

Dixie District SPEBSQSA RBBBL ROUSBR

Alabama - Georgia - Mississippi North Carolina - South Carolina - Tennessee

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The Norwegian Sky at the dock in Haines, AK

WINS VOICES

in this issue Jack Heniey

of is remembered

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DEADLINE CLARIFIED

Deadlines for the Rebel Rouser are approximately four to five weeks before the publication reaches the membership. Please keep this in mind when planning advertisements for upcoming shows. **Deadlines** are the 15th of January, April, July and October.

DIXIE DISTRICT - VISION

To be the best "cotton-pickin" district within the Society in every conceivable way by promoting excellence in barbershop quartet singing throughout the states within the geographic borders of the Dixie District.

DIXIE DISTRICT - MISSION

To provide support and assistance to the members and chapters of the Dixie District in fully developing and realizing their individual chapter missions, to conduct conventions, festivals and other events at which members and chapters can share and enjoy their common love for barbershop harmony, to conduct schools and other educational events at which members and others can learn and improve their musical skills, to support a wide range of charitable activities, and to widely promote barbershop quartet harmony in communities throughout the District.

Advertising Rates, B/W ads

Business card (2X3.5) \$10
1/8 Page \$30
1/4 page \$60
1/2 Page \$80
Full Page \$120
Outside rear cover \$250

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Outside Back Cover: Call Editor for pricing

Inside front or back cover

\$450, single issue - \$400/issue, annual contract Enclose check payable to:

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Curt Douglass

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Articles with no byline are contributed by the Editor

THE EDITOR'S PAGE

IT WAS ONLY 3

MINUTES FROM

THE TIME THE

NUMBER WAS

DIALED TO

WHENI

DISCONNECTED

MY MODEM.

By Ron Hesketh

was not fortunate enough to attend this year's convention in *Portland* and, believe me, I am very upset that I didn't. I knew all along that **4 Voices** had the talent and drive to win it all. In many ways, I even predicted their rise to the International Champion ranks, but I was expecting it to come next year. (shame on me!)

I distinctly remember when Chad first vis-

ited the Nashville chapter and have been an admirer of theirs from the very first chord I heard them sing. OK **Riptide**, you're next!

There is, however, one great loss when a quartet wins it all. We don't have the pleasure of hearing them perform any more. I overheard a suggestion

about a month or so ago, that past champions should preform at all district conventions as part of the Saturday night festivities. Hey, I agree. I think I have only seen FRED twice since they won. I don't want to lose the pleasure of hearing 4 Voices any more.

I'M NOT THE ADDRESS KEEPER

Gentlemen, **please** keep your addresses up to date at the Society website, not with me. Before the postage increase, I had to pay \$.60 for each issue that was either returned or forwarded. Now the cost has risen to \$.70 each. I do not house the district address book. I get this information from the Society website the week before the Rebel Rouser is mailed.

Publishing this periodical consumes enough time in itself. I don't have the time to track 2,000 plus members as well.



You may think that I am being picky, and maybe I am, but try to realize how much time and effort can be saved if each one

of the 2,000 plus members updated their own address file. I timed it and it was only 3 minutes from the time the number was dialed to when I disconnected my modem

ADS

Let's face it, publishing costs the district

money. A major way of off-setting this cost is by ad placement. The rates for publishing in the Rebel Rouser are very reasonable and the ads get a major exposure around the district. As you may have noticed, the rear cover format has changed.

I have moved the address label to the front to make room for outside cover ads. Talk it up with retailers in your area that carry costumes, CD production and any other related business. An ad can be in either black and white or color. Think of it; there is automatic exposure even when the publication is in transit.

If you are hosting a convention, this would be a perfect spot for restaurants and specialty stores to advertise. If they know that 1,000 or more barbershoppers are coming to town, they want their business. OK guys, TALK IT UP!

"CLEMSON CLASSIC" -- A DLHW REPORT

By Drayton Justice, VP Music & Performance Photos for this article courtesy of Thom Hine

n most respects, our annual Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend on the Clemson University campus just keeps on finding ways to get better and better! If you weren't there (July 19th to 21st), you missed a humdinger; if you were, chances are it was one of your most enjoyable weekends to date this year. Quoting one of the participants: "A remarkable time. All of the organized events were worth the price of admission, and then the woodshedding and general singing until the wee hours was fantastic. When I came last year, I couldn't wait for this year's weekend to come. Now I have to wait another 12 months. How about having two a year?"

tional Champions (AIC) usually provides us with a past champ quartet to add "star quality" to our faculty and the



"OUCH! I don't think I should have told that one" Dave Labar entertains



NEW FORMAT

One of the really interesting features of DLHW 2002 was the change in format featuring TWO shows, one open to the public, and one exclusively for the school attendees. Due in part to restricted availability of the venues, the "big show", open to the public and featuring our newly crowned International Champion Four Voices, International Medallist Riptide, Semi-finalist Overture, District Champion CRE-SCENDO, and the Central Alabama Chorus, was held on Friday evening.



Hmm! there must have been some quartet singing this weekend.

Saturday evening's private show was like a huge afterglow, and provided an opportunity for all the quartets who were coached to perform briefly. In addition, the Saturday show featured sparkling performances by the **Youth** Camp Chorus and the Dixie District Quartet Champions Chorus.

EVALUATIONS

Utilizing e-mail, we asked a cross-section of the attendees for their comments

Continued on page 12

ATTENDANCE

Here are a few statistics. Last year's DLHW attendance was 260, which included the youth camp, faculty and staff. This year's very energetic youth camp was a little smaller in number, but the overall attendance was 295 students and 46 faculty and staff, for a total of 341—which not only

exceeded our goal, but also represented a 31% increase over last year! There were 30 quartets and one chorus, who came for coaching, which to my knowledge is a record. This year all the coaches and all but one of the faculty were from within the District, which is a real tribute to the amazing array of talent we have right here in good ole Dixie.

STAR PERFORMERS

The Society's Association of Interna-

unable to schedule one this year, so one of our **OVERALL ATTENDANCE** REPRESENTED **INCREASE OVER LAST**

THE

A 31%

YEAR!

own quartets went out and won the gold in Portland—just so they could help us out! Congratulations and kudos to Four Voices for their assistance with the youth camp, coaching, and an absolutely stellar performance on the "big

big show. They were

show" Friday evening.



