion pictures. Among his best-known shows are *The Wildflower* and *Hit The Deck*, as well as the first **Fred Astaire-Ginger Rogers** musical film, *Flying Down To Rio*. Perhaps his biggest hit was "Tea For Two" for the show *No! No! Nanette!*

Our arrangement, by the inestimable **Walt Latzko**, has a rich barbershop history, having been recorded virtually unchanged by such gold-medal giants as the *Buffalo Bills, Suntones, and Keep-sake* (who embellished the tag) over a span of five decades.

As musicians, we can relate directly to the lyric of this lovely song... our love of music, of finding and sharing the story in each piece we perform, strengthens the unique bond among us, and adds emotional depth to our lives. But in a broader sense, I believe this song is about anything that gives our lives meaning, be it our faith, our families, our careers... it is for us individually and collectively to find and share that spark.

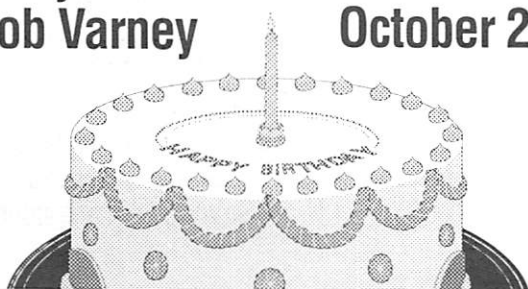
I hope you enjoy sharing this wonderfully inspiring song, just as I have enjoyed listening to, and now performing, it with you. ♥

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

to the following chapter members!

John Landry
Fuzzy Harford
Rob Varney

October 1
October 6
October 27



GRANDSTAND NOTES

by David Krause



Half of Grandstand, Jeff and David, were able to attend Harmony College this summer.

David was on staff, teaching tag singing and performance classes, while Jeff attended as a student at Director's College. **Rob and Adam** were able to visit a bit and we obtained some very valuable coaching from several people, including **Jim Casey**. In fact we had a great follow-up session with him this last Sunday.

We've also just finished performing as guests on our first two chapter barbershop shows, in Yankton, SD and Leavenworth. We have one more show this fall we will share the stage with the *Gas House Gang* in Columbia.

We also have a couple of school visits planned and we happy to sing at a 90th Church Birthday party for the Country Club Methodist Church here in KC.

The quartet wishes the chorus all the best in the fall and look forward to competing there also. ♥

MUSICAL NOTES

by Keith Schweer, Music Vice President



As of this writing it's less than 3 weeks until Omaha. When you read this, there will only be a few days to go. We have 3 more Tuesday rehearsals and what I'm sure will be another fantastic retreat between now and contest. We've prepared long and hard for this and I know we'll be ready to go on Saturday, Oct. 9. I want to thank

everyone for all their hard work and dedication. I'm already visualizing what it will be like when the emcee introduces HOA and that curtain goes up. I know I'll once again be proud to be on the risers with the rest of my HOA brothers. We've learned the words, notes and staging. Now it's time to sell the songs and entertain the audience and do it with a style and an attitude that says **HERE WE ARE!! WE ARE THE HEART OF AMERICA CHORUS!!!** ♥

If you've always wondered what SPEBSQSA means, but were afraid to ask, you're in four-part-harmony luck. It stands for *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America*. Today, the organization has been renamed *The Barbershop Harmony Society*.

Interestingly enough, the initial organization of the singers began one evening in 1938, downtown in Kansas City's Muhlebach Hotel, when two men began talking about the joys of singing harmony. Since both gentlemen were visiting Kansas City from

Tulsa, they agreed once they returned home, they would write to their respective friends about forming a group of singers. Between the two men, they sent out over 40 letters inviting other men to join together for fellowship in singing. Amazingly, 26 singers responded positively to the invitation. They had such a grand time, they decided to form an organiza-

tion. From that small organization the SPEBSQSA spread across the nation and the world, with over 800 chapters in North America today.

