

History is where you find it

by Jim Nugent
Hays Chapter

If you want to see history come alive, attend the pioneer quartet reception sponsored by the Far Western District when it is held at next year's International Convention in San Francisco. The reception is an important way of showing respect for and learning from the early heroes of our Society, and a means of continuing involvement of the inactive champions.

If the same format is continued, the reception will be informally structured, allowing you to hear a little bit about the early competitors and competitions in the Society from the men and women who lived it.

Don't expect a lot of razzle dazzle or even much expanded sound (some of the stories may be expanded just a forgivable bit) from these quartet competitors from the earliest days of our Society. Do expect sincere expressions of appreciation for everyone who pays his dues in this Society, because it is we who make possible the competition that elevates them to the status that comes with the title "International Champion."

Do expect some zingers from the likes of J. Frank "The Millionaire" Rice, who was labeled by O. C. Cash, "the sweetest lead this side of Heaven." At ninety, Frank still has a remarkably quick wit and does a decent job of singing his favorite, "Don't Cry, Little Girl, Don't Cry."

Do hope to see Roy Frisbie of the Elastic Four (modesty is a fundamental principle of my personality), who does a respectable job of reciting "Aunt Clara" (if Aunt Clara can ever be called "respectable").

Do hope to see and listen to people such as Bob Lindley, bari, and Bruce Conover, lead, of the 1953 champion

Vikings, and Tom Palamone, lead, and Bill Conway, bass, of the Pittsburghers (also known as the "Pizaburgers"), 1948 champs' Gil Wallace, bass, and Carl Wright, bari, of the 1957 winners, Lads of Enchantment; and Glen Hanson, bass of the Capitol Four, which competed in 1939, Tom Masengale, bass, of the Chordbusters, 1941; Marty Mendro, lead, Mid-States Four, 1949. Do hope to see three members of the Four Hearsemens: Wendel Heiny, tenor; Dwight Elliott, bari; and Dick Gifford, bass.

Fine ladies, such as Betty Ann Cash, daughter of O. C.; for Chordette Jinny Cole Janis; and Louise Granger Kimmel, whose Tulsa Fire Chief father emceed the first three Society contests, add another dimension to the historic meeting.

All in all, Far Western District Historian Bob Bisio does a remarkable job of organizing and conducting the reception and his efforts deserve your support. Try it, you'll like it. Not only is it interesting, it is fun.



Central States District

Serenade



Iowa · Kansas · Nebraska · Missouri · South Dakota

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Once a fruit and vegetable market, Omaha's Old Market, a National Historic District, features restaurants, art galleries, boutiques, pubs, and open air cafes. Photo provided by Greater Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Omaha's fine in '89 with lots to do — and dinosaurs, too!

by Steve Trusty
CSD Conventions Chairman

Omaha has much to offer for attendees at this fall's convention. Besides the beautiful Orpheum Theater and the excellent hotel accommodations, there is much to see and do before, after, and between the contest sessions.

Omaha is well known for its many fine eating establishments. Although most famous for its "Italian" Steak Houses, most other cuisine is available. Whatever your palate prefers should be easily found.

The Old Market area, one of Nebraska's most famous tourist attractions, boasts spaghetti, Cajun, Chinese, French, English, Indian, Mexican, and seafood specialties. Within a short driving distance of downtown are located many other prime restaurants. Most everyone's taste and pocketbook can be accommodated.

The Old Market is also well known for its quaint shops. Just a few blocks east of the Orpheum, the area offers

dozens of speciality shops. Books (new and used), antiques, clothes of every description, knick knacks, Christmas decorations, jewelry, art objects, and furniture are just a few of the items to be shopped.

Many outstanding art galleries are also located in or near the Old Market. For those so inclined, you can take a ride in a horse-drawn carriage around the Old Market and adjacent Central Park Mall.

If you come on Thursday, you could attend an excellent play at the Firehouse Theater. The Firehouse is the area's only professional Actors Equity Theater. Playing in October is Neil Simon's "Come Blow Your Horn." Anyone wanting to obtain tickets can check with Steve Trusty about the possibility of special group rates.

Though our convention schedules don't allow an abundance of free time, we think it would be worth your while to spend an extra day or two in the area to see the sights.

One of the country's largest and most widely acclaimed zoos is Om-

aha's Henry Doorly Zoo. Most animals are housed in areas as closely approximating their natural habitats as possible. Many animals that are on the endangered species list, or close to extinction, are housed at the Henry Doorly Zoo, due to its reputation for care and its breeding programs.

As of the end of July, over 60 new babies had made their appearance at the zoo this season. You can watch the antics of baby leopards, lions, giraffes, gaur, cranes, monkeys, sea lions, and many more. Wander through the open air aviary, one of the largest in the world, and peer at the hundreds of fish in the aquarium. The children's petting zoo abounds with animals that just love the youngsters' attention.

Zoo entrance gates are open from 9:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. seven days a week, and you can browse until sundown. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.50 for children 5 to 11, and free for those under 5.

Those interested in airplanes will want to spend some time at the SAC

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From the Serenade

Ten years ago —

CSD Barbershoppers planning to attend the CSD Fall Convention in Omaha on October 5-7 were invited to the City of Omaha to arrive early and joining in the city's Columbus Day festivities. The headquarters was the Omaha Hilton Hotel (now well-known throughout the district as the Red Lion Inn).

A proposal to change the name of our district to the "Heartland District" was adopted by the CSD Board of Directors during a summer meeting on July 28 in Des Moines. The proposal would be submitted to the CSD House of Delegates at their meeting in Omaha in October.

Society Music Services Assistant **Dave Stevens** made a whirlwind tour through the Central States District, visiting the chapters in **Aberdeen, Sioux Falls, Kearney, Omaha, and Des Moines**, plus the now defunct chapter in Carthage, Missouri. *Serenade* Editor **Jim Griffith** described **Stevens** as "like Victor Borge without an accent."

On July 20-22, the Kansas Division and the **Great Bend** Chapter hosted the Second Annual Kansas Division HEP (Harmony Education Program) School in Great Bend. The faculty included **Jim Bagby** and **Gene Bowers** of Kansas City, and **Harold Vant** of Lincoln. The **Chord Motor Company** of Lincoln, 1978 CSD Quartet Champs, were on hand for quartet coaching. Coordinator was Kansas Division Director of Music Education **Mike Hegge** of Hutchinson.

Twenty years ago —

Eighty-two CSA (Central States Association; that's what they called our district back in those days) Barbershoppers experienced a number of "firsts" at the very "first" CSA HEP School on the campus of Augustana College in Sioux Falls. Faculty members included **Howard Mesecher** (then director of the Davenport Chordbusters), **Fred King** (of bizarre dentures fame), and a youngster by the name of **Greg Lyne**, ably assisted

by **Dick Johnson** of Fort Dodge. According to a report in the October, 1969, *Serenade*, **Greg's** arranging class came up with a new arrangement of "Where the Southern Roses Grow" that was the "first" from a district HEP School to be published by International. **Greg** also introduced for the "first" time his arrangement of "Those Good Old Fluffy Ruffle Days." The **Gay Nineties** from Montevideo, Minnesota, provided entertainment during the evening afterglow.

The **Silver Kings** of Denver were the quartet winners and **Denver's Mile-Hi Chorus** won the chorus trophy in the Third Annual Rocky Mountain Division Contest. (The Rocky Mountain Division — then all of Wyoming and Colorado — is now part of the Rocky Mountain District.)

The October, 1969, *Serenade* included a picture of the first interchapter quartet in the St. Louis area "in many a year," the **Harmony Four**, with **Jim Rotherly** (baritone), **Doc Meyer** (bass), **George Strebler** (lead) and **George Bagot, Jr.** (tenor). **Rotherly, Meyer, and Strebler** were with the **St. Louis #1 Chapter**, and **Bagot** belonged to **St. Louis Suburban**.

Chapter Anniversaries

Happy birthday to the following Central States chapters

Norton, Kansas
Five years on October 5

Dodge City, Kansas
Five years on October 15

McPherson, Kansas
Fifteen years on October 2

Denison, Iowa
Twenty-five years on September 1

Overland Park, Kansas
Thirty years on October 1

From the Edge —

by **Wade Dexter**
Editor, the *Serenade*



One of the unsung significant events that takes place twice yearly at the spring and fall District convention is the meeting of the Central States District House of Delegates. It is held usually on Saturday morning of convention weekend and after the CSD Board of Directors has met the previous day.

Our District bylaws provide that the House of Delegates "shall be the supreme legislative and governing body of this District." This means that no action by the District Board of Governors or anyone else at the District level can become established policy or procedure in the District unless and until it has been ratified by the District House of Delegates. To put it in legal terms, the bylaws specify that the District House of Delegates "shall have discretionary powers in all District affairs."

Membership in the District HOD consists of each member (there are 12 of them) of the District Board of Directors and each past president of the Central States District residing within the District territorial area.

More important to you as a CSD Barbershopper, the bylaws require that HOD membership shall also consist of "the duly designated delegate from each member chapter (of the Central States District)." Paragraph 4.01(1) reads further that "upon failure of a member chapter to elect or otherwise duly designate a qualified available delegate, the president of such chapter, or the delegate pro tem duly appointed in writing by him may represent such member chapter." (For your information, there currently are 65 member chapters in CSD.)

The most logical member of your

chapter to be your chapter delegate would be your chapter president. As the chief administrative official of your chapter and the man who presides at meetings of your chapter and your chapter Board of Directors, he should feel an obligation to go to the District conventions (it's a legitimate chapter expense) and represent your chapter at the meetings of the District HOD.

If your chapter president is unable to function as your chapter delegate, he must "duly appoint in writing" some other chapter member to be the "delegate pro tem" to represent your chapter at the HOD meeting. The simple way to handle that is to pick a chapter member who plans to attend the convention anyway and give him a letter designating him as your "delegate pro tem."

The important thing to remember is that you have no business griping about an action (a District dues increase, for example) affirmed by the District HOD if your delegate was not present at the HOD meeting to lend your chapter's voice to the discussion and register your chapter's vote.

Executive Vice President **Fred Teller** reports that only a little over half of the total CSD member chapters were represented at the spring HOD meeting last April in Omaha. That's a lot better than some past meetings I've attended where only the presence of Board members and past presidents assured enough for a quorum to do the District's business. But it's certainly nothing to brag about. And, besides, is that the way you want your District run? I want to see your chapter delegate at the HOD meeting on Saturday morning, October 14.

