

Grady Kerr's
Preservation Project
The Lost Quartet Series



You Don't Know JAX

See Page 10

The Preservation Project

is published as a continuation and adaptation of the award winning magazine, PRESERVATION, created by Barbershop Historian Grady Kerr.

It is our goal to promote, educate and pay tribute to those who came before and made it possible for us to enjoy the close harmony performed by thousands of men and women today.

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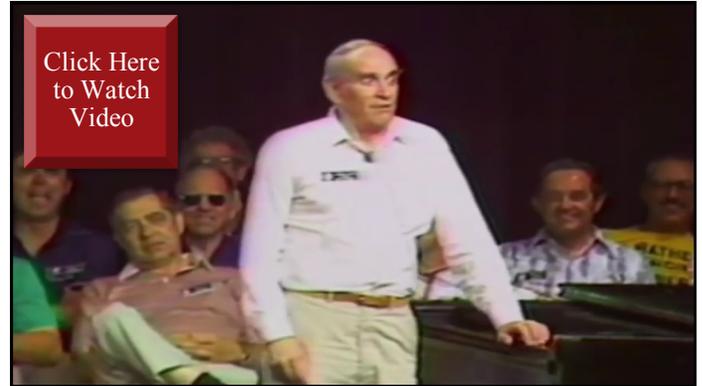
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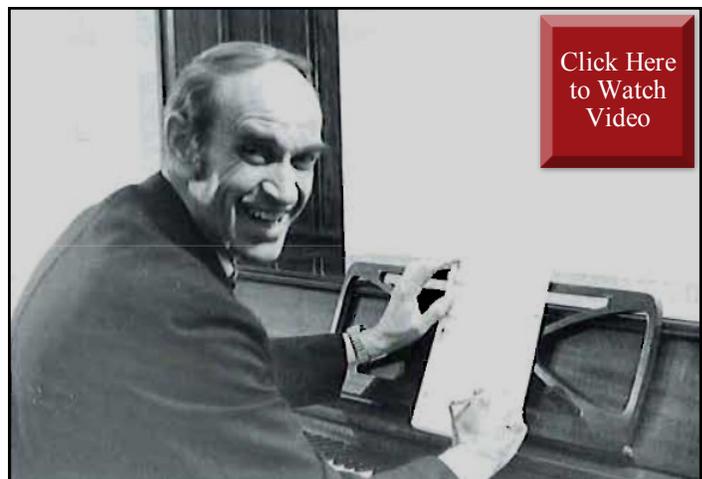
What Are We Trying to Preserve?



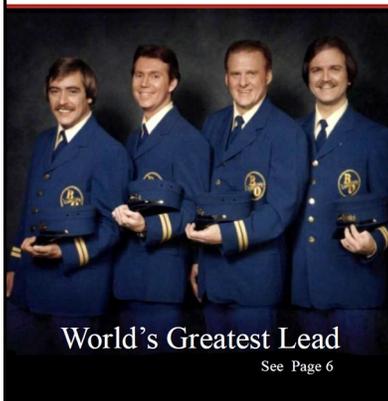
Dave Stevens was one of our Barbershop Gods ... a real life Music Man. When he was a Society music staff member / field representative (1969-1985) he visited almost EVERY chapter teaching this “Preservation” presentation.

Dave was a quartet man, a master woodshedder, an International chorus champion director with the **Californians** (Berkeley 1957), an iconic arranger and member of our Hall of Fame (class of 2005). He was a barbershop purist. He believed in “preserving” our art form.

This video was taped during the 1982 Harmony College to a packed house. On stage watching intensely were other Harmony College faculty members. Seen in the crowd are **Burt Szabo, Dennis Driscoll, Earl Moon, Sam Gonzales, Bob Mucha,** and many others. This is just a part of his full presentation and a MUST SEE for every member today. It’s available through our Harmony Marketplace # 200797



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The Lost Quartet Series



Did you see our last issue on the **B&O Connection?**



PRESERVATION Online!

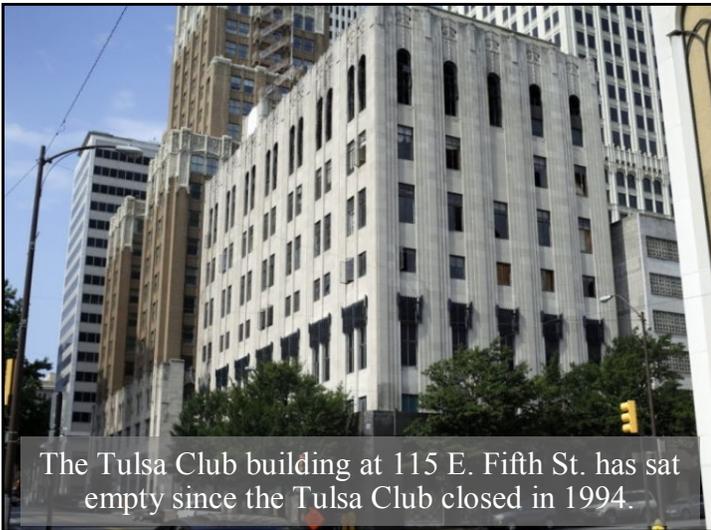
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Tulsa Club Building Project Proposal Moves Forward with Committee Approval

Proposed \$24 million conversion plan gets recommendation for a six-year tax abatement
Friday, August 26, 2016 - by Rhett Morgan - Tulsa World



The Tulsa Club building at 115 E. Fifth St. has sat empty since the Tulsa Club closed in 1994.



This rendering shows what the new Tulsa Club entrance could look like.

[Editor - Most Barbershoppers know the Barbershop Harmony Society officially began in Tulsa, Oklahoma on April 11th, 1938. The FIRST meeting was on the roof on the Tulsa Club. While the building is still standing it's been ravaged by time, fire, vandalism was abandoned long ago.

There's been a struggle with the owner(s) and the city for years. The following article recently appeared in the Tulsa World saying the fight may be over and the historic building may find new life once again.]

Plans for a \$24 million conversion of the historic Tulsa Club building into a boutique hotel plus restaurant and retail space cleared another hurdle Thursday.

The Local Development Act Review Committee unanimously recommended considering property tax relief for the Tulsa-based **Ross Group** proposal, which seeks a six-year tax abatement totaling roughly \$1.693 million. The committee comprises representatives of entities that would have ad valorem tax income locked under the proposal.

Tulsa Health Department; Tulsa City-County Library Commission; Tulsa Technology Center; Tulsa Community College; city of Tulsa (sinking fund); Tulsa County Board of Commissioners; and Tulsa Public Schools.

"It is an early step in the process, but this is a great project," **Blake Ewing**, committee chair and Tulsa city councilor, said following the meeting. *"I'm pretty confident that as we take it back to our individual groups, we'll see unanimous support."*

The project calls for the new Tulsa Club Hotel, 115 E. Fifth St., to be historically renovated to house 98 boutique hotel rooms on floors 1 through 8, restaurant and retail on the first floor (6,800 square feet), and restaurant and bar space on the 11th floor (5,400 square feet), documents show.

