



Barbershop Clippin's

Far Western District

Barbershop Harmony Society



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To say thank you, simply isn't enough!



by Rick De Lung

I don't want to sound maudlin when I say this, but helping to produce, write, stage, as well as perform in the annual barbershop show is overwhelming. There is a lot of work to be done, as well as a lot of things to delegate to others to do! This particular year was no exception!

Joan Golding Photo

It begins with an idea to try something new! For those of you who do not know, the past few years our Annual Show has been a money loser! I would hope and pray that maybe "this year, we will be able to make a profit". Last year was beyond dismal for the chorus' coffers. I felt personally responsible for this, having pushed my script as hard as I did. Looking back at the list of problems we had: loss of Plummer Theatre, new location at Servite, Servite's stage collapses!, script problems, scheduling problems, the long distance for seniors to travel from the parking lot to the theatre front, and finally the lack of sales of tickets. It's no wonder that we lost money!

As time would pass, I suggested to the board the idea of doing something that has been successful EVERY time we do it, and that is the Cabaret Show idea of a dinner show. I presented the idea, and naturally . . . they had trepidations. I did my best to sell the idea to them, and with the assistance of others was able to convince them to try it.

Team **Nichols** and Team **De Lung** took an original idea of having a rich widow have a mystery happen at her mansion in England. Run with it the Nichols did! To investigate how a dinner theatre is done, a group of 12 of us made a trip out to Ontario to see one in action. To put it simply - that show sucked! We decided that a MURDER mystery would not fly, but a mystery of something being stolen was more feasible. One of the first



Joan Golding Photos

things taken care of was the procurement of the food. Here the decision was quick and easy: what is cheapest and easiest to obtain! This turns out to be Blake's Place.

Tommy took the idea of the English mystery, and along with the incredible assistance of **Janet**, typed out a script filled with fun, music and even a **De Lung** suggested magic illusion! **Kelley** and I had suggested the idea of vanishing the Faberge Egg using a major illusion. The problem was (for us the

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Our Heroes... Contributors to this issue:

Rick De Lung, Joan Golding, Steve Hansen, Ken Klein, Jay Campbell, Andrew Coward, Steve Sarandis, Mike Evans, Al Bell and Tom Nichols.

To say thank you, simply isn't enough!

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magicians) in order to succeed at this effect, something completely different had to be designed and constructed. We realized this after contacting via social media, some of my fellow illusionists on suggestions of past effects that might be successful at doing what we needed.

To be completely honest . . . we received "DIDDLY SQUAT" in regards to suggestions from the magic community! So after looking through countless catalogs and books from my personal library, it was decided that three different principles would have to be used to complete this assignment. This had to be done by building a series of prototypes to see if one, two or all three principles would work. Kelley and I laughed while sitting in an Arby's using the back of their placemat to sketch out ideas of how to vanish this thing. We had **Craig** order the eggs, while we began "prototyping" ideas. Cardboard examples proved to be the cheapest way to try things while we waited for the eggs to be delivered. When they did arrive they were a bit bigger than I honestly expected! This may be a problem if they don't fit in the ideas we have been experimenting with!

After a few minor/major changes, the illusion was designed. The next point of order was the decoration of the eggs. **Craig** had generously given **Kelley** a large amount of stones and gems to transform the 18 inch plastic egg into an object d'art! She spent more than 9 hours placing the stones, pearls and gold onto our shiny star of the mystery!

Then began the rehearsals! Staging, blocking and using our imaginations in the Fullerton High School Music Room can only go SO far! It finally came to fruition when **Kelley** and I met with **Pete** and **Craig** at the Community Center for the first time to work out lighting problems with the Egg Vanish! This led to ANOTHER change in the vanish of the egg!

The next problem was working on memorization of the script! **Tommy** had done a great job of writing it out, and I honestly failed in my time to make sure it was set in my brain until the very last minute! As all who were present witnessed . . . our Dress Rehearsal was not the most successful we have ever had! But . . .