International staff visits to CSD still on despite budget cuts

A note from CSD Director of Music Education **Winston Rashleigh** tells us that International staff visits to CSD during the remainder of 1989 are still planned despite announced budget cuts resulting from the disappointing turnout for the 1989 International Convention.

"President **Bob Swenson** polled the CSD Board and received approval to fund remaining 1989 visits from the DME budget," said **Rashleigh**.

Visits to CSD are scheduled as follows: **Jim Debusman** will be in **Ames** on September 11, in **Ottumwa** on September 12, and in **Dubuque** on September 13.

Gary Stamm will visit the South Dakota Division the week of November 6-11.

Ev Nau will visit several spots during the week beginning November 13 and will wind up at COTS in Omaha on November 18-19.

The next scheduled school for the Central States District will be on June

9-10, 1990, at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education in Lincoln. Classes will include chorus directing and quartet coaching. Other classes and the school faculty have not yet been finalized. Plans are still in the works for a chorus directors' guild.

Show Announcements

February 10 — **Springfield** show, the **Gas House Gang**, contact **H. S. Kraybill**, (417) 881-881-8537.

September 23 — **Great Bend**, Cabaret Night, contact **Bob McClary**, (316) 982-4616.

DEADLINE
Nov/Dec Serenade
October 14

The *Serenade* is the official publication of the Central States District of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. All articles not accompanied by a byline have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the members and officers of the Central States District or the SPEBSQSA. Space in the *Serenade* will be made available for opposing points of view.

Experienced faculty to provide instruction at COTS in Omaha

Newly-elected chapter officers and others who attend the CSD Chapter Officer Training School (COTS) in Omaha the weekend of November 18-19 will benefit from a faculty of experienced Barbershoppers who are themselves veteran administrators and competent instructors.

Faculty members provided by the International Office average over 23 years of membership in the Society and nearly 9 years on the International COTS faculty. Their administrative service includes chapter, district, and International offices and committee assignments. One of them is our Immediate Past International President.

The dean of this year's CSD COTS will be **Bob Royce**, of Houston, Texas. **Bob** is a 33-year Barbershopper and a member of the **Spring**, Texas, Chapter, where he is the current musical director. He has held administrative offices in seven chapters in three districts and was a member of the 1967 International Chorus Champions, the **Dapper Dans of Harmony**.

The presidents' session will be taught by **Chuck Hunter**, of Sunnyvale, California. **Chuck** belongs to the **San Jose**, California, Chapter and is current president of the Far Western District. A college professor and a 21-year Society member, **Chuck** has held all chapter offices.

Working with the membership vice presidents will be **Tom Wickenheiser**, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, who sings with the **Commodores** of Minneapolis. A Barbershopper for 21 years and a COTS faculty member for 15, **Tom** has held many chapter and district offices, including that of district president. He is in real estate sales.

Del Ryberg, of Rochester, Minnesota, and a 31-year Barbershopper, has also held nearly every chapter and district office and is a past president of the Land O' Lakes District. **Del** makes his living as a procurement engineer for the IBM Corporation. He'll be working with the program vice presidents.

Music vice presidents will work with **Dick Taylor**, of South Brunswick, New Jersey. **Dick** has served on the Harmony College faculty and is the current chorus director of the **South Brunswick** Chapter. He is the director of

accounts receivable/credit collections for Prince Manufacturing.

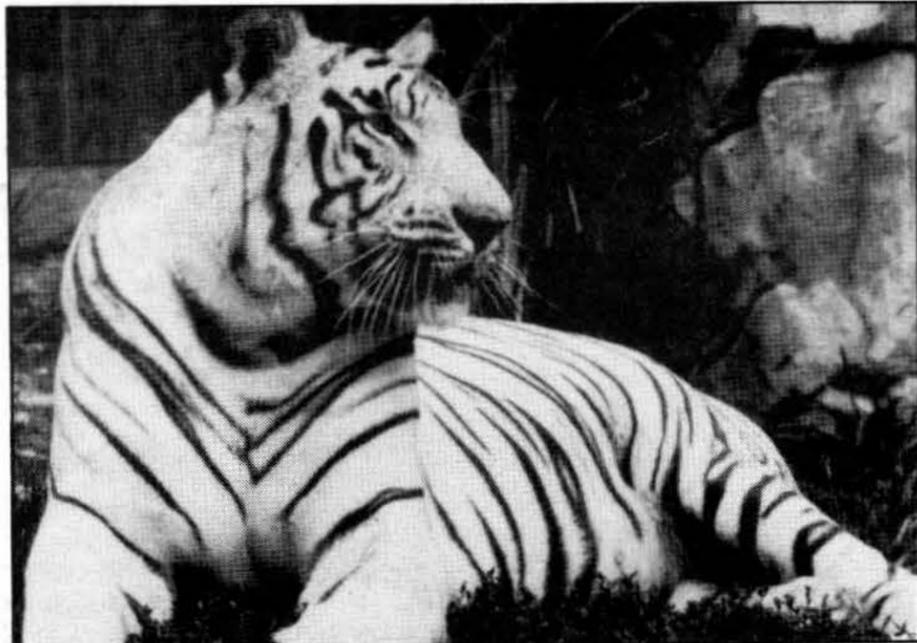
Chapter secretaries will have the pleasure of working with **Jim Warner**, of Memphis, Tennessee, who is our Immediate Past International President. A 26-year Barbershopper (16 as COTS faculty), **Jim** has held every chapter office except secretary and every district office except treasurer. He has also served on committees at chapter, district, and International levels. He is an attorney by profession.

Dan Whedon, of Beaverton, Oregon, will instruct our chapter treasurers. He is currently the treasurer of the **West Portland**, Oregon, Chapter and is also active in district administration. Quite appropriately, **Dan** is a professional accountant.

A 22-year Barbershopper, **Bob Cearnal**, of Mascoutah, Illinois, and a member of the **Bellville**, Illinois, Chapter, will teach the session for district officers and area counselors. **Bob** is a past district president and International board member and is our current International Vice President-Treasurer. He is an English teacher.

The musical directors will be fortunate to have as their instructor (he'll also conduct the singing during the general sessions) the director of our current CSD chorus champions, the **Daniel Boone** Chorus of St. Charles, **David Wright**. A 13-year Barbershopper, **David** has also been a member of three CSD champion quartets. He has a reputation as one of our Society's most sought-after arrangers. More recently, he received a standing ovation for his delivery of the keynote address at this year's Harmony College. **David** teaches mathematics at Washington University in St. Louis.

Our instructor for the chapter bulletin editors will be **Dick Teeters**, of St. Paul, Minnesota. As editor of *Overtones*, the bulletin of the **Greater St. Paul** Chapter, **Dick** won the International Bulletin Contest twice. He is the current editor of the *Pitch Piper*, the Land O' Lakes District bulletin. He has held the office of Vice President for Bulletin Editors of PROBE, the Association of Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors, and is the current president of that organization.



Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo includes a famous collection of rare white Siberian tigers, extensive aquariums, and the largest enclosed aviary in North America. Photo provided by Greater Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Update on modification of International contest rules

At their meeting in Kansas City, the International Board of Directors took action to allow members of the Frank Thorne Chapter-at-Large to compete in quartet contests for the first time. Before this action becomes official, the Laws and Regulations Committee must rewrite pertinent Society documents and present them at the Mid-Winter Convention in Tucson in January.

Allocation of quartets to the International Quartet competition was also modified. Each district will receive an allocation of two quartets for a total of 32. The next 18 quartets will be selected from those scoring highest in their respective preliminary rounds in each district in the spring.

Previously, each district received an allocation of one quartet, and the other

competing quartets were distributed according to each district's proportion of the total Society membership. The current action attempts to ensure that the best competitors will compete at the International Convention.

This action will bring the total to 50 quartets from SPEBSQSA, an increase of one over the previous 49. In addition, there will be two quartets from the British association (BABS), one from Sweden (SNOBS), and one from the new International affiliate in Holland (DABS). Affiliation with the DABS group was approved at the Kansas City Board meeting.

BABS and SNOBS have been invited to send one chorus each to the San Francisco convention in 1990.

ATTENTION, LOGOPEDICS CHAIRMEN Prizes needed for Logopedics Raffle

Chapters and quartets wishing to donate items for the Logopedics Raffle at the CSD Fall Convention and Contests are invited to do so. Space will be provided in the Hospitality Room for your prize and a container for the tickets.

Tickets will be sold at a dollar apiece. Purchasers may buy as many tickets as they want and deposit them in any container they wish. The funds will be given to the Institute of Logopedics in the name of the prize donor in direct proportion to the number of tickets in their container.

To aid in the promotion of this worthwhile cause, it will be helpful if all chapter Logopedics Chairmen will notify us in advance with the particulars regarding your prize. Provide this information to **Dennis Sorge**, 1402 North 58th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68132, telephone (402) 572-0547.

ATTENTION, CHAPTER SECRETARIES

Early registration of your 1990 chapter officers for the CSD Chapter Officer Training School (COTS), the weekend of November 18-19, is **imperative**. Registration forms will be mailed to **you** sometime early in September.

Get your chapter nominating committee to work on your slate of nominees right away so you can hold your annual meeting and get your officers elected as soon as possible. Target this action so you can complete your COTS registration forms and bring them with you to the CSD House of Delegates meeting in **Omaha on October 14**.

COTS Coordinator **Bob King** needs your cooperation so he can get a firm count of the number of COTS participants he must plan for in Omaha on November 19-20.

Whatever you do, remember that the International Office requires that your new officer report must be completed and forwarded to Kenosha **not later than October 15**.

Past CSD quartet champs to host Friday night show

Bass **Dave Pinkall** of the 1985 CSD champions, the **Missouri Valley Music Company**, asks that we remind you once again that the Past Champs Show will be held on Friday night of convention weekend in Omaha. It'll be in the AKSARBEN Room in the Red Lion Inn, and you need to be there at about 11 p.m., or immediately following the quartet preliminary contest.

As you may know, this show will be hosted by the fledgling association of past CSD quartet champions and will feature performances by several past

CSD quartet champs yet to be named (we understand the **Rural Route 4**, champions in 1976, are trying hard to arrange their schedule so they can be there), plus a chorus of members of past champ quartets.

CSD Conventions Chairman **Steve Trusty** has promised free beer, and the show proceeds will go to the CSD Travel Fund. We know the **Gas House Gang**, last year's champs and semifinalists at International this year, will be there because they're being initiated into the organization.



