



InCider Press



Newsletter of the Manhattan, Kansas chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America



Home of the Little Apple Barbershop Chorus



Volume 27, Number 4

Bart Bartholomew, Editor and Publisher

May 2004

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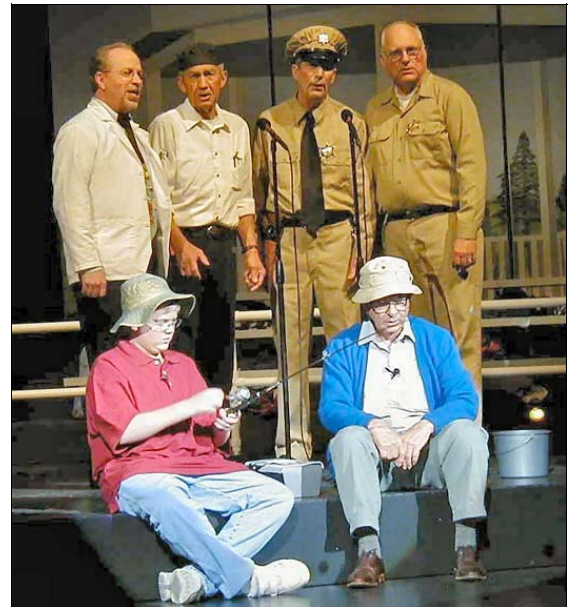
Spring show takes audience on journeys

By Bart Bartholomew, Editor

For the twenty-seventh consecutive year the **Little Apple Barbershop Chorus** treated its audiences to memorable musical experiences during its annual spring show. The show, “**Sentimental Journeys**,” was presented on April 24 in Kansas State University’s McCain Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Prior to each performance the audience enjoyed Dixieland music by the **Manhattan Barefoot Dixieland Band**.

Producer **Don Thomson** developed the show around the theme of a grandfather reliving sentimental events of his life as he related them to his grandson. **Don** very cleverly linked the events with appropriate narrative comments for the actors and selected songs that further developed the events being relived. When barbershop arrangements were not available for songs that told the proper story, **Don** arranged them. In each case the song and narratives provided the audience with vivid images and emotions of the sentimental events.

The journeys being taken during the show were easily imagined due to the sets designed and constructed by **Pat Caffey**. Grandpa Cook, played by **Larry Marcellus**, and Billy, played by **Spencer Wichman**, spend much of their time sit-



The Charades: Ken Garwick, Gene Wiley, Jim Eickman and Leonard Purvis singing “Gone Fishin” while Billy (Spencer Wichman) gives fishing a try under the supervision of Grandpa (Larry Marcellus)

ting on the swing on grandpa’s front porch. Other sets included a gazebo bandstand, a church, and grandstand.

As always, Director **Ken Lang** worked tirelessly with the fifty members of the chorus insuring that words and choreography were mastered. Ken’s leadership always inspires

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All photographs of the show were taken by Karen Nanninga and Sharon Purvis

InCider Press, a monthly publication, is the official publication of the Manhattan, Kansas chapter of the Central States District (CSD) of the Society for Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA). The Manhattan Chapter is the home of the Little Apple Barbershop Chorus. The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

Chapter Officers

President..... Sam Kvasnica
 Chapter Development VP.....Bob Ridley
 Music & Performance VP.... Richard Jackson
 Public Relations VP.....Harvey Kiser
 Secretary.....Bob Swenson
 Treasurer.....Bill Bunyan
 Member at Large..... Ken Brooks
 Member at Large..... Ken Lyle
 Member at Large.....Rich VanNevel
 Member at Large Tom Miles

Appointments

SPEBSQSA A-063 Delegate.....Bill Hanson
 Musical Director..... Ken Lang
 Associate Musical Director.....Don Thomson
 Assistant Musical Director....Myron Calhoun
 Music Chairman.....Frank Bradley
 Service Chairman.....Leonard Purvis
 Show Chairman.....Preston Chapel
 Uniforms.....Chuck Marr
 Bulletin Editor.....Bart Bartholomew
 Web Master.....Bart Bartholomew

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Unless carrying a byline or some form of credit to borrowed sources, all items in this bulletin are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the chapter or board. All photos in the bulletin are by the editor, unless otherwise identified.