Fifteen years ago the barbershop quartet singing bug arrived at Lake Quivira when resident **Bill Lucas** recruited several other men to sing with him in the Overland Park Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Included in the original group of LQ singers were **Cliff Knox, Klaus Frank, Paul Walter** and **Bob Lee**. **Don Peck** and **Harry Stewart** joined a bit later. Both are still active in the fine art of barbershop singing.

For Don Peck, barbershop choral singing is not just a joyful hobby. The singing has led to improved health and vitality after he suffered a mild stroke a year ago last June. Shortly after returning home from the hospital, we remember seeing Don and his wife, **Donie**, walking along Lakeshore. He was not walking very well and his speech was somewhat difficult to understand. When asked when he might play golf again, Don said, "What I really miss is my singing."

Not quite two months later when we saw Don out walking, he said he was singing again and playing golf "... but not too well!." He explained that he was eagerly following his voice therapist's recommendation to return to singing as soon as possible. Don is living proof today that singing therapy can be a wonderful blessing.

Harry Stewart was recruited into SPEBSQSA in 1988 after stopping to listen to a group singing for the Salvation Army bell ringers in a local mall. During the break one of the sing-

ers said, "You seem to be enjoying this. Why don't you come to one of our rehearsals to find out more?" That's exactly what he did, and except for a few years' break, Harry has been singing with *The Heart of America Chorus* every since.

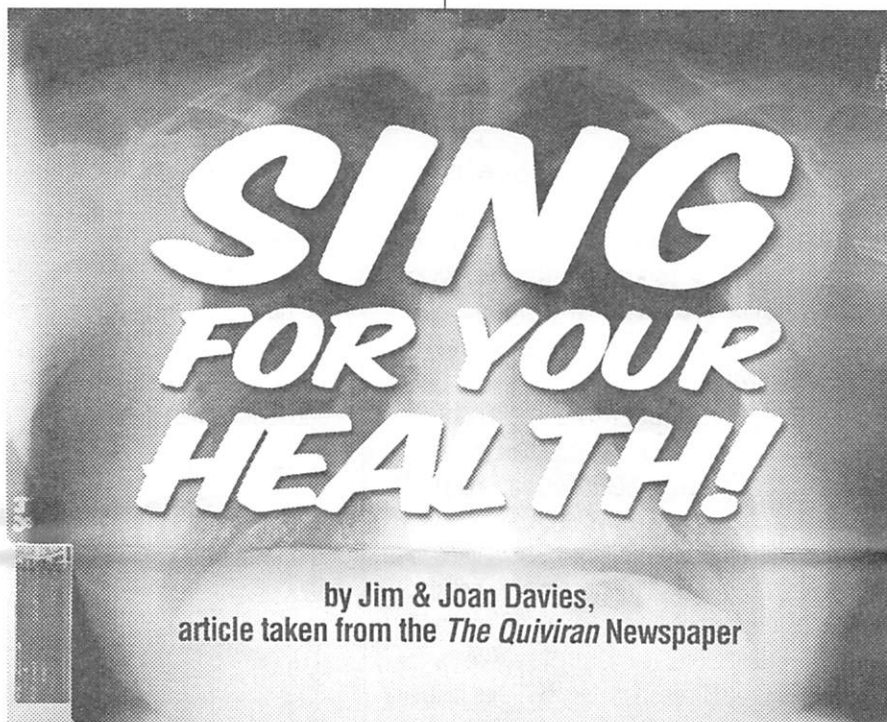
Barbershop singing has developed into two divisions. One division sings for personal

pleasure and to provide local entertainment. The other adds a competitive element by entering into various levels of competitive singing with 284 competitive choruses worldwide.

When preparing to compete, each chorus is responsible for understanding the contents of the 109-page contest rulebook covering all details of a competition; song selection, skill of singers and harmony, choreography, costumes, appropriateness of moves to music and many other details. The most important rule, however, is that the singers must have a great time while performing.

