

Central States District



# Serenade

Iowa · Kansas · Nebraska · Missouri · South Dakota

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September / October 1987

## Demoinaires invite Central Staters to "Let Harmony Ring," October 9-11

by Dick Garner  
Des Moines Chapter

Across the Central Plains states, you can almost hear the overtones in a union of voices coming together in crisp, clear harmony. Actually, it's the sweet sound of Central States District Barbershoppers making final preparations for the CSD Fall Convention and contests.

And that's what your hosts, the Demoinaires, are doing. With the contests just over a month away, we're making sure you and your family's trip to Des Moines is the Barbershopper time of your life. It's time to finalize those plans, Central Staters, to attend this year's Fall Convention here, October 9, 10 and 11.

In the "New Style American City," you'll have every opportunity to live up to the theme of "Let Harmony Ring" in our acoustically acclaimed Civic Center.

You'll want to sign up at the convention headquarters, the Hotel Fort Des Moines, in the heart of the capital city's refurbished downtown. Once here,



The Des Moines Civic Center will "Let Harmony Ring" on October 9-11. Nollen Plaza's outdoor auditorium, foreground, is a great place for impromptu concerts and chordbusting.

you'll be near the Civic Center and close to the "hub" of the action.

Here's just a sampling of what's to come:

Especially for the ladies - -

—An elegant lunch at the

Botanical Center on the picturesque banks of the Des Moines River.

—Guided tours of Terrace Hill, the Iowa Governor's Mansion.

—The legendary Salisbury House, a spacious, uniquely designed English castle.

—The Des Moines Art Center



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Central States District  
  
**Serenade**  
 Iowa - Kansas - Nebraska - Missouri - South Dakota

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# From the Edge —



by Wade Dexter  
 Editor, the *Serenade*

How many times have you heard it said that "the more you put into barbershopping, the more you'll get out of it?" What's implied here is that the opportunities for self-gratification through service to your chapter and your Society, if you will recognize and avail yourself of them, are practically limitless.

We are approaching the time of year when such opportunities become more apparent and available. During the month of October, new officers for your chapter (as well as the Central States District) will be elected to serve during the coming year. These officers-elect will be attending the District Chapter Officer Training School in Des Moines in November where they will be developing their plans and programs for 1988.

If you should be approached by your chapter (or District) nominating committee and asked to accept an office in your organization, give the request a good deal of thought and accept it if you feel you can budget the additional time and energy needed to do a good job. Playing a vital part in the growth and development of your chapter can be a most gratifying experience.

If you are not chosen for a chapter or District office, you must remember that no officer can do an effective job all by

himself. For example, the music and membership functions are so broad in scope that the respective vice presidents in these areas will need lots of help from individual members. The same can be said for the programming function.

And that's where you come in. Make it a point to talk with your new chapter president or one of the vice presidents and let him know that you want to help in some area. You'll be needed almost anywhere — the music team, the membership and program committees and the show committee, for example. Or you could volunteer for a special assignment, such as Logopedics Chairman, "Pay-As-You-Sing" Chairman, music librarian or uniform custodian. Or even bulletin editor! Or you can just pitch in and lend a hand wherever it appears to be needed.

My point is that there is so much more to be derived from barbershopping than just showing up once a week for a couple of hours of singing. You should know that somebody somewhere in your chapter puts forth a lot of effort to make your meetings enjoyable. Why not make it your business to find a way to contribute to everybody's enjoyment and the growth and progress of your chapter? Get involved! You'll be surprised how much personal satisfaction it'll bring you.

**Next Serenade  
 deadline  
 October 15, 1987  
 Approximate  
 mailing date  
 November 1, 1987**

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Photo by Nancy Fitzgerald

## He's not directing — but he'll always be harmonizing

(Editor's note: The *Serenade* is grateful to Mr. Mark Bowden, Metro-Iowa Editor of the *Cedar Rapids Gazette* for permission to use the following article by Staff Writer Anne Marty. A 40-year Barbershopper, Len Bjella, recently stepped down after 31 years as musical director of the **Harmony Hawks** of Cedar Rapids. Thanks also to Merrill Aitchison of the Cedar Rapids Chapter for sending us a copy of the article.)

Len Bjella has reached the point where he's ready to make some changes.

Some people might call it retirement. Len, who lives at 310 Linden Terrace, SE, (in Cedar Rapids) says it isn't. "I don't think I'll ever retire," he insists.

The changes he's made are substantial. Last year, he left Perpetual Savings & Loan after

serving as vice president of marketing for 21 years. More recently, he laid down the director's baton of the **Harmony Hawks**, a 90-member barbershop chorus. Len, 61, assumed the director's position in 1956, shortly after moving (to Cedar Rapids) from Oelwein.

Stepping down as director of the award-winning chorus wasn't easy. But it was a step he knew he had to take.

"I felt like my tolerance was diminishing for things that are less than the best," the former director says. "And when you recognize that kind of thing happening, that's a good time to leave."

Saying farewell to the chorus directorship is one thing, but giving up barbershop singing is a change Len's not prepared to make.

Barbershop music, with its close harmony and sentimental lyrics, has been a mainstay of Len's life since he joined his first quartet as a junior high school student in Minneapolis. Barbershopping has followed Len through all the stages of his life — high school, college, two years in the U.S. Navy, advertising sales for radio stations in Wisconsin, Oelwein and Cedar Rapids, and finally as vice president at Perpetual Savings & Loan.

Len plans to continue making music the barbershop way by lending his baritone voice to the **Harmony Hawks** chorus and **Vigortones** quartet.

"I don't think you ever really retire from barbershopping because there's a kind of addiction that takes place," explains Len, who has received many awards for his music, including the first local "Mr. Music" award in 1984.

"There are chord structures that are part of your life. When you hear a barbershop chord . . . you immediately think of places in songs where that belongs. It's just an automatic thing that happens to you."