The opening day Matinee Show began! Throughout the Pre-Show Warm Up of the crowd, the members of the OEC, and especially Kelley, went over and above what was needed to make the guests feel at home and at ease with the show. The two High School boys who were playing the part of the Egg Guards were positioned for the first time and given their instructions of what to do. Within 15-minutes, they came to me asking if they could try something that was NOT scripted! (Oh! GREAT! A last minute addition to a show that I was praying was going to be at least a one-dollar profit!) However, their idea was FANTASTIC!

All of a sudden . . . before I was mentally and/or physically ready . . . the sound of my lovely red-headed wife begins with her opening lines for the show! We are now underway! As all who were witness to it . . . it went without a hitch! The comments, compliments and many thanks given to us as the guests departed were all positive! We had succeeded! This is later repeated for a more "reserved" Dinner crowd and it too was a wonderful success! The tear-down was organized and the

room cleaned up and cleared out! I personally went home, and didn't even think about unloading our cars full of equipment and costumes. That will have to wait until later. **Kelley** and I both crashed and didn't wake up until the dogs INSISTED that we get out of bed!

To make a short story longer . . . the show went extremely well! And this was all because of each and EVERY one of the members of the chorus, each and every one of the Orange Blossoms, and each and every one of the outside technical staff who had even the slightest thing to do with this show. If you stood on the stage, singing a single note . . . lifted a single plate of food to distribute to the audience . . . or picked up a single thing off the floor to clean up . . . I thank you from the bottom of my heart! A show of this kind can only happen if each and every one of us do what has to be done, can be done and/or wants to see it done! You are all a tremendous group of people and I feel honored and blessed to be in your company as well as one of your friends! Thank you all!

Joan Golding Photos



Great Egg Caper Caught on Camera!

Joan Golding Photos



A Gold Star for “Tommy”



Joan Golding Photo

By Jay Campbell

On March 31st, **Tom Nichols** (affectionately known by all of us as “Tommy”) became our BARBERSHOPPER OF THE MONTH (for February). This honor was bestowed upon him by **Ferdi Roades**, who praised Tommy for his outstanding efforts during the month of February (working for a MINIMUM

WAGE – actually nothing -- to computerize the Singing Valentine program) and for working lots of OVERTIME for the Orange Empire Chorus.

As Ferdi explained (and I’m paraphrasing): “Back in our youth we all received a gold star for doing well in school and other activities,” so Ferdi felt it only appropriate to continue this tradition by affixing a large GOLD STAR to Tommy’s plaque, signifying a job well done!



Hel-l-l-o-o-o-o-o Fullerton!



Dick Cote Photo

by Andrew Coward

Greetings from the Far East!

It's time to update the chorus on the latest and greatest from your Eastern correspondent! In the case that **Svetlana** reads this, I suppose I should make the “personal life” report before the “barbershop” report.

We are continuing to live in Hong Kong. Our addition to our family, **Emily Grace**, is growing at likely the normal rate for infants, but darn it, it's F-A-S-T fast! She's nearly a year old now, and this girl's got a tenor that won't quit! I'd like to call it a new color, but to be true, it's two new colors. And that's not exactly correct, it's two new color words. And to be really honest, not really words, or colors, just two ways for me to describe her music. “Fire Engine” Tenor. Or “F-16 Engine” Tenor. Oh. One last correction on this subject. It's not really music... Or tenor...

I continue to expand the Barbershop ‘experience’ for people in Hong Kong! My little group of singers that were meeting once a month or so has grown to meeting 2-3 times per month and we have about 6 regulars now with a repertoire of some polecats plus *The Irish Blessing*, *I'm Gonna Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter*, and *From the First Hello to the Last Goodbye*. It's (gasp) starting to look like a small (really small) chapter. Maybe not a chapter, but certainly more than a footnote - a paragraph?

