



# Dixie District SPEBSQSA **REBEL ROUSER**

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



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2003**

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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 back cover	\$250

### COLOR ADS

**Outside Back Cover: Call Editor for pricing**

**Inside front or back cover**

\$450, single issue - \$400/issue, annual contract

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Curt Douglass

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*Articles with no byline are  
contributed by the Editor*

## THE EDITOR'S PAGE

By Ron Hesketh

**M**y dissertation this issue begins with an apology. In the last issue I indicated that the *Cleveland, Tennessee chorus* won the "Most Improved" honor. That award was really presented to the *Chattanooga Choo Choo Chorus*. Thanks to Steve Grub for his reminder.

I always welcome your comments and suggestions. That is a good indicator that you are paying attention to what is published.

### Now On To The Meat And Potatoes

I have been attending the *Dixie District*

spring & fall conventions now for more than 11 years. I have not missed a single one since I became a barbershopper. It is at these conventions that I have had the pleasure of meeting more of the greatest people in the world than I could have ever imagined and will always treasure the friendships that have resulted.

It makes me wonder why the rest of the Dixie barbershop world hasn't benefited from this experience. We have more than 50 chapters in the district but I venture to speculate, that not more than half of these chapters have attended one of these at the same time.

### Why, I ask, is this true?

Is the distance too great? Is the overall cost that prohibitive? Are the members not that interested? Is the district not providing the best atmosphere? OK guys, what is it?



**Let's look at each  
point, one at a time.**

### Conventions Are Not Just For Competition Any More!

**Distance:** The board has discussed this aspect of the conventions and has concluded that past attendance has suffered when the conventions were held in far corners of the district boundaries. Because of that fact, more central locations were

given high consideration and cities such as *Greenville, South Carolina* and two cities in *Tennessee (Chattanooga and Knoxville)* were given highest consideration. Would different locations be better for you?

**Cost:** The cost of attendance can get a bit high, depending on where one stays. Items such as transportation, lodging, meals and registration are the main ones.

For two people (I presume that spouses should also be included for the majority of us) to make the trip, I have guessed at an average cost of \$350 to \$400. This includes \$200 for lodging, \$75 for meals, \$45 for fuel (I used 600 miles average round trip, at 20 MPG, and a fuel price of about \$1.50 per gallon) and \$50 registration. For those of us that eat less, have more fuel efficient cars and who can share the hotel room, the cost bur-

**Continued on page 5**

# SING WITH ME IN 2003

By Don Lang, Dixie District President

**G**reetings fellow Dixie members!

I'm pleased to report that the Dixie District is alive and well! I'm humbled, honored, and pleased to be allowed to be your Dixie District president for 2003.

Words cannot adequately express my gratitude to **Jim Sams**, and others who have preceded me on this road. THANK YOU, Jim et al!!! I promise to try not to mess up the programs that you have started.

## SLOGAN

I've been thinking for a long time about a catchy "heading" for this article and/or a slogan for 2003. Several other possibilities crossed my mind before I settled on -  
**"Sing with me in 2003"**.

I chose that because we are after all primarily a singing organization! I would be thrilled if I could at least sing a tag with each of you during the year! I'd also be pleased if you would all adopt that slogan, and make a serious attempt to sing with as many of us as possible. It's a neat way to get acquainted! Find 3 others guys to sing with at a Dixie convention, Clemson, COTS School, neighboring chapter, or even your OWN chapter.

## CONVENTIONS

Speaking of conventions - I feel that our Dixie District conventions are kind of like a reunion of our extended family. As such, I feel disappointed when some of our "family" are not present. I ask all of you to make every reasonable effort to be in Knoxville this spring. I'll be looking for you!

## COMMUNICATIONS

Another slogan I considered was -  
**"Talk with me in 2003"**.

Communication among all of us is very important! Let's share our joys and successes, as well as our difficulties. We can learn a lot from each other. Let's face it, I don't know of any barbershopper who won't try to help, if we let him know what we need. So, PLEASE keep in touch with your chapter

members, your chapter officers, other Dixie District members, your Dixie District Leadership team, and me! I'm realistic enough to know that we probably won't solve every problem, but let's at least give it a shot!



## E-COMMUNICATION

Many of you have been on one or more of our Dixie District e-mail lists for some time. These lists serve us well in getting information to the most people in the shortest amount of time.

We are now striving diligently to get every Dixie District member on the **DIX-Dist-Members List**. If you have e-mail, if your wife has e-mail, if you have e-mail at work, we need you on this list. If you are reading this, and are not currently on the **DIX-Dist-Members List**, PLEASE let me know.