"It is a great investment for the city of Tulsa," said Steven Watts, project development manager for Ross Group who oversaw Thursday's presentation to the committee.

Watts told the group that the project would bring an estimated 393 direct and indirect jobs to the city, a number that includes workers on the 18-24 month construction. A total of 55 to 75 people would work full-time in the building, he said.

Federal and state historic tax credits are being sought for the renovation, records indicate. Ross Group purchased the building, which has sat vacant for 22 years, for \$1.5 million in September.

“This is the most embarrassing building in downtown Tulsa right now, not because the building is bad but because of its underachieved potential,” Ewing said during the meeting.

“It’s just painful to see a beautiful building sitting empty with burned-out windows when it could be what we’ve seen today.”

“I appreciate Ross Group. ... I really am grateful that our local developers aren’t just, as they have done for so many years, developing on the outskirts of the community but are focusing on our urban core. I think we all appreciate that.”

The abatement area is within the boundaries of the City of Tulsa Tax Incentive District No. 1, which covers real estate primarily in the Inner Dispersal Loop.

Within an Incentive District, property taxes are frozen at their current rate for up to six years in order to encourage development and construction of a specific site. After that time period, the property will be taxed at its newly assessed market value.

Tulsa Public Schools would bear 55 percent (\$918,626.23) of the tax abatement burden (\$1,693,591.20) over the six-year span.

Joe Stoepelwerth, director of finance and treasurer for TPS, is a member of the Local Development Act Review Committee.

“My initial thoughts are that the building has sat unused for many years,” he wrote in an emailed response to the Tulsa World. *“If this project is not approved, it does not look like someone will come along and do a similar project without an abatement, and we would collect the small amount of ad valorem taxes that we currently collect.”*

“If the project is approved, we will continue to collect ad valorem taxes on the current value and will ‘give up’ our share of the taxes on the

collect ad valorem taxes on the completed full value of the building in the future. We will be better off, in the future, by approving this project.”

The hotel rooms in the refurbished Tulsa Club building would be managed by Promise Hotels under Hilton’s Curio brand. Under the renovation, the ballroom on the ninth and 10th floors also would be restored, Watts said.

Among the oldest structures in downtown Tulsa, the 92,220-square-foot, 11-story building was constructed in 1927 as a joint venture between the Tulsa Club and the Tulsa Chamber of Commerce. Architect **Bruce Goff** designed the zigzag art deco structure.

The Chamber of Commerce occupied the first five floors for 25 years, and the Tulsa Club filled the upper six with dining halls, a gymnasium, a barber shop, and various lounges and libraries.

The Roof Garden’s Sky Terrace is the actual location where OC Cash and friends first met and sang on April 11, 1938. This started S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.



The top floor housed the Sky Terrace, which was used for luncheons and seated about 100 people, and the building was capped with a rooftop garden.

The Tulsa Club folded in 1994, and the building fell into disrepair. **C.J. Moroney**, a California investor, purchased the building three years later.

After dozens of break-ins and multiple fires, the city of Tulsa eventually targeted the building as a public nuisance and, at the start of 2008, began fining Moroney \$1,000 per day until the building was brought up to code. The fines reached \$330,000 and the city was granted legal permission to begin foreclosure proceedings.

A long string of legal battles, including two bankruptcy filings, delayed a sheriff’s auction of the building until April 2013, when local businessman **Josh Barrett** bought the structure.

*Thanks to Barbershop Historian **Greg Olds** for the news tip.*

Vantastix Go Viral



If you really want to know what “VIRAL” means when talking about videos on the internet, check out this footage of **Dick Van Dyke** and his barbershop quartet singing in a Santa Monica **Denny's**.

[CLICK HERE](#)

They had just finished making a rare TV appearance on **Good Day LA** to promote their upcoming show in Cerritos, California, Dick's book **Keep Moving**, and their 2008 CD, **Put on a Happy Face**.

Van Dyke is a long-time quartet enthusiast, and he started his own quartet in 2000. They do charities, benefits, and Disney events. The members are (left to right) **Bryan Chadima**, **Mike Mendyke**, **Eric Bradley**, and **Dick Van Dyke**. Dick was presented lifetime member status in 1999 during our International convention in Anaheim. The Vantastix performed during our 2009 convention, also held in Anaheim.

During their breakfast **Denny's** was quite crowded and, as performers often do, they felt the need to brighten the patrons' day and sing a song from Dick's famous 1968 Disney classic movie, **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang**.

As you can see from the video, kids of all ages loved it. Everyone in the restaurant stopped and enjoyed the close harmony. Many recorded it. Eric's wife **Cindy** just happened record it on her iPhone and posted it to her FaceBook page.

So far the viral video has received **15 MILLION** views world-wide and

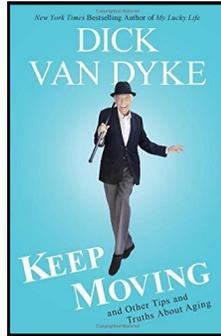




Mike fills CD orders after video goes viral

made several news programs. The response was a pleasant surprise and kind of overwhelming.

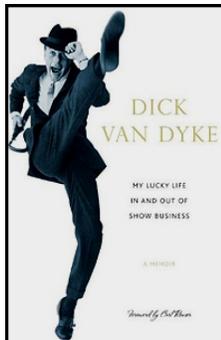
Van Dyke does “keep moving” as he’s now 90 years young and leads an active life in Malibu with his wife, **Arlene Silver**, who also performs with the group. She and Dick do a great **Archie** and **Edith Bunker** bit performing *Those Were the Days*. It’s a hoot.



The Vantastix also enjoyed a recent appearance on NPR. You can hear it here.

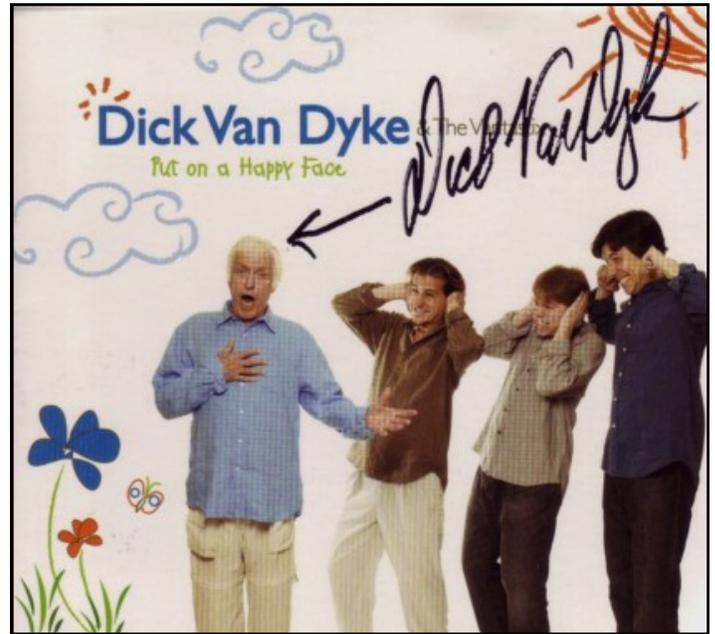


In addition to **Keep Moving**, Dick also wrote his 2011 Memoir, **My Lucky Life in and Out of Show Business**. I highly recommend this award winning book. He had me at the introduction, saying;



“If you’re looking for dirt, stop reading now. I’ve have had some tough times and battled a few demons, but there is nothing salacious here.”

