

PRESERVATION

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

Volume 4, No. 2

Nostalgia Ain't What It Used To Be

June 2013



50th Anniversary Champs Town and Country Four

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



PRESERVATION

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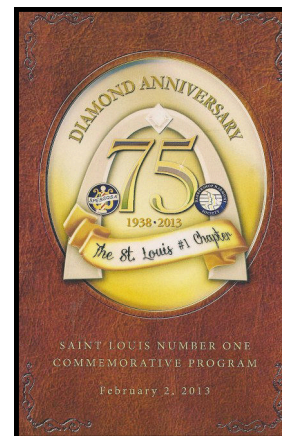
Society's Historical Archives Committee 2013

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Visit Our **BHS HISTORY** Section
www.barbershop.org/history.html

Saint Louis #1 Chapter Partied Like it Was 1938

Congratulations to the **Saint Louis #1 Chapter** for a successful 75th anniversary dinner on February 2, 2013.



Led by President **Paul Ogle**, they held a very special celebration night with members, wives and some special guests that included **Don Fuson** (Society Executive Vice President), **David Wright** (legendary arranger and historian), **Harvey Kiser** (Central States District Immediate Past President), **Jim Bagby** (Rural Route 4 baritone), **Mike Cage** (Festus, Missouri Mayor), **Matt Suellentrop** (CSD Youth in Harmony VP), **Frank Roland Jr.** (Hillsboro, Missouri Mayor), **Roger Barrentine** (Jefferson College - their meeting location - Director of PR and Marketing), **Steve Guebert** (photographer), **Ted Howell** (photographer with The Leader newspaper), and **Roger Blackburn** (former chapter chorus director who traveled all the way from Florida).

The chapter has an impressive past and was the FIFTH Society chapter chartered (October 8, 1938) and the third oldest chapter still in existence.



Jim Bagby, Paul Ogle, David Wright and Don Fuson honor The Saint Louis #1 chapter

Diamond Anniversary Update

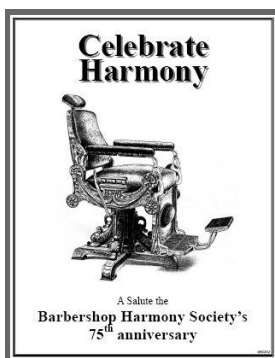
Have you celebrated the Society's 75th yet?

There's a great deal of action going on - on the Society level as well as the chapter level.

You've no doubt received your copy of the collector's edition of the Harmonizer. A special **DOUBLE ISSUE** covers each of the 74 years.

Have you seen the special 75 Years of Champs poster? It is available via the Society's Harmony Marketplace for only \$10.00. While you're there, pick up a 75th anniversary lapel pin so you can wear it in Toronto.

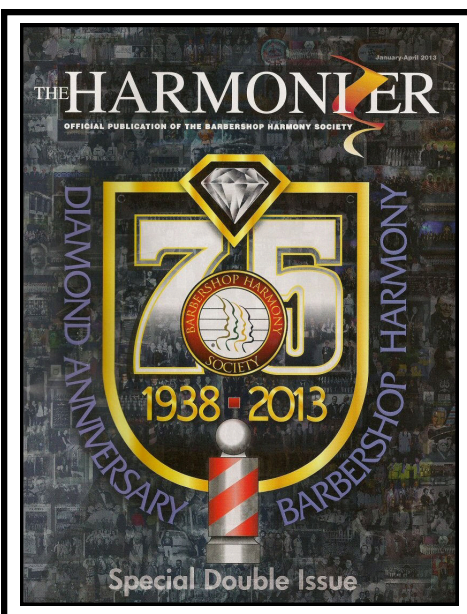
Celebrate Harmony a BIG HIT!



Many chapters are staging or will stage the 75th anniversary theme show, **Celebrate Harmony**, making it one of the popular shows ever released by the Society.

It has a nice collection of songs that will fit into your regular show package for the rest of the year. Congratulations to the following chapters who have used this **FREE** script and music that includes learning tracks. Of the chapters that answered the Society's questionnaire, here are 35 chapters that took advantage of the show package. There may be more.

Even the Youth Barbershop Chorus **Harmony 2 Go** of Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada has **seven** shows planned this year.



75th Anniversary Recording

There's also a new recording coming out. It features each of the 74 quartet champions and a song they sang in the year they won (some never before released). This very rare collection (about three CDs worth) will be available soon, digitally, and available via your favorite delivery system such as **iTunes**.

| Chorus | Chapter | Show Date |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| MountainAires | Denver, CO | Mar 9 |
| Venice Gondoliers | Venice, FL | Mar 22 |
| Two Town Tuners | Centralia, WA | Mar 23 |
| Tumbleweed Chorus | Colby, KS | Mar 23 |
| Sounds of Liberty | Philadelphia, PA | Apr 6 |
| Founder's Chorus | Tulsa, OK | Apr 11 |
| River Valley Harmonizers | Wausau, WI | Apr 13 |
| Golden Chordsmen | Winnipeg, MB CA | Apr 14 |
| Men of Note | Kokomo, IN | Apr 26/27 |
| Chordbusters | Davenport IA | Apr 27 |
| Inland Empire | Ontario, CA | Apr 27 |
| OK Chorale | Oklahoma City, OK | Apr 27 |
| Maple City Chorus | Hornell, NY | May 4 |
| Diamond Statesmen | Little Rock, AR | May 4 |
| Northshoremens | Beverly, MA | May 11 |
| Cereal City Chorus | Battle Creek, MI | May 11 |
| Baylanders | Green Bay, WI | May 11 |
| Harbor City Harmonizers | Melbourne, FL | May 11 |
| New MexiChords | Albuquerque, NM | May 17/18 |
| Four Corners Harmony | San Juan County, NM | May 18 |
| Mountain View | Palo Alto, CA | May 18 |
| Red Rose Chorus | Lancaster, PA | May 19 |
| Redwood Chordsmen | Santa Rosa, CA | Jun 22 |
| Silver Statesmen | Las Vegas, NV | Aug 2+ |
| Choo Choo Chorus | Chattanooga, TN | Aug 17 |
| The Mall City Harmonizers | Kalamazoo, MI | Sept 21 |
| Standardbred Chorus | Hanover PA | Sept 21 |
| Y City Chorus | Zanesville, OH | Sept. 29 |
| Portsmen | Stockton, CA | Oct 19 |
| Chain-O-Lakes | Columbia City, IN | Oct 20 |
| Music Central | Central Cities, OK | Oct ? |
| Penn-Ohio Singers | Shenango Valley, PA | Nov 2 |
| Men of Song | Worcester, MA | Nov 23 |
| Valley Chordsmen | Waterbury-Derby, CT | Nov 23 |

Come Visit *THE PAST*

Your friendly neighborhood Society Historian spent two weeks in Nashville preparing the 75th anniversary historical exhibit.

It's called *THE PAST* and it'll cover 10,000 sq. ft. of the **Frontenac Ballroom** in the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, downtown Toronto (one floor below the Harmony MarketPlace).



All four **Most Happy Fellows' Wizard of Oz** outfits (The Cowardly Lion, Scarecrow, Tin Man and Dorothy)

There you will see ...



All 74 **Gold Medal Quartet Champion Uniforms** on displayed on mannequins (from the 1939 **Barflies** to the 2012 **Ringmasters**)



All the **Society Trophies** in one place for the first time (International Quartet, International Chorus, Senior Quartet, College Quartet and the original Quartet Champs (Landino) Trophy.



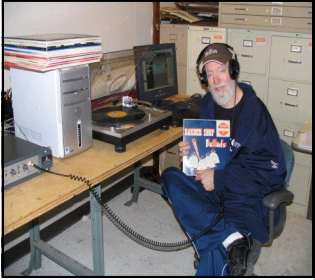
The **OC Cash and Rupert Hall** portraits from Harmony Hall.

Relive THE PAST



The **Norman Rockwell** exhibit with a rare artist proof of the Barbershop Quartet cover signed by Rockwell.

Sounds Historic
The glamorous digs of the Society Archives and the re-mastering of vintage and rare recordings of our champs for the new 75th anniversary release.