Some people are concerned about junk e-mail. **This list is moderated, and "spam" will not be tolerated.**

There are also lists for chapter e-mail contacts, chapter presidents, chorus competitor contacts, quartet competitors, and chorus directors. If you are in any of these categories, and are not on the appropriate e-mail list, please let me know.

**Sing-cerely yours for better communication and better SINGING!**

**Rick Husband** has just one other space flight under his belt and already he's flying as commander. That's a rarity. "I think a lot of it has to do with being in the right place at the right time, for starters," says Husband, 45, an Air Force colonel from Amarillo, Texas. The former test pilot was selected as an astronaut in 1994 on his fourth try. Space flight has been his lifelong passion, along with singing. Husband, a baritone, has barbershop quartet experience and has been singing in church choirs for years.



Source: The Associated Press

## Editor (cont'd)

Continued from page 3

den goes down tremendously.

- **Member Interest:** OK guys! We all should have interest in the hobby. After all, why else would we continue to be members? We provide the time for group and individual singing, meetings to discuss issues that are vital to our survival as a district, and some limited amount of education (time constraints may prohibit the extent of this effort• ).

- **Atmosphere Provided:** This issue goes hand-in-hand with the aforementioned "Member Interest" issue. The board has, in the House of Delegates meetings, discussed many aspects of this as a regular part of their agenda.

Questions have arisen regarding competition verses singing for evaluation, time for a more relaxed singing environment, and even time for seminars to help us enjoy this hobby more.

They have always welcomed suggestions for improvement and have gone out of their way to accommodate feedback from all who attend to include roundtable discussions where board members split up and sit at the tables to solicit input from all delegates.

The main problem is ATTENDANCE! Basically, only about 50% of the chapters are present at any one meeting. Hey guys, these are for your chapter's benefit. If your chapter President (or officially selected representative) can't afford to attend, supplement it with chapter funds.

We can't help you if we don't have your

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## RECENT CHORUS DIRECTOR'S WORKSHOP

Editor's Note: *The author of this article wishes to remain anonymous. I felt that the content was definitely fitting to present to the membership because of its overall value to our hobby. My sincere thanks for this valuable input.*

On November 16, 2002, I participated in the chorus director's workshop that was recently hosted by the **McDonough, GA chapter**. What a great opportunity both for the singers and the directors!!

For the past few years I have been unable to be a regular attendee at chapter meetings, but every chance I get, I "plug-in" to a barbershop activity.

This opportunity nugget was terrific because I got to sing barbershop harmony with some great guys and at the same time observe two of our society's most talented musical leaders (**Doug Miller** from Minnesota & **David Leeder** of North Carolina) coach five different directors.

I have to hand it to these five students because I know a couple of them and they have been front-line directors for more than a few years. No doubt they have been coached before in this microscopic, in-your-face environment and they keep coming back to the well to improve their skills — those skills that we, as chorus members, depend on our collective directors to utilize on a week-in-week out basis.

Most of us appreciate the fact that

front-line directing is a tough job. AND THEN, these five guys from the four corners of Dixie District come to **McDonough, Georgia** to be examined, critiqued and most importantly to be musically encouraged in front of not only their peers, but in front of barbershop singers, some of whom they have never seen before!

I have to tell you, we were just putty in their hands and in the hands of their musical mentors for the weekend. My guess is that we, the guinea pig chorus members, benefitted as much from the workshop as the five directors did.

These five are some of the absolutely most devoted barbershoppers in the society. My hat is off to them for giving of their personal time and committing themselves to improvement of my barbershop hobby.

Anytime you see these talented individuals, shake their hand and thank them for what they do.

**Joe Ryan - Savannah, GA**  
**Scott Keeseey - McDonough, GA**  
**John Phillips - Augusta, GA**  
**Jim Matthews -**

**Upper Cumberland, TN**  
**Larry Focht - Huntsville, AL**

**"After eating an entire bull, a mountain lion felt so good he started roaring. He kept it up until a hunter came along and shot him... The moral:**

**When you're full of bull, keep your mouth shut."**

*Will Rogers*

# COTS 2002 ATTENDANCE AT RECORD LEVEL

By Ralph Cordero, Dixie District COTS Coordinator

The Chapter Operations Training Seminar held on November 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> in *Jonesboro, Ga.* drew a modern day record crowd. The annual sessions, to prepare incoming (or repeating) chapter officers for the upcoming year of activities, were attended by over 130 chapter leaders representing 31 different chapters.

