

PRESERVATION

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

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Living In The Past

August 2011

Suntones Celebrate 50 Years



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



PRESERVATION

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PRESERVATION Now Online

All past issues are now available via the Society's website in the HISTORY section.



Society's Historical Archives Committee 2011

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Bob Sutton - Virginia
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My thanks to **Miller Photo (Kathy, Donna & Jay)** and **Lorin May** (Harmonizer editor) for most of the photos used in this issue - taken at our Kansas City Int'l.



We Get Letters

It is wonderful for us to be remembered after so many years have passed since our "heyday." Thank you for providing an updated history of the Chordettes. I am sharing it with many of my family and friends, and I am glad to hear that you have been getting a good response from the barbershoppers, and I say "Hi" right back at them.

With best regards,

Margie Latzko (Chordettes)

Editor's Note - Thanks again to the Chordettes. Last issue we put together a little retrospective that received some nice responses. We also managed to beg this autographed photo from the gals. I love this job!



Gold medalists gathered in Colorado to pay tribute to the late **Wendell Heiny**: **Jim Clark**, Storm Front 2010; **Chris Vaughn**, Gotcha! 2004; **Terry Heltne**, Classic Collection 1982; **Pete Tyree**, Orphans 1954; **George Davidsn and Curt Hutchison**, Classic Collection 1982; **Denny Malone**, Side Street Ramblers 1983.

Historic Gold Medals

Awesome Joe wins #4

In our Barbershop Harmony Society we celebrate our champions, idolize them, buy their recordings and try to emulate them. We also give them nice big gold medals to hang around their necks.

With so many singers participating in competition during our 73 years there are only a select few who earned the right to be called champs. The rules allow past champs to form new foursomes and compete again.

While there are currently 14 double gold medal winners and three extraordinarily talented men with THREE ... there is now only ONE with FOUR.

Our congratulations to Awesome **Joe Connelly**. As many expected, he won his FOURTH gold medal recently in Kansas City and becomes the first to reach this historic achievement.

Joe previously won with **Interstate Rivals** in 1987, **Keepsake** in 1992, **Platinum** in 2000 and hits this high mark with **Old School** in 2011.



Always gracious, Joe downplayed this win. He is, however, a passionate competitor. That said, he always goes out of his way to encourage his opponent. Joe is the first to pat them on the back and say ... "Good set!"

Joe has been a "professional barbershopper" for several years and makes his living traveling around the world coaching, teaching and sharing his knowledge and talent with others.

It's clear the win was important to him but he was even happier to see two of his good friends and fellow quartet members get their first gold.



Our "NEW" Champs - **Old School** - Kipp Buckner (T), Joe Connelly (L), Joe Krones (Bs) and Jack Pinto (Br)

Competition is in his blood. His dad, **Mike Connelly**, is best known as the baritone and perennial international competitor with the **Roaring '20s** (Mike just received his 50-year Society pin) and later on with **The Naturals**.



Mike Connelly 2nd from right

Mike told us, "They were especially pleased with their second set. In years past, for no apparent reason, it wasn't always their best set. This year was different and the guys were greatly encouraged by the audience."

Joe started singing with the **Cincinnati Southern Gateway Chorus** at the age of 13. He now directs them and is working hard to have them win district and compete next summer in Portland.

Baritone **Jack Pinto** is a veteran of barbershop having competed for the past 26 years and in a total of 49 contests (but who's counting?).

Joe Krones (*The Beast*) moved from Peoria, Illinois to the Dallas-Fort Worth area (North Richland Hills) to be near his fiancée/wife **Vickie** and now sings with the Dallas **Vocal Majority**.

Let's not forget Old School's tenor. **Kipp Buckner** has just won his **THIRD** gold. (**Interstate Rivals** 1987, **Gas House Gang** 1993, **Old School** 2011)

In 1991 Interstate Rivals were on stage and in place to present the medals to the third place quartet. Kipp came out on stage with the 3rd place - tenor - bronze medal. When The Gas House Gang were announced as **THIRD** most everyone immediately realized the dilemma. Who was going to present the medal to Kipper?

To everyone's amusement Kipp did the only thing he could do. While the other three handed off the hardware to the other members of the Gas House Gang ... Kipp placed the medal around his own neck and gave himself a **BIG** hug.

Next summer will also be the first time our 25th anniversary quartet champs includes two members of the **CURRENT** gold medalists.

Old School Songs

They have made it a point to perform "old school" songs and arrangements. Although unknowingly, one of the nicest compliments they received in Kansas City was from some young barbershoppers who approached them after their middle round and ask about their choice of "hip/killer" charts not realizing the arrangers were "old school".

Old School Songs in Kansas City

Finals	(89.9%)	2711
		Forgive Me
		Yes Sir, That's My Baby / Ain't She Sweet
Semi-Finals	(89.7%)	2699
		As Time Goes By
		Ma, She's Makin' Eyes at Me
Quarter Finals	(89.3%)	2680
		Little Town in the Ould County Down
		I Want a Girl

Tenor Kipp Buckner says of the contest, "*Winning feels great especially the way we did it. Who would think in this day and age a quartet could win singing such epic songs as I Want a Girl and Yes Sir, That's My Baby*"

Speaking of babies

There is a LOT of NEW things happening with Old School. Aside from winning the International Quartet Contest:

Kipp and Kim Buckner got married in May of 2007 and they now have a new baby (**Kennedy Miller Buckner** was born March 10, 2010)



Joe and Vickie Krones just got married (July 16). He was wearing his shiny new gold medal for the ceremony.



Jack Pinto and **Olga Belenkis** got married Feb

26 and just had a new baby May 26, **Daniel**. Olga is from Russia and was able to make it to Kansas City for the convention. The baby has just recently been made (officially) an American citizen.

Joe and Gayle Connelly (lead of **Lucky Day**) have been married two and a half years and, as luck would have it, Joe is now a grandfather. Joe married into this as Gayle's son had a daughter on Oct 21, 2010. **Eve**, who is now nine months old, is being taught to call her grand daddy ... "*GrandPaw-some*" (ala Awesome).



Lucky Day - current 14th place international SAI quartet. **Holly Reiman Colón, Gayle Connelly, Karen Evans Tate, Kris Hawkins Wheaton**

Old School Competition History

Nashville 2008 – 5th
 Anaheim 2009 – 2nd
 Philadelphia 2010 – 2nd
Kansas City 2011 – FIRST



A Little Different This Year

This year they focused on the sets and stayed pretty much off to themselves. They talked about those special to the quartet who were not there. They missed **Jim Miller** who couldn't make the trip for health reasons. They also talked about the valuable contributions made to the quartet by dear departed friends **Freddie King** and **Jim Casey**.

Joe is not so focused on the scores or the medals. He worries about pleasing the audience. With this fourth gold medal all can agree ... *he did just that.*

Another Four-Time Winner?

Kipp Buckner

1987 Interstate Rivals (tenor)
 1993 Gas House Gang (tenor)
2011 Old School (tenor)

Tony DeRosa

(now singing with **Main Street** - 5th in KC)
 1992 Keepsake (bari)
 2000 Platinum (bari)
 2007 MaxQ (lead)

Jeff Oxley

1984 Rapsallions (bass)
 1990 Acoustix (bass)
 2007 MaxQ (bass)

Editor's Note – A few years ago Kipp, Joe, Jack and Joe sang on the San Angelo, Texas **Twin Mountain Townsmen** annual show (my chapter). The show was held in the auditorium on **Central High School's** campus – the same theatre where I performed many times and just feet away from the CHS Chorale room where my best friends and I spent many joyful hours.

I had the pleasure of telling the guys that *Old School* was singing at my ... (wait for it) ... *Old School* (rim shot) – *thank you.*



The Misfits' combined ages' were 198 years

Old School - Oldest to Win in Sixty-Six Years

The top five, "oldest" quartets by combined ages at the time of the victory are:

1945 Misfits	198 years (ages 48-52)
1943 Four Harmonizers	186 years (ages 41-57)
2011 Old School	182 years (ages 43-47)
1946 Garden State Quartet	179 years (ages 44-46)
1997 Yesteryear	178 years (ages 39-59)

Thanks to Bob Sutton - Trivia King for this info

Obsessed with Trivia?

You might be interested in the MONSTER file available on the Society's website under the History section. It's an Excel file and available for FREE download. It includes information on all International Contests – including data from Kansas City.

First compiled by **Ben Trollip**, the Society Archives Committee continues to keep this treasure trove current with the most recent help of **Patrick McAlexander**.

The File includes:

Champions Thru the Years (AIC, Chorus, Senior, College, SAI, HI)
 Members of our Gold Medal quartets
 Quartet Medalists
 Quartet Songs sung
 Late Champions
 All Members of competition quartets
 Chorus Medalists
 Chorus Songs sung

And much more



Rural Route Four and the Suntones drop by the Archives Committee's historical display booths to sing and sign autographs



George Gibb and Ron Knickerbocker help Old School celebrate backstage the moment they are announced as new champs

The Grande Finale - Keep the Whole World Singing with the Champs ... "In Your Heart!"

Old School's autographed Old School Logo banner



Outgoing CEO Ed Watson presents the traveling trophy to Joe and the gang - Joe must be thinking ... "Awesome!"

Photographic Evidence
 My thanks to **Miller Photo (Kathy, Donna & Jay)** and **Lorin May** (Harmonizer editor) for many of the Kansas City International Convention photos used in this issue

Suntones Celebrate 50 Years



Photo provided by Lorin May

This past month in Kansas City we celebrated the contributions of one of the all-time greatest quartets in our history, **The Suntones**.

One of the highlights of the week was their appearance on the AIC show. Never has a champion quartet performed a full set 50 years after they won the gold. The 2011 Suntones -- **Gene Cokeroff**, Tenor (75), **Bob Franklin**, Lead (76), **Harlan Wilson**, Baritone (79) and **Todd Wilson** (**Acoustix** 1990 and Harlan's son) filling in for the late Bill Cain on Bass -- performed throughout the week on stage and in hospitality rooms. Many of their performances can be found on YouTube and will certainly be included on the 2011 Convention DVD.



Photo provided by Lorin May

Everyone agrees they "*STILL got it*" and were brought to tears by their famous version of **Danny Boy** with Gene on the tenor solo

The Suntones are exceptionally talented performers who ultimately became trendsetters. Throughout their 30-year career they traveled over two million miles, sang over 2000 shows, produced 11 record albums, and expanded the concept of barbershop quartets worldwide.