The appeal of barbershop music, however, goes beyond the technical for musicians like Len. There's a personal side, too.

"There's a kind of camaraderie that doesn't happen in any other kind of hobby," Len notes. "I think it happens in all kinds of singing groups much more so perhaps than instrumental groups. I have lifelong friends from our high school quartet, and we still get together."

Len's relationship with other members of the **Vigortones** is even closer. After singing together for 30 years, these men are more than friends, Len says. They're like members of an extended family.

Len's interest in music isn't limited to the barbershop style. He also has served as choir director of St. Mark's Lutheran Church for 31 years. That experience has been a family affair.

(continued on page 18)



## “I’m going to be a DYNAMO!”

by **Jim Griffith**  
CSD President

‘You’re going to be a WHAT? What the heck is a DYNAMO?’ might be your response, and I wouldn’t be surprised at all. It’s an unusual name to call anyone.

If you don’t know what the DYNAMO program is all about, shame on you. You haven’t been reading your *Serenade* during 1987. I wrote an article entitled, “DYNAMO — What is it?” in the January / February issue, and **Dale Comer**, CSD Director of Music Education, added more information with “DYNAMO launched in CSD” in the March / April edition. Then the July / August issue reported that **Mel Knight**, Society Music Specialist, would be presenting a DYNAMO II in Ames on July 24-25.

I was curious, so I went to Ames. Originally, I thought I’d just observe, but since Ames is 225 miles from Lincoln, and I’d miss a half day’s work to make the evening session on Friday, I decided to take a day vacation

and sit in on the training session, too. I’m sure glad that I did!

DYNAMO II is a two-day session for a chapter that wants to grow by developing a strong chapter music team. This initial DYNAMO presentation in CSD was conducted by **Mel Knight**, who just happened to edit the new “Music Leadership Team Manual.” He was assisted by CSD’s **Bill Rashleigh**, the Society’s newest music man. **Steve Parnell**, the Newton chorus director and Kansas Division DME, and I were trainees. We had a long training session with Mel on Friday afternoon and observed the chapter activity that night and all day on Saturday.

The two-day session at Ames was the usual DYNAMO II weekend. On Friday evening, the DYNAMO team, chapter board and music team met for dinner at the Union Building on the Iowa State University campus. After dinner, **Mel Knight** presented the DYNAMO program to the chapter officials, and by the conclusion of this session at 10 p.m., the chapter board had committed to recommending the adoption of the program to the chapter membership.

At 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, the Ames chapter met at its regular meeting room at the Elks Lodge. Most of the members were present. The chapter officers and music team presented the DYNAMO program to the chapter. After lunch, the chapter held a 2½-hour chapter meeting using some of the ideas suggested in the Music Leadership Manual.

A question and answer session about the DYNAMO program followed the chapter meeting with the answers being supplied by the chapter leadership. At the end of this session, the chapter membership voted to adopt the DYNAMO program for the Ames chapter. The afternoon session concluded with a wrap-up by the DYNAMO’s, trainees, music team and board.

A very enjoyable potluck with wives and families concluded a very pleasant — and educational — visit to Ames. A special “well done” is due Ames’s president,

**Gerry Kennedy**, for his organizational and administrative skills and to my host couple for their friendship and a good bed!

**Steve Parnell** and I hope to become DYNAMOS in November. We are scheduled to make a DYNAMO presentation to the **Marshalltown** chapter. This will be our final exam. If **Mel Knight** is satisfied with our work, we will be able to make DYNAMO presentations on our own to other chapters in the District.

Wouldn’t you like to be a DYNAMO and help other chapters GROW by making our hobby more enjoyable for their members? Contact **Dale Comer**, and tell him about your interest. Is your chapter just floundering — not increasing in members, just doing the same old things and most of what is being done is being done by the chorus director? A DYNAMO II weekend can introduce your chapter to proven ideas that will almost guarantee a better chapter. Contact **Dale** about the possibility of scheduling a DYNAMO II for you. You’ll be glad you did!

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### Attention bulletin editors — New AP Stylebook available

The 1986 edition of the *Associated Press Stylebook*, the complete guide to newspaper journalism and the “bible” for SPEBSQSA chapter bulletin editors in the area of grammar and style, is now available.

The spiral bound and soft covered handbook contains over 300 pages and may be purchased for \$7.75 from: Stylebook, AP Newsfeatures, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N.Y. 10020. Make your check or money order payable to “AP Stylebook,” and send payment with your order. They do not bill.

This important reference manual is essential in such areas as proper punctuation, abbreviation and capitalization and should be available on every bulletin editor’s book shelf. Order yours today.

# On stage at Hartford —

photos by Dick Stuart, PROBE

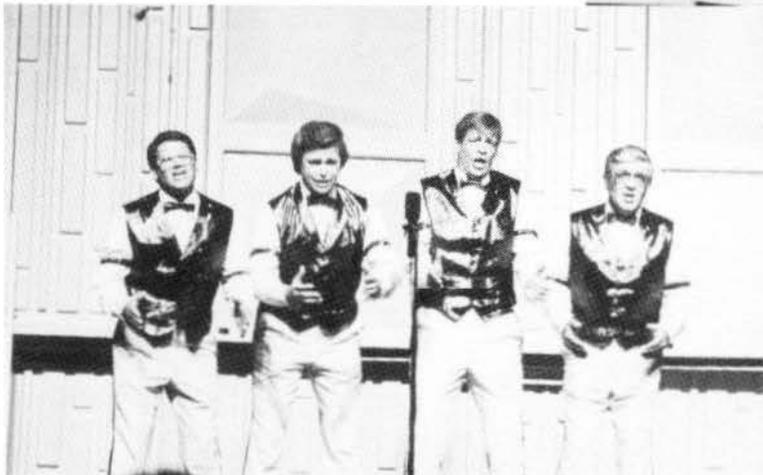


The Heart of America Chorus, Kansas City, Steve Leone directing.