This year's faculty was outstanding led by **Dean Dick Shaw** and included **Digger Macdougall** (Presidents), **Jim Eldridge** (Secretaries), **Jim Sams** (yeah—that Jim Sams!—Treasurers), **Doran McTaggart** (Music & Performance), **Jerry Schmidt** (Directors), **Larry Gilhousen** (Marketing), **Dave Dicken** (Chorus Development), **Paul Arnone** (Chapter

Counselors), and **Mike Louque** (YMIH).

The weekend kicked-off on Friday evening with the annual dinner meeting for the faculty who were joined by the district board members. The district board has made it a point to attend COTS en masse

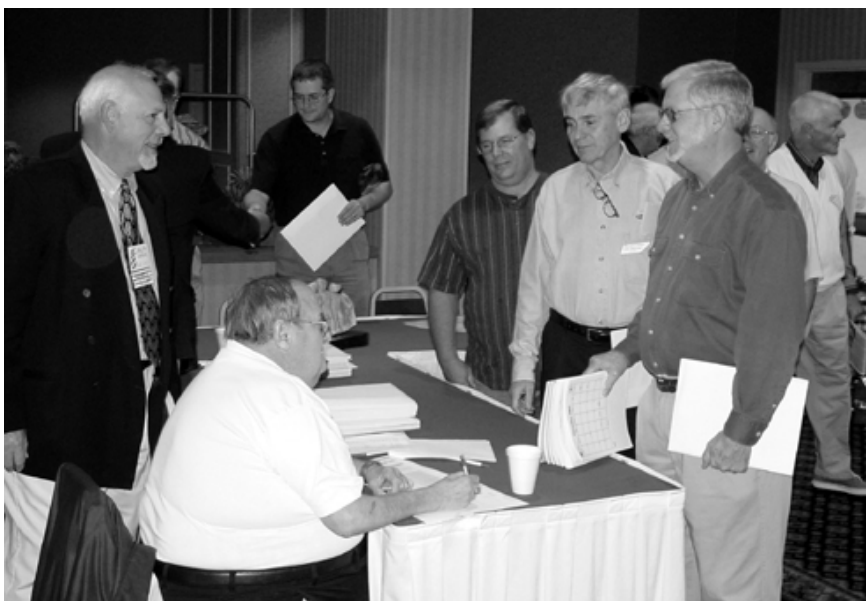
for the past couple of years and it has been a tremendous vote of confidence and show of support for the COTS seminar.

Also, on Friday evening and again on Saturday morning, we added sessions on grant writing which were exceptionally well attended. Arranged by **Dan Shelles**, *District Grant Coordinator*,

**THE ANNUAL SESSIONS, TO PREPARE INCOMING (OR REPEATING) CHAPTER OFFICERS FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR OF ACTIVITIES, WERE ATTENDED BY OVER 130 CHAPTER LEADERS REPRESENTING 31 DIFFERENT CHAPTERS.**



Coordinator Ralph Cordero & assistant Bill Nordmark



Ralph Cordero oversees the COTS registration process

the sessions led by **Jack Greenfield** (Sunshine) were particularly well received and will likely result in a series of mini-sessions held throughout 2003 at various locations in the District.

The Saturday sessions were kicked-off at 10am with a district "Town Hall Meeting" led by incoming District President **Don Lang** and attended by all the district officers. These sessions, introduced last year, provide a forum for the attendees to meet their district officers and voice any concerns or questions they have about district operations.

This was followed by a general session

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# Take Care Of Your Voice, It's The Only One You Have

By David Epstein MD  
Wilmington, DE Chapter

Editor's Note: *This is the second and final article designed to help us all become better singers. The articles were taken from the society web site.*

Last issue, I wrote about things to do every day to keep your voice healthy. Now I want to suggest some ways to protect your voice if you become ill.

If you catch a cold or other upper respiratory infection, turn on a humidifier or vaporizer, especially during the winter. A stuffy nose will cause you to mouth-breathe, which dries the throat and larynx. Either the steam-type or cool-mist type will do. Don't put Vicks or anything else in the water; plain H<sub>2</sub>O is most effective.

**Drink lots of fluids.** It sounds a bit gross to say it, but the best indicator is the color of your urine. If it is dark yellow, you need more fluids. You're doing fine if your urine looks like water. (Check with your doctor on this if you have a heart or kidney condition.)

**Avoid aspirin.** It makes bleeding injuries in your vocal cords more likely. Tylenol (acetaminophen) or Advil (ibuprofen) are better choices for fever or pain in singers.

**Avoid antihistamines and decongestants if possible.** Most nonprescription cold remedies contain them, but they are too drying for singers. Mucolytic agents that break up mucus, such as Organidin (by prescription) or plain Robitussin (over the counter), help liquify secretions without drying your mucus membranes if you have a cold.

