

PRESERVATION

The Official Publication of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Historical Archives

Volume 3, No. 2

Living In The Past - And Proud Of It!

April 2012

The FIRST Gold



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All articles herein - unless otherwise credited - were written by the editor

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PRESERVATION

Published by the Society Archives Committee of the Barbershop Harmony Society for all those interested in preserving, promoting and educating others as to the rich history of the Barbershop music genre and the organization of men that love it.

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 Bob Sutton - Virginia
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 Bob Davenport - Tennessee
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All articles herein, unless otherwise credited, are written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society, any District, any historian, the Archives Committee or the editor

PRESERVATION Online!

All past issues are always available

www.barbershop.org/preservation-publication.html



Society's Historical Archives Committee 2012

Grady Kerr - Texas (Chairman)
Bob Sutton - Virginia
Bob Coant - New York
Steve D'Ambrosio - Tennessee
Bob Davenport - Tennessee

Visit Our **BHS HISTORY** Section

www.barbershop.org/history.html

Original Sullivan Show Footage Found



The Orphans Live - Nationwide

Recently **Lori Kay Dickason**, the daughter of **Bud Bigham**, donated to the Society Archives a historic video of **The Orphans'** June 1954 appearance on the **The Ed Sullivan Show**

Bud was the tenor of our 1954 quartet champs. The day after they won, they were flown from Washington, DC (site of the convention) directly to New York City for this live nationwide appearance broadcast on CBS.



Our 1954 Champs singing to the nation right after winning their gold medals

Special thanks to Archives member **Bob Sutton** for making the contact with Lori and recovering this old footage.

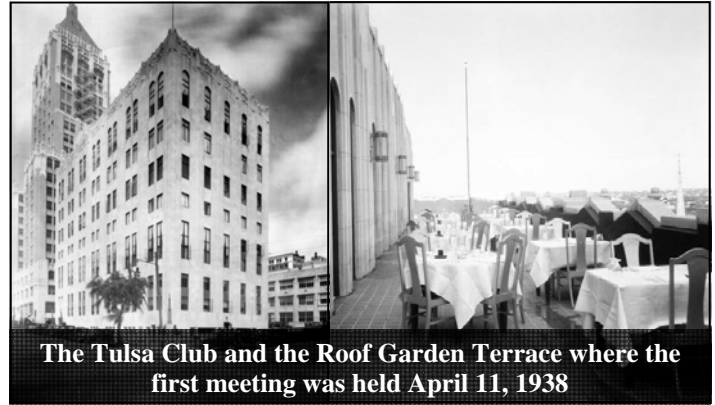
You can NOW see this rare footage on the Society website under the history section.



Who Was First?

As we fast approach the 75th birthday of the Society (officially April 11, 2013) we look to identify and recognize those who came first.

Well known is the FIRST meeting / song fest on the top of the Tulsa Club in downtown Tulsa, Oklahoma. Those men who gathered to sing with **O.C. Cash** and **Rupert Hall** became the official beginning and the BIRTH of the movement to preserve barber shop quartet singing.



The Tulsa Club and the Roof Garden Terrace where the first meeting was held April 11, 1938

Who was at the FIRST meeting?

Roscoe Adams	Hank Gowans	Bud Neal
Marvin Ashbaugh	Fred Graves	C.A. O'Donovan
S.M. "Puny" Blevens	Merle Gump	W.A. "Bill" Palmer
Jack Carroll	Rupert Hall	Ira T. Parker
O.C. Cash	R.A. "Dick" Hittson	Charley Pendleton
J. William Colley	Hollis Hodge	Roy Pike
Herb Coulter	Pete Hurley	Glen Thompson
Bill Downing	H.E. Hurst	Al Wells
Wallace Easter	C.C. Kirkland	Luther White
Paul "Happy" Fenton	Ray Lattner	Guy Winningham
H.E. Fitzer	Elmer Lawyer	Bill Wortley
Dixie Gilmer	Thomas Murray	Tubby Young

Chapter	Charter Date
1 Tulsa, Oklahoma	April 11, 1938
2 Kansas City, Missouri	June 2, 1938
3 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma	July 6, 1938
4 Wilmington, Delaware	September 9, 1938
5 St Louis No 1, Missouri	October 8, 1938
6 Wichita, Kansas	March 1, 1939
7 Chicago No 1, Illinois	June 1, 1939
8 Long Beach, California	June 29, 1939
9 Detroit-Oakland, Michigan	July 29, 1939
10 Grand Rapids, Michigan	November 1, 1939
11 Rochester, New York	January 1, 1940
12 Cleveland West Suburban, Ohio	January 31, 1940
13 Saginaw Bay, Michigan	September 28,
14 Muskegon, Michigan	October 1, 1940
15 Lansing, Michigan	December 7, 1940
16 Warsaw, New York	January 1, 1941
17 Greater Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	April 27, 1941
18 Peoria, Illinois	May 17, 1941
19 Hillsdale, Michigan	June 1, 1941
20 Rock Island, Illinois	June 30, 1941
21 Kalamazoo, Michigan	March 1, 1942
22 St Louis Suburban, Illinois	May 21, 1942
23 Bloomington, Illinois	December 31,
24 Pontiac-Waterford, Michigan	March 14, 1943
25 Greater Phoenix, Arizona	March 15, 1943

How YOU Can Celebrate Our 75th

It only happens ONCE so by this time next year our organization's celebration will be in full swing.

Already there are events being planned with more ideas on the way. How do YOU think we should celebrate? What are YOU planning?

There's a blue-ribbon committee already active having been formed a year ago. They are well underway and working on several projects to make our 75th special.

Under the chairmanship of past president **Roger Lewis**, the committee is excited and finishing the details of several ideas.

- Attend the International Convention in Toronto
- Stage the new 75th anniversary theme show package.
- Participate in the year-long PR campaign to increase public awareness and promote membership
- Use the 75th anniversary logo in your chapter PR, programs and website.
- Participate in special celebrations and dedications at the national, state and local level on the actual 75th Anniversary – April 11 2013.



Reunions / Anniversary Nights

In addition to having a party on or around April 11, 2013, YOUR chapter should host a special night on or around YOUR charter date and invite the family as well as your former members.

A complete program and guidelines are available on the Society website, entitled **Reunions 101**.

<http://www.barbershop.org/preservation.html>

Districts can also host special events at their 2013 conventions. Several districts are already promoting their origins, such as the Mighty Pioneer District.

www.pioneerdistrict.org/history/PioneerHistory/1940.html



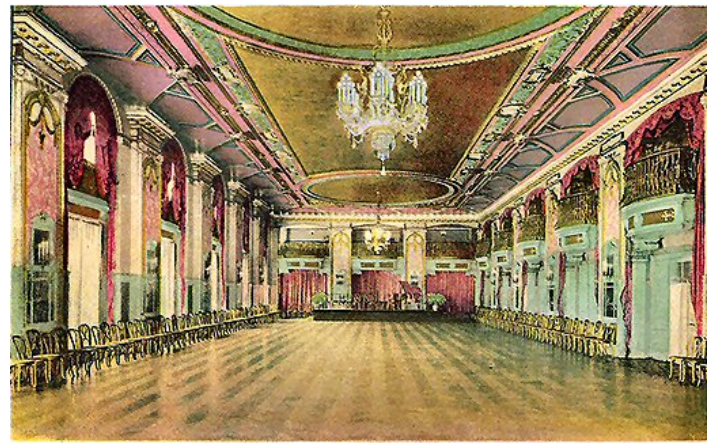
Bob McDermott's Pioneer District History

by Stephen Sutherland
Director, Gentlemen
Songsters Chorus / Baritone, Night
Shift Quartet

Several years ago a very well researched history of the Pioneer District was written by district historian **Bob McDermott**. He has since passed away but **Stephen Sutherland** saw to it to place his work on the district's web site.

Pioneer held the first "state sponsored" contest in the society according to Bob's research. Quoting from the last paragraph in the section entitled There Were No Chapters Until 1941: "this was the first state-sponsored contest [the district wasn't organized yet] ever held in our Society."

Mention of Detroit #1 being the first chapter show in the society is shown in the first paragraph of the section The First Parade of Quartets. The date June 8, 1940 was both the show date AND the official forming of the Michigan District at a meeting attended by representatives of the four chapters in the state.



THE GRAND BALL ROOM, BOOK-CADILLAC HOTEL, DETROIT, MICH.

Bob of course is no longer around to confirm his research but he was a stickler for details.

He was a Detroit #1 member and had close contact with many of the men quoted in his history document. He jokes about the claim of being the first chapter organized East of the Mississippi.

Your research a few Preservation publications ago seems to show you found the official list of charter issue dates.

I'm not sure how **Carroll Adams** allowed Detroit #1 to be anything but first."

The FIRST Annual Show

It's going to be hard to beat this record. The **Detroit-Oakland Chapter** recently held its 73rd Annual Parade of Harmony. They hosted their first Parade of Harmony in 1940 at the historic **Detroit Book-Cadillac Hotel** in downtown Detroit, and the Chapter has hosted an annual show ever since.

They believe that this is the longest running Parade of Harmony (annual show) of any chapter in the Society.



The Suntones (1961 Champs) **Harlan Wilson, Bob Franklin, Gene Cokeroff and Todd Wilson** - performed March 31st in Liberal, Kansas.

They have ONE MORE show scheduled for May 19th in Cleveland, Tennessee with **Vocal Spectrum** and **Four Voices**

Their long historic career of 50+ years comes to a close.

