



2016 Installation Banquet at the Fullerton Elks Lodge



by Jay Campbell

As the “A&R Banquet Chairman” this year, I began preparations for the annual *Awards and Recognition Banquet* back in August of last year. We’ve had our last four or five banquets at the *Howard Johnson Hotel* in Fullerton and they’ve been very successful (if I must say so, myself!), but, as I usually do, I contacted three possible locations to

Joan Golding Photo

get the best deal for our chorus. After some back-and-forth discussions, **Pete Saputo** and I decided to hold the banquet at the *Elks Lodge* – possibly because we could get all of our drinks at member prices if Pete, a member of the Fullerton Elks, signed the banquet agreement.

On Saturday, January 16th, after all “Social Adjustments” were made, **Dennis “Woody” Woodson** eloquently spoke “Words of Welcome” to everyone and then **Mike Werner** directed all of us in singing a rousing version of “The Old Songs”. **Tom Nichols** then presented the “Past Presidents Parade” and **Ken Klein** gave his “Past President’s Review” of our 2015 activities.



The kitchen staff of the Elks Lodge prepared and served a wonderful dinner of roast pork, salmon or chicken (which everyone seemed to enjoy) and then the “Youth In Harmony Review” was presented by **Tom Nichols**. Tom discussed the source and use of funds for the YIH program and how much we all hope it will benefit the coming generation of music lovers and – hopefully – how it will produce a new batch of Barbershoppers for the society.

Special awards were then presented by **Ken Klein** and

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Joan Golding photos

Our Heroes... Contributors to this issue:

Jay Campbell, Steve Sarandis, Steve Hansen,
Tom Nichols, Sam Glorioso, Ken Klein, Buddy Yarnell,
Mark Logan, Dave Lowerre and Pete Saputo

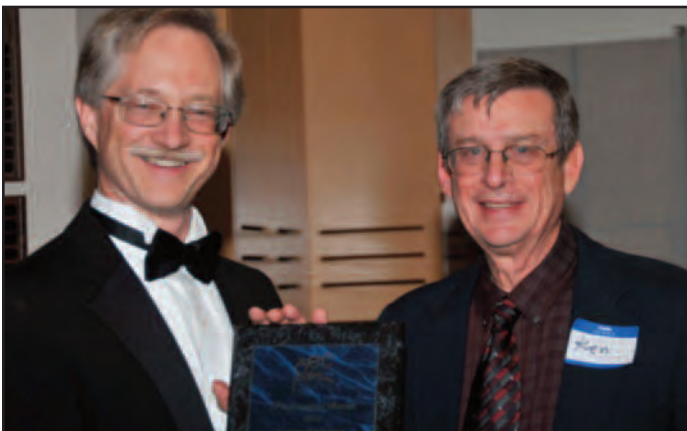
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Woody (our director, **Craig Ewing**, would normally have presented this award, but was absent due to a death in the family). **Jim White** was named “Rookie Of The Year” (Jim was unable to attend the banquet and received his plaque at rehearsal on the following Tuesday). **Mark Logan** (known to all as our “Salmon Wrangler”) won the “Shooting Star” award for all of his work as the new Chorus Manager and **Sam Glorioso** was given the “Rupert Hall” award for his many behind-the-scene activities, such as leading the “Harmony For Lunch Bunch” and helping with the weekly (almost!) raffle.

Sweet Harmonix was named "Quartet of the Year". These young women from La Habra High School formed their quartet in the fall of 2014, quickly developed their

singing and performance skills, and supported our chapter by entertaining audiences on our shows at Nixon Library, the Muckenthaler Cultural Center and Lake Park. The “Director’s Award” was presented to **Gary Maxwell**. The “President’s Award” was earned by **Tom Nichols**, who did an outstanding job working with “the kids” in our chapter’s *Youth In Harmony Program*.

Ferdi Roades then gave a speech about his personal barbershopping voyage through life – how he left Missouri in 1974, came to California, and then stayed out of barbershopping for 20 years before attending one of our chorus rehearsals, where he met **Lloyd Jones** and became his “snacks assistant” (for the sake of brevity, I’ve summarized Ferdi’s speech). Ferdi then made a special presentation of his “Eagles, Chefs and Heroes Award” to



Lloyd, who is retiring after all these years of faithful service to the chorus. At our rehearsal on the following Tuesday, Ferdi passed the “Chef’s Baton” to **Jim Gruver**, who will be taking Lloyd’s place.

Terri Derler presented “The Orange Blossom Special Award” to **Vi Robirds**, who has done so much for our chorus throughout the years. Terri then presented the “Orange Blossom Of The Year” award to **Sheila Lowerre**, who has taken on numerous tasks for our chorus, most notably setting up Singing Valentine’s Central, assisting with the scheduling/routing of the deliveries and co-hosting the Chorus Christmas Party at their home.

Dave Lowerre then took center stage to present the Barbershopper of the Year. Dave showed a slide show that spanned about 60 years, depicting the life and times of **Mike Evans**, our 2016 Barbershopper of the Year (and, I might add, our newly-elected V.P. of Internet Marketing – aka “Webmeister”).