All chapter officers are expected and chapter members are encouraged to contribute their ideas on a regular basis.

Spring show (continued)

(Continued from page 1)

each chorus member to do his very best. The superior results this year once again are a tribute to Ken's outstanding leadership.

No annual show would be complete without a nationally ranked guest quartet. **Bob Swenson**, once again, arranged for the appearance of the 2001 Central States District Quartet Champions, *The Noise Boys*. The audience reveled to their special kind of "noise."



The Noise Boys:

Bemo Myers,
tenor
Curt Angel,
lead
Jeff Veteto,
bass
Brian Plunkett,
baritone

The audience was also treated to the synergistic effect of the four finely tuned voices of the Sweet Adeline quartet, **Harmonious Synergy**, from the nearby Wamego Dutch Mill Sweet Adeline chorus. These four ladies brought the gazebo bandstand, created by **Pat Caffey**, to life with their rendition of "Bandstand in Central Park" and "The Band Played On."

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Harmonious Synergy:

Vanessa Scheideman,
tenor
Cathy Dawes,
bass-
Deanna Barleen,
lead
Shannon Fritz,
baritone

Spring show (continued)

(Continued from page 2)

Also complementing the arrangement of several musical selections were spot performances by several quartets from the chorus. These quartets were: The **Manhattan Music Machine**, **The Charades**, the **Apple Core-Tet** and the **Men of A Chord**.

Fifty members of the Little Apple Chorus, dressed in

costumes to fit particular portions of the program resulted in colorful photos that matched the colorful music. The photos below show the chorus attentively following Director **Ken Lang** and the look of satisfaction as they listen to the applause following a song. Once again, everyone involved with the show deserves a “job well done.”



Pat builds sets while the rest of us sleep

By Bart Bartholomew, Editor



Look at that house! That's not a flimsy front of a house the likes of which you would find on most stages. That's a house that Pat built! That house is strong enough to hold two people on the porch swing, the door works smoothly, the porch light works, the window has panes and curtains, and, yes, there are flowers in the flower boxes in front of the lattice work that hides the underside of the porch.

Thanks to the engineering skills, creativity, and just plain hard, long work by our very own **Pat Caffey**, the Little Apple Chorus has grown accustomed to sets of such quality. How do these sets come into being?

As Pat's wife, **Paula**, says, "I lose Pat and our garage from February through April." In my opinion, Paula is only speaking in general terms, for I know Pat spends many more hours, days, and weeks thinking about and working on sets for our annual

show. For example, while I was helping Pat assemble an 8 foot by 12 foot photograph of a group of "fans" at an athletic contest, he remarked how, earlier in the week, he had awakened during the middle of the night and had gone to the garage to paint some panels for use in the multi-sided apparatus on which he was going to portray the gazebo, the sports fans, and the stained-glass window.

Pat gets the initial concepts by participating in the Creative Committee's meetings, that this year started in September. As the committee's concept solidifies so do Pat's plans for the sets. And, from about February until the day before the technical rehearsal its work, work, work.

Yes, Pat does receive some assistance from various members of the chapter, but, over the years, Pat has done the lion's share of the detailed design, building of prototypes, acquiring materials, assembling and painting, transporting to and installing the finished sets in McCain auditorium and, finally, removing and either disassembling or storing them after the show. Throughout all these steps Pat's major assistant is Paula. Paula's artistic skills have been evident in every show for as long as I have known her.

In a conversation with a chorus member several days ago about a future show, the other person said, "If we need a paddle-wheel steamship, surely Pat will build one for us." That statement pretty well sums up where Pat has taken us in terms of what we now take for granted. I know that many chorus members look forward to the technical rehearsal with keen anticipation to see what wonders Pat has created for our show.

Pat, we are indebted to you and Paula for all your dedication and hard work. On behalf of the rest of the chorus, please accept our sincerest thank you.

Thanks for great public relations job

By Harvey Kiser, VP for Public Relations

Thanks to all of you members for helping put on a very entertaining show last month. I have had numerous persons say to me that they enjoyed our show. I am sure many, if not all, of you have experienced similar comments. Not only are we promoting our craft of presenting music, but we also enhance our efforts to promote music education in our schools and communities.

