

# Harmonotes

September 2001

The Monthly Bulletin Of The Kansas City Chapter • SPEBSQSA

Volume 2001, Issue 9

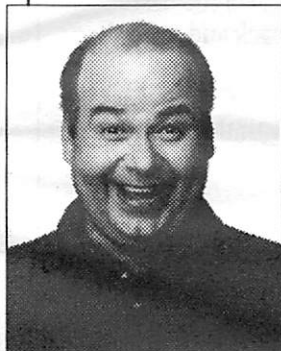
## MIKE NEFF TAKES A LOOK BACK AT HARMONY COLLEGE!

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David Wright (Assistant Director of the *Ambassadors of Harmony*) directing a tag during one of the week's general sessions.



Photo courtesy of Mike Neff



## YES, FELLOWS, FACES DO MATTER!

by Jim Porter

On Friday, August 10, my wife and I took advantage of the cool weather and went to the Missouri State Fair in Sedalia. While we were walking around taking in the sights, we dropped in on an ongoing performance by a troupe of ladies that was doing a clog dancing routine to country music. We sat down to watch their final act.

One thing became evident immediately as all of the ladies went through their routine. While all were well practiced and stepped together, clapped together, and clomped together in time with the music, some really seemed to be having the time of their lives up there! You were naturally attracted to them, as their joy showed in their faces.

Another thing was also evident, if you looked behind them to the ones in the back rows. Some of them had a look which shouted "Enough! When will this be OVER?". Again, it was all in their faces. They danced, they clapped, but they weren't smiling.

Something we should all remember when we are on stage—do you want people to think you are *enjoying* yourself—or do you want them to see you are *bored* to death? Your message will be in your face. Nothing else you do can hide it. ~



## This Issue

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### CAN BARITONES FISH?

*Yeah...but make sure they back it up with photos like **Bagby** did!*

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*What did they learn?*

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### GRANT'S HAVIN' A PARTY!

*Come join all the pre-contest fun!*

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### SCHUSSING WITH STUCKER

*He sings, he ski's...and you're invited to join him!*

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### TAKING AIM AT TOPEKA

*Bruce Wenner focuses on the preparation and our upcoming schedule.*

# Harmonotes

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

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

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

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

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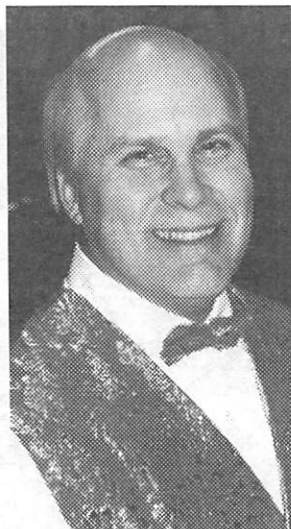
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Member Of



## FROM THE TOP OF OUR HEART

by Dick Irwin, HOA President



This month I am in the middle of preparing for the fall Central States District contest. I will be performing with what could be one of the best choruses in the world...if they want to be! This may seem a bit personal:

I get to feeling frustrated, sometimes, with the apparent attitude within this chorus that "This is how we're going to do this because this is how we've always

done it!" I have never and I hope to never buy into that old adage. Change is so very difficult! Without change you get boredom and hum. Things stagnate! I want to be something in my life. This hobby is my chance. I will not be satisfied until I once again can call myself a champion and have the opportunity to sing with a group that is capable of being in the top 10 in the world. I live in Kansas City right now and this is where I get to participate in my hobby. We, as a chorus have the ability to expand and change into one of the best choruses in the world. We can't do that by looking back and saying "We used to be...". The "used to be's" need to be pulled forward with the "want to be's", or they need to be asked to watch! We put in the effort or we don't have the privilege of performing with the best. Older voices and bodies CAN still perform. Younger voices and bodies can learn. It's the mind that has to be convinced.

Convince yourselves, gentlemen! We can be something very, very special. Apply yourselves and make it happen! ~

## BUSH LEAGUE'LL BE A BASH!

by Dan, Chief Bush League Flunky

In an effort to promote inter-chapter relations, your officers and board have agreed to invite *Overland Stage*, *Sons of Liberty* and *Olathe* chapters to participate in the 2001 version of HOA's Bush League Contest, November 6th.

Your "chief flunky" has decided that quartets will not be competing against quartets from other chapters; only their own. Here's the reasoning: More guys will walk away with trophies, (1st, 2nd and 3rd place awarded for each chapter) nice little mementos from a fun evening. It's also hoped the ruling will relieve a little of the pressure on invited chapters and will preclude one chapter from capturing most of the goodies.

If you haven't already, get your quartet organized now and let Ol' Dan know who's in it and the quartet name.

**Rules:** No registered quartets; no more than two members who have ever competed on the district level; two songs.

Invite your "significant other" and we'll have a nice audience and a great time! ~



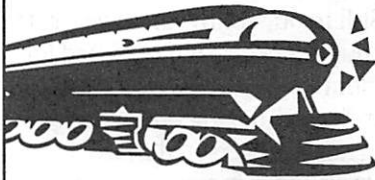


# THE STATION

by Mike Schumacher, Membership Vice-President

The following story I am taking from the Blue Ridge Presbyterian Church newsletter because it illustrates an idea I have been trying to convey for quite a while.