The installation of our newly-elected 2016 Board of Directors was masterfully done by “**Woody**” (the listing of “Chapter Officers & Other Important People” is shown on the back cover). After introducing the new Board of Directors, he also directed them in “singing a song for their dinner”.

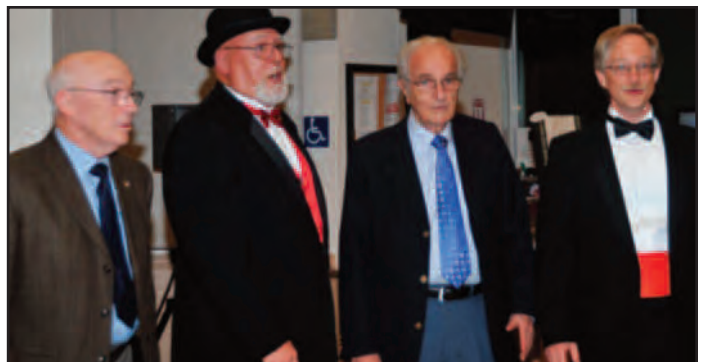
After **Ken Klein** had taken the mike and described his 2016 Presidential Goals, **Gary Maxwell** presented a slide show titled “In Remembrance”. Gary emphasized that his presentation was incomplete because his effort is just starting and many photos are missing. What he could present was a wonderful tribute to our (all too many!) deceased members and Orange Blossoms. For next year, everyone is encouraged to submit more photos of “our fallen” for a presentation that we hope will become an

annual part of our A&R Banquet.

After Gary’s presentation, **Art Clayton** showcased our entertainment for the evening. We were entertained by “*Preferred Mix*”, “*The Sugar Daddies*”, “*The Spitunes*” and by the “*Triglycerides + 1*” quartets.

Woody gave the “Summary and Closing” remarks and then **Mike Werner** directed all members in our closing song “Keep The Whole World Singing”.

Gene Renck had been organizing the A&R Banquet when I became involved and, with Gene’s mentoring over the past few years, I had become almost comfortable with organizing and holding the A&R Banquet at the Howard Johnson Hotel. I must say that I had a lot of trepidation about changing to a new venue. However, I think the decision worked out well and we had a great banquet! Please plan on coming to next year’s banquet, which is tentatively scheduled for January 14th, 2017!



Smiling Faces Everywhere at the A&R Banquet!



More Smiling Faces at the A&R Banquet!



Guess where these pictures are from..





Dick Cote Photo

The Lighter Side *and a little bit of HFLB*

By Sam Glorioso

We have a lot of fun at HFLB. It gives us an opportunity to let our hair down (those who have hair left) and just be ourselves.

Harmony for Lunch Bunch is a tremendous way for everyone to get together and have a good time. It is something we don't have time to do at our rehearsals. Whether it is the weekly ones or the ones that are provided at competition venues.

Stan French had been "MR HFLB" for about a hundred years and nobody can come near what he has done. As matter of fact, many people don't know that Stan was the originator of HFLB. During these many years he has gained the reputation of having the best HFLB in the Far Western District ... maybe the Society.

I can tell you stories of what has occurred during the many years that I have been attending and the many years I have been "taking names". Unfortunately (or fortunately) I have forgotten them. There were times when I wrote about them in this column. I would have to look back at them to find out what they were.

When there were times when Stan couldn't make it he would call me and ask me to take names. I consider myself either a back-up or an understudy. I would make up a sign up sheet and have it ready for Stan. When I would sub for him I

would try to get everybody to sign. I used a little ruse to get the signatures. I began to tell everyone "I get two cents for every signature I get". Whether that helped or not is a question I have never got an answer or the money. It was then I got a little greedy. I told everyone I got a raise to three cents per signature. The negative was that I didn't collect either way. I am still waiting. So I guess I will go back down to two.

Stan would always greet everybody with a great big smile and a handshake. One might forget the smile but not the handshake. He had a grip like a vise.

I suppose I just took it upon myself to carry on collecting names. I never knew what Stan did with the names all those years. Someone asked me what I did with the sheets. I told him and everyone else that they didn't want to know. If I am pressed, I simply say they pile up in my folders. So now you know. Don't ask me anymore.

As the years creep up on us, we tend to slow down and watch the world pass us by. Let me tell you how I figure this out. Life is like a parade. When we are young we are full of energy ready to take on the world. We are in the front row of the parade. As we age we move further toward the back of the parade. We soon find ourselves in the last row of the parade.

Finally, we are sitting on the curb, watching the parade go by.

The 2016 Young Men's Harmony Festival



by Jay Campbell

On Saturday, February 20, my wife, **Mary Roth**, and I attended the *2016 Young Men's Harmony Festival* at *Orange Coast College* in Costa Mesa. This annual event is sponsored by the *Masters Of Harmony* (MoH) chorus, the *Barbershop Harmony Society* and

the *Southern California Vocal Association*.

Somehow the organizers, under the direction of the YMIH Chairman, Mark Freedman, were able to provide a full day of barbershop style music training for 207 young men from many Southern California schools, as far away as Palm Springs – about a two hour drive from here. The full day of barbershopping ended with their concert at 7:00 p.m. It was truly awesome to listen to 207 young men

singing! I especially enjoyed their rendition of "Coney Island Babe"!

