



Far Western  
District

# Barbershop Clippin's

Barbershop Harmony  
Society



July/Aug 2014

Fullerton, California Chapter

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## Picnic Party In The Park Particulars



Herschel Green Photo

By Nick Pickens (a.k.a. Fred Robirds)

On Saturday, August 16th, the O.E.C. Fullerton Funsters, families and friends found food, fun and friendship at the Yorba Regional Park in Anaheim, as we gathered for our 2nd annual inter-chapter picnic...with well over 100 in attendance.

The event started early with a bang (actually a strum) with the ukulele players of the "**Sugar Daddies**" quartet leading the way, strumming and singing good ol' harmonious tunes like "Shall We Gather At The River"..(which of course we had already done,

with the location of our picnic).

Additional uke, banjo, and guitarists sat in on the "Strumfest" and with the addition of harmonica virtuoso **Jim Gruver** and an unknown female harmonica expert, the 2 hour concert was something grand!

Next was the main event... FOOD! We fired up the grills about noon for hamburgers and hot dogs, then marched down a 24 foot long table of MOUNTAINS of assorted side dishes provided by our ever-lovin' **Orange Blossoms**. We shared at least 6 kinds of salads, snacks and chips, fruit plates, fried chicken, breads and desserts, including cookies, brownies, candy, pies and a 48 piece (calorie fortified!) chocolate cake provided by **Fred Baker**, then (burp)..Let the quartetting begin!

continued on page 2



Joan Golding Photos

## Our Heroes... Contributors to this issue:

Fred Robirds, Joan Golding, Steve Hansen, Mike Evans, Art Clayton, Steve Sarandis, Sam Glorioso, Mike Werner, Mac McDougall, Buddy Yarnell, Kent Fossum, Tom Nichols, Mark Sheldon, Jay Campbell and Al Bell.



## Picnic Party In The Park Particulars - continued from page 1

So we had 33 barbershoppers for our luck-of-the-draw pickup quartet contest and managed 9 competing quartets, which had 10 minutes to get acquainted, choose a song and rehearse before competing..and it happened!

Impartial contest judges **Elaine (Mitchell) Saputo, Janet Nichols, and Marianne Brewer** selected winners in categories “Hairiest faces quartet”, “Smile-iest faces” quartet, “Balance and blend, “Diction”, 2nd place over all winners and over all CHAMPS.

And the winners all received valuable prizes! “Hair-iest” won combs, “Smiliest” won mirrors, 2nd place over all each won a crisp 2 dollar bill and the CHAMPS each won a 5 dollar gift certificate for dinner for 2 at McDonald’s.

Don’t even know who were in the winning quartets, but did notice that 3 of our own multi-voiced members were amongst ‘em. **Mike Werner** sang in 3 winning groups and **Stan Tinkle** and **Frank Tillou** in at least two. Congrats guys!

Director **Craig Ewing** assembled all barbershoppers on stage to sing our getaway songs “Mary Lou” and “God bless America”. Then we got away.

Fun. We’ll do it again next year (if Mac and the Saputos hold up).

HOWEVER.. we don’t have to wait until NEXT YEAR for another “Food, fun, and friendship party” ..because NEXT WEEK we’re being hosted for more of the same by **Dave and Sheila Lowerre** at their spacious abode for another great summer party!

“Rover”









# What a Picnic the OEC had!



By Mike Werner

Those members of the Fullerton Chapter who could not make it to the picnic at Yorba Regional Park missed out on a great time. I got there myself at around 10:30 that morning so I was able to listen in on the pickers and strummers. It was good to see **Bruce Formes** there, picking along with them. I almost forgot what he looked like. Welcome back, Bruce. **Don, Dave,**

**Tommy,** and **Mike** were also there along with two members of the group that meet every Saturday morning for an informal jam session. They were very entertaining and they even let me play the tambourine! It is never too early to get the rhythm going.

Our grill team of **Mac, Steve, Bruce** and **Don** was excellent as usual with the handling of the burgers and hot dogs, even with all the different varieties requested by those in attendance. Yes,

we had veggie burgers as well! Naturally we had food remaining after everyone had their fill thanks to those who brought their sides, desserts, and beverages.

Of course, people come for the opportunity to sing in the random draw quartet contest. One never knows who they may be singing with. I ended up singing bass in the "**Fermata Nowhere**" quartet and baritone in the "**Hoof Hearted**" quartet. Do not say Hoof Hearted too fast or it sounds like something else completely!

I ended up in a third quartet called the "**4 Young Studs**" (I like that name)! After all of the quartets had competed, I firmly believe that I will be disqualified from competition at next year's picnic. Why? Because I was part of every quartet that received an award, humorous or not. **Fermata Nowhere** received the First Place award and the Smile-iest Face quartet award (a compact mirror). **Hoof Hearted** received Second Place and the Hairiest Face quartet prize (comb) AND the **4 Young Studs** received an honorable mention for the catchiest name.

Big time kudos to **Mac McDougall** for securing an excellent location with LOTS of shade. It was a really warm day, and there was concern the heat would keep a lot of people away. We had about 140 in attendance with representation from Orange, South County, South Bay, and of course, Fullerton. Let's make next year's even better.