I attended the *High Sierra Harmony Brigade* last August and *Midwinter* in New Orleans. While at *Midwinter*, I ran across a situation at the hotel bar. It seemed like they were giving away the drinks! Three things of interest resulted from this situation – First, we had too much to drink. Second, some of us decided to form a long distance quartet. And third, the drinks weren't free – they were billing them to my room! I once again re-learned this valuable lesson; if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

But let's go back to the second point in the previous paragraph. A long distance quartet you say? Did you see how I snuck that in? Let me introduce this properly: Ladies and Gentlemen, from the greater Pacific area, and I mean “greater”, with members from Los Angeles, Folsom, Lake Tahoe, and Hong Kong, get your hands together for *Pacific Ring*! Truth is stranger than fiction, I got together with several brigaders and competed this spring at Sacramento Divisionals. We performed *Hey Good Looking* and *Where the Southern Roses Grow*. The sound was pretty good (judged to a 67-68 type level) but our interpretation and presentation of the songs didn't score as well. We have fired our choreography coach – he convinced us that the “scared teenager” body positions and the “deer in the headlight” facial expressions would result in high scores. Alas no. But we walked away proudly with an overall 62.9! Just wait until next year. On a related topic – if you happen to know of a quartet coach who is willing to travel at own cost to various locations on the west coast, work for free, and provide pizza along with coaching, please inform us immediately.

I hope to visit Fullerton in late Spring or early summer!

Cheers -Andrew

A St. Patrick's Day Tradition with Preferred Blend



By Steve Hansen, aka "ole blue eyes"

Joan Golding Photo

Maybe it's the "luck of the Irish" but *Preferred Blend* has been very lucky to become a tradition with the Kelly family when they hold their annual St. Patrick's Day family reunion. On March 17, *Preferred Blend* was very honored to be asked back for a fourth year in a row to help the **Patrick Kelly family** of Riverside celebrate St. Patrick's Day. While we have always dressed up for this event, wearing green ties and arm bands, green hats, etc., and carrying green necklaces to give out as gifts to the ladies, we wanted to add something extra special since we were being invited back so often. My wife, **Cheri**, a quilter and seamstress herself, volunteered to make matching green shamrock vests. After taking measurements, she found some great fabric and created the matching vests seen in the pictures below. When Mrs. Kelly learned that Cheri had made the vests, she insisted that I "hang on to that gal." I responded that being married for over 45 years, I learned that a long time ago!



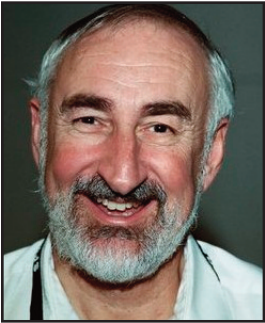
And so we joined the 50+ gathering of extended family and friends in the Kelly's large home near Lake Perris. Four generations were represented with Mr. and Mrs. Kelly, their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren plus neighbors and other friends. For our 40 minute performance, we sang many favorites, shared a few "Irish" jokes, and regaled them with some new songs we had learned from Harmony Platoon. A special time was calling up Mr. Kelly with his low bass voice to join us in the quartet as we sang "*Oh Danny Boy*" and "*When Irish Eyes are Smiling*." There were a few "tears in their eyes" and we didn't need to "wonder just why," when the family heard Mr. Kelly sing with us.

After our performance, as tradition would have it, the Kelly's invited us again to share dinner with them. Dinner included, of course, "corned beef and cabbage," with all the fixings; "green mashed potatoes," "green bread," "green Kool Aide," "lime jello," "green sugar cookies and cake" for dessert, and a "wee bit of the green brew!" After dinner, we sang a few encores and left with an invitation to join them again next year. What a great "Irish" tradition indeed.

One other fun performance rounded out our March quartet activities. Through a connection with **Fred**, we were asked to perform at the grand opening of the new out-patient surgical wing of the Pomona Valley Hospital. All contributors, influential community members, ranking hospital staff, etc. were invited to the "ribbon cutting" ceremony and luncheon which preceded a grand tour of the new three story facility. We sang welcoming songs as the guests exited the elevators for their small group tours. It was a very impressive event and we were very glad to be a part of it.

All in all, it has been a great way to "sing into spring" with fun performances, sharing barbershop close harmony, and singing the "ole" songs!

Orange Empire Chorus to Appear at The Marvelous Muckenthaler!