After "the kids" sang, *The Newfangled Four* quartet (2013 International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet champions) sang and entertained us with several songs, including "Love Letters Straight From Your Heart" and "Frankie and Johnny".

The *Masters of Harmony* chorus, which includes our illustrious director **Craig Ewing** and our dual member, **Gary Stone**, then performed 3 or 4 songs. Their most memorable song (for me) was "First Day in Heaven".

The program ended with a very full stage consisting of the *Masters of Harmony Chorus*, all 207 of the YMIH boys and *The Newfangled Four* quartet. They all sang the grand finale "I Have a Song to Sing".

Besides **Pete and Elaine Saputo**, **Mary** and I seemed to be the only attendees from the *Orange Empire Chorus*. The rest of you missed a wonderful show and I hope you will all plan to go next year!



O.C. Student Union Rocks in Reno!



By Tom Nichols

Timothy Coleman started his solo on “My Old Man” one measure late and out of sync with *The OC Student Union* chorus singing behind him on the stage. Standing in front of the chorus, I wondered what kind of arm-waving I could do to get them synced up. But then Tim somehow fixed it himself. Most people in the audience never realized there was a

problem. The chorus went on to finish their performance in the *International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival* without a hitch, and we received a rating of “Excellent” for our efforts. (Here are links to our other songs in the festival “I Don’t Mind Being All Alone”, and “M-O-T-H-E-R”.)

That was just one of the highlights of our bus trip to Reno to compete in the festival. The boys also had a coaching session with **Deke Sharon**, a cappella singing advocate and producer of the *Sing-Off* television series; sang on stage with the *Westminster chorus*; had fun in the arcade at *Circus Circus*; and some got their first sight of falling snow. In addition to snowball fights, the young men got some inspiration from the trip. “Just being able to experience such wonderful harmony brought into being by professional barbershop choirs and quartets was something that I’ll never forget,” said **Paul Chung**, a senior at *Sunny Hills High School* in Fullerton. **Eduardo Martinez**, a sophomore at *La Habra High School*, added, “I met my inspiration to start singing, Deke Sharon.” **Nathan Oelkers**, a Fullerton Union High School sophomore, said, “The fact that we could easily walk up to almost anyone and burst into song together was a great thing that I remember from it.”

The Reno trip was the culmination of several months of effort. Last October, Choral directors from La Habra, Buena Park, Sunny Hills and Fullerton Union high schools selected 29 young men to participate in *The OC Student Union*. Then the work started. I volunteered to direct the chorus. **Don Derler** and **Mike Evans** were the bass and baritone section leaders, and **Andrew Hernandez**, now a college freshman and the lead of last year’s novice quartet champion quartet, *Harmonic Heartbreakers*, from La Habra High School, led the leads.

Rehearsals were intense. We got off to a good start, learning the chorus parts to “My Old Man” in the first rehearsal and performing it for the boys’ parents. The boys were excited – they liked the pace and sense of accomplishment. We insisted on attendance – with only eight 90 minute rehearsals, there was no time to wait for anyone to catch up. We packed as much as we could into each rehearsal - learning notes and words, practicing moves, sectionals, singing tags, and auditioning for solos. At the sixth rehearsal, the chorus still

sounded pretty ragged. I need not have worried. Everything came together in the last two rehearsals. The boys gained confidence and had fun singing the songs. The fun was a big part of our success at the festival. When you are having fun, you actually sing better and the audience has more fun too. After we left the stage, people kept coming up to tell us how much they enjoyed our performance.

It was an expensive trip. We provided the transportation and the meals, and those boys can really eat. Why do something like that? What is the return on investment? First of all, I should point out that the trip was funded by *Youth in Harmony* donations and our *Harmony Under the Stars* benefit show, so what we invested in *The OC Student Union* was not our *Christmas Cabaret* or *Singing Valentines* income, but our time, energy and abilities. The result of our efforts was exemplified by what we heard on the 15-hour bus ride home from Reno – the boys were singing barbershop songs and tags. They are fired up about barbershop. Quartets from



The OC Student Union enjoys some fun in the snow.

two of the high schools have entered this year’s novice quartet contest. The boys are asking if we can go to the chorus festival again next year, or at least before they graduate.

We are building an army of barbershop-loving young people in our community. They are our future audience members, directors, school music teachers, friends in other community organizations, and perhaps, someday, active chapter members. When I was younger and even more foolish, I ridiculed the idea of networking. I thought it was a waste of time, but it turned out to be very useful in my career in the defense industry. To survive and thrive as a chapter, we must continue to build a network of friends in our community. We cannot predict how it will help us, but we can be sure that it will. When **Pete Saputo** started working with high school music teachers several years ago, we could not have predicted that it would result in the rent-free use of the *Fullerton Union High School* choir room for our chapter meetings.

As we worry about declining audiences and membership, it is tempting to focus inward and hoard our energy and resources, but this can only accelerate our decline. To grow and thrive, we need to reach out and make connections in our community. Our youth activities are a good start at this. Let’s figure out how to build on that start.

Sugar Daddies - from Dave's Perspective



Joan Golding Photo

By Dave Lowerre

Installation:

The installation dinner was marked by the announcement of our new Barbershopper of the Year: **Mike Evans**. Mike was as surprised as everyone else but apparently the selection committee thinks he deserves recognition and stuff. Well good for him.