The Suntones began as simply a Miami "chapter quartet" with **Gene Cokeroff** on tenor, **Clark Bell** on lead, **Bill Wyatt** on baritone and **Danny Whipple** as bass.

Work, families and draft boards would take their toll and force several personnel changes. By late 1958 the Suntones were looking for a new bass.



Into a chapter meeting walked **Bill Cain**.

He sang a song with Gene and Bill and their new lead **Bob Franklin**. All were impressed with the new sound. So much so, they rehearsed **NINE** nights in a row and entered the district contest.

The Suntones were the surprise of the weekend placing second.



Continued Next Page



SUN TONES

Bill Cain, bass; Bill Wyatt, baritone; Bob Franklin, lead; and Gene Cokerof, tenor
(Miami, Florida—Dixie District)

The very next year they qualified for their first International contest and despite Bob being sick with the flu - they placed 24th in Chicago.

That fall they won the FIRST district championship of the newly formed Sunshine District.

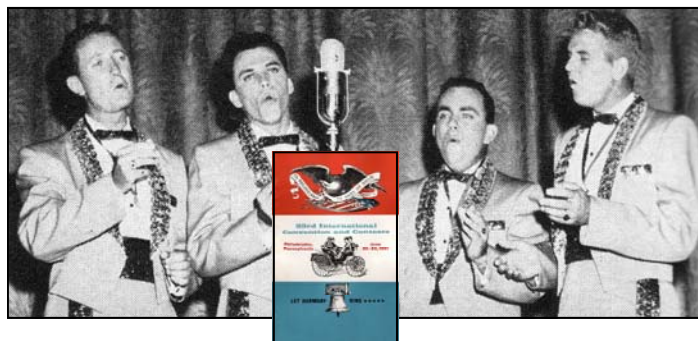
In the spring of 1960, Wyatt had to withdraw from the quartet so they asked **Harlan Wilson**, a young barbershopper from West Palm Beach, to sing bari.



In Dallas for the 1960 International they did very well and placed 8th.



In addition to singing in the traditional barbershop style, the Suntones were one of the FIRST top quartets to “push the envelope” with more contemporary songs.



At the Society's 1961 International Competition in Philadelphia, they were up against many other notable quartets to win the gold medals.

After the first contest session the Suntones had the audience on their side.

Call it luck, call it destiny or a little of both ... for the Saturday night Top Ten final round, they were picked to sing LAST.

They ended the contest that year with a song that would become one of their trademarks: Bye, Bye Blues.

The explosive and enthusiastic audience reaction after their last song caught the quartet off guard. When they saw the scores they understood. They won the gold by an impressive winning margin of 343 points.

FINAL QUARTET CONTEST							Previous	Grand
QUARTET	VE	ARR	HA	B&B	SP	Total	Points	Total
Sun Tones	520	513	523	542	524	2622	5065	7687
Town & Country Four	484	495	477	495	506	2457	4887	7344
Nighthawks	470	501	486	487	484	2428	4776	7204
Bay Town Four	446	478	474	466	520	2384	4677	7061
Saints	450	495	463	498	480	2386	4673	7059
Gala Lads	455	497	478	499	496	2425	4616	7041
Four Renegades	462	468	472	500	473	2375	4597	6972
Four-Do-Matics	452	477	488	485	513	2415	4526	6941
Short Cuts	446	472	415	452	489	2274	4607	6881
Play-Tonics	435	465	446	455	495	2296	4506	6802



Continued Next Page



Their fantastic win was only the beginning.

They began an impressive performance schedule traveling throughout the country.

This inspired them to perfect their on-stage presentation. They decided if they were going to do this, they might as well do it right.

In addition to polishing their “act”, they realized that SOUND was critical. Rather than risk their show on potentially inadequate sound systems of show venues, they began hauling their own sound system to bookings. They also performed with individual hand-held microphones.



Producing new recordings as often as possible, The Suntones created an impressive discography unmatched by any Society quartet, with 120 songs on 11 LPs.



The Suntones decided to expand the exposure of barbershop harmony and actively sought professional bookings outside of barbershop circles.



In 1966 when **Jackie Gleason** moved his popular national television variety show to Miami he felt he needed a barbershop quartet. The Suntones got the call and appeared on Gleason’s show several times.

Gleason, and his Executive Producer **Jack Philbin**, LOVED the Suntones.

With these appearances they became the “hottest” quartet in the Society. Every chapter wanted the Suntones on their show.



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This national fame enabled them to also share the stage with such stars as **Danny Thomas, Tennessee Ernie Ford, Mike Douglas, Louie Armstrong, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Eddy Arnold, Kate Smith and the Four Freshmen.**

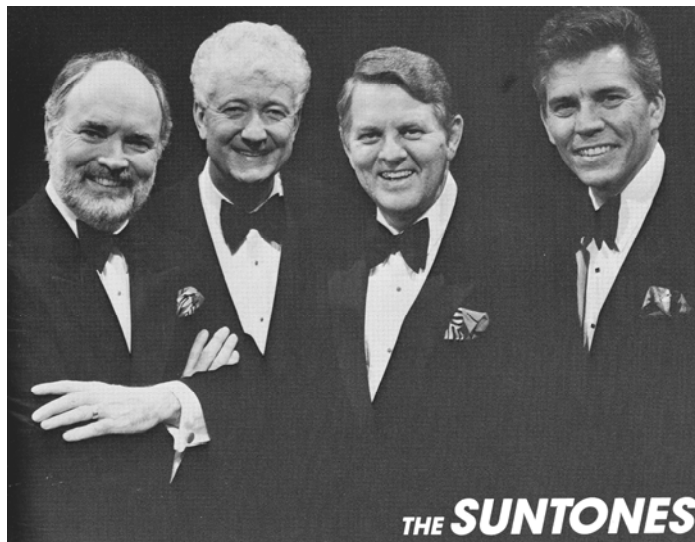
The Suntones set themselves apart by introducing current hit songs into their repertoire, such as Lollipops and Roses (Jack Jones), By the Time I Get to Phoenix (Glen Campbell), Speak Softly, Love (Andy Williams) and If (David Gates and Bread).

They were also well known for their “monster” medleys (**Fiddler on the Roof, West Side Story, My Fair Lady and The Sound of Music**). It was musical genius arranger **Walter Latzko** who created these intricate and comprehensive musical productions.



These medleys are still favorites of everyone who experienced the Suntones’ live or heard their recordings.

In 1979 lead Bob Franklin decided to leave the group. It was a shock to the barbershop world. Most doubted another great lead could be found, but then they found him ... **Drayton Justus** joined the Suntones. Drayton had won HIS gold medal in 1971 with the **Gentlemen's Agreement**.



The Suntones didn't miss a beat. They continued to perform for another five years.

Their final performance was in January of 1985 in New Jersey during a special tribute to arranger Walter Latzko.

They are one the few quartets named to the Society’s Hall of Fame.

Sadly, we lost Bill Cain to cancer on July 31, 2004 at the age of 71

The three original Suntones returned to the stage singing limited bookings with Harlan’s son **Todd Wilson** on bass. He won HIS gold medal with **Acoustix** in 1990 on tenor.



Drayton Justus went on to become the Society’s International President in 2006.

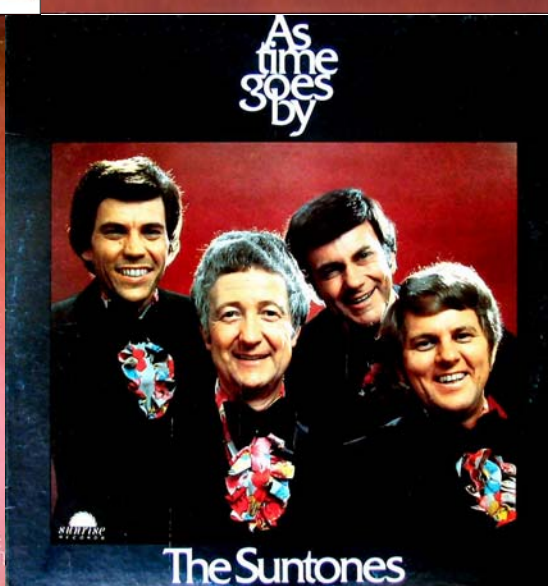
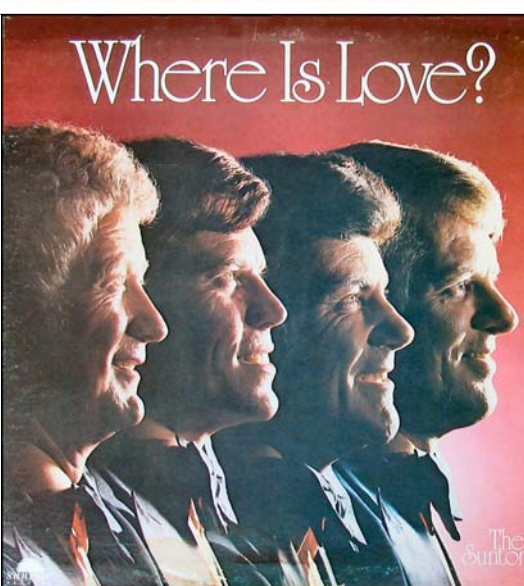
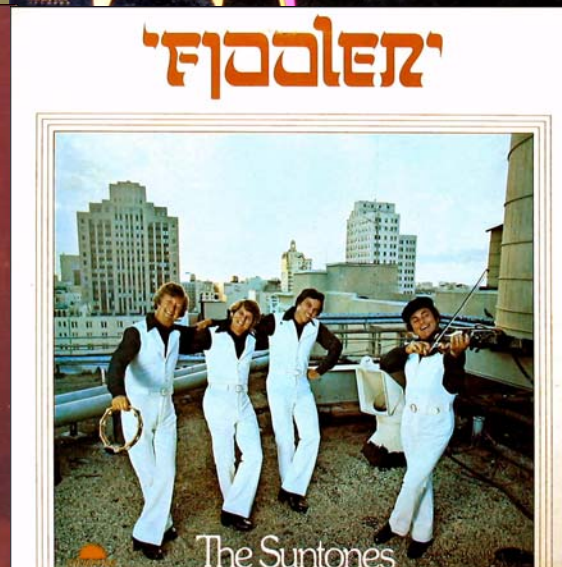
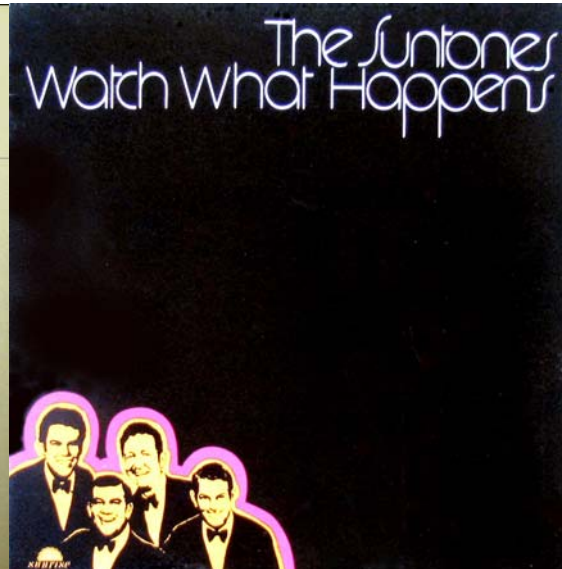
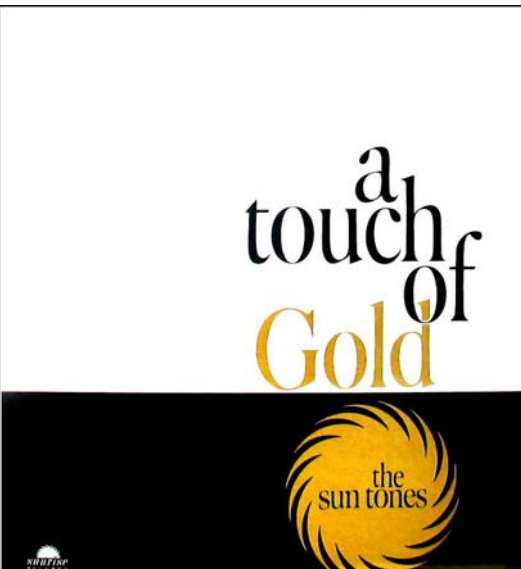
Harlan Wilson is retired and living in Nashville, and actively singing in his son’s new chorus, **The Nashville Singers.**