*Tucked away in our subconscious is an idyllic vision.*



*Consider we are traveling by train—out the windows we see the scenes of children waving at the crossing, cattle grazing in the distant fields, row upon*

*row of corn and wheat fields, flatlands and valleys, mountains and rolling hillsides and city skylines.*

*But uppermost in our minds is the final destination. On a certain day, we will pull into the station. Bands will be playing and flags waving. Once we get there our dreams will come true and the pieces of our lives will fall into place like a jigsaw puzzle.*

*Restless we pace the aisles as we wait and wait and wait for the station.*

*"When we reach that station, that will be IT!" we cry. "When I retire." "When I get the last child through college." "When I get that promotion." "When I win the gold." "When I get that new car."*

*Sooner or later, we realize there is no station, no real place to arrive. The true joy of life is the trip itself. Every station is just a stop along the way, NOT the ending point. (written by Robert Hastings)*

Think about the above story a moment and you can hopefully see what I am trying to say. We should enjoy the process of getting to contest as much as, if not more than, the actual contest itself. We spend 2-1/2 hours every week together and we need to make every effort to come prepared (with tape recorders in hand) and enjoy ourselves. Successful people are noted for surrounding themselves with people who have positive attitudes. Contest stage time is 6 to 8 minutes and after all the rehearsal time it takes to get there, that 6 to 8 minutes is over in a snap.

Recently, while in Phoenix, I visited the *Phoenicians* chapter meeting and I am telling you, they are working on the same things we are! AND **Jim Casey** spend the best part of 10 minutes encouraging the members to invite guests, invite guests and invite guests. Offer to pick them up on the way to rehearsals and get to know them. Call them when you can, just to touch base and tell them how great it is to have them joining us. There is still time to learn the music and the choreography should be starting soon.

Can we take 80 or 90 guys to Topeka this October? Answer: Sure we can. But only if everyone participates in the recruitment of new members!!

# 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 Heilman (lead),  
Steve Leone (bari), Stan Grossman (bass)

### Harmony Spectrum - 1982 Central States District Champion

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

### Special Touch - 1984 Central States District Champion

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

### KC Connection - 1986 Central States District Champion

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

### 12th Street Rag - 1994 Central States District Champion

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

## OTHER CHAPTER QUARTETS

### 12th Street Rag - 2000 International Semi-Finalists

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

### Arpeggio

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

### Crosstown Four

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

### Heartland

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

### Old Mission Messengers

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

### Polecat Creek

Tom Elefson (tenor), Wayne Crawford (lead),  
Dick Irwin (bari), Eric Weber (bass)

### The Musical Firm of Schwarzkopf, Anderson, Carney & Bray

Raymond Schwarzkopf (tenor), Todd Anderson (lead),  
Randy Carney (bari), Burt Bray (bass)

### Tone-Henge

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

\*Member of other chapters



## MEMORABLE BARBERSHOP MOMENTS or... WE SHOULDN'TA LAUGHED

by Dan Henry

It was 40 years ago, so some of the details have grown foggy in my ancient brain. The cold facts involved are unimportant anyway.

Our quartet, the *Merry Mugs*, flew to most out-of-town engagements in a nice plane piloted by **Joe Weaver**.

(After squiring us around on several

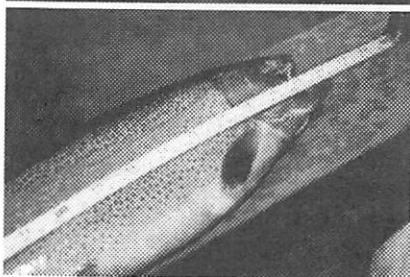
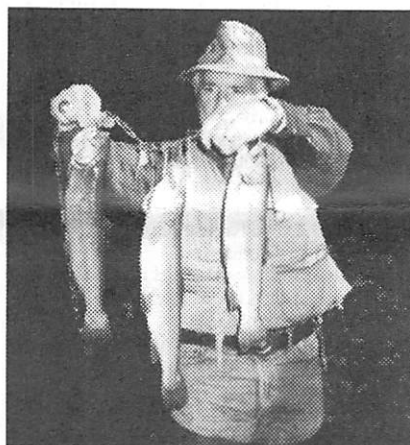
dates, Joe decided he liked barbershop and joined HOA) Whenever we weren't too far from home, we would fly back after the afterglow rather than stay overnight. This meant there wasn't time for the quartet to change out of our performance costumes. We were hoboes; bums, and the costumes were reasonably authentic, right down to the burnt-cork growth of beard and the red noses induced by the bottle.

After one Iowa engagement we encountered a bad batch

of the Midwest's fall fog and couldn't land at Kansas City's Municipal airport—had to land in St. Jo at 2AM. Joe stayed with the plane to bring it home when the fog lifted, but some members of the quartet had Sunday obligations, and opted to catch an early morning train to KC. Still in our "bum suits" we made it to the train station, bought tickets, and searched for places to nap for a few hours.

Now, the sight of four "bums" dozing on railroad station benches and baggage carts created more than just double-takes from other passengers. We offered no words of explanation to passers-by, but experienced much difficulty in suppressing laughter.