Midwinter:

I found the secret to having a great time at a barbershop convention: make sure your whole quartet is there!

Sure it is great to sing tags with strangers, but it is even better when you get a chance to sing *Coney Island Washboard Roundelay* in the middle of Harmony Marketplace in front of a whole lot of young people. That requires a quartet that has practiced (or the bell chords will be hell chords!)

I was fortunate that the other members of my quartet: **Tommy Nichols, Mike Evans, and Don Derler**, were all attending the midwinter convention in Reno as chaperones for the *OC Student Union* chorus. This meant that all I had to do was be there and I would get lots of chances to sing with my quartet. So of course **Sheila** and I went!

And so it was that I spent many halcyon hours relaxing in the splendor that is the *Peppermill Resort* in Reno, sipping adult beverages with my friends and singing some of our favorite songs. We had to use a stand-in for Tommy until after the competition. Even then he felt compelled to 'herd' the young men until he realized that they could be trusted enough for him to relax and enjoy himself.

We found ourselves at one point singing *'Its All Your Fault'* to a group of ladies who just happened to be out looking for fun. They sure thought they had found it when they heard us singing. Since they were enjoying it we kind of threw it their way and after we were done they were rather disappointed that we didn't really mean it! *The Sugar Daddies* are all happy hubbies after all.

The young mens chorus competition was the most entertaining contest I have seen yet, and I have been to a lot of contests. Seeing the looks on all the young faces as the 'suck cam' pans across for closeups is endlessly entertaining. You can really see the joy of singing in all their performances.

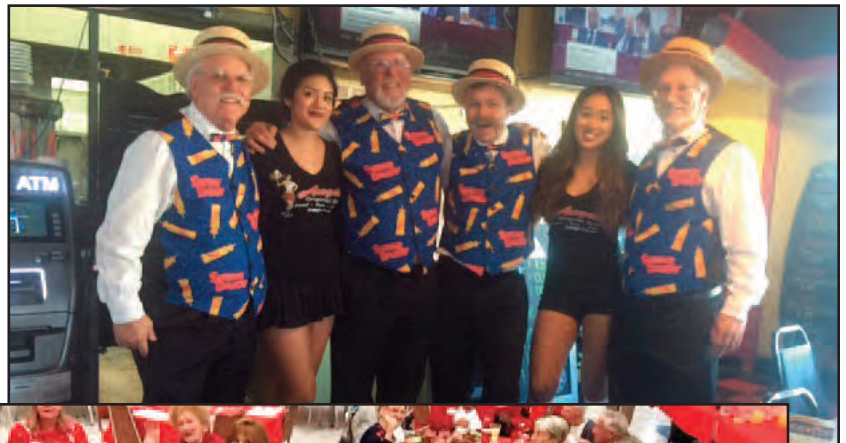
The convention ended just as a storm came in to make

everyones homeward journey a tale worth telling, but everyone arrived home safe if not on time. It was a delightful experience.

Valentines:

The Sugar Daddies had the opportunity to deliver many valentines over two weekends even though our sales were down. We sang to sweethearts at homes, offices, living facilities and restaurants.

This year we did some self-promotion by taking selfies with some of our clients. People at a party seem to love getting 'into the picture'. Using these photos we generated some 'buzz' amongst our friends on Facebook.



Adventures Of "TLTF" In Reno



By Buddy Yarnell

What is TLTF you ask? That's "The Little Tenor Fella" AKA **Buddy Yarnell**. That acronym was given to me by **Les Weiser**, Lead of "Blood Sweat and Years" and formerly the Lead of "California Crossroads", 2007 FWD Senior champs, who I was lucky enough to

Joan Golding Photo

sing with.

Well, let's get back to my Reno Mid -Winter adventures. I normally write out a list of items to bring to a Barbershop convention. Needless to say, I didn't do that this time due to various reasons which I won't bore you with. My wife, **Nina** accompanied me on this fun trip as she was concerned about me driving in what could be hazardous conditions, so we flew. Yes, Nina was right (She usually is - don't tell her I said that). Eleven hours driving vs an hour and twenty minutes flying does make a lot of sense.

We had a Suite at the **Peppermill Resort**, the Headquarters hotel. Probably the nicest BHS venue I've ever stayed at. All events were in the resort. All you had to do was find them! There was something going on just about all the time. Nina and I attended the class put on by "Saturday Evening Post", our 2015 Senior Champs. I learned a lot, which hopefully "Preferred Blend / Mix" will incorporate in our practices and performances. Now The Rest Of The Story... I signed up to sing with **Westminster** in the "All Chapter Chorus". This was really fun! We practiced Thursday and Friday nights from 10:30 to Midnight and Saturday from 6:00 to 8:00pm. Then we performed. What a thrill singing with the **Westminster** guys under **Justin Miller's** direction! The uniform we were asked to wear was very simple: black tie, white shirt, black pants and black shoes. No problem. Oops... I forgot my white dress shirt! After going to every source I could think of to no avail, it became obvious I was going to have to buy one. I

called the front desk for their advice in finding a white shirt. Their response was "Try the Burlington Coat Factory about a mile down the street". Well, by this time its snowing, so Nina said, "just buy one at the Men's shop in the hotel". OK, good plan, so we proceeded to do just that. Do you have any idea what a Thomas Dean white dress shirt costs? Neither did I. That darn shirt cost me \$136.00! Probably a 150% mark-up. A little more than the Wal Mart prices I'm used to. Well, after that fiasco, all went well. The All-Chapter chorus did an outstanding performance to a lengthy "standing O".