Every year the competitive groups compete in 18 district events. Winners from the district events, plus four wildcards, gather for the annual competition at the International Convention for Barbershop Singing. The Heart of America Chorus that Don and Harry sing with finished thirteenth in the worldwide competition this last year.

To really appreciate the special sound of barbershop singing, you need to hear it. There are many concerts in the area throughout the year. Of course you could hang around Don's



home and listen to him practice along with online music, lyrics and harmonizing parts which enable members to practice at any time at home.

Each year the *Heart of America Chorus* raises money through their paid concerts and with singing valentines and singing telegrams. Additionally, it has CDs available for purchase. Songs include "Auld Lang Syne," "It's A Grand Night For Singing," "16 Tons," "Paper Moon," "I'll Be Seeing You," "Old Cape Cod," "When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder," "America the Beautiful with Overlay" and "I Have Seen The Light!" The 2004 Holiday Harmony Concert is scheduled for December 4 at Unity Village.

Any age can participate. *The Heart of America Chorus* has three generations of one family involved. The youngest member is nine, the oldest in his 80s, and two teenagers participate as well.

HOA has 24 songs on their regular repertoire and is always adding new ones. In addition they have thirteen Christmas songs and sixteen on their old song list, including "Kansas City My Hometown."

Their magazine is the *Harmonizer*. These favorites are a few of the songs on the SPEBSQSA Jukebox currently, at the website (<http://www.spebsqsa.org>): "By The Light of The Silvery Moon," "The Sweetheart of Sigma Chi," Alexander's Ragtime Band, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Beautiful Dreamer."

If you want to listen to the great Barbershop sound on your own computer go to the <http://www.spebsqsa.org> site and click on the "Listen" button on the upper left portion of the home page. Scroll down to "Jack Baird Vintage Barbershop Era Music Library" and click to find hundreds of old and new barbershop favorites.

If you want to sing call Don Peck, 268-3194—he can tell you it's good for your health—or Harry Stewart, 268-7982. They might even give you a ride to one of the practices.

For more information about barbershop singing, you may wish to visit the following websites. The Overland Park group where Don started can be found at <http://www.harmonize.com/overlandstage>. *The Heart of America* group where Don and Harry now sing can be found at <http://www.hoachorus.com>. The International organization is at <http://www.spebsqsa.org>. ♥

PICKPOCKET PICKED THE WRONG POCKET!

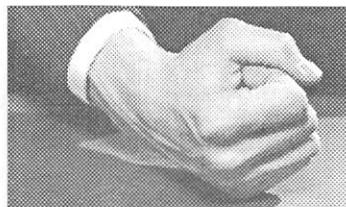
by Dale Neuman

This is not a barbershop message but it is relevant to the well-being of barbershoppers and their spouses who travel in large cities or find themselves in other crowded situations.

I was almost the victim of a team of pickpocket thieves over Labor Day weekend in Chicago. As I was leaving a McDonald's in the Loop area, one young man stepped in front of me as I was exiting through two sets of doors that created a foyer to the restaurant. As he got to the outer set, he "seemed" to stumble forward while spilling his super-sized drink all over my right shoe and pants leg. He stopped and knelt down seemingly to brush the ice off my shoe but he also trapped me in between the outer doors and the inner doors. At the same time, his confederate came through the inner doors, bumped against me and then tried to get around me. My initial sense was that the spill was not an accident so my guard had quickly come up. But I never felt the hand go into or come out of my left front pants pocket. What I did catch a glance of was my money clip going under the jacket the "bumper" had draped over his left arm to hide his actions.

It was an interesting next split second. I did get my money back.