You'll also enjoy an interactive video display showing every quartet, chorus, senior, college champ with every Society President and Hall of Fame member.

Historic Harmonizers

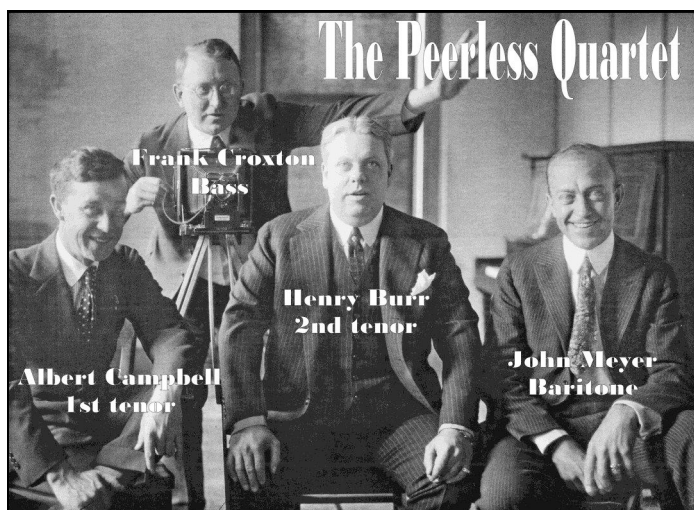


Historic Sheet Music compliments of the Society's Old Songs Library.

Learn more about the **Pre-Society Quartets** that made the old songs famous.



Tribute displays for the **Town and Country Four** (50th anniversary champs) and **Chiefs of Staff** (25th anniversary champs).



Frontenac Ballroom in the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto

See You In *THE PAST*

We'll also have some historic
Meet & Greet
sessions in the exhibit area

Here's the schedule so far:

Tuesday 3:00 to 3:30

Top Society Arrangers - including
Clay Hine, Don Gray, Kevin Keller,
Steve Delehanty and Tom Gentry

Thursday 4:00 - 4:30

Our Anniversary Champs
Town and Country Four & Chiefs of Staff

Friday 9:00 - 9:30

Gold Medal Chorus Directors
including Greg Lyne, Ray Danley,
Royce Ferguson and Jim Henry



**Friday 2:30
to 3:00**
**Meet The
Nighthawks**
Bert Ellis, Greg
Backwell, John
Sutton



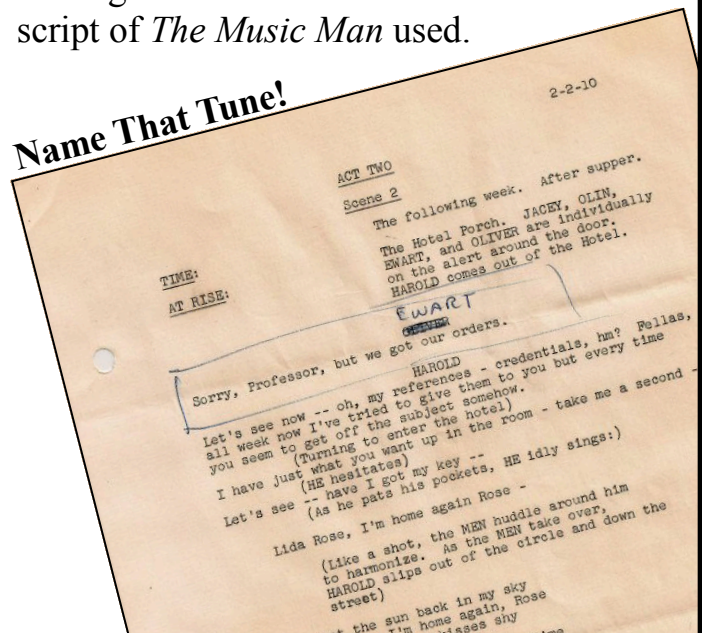
The Buffalo Bills on set of the movie pose with
Robert Preston aka Harold Hill

Original Music Man Script and Photos on Loan to the Archives

The son of Buffalo Bills lead, Al Shea has recently provided us with some very rare items from his Dad's days on set in *The Music Man*.

In addition to some rare PR photos from the filming of the movie we also have the actual script of *The Music Man* used.

Name That Tune!



Frontenac Ballroom in the Westin Harbour Castle Hotel, Toronto



The Bills bust a chord with Meredith Willson

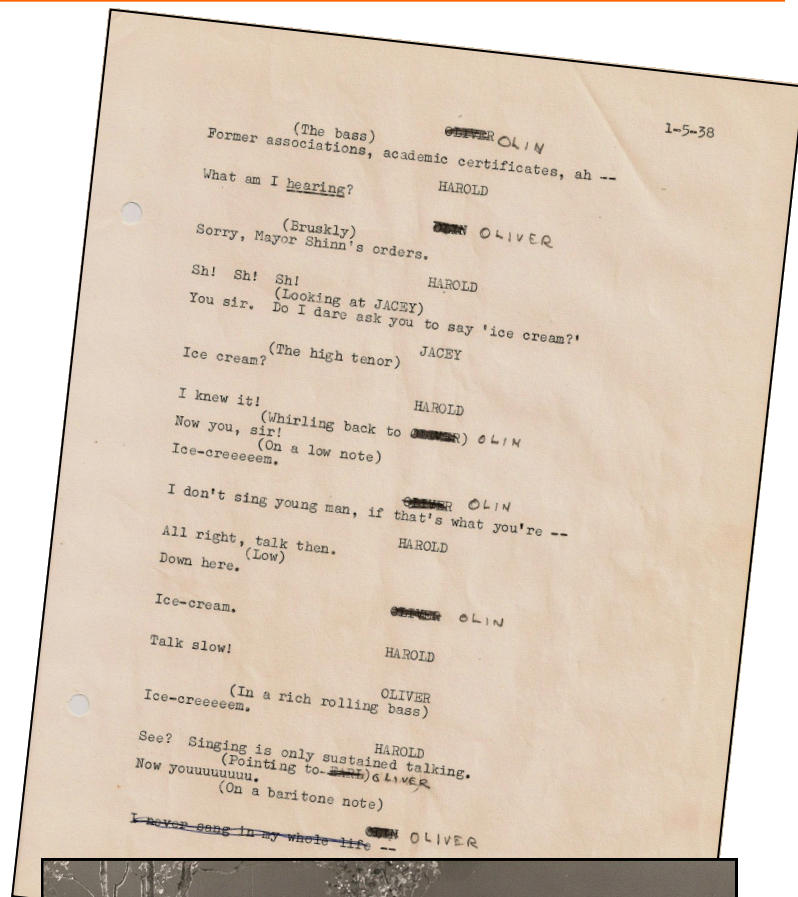
The Music Man script includes hand written notes and pages cut or changed from the first draft. It's intriguing to see and hold this special "holy grail" item. It's dated September 23, 1957.

As you read thru this script, you can imagine the pressure on **Vern Reed** (tenor / Jacey Squires), **Al Shea** (lead / Ewart Dunlop), **Wayne "Scotty" Ward** (baritone / Oliver Hix) and **Bill Spangenberg** (bass / Olin Britt). They all chose to quit their job and move to New York City to devote themselves full-time and realize a dream come true ... appear on Broadway.

They were very excited but nervously hoping this unknown musical doesn't close on the opening night. It didn't. They appeared in over 1500 performances and even made the movie.

It would change their lives forever.

All these items will be featured at the Buffalo Bills exhibit in Toronto as part of THE PAST.



Second Place THREE Times in a Row

Town and Country Four Finally Win Gold in '63



Our 50-year champs were like no other, and after winning silver medals for three consecutive years they didn't give up, and became our 1963 gold medal champions and one of the Society's top quartets.

It was back in the '30s that **Pete Elder** was active in a popular vaudevillian quartet. He was also a member of the **Westinghouse Quartet**, and placed second coming VERY close to winning the gold in 1945. He had a successful, long-lasting singing career. All this had a strong influence on his son, **Jack**.



In the early 50s Jack started a new quartet with fellow Pittsburgh chapter member **Leo Sisk**. They called themselves **The Maestros**. They competed in the 1953 **Johnny Appleseed District** quartet contest and, out of 45 quartets, they finished a very disappointing fifteenth.