The other convention events were :

- Harmony Platoon
- Harmony University Classes
- Performances by "C'est La Vie" from Sweet Adelines
- Performances by past Senior Champs : "Resisting - A- Rest", "Rusty Pipes" and "OVER TIME"
- Performance by "Trocadero" - Our 2015 Collegiate Champs
- Performance by "Lemon Squeezy" from Sweden
- Performance by a young quartet of quadruplets from Milwaukee, "Vintage Mix"
- An excellent performance by our boys. "O C Student Union", with an impressive score of 16.47! Thanks **Tommy!** and last but not least, performances by the International Champion Quartet, "Instant Classic" and 2nd thru 5th medalists .

The **Senior Quartet Contest** was a Barn Burner with our FWD quartet, "High Priority", coming in first. My buds, "Blood, Sweat and Years" also did a fine job . Would I do it again? You bet! All of the events, plus a lot of great woodshedding made for a fun convention. By the way, at the next Mid-Winter Convention in San Antonio, we will have a Seniors Chorus Contest for the first time .

Where were all you OEC guys? You missed a great time! TLTF (Buddy)



Happy Birthday Ferdie!



Our new chef, Jim Gruver

A Debt Of Gratitude



By Mark Logan

Delivering singing Valentines has been a very enjoyable, rewarding activity for me every year since I started singing barbershop with the *Orange Empire Chorus*. This year was certainly no different. It seemed, though, that at least one of the members of *DNR*, the quartet in which I sing, was unable to sing for one reason or another. Unfortunately, **Stan** was involved in an accident on the freeway one day on this way to report to Valentine's Central, (aka the Lowerre's residence). He was luckily not injured, but was shaken up and had to cancel singing for a few days. Also, **Woody** was stricken with the dreaded crud which disabled his voice. Valentines Central did its usual amazing job and was able to substitute other singers at the last minute to fill in. Actually, *DNR* was only able to sing with all four members one day during the Singing Valentines campaign. However, it is always fun to be able to deliver singing Valentines with put-together quartets and I think everyone had a good time doing so.

One experience was unusual and didn't involve delivering the singing Valentines. As everyone is aware, **Art Clayton** was severely under the weather this year and was not able to spend the energy and time he always does to make this a success. His effectiveness is patently apparent by viewing the diminished number of orders we received this year without his usual heroic efforts. We did make an attempt to reach people who had placed orders in previous years, but not with the effectiveness of Art.

Several of us met at the Lowerre's a couple of weeks prior to the scheduled start to Singing Valentines. **Tom** distributed the customer list and gave us a scripted pitch to use to guide us in promoting further sales. I spent a little over four hours calling some of the numbers, attempting to contact prior customers. One thing became very apparent. A majority of people don't directly answer incoming calls, but allow their telephone calls to be screened by answering machines. I'm sure that it is due to the increasing prevalence of the number of robo calls people now receive on a daily basis. I know my wife, **Sharon**, and I get a number of them every day attempting to sell solar generation, home remodeling, credit services, etc. Almost without exception, those with whom I did speak were polite and patient with me. Even though declining to place an order this year for one reason or another, many of them actually thanked me for calling and reminding them.

It was amazing to me how many people that I spoke with remembered Art. Some seemed disappointed that I, not Art, was calling. It is obvious that Art had developed a personal relationship with many of the previous Singing Valentines customers. Many asked how he was doing and wanted me to tell Art that they said hello. One specific man with whom I was talking was asking about Art when a small child made a loud screaming noise. The man apologized and said it was his two year old little girl and then added, "Tell Art the singing Valentine worked! We now have a two year old girl because of it." We both had a good laugh about that.

Making all those calls really emphasized how much work Art puts into Singing Valentines and how effective he is at generating orders. The personal relationships he has developed and nurtured over the years is something that can't be replaced. We all owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude.

January BOTM



By Jay Campbell

At our rehearsal on Tuesday, February 9, I was pleasantly surprised to be presented with the *Barbershopper Of The Month* award by our Chapter President, **Ken Klein**! As I recall, I was selected because of my efforts in organizing and pulling off a successful A&R Banquet on January 16th.

Thank you all for this honor! I promise to keep doing my best for the "Number Fun Chorus"!



Singing Valentines! To You, And You.. And You!



By Jay Campbell

Back in November, **Art Clayton, Tom Nichols, Dave and Sheila Lowerre, Fred and Vi Robirds** and I began making preparations for our chorus' *Singing Valentine Program*.