The youth chorus performed as well

MULTICULTURAL how does that relate to our society?

Editor's Note: My thanks to John Sugg, VP PR/PROBE, for submitting the following transcript. The SPEBSQSA Board of Directors, in an effort to reach out to all races, creded & colors, developed a Multicultural Task Force and developed a list of charges to address the lack of cultural diversity within the society. The task force has also been charged with the responsibility of submitting, to the Board, a final report on their efforts by September 20, 2002. As a preface to this article, John submitted the following:

At the midwinter convention in Riverside, California, **Ken Hatton** (*lead, Bluegrass Student Union*) emceed the seniors quartet contest session, and, during the breaks, he reported on the formation of the Multicultural Task Force committee. You may have seen Reed Sampsons E-notes.... and other reports about this committee since that time. Ken's presentation was in my opinion a forceful and convincing account of the need for action, done with sincerety and humor, and very worthy of publication. As vice president for Public Relations of PROBE I requested a copy from Ken, and now with permission of **John Krisick**, the MTC chairman, am attaching it if you would like to publish it in the REBEL ROUSER.

am pleased to have been appointed this week to the society's new Multicultural Task Force, along with chairman **John Krisick, Dr. Jim Henry** and **Adam Wile**. Our task will be to devise a program to focus recruitment efforts on the minority community.

BASES HAVE
ACTUALLY
BEEN
ELECTED TO
OUR BOARD
OF
DIRECTORS

We need to include more Black, Hispanic, Asian and Native Americans in our chapters, not just because we want more members, but because we want to share what is good about our music with all people, and also because the impact of people of other races on our music is missing. We believe that our ever evolving, ever grow-

ing fraternity and our musical style will be even better than they are now, because of their participation.

Our most difficult task will be to get chapter members to discuss race in a public way. Too many of us are uncomfortable

with the words "White", "Black", "Asian" or "Hispanic". We would like to not have to make reference to race in any way, but to be color blind in our communication with each other. But this is not possible, and more importantly, is not effective.

Race is a factor in our effective communication with each other in our communities, and we must take the risk to discuss it in a public way. There must be reasons why we have so few minority men as society members, and I assure you it is not because they just don't like our music.

It is because we have not yet spent the kind of effort to specifically recruit minorities with the same enthusiasm with which they were excluded from our membership prior to 1960. The Multicultural Committee's charge will be to devise a program that motivates and focuses a chapter's efforts to integrate. This

will be a difficult task because the human animal has an instinctive fear of things and people who we perceive to be different. For example, I confess that at one time, I had a natural fear of all baritones, some bases and most tenors.

But what separates me from the animals is my willingness to use my humanness to overcome that fear with logic and reason. I was afraid, but I forced myself to go to the places where these harmony singers socialize together, and it was a new experience to look

BARITONES
HAVE
ACTUALLY
SUNG
SOLOS

around and realize that I was the only lead in the room. But I introduced myself, and I asked these men about themselves and their families. Before you know it, we became friends, and now I can say truthfully that I no longer see them as baritones, bases or tenors. They are all just....barbershoppers.

I have learned about their life experiences, and their perspective, about their fears and misperceptions about leads, and while

we still have a long way to go, we are communicating and compromising. They have convinced me that there are times when the lead must be predominent. With give and take, we have achieved a balance between these four parts. We are empathizing with each other, and we are mak-

ing music together. In the community we call our chapter, these inter-voice-part relations are improving all the time. Bases have actually been elected to our Board of Directors. Baritones have actually sung solos, and our Music Director is a tenor.

But, seriously folks, someday soon we'll see red and yellow, black and white singing together in our quartets and choruses, not because we have to, but because we want to.

By the way, we could use some more white guys too.

OUR MUSIC

DIRECTOR IS A

TENOR.

ANATOMY OF A BARBERSHOP CRUISE

By Ron Hesketh

It's not every day that one gets the opportunity to go on a cruise; they get a bit expensive. To cruise with a group of barbershoppers makes the experience even more exciting.

This was the case on July 7 when Joyce & I boarded the Norwegian Sky vessel to "Cruise With the Gang". Yes, that stands for the "Gas House Gang"! What an experience!

When you first board one of these ships, you are captivated by the enormous size and begin to wonder how something this big (about 80,000 tons) stays afloat. Just think of a 10-story building, a city block long, floating on water. Here are the statistics (and this isn't even the largest pleasure craft out there):

Gross tonnage 80,000
Overall length 848 feet
Overall width 105 feet
Draft (under water) 26 feet

8 restaurants, 12 bars & lounges, 5 hot tubs, 2 swimming pools and a spa/fitness center, as well as a 1,000-seat theater. It also has 12 elevators. (Overall, a floating hotel, plus)

The ship is listed as having a passenger capacity of 2,002, but I was told by a crewmember that we had more than 2,200 aboard plus a crew of about 780. (more than 450 of which were barber-



The Norwegian Sky as seen from off her bow in Juneau

shoppers, their families & guests)

We were on level 7, about a fourth of the way back and just above the level of the bow. Our window provided us with a fantastic view of the water. Others weren't as lucky. **John Whalen** & his lovely wife Phyllis just happened to be on the cruise (through a different agency) and he said that his "room was so small that the steward had to stand out in the hallway to change their beds"!

The itinerary took us from Seattle, WA through the inside passage to Juneau, Skagway, Haines and Ketchikan, Alaska, and then to Victoria, B. C. before returning to Seattle.

As you would expect, singing was at its peak. We had no more than unpacked our clothes and headed out to explore the ship when I ran into three other barbershoppers looking for a baritone so they could sing to one of the passengers. Already, this was exciting, and we hadn't even left the dock!



Yours Truly helps serenade a passenger even before we left the dock in Seattle

The **Gas House Gang** members were excellent hosts. They made themselves available for all singers on board. I asked **Jim Henry** a few questions and he was gracious enough to provide me some material for this article.

RR: Whose idea was it for the cruise?

Jim: "We did a Caribbean cruise as our champ tour the year we won in



1993. We had such a great time, I think it was always in the back of our minds to cruise again".

RR: How did you decide on Alaska?