Here We Go Again

by **Bob Swenson**
CSD President

Those of you who missed the International Convention in Kansas City by now know that you missed a truly great event. But you have the chance to redeem yourselves, at least partially, by taking on the second best barbershop convention to be held this year. We are speaking of our convention to be held in Omaha the weekend of October 13 through 15. This convention is shaping up to be a truly exciting one.

There are at least four or five top contenders for the District Chorus Championship which will be sung on Saturday afternoon. Will last year's champions repeat? Will there be a repeating champion from prior years? Or will our new champions be a chorus that has never won our district championship? I am sure the judges will have their work cut out for them.

We will also be crowning a new Central States District Quartet Champion and the same questions can be posed. Besides the competition, there will also be tag singing, pick up quartet singing, groups at restaurants singing, and just about every other type of harmony you can imagine. If you love to sing, there is no better place to be than in Omaha this fall.

Besides the possible championship changes, there will be also changes in our leadership team. The House of Delegates will elect new leaders for 1990, in what promises to be the greatest number of new officers elected in several years. The nominating committee report will be out to all House of Delegates attendees in plenty of time for them to check over the credentials of those nominated.

Our fall district conventions are always a great event. Chairman **Steve Trusty** and the Omaha Chapter are already hard at work to make this another grand weekend for all those in attendance. Come join us for a fabulous fall.

Doing Your Part

By nature, Barbershoppers are unselfish people. We witness many sacrifices that Barbershoppers have made to make our world a better place in which to live.

Now comes another opportunity for every Barbershopper to help make the world the better one we all seek.

Chapter nominating committees are

at work all over our district seeking to fill those most important chapter officer slots for 1990. They may not be aware of your desire to help your chapter.

You can help your chapter by letting its nominating committee know that you are interested in serving, even if in some small way, so that your chapter will prosper during 1990. There are many opportunities to serve, and if you volunteer, you might get the job best suited for you.

So volunteer to edit the chapter bulletin, to serve on the program committee, to take on a board member position, serve as secretary, treasurer, vice president, or even president of your chapter. The resulting responsibility and interaction with your fellow officers will give you an opportunity for personal growth.

As you grow personally, so does your chapter. As your chapter grows and serves better, it contributes to the better world we all seek.

Onward and Upward

I am happy to report that thanks to your district board, by special vote, and with the support of DME **Winston Rashleigh**, visits of International representatives to our chapters will continue for the remainder of the year as scheduled.

The shortfall in attendance at our International Convention in Kansas City created a financial crunch on our International Society simply because a major portion of its revenue comes from conventions. Many cuts had to be made, including the cancellation of all staff visits for the remainder of the year.

Recognizing that this action would be unfair to some of our divisions who have yet to be visited, your district board voted overwhelming to fund these visits on our own, thereby making them possible.

There have been some very high quality visits to chapters so far this year, and your district board wants to continue the educational value of these visits. The schedule of visits yet to be completed is included elsewhere in this issue.

If these visits occur anywhere within driving distance for you, make a special effort to attend. Your district has an extra special interest in them and we know you will not only enjoy the evening, but come away with better knowledge of our barbershop craft.

Talk About Class

Your district has received a very nice thank you note from "The Gashouse Gang" for our support of them at the International Convention. Sure, they won the right to go and the money was budgeted, but that little extra touch of saying thank you sure tells us a lot about the type of men who represented us at International.

So thank you for saying thanks **Joe, Rich, Rob, and Jim**, and also for being great ambassadors for our district. We wish you special success and continued harmony.

In Your Best Interests

Several unselfish barbershoppers met on a weekend in August with your best interests in mind. They deliberated for many hours over the direction of our district, made some suggestions for future implementation, and showed genuine concern about our district and its future.

They came willingly, most of them donating both time and expenses, and shared of their talents and understanding with only one purpose in mind, to help make our district more

responsive to its member's needs.

Before I join that group, I think it is only fitting to thank them for their continued dedication to our district even though the spotlight is not on them. Their recommendations will be further deliberated, no great accolades will be given, and their work will largely go unnoticed around the district, except in administrative circles.

Your long range planning committee, or TTPDP (Think Tank, Past District Presidents), has met annually for the past several years with a singular purpose in mind. They have given unselfishly of their time and are sincerely interested in those recommendations that need lots of discussion and interaction before being implemented.

So thank you, past district presidents, for being supportive and interested. Your work, though largely unnoticed, will contribute greatly to our district's future success.

Dutch Barbershoppers affiliate with SPEBSQSA

The International Board, at its meeting during the convention in Kansas City, took action to approve the affiliation agreement with the Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers (DABS).

This brings the total of five overseas barbershop societies that are now affiliated with SPEBSQSA. These include BABS (England), SNOBS (Sweden), AAMBS (Australia), and NZAB (New Zealand), as well as DABS. IABS (Ireland) plans to affiliate in the near future.

Two affiliates had representatives in the quartet contest in Kansas City. **High Times** from the Bradford and Yorkshire, England, and Mold N. Wales Clubs of BABS, finished in 32nd place, while the **Evening Swingers**, from the Helsingborg, Sweden (SNOBS) club, finished in 49th place.

From the Mailbox

Barbershoppers:

The men of the **St. Charles** Chapter would like to express our appreciation to all of the Central States District men and women for all of their love and support expressed to us at the International Convention in Kansas City this year.

It was our first time at that August gathering of barbershop talent, and we did not know what to expect. The overwhelming expression of support from our home folks was very moving and heart warming.

A special thank you to Central States President **Bob Swenson** for his kind words, and to **Merrill Aitchison** for organizing the Thursday Night Pep Rally that gave us such a fantastic send off. But a special word of thanks to the men and women of the **Heart of America** Chorus who did such a great job on our 51st International Convention. We in the **St. Charles** Chapter understand and appreciate the work and effort involved in making an event of this magnitude happen and run smoothly. Without a doubt, that mission was accomplished by the great **Kansas City** Chapter.

We wish there were better words to express our feelings, but from our hearts we say THANKS!

Hummmmmmbly,

Allen Theiler

President, **St. Charles** Chapter

Dear Wade:

Your "From the Edge—" in the latest *Serenade* omitted some credits for operation of the International. What about **Overland Park** members stuck down in the basement and the ladies of both chapters?

H. S. Kraybill

Springfield Chapter

Dear Wade:

I just now finished reading the July/August 1989 issue of your *Serenade* and, as always, a gold star effort in every respect. You do a nice job. I can only assume that your fellow members appreciate your efforts in their behalf.

Among the many interesting articles that appeared in your *Serenade*, I was drawn to a question that appeared within your personal column you have aptly named, "From the Edge." While extolling the great job your HOA guys

did in hosting the 51st International Convention, you questioned the fact that conventions registrations were a great disappointment. While final figures on the official attendance were not known, it was quite obvious that attendance had fallen below previous years. You went on to ask if any of your readers had an explanation. For what it's worth, might I give you mine?

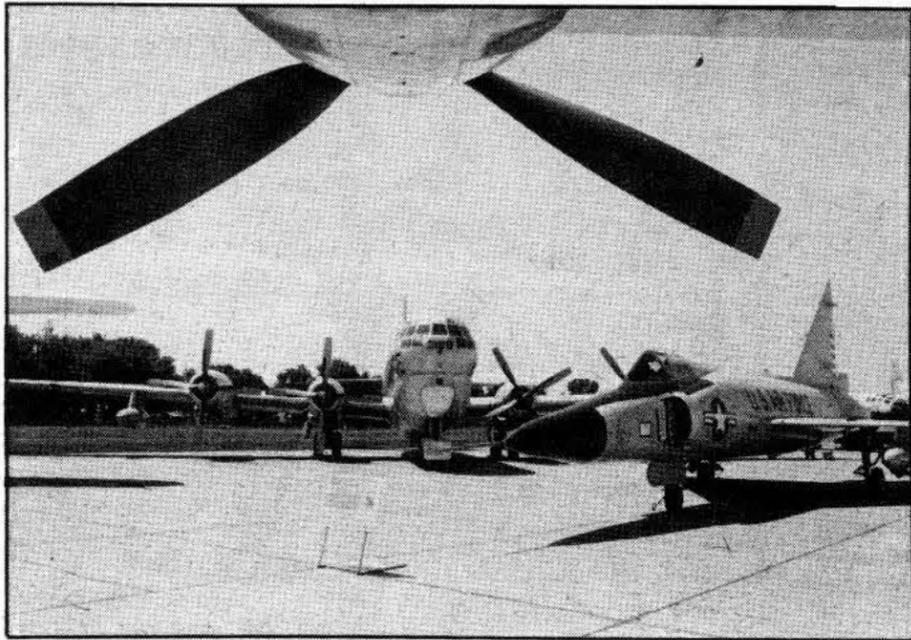
While I was not in Kansas City for the big "bash," from what I have read, it was indeed a huge success. Sure, the broken water main was very unfortunate, but from a pure barbershopping point of view, it was well organized and with a very minimum of gripes from those in attendance. So, why was the whole convention not better attended? I personally feel that the results were the combination of a number of factors.

1. Our membership continues to decline. Simply put, there are not as many Barbershoppers as there used to be. *Editor: There was a 3% Society-wide membership decline during 1987 and 1988. But how do you account for the record attendance (in excess of 10,000) in Hartford two years ago and in San Antonio last year?*

2. The ever-increasing cost of attending such a convention. The Barbershopper with a mortgage and three kids might well find such a convention out of reach. *Editor: The registration fee was the same — \$50 — for all of the last three conventions. A single room at the Park View Hilton, the headquarters in Hartford, was \$85. In San Antonio, the charge at the Hyatt Regency was \$81. At the Westin Crown Center in Kansas City, a single Barbershopper could stay one night for only \$68. Now, a guy who prefers to pay current deregulated air fares to take his family to San Francisco rather than on a four-hour auto trip down I-29 has no excuse for finding a convention "out of reach."*

3. With apologies to the Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, perhaps Kansas City did not appeal to the selective Barbershopper and his family. After all, it does not feature the unique and outstanding sites that outstanding convention cities possess. For example, I know three Barbershoppers

(continued on page 10)



The Strategic Air Command (SAC) Museum, near Omaha, chronicles U.S. Air Military history through indoor and outdoor displays. Photo provided by Greater Omaha Convention and Visitors Bureau.