Watch Bye Bye Blues <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2uqKdRqrLw>



Barbershop On TV



The Andy Griffith Show - The Barbershop Quartet



Mustin, Hunt, Camp, Griffith

Season 7 / Episode 3 - Originally aired
September 26, 1966

*The Mayberry barbershop quartet loses its
lead on the eve of its singing contest.*

Songs: *In The Glory / Beautiful Isle of Make Believe*

The Quartet was

- Tenor - **Burt Mustin**
(as Burt Wilkins / Jud Fletcher)
- Lead - **Jack Dodson**
(as Howard Sprague - gets ill)
- Lead - **Hamilton Camp**
(as Jeff Nelson the prisoner)
- Baritone - **Charles Blackie Hunt**
(as Wally)
- Bass - **Andy Griffith**
(as Sheriff Andy Taylor)

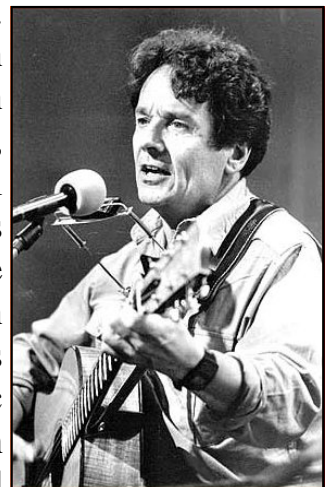
Other than the familiar Sheriff Andy and Howard **who are these people?**

Hamilton Camp

(October 30, 1934 - October 2, 2005)

An Actor and a Singer.

He was born in London (England) and died in Hancock Park, California of natural causes. He began his career on screen at age twelve in the motion picture **Bedlam**. He has played both comedic and dramatic roles in movies, television and theater and appeared in several Broadway shows.



On screen he is best remembered for films such as **Heaven Can Wait, Attack of the 50 Foot Woman, Bird, S.O.B. Dick Tracy, Under Fire, and The Fourth Tenor.**

You can watch HERE www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPt9zs3n9ok

Charles “Blackie” Hunt



November 14, 1930 - December 30, 2004

Blackie was a legendary Las Vegas musician, lounge act, restaurateur and a staple on the Las Vegas Strip in the 1950s. He played the piano, several horns and the accordion all by the age of seven.

He was a member of **The Characters** (inducted into the Casino Legends Hall of Fame in 2002) playing clubs from New York to Florida. Eventually, in 1955, he was first booked into the **Sahara Hotel** in Vegas. The redhead also appeared on **The Ed Sullivan Show**.

He was also married to Nevada's **Lt. Gov. Lorraine Hunt**. He died in 2004 of heart failure. He was 73.



Burt Mustin

February 8, 1884 – January 28, 1977

Burt was a proud Society member who could be seen attending many conventions. He was a long time member of the San Fernando Valley, California / **Valleyaires**

Chorus. He was well known for his love of four-part harmony and had sung in quartets most of his life.

Burt was a late bloomer. He didn't begin his acting career until his retirement as a car salesman at the age of 67. In his 25-year career, he did dozens of commercials, and appeared in over 200 TV roles (examples being **The Dick Van Dyke Show**, **The Fugitive**, **The Public Defender**, **Leave It to Beaver**, **The Andy Griffith Show**,



My Three Sons, **Twilight Zone**, **Bewitched**, **Adam-12**, **All in the Family**) and 47 movies, most notably, **Cat Ballou** (1965).

He also made numerous appearances on **The Tonight Show** and

would mention quartet singing and the Society when ever he could.

Burt's memorial service was held at The Old North Church at **Forest Lawn** in the Hollywood Hills. Many celebrities attended along with many barbershoppers. The 1972-74 silver medalists, **The Pacificaires** (**Al Mau**, **Rudy Wissler**, **Fred Dregne** and **Bill Fritz**) sang *I Believe* and *Hush* at the service. **Al** remembers a well-known actor being so impressed with the Pacificaires that after they finished he loudly told them (and everyone else), *"I want you to sing that at MY funeral."*

Bob Lally (barbershopper and TV director) remembers, *"Many of the speakers at the service were leaders of the entertainment industry. Among them were the Presidents of the Screen Actors Guild and the Television Academy as well as representatives from the Motion Picture Academy and CBS."*





"When they were done, the minister presiding asked if anyone else wished to say something about Burt, and from the back of the room stood **Carroll O'Connor** from **All In The Family**. Carroll proceeded to compliment Burt's work as an actor and as a gentleman, and also recounted how the two of them would spend their down time from shooting the show back in the dressing room singing and harmonizing."

As for Lally, his fondest memories of Burt involved, *"Sitting next to him in the baritone section of the old Reseda Valleyaires Chorus ... and by the way, Burt was a pretty fine baritone at that."*



Quartet Appears on ABC's Cougar Town

Although not a "real" barbershop quartet, one was spotted on ABC's **Cougar Town** starring **Courteney Cox**.

The episode is **A One Story Town** and has **Ted Buckland** (a character originally from **Scrubs**) and his a cappella group **The Worthless Peons** planning to audition to be a barbershop quartet in **Disney World!** The group that appears as The Worthless Peons is the very real comedy a cappella group called **Blanks**, who recently toured Australia.

Thanks to **Christine Chasteen** (Region 23, **Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus**) for the heads up.



1969 "Medal" Found

Next issue we'll tell the story behind this **HUGE** wooden reproduction of the gold medal. It was used onstage in St. Louis during the 1969 International convention there.

It has been found and will soon be restored and displayed.

Stay Tuned!

20 Years of Power Play

Slamkas 1992 - 2012

Our 2003 quartet champs, **Power Play** came out of retirement and performed a show on March 10th for Charlotte County FL **Suncoast Statesmen**. Jack and Kitty Slamka have moved to Florida and he now directs the chorus.

The chapter had trouble procuring a headliner quartet so Jack and the boys (retired for the past four years) agreed to reunite. They did well, surprising themselves but not the barbershoppers – *like riding a bicycle*.

They took a family photo that weekend. Almost amazingly – they match one from 20 years before.

A quirk of fate: At the time of the 1992 photo, Mark and Katie were engaged. They ended up **NOT** getting married and went their separate ways. Now – both had since got married and divorced. Today – reconnected via FaceBook - they are again engaged and will wed April 28th.

Although still retired, Power Play plans to perhaps do a few shows a year. Upcoming is a traditional appearance in Michigan at the Harrisville Harmony Weekend (50th year for the Labor Day event). Other groups will also be there.

Of course, there's their 25th anniversary appearance at the 2028 International convention. All plan to attend and perform.



Back row - **Mike & Traci** - **Staci & Don**
Front row - **Katie & Mark** - **Jack & Kitty**

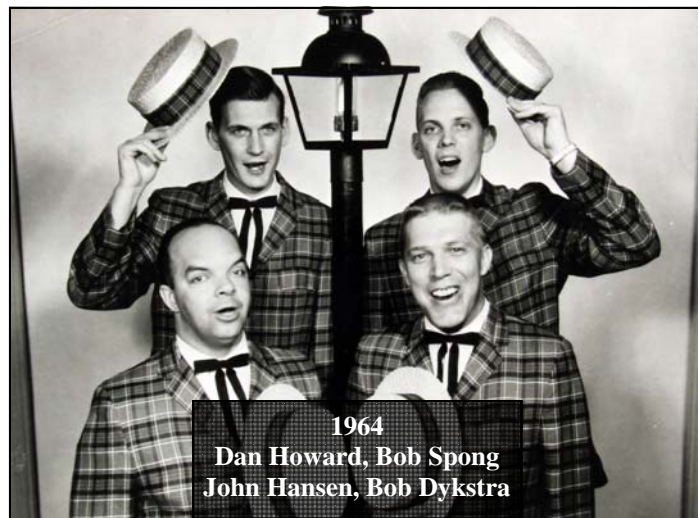


Minneapolis Commodores Salutes The Hut Four

by Russ Born - VP-Marketing/PR - Minneapolis Commodores



1959 - John Hansen, Don Sundt, Bob Dykstra, Bob Spong

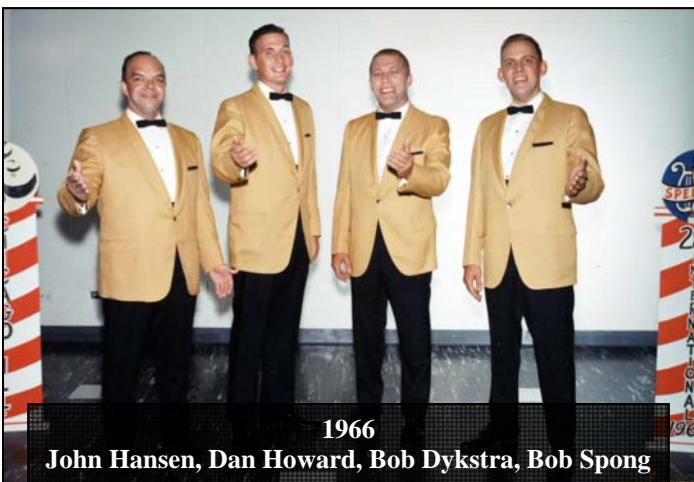


1964
Dan Howard, Bob Spong
John Hansen, Bob Dykstra

The Minneapolis Commodores presented our annual show(s) on Saturday, March 24th.

Our headliners were the hilarious **Lunch Break** quartet from Nashville and our chorus sang very well. All in all it was a very successful show.

This year's show was entitled "*On the Road Again*" and was roughly based on the exploits of the Commodores' beloved quartet, **The Hut Four**, comprised of **Bob Spong** – T, **Bob Dykstra** – L, **Dan Howard** / **Don Sundt** – Br, and **John Hansen** – Bs. You'll recognize Spong as the bari of the 1975 Champs, **Happiness Emporium**).