Jim: "I think we were all interested in seeing Alaska. It was one of the states we had never been to. There is now only one state we haven't sung in. Do they do cruises through Wyoming"?

Joyce & I had seen an advertisement for this cruise that had been published by *Ed Pio/Global Music Exchange* and, since we have always wanted to see Alaska, decided that this was the cruise for us. I was planning on retiring the end of July and we figured this was our last shot at affording this pleasure. I asked Jim how he selected Ed Pio and he responded:

"We approached the Society about doing an Alaskan cruise after the Portland convention. At that time we were told that they had no agency in place to organize such a thing and recommended Ed Pio to us. It has been a lot of fun working with Ed to organize the trip".

Before we go any further, I will introduce you to the Gas House Gang, just in case you, like myself, had never met them.

Tenor: Kipp Buckner

Mom & Dad: Hollie & Ken Buckner

Wife: Kirsten

Kids: Gage, Kila, Taylor & Keegan

Continued on page 7

BARBERSHOP CRUISE (continued)

Continued from page 6

Lead: Rich Knight

Mom & Dad: Gene & Shirley Knight

Girlfriend: Jan Bultman

Kids: Jan has one daughter, Laura

Baritone: Rob Henry

Mom & Dad: Rose & Gordon Manion

& Bob Henry (deceased)

Wife: Sue Kids: Ryan

And, of course,

Bass: Jim Henry

Mom & Dad: (same as Rob)

Wife: Geda

Kids: Lydia, Gea Rose, Isaiah



One of our many treats we had when the Gas House Gang sang to us

The first couple of days were spent at sea on our way to *Juneau*. The weather was not the best, as clouds & fog were the order of the day. (For the rest of the cruise, we were treated to some sunshine in *Ketchikan*, *Haines* and *Victoria*, *B*. *C*. and just a sprinkle in *Skagway*. Unlike the cruise **Charlie McCann** took last year when, he indicated, it rained most of the time.) This permitted time for many singing activities, to include a class on vocal production by none other than **Jim Debussman**. We worked on support & focus exercises during this session.

What we didn't realize was that it was going to get even better at later classes. In those, Jim covered voice placement & how to determine which part we

SHOULD be singing as well as how to take care of your voice. (Funny how many of us were told that we were singing the wrong part!)



Jim Debussman lectures on breath support

It was during this time also that the drawing for the "luck of the draw quartet contest" was made. My team consisted of Lead; **Ed Plissey**, from Machiasport, ME, Tenor; **Bill Miller** from Steubenville, OH and bass; **John Szewc** from Grosse Isle, MI.

My wife, Joyce happened to wake at 3:30 AM the third day only to see sunlight. What a shock, since the night before, at about 11 PM after one of the on-board shows, it was dusk!

It was during this day also that, after one of our chorus rehearsals, a gentleman asked for a volunteer quartet to sing to a special couple on board that was celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. **John Whalen** & I both volunteered and our quartet became an immediate hit with the entire private party. (What a gratifying experience)

Juneau provided all of us the opportunity to visit the first glacier (Mendenhall), and what an experience. One doesn't realize the shear magnitude of a glacier until they see it first-hand. Even then, from a distance, your



The Mendenhall Glacier from about 1/4 mile

perspective is lost. What a photo op! The 4th day was spent in Skagway. There was no scheduled barbershopping, but that didn't stop the extemporaneous singing. A group of us sang to our driver (*Janet we love you, to the tune of Honey Little Lize*) and even one group could be overheard in the men's rest room when we stopped for a break during the tour. Needless to say, that went over big!

That evening, during the show back aboard ship, we were treated to a variety show by an excellent singer named George Soloman. He proceeded to imitate many different performers, to include Elvis. Near the end of his performance, I guess he needed a break from his extremely tiring show because he happened to mention that the ship was full of barbershoppers and he wanted to hear some singing by a volunteer quartet. Nobody was willing to just rush to the stage, but, after some prodding by my wife Joyce, I got up and began asking for other volunteers. We decided on **Heart of My Heart**, and, for just four guys at random, did an admirable job, according to many other barbershoppers in attendance. The crowd seemed to enjoy it. I couldn't tell how many were present as the spotlights were overbearing, but the place held 1,000 and it appeared to be pretty full.

The 5th day was spent touring the Saw-

SHARE THE WEALTH

I AM HUMBLED

WHEN OTHER

LEADERS IN

OUR SOCIETY

COME TO ME

FOR

SOLUTIONS TO

ONGOING

PROBLEMS

By Jim Sams, Dixie District President

reams DO come true in Dixie! I only wish that the entire district could have joined me in cheering on all of our International competitors to perform their very best in Portland. And perform they did! Congratulations to The Big Chicken Chorus, King Street Blues, Overture, Riptide, and our gold medal quartet champs Four Voices! We can all be very proud of the way they represented

themselves, their chapters, and their district. Please join me in wishing each of them Godspeed and continued success in their future efforts.

SOCIETY APPOINTMENT

I would also like to congratulate our VP of M&P **Drayton Justus** for his

election to the Society Board of Directors as a Member-At-Large. Drayton has moved our district music education to a higher level these last two years and now he will have the opportunity to share his wealth of talent and knowledge with leaders across our Society.

PRAISE IS IN ORDER

This gives me an opportunity to praise our *Top Gun School* for turning out some of the Society's top contenders. We also have the finest mini-HEP school around to provide learning activities and quartet coaching for men of all ages at *Clemson University* every July. And our stages at district conventions pave the way for quartets and choruses alike to share their performances with the entire district!

Our Dixie coaches guild has a wealth of talent available to chapters across

the district. They have been instrumental in increasing the level of musical excellence that we all strive to achieve. Is YOUR chapter taking advantage of all of these marvelous programs?

WE ARE LEADERS

I have had a tremendous opportunity these past two years to share our work in Dixie with all the other District Presi-

dents. It is very gratifying to realize that we have a lot of outstanding programs at work here in our district. I am humbled when other leaders in our Society come to me for solutions to ongoing problems around the country or to see how we are instituting a variety of programs here. But I am also sensitive enough to the

needs of our chapters to realize that we are only touching the tip of the iceberg when it comes to meeting all of your needs.