The Vantastix also recorded a GREAT CD entitled **Put on a Happy Face**. The CD features Dick primarily singing bass and some melodies.

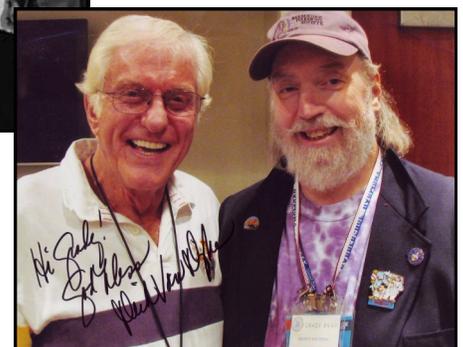


I was lucky to get an autographed copy where he made it a point to point himself out on the cover so I wouldn’t confuse him with the other kids he sings with.

The books can be found on **Amazon** and the recording can be found on **iTunes** or the quartet’s webpage. Read more about the quartet at www.vantastix.com.

They also have a FaceBook page and can be found on Twitter [@iammrvandy](https://twitter.com/iammrvandy).

Dick Van Dyke is my hero and he gets MY VOTE.



*The Story Behind the Video***Making Birthdays Even Better**

Kevin Souppa (T), Chad Bennett (L), Kevin Miles (Bs), and Jarrod Lentz (Br).

If you're on the internet (Facebook) you've probably seen (and heard) the **Dapper Dans of Disney World** sing their original *Hap Happy Birthday* song in a video that's been shared by thousands of close harmony fans.

No one knows for sure but we're guessing the original video was viewed by 300,000 people and seen via sharing by many more.

The Dans recorded this video in the spring of 2009 as it was part of a promotional campaign for **Disney Parks and Resorts**. It was a great idea. If you signed up on the website, this video was delivered to you via email on your birthday as a surprise. Thousands had a better birthday thanks to these guys.



(Da Da Da Da Da Da Da Da)

Hap-Happy Birthday

A Great Big To Do

Let's Celebrate, Yeah

Celebrate You.

So Make a Wish (make a wish)

On Your Special Day

You're Lookin' Great

Come Celebrate.

Hap Happy Birthday

From Us to You

(Oh From the Place)

Yes, From the Place

Where Dreams Do Come True.

So Here's a Wish in

One, Two, Three, Four Part Harmony

(Harmony)

Happy Birthday (Your Special Day)

To You (Yes, To You).

Of course, the Dans make it a point to sing this original tune to any guests who they discover are celebrating a birthday in the park. It's always a big hit.

This original song, written by Disney Show Producer **Chris Oyen** and arranged by **Tony DeRosa**, was crafted to avoid any copyright infringement with the Happy Birthday to You song. This one fits the quartet and the park perfectly.

For this famous video the Dans first recorded the audio at the **Yellow Shoes Creative Group's** studio. About a week later they shot the video, before the park opened, on Main Street USA outside Casey's Corner. The filming took about 90 minutes, and the final take ended up being the one used in the video.



A Cast of Characters

There are many members who sing with the Dans, and many sing multiple parts. Some are full time and some are substitutes, allowing all to have at least two days off each week.

Jarrold was a Dan for four years, Souppa for eight years, **Kevin Miles** for 12 years, and Chad for 18 years.

Souppa is still performing full time with the Dans. **Chad**, a collegiate



champion with **Heritage Station** (1993), left Disney earlier this year and now lives in Tennessee. Jarrod moved to Japan several years ago and currently works at Tokyo's **DisneySea**.

Most will recognize Kevin Miles as the bass of **Platinum** (our 2000 International Champs). Before joining the Dans, Kevin sang with the **Voices of Liberty** for 21 years and was also the "*Voice of WDW*" doing the recordings you hear throughout the park. He retired in 2016 to much fanfare after 33 years as a cast member.

You'll no doubt recognize several Dans who sing in the park.

Currently Active:

Tony DeRosa - former substitute and current Director of Music, lead in third-place medalist quartet **Main Street**.

Roger Ross - substitute performer for 30+ years, tenor in **Main Street**.

Myron Whittlesey - Bass in **Main Street**.

Mike McGee - Baritone in **Main Street**.

Drew Ochoa - Lead in **After Hours**.

Other former subs and full time performers with barbershop hardware:

Aaron Stratton - Heritage Station,
1993 College Champs

Chad Bennett - Heritage Station,
1993 College Champs

Paul Hesson - Heritage Station, 1993
College Champs

Drew Kirkman - Michigan Jake,
2001 Champs

Harry Williamson - The Regents,
1974 Champs

Don Barnick - Grandma's Boys, 1979
Champs & **Keepsake,** 1992
Champs

You can see (and hear) your special birthday greeting from the Dans on your special day. It's perfect for kids of all ages, especially YOU!

CLICK HERE

Happy Birthday from
the Dapper Dans



I sang with the Dans for a time – OK, just once while I visited on vacation in '83. I had the honor of singing with (L-R) **Bub Thomas**, **Joe Hudgins**, and **Bruce Brann** in front of the original barbershop on Center Street.

Sincere Slugs



This 2003 **Brent Forrest** animated video of four adorable singing tough-skinned terrestrial mollusks went viral. This was 13 years ago and if you listen closely you'll probably be able to recognize the audio by a pretty famous quartet from a rather iconic movie.

This is one where you should open up all the windows, “crank up” the volume, and let yourself FEEL the strength of these voices while you enjoy the visual eye candy.

CLICK HERE

So, here is your “*Moment of Zen.*”

You Are Welcome!



Iowa Boys Make it BIG You Don't Know JAX

Every once in a while, a quartet comes along that without the immortality status given to gold medal champions, captures the hearts of thousands of fans and becomes one of the most beloved foursomes in the Society. Such is the story of a talented but unassuming quartet from Des Moines, Iowa ...

The Jax of Harmony



Fred Owens, Jerry Pike, Le Hill, John Mininger

They formed in 1966 as a good old-fashioned, everyday chapter quartet. They were **John Mininger** (T), **Le Hill** (L), **Fred Owens** (Br), and **Jerry Pike** (Bs).

All were active and proud members of the **Des Moines-Aires** (now **The Pride of Iowa**) chorus.

Jerry served as their music director from 1963-1967 and again from 1971-1973. He also directed the **Des Moines Sweet Adeline Chorus** from 1960-63.

Musical Chairs

One Quartet / Nine Guys / 19 Years

Like most quartets, they worked through agonizing personnel changes. In 1969 **Roger Spahr** replaced Fred on baritone. Le was replaced by the Jax's coach **Mike Rehberg** in '72. Mike served as chorus director from 1973 thru 1983.