Joan Golding Photo

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## Meet Our New Member, Ron Leutbecher



By Mac McDougall

**Ron Leutbecher** a lead singer from the Whittier Chapter for 28 years is the most recent addition to Orange Empire Chorus. He told me that singing with our Fullerton chapter has been fun, and he thinks we're a "great bunch of guys". When our OEC truck showed up for the recent event at

the Muckenthaler Ron asked me "is that your truck?", he was very impressed! And then, he eagerly stepped up and off loaded the risers and assembled them on stage! Now



Don Derler Photo

that's a really welcome guy to OEC!..

**Ron** and **Annette** have been married 49 years and have 3 middle-aged offspring. He retired after 20 some-odd years as IT Manager of Toastmasters International. (No wonder he's such a personable guy).. Now he's a Quarteter, walker, golfer and bowler. Who by the way likes to barbecue "anything that moves", so Derler may have some help there.



## Hoof Hearted Fun at the OEC Picnic

By Steve Hansen,  
aka "Ole Blue Eyes"

Joan Golding Photo

This summer's OEC picnic at the Yorba Regional Park was lots of fun and a great way to enjoy one of those "lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer" with fellow barbershoppers, family and friends. In addition to the fine barbeque, we enjoyed the many different and delicious homemade salads, veggies, desserts, etc. Besides the great food, another highlight of the picnic was the "random" quartet contest, which is now becoming a tradition at our annual picnic. We put our names in a hat, and they were drawn to cover each of the four parts. Eight quartets were formed with many guys pairing up with others they have not sung in a quartet with before. We were given 15-20 minutes to choose and rehearse a song and also decide on a name for our quartet.

I had the great pleasure of singing with three other fine barbershoppers, two of whom sang parts they usually don't sing. While I sang lead and **Don Derler** sang bass which are our regular parts, **Mike Werner**, normally a bass, sang baritone, and **Frank Tillou**, normally a baritone sang tenor. We chose a polecat that Mike and Frank could sing in their new parts, (what else) "My Wild Irish Rose." We thought about changing some of the words for a parody (in the OEC tradition): "my wild irish nose, the sweetest nose that blows" but on second thought we gave up on that idea. Don suggested that we should name ourselves after a well-known (?) country western group, "Hoof Hearted." Don warned us not to say the name too fast as it might be misunderstood. Unfortunately we forgot to warn our great MC, **Mac McDougall**, who announced our name with great robust and brought a few smiles to the audience.

While the audience enjoyed the performance of quartets with names like, "**The Uncalled Four**," "**The Fab Four**," "**Four Old Parts**," (careful on that one), etc. our **Orange Blossom** judges carefully adjudicated each performance. After all the quartets performed, the judges announced the results. My quartet, "Hoof Hearted" was amazed to win two awards of which we are very proud. In the "singing" category, we took "second place," which was quite an accomplishment especially with two of our members singing new parts. Our reward was a "Thomas Jeffers Two Dollar Bill!" We were very excited and we wondered if that meant that the first place winners would get the "George Washington One Dollar Bill." Actually they got a \$5 certificate to Starbucks. Our favorite recognition was for the "Hairiest Face Quartet" award. This also was very surprising. While our "bass" Don and "tenor" Frank have a good beard and a mustache, our "lead" Steve has only a "shadow" of a mustache and our "baritone" Mike just forgot to shave that day! Oh well, we had a great time and certainly look forward to next year's OEC picnic and quartet contest.

A big thanks to **Mac McDougall** for coordinating this fun event, and **Pete Saputo** and the many others who worked hard to make this event a great success. Looking forward to many more opportunities to enjoy the fellowship of barbershoppers singin' "the ole songs!"



Dick Cote Photo

## A Hot Time In Sing City

By Howie Swett  
(a.k.a. Fred Robirds)

**Question:** Where would you rather be on the 4th of July than Las Vegas Nevada?

**Answer:** 'most anywhere!

And so it was, that our noble, knowledgeable, Nashville knaves (a.k.a. BHS exects) scheduled our 2014 international convention and competition in that city, and on the week of July 4th!

Las Vegas is the number one destination IN THE WORLD for celebrating the birthday of our independence.. so including some 7,000 barbershoppers and their families, we had plenty of company (or a seething mass of humanity?) covering the whole city. Temperatures that week ranged from daytime highs around 113 to night time LOWS in the 90's.. but the pools were cool, and the casinos were cold...

The convention was at the MGM Grand Hotel and Resort, which by the way, is the world's largest resort hotel, covering about 6 square blocks of the Vegas strip. We soon found out that BIG probably only means the best in Texas. Here it just meant more people, and it was packed full. Big here meant about a six block walk to the hotel from the parking lot, another six to registration, and another six to the huge arena for the competition and shows. Built in excersize?

The good news is that it was, as usual, a really fun time. The competing quartets and choruses all gave us their best stuff and it was all exciting and riveting. Our own **Masters of Harmony** did a fine job in claiming second place in the chorus contest, losing only to rival **Vocal Majority** of Dallas, and the "foreigners" really impressed too. Sweden's **Zero8** came in 5th and the **Vocal FX** from New Zealand placed 10th in a very tough contest.

The real fun is always meeting, singing with, and visiting with new people from all over the world, and you get to hear good 'ol barbershop harmony all over town.

Despite the heat and the crowds, everybody we visited with really enjoyed Las Vegas. They raved about the new world's largest ferris wheel (550 ft. high), The Stratosphere, the light show downtown, the magnificent hotels, the buffets, the Hoover dam, etc., etc.

