

Smiling Faces Everywhere



Joan Golding Photo

by Art Clayton

I'm not sure if they were the happiest and the merriest or the merriest and the happiest, but then I also never figured out if the chicken or the egg came first. All I know is that our audiences seemed to have had a good time at our *Christmas Cabaret Show*.

Over the years my routine has been to linger in the dining room at

the conclusion of our Friday night and Saturday matinee performances and spend some time talking to old acquaintances and newcomers who may want to visit before they depart. After the Saturday evening show I usually head down the hallway, almost to the lobby, to thank our patrons for coming, wish them a merry Chri-smas, and engage in whatever type of conversation that might develop. I try to do that every year. It is an opportunity to exchange a quick "Thanks for coming" to our frequent buyers, welcome newcomers to the fold, and also get a reading from our clientele on what they thought of this year's Cabaret show.







This year I stood in front of one of the large golden rings leaning against the wall. It kind of created a halo effect. All I received were glowing comments.

Once again our audiences departed on a high. We hear it every year: "You guys are great", "What a fun night", "This is my highlight of the year", "This is my first time and it was wonderful", "You guys are really singing well", and from a young lady who I had never seen before: "I love

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Our Heroes... Contributors to this issue:

Art Clayton, Jay Campbell, Steve Sarandis, Steve Hansen, Tom Nichols, Sam Glorioso, Ken Klein and Mike Evans

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barbershop harmony and I'll be back next year".

It's always great to see so many Chorus "part timers" join us for the Cabaret Show. Circumstances are such for some members that they can not participate throughout the entire year. We are always delighted to have them for this event and look forward to the time when they can be with us year round.

On another note, we also had a modicum of success with our "*Come Sing With Us For The Holidays*" experiment. Maybe with a little more intensive, promotional effort next year, we will be able to realize an even more significant response.

Finally, our Christmas show is both a sprint and a marathon. We don't just sing for three audiences. We plan,

prepare, procure, transport, assemble, construct, serve, tear down, and clean up. The number of ready, willing and able worker bees has shrunk somewhat over the years. Some of us simply can't contribute to the extent that we once did. I received an e-mail from one of our members who expressed regret that due to his physical limitations, he could not assist with the set up or tear down tasks. Singing in all three shows was all he could muster. My response was: "No worries. You gave what you could and thanks for that."

I'd like to believe we all did what we could. As the years mount up it doesn't get any easier. On the other hand, it doesn't get any less rewarding. The O E C is simply the greatest. Victory!

Jim White photos



















October's Barbershopper Of The Month Is A "Renaissance Man"!



Joan Golding Photo

- one of the men was his nominee for BOTM.

by Jay Campbell

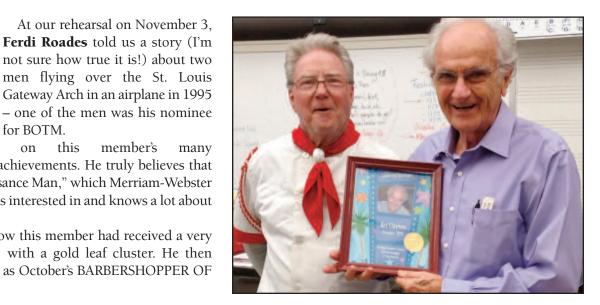
At our rehearsal on November 3,

Gateway Arch in an airplane in 1995

on this Ferdi expounded member's many accomplishments and achievements. He truly believes that this person is a "Renaissance Man," which Merriam-Webster defines as "a man who is interested in and knows a lot about many things."

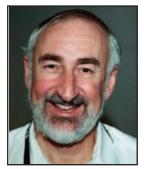
Ferdi then told us how this member had received a very special award in 2001 with a gold leaf cluster. He then presented Art Clayton as October's BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH.

I'm sure I can speak for all our members when I say: "Well-deserved and congratulations, Art!"



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A footnote



Joan Golding Photo

By Steve Sarandis

As I was thinking about the year 2015 and what to expect in 2016, I thought about our fun rehearsals, our competitions, singing Valentines, our annual show and how we had a successful mystery dinner show, our annual picnic, our

performance at the Muck, our performance at Ken's Lakeside Park, and finally our annual Cabaret shows. I thought it was fun and successful. I found it to be a good statement of our camaraderie among a group of guys with a common interest in singing. We had a very successful year. Can we do it again in 2016? The answer is yes.