The K.C. Connection, Kansas City Chapter.

The Gateway City Slickers, St. Charles and St. Louis No. 1 Chapters.



The Stateline Celebration, Algona Chapter.

## New video taping program

by Dale Comer  
CSD Director of  
Music Education

It's almost fall again and time to take note of a couple of things relative to our fall barbershop activities. (I know it's nearly fall in Nebraska, because I've already started to hear about the Nebraska football team.)

First of all, quartets and choruses that plan to compete in Des Moines should be aware of our new video taping program. Through the hard work and ef-

forts of Past International President **Bob Gall**, we will make video tapes of contest performances available for purchase by all contest competitors.

It must be emphasized that these tapes will be of **professional quality**. Because of concerns about the quality of past taping efforts, we've made arrangements with a professional video person who has experience taping other barbershop contests to tape the contests in Des Moines.

Competing quartets and choruses will be receiving more information about this program at a later date. Remember, a video tape of your contest performance will be valuable both for educa-

tional purposes and as a lasting record of your participation.

Secondly, Central States will have a return visit by **Mel Knight**, one of our talented International music staff members, during the first week in November. If your chapter is interested in hosting a visit by **Mel**, contact DME **Dale Comer**. If **Mel** is in your area during his swing through the CSD, plan to attend one of his presentations for a great barbershop evening.

## Pick the best

by Bob Swenson  
CSD Executive  
Vice President

See that kid in the candy store, tightly clutching a coin or two and looking excitedly at all the candy displayed there? He has a choice to make, and you know the thoughts racing through his mind.

He has got to make a decision, and he knows he will have to be satisfied that his pick of all the offerings in that store is the best one that he could possibly make.

Picking the best is an activity that we all get to do in our daily lives, whether it be watching television, purchasing items for our own use or selecting next year's chapter officers.

Your chapter's nominating committee should be hard at work right now, coming up with the best possible candidates to serve your chapter next year. If you are asked to serve, remember that the nominating committee, just like the kid in the candy store, is trying to pick the best.

As chapter members, we all get the chance to participate in the nomination and election of next year's officers. It is an important process that is essential to perpetuating our hobby at the local level. Be involved in this important process; it gives you a chance to pick the best.

### CSD Fall Convention Something special for the ladies Saturday, October 10 Approximately 8 a.m. 'til noon

(Pick up by bus at your downtown hotel. Back in time for chorus competition. Specific times posted at the registration desk.)

#### Tour

The beautiful Des Moines Botanical Center. Enjoy an elegant brunch at the Center. Be entertained by a Musician with a Message.

Plus a mini-bus tour of the State Capitol; Terrace Hill, the Governor's Mansion; the Des Moines Art Center Building; Salisbury House, an English Castle; the Court Avenue District.

All for \$10.00

Send remittance by 9-2-87\*

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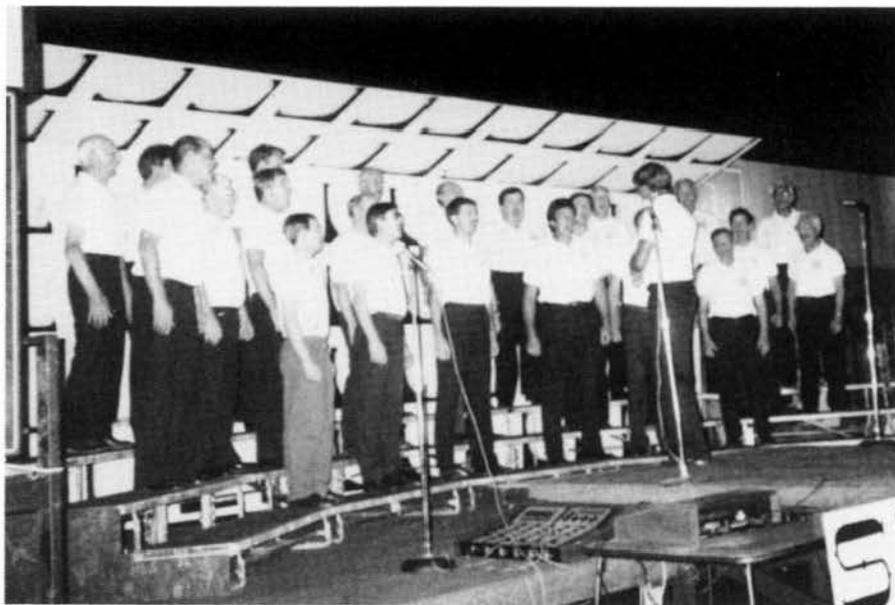
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\*We need 75 people minimum, so encourage your entire group to participate.



The Sho-Me Statesmen of Springfield entertain the crowd during the evening show at this year's "Tunes - T-Bones - Trotlines" at Shell Knob, Missouri. The photo was furnished by Karl Kloos, but we don't know the name of the director.

## "Tunes - T-Bones - Trotlines" survives near wash-out

by Karl Koos  
Joplin Chapter

For the first time in several years, rain threatened to abort the 16th Annual "Tunes - T-Bones - Trotlines" Festival on the weekend of July 24-26. However, the weather forced the cancellation of only the combined chorus performance, the last item on the Saturday night program, as Barbershoppers and their families from as far away as Colby, Kansas, made the hills and hollows surrounding Shell Knob, Missouri, echo with good tags and barbershop songs.

The Saturday evening show was the climax of the weekend. Over 2,000 people enjoyed the Table Rock Chapter Chorus, the Springfield Sho-Me Statesmen Chorus and the Joplin Tristatesmen Chorus.

Also present were eight quartets, the Keen Agers, Rusty Males, Knights to Remember, Pitch Pals, Spring River 4, the 4-B's and After Class, plus the Travel-Aires from Colby and Hutchinson, Kansas.

During the rain-shortened show, an appeal was made for the Institute of Logopedics and the Shell Knob Library. A total of \$725 was collected for the two projects.