With the net funds we generate, we can provide grants to public music teachers who can strengthen

and enhance their music programs not otherwise possible. We have in the past provided several years of \$1,000 contribution to the Band Shell in Manhattan City Park. Our next opportunities to perform for our communities will be singing at the Band Shell dedication on June 4 and in many community churches this summer.

Thanks to our quartets who have been singing for years for community, civic, church and family events. Their singing is phenomenal and appreciated by many.

(Continued on page 8)

New Members:

Meet Richard Jackson

By Bart Bartholomew, Webmaster

President Sam Kvasnica "pinning" Richard Jackson following his induction ceremony on 25 March



Experienced, enthusiastic, and loyal to barbershop-ping, family and country are but a few of the adjectives that describe one of our newest members, Sergeant Richard Jackson. Richard is an experienced, enthusiastic barbershop singer, a career soldier and a dedicated family man.

Richard's singing career began in high school where he was president of the high school choir. Since he was bitten by the barbershop bug, he has sung in three different choruses due to being relocated for Army duties: he has sung with the El Cajon Music Masters and the Sun

Harbor Choruses in California and the Tacoma Totemaires in Tacoma, Washington. While stationed in Germany, although not a member of a barbershop chorus, he did maintain his harmonic skills by singing in a quartet with three other soldiers (two male and one female.) Richard learned about the Little Apple Chorus via the internet while he was in Germany. Richard's enthusiasm for singing has already earned him the respect and admiration of the board members who have recently elected him as our new VP for Music and Performance.

Richard has been in the service since he joined the reserves in 1984, a year after he graduated from high school. He was called to active duty and served overseas during the Gulf War. Since 1994, he has been on full-time active duty. He served in Germany from 1995 until 2001. He was then assigned to Fort Riley but was quickly sent on his way to Iraq. He served in Iraq from April 2003 to November 2003, when he was wounded and returned to Fort Riley. Richard's current duty is driving the Army's largest wheeled-vehicle, the HET (Heavy Equipment Transporter).

Richard and his wife, Emily, have four wonderful children. They thoroughly enjoy living in Kansas and look forward to staying here for a number of years.

Welcome, Richard. We, too, hope that your duties will allow you to be with us for a long time.

Meet Gene Copeland

By Mike Sexton, Sponsor

Gene Copeland hails from Clay Center where he also finished high school. Gene earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music Education in 1970 from Kansas State University. Since then, he has taught Instrumental and vocal music from 1970 to 2001 in several Northeastern Kansas Communities: Randolph, Clifton/Clyde, Osborne, Rock Creek, White City/Hope, and Frankfort.

Gene has been or is a member of the following clubs: Lions, Kansas National Education Association, International Jazz Educators, Music Educators National Convention, Phi Mu Alpha, and Kansas Quality Woodworkers Association.

His professional career was instrumental but he loved vocal evidenced by his membership in his high school chorus and men's quartet. He also sang in musical groups throughout his college career while majoring in instrumental music. Currently, Gene is doing construction, re-finishing, painting and building furniture.

Gene Copeland being "pinned" by his sponsor, Mike Sexton, following his induction ceremony on 25 March



He and his wife, Sonda, were married in 1971 (33 years ago) and they have 3 children. Sonda is an art teacher at Manhattan High School. Daughter, Angie, graduated from KSU and is an architectural Engineer in Lenexa, Kansas. Son, Chad, graduated From KSU with a degree in MIS and works with a computer company in Manhattan. Son, Scott, is finishing a de-

(Continued on page 6)

Let's learn to sing better

By Don Thomson, Associate Director

There are many members who work hard and diligently to make our chapter function well and properly and make it fun for us to come to chapter meeting each Thursday evening. Our president, Sam Kvasnica, has the doors open at 6:30 before each rehearsal; John Trail, sees to it that we have great snacks and drinks for our breaks; Myron Calhoun, provides inspiration to become polecat winners; Harvey Kiser, sees that we get public recognition for our organization; Chuck Maar, insures that we are all in proper uniform for our performances; Chaz Martin, is always ready with his pitch pipe; Leonard Purvis, makes us all proud about our civic and international contributions; Bob Swenson, has served on the international board and now serves at the local level as our secretary and administers the Singing Valentine Program; Bart Bartholomew, publishes what must be one of the best bulletins in the society ... and these are just guys I am thinking about off the top of my head. There are guys who did special tasks for the show and who prepare the rehearsal hall each Thursday evening, etc. All of these people and the things they do make our chapter run smoothly and allow us to do the fun part of our hobby, that is, sing!