And most of the "Swedes" and "Kiwis" came to visit more than Vegas. One New Zealand family we visited with had landed in L.A., visited Hollywood, gone to Disneyland, and taken in an Angel's baseball game before coming to the convention. Then they were going to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, and San Francisco, then would motor back down our coast to the L.A. airport. How Fun!

So conventions are fun, people are fun, and it's fun in the sun. (but maybe not quite SO MUCH sun next time!)

"Rover"



## 2014 SoCal Comedy Quartet Contest

*This article is taken from an email that was authored by Mark Sheldon, PR VP of the Orange Quartet Chapter.*

Many Thanks to everyone who participated or attended the **2014 SoCal Comedy Quartet Contest!**

Congratulations to our 2014 Champs, **Triglycerides+One!** They survived a "tiebreaker" with the **Sugar Daddies**, a move decreed by our guest judging quartet, the **Spit-Tunes**. This helped provide our audience with a full hour of entertainment for their money, even with a limited competitor field.

The Spit-Tunes also performed, treating the crowd to their parodies of "YMCA," "Gotta Have Heart," and "Hazel's Hallelujah Punch." Naturally they were also dressed for the occasion... We didn't know when we asked them to judge that we would be getting **Judge Judy!**

We really do owe a big Thank You to both the Spit-Tunes and to our Emcee, **Bob Patterson**, for putting together a Comedy Show with our intrepid handful of competing quartets. These people have a wealth of comedy experience (and a lot of past Comedy Contest Championships!) between them and we are lucky to have them helping to make this event a success. Bob also gave a tribute to one of his comedic partners, **Leon Higbee**, the Lead of **Tortilla Flats**, who passed away recently.

We also owe a big Thank You to the many members and friends of the Orange Chapter who stepped up to make this show a success. At risk of forgetting someone, I should at least mention:

- Chapter President **Mike Werner**, who spoke for the Chapter onstage and brought in our guest talent

- **Dave Lowerre**, who opened AND closed the house, bought the individual awards, and together with

- Pete Saputo** of Fullerton Chapter, brought in and set up our Sound System

- **Don Derler** who once again provided his graphics skills to our promotional materials including flyer design as well as getting our Plaza Banner ready

- **Paul Sandorff**, who handled all the financial arrangements, went out of his way to fetch the travelling trophies from last year's champs (*Harmony Connection*), and managed the quartet movements backstage at the contest.

- Our ushers, who I believe included the **Spencers** and I apologize for anyone else who I may be missing.

- **Stan Tinkle**, who helped coordinate on the concessions

- Everyone who brought other necessary equipment, notably those who made their personal Coolers available so that we could offer cold drinks on a warm night

- **Jimmie Eacret** who staffed our Concessions

- **Jim Gruver**, who staffed our ticket sales

Extra thanks to Jimmie and Jim and everyone else who spent much of the contest outside the auditorium to see that everyone was taken care of.

My apologies to anyone I've slipped and left off this list. Everyone - including the many who stepped forward to help with the critical house duties at the last minute - please know that your contributions are very much appreciated.

As humble as our attendance numbers may seem, I think we should all be proud of putting on this event to help bring awareness of barbershop to our community, to build our visibility within the community of barbershoppers, and to give local quartets an opportunity and incentive to focus on their comedic skills.



# Changing Lives



By Tom Nichols

Joan Golding Photo

Three years ago when Andrew was a high school freshman attending the Young Men's Harmony Festival (YMHF) for the first time, he didn't know much about it. He didn't know that the *Masters of Harmony* conducted this annual one-day barbershop workshop for high school boys for nearly twenty years, or that it has introduced thousands of boys to singing barbershop harmony. He didn't know that Diva Day, a project of the *Harborlites Chapter of Sweet Adelines*, has done the same thing for girls for many years. All he knew was that other students had enjoyed attending the workshops in previous years.

Andrew went to his first YMHF on a whim. Another student had registered, but could not attend, and Andrew took his place. The YMHF was his first experience performing in a choir.

Andrew returned to school after the workshop and sang in the school choir. With some friends, he formed a barbershop quartet that sings at school choir concerts. Last year he was a member of the *California Honor Choir*. This year, his senior year, he has auditioned for and been selected to sing in the *National Honor Choir* in Nashville at the end of October, the first student from his school to achieve that honor. Andrew is the student director of his school choir, and has a job at a nearby junior high school as a choir director. He plans to get a college degree in music education and become a music teacher and choir director.

The YMHF gave Andrew motivation - to learn to sing, to learn music theory, and to become a teacher - but he is not the only one. Each year, the *Orange Empire Chorus* enables Andrew and

forty to sixty other boys and girls from the Fullerton Joint Union High School District to attend Diva Day and YMHF by paying their registration fees. We do this with the strong support of their high school choir directors because of the energy and enthusiasm for singing the students bring back to their classrooms. We are starting high school students on a lifetime of experiencing the joy of singing and sharing that joy with others.

Many barbershoppers feel they missed out by coming to our hobby years too late. Sending students to Diva Day or YMHF is a way to introduce young people to barbershop at an early age and give them the opportunity to enjoy it for many years.

If you would like to be a part of this effort, you can sponsor students' participation in these events. Your donation of \$25 will send a student to Diva Day or YMHF. \$100 will pay the registration fees for four students. Please send your donation check, made out to Orange Empire Chorus, to:

**Diva Day/YMHF**  
**Orange Empire Chorus**  
**P.O. Box 3331**  
**Fullerton, CA 92834-3331**



2014 Young Men's Harmony Festival choir presents their evening performance

## How I Had Fun In SIN (SING) City



By Buddy Yarnell, AKA TLTF  
(The Little Tenor Fella)

Joan Golding Photo

My friend, **Pete Hensley** from the La Jolla Chapter, and Baritone in "*Preferred Blend*", was my roommate at the MGM Grand. We arrived on Wednesday, July 2nd in order to compete in the Harmony Platoon contests and of course, attend the Quartet and Chorus contests.