### Do you know your "BWAC?"

by Jim Nugent  
CSD Membership  
Development Counselor

Or is it "BSWACS" (pronounced "beeswax")?

A "Barbershopper Without a Chapter" is like a ship without a sail. How did that old song go? I can't remember the lyrics or the tune or even the title. Not that it matters. The point is that we have a big turnover in this singing organization.

Thousands of men leave the Society every year. The reasons given for leaving are as varied as the men themselves, but they all boil down to one. The man's chapter does not meet his needs to the extent that he commits

"Society suicide." HE QUILTS! He becomes a "Barbershopper Without a Chapter." Chances are he still loves barbershop. After all, he joined the organization. But he sees no future for himself in his chapter. Two or three hundred BWAC's live in the Central States District today.

Do you suppose that two or three of them could be found who possess the musical, social, organizational and communications skills and the time and energy and the drive to start a new chapter?

Your Division Vice President has been asked to find one or more BWAC's in his Division. Please help. New chapters are good - - for all of us.

If you know a BWAC, and he lives in a county seat or a suburb of a large city, or some medium sized city without a chapter, PLEASE talk with him about the possibility of a new chapter - - and contact your DVP.

### Limericks Unlimited

There once was a bass named Paul,  
Who, tho' barely able to scrawl,  
Took the editor's spot  
And worked hard, a lot,  
And published the best 'rag' of all.

—John Lyness



### Chapter Anniversaries

Happy birthday to the following Central States chapter

Ames, Iowa  
20 years on October 3



"Smile, you're at Harmony College!" These CSD Barbershoppers smile in spite of intermittent rain at Harmony College, 1987. The rolling hills of the Missouri Western State College campus make a nice background for the group. Photo by Dave Evenson, Marshall, Minnesota.

by David Krause  
Kansas City Chapter

Barbershoppers from several Missouri Division chapters, including **Kansas City**, **Overland Park** and **Sedalia** (with 17 members, or 50% of the chapter!) gathered at the Bucksaw Point Marina, just east of Clinton, Missouri, during the weekend of July 24-26, for the first Bucksaw Barbershop Bash. Thanks to the efforts of **Dave Marti** and the Clinton Chamber of Commerce, there was plenty of boating, fishing, swimming and good food for all.

On Saturday evening, an audience of just under 100 Barbershoppers and their family members enjoyed a great barbecue dinner, followed by per-

formances by the **Sedalia State Fair Statesmen**, **Special Touch**, **Four Ever Pals** and **Sound Alternative**. Naturally an afterglow followed, and there was plenty of singing for all.

For those of you who were unable to attend our inaugural year for whatever reason, rest assured we will do it again next year. The facilities at the Marina are perfect for this type of barbershop outing, with a lodge, cabins, sleeping rooms, a bunkhouse, campground, swimming beach, pool, jacuzzi and a lakeside restaurant with good food at reasonable prices.

As soon as we set next summer's date, we'll let you know. You're all invited, and the more the merrier.

**LET  
HARMONY  
RING!**  
OCT. 9-11 DES MOINES



The closing ceremonies on stage on Saturday night at the International Convention in Hartford last summer were so rushed that there wasn't time to present our new Past Champs, the **Rural Route 4**, with their personal replicas of the Landino Trophy that had just passed to the new champs. So the guys brought them home and at their first meeting with their **Kansas City Chapter**, Past International President **Gil Lelholz** did the honors in appropriate fashion. Don't our heroes look nice in their brand new AIC blazers?

## Des Moines revisited

by Gerry Mohr  
St. Charles Chapter

On October 9 of this year, the **Daniel Boone Chorus** will journey to Des Moines, Iowa, to compete in the Central States District chorus competition. This will be the first time that we have competed in Des Moines, either in the fall or in the spring, since 1972 - that's 15 years.

I know that some of my fellow chapter members may disagree with me. Nevertheless, although we've competed in many places, we've never been back to Des Moines - - until now.

Our first trip there in more than half a generation brings back some fond memories of that weekend. I remember some of us going to a nice little Italian restaurant for lunch on Saturday. I wonder if that place is still there.

I remember competing in the chorus contest that Saturday afternoon. Clad in navy blue blazers, gray slacks, white shirts

and red ties, we earned a 10th place finish, getting back into the top 10 after a 13th place finish the year before.

I recall that I was the chapter bulletin editor at that time. I entered my first bulletin contest that year and came within a few points of a second place medalist spot.

I also remember that we brought a band to that contest. Yes, that's right - - a band. Many chapters, then and now, including our own, hold afterglows at the conventions. So we rented a couple of rooms upstairs in the hotel and set up the instruments. On Saturday night, the band played, people danced, and choruses and quartets sang. On and on it went, into the wee morning hours. When it was all over, some of the chapter members ended up in the hotel coffee shop for more partying.

All the ingredients were there that weekend for our chapter - the bulletin contest reesults, our move back into the top 10, our having 50 or more men on the contest stage for the first time ever, a talented director, and the en-

thusiasm of the chorus. Apart from the all night afterglow, indications were that our chorus was on the way up, entering a new era, getting better every year for years to come.

But it was short lived. Any thoughts of a new era for our chapter went into cold storage until director **David Wright's** arrival in 1981.

Things are a big different this time around as we prepare to return to Des Moines. We'll likely have a chapter afterglow suite, but the band is long gone. The business for which it was nicknamed has long since closed its doors, and the building in which the business was housed has been demolished.

The 1972 chorus photo shows that only 10 of the singers on stage then are still with us today. In contrast, some of our members today weren't even in grade school in 1972, and at least one hadn't been born yet.

While then, as now, we had some very good singers in the chorus, this time we'll be fielding a numerically larger chorus with more competition experience per member.

In 1972, our aim was to get back into the top 10; then we were starting on the road back. This time, with five straight top-10 finishes behind us, we're not starting on any road back - - our aim is to win the contest!