Bob Franklin is retired and living in Florida.

Gene Cokeroff is still very active in Miami, directing the Miami Chapter Chorus, promoting youth in harmony events, coaching and arranging music.

These old friends gave us many musical thrills over the years. The Suntones showed us how it could be done -- professionally.

They were certainly ahead of their time and today still serve as the *Gold Standard*.



Historical Highlights in KC

Kansas City was an exciting place to be if you knew your history. As explained in an earlier issue of PRESERVATION, the Headquarters Marriott hotel now encompasses the **Muehlebach Hotel**, where in the original lobby is a special plaque commemorating the chance meeting of **OC Cash** and **Rupert Hall**.

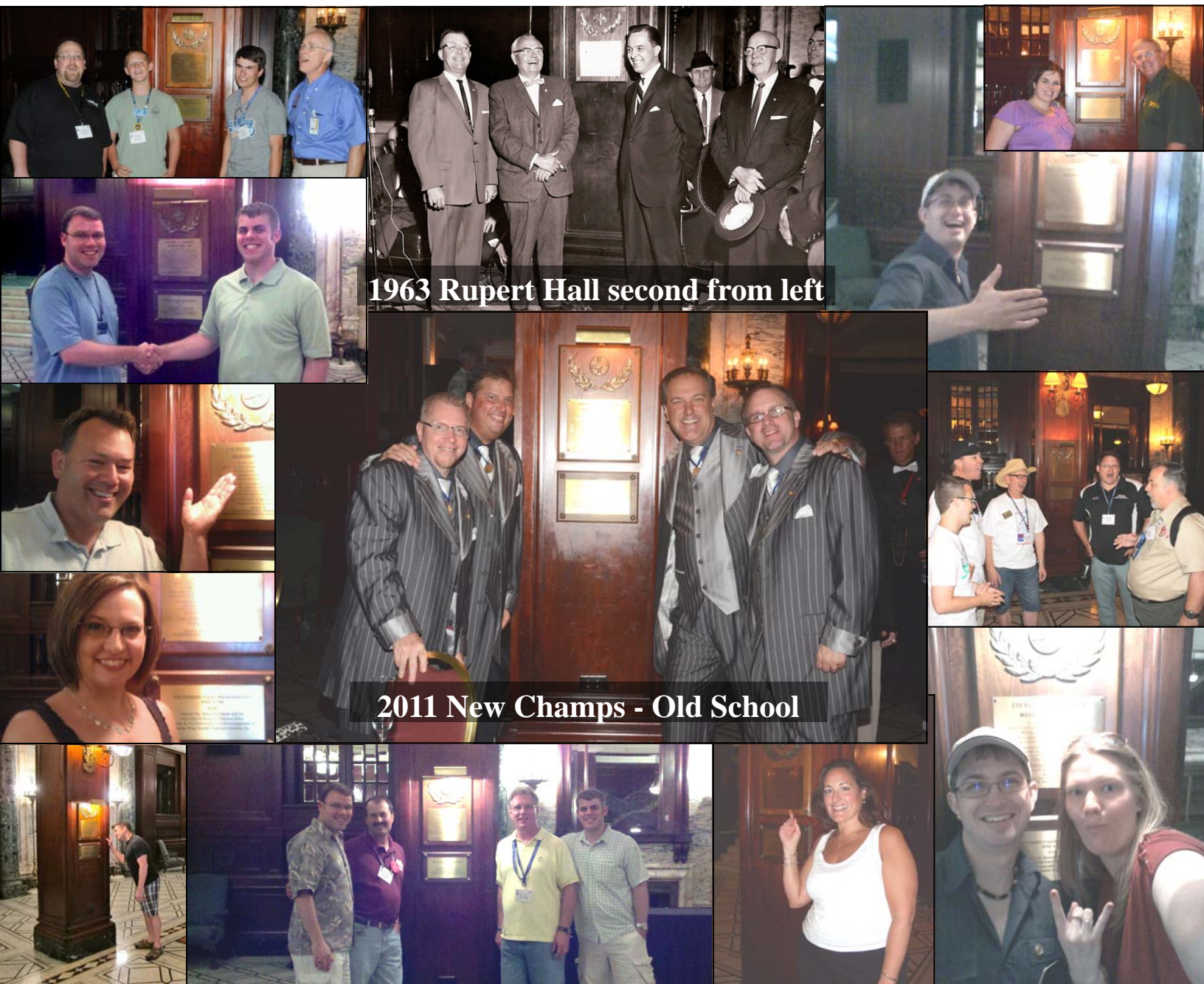
It was there they discussed getting a few friends together to harmonize. The first Society meeting came to light thanks to this meeting.

We produced our annual displays for our 25th and 50th anniversary champs. Both the **Suntones** and the **Rural Route 4** stopped by to sing and sign autographs.

Our thanks to Society Archives Committee member **Steve D'Ambrosio** who organized the set-up and tear-down for the convention. *Thanks Steve.*

Our video tribute to the Suntones was shown on the AIC show as well as on Saturday night.

Many stopped by the Plaque and had their picture taken.



1963 Rupert Hall second from left

2011 New Champs - Old School



Photo provided by Lorin May

Lunch Breaks a Leg Historically Hysterical Highlights

One highlight of the 2011 Kansas City International BHS Convention was the performance of **Lunch Break** from Nashville, Tennessee.

Shane Scott, Eddie Holt, KJ McAleesejergins and **Mike O'Neill** paid tribute to their predecessors of musical comedy in four-parts, such as **FRED, Storm Front, Freestyle, Metropolis, Hot Shots, Four Under Par, Reveille and Hot Air Buffoons.**



As a tribute to their friends, they wore Old School's hideous "barber pole" vests from 2008.

Photo provided by Shawn York

Last year Lunch Break placed 11th and had everyone (even themselves) wondering what in the world would they come up with this year. They pooled their creative juices (eeeeewww), and with some great (and rather disturbing) ideas from **Rick LaRosa** (FRED 1999), as well as some input from guys on the BHS and HF staff, like **Rick Spencer, Dusty Schleier, and Sean Devine** (OC Times 2008) to polish up the musical and visual presentation, they came up with three very entertaining sets.

Quarter Finals

As Time Goes By - Don't Cry Joe

Score 2475 / 82.5% - they were 16th following this first round

Semi Finals

The Song Is Ended - Old McDonald's Deformed Farm

Score 2599 (5074) 84.6% - they were 5th in this second round and received the highest presentation score of the contest.

11th - Mic Testers

Love Me and the World is Mine (Parody) - Old MacDonal reprise
(pieced together overnight)

Old McDonald Had A What? The Song of the Contest

Of all the songs of the week, Lunch Break's customized version of **Old McDonald Had a Deformed Farm** can possibly be declared the most memorable of all. Suggested by LaRosa, it's a popular hit of Irish entertainer **Seamus Kennedy**. The original can be found on YouTube.

The song lists several animals with serious maladies and a safe place "Where he can tend to their emotional, psychological and physical harm". Go ahead ... sing a-long

a Lipping Snake = with a hith hith here ...

a Dyslexic Cat = with an OW-ME OW-ME here ...

a Paranoid Duck = with a quack quack here and a quack quack there (nervously glancing around)

a Tourette's Syndrome Chicken = here a bawk there a BAAAAAAAWK!!!!

a Narcoleptic Pig = here a (snort) there a (snort) there a (snore - zzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzzz)

Overnight new animals were added for their Mic Testing reprise.

a Hearing Impaired Parrot - with a What?, What? Here.....

a Kleptomaniac Seagull - with a Mine! Mine! Here (inspired by the movie, Finding Nemo)

a Lactose Intolerant Cow - with a Moo (urp) Moo (urp) here ... (clutching stomach)

a Hyperactive Sloth - (a sight gag you have to see to appreciate)

a Bunion Infested Centipede - with an Oww Oww Oww Oww here and an Oww Oww Oww (and there are really 100 owws)....

The Greatest Hit of the Song

an Attention Deficit Disorder Dog - with a woof woof here and a woof woof there here a woof there a - SQUIRREL!!!!

Only to be switched during the Mic Testing set to a *Terrified Squirrel - Dog!!!!*

They were surprised at the reaction during the week. So many supporters simply came up to them and yelled SQUIRREL! Even the **Rural Route 4** made reference to it on their set on the AIC Show.



They started working on the set in May and introduced it at afterglows where it received standing ovations. They knew it was going be special. Before performing this set on the Int'l stage they sought the advice of several Music and Presentation judges. They were told to make sure it was self-deprecating humor and to avoid being "mean".