WE WANT TO HELP

We have attempted to open the lines of communication between the chapter leadership and the district leadership team with varying degrees of success these last eighteen months. Those of vou who have taken advantage of our limitless resources have found us to be true to our word. And I am finding out from numerous chapter presidents that those chapters who are taking advantage of our training schools, COTS, and getting involved at conventions are enjoying our wonderful hobby to its fullest extent. But I also realize that it will take time and a continued effort to reach many chapters who are struggling to



find answers to dwindling numbers and poor music programs. I KNOW we have the answers for all of your burning issues. We just need the chance to provide the resources.

SEE YOU IN OCTOBER?

I hope all of you are making plans to attend the *2002 Dixie Fall Convention* in *Chattanooga* October 4-6 and our Dixie COTS November 16-17. These are stepping stones to help insure a positive barbershopping experience for 2003. Please call on any of your Dixie Leadership Team for any needs or questions you need answered. We are prepared to serve you. Keep those emails coming and those chords ringing!

Entry forms
for the upcoming
Dixie Fall Convention
and Contest
in Chattanooga
are again available
on the
society web page
at
spebsqsa.org

BOSTON COMMON REUNITE IN DIXIE

By John Centamore

fter nearly 2 decades without them, 1980 International Champs, Boston Common will hit the performance stage for the first time on October 26th on the *Mo*bile, Alabama Chapter's annual show.

The original quartet, which has accumulated the most International competition medals of any quartet in society history, last performed in 1982. In that year, the original lead, **Rich Knapp**, was seriously injured in an automobile accident and lost hearing in one ear. Unable to tune, Rich decided to leave the quartet and permit a new lead to

replace him. The new partnership for the quartet lasted a few years before they "retired".

Over the years, as the individual original members relocated and tended to family and business matters, they never were far from barbershopping. They stayed as active as they could in local chapters, society activities and charity events on an individual basis. As Rich Knapp rehabbed and his ability to tune slowly returned, the guys periodically tested the waters of a return to their first love: singing beautiful music together again.

Life has a way of getting in the way of plans. Efforts by the BC to reorganize in the late 80's and early 90's kept running into life and it's demands, so nothing flowered.

As the *Mobile Chapter* was brainstorming for it's 2002 annual show and trying to blend the issues of their group's 50th anniversary with Mobile's Tricentennial year, an idea was born that "Whatever Happened To The Old Songs' would be a great theme around which to build a show. The theme name happened to be the a song title that was synonymous with the Boston Common, so an e-mail went out to Terry Clarke suggesting a natural marriage of the theme elements with the quartet.

A message came back saying..."funny you should ask..." as BC was again testing the water and their resolve to put it all back together. Rich Knapp, Terry Clarke, Larry Tully and Kent Martin had been meeting on a monthly basis to see if the "sound" was still there.

This was not and, still is not, an easy monthly get-together. Rich lives in New Hampshire, Larry and Terry live at opposite ends of Massachusetts and Kent lives in Deltona, Florida. But, get together they do, and the sound is indeed there, as is the desire to make those chords ring again in true barbershop style.

Given the effort it takes to rehearse, it was comparatively easy to say "yes" to the Mobile chapter's request and with a few more of the details worked out, the Boston Common agreed to bring their voices out of retirement and onto a Dixie District stage for the inauguration of their renewal. Terry Clarke, their PR man, calls it a 'Recrudescence Tour''. (Mr. Webster defines the word as: a "new

> outbreak after a period of abatement or inactivity").

That sounds pretty much like what happens with a volcano or an earthquake, and judging from the excitement in Mobile, there will be lots of folks "blowing their tops" and "bouncing up and down" when Boston Common takes the stage of the Historic Saenger *Theater* in downtown old Mobile in October

For those who remember the smooth, mellow, heartfelt sound of this quartet, it will be like "old times". For those who have not been around barbershopping long

enough to have experienced the BC first hand, it could be an almost spiritual experience.

They have been labeled "the most popular barbershop quartet since the Buffalo Bills" in news articles and commentary; they have performed on network and international TV; they have sung in 46 of the 50 states, thrilled audiences in six foreign countries and appeared

Not bad for a group of guys who, in 1971, found each other and began singing, literally, on the street corners of Boston. They sang in and around Harvard Square, coffee houses and even on historic **Boston Common**. The rest, as they say, is history.

with the Boston Pops and in Carnegie Hall.

Vowing to limit their travel while at the same time accepting appropriate engagements, Boston Common starts a new chapter in their lives in Mobile. All we can say is "we can hardly wait".

Welcome home, Boston Common. We really missed you.



L to R Kent Martin (T), Rich Knapp (L), Terry Clarke (B) and Larry Tully (Bari)

In Loving Memory Of Jack Henley

By Dave Haines & Gil Oxendine Photos courtesy of Dave Haines

he Greater Knoxville Chapter regrets to report the passing of one of their prominent members, Jack Henley, age 76, around midnight on May 15, 2002.

Jack was a member and deacon of *Central Baptist Church* of Fountain City, Cooper Couples Sunday School Class, and a 54-year member of *Bright Hope Masonic Lodge #557*. He was a graduate of *Knoxville High School*, and attended *Carson-Newman College* and the *University of Tennessee*. He was associated with Realty Executives.

Jack was a veteran of World War II, Navy Flight Officers Training, and was a licensed instrumentrated pilot. He was also a former member of the Civil Air Patrol.

Jack sang in choral groups through high school and college, as well as in church choirs. He also did some solo work. Jack joined S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A. in 1962, and originally sang with his three brothers in the "*Henley Brothers Quartet*."

He also served as Area Counselor for the Dixie District in 1964 and 1965.

In 1967, Jack auditioned to sing bass with "*The Dignitaries*" after their original bass, **Bill Templeton**, was forced to retire due to health reasons. The "Digs" were indeed fortunate that Jack was available to audition for their quartet, for Jack's rich bass voice was just what the quartet needed — and he provided that beautiful voice for 37 of "The Dignitaries" 43-year history. Sing-

The Dignitaries

ing from New England to California, and Canada to Mexico, the members of "The Dignitaries" formed a family-like bond closer than if they had been brothers by birth.