If we win it, we'll be very, very happy. But I can't help but think that the 10 of us who were in Des Moines in 1972 will be a little extra happy inside, with the knowledge that the chorus that once brought a band to Des Moines now has brought back a chorus title from Des Moines.

Des Moines, here we come!





## RR-4 hurried, harried, hoorayed, happy for homegrowns in Hartford

by Jim Bagby  
Short guy on the end

What's it like to be has-beens? Well, we ran a lot to get to that point in Hartford. And we wore 14 of the 15 outfits that we took along.

As the outgoing champs, it seemed that we had an invitation to perform every time we turned around. So although the schedule was hectic, it was a most enjoyable and memorable week, climaxed as we had thought for a year that it probably would be — presenting the 1987 gold medals to our good friends, the *Interstate Rivals*.

Our Hartford schedule began with singing for the President's Dinner and the President's Ball on Tuesday night. (International President) **Darryl Flinn** is not only a man and coach whom we admire greatly - - he's too big to say no to!

Wednesday was mostly taken up with rehearsal for the AIC (Association of International Champions) show, or waiting for other quartets to rehearse their parts. Fortunately, all but one or two of the AIC people involved were very cooperative and

thoughtful, and **John Miller** did a masterful job of putting the whole thing together.

We had our first performance representing the Society at noon on Wednesday before a large, enthusiastic but mostly non-barbership crowd at the Old Courthouse Square, a few blocks from the auditorium. **Bob Morrissey**, who handled PR for the Hartford convention committee, did a great job; we were doing TV,

Photographs accompanying this article were provided by **Dan Jordan**, editor of the *Medallion*, the bulletin of the Association of International Champions.

radio or newspaper interviews all week, with lots of response. We did another PR shot in the mall between the Sheraton and the auditorium right after lunch.

On Wednesday afternoon, the AIC chorus rehearsed, under the brilliant direction of **Jay Giallombardo**. Just standing on stage with the legends and gods of barbershopping was an awesome experience.

Then came the AIC dinner, the AIC show and AIC afterglow. We also sang in the Purdy Corral on Wednesday night. The AIC show before 8,000 folks, we thought, came off very well, and the planning by **Miller** and **Harlan Wilson** even got it over at a reasonable time. We were the first outgoing champ to be presented AIC blazers on stage at the end of the performance (the wives had secretly provided the sizes).

Thursday morning found us back among the AIC folks for the annual breakfast and business meeting, where after no small amount of abuse, we were "voted in" to the organization. We



**Jim Bagby's** Daughter, **Kristin**, joins the quartet for "Lida Rose/Dream of Now" from "Music Man."



The Rural Route 4 sing for the public in the Civic Center Mall between the Headquarters Sheraton Hotel and the Auditorium.

received our championship rings from **Big Darryl**.

We spent much of the three quarterfinal rounds backstage greeting, encouraging and sympathizing with the 49 competitors - - but not really missing the pressure.

The highlight on Friday was hooking up with the **Heart of America** chorus for rehearsal, the pattern and the chorus competition. **Willard** went along with us to **Windsor Locks**, where most of the **Kansas City Chapter** stayed, to sing a couple of songs before the last chorus rehearsal.

After the top six choruses were

announced on Friday night, the **RR-4** were introduced for our bow-out performance. We wound up with the song that **Val Hicks** had written and arranged for us, "My Life, My Love, My Song." Even with lots of folks anxious to head for their motels 30 or 40 miles away, it was quite a moment.

We wound up Friday night at **Darryl's** reception in the President's Suite, and sang around much later than was good for us.

Saturday was a race, beginning with the **Logopedics Breakfast**. Ever try to sing well at 9 a.m. with a minimum of warmup after

three hours sleep? We stopped by the **Barbershoppers Shop** to check on record sales, sing a song or two and do some autographing.

Then it was next door for "Sing with the Champs," which was supposed to be one hour but ended up being two, since there was still a long line of folks waiting when we finished at noon. A crowd of at least 500 people looked on, and every singer seemed to have the time of his life - - how could we say no? The wives got us hamburgers to eat on the run, and we did another outdoor performance on the square.

Then it was on to a local Hartford church to participate for a while in the taping of the "Good News" gospel recording, a project of old friends and fellow AIC members **Mo Rector, Dale Deiser, Jerry Fairchild and Joe Mazzone**.

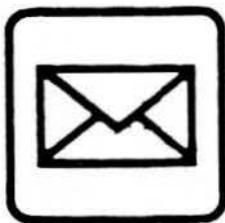
In between we got in some coaching, a sing-along, the **Futures II** committee meeting and a little time with our very supportive families. We also cheered the chorus victory by former CSD star **Greg Lyne** and his **West Towns Chorus** and the silver medal of the **Second Generation** with **Denison's Fred Farrell** (a former **RR-4** host) singing super tenor. We enjoyed seeing former **Lincoln Continental Al Ditmer** singing with **Louisville** and onetime **HOA** member **Al Durick** in the front row as **Alexandria** presented its highly enjoyable bow-out performance.



### CSD Fall Convention Ticket Information

**Tickets will not be mailed!**

They must be picked up at the registration desk, Hotel Fort Des Moines (Headquarters Hotel) in Des Moines beginning Friday, October 9



## MAILBAG

Wade:

I really enjoyed the articles written on the competition in Fort Dodge in the past (May/June) *Serenade*. This was the first time that I have been mentioned in this publication.

I would like to let you know of an error though. My name is spelled "Barry" instead of "Berry." I am from the **Spirit of St. Louis** barbershop chorus, not **St. Charles**. The other three guys (in the **Gateway City Slickers**) are from **St. Charles**.

If possible, would you make a correction about my chorus? The spelling of my name is not important. If not possible, I'll understand.

Thank you,  
**Barry Moore**  
**Spirit of St. Louis**

Hi, Wade:

Just received your July/August *Serenade*, which is, as usual, a beautiful piece of work.