We need to recruit new singers and continue to think positive that singing is fun and healthy. Once we start thinking that we are too old or too small of a group we lose the positivity that we need to live and have fun singing.

I regress, did you hear this one?

Just before Christmas, an honest politician, a generous lawyer and Santa Claus all got into the lift (elevator) at the Ritz Hotel in London. As the lift travelled from the 5th floor down to the ground level, one-by-one they noticed a £50 note lying on the lift's floor. Which one picked up the £50 note, and handed it in at reception?

By Jay Campbell

BARBERSHOPPER

A "Hotrodder" was August's Barbershopper of the Month and an

At our rehearsal on October

OF

THE

"Armadillo Driver" was September's

13th, Ferdi Roades presented two

MONTH awards: one for the

month of August and one for

Santa of course, the other two don't actually exist! How about the one of the snow woman that was threatened by a rabbit?



What will 2016 bring? I have no idea but I will be positive and think positive. We as the Orange Empire Chorus will have another successful year.

So what will your New Year's resolution be? I listed the progression of my resolutions below:

- 2012: I will get my weight down below 180 pounds.
- 2013: I will follow my new diet religiously until I get below 200 pounds.
- 2014: I will develop a realistic attitude about my weight.
- 2015: I will work out 3 days a week.
- 2016: I will try to drive past a gym at least once a week.

Let's all have a common New Year's resolution to continue to sing and have fun. Remember, we are number fun and we love to entertain. But it is also important that we always strive to be better by following our Directors and continuing to uphold each other.

Catching Up With Barbershoppers of the Month



Joan Golding Photo

September.

Ferdi gave a long dissertation about the unselfish nature of his August nominee. Then Ferdi told how the nominee dedicated "lots of time" to the Chorus. Then he told how this person liked hotrods – especially old Chevys. Then Ferdi told us that this person planned a great picnic and as you might imagine by now – we all just about knew who it had to be (and it was!) **Mac McDougall**. Congratulations, "Mac"!

Ferdi then began his presentation of the BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH for September. He

told us how this nominee could make a rifle from a piece of pipe (Hmmm, a couple of us could do this!), how he could make an armadillo do tricks (Hmmm, could this be Pete Saputo?) and how he could drive a truck pulling a float full of Barbershoppers in a parade! Well, of course, this was **Pete Saputo**! Congratulations to you also, Pete!



Rolling Tones in Mesa



Joan Golding Photo

By Steve Hansen, VP Music and Performance

Sixty four men joined the *Harmony Platoon* and enjoyed a great singing experience at the FWD contest/convention last October in Mesa, Arizona. On a Thursday and Friday, just before the *Orange Empire Chorus* joined the main

events at FWD, another fun Harmony Platoon was held at the Marriott Mesa Hotel. As you may know, Harmony Platoon is open to any barbershopper willing to learn four new songs with a part predominant CD and come well prepared to sing in randomly selected quartets with three other guys from all over the FWD. There were three rounds of Platoon singing, so we all had the opportunity to sing in three different quartets.

The fellows in my last random quartet were **Dave** from Palo Alto, **Jim** from Santa Monica, and **Corbert** from Palm Springs. We called ourselves the "*Rolling Tones*." We knew our parts well, and had a good blend. In the final round, quartets do not know what song they will sing until they are called up on stage. Of the four songs, "*Moonshine Lullaby*," "*All Dressed Up With a Broken Heart*," "*When I Lift up My Head*," and "*You're*



Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone," (from Pitch Perfect), we were asked to sing the last one. We performed well enough to earn a second place out of about 16 quartets.

Then all 64 members of the Platoon were invited to sing two of the songs as a chorus on stage during the convention. The Platoon chorus was unofficially rated by the judges and scored in the low 70's. That's pretty good for an ad hoc chorus with only a brief rehearsal. All the members of *Preferred Blend* took part in the Platoon and had a great time. We highly recommend that any barbershopper interested in getting some quartet experience join in the fun at the division contest next March in Las Vegas. Please contact Bill Kane, Harmony Platoon coordinator, at billkanevip@msn.com for more information and registration.