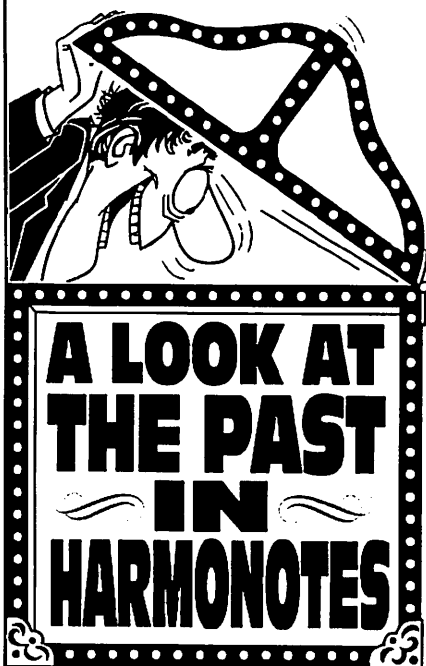
But beware of this scheme. Had I bent over to brush the ice off, I probably would never have been in a position to deal with the situation or realized my money clip was gone until I next reached for it. (A variant on this scheme is worked in revolving doors where the first person through the door appears to get suddenly stuck causing everyone in the other compartments to jostle against each other where there is more than one person per compartment. By the time the door is moving again and all are out on the street, the deed has been done.) My experience reminded me again of the wisdom of the routine I have long practiced: I carry my money in three places on my person. Had they succeeded I would have been out some cash but not out of money and out of town!



I knocked him down with a punch that was pure reflex ... I caught him high and hard on his chest and he fell on his backside.

Many have asked how I got my money back, and the answer is one that surprised me as much as it did the would-be thief: I knocked him down with a punch that was pure reflex powered by outrage. My right arm was free and I caught him high and hard on his chest and he fell on his backside. While I like to think my weight-training exercise regimen at the YMCA may have had something to do with the outcome, it is also the

case that he did not expect it, had both of his hands at his side and could not defend himself, and was probably off-balance as he was trying to slide by me to get out the door. But those were his problems! I was asked if I thought justice was done, I said maybe not in a collective sense in terms of the well-being of the community, but I must say my personal sense was! ♥



By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus
jedexter@mailstation.com

TEN YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1994

"Words can't express the enjoyment experienced at our first FALL RETREAT!

The facilities were great. the food fantastic, and our MUSICAL GROWTH was apparent, thanks to the knowledge and expertise of

three outstanding coaches, **Bob Calderon**, **David Leeder**, and **Bill Rashleigh**, plus the dedication of Director **Jim Bagby** and the music team." Those were the words, including the caps, that Music Vice President **Ron Abel** used to describe his perception of the highly successful first of a 10-year string of chorus retreats in Atchison, KS. Ron went on to commend **Jim Beutel** for coordinating the weekend and **Monte Duerksen** for his organization of the Saturday evening show.

Twenty-five or so HOA barbershoppers were honored and privileged to sing for funeral services for 20-year barbershopper and chorus member **Walt Bogdon**, who died at his home on Sept. 3 at the age of 87.

Our first annual retreat was the subject of an article in the *Atchison Daily Globe* during the week following the event. Why can't we get coverage like that in the *Kansas City Star*?

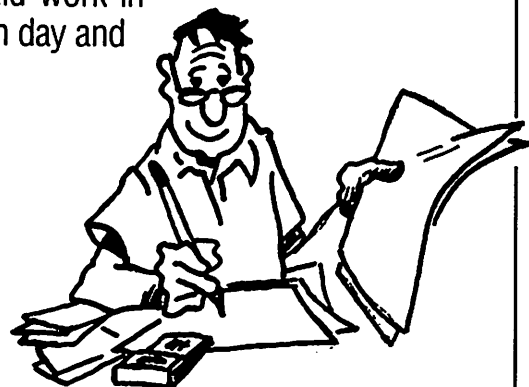
And **Fred Whisman** had an item announcing that the day chorus I wrote about last month was to be called the "Day Chords." Sounds like a "Whismanism," doesn't it?