Joan Golding Photo

By Steven Sarandis

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center is located at 1201 West Malvern Avenue, Fullerton, California 92833.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center was commissioned at an original cost of \$35,000. The Muckenthaler home was built by Walter and Adella Muckenthaler in 1924 atop a hill in Fullerton. The 18-room, 8.5-acre mansion was donated to the city in 1965 by Harold Muckenthaler, who wished to see his childhood home used as a cultural center for the public.

finalist for Best Museum, the 2012 winner for Orange Coast Magazine's Most Eclectic Venue, the 2013 winner for Orange Coast Magazine's Best Arts Education, and 2014 winner for OC Register's Best Art Gallery.

The mission of the Muckenthaler is to provide the public with experiences that stimulate creativity and imagination, while conserving the heritage and architecture of the Muckenthaler Estate.

The Muckenthaler Cultural Center offers extraordinary exhibitions, performances and engaging educational programs to Orange County's diverse communities and beyond.

Their vision is to celebrate of the human spirit through the arts.

The Orange Empire Chorus had the opportunity to put on a performance at the Muckenthaler Cultural Center last summer. It was a great venue for singing out under the stars. Some of our quartets have performed there as well.

We have the opportunity again to sing there August 27, 2015. We need to sell 200 tickets in order to be invited again in 2016. Everyone needs to pass the word on to all your friends, relatives and any past customers inviting them to buy tickets (or better, get tickets and sell them).



In 1999, the Muckenthaler received designation by the National Register of Historic Places. In its 50th year, "The Muck" produces more than 60 performances, gallery exhibits, festivals and special events; and more than 2,000 hours of arts education classes at the Muck and in 28 outreach sites serving more than 43,000 people every year.

They also host more than 75 weddings and corporate events. Awards and accolades include the 2009 Fullerton Chamber of Commerce Quality of Life award for best non-profit organization in the city, the 2010 Arts Program of the Year award from Arts Orange County, and past reader's poll awards from OC Parenting for Best Historic Site. The Muckenthaler is also an OC Register's

I had the opportunity to walk through the center twice – once to see museum artifacts and the other time to sing as part of the chorus last year. It's a great place to bring the family. They have art exhibits, car exhibits, all kinds of musical performances, jazz festivals and classes of all kinds.

Become a member and you will be eligible for discounts for: Their annual brochure and invitations to gallery exhibition openings, train tours, farm dinners & other exclusive events. In addition, you help support their mission. Oh, by the way it is tax deductible.

Sugar Daddies Missing Baritone



By Mike Evans

Dick Cote Photo

March entered and the *Sugar Daddies* were preparing for their part in the Spring Show "The Great Egg Caper". We were all looking forward to it when BLAM!! Our lead singer **Dave Lowerre** was hit with an emergency appendectomy. He came through it okay but was out of commission for a couple of weeks while he recovered. We were able to rehearse once or twice in March and felt that everything would go well. I, **Mike Evans** – Baritone, had planned an 18 day vacation to Europe during the first part of April but would be back in time for the show. I also made sure that I brought all the learning tracks for the songs so that I could keep them fresh in my mind during the trip.

The trip was great. It was a Viking River Cruise that went from Amsterdam in the Netherlands to Budapest, Hungary. We Arrived in Amsterdam the day before we were to board the boat so that we could see a bit of the town. Most of our group (there were nine of us) went to the Tulip Fields since they were just beginning to bloom but my brother-in-law and I decided to take a walk through the city and check it out. It was pretty cold but we had a good time and scoped out transportation for our canal boat trip the next morning. We had a private boat and our guide was excellent. He even recommended a wonderful little restaurant for lunch.

We boarded the River Boat later that day and checked into our staterooms. The rooms were very nice even though small. The boat left that night and we arrived at our first stop where we saw working Windmills. Our guide had lived in one as a young girl since her father was a miller. Fascinating stuff. Most of the windmills are no longer in use but are protected as a Heritage Site. That afternoon and evening we sailed up to Cologne, Germany and the next day visited the magnificent Cologne Cathedral. This was to be the first of many cathedrals we saw throughout Europe.

Our next stop gave us the opportunity to explore a Medieval Castle. It had been well preserved and restored to its mostly original state. Various rooms housed relics of the time such as the armory, the kitchen, the blacksmith shop and the dining hall. All of the tours were led by volunteer historians and/or locals who had extensive knowledge of the areas. From there on we saw one Medieval town after another but I think the highlight was Rothenberg which Disney used as a model for the town where Pinocchio lived.