We should have explained, but we didn't. We shouldn'ta laughed, but we did...and still do. Just mention the experience to **Dennis Taylor** or **Frank Leone** and you'll provoke a hearty hee-haw. ~



**From top to bottom:**

Jim takes a moment from his South Dakota respite to show off a stringer loaded with rainbow trout...then actually slaps a tape to one to prove it was every bit of 21 inches...and finally shows why so many had to be released—darn things were too big for the grill!

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## OH, THOSE TRAVELING TONE-HENGE—ARIANS

by Jim Bagby

Our normally strenuous, dedicated rehearsal schedule has been somewhat fragmented lately by absenteeism. Some of the quartet have been reduced to drinking beer (dare I reveal it) *alone!*

**Bruce** and **Francie** recently spent a week with family in New Hampshire (site of that famous 'small town in.'). **Keith** and **Connie** went to the Lake of the Ozarks, where the distaff side got involved in a life-threatening situation that left her with a minor injury she declines to discuss.

Ol' **Dan** and **Estyl** avoid an August trip. But they plan a short jaunt to Florida in September to visit daughter **Kathy**, who will try to teach her father to sing lead.

That leaves **Joann** and me, just back from a glorious week in South Dakota. The focus was the Rapid City Chapter's annual *Harmony Happening in the Hills* festival, which drew about 60 singers from 10 chapters in three states. We did six numbers at the really impressive Saturday night lighting ceremony at Mount Rushmore. We finished with "Let There Be Peace on Earth" at the monument's new outdoor amphitheater, before a great video about the four featured presidents. Then we retook the stage for "Star Spangled Banner," about 9:30 p.m. and the lights came up on the four faces just as we finished – IMPRESSIVE! And as you might expect, the crowd from literally all over the world ate up the barbershop!

But prior to that, our host loaned us his cabin on Rapid Creek, about 30 miles west of Rapid City. We caught the most wunnerful Rainbows, including one that ran 21 inches and about 4 pounds, and another on the final day that was over 21 inches and probably at least 5 pounds (well, hadda release it without a chance to weigh it). Certainly biggest trout I've ever caught – and released a dozen or so from 15-18 inches. Yes, we do have the pictures to prove it, along with some glorious scenery from the Badlands and the Black Hills.

It's a trip we'd heartily recommend. ~

# GENTLEMEN OF NOTE ENROLL IN ARTISTRY 101 AT HARMONY COLLEGE

by Monte Duerksen

Two Seniors (Jon and I—first timers) became Freshmen, and two Veterans (Rick and Rod—fourth timers) became our “in house counselors” at Harmony College, where the faculty of super stars of barbershop harmony shared their unlimited knowledge with all attendees, creating literally hundreds of “emotional highs”, then sending us home with chords ringing in our ears!



Our coaches, each an expert and certified judge in a specific category, helped us “overhaul” our contest and show songs. They installed “unique parts” that will revitalize their believability and musicality as we perfect them.

So, will you—do we—notice a difference? *Artistry*? Is this just another “dazzle ‘em with your footwork expression”? How does this apply to our hobby?

*Actually “Artistry” is simply:*

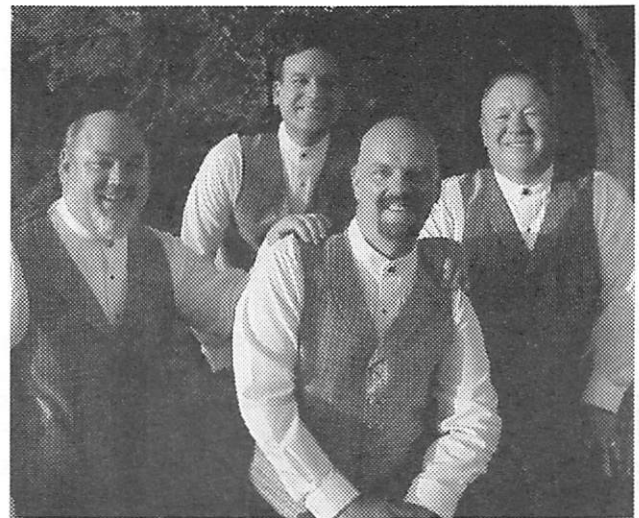
- ...the difference between a “C” and an “A” score in a contest,
- ...four people expressing lyrics and notes with voice and body in beautiful harmony to produce the meaning as well as the emotion of the music for the singers and listeners,
- ...performing above the level of mechanics.

*How do we attain artistry? PERFECT THE BASICS!*

- Manage breath to support the thoughts.
- Sing in tune - maintain tonal center throughout the song.
- Balance all chords.
- Match all target vowels.
- Energize every phrase ending.
- Move every thought forward to maximize the meaning of the phrase.
- Sing all word sounds.
- involve your body and face to strengthen the lyrics and music.
- Start and stop together.
- Agree, agree, agree.
- Allow the mechanics that produced a *perfect rehearsal* provide for a *perfect performance*.

Members of International quartet champs told us at Harmony College that they spend at least 30 minutes per rehearsal “perfecting the basics”. Professionals,...namely **Barbara Streisand** or **Frank Sinatra** have rehearsed a phrase 30 or 40 times before a performance to produce what they wished to convey to their audience.

Was Harmony College profitable? Will the *Gentlemen of Note* exhibit ascending levels of artistry? Watch and listen. ~



## ARPEGGIO HARD AT WORK!

by Rick Dunaway

**A**rpeggio has been working hard in rehearsals, polishing and refining our TWO contest sets for the upcoming Central States District contest in Topeka. (Hey, we figured we might as well PRACTICE the second set, anyway).