And throughout their time with Jack, the surviving members of the "Digs" can't recall there ever being an argument or an unkind word spoken.

One singing engagement stands out in particular. "The Dignitaries" were invited to sing at the *Biltmore Estates*, and sang in a room that had been used for family parties. Jack sang at his absolute best that day! While singing a gospel medley, Jack's solo went, "I can tell you now the time, I can take you to the place, where the Lord saved me by his wonderful grace. But I cannot tell you how, or I cannot tell you why, He will tell us all about it in the by and by." Each of the surviving "Dignitaries" look forward to meeting Jack in the "by and by" to again feel his love and warmth, and to hear his bass voice on the front row of the heavenly choir. For they most certainly were brothers in harmony, as well as brothers in Christ.

In 1994, the Dixie District created their barbershop "Hall of Fame" and bestowed this high honor on "The Dignitaries," inducting Jack and the other three members of his quartet in the Hall's very first year of existence.

Jack is survived by his lovely wife of 56 years, Cile Wyke Henley, who sings with the *Smoky Mountain Harmony Show Chorus, Sweet Adelines,* Inc. He is also survived by two daughters, Kim and Robin, and three grandchildren.

THE GRANT PROGRAM AT WORK

By Bill Greenwald, Music City Chorus Representative

he Music City Chorus has been awarded a \$2500 grant from the Metropolitan Nashville Arts Commission for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. The funds are earmarked for coaching expenses and member recruitment publicity. We are very pleased to receive this grant, especially since it was our first time filing a grant application.

The grant process started back in February when we began compiling data. The 19 page application was submitted in mid March. A total of 15 copies were required. Finally, we had a 20 minute interview in June with the Arts Commission.

We look forward to expanding our grant requests next year to include a program grant for YMIH as well as an initiative grant for operating expenses, similar to this year's request.

The Pride of Mobile Chapter Presents

"WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE OLD SONGS"

THE RETURN OF THE ORIGINAL

BOSTON COMMON

SPEBSQSA GOLD MEDAL CHAMPIONS



MOST MEDALS IN SOCIETY HISTORY

LARRY TERRY (Bari) (Bass)

RICH (Lead) KENT (Tenor)

AND FEATURING SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONS

THE BRONS TONES

WITH THE PRIDE OF MOBILE CHORUS, WBRP, MISSISSIPPI MUD AND GALAXY BARBERSHOP QUARTETS AND MUCH MORE

SAENGER THEATER, SATURDAY OCT. 26, 2002—7:00PM

Joachim Street-Downtown Mobile, AL

Afterglow at 9:30pm (TBA)

Tickets: \$15.00 General Admission

Afterglow: \$8.00 (Buffet)

\$20.00 Reserved Orchestra Seating

\$75.00 Gold Circle Patrons (Limit of 50 Table Places)

(Pre-Show Dinner with the Champs, Center Seats, Afterglow, Photos, more)

SING WITH THE CHAMPS FOR CHARITY AT THE AFTERGLOW

Contact: Bill Carl—251-661-0203 wlrac@aol.com

John Centamore— 251-607-7949 centamore@mindspring.com

DLHW (continued)

Continued from page 4

and evaluation of the classes, coaches, general sessions, show format, and overall satisfaction. Responses are still coming in, but there is already a pattern of consensus



the "Leggs"? quartet performs

on several points. All factors are receiving evaluations that average out "good" to "excellent". It is the RELATIVE scores that provide valuable information for the future.

Coaching is receiving the highest scores; with the new show format a close second. Classes are third, followed by the general sessions. This appears to indicate:

- The large number of participants who came to be coached felt that the experience was very beneficial.
- They enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to perform on the Saturday show, and a large majority of attendees see some real advantages to the two-show format.
- There is a wider variation of satisfaction with the classes, and some concern with the reduction in number and variety
- Attention should be given to making any "general session" time more exciting and productive.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Constructive suggestions are being compiled for next year's effort, and speaking of construction, our usual dining hall was under repair, which not only led to some inconvenience, but taught us a valuable lesson—when forced to resort to a buffet-style meal, ordering for 375 will not produce enough food for 341 hungry barbershoppers, many of whom consider breakfast the most important and substantial meal of the day!!

All in all, it was an absolutely wonderful experience. Our sincere thanks to Dean Eric King and his team for their usual superb job,



one of these things is not like the other

to Bob Dickson for his organization of Harmony Camp, to Tim Reynolds for revitalization of the Dixie Association of Quartet Champions, and to all 341 of you who made it happen. A final quote from an attendee: "The weekend was a blast; the best one I have attended in years. The coaching was top notch; the shows were super, and the facilities more than adequate. What more can one ask? Our guys had a GREAT time!

Continued from page 7

yer Glacier. I thought the Mendenhall was something; this was even more spectacular. The ice flow was so thick from break-offs that we couldn't get closer than about ½ mile, but a 40-foot craft nearer the tongue looked dwarfed by the glacier's sheer size. This day also became time for the quartet contest. My quartet had the pleasure of performing first and we, known as the "Fat Free Four", sang a parody on Down Our Way, indicating that we left our waists down our way, in old Skag-way.

Judges included the Gas House Gang, the ship's activities Director among others, and the categories included best looking, most original, funniest, oh well, you get the point. This turned out to be the most hilarious contest I had witnessed in a long time. I asked **Jim Henry** about the contest:

BARBERSHOP CRUISE (continued)

RR: What, in your estimation was the funniest cruise happening?

Jim: "You'd have to look to the pickup quartet contest. Some truly funny moments. My favorite was the group that did a the "Little Lize" parody about the Gas House Gang..."Little Guys"."

RR: Any close calls?

Jim: "Again, I think you'd have to look to the pick-up quartet contest. Lots of close calls there".



Yours truly with Fat Free Four and their parody on Down Our Way

Continued on page 15

July - August - September, 2002

YMIH CORNER

By Bob Dickson, Coordinator, Young Men in Harmony

he Clemson Harmony Camp will be old news by the time you read this but in spite of that I'm just thrilled that **Eric King** had the vision to sign up the International Champion **4 Voices** Quartet as the 2002 Camp Staff before they even had won the gold in Portland !!!!!!! How's that for being clairvoyantNext year I hope he has the foresight to sign up **Riptide** for the Camp staff.