We were all having a wonderful time, enjoying the local cuisine including beer and wine when a few days before the end of the trip we all started coming down with what I'm sure must have been "The Plague". I visited various "Apoteke" (pharmacies) and in my best broken German asked for medication. I mostly got what I needed and felt well enough to enjoy the balance of the trip. However, we had about 17 hours of travel in order to get home. By the time we got home "The



"Plague" really got nasty. I couldn't sing without coughing but I was sure it would pass before the show. Remember the show? I'm sorry to say that we missed the show and most of the week after. As I'm writing this, I think I have finally got it licked and the *Sugar Daddies* will be together once more. Anyway here are a couple of pictures from our trip. The first one is of the Windmills in Kinderdijk, The Netherland and the second is the little village of Rothenberg in Germany



Barbershop Mystery Dinner Theater Is a Success



by Tom Nichols

On April 25, we presented two performances of our first mystery dinner theater production to sold-out houses. As with any live performance a few things went wrong, but they were minor, and so many things went right that I still smile whenever I think about it.

Herschel Green Photo

- We sang well – the quality of our singing was as good and sometimes better than I have ever heard it.
- The sound system was really good, and the audience got to experience what we really sounded like.
- For the first time, Fullerton High School students participated in our show as actors and wait staff.
- For the first time in several years, we ended our annual show in the black financially.
- We had a good story, well told by the actors, that really entertained the audience.
- The audience also enjoyed the food.

This was a big contrast with last year's show, which was poorly attended and lost money. So what was different? How did we turn this situation around?

At our first board meeting after last year's show, board members were shocked to learn how much money we had lost. We had to do some belt tightening to make it through the rest of the year. The show committee met soon afterwards to assess what went wrong:

- Prices had been rising dramatically at all of the auditoriums in the area. We could not get a show date at our normal venue, and we had to find another one. It was not only more expensive to rent the venue, but there were huge charges for crew support on the final bill that really surprised us.
- We didn't sell enough tickets – a continuing problem. Our audiences had been shrinking for quite a while. The show format we had used for many years, a sort of musical comedy with barbershop songs, was not drawing enough customers to fill an auditorium.
- We spent a lot to promote the show with little return. We actually spent more on newspaper ads and direct mail fliers than we received in ticket revenue.
- In many previous shows at auditoriums we had had terrible sound in the house. This resulted from a combination of poor sound system design and incompetent crew. The chorus might make a good sound, but the audience was not hearing one.

It was clear that we could not continue to lose money at the rate we did on that show; we needed to change our approach or stop doing the show altogether. But we wanted to do the show.

It is fun to get together on Tuesday nights, but we need performances to keep us motivated, and this show had always been fun to do.

We talked about the success of our annual Christmas Cabaret show. We had been performing a mix of fun Christmas music and serving dinner at three sold-out shows for many years, having a great time doing it, and making money on it. Could we do another annual cabaret show in the spring? How would we attract an audience to a dinner show without Christmas music? People seem to like murder mystery dinner theater; maybe we could do that.

Many of the people on the show committee had never seen a murder mystery dinner theater, so we bought tickets to one and attended as a group. We saw a performance with a murder mystery theme, lots of jokes, gags, and audience interaction, but almost no story. The food was bland hotel banquet chicken. We agreed that the best part of the show was the appetizers, but there could have been more of them. We were sure we could do better.

We started planning. We found a local community center that we could rent for much less than the auditoriums we had been paying for (the one we used for Christmas Cabaret shows was not available). We put together a budget based on our Christmas Cabaret shows and set a ticket price that would put us in the black. We pooled our ideas for the story and wrote a script. We found a caterer to supply food for a price within our budget. We recruited chorus members and friends to help with all of the many tasks.

We decided to do just two performances to limit our risk. Since we had only 400 tickets to sell, we decided to sell over the phone. This took some work, but by not placing any ads or bulk-mailing any fliers, we saved a lot of money. We sold out both performances several weeks before the show date.

We did the sound ourselves with great results. I stood in the middle of the hall while the chorus sang and listened to the sound from the speakers. It sounded just the same as when I was standing on the stage in front of the chorus. That is the ideal outcome, and, seemingly, none of the professionals we pay to do it can get it right.