We’ve also entertained at a church ice cream social in Independence, thoroughly enjoying everything except our excruciating walk through the room at the church in which the cakes for the cakewalk were being held. It was a heavenly aroma. So close, yet so far...

Perhaps that experience puts it all into perspective: Some singing groups serve as the warm-up act to big-name performers. *Arpeggio*, on the other hand, was the warm-up act for a cakewalk! ~

## IT MUST BE NICE!

by Todd Anderson, Lead partner  
*The Musical Firm of etc. etc.*

It’s bad enough that our FIRM can hardly find time to practice. As *Harmonotes* editor, I have to place article after article about you other smart-aleck quartets who get to attend Harmony College, or, like



the goobers above (*Arpeggio*) who are enjoying “polishing and refining” their Topeka numbers. *C’m on!* We truly have some great stuff that we’re trying to get off the page. (*Burt wrote a parody to the tune “Always” that I can’t wait for you all to hear someday. He’s a genius at writing lyrics—just wish he could sing, too.*)

Vacations and other family events have really taken their toll on our rehearsals. *Hey, it happens.* I think by September we should all be on track once again.

In the mean time, would you all please quit all this “vocal excellence” stuff? *You’re makin’ us look bad!* ~



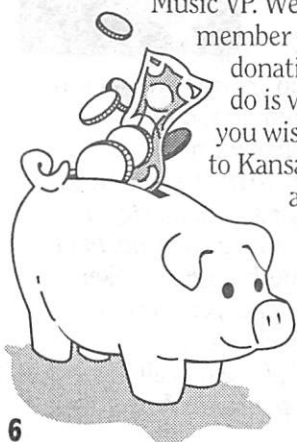
## PRESIDENTS' HELPERS FUND

by Dale Neuman

It is that time of the year when several things happen. With the Retreat and Fall Contest coming up, the costs of enjoying our hobby suddenly take a major leap upwards. For old hands and those whose job situations are stable and predictable, this becomes mostly a matter of budgeting and planning. For others who are newer to our hobby or whose job situations are new or less stable, planning and budgeting will help but may not make it possible for them to attend. And this is even more true for students. It was to deal with these special financial circumstances that a number of years ago the *Presidents' Helpers Fund* was established through the generosity of a number of veteran members including some Past-Presidents. This fund was to assist—on a need basis—those men who wanted to attend, or buy their uniform, or go to contests but were financially unable to foot the whole bill. The Fund helped them out in as anonymous a way as possible—usually by way of a word from their section leader or the Music VP to me or to the current President when the Music Team learned that someone could not participate because of costs. We would figure out what would make the difference and would fund it from the Fund. We will be doing some of that again this year. Those who benefit from the fund are not required to pay back what they get but are encouraged to do so if and when it becomes possible. And some have.

The second thing is that we are now approaching the end of the third quarter of the year and the Fund is being drawn down at a time when it needs a boost. It is not too early to think of a tax deductible contribution to the Chapter in the form of a donation to the *Presidents' Helpers Fund*. I know that there are a few regular donors out there who can be counted on as well as several quartets. It does not take a big donation to make a difference as several small ones add up to a helpful amount to those eager to join in our efforts but unable for reasons beyond their control at this point to afford to do so.

So this article is to ask two things: (1) Any member of the chorus planning to NOT go to the retreat or contest because of their costs, see your section leader or the Music VP. We will see if we can help. (2) Any member who would like to make a donation to the Fund, all you need to do is write a check in whatever amount you wish to contribute, make it payable to Kansas City Chapter, S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., and in the memo area write: "Presidents' Helpers Fund". Get it to me or to **Charles Ramirez**, our Chapter Treasurer, and we will do the rest. Thanks for your help. ~



## SOMETHING DIFFERENT

by D.R. Kinghorn

Nashville was the "funnest" and sometimes the funniest convention I have ever gone to. The AIC show and the contests were awesome! I had all the quartets and choruses tied for first place.

My personal theme in Nashville was "Give me a hug!". Most people were very receptive when I'd say "Give me a hug!". Others looked at me like I was a weirdo! It was especially fun being hugged by all the fine-lookin' waitresses!

I spent most of my time with **Grant** and his folks and **Tom Elefson**. **Mike Neff** and **Gordon Lankenau** joined us on a few occasions. We all came out of a restaurant and saw a man on the sidewalk playing the spoons. I started doing the CH-CH-CH-CH intro to "Georgia Brown" and we started singing "She just got here yesterday...". We sang the whole song with the guy with no teeth playing the spoons. When we finished, there were hundreds of people listening and putting money in a box in front of the toothless spoon player. He said he got more money in 5 minutes than he made in a whole week!

While we were walking to the *Gaylord*, I somehow got separated from our group. Some guy, bible in hand, stopped me and started preaching morality to me.

"Why are you down here looking in all the clubs and lusting for women? Don't you know that's wrong? You're a sinner!", he said. So, I told him to look in his bible and read, "Judge not, lest you be judged. Besides that", I said, "I have impeccable morals!"

I started to walk away and he grabbed me and started giving me the third-degree. He would not stop bugging me. I was thinking, how am I going to get away from this nut? A crowd started to gather because he was talking real loud. He said, "What would your wife think if she knew you were down here carrying on and thinking immoral thoughts?"