I felt that I should comment on your editorial about the new format for the chorus contest. I didn't like it, either, but not for the same reasons.

I think the idea of four songs instead of two is a good one. Not only does it get rid of the "two-song syndrome," which is much-maligned, but I think it's a better test of which chorus is the best. If we'd had only two songs, guess who would have been our champion (again) - - the **Thoroughbreds**. But the two sessions named the most consistent chorus over four songs as the champs, and I personally think that's better. Why else do we have three quartet sessions?

I didn't like the timing, especially in Hartford where we were spread all over the countryside. Why not have the chorus

finals on Saturday afternoon, which was a pretty big vacant spot anyway, and the quartet finals that evening, as in the past?

I thought the champions got pretty short shrift in their recognition because of the crowded evening schedule.

PROBE-ingly

**Dick Stuart**  
 Editor, the *Cider Press*  
 Johnny Appleseed  
 District bulletin

Wade:

Congratulations on another great issue of the *Serenade*. Also, bouquets for the third place position of **Harmonotes**, (the **Kansas city Chapter** bulletin).

A couple of small details - - the **Harmony Hawks** Chorus (Cedar Rapids) had 40 members in attendance at the Cookie Festival as described on page 9.

(Also on pages 9 and 22), the **Chordbuster** Chorus is from Davenport, and the **Harmony Hawks** are from Cedar Rapids.

Again, Wade, keep up the good work - - my wife, **Hazel**, and I really enjoy the *Serenade*. See you in Des Moines.

**Merrill Aitchison**  
 Cedar Rapids chapter

Dear Wade:

Discovering in the "Bulletin Browsing" section that **Len Bjella** and **Byron Meyers** had resigned was like finding in a "Sports in Brief" item that **Arnold Palmer** and **Jack Nicklaus** has given up golf.

Regardless of what reporting falldown was involved, these two CSD giants deserved headlines as bold as their accomplishments. For 20 years - - with the exception of two appearances by **Howard Mesecher's Davenport Chordbusters** - - **Byron's Pony Expressmen** and **Len's Harmony Hawks** absolutely ruled the CSD

chorus competition. **St. Joe** and **Cedar Rapids** set the musical standards that inspired the rest of us to seek barbershopping excellence.

Aside from their quartet activities and many coaching and teaching contributions, **Byron** and **Len** also produced the only International chorus medals in the history of the district. Prior to the belated ascension of **Kansas City**, the musical definition of the district was the sole property of these two veteran leaders.

Despite the surprise and disappointment of finding such an important double changing of the guard relegated to the back of the magazine, I still believe the *Serenade* to be one of the top district publications in the Society; keep up the good work!

Merrily and barily,

**Jim Bagby**

Letter to the Editor:

Sorry, Wade, but I can't go along with your suggestion to our Society officials to go back to the old way of conducting the International Chorus Contest. If you think it is better for choruses to sing in one "go-for-broke" session, then why shouldn't the quartets be limited to one "go-for-broke" session as well?

It seems to me the six-song requirement for quartets has resulted in the development of better performing quartets. Applying the new four-song requirement to choruses, I believe, provides the opportunity to develop better entertaining choruses, and also breaks the two-song millstone which has hung around our necks for too many years.

Just take a look at the contest score sheets showing the results of each chorus session. Had the contest ended on Friday night (or Saturday afternoon under the "old way"), **Louisville** would have won its eighth championship, and the **West Towns Chorus** again would have taken second place --even though it outscored **Louisville** in Sound, Interpreta-

(continued on page 18)

## Suburban scores again for Logopedics

by Jim Goldkamp  
St. Louis Suburban Chapter

On June 24, St. Louis Suburban's Special Activities Chairman Charlie Peake turned a repeat performance of Suburban's 1986 "White Elephant Sale" into an even greater success than last year's event which garnered gross receipts of over \$530 for the kids at the Institute of Logopedics.

This year's event grossed over \$830, including a high bid of \$145 for a lot of 17 classic barbershop records that included albums by the Schmidt Brothers, the Suntones, the Four Renegades, the Buffalo Bills and others, donated by Pat Meek, a Suburban member since 1963. And the purchase of the collection doesn't even own a record player!

The spirited rivalry during the bidding created lots of laughter and a good time over coffee and

dessert. Since we raised \$18 per chapter member for Logopedics, Suburban challenges other chapters to match or exceed this contribution to the Institute.

Clear out the "JONQUE" around your house, and have an evening of fun by supporting our International Service Project.

## Progress report on extension site at Union, Missouri

Rick Dunaway, the spark plug behind the red hot extension possibility at Union (population 5,506, about 30 miles west of St. Louis) reports good progress toward licensure.

Their current roster shows 23 members, and they've scheduled one more guest night in Washington, Missouri, so as to bring up their membership still further prior to submission of their licensure application.

Rick is doing most of their

directing since the high school music man originally picked for the job has acquired other interests. They're getting lots of help from the St. Louis area chapters, and the guys from St. Charles paid them a visit recently which left the Union boys "higher than a kite."

The Union chorus has tentatively scheduled a performance during the St. Louis Area chorus contest in Alton, Illinois, in early October. That's quite an ambitious undertaking for a brand-new outfit, and we wish them all the luck in the world.



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INSTITUTE OF LOGOPEDICS 1987 Holiday Greeting Card artist, Mark Botkin, has won numerous art awards. His bright red stocking design for this year's card is shown at center left.

### Greeting Card Reflects Warm Memories of Christmas

A brilliant red stocking filled to the brim with candy, toys and gifts dons the Institute of Logopedics 1987 holiday greeting card.

The card reflects warm memories of Christmas for former Institute student 19-year-old Mark Botkin, who has a profound hearing loss.

This is the 29th year for the

holiday card project, begun in 1959 by Institute founder Dr. Martin Palmer. That year, Dr. Palmer sent a student's artwork as a holiday greeting to family and friends, starting a tradition of sharing special children's holiday visions with others.