Soon they broke up, formed a new quartet called the **Gateway Four** and competed in the 1955 Prelims. They came in 11th ... and broke up.

Still on the lookout for a good quartet, they attended a picnic and woodshedded a few songs with fellow chapter members **Larry Autenreith** and **Ralph Anderson**. It was the summer of 1955. The voices clicked and everyone really liked it. The **Town and Country Four** was born.

TRIVIA

Competitively the Town and Country Four distinguished themselves as the first society champs to win their gold after three consecutive silver medals with Max Q being the only other champs to do so in 2007 - - 44 years later.

The Town and Country Four are also the only society medalist to have medaled five times in the top three medal positions, more times than any other quartet.

International Champs - They were the first society champ to win internationally (in a convention city outside of the USA).

*Honorable mention goes to **KC Barber Pole Cats**, **Pacificaires**, and **Center Stage** - the only other quartets to win three consecutive second place, silver medals. Unfortunately they never won the gold.*

All had very good singing voices. Leo was a natural full-voiced tenor. There was no doubt about Ralph's big booming bass voice. They experimented switching lead and bari and ended up with Larry on baritone. They had a BIG sound. With a high tenor and a low bass they could sing most any arrangement.

They were encouraged by placing second in a novice quartet contest and entered the 1956 Prelims. They were happy to make the top 10

but they set their sights on winning the district title that fall. However, they came in a very close second place ... a position they would become very familiar with. They went on to qualify for their first International in 1957. There they placed 27th in Los Angeles.



The Town and Country Four competed again in October 1957 in the fall District contest. In an unprecedented move, despite that fact that they were moving up in the ranks, they decided to switch parts. They experimented with Larry singing lead in the first round and Jack singing lead in the second round.



1958 Johnny Appleseed District Champions

They weren't sure if the judges would agree with their bold move even though they felt the quartet sounded even better.

They won the first round by three points and lost the contest by a mere 15 points. Nevertheless, Larry became the Town and Country Four's official lead singer. They never looked back, they would win every Johnny Appleseed District International preliminary quartet contest from 1958 through 1963.



They placed first at Prelims in 1958, and returned to International. In Columbus that year, they jumped up to 8th place and were making a name for themselves.

They finally won the Johnny Appleseed District quartet championship in the fall of '58.

They won their Prelims and went to the 1959 International and were thrilled to jump up into the medals with a THIRD place in Chicago.

The judges seemed to like their new sound. Some say that they actually saw judge **Floyd Connett** throw his pencil in the air on the tag of *Yes Sir, That's My Baby / Ain't She Sweet*.

The Town and Country Four were now a force to be reckoned with. For the next three years they would place SECOND at International. Three consecutive silver medals would be a very rare accomplishment. They did well, but were beaten by other powerhouse foursomes - **The Evans Quartet**, **The Suntones** and **The Gala Lads**.



First of Three Silver Medals in 1960

Although the Suntones would win handily in 1961 the quarter-finals was a horse race as the Suntones were in first place by only 15 points over the Town and Country Four.

With all the buzz about the young guys from Florida, Leo Sisk made it a point to hear The Suntones' final set from backstage. The Suntones sang *Mighty Lak' a Rose* and *Bye, Bye Blues* and tore the place apart. Leo thought *There's no way we'll beat THAT!*" It affected his performance on stage later and he learned to NEVER listen to the competition before you perform.



Accepting their THIRD consecutive and FINAL Silver Medal in Kansas City in 1962

The Town and Country were so very close in '62. The Gala Lads outscored them by only 44 points. The Gala Lads actually won the gold without winning a single round.

Following the '62 International, Town and Country Four sought advice on how to improve. Several judges offered suggestions, and all four attended one of the first Society's Harmony Education Program, HEP Schools, where they received coaching from many of the Society's best.

Thankfully, they would finally break the second place jinx in 1963. They came to Toronto well-prepared but took a huge risk. With several tried and true contest songs they decided to bring five brand new songs to the contest stage.

They opened the contest quarter-finals with *South* and *I Wish I Had My Old Gal Back Again*. *South* was arranged by **Renee Craig** and the only one of their six songs not arranged by Larry.

In the semi-finals they sang *Gee But I Hate To Go Home Alone* and *When My Sugar Walks Down The Street*.

In the finals they sang *Dear Old Pal of Mine* and closed with *Down Where the Swanee River Flows*



Leo, Larry, Jack and Ralph anxiously waited backstage for the results desperately hoping to NOT hear "second place" again.



1963 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS
TOWN and COUNTRY FOUR

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania Chapter
 Jack Elder, Baritone — Ralph Anderson, Bass — Larry Autenreith, Lead — Leo Sisk, Tenor



JULY • AUGUST 1963 • VOLUME XXIII • NUMBER 4

TORONTO CONVENTION
 HIGHLIGHTS
 Pages 11-21



Family and Friends Celebrate in Toronto

It was on Saturday July 6, 1963, that all those in the O'Keefe Center, including the 44 other competitors, saw them finally get what they had worked so long and hard for. They were the 1963 GOLD medal champs - FIRST place, finally!

No one knows what it's like to be second three times, unless you've been there. It was a long struggle for eight years but I must admit, well worth the effort' Leo Sisk

All four were members of the Pittsburgh, PA chapter, as were, of course, the members of the 1948 champion **Pittsburghers**. When the Town and Country Four won, the Pittsburgh Chapter was able to claim being the only chapter in the Society with two ACTIVE International champ quartets, that were also the oldest and newest active champions.

At the time of their win, Leo Sisk (37) was a chief clerk of the Allegheny County Health Department. Larry Autenreith (33) was an executive for his family-run chain of variety stores. Jack Elder (46) was a salesman for Eugene Dietzgen Company and Ralph Anderson (40) worked as an assessor for Allegheny County.

International Contest History

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1963 Toronto, Ontario, Canada | FIRST |
| 1962 Kansas City | 2nd |
| | - 44 points (Gala Lads) |
| 1961 Philadelphia | 2nd |
| | - 343 points (Suntones) |
| 1960 Dallas | 2nd |
| | - 386 points (Evans Quartet) |
| 1959 Chicago | 3rd |
| 1958 Columbus | 8th |
| 1957 Los Angeles | 27th |

During the course of their three silver medalist years, the T&C4 were booked solid on shows all over the country with a very busy schedule. Their championship year was much the same throughout the end of 1964. However Leo, the quartet contact man, informed them there was a slim number of bookings showing for the future of 1965.

The guys managed to stay together for another year and a half.



The Break Up

Leo and Ralph (also an arranger) approached Larry and made the suggestion for the quartet to start learning new show material to help reinvent the T&C4's show appeal.

Larry who was the brain trust with his tremendous arranging skills balked at the proposal. As far as he was concerned it was OK to continue as they were with few changes. Leo and Ralph wanted to change things.

One night in late December of 1964 Ralph presented two of Larry's arrangements that he had rearranged. He also presented them with an endorsement from several top arrangers who said that Ralph's versions were actually better than Larry's. That was the straw that "*broke the camels' back*".

It was the end of the rehearsal and the final rehearsal of the Town and Country Four.

Years later Leo said, "In retrospect, it was a mistake. If I had it to do over again I would have kept going forever."

After the original foursome disbanded they tried several different combinations with others.



Woodshedding with Pirates manager Danny Murtaugh and pitcher Bob Friend



A retooled Town and Country Four actually continued for a short time with Sisk on tenor, **Art Lazar** on lead, **John Haberlein** as the baritone and Anderson on bass. They disbanded in 1967.

The Society would see them all in several quartets which would win the district championship and serve as international quartet representatives.

Tenor **Leo Sisk** went on to become a JAD Quartet Champion with **Point Four** (1968), **Road Show** (1975), and **Harmony Partners** (1983). Those quartets, along with the **Golden Touch** totaled eleven more trips to international competition, including two top twenty finishes.



In 1987, one of those included Leo's son, **Mike**, lead of the Harmony Partners. Leo also sang in **The Alumni** (JAD Seniors Quartet Champs) from 1991 through '97, a three-time International Seniors Silver medalist.