John Mininger, Mike Rehberg, Jerry Pike, Roger Spahr

Mike turned out to be a perfect fit for the quartet. They started getting more serious and began expanding their sphere of influence. The Jax developed a show package and focused on using songs no one else was singing. They also geared the quartet toward pleasing an audience rather than contest judges.

They continued with this lineup until Jerry moved away to Missouri in 1974 and **Cliff Pape** replaced him on bass. Then Jerry came back in 1975.

Researched and Written by Grady Kerr Barbershop Harmony Society Historian



Jerry Pike (left), John Mininger (top)
Ron Morden (bottom), Mike Rehberg (right)

Baritone **Ron Morden** replaced Roger, who left for health reasons, in 1976.

(Are you keeping track so far? There's going to be a test later.)

Tenor **Gary Verhoef** replaced John when he moved to California in 1982. Gary also went on to direct the chorus in 1987.

Never skipping a beat, each man stepped in allowing the quartet to keep going and maintain their active schedule.

They finally had to retire in 1985. After nineteen active years, the Jax left behind quite a legacy.

JAX
of HARMONY
BARBERSHOP QUARTET

Contact:
Ron Morden, Baritone
737 34th Place
West Des Moines, Iowa
50265

Phone:
Office — 515-245-2001
Home — 515-225-1210

Gary Verhoef, Tenor Mike Rehberg, Lead Jerry Pike, Bass

Magnificent Men in their Flying Machine

Once they got up to speed in 1971 the Jax began doing more chapter shows. The inherent problem was location, location, location. **Des Moines** was a million miles from nowhere and getting to other chapters and their shows would be a real challenge for any *normal* quartet. Anyone who had ever seen their show will agree ... The Jax were NOT normal. On stage they were NUTS!

But the Jax had an advantage ...

**THEY HAD
AN
AIRPLANE!**



John and Ron had their pilot licenses and John (a hospital administrator) owned half-interest with a doctor who ran a service called **Medic-Air** (*get it?*). They flew a **Piper Arrow**. Later they flew a **Turbo Arrow** that could climb higher and get there faster). The plane was almost always available on weekends so they used it instead of making the long, boring, time consuming road trips. It cost them about \$60 an hour to fly. It was definitely more economical than four roundtrip airline tickets. Any costs were worth the time saved, convenience and accessibility to the smaller airfields for rural cities.

John had his IFR (instrument rating) so he would fly if weather conditions called for it. Both he and Ron had a silent agreement. Without even discussing it they knew who would be flying back home based on weather. This way one could partake in the adult beverages served at the afterglow. The other played the role of "*designated flier.*"



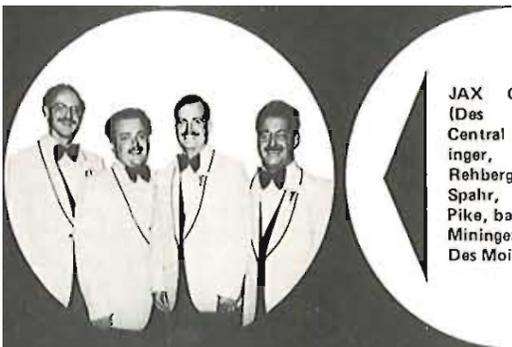
Thanks to the Jax, many isolated chapters got a top-quality, Top 20 caliber quartet for much less money than a gold medal champion / headliner.

Needless to say the Jax were VERY popular with chapter show producers and did many annual chapter shows more than once. They were superstars on their own show circuit. Through their lifespan they averaged about two big shows a month with a lot of local gigs as needed. It's estimated they performed on over 200 chapter shows and over 500 performances total.

Jax of All Shades

They were professionals and when they arrived in town their appearance was impressive. Those who remember them can recall the unique stage outfits. They often wore gold velour jump suits with rhinestones. You could see them in gambler jackets and very colorful, custom-designed outfits of a more western style. They also wore matching outfits for afterglows as well as matching travel outfits. They felt it was important to make a good impression, and when they arrived in town their sharp appearance did just that.

By the early 70s they had become a tight knit group (musically, administratively, and socially). The Jax won the 1972 Central States District championship.

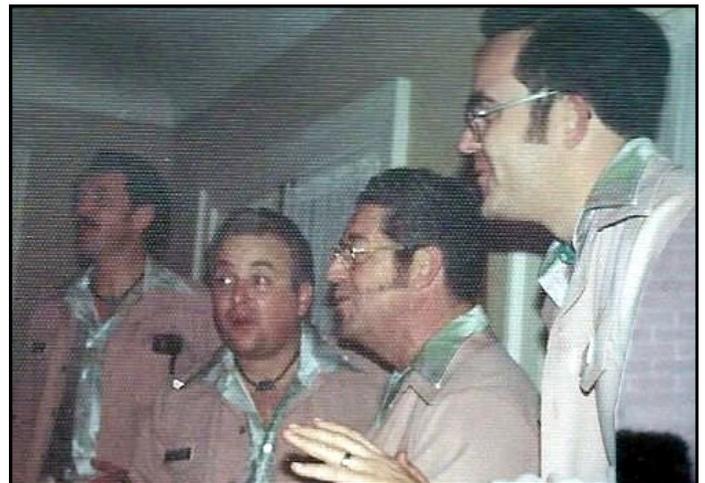


JAX OF HARMONY
(Des Moines, Ia. —
Central States) John Min-
inger, tenor; Michael
Rehberg, lead; Roger
Spahr, bar and Jerry
Pike, bass. Contact: John
Mininger, 1608 Frazier,
Des Moines, Ia. 50315

They also qualified for the International quartet contest and represented the Central States District **TEN TIMES**. They only missed the 1976 Int'l because the **Rural Route 4** narrowly outscored them at Pre-lims (8 little points). RR4 went on to win International in 1986.

While they didn't win every contest ... they **NEVER** lost an audience. Through the years they did many shows and shared the stage with many "contest winners." The Jax took a silent, personal pride in "beating" show headliners. This long list includes a number of International medalists.

Ron tells us; *"We were always much better as a show quartet than on the contest stage. People often came up to us after a show and asked if we really had as much fun on stage as it appeared. My stock answer was always, 'No...we actually have more!' Maybe that's why we were so popular as a show quartet."*



You Can Depend on the Jax

The Jax were very reliable. They NEVER missed a chapter show and can only remember missing ONE of their several gigs for **The Vigortone Feed Company**. It was in northern Iowa on a night when the weather kept them from landing the plane in the area. One out of several hundred is a pretty good record.