The play itself went really well. Our cast, consisting of chorus members, wives and a few students from Fullerton High School, had only four rehearsals, including dress rehearsals, but we managed to pull it all together. The show had a well-worked-out plot (a theft, but no murder), a lot of jokes, and humorously introduced and tied-in the chorus and quartet songs.

We broke for dinner in the middle of the show and served barbequed chicken to the crowd. Thanks to the Orange Blossoms and the Fullerton High School Students, that went smoothly and the audience seemed to enjoy the food. (We did make sure they were good and hungry first.)

The whole thing took a lot of work from a lot of people, but the results made it all worthwhile. I can't remember when I have felt so good at the end of a show. I hope everyone else did, too. Now it is time to start planning next year's mystery dinner theater show.

The Continuing Mis-Adventures of Pretzel the Clown



By Pretzel

First of all, I have to say that I love singing barbershop! Some of my most interesting and exciting experiences have been while a group of three fellow friends joined me in creating a harmonious sound! With that thought in mind, let me tell you about

last night's adventure with the *Spit-Tunes*!

It began with an e-mail from an acquaintance of **Ferdie's** who works with a group of philanthropists who raise money to help the hearing-impaired with special projects and events. "Mr. Jim" of North County SERTOMA asked Ferdie if the Spit-Tunes would be willing to perform (with pay, mind you!) at a 1920's themed event to raise money for a baseball/softball league. We, of course, said yes! We would be there.

Time passes, for literally months, and the event grew very near. The Monday before the event shown bright and clear and Pretzel happens to open his e-mail to see another request for our services for a birthday party earlier on the same day! It was a surprise party from a Mother to her daughter who was turning 60! The timing worked out that we could make this event. Plus to make it even more fun . . . they were paying us as well!

So **Aunt Ferdie**, in his/her best red flapper dress and boa, **Pretzel** in his most excellent Happy Birthday clown pants, along with Tie-Dyed **Bobby Faris** and Hawaiian attired **Don "Uke" Derler** drove to the **Anaheim White House**. We waited (impatiently) outside for the proper time to make our entrance to this rather fancy dining establishment! I am also willing to mention that the TOUGHEST part of the performance was the climb upstairs while wearing my clown shoes! I have already had my moments of physical difficulties with my beaten up knees and now having to step sideways to make a 17 & 1/2 inch long shoe fit on a 9 inch wide stair step was my challenge for the night!

We walked into the private party, and arrived to stunned silence, followed by a titter of giggling! The birthday "girl" was shocked to say the least! After about three seconds of "Everywhere You Go", she began to really have a good time! The rest of our short performance went exceptionally well and when we attempted to depart, we were asked to wait and have photos taken. I honestly think the Mama wanted Ferdie's dress!

We climbed into my Chevy Tahoe and head to our next event, the SERTOMA performance. We arrived to find a very full parking lot and a LOT of people in 1920's attire! Especially the ladies! Ferdie didn't stand out at ALL! What stood out to me about this particular event, was a phone call we received 48 hours prior to our arrival! A Mr. Larry Lopez explained on my message center that he was having trouble finding the lyrics for a number of our songs. It turns out that there will be a number of hearing-impaired guests and he wanted to use his sign language skills to interpret our songs to those who could not hear! We were singing for DEAF PEOPLE! This made me wonder . . . are the Spit-Tunes so bad that we have to sing for

those who can't hear us to be entertaining! As it turned out, there were only a few in the audience who had the privilege of not hearing us! This sing out would also turn out to be very successful! In other words: there was more laughter at the jokes rather than at the singing!

We piled back into my Tahoe to drive out to Mama Cossa's for some dinner and libations. After polishing off one pitcher of beer, three Cokes and an O'Doul's, plus one large Mama's Special pizza, we made our way to the bar area where the two piece band had just taken a break from the eclectic mix of electronic drums, keyboard and saxophone. We make our way up to the microphone and are introduced to the small crowd by the keyboardist. We break out into Skin and the crowd begins to smile. After three songs we decide to call it a night, but the crowd (okay . . . one man and his wife) call out for an encore! Now **Craig** has warned me on many occasions to NEVER do encores; leave them wanting more. And of course, my glory hog attitude got the better of me and we sang one more song!