Pete and I really enjoyed the Platoon contests and we were lucky enough to place 2nd in one of three contests. There were about 80 guys from all around the country and we had a Lead from Kansas and a Bass from New York.

All 80 Platooners had the four assigned Platoon songs down cold.

For you guys who don't know about Harmony Platoon, just talk to **Steve Hansen**, **Fred Vera** and myself.

The Platoon motto is: "Out Sing. Out Smile and Out Remember the Words" ---Sound Familiar OEC guys?

There were 58 quartets and 27 choruses competing for the Gold. WOW! The quartet and chorus contests were very, very impressive! We had a lot of our affiliate quartets and choruses competing. SNOBS and BABS were well represented.

Went to one of "*Vocal Majority*" "VM's" practice sessions. These guys are extremely dedicated and really deserve their First Place win. I think that's about 11 International wins for the VM.

The FWD was well represented by the "*Masters of Harmony*", they were great and were very pleased with their Second Place Silver medal. Their first non-gold since 1989!.

The chorus and quartet contests were amazingly close. A difficult job for the triple panel of judges.

From New Zealand, the "*Musical Island Boys*" won the gold in a great quartet contest. These kids (that's anyone under 35 in my book), blew the audience away with their four different contest packages.

All in all, this was the best International ever.





Joan Golding Photo

# "Let's Put on a Show"

By Kent Fossum, Show Chairman

After last year's show at Plummer, which went very well, we contacted the school district and learned that the rules of engagement had changed from what we were used to over the years. We learned that the school budgets, timelines of the school schedules and our relationship had changed. If we had been warned about changes in the wind we would have adjusted our plans for 2014. In any event, we learned that there were no dates at all available at Plummer for 2014.

Undaunted, we took our business across the street to Fullerton College. The administration was accommodating as far as dates were concerned but wanted "an arm and a leg" to use the relatively small facility of only about 550 seats. We estimated that our cost would go up well over 100% to use these facilities.

We kept looking. We looked high and low for another venue that could handle a production like ours and not too expensive. Everyone had a suggestion. We ended up selecting Servite High School which we have used before when we did "Mini the Mermaid" and sank the Titanic on stage. I was the mermaid. We ended up with a show date late in May instead of one in mid to late April. We have always tried to have our shows on just before or just after Easter celebrations.

**Pete Saputo** and I liked the facility with its updated sound and lighting systems. We liked the fact that they had modern

bathrooms, ample parking and 950 seats. We expect our cost to only go up about 50% from what we used to pay at Plummer.

Then the calamity struck. Hundreds of dancing and jumping kids collapsed the front part of the stage in late February. Some of the kids were injured. The news about the collapse was on both television and radio. It was a top news story for a week.

We were sure that the show would have to be postponed due to the injuries and investigation. There might be lawsuits, etc. The show committee was bummed. Luckily, our President **Pete Saputo** is an engineer. He was able to assess the situation and determine that all would be fine and the facility would be better than ever; and, available on time for us to use it. In fact, Pete joked that if the hole was still there at show time we would just turn it into a lake and have a few of our members pretend to be fishing.

In the final analysis, the theater came back together, the show came together and we put on one heck of a good show. We worked hard selling program ads for the show and produced a full sized program in full color. We had the **Velvet Frogs** as our guest quartet. The audience just loved everything we did.

As it turned out moving to a different theater about a month later than usual did not work well for our ticket sales. In fact, we estimate that our show drew about 300 less patrons than usual. Therefore, the show committee and the board are "back to the drawing board" to try to figure out how we can continue to provide our valuable community annual show service and still be able to do good works for our local youth through scholarships and regular financial support. One more post script is the fact that Pete was able to get us back on the Plummer auditorium calendar for late March 2015.

## Profiling Mac "Frugal" McDougall



Joan Golding Photo

My older friend **Jeff Young** and I get together regularly at Brea Creek Golf course with a guy that is actually older than Jeff. If you go to the course on Tuesday mornings you will notice a very loud foursome there, that includes our 99 year old buddy Lowell, who will be 100 on next New Year's day. Lowell always forgets his hearing aid. The bad thing is he still plays 9 holes in the 30's. We are often humbled.

Other than golf, I have been an avid snow and water skier. I prefer snow skiing, because those over 70 at local resorts ski for free. In my prior life I was a draftsman at North American Aviation in the mid-fifties, then to Union Pacific RR as a draftsman/clerk in the Oil and Mineral Development Division. Like many others I went to a community college in evenings then two or three part time jobs in the quest to make a down payment on my first home in North El Monte. One of the part time jobs was with Thrifty Drugs and persuaded me to enter management training in 1961. At the ripe old age of