There is one other thing, however, that makes this hobby (and Thursday evenings and sing-outs) fun. That is, when we not only sing, but sing well. It seems that we usually peak about show time, but Ken Lang often has to pull us along to get there. For me, on the evenings we sing well, I return home really energized. I suspect you do too.

So what can we do to sing well more often? Here (again off the top of my head) are a few ideas.

1. Sing more often. Join your church choir. Sing at home (you could pull out the music and practice it!). Join a quartet. Come early to sing with a bunch of guys learning polecats and other songs. Vocalize

in the shower or in the car.

2. Learn your music early. Singing the songs from the music every Thursday evening impedes the progress of singing as a unit. Most of us cannot learn the music when we only look at it once a week (Mike McCaffrey being the exception). Pull out the music during the week and surprise the director on Thursday evening that you are off the music!

3. Be a regular attendee. Singing in the chorus is a "team sport". When you are gone, you are missed. It changes the texture of the sound of the chorus. You also miss the instruction of the director. If you have ever been a teacher (or a parent), you know how frustrating it is when you have to teach the same thing over and over because the students (or your child) failed to listen. Ken can do so much more with us if we are in attendance, are attentive, and show our respect to the other members of the chapter. This item is one that has to be addressed in every volunteer organization. In our chapter attendance is taken, but not required. We rely on the integrity of our members to be participating members.

4. There is a possibility that we may go to contest this fall. If we do, commit yourself to the contest chorus. There will probably be some concentrated rehearsals to prepare. It will take some dedication...and we will also improve our singing. Now that is what we are all about anyway ... isn't it?

I think most of you know that I am very proud to be part of this chapter. I also like to be part of something that is always moving forward. Sam Kvasnica is doing his best to move us forward, Ken Lang wants us to sing and sound better, and the guy who sits on my left and my right also wants us to be better. My guess is that you do to. Read items one through four above again. I know we can get better!

(Continued from page 5) **Meet Gene Copeland**

gree at KSU in Construction Science.

Gene is a member of the Trinity Baptist Church at Wamego. His hobbies and interests include: wood-working, music, horse riding, landscaping and family activities.

(Continued from page 10) **Just another phone call**

Dressed in blue blazers, khaki pants, blue oxford-cloth shirts and sporting the yellow chorus ties, we looked like a quartet as we took our places on the dais for the service. Both songs seemed to emanate from us much like we had practiced and the resounding "Amen" from Pastor Jim seemed to affirm what we felt within - - that in just over 24 hours we had created a truly fine, cohesive sound worthy of the time, place, and event to which that initial phone call had summoned us.



Summary of board minutes

March 8, 2004

Officers present: **Sam Kvasnica, Bob Ridley, Ken Brooks, Harvey Kiser, Bill Bunyan, Rodney Stanfield, Bob Swenson, Ken Lyle, Tom Miles, Rich VanNevel, Mike Sexton**

Officers absent: none

Others present: **Don Thomson, Bart Bartholomew**

President **Sam Kvasnica** commented that it was a great show in Junction City, however some members were not capable of standing for the long period of time required. We did "fill the room with noise" and all enjoyed the performance. The chorus does need to be reminded from time to time of our "performance etiquette".

Mike Sexton, VP for music and performance, reported that his doctor had recommended that he resign from this responsibility. **Ken Brooks** moved and **Rich VanNevel** seconded that **Mike's** resignation be accepted with regret and gratitude. Motion carried. President **Kvasnica** appointed a committee chaired by **Ken Brooks** to nominate a replacement for Mike.

Harvey Kiser, VP for public relations, reported that he had met with Jana Fallin about KSU students singing with the chapter for university credit. Harvey also explained that Wal*Mart had requested a quartet to perform as part of their grand opening ceremonies; *The Charades* have agreed to fill that engagement.