We had two music educators sign up for the 2002 Camp this year and that's a real plus. As you know the Dixie District will give a full scholarship to any M/E who attends the Clemson weekend....they can take regular courses that are offered in the DLHW pamphlet, they can monitor the Harmony Camp activities or make some combination of the two tracks. We get a lot of bang for that buck. When a teacher gets hooked, they'll pass that excitement along to their students year after year after year...what could be better. How about lining up a teacher or two from your area for the 2003 DLHW weekend.....doesn't cost the Chapter a dime.

You are probably also aware that **King Sreet Blues** the DD representative in the MBNA College Barbershop Quartet Contest did us proud in Portland too by garnering the 5th place medal in that shootout.....wow..... these young quartets get better every year.

Did you know that 4 Voices was the College Quartet Champ only 6 years ago...? I sincerely hope that you and your Chapter BOD are taking a serious look at how you can approach the colleges and universities in your area looking for foursomes that would like to participate in the CBQC. Most of the 2002 College Quartets received some serious coaching and support from their local Chapters and the quality level keeps going up. If you've got a music educator in your chapter who knows his way around the local campuses, put him to work ferreting out the young singers, who would be happy to participate in the CBQC once they find out about it. All the College men have to do is learn two songs in the barbershop style



and they can join us at the 2003 spring convention and sing their way to *Montreal* (the site of the next International).

Lastly, if you are considering a YMIH outreach (eg: contests, festivals, invitations to high school ensembles or quartets to perform on your Christmas or annual show, etc) into your area high schools this coming year it will serve you well to get your planning underway right now. High school event calendars fill up in a hurry and you need to get on their agenda early in the school year or risk being left out.

Look me up in Chattanooga at the Convention this fall and let's discuss how the DD can help with your YMIH program.....I've got some seed money to help it along.

CAN YOU SOLVE THESE WORD GAMES?

each stands for a well-known saying, person, place or thing. Answers on page 17

FLOWAT

• 1. HA 2. RM 3. ON 4. Y

· URBAN

• APPLE≃

• JUST + H_2O

EXPERIENCED DIRECTOR NEEDED

The Chattanooga, Tennessee Chapter, Choo Choo Chorus, a 50-man chorus that regularly puts 35 to 40 men on stage for contest, needs an experienced director to replace our current leader. Our chorus consistently places in the top ten choruses at the Dixie District contest. This is a paid position. Chattanooga is in the top ten cities in the country for outdoors living activities and the top twenty cities in the country for the lowest cost of living. If interested, please contact Dan Bruns at 423-751-6430 (day) or 423-493-1880 (evenings). You can Email Dan at dbruns@tva.com

Need a welcome change? Try a BABS convention

By Fred Hinesley, VP Member Services

s a part of our recent trip to England, Elizabeth and I attended the *BABS* (*British Association of Barbershop Singers*) convention held during the weekend of May 24-26 in *Bournemouth*, *England*, and we had a fantastic time! The charming lady who greeted us at the reception desk set the tone for the rest of the convention. Our British hosts were gracious and warm and helped to make our visit a memorable experience.

During the first session, Elizabeth looked around the auditorium of the *Bournemouth International Centre* and said, "This is the first time I've ever attended a barbershop convention and not seen a familiar face anywhere." This was the only session, however, at which we failed to see a familiar face. From that time on we enjoyed new friendships.

During a break during the quartet contest on Friday, the gentleman sitting next to me mentioned that during the '70s he had lived in Chicago and had joined the *West Towns* barbershop chapter. After he returned to England, he joined the *Sheffield barbershop club*. "I could hardly tell any difference in the two," he said.

There were, as a matter of fact, few differences in the BABS convention and those we've attended in the United States. The competing quartets and choruses were entertaining and their musical quality was excellent. Not surprisingly, most of the songs they sang are often heard at our own conventions, including "Let's Get Away From It All," "Apron Strings," "Toot Toot Tootsie," and many others.

The winning quartet, **The Light Industrial Chord Society**, will compete at the 2003 in Montreal, along with **Matri**x, the 2002 gold medalists, who represented BABS in *Portland*. The winning chorus, **The Cambridge Chord Company**, will compete in Montreal. **The Grand Central Chorus**, last year's winner in Glasgow, was the BABS representative in Portland. These splendid groups will be a credit to BABS in international competition.

THERE WERE SOME DIFFERENCES

There were, of course, differences from our conventions. Although we heard some excellent singing in the lobby, there were few of the pick-up quartets which are characteristic of SPEBSQSA conventions. Most of the British choruses still prefer the choreography characteristic of the SPEBSQSA choruses in the '70s and '80s instead of the more fluid and diverse movements which many of our choruses now prefer. (Nevertheless, their choreography was well



done and enhanced their performances.) We had anticipated a harmony market place at which we could purchase souvenirs such as BABS t-shirts and caps. Although these kinds of things were not available, we did come away with CD recordings of the fine British groups.

AN AMERICAN FLAVOR

Two of the convention highlights were the performances of our own quartets, **Chordiac Arrest** and **Four Voices**. Both groups performed three times and established fine rapport with their audiences, who loved their comedy and their music. Four Voices' rendition of "It Is Well With My Soul" was rewarded with a standing ovation.

Toward the end of the convention, we saw my long-time friend **Bob Walker** and his lovely wife, **Jan**. Bob (with whom I've woodshedded in the AHSOW suite at *Harmony College* on many occasions) did a fine job of directing the convention gang sing. It was also a pleasure to see another fellow AHSOW member and friend from Harmony College, **Alan Johnson**.

We particularly enjoyed getting to know our new friends **Bob** and **Susan Angel** who are planning to attend the 2004 SPEBSQSA convention. It was also nice to get to know **Lawrie Waddingham**, the receptions and convention manager, and **Brian Sperry**, who headed the BABS membership program last year and who was responsible for security at this convention. I learned from Brian that the high percentage of younger men whom I had seen performing in the competing choruses was not characteristic of BABS as a whole and that our English counterparts have the same problems attracting younger men that we have. I wish that I could discover the secret of attracting young men and boys to our hobby that many of the competing British choruses have found.