CSD House of Delegates to meet in Omaha to approve district programs and budget

Fred Teller, Jr.
CSD Executive V.P.

The CSD Fall Convention is just around the corner. I Hope EVERY CHAPTER is planning to be represented at the CSD House of Delegates meeting at 8:30 a.m. in the Winnebago Room at the Red Lion Inn on Saturday, October 14. This is your opportunity to be counted when decisions are made regarding your district's programs and budget.

Last spring, six of 12 Eastern Iowa chapters attended the meeting, six of nine from Western Iowa, 10 of 17 from Kansas, four of 12 from Missouri, five of nine from Nebraska, and two of six from South Dakota. That was 51% of the total potential attendance. Can't we do better than that?

This promises to be a great competitive convention with several choruses letting out all stops for the privilege of representing CSD in San Francisco next summer. That Saturday afternoon session will be quite a show. Of course, the Friday night and Saturday night quartet competition will also be exciting.

And speaking of excitement, what about the Friday Past Champs Show by our newly organized past champs

group? And top it off with the afterglow on Saturday night. Remember, too, this is the convention where YOU, through your chapter delegate, elect YOUR district officers for 1990.

Two other VERY IMPORTANT events will take place this fall. The first is the local election of your chapter officers. Please don't take this lightly. Elect leaders who will pledge themselves to your chapter's needs. And please get your officer list mailed to the proper district and International people as soon as possible.

COTS, a once a year program, is moved to Omaha this year. Those who have attended in the past will tell you how important this session is for chapter officers. Great instruction, fellowship with about 300 CSD Barbershoppers, and yes, time for singing.

Here's something new. This year, we're asking each chapter to provide district directory information at COTS. A form will be included with your COTS registration material in the mail. With your cooperation, we can get your CSD directory out earlier.

See you in Omaha.

P.S. I know from reading reports that most of you have a chapter bulletin. Please put me on your mailing list. Thanks.

Weather cooperates, good turnout for OCC Golf Tournament

by John Nash
Iowa City Chapter

On July 22, storms abounded through the Midwest, but the sun shone down, and the rain stayed away for the Old Capitol Chorus Best Shot Golf Tournament. Twenty-two men played in the tournament, and non-golfers joined us later to bring our number to thirty for a wonderful dinner. The Ralston Creek Reunion then treated us to song after dinner.

"Prestigious trophies" and prizes (kindly donated by Mr. Charles Updegraff of Nevada Bob's Golf Equipment) were taken home by the following men:

First place, Championship Flight: **Jim Inghram** and **John Marshall** (OCC); second place, Championship Flight; **Dave Mozena** (OCC) and **Gene Goodrow** (Harmony Hawks); third place, Championship Flight: **Dale**

Schultz, Eastern Iowa Division Vice President (Tristatesmen) and **Ray Cole** (Tristatesmen).

First place, First Flight: **John Nash** and **Terry Timmons** (OCC); second place, Second Flight: **Dave Fry** and **Abe Waters** (OCC); third place, Third Flight: **Marv Doehrmann** and **Rollie Bloch** (OCC).

A good time was had by all!

Serenade Advertising Rates

33 col. in.....	\$60.00
22 col. in.....	\$50.00
16.5 col. in.....	\$40.00
11 col. in.....	\$35.00
5.5 col. in.....	\$25.00
Quartet card.....	\$10.00

A 25% discount is offered for an insertion of the same ad in three consecutive issues.

Reminder — Norman Rockwell art is copyrighted

Society Director of Finance and Administration **Frank Santarelli** reminds us that chapters are not permitted to use the Norman Rockwell quartet art. It is copyrighted property of the **Saturday Evening Post**.

"We tried to work out a blanket license with them," **Santarelli** said, "but they wanted \$10,000 per year to let us use it."

Anyone interested in exploring the matter further is invited to contact **Linda Segal** at the Saturday Evening Post Marketing Co., 150 East 52nd St., New York, NY 10022. Their phone number is (212) 371-0100. Cost for individual

The Serenade, September/October, Page 5
use of the quartet art is about \$500 per event, according to **Santarelli**.

Call Conventions in America to make travel plans

Conventions in America, the Society's official travel coordinator, can provide economical air fares for travel to the midwinter convention in Tucson. This is the same firm that provided travel service for the Kansas City convention.

The toll-free number to call is the same as it was for Kansas City: 1-(800)-942-0098. The Society's group identification number for the Tucson convention is 354.

Popular organist to appear on program at Orpheum

A one-hour program of theater organ music will again precede the finals of the quartet contest in Omaha on Saturday evening, October 14, as **Dr. Marvin Faulwell** appears at the console of the "Mighty Wurlitzer" in the Orpheum Theater.

The program, which has become very popular among CSD contestgoers in Omaha in recent years, will begin at 7 o'clock.

A practicing dentist in Independence, Missouri, and a 22-year member of the **Kansas City Chapter of SPEBSQSA**, **Dr. Faulwell** began playing for audiences at the tender age of five. With ten years of piano training under his belt, **Marvin** sought the challenge of the mighty pipe organ. Since 1965, he has played the theater pipe organ and recently specialized in accompanying classical silent movies. He is the staff organist at the Granada Theater in Kansas City, Kansas.

The "Mighty Wurlitzer" pipe organ blossomed during the silent movie era. Originally, the pipe organs were known as "Unit Orchestras," and they were used to accompany silent movies, play solos, or augment the pit orchestra.

The theater pipe organ is rich in history, and its beauty thrills audiences today.

The Orpheum Wurlitzer is located in the walls on either side of the proscenium, and the magnificent console rises majestically from the orchestra pit by elevator. Show tunes, music of the big band era, and novelty tunes comprise the bulk of a theater organ's repertoire.

In addition to his love of playing organs, **Marvin** restores the instruments, and has installed a theater pipe organ in his home. Currently, he is busy restoring a large theater organ for installation in the Music Hall in Kansas City, Missouri.

(Editor's Note: We're grateful to **Julie Faulwell** for her help in preparing this article. If you're interested, **Marvin** will appear at the Granada Theater in Kansas City, KS, on September 15-16-17 to accompany "Don Q, Son of Zoro," starring Douglas Fairbanks; in Redwing, MN, on November 18 with "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"; and back at the Granada the weekend of Palm Sunday to accompany "King of Kings.")





The photograph above and others on pages 6 and 7 depict part of the fabulous display of barbershop memorabilia put together by the host **Kansas City** Chapter during the International Convention in July. Members of the second oldest chapter in the Society donated items such as old music, photographs, uniforms, record albums, show and contest programs and score sheets, and trophies that went into the display. Over 4,700 convention goers visited the exhibit which was set up in the south end of the lower level of the Crown Center Shops area near the Headquarters Westin Crown Center Hotel. Credit goes to **Kansas City** Chapter Public Relations Chairman **Marvin Blakeman** who coordinated the exhibit with Crown Center staff personnel.

Photos were taken by **Evelyn Blakeman**



Tucson Mid-Winter convention, January 22-28 — a "fun-in-the-sun" musical experience

The **Second Edition! Bank Street!** The **139th Street Quartet!** The **Bayou City Music Committee**, plus the **new seniors quartet champs!** And you ain't heard nothin' yet.

These 1989/90 champions top a week of singing and fun with their "Best of Barbershop Show" on Saturday night, January 27, a show you won't want to miss at a convention you'll never forget!

The song is sweet that precedes this tag of champions . . .

Monday: Get Acquainted Dinner
Tuesday: Sabino Canyon Tour and Mexican Party

Wednesday: Downtown Walking Tour and Pima Air Museum, Gaslight Theater Show and Dinner

Thursday: Golf Tournament, Tombstone Tour, Tucson Chapter Matinee and Evening Shows

Friday: Old Tucson and Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum Tour, Vanity Fair Shopping Spree, Parade of Quartets, and World's Largest Barbershop Chorus and Afterglow

Saturday: Food-for-Thought Breakfast, International Tour to Mexico, Seniors Barbershop Quartet Competition, and Best of Barbershop Show with Afterglow.

A word to the wise — "The Friday

and Saturday night shows were sell-outs at the 1982 and 1986 Mid-Winters in Tucson so order these show tickets as soon as you get your order packet from Kenosha," advises Convention Chairman **Fred Koch**. He expects about 1,500 to attend with more than 200 already preregistered at the International in Kansas City. For more information, call **Fred** at (602) 747-1216.

Harmonizer article misstates new credit card interest rate

An article in the July/August issue of the *Harmonizer* stated that the annual interest rate for the new Society MasterCard credit card is 18.9%. Actually, the rate is 17.9%. No interest is assessed if the balance is paid in full each month.

Those who have used the card, with its colorful picture of Norman Rockwell's barbershop quartet on the front, find that it is an immediate attention-getter. Besides earning nondues income to support the "Young Men in Harmony" Program, it could be a good recruiting tool.

To order, call Maryland Bank toll free 1-(800)-847-7378. Callers should use a special priority code, CPUE, in



CSD Fall Contest — Schedule of Events October 13-15, 1989 — Omaha, Nebraska

Friday, October 13

Registration	1 p.m.-11 p.m.	Mezzanine - Red Lion
Hospitality	1 p.m.-11 p.m.	Kansas Room - Red Lion
District Board Meeting	1:30 p.m.	Dodge Room - Red Lion
Barbershoppers' Shop	5-7 p.m.	Dakota Room - Red Lion
And After Contest	until Midnight	
Judges' Briefing	6:15 p.m.	Judges' Suite - Red Lion
Quartet Briefing	6:45 p.m.	Bel-Air Room - Red Lion
Quartet Preliminary		
Contest	7:30 p.m.	Orpheum Theater
Past Champs Show	11:00 p.m.	AKSARBEN Room - Red Lion
	(Approximately)	

Saturday, October 14

Registration	8 a.m.-1 p.m.	Mezzanine - Red Lion
Hospitality	8 a.m.-5 p.m.	Kansas Room - Red Lion
Barbershoppers' Shop	8 a.m.-Midnight	Dakota Room - Red Lion
	(Except during contest sessions)	
House of Delegates' Meeting	8:30 a.m.	Winnebago Room - Red Lion
A&R for Non-finalist Quartets	9 a.m.	Capitol/Dodge Rooms - Red Lion
Judges' Luncheon	11:30 a.m.	Flanagan Room - Red Lion
Chorus Directors' Briefing	12:15 p.m.	Flanagan Room - Red Lion
District Chorus Contest	1 p.m.	Orpheum Theater
A&R for Chorus Directors and Music Team	30 minutes after last chorus	Capitol/Dodge Rooms - Red Lion
Mighty Wurlitzer Organ Concert	7 p.m.	Orpheum Theater
Quartet Finals and Show	8 p.m.	Orpheum Theater
Afterglow & Logo. Raffle Drawing	10:30 p.m.	Ballroom - Red Lion

Sunday, October 15

Finalist Quartet A & R	8:30 a.m.	Capitol/Dodge Rooms - Red Lion
Barbershoppers' Church Service	9 a.m.	East Ballroom - Red Lion

A.I.S.Q.C.



Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions

Register early for the 1990 Seniors Quartet Contest in Tucson

The Fifth Annual Seniors Quartet Contest will be held in Tucson on Saturday, January 27, 1990. Further information and details will appear in the *Harmonizer*. A Seniors Quartet Contest Entry Form can be obtained from **Ron Abel**, CSD Chairman, Seniors Quartet Contests, telephone (913) 492-4967, or the International Office. Three CSD quartets have already indicated their intent to compete so don't delay. Register now!

Leonard's Lines on Logopedics

by Leonard Purvis
CSD Logopedics Chairman

As we move into fall, the end of the year is rapidly approaching. Hopefully your chapter's nominating committee is finished, and a new slate of officers is waiting in the wings. Those new officers will be attending COTS at the Red Lion in Omaha this year. This is always a very profitable weekend for newly elected officers as a great set of classes is made available to educate and inspire those gentlemen who will be your chapter's leaders for 1990.

One of the most meaningful happenings at COTS each year, for me, is the annual parade of checks for the Harmony Foundation. This is our one big district-wide effort to show our support for the Institute of Logopedics. This will be an opportunity for us to show we still support the Institute by bringing as large a check as possible.

As I remind you each time this publication arrives, our giving for 1989 is not presently keeping up with our goal, and it's going to take a little extra help from each member if we are to succeed. I know we can, and I'm confident that we'll make this year's parade of checks the largest ever for Central States District. Please be sure and go that extra mile on behalf of those wonderful students in Wichita.

One of the unusual opportunities provided this year during the International Convention was a bus tour to the Institute. A large number of Barbershoppers took this opportunity to get better acquainted with the Institute. I even visited with a gentleman from the east coast who missed the tour but hopped a bus on his own to visit. We had only five members of this district avail themselves of this opportunity. Congratulations to those five guys.

Please contact the Institute if you are in the Wichita area. They are very anxious and willing to show you around and even provide you lodging when you are there. Just contact them in advance, and they will treat you like royalty. Everyone who has managed to do this has left with a new insight into what the Institute is all about and a new pride that we are an integral part of this service.

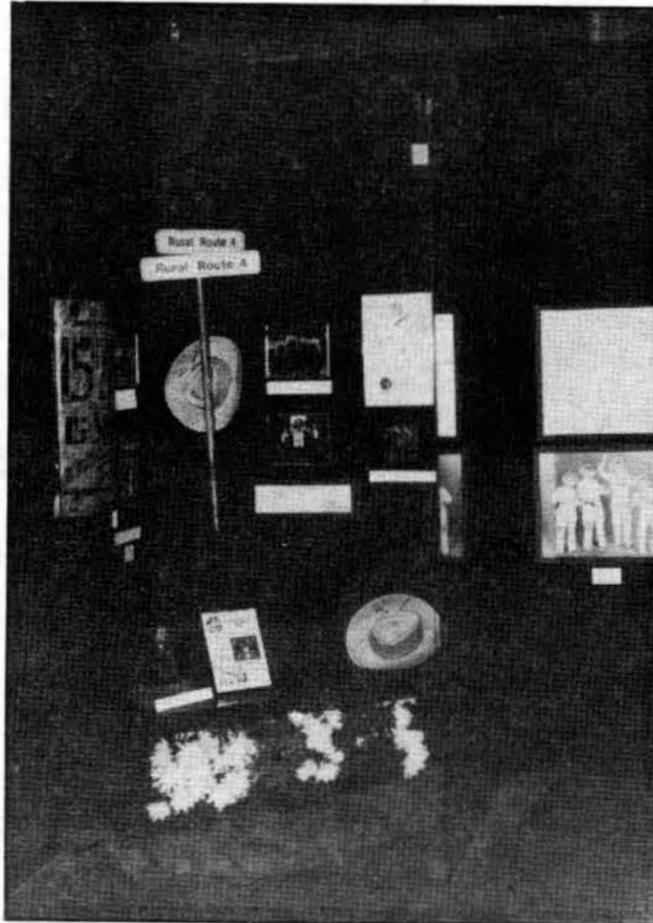
By the way, **Beth Senft** of Clinton, Maryland, won the original artwork and Barbershop-go-round provided by CSD at the International Convention. Thanks a bunch to the students whose work was donated and to **Bill Martindale** of Wichita for the Barbershop-go-round. The total take from the Logopedics raffle at International topped \$10,000.

Remember, "We sing — that they shall speak" is our motto, but we must let our dollars do the singing to keep this effort going. Let's go to Omaha in November with a song in our heart and a check in our hand.

Limericks Unlimited —

There once was a tenor named Harry,
Whose face turned so red it was scary.
He garnered some knowledge
At Harmony College

And now, he's a golden-voiced bari.
— **Robert A. Allen**



Increase your show profits with a Mini-Barbershopper's Shop

The International office is offering an opportunity for a new source of revenue from your annual-show patrons who enjoy barbershop harmony.

They will ship to you, a variety of popular LP records, cassettes and compact disks. They will offer you a 15% discount from established retail prices, which will be the basis for your margin of profit.

With this exciting new venture, your chapter can increase total profits from

your annual show. It will require only a minimum amount of work on the part of the chapter on the day (or days) of your show.

Enhance your chapter's treasury from members of your audience who may not have any other opportunity for exposure to the variety of barbershop music that is available.

To take advantage of this offer, drop a line to Frank Santarelli at the international office and let him know: your chapter's show date and how many people you anticipate will attend.

You will be shipped a variety pack of the most popular selections the Society has to offer. The material you re-

ceive will be earmarked for the number of people you expect at your show. Each item will be marked with the retail selling price.

You will need two tables at your show site to display the items offered for sale. After the show, pack up the unsold items, and return them to the International office. Your chapter will be billed for the items that were not returned, plus a small amount to cover postage.

What could be simpler?

Try a Barbershoppers' Shop at your next chapter show. Spread the sound of barbershop and increase profits for your chapter and the Society.



OMAHA'S FINE IN '89 Central States District, SPEBSQSA, Inc. Convention Housing Request

The headquarters hotel is the Red Lion Inn. Additional rooms have been blocked at the Radisson Redick Tower and Days Inn.

The Red Lion Inn is located at 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, Nebraska, three blocks north of the Orpheum Theater. Single — \$63.00, Double, Triple, or Quad — \$67.00. Children under 18 in the same room as parents are free. There is a limited number of Parlor and Presidential Suites available at \$300.00 and up. There are also some Mini-Suites (bedroom/sitting rooms combined) and Seco-Suites (large room with a Murphy bed in the wall) available at \$10.00 above regular room rates. To assure you of your desired accommodations, we recommend prompt decisions on your part, and early reservations.

The Radisson Redick Hotel is located directly across the street (North) from the Orpheum Theater. The rates are the same as those at the Red Lion. We have 75 rooms available at this property.

The Days Inn is located 14 blocks west and 3 blocks north of the Red Lion (across the Interstate). Rates are \$48.00 for up to four people per room.

Reservations that are not guaranteed are held until 6:00 p.m.

To guarantee reservations, payment of the first night's stay must be paid in advance by check or credit card. American Express, Diners Club, Master-Card, Discover Card, or Visa may be used. To avoid charges for one night's stay, a cancellation of a guaranteed reservation must be received by the hotel by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the scheduled arrival.

TO BE FAIR TO ALL REGISTRANTS, THE HOTELS, AND THE HOUSING CHAIRMAN — DO NOT RESERVE MORE ROOMS THAN YOU KNOW YOU WILL USE.

ANY ROOMS NOT RESERVED BY SEPTEMBER 13, 1989, WILL BE RELEASED TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

Steven Trusty — Convention Chairman
12 Rolling Hills
Council Bluffs, Iowa 50103 Phone (712) 336-2669

Name _____ Phone No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Arrival Date _____ Arrival Time _____ Departure Date _____

Type of Accommodations: _____ Single _____ Double _____ Double/Double (2 beds)

Hotel: 1st Choice _____ 2nd Choice _____

What's going on here?



If we don't hear from somebody in Springfield, Missouri, about this one, we'll just assume you're all brain-dead over there. Again, what was the occasion, who's the guy in the light suit and what was

he doing there, what's the name of the quartet he's posing with and the chorus in the background, and who took the picture?

"Food-for-Thought" breakfast to be revived at midwinter meeting

At the Mid-Winter Convention in Tucson next January, an old institution, the Food-for-Thought Breakfast, will be reestablished. Convention attendees are urged to drop in and enjoy good food and entertainment while learning more about our Society, gaining new ideas on how to make the Society better, and contributing ideas to the discussion.

According to Society Historian Emeritus **Dean Snyder**, Food-for-Thought was a regular feature of mid-winter meetings from 1955 to 1961. During that period, this annual event was attended by 100 or more Barbershoppers, each one making available to others a one-page contribution of his thoughts about the Society.

"Good ideas, plus action and teamwork that make them effective, spell progress for the Society," **Snyder** said. "To be a part of this progress is a brand of fun that members can have when

not singing."

"While you're driving to work, walking to the corner store, or lighting your pipe, develop your ideas for improvement of your quartet, your chapter, your Society. Write your thoughts down, and bring them to the Food-for-Thought Breakfast to share with other members."

Snyder noted that bringing a page of ideas to the breakfast is encouraged but not mandatory.

Wives are invited to the breakfast which will be held from 9 a.m. until noon on Saturday, January 27. The cost is \$8. Our host will be International Vice President **Bob Cearnal**; Executive Director **Joe Liles** will be on hand to answer questions.

Everyone who attends will receive a report of all written ideas submitted and a summary of the discussion that follows. It's all in the interest of a better SPEBSQSA

Dick Courtney 1918-1989

From **Jim Nugent** of Hays comes word of the passing of **Hays Barbershopper Dick Courtney** on Wednesday, August 10. He would have been 71 years old in November. His death was due to cancer.