Lead **Larry Autenreith** was credited as a genius-arranger, and he went on to become a JAD Quartet Champ in the **Travelers** (1967) and **Road Show** (1975) quartets. Both foursomes had finished in the top twenty, earning semi-finalist rank, and Larry earned quarter-finalist rank in the **Golden Touch**. After moving out west in 1976, he directed the **Tucson Sunshine Chorus**, and sang in a competing quartet in the FWD.

Baritone **Jack Elder** was first inspired by his father, **Pete Elder**, baritone of the prestigious medalist quartet from the 1940s, the **Westinghouse Quartet**, which had earned every one of the top five medals except gold. Jack was the spokesman for the T&C4, and was known for his joke-telling. He went on to sing with a later formation of the champion **Pittsburghers**, renamed **The Pittsburgh Four** from the late 1960s until the late 1970s.

In the early 1950s, Bass **Ralph Anderson** began singing barbershop harmony after being introduced to the Pittsburgh Chapter by **Bill Conway**, bass of the 1948 International Champion **Pittsburghers**. He was quickly approached by Leo, Larry and Jack to be their bass singer. Known for his huge, resonant, deep voice, Ralph was featured on several T&C4 solos, including Old Man River, Johnny Appleseed, Lucky Old Son, and Wanderin'. Once the Town and Country Four had officially retired the use of the name in 1966, Ralph retired from barbershop singing altogether.

Even though their time as champions was short, they sang for several well-known personalities such as **Sid Caesar**, **Ted Lewis**, **Vaughn Monroe**, **Tony Martin**, **George Shearing**, **Arnold Palmer**, **The Osmond Brothers**, **The Chordettes** and **The Buffalo Bills**.

Their May 1958 appearance on the **Arthur Godfrey Show** was very special. On arrival in New York City, several members of the Manhattan Chapter met the group at the airport. They transported them around town to see the sights and made a special stop at Grand Central Station.



On the balcony overlooking the busy terminal they sang "*Yes Sir, That's My Baby / Ain't She Sweet.*" Their trademark big sound in that cavernous place brought the place to a halt and their performance received enthusiastic applause. The police interrupted their second song in the interest of the tight schedule of commuters. They appeared on the nationally televised Godfrey show and once again ... wait for it ... came in second place.

Ragtime Cowboy Joe was a special song for the quartet. It was during a performance at Chautauqua, New York for 10,000 enthusiastic patrons they got a standing ovation. Never mind that it was in the MIDDLE of the song!

They are also the first barbershop quartet to sing a song on a nuclear-powered submarine.

During their career, the Town and Country Four appeared in 24 states along with many performances in Canada, spending about 30 weekends a year singing around the country

When and where was their last time together? Mike tells us, *Dad told me they were at a barbershop afterglow somewhere in Pittsburgh 1965 and all four were there. Larry approached everyone to sing some songs which they did and that was it.*"

How They Each Got Started

Leo Sisk learned about barbershop following a rehearsal of his Holy Rosary Church Men's Choir. They all went to McPoland's Tavern where all sang and Leo heard "barbershop" for the first time and instinctively woodshedded the tenor part. He filled in for some quartets and then joined the **Four Harps** in 1948 (**Tom O'Malley, Matt Dignan** and **Florian Schmitt**).

His brother, **Lou Sisk**, was a long time Society filmmaker, producing the old convention films seen by thousands of members.

Leo's son, **Mike**, is an active second-generation barbershopper and still lives in Pittsburgh.

Jack Elder joined the Society sixteen years prior to winning the gold medal with the T&C4. He grew up during a time when Pittsburgh had many top quality quartets for him to hear. In addition to the **Westinghouse Quartet**, he heard the **Pittsburghers**, the **Four Maldehydes** and the **Steel City Four**.

Larry Autenreith was not only a great singer and sought-after accompanist, but a skilled self-taught arranger. He arranged all but one of their songs, and his arrangement of "Down Where The Swanee River Flows" was sung by Keepsake for their win in 1992, albeit without the "Ziggity-boom" and "A-boomity zing" bass pickups Ralph did with the T&C4. He later became a chorus director

and coach for other quartets in and around the Johnny Appleseed District and coached the 1961 Sweet Adeline Champion Quartet, Gibson Girls

Ralph Anderson played the trombone and piano. As a singer he was described as an "asthmatic bass with tonsils . . . color them purple." He was the Town & Country Four's soloist and was well known throughout the Society for his vocal quality.

"I believe this experience helped give me a sense of purpose. It proved to me that if you set a goal, and are willing to work hard, good things can happen to improve your lot in life." - Leo Sisk

Sadly all four members have since passed on. We lost Ralph Anderson in 1976 at the age of 53. Jack Elder died in 1986. He was 70. Larry Autenreith passed away in 1992 at 62 and Leo Sisk died in 2003 at the age of 76.

*(For this article we received additional research and information from **Dr. Ben Ayling** and a lot of help from **Mike Sisk** - Our thanks to them both.)*



During the Toronto Convention, to celebrate their 50th anniversary, you will see a special display, a video during one of the sessions, and have the opportunity to attend a **MEET & GREET** with the families of the quartet.

Thursday July 4th @ 4:00 pm
Frontenac Ballroom / Westin Harbour Castle

Where Were YOU in '63? Free Canadian Bacon on a Bun Breakfast

by George Shields



Got this rare
"I Sang in
Toronto in '63"
lapel pin?

The East York Chapter is hosting a Canadian Back Bacon On A Bun Breakfast for every Barbershopper (& Spouse) *who attended the Silver Convention in 1963*, along with every Past International Society Board Member.

It will be held at **Harmony Hall (Toronto)** on the Saturday morning and we hope to supply bus transportation for the 15-minute trip.

I want to hear from everyone who qualifies, because we will have "I Competed at the Silver Convention in 1963", "I Attended the Silver Convention in 1963" or "I'm A Past Member of the International Board" ribbons for everyone.

It will be a free outdoor barbecue and will include a tour of Harmony Hall and a possible meeting of the **Decrepits**.

It should be great fun and everyone will be back in time for the big sing, etc.

We expect to have some of the **Nighthawks** in attendance at the Breakfast, along with memorabilia from the '63 Silver Convention. It's a big undertaking, but East York competed in '63 and played an important role in the great success of the Convention of "firsts" (the first Street Parade, the first afterglow on two Island Ferryboats, the first daily bulletins, the reenactment of the War of 1812), etc. We're looking forward to hosting this event!

RSVP to George at
georgesields@sympatico.ca



Kenosha Has Some History

The **New Image Chorus** of the historic Kenosha, Wisconsin chapter recently took advantage of the Society's 75th anniversary to promote their passion. They have created a display showcasing their chapter and our rich heritage.

While dismantling their chapter's display at a local library it was suggested they find a new and more prominent location to promote their hobby.

After talking with **Don Shepard** (Director of Operations for the **Kenosha History Center**) they were invited to create a new display only a few miles from where the Society had its International headquarters for nearly 50 years.

The exhibit was recently finished with a few items on loan from the Society's Historical Archives.

The **Kenosha History Center** will be the home of this fine display for three months (thru June 2013). It includes original sheet music, photos of the chapter chorus and quartets, barbershop memorabilia including Harmonizers, Barbershop books, logos, mugs, newspaper clippings, show programs, their chapter charter, the history of Harmony Hall and even an old pitch pipe.



Chapter Treasurer, **Richard Mich** and Membership VP / Secretary, **Dan Palmer** spent many hours creating it and nearly 20 hours putting it up. Thanks to this display they have already received some nice press coverage via The Kenosha News on April 8th and even got a front page photo.

If you are nearby you are invited to come by. Its located in Kenosha, Wisconsin on Simmons Island at 220 51st Place until the end of June.

Will *YOU*
Be There?



Barbershop Harmony Society
International Convention

In Memory

Since we last went to press we've lost several icons of the barbershop world.

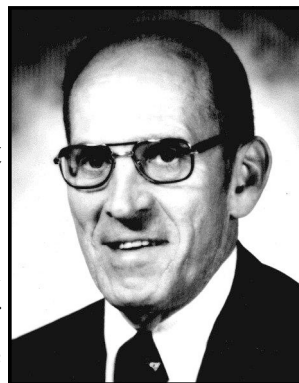
Plummer F. Collins

November 16, 1925 -
March 1, 2013

Plummer died of heart failure on March 1, 2013.