Despite the problems that many British barbershop clubs are experiencing in attracting younger men, this convention was exciting proof that barbershopping is alive and well in Britain and that there is an abundance of talented musicians there who will insure that it stays alive and well. The 2002 convention was indeed a highlight of our first visit to England. As Irving Berlin wrote about Dixie, "When you need a welcome change, just try a holiday" ... at a BABS convention.

BARBERSHOP CRUISE (continued)

Continued from page 12



The chorus rehearses for the show

Our 6th day was spent, in part, in Ketchikan and many of us enjoyed the tour to the totem village. (A lot of Indian history here) We also had our final chorus rehearsal prior to our scheduled Saturday show, and we were all wondering if we would fit on stage. After all, I counted 153 singers.

It was then that I had the experience of



A pickup quartet rehearses for the contest. I swear Sparky Anderson was there! (R)

my barbershop lifetime. I was privileged to sing baritone with the Gas House Gang. Talk about being nervous! I had to take deep breaths while we decided on a song.

I had previously thought of a number of songs to sing with them but my mind went totally blank when they asked me what I would like to sing. We ended up with *Heart of My Heart*, and I surprised myself by hitting all the notes correctly. (WHEW!) I could even tell that we rang the snot out of some of the chords. (They are that good)

Saturday afternoon's show was a



How can one guy be so lucky! Yours truly gets to sing with the Gas House Gang Are they really that short, or was I standing on a box?

knockout! The 1,000-seat showplace was packed. Gas House Gang put on another of their spectacular performances, to include Beethoven, and the 150 plus singers on stage put on an admirable performance.

Each Gas House Gang member directed



Roll over Beethoven, Gas House Gang is here!

at least one song and Kip told the audience before his song that he was more nervous directing his first ever chorus than singing for them.

In closing, this was the most enjoyable week Joyce and I have ever spent (since our honeymoon) (OOPS! TMI) I asked Jim;

RR: What are your overall thoughts and comments about the cruise, people you met & our concert.

Jim: "I can only say that the cruise was more wonderful than we could have imagined. We never dreamed that over 400 barbershoppers would come along with us. It was awesome to direct the chorus who did a very respectable job of singing six songs with only three rehearsals. It was fun to walk around a cruise ship and hear four-part harmony in every corner. I think the Norwegian Cruise staff had no idea what had hit them. Overall, the familial atmosphere that developed among all the barbershoppers in the span of a week was awe-inspiring and something we'll never forget".

I know this article was long, and maybe too much for some of you, but I wanted to emphasize that if you ever want to experience the best that barbershop has to offer, go on a cruise like this any time you have a chance. It was truly a "cruise of a lifetime". Thanks, members of the **Gas House Gang**, you were outstanding as usual.



The Gas House Chorus completes the show with a series of six songs, each directed by a Gas House Gang member. Here, Rob Henry takes his turn

Magic membership beans promise harvest of growth

By Fred Hinesley, VP Member Services

y Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend at Clemson was outstanding! Not only did I get to attend performances of some of the world's greatest barbershop groups, do some singing (including some woodshedding in the AHSOW room) and renew old friendships, I discovered in my Magic Beans of Chapter Growth classes that there are a number of Dixie barbershoppers who have great ideas about how to add to our member numbers and that they are capable of implementing their ideas.

It was particularly encouraging to hear of the good things that are happening in the *Blue Ridge Chapter* which, right now, is the fastest growing chapter in our district and which is blessed with strong leadership and dedicated and enthusiastic members.

It's impossible to cover everything that we talked about in my class, but I'd like to review a few of the things vital to membership growth and retention that we covered:

- 1 In order for a chapter to recruit new members and to retain the members it has, it must offer the members worthwhile programs—including interesting and educational chapter meetings, chorus rehearsals, performances, and altruistic outreach.
- 2 In order for a chapter to grow it must have an ongoing, well planned membership program which includes recruitment events, orientation of new members, involvement of the entire membership in key roles (a membership chairman, assigned greeters for guests, buddies for guests and new members, follow-up people, attendance monitors, renewal person, etc.)
- 3 The membership program is best planned and implemented by a membership committee which meets on a regular basis and which does long term planning and program evaluation.
- 4 Greeters should be assigned to welcome guests who just show up at chapter meetings, and buddies should be assigned to see that they enjoy themselves, that they are not neglected, that they are placed in the appropriate voice section, that they are properly introduced to the chapter at the appropriate time, and that someone follows up their visit with a phone



call and a letter.

- 5 A series of recruitment programs should be planned to take place throughout the year (for example, a guest night, followed two or three months later by a guest night with a Sweet Adelines or Harmony, Inc., chapter, followed by one of the Society's recruitment programs such as Auditions for Admissions, Class of 2002, or a similar program).
- 6 New members should receive well thought out orientation into the chapter, district, and Society in order to insure their retention.

These were only some of the things we discussed, but as I've said, I found out that there are guys in this district who have some great ideas for chapter membership growth and retention and that they are enthusiastic about implementing them.

Maybe the guys that these guys recruit can join us at next year's Lakeside Harmony event. What a great way to enhance retention!



Table you off the pills and switch you from tenor to lead!"

New Director For The McDonough, GA Chapter

By Bob Shurbutt

fter being instrumental in founding the *McDonough*, *GA* chap ter and being the director for two years, **Bob Ziegler** has decided to resign as chorus director to have more time to enjoy his retirement and travel. Bob will still be an active member and section leader in the *Southern Crescent Chorus* in McDonough.

Scott Keesey has been chosen as the **Southern Crescent Chorus**'s new director. Scott is twenty-nine years old (yes, twenty nine) and a native of Ohio, born and raised in **Tiffin, Ohio**.

Scott is in his first year as the choral director at *Stockbridge Middle School*. He spent the past 3 years as the choral director at *Forest Park High School*. While at Forest Park, Scott directed a men's chorus, two women's choruses, and a select mixed chorus.

He holds both a bachelors and a masters degree in choral music education from the *University of South Carolina* and plans to pursue his doctoral degree in choral conducting in the very near future.

Scott also has an extensive background in church music; he was influenced from the time he was born, as both of Scott's parents were church organists and choir directors.