1966

John Hansen, Dan Howard, Bob Dykstra, Bob Spong

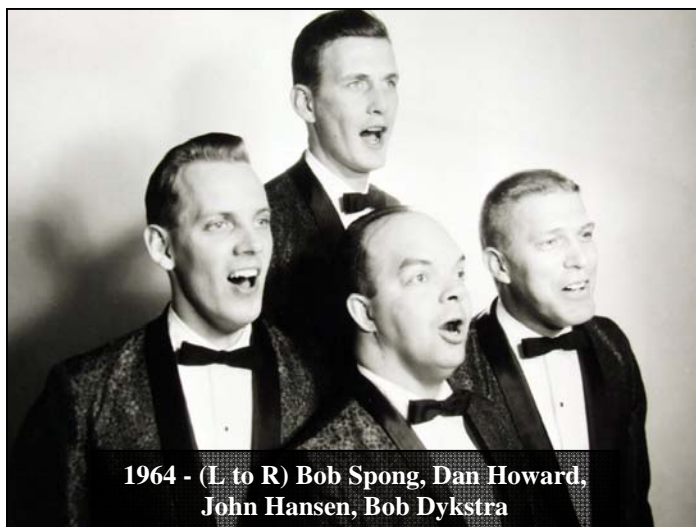
The Hut Four sang from 1953-1972 and represented the Commodores in many contests, finishing as high as 11th place [35th (1969), 13th (1967), 16th (1966), 15th (1965), 25th (1964), 32nd (1963), 15th (1961), 16th (1960), 11th (1959), 19th (1958)].

They also performed on over 1400 shows and participated in two USO Tours!

In 1953 they competed live on an army recruiting show hosted by **Arlene Francis**, called **Talent Patrol** and based on the audience response on the applause meter they were that night's winners!



1957 - Bob Dykstra, John Hansen, Bob Spong, Don Sundt



1964 - (L to R) Bob Spong, Dan Howard,
John Hansen, Bob Dykstra

A year later they won the **Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts TV Show** and were rewarded with a week's appearance on Godfrey's popular radio show.

The story line followed The Hut Four as they traveled to the 1957 International in Los Angeles (traveling Route 66 from Minneapolis), a year before they competed for the first time. Some of the stories incorporated into the show were true and some were made up for the sake of the script and songs.



1967
John Hansen, Dan Howard, Bob Dykstra, Bob Spong



1954 (clockwise starting at the top)
Herb Fane, Bob Dykstra, John Hansen, Bob Moksnes

One of our chapter quartets, **Tetra**, played the 1957 Hut Four on their show (**Mark Bloomquist** as Bob Spong, **Ken Wentworth** as Bob Dykstra, **Jim Erickson** as Don Sundt and **Sam LaRoque** as John Hansen).

Bob Dykstra emceed both halves of the show and John Hansen is still an active member of the chorus. Bob Spong was in the audience, along with another Hut Four member, **Ken Denzer**.

Our Past President, **Mark Ortenburger**, who always seems to be coming up with terrific ideas for our chorus, came up with a great one tying a great cause in with our show. With The Hut's approval and encouragement, he worked through our music licensing guru, **Dan Smith**, and they put together a CD of 17 Hut Four songs from throughout their time together. We are selling the CDs for \$20 with ALL the proceeds after our costs (which we have already met) going to the Harmony Foundation!



To order YOUR copy of the new **Hut Four** CD (proceeds go to Harmony Foundation) email Mark at markortenburger@gmail.com. He will process your order.



Society History Books Now Online – FREE

Thanks to Society web wiz **Eddie Holt**, we now have all three books detailing the rich history of the Barbershop Harmony Society digitized and online.

10th Anniversary

Keep America Singing

By Deac (C.T.) Martin

Released December 1948

25th Anniversary

Melodies for Millions

By Will Cook

Released December 1965

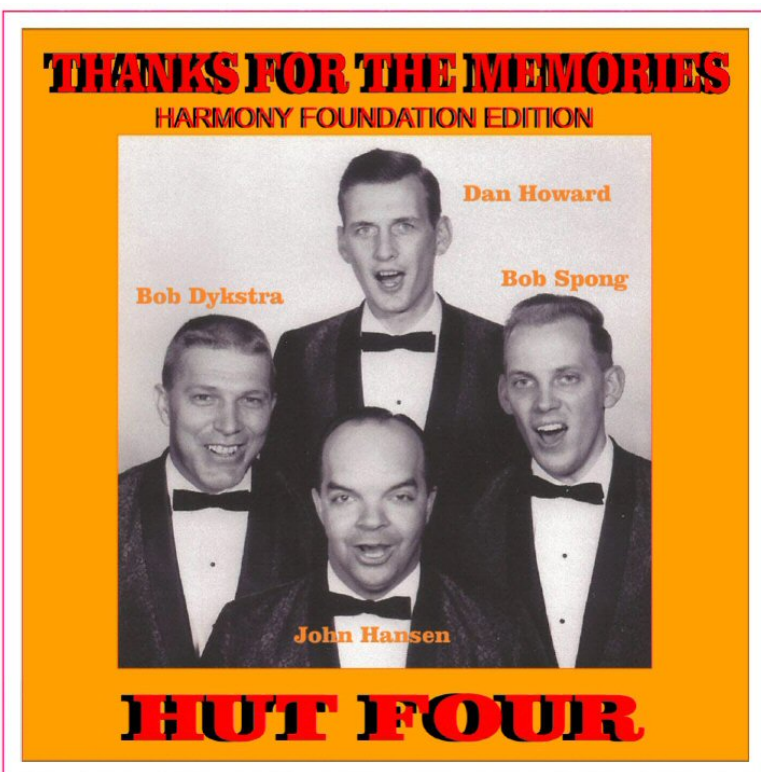
50th Anniversary

Heritage of Harmony

Edited by Val Hicks

Released 1988

All three can be found on the Society's website under the History section



Mid-States Four Families Get HOF Plaques

by **Bob Sutton** – Society Historical Archives Committee



It is the nature of volunteer organizations that some tasks get rushed, and others sit for a while. So when the Society awarded the honor of membership in the Hall of Fame to our 1949 International Quartet champs, the **Mid-States Four**, the plaques for the two deceased members stayed behind in Nashville awaiting an effort to get them delivered to the **Mack (Rodriguez)** and **Gracey** families.

However, the Hall of Fame plaques for the other two members sat until they could be attended to. Our thanks to **Paul Wietlisbach** for noticing them at HQ.

It fell ultimately to the Society Archives Committee to ensure that the plaques for bass **Art Gracey** and tenor **Bob Mack**, who had both passed away long since, were safely delivered into the hands of living relatives. Committee member Bob Sutton was assigned to find relatives, which was a fairly straightforward activity -- Art Gracey's family still exists in good numbers in the Chicago area, and Bob Mack's son Bob Rodriguez is a barbershopper in the Loudoun County, Virginia chapter, about 20 miles from Sutton's home.

Bob Rodriguez got a phone call from Bob Sutton shortly thereafter, letting him know the Mid-States Four Hall of Fame plaque for his father was on its way, and to see if

Rodriguez would like to have a public presentation. First, though, Rodriguez expressed his gratitude for being the chosen recipient of the plaque. His sister is a barbershopper who sings with the Village Vocal Chords of Harmony, Inc. in the Chicago area, and would also have been a worthy recipient."



Bob Rodriguez (left), son of Mid-States Four tenor **Bob Mack**, is presented the Society Hall of Fame plaque by **Bob Sutton** of the Society Archives Committee.

The Committee set up a time at a Loudoun County chapter guest night, and the plaque was delivered to its rightful owner. **Bob Rodriguez**, a long-time barbershopper and proud quartetter -- and proud quartet champion's son -- was a gracious and grateful recipient, as his smile shows.



Don and Wayne Mendro proudly show off their Dad's TWO Hall of Fame plaques



Mrs. Pat Gracey Debish, standing near her favorite picture, is very happy to get Art's HOF plaque

Same As It Ever Was

by **Deke Sharon** - Producer of **The Sing Off**



A cappella television show, a cappella movie, a cappella books, a l b u m s , YouTube ... we're officially

an industry. A small one, but with many people making a full-time career performing and/or creating behind the scenes. Amazing.

I can't help but try to put this in some perspective, although perhaps it's all too early.

I'm reminded of something my grandmother told me about my great grandfather **Clarence Shearin** (traditional spelling): "...and he sang lead in a barbershop quartet."

This is a guy who at age five opened the Oregon Trail with his family, legs dangling out of the back of a covered wagon, taking a trip that at that age likely seemed not at all unusual. I'm not sure why, but they took a left at the end of the road and headed down into Northern California, triggering generations of "go bears" instead of "go ducks."

His family homesteaded, happily, but he wanted nothing to do with the farming/ranching life so he went to Cal, got an

Sharon formed the well known a cappella group **The House Jacks**



accounting degree, and headed back up to the Redding/Chico area as a land/tax surveyor.

He had two daughters, one my grandmother, one my great aunt and godmother, named for the legendary Australian operatic soprano **Nellie Melba**, whom he had an opportunity to see once. So, he clearly loved vocal music.

And that's all I know.

What would he think about all this attention given to a cappella? The fact that it's a career choice now? Perhaps it wouldn't have been that surprising to him, since he was doing the same thing.

Wait: did I just equate barbershop with contemporary a cappella? Yup. Let's take a trip back in time, over a hundred years ago, before SPEBSQSA, and tell me what you'd call the following style of music:

Guys get together socially, and jam. One guy would start by singing the melody and others would improvise harmony parts around him. No sheet music, all by ear. They sing the popular songs of the day, sometimes for others, but often just themselves for fun. Sometimes they'd all sing the lyrics in four part harmony, sometimes they'd have a bass line under the melody and the background



voices would imitate a small combo (mini concert band or some such, where the bass equals the tuba, etc).