Our 1976 International President, **Plummer** spent his entire barbershop career in Warren, Pennsylvania. He held every office and served two terms as president of the Seneca Land District. He also served in every position on the international board and in 1974 was certified as the international secretary of judges.

He was also the President of Harmony Foundation. He and he son, **Rick Collins**, served on a district judging panel together and sang in the FIRST Father, Son, Grandson chorus in Kansas City during the 2000 International convention. His favorite quartet was the **Boston Common**. He was a 63-year member. He was 87.



Harry Williamson

October 12, 1930 -
March 14, 2013

We're saddened to report that gold medal tenor, **Harry Williamson** has passed away at the age of 83.



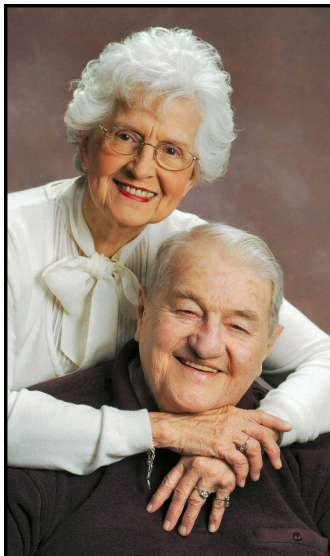
Tenor Harry on the left

Harry was a kind man and a great tenor. He won the gold in 1974 with **The Regents** (**Joe Mazzone** (L), **Ron Knickerbocker** (Br), **Hal Kauffman** (Bs).

They also won two consecutive 3rd place silver medals ('72 & '73). You might also remember Harry as the tenor of **Pros 'n' Cons** (with **Kevin King** (L), **Freddie King** (Br) and **Tom Ewald** (Bs)). They placed as high as 10th at International competition and were a great show quartet. They represented the Mid Atlantic District.

Rosemary Miller

The widow of gold medal chorus director **Jim Miller** and matriarch of the Barbershop Barbershop Miller/Hawkins/Crutcher/Wheaton Clan passed away on April 25, 2013. She was 88. She and her family run **Miller Photography** and have been our official contest photographers since 1978.



Burt P. Huish

July 9, 1932 - April 30, 2013

Burton Phelps Huish, 80, of Twin Falls, Utah passed away peacefully Tuesday, April 30, 2013, on the 59th wedding anniversary for him and his beloved wife, **Gloria**. Burt was our Society President in 1981. He is also known for singing the National Anthem for colleges and major league baseball around the country. Over the years he managed to sing the National Anthem in almost EVERY major league park.



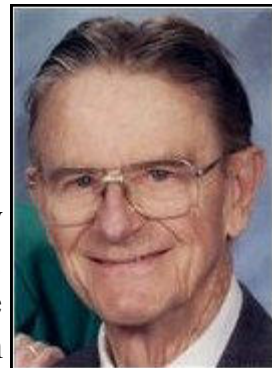
Burt is survived by his wife, Gloria; their three children, nine grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

Dick Gifford

Sept. 6, 1925 -

May 11, 2013

Richard L. "Dick" Gifford passed away Saturday, May 11, 2013. Dick was the bass of the **Four Harsemen** from Amarillo, Texas. They won the gold in 1955. He was an outstanding gentleman and had a great voice. In addition to singing, he also did radio and TV jingles and voice-overs including the **Dave Garroway Show** in Chicago. For 30 years Dick was a sales manager for KTVT in Fort Worth, Texas where he also directed the chapter there. Many will remember him as the bass of the 1959 district champion **Pitch Pirates Quartet**. He was 87.



Quartet "Hobo Nickel" Found

This rare item was recently found on eBay. It's a 1936 **Hobo Nickel**. This is called, "Barbershop Quartet Sings Railroad Rag". This work of art on the face of this coin was carved by the famous **Howard Thomas**.



A Hobo Nickel is a sculptural art form involving the creative modification of small-denomination coins, essentially resulting in miniature bas reliefs.

Howard Thomas has been doing carvings and scrimshaws since the early 1980s.

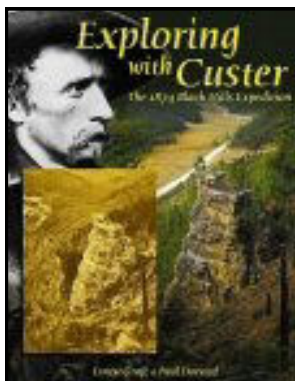
This nickel, with the Norman Rockwell Quartet reproduction SOLD for \$207.55 on eBay. Who says a nickel doesn't go as far as it used to?

Our thanks to **Irv Engelbrecht** of Lufkin, Texas for the find.

That VERY OLD Quartet of Mine

Some say they know when barbershop was born. How's this for an EARLY quartet?

Norm Barnard, Immediate Past President of the Stevens Point, Wisconsin chapter from Westfield, Wisconsin, tells us of some historical documentation that confirms a "quartet" sang during the **Custer Black Hills Expedition**. That would be the 1874 Custer Black Hills Expedition.



The revelation comes from the book **Exploring with Custer** by **Ernest Grafe** and **Paul Horsted**. The book is a compilation of photos from the 1874 expedition with diary accounts of various expedition members who took part in the endeavor. In addition, the authors made every attempt to recreate every photo from that expedition by taking a photo from the exact spot as it is found today. A fascinating book.

On page 83 we find these intriguing messages worthy of a **Ken Burns** film.

In the evening Major Tilford, who had a large tarpaulin stretched under the pine trees, gave a champagne supper to a number of officers. As the entire party became rather boozy before ten o'clock. I had better omit all names, only assuring you that Lieutenant Colonel Fred Grant was one of the party and not most sober one either."(Ewart)

Captain McDougall, Colonel Grant, Lieutenant Gibson and others distinguished themselves by making very appropriate addresses. Benteen had a quartette from his company come up and sing."(Power)

H" Company's Glee Club serenaded this party, after which Lieutenant McDougall took them to the tent of Mr. Barrows, the New York Tribune correspondent. They disturbed his peaceful slumbers with Come Where My Love Lies Dreaming, Dinah's Wedding, Vacant Chair and Under the Windows. Mr. Barrows called the serenaders into his tent, thanked them in his gentlemanly way for the honor, etc. and made an impressive finale with water and not retaining after the evening's use."(Ewart)

Champagne flowed plentiful, and also whiskey was not slighted. The whole party were pretty well hobbled. Hodgson found some difficulty crossing the creek -- but finally made it all OK."On reaching the camp I found him dreaming sweetly."(Power)

So, What Norm has found may be one the earliest records of quartet activity that we've had read about and one of the earliest references to an "Afterglow".



Car 54 Where Are You?

Vintage TV & Barbershop Quartets

In the past we've reported on the trend of barbershop quartets appearing on vintage television shows (like **The Andy Griffith Show**). Well, here's another one.

A barbershop quartet contest was part of another plotline on the old New York City Police buddy comedy TV show, ***Car 54 Where Are You?***

The episode is called **Boom, Boom, Boom** and originally aired January 14, 1962 (Season 1, Episode 17)

The boys are attempting to win the barbershop quartet competition for 'the old man' Capt. Block. The rules require all 169 quartets to perform the same song, which drives guest star **Jan Murray** to insanity.

The song was *By The Light Of The Silvery Moon*. Every quartet sang pretty much the same arrangement, which began with "Bm bm bm bm bm bm bm." Even the one women's quartet sang in the men's registers, further adding to Jan Murray's woes. The Car 54 guys thought they were going to win it, but then something happened to golden-voiced **Frances Muldoon** (played by **Fred Gwynne**).

They got all worried, as they would do in sitcoms of that time. But then, Muldoon's voice came around, they won, and everyone was happy, except for Jan Murray, who got carted off for professional help.

The entire episode can be seen via a search of YouTube.