His first post was the chair beside his father's organ bench until he was old enough to sit in the congregation. While his father was a *Presbyterian* organist/choir director, and his mother was employed at the *Lutheran* church, and later at the *United Methodist* church, Scott was a member of each of their children and later adult choirs.

Scott has held positions at *Lake Murray Presbyterian Church* in *Columbia*, *SC*,

Brooks United Methodist Church in Fayette County, GA and is currently director of music at McDonough First United Methodist Church in McDonough, Ga.

Scott is new to Barbershopping, but has extensive experience with male choruses and ensembles. He hopes to use his background in men's chorus as a foundation for his new position in Barbershop.

While at *Ohio University* Scott sang in the *University Men's Chorus*, "The Singing Men of Ohio," and was also in the eight member select ensemble, "Section 8." While Section 8 frequently sang barbershop selections, Scott had no idea that he would ever be directing a chorus of exclusively barbershop music.

Later, at the *University of South Carolina*, he organized and directed a six voice male ensemble called "Vocalis." The group represented the University throughout *South Carolina* as well as in *Germany* and the *Czech Republic*. In their first year of singing, they were asked to sing in a men's a cappella competition and placed second, placing ahead of veteran groups from schools such as *Princeton*, *William and Mary College*, and others.

Scott looks forward to directing the **Southern Crescent Chorus** as he has found the excitement and dedication of its members unparalleled.

He says, "The tradition of barbershop is just awesome, the potential for our chapter is unlimited and having just attended the **Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend** at **Clemson University**, I'm ready to roll!"

BRIGADE TO CAMPAIGN IN JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

By Frank Cristina VP Marketing & PR & CHB Deputy Commanding General

he Confederate Harmony Brigade will have this year's Rally and concert at Jacksonville, Florida on September 7. The host will be the First Coast Metro Chorus of Jacksonville and the venue for the show will be the Florida Theater, located on 128 East Forsyth Street, Jacksonville.

The show will feature the First Coast Metro Chorus, consisting of approximately 60 men, who will perform on the first part of the show; the Brigade consisting of 100 members and guests will perform on the second half of the show. The combined choruses will also perform several songs together. In addition, featured quartets will be Wise Guys, Endeavor and Loose Change. Additional quartets may be included on this show.

The CHB has 50 members, plus senior membership of approximately 30 singers. In addition there are over 40 guests who will attend this year. The membership and invited guests are all members in good standing of the Dixie and Sunshine Districts.

For ticket information, please contact

Sondra Floyd, The Florida Theater, telephone 904-355-5661 or Chris Connelly, telephone 904-838-6551.

ANSWERS TO WORD GAME

- 1. Low in fat
- 2. Four-part harmony
- 3. Urban sprawl
- 4. Just add water



DIXIE DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION OCTOBER 4 - 6, 2002 CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE

| Name | | | Nickname | | | | | |
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| Guests | \$25.00 Early Bird | X | | + | \$ | = | \$ | |
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MAIL THIS FORM TO

John Whalen 9629 Dortmund Drive SE Huntsville, AL 35803-1113 Fax: 256-883-5578

EMAIL: jwhalen104@msn.com

2002 DIXIE DISTRICT FALL CONVENTION CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE OCTOBER 4 – 6, 2002 OFFICIAL HOUSING FORM DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT – SEPTEMBER 12, 2002

Reservation requests must be made on this form. Please complete all information requested. Photocopies are acceptable.

Mail OR fax this form to the below address. PLEASE DO NOT DO BOTH.

(When faxing this form, please include a cover sheet stating # of pages, and contact name/phone number). A confirmation from your assigned hotel will follow. Allow at least two weeks for processing.

CHATTANOOGA CONVENTION AND VISITORS BUREAU ATTENTION: JEANNINE GRIFFEY, CONVENTION SERVICES MANAGER 2 BROAD STREET – CHATTANOOGA, TN 37402 FAX NUMBER: 423/265-1630

Rates are per night. Send only one application per room. The Chattanooga Area Convention and Visitors Bureau process all forms on a first-come, first-serve basis. Only official housing forms are accepted (copies permitted). RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE. DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2002. Please do not send a check or money order, only credit card guaranteed reservations will be processed by the CCVB. All rates are subject to 9.25% sales tax, and 4% occupancy tax. NO SHOW POLICY: You must cancel your room prior to 6PM on the day of arrival to avoid being charged room and tax for that night.

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| CHECK-IN DATE (required) | DEPARTUR | E DATE (required) | #OF NIGHTS | | | | |
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| YES NO Send me inform | nation about suites. | | | | | | |
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| NAME OF PERSON #3 | | | | | | | |
| NAME OF PERSON #4 | | | | | | | |
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| CLARION HOTEL DAYS INN RIVERGATE | \$78 | - CHOICE # | | | | | |
| DAYS INN RIVERGATE | \$64 | - CHOICE | # | | | | |
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REBEL ROUSER



Photo from the society web site courtesy of David Wagner, Proctor Web Productions

Congratulations to Dixie's best! 1996 MBNA Collegiate Champion 2000 Dixie District Champion 2001 4th Place International Medallist ONCEAGAIN, DIXIE REIGNS!

NONFROHTUSPOSTACEPADNASHMLETN PERMITNO2206



DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2002

| October | 4-6 | Dixie Fall Convention - Chattanooga, TN |
|----------|-------|---|
| November | 16-17 | COTS -TBA |

Central Alabama

SHOWS

August

2002

| September | 28 | Blue Ridge Mt. Foothills | |
|-----------|-------|--------------------------|--|
| October | 12 | Rock Hill, SC | |
| | 18-19 | Savannah, GA | |
| | 26 | Mobile, AL | *** ** ** ** *** * *** * *** * * * * * |
| November | 2 | Pinehurst, NC | Visit the Dixie Website at |
| | | Seneca, SC | www.ddspebs.org |
| | | Charlotte, NC | www.duspens.org |
| | 15-16 | Stone Mt., GA | |
| | | | |

2003

May 24 Hickory, NC

2-3

If your show is not listed here, please inform District Secretary Noah Funderburg, if you have not already done so.

Chapter shows must have received a Show Clearance from the District Secretary in order to be listed here.

Also, check the Dixie District Web Page at www.ddspebs.org for more listings.