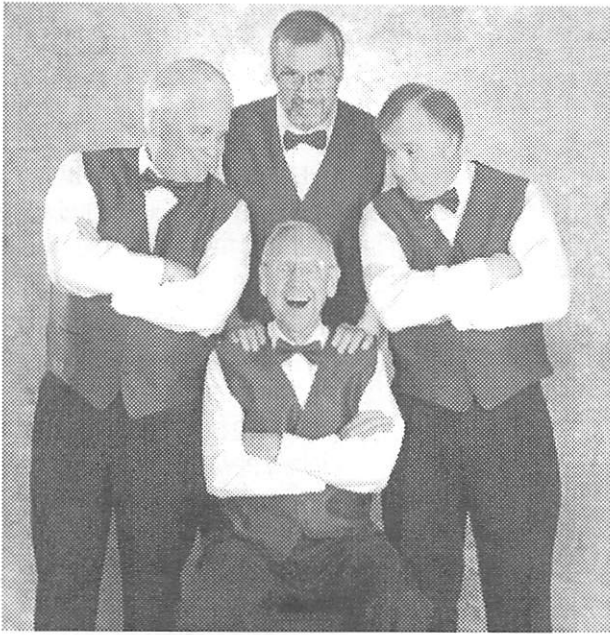
TWENTY YEARS AGO: OCTOBER, 1984

Editor **Dale Neuman** (that guy turns up everywhere, doesn't he?) kicked off the Oct. 1984 edition of *Harmonotes* with the following succinct summary of the scoring: "The 1984 Central States District Contest and Convention is now history, but the memories linger on. And what memories they are! The *Heart of America Chorus* won its seventh consecutive championship and will be heading for Minneapolis next July. In the quartet contest, all of our quartets excelled. *Special Touch* became the 1984 champions, the *K. C. Connection* took fourth, and the *Prairie Crooners* were fifth (and not seventh as was mistakenly announced to the audience on Saturday night). Even our bulletin, *Harmonotes*, passed muster and was named the best in the district for 1984! In the words of that old Sinatra tune, "It was a very good year."

FORTY YEARS AGO: SEPTEMBER, 1964

Editor **Warren Edmonds** had supplied a city map and a compass as a backdrop for the front page of his Sept. 15 edition of *Harmonotes*. Said Warren, "We felt that one of the reasons that some of our friends had not made it to the meetings was because they couldn't find the way. However, with the aid of an ancient instrument called a compass, which we are supplying with the issue of this bulletin, all of our wayward and wandering members should easily locate the old meetin' hall." There followed instructions on the use of a compass with a map. Wonder if that device would work in this modern day and age. ♥





IF YOU'RE THINKING OF MOVING, YOU'D BETTER BE IN A QUARTET!

by Ol' Dan for *Tone-Henge*

After living in the same house for 38 years, I wasn't thinking of moving, but that's beside the point. I failed to notice that my bride of (undisclosed) years was serious about the idea.

Next thing I know quartet rehearsals have become 7 other people, generous of their time and with healthy backs, packing, lifting, labeling, "moving sale"-ing, on and on. What a team!! Couldn't move without 'em !!

So, if you have moving plans, before you do anything else, get in a quartet. Voice quality of members is not a factor. Go for guys with strong backs and delightful, intelligent and helpful help-mates, ones that can accompany husbands to the rehearsals to see that they properly assist. Oh, and one thing more about the guys. The last thing to pack? The bar.

Here's something else about something that is really "something else !!!" If you want an enjoyable and unusual musical treat, go to, www.theworldofblake.com and order a CD by that title: "The World of Blake." A little barbershop—including a few bars from a once-famous CSD quartet—a lot of humor and some great singing, in my totally non-biased opinion—by a gal with some unbelievable pipes, and one with which you may have sung a tag! A couple of the songs come straight out of the HOA repertoire, but much of the material is original, ranging from purely romantic to strictly afterglow.