And this wasn't just a white guy thing. In fact, the tradition started in African American circles then made its way throughout American culture (like so much popular music has).

Come to think of it, this all sounds a lot like doo wop, with guys convening on a street corner (or in a stairwell, if they want a good "echo") singing songs they wrote, or songs they heard, sometimes all singing lyrics, sometimes replicating instrumental textures.

Wait -- am I basically saying that barbershop a hundred years ago and doo wop fifty years ago were the same as contemporary a cappella today? Yes, yes I am. *Exactly the same thing.*

Barbershop never became an industry and predated recording, and doo woppers who were signed to labels had producers add instruments to their vocal tracks so the music remains, just not in its original a cappella form. But it was all-vocal pop music. Lots of covers, some originals. Sound familiar?

In fact, you can trace this all the way back to the Renaissance. Secular madrigals. All the proclamations of love and repeated dying, dying, dying in your lover's arms with fountains spurting... might as well be an **Usher** track.



Popular music nowadays relies heavily on rhythm, so we use vocal percussion. We have readily available sheet music, and electronic pitch pipes, and Melodyne, but in the end

those are just tools. The music is the music. People singing pop music. Same as it ever was.

So what would Clarence think? He'd probably quit his job and start touring. Why not? He'd crossed the country once. (maybe that's why I have a travel bug?)

By the way, I don't think they called it barbershop music back then. Or doo wop. We're calling our music contemporary a cappella now, but considering how incredibly stupid the names "*barbershop*" and "*doo wop*" are, I'll bet it'll have some horrid name like "*boots and cats*."

And perhaps a century from now, our kids will be telling their grandkids that we made a career "bootzncatzng."

I apologize in advance.
Deke



Barbershoppers will recall **Maxx Factor** from Baltimore, Maryland (Sweet Adelines' 2011 Champs) appearing on Season #1 of NBC's *The Sing Off*.

They did very well, giving outstanding positive exposure of barbershop harmony to a new audience.

An Online Chat with Deke

by Grady Kerr - Society Historian



I was able to meet **Deke Sharon** online through FaceBook (*gotta love social media*). We chatted about his article, he gave me permission to use it here and I learned more about his love of barbershop music. Here's part of our conversation.

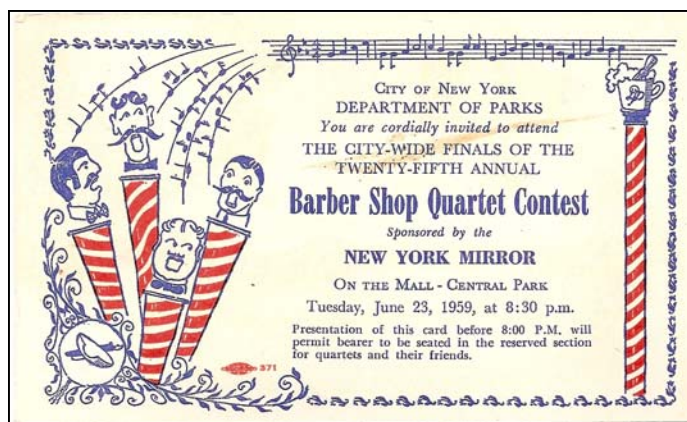
Deke: Last year I was in Nashville, unexpectedly, and loved visiting the BHS headquarters. I plan to come back next time I'm in town.

GK: Any chance of having another barbershop quartet on the show?

Deke: I'm still ... [*urinary expletive*] ... I couldn't convince the other powers that be to have a BBshop group on the Sing Off... but I'm not giving up!

GK: We appreciate your support.

Deke: We're all in this together! You can quote me on that!



Pre-Society Quartet Contests?

Yes, Virginia, there WAS a barber shop quartet contest before the Society began in 1938.

Proof is this handsome 1959 New York City Parks Department Quartet Contest Ticket showing the 25th annual contest. They began as early as 1935.

This info was generously sent to us by **Matthew Beals** (Baritone/Historian, Voices of Gotham).



History of the Pitch Pipe

(an Update)

by Grady Kerr

I'm constantly amazed at the response I get year in and year out on the piece I wrote on the **History Of The Kratt Pitch Pipe** in 2006. The original article is still available on my personal web site – www.GradyWilliamKerr.com

It also appeared in a past issue of PRESERVATION.

<http://www.barbershop.org/document-center/category/73-preservation-history.html?download=685%3Apreservation-vol.1-no.6-november-2010>

A recent inquiry came from a gentleman named **Tom Haggerty** of New Jersey. He was asking some questions as he was researching New Jersey businesses for his website covering the **Union Township Historical Society** - www.unionhistory.org

In the process he was kind enough to share some info with me. One interesting thing was a short video of a booth at an expo to celebrate Union's 140th anniversary in 1948.



Also interesting was an unearthed video clip featuring **Mr. McFeely** from **Mr. Rogers Neighborhood** at the WM Kratt Factory.

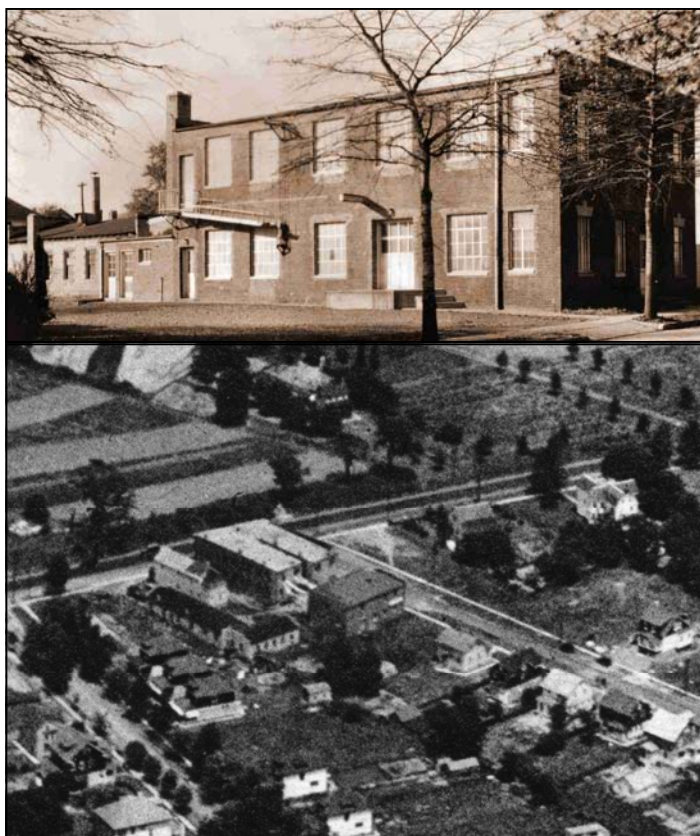
This is an early version of "How It's Made" and demonstrates how they made harmonicas on Johnson Place.

Click Here to See This Rare Footage

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Wmrz8BM-4M&feature=share>

Visit Union Township Historical Society's website

www.unionhistory.org



Here's a new image from the original building taken around 1923. The original Kratt plant still stands today and has been converted into luxury condos.



You DID know that the Kratt Brothers (of PBS) are the grandsons of the inventor of the pitch pipe?



Vintage Eagle Magazine Features Barbershop Quartets

Claudia Boudreau of Nashua, New Hampshire donated this July 1947 Eagle Magazine recently. Inside there's an article, "When Eagles Sing Sweet Adeline" written by **John Council**.

Claudia tells us; "The article is really interesting and very well written. It could have been written by many of us today."

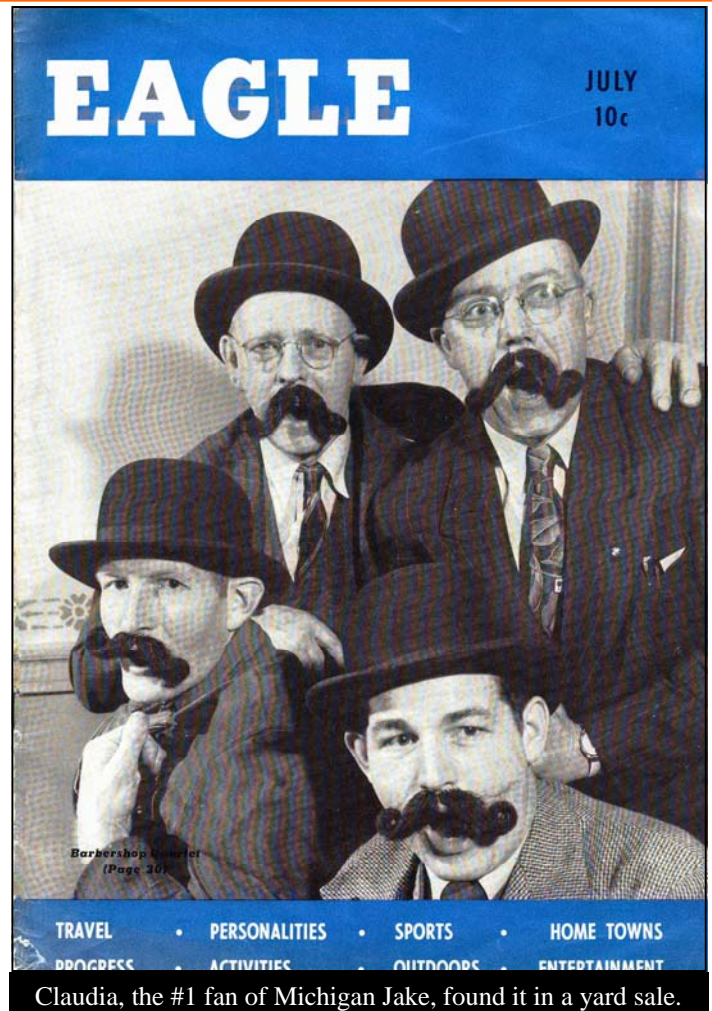
The Eagle Magazine is the official monthly publication of the Fraternal Order of Eagles (**Bob Hansen** – Editor). It began in 1913 and only stopped being published two years ago. While the magazine is no longer being published, the organization thrives.