The set was written carefully as to NOT offend anyone. They made sure with this line to close it out ... "All creatures great and small. We love them all At Old MacDonald's farm."

Shane tells us, "The second time we performed this on a chapter show there were some special needs kids in the front row. We were a little worried as to how they would take it ... as it turned out, they had a better understanding of the issues we were referencing and they absolutely love it."

Lunch Break was chosen the **YouBarbershop Audience Favorite Quartet** in Kansas City, and rightfully so.

Lunch Break's show calendar is getting pretty full and can be seen at their website. There are still opening for additional show dates.

<http://lunchbreakquartet.com>

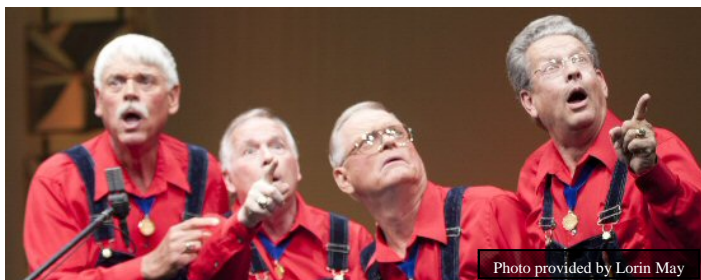


Photo provided by Lorin May



Tuscaloosa Tornado

Cain Family Picking Up the Pieces

Around 5pm on April 27, 2011 a tornado devastated an 80-mile long / 1.5 mile wide path of central Alabama. It was clocked with winds up to 190 mph and rated an EF4. In Tuscaloosa over 1000 people were injured and over 40 people were killed.

Barbershopper **Jim Cain** and his wife **Linda** lived in the Forest Lake area and narrowly survived the event. Jim tells us:

“Linda and I grabbed our two miniature dachshunds (Link and Lucy), got in the bottom of our bedroom closet, held on to the door knob and climbed out after experiencing about 30 seconds of ripping and tearing apart of the house.”

Neither was injured during the storm but Jim, described by his brother as an “*accident waiting to happen*”, managed to cut his head while climbing out of the wreckage.

“We are so thankful to be alive.”

Jim is well known as the baritone of **Stacked Deck**,



a popular Dixie District quartet in the ‘70s and ‘80s with 12 appearances at Int’l.

Brother **Tom** (bass of Stacked Deck) still lives in the Birmingham/Homewood area and thankfully



experienced no real damage, only debris from the storm as it hit west of him. “*We were watching the news and saw it was hitting Tuscaloosa.*”

Jim and Linda’s house, a unique older home, was valued around \$300K. It was built in the 40s. The sturdy nature of the homes built during that time was a major factor in their survival. Along with the house, the magnificent oak trees and three cars were destroyed.

The Cains took this as a sign to move to California to be near their son and two grandchildren.

They plan to move soon so the chapter threw a “going away someday” party. Jim was presented with a replacement framed Stacked Deck LP and the sheet music for *California, Here I Come*.

Linda lightheartedly reports, “*We managed to save the closet doorknob!*”

In Memory of

Bob Flanigan (84)

Died May 15, 2011

Bob was one of the founding members of the **Four Freshmen**, one of the most influential vocal groups of all time.



Best-known recordings were “*It’s a Blue World*” in 1952, “*Mood Indigo*” in 1954, “*Day by Day*” in 1955 and “*Graduation Day*” in 1956. The group was credited with being an early influence on **Beach Boys** founder **Brian Wilson** as well as an inspiration to **The Lettermen**, **Manhattan Transfer** and many barbershop singers.

Flanigan and his cousins **Ross Barbour** and **Don Barbour** formed the group in 1948 with **Hal Kratzsch** while attending Butler University in Indiana. Flanigan played trombone and bass and sang lead parts.

The group produced more than 50 albums and 70 singles, and had six Grammy nominations over the years.

He was named an honorary member of the Barbershop Harmony Society in 2003.

He died of congestive heart failure at his home in Las Vegas. Flanigan is survived by his wife, Mary, six children and 15 grandchildren.

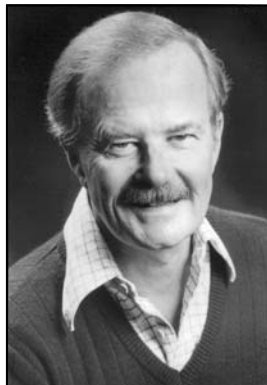


Acoustix singing “*It’s a Blue World*” with Bob during the presentation to welcome him as an Honorary Society Member

Elmer Lynn Hauldren (89)

April 1, 1922 - April 26, 2011

Lynn was a brilliant man with a kind heart and a natural talent for entertaining. He sang bari with International Medalist **Chordiac Arrest** of Illinois. Lynn wrote much of their material (lyrics and arrangements).



He may be best known among barbershoppers for his clever parodies such as their pilot set (“*Darkness On The Delta*” and “*Delta Five-oh-two, Where Are You?*”) or their doctor set (“*In My Neat Little Hospital Gown*” and “*The Richer They Are The Slower We Cure ‘Em*”) and “*Doin’ The Barbershop Squat*”.



Lynn was one of the most recognized barbershoppers but many didn’t know he was also an icon in his real life.



He was the national pitch man for **Empire Today**. “*588-two-three-hundred Empire Today*” is one of the nation’s most popular jingles. First appearing in 1973, Lynn (The Empire Man) was their on-air

talent. Empire’s popular animated character was also fashioned after Lynn. Not only did he write the jingle, he also sang two of the four parts.

Lynn always seemed to have a quartet or two. He sang with **The Fabulous 40s**, a vocal group with **Tom Felgen** (Four Renegades 1965, Chicago News 1981), **Ken Edison**, and **Joyce Cunningham**.



His online id was “*Elderbari*”. He told me just 12 days before his death: “*The Fabulous 40s (the group that your hear singing the phone number) were together 10 years doing covers of Merry Macs,*

Pied Pipers, Four Freshmen and a few of our own charts. Great fun!



At age 89 I am still singing. Doing modern stuff with Rick Anthoney and two of the great Arbors foursome. We call ourselves "Arbor Lites."

Hauldren was a decorated World War II veteran. As a 23-year-old radio operator he volunteered to answer the call to deliver supplies to Chinese port cities starving from a Japanese naval blockade.

Lynn Hauldren was the proud parent of 6 children, 18 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Wendell Pryor (68)

Died March 18, 2011

Was the tenor of **Center Stage**. They were 1980 Pioneer District champs and competed in five International contests. They placed 4th in 1981 and won the silver three years in a row (1982, 1983, 1984). The quartet was formed in late 1979. Its members (Wendell Pryor, tenor; Dennis Gore, lead; Glenn Van Tassell, baritone; and Lee Hanson, bass) boasted a combined total of 75 years of membership in the Society. Wendell entertained on chapter shows all over the United States and Canada.



Wendell died one day shy of his 69th birthday.



Frank Leone (95)

April 11, 1916 / June 14, 2011

Lead of the **Merry Mugs** comedy quartet who performed for USO tours and shows, appearing in all 50 states.

Tom Sterling



Died July 13, 2011

bass of **Sound Revival / Broadway** quartets / two-time district quartet champ / Chorus director / BHS & SAI / Coach / assistant under Don Clause

SHOE

By Jeff MacNelly



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macnelly.com

5/6



The Best of O.C. Cash
A collection of thoughts

OC Cash Book Still Available

If you ever wondered what our Founder **OC Cash** was really like, you have only to read his Founder's Columns that appeared in the Harmonizer from 1941 thru 1953. They are still available in this 50-page book.

Cash was an interesting man. He had a witty sense of humor and creative writing style. This had a positive and critical impact on the birth and initial growth of our Society.

An example of this humor can also be seen in the original invitation to the historic April 11, 1938 meeting.

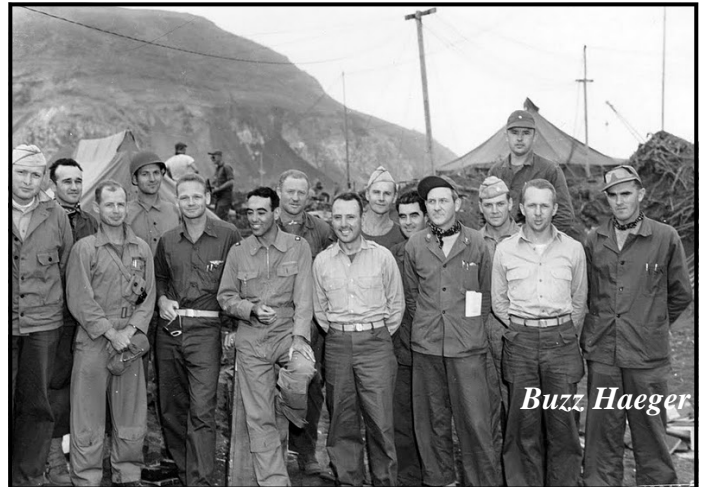
A complete collection of his column is available through the Harmony Marketplace. As a bonus, an exact replica of that invitation (suitable for framing) is included with your order. Get Yours While Supplies Last.

Only \$10.00

<http://harmonymarketplace.stores.yahoo.net/occashbook.html>

Historic Iwo Jima Photo Includes Buzz Haeger

Our thanks to the eagle eye of **George R. McCay** who found this WWII photo online. It appeared to be a young **Buzz Haeger** on the end.



"*Brigadier General Ernest Moore and staff officers of the 7th fighter command, Iwo Jima, Bonin Islands, March 9th, 1945*"

Buzz was the tenor of the **Four Renegades** (1965), a talented woodshedder / arranger and a Marine.

We agreed and showed the photo to **Tom Felgen**, bass of the Renegades:

That's Buzz all right! What a motley group. (No two uniforms were exactly alike.) Actually, Buzz spent most of his Marine Corps career in Hollywood going to parties with show biz personalities and playing and arranging for the Marine Corps band. He had a great time.

Buzz was stationed in San Diego and would visit the local group to sing. When they were about to charter and hold that meeting on June 16, 1946, Buzz was unable to attend. He was being discharged the same day and returned home.

For this photo and more showing Iwo Jima and the aftermath visit:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/7thfighter>

Rare Member Certificate Lost & Found

I'll bet when you joined the Society you got a card, a welcome packet and an official membership certificate signed by the Society President. (*Do you have it framed and on display?*)

Our founders saw the need for such "show of pride" items early on. The first certificates and cards were produced and distributed starting in July 1938 only three months after the first meeting. These early copies are very rare and are always interesting to see.