Losers Live Longer

by Bob Sutton - Society Archives Committee Contributor, proofreader, researcher, Preservation magazine

The following appeared recently on The Harmonet:

There was an interesting piece on CBS Sunday Morning show recently. The topic was longevity of winners and runners-up (aka "losers"). The statistics said winners outlive losers (nominees) by two or more years on average. The show covered the runners up from the Hall Of Fame, the Oscars and even Nobel Prizes [etc.]. Wonder what the statistics are for quartet members who won and those that medaled but never won.

After the piece on the Biggest Losers last issue, I thought this was timely.

Funny you should ask. I saw the piece and for some odd reason, I thought the same thing.

Through our latest lost champ, **Don Beinema (Four Statesmen '67)**, the average age at death for the 102 gold medalists who are no longer with us is 69.7 years, from the late **Mike Senter (Golden Staters '72)** at 39, to the late **Wendell Heiny (Four Hearsemen '55)**, the oldest gold medalist, who lived to 99.

The problem with comparing them to silver medalists is, of course, first, we'd have to go through the exhaustive research it already took to get the birth dates of the gold medalists in order to get the "others" and, second, many or most of the gold medalists also WERE silver medalists – including both Mr. Senter and Mr. Heiny.

A Very Special Valentine for a Very Special Lady

On Friday February 1st a very special performance was given to an audience of ONE, a very special lady in Norman, Oklahoma.

The recipient of this show was **Mrs. Catherine Masengale** the widow of **Tom Masengale**, bass of the 1941 **Chord Busters** (our third quartet champions).

Catherine has been a part of the barbershop world for most of her life and has many fond memories of those special times.

Oklahoma City's **East Side Boys** (**Todd Ryan, Ricky Bugher, Steve Graham, David Squire**) were drafted to deliver this pre-Valentine's Day valentine from the Oklahoma City Chapter and the Society.

They showed up unannounced at the retirement community about 6pm. She loved hearing the harmony again – it was such an important part of her life.

She enjoyed sharing many of her fond memories with the quartet and the crowd who had gathered. Here she holds her cherished framed photo of Tom and the Chord Busters and Tom's 1941 gold medal.

The quartet sang *My Wild Irish Rose, Hello Mary Lou, Heart of My Heart and It's Only a Paper Moon*.

She claimed she's been out of touch and really misses this close harmony and barbershopping since Tom died in April of 1998 at the age of 86.



Oklahoma City's **East Side Boys** (**Todd Ryan, Ricky Bugher, Steve Graham, David Squire**) deliver this pre-Valentine's Day valentine from the Oklahoma City Chapter and the Barbershop Harmony Society to **Catherine Masengale** (98), widow of **Tom**, the bass of the 1941 champion quartet **Chord Busters**.

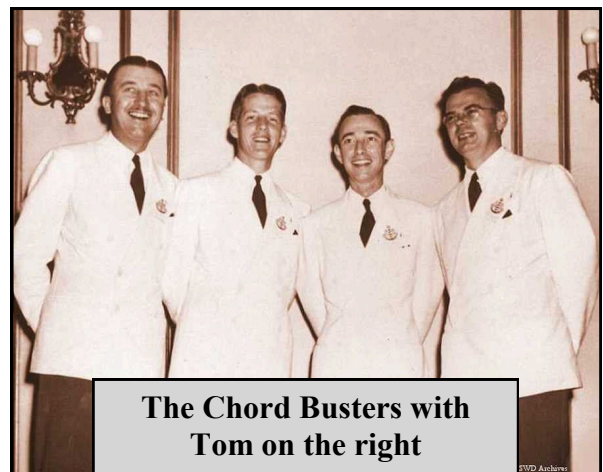
Catherine is 98 years old and won't be out of touch anymore. She just started receiving her new subscription of THE HARMONIZER with some back issues thrown in. We're told she's devouring each issue – word by word.

Our thanks to Ricky Bugher (Past President OK Chorale of OK City) and daughter **Kathy Masengale Johnson** who made this special moment happen.

We're sure Valentines 2013 will be a special memory for Mrs. Masengale as well as all those involved.

See **Catherine Masengale's Singing Valentine**

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEg_CAH2EM8&feature=share&list=UUr55uPa0KXRnb81VvbRh-IQ



**The Chord Busters with
Tom on the right**

Apollo Quartet Had A Blast in 1962

A 50-year reunion at **Illinois Wesleyan University** (Bloomington) in October 2012 inspired organizers to invite alumni of The **Apollo Quartet** to entertain at homecoming.

The performance led to a major section of the school’s winter 2012-13 quarterly alumni magazine being devoted to the 1962 foursome (plus accompanist) that spent two months touring American military installations in the South Pacific.

The tenor, then a five-year Society member, is Bloomington barbershopper **Jim Stahly**.

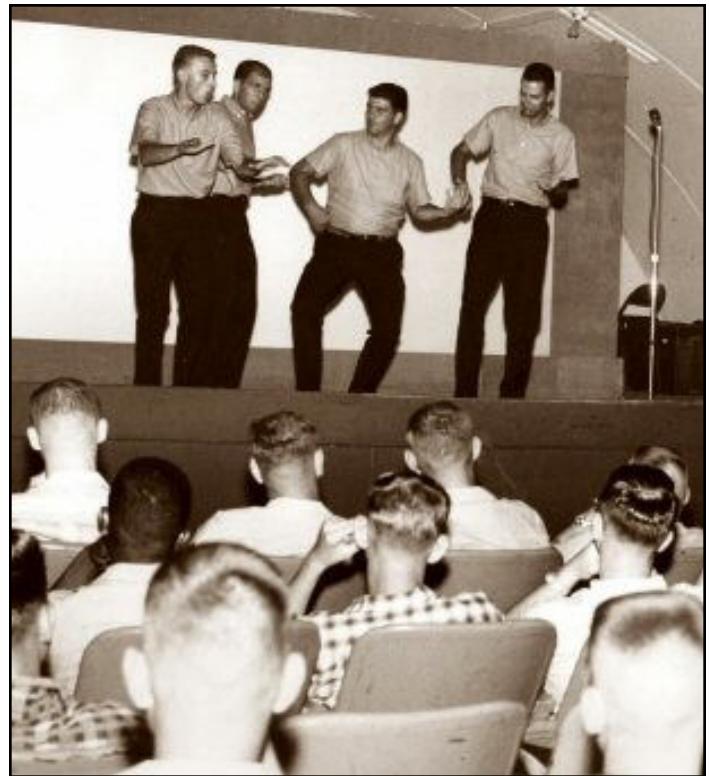
The quartet sang its way around Hawaii, Guam, Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan and Korea, and its repertoire included barbershop.

A last-minute side-trip to a U.S. Marine base in July 1962 provided one of the lasting memories, according to Stahly.

“We spent the night (at Iwakuni Marine Base at Yamaguchi, Japan) after our show. We were roused very early the next morning for – to our surprise -- an atom bomb test! It had been delayed for several days because of weather, but conditions were right that morning.”

“An experience I’ll never forget,” he said, recalling the heat and concussion from the blast. “The mushroom cloud was still making its eerie rise when we flew out at noon.”

The magazine compared the Apollo group, which began as a club in the 1920s, to the renaissance of a cappella groups today.



New Society CEO Marty Monson sits in his corner office and shows off his Rockwell Quartet figurine and his trademark smile

Executive Directors / CEOs thru the Years

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Carroll Adams | 1941- 1952 |
| Bob Hafer | 1953 - 1963 |
| Barry Best | 1963 - 1977 |
| Hugh Ingraham | 1977 - 1988 |
| Joe Liles | 1988 - 1995 |
| Darryl Flinn | 1995 - 2004 |
| Don Harris | 2004 - 2005 |
| Roger Lewis* | April 2005 - July 2005 |
| Ed Watson | July 2005 - June 2011 |
| Larry Deters * | June 2011 - March 2012 |
| Alan Lamson * | April 2012 - August 2012 |
| Marty Monson | August 2012 - current |

*Interim

Tulsa Club Building Finally Sells

For many years the famous Tulsa Club - the site of the very FIRST meeting of the Barbershop Harmony Society on April 11, 1938 - has been in serious disrepair, caught fire and was seized by the city for back taxes.

Good News - the building located in Downtown Tulsa has finally been sold to a local developer. He plans to remodel it for retail and residential use.