The Fraternal Order of Eagles (headquartered in Grove City, Ohio) is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of

liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope.

They are credited as the ones who - led by **Frank Haring** - started Mother's Day (Haring is known as the FATHER of Mother's Day). In addition they served as a driving force in founding the Social Security Program, helped end job discrimination based on age with the "Jobs After 40" Program and distributed Ten Commandments monoliths and fought to keep the Commandments in public places.



Some well-known men have been members including seven American Presidents (both **Roosevelts, Harding, Truman, Kennedy, Carter and Reagan**) and many other famous known Patriots.

F.O.E. donates more than \$100 million a year to local communities, fundraisers, charities and more. As part of its philosophy, the F.O.E. gives back 100 percent of monies raised in the form of grants.



Barbershop History Quiz

by **Mark Axelrod** – Teaneck, New Jersey Chapter Historian

We are pleased to start a new feature for PRESERVATION. These informative quizzes are stolen .. er ... borrowed with permission ... er .. “preserved” from a long running series produced by **Mark Axelrod**, editor of the Blue Chip Chatter, The Teaneck, NJ chapter bulletin. Mark has been including these in his bulletin since the August, 2001. Our thanks to Mark for these well researched tidbits of history. Answers are found elsewhere in this issue. *Enjoy and Good luck*

#1 Where does the term barbershop harmony come from?

#2 From what non-society event did the Society get the idea of the format for our own competitions?

#3 One of the most dearly beloved barbershop ballads of all time is “*Last Night Was The End Of The World*”. “*I Want A Girl Just Like The Girl Who Married Dear Old Dad*”, and “*Wait 'Till The Sun Shines Nellie*” were also written by the same composer. Name him.

#4 Prizes, sometimes including cash, were awarded to top competing quartets in the early days of the international competition. What prize did our first champs, the Bartlesville Barflies, win? For extra credit, what was the prize given to the fourth place and lower quartets in that 1939 contest?

#5 The Barbershop Harmony Society magazine was not always called the *Harmonizer*. Identify the name of its predecessor and the years in which it was published.

#6 The lead of the Peerless Quartet, which was active from 1906 until 1928, is very probably the most recorded singer in world history, having twelve thousand (!) recorded songs to his credit. As a benchmark, Bing Crosby recorded 1/10th that number. Name this extremely famous turn-of-the-20th-century barbershopper.

Disclaimer - The author of the barbershop history quizzes, Mark Axelrod, of the Teaneck, NJ Chapter, makes every effort to ensure that the information in his quizzes is correct and accurate. If, however, any reader feels that Mark is incorrect, he requests that you contact him directly at

mark@benchmarkrsi.com



Answers On Page 26

Vocal Group Hall of Fame

Stayin' Alive – Needs Support

The **Vocal Group Hall of Fame** is “*stayin' alive*” and optimistically looking to the future.

This unique tribute to historic singing groups opened with great fan fare in 1997. After many years collecting historic memorabilia, promoting a place to highlight and honor these groups they found a home in Sharon, Pennsylvania. The plan was, and still is, to have a museum and conduct tours for the many tourists that come through on I-80 (NY to Chicago) and even add annexes around the country similar to the **House of Blues** chain with a restaurant and museum with vocal group memorabilia, and where inductees support the site with appearances and performances.

The VGHF is a 501(c)3 non-profit Foundation which celebrated its 10th anniversary a few years ago. The Vocal Group Hall of Fame Foundation has to date inducted over 140 iconic groups and performers. The Foundation proudly recognizes not just the “front man” of the vocal group, but the too-often-overlooked additional members.

Several members are favorites of barbershop singers such as **The Four Freshmen**, **The Hi-Lo's**, **The Chordettes** and **The Mills Brothers**.

The
**VOCAL
GROUP**
HALL OF FAME
FOUNDATION
www.VocalGroup.org



Inductees are voted in annually. The Hall of Fame stages an historic show to present and honor the inductees every few years, which is recorded for archive and distribution purposes. Each gathering is a who's who of our favorite singers we love and / go ahead / admit it / who we want to be just like.

The Vocal Group Hall of Fame Foundation has fallen on tough times. Unfortunately, as is true with so many non-profits caught up in the downturn of the economy, critical financial support is still needed. They wait for promised grants from the State of Pennsylvania which are still expected someday.

Until then the VGHF is deprived of progress physically and financially, but very much alive in spirit and moral support.

Their buildings in Sharon once held the vast collection of memorabilia and some fantastic exhibits. Their one-of-a-kind collection of 1000+ artifacts and priceless memorabilia is well kept and presently in storage, ready to be displayed at a new location at the Sharon Museum once it opens again.

The Museum once held tours and hosted thousands of visitors - up to 500 a day - they will again.



They have relocated to a new location in Sharon next to the historical **Columbia Theatre** that the Foundation purchased in 2002. State funding was committed for renovations on the basis that the Foundation own its own bricks and mortar. They are currently awaiting renovation funding and support and are also actively raising funds.

With such genres in the VGHF as Rock, Doo-Wop, R & B, Blues, Gospel, Country, Folk, Big Band, Jazz and Pop, their plans for the museum also included Barbershop. They have a full set of BHS champion quartet photos to display and the full support of the Society Historical Archives Committee to help when they get back up to full speed.

The main person behind this grand endeavor is Chairman and Founder **Tony Butala**. You will recognize Tony as the front man of **The Lettermen**, popular for *The Way You Look Tonight* (1961), *When I Fall in Love* (1962), *Goin' Out of My Head / Can't Take My Eyes Off You* (1967) and *Put Your Head on My Shoulder* (1968) and, with the great tag, *Shangri-La* (1969).



Tony Butala

The Lettermen, in their 53rd year, are still filling halls and doing over 40 performances this year.

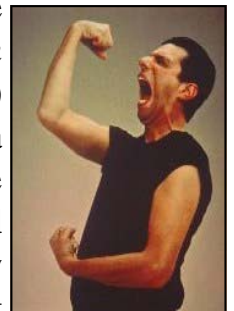


Vocal Group Hall Of Fame Inductees 2008

And President /CEO **Bob Crosby**, Concert / TV Producer, began his 35-year career at Dick Clark Productions and has been with the Hall of Fame for over 10 years as has the Operations & Museum Director **Tracy Rogers**.

The skill and passion they have kept this dream alive for the Greatest Vocal Groups of the World that own, operate and govern their foundation and clubhouse.

The Inductees are most proud of their accomplishment as the sponsors of “*The Truth In Music*” bill. **Jon (“Bowzer”) Bauman**, formerly of **Sha Na Na**, is Chairman of the Committee that established The Truth In Music Bill as law in 34 states. It is a law that protects the artist from identity theft and the public from being misled to believe they are seeing the legendary artist when in fact being defrauded by impostor groups.



Tony, the founder of the Lettermen, has managed to keep them relevant for over 50 years.

That same skill and passion lives in his work on the VGHF. This is their dream and the dream is shared by many.

VGHF Barbershop Connections

Tony's Dad, **John G. Butala**, was a barbershopper in the Johnny Appleseed District and his brother **Bill** is still a barbershopper in Ventura, California.

Tony speaks highly of barbershop harmony music and barber shoppers, *"As a little boy I remember hearing my dad John rehearse with his quartet at our house and one of the most poignant memories I have, is the feeling of camaraderie and love that the members of his group had with one another as they sang together."*

The other members of the Lettermen are **Donovan Tea** (with them 28 years) and newer member **Bobby Poynton** who has been with the group for several years.

Donovan's younger brother **Matt** once sang with the **Vocal Majority**.

You'll find on the list of inductees several Pre-Society quartets - the **Peerless Quartet**, **Haydn Quartet** and **American Quartet** - that sang what we are preserving today.

So, Tony is a huge fan of barbershop and would never have considered the VGHF without including our genre in the museum. Tony went to great lengths to research and gather barbershop history and include it in the Barber Shop HOF Museum with the help of past president and Executive Director, **Darryl Flinn**.



Also deeply involved in the VGHF is President/CEO Bob Crosby, a cousin to **Bob Crosby** of **The Bob Cats**, Bing's Brother.

Bob and Tracy have dedicated their lives the last 10 years building and growing the Hall of Fame and holding the foundation together.

They were instrumental in producing all of the larger induction events since 2002. And they have been the anchors of the Hall of Fame's activity.

Presently they are preparing the ballots for the 2010, 2011 and 2012 inductees and will soon announce the new members for 2008 and 2009.

Their website has LOTS of great information including photos, music and videos of past inductions and information on all Hall of Fame inducted members.

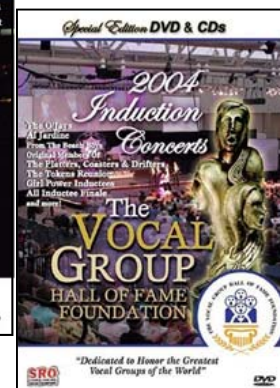
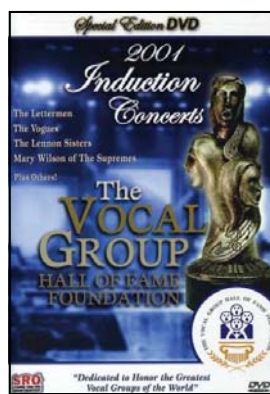
You can show your support by downloading songs and recordings on iTunes, Amazon and most digital music outlets.