I said that I was a widower. I knew that would shut him up! It didn't! He said, "How did your wife die?" I said, thinking to myself, I gotta get rid of this moron. "She committed suicide.", I said. Did that stop him? *Heck, no!* He said, "How? Did she slit her wrists or shoot herself?" I said, "She killed herself by running into my knife 18 times!" The crowd loved it! He quit bothering me and started in on someone else. (By the way, he wouldn't give me a hug.)

We have a lot of stories to tell, like the time in *Rippeys* when a good mens quartet was singing. They finished a song and a womens quartet started singing. An elderly lady went to their table and said "Would you girls quit singing? I want to hear the boys!" Then there is Leslie's story....I'll tell you later!

*Give me a hug!* ~



# JOIN US!



## PRE-CONTEST GET-TOGETHER

by Grant Hunget

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 7:30PM until ?? - Mark Your Calendars NOW!!!** Come ring a few cords & relax with everyone before contest. (ALL KC Chapter members and their wives/significant others are invited; not just Topeka competitors!)

Beer, Wine, and Soda-Pops Provided. (if anything else, you're on your own). **SNACKS/MUNCHIES:** Everyone PLEASE bring some! Mix it up!

Quartets: Please come & show off. We'll attempt a mini-parade of quartets.

**LOCATION:** "COVES" CLUBHOUSE (NOT GRANT'S HOUSE AS BEFORE).

**DIRECTIONS:** From I-29/Barry Road, go east 1-mile to Waukomis; turn right/south at "Coves" entrance; From 169/Barry Road go west 3 miles to Waukomis. Turn left/south; everybody take the **FIRST LEFT** (NW 83rd Terrace), follow curve to right approximately 1/4 mile. The clubhouse is on the left featuring a big parking lot You can't miss it!

**RSVP:** I'D LIKE SOME INDICATION OF HOW MANY TO EXPECT. PLEASE MESSAGE ME BACK, OR CALL ME, WITH HOW MANY WILL ATTEND: 816-505-9331. THANK YOU.

IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TOPEKA, PLEASE DON'T LET THAT STOP YOU FROM COMING. LET'S ALL GET TOGETHER!

Watch for any details as we get closer. ~

## STUCKER: TRIP CAPTAIN FOR WINTER PARK SKI TRIP

by John Stucker

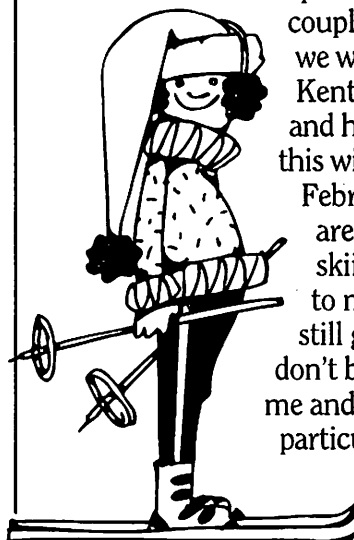
What does this have to do with *Heart of America Chorus* you ask? Well, I'll tell you.

Of my many hobbies, singing is absolutely first. A fairly close second is snow skiing. **Kent McClean** got me involved in the Kansas City Ski Club a number of years ago. He and I have gone on many three and four day trips to many resorts in Colorado. We have also gotten small groups of HOAers and gone on several trips to several ski resorts. These trips have been absolutely maximum fun. Can you imagine riding a four person lift chair up to the top of the mountain and singing a tag as you rise to the top of the mountain?

The KC Ski Club offers many (30-40) ski trips each winter. Some of these trips go to exotic places like Europe and Alaska. Most, however, go on 3 and 4 day ski trips to resorts in Colorado. On all the trips there is a leader who does the preparation work so everybody can have the fun. The Colorado trips are sleeper bus trips that leave in the evening and arrive in the early morning the next day. Upon arrival most folks put on their skis and ski 'til they drop! A few words describing the sleeper bus are in order. There are ten booths with two people facing two people. When all four folks in your booth are ready to retire for the night, the bottom seats fold out making a lower berth and the back rests fold up making an upper berth. I have gotten as much as fours of rest (you notice I said rest, not sleep) to none at all.

*Now to the headline.* The trip captains for the most part have been excellent but in the past

couple of years, we have had a couple that were not as good as we would have liked. I said to Kent, I can do better than that, and here I am leading a trip this winter to Winter Park on February 8 to 12. So if there are any of you that enjoy skiing, having friends along to make it more fun, you can still get on this trip even if you don't belong to the ski club. See me and I will tell you all the particulars. *See you on the slopes!* ~



# JUST FOUR FUN

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

## SATAN COMES FOR A VISIT

**Picture it: rural area, early Sunday morning, church is packed. The devil decides to pay a visit.**

The doors burst open, and a threatening black cloud rolls in with the devil in its midst. People leap from the pews and run outdoors, screaming—all except for *two*. One is the Pastor, the other is an elderly farmer.

Satan is a bit perplexed. He points to the Pastor and says, "You! I can understand why you didn't run away. You're in your Lord's house—you preach against me every day and you aren't afraid of me. But *YOU!* (points to the farmer) Why didn't you flee my presence, . . . scared like everyone else?"