Well known by Barbershoppers throughout the Kansas Division, **Dick** was born in Wakeeney, Kansas. He was the City Manager in that community from 1969 to 1988.

A member of the **Hays Chapter**, he was serving as chapter treasurer at the time of his death. The men of the **High Plains Chorus** provided music for a memorial service.

The family suggest memorials to the Trego County-Lemke Memorial Hospital Endowment Fund or the Institute of Logopedics.

Third Annual Woodshedders' Week-end

Here we go again! Over 110 happy quartetters attended the 2nd Annual in February of '89, and we expect many more this year!

Location: Tremont Plaza, 22 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21202.

Dates: Noon, Thursday, February 15, 1990, to Sunday morning.

The Tremont is an all-suite hotel, with full kitchens. You can cook all of your meals. The hotel has its own delicatessen, and shopping areas are within walking distance. This can be a very inexpensive convention! The air conditioning is excellent. We've had no complaints of smoke-filled rooms.

We have special rates of \$75 for single or double (one bedroom with a double bed) and \$95 for triple or quad (one bedroom with two double beds). Extra cots are available. Larger suites are also available, some with two bedrooms.

Most of your time will be spent woodshedding, in the suites and hall-

PLAN AHEAD

CSD Conventions

- 1989 Fall Omaha
Oct. 13-15
- 1990 Spring Omaha
April 27-29
- 1990 Fall Cedar Rapids
Oct. 12-14
- 1991 Spring Omaha
April 12-14
- 1991 Fall Kansas City
Oct. 11-13
- 1992 Spring Omaha
April 10-12
- 1992 Fall Omaha
Oct. 9-11
- 1993 Spring Des Moines
April 9-11
- 1993 Fall Des Moines
Oct. 8-10

COTS

- 1989 Omaha
November 18-19
- 1990 Omaha
November 17-18

International Conventions

- 1990 San Francisco, CA
July 1-8
- 1991 Louisville, KY
June 30-July 7
- 1992 New Orleans, LA
June 28-July 5
- 1993 Calgary, Alta.
June 27-July 4

ways. Seminars (not set) will be held on Saturday.

The highlight of the week-end is the "Dan Cuthbert Memorial Woodshedding Contest," eliminations both Friday and Saturday. Winners will receive beautiful medals, appropriately inscribed. **Bob Seay** and other members of the **Dundalk Chapter** will preside.

Organized quartets are encouraged to attend! We will have a ballroom for impromptu performances; however, there will be **no** formal quartet show!

The free facilities we get will depend on the number of suites booked. Out-of-towners please stay at the Tremont Plaza if at all possible. Donation for convention registration will be \$3 for those who stay at the hotel and \$5 for those who don't.

Send \$3 (or \$5), per person, to **Max Minor**, 157 Washington Ave., Chatham, NJ 07928 — (201) 635-8913. Include date of arrival and voice part.

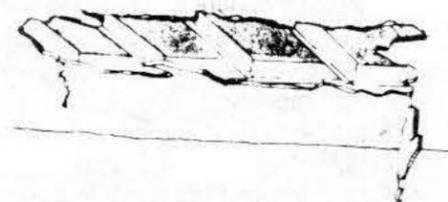
Your registration fee includes \$1 for contest entry. Those who pre-registered last year, \$1 subscription, will have that amount deducted from the registration fee.

Reserve your own suite by calling the hotel directly. Mention the Woodshedding Convention, and make arrangements to suit your party (number of bedrooms, beds, cots, etc.) (See number above.)

Limericks Unlimited —

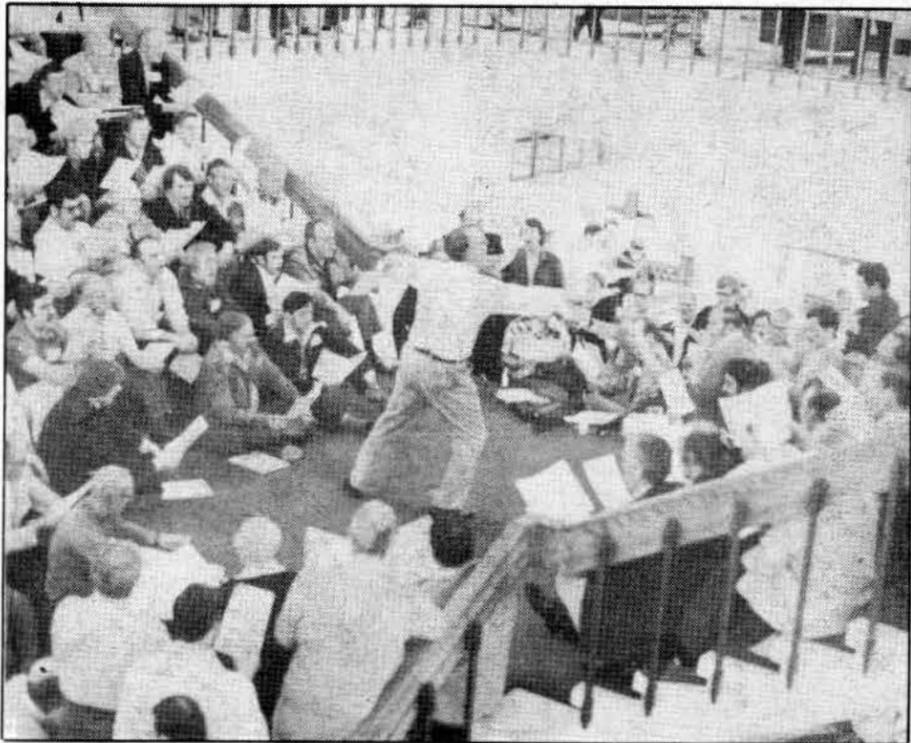
If you'd like to enjoy a fling,
And you have the desire to sing,
Why not join the crowd
And sing good and loud
At the Barbershopper weekly whinging.

— Joe Seegmiller

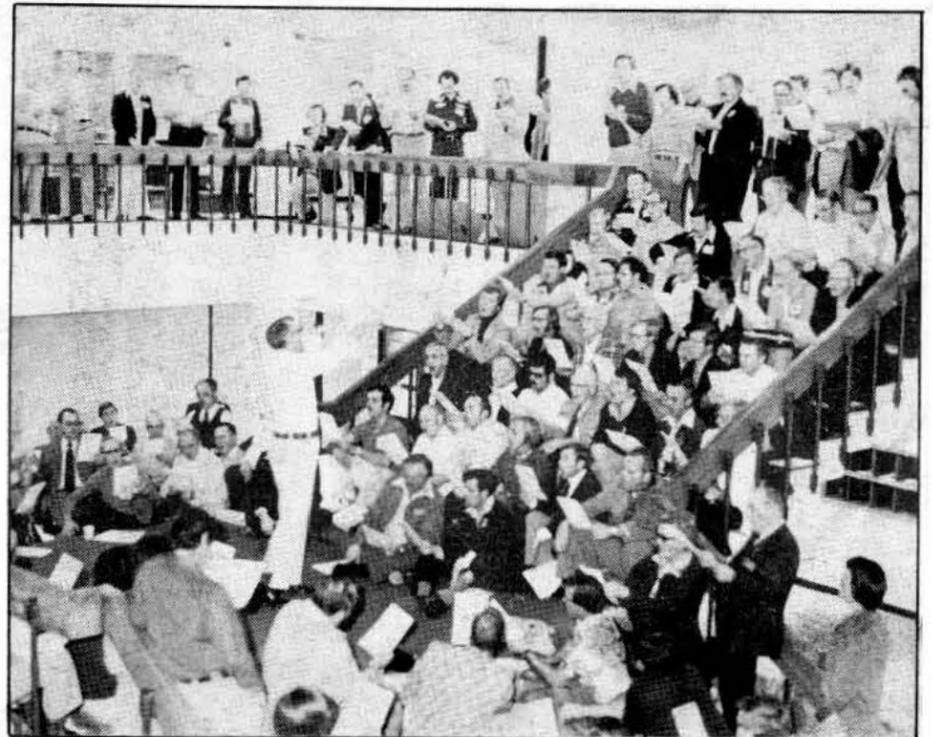


NOW THAT WAS WHAT I CALL "AN OVERTONE"!

What's going on here?



Ralph Griffin, of Leavenworth, was the only Barbershopper who called to inform us that our "What's Going on Here" photos in last month's *Serenade* were taken during a CSD Chapter Officer Training School and that the "arm waver" is Bob Johnson, former Society Director of Music Education and Services. More specifically, the COTS was held on November 20-21, 1976, at TWA's Breech Academy



in Overland Park, Kansas. When a scheduling conflict denied us the use of the Academy's auditorium, Bob had to assemble his general session on the stairways between the lower level and the mezzanine.

Why do we make it so tough to start a new chapter?

(Editor's Note: Jim Nugent, Central States District Membership Development Coordinator, has provided a copy of the following letter he has written to International President Jim Richards. Space will be made available for opposing points of view.)

June 18, 1989

Jim Richards, Esq.
President
S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.
Harmony Hall, Kenosha, WI

Dear Jim,

This comes as a result of several hours of discussion among the DMDC's and the International membership staff at the President's Forum last October and at an evaluation meeting prior to that. And, as you know, Ron Rockwell encouraged me to write.

At the Forum, I believe that the DMDC's agreed to recommend to the International Board that appropriate action be taken to allow formation of chapters with a minimum of eight men. Since this is not an official report of the DMDC meeting at the Forum, the opinions expressed here must be considered to be mine alone. As I recall, there seemed to be consensus among the DMDC's present.

The Future II committee report RECOMMENDATION 6 suggests: "The International Board should help achieve greater chapter extension throughout the world by adding a chapter classification that would permit groups of less than 20 men recognized as 'associate chapters or clubs' . . ."