Visit the on-line gift shop at their website, www.VocalGroup.org, or call the Hall. Become a member or support it by purchasing CDs and DVDs of the induction concerts – totally worth the price. Seeing them all again on stage is heartwarming and the videos are DONE RIGHT.

Visit the VGHF and order their CDs & DVDs

www.vocalgroup.org

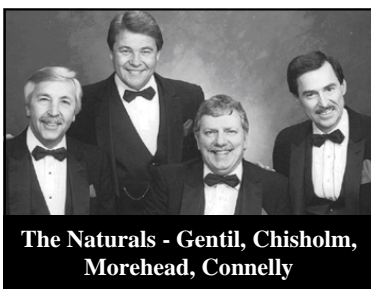
(724) 983-2025



Remembering Jim Gentil

By Bob Sutton

It was the early 1990s, and **The Naturals**, a defending medalist quartet, was competing once again, singing “*Oh What a Pal Was Mary*” in the International quartet contest.



Randy Chisholm, the lead who would ultimately win gold with **Marquis**, was bringing the song passionately

through to the tag, “... *that wonderful Mary*”, when the bass delivered the solo pickup “... *of mine*”. The bass’s facial expression was a classic barbershopper’s combination of two rather unrelated emotions – the touching, poignant recollection of the lost girl of the story, and the fact that the notes “*of mine*” were a low bass D-natural returning to G-natural, and that the singer could deliver those notes effortlessly – and made sure we knew it.



The bass was **James Franklin Gentil**, and the barbershopping community – and the Cincinnati barbershopping community in particular – lost a treasure when Jim succumbed to lung cancer on January 2nd.

We mourn his passing as a singer and an entertainer and friend, and recognize one of the great careers in quartetting. His many years with the **Roaring ‘20s**, especially, will be remembered for the entertainment and good singing that group brought, to the show circuit and the contest world alike. No quartet singer in Society history earned more top-five medals than Jim Gentil. (**Joe**



New Harmony Four 1969 - Gene Courts, baritone, Jim Gentil, bass, Mike Connelly, lead, Don Jennings, tenor

Connelly, whose dad **Mike** sang baritone next to Jim for many of them, now shares the title).

Jim’s eleven medals were all bronze, were all earned singing bass, and spanned three decades on stage.

Jim Gentil joined the Society in 1968, as bass of **The New Harmony Four** quartet. Although new to the Society, he had a fine barbershop heritage – his brother **Tom Gentil** was the director of the **Cincinnati Southern Gateway Chorus**, and would guide them to an International Chorus Championship in 1973 in Portland. And his cousin, **Don Cahall**, also sang a pretty good bass – yes, “*that*” Don Cahall, the bass of the 1952 International Champion **Four Teens**.

Mike Connelly was nearly a constant at Jim’s side, singing baritone. “*I started singing*



with Jim in 1969 as lead of the New Harmony 4,” Mike told Preservation. “In October of that year we won the Johnny Appleseed District Championship. We sang in two International Quartet Contests (1970 and 1971), after which Jim joined the Roaring ‘20s quartet in 1971. They won their first medal in San Francisco in 1976 with Ron Riegler on bari.” Jim eventually would win seven medals with the ‘20s, the last five with Mike singing bari. “In 1988 Jim won the JAD championship with The Naturals and garnered four more medals with them. His long held record of 11 medals still hasn’t been exceeded. In 1993 the Roaring ‘20s reformed and continued entertaining audiences



far and wide until Jim became too ill to continue.”

Like his brother, Jim also had experience directing. Jim’s directorial credits go back to his fraternity chorus (Phi Delta Theta, coincidentally the same as the author) at the University of Cincinnati, where he led them to the intramural championship. He also led the Southern Gateway Chorus in JAD competition.



An avid golfer as well, Jim was often able to arrange golf outings with fellow barbershoppers when travelling to perform on chapter shows. In “real life”, he was an astute businessman, the owner-operator of an industrial hard-chrome plating business in Cincinnati. Jim was a dedicated family man, a devoted husband and a true friend to his quartet pals.

Bob Moorehead sang in the Roaring ‘20s for a time, won four medals in The Naturals with Jim, and has been a long-time judge in the Singing category. Bob attended the memorial service for Jim. “There were several speakers at Jim’s service,” he explained, “with stories depicting various memorable moments and events, many of them humorous – but all of them showed the great character of our friend Jim”.

“My experiences with Jim as a fellow quartet singer were many, of course, but a few stick as remarkable. One would be Jim’s being ‘the tuning hawk’ of the Roaring 20’s. He always wanted to be the pitch blower - in rehearsal and on stage - even though it sometimes presented a slight bump in the flow of the act. When he was Mike’s straight man, or had to react a certain way to something funny Mike was doing and then blow the pitch for the next song, there would be a white space getting into the next song in the act. This was not a big deal, as our audiences seemed to forgive this, if they even noticed, plus Jim handled the pipe as subtly as possible. In rehearsal too, he always blew the pitch for the song and always checked the pitch at the end of the song, to check our tuning. It was rarely off, so we just let it be a quirk of his – and it gave the other three of us something else to razz him about.”

“One of the more famous stories about Jim,” Bob adds, “involved a contest at a venue where a circus had been the prior tenant. There was a fly that didn’t get the message that the elephants had moved on. In the middle of one of the ‘20s songs, a fly buzzed Jim and even landed on his face a few times. It was so apparent that the Judges gave the quartet a chance to sing the set again, which they did. I think the scores were basically the same for both sets! Could Jim focus? You better believe it! Mr. Showbiz!”

Gerry Kelly was the long-time lead of the Roaring ‘20s, and a long-time friend of Jim’s. “Jim was the last of a family with five siblings,” Gerry reminds us, “including brother Tom. They were born in a modest blue collar working class area of Cincinnati called Camp Washington. I imagine a family of eight had some stressful times during the



Bob Moorehead, Gerry Kelly, Jim Gentil, Mike Connelly

depression. When Jim would drive up with a new Jaguar or Lincoln I’d kid him and say ‘Not bad for a guy who grew up in Camp Washington.’ He’d always give me a big grin.

“Jim was President and owner of the Porter-Guertin Co., an industrial hard chrome plating business”, Gerry mentioned. “His two sons were employed there with him along with several other men, one of the small businesses that we hear talked about so much in political campaigns. This just happens to be located in that Camp Washington/Mohawk area not far from where Jim was reared.

“A couple years ago the ‘20s did a concert version of Music Man for two nights at the Schuster Center in Dayton, with the Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra. Then in 2009 we did seven performances of Music Man with the Cincinnati Music Theatre at the Aronoff Arts Center. We had multiple parts besides being the school board/quartet. The director said he thought a group like the ‘20s who had been entertaining all those years could dance. NOT!!!! Jim played the train conductor and had the opening line in the play. Now, I’m a pretty good lead but Jim was mostly responsible for keeping us on key. In all of those performances of Lida Rose, we were right on pitch when the orchestra came back in. Give Jim credit for that!

“After Ron Riegler died, Jim and I became road roomies, I think because we were both smokers. I quit in 2002 but Jim continued. I wasn’t bothered by his smoking, but I wish he had quit. He had a hard time giving it up. Jim’s wife Kathy is a dynamo with more energy than the bunny. She has a great love for animals, and Jim indulged her through ownership of horses, Maltese dogs, birds (including exotic parrots) and a kennel full of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, one of every spot, shade and color. Kathy is a judge and board member of the CKCS Association, which requires some travel, so poor Jim would be the responsible one for the dogs when Kathy was out of town. They also fed corn to the wild deer; I’ve been told they’d eat right out of your hand. A couple years ago, they put up a greenhouse so she could raise her own plants and flowers. She just never stops.

“On Thursday the 22nd of December, I saw Jim in the hospital for the last time. When we said ‘goodbye’, we each said ‘I love you’. My heart aches and I miss him terribly.”

Author’s note: I joined the Society in 1983 in Virginia, just after the Roaring ‘20s made their last International appearance. Immersing myself in contest recordings to learn the style, I truly enjoyed the quartet’s joyful presentation coming through even in an audio recording. It was very disappointing that their retirement kept me from ever seeing them in contest. When The Naturals competed for the first time in 1988 I was delighted that Jim and Mike were back on stage and I could see them live for the first time, bringing such a comfortable presence to their performance. Focusing on them as I did, I developed a real appreciation for the warmth and depth of sound that Jim brought to the quartet.



So it was with real enjoyment that I sat back in my seat at contest twenty years back, and listened to Jim lay that low D-natural on an appreciative audience, with a smile that said that God had given him that note, and he was going to give it right back to us. We will sure miss him. As we say in the fraternity whose membership Jim and I shared, “in coelo quies est” – in Heaven there is rest. But the next time there’s a rumble in the sky, it might just be Jim Gentil warming up.

Jim passed away January 2, 2012.
He was 76.



Will YOU Be There?

Barflies Gold Donated

by Grady Kerr - Society Historian



On February 10, 2012 I had the pleasure of meeting **Rob Richardson**. He's the youngest son of **Marilyn (Broaddus) Richardson Rose**. Marilyn's aunt **Mildred (St. Clair)**

Kaiser was married to **Herman Kaiser**, the baritone of the **Bartlesville Barflies**, from 1921 until his death on February 23, 1965.

Marilyn passed away on November 2, 2010 at the age of 79. Rob was going through her things and unexpectedly found several historical items. He was kind enough to contact us.

Rob tells us: "After Marilyn's father died unexpectedly in 1939 when she was only 8 years old, her mother **Beatrice (St. Clair) Broaddus**, who was Mildred's sister, had to take over the family's stationery store business in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, as well as raise Marilyn's older sister **Clarice**. So Herman and Mildred (who never had any children of their own) moved in with Beatrice to help to raise Marilyn."