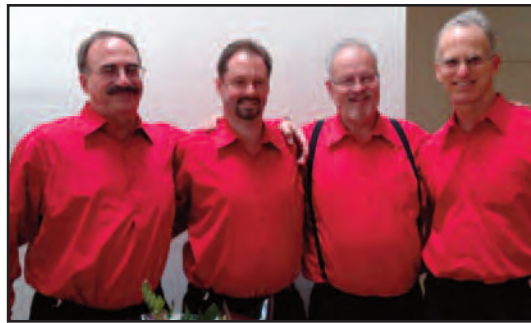
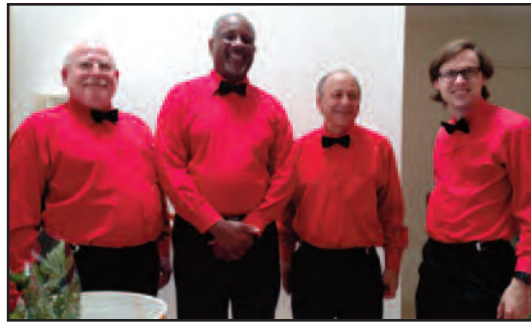
Over the past three or four years Tom has developed a tremendously useful

computer program "in the Google cloud" to route and schedule the deliveries of our Singing Valentines by the various quartets to our customers (mostly in Orange County). Art's major job was (as it has been for years) to make an untold number of phone calls on our "hotline" to our customer base, many of whom return year after year.

In the past, **Fred and Vi Robirds** purchased all the components and then assembled our "Solitary Rose Bouquets" at their home. This year it was decided that **Sheila Lowerre and Terri Derler** would assume the function of picking up the roses, ferns, baby's breath, cellophane, etc. from the wholesaler and they would assemble the bouquets in Sheila's home (aka "Singing Valentine Headquarters" or SV HQ). They were assisted in this phase of our operation by other Orange Blossoms (**Lois Formes, Elaine Mitchell and Christina Weightman**).

In December, **Don Derler** updated/revised the Singing Valentine flyers (with order forms attached) and 1,000 of them, along with business cards, were ordered from the printer. 500 new Valentine cards and envelopes were also ordered. In January ads were placed in the local papers by **Ray Ashcroft** and our flyers were posted in three Polly's Restaurants and Giovanni's Pizza, as well as other places of business in Fullerton. Ads and Flyers were also posted online (Craig's List and Facebook) by some of our members and, of course, on our OECChorus.org website.

Joan Golding Photo



Since we were "quartet limited" last year (we had more orders than our quartets could deliver), we agreed to team up with the *Masters of Harmony* (MoH) Chorus, utilizing their members in quartets to increase our delivery capability.

During the first week of February our Singing Valentines Program "kicked into second gear". **Art Clayton** was spending most of his waking hours on the "hotline" and I was entering the orders into the database so **Tom** and **Sheila** could start their routing/scheduling functions. We started our first deliveries on Saturday, February 6th, and then most of

us took a short break on Superbowl Sunday to watch the game. On Monday, February 8th, SV HQ was set up at the Lowerre's home and we were "in high gear", fully anticipating the delivery of hundreds of Singing Valentines!

It soon became obvious, however, that calamity had struck in a most insidious manner! **Art Clayton**, the keystone of our Singing Valentine program (and telemarketer extraordinaire!), was derailed by a really bad flu bug or something and was almost unable to talk for several days! Our incoming orders dropped precipitously and, although we tried to put together a new calling squad, we could not get back on the desired track. As a result, we only delivered about 130 Singing Valentines this year. Instead of being "quartet limited" this year, we became "order limited", finding ourselves with more singers and quartets than we could use! We had to "call off" several of the OEC quartets who were available, as well as several of the MoH quartets that **Tom Nichols** and **Phil Wolf** had assembled.

Although we fell short of our goal this year, I want to thank the many members of OEC, the MoH members who helped and, of course, our *Orange Blossoms*, who faithfully and fearlessly worked to help us do as well as we did! We can be proud of the fact that we delivered more Singing Valentines than most chapters of the BHS can ever imagine!

A Fun Filled Week of Valentine Cheer



Joan Golding Photo

By Steve Hansen, aka, "ole blue eyes"

What a fun filled week we had with *Preferred Blend* and *Preferred Mix* delivering more singing Valentines than we ever have before. During five days of singing, we delivered over 30 singing Valentines to a wide variety of audiences all over Orange County and beyond.

Our week began on Tuesday evening with a delivery to an appreciative elderly couple in Norwalk and another one during a meeting of the *Fullerton American Legion* at the Sizzler restaurant. Wednesday, we sang for the *Fallbrook Retired Teachers Association* airing all our retired teacher jokes. While in Fallbrook, we also sang for some old barbershop friends of **Pete** and **Buddy**, and they treated us to a delicious luncheon.

Friday was our busiest day with 12 deliveries starting in the early morning for the special education students at the *Endeavor School* in Fullerton. Next we sang in Cypress for one of my oldest friend's mother, in honor of her husband, Bob, who recently passed away. My friend, Mike, took a video and posted it on *YouTube*. We received lots of positive responses to that posting. Then in addition to singing twice at *Olli* on the Cal State Fullerton campus, we sang for my wife **Cheri**, and she surprised us with a yummy strawberry pie! The afternoon took us to *Fairmont School* in Yorba Linda, *Sunrise Elder Care*, *Anaheim Wire Company*, and **Steve Sarandis'** toxicology lab at *UCI*. During the evening we sang for **Ken Klein's** wife, **Sandie**, at their club house, and Ken tagged in for "I don't know why I love you, like I do..." We finished the evening at the *Huntington Beach Yacht Club* and the *Huntington United Methodist Church*. Wow, from little kids to sailboats, what a busy but fun filled day!