23 I was promoted to Manager of the Altadena store. Even the managers got tired of scooping that Thrifty Ice Cream, which I still buy (at Rite Aid). One of the pharmaceutical guys that called on the store thought I should consider applying with his employer, but I was making good money and was active in the community with Jaycees and other clubs. The local Pasadena newspaper did a write-up on the "young Thrifty Manager" while I was a promoter of the "Up With People" movements Los Angeles cast. Jaycees sponsored three show fundraisers for that youth singing group and I was the guy in charge. When the Thrifty Vice President of Personnel read the article he had some kind of snit. He came to my store with a demand letter for me to sign, promising to resign community service activities and put more time/effort into the store's success. I refused to sign his order. My friends in Altadena helped me find a headhunter, prepare a resume and gave me hearty recommendation references. Ironically the company whose rep. called on the store became my employer shortly thereafter. I worked for that division of Abbott Labs for three years. They helped me complete my undergrad and graduate degrees with a wonderful career. We moved to Cerritos in 1968, while there, **Sue,**

continued on page 9





# Park Performance Parking Problem Solved

By Otto Parker

We didn't do our "Harmony Under The Stars" youth benefit program at Pearson park this year. Because of scheduling problems, and the nightly deluge of picnic people at the park taking up all available parking, many of our prospective patrons just passed us on by.

So-o-o we solved the problem by just changing venues! We held our summer benefit show at the "Muckenthaler Cultural Center" right here in Fullerton, where we found numerous new benefits for ourselves AND our audience.

First of all, they have plenty of parking for all. And the shady, tree-lined grassy knolls are perfect for family picnics. The amphitheater and stage are smaller and cozier, with stadium bench type seating fronted by small tables for snacks..(and for drumming in rythm to our singing).

We did change the name of our production from "Harmony Under The Stars" to "Harmony Under The Tarp", since the whole venue was covered over with a plastic covering. (not a bad idea..you could still observe stars through it, and pigeons passing overhead couldn't get to us.)

"The Muck" is a private park, so the imbibing of spirited beverages is not just tolerated, but encouraged.. and they even sell beer and wine there. And, of course, the more the crowd guzzles the better we sound!

This outdoor venue is smaller than that of Pearson Park. (Another perk). It's easier to sell out the house and the audience is much closer to the performers.

And finally, it's a great deal for our chapter because "The Muck" takes care of selling the tickets and we needn't recruit outside quartets and/or choruses to help us out, This one was our

own highly successful Fullerton chapter variety, comedy, patriotic package which (as demonstrated by the audience) produced a "standing O" and request for an encore!

It looks like we've found a great new summer home, so get your tickets early for next year!

"Rover"



continued from page 8

our middle daughter **Kathleen**, and I joined "*The Note-ables Chorus*" in Los Alamitos. We sang regularly at Leisure World, The Ebell, Disneyland, OC Fair and for various clubs/societies. I was President there times and it literally wore me out. Sue and Kath continued with them after I left to devote more time to grad school and career development. Then my duties took me into Public Health, Hospital, and Academic positions and a move to Yorba Linda. Retirement in August 2003 allowed us to devote more time to our Christian faith and support activities. We sang in choirs and remain in various adult fellowship ministries. Several years back some of our friends suggested we stop by Giovanni's to hear a bunch of guys that meet and sing Barbershop stuff. We did!

**You can view The Clippin's in glorious**

# COLOR

**Go to [oechorus.org](http://oechorus.org)**

**You can also check out back issues.**

**And while you're there, you can learn about upcoming events and other information about the chorus.**

# Stan French's Original HARMONY FOR LUNCH BUNCH

*SPECIAL BIRTHDAY EDITION*



## **The Good Old Song(sters)**

*By Harmon E. Gold*



Herschel Green Photo

We have an OLD hobby... singing the OLD songs. What could be better? Well, it's our OLD guys still singing those harmonious OLD tunes - and today, 7/18, we celebrated the 98th birthday of one of our all-time (OLD) favorite barbershoppers, **Stan French** as we, AND HE, belted out the "oldies" and recreated memories.

You see, Stan was one of the original founders of our Fullerton S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. chapter, and was also the originator of probably the best Harmony for Lunch Bunch in the FWD (and it probably

still is !).

Our Stanley is one of those rare souls that never met a stranger, and always served as a one-man welcoming committee to any and all visitors.

Thanks to **Art Clayton**, we had a big party/songfest at Giovanni's (our regular HFLB venue), honoring our golden-aged warbler (yes, he still sings 'em GOOD), attended by an overflow gang of some 75 barbershoppers, family, and friends (the place holds about 60). Thankfully, some of our guys brought extra chairs so that nearly all were seated. Having 4 guys in quartets up singing all the while made it just right.

Our man Stan still has a twinkle in his eyes, a smile on his face, (as well as a lot of lipstick placed there by our adoring female counter parts) and the same old "iron grip" handshake.

Now that we've seen our role model in such fine shape, we're ALL going to go for the century mark, by smiling, singing, and reflecting on golden days and dear friends.

"Rover"





# STANDING Room Only



*By Jay Campbell*

On Friday afternoon (July 18th) I was very fortunate to be able to attend the best Harmony For Lunch Bunch meeting ever! We all gathered to celebrate **Stan French's 98th Birthday** and Giovanni's Pizza was packed full with singers from the Orange Empire Chorus and all of our "Barbershop Groupies"!

Dick Cote Photo

I've never seen so many people in Giovanni's (and I doubt if they have either)! I'd been told to bring some folding chairs and all four of them were quickly put to use. People just kept coming and coming to celebrate the birthday of such a great barbershopper!

**Fred Robirds** had baked one of his big (world-famous?) cakes for this event, but it couldn't hold 98 candles! So Fred put about 12 candles on the cake, lit them and, after making a wish, Stan was able to blow them all out!