Better than just getting "shirts" alike

Jax International Contest History

The Jax sang on the International Contest stage **TEN** times; twice in the Top 20



1972 Atlanta, GA

20th

Mininger, Rehberg, Spahr, Pike

My Buddy; Lorabelle Lee; Mary Lou; Last Night Was the End of the World



1973 Portland, OR

19th

Mininger, Rehberg, Spahr, Pike

Tuck Me to Sleep in My Old 'Tucky Home; I'll Change the Thorns to Roses; Barefoot Days; I'd Love to Live in Loveland



1974 Kansas City, MO

33rd

Mininger, Rehberg, Spahr, Pape

Tuck Me to Sleep In My Old 'Tucky Home; Mother



1975 Indianapolis, IN

26th

Mininger, Rehberg, Spahr, Pike

Barefoot Days: I Miss You Most of All



1977 Philadelphia, PA

36th

Mininger, Rehberg, Morden, Pike

Barefoot Days; I Miss You Most of All



1978 Cincinnati, OH

32nd

Mininger, Rehberg, Morden, Pike

Pretty Baby; Give Me the Moonlight.



1979 Minneapolis, MN

38th

Mininger, Rehberg, Morden, Pike

When You Wore a Tulip; Peg of My Heart.



1980 Salt Lake City, UT

25th

Mininger, Rehberg, Morden, Pike

Pretty Baby; My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time



1981 Detroit, MI

28th

Mininger, Rehberg, Morden, Pike

What a Wonderful Wedding There Will Be; If the Rest of the World Don't Want You



1982 Pittsburgh, PA

29th

Mininger, Rehberg, Morden, Pike

I'm Alone Because I Love You; What a Wonderful Wedding There Will Be.

A Large and Exclusive Repertoire

They were also well prepared for any show with any audience. In their heyday their repertoire included over 80 songs. They would routinely check with all other quartets on the show to make sure they didn't have any conflicts. While some quartets had a limited number of available songs for the show, afterglow, and everglo (often repeating some), the Jax never had a problem picking another song so there were no duplications.

"We could run most any other quartet out of songs and literally still be in our "A" material, most of which were arrangements that were not done by any other quartet."

– Ron.

Other quartets were amazed.

Many who had the pleasure of seeing the Jax in person will probably remember their opener, *"That Song is Drivin' Me Crazy."* During the song they'd stop several times and deliver one-liners (aka groaners) such as:

Q: Why did the cross-eyed school teacher lose her job?

A: She couldn't control her pupils!

Q: What did the little fishy say when he swam into a rock wall?

A: Dam!

Q: What do you call a nun who walks in her sleep?

A: What else? ... a Roamin' Catholic!

Q: What do you get when you throw two sticks of lit dynamite onto the floor of a French kitchen?

A: Linoleum Blownapart!

It didn't take long for the Jax to have the audience in the palms of their hands. They took advantage of help from several coaches thru the years: **Oz Newgard**, **Lance Heilmann**, **Dr. Greg Lyne**, **Ken Jordahl**, **Jack Hines**, and **Mike Rehberg**.

But the music was the thing. The Jax had several "hits."

Asleep in the Deep This featured super-bass Jerry Pike. On a South Dakota chapter show they mistakenly pitched the song too low. Turns out the final bottom note (the climax of the entire song) was a low B^b. Jerry handled it just fine and could have gone lower by another whole step!

Mister Bassman (arranged by **Buzz Haeger**) This **Four Renegades** song was always a hit. It featured Jerry trying to teach Ron how to sing bass.

After the Lovin' (arranged by **Neal Nygard**) A song made popular by **Endeldinck Humperbert** (as Mike calls him) in 1976.

The Jax show set often included at least one song that would feature a member.

John - **The Hands of Time**

Mike - **Lida Rose** (the obbligato)

Ron - **I'm Confessing That I Love You**

In 2002 he had the pleasure of singing this for his wife during the Jax' 30-year reunion.

Jerry - **Mr. Bassman, Asleep in the Deep, Old Man River.**

At one of the Des Moines shows at the Civic Center, Jerry was dressed as "Old Man River" while sitting in a chair with the others surrounding him, his performance left goose bumps on every person in the auditorium.

Enjoy listening to these JAX fan favorites:

Daddy Sang Bass



Lost In The Stars



Please Mister Columbus



Old Man River



Mister Bassman



For those that loved the Jax it didn't matter how many times they heard them sing Pretty Baby or My Dreams Are Getting' Better All the Time. It was guaranteed fun every time as they delivered the old favorites with a wink and a click of the tongue. - Diana Latch (Bass, Sunshine Music Co.)

Mike had an idea of doing a medley of old commercial jingles. They asked well-known quartet man, Music and Arrangement category judge, and International Champion chorus director, **Dr. Greg Lyne** if he'd consider taking on the challenge. Greg was intrigued.

He compiled the jingles and, in December 1972, wrote and arranged **Commercial Collage**. It was a gift from Greg to the quartet and it became one of the most popular parts of their show. The monster-medley included twenty-six vintage commercial jingles all perfectly CRAMMED together into a mere four minutes including the last part where all four were singing different jingles that meshed together!

Looking back, one can see the medley includes some products that aren't so politically correct nowadays.

*SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THIS MEDLEY
AND A
SPECIAL VIDEO
WE PUT TOGETHER TO SHOWCASE
THIS SUPER JAX HIT*

Best Show Ever

Many of their shows run together all these years later, but one stands out. It also reflects the Jax's dedication. In mid-80s they got an urgent phone call from Southwestern District President **Julian White**. The **Hot Springs, Arkansas** chapter show quartet, **The Class of the 80s** of Dallas, had to cancel at the last minute due to an illness that required hospitalization.

It was already mid-day on Saturday when they got the call, and the show was to begin in eight hours, and they were 500 miles away. All four scrambled, cleared their schedules, and flew out of the Des Moines International Airport, landing in Hot Springs three hours later.

The headliners were an international medalist. When the audience was told of the anxiety it took to get the Jax to the show, they were an instant hit and (once again) their show upstaged the headliner. They followed that with the afterglow, flying home, Sunday morning church, a quick nap, a chorus coaching session, a Sunday night mixed bowling league, and a **mandatory** pizza dinner with the wives. They finally rewarded themselves with a great night's sleep knowing they helped out a barbershop chapter in need. From that one act of kindness, unexpectedly, they received a lot of show bids.

One of their favorite arrangers was **Dennis Driscoll**. He did over a dozen charts for them, most notably, their **Sesame Street Medley**. They performed it with puppets. Included in the medley is "*It's Not Easy Bein' Green.*" Mike would step up and do the melody while Ron managed to put bright green food coloring on his tongue and clown around behind him to the delight of the audience.

They recall the Omaha annual show as very special. The Jax were the third quartet on the bill. Second was a Sweet Adelines quartet, and the headliners, **The Most Happy Fellows** (1977 Champs). The Jax stole the show and, once again, charmed the audience ... their co-performers ... not so much.



The Commercial Collage



To look sharp and be on the ball, to feel sharp and be in the know, just be sharp, use Gillette Blue Blades, for the quickest, slickest shaves of all.



See the USA in your Chevrolet. America's the greatest one of all (SMOOCH).



Ay, ay, ay, ay! I am dee Frito Bandito.