Basically, I agree with that recommendation, but see no particular reason for making any different classification for groups of less than 20. A chapter of eight men could be just as effective in its own way as a chapter of 200. Jim, I believe that such a structure would not only help extension, but also help retention. Dr. Max Kaplan, in his excellent essay "The Barbershop Harmony Society: a Many-Splendored

Thing,' says . . . "if he persists as a Barbershopper, it is because he wants to, and enjoys not only the music but the people. And therefore he gets to know them; and since they are all incorrigible fanatics who gather in quartets even during the coffee break, they like each other. Or they would get out." (page 13)

Max tends to gloss over the matter that there are a good number of "incorrigible fanatics" who "get out." I propose that a good number of our members "get out" because they DON'T LIKE THE MEN WHO ARE RUNNING THEIR CHAPTER AND SEE NO EASY WAY TO SURVIVE IN THE SOCIETY UNLESS THEY CAN CHANGE THE CHAPTER. Seeing no way to make themselves heard in a way that will facilitate positive change, they leave. I once heard Dr. Bob Johnson say "I've never known a Barbershopper I didn't like . . . as long as he was singing!" I agree wholeheartedly with that statement. The obvious question remains, "What happens when he isn't singing?" The answer us "We don't know, but whatever it is, it doesn't seem to retain members."

The problem is addressed in the Strategic Plan 7.10 "Lack of Emphasis on Retention." (I would suggest rephrasing that title to "Emphasis on Retention") . . . "We should reward chapters that have good membership retention and share their success stories. We need to examine broader (different) types of membership, even establish different levels of membership . . . to allow members who, for whatever reason, want to remain 'on the fringe'. This includes differing types of financial support at both District and International levels." That sounds progressive to me. It seems to me that a man's self worth is much greater in a group of four or eight men than it is in a group of 100 or more. Sure, a musical director is important to the 100-man group, but the guy on the end of the risers is not quite as important.

A member whose basic group is only four or eight will be more totally committed to that group, will participate more fully in the activities of the group and will enjoy the group more. If the group wishes to accept more members and is willing and able to accept and nourish those members, fine and dandy. Let them, but don't insist that they start with 20 or 30.

So why do we make it so tough to start a new chapter? Fraternities usually start with eight men. Why not barbershop chapters? Eight is twice as many as you need for a quartet, and certainly enough to provide a quality musical product. A current case in point is Papillion, Nebraska. I am told that Papillion has (had?) 24 licensed members. They meet weekly, and sing out often in what I am lead to believe is an most entertaining manner. Papillion has outlived its extension period because the chapter leadership will not accept "paper" members . . . a worthy attitude indeed. Now we risk losing those members forever. If they had been able to charter with eight men, the chapter (and the Society) would have 24 members and we would not have to "drop their license" and make them start over.

A hypothetical case involves men in an established chapter who don't agree with the goals of the chapter. These goals may not have been understood by the men when they joined the chapter or the goals may have changed after they joined. We risk losing these men every week. Without a viable alternative, we definitely will lose a good number of the men.

Some large cities may have it made. Several chapters within a short drive may offer various barbershopping alternatives. If you don't like a chapter which "overemphasizes competition," there is another one nearby that may emphasize good singing, but has no need to compete, or maybe there is just a "good old boy" chapter, where the main emphasis is fellowship and singing tags and polecat songs. Or if none of those chapters suits you, maybe you can start one of your own. When the population base is large enough, you might be able to start a 30-plus-man chapter.

More sparsely populated areas don't have the luxury of starting several thirty plus member chapters in a reasonably close geographical area. Thus, a smaller charter number makes sense.

How many times do we see chapters charter with 30 and then drop to 20 or even 12 within a short time? It seems to me that we are going about it backwards. Why not start with eight and grow from there? I'm sure that people wiser than me have established the rules for chartering and certainly my logic has weaknesses.

I don't advocate bad singing or going broke from an entangled administrative structure, but I believe that it should be easier to join the Society and that some flexibility would improve the retention that we all know is so vital to our future . . .

From the Heart
Jim Nugent
Membership Development
Coordinator
Central States District

Society flag study committee formed

International President Jim Richards has established a committee, headed by Grant Goodfellow of Ontario, to review the idea of a Society flag. The committee is to report to the International Board at the midwinter convention.

"As a matter of historical interest," Richards said, "the idea of a Society flag was suggested by Past International President Hank Vomacka. It was discussed with then President Jim Werner last year, and an invitation was sent out, seeking entries in a flag design contest."

There were about 50 entries, but the board couldn't agree on a single one. "This says," Richards continued, "that either we do not yet have an appropriate design, or perhaps we don't even need a flag."

To charge to the flag committee is to determine whether the idea of a Society flag is viable and, if it is, to select an appropriate design. The committee is to use any of the previously submitted entries, or it may start afresh.

If a flag is created, guidelines for flag display are to be recommended to the board.

Computer-Guided Learning

by **Brian Duster**
Ames Chapter

If you're like me, you love to sing a new song. However, along with a new song comes the time-consuming process of learning your part. When I joined the **Ametones** back in late January, there were only four weeks left until the big show in February. This meant that if I wanted to sing in that show, I had to learn 12 songs - and fast!

Now, you must understand, I am quite an accomplished pianist. That is, if you consider being able to pound out chopsticks while only hitting three sour notes accomplished. Fortunately for me, I have the perfect pianist right in my apartment. She does whatever I ask her to, doesn't talk too much, and never misses a note. And on top of all that, the only thing I have to feed her is 120 volts. Yes sir, the perfect pianist for me is my Commodore 64 computer and a program called the SID Editor.

You are probably saying, "Wait a minute, didn't Commodores die out with the slide rule and Howdy-Dowdy?" True, it may be a primitive system, but if there is one thing the Commodore does well, it is compose music. The SID (Sound Interface Device) Editor allows me to input as many as three separate voices. Reading off the sheet music, I just punch in the notes using a joystick and the keyboard. By telling the computer what key the song is in it automatically takes care of all the sharps and flats. A "repeat" command means I only have to type in choruses and repeated phrases once. In a matter of a half hour or less, I can input an entire song.

When I am finished, I just hit the play key, sit back, and concentrate on the notes. Not only can I stop and start or replay the song any time or at any speed I want, but I can either listen to my part alone, combine it with any or all of the other parts, or listen to the other parts with mine silent or at a lower volume. This is a good test to see if I really know the notes by heart or not. Also, along with **hearing** the notes, you can **see** them being displayed on the screen. I find this helps me to visualize where the notes are when I'm singing the song later.

If you would like to know more about this, or if you have a Commodore and want to know where you can get the program, just talk to me. My apartment is open house every day if anyone wants to see the mighty machine at work sometime. I wouldn't call it high-tech, but my Commodore did help me learn the songs on time, and I felt comfortable at the show singing them.

Three cheers for the wonderful world of electronics!

(Editor's Note: The above item was published in the May, 1989, issue of the **Ametones Notes**, the Ames Chapter Bulletin, edited by **Roy Worman**, who added the following note:)

My thanks to Brian, who prepared this report at my request. We are aware that some other computers can also handle

music, but this is the first instance I know of where a barber-shopper has used a computer as a learning aid. Compared to learning tapes, the flexibility of the computer and the visual prompting have a lot to offer. On the other hand, tape recorders are portable.

Should anyone know of other computers and their programs that have been used in a similar manner as learning tools, we would very much like to hear about them. Please contact me; Brian will be going to Europe for several months shortly. Thanks!

Roy Warman, Editor
The Ametones Notes
3604 Annear St.
Ames Iowa 50010

Public Relations Guide established

by **Dee Paris**
Chairman, Society
Public Relations Committee

After several years without a public relations program, the Society committee established in mid-1988 finds itself with more work than it can accomplish. To establish a Society program, they must have the volunteer help of experienced Society members.

Committee members are now writing a new public relations manual, revising the lesson materials for the chapter office training schools (COTS), identifying radio stations to broadcast barbershop harmony, booking chorus and quartet talent for a public television show, and considering a number of other projects. Some of the programs will involve PROBE and the District Communications Officers.

Specifically, the committee seeks men whose career occupations are in public relations, those in the publishing of newspapers and magazines, and those who are in radio and television broadcasting. Writers, editors, and graphic artists can furnish talents needed to expand the public relations program.

Members working in, or retired from these fields are invited to describe and volunteer their skills to: PR Guild, c/o **Dee Paris**, 13110 Holdridge Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906.

Kansas City convention attendance down

Attendance at the Kansas City convention fell considerably short of the 9,250 predicted, with the result that anticipated revenues were not received. An estimated 7,775 were on hand to see the **Second Edition** from Louisville, Kentucky, and the **Harmonizers** of Alexandria, Virginia, win their respective championships.

The budget shortfall will be offset partly by a decision not to replace Diane Witscheber, who had left the International Office, creating a vacancy in the Communications Department. Witscheber, a 10-year employee, had recently received her bachelor's degree and had resigned to pursue a career in marketing.

There were other results of the reve-

nue shortage. A meeting of COTS faculty members scheduled for this fall was cancelled. Staff travel for members of the Music Department will be curtailed for the remainder of the year.

Revenue from International dues was also down as of the end of May, because of a decrease in membership of 624 as compared with the previous year. There was a slight increase in dual and reinstated members, and quartet registration income was up.

Rental income is up as the result of improvements made to portions of the Sheridan Road property in Kenosha that are rented to the State of Wisconsin. Personnel and travel costs are down due to the resignation of **Bill Myers** earlier this year. **Jim Casey**, **Meyer's** replacement, became a staff member June 1.

Merchandise sales are up, and *Harmonizer* ad revenues are greater than expected.

Other Board action

In other action, the Board adopted an amended International Achievement Program and declined to select a Society flag. A flag study committee will be appointed to examine criteria and design parameters.

Another committee will examine possible restructuring of the International Board and will report to the Mid-Winter meeting. Finally, a committee was selected to study licensing and chartering requirements for small groups and alternate forms of membership.

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Limericks Unlimited —

A bulletin Ed. named Master,
His columns with hype would plaster.
His stories were witty
With phrases so pretty,
But typing was such a disaster.

— **John Foster**

From the Mailbox —

(continued from page 4)

who are saving their money for San Francisco next year. Editor: He really said it that way, HOA! The line forms to the left for rebuttals. We know you weren't in Hartford, Stan, and there have been many changes since you were last in Kansas City (including the construction of Kemper Arena with those fantastic TV screens that provided everybody in the place with a

(continued on page 12)

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Bulletin Browsing

The Sagebrush Singers of Dodge City are planning an interchapter meeting for December 2. According to an item in the *Sagebrusher*, Editor **Kent Ross** says the event will be "open to the public, when we can get together with our friends from other chapters and sing all of our favorites, which include some of our Christmas selections." **Kent** doesn't name the "other chapters," but with the nearest neighbor in Great Bend, 84 miles away, getting together is bound to involve some traveling.