The farmer crosses one leg over the other and drawls, "Why, I'm surprised you don't recognize me. I've been married to your sister for 36 years!"



## A LOOK AT THE PAST IN THE HARMONOTES

By Wade Dexter, Editor Emeritus

### **Ten Years Ago - September 1991**

The *Heartbeats* were planning a September meeting to organize their participation in the fall district convention which was to be hosted by the Kansas City Chapter on the weekend of October 11-13. Bus transportation was to be provided for the trip to Trenton, Missouri, to perform for the Grundy County Arts Alliance. Program Vice President **John**

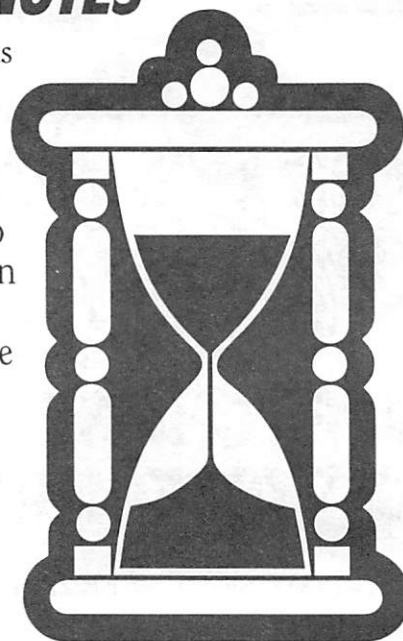
**Pennington**, nursing a broken leg, wondered who the guy was who sent flowers to John's wife, **Peggy**, to "help you endure John's confinement." Music director **Jim Bagby** offered kudos to the four HOA members who recently passed judging category school—**Don Newman** (Interpretation), **Jim Bagby** (Stage Presence), **Hank Knaack** (recertified in SP. Wonder what ever happened to Ol' Hank? He came to us from the Lombard, Illinois, Chapter where he was an extremely active member), and **John Stucker** (Secretary).

*Harmonotes* Editor **Wade Dexter** apologized for the abbreviated September issue—only 10 pages, compared to the usual 16-plus) while he recovered from prostate cancer surgery early in August. He promised to be back for the September 3 meeting and on the risers for the district chorus contest on October 12. (He made it!)

### **Twenty Years Ago - September 1981**

Our very own **Gil Lefholz** was elected International Vice President at the July convention in Detroit. Gil had served the Society and the Central States District well as International Board Member, CSD president, CSD Executive Vice President, and Missouri Division Vice President. He sang bass with the *Kippers* when they won the CSD quartet championship in 1966.

(Continued on page 13) →





(Continued from page 12)

Despite the best efforts of longtime chapter friend **Carl Bolte**—who was also a member of the Starlight Theater board of directors—the financial arrangements proposed by the theater management for a return appearance by the HOA Chorus were not acceptable to our chapter board. Starlight offered to lease us the theater at a flat rate and let us make whatever we could from ticket sales—but with HOA paying for the production and promotion of the show. Our board felt that the effort to fill 7,800 seats required too great an investment in time and working capital.

### Thirty Years Ago - September, 1970

(Once again, we're missing the September 1971 issue of *Harmonotes*, so we'll see what we can find in the edition for September 1970.)

In preparation for the fall district contest in Davenport, HOA was working with **Betty Morgan** of the JaCoMo Sweet Adelines Chapter, who was helping with choreography. Betty had done a tremendous job with the SA's earlier in the year, helping them to win their regional championship.

The regular meeting place for the chapter thirty-one years ago was the Roanoke-Westport Community Center, with some of the special contest rehearsals being scheduled at the Unity Temple on the Plaza. The uniform was the gray jacket, black tuxedo pants, black bow ties, red cummerbund, and patent leather shoes. Pretty flashy, don't you think?

Editor **Dick Ham** announced the formation of a new quartet called the *Foursome*, all relatively new members of the Kansas Chapter but had quartet experience with previous chapters. They were **Dick Henderson** (tenor), **Ken Carrel** (lead), **Bruce Wenner** (baritone), and **Harold Scott** (bass). Carrel sang with the *Empire Four* who won the CSD novice quartet championship in 1966. (Their bass was a new guy named Dexter. Anybody remember him?) ~

## SUNSHINE REPORT

by Max Boise

Our sincerest condolences to the following members and their families; **John Landry** on the loss of his father, **Burt Bray** on the passing of his 95 year-old grandmother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

**Al Higgins** is still recovering from his knee replacement surgery. He has been working from home on coordinating the fall retreat. Thanks for your continued help, Al.

**Anne Abel** is doing nicely according to **Ron**. We're glad to hear she's better. Anne, Ron said something about you being "cranky as ever", but I could have misunderstood.

**Paul Winans** had bypass surgery (welcome to the zipper club). He's reported to be doing great in his recovery.

As this goes to press, **Vince Perry**, one of our most dedicated chorus members, had suffered a heart attack. He underwent surgery to have a stent inserted—he is also on the road to recovery. *Get well, Vince!*

Although this could be viewed many ways (some would think this should deserve sympathies), we'd like to extend our congratulations to **Kent McClean** on his recent qualification as a contest administrator and a special pat-on-the-back to **Raymond Schwarzkopf** who received his Society certification as a Music Judge in his first attempt! *Way to go, guys!*

Congratulations also to **Jim Bagby** (PRS), **David Krause** (PRS), and **John Stucker** (CA) for recertifying and their continued service to SPEBSQSA! It's great to have so many HOA guys in the C&J program! Hope to see you all in the pits, ...er, uh, ...we mean the *Judging Area!*

For those who remember the late **Ed Eichman**, former Kansas City chapter member, we are sad to report the passing of his wife, **Dottie**, on August 10th. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to family and friends.