Today, the important fund-raising and promotional activity for the Institute has evolved into an annual contest for students in designing artwork for the card.

Winning awards is not new to this year's artist. In 1985, one of

Mark's artworks was featured world-wide as part of the International Year of the Child exhibit. And a three-dimensional dune buggy made from construction paper and tape was exhibited at the Reuben Saunders Gallery, Wichita, Kansas.

Mark completed his program at the Institute last December. He now works full-time at the Kansas Elks Training Center, Wichita, making custom filters for restaurants.

Through his program at the Institute, Mark learned to communicate through sign language. So pleased with his language, Mark has been known to teach sign language to his friends, fellow churchgoers and even his teachers!

While at the Institute, Mark had several student job training experiences and won numerous awards. He holds the distinction of being one of only two students selected to help run the Institute's print shop presses. He also worked in the school office and in the cafeteria.

At the Institute's 1986 School Awards Day, this industrious young man received awards for Most Improved Skills in Banking and Money Management, and

*(continued on page 17)*

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# Sundermeyer Sez

by Ed Sundermeyer  
CSD Secretary

Chapter elections will be coming up soon in October. It is time for nominating committees to begin assessing candidates for new officers. This is a very important job and should be done responsibly. The success of your chapter rests entirely on its leadership, administrative as well as musical.

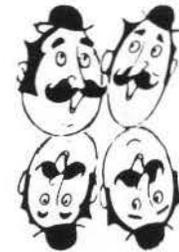
I can usually tell before midyear which chapter secretaries attended COTS and which did not. I really feel that chapter nominating committees should get an absolute commitment from prospective officers to attend COTS before placing them on the slate of nominees, especially the secretary and treasurer. There is too much detail in the job functions of these offices for a first time secretary or treasurer to pick up by simply referring to the manual. By the time he makes enough mistakes to learn how to

do it right, the year is half over. Attendance at COTS is essential.

There is one more important job to do after the elections, which is reporting the names of new chapter officers to the International Office, the District Secretary and the chairman of the District Directory committee. This must be done promptly. I checked the reports of 1987 officers made after last year's elections. About 50% of the chapter secretaries reported within one week after the election. Another 20% of you reported within two weeks. About 25% took three weeks or more to report.

There is nothing difficult about reporting. Kenosha furnishes you a form to report to that office with a copy to go to the District Secretary, and the Directory Chairman furnishes you a form ahead of time to report the same information to him. About one fourth of the chapter secretaries made reports within 3 days of the elections. There is no reason why all of you can't do that well. It is extremely important to get this information to the District Directory chairman so he can get an

early start toward getting the Directory published before the beginning of the new year. Thanks in advance to you early reporters. And to you procrastinators, get on the ball!



### CORRECTION

Merrill Aitchison wrote and John Paul Jones called to remind us that despite what we said on pages 9 and 12 of the July / August *Serenade* to the contrary, the **Chordbusters** hail from **Davenport** and the **Harmony Hawks** call **Cedar Rapids** their home. Sorry we got our geography reversed. Merrill also wanted us to tell everybody that **Cedar Rapids** sent a contingent of 40 **Harmony Hawks** to this year's Eastern Iowa Cookie Festival in Iowa City. That's a fair-sized bulk load!

Dave Allen  
Myron Hultgren  
Greg Yarnell  
Steve Parnell

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Leif Erickson baritone	(402) 334-7803 home
Dave Pinkall bass	(402) 339-9177 business



We'd been trying for years to get this picture but were never quite able to get the parties together. Then it happened in the lobby of the Sheraton Hotel in Hartford during the International Convention last July. Left to right: Our dear friends **Bob Godfrey** and his friend, **Mary Whelan**, **Joyce Dexter** and your **Serenade** editor. **Bob** is from Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, and is the composer of such barbershop favorites as "Back in Dad and Mother's Day" (with **Jack Betzner**), "That Old Quartet of Mine" (with **Jack Betzner** and **Lou Perry**), and "There's Something I Like About Broadway" (also with **Jack Betzner**). We never did get the name of the Barbershopper who took the picture.

### International makes staff changes

Acting Executive Director **Joe Liles** has announced further changes among the staff at the International Headquarters in

Kenosha.

Director of Communications **Robb Ollett** accepted a position as Account Executive with Ketchum, Inc., a nationally known fund raising consultant working exclusively with non-profit associations.

Following the departure of **Lynne Soto**, editor of the *Harmonizer* on September 15, a single position will be established to combine public relations, **Robb's** area, and the editing of the *Harmonizer*. Filling this new position will be **Ray Heller**, who has excellent experience in both magazine publication and public relations in industry.

As a Barbershopper, **Ray** was Evergreen District **PROBE** Chairman, **PROBE** Vice President / Bulletin Editors, editor of the Evergreen district bulletin and editor of *PROBE* *moter*.

Beginning on September 1, **Ken Buckner**, Past International Contest and Judging Chairman, certified sound judge, musical director of the **Louisville Thoroughbreds**, and of the **Citations** quartet, will become Manager of Special Events (conventions and meetings).

Finally, Music Man **Mel Knight** has been promoted to Assistant Director of Music Education and Services. In this capacity, **Mel** will continue to work in the area of music leadership, training, chorus development and director training. Additional responsibilities will cover needed support in both music and membership areas of the Music Department programs.

## Ralston Creek Reunion

*Barbershop Quartet*

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**John - Lead**  
**Jim - Bari**  
**Eddie - Bass**

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Here's Kansas City's entry in the quest for third generation membership in a CSD chapter. In the rear, center, is **Wesley Yoder**, 16 years old and a 3-year member of HOA he also has 3 "Men of Note" awards). The guys in the AIC blazers are **Wesley's dad, Calvin** (right), and **Uncle Willard**, who will be recognized as lead and bass, respectively, of the **Rural Route 4**. In front, center, is **Wesley's grandfather, Walter**. Let's hear from some of you other CSD chapters with 3 generations of members.