Early Society Membership Certificate issued about 1945. This certificate is signed by **OC Cash**, Founder, **Phil Embury**, Society President, **Carroll Adams**, Int'l Secretary and chapter secretary/fellow quartet member, **Jack Adams**.

Thanks to the generosity of **Tom Eck** of Richmond, Virginia, we received this vintage certificate that belonged to his father, **Eddie Eck**.

Eddie was a singer and active in a quartet even before the Society was born. He also sang on the minstrel stage as an "end man" and Mr. Bones-type role. Eddie would interact with the Interlocutor and, ultimately, got all the good punch lines. He also sang some light opera.

Eddie later became an active member of the Richmond, Virginia chapter.

Eddie was best known as tenor of the **Song-O Boys** (as in "Ooh Boy") also known as the **C&O Rail**



The Song-O Boys (L to R) Eddie Eck (tenor), Bill Brinkley (lead), Jack Adams (bass) and Frank Owens (bari)

Quartet (a reference to the *C&O Railroad*). The quartet first formed in 1937 and performed well into the 1950s.

Tom tells us, "My dad sang many places around the area including appearances on the 50kw **WRVA** in Richmond (1140AM). They appeared many times on the **Corn Cob Pipe Show**, a popular weekly radio show with a live studio audience.

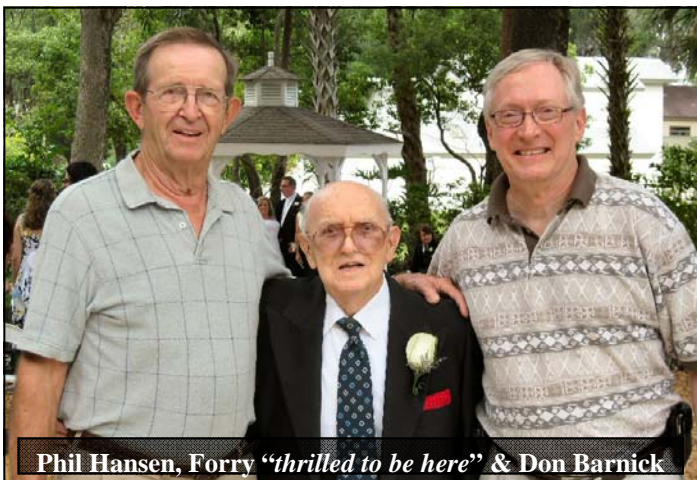
Almost every year my dad went to **White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia**. There the quartet would provide the entertainment for the annual stockholder's meeting held at the plush **Greenbrier Resort**. C&O owned the resort. It was no coincidence that Eddie worked for the *C&O Railroad* for 50 years."

He was also friends and shared the stage with another Richmond native, **Freeman Fisher Gosden**, famous for playing the role of Amos of "Amos & Andy".

Eddie's son, Tom (85), continues the tradition of four part harmony as an active member of the North Georgia Singers of the Lake Lanier, VA chapter. This is only his third year as a barbershopper but he's enjoying it.

This certificate was almost lost when Tom donated his dad's old music collection to a local library. They went through it and found the certificate buried deep in the stack and returned it to him thinking it might have some sentimental value.

It did!



Phil Hansen, Forry "thrilled to be here" & Don Barnick

Happy 93rd Birthday Forry

A few friends gathered to help celebrate **Mid States 4** baritone **Forry Haynes'** 93rd birthday (born June 11, 1918). Pictured are **Phil Hansen** ('49 Mid States 4) Forry and **Don Barnick** ('79 Grandma's Boys, '92 Keepsake). Phil says: *Yes, he can still sing a good baritone*".

Have You Seen Me?

If you have one of these – a 1993 convention patch from Calgary – please contact me ASAP. A very nice gentleman by the name of **Jim Clover** is desperately trying to complete his collection. If you also suffer from this "illness" of collecting you can feel his pain.



He has looked and asked everywhere. He even tried to buy one from an individual at convention who had one on a vest. No luck! He has some extra convention and mid-year patches and would trade one for a Calgary patch.



Don't Put Santa In Prison!

During our research for the **Suntones** tribute, we ran across a historic video of the quartet during a special appearance on the Jackie Gleason Show in 1966. The episode was called **Run, Santa, Run** and featured the guys as criminals in a police lineup. Also brought in was **Art Carney** as an elf and **Gleason** as Santa.

They did some dialogue and then sang ... *Don't Put Santa in Prison*. We're presently negotiating for the rights to use in the Suntones tribute version that appears on the Kansas City Convention DVD.

The bit can be found on the **Color Honeymooners Collection 2** DVD commercially available.

Gold & Age of Barbershop Quartet Winners

by Dennis Driscoll

Professor Emeritus of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University - Arranger and Music Judge Emeritus, 62-year member of the SPEBSQSA/BHS



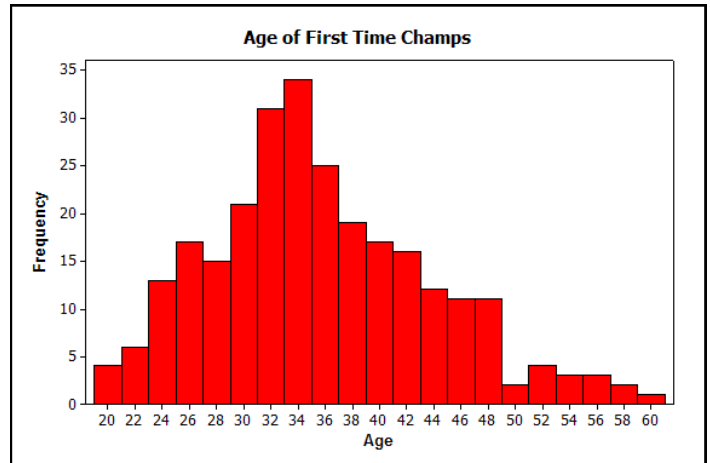
Has it seemed to you that our championship quartets have been getting younger these last few years? A look and a listen to some of our recent winners sure prompt this suspicion. Or is it just that we're all getting older, and this is simply nature's not-too-subtle way of telling us that, like the Old Grey Mare, we just ain't what we used to be?

I decided to investigate. **Bob Sutton**, Society Archives Committee member, has compiled the birth dates, and death dates if applicable, of all 288 of our gold medal winners, 1939-2010.

This data could also tell us a lot of other things about what it takes to be a winner. Who were the youngest and oldest quartets? Are basses really older, on average, or does it just seem that way? Is there a "best" age to win a medal, and if that's so, how does this square with our understanding that most professional male singers don't attain prominence until their mid- to late-30s? Is this reflected in our data?

These questions are answered in the charts and graphs in this article. Look first at the time trend. In the early years, quartets were older than average (the 1940-1949 average was 41). Foursomes got younger during the 1950s. Thereafter, while there was quite a bit of variation in quartet average age, there was little difference among the averages in each decade (approximately 35 years old). It seems likely that the above-average ages in the 1940s were due to World War II, during which many of our young men served in the military. What about the distribution of ages?

and flexibility—maximizes in a man's mid-30s? The histogram shows a definite excess in the range 30-39, when close to half (48.6%) of our gold medalists were in the prime of life vocally.



Youngest and oldest champs? **The Four Teens** (1952) averaged 20.0; the **Misfits** 49.5 (1945). Other notable youngsters were **Second Edition** (22.25, 1989), **Bluegrass Student Union** (23.0, 1978), and **The Rapsallions** (24.75, 1984).

The most senior fellows, other than those of the war years, were **Most Happy Fellows** (43.5, 1977), **Side Street Ramblers** (44.5, 1983), **Chiefs of Staff** (43.25, 1988), and **Yesteryear** (43.5, 1997).

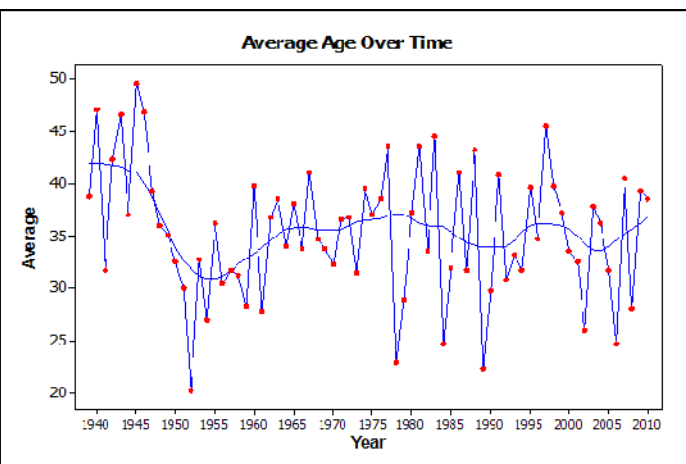
The prize for oldest gold medalist goes to baritone **Rod Nixon** of **Yesteryear**, who won during the year in which he turned 60. Second place, at 58, goes to **Ken Hawkinson** (**Most Happy Fellows** 1977), followed by **Fred Stein** at 57 (**Four Harmonizers** 1943).

Yet another finding that is not apparent from the illustrations is that quartet members tend to be about the same age. If you're in your 20s (or 30s, or 40s) the other three guys will most likely be about that age as well.

So, does this mean that if you're over 40 you can't realistically think about getting gold around your neck? Not at all. After all, our current International Champions, **Old School**, are ALL in their 40s.

But it would help if you're a bass!

Many thanks to Music judge and professional statistician Kevin Keller for his assistance in preparing the graphics and for his valuable suggestions in the text.



Can we verify the suspicion that a man's ability to ring chords—that combination of resonance, power,

Bill Hardey's Song Book

We recently received the donation of a very special song book with some interesting history attached.

It is a 1938 songbook entitled **Bill Hardey's - Songs of the Gay Nineties** – edited by Hugo Frey.

The forward reads: *The inspiration for this volume came from famous rendezvous Bill's Gay Nineties in New York where crowds gather nightly to reminisce and join in melody.*

The 9" x 6", 96-page soft cover book includes song such as *The Band Played On, Dear Old Girl, I Wish I Had A Girl, K-K-K-Katy, When You and I Were Young, Maggie* and many more popular songs of the day, 122 total.

Many close harmony singers used this popular song book before and after the Society was formed. One such quartet was the 1940 **Flat Foot Four**.