Associate Director **Don Thomson** reported that he is reviewing music to be sung with band accompaniment during the city park band shell dedication in early June. **Don** is meeting with the technical crew at McCain auditorium to preparations for our annual show and has secured uniform assistants to work with the chapter on our show's costumes. He also requested that the chapter develop a sesquicentennial committee to handle arrangements for Manhattan's celebration in 2005.

Singing Valentine chairman **Bob Swenson** reported that all but \$130 of our valentine revenue was collected and that he expects that amount to be received in the next few days. Expenses appear to be normal which should result in a very profitable singing valentine venture for 2004.

Under old business:

With regard to support for the Harmony Explosion

camp to be held in St. Joseph, Missouri, this summer, it was decided that we would seek to support the high school quartet working in Council Grove as a first option. **Harold Brown** would be the contact there to determine their interest in attending. Should nothing develop there, we have a request for two students from Valley Heights High School to attend the camp.

With respect to Harmony College, it appears that **Bill Bunyan** will be going from our chapter. **Myron Calhoun** is on the list of possible scholarship candidates since he is a chorus director. **Richard Jackson** has expressed an interest in attending so there are still two openings available before we reach the number approved to be supported by chapter funds.

President **Sam Kvasnica** reminded us that the band shell dedication would be held on Friday, June 4, and the chapter has been invited to be a part of that dedication.

Under new business:

Bob Ridley moved and **Tom Miles** seconded that the chapter donate \$100 to the **Po' Boys** collegiate quartet and in addition pass the hat at the next two chapter meeting to help support this quartet of KSU students as they enter the Central States District collegiate quartet contest in April. Motion carried.

Under the sesquicentennial committee, several suggestions for chapter members to serve on that committee were made by the board.

An added agenda item of new business regarding the audit committee was dealt with the agreement that President **Sam Kvasnica** should appoint the audit committee to review our 2003 operations and report to the board.

April 12, 2004

Officers present: **Sam Kvasnica, Bob Ridley, Ken Brooks, Harvey Kiser, Bill Bunyan, Rodney Stanfield, Bob Swenson, Ken Lyle**

Officers absent: **Tom Miles, Rich VanNevel**

Others present: **Preston Chapel**

President **Sam Kvasnica** reported that that he would be representing the chapter at the House of Delegates meeting on April 16 at the Central States



Board Minutes (continued)

(Continued from page 7)

Spring Convention. He has appointed the sesquicentennial committee that is composed of chairman **Bart Bartholomew**, vice chairman **Gene Klingler**, and members **Pat Caffey**, **David Darling**, **Pete Cooper**, and **Don Thomson**. The audit committee to audit the 2003 chapter records are comprised of committee chairman **John Schlender** and **Doug Beauchamp**.

Treasurer **Bill Bunyan** reported that our Singing Valentines project had netted \$3457.19 profit.

Harvey Kiser, VP for public relations, reported that the **Kansas State Collegian** would interview participants and then publish an article about our annual show in the April 23 edition.

Under new business:

Bob Swenson moved and **Ken Brooks** seconded

that the chapter fund scholarships totaling \$345 to allow Valley Heights High School students **Derrick Maschmeier** and **Tom Henry**, along with their instructor, **Carol Hood**, to attend the Harmony Explosion camp to be held in St. Joseph, Missouri, on June 4 to 6. Motion carried.

Harvey Kiser moved and **Ken Lyle** seconded that we accept the recommendation of the Award of Harmony committee to honor **Glenn Busset** at our Spring Show. Motion carried.

The summer picnic will be held on June 13 at **Terry Nanninga's** residence after we have performed in several churches that morning. Other dates for summer church performances are July 18 and/or 25.

A sentimental journey completed

By **Sam Kvasnica**, President

Walking down memory lane is so pleasant when sweet harmonies recall those days gone by, especially the good times. Some 1100 lovers of barber-shop music heard and saw a story line that brought smiles, laughter and perhaps a tear of emotion. Thanks to **Don Thomson** for scripting a delightful show and recruiting talent to add that special touch. Director **Ken Lang** persistently, but patiently, fine tuned our vocal presentation. Thank you for helping us be a credit to our craft and giving our audiences reason to return again. It takes a lot of energy and commitment oftentimes to pull a show together. We did good. Thanks to all for helping to make it happen.