There was some great singing by the chorus, there was some great singing by quartets, then Stan joined the obligatory quartet and was able to belt out some great harmony chords!

It will be hard to top this for Stan's 99th birthday next year, but I'm sure we'll try! And....of course, we're all looking forward to Stan's 100th birthday party in two more years!



## Stan French 98 years strong

*By Steve Sarandis*

Joan Golding Photo

On July 18, 2014, we celebrated Stan's birthday. There was standing room only. Everyone came to help him celebrate. Every year from now on will be a milestone. Everyone wishes Stan many more milestones. I think that both Stan and his family enjoyed the day.

I've known Stan since I first became a barbershopper in 1993. He was always very supportive to me during rehearsals. I remember him at the first Lunch-Bunch I ever attended. He went out of his way to make me and everyone else feel welcome. I was glad to see everyone show him the warmth he deserves.

There was lots of fun, including eating, singing and camaraderie amongst all ages. The youngest was 3 months old (**Autumn Claire**). And of course, there was Stan nearly a century apart.



# The Lighter Side



By Sam Glorioso

At my age my memory is not as good as it used to be.

Another thing: my memory is not as good as it used to be. But I can remember as far back as yesterday-whenever that was.

Okay. Now that that's straight I think I enjoyed our sing-out at that place some people call "The Muck".

Whenever that was. Oh, yeah! I'm beginning to put it all together. Just before we started the performance I went over to the spot behind the stage and overlooking some street, which will remain nameless. The street below had lots of traffic, with cars backed up quite a ways. This must have been the remnants of that jam. I remember that it was two days earlier that we were stuck on that very street on our way to rehearsal and it was two days earlier we were stuck on that very same street. Since we re-

Dick Cote Photo

hearse every Tuesday, this must have been Thursday. What a brilliant deduction!

I had a great time at the sing-out. Someone told me I looked like I was having a good time. And someone told me I looked like I was having a good time. I couldn't argue that point. As I look back at the last two sentences I know for sure two people thought I was having a good time-not including me.

I like the song "It's all Your Fault". There are a couple of places when I wasn't sure about the words. That's when it's very easy to mumble. I don't know if I am allowed to say this. If you are reading this section, it has not been edited out. If you aren't reading this, it has been edited out. To those uninitiated this is called "watermelon". It looks like someone is saying words but they're not. Sometimes I think I need to have a watermelon patch handy.

Hmmmmmm. I think it's about time I write this month's column.

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# Standing Room Only



By Art Clayton

Did anyone besides me hear that in some parts of the country, Walmart has already started displaying Christmas items? Has anyone besides me heard Andy Williams' voice on the TV Christmas commercial they have started running again? How many

have started receiving 2015 calendars and stickers to place on your Christmas cards? This is becoming absurd. It was bad enough when stores started promoting Christmas before Halloween. Now it's before Labor Day. Before we know it, Santa will be joining up with Uncle Sam on July 4th.

Well, if that's the direction our society is heading, I guess we better jump on the same bandwagon, or in our case, risers. Sorry. I sometimes just can't contain myself. But there's another reason to get into the holiday mood. With all the challenges, problems, and negativity that can creep into everyone's world, we all need a little Christmas.

It just so happens that *"We Need A Little Christmas"* is our opening number and theme for this year's Cabaret. Our goal is to celebrate with family and fans, the true meaning of the Christmas season in an atmosphere of faith, friendship, and fun.

Dick Cote Photo

After twenty years now, our reputation precedes us. It was quite evident last year. As our guests entered the facility, you could feel it in the air. Because so many have attended previous Cabarets, they anticipated that they would be in for another entertaining, meaningful, and spirited evening. We didn't disappoint.

So why did I title this article "Standing Room Only". I guess just to get one's attention. It's not that we could accommodate an over flow crowd. We have been experiencing close to sell-out Cabaret Shows almost every year, but my goal this year is to have a sell out situation well in advance so that when we receive inquiries, we could tell the disappointed requester about our Spring show and other 2015 events.

There is a second reason for referring to standing room only. We do have standing room on our risers for additional singers. It's been well documented that the holiday season is a period when individuals who like to sing often find time to participate in some form of choral activity. We will once again use our Cabaret Show to encourage those individuals to sing with us. We have placed on the reverse side of our Cabaret Show flyer a Santa Claus "We Want You" type of poster.

The Clippin's is read by many who are not actively participating with the "Number Fun" Orange Empire Chorus. Tell a friend. Now would be the perfect time to come to the party.



# Sugar Daddies in Demand



By Mike Evans

Dick Cote Photo

The months of July and August were especially busy for the Sugar Daddies. Beginning the last weekend of July we sang at the opening of a new Learning Center in the City of La Palma. The Learning Center is meant to assist students from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. Originally it was supposed to be one hour but turned into two hours. This was in a small shopping center and we had the honor of singing outside the door to attract attention to the Grand Opening. The Mayor of La Palma as well as members of the Chamber of Commerce attended the opening ceremony. As we sang, we passed out brochures for the new center. Folks going to and from the other businesses in the shopping center (including a Neighborhood Walmart) stopped to listen and wave. We had a good time and surprised ourselves that we were able to sing for that long without repeating songs.

Later that same day we got together again to compete in the **So Cal Comedy Contest** sponsored by the **Orange Quartet Chapter**. The Sugar Daddies were awarded second place (out of four). After the show we relaxed with an adult beverage at the “after glow” in downtown Orange. We had a great time and even got the chance to introduce a group of young people to barbershop harmony. They really seemed to enjoy it.