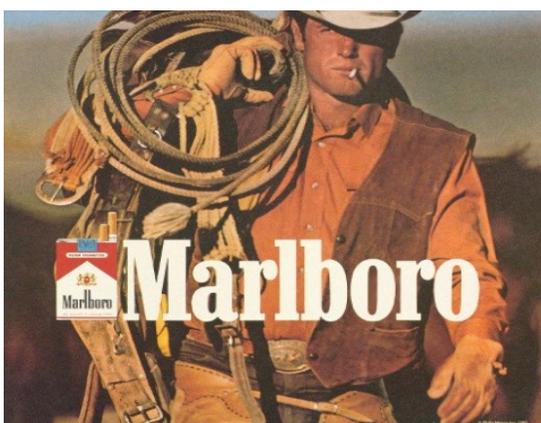
Oh, I wish I were an Oscar Mayer wiener, that is what I'd really like to be. Cause if I were an Oscar Mayer wiener everyone would fall in love with me.



you can't take the "country" out of Salem.

Wherever you light up a Salem, you get a menthol taste that's country soft, country fresh. Because Salem gently air-softens every puff. Take a puff...it is springtime!

You can take Salem out of the country but, you can't take the country out of Salem. You can take Salem out of the country but ...



You get lot to like with a Marlboro. Filter, flavor pack, or box.



Winston tastes good like a ...



From the land of sky-blue waters (waters). Hamms, the beer refreshing.



Skinny Dip, Skinny Dip. Makes a girl feel pretty, Skinny Dip.



Bekins men are careful, quick, and kind. Bekins takes a load off of your mind. So ...



Putt, putt to the Pizza Hut. Putt, putt to the Pizza Hut.



There's a new you comin' every day, every day. There's a new you comin' every day.



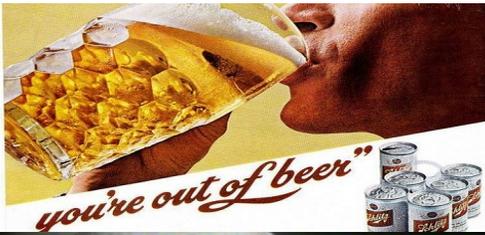
Hurry on down to Hardee's. Where the burgers are charcoal-broiled.



You deserve a break today. So, get out and get away to McDonalds.



Try Ajax, (bum, bum). the foaming cleanser. (Bass – ba-ba-ba-ba bum bum bum) Cleans the dirt right down the drain. (Bass – ba-ba-ba-ba-ba bum).



When you're out of Schlitz, you're out of beer. Real gusto in a great light beer.



Take Somnifex tonight and sleep. Safe and restful, sleep, sleep, sleep.



There's just one thing you have to know about gasoline.



N-E-S-T-L-E-S, Nestlé's makes the very best ... Chocolate.



No salt salts like Morton Salt salts.



You can trust your car to the man who wears the star, the big bright Texaco star.



Pepsi-Cola hits the spot, twelve full ounces, that's a lot. Twice as much for a nickel, too. Pepsi-Cola is the drink for you.



Mmmm good, Mmmm good. That's what Campbell soups are, Mmmm Good.



Double your pleasure, double your fun with ...



J-E-L-L-O

... On With The Show

WATCH A VIDEO
OF THIS MEDLEY

[CLICK HERE](#)



Sunshine Music Co. and the Jax (left to right) Bette Fulton, John Mininger, Diana Latch, Jerry Pike, Mike Rehberg, Jayne Kinkade, Ron Morden, Donna Mininger - 1985

The Jax became close friends with the **Sunshine Music Co.**, four-time Region 20 Sweet Adelines Champions ('81, '88, '89, and 1990). They would combine voices with the Jax and do eight part arrangements such as the popular *And So to Sleep Again* (arr. **Buzz Haeger**).

Diana Latch remembers: *"We all got together to practice one weekend and we met at my parents' house. My mother was a great cook and whipped up a fabulous meal for the entire crew. We sang our hearts out and everyone went away fat and happy. I remember the Jax standing in the doorway as they left, singing 'If the Lord Be Willin' (and the creek don't rise).' Loving music as we all did, the time we spent singing together just seemed magical ... everyone was so quick to learn! I've always loved singing in a quartet, but combining the men's and women's voices was the absolute best!"*

All eight appeared on a televised program from the **Iowa State Fair** grandstand. The special guest was **Meredith Willson's** widow, **Rosemary**. The octet did *Lida Rose / Dream of Now (Will I Ever Tell You?)*. Rosemary was seated on stage and, even though she had heard this song a "million times" before, she was moved to tears.

"The Jax of Harmony were great entertainers." – Dennis Driscoll

Some members of the **Sunshine Music Co.** became more than just singing



partners. They were the little one, **Bette Fulton** (T), the redhead, **Jayne Kinkade** (L), **Donna Mininger** (Br), and the brunette, **Diana Latch** (Bs). Yes, Jayne and Donna both married members of the Jax.

You Don't Know Jax

John Mininger (T)

John was an assistant administrator for **Iowa Methodist Hospital**. He had two sons with his first wife, and then later married **Donna Brodersen**, a member of **Sunshine Music Co.**

He moved to Vegas in 1992 and sang in **Stardust** with **Jim** and **Larry Halvorson** and **Buzz Bossard**. They went to International five times:

2005 = 23rd
 2006 = 22nd
 2007 = 28th
 2008 = 32nd
 2009 = 30th

They also almost won the **Far Western District** title.



John won the FWD Senior quartet title with **Silver Knights** in 2010 (**Warren Hettinga** (L), **Chuck Wines** (Br), **James Sherman** (Bs). They placed 8th in the International Seniors quartet contest in 2011.

He won two chorus gold medals (1990 / 1993).



John won his FIRST chorus gold medal with the 1990 Masters of Harmony, That's John in the white jacket.

He drove from Vegas to Santa Fe Springs, CA almost every week for 18 months to sing with the **Masters of Harmony**. (directed by **Dr. Greg Lyne**) and considers it one his most rewarding barbershop experiences.

Mike Rehberg (L)

Mike was a chemist and director for the Iowa Bureau of Criminal Investigation Crime Lab.



He won the **Land O' Lakes** District quartet championship in 1962 with **The Badg-Aires** - Mike (T), **John Grosnick** (L), **Jim McNall** (Br), **Bob Haase** (Bs).

He also sang tenor with **The Fantastics**, 1963 Land O' Lakes District champs (**Bill Griffith** (L), **John Grosnick** (Br), and **Del Degner** (Bs).



FANTASTICS -- 1963 CHAMPS (Madison-Wausau-Menomonee Falls, Wis.)

Mike was presented his 50-year Society membership pin in 2007.

It was during a 1961 Janesville, Wisconsin chapter show, singing with the **Badge-Aires**, that their quartet host arranged a blind date for Mike. It was that weekend he met Karen. They hit it off and were married in 1962.

He has appeared on the International contest stage 14 TIMES. He did it with the **Badg-Aires** (2X), the **Fantastics** (1X), **Velvetones** (1X), and **The Jax** (10X).