Finally, as I put this issue to rest, we learned that a grandchild of HOA President **Dick Irwin** apparently passed away. We are deeply saddened by your loss, **Dick** and **Sheli**, and will lift your family up in our prayers. ~



## WHACHA THINK?

*Test your barbershop trivia skills!*

**Question:**

There are TWO quartetters within the Society that have won 5 silver medals. One of 'em hails from Kansas City! *Who is he?*

*Answer: Bert Phelps (lead) 1941-3, 1946-7 KC Pole Cats (lead) and KC Serenaders*

# DIRECTOR'S COLLEGE 2001 by Mike Neff

**What a summer it's been!** After an incredible trip to Nashville for the International Contest, I was lucky enough to attend Director's College last month for another great week of barbershopping.

As a first year attendee at Director's College, I didn't quite know what to expect, but it was AMAZING. Prior to attending, we had to submit a videotape of ourselves directing. The staff in Kenosha reviewed the tapes and assigned the students to various classes at Director's College based on their tapes.

I took several courses on Directing and Vocal Techniques. **Dr. Greg Lyne** taught my Directing Techniques class. It was AWESOME. We spent the week talking about leadership as directors, motivating the chorus to sing and perform better, bringing out the best in every singer, and creating the best possible scenario for musical success. It would be hard to put into words all that I learned in that class, but I feel very fortunate to have spent a week with Dr. Greg. He is a tremendous talent and you just can't help but want to sing well for him. He brings that out of every singer.

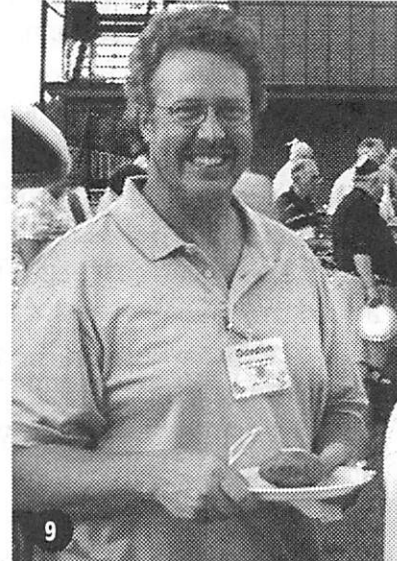
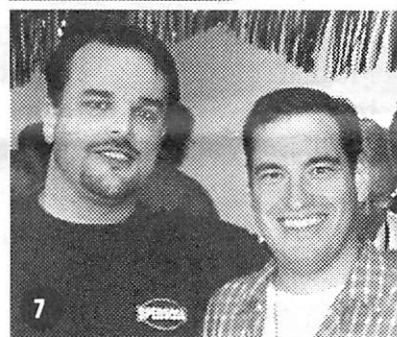
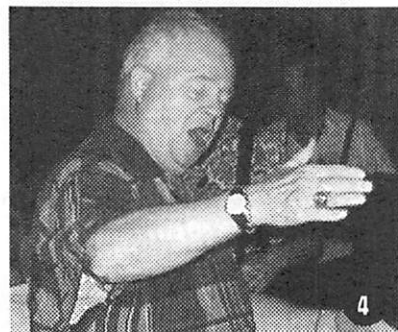
I also had a course on Sound Management with **Bill Biffle**. Bill is a Singing Judge from Albuquerque, and sings with the chorus there. We talked extensively about vocal production, tone quality, breathing technique and voice placement. It was a great class and we tried many different techniques and procedures in class, which really helped illustrate the methods he was trying to teach us.

Theory II was the toughest class for me. But, thankfully, I can now identify chord structures, roots, thirds, fifths, diminished chords, augmented chords, major chords and minor chords. I can't do it as fast as "that **Bruce Wenner** guy," but I can work through them and figure them out now. **Kirk Young**, Society Music Specialist taught that class.

The other classes I took were on Performance, Leadership and "On To the Rehearsal." All of them offered a number of techniques and insights into making us into better directors.

The highlight of the week was getting to teach a song, "Each Time I Fall in Love," arranged by **S.K. Grundy**, to the General Session on Thursday morning. Gordon and I were part of a teaching quartet with **Tom Metzger** (EVG District) and **Pete Frank** (SLD District) that got to demonstrate the teaching quartet method to the Harmony College students with **Dr. Greg Lyne**. We also got coached by **Jim Henry** (and filmed at the same time) for a documentary on Harmony College, being produced by an arts channel from New York City that was in St. Joe filming all week.