It is an honor for our chorus to be asked to participate in the dedication ceremony of the Larry Norvell Band Shell on Friday, June 4. Our chapter supports the Arts in our community. We do so monetarily and musically. Plan to be diligent in attendance at chapter meetings as we polish our presentation. A special

rehearsal is called for Monday, May 24, 7:30 p.m. at the band shell.

Our summer church singouts begin Sunday, June 13. **Terry Nanninga** has us scheduled for a number of churches in the Axtell-Beattie area. After singing in these churches "we will gather back together" at **Terry and Karen's** farmhome for "beans and burgers and kegs of root beer." Better that that, we'll have KC strip steaks and other goodies. An article on specifics for the day will be found elsewhere in this issue of *Incider Press*.

I am pleased that **Richard Jackson** has accepted responsibilities as Vice President for Music and Performance for the balance of this year. Encourage him as he steps into this new role. He will be coordinating the church sing outs in July and will need our help with the other activities under his direction.

May 20 is guest night, officially. But, each chapter meeting is open to your guest singe! And, remember the "Six M's of Recruiting: Find 'em, bring 'em, thrill 'em, sign 'em, train 'em, and keep 'em."

(Continued from page 4) **Thanks for great PR job**

Just last week, I heard a pastor say that he appreciated the contribution of one of our quartets to a service celebrating the life of a member of his church.

Any time one of you has an idea how we can contribute to our communities and their organizations and promote our craft of singing, please pass on your suggestions to one of your chapter board members.

Summer Repertoire

Please learn this music and keep it in your folder; turn in other music

HOLD OVERS

Back In Those Days Gone By
Once Upon A Time
Sentimental Journey
Take Me To The Land Of Jazz
Thank You Dear Lord For Music

GENERAL

Everybody Loves A Lover
Muskrat Ramble
Battle Hymn Of The Republic
If There's Anybody Here From Out Of Town
Home On The Range
Wagon Wheels
Tumblin' Tumbleweeds
Let The Rest Of The World Go By
I'm Sitting On Top Of The World
Fun In Just One Lifetime

RELIGIOUS

I'll Walk With God
Just A Closer Walk With Thee
Swing Low Sweet Chariot
The Lord's Prayer
When There's Love At Home
Rise, Shine, For the Light Is A-Comin'
I Believe
He

NEW

They Call The Wind Mariah
Shenandoah
God Bless The USA
The House I Live In
What Can A Woman (Soldier) Give Bob Rund
Brother Can You Spare A Dime
Give Me That Barbershop Style

Chapter meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.
 Quartet/polecat practice begins at 7:00 p.m.

Calendar of Events:

- May 24; 7:30 p.m. Rehearse with Municipal Band at the Larry Norvell Band Shell
- May 27; 7:30 p.m. Regular chapter meeting
- June 3; 7:30 p.m. Regular chapter meeting
- June 4; time TBA Dedication of Larry Norvell Band Shell in City Park
- June 10; 7:30 p.m. Regular chapter meeting
- June 13; 9:00 a.m. to afternoon Church sing-out in Beattie and surrounding area followed by lunch at Nanninga's home
- June 13; midnight Articles for June *InCider Press* due to the editor
- June 17; 7:30 p.m. Regular chapter meeting
- June 24; 7:30 p.m. Regular chapter meeting

District and Society Events

- June 4-5, Heartland Harmony Happening, St Joseph, Missouri
- June 27-July 4, International Convention, Louisville, Kentucky
- October 8-10, Fall Central States District Convention, Omaha, Nebraska
- November 20-21, Chapter Operations Training Seminar, Omaha, Nebraska

Happy Birthday

May

- 5 Larry Hansen
- 5 Mike McCaffrey
- 21 Harold Brown
- 22 Ken Kirkendall
- 25 Ron Zelch
- 26 Jim Gardner

June

- 4 John Trail
- 10 Rich VanNevel
- 25 Travis Troyer
- 30 Eugene Copeland



Quartet Activities:

The Charades' Activities

By Leonard Purvis, bass

The Charades have been fairly busy in April and May this year. In addition to the chorus show on the 24th of April, there were performances at the Holidome on April 16 for a Feed Milling conference, the afterglow on the 24th at the Blue Hills room, and a banquet for Farm Bureau retirees on the 30th, again in the Blue Hills room. We were able to sing before the live band started next door at that function, however.