**Building and Grounds Maintenance.**

The youngest of six children, Mark enjoys helping around the house. He takes special pride in caring for his five cats, two dogs

and a cockatiel. Mark's favorite time to help is at Christmas: putting up the tree, decorating the house and hanging the stockings.

With the help of his "special" red stocking design, the Institute hopes to sell 100,000 greeting cards this year. Last year more

than 75,000 were sold. Patron support of card orders increased 18 percent last year, with the largest group being SPEBSQSA.

Mark's holiday greeting card represents the love and holiday cheer of every child at the Institute. Each box sold helps these children with multiple handicaps lead more meaningful and productive lives.

The cards sell in multiples of 25 for \$8.95. To order, call toll-free, (800) 835-1043, or in Kansas (316) 262-8271.

Sixty percent of the total price of the cards is considered a donation and is deductible for tax purposes. The donation also is credited to chapters toward the Harmony Foundation Award.

The Institute of Logopedics, Wichita, offers a unique program integrating educational, medical and behavioral sciences services in one location for children with multiple handicaps. Founded in 1934, the Institute has helped more than 50,000 persons from all 50 states and several foreign countries improve communications and life-skills.





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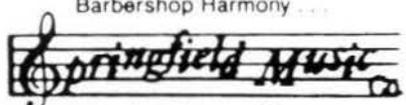
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**"Let Harmony Ring" —**  
*(continued from page 1)*

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Come on! It's time to "Come Bust a Chord Where the Stars Perform"!

So you won't miss out, please make a note of these rapidly approaching deadlines. Reservation deadline for housing and the ladies' tour is Wednesday, September 2. Late housing reservations will be filled on an "as available" basis only. Entry deadline for all contestants (choruses and quartets) and ticket orders is Thursday, September 24.

But why wait? Sign up today! You and your family will be our welcome guests as we "Let Harmony Ring" in Des Moines, October 9, 10 and 11.

**Len Bjella —**  
*(continued from page 3)*

His wife of 37 years, Lael, has sung in the choir as long as Len's directed it. And the couple's six children grew up singing in the choir. Today as adults, five of the Bjella children are professional musicians. And that delights the musician in their father.

Not one to drop a part of life without adding another, Len says vacating the director's position of the **Harmony Hawks** has given him time "to rediscover golf after 25 years." He's also found a new career.

Since April 1986, Len has served as director of evangelical ministries at St. Mark's — a part-time position with a variety of responsibilities, including organizing new programs, initiating new-member classes and assisting in service.

Like so many of the changes in Len's life, this one was well thought out. For several years he's been considering establishing a closer tie to his church. And when it came time to leave the savings and loan, he was prepared to move on to what he calls "an exciting time" in his life.

**Mailbag —**  
*(continued from page 12)*

tion and Arrangement.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing but love and admiration for the **Thoroughbreds**, and would have been delighted to see them win. When it was all over, however, **Louisville** ended up in third place.

The **Big Apple Chorus**, which started out in fourth place, outscored the other five choruses in the second session to wind up in second place. **West Towns** failed to win either session but scored highest in Sound and Stage Presence in the overall scoring to win the Chorus Championship. It is also of interest to note that three out of the six choruses (one-half of the finalists) scored

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Don Bill Bruce Doug

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higher in the second session than they did in the first.

In addition to allowing the members of the choruses (who come long distances at great expense) to show off their stuff two times and giving the audience the double pleasure of their performances, I believe the new format will provide the challenge for our choruses to learn to perform all their songs and routines equally well, rather than simply polishing two songs within a gnat's eyelash of perfection.

I quite agree with you, the contest changes resulted in some problems. The chorus session on Friday night was entirely too long because of riser and stage prop changes. And, perhaps, the "super finals" on Saturday night should have been split into two sessions. But these are planning, logistics and scheduling problems which I'm sure can be corrected by the 1988 contests.

So, while I do not presume to speak for the Central States District, I believe it would be a terrible mistake to immediately return to the two-song chorus contest and, therefore, strongly urge the powers that be within

### International Board passes bylaw change

The International Board of Directors at the Sarasota Mid-winter meeting in January, 1987, passed a chapter bylaw change pertaining to the creation of music vice president for all chapters. As amended, Article VI, Section 6.01, of the bylaws now reads:

"Officers. The officers of this chapter shall be president, three or more vice presidents, one of whom shall be designated membership vice president, one as program vice president, and one as music vice president, secretary, treasurer, and such other officers as may be deemed necessary to conduct the affairs of the chapter."

Many chapters have already implemented this bylaw change. Please make sure this important officer position is filled as soon as possible and remind your nominating committees to add this key position to the upcoming October slate.

If you need additional information or guidance about this position, please contact the Music Department or request the Music Team Leadership manual from the International Office.

the Society to give the new format at least a three-year try.

**Bill Rund**  
St. Louis No. 1 chapter



### Limericks Unlimited

Toughest job in a chapter is editor,  
He must hunt for his news like a predator,  
'Though his headline's behind,  
Little help he can find,  
And the printer is always his creditor.

—Byron L. Rice

### Rural Route 4 Barbershop Quartet



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1987 / 88  
CENTRAL STATES DISTRICT CALENDAR

September, 1987

- 12 Waukon show
- 12 Kansas City show
- 15 Leavenworth show
- 26 Chanute show
- 26 Sheldon show

November, 1987

- 6-7 Dubuque show
- 7 McPherson show
- 7 Elkader show
- 21-22 CSD Chapter Officer Training School

April, 1988

- 16 Marshalltown show

Chapter and other major events will not be announced in the CSD Calendar unless they have been cleared through the CSD Secretary.



88

Howard Johnson's North  
Des Moines, Iowa  
November 21 and 22, 1987  
*Plan Now to Attend*