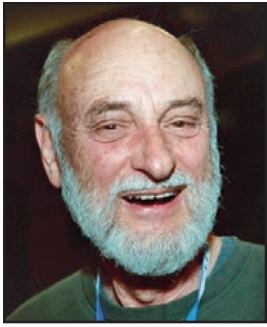
We climb back into the motor vehicle and make the short drive over to Ferdie's house where I unloaded the fellow members of the group! Upon arrival at my own home, I was actually very enthused and exhausted at the same time. After removing the motley and crawling into the sack, I was asleep within minutes! So all in all . . . another fun time with my friends of the Spit-Tunes!

...and then Pretzel wrote...

(Sung to the tune of Coney Island Baby)

Good show to all of those in the chorus,
A wonderful time for all!
From Don Derler's Butler to Pete's Snotty cook,
Steve and Jim the Sultan's guards,
Zach the Sultan, Ferd's a star and
Mark Logan's groundskeeper and Patrick's
Quinn,
LA tourist Dave Lowerre!
Plus Kelley and Tommy and Bill our Doc fill in!
Thank you for a good time,
Thank you for a fun time,
Thank you for a great show!

On Stan French



Joan Golding Photo

By Al Bell

My first memory of **Stan (The Man) French** is that shaking his hand was like being grabbed by a pair of vice-grips (that was still true in his eighties). My second was having difficulty imagining where he stored all the beer he consumed at afterglows. My third was marveling at the almost child-like enthusiasm he displayed whenever he was involved

in barbershop events and activities, no matter what his role happened to be. The fourth was when I became conscious of the mix of qualities that made him such a distinctive fixture in our chapter for almost six decades. And that's what I'd like to share from my memories of **Stan French**.

It took me a while to get to number four. There is doing and there is being. They are not the same. Stan had mastered both. That's not easy in our culture.

Stan was not a strong singer; he wasn't the proverbial "crow" either, although I think he sometimes placed himself in that category (as did others). So, I found myself wondering at first what motivated him to be so wrapped up in this musical fraternity. Then it became clear to me that it was the "fraternity" part that he really got—far more so than many men who have come and gone through the years and had a fair degree of singing talent. It isn't that Stan failed to resonate to the music and its distinctive style. He loved to be around people who sang, enjoyed joining in himself if he didn't have to be singled out too conspicuously, and then dedicated himself to contributing to the cause in some highly significant ways.

Stan was a powerful ambassador for barbershopping in general and the Fullerton Chapter in particular. Once Stan concluded that someone ought to be in the chapter, it was a rare guy who could avoid that outcome. His man-of-note pins are testimony to that fact. His creations tended to last a long time and become part of our Chapter's culture: *Harmony Under the Stars* (along with **Dean Sowell**), the legendary *Fullerton Harmony for Lunch Bunch* (eventually shared with others, such as **Fred Robirds**), afterglows of all stripes, *Fullerton Hospitality Room* at contests (along with **Bob Hein**), to name the most significant. But these things are more than tangible events/activities; they are evidence of something deeper.

Stan was a character and a man of character—not always an easy spectrum to balance. This puts into perspective why we honor him so respectfully and lovingly as we celebrate his life. Here is what I believe the evidence reveals—my fourth revelation about Stan French. Stan was a humble man and I'm not sure how conscious he was of that in himself. I will mention only four of them.

Stan valued history. That seems a lost art these days. But his sometimes thankless work invested in preserving the Chapter's history reflected a belief that remembering mattered, that we stand on the shoulders of others and should not forget it, and that the glow of times past would shed valuable light on the

present. I don't recall that he ever expressed these sentiments out loud. All he did was live them.

Stan was loyal to a fault. His dedication to the Fullerton Chapter not only spanned a period not exceeded by any other member; it defined in some ways who he was. There were times and incidents where his dedication was taken for granted or even disregarded; that did not stand in his way. If it mattered to Stan, it always mattered. Like his love for **Anita**, his equally loyal partner in life. Like his love for his Chapter.