Badg-Aires 1961 45th
John Grosnick (T), George Palmer (Br),
Mike Rehberg (L), Bob Hasse (Bs)



Fantastics 1965 25th
Del Degner (Bs), Bill Griffith (L),
Mike Rehberg (T), John Grosnick (Br)



Velvetones 1967 41st
John Grosnik (Br), Iver Loatherberry
(L), Ron Skare (Bs), Mike Rehberg (T)

Mike had a lot of power and drama in his voice. He's a great guy with a great sense of humor – Dr. Greg Lyne

Ron Morden (Br)

Ron was an insurance company's Certified Public Accountant (and self-proclaimed head bean counter). Ron also served in several chapter and **Central States District** positions, including treasurer, executive vice president and District President. He was a certified chapter counselor, and a Standing Ovation Program reviewer (a Jax of all trades, as it were).

His second wife, **Jayne**, was a member of the **Sunshine Music Co.** and sang with Ron in a mixed quartet after SMC retired.



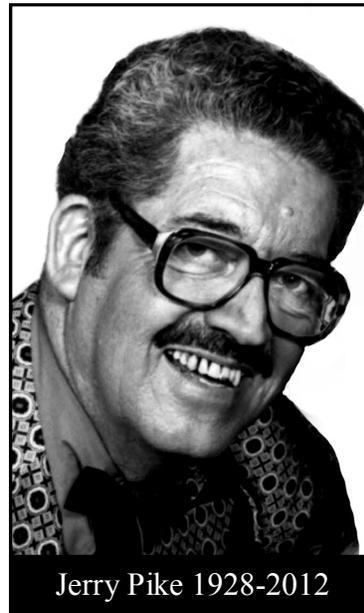
Sunshine Music Co. winning their Region and the blue ribbons in 1981

Ron sang with **American Barberboys** chorus and **The Ambassadors of Harmony** in 2007 and 2008. For those two years Ron drove 800 miles each week to sing with them. He won TWO silver medals and only after he quit going did they go on to win the gold in 2009 (He claims there is no connection).

Jerry Pike (Bs)

Was an office manager for a privately owned company that made seed cleaning equipment. He was also in the insurance business. Before the Jax, he sang with the **Hawkeye Four**. Jerry often referred to himself as "*Jerome Pickeliard Es-Q.*" Jerry died March 11, 2012.

In 1991 Jerry was on vacation with his wife and family in Orlando. They went to Disney



Jerry Pike 1928-2012

World and heard a barbershop quartet singing. It was the world-famous **Dapper Dans**. Of course they stopped and listened. To his surprise the quartet came over to Jerry and asked, "*Aren't you Jerry Pike?*" The bass stepped out and Jerry sang a couple songs with the **Dans**.

Jerry is also the only Jax who got to sing for TWO Presidents, **Eisenhower** at the Iowa State Capital and **Truman** at the Savoy Grill in Kansas City, MO after he had left office.

Jerry was a Bass's Bass.

If you sang bass, whether male or female, he was your hero. - Diana Latch

Roger Spahr (Br)

Roger was a realtor and is now happily retired. He and his wife **Sandra** have been married 54 years. They have two sons. Roger served in almost every chapter office position and also sang with the **Midland Four**.

For a while son, Brett sang with Roger in a local quartet. They mostly performed gospel.

Cliff Pape (Bs)

Cliff sang with the Jax a little over a year. He and Charlotte have been married 30 years. They have a son. He's sung bass in several quartets through the years. **Yesterday's Heroes** placed 4th in the 2000 International Senior's contest. He's also won the Rocky Mountain District quartet championship in THREE quartets (**Route 66, 1st Edition, and Kings of the Road**)



Route 66

1990 International - 42nd

Steve Stevens (T), Jim Law (L), Cliff Pape (Bs), Mike Finnegan (Br)

Gary Verhoef (T)

After the Jax, Gary sang with the **Heartland River Boys** (complete with overalls, straw hats, corn cob pipes and bare feet).



The Heartland River Boys - Gary Verhoef (Br), Warren Van Wyngarden (Bs), John Van Wyngarden (L), and Carl Roose (T)

They placed in the Central States District Top 10.

They were very popular and active in the area doing several appearances a month.

Gary is still very active in music. He directs the **Gospel Singers Male Chorus**, a chorus with 46 years of history in SE Iowa and sings baritone as needed in quartets around the Pella area.



Also last summer, the featured speaker at a banquet following a charity golf tournament, sponsored by the Variety Club of Iowa, was Digger Phelps, former basketball coach at Notre Dame University. Phelps' trademark, a flower in his lapel, was not suitable with casual attire, so he explained that he had brought along an Irish Rose. This was the cue for four Barbershoppers from the Des Moines Chapter, who were also participating in the tournament, to come on stage and sing "My Wild Irish Rose" for the gathering. Pictured (l to r) are: Ron Morden, bari; Cecil Goetsch, bass; Phelps; Lynn Bridie, lead and Mike Rehberg, tenor.



John, Mike, Jerry, and Roger
The Jax 30th anniversary of winning the CSD championship in 2002 during the Central States District Convention

Jax Discography

The Jax fans demanded they make records so they did FOUR. All were recorded at **Triad Studios** in Des Moines. Due to their plane's weight restrictions they only took about 100 copies to their shows. They always came back with very few.

Each kept the "collage" theme and, as a possible nod to **The Beatles** White Album – released in 1968, each were given COLORS to be easily identified (Red, White, & Blue, and Gold).



Collage

(aka Red Collage)

Released in 1975 on LP

Pressed 500 copies

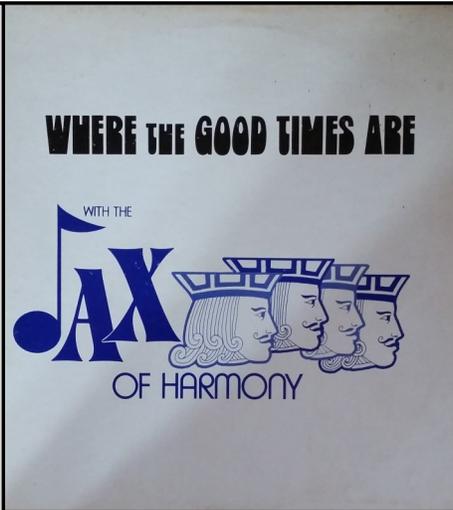
Price \$5.00

Side One

Commercial Collage
Lost In The Stars
I Don't Know Why Medley
South Medley
May I Tell You My Dream
Hush

Side Two

Say Has Anybody Seen My
Sweet Gypsy Rose - Who's In
The Strawberry Patch With
Sally? Medley
Lida Rose
Yes Sir, That's My Baby
Daddy Sang Bass
Old Man River
Please Mister Columbus
Iowa



Where The Good Times Are

(aka White Collage)