Two days later we were asked to sing for a group of “**Friends of the Arboretum**” at the Fullerton Arboretum. We were told that we would be singing for an ice cream social on the lawn area and would probably be strolling around and singing for small groups at a time. When it was time to perform the folks had all been seated on lawn chairs or blankets on the ground and were not scattered so far apart that they could not hear. We

chapter. It was a fund raiser for the **San Gabriel Valley Humane Society**. It was held in the parking lot of an animal hospital in Temple City. The theme was “Roaring 20’s” and we seemed to fit the bill. This was one of those times when we were meant to be background music. These kinds of gigs are not quite as much fun since most of the audience is not paying much attention. We still had fun and were able to work on some of our songs.

The next week we got a last minute call to sing for the **Nickelodeon Animation Studio’s Company Picnic**. This was going to be a four-hour gig and we were going to be mostly background music again. Oh well, it will be good practice. We got there a little early and we were told that they wanted us to



greet people as they came from the parking garage to the entrance. We stood near the entrance and sang for about an hour. As we heard people coming we would start a song and they would begin looking around to see from where this sound was coming. As they approached the entrance many stopped to listen and take pictures. Others walked on by so they wouldn’t block the way. But it seemed that nobody came by without leaving with a smile on his or her face. That’s what this Barbershop Harmony stuff is all about. The rest of the day we traded sets with a Dixieland Band and a Magician. The “picnic” was more like a carnival with game booths, face painting, and lots of food. Our performances were met with praise from those who were listening and we had a grand time between sets mingling with the people. What we thought might be a lack luster time turned out to be a blast. I guess you never know.

I guess that’s enough for this issue. We enjoyed the OE Chorus Picnic and did a lot of singing but not with each other. We are looking forward to the show at the Muckenthaler and anticipate another fun time. I understand that there is some curiosity about how we came by our vests but that is a story for another time.



did about a 30-minute set that was met with great enthusiasm. After our set they began to dish up the ice cream. We took a break while this was happening and spoke with a few of the people. They told us that they were really enjoying the show. That was all we needed to get energized to sing a second set. The audience was very responsive and that made it all the more fun to interact and entertain. This was one of the best shows we have done.

The following weekend we had a referral from another

# Leaders of the Band, Part One



Dick Cote Photo

By Al Bell  
[chordially@cox.net](mailto:chordially@cox.net)

Well, not really. We aren't generally known as a band; more often we call ourselves a chorus or chapter. But we are a "band of brothers", not in war but in music. And, like all organizations, someone has to be the leader. That person is usually called the president. Moreover, not unlike

the members of a military unit, older members fade away and new ones rotate in. We are always in a state of becoming.

Now, it is true that sometimes the real leader at any point in time is not the president, but rather another member of the organization who exercises the motive force to make things happen, usually for the better but not always. Yet, the unglamorous job of running the organization still has to be done and it falls to the president to see that this happens.

This was all brought to mind by an email from one of our long-ago presidents, **Howard Marshall**. He asked me to look over a list of past chapter presidents he had put together to see if I knew who some of the missing names were. Shortly afterwards (fortunately for me) he received the official list from **Don Derler**, so I didn't have to stress out my already badly misfiring memory cells.

The list has grown pretty long. The chapter had only formed four years before I joined in 1961. **Oral Koch** was our fourth president and the one I remember during my formative months in the Chapter. If you are now a member of the Chapter and you clearly remember the presidency of **Leonard Schlatter** (his first term), you have the same "leader" memory span the founders of our Chapter had when I joined.

So, since there aren't that many of us around who remember those days—and a lot of them in between then and now—I thought it might be fun to reminisce a little bit about the names on that list and, incidentally, note a few highlights of the path we followed to get to where we are today.

I don't know how long this will take. It will go in bite-sized chunks. My memories will be incomplete at best so I invite any of our readers who receive the Clippin's to chip in and add memories (or critique mine) as they see fit. This probably won't happen again for some time and never again regarding some of our earliest years, so don't miss this opportunity to share some gems of the past with the rest of us as they occur to you. I am sure our capable Publisher/Editor will welcome them.

The Fullerton Chapter chartered in 1957, with **Don McRell** as our first president. I only know of him as a past-president, of course, and by the time I joined, Don was no longer active in the Chapter affairs, although he did show up for special events once in a while. In fact, he did that for many years and he was always a gracious and outgoing fellow. He sang a pretty good

bass and I often wondered why he wasn't in one of our Chapter Quartets. Perhaps he was. Only a very few reading this will know.

We were sponsored, as some of you know, by the Downey Chapter. It no longer exists, even though it once reached fifth place in our Society's chorus competition. The **Downey Revelaires** and the chapter's numerous quartets were a major force in the barbershop world in Southern California. So were the **Whittier Choralaires**, at one point largest chapter in the Society. It no longer exists either. There are some powerful lessons in the trajectories of those two stellar chapters (as well as Long Beach, Riverside, Pomona and many others whose luster has faded or even disappeared). Never fear; I'm not going to bore you with those lessons here.

Despite its fledgling status, Fullerton soon became known for its top-notch annual shows at Plummer Auditorium. Very soon, in fact. We also became enmeshed in the higher reaches of the barbershop world early on, fostered not so much by the SPEBSQSA (as we were known as in those days) but through the Sweet Adelines and especially a particular quartet.