Who is this singer? "Never heard of her before in my life," Dan lied glibly. ♥

HEARTBEAT HILITES

by Sharon Oldehoeft, *Heartbeats* President

Hearbeats have some wonderful Autumn activities planned in support of HOA.

The Fall District Convention will be held Oct. 8-10 in Omaha and we are looking forward to cheering on HOA as they try for the title. The send-off is Oct. 5, and we are asking chorus members to bring snacks to share. *Heartbeats* will provide the drinks.

We will be hosting a Silent Auction Nov. 2 during the Bush League contest. **Dale Neuman** has donated several beautiful matted and framed photographs of various sizes taken on his travels. We thank Dale for so generously sharing his hobby with us. Please donate any new or used item (in good condition) the night of the auction. Join the *Heartbeats* for this event or send the items with your chorus member. This is a good opportunity to do some Christmas shopping and help support HOA through the efforts of the *Heartbeats*. We will also have our regular scheduled meeting at this time and invite you to join us.

We thank **Dessie Gathright** for inviting us into her lovely home for our September pot luck meeting, and **Jeffie Combs** for co-hosting. We all had a wonderful time—good food and good friends!

We thank **Dessie Gathright**, **Roberta Porter** and **Carol Ramirez** for being our Nominating Committee.

We thank **Jan Mathieu** for her efforts in trying to make arrangements for an HOA dinner in Omaha for District contest.

We thank all who helped with refreshments for Guest Night and **Jeffie Combs** for helping with Guest orientation.

We thank **Mary Fortino** for making ties—93, at last count—for all the chorus members.

We thank **Jeffie Combs** and **Carol Ramirez** for selling Pampered Chef cookbooks as a *Heartbeat* fundraiser.

We congratulate **Jeffie Combs** for being awarded the Extra Mile Award for work done for the Spring Convention Ladies Breakfast. ♥

GENTLEMEN OF NOTE TO APPEAR ON EXTREME MAKEOVER

taken from *LiveWire*

Barbershop finally enters the "reality TV" arena. Watch for a quartet on ABC's "Extreme Makeover" on Thursday, Sept.30.

Mike Mathieu reports:

Monday May 10, 2004, I received a call from the KC Convention and Visitors Bureau asking if it was OK for them to give out my cell number to some producers from *Extreme Makeover* I said "sure no problem," then **Dot** said, "good, because I already did, and they would be calling me shortly." Before our call was done, my phone beeped indicating another call coming in. I said goodbye to Dot and answered the other call. On the second call was **Patty**, producer from the TV show *Extreme Makeover*, and she needed a quartet to do a TV spot Tuesday around 6 PM. I then asked which makeover program it was, and wanted to know if I needed to bring a hammer or a scalpel. Patty laughed and said it was *Extreme Makeover*, not *Extreme Makeover, Home Edition*. She then told me they had selected a person from the KC area who was to win the makeover, and they were going to reveal that information in a barbershop, hence the need to involve a barbershop quartet.

She wanted to know how we could surprise the victim, and I told her briefly about our Singing Valentine program. I told her how we do surprise deliveries all year round for birthdays, anniversaries, or any other special occasion. Because of our relationships with local radio and TV stations, the *Heart of America Chorus* is fairly well known throughout the metro area. After further discussion, I suggested that we could fool the makeover winner by walking into the barbershop and telling the barber that his wife had ordered an "Anniversary Singing Telegram" to be delivered to his shop. That was the scenario that would be used.

We walked in and sang the first song, "I Love You Truly" to the barber. We then asked if we could sing the second song to the person sitting in the chair, and the barber said OK. At that time we sang a parody to "Let Me Call You Sweetheart," which told the winner that they would be heading to California for a makeover. The place erupted with excitement when we let the cat out of the bag. Truly a moment to remember!

Nine weeks later the victim returned from California with a totally new look. The producers again contacted us and asked if we wanted to be involved at the reveal party. You all can guess the answer.