"Even though everyone in the family called Herman 'Unc', Marilyn always considered him to be her second father. So much so, he walked her down the aisle when she was married on April 9, 1955."

Marilyn was very interested in Herman's barbershop involvement and the history that goes along with it, and Rob remembers Marilyn's stories about listening to them



Herman Kaiser's 1939 and 1942 medals (front and back) with the original ribbons



the 1939 medal and was in the original box with markings from the old rubber band that held it closed for all these years



practice their routines in the house while her sister played the piano, and going to their local competitions at the American Legion.

From the documents that Rob found, Herman Eli Kaiser was born on April 6, 1899 in Sweet Springs, Missouri. He was the only child of **John James Kaiser** and **Eliza Ellen (Smith) Kaiser**.

Herman was only sixteen months old when his mother died in 1900. He attended high school for four years in Sweet Springs, then sometime after that left Missouri and moved to Bartlesville, OK. He married Mildred on Oct 6, 1921, and worked for Phillips Petroleum Company from 1922 until his retirement in 1964 as a senior purchasing manager.

The Barflies were our very first quartet champions winning in 1939. That makes this find rare, indeed. Rob found some family documents: Herman's birth certificate, marriage certificate, funeral announcement and the Society's **Keep America Singing** book, and other pictures of Kaiser.

Most interesting was the discovery of two of his four medals ... His gold medal from 1939 and his 1942 3rd place bronze medal.

The Barflies and Kaiser actually competed several times. After winning during our first contest/convention in Tulsa in 1939, the Barflies came back in 1940 in New York City where they placed 2nd. With sponsorship of the Phillips Oil Company they changed their name to the **Phillips 66 Barflies**. In 1941 in St. Louis they came in third and again 3rd in 1942 (Grand Rapids, Michigan).

As you can see, Herman and the other members of the Barflies continued to compete after the win in '39. The "*Once a Champ, Always a Champ*" rule wasn't adopted until later. That rule stating that no more than two members of a champion foursome could compete together again.

Our thanks to Rob and his family for "preserving" the memory of his grand-uncle. We'll display this medal proudly.

Barflies Competition History

Year	Place	Quartet	Tenor	Lead	Bari	Bass
1939	1	Bartlesville Barflies	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bob Durand	Herman Kaiser
1940	2	Bartlesville Barflies	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bob Durand	Herman Kaiser
1941	3	Phillips 66 Barflies	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bob Durand	Herman Kaiser
1942	3	Phillips 66 Barflies	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bob Durand	Herman Kaiser
1943	3	Mainstreeters	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bill Palmer	Fred Graves
1944	14	Mainstreeters	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bill Palmer	Fred Graves
1945	8	Flying L Ranch Quartet	George McCaslin	Harry Hall	Bill Palmer	Fred Graves

Gaynotes Lead Gone, But Not Forgotten

RIP Howard Rinkel

Howard Leslie Rinkel was the unassuming lead singer of the 1958 International champion **Gaynotes**. Although humble, he was a remarkable vocalist and known for his pitch accuracy and was the key to the quartet's full, versatile sound.

The Gaynotes competed in the 1958 International convention held in Columbus, Ohio. To save money they **DROVE** the 967 miles from Tulsa, Oklahoma to the contest. They were well prepared. For a full four months prior to the 1958 contest they rehearsed almost every night.



They won that weekend making the long trip worthwhile. Lead Howard Rinkel was in his prime at the age of 31.

They were one of the most active and musically versatile quartets to win. Not rain, nor sleet, nor snow could keep them from performing. In the quartet's entire 12-year history they only missed **ONE** of their 1500 shows, and that was due to an illness.



Rinkel often took his family along. Whenever the quartet sang, "*I Don't Know Why I Love You Like I Do*," Rinkel would find his wife, **Jane**, in the audience and sing it directly to her. It was **their** song. They were married 57 years.

They also were one of the first Society quartets to self-produce several LPs. They retired in 1966 after 12 very active years.

Howard served in the **United States Navy** in WWII and Korea as a medical corpsman. He graduated from the **University of Tulsa** with a Masters Degree in Industrial Psychology and became a successful Tulsa businessman.

He was the owner of his own personnel agency, Business Employment Service.

He had a **VERY** positive attitude, a great sense of humor and good timing. He could



always make the audience laugh.

Howard died from complications of emphysema and lymphoma, the latter diagnosed only recently. Due to the chemotherapy he became very weak and went quickly.

He died Friday January 27, 2012 at the age of 84 at Tulsa's **Saint Francis Hospital**. He was surrounded by his family.

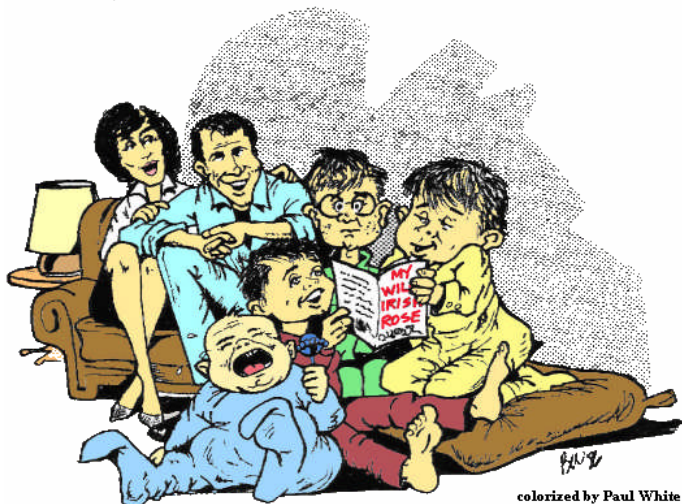
His daughter, **Becky**, tells us that he was a hard worker, a great dad, husband and always supportive.

They have four children (two sons and two daughters), 15 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

His services were held January 31st at Trinity United Methodist in Tulsa, OK. Several barbershoppers attended and **The Tulsa Tradition** sang in his honor. They sang *In the Garden* and *I Will Pass This Way But Once*.

We lost bass **Mo Rector** in 2003 and baritone **John Loots** in 1990.

Tenor **Harold Jones** is retired and living in Tulsa and recently celebrated his 86th birthday



colorized by Paul White

We Got Mail

I just finished reading the PRESERVATION issue with the Buffalo Bills.

We spent much time with them over the years. We learned one of their songs and would perform it together at After-Glows. With **Dick Grapes** and I singing baritone, we especially were good friends.

I enjoyed reading the article immensely thru wonderful memories and a little teary-eyed. I had to get out the article you did about us and I thank you for this happy and emotional morning I had.

All the very best to you
Carol Buschmann
 (Baritone -**The Chordettes**)

After a few hours, I've finally managed to read through most of your most recent PRESERVATION Magazine. What a thrill to feel as though I'm almost 'there'! It reminds me of a TV program from years ago titled "*You Are There*". Thanks for your tenacious efforts in digging up this valuable chapter in our hobby's history! Keep up the great work,
 Bass-ically in Harmony,
Don Doss – Cream City Crooners
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin chapter

Love the PRESERVATION magazine! In the latest issue you have a photo labeled **Curley Hall** 1950. I believe that's his brother **Gordon Hall** also from the **Harmony Halls**.

Michael Baribeau – Webmaster
www.GreatLakesChorus.org

Editor's note - Yes, thanks for the correction



American Harmony Gets a New Audience

The 2009 documentary **American Harmony** has recently started airing on the Documentary Channel. It has run several times and will continue to air, much to the delight of the Society membership and the film producers.



Aengus James

American Harmony is a rare view behind barbershop competitions and expertly done by **This is Just a Test Productions** and Director **Aengus James** and Executive Producer, **Allan Webb Jr.**

The documentary follows **Max Q, Vocal Spectrum, Reveille**, and others throughout three years of our International conventions and competitions. This film took thousands of hours and several years to complete.

Since its first theatrical release in the spring of 2009, the distributors were able to get the film into about 30 markets around the country, where local chapters were able to support the film by attending a traditional screening. That's actually pretty big number for an independent documentary.

There were several highlights from those events. The producers got reports of choruses getting to sing before and after the film, reports of several crowds jumping to their feet and even stories from the special **Tony De Rosa** surprise birthday party thrown by his wife, **Jodi**.

Aengus tells us; *"It's always a pleasure to experience the passion that others have for*

something. Barbershop Harmony, to me, represents a coming together of people to produce something greater than themselves. It's not about one star, one hero, or left versus right. It's about unity, but more than that, it's about making true harmony. Having witnessed that was a privilege and that stays with me.

*For us as filmmakers, winning the **San Diego Film Festival** and getting such a glowing review in **Variety** (which is the entertainment industry's most revered publication) were two obvious highlights."*

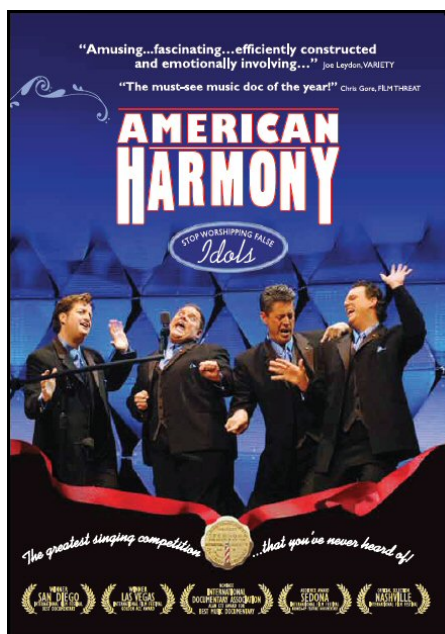
"The film continues to receive great reviews and reactions from those who watch it. I'm thrilled with the exposure that both the film and the Society have gotten from this movie. The exposure and raves for the film have been really encouraging."