We initially met, I believe, in the music room at Wilshire Junior High School (now part of Fullerton Community College), across the intersection from Plummer Auditorium and the first of several schools we called home over the years. That room must be perhaps 200 feet from where we now meet despite wandering all over the City in the meanwhile. What goes around....

Past, present, future: chords that rang, chords that ring and chords that will some day. All are part of who we are.

So lets listen together to a few echoes from the past.

## CHORUS CALENDAR

### Recurring Dates

- The **ORANGE EMPIRE CHORUS** meets each Tuesday from 7:00 to 9:30 P.M. at the Fullerton High School Choir Room, 201 East Chapman Ave. Fullerton CA.
- The **BOARD OF DIRECTORS** meets at 7:00 P.M. - the 4th Monday of the month, at the home of Steve Serandis, 1451 West James Way, Anaheim. All members are welcome
- The **MUSIC COMMITTEE** meets the third Tuesday of the month, after rehearsal.
- **HARMONY FOR LUNCH BUNCH** meets each Friday at around 11:30 A.M. at **Giovanni's Pizza**. Southeast corner of Euclid & Williamson in Fullerton. (One block south of Commonwealth.)



## Clippin's Publishing & Policy Information

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## Editorial Musings



Dick Cote Photo

By Don Derler, Publisher/Editor

I always wait until I have the entire issue of *The Clippin's* put together before I write my editorial. As you have read, in this issue, we have had a busy and really fun summer! As I get ready to send this issue off to print, I realize that there was an event that didn't get reported and it was one of the most fun events of the

Summer. I'm talking about the Annual Summer Singing Party hosted by **Dave and Sheila Lowerre**. In the past, this party has been an *Orange Quartet Chapter* event. But when the Lowerre's took over from long-time hosts **Phil and Phylis Roth**, they decided to open it up to the Fullerton folks as well. And what a party it was! From the moment you walk in, there is ample opportunity to SING. There were quartets singing all over the place (especially near the well stocked beverage center (bar)). The Lowerre home is perfectly layed out for a large gathering like this. You can sing in the Living Room, the Dining Room, the Kitchen, the Family Room, the Enclosed Patio or the Outside Patio. There was a lot of singing! There was also a lot of eating and drinking because this is a "Pot Luck" party with tons of terrific food and gobs of goodies.

**Dave** and **Sheila** and their awesome offspring, **Jessica** and **Thom**, were not only our gracious hosts but also were part of the evening's entertainment. They performed beautifully as a quartet, much to the joy and applause of everyone.

As well as the singing, eating and drinking going on, there were a lot of folks just having fun, relaxing and conversing. *There is one other activity that day that I have been compelled to report. It seems that Terri Derler and Laura Evans soundly trounced Tom Nichols and Mike Evans in a game of Cribbage. Come to next year's party to witness the rematch.*

So there you have it. Another issue of *The Clippin's* that proves that the Fullerton Chapter truly is Number Fun!

## Barbershop Clippin's A Tradition of Excellence

1991, 1992

**Bob Hein** - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year

1993, 1994, 1995, & 1996

**Bob Hein** - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year - Second

1996

**Bob Hein** - International Bulletin Contest - Most Improved Bulletin

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005

**Dick Cote** - FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year

1998

**Dick Cote** - International Bulletin Contest - Third Place

1999, 2000, 2005

**Dick Cote** - International Bulletin Contest - First Place

2011 **Dick Cote** - Selected for PROBE Hall of Honor

Note: **Dick Cote** - elected to suspend contest entry in 2005

## Fullerton Chapter SPEBSQSA Mission Statement

To enhance the enjoyment of music in the barbershop style for our chapter members and our audiences by always singing well and being entertaining; to participate in both quartet and chorus singing as a means of experiencing the thrill of barbershop singing and helping others to do the same; to actively support Society and District efforts to perpetuate our art form; to warmly welcome other singers into our musical fellowship; to contribute to the cultural quality of our communities through our charitable activities and youth harmony programs; and to have fun doing all of this.

## Planning Purpose Dates

## Upcoming Chorus Events

10/9-12 Far Western District Fall Convention in Fresno

Fullerton Chapter, SPEBSQSA



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Fullerton High School Choir Room  
At back of Plummer Auditorium  
201 East Chapman Ave.  
(Corner of Chapman & Lemon)

**Guests Are Always Welcome!**

**24-hour Barbershop Hotline:**  
**714-871-7675 (Art Clayton)**

Visit us at [www.oechorus.org](http://www.oechorus.org)

**Chartered July 1957**  
**Home of the**  
**ORANGE EMPIRE CHORUS**

**Craig Ewing, Musical Director**

**Associate Directors**  
**Tom Nichols, Dennis Woodson**



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Chapter Development VP\*  
Music & Performance VP\*  
Marketing & PR VP\*  
Program VP\*  
Youth In Harmony VP\*  
Secretary\*  
Treasurer\*  
Members at Large\*

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Mac McDougall  
Steve Hansen  
Ray Ashcroft  
Don Derler  
Tom Nichols  
Steve Sarandis  
Ken Klein  
Stan French, Lifetime Member  
Dick Coté,  
Don Derler

I.P.P.

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Afterglow Chairman  
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Sam Glorioso  
Jeff Young  
Art Clayton  
TBD  
Fred Robirds  
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Lead: Dave Lowerre  
Baritone: Dennis Woodson  
Bass: Don Derler  
Kent Fossum  
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