Wedding Bells for Preferred Blend



Joan Golding Photo

By Steve Hansen, aka "Ole Blue Eves"

Wedding bells rang on November 7, but not for any of the members of *Preferred Blend*. They actually rang for *Ben and Kristina* who "tied the knot" at the beautiful *Kellogg House Mansion* on the Cal Poly Pomona campus on a beautiful Saturday

afternoon in early November. When we received the green light to sing for this event, our first wedding performance, we knew we would be singing for the reception. Soon however, we received a call from the groom informing us that he wanted us to also "sing" the bride down the aisle as well as members of the wedding party. He specifically requested "*It Had to Be You*" for the bride and wanted some suggestions for the bridesmaids and groomsmen. We recommended and sang "*Just in Time*" for the groomsmen and "*Let Me Call You Sweetheart*" for the bridesmaids – all seven of them! "*Everywhere You Go*" was our recessional for these beaming and excited newlyweds. It was an elegant wedding, officiated by the bride's uncle, and attended by scores of friends and family. After the ceremony, we sang to those gathered for the reception in small groups while the wedding party took their pictures. In addition to singing for the bride and groom after pictures, we also sang to all the bridesmaids *"You Make Me Feel So Young"*. They loved it and of course we got lots of hugs. What a special treat for us to sing for this wonderful occasion, our first wedding.



High School Students Pitch In



Joan Golding Photo

By Tom Nichols

I don't know about you, but I was exhausted by the time we finished our *Christmas Cabaret* show. Setting up, serving dinner, performing as a chorus and then cleaning up afterwards is a lot of work, especially when we do it three times in two days. Don't get me wrong, I love the Christmas show. It's one of the most fun things we do

all year. But it is tiring, and it makes my feet hurt.

Luckily, we had about ten students from *La Habra High School* at each show, ready and willing to help with anything we needed. They served food, poured coffee, worked the line in the kitchen, helped clean up, and sang *"Carol of the Bells"* for our audience, all with the boundless energy and enthusiasm of youth. They were running circles around me. It's a good thing they were there - I don't know how we could have done it all without them. They seemed to enjoy being there to lend a hand.

Every year **Art Clayton** anxiously asks me if they will come again to help us with the show, and every year they show up at our request. This year we also had *Fullerton Union High School* students helping us with our first annual Mystery Dinner Theater show in April. I attribute their continuing support to the good relationships we have built with the high schools.

Over ten years ago, Pete Saputo started

patiently asking the high school choir directors what they needed, and then making sure they got what they asked for. Pete fixes risers, builds storage cabinets, and installs mirrors in classrooms. As a chapter, we send students to *Diva Day* and *Young Men's Harmony Festival*, provide an orchestra for an annual combined high school choir concert, award scholarships to winners of our annual music student's competition, and address other needs as they arise. For the last few years, **Craig Ewing, Woody Woodson** and I have been teaching the kids to sing barbershop harmony in their high school classrooms. We have other barbershoppers and Sweet Adelines members to come and help.

As a result of all of that, both teachers and students welcome us into their classrooms and enthusiastically support our shows. They even sponsor our use of the Fullerton Union High School choir room free of charge. That is quite a lot of direct benefit from our efforts. But as an intangible benefit, we are also building an army of young people that have learned to love barbershop. They will become future members, show patrons and friends in the community. Beyond that, I believe that for our own health as an organization, we can't be content with just trying to survive, we need to focus some effort outwards and be active in our community. The alternative is to isolate ourselves, and slowly decline in membership and audience attendance until we just fade away.

Let's not fade away. Our current youth project is **The OC Student Union**, a chorus of boys from local high schools. They are learning three songs to perform in competition with other youth choruses at the fast approaching



Harmonic Heartbreakers win 2015 SoCal Novice Quartet Contest. The members of the quartet also helped at several Christmas Cabaret shows during their high school years. From left: coach Tom Nichols, bass Tristen Urban, baritone Justin Gabriel, tenor Josh Salgado, and lead Andrew Hernandez.

International Midwinter Convention in Reno. The boys are enthusiastic and looking forward to the trip. We have everything covered except for the cost.