With more lead time, the *Gentlemen of Note* quartet learned another parody sang to the tune of "Pretty Baby," arranged by **Don Gray**, new words by **Mike Mathieu**. The party was great, the made over person was great, and a super time was had by all.

This particular *Extreme Makeover* version is scheduled to air Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004 at 7 PM central time on the ABC network. Hopefully it will show the world what personal fun and enjoyment can be had from this great hobby of ours, and how we also bring those same emotions to our audiences.

To carry the event one step further, the quartet is hoping to have a "Watch Party" at a public location somewhere in Kansas City. The local ABC affiliate has already committed to live TV coverage of the event, and hopefully we can get the recipient of the *Extreme Makeover* to also attend, and have a re-Reveal at the conclusion of the program.

Gentlemen of Note quartet is comprised of **Monty Duerksen** (bass), **Rich Huyck** (baritone), **Jon Gathright** (lead), and **Mike Mathieu** (tenor). ♥



No, Gentlemen of Note didn't get the tummy-tucks and face-lifts...but they did get to serenade the transformed participant in a show airing this month.

TIP OF THE HAT

A big TOTH to:

1. **Steve Carruthers** for his Aug. 31, 2004 Guest Night;
2. **Vince Perry** for relentlessly keeping HOA informed of the necessities and whereabouts of the Music in the Park performance, HOA Retreat and district contest signup, registration and housing information on the HOA website;
3. **Ron McIntire** for organizing and distributing the chorus contest pictures from Louisville; **Mike Neff, Carter Combs** and **John Fortino** for standing in and conducting chorus rehearsals Aug. 17 & 24 and the Aug. 22 Music in the Park performance while director, **Jim Bagby** was on vacation;
4. ...**Dick Korek** and **Vince Perry** for coordinating the Music in the Park performance Aug 22, 2004;
5. ...and Music Team members who tirelessly reviewed the audio qualification tapes for the district contest in Omaha. ♥



"EXTRA MILE" AWARDS



Rob and *Haley Mathieu and Mike and *Jan Mathieu (*not pictured)
In grateful recognition for planning and organizing the Saturday night HOA Victory Dinner at the 2004 International Convention in Louisville, KY

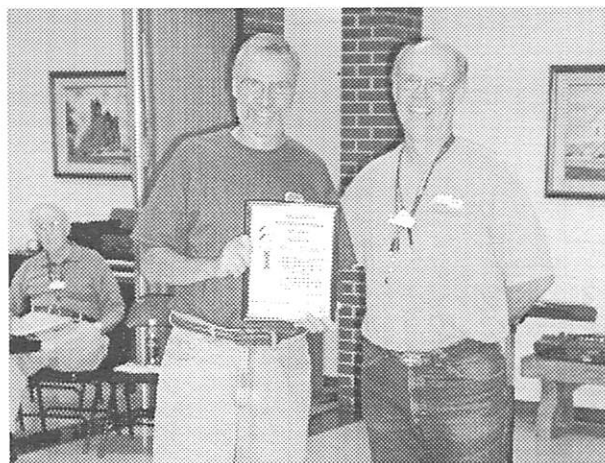


President Marty Oldehoeft presents Jeffie Combs with the April Extra Mile Award
for her work in setting up the Ladies Breakfast at the Spring Prelims.

JULY 2004 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH

Bruce Wenner

For generously providing above-and-beyond service to the Kansas City Missouri Chapter by rearranging, improving and revising music for HOA, often at a moment's notice, and for the original musical arrangements you have created for HOA over the years.





Heart of America



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

- Oct. 8-10 CSD Fall Contest & Convention, Omaha, NE
Nov. 2 Bush League Contest
Nov. 19-20 COTS, Omaha, NE
Jan. 8 Installation Awards Dinner

*Pick up the phone and invite a friend
to rehearsal! They'll be glad you did!*



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