The April 17 **Kevin Canfield** story in the Tulsa World states

Historic Tulsa Club Auctioned for \$460,000

The Tulsa Club was auctioned off at a sheriff's sale Tuesday to a Tulsa businessman for \$460,000.

Josh Barrett, president of **Vesta Properties**, said he planned a mixed-use development in the building with a combination of commercial and residential properties.

The vacant, dilapidated building at 115 E. Fifth St. had been appraised for \$450,000.

Barrett, 47, said he hopes to have the project completed within three years.

I plan to apply for ... the state and federal historical tax credits, so we would restore it according to those guidelines, he said.

The sale will not be finalized for another four to six weeks.



After decades of neglect, site of our first meeting may have a new life after all

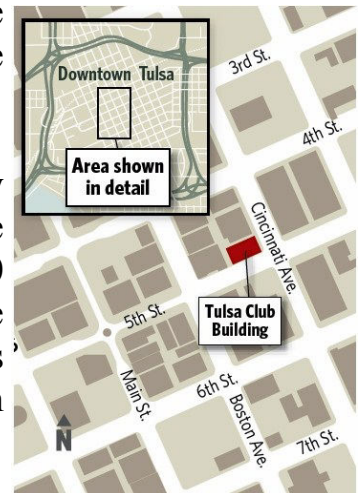
*It's such a satisfactory feeling to see the sale," said Senior Assistant City Attorney **Bob Edmiston**, who has worked on the city's behalf to salvage the building for several years. Needless to say, I will be even more satisfied when I see the deed. The sheriff's deed will be a day of celebration."*

Once a favorite haunt for Tulsa's elite, the Tulsa Club building opened in 1927 to provide facilities for the Tulsa Club and the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce.

Tuesday was the third time the Sheriff's Office has attempted to sell the Tulsa Club. In the two previous instances - in August 2012 and in January - last-minute legal maneuvering by the owner, **C.J. Morony**, postponed the sale.

The city has been in a legal battle with Morony since 2007, when the building was declared a nuisance after a rash of code violations.

Edmiston said the city is likely to see \$350,000 to \$370,000 from Tuesday's sale after other creditors' and taxes are paid on the building.



DAVID HOUSH/Tulsa World

Show Script Recreates 1938 Cash & Hall Meeting

Just in time for the 75th anniversary of the chance encounter of **OC Cash** and **Rupert Hall** that planted the seed that grew into the Society we know today is a **NEW** and creative script.

Skilled author, **Duane King** created this "historic" script of a one act play for his chapter, **The Cypressaires** of Monterey, California. He is making it available to all chapters **FREE** of charge. Contact Duane at schmeedz17@yahoo.com



The plaque in Kansas City where Cash and Hall met in 1938. **Rupert Hall** (second from left above) attended the dedication 50 years ago and the plaque as it appears in 2013.

Here's a short excerpt:

THE BIRTH OF THE BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

written by **Duane King**

Hall: Well lookie there, a familiar face. Didn't expect to see anyone I've met before. You're O. C. Cash, right?

Cash: Yep, but anyone that greets me more than once has to call me "Owen" (going for a handshake) Good to see you Mr. Hall.

Hall: Please, none of that, I'm Rupert. Just call me "Rupe". You're one of the money guys, right?

Cash: Tax attorney. Don't make jokes. It's tough being a tax attorney when your last name is "Cash".

Hall: Okay, no jokes. No shortage of work for you, I bet. Lots of taxes in the oil business. But that's government for 'ya. Gotta feed the beast. Roosevelt needs to have his alphabet soup. I don't mind the taxes; it's regulations that get to me.

Cash: You're right about that. I think there's only one thing left the government is not regulating.

Hall: What's that?

Cash: Singing! . . . Melody and harmony! That's what it's all about. They can't enforce a singing tax.

[and the rest is history]

Letters to the Editor



Duane King -
Salinas,
California

I'm running out
of issues of
Preservation.

Been reading
real slowly to
ration my
remaining
issues.

Just got to the issue where you were not allowed into the AIC Reception to document the event. When I saw that you left space in the issue for pictures you were not allowed to take, I about fell out of my chair. Way to go. Those guys may sing well enough to win medals, but they aren't smart enough to take the long view. They missed a chance to be featured in a publication that will survive us all. Absolutely HILARIOUS!

I wonder if they regret their decision?

Love the magazine. It's everything The Harmonizer should have been.

Ken Gibson - East Lansing, Michigan -
Vagabonds (Tenor)

We've been going over each entry in the magazine and still haven't quite finished them all. What a great piece of work; we so enjoy the stories and backgrounds of these outstanding foursomes. Thank you again for including The **Vagabonds** - and for your many contributions to the society!

David Krause - Kansas City, Missouri

As a former society historian and a guy who has been studying our society's history, and all related history for many years, I applaud your wonderful efforts and accomplishments in the job.

You do a wonderful job ... as well as can be imagined. In fact, as a barbershop judge we are told to score basing a 100 performance on the best we can imagine that song being performed in barbershop. So, I've never given much above a 94 in all of my almost 20 years of judging. Using the same scale I'd give you a 100 in the performance in the role of society historian. Thanks so much for all you do.

Mike & Christy Connelly - **Roaring 20s**

Thanks so very much for all of your work in presenting the information on **The Roaring '20s** Quartet. Great Memories.

Kathy Hawkins - Louisville, Kentucky -
Miller Photography

I have been reading the latest issue of Preservation and am thoroughly enjoying it. In regards to trivia of who was the first man to win two international gold in one year a case can be made for **Freddie King**.

His quartet **The Oriole Four** won in 1970 and he directed **Dundalk** to gold in 1971. I vividly remember him remarking to my dad, **Jim Miller**, after the chorus won that he was the only man to do both since his quartet had yet to sing their swan song later that same day. Therefore, he had won two golds in one year. Just something to consider.

Doug Petch - London, Ontario Canada

Just finished reading the latest issue of Preservation. I try to read them all, but this issue had special appeal to me, with the feature story on the non-winners. As a 55-year member, I remember all of those quartets, and thought each was a winner. They were all certainly extremely good entertainers.

Of course, being from London, Ontario and a member of the London Chapter for most of those 55 years, my personal favourite was the **Nighthawks**. What a sound they had; brassy, bold, and innovative. And with **Jim Turner** and **Greg Backwell** as our chorus directors, and **John** and **Bert** singing in the chorus, we were their greatest supporters. Thanks for including them in your top 13.

I noted an error in your story, however, when mentioning other quartets the members of the Hawks sang with. **Bert Ellis** only sang with the *Gaytones*. The other quartets mentioned (**Four Sound Reasons**; **Canadian Executives**; **Chord Jammers**) actually had **BILL** Ellis, a baritone, singing with them. Just a little confusion there. Keep up the terrific work.

J Carl Hancuff - Edmond, Oklahoma

I couldn't sleep the evening I read Grady's publication. Good Lord, it brought back so many memories. I honestly believe I have performed with, emceed, coached or judged everyone in this issue.

Can't help but wonder if today's barbershopper is having as much fun and love for each other as we did back in them good ol' days?

When I read "Where are they now" I became sad (I like to call it melancholy) about how many are singing either up or down there.

Bob Eamigh - Locust Grove, VA

Great job on the latest issue of the PRESERVATION publication. I was not aware that a publication of this kind existed, but I will definitely keep my eyes open for future issues. I did print page 8 (Conway story) and gave it to Don last evening. He was thrilled!!! Thanks for a job well done and keep up the good work.

Del Patten - Albuquerque, New Mexico

Another great issue, especially though because of the article on **Bank Street**. I have my own memories of Bank Street. My first night walking in from the parking lot, **Farris** stopped and introduced himself and told me that, whether or not I could sing, I was going to be on the risers (I have a memorable mustache)! I eventually made the cut although **Bill Biffle** moved me to lead from bass and guess who my riser buddy was? **Toby!** It was great singing next to him and I learned a lot just from singing next to him. He was also an assistant director and we took great delight in always making him pull up his pant legs to check out his socks before we would let him direct ... as the only bachelor in Bank Street at the time, he never failed to amuse us with the combinations he would display!