For the last two years, all of our youth efforts have been funded by grants, our annual Harmony Under the Stars benefit shows and donations. None of our receipts from Singing Valentines, annual shows or Cabaret shows have gone to youth since the 2014 annual show. We need donations to continue this work. If you think our efforts to instill a love of harmony and singing in our young people is worthwhile, please contribute what you can. You can send your tax-free **Youth in Harmony** donations to:

Orange Empire Chorus Youth in Harmony Fund P.O. Box 3331 Fullerton, CA 92834-3331



Dick Cote Photo

The Lighter Side

By Sam Glorioso

Yep. It's still early in the new year. So I guess I can still talk about it. But I didn't have to tell you-unless you were unconscious. Many people look back at

the year just passed and ramble on how they are going to do things differently. I tried that; it didn't work. It's just like un-breaking an egg-it can't be done. It's just as well. I'm just the same old lovable me doing the same thing year after year. Nobody would know me otherwise.

There is something I have wondered for a long time: how many people read my column other than me, my editor and a few sprinkled here and there. I read it to see what I wrote. The editor reads it to see what he can leave in or delete. So hello out there! No one has ever "died laughing". After all the tiring hours at the computer, the endless scratching of my head trying to come up with something. Maybe that's where I got my bald spot on the top of my head. I have been writing this column for about fifteen years.Yipes! Has it been that long? Wait just a minute while I count on my fingers. (wait). My fingers weren't enough so I had to count with my toes. Yep. I counted at least five toes.

Why am I still writing it? I know one reason is the editor needs fillers. I have loved writing this column. I hope you have loved reading it. If it brings a little chuckle to you I am happy even though it sometimes was at my expense .. I even laugh at some of the silly things I write. Most of them express all the things that I blame on the "black cloud".

Sometimes I just can't take me anywhere. But that's where all the excitement is. How else could I come up with things to write?

My big problem is that too many ideas are running around in my brain and it doesn't hold much. All these ideas fight each other so when one thought goes in two have to leave.

I'll give it another try.

Like the Terminator said "I'll be back".



President's Corner



By Ken Klein, President

A Happy Year Ending

The Fall of 2015 will be a season that will hold a lot of fond memories for me. Our performance at my park, where people are still talking about us, and our Cabaret, which was a special magical time for us all

with our invited guests singing with us and getting an exposure to how much fun we have, were the major highlights of an already wonderful year.

We have talked a lot lately about our support of the Youth outreach. As much as it may be a challenge requiring some extra support in the way of dedicated donations, it has been absolutely heart-warming for me to see the Youth participate in our performances. The high school girl's quartet *Harmonix* was such a great addition to our November show at my park, and the youth who sang at our Cabaret, and were of invaluable help in setting up and taking down the hall, helping with the food, trash removal, etc., made me so proud of our outreach.

In my park, the entertainment for our December park dinner was the Orange High School Choral. They walked in along the hall we used from the billiards room, in couples arm in arm, and of course one of their songs was Carol of the Bells. They thought they were going to embarrass one of the audience by hauling someone up to sing one of their songs with them. My table was near the front and a young couple came and asked if I would join them. Everyone at my table thought it was a setup. It wasn't. I was as surprised as anyone. Turns out I knew their song and sang along, also adding in the chorus kicks they had their front row do. At the end of the song when they escorted me back to my seat the director said "hmmm – so you sing. Who do you sing with?" So we got a little more notice. At the end of the evening, the gal running the 50/50 draw said into her mic "Hey Ken, looks like you've got some competition". My response: "Those kids are the future of vocal music."

As we embark on the New Year 2016, I'm excited about our performances, how much fun they are, and how great it is to be able to have a Road Show that can be tweaked a bit when needed.

I look at our regular chorus meetings as coaching sessions to help us be our best when we compete or perform, and as times to get together with friends – guys who have become family to me. That family is with me no matter where I go, because it represents a part of who I am – and hope it is the same for all of us as we launch our New Year. Here's the great trophy we were awarded for Best Float in the Fullerton Founders Day Parade!



Sugar Daddies' Holidays



Dick Cote Photo

By Mike Evans

It was that busy holiday season again and the *Sugar Daddies* (**Dave Lowerre, Tom Nichols, Don Derler** and **Mike Evans**) were busy as well. We couldn't help starting the season by visiting with our friend **Buddy Lange** and singing a song or two at his Halloween bash. His whole street really does Halloween up right with haunted houses and parties all

with haunted houses and parties all

up and down the street. That also makes for a nice audience to entertain with a couple of barbershop songs.

The month of November was mostly preparing for our part in the *Christmas Cabaret*. However, we did enjoy participating in the Chorus' performance at the *Lake Park Community*, which was set up by our president, **Ken Klein**. The chorus performed their show set and the *Sugar Daddies* were one of several featured quartets.