Released in 1974 on LP

Pressed 500 copies

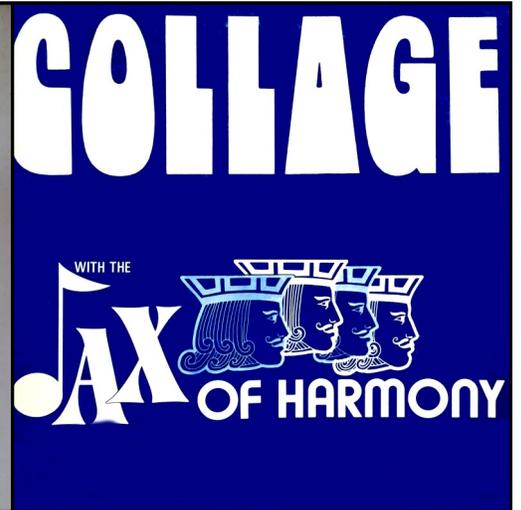
Price \$5.00

Side One

Where The Good Times are
Tuck Me to Sleep in My Old
'Tucky Home
When You Wore a Tulip
The Hands of Time (theme from
Brian's Song)
Sound of Music Medley

Side Two

Barefoot Days
If I Could Write a Song
For All We Know
Dry Bones
Memories
Goody, Goody



That Song is Drivin' Me Crazy

(aka Blue Collage)

Released in 1976 on LP

Pressed 500 copies

Price \$10.00

Side One

That Song is Drivin' Me Crazy
Pretty Baby
Maybe
I'm Confessin' That I Love You
Mister Bassman
Asleep in the Deep
Makin The Best of a Bad Situation
Thirty-Five Years Ago
Goody Goody (re-recorded with Jerry Pike)

Side Two

My Dreams Are Getting Better All the
Time
Sesame Street
Give Me The Moonlight, Give Me the
Girl and Leave the Rest To Me
Didn't We
Dry Bones (re-recorded with Jerry Pike)
One Land Out of Many



Price
\$10.00
Released in
1976 on
cassettes
only

This special release included all the songs from the Red, White, and Blue albums.

The Jax never appeared on any International Quartet LPs because the Society was still only including the Top 10 Quartets of each Int'l. Most quartets didn't "make the record" so a great deal of performances have been lost – forever. There are a LOT of Lost Quartets.



2016 is the first year the Society is not producing a LP or CD of contest performances. Now we have EVERY performance available via YouTube for FREE, more on that next issue.

Unfortunately we were unable to find any video footage of The Jax at International.

Where Are They Now?

John Mininger (78)

John has been a Society member for 53 years. He and **Donna** have been married 35 years. They live in the Las Vegas area. He's retired and not actively singing.



Mike Rehberg (77)

Is now retired and living in West Des Moines, Iowa with **Karen**. He still sings lead (and tenor) and is active with **Easy Aces** quartet. He and Karen have been married 54 years and have three kids, eight grand-kids, and one great grandchild.



They CAN all sing but seldom do. His was a musical family as Mike's parents and some family members sang with bands professionally.

Ron Morden (76)

Ron is a 50-year Society member. Sadly, his son died at 22 and Jayne died from cancer in 2014 after 15 harmonious years with Ron.



He is now retired and living at Lake Panorama, Iowa (about 45 miles west of Des Moines). He has a daughter who is a special education teacher in West Des Moines and an adopted niece.

In addition to being an active coach Ron recently created what is the BHS's newest affiliate organization, the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association (**MBHA**), and serves as its President and CEO.

Jerry Pike

Jerry died March 11, 2012. Jerry was a Society member for over 60 years. His widow, **Darlene**, still lives in the Des Moines area. Jerry had 3 sons, 2 sons surviving him still live in the Des Moines area.

Roger Spahr (76)

Roger is retired and living in Ankeny, IA, just north of Des Moines.

Clifford Pape (75)

Clifford and **Charlotte** just moved to Green Valley AZ and he sings with the Green Valley chapter. He's a 60+ year Society member.

Gary Verhoef (67)

Gary and **Corrinne** now live in Pella, Iowa and have been married for 46 years. They have three kids and 13 grandkids.

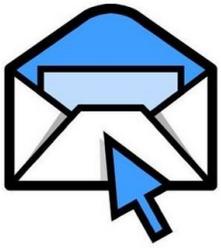
Two other former members are gone. In addition to Jerry Pike, **Le Hill (L)** and **Fred Owens (Br)** have passed away.



After over 500 performances and more than 100,000 miles The Jax of Harmony officially retired in 1985. Looking back, they are proud to have entertained folks from Philly to Salt Lake City, from Canada to Texas, and even Puerto Rico.

The Jax represented the Barbershop Harmony Society, the great Central States District, and their Des Moines, Iowa chapter. Along the way they made lots of friends.

Long Live the Jax of Harmony



We Got Mail

(E-Mail, FaceBook Posts, and Tweets)

Thanks to all those who responded to the previous issue

Diz Disney – Florida

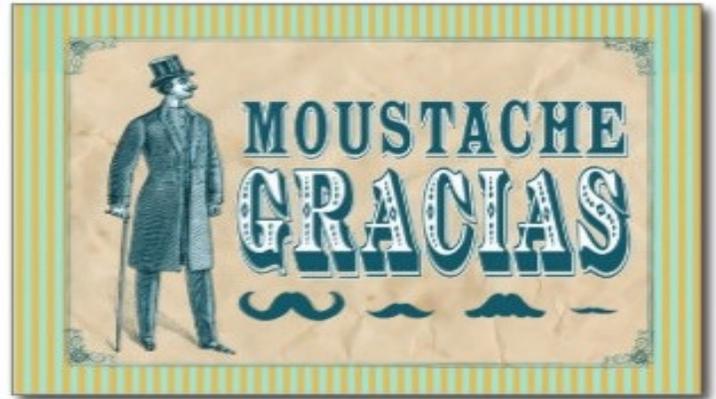
I again can't begin to say how much I enjoyed your article... "Worlds Greatest Lead" in your last issue of Preservation. It was fun to work with you and your staff and it's amazing what all turned up and especially the people who contributed. But mostly to you ... for YOU made this happen. I will never forget this honor Grady.

My thanks again to ALL of your staff.

Montana Jack Fitzpatrick - Arizona

Thanks for a wonderful and exquisitely researched article about DIZ. It was a great experience remembering all those years of hearing and seeing this marvelously talented man and his many songs and quartets. Somehow, I had the privilege of being with B&O, while they did their hospitality room circuit, on the night they won their 3rd place medals. In the midst of all that excitement and fame, they still managed to be gracious, humble and warm to everyone they met that night. Many years later, I happened to be there when he was inducted in the MAD hall of honor. He greeted his many friends as though he had been gone to Florida for just a week—still gracious, humble and warm—he never forgot a single one. Blessings. Keep up the great and noble work.

EDITOR - Thanks guys.



Our sincere thanks to the following people who helped gather information in this issue.

Ron Morden
 Diana Barker Latch
 John & Donna Mininger
 Darlene Pike
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 Clifford Pape
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 Dennis Driscoll
 Al Severt
 Chad Bennett
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 Dr. Greg Lyne
 Greg Olds
 Mike Mendyke
 Matthew Campisi
 Sue Beck