Saturday saw us singing for **Stan Tinkle's** wife, **Barbara**, the *Elks Club*, at an Italian Restaurant and at *Micky's Bar*, plus impromptu singing at *Sprouts* for our lunch and at *Blake's Bar-B-Q* for our dinner. On Sunday, we sang at a number of family residences and for a young couple at the *Friend's Church* in Orange. The highlight of the day was singing for **Hershel Green's** wife, **Ann**, on the stage at *Nixon Library*. Hershel was presenting a free Valentine performance entitled the



"Songs of Love" for very appreciative audience, while Ann accompanied him on the piano. We arrived about half way through the performance and Hershel brought us up on stage to surprise Anne, and deliver our songs, rose and card to her in front of the entire audience. **Dick** and **Katherine Cote** were in the audience so they can also attest to the fun we all had.

Attached are a few photos of our fun filled week sharing the surprise, tear filled moments, and joy of this wonderful time of year. Can't wait for the 2017 Valentine season!



Youth In Harmony



By Pete Saputo

What a time we had in Reno! Reno, also known as “The Biggest Little City in the World,” hosted the 2016 Mid-Winter Convention for the *Barbershop Harmony Society*. During this convention there were competitions for Senior Quartet, (High Priority), mid-winter youth quartet finals (Eclectones) and the Youth Chorus Festival.

Joan Golding Photo



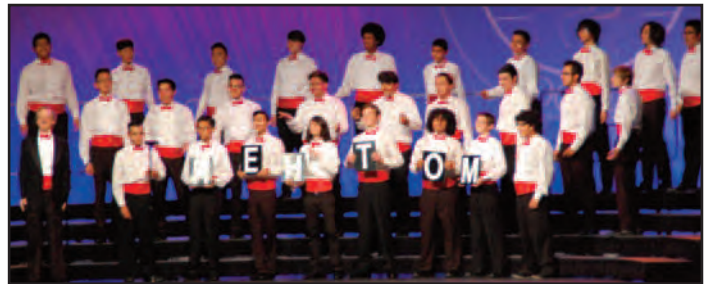
We, the *Orange Empire Chorus*, sponsored the *O.C. Student Union* again. (The name is the same, but the singers have changed.) We had students from the *Fullerton Union High School District* selected by the choral music teachers at each high school. These select students gathered at Fullerton High to rehearse under the direction of our own **Tom Nichols**. Tom had help from **Don Derler**, for the basses, **Mike Evans**, for the baritones and **Andrew Hernandez**, for the leads. Andrew is one of our student singers from La Habra High who graduated and is going to college, but came back to help out with this year’s program.

The boys did a great job with their set. “*M-O-T-H-E-R*”, or rather R-E-H-T-O-M, was a hit as well as “*I Don’t Mind Being All Alone*”, but when they performed “*My Old Man*” the audience went wild. They got a well-justified standing ovation, from a nearly full house, and they received an “Excellent” rating from the judges. One judge gave them a superior rating for performance. After the presentations, the boys received coaching from three of the contest judges. All said that they were pleasantly surprised by the entertainment

and the quality of the performance. All the boys felt that they learned something new from the experience.

We attended the *Westminster Chorus* demonstration class and heard some great singing and performing from the group. This was a learning trip, to say the least.

It was a long bus ride up to Reno and an even longer bus ride back. On the way up we stopped near Mammoth to let the boys see and touch snow. Some had never been in snow and throwing snowballs at each other was a new experience. Other than meal breaks for the driver, we did not stop for anything on the way back because of the snow. Yes, we had snow in Reno. And we had snow all the way back through the 180 portion of the mountains. The driver had to stop and put chains on the bus, thus limiting the speed to around



30 MPH. In Sacramento there was an accident that closed the highway and left the driver with a limited amount of time for him to drive.



He called ahead and made arrangements for a relief driver to meet us in, of all places, *Pumpkin Center*. Needless to say, it was a long time on the bus. Most of the boys were tired and took well-deserved naps, but some were more enthusiastic and started learning the “Pole Cat” songs. They tried to master “*Drivin’ Me Crazy*” and nearly drove me crazy with the repetitions. We finally arrived back at Fullerton High about 17 hours later. What a great trip with some great kids on a wonderful weekend in January.

President's Corner



By Ken Klein, President

Our New Year Challenges

One of the brightest moments for me in February was seeing the well-oiled machine at the **Lowerre's** house as we trooped in and out for the Valentine deliveries. **Sheila** sat in front of a monitor that had to be about 60", and was making use of a very slick program provided by **Tom Nichols**. As smooth as that operation went, it was apparent that one of our greatest needs is to bolster our marketing effort for the Valentines. **Art's** illness this year illustrated that very well, as the number of calls he was able to make was severely limited. When we look at a decline in the Valentine income, which in

some past years has provided about a third of the income that is needed to support our operating expenses, it becomes clear why more attention needs to be paid to the promotional effort.