It can now reach about 25 million homes, thanks to air time on the Documentary

Channel *"We are excited to see it finally making it to television. It's a long slow process filmmaking, but we are grateful for all of the little successes along the way for **American Harmony**."*

"This film will always be our first love. We are incredibly proud of it. In fact, I hadn't seen it in almost two years.

I recently saw it in a way that I had never seen it before, as an audience member (or as much of one as I could be having made the film). I laughed and I cried. I loved it."



American Harmony

(continued from page 31)

Many others are now seeing it for the very first time. Sales of the DVD have certainly increased since its release on TV.

Executive Producer **Allan Webb** reports, *“On the financial front, we have not broken even yet. If the core barbershop membership (both male and female) supported the film by buying the DVD or by hosting a public four wall screening, it would go a long way towards paying back the investors (the biggest one being the BHS itself). The biggest opportunity for the film to impact the most people is if a significant percentage of BHS chapters execute on the four wall public screening plan.”*

You can also STILL host a local screening. See their website where you can find the four-wall screening plan by clicking the “Host a screening” link.

If you don't have a copy yet you can **STILL** order the DVD (now with extra bonuses) via www.americanharmonythemovie.com
Only \$20.

They're PERFECT for show door prizes!

Follow them on FaceBook

www.facebook.com/americanharmony

The producers are now working on projects for the History Channel, Discovery Channel, and Sundance Channel.

We thank them for treating the Society and our hobby with such passion and respect and we wish them continued successes in the future.

More Mail

I thoroughly enjoyed your article on Brothers in Harmony in the November 2011 special issue of Preservation magazine. I wanted to comment that I think you missed mentioning a **third** Merrill brother in barbershop.

You may have to do some research to verify this, but in addition to Charles and Arthur Merrill, there was a brother, **William Merrill**, who was a founding member of the Aloha Chapter in Honolulu which was chartered in 1947 while Charles was International president.

Bill Merrill served as the first president of the chapter. His architectural firm also designed the Blaisdell Concert Hall where for many years the Aloha chapter held its annual shows.

Aloha.

Dan Tom, Secretary
Aloha Chapter - Honolulu, HI

Editors Note - Yes, thanks for the correction

The Kaiser medal (mentioned on page 27) is the second 1939 gold medal now in the Society Archives. **Bob Durand's** family donated his gold medal and it now hangs in the lobby of our Nashville headquarters. Here's **Ed Watson** (former CEO) **Grady Kerr** - Society Historian and Archives Committee member, **Bob Davenport** on hand to ceremoniously hang the framed medal and Barflies photo. A THIRD '39 medal has been promised and should arrive any day now.



Barbershop History Quiz

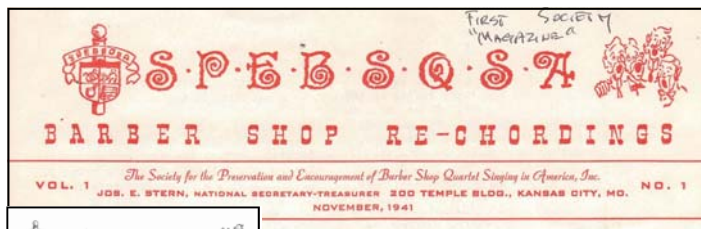
* ANSWERS *

From page 19



#1 Where does the term *Barber Shop Harmony* come from?

Barber shops, first in England, then America, were places of extemporaneous, amateur music making since Elizabethan times.

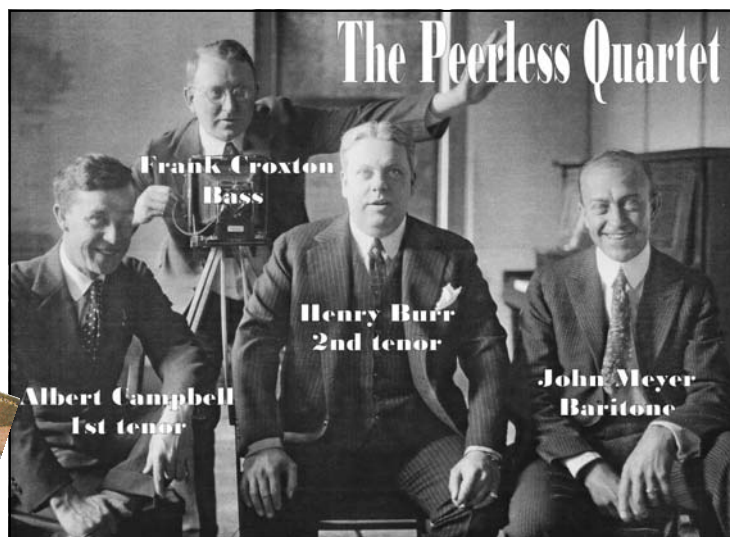


#5 Name of the predecessor to The Harmonizer.

Barber Shop Re-Chordings was the Society's first publication - published from 1941-1943.



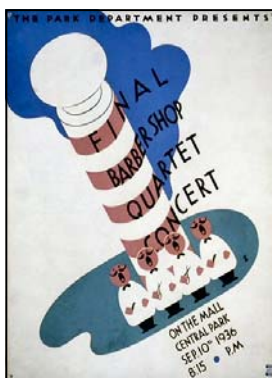
#6 Who was the lead of the Peerless Quartet?



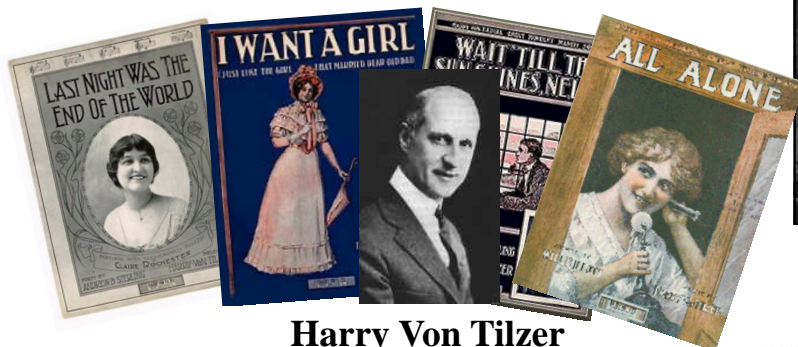
Henry Burr

#2 Where did we get the idea for our own competitions?

The NYC Parks Department Barbershop Quartet Contest, run by the dearly loved or hated, mostly hated, Parks Commissioner Robert Moses. This was an annual event from 1935 to 1960.



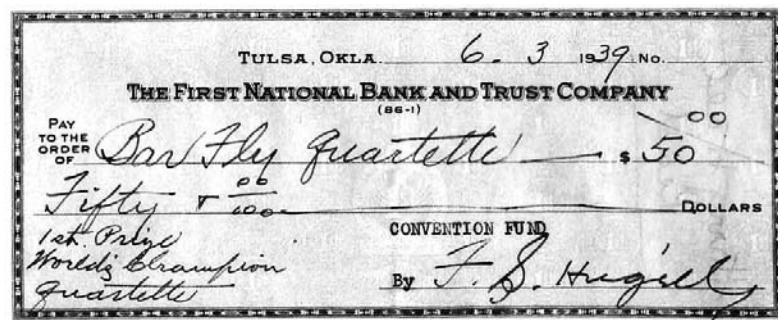
#3 Who wrote *Last Night Was The End Of The World - I Want A Girl* and *Nellie*?



Harry Von Tilzer

#4 What prize did our first champs win?

The Barflies were given a check for fifty bucks. Those quartets that came in fourth place or lower were each given boxes of throat lozenges.



Chapters Seek Historians

Does **YOUR** Chapter have a **Historian**?

We're pleased to see so many chapters identifying the importance of their past by appointing and supporting a chapter historian position. Each group has its own unique history and it should be preserved and promoted. Everyone agrees but the hard part is finding the right guy. Sometimes overlooked is the fact that this member doesn't necessarily need to be the "old guy." In many cases the chapter leadership just needs to **ASK!**

As an example, one such chapter put this announcement out to its membership:

"Your chapter president and the board are seeking an individual who would be interested in taking the role of Chapter Historian, working with the Society Historian, in compiling and updating the information about our long-lived, and unique history. If you are interested, contact any member of the Board of Directors, or drop a reply to this email."

There are now several documents for historians available on the Society website:

- A Manual for District and Chapter Historians
- How to be a Successful Historian
- Reunions 101

So, does YOUR chapter have a Historian? Ask your leadership if you're not sure. You might be surprised to find the guy just waiting to be asked. You might find it's a rewarding job which benefits the membership with little or no cost to the chapter.

Help Preserve Your Heritage

The Archives Committee Needs YOUR Support!

Our goal is to maintain and promote our Heritage. We do so by maintaining the largest collection of Society and Barbershop Harmony artifacts on the planet. Despite our best efforts the archives is still in the “storage stage”. Since the move from Harmony Hall in Kenosha, WI we’ve not been able to find enough Society money to get done what’s needed.

We dream of the day the vast collection is available to the membership for education and research. We have a plan in place and are working it as we can.

We have the full support of the HQ staff and the Society Board of Directors but funds are scarce. We can only succeed by generating donations from those interested in preserving our past.



Harmony Foundation has a special fund set up to earmark your donations for the Archives. We encourage you to give what you can. (No donation is too small.)

To direct your donation to the Archives you **MUST** point it to the

“Heritage Fund”

Go to the Harmony Foundation website www.harmonyfoundation.org
– on the top tool bar click on “*Ways To Give*” and then “*General Donations*”. Fill in the form and be sure to add, under notes ... **Heritage Fund**.

Phone: 615-823-5611 or 866-706-8021

Fax: 615-823-5612

Email: hf@harmonyfoundation.org

We appreciate all your support and plan to continue our work for a long time.