April also provided the quartet with the unique opportunity to join **Jim Eickman** in song during his wedding to **Jolene** on the 25th as well as singing a few numbers at the reception while eating lots of wedding cake (that doesn't necessarily work too well but sure tasted good.) We wish them many years of happiness together.

In May we only have two performances scheduled. On the 12th we surprised **Sharon Purvis** with a few songs as she celebrated her retirement this spring with friends and Northview staff. She certainly seemed to enjoy the afternoon but we're not sure if it was the singing or the retiring that prompted all the smiles. Good luck **Sharon**, as you enter a new phase in your life.

The quartet plans to close out the month by singing for the St. George Alumni Banquet on 29 May. This performance is once again scheduled for the Blue Hills Room. The Blue Hills Room seems to have become our second home for these two months.

The summer always is a difficult time to schedule performances and even rehearsals due to vacations and such, so the next report may be a few months away. We hope everyone has a great summer and keeps on singing.

MMM Musings

By Bob Swenson, lead

Time has flown by for the *Manhattan Music Machine* this Spring. We had scheduled a regular menu of rehearsals with the hopes of learning a new song for the show afterglow, as well as perfecting our cameo in the show. The schedule of rehearsals began to dwindle in number as **Bari Jim Lindquist** experienced problems with spring allergies as do many others. We sometimes would meet for only one half or one third of our scheduled time, sensitive to the care of the ailing voice, and not wanting to inflict any permanent damage, as can happen.

While we were all four involved in the chorus preparations for the show, our learning of the new piece fell to the wayside with limited rehearsals. The plan was altered to sing at least a couple of our "chestnuts" on the afterglow. Of course, lack of rehearsal time didn't affect our social time, and we had a very enjoyable octet for dinner at Harry's Uptown on Holy Saturday evening.

As we neared the show time, we were not able to

increase our rehearsals due to the lack of a "singable" bari but yet planned on at least one song for the afterglow. We had also committed to singing at the opening ceremonies of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials 3-day conference on May 12th.

While extra effort got Jim enough sound that we didn't have to cancel the show cameo, he simply had nothing available for an afterglow. Of course our concern was confirmed when Jim announced that his doctor advised at least 90 days of vocal inactivity (to the extent possible) at our rehearsal following the show weekend.

With the doctor's permission, we were able to keep the May 12th performance, but have now "hung up our pitch pipe" for the summer. Jim is undergoing vocal rest with the hope that we can again experience his rich contribution to our sound when he is released by the medical professionals.

(Continued from page 11) **Just another phone call**

as we rehearsed in the hour and a half prior to the funeral. We didn't overwork, but worked at each repetition of the two selections until we felt comfortable with the music and with each other. We took the time to discuss various parts of the pieces

with the attitude of how each could make our part better contribute to the production. At this point, we felt confident that we would not fail, and even eager at the possibility that we had become a true barbershop quartet.

(Continued on page 6)

Just another phone call

By Bob Swenson, *Manhattan Music Machine* lead

Telva and I had just returned from our typical Friday evening visit to a local eatery when, as we opened the door, could hear the beep of the telephone indicating someone had called. Checking further we recognized the phone number as one we regularly get, the local Edwards-Yorgenson-Meloan-Londeen funeral home.

With Palm Pilot in hand, I returned the call, ready to tell them whether or not I'd be able to sing for a service they were planning, which is the usual mode. But what a surprise to find they didn't want me, they wanted a barbershop quartet!

A local businessman, Roger Kvasnicka, had passed away and apparently his one-year membership in our chapter had inspired him enough to ask that a barbershop quartet sing at his funeral. You see, Roger knew that cancer was going to take his life and he and Connie had the time to plan his final rites, even changing his final resting place from his home town of Haddam to Manhattan.

I've known Roger since he and I sang together in the KSU Glee Club back in the early 60's. Although we were not close friends, he knew that barbershop was one of my passions and with my encouragement he had tried membership in our society. It was not his lack of ability, but more the sense of allegiance to his growing family that he chose not to lend his voice to the growing Manhattan chapter. He would have made a good quartet bass, but our one attempt at putting a quartet together found one guy arriving late, and another needing to leave early, and the whole experience leaving a sense of frustration in our attempt.