As you may have seen, we had fewer chapter quartets available this year. Some of us are not oriented to singing in quartets, but the option is always there to give it a try. Make it a point to join three others during the break out in the hall and sing a tag. Doing that enough will help you realize how your part fits in, and how to be comfortable carrying your part on your own. Help is always available from any of those who are quartet regulars.

Mike Evans is making great strides for us in publicizing our shows, performances, special events, etc., and we have budgeted additional search engine options should they be needed to help spread the word.

We have a show coming up that will hopefully tag on to last year's success, and bring in audiences that will have a great time and become regulars at our future shows.

Once we have an audience in our grasp, we can make them want to come back. We did it with our last annual show. Let's do it again!

The Barbershop-Water Polo Connection



By Steve Hansen,
V.P. Music and Performance

Say what! How could there be a connection between Barbershop singing and Water Polo? Here's how. Last January, with my *Preferred Blend* singing buddies, I attended a memorial service for Roger McCandless in Oceanside.

Over a number of years, Roger was a member and served as president or director of the Whittier, San Jose, Napa, and Oxnard chapters of the SPEBSQSA. The older members of *Preferred Blend* knew him well and asked Fred and me to join them and sing for the service. Reading the memorial service program, I learned that not only did Roger enjoy and excel at barbershop quartet singing, but he was also an outstanding Hall of Fame water polo player. In the mid 1950's, as an All-American athlete, he was an alternate for the 1956 US Olympic Water Polo Team, and in 1957 as a member of the San Francisco Olympic Club team, won the AAU Championship.

As a former all-league water polo player myself in high school during the early 1960's, I remembered that my high school coach, Robert Gaughran, was an All-American water polo player during the mid 1950's, and he also belonged to

the San Francisco Olympic Club. Was it possible that Roger and Robert knew each other? Having attended a high school reunion the previous year, I joined some of my old water polo teammates to celebrate our coach's 80th birthday. So I contacted him to learn if he knew Roger and found out it is a small world indeed!

The coach sent me a nice note including the attached picture. It turns out that Roger and Robert, standing next to each other (second row far right) were teammates on the

1957 National Championship team at the San Francisco Olympic Club when they won the title at the New York Athletic Club. They were close friends for many years until Roger moved eastward. In 2010, this is a picture of that team being inducted into the San Francisco Olympic Club Hall of Fame. But if you look closer at the picture, it gets even better! Peter Ueberroth (top row second left), former MLB commissioner, and

chairman of the 1984 LA Olympics, was also a member of the S.F. Olympic Club team and a teammate of Rogers at San Jose State. Unfortunately, Robert was not aware of Roger's passing and also knew little of Roger's strong involvement with Barbershop singing. My coach was glad that I had contacted him and would send along the information about Roger to the other members of their team.

And so there you have it, the barbershop – water polo connection. As the Disney song declares, "It's a small world after all...it's a small, small world." Indeed!



Clippin's Publishing & Policy Information

The Fullerton Chapter Barbershop *Clippin's* is published bimonthly under the auspices of the president of the Fullerton Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA), Inc. Printing and postal costs are paid by the chapter as authorized by the board of directors.

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The folks who get it done:

Clippin's Publisher	Don Derler - don@derlerart.com
Managing Editor	Don Derler 714-441-1864
Copy Editor/Proofreader	Terri Derler
Photography	Joan Golding
Roving Reporter	Fred Robirds

Editorial Musings



Terri Derler Photo

By Don Derler, Publisher/Editor

So there you have the first issue of The Clippins' for 2016. Wait a minute! 2016? I've been the editor and publisher of *The Clippins'* for 3 years? Yep. My first issue was January of 2013. Wow! Those 3 years sure went by quickly. I mentioned this to

Terri and she had the same reaction. She also added that "I guess that means that I've been proof-reading it for 3 years", and she has. Bless her heart.

I got curious about the work I had done, so I went back and looked at some of the old issues. It was really great. All those memories and good times were there for me to experience again. If you want to know why we call ourselves the "Number Fun" chapter, all you have to do is go back and look at some of the past issues. We have had some really good times. I have to tell you that I was re-energized by looking at those past issues. I am so lucky to be a part of the *Orange Empire Chorus*.

Another thing I noticed was that I had some regular and faithful contributors 3 years ago that are no longer submitting articles. I'm not sure why. If you are one of those folks, please consider re-joining our illustrious group of creative individuals that have made *The Clippins'* what it is. (You know who you are)

Also, if you have never contributed anything to *The Clippins'*, I urge you to start contributing now. It's fun to see your name in print! Well... PDF anyway. (I do sort of miss the printed editions.)

As you can tell from the articles in this issue, we have started off the year with a bang! Let's keep that momentum going.

And let's keep up our recruitment efforts. It's probably one of the most important things you can do for the health and well-being of our chorus. I'm still wearing my button...



Are you wearing yours?

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.



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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 Music & Performance VP*
 Public Relations VP*
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 Pete Saputo
 Steve Sarandis
 Jay Campbell
 Mike Evans
 Dick Cote
 Jim Ecret

I.P.P.

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 Barberpole Cat Chairman
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