December began with the Chorus' *Christmas Cabaret*, which we are sure, you will read more about in this issue. After our three performances in the Cabaret we rested a few days before our much-anticipated performance at the *Phoenix Club* in Anaheim. This was our third year performing for them. Our spouses and we were treated to a fabulous feast and entertainment, with songs sung in German by folks in their German language classes. Our hosts for the evening were **Jay and**

Mary Campbell. When it was our turn, we sang Christmas songs from the Cabaret and a few from our own repertoire. It is always a pleasure to sing for these folks and we had another great time. I hope they invite us again next year (hint, hint Jay).

Two days later we were at it again. This time we performed our Christmas show at the *Placentia Library*. It was another fun audience and we were amazed when after Tom's introduction to the song "We Wish It Could Be Christmas Every Day", explaining how obscure a song it was, one of the audience members could be seen singing along. It was truly a surprise and a delight.

The next day found us performing at Tom's grandnephew's birthday party. We had agreed to meet at the park in Orange where it was being held since we all had different schedules to keep. I was a little surprised to find that it was at a park since the weather was a little unpredictable. When I arrived, I looked for some sort of decorations at the picnic tables and a group of people. The park seemed a little empty and there were no decorations to be seen. I decided to wander around anyway and see if I could find the party. Soon I saw signs leading to a small building in the center of the park and there, to my relief, was the party. The birthday boy was turning one year old so we had to wait for him to wake up from his nap. When we started singing he was placed near us so he could watch us sing. He stared with amazement at these four guys making harmonic noises. I think he was actually enjoying it. I also think that more people were watching his reaction to us than were watching our performance. Oh well, how can you compete with a one-year-old?



We capped off our Holidays with a performance at the *Muckenthaler Cultural Center*. We were invited to perform on stage at their *Annual Holiday Festival*. It is always a pleasure to perform there. The audiences are great and we get to see other acts as well. One of the acts to follow us was the *Darden Sisters Band*. This was made up of four sisters ranging from age 14 to 19. They sang and played a variety of songs and some were sung in a cappela with four part harmony. They sounded great. We were just glad that we were on stage before them and didn't have to follow such a great sound.

We Sugar Daddies hope that you had a great Holiday Season and wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

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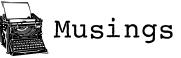
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Fullerton Chapter SPEBSQSA Mission Statement

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.

Editorial





By Don Derler, Publisher/Editor

Wow! What a great Year! How do I know this? Easy! I just went and looked at last year's past issues of The Clippins'. All of these issues are there for you to enjoy and re-live the terrific times we had in 2015. Give it a try and I'm sure you'll agree

Terri Derler Photo

that the Fullerton Chapter is truly "Number Fun"! We kicked off the year with a fantastic Installation and Awards Banquet. We followed that up with a very successful Singing Valentines program that had lots of quartets "spreading the love" all over Orange County. We had a novice quartet, The Harmonic Heartbreakers, from our chapter, take top honors in the Novice Quartet Contest. Our Mystery Dinner Theater concept couldn't have gone better. We put on a great show for good-sized audiences and we made a profit! We took the "Most Improved Chorus" award at the Southeast Division Contest. We had an amazing Summer Picnic with lots of great food, lots of great singing and lots of fun. We created a "Roadshow" package that we debuted at The Nixon Library and went on to perform that same package at a sold-out performance at The Muckenthaler. We participated in the Fullerton Founders Day Parade and received a trophy for Best Float! Then we capped off the year with one of the best Christmas Cabaret shows we have ever done. Whew! That's a lot of fun packed into one year and those are only the highlights. I can only imagine the good times that are in store for us in 2016. One thing that would make our year more fun is to bring new friends into the chorus, so keep wearing your "Where Do You Sing" buttons and keep recruiting. We already have a few new prospects from that effort and hopefully, there are more to come. Let's have a blast this year and keep the good times coming!



Are you wearing yours?



Don Derler, Publisher/ Editor P.O. Box 3331 Fullerton, CA 92834 714-441-1864 don@derlerart.com

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.)

We meet Tuesdays, 7:00pm at 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

Chartered July 1957 Home of the ORANGE EMPIRE CHORUS

Craig Ewing, Musical Director

Associate Directors Tom Nichols, Dennis Woodson





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