This book was actually owned by **Clyde "Red" Elliott**, and includes *Annie Laurie*, a song they used to win the young Society's 1940 National Contest.

There is also a special autograph inside.

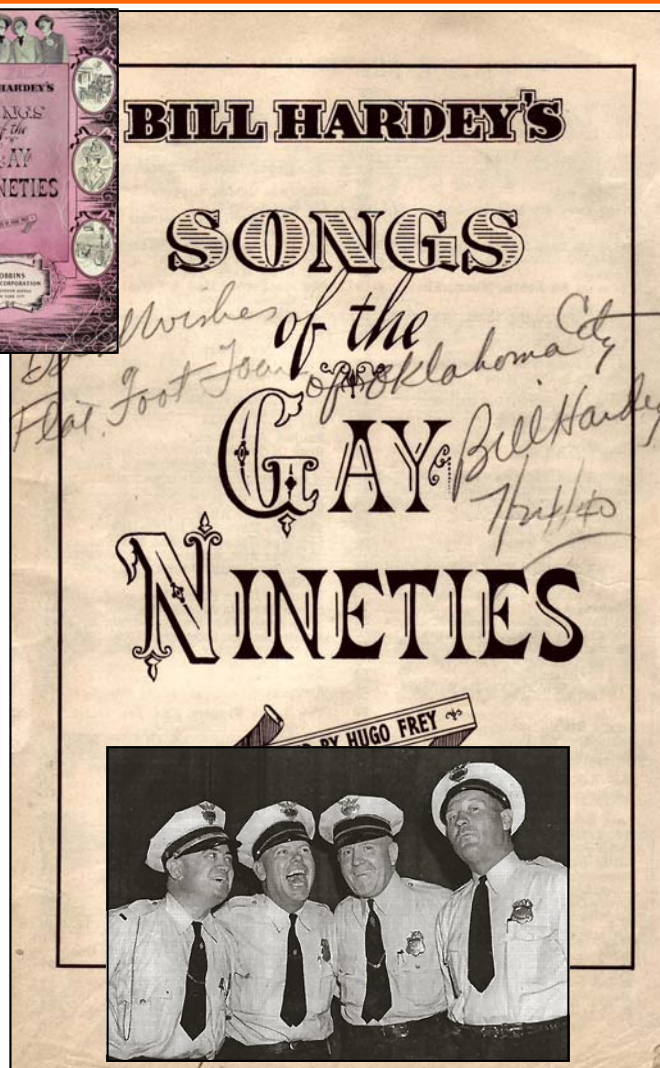
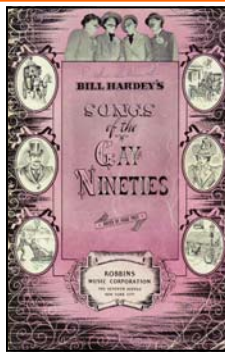
*"Best Wishes Flat Foot Four of Oklahoma City,
(signed) Bill Hardey 7/24/40.*

This book was generously donated by **Marlin Griffith** of Houston, Texas

"Clyde "Red" Elliott gave me the book back in the 60s, he told me the Flat Foot Four used the book. He lived in a rooming house run by his sister in Round Rock. The Austin Chord Rangers kind of adopted Red and took him to contests, shows and other BBS functions. He was a great woodshedder, and loved to teach tags."

Bill Hardey's Gay Nineties still stands today and is a popular restaurant and piano bar in New York City on East 54th Street.

www.billsnyc.com/index.htm



PRESERVATION Tops 6300 Hits

Over the past 13 months our little magazine, created to promote the past, has been well received and generating some traffic. We encouraged to learn we've topped 6300 downloads / hits to date.

The publication has been made available on the Barbershop Society's website and, with minimal publicity; it seems we gained a loyal and supportive readership. Thanks to all who have read it and to those who have emailed us to tell us how much they enjoy it. My special thanks to my proofreaders and fact checkers **Bob Sutton** and **Ann McAlexander**.

Vol.	No	Issue	# hits
1	1	June 2010	999
	2	July 2010	1053
	3	August 2010	667
	4	September 2010	939
	5	October 2010	694
	6	November 2010	449
2	1	January 2011	881
	2	April 2011	621
	3	August 2011	-



The Best \$9 You'll Ever Spend for REAL Barbershop

If you want to hear REAL, TRUE, AUTHENTIC Barbershop Harmony this collection is a MUST HAVE. It's a collection of turn of the century recording by the quartets that made these old songs famous.

The collection is entitled **Vintage Quartets** and, in a not so "vintage" way, available as a MP3 download. The cost is ONLY \$8.99 from Amazon.com.

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B001TZ9VNW/ref=dm_sp_alb

Here's what you get for your 9 bucks:

Song Title	Artist
Come, Josephine, In My Flying Machine	American Quartet
Chinatown, My Chinatown	American Quartet
Oh Johnny, Oh Johnny, Oh!	American Quartet
How'd You Like To Spoon With Me?	Haydn Quartet
On The 5:15	American Quartet
Over There	American Quartet
Everybody's Doin' It Now	Peerless Quartet
My Bird Of Paradise	Peerless Quartet
Rainbow	Haydn Quartet
When You Wore A Tulip And I Wore A Big Red Rose	American Quartet
Down Where The Sil'ry Mohawk Flows	Haydn Quartet
In The Evening By The Moonlight	Haydn Quartet
Casey Jones	American Quartet
Oh, You Beautiful Doll	American Quartet
Put On Your Old Grey Bonnet	Haydn Quartet
I Want A Girl Just Like The Girl	Peerless Quartet
In The Good Old Summertime	Haydn Quartet
Moonlight Bay	American Quartet
My Sunny Tennessee	Peerless Quartet
I'll Make A Ring Around Rosie	Haydn Quartet
Silver Bell	Peerless Quartet
By The Light Of The Silvery Moon	Haydn Quartet
Sweet Adeline (You're The Flower Of My Heart)	Peerless Quartet
Blue Bell	Haydn Quartet
I Didn't Raise My Boy To Be A Soldier	Peerless Quartet
It's A Long, Long Way To Tipperary	American Quartet
The Lights Of My Home Town	Peerless Quartet

75th Anniversary Logos Reveled

The 2013 Toronto Convention is not that far away. The convention host chapter and the 75th anniversary committee are making exciting plans for a year long celebration of the Barbershop Harmony Society's celebration. More to come.



In Space, No One Can Hear You ... SING!

Barbershop in Space

With the Space Shuttle program now completed we thought it would be nice to pay tribute to some dedicated NASA employees/contractors who contributed to America's Space Program and also have ties to the Society.

Drew Feustel



Mission Specialist Drew Feustel

is an actual real, live *space jockey*! He served as a Mission Specialist and was one of six astronauts who participated in the second to the last Space Shuttle mission and the last for **Endeavor** (STS-134). This mission flew from May 16th to June 1st, 2011.

Drew has his barbershop connection as the step-son of **Bud "Sanford" Burrill**, long-time member of the Battle Creek, Michigan chapter, former member of the **Harmony Hounds** quartet and currently tenor in the Lansing-based **Patch Chords** quartet.

Drew was accepted into the space program in 2000. In addition to STS-134, he was also a mission specialist on STS-125 and **Atlantis** in May 2009 where he made three spacewalks to repair the Hubble Space Telescope.



Drew exits the ISS to begin one of his many spacewalks

He logged 25 days in orbit, approximately 40 hours of spacewalks and has travelled nearly 12 million miles.

Drew is a musician. He plays guitar and sings lead vocals in the all-astronaut band called **Max Q**. (referring to the engineering term for the maximum dynamic pressure from the atmosphere experienced by an ascending spacecraft).

Lloyd Erickson

of the **Houston Tidelanders / Insiders**, retired in 2004 after 40 years at the Johnson Space Center. He was a database analyst and programmer for NASA administrative systems and worked on the programming of the remote tracking sites.



Like most NASA workers he has quietly stood in the background and had little contact with the astronauts or received any fame or celebrity status. The only thing close was once, while walking across campus, being mistaken for one of the "*bearded*" Apollo astronauts. He made the young fan's day by autographing a photo.

He tells us that he was honored to have been a part of "*Man's greatest adventure*".

Continued Next Page

Tim Hanrahan

of Satellite Beach, Florida was our 1996/1997 Society President. He retired in 1996 after 33 years with **The Aerospace Corporation** as their Principal Director of the Eastern Range Directorate offices at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and Kennedy Space Center. Aerospace was chartered in 1960 as the Space Systems Engineering Contractor for the United States Air Force. Prior to transferring to Aerospace, as Director of Titan III launch operations, Tim worked on the Atlas ICBM for the original Systems Engineering Contractor, **The Ramo Wooldridge Corporation** (TRW Systems).



Final checkout of a Titan III and launch complex 20 at Cape Canaveral - December 1964. Tim Hanrahan second from left.



Tim primarily worked on USAF national security launches, some of which were launched on the space shuttle prior to the **Challenger** accident. Challenger carried the USAF Inertial Upper Stage in its cargo bay when it exploded. Tim worked extensively on the Titan, Atlas and Delta expendable space launch vehicles as well as their spacecraft. The Titan also launched the NASA **Viking** (1975) and **Voyager** (1977) planetary missions to Mars and the mini grand tours to Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

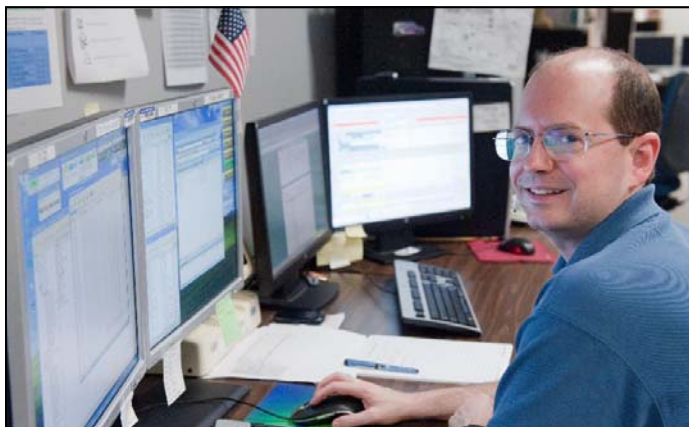
After retirement, Tim served on a number of review boards, and assisted with the arrangements to have **Max Q** sing at Kennedy Space Center for the launch of the International Space Station's **Harmony** module aboard the Space Shuttle. In 2010, The National Space Club honored Tim with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

He hated to see the Shuttle program come to an end

as *"the shuttle was the ideal truck to haul cargoes to the International Space Station (ISS). Without the shuttle, the ISS would never have been built. The combination of the shuttle and the ISS is one of the great engineering achievements of our lifetime."*

Tim is still active in his barbershop chapter activities, enjoys golfing and just loving life.