In the *Milltones Newsletter*, the bulletin of the **Grant County** (Milbank) Chapter, edited by **Norbert Rausch**, a Barbershopper who signs the article "Big Jack" admits that he's been a Barbershopper for 30 years but attended only his first International Convention in Kansas City last July. Oh, well, he appears to have enjoyed himself. But only once in 30 years?

Reed Leamon, of the **Cedar Rapids** Chapter, jotted down some of his observations at the International in **J.P. Jones's Hawkseye**, including a comment about the wild trousers worn by **Demoinaires** Musical Director **Rich Thompson**. We saw them at Kemper Arena prior to the Thursday evening session of the quartet quarter finals. Did you lose an election bet, **Rich**?

Editor (Acting) **Gale Demaree** describes in the *Tristate Chordsman* a highly successful rummage sale that netted the **Joplin** Chapter over \$600 in badly needed cash. The event was very nearly rained out as the **Tristatesmen** were barely able to get unsold merchandise on board a truck from a local charity just as a cloudburst broke out over the area and the hardworking Barbershoppers scrambled for cover. As **Dale** says, "The wolf will be kept from the door for a few more months."

Shawnee Mission Park was the site on August 12 of an interchapter picnic that included Barbershoppers from the **Kansas City, Overland Park, and Leavenworth** Chapters. The evening show in the Theater in the Park featured performances by the **Heart of America** and **Overland Stage** Choruses and a mass chorus made up of all Barbershoppers.

The **Davenport Chordbusters**, directed by **Gary White**, resplendent in a red tux with tails, performed as a warm-up act for impressionist **Rich Little** during the Hardee's Golf Classic Show in Davenport. And **Gary** sure knows how to get into the act: he was also chairman of the HGC. The **Chordbusters** apparently made a resounding impression on their audience. They're

still talking about their rendition of "God Bless America." We found this in **John Shelton's Note Dispenser**.

The **Sioux Emperians** of Sioux Falls will be arrayed in new "sharp-looking" blue tuxedos when they compete in the CSD Fall Contest in Omaha on October 14. According to Editor **Terry Roisum**, writing in the *Staff Notes*, the new outfits will replace the old "penguin" outfits, whatever they were.

From **Dick Owston's Trailblazer**, we find that the **Pathfinder** Chorus of Fremont is doing its usual find job of performing at local churches during the summer. **Dick** isn't real clear, but it appears that someone from the chorus even filled the pulpit at one church on July 16. Could we have more details, **Dick**?

We always enjoy reading **Gene Zeimet's Chord Courier**, the **Dubuque** Chapter bulletin, now sporting a new nameplate, the product of the artistic talents of **Steve Lucke**. Hope his fellow members and Chapter Board can come up with the added support **Gene** needs to enable him to publish his fine bulletin every month instead of bimonthly. This is one of our fine CSD editors who should submit his bulletin in the CSD "Bulletin Editor of the Year" Contest, but he's not eligible as long as he puts out only six issues during the year. More important, his bulletin will be more effective as a means of communication of he can publish it once a month.

Who says former members never come back? The **Manhattan** Chapter recently reinstated a couple of former Barbershoppers. One was **Felix Power**, who had been out of barbershopping for six years and has rejoined the lead section in the **Little Apple** Chorus. And the "Retread" is **Joe Boswell**, who was active for about three years with the old **Wamego**, Kansas, Chapter (that'll show you how long he's been away). Now he's adjusting to a spot in the **Little Apple's** bass section. Welcome back to Barbershopping, guys. As **Sam Kvasnica** says in the *Incider Press*, "May the association and harmony enrich your days."

Tom Tarsney, the **Omaha** Chapter president, writing in the *OMAHArmonizer*, edited by **Dave Stock**, announces a contest to select a new name for the chorus, the **Central Statesmen**. We can recall when they were called the **Ak-sar-benaires**, but we hope they don't go back to that one. Speaking of name changes, **Dave** reports in the *OMAHArmonizer* that effective May 1, 1990, the Sweet Adelines will

SPEBSQSA Membership Summary

	6-31-88	4-30-88	6-30-88
SPEBSQSA membership.....	36,836	34,931	36,218
SPEBSQSA chapters	819	816	817
CSD membership.....	2,525*	2,476	2,569
CSD chapters	64	65	65
CSD divisions			
Eastern Iowa.....	562	522	539
Western Iowa.....	334	333	335
Kansas.....	490	478	489
Missouri.....	575	594	637
Nebraska.....	360	379	396
South Dakota.....	180	170	173

*Includes 24 licensed members

Licensed CSD chapters
Franklin County, MO..... 24
NOTE: The licensed chapter at Papillion, NE, has been cancelled.

be called "Harmony International."

It must be a good idea because so many of our stronger chapters are doing it. The **Demoinaires** have recently revised their "Performance Chorus and Leadership Standards," which include a requirement that each member qualify for all performances. The article in **Bob Ree's Harmony Overtones** doesn't indicate but we assume this means the submission of an audio tape. We think this is a heck of a good idea, but why do so many good singers object to it? The **Demoinaires** standards also required that "the musical leadership must display an attitude of confidence and support for everyone's effort in any musical position. We must believe and act like we are one of the best barbershop choruses in the Society." We'll drink to that!

We got a kick out of reading what bulletin editors (and others) who were in Kansas City thought about the convention. We found this comment by Editor **Joe Millspaugh**, writing in his July/August edition of *Wichi-Tones* the **Wichita** Chapter bulletin: "... it was said several times that 'one of the great things about our organization is how it comes together as love.' I say that's just hogwash! — or someone is living in never-never land. I joined to sing and enjoy barbershop music, period! It is true we must come together with a disciplined respect for each one's rights and privacy, but let's keep 'love' in its proper place, part of our individual volition, not collective. We come close to violating the spirit of our Code of Ethics #8 in our 'love' comments. Let's not take ourselves too seriously." In case you haven't checked the back of your Society membership card lately, Canon 8 of our Society's Code of Ethics reads, "We shall not permit the introduction of political, religious, or other similar controversial issues into the affairs of the Society." Comments, Anyone?

We note that **Cal Engel**, editor of the *Barbershop Gazette*, the bulletin of the **Aberdeen** Chapter, is hanging up his glue

stick. He doesn't say why, but we're sorry he's retiring. The *Gazette* was looking good, and we enjoyed being able to keep up with the **Dakota Heritage** Chorus. Hope they find another good man to take over the job.

Musical directors course curriculum set

by **Jim Casey**
Music Specialist - Quartets

A new school for chorus directors will be held at Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin, in June of 1990. The school will offer a week-long curriculum, providing useful information for all directors, from raw beginners to International champions.

The new school, which will be an annual event, was created for a number of reasons, among them the development of new chorus directors. Many of our chapters fail because of a lack of musical leadership.

Another goal is to improve the quality of the chorus directors we already have. Experienced directors will be able to obtain advanced instruction in all areas of musicianship.

This will be the last year that classes for advance chorus directors (were) offered at Harmony College. The Fundamentals of Directing class will continue to be offered so that Barbershoppers who have not had an opportunity to try their hand at conducting can take this beginning course.

Applications for admission to the new school will be available in the fall. Look for further announcements.

ATTENTION, CSD QUARTETS

CSD Barbershoppers make the best audiences in the Society! Let 'em know you're ready, willing, and able to sing on their shows with an ad in the *Serenade*. A single insertion of your quartet card costs \$10. Three or more successive insertions entitle you to a 25% discount. A complete schedule of advertising rates will be found on page 2 of this issue.

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From the Mailbox —

(continued from page 10)

virtual front row seat and which we doubt we'll find the Cow Palace in San Francisco), so perhaps someone else can tell us what "unique and outstanding sites" we missed in Hartford, Connecticut, that we don't have in Kansas City. Yes, we've heard people, some right here in the Central States District who are only a four-hour drive from Kansas City, say they were "saving their money for San Francisco." We sincerely hope they're able to justify their decision by having a better time there than they would have had in Kansas City — but in the Cow Palace?!

4. Competition at the International level is becoming too predictable. With the "puddling" of talent taking place within the Society, picking those with a chance of winning is becoming too

easy. Editor: We've never been to an International Convention but what something "unpredictable" didn't happen to thrill us to the point where we couldn't wait to go to next year's convention. This year it was the **Daniel Boone** Chorus of St. Charles, Missouri, in International competition for the first time and with only 77 men on stage, beating out two of your "puddles" to finish only 12 points short of a medal.

In barbershop, as in everything else, there is always that "to each his own" factor. Would any of the above keep YOU from attending an International? Editor: Nope.

Hummmmmmm-bly
"Stasch"

Stan "Stasch" Sperl
Waukesha, Wisconsin

Editor: Thanks for your input, Stan. It's good to know you're reading the Serenade. But we still haven't heard a **COMPELLING** reason for not taking in the 1989 International in Kansas City.

How about it, folks? Let's hear from some of you people who are "saving your money for San Francisco."

Omaha's Fine in '89 —

(continued from page 1)

want to spend some time at the SAC (Strategic Air Command) Museum. Over 30 different aircraft and 9 missiles are on display. Many artifacts are featured in the Display Building. You can view a 15 minute film on SAC operations and get the feel of flying by trying out the B-52 cockpit trainer.

The museum is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.25 for children 6 to 11, and free for those under 6. If you are interested in taking a group, contact **Steve Trusty** to arrange for special rates.

Since you enjoy old songs, you may want to look even further back in his-

tory and discover something about dinosaurs. The Omaha Children's Museum is presenting "Dinosaur Encounter" from October 3 through December 31. You can step into a prehistoric environment that contains a dozen life-like robots that move, look, and sound like the real thing. These creatures may be only one-fourth to one-half of life size, but you'll still feel as though you've taken a trip to ancient times.

The 14,000 square foot exhibit is entered through a 40-foot-long cave featuring a dripping pool, stalactites, and stalagmites. The main section of the exhibit is alive with waterfalls and erupting volcanoes.

The exhibit will be open from 1 to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 1 to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission to "Dinosaur Encounter" is \$4.25 for adults and \$2.75 for children. You can visit the special exhibit and rest of the museum for a total \$5.50 admission.

Other points of interest include the Omaha History Museum, the Union Pacific Museum, the Joslyn Art Museum, Boys Town, the General Crook House, and several large shopping centers in Omaha, plus the General Dodge House, more shopping centers, and the Bluffs Run dog track in Council Bluffs.

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