But nevertheless, the phone call meant I was now charged with finding a quartet able to perform for Roger's funeral at 2 p.m. the following Tuesday. I agreed initially only to try to find one since I knew from experience that finding the right combination of voices with the time to rehearse and ability to attend the funeral would not be easy. So first I tried MMM, with whom I have a little influence (darn little, it seems!).

My first two phone calls found that **Jim** was scheduled out of town and **Don** already had a business appointment. That meant that I had no tenor for a possible bari-substituted MMM foursome, and no bass for a true pick-up quartet, since **Pete** doesn't like to perform in quickly-organized quartets. Gosh, four phone calls, and not even a hint of a quartet!

While more phone calls might have turned up a tenor, an alternate plan would be to find a lead, then I could relax a little and sing the tenor part. Luckily, my

first phone call to a prospective lead found **Bill Hanson** with both the time and inclination.

With the success of one phone call and half a quartet formed, and armed with suggestions for filling out the other two parts given by both inevitable coach **Don Thomson** and lead singer **Bill Hanson**, it appeared we might make it. But alas, the time was late. Best not to phone any more this evening.

Phone calls the next day found bari section leader **Travis Troyer** willing and with time, but unsure of a possible Sunday evening rehearsal because of other plans. It seemed the Sunday rehearsal with a coach might come to fruition, but we could not connect with the bass.

When we finally found bass **Wayne Bailie**, the Sunday evening rehearsal seemed a go, only to be cancelled by a call from lead **Bill** who would be delayed in returning from Topeka. Of course our alternate rehearsal of Monday afternoon at 1:00 pm had been considered, so it only took 3 more calls to move the inaugural rehearsal to that time.

With a half-hour to rehearse before coach **Don** was to arrive, we decided on the two numbers and set to work trying to make music out of the spots and lines comprising the scores for "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "I'll Walk With God". "Sweet Hour Of Prayer" was a possibility, but eventually fell to the wayside.

In the hour that followed **Don Thomson's** arrival, he found most all the performance problems we were experiencing, going over with each of us those various pitfalls, misreadings, and failings that we each contributed to a less-than-stellar product. Undaunted, and now committed because our names were being printed in the funeral program, we agreed to practice individually and meet at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday for a final rehearsal before the funeral.

I called the names of our selections to Pastor Jim Reed, hoping that his placement of them within the service might somehow diminish any shortcomings we might have, and yet provide an adequate attempt at, and resemblance to, a real barbershop quartet. Pastor Jim is quite an understanding man, so he wrapped our efforts in his arms by placing one selection just before his message, and one immediately after.

Amazingly, our voices seemed to start blending, our phrasing started to coincide, and we could feel the "sense of one" necessary for a successful performance

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Join us for the first summer sing-out and steak-fry

By Terry Nanninga

With the summer season upon us we will start our summer sing-outs for churches on June 13 in the northern part of our membership area. The churches for this day will be:

United Methodist at Beattie at 9:00 A.M.

Presbyterian at Summerfield at 9:30

St. Michaels at Axtell at 10:15.

Uniform: summer shirt, khaki trousers, brown shoes

After a short break at **John Trail's** residence, a short drive to the country will bring us to:

Salem Lutheran at 11:30 and

Mission Covenant at 11:50.

Following these sing-outs all of the chorus and families are invited to the home of **Terry and Karen Nanninga** for a steak-fry picnic. **PLEASE bring:** table service (including steak knives), lawn chairs and \$5 per person

To drive to Beattie for the beginning of this tour allow about one hour from Manhattan. The easiest way to Beattie is go across the Tuttle Creek dam and follow that highway to highway 99. Highway 99 goes through Frankfort and continues to Beattie. The United Methodist Church is one block left of the highway and two blocks north of the main business area. Warm up will be in the basement.

For those wanting to join us later follow the directions to Frankfort; highway 9 will turn right one mile north of Frankfort; follow it east approximately 4 miles to highway 87; go north (or left) 5 miles to Salem Lutheran or 6 1/4 miles to the **Nanninga** house. Families will be welcomed to join us at any of these stops.