Stan valued directness and simplicity. He did not come across as particularly sophisticated; he didn't need it. Sometimes that was held against him. But if you look at what his beliefs drove him to do, that down-to-earth quality is what consistently emerged. A simple man in our high-speed world can be an island of peace—not just for him, but also for the rest of us. Stan was often that island.

Here was a man who lived the value of giving back. He did it in large ways and small ways. Almost all of them were practical, often involved hard work, and inevitably led to some form of having fun for everyone involved. He gave us great ideas, converted some of them to Chapter legends, often sacrificed his own direct experience so others could be unencumbered by the unglamorous details that make an event something special and did so with a smile and a handshake that would stop you in your tracks.

I am grateful that Stan was granted so many years. I am grateful that Anita shared him with us so generously. I am grateful for my luck in being one of Stan's friends for so many years.

Of one thing I am certain: I am not alone in that gratitude.

When our turn comes, as it surely will, you can bet that Stan will guide us to the afterglow!



Clippin's Publishing & Policy Information

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President's Corner



By Ken Klein, President

Because of a Song

Fresh from one of the most wonderful evenings I've spent Barbershopping, our time with **Sang Park's** kids from Temecula High School, I can't help but think about the impact this hobby has had on me. The singing of *Keep the Whole World Singing* with the kids, and hearing the soprano notes soaring above ours, left me tingling, and helped me to remember what got me started in the first place. It was 1976, at a festival on the shores of Chautauqua Lake in New York State, where a quartet came running onto the stage dressed as ghosts, and sang "I Ain't Got NoBODY". It left such an impression on me, that after settling here in California, getting the kids through scouts, soccer, etc., I decided to find out more about singing and took two years of evening voice classes at Rancho Santiago Junior College (lot of good it did me some of you might say), but it launched me into what has become what I do. Sure I still work, and may never fully retire, but singing barbershop is what I do. It helps define who I am.

We now face declining numbers in our weekly attendance, and are looking for recruiting efforts to help bolster our numbers. Whatever we do, exposure to the public for the chorus, and for our quartets, is one of the major things in my opinion that will ignite the fire in those who might find themselves traveling the same road I did. Social media, under the guidance of **Mike Evans** is also expected to help. Guest nights, or "Bring a Buddy" night, as **Don Derler** has suggested, may also be a great tool.

We have a lot to be grateful in our chapter. We have a tremendous board of extremely capable and strong leaders, who are dedicated to the continued success of our chorus. All we need now are more members. Whenever you get the chance, spread the word among your friends, and others you may meet from time to time, and invite them to a meeting.

Our annual show this year did a lot to show everyone we have a fun chapter that can really entertain, and have a tremendous time doing it. With the support of our *Orange Blossoms*, and the high school kids, we put on a show that was absolutely enthralling for our guests.

Whenever we sing for the public, whether it be in the chorus or in a quartet, we may hit that special someone who feels he just has to find out more – all because he has been mesmerized, as I was – all because of a song.

Ken Klein

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.



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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



Chapter Officers & Other Important People

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

Ken Klein
Mike Evans
Steve Hansen
Ray Ashcroft
Don Derler
Pete Saputo
Steve Sarandis
Tom Nichols
Dick Cote
Jay Campbell

I.P.P.

Pete Saputo

Afterglow Chairman
Barberpole Cat Chairman
Barbershop 101 Coach
Chapter Historian
Chorus Photographer
Clippin's Publisher & Editor
Clippin's Copy Editor/Proofreader
Chapter Chefs
Chorus Manager
Harmony FLB Chairman
Librarian
Quartet Activities
Quartet Development
Roving Reporter
Section Leaders

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Stanley Tinkle
Dennis Woodson
Don Derler
Joan Golding
Don Derler
Terri Derler
Ferdi Roades, Lloyd Jones
Mark Logan
Sam Glorioso
Steve Mahrley
Art Clayton
TBD
Fred Robirds
Tenor: Tom Nichols
Lead: Dave Lowerre
Baritone: Dennis Woodson
Bass: Don Derler
Rick DeLung
Pete Saputo
Jim Eacret
Fred Robirds
Mike Evans

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