Mark Smith



Mark Smith working as OCA Officer (orbital communication adapter) for a Shuttle mission uplinking and downlinking files from the vehicle

of Houston is the tenor of **Ringside** and a flight controller for the International Space Station. He's been with NASA for 10 years. His job as an operations planner is to create, update and maintain the complex schedule for the ISS's day to day operations. He works in the planning backroom in Mission Control, directly supporting the controllers in the Flight Control Room. He and his team are constantly monitoring the ISS operations as it is, of course, 24/7. The schedule is always finely tuned - but ALWAYS changes.

He worked during the last flight of the Shuttle program. *"I'm sad to see it go but believe it was also rewarding to see it completed - mission accomplished"*. The end of the Shuttle program doesn't directly affect his work. *"We'll have a little less activity but we are still coordinating with the other vehicles launched by Russia and our international partners, and with the crews on station. I'm anxious to see what comes next with new US launch vehicles."*

To do this job takes a great deal of training and

“smarts”. That might explain his personal highlight during the past 10 years was his rewarding sense of accomplishment in passing his many certifications to perform various duties for ISS.

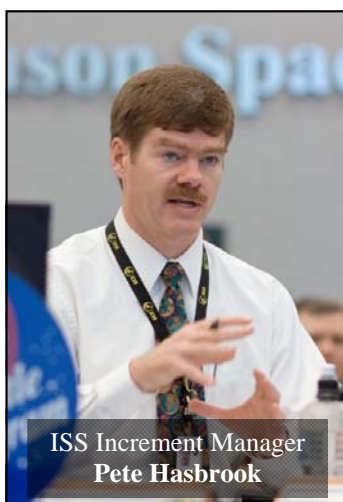
Another highlight was being able to sing to the ISS crews with his quartet.



Mark and his dad at the Cape for the launch of STS-124. This was a special VIP send off party for astronaut and fellow Aggie Mike Fossum (in pre-launch quarantine)

Pete Hasbrook

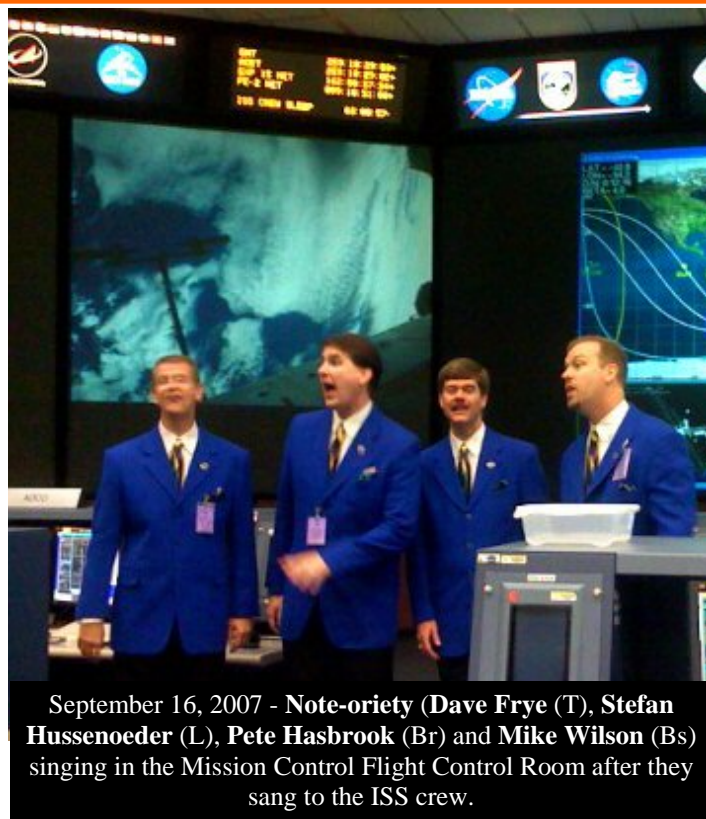
is an International Space Station (ISS) **Increment Manager** in the Program Office. He has been working in Houston for 26 years and with NASA for the last 23 of those years. Pete oversees the Station, on orbit continually and maintained 24/7. Each “*increment*” lasts approximately six months at a time depending on the crew/station commander.



ISS Increment Manager
Pete Hasbrook

His highlights include time as Mission Control’s FAO (Flight Activities Officer) and the planning and monitoring operations of **Endeavor** (STS-49) in May of ’92. This re-boost mission captured **Intelsat** (a communications satellite they failed to achieve high orbit) and redeployed it successfully.

He was also **EECOM** (Emergency, Environmental, and Consumables Operations Manager) and worked with NASA’s International partners including the Russians and Mir and the transition period to ISS.



September 16, 2007 - Note-oriety (Dave Frye (T), Stefan Hussenoeder (L), Pete Hasbrook (Br) and Mike Wilson (Bs) singing in the Mission Control Flight Control Room after they sang to the ISS crew.

Pete’s first experience was Expedition 8 in 2003 with a highlight coming on E16 with the launch of the Harmony Node. We’re now on expedition 28 with a new **Increment** starting September 8.



With the Shuttle retired he states “maintaining the ISS is a bit more challenging relying on the Russian **Soyuz** spacecraft and **Progress** cargo ship, The European Space Agency **ATV** cargo ship and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency’s **H-II Transfer Vehicle**”.

In addition to bringing in **Benchmark** and **Ringside**, Pete piped up barbershop performances from his own quartet **Note-oriety** to ISS crews.

On March of 2008 The Tidelanders chorus performed for **Peggy Whitson** of Expedition 16 while she was aboard ISS in celebration of International Women’s Day.



Just recently Pete and wife **Annette** sang the National Anthem at Houston’s **Ellington Field** for the Welcome Home Party given to the final crew of the Shuttle program.

Wayne Draper

of Houston retired from NASA in 2000 after 38 years. He retired as Johnson Space Center's Chief Financial Officer but began his career as an engineer. He spent his first 10 years in Crew Systems Division which was the organization responsible for space suits and associated extravehicular equipment. He worked on the Gemini and Apollo programs on the teams that designed and produced suits, as well as some of the ancillary equipment used in space and on the lunar service.

One of his personal highlights was witnessing the first American space walk by **Ed White** on June 3rd, 1965 during the Gemini 4 mission. *"It was an exciting time"*. One of his prized possessions is an autographed photo of that event personally presented to him by Ed.



Wayne admires his autographed photo from Ed White

He also has special memories of Apollo 11 and especially Apollo 13. He was part of the team that worked in the backroom. They overcame the many issues while the crew survived long enough to return to earth following the explosion on board as they headed toward the moon.

At the end of Apollo 13, Wayne transferred to the newly formed Space Shuttle Office. *"When I joined that Office, we had no idea what the Shuttle was going to even look like."* As his management responsibilities grew, his career transitioned more from the technical side to management and financial considerations. After the first flight of the Space Shuttle, he was made Director of Resources, Space Operations—a position that he held for seven years.

He also admired the courage of **John Young** and **Robert Crippen** as they flew the very first shuttle

flight April 12, 1981. *"There was NO test flight for that vehicle. It was the bravest thing I've ever seen."*

In 1987, Wayne was made the Comptroller and Chief Financial Officer of the Johnson Space Center—a position he held until his retirement in 2000.

Wayne still actively follows the events of manned space flight. *"The team that is being disbanded now is a great national resource. It's tragic that the Shuttle has been retired. It was still capable of many more productive flights. Now, if some problem develops on the International Space Station, we no longer have the option to fly any type of repair mission."*

These days Wayne is active with the Tidelanders, serving as show chairman and enjoying his hobbies of woodworking, photography and his four grandkids.

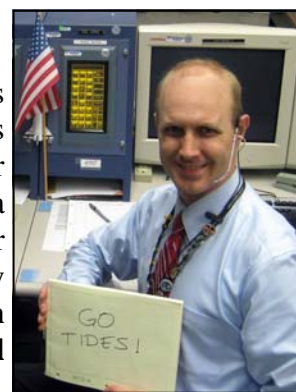
"Those were wonderful days. We were living a dream."

Greg Holt

of the **Houston Tidelanders** and baritone of **Ringside** is still an active NASA employee in his 5th year. He had the privilege of "sitting on console" in mission control as the Ascent/Entry Navigator (NAV) for eight Shuttle missions, including the last mission this past July.

His says that probably his highlight so far was his **FIRST** launch in 2008 for STS-126. They have a tradition. After each launch they are presented with **Atomic Fireball** candy for a job well done.

Greg recently missed out on singing with the Tides at Kansas City due to the mission schedule but he sent them this photo to cheer them on.



Greg Holt wishing his buddies well as he sits on console in Mission Control during International and the Atlantis landing

His quartet, **Ringside**, has performed for several NASA crew functions. They even got to sing LIVE for the International Space Station crew in 2010.

Being true barbershoppers they managed to get in a plug for their upcoming Christmas show. Lo and behold, ISS Commander **Jeff Williams** attended the show and was honored on stage for their mission.

Greg says that the end of the Shuttle program is bittersweet. *"It was an honor and privilege to be a part of it"*. He hopes to be reassigned to teams working in research and development and to be a part of NAV for the future Orion program slated for launch around 2020.



Ringside in Mission Control singing for the ISS crew. **Mark Smith (T), Brent Hairston (L), Enrique Yarto (Bs) and Greg Holt (Br)**

Al Branscomb

Big Al was there from the beginning, nearly 50 years. He played key roles in every big NASA program: Mercury, Gemini, Apollo and the Shuttle.

He started right out of **University of Alabama** and was one of the youngest to join during **Project Mercury**. The date was February 12, 1962 and **John Glenn** was a week away from becoming the first American to orbit the Earth. He participated in the



Project Mercury Launch Team at Pad 14 for MA-7 (Aurora 7, Scott Carpenter May 24, 1962). Al circle – centered.