All in all, it was a WONDERFUL week! I made some great new friends, renewed some old friendships, and learned a tremendous amount about directing. I'd encourage ALL of you to go to Harmony College when you get a chance. A big thanks to the chapter board for providing the funds to send **Gordon** and I this year! It was greatly appreciated. I hope we continue to make a difference in the musical success of HOA. *Thanks!* ~



Photos courtesy of **Mike Neff**





# ALL EYES ON TOPEKA

by Bruce Wenner, Music Vice-President

Our eyes are focused on the upcoming Central States Chorus Contest in Topeka on October 13. We are armed with the two best contest numbers we have ever had—just ask any of the guys in the contest chorus. Ace Presentation judges and HOA mainstays **Jim Bagby** and **David Krause** have put together great interpretive and visual plans for the driving up-tempo “Sweet Georgia Brown” and the touching ballad “I’ll Be Seeing You”, and are working with **Gordon**, the section leaders, and the contest chorus to bring them to the level that the songs deserve.

Seventy-five men have committed themselves to prepare for a contest performance that will knock the socks off the district—six tenors, twenty-six leads, twelve baritones, and thirty basses, plus Gordon. The Music Team is just as committed to do everything we can to help these guys meet the qualifications for the contest chorus. The contest rehearsals begin Sept. 4, followed by our annual retreat—again in Atchison—beginning Friday evening, September 7, and ending Sunday morning. We have two great clinicians coming in. We all know **Tony DeRosa**, who has become our regular outside coach; he will be joined at the retreat by **Gary Wulf** of Columbus, Ohio, another coach who is held in high regard throughout the Society. The cost per member is a bargain \$50 for the entire weekend—the Chapter is picking up the remainder of the expense.

Of course we hope that the retreat will give us a big boost in our contest preparations, but it is not only for contest chorus members. If you cannot join us on the

risers for Topeka but would like to enjoy a weekend of singing, learning, and fun and fellowship with your chapter buddies, we’d love to have you with us in Atchison. And we’ll be looking for you as a potential member of the next contest chorus—if we do well enough in Topeka, that chorus will be on the International stage in Portland next July.

Also—don’t know whether **Dick** or another VP covered the following—if it hasn’t been picked up already, here’s something you can use:

## Upcoming Meetings

In preparing for contest, we are planning to start the meetings promptly at 7:00 and continue without a break till 9:30. If this seems to work out well, we’ll make it permanent—if not, we’ll go back to the present format after the CSD convention. The opening segment of the meeting will not ordinarily be warm-ups (we will all want to come to the meeting warmed up) or vocal bonding—we could be starting with a tag, or repertoire review, or even a program such as a quartet performance or a video.

Also—bear in mind the three extra Thursday nights September 20 and 27 and October 4. Two special aspects of the Sept. 20 meeting: (1) The church is not available that night, so we will be at the Sweet Adeline facility at the Blue Ridge Mall (more about the location later), and (2) *Twelfth Street Rag* will be with us for a *Sing With The Champs* session for part of the meeting, with benefits to go to Heartspring. Whether you’re in the contest chorus or not, you certainly won’t want to miss this meeting! ~



## MORE ABOUT THE HARMONY COLLEGE PHOTOS ON PAGE 10!

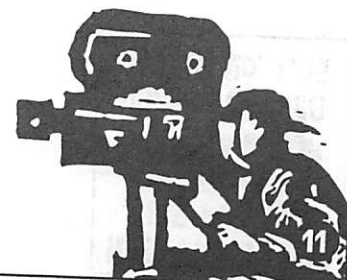
1. The *Gas House Gang* performing at the Saturday night afterglow at Harmony College. Left to Right: **Rob Henry**, **Jim Henry**, **Rich Knight** and **Kipp Buckner**,
2. *Gentlemen of Note*, backstage, before their performance on the Saturday night show at Harmony College. Left to Right (**Rod Rule**, **Jon Gathright**, **Monty Duerksen**, and **Rich Huyck**),
3. **Lee Tubbs**, **Mike Neff**, **Gordon Lankenau** and **Johnny Moroni** (*Ambassadors of Harmony*) singing tags in the “Temple of Tags” at Harmony College,
4. **Freddie King**, Baritone of the 1970 International Quartet Champion *Oriole Four*, directing a song before the start of the Parade of Quartets on Friday night,
5. Left to Right - **Mike Neff** (HOA), **Warren “Buzz” Haeger** (baritone of the 1965 International Quartet Champs *The Four Renegades*), **Tom Metzger** (EVG

District), and **Peter Frank** (SLD District), after just having sung a tag together,

*Mike Neff with...*

6. ...**Dr. Greg Lyne**, Dean of Harmony College and Director of the *Great American Chorus*, current 5th place International Chorus Medalists,
7. ...**Jim Henry**, bass of the *Gas House Gang*, and director of *The Ambassadors of Harmony* (current 4th place International Chorus Medalists),
8. ...**Carl Turlin** and **Jerry Garrard**.

9. **Gordon Lankenau** at the Wednesday night BBQ and festivities at Harmony College (yes, that is a Baked Potato on his plate!). ~





# Heart of America

## September-October Calendar

- Sept. 7, 8, 9** - HOA Retreat - Atchison, KS - Tony DeRosa, Gary Wulf  
**Sept. 10** - HOA Board Meeting - Doubletree Hotel, KCMO, 6:30pm  
**Sept. 20** - Special Rehearsal - Blue Ridge Mall  
Sweet Adelines - Room - 7:00pm  
**Sept. 27** - Special Rehearsal - St. Peters - 7:00pm  
**Oct. 4** - Special Rehearsal - St. Peters - 7:00pm  
**Oct. 12-14** - CSD Fall Convention/Contest - Topeka, KS

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