You mentioned one of their favorite songs *Love Me...* "but what I remember is hearing them sing it in the second round at Salt Lake City in '96, I think. Toby held the hanger forever and the audience was on their feet before they finished. I have heard it described as one of the top ten performances by people more knowledgeable than me but I would say it was simply beautiful.

You also mentioned *16 Tons* which both Farris and Tony sang at different times (Farris "owned" it though) but I also remember Tony sang *The Tennessee Waltz*

very memorably. I believe they made two albums and the best song was on the Love Me album, entitled *Be Strong in the Lord*. It was a beautiful showcase of all their voices but Tom's really stood out.

Long live Bank Street

Neal Siegal - Glen Cove, New York

I began reading PRESERVATION the minute you announced it on Facebook.

I wish I'd been around to hear some of those losers! I do however own a copy of that the **Playtonics'** record with **Goldberg's** art on front (issued the year I was born). I particularly love their *Raccoon*. I'm also delighted that **Dave Mittelstadt** is around in the District.

And needless to say it was great to see **Matt's** teaser about the big article he's working on.

Oh, BTW: I love your tag line "*Living in the past and proud of it!*" :-)) Never noticed that.

Editor's Note - David Mittelstadt
passed away since receiving this letter.
He died quietly on Saturday, April 6, 2013
at the age of 82

Clint & Bobbie Bostick - Lawrence, Kansas
- Baritone 1966 champion **Auto Towners**

Thank you, once again, for doing what you do so well. Clint and I treasure and look forward to each and every issue of Preservation. You jog the precious memories we tend to lose as we age. We are so fortunate to have such a fine historian. Love,

Joe Connelly - Cincinnati, Ohio - 4X Gold Medalist

Thanks Grady!!!! MIGHTY AWESOME!!!!

Sakai Takahiko 境 孝彦 - Japan
I'm very glad to hear from you. The information about Barbershop is always happy for me.

Personally, I'm interested in recent quartet champion like **Old School**, **OC Times**, **Crossroads** and **Vocal Spectrum**.

English reading takes a little bit of time. So, I try to read my eyes open. Anyway, Thank You very much indeed.

Artie Dolt - Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas

Fantastic issue. What incredible memories you've evoked. When I joined my father and grandfather as members of the Teaneck, New Jersey Chapter almost 53 years ago, the **Playtonics** were my idols. I followed them everywhere. I've often kidded **Ralph Brandt** that I wore out the sleeves of his shirts by tugging on them and begging to sing bass on Cabin on the Hill.

In 1962 the quartet invited me to use an extra ticket they had for the **Army-Navy Game** in Philadelphia, then on to a show and afterglow in Vineland, New Jersey and then home. It was a 24 hour day that I will treasure forever. The relationship between the Dolt family and the **Four Rascals** is far too long a story for this note. I talked to **Tommy Spirito** just last week. Thank you, again

Tom Woodall - Coles County, Illinois

I have no idea how you do it. That last issue of Preservation was unbelievable. There is enough information there to keep me reading for days. Thank you for all your research and hard work. The sad thing is recognizing that time marches on and we are losing guys ... left and right. But it is nice to recall the "good old days".

Earl Moon Video Explained



In the previous issue we highlighted a YouTube video with the great **Earl Moon** singing in one of his quartets, **Four Points West**. We asked fellow quartet member, **Nick Papageorge**, for some insights:

In fact, this YouTube video started out here in California about two years ago. I was totally shocked when I saw it! I thought I was the only one with the VHS of the performance. But let me tell you about the quartet first and then later on how this video happened.

*I joined the quartet while still in **The Occidentals** because Earl was my “father” in the Society. He and **Millye** (who **Gerry** and I visited just last week and is doing just fine thank you) mentored **The Occidentals**. We were just out of college (Occidental – where Obama was to matriculate 13 years later) and he liked us a lot.*

***Four Points West** was a pretty good quartet, vying for District Champion in the years after **The Occidentals** had won. They had lost their lead somewhere about 1979 or 80. I told them I’d sing with them until they found someone, as long as **The Occidentals** commitments weren’t compromised.*

*Then in early 1981 **Rupert Murdock** stole **Kevin Smith** (**Occidentals** Bass) from us because he (Murdock) liked the way he (Kevin) wrote for car magazines and he (Murdock) was launching “**Automobile**” magazine in Detroit and took him (Kevin) with him (Murdock). So, **Four Points West** went on with me. We competed all the time and always ended up 5th, when the district was allowed to send 4, or 6th when the district was allowed to send 5 (**139th Street** medaling).*

*But we sang a lot of songs! Earl would have a new one every rehearsal. When I finally told them I needed a break from quartetting and they should find a “real” new lead, we recorded our songs so that the new lead could learn them. We recorded somewhere around 42 songs! Whew. **Nightlife** stole three – “**Mothers Boy**,” “**Mandy Lee**,” and “**Old Bones**.” And **Rural Route Four** stole our show closer, “**Humpback Mule**.” (In all fairness, when I stepped down sometime in 1986 or 87, Earl thought that song would be perfect for **Rural Route Four**, which, of course, it was).*

*But this video is a performance for a Santa Monica AFA (remember those? Auditions for Admissions?) in 1983. They invited us to be their “headliners.” It was recorded in a Santa Monica Church. I forget if it was their regular meeting place, but it could have been. **Jeff Ebner**, who was a sound judge in those days, and a very good video production guy in the Hollywood Industry, was in the chapter and recorded this piece.*

My guess is that he’s the one who posted it on YouTube, two or three years ago. The video is actually one 15 minute performance that Jeff (or someone) cut up into four separate YouTube videos. I also remember that Earl and I sat for an interview with the guys recording it so they could use it as a PSA for the chapter, and barbershopping in general. I have that VHS also, and I have been meaning to transfer it to DVD.

*To answer your questions. 1) **Old Bones** is Earl’s arrangement. **John Sasine** was my vocal music student in high school and watched the quartet all the time. Thus, **Nightlife**’s interest in the song. But also, Earl became their mentor as well, and they wanted to honor him after they won by having him on one of their CDs. Earl heard*

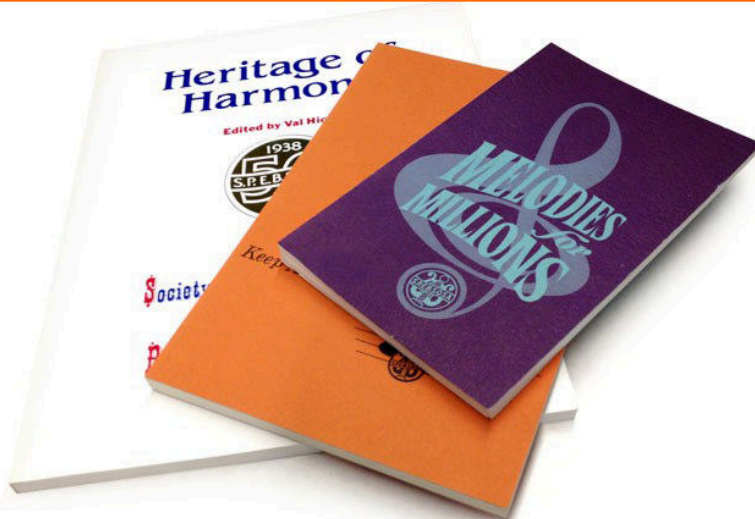


George Burns' recording of it, or saw him doing it on TV, and knew it was HIS song. We agreed! It was Earl's song. It was Earl's life! The lyrics exemplified what Earl felt about life. That song became our "novelty song" in our show package. We were a GREAT show quartet, and an above average contest quartet.

"It Had To Be You" became the ballad in our show package. Other quartets since then have sung "It Had To Be You," What they don't know is that Earl arranged that specifically as a solo for me to sing to Gerry at our Wedding. We sang it at the reception, and how I got through it, I don't know. (that video must be somewhere also!) I will always remember how excited Millye was as we rehearsed it, and perfected it, at their house each week. She couldn't wait for the wedding!

I hope this helps, and if you have any other questions now that I have attempted to give you some history, let me know!

Nick Papageorge



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



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.