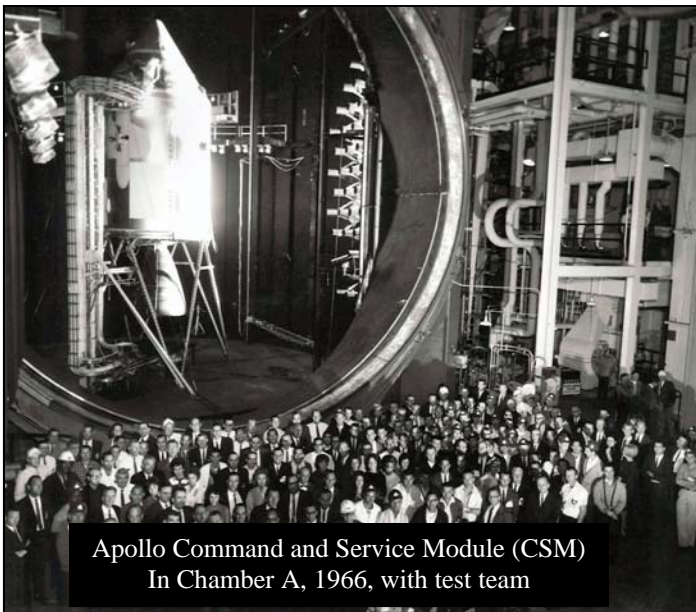
first orbital flights for Mercury and even served on the Mercury *"close out crews"* securing the capsule and astronauts just before launch.

He completed his 35 year space career with NASA, retired and immediately moved to **USA** (United Space Alliance), where he spent his last 14 years. Needless to say he's on a first name basis with many of the men and women who have flown.

In the early years he worked on spacecraft pyrotechnics, parachute recovery systems, launch escape rockets, and mechanisms.

In 1964 he also assumed test operations engineering duties for the initial unmanned verification flights of the Apollo -Saturn 1 and the Gemini-Titan spacecraft/booster configurations.

Transferring to JSC-Houston in 1965, 18 years were spent working with the impressive and HUGE Thermal Vacuum Chamber. The **TVC** (1,430,000 cubic feet) is used for testing spacecraft and systems in a simulated space environment. Early testing, with astronauts on-board, certified the Apollo Command and Service Module for the Lunar missions. Al served as Test Manager and Test Director for the critical manned test operations.



Apollo Command and Service Module (CSM)
In Chamber A, 1966, with test team

Simply put, his job has been **Vehicle Management**. During the Shuttle program he oversaw the assembly and delivery of the Shuttles Discovery and Atlantis and was the NASA Vehicle Manager for the first 13 flights of Atlantis. He then served as Customer Resident Manager for periodic

inspections and modifications for each of the Orbiters at Rockwell's Palmdale, CA, final assembly and checkout site.

Currently he's the USA Project Leader for developing the Orbiter safing requirements and planning for the transition of the Orbiters into retirement and public display.



JSC and KSC team members in front of Endeavour after completion of its inspection and modification cycle.

His personal highlights include the orbital flight of **John Glenn** (only eight days after arriving), the Apollo 11 Lunar Landing, and the first shuttle launch on April 12, 1981. Over time he's become friends with **John Young** and **Bob Crippen**, Commander and Pilot of STS-1.

He was also deeply involved in the Columbia accident investigation, critically reviewing the Palmdale inspections and modifications done to Columbia two flights prior to the fateful flight and loss of the Orbiter and crew.

As one who was intimately close to the orbiters, He



Astronaut **Frank Caldeiro** (deceased), **Al Branscomb** and astronaut **John Young** at Palmdale during Inspection and Modification period, 2001

is upset with the retirement of the Shuttle. *"It's a shame! There's a LOT of useful life left. These vehicles were built to each make 100 flights; we're only up to about 30 or so flights each. It's safer now than it's ever been, yet we are giving up America's human access to earth orbit for a period of years"*.

Back in the NASA heyday there were over 30 thousand employees ... Now there are less than 6000. By the end of September there will be only about 1000.

Sadly, Big Al is one of those being laid off. His 50-year space career ends August 12. He's just one of thousands of skilled employees being laid off this month. But he's one of the very few who was there at the beginning - right in the middle of it all. He has seen *"the start and the end of an era"*

Other than continuing to sing barbershop (bass) on the back row of the **Tidelanders**, he's not sure what he'll do in retirement. *"It'll be odd not having to go to work everyday"*.

Big Al was recently interviewed by Houston's KTRK-13 reporter **Ted Oberg**. See it [HERE](#)



OUT OF THIS WORLD. Barbershop chords took a giant leap when **John Glenn** took his famous space ride aboard the space shuttle Discovery in 1998. The first man to orbit the earth also took with him, this time, the first barbershop music to be played in outer space. The **Alexandria Harmonizers** provided this famous astronaut and barbershop lover with hours of musical enjoyment. Now, fully autographed, Glenn donated his CD's to Harmony Hall in this unique display. (from Sept 2001 Harmonizer)

The NoteWits - On the Loose and Running Wild, Again



Rarely do I endorse or promote anything that's not unique or "worth it". Well ... I *MUST* recommend this great DVD.

It's a DVD of one of the top comedy quartets of all times, **The NoteWits** - **Steve Delehanty** (tenor), **Dick DeVaney** (lead), **Doc Sause** (baritone) and **Ed Keller** (bass). They were from Westchester, New York and performed from 1966-1997 in 33 states. You'll recognize Doc as the bari of the 1967 International Champion **Four Statesmen**.

The NoteWits perfected their act and always "killed". The audience reaction on this DVD is typical of their shows. Hilarious! This show and afterglow was recorded from a compilation of shows around 1986.

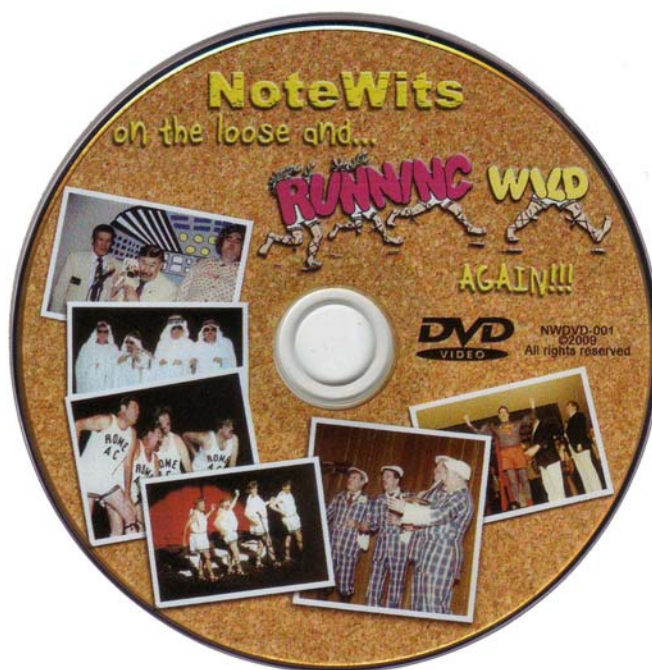
I can vividly recall seeing them and was actually shocked to hear the emcee announce that the NoteWits couldn't make the show. I had come to see them especially. Well, little did I know, that was only the beginning of the "act". They were introduced as the Un-Grateful Dead and came out covered in sheets as ghosts singing "I Ain't Got No Body" (*get it?*). It got even better from there.

This DVD captures the performance of the quartet unlike most quartet DVDs. It includes:

- The Un-Grateful Dead
- I Ain't Got No Body
- No Place Like Rome
- Running Wild
- Melancholy Baby (with their creative flash cards)
- Somebody Stole My Gal
- By The Time I Get To Phoenix (Doc's Solo - a la Spike Jones)
- The Curse of an Aching Heart (proving Vaudeville's not dead)
- One Alone (the spotlight bit)
- Side By Side

There are even extras that include the Afterglow with Superman, Ballad of Crazy Ahmed, Leiblinger and (my favorite) the Nervous Quartet.

Those of you who got to see these guys will fondly recall these acts. I certainly can't describe them well enough to do them justice.



Suffice to say this DVD is Laugh Out Loud FUNNY (great faces, perfect double takes and even some gun play)!! If you never got to see them – get this DVD. You'll see many of their bits still surviving through other quartets today ... many not nearly as good however.

Unfortunately the NoteWits are now retired so this is the only way you'll be able to see them now.

They can be ordered by sending \$18 (\$15 plus \$3 for shipping) to:

Steve Delehanty
4465 Douglas Ave Apt 10K
Bronx, NY 10471
or email steviedel@msn.com

Chapters Seek Historians

Does YOUR Chapter have a Historian?

We're pleased to see so many chapters identifying the importance of their past by appointing and supporting a chapter historian position. Each group has its own unique history and it should be preserved and promoted. Everyone agrees but the hard part is finding the right guy. Sometimes overlooked is the fact that this member doesn't necessarily need to be the "old guy." In many cases the chapter leadership just needs to **ASK!**

As an example, one such chapter put this announcement out to its membership:

"Your chapter president and the board are seeking an individual who would be interested in taking the role of Chapter Historian, working with the Society Historian, in compiling and updating the information about our long-lived, and unique history. If you are interested, contact any member of the Board of Directors, or drop a reply to this email."

There are now several documents for historians available on the Society website:

- A Manual for District and Chapter Historians
- How to be a Successful Historian
- Reunions 101

So, does YOUR chapter have a Historian? Ask your leadership if you're not sure. You might be surprised to find the guy just waiting to be asked. You might find it's a rewarding job which benefits the membership with little or no cost to the chapter.

Help Preserve Your Heritage

The Archives Committee Needs ***YOUR* Support!**

Our goal is to maintain and promote our Heritage. We do so by maintaining the largest collection of Society and Barbershop Harmony artifacts on the planet. Despite our best efforts the archives is still in the “storage stage”. Since the move from Harmony Hall in Kenosha, WI we’ve not been able to find enough Society money to get done what’s needed.

We dream of the day the vast collection is available to the membership for education and research. We have a plan in place and are working it as we can.

We have the full support of the HQ staff and the Society Board of Directors but funds are scarce. We can only succeed by generating donations from those interested in preserving our past.



Harmony Foundation has a special fund set up to earmark your donations for the Archives. We encourage you to give what you can. (No donation is too small.)

To direct your donation to the Archives you **MUST** point it to the

“Heritage Fund”

Go to the Harmony Foundation website www.harmonyfoundation.org
– on the top tool bar click on “*Ways To Give*” and then “*General Donations*”. Fill in the form and be sure to add, under notes ... **Heritage Fund**.

Phone: 615-823-5611 or 866-706-8021

Fax: 615-823-5612

Email: hf@harmonyfoundation.org

We appreciate all your support and plan to continue our work for a long time.