**Avoid Vitamin C in excessive doses.** It has no proven benefit in fighting colds, but it is a mild di-

uretic and will tend to dry out your body.

**Pay attention to your general health.** Constipation or diarrhea will make your stomach uncomfortable and ruin your support. Chronic allergies cause swelling in the mucous membranes of the larynx; the nasal stuffiness also leads to mouth breathing, causing excessive dryness in the larynx. These and other minor conditions, if untreated, will affect your singing.

If you have hoarseness or cough lasting more than a couple of weeks, see a doctor right away. If he or she can't diagnose the problem, ask for a referral to an Ear-Nose-and-Throat surgeon who specializes in voice problems (not all do).

Ask the doctor if you have "chronic reflux," a much under-diagnosed condition in which stomach contents flow up your esophagus while you're asleep and irritate your larynx. You may have reflux if you wake up hoarse or with a sore throat each morning, or cough a lot at night. (Other conditions can also do these things.)

The treatment usually consists of elevating the head of your bed, antacids, never eating immediately before sleep, and avoiding caffeine, alcohol, and spicy food. I hope you don't have "reflux"-life becomes very dull!

If you have diabetes, take good care of it. The fluid shifts caused by changing blood-sugar levels may give you fluctuating swelling in your vocal cords.

The hints from Dr. Sataloff that I have passed on in these three articles will, I hope, help keep your voice healthy.

The four basic principles are:

- Avoid irritants such as alcohol and cigarettes.
- Avoid speaking or singing over noise.
- Use good posture and support while singing and speaking.
- Take care of your health.

## A Unique Opportunity

By Keith Phemister

I am a member of the Columbia Chapter of SPEBSQSA. I also sing other styles of music with an 85 voice, all male chorus, known as **The Palmetto Mastersingers**.

The Mastersingers present about 4 concerts a year, and on Saturday, March 8, 2003 at 8:00 pm they will feature **Riptide** at the **Koger Center in Columbia, SC**. Since the Columbia chapter doesn't put on shows, this may be the only opportunity for the barbershoppers in that chapter and surrounding chapters to see **Riptide**.

For tickets, barbershoppers can call 803.251.2222, or, for advanced group sales they can call 803.765.0777. For additional information on the Mastersingers, you can go to [www.Palmettomastersingers.org](http://www.Palmettomastersingers.org).

# **Time To Submit Nominations For The 2003 Inductee To The Dixie District Hall of Fame**

By Bill Lester

The purpose of the Dixie District Hall of Fame is to give recognition to those men who have made exceptional, long standing, unselfish, dedicated and devoted contributions to the Dixie District, their chapter(s) and the society. This award shall serve to honor such person's participation and focus on these activities.

## **QUALIFICATION:**

Induction into the Hall of Fame shall be limited to persons, living or dead, whose contributions to the District has spanned no less than 10 years. These contributions may have been on various levels of organization whether musical or administrative. These contributions shall be service or activities that have added to the overall well being of the District and furtherance of the hobby. Recognition need not be limited to current Society members, but the recognized service must have been performed while the individual was a member of the Society and the District.

The basic criteria for qualification includes, but is not limited to, quarteting activities, chorus directing, coaching, contest judging, composing, arranging, publishing, administering, writing, promoting, teaching, philanthropy, or preferably some combination of these, which shall be marked by unselfish, dedicated and devoted service.

## **NOMINATIONS:**

Nomination of persons for induction into the Hall of Fame shall be made by any member of the District and shall be made in writing to the District Historian between April 1 and June 30 of any year. The initiating nominator shall provide a legible, detailed description of the nominee's qualifications. Such description need not be precise on dates, places, results, etc. but must provide sufficient credible information to substantiate the qualification offered. Corroborating sources, such as publications or individuals, may be used, but such must be either generally available or made available by the nominator. A specific person may be nominated more than once. If someone is nominated by more than one person, it shall be treated as a single nomination, but the combined facts and information may be considered. A quartet may be nominated, but it shall be considered as one nomination.

## **SELECTION PROCEDURE:**

The Committee shall review the information by mail. As soon as practical after June 30 of each year, the District Historian shall send to the Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee all of the nominations and supporting documentation. The Selection Committee Chairman shall review all of the nominations to determine the eligibility of each nominee. Questions regarding eligibility shall be referred to the Chairman of the Dixie District Laws and Regulations Committee. The nominations of all eligible nominees shall constitute the slate of potential inductees for that year. The members of the Selection Committee may wish to discuss the nominees' qualifications before voting. Voting shall be by written ballot and shall be by rank, for example each voting member shall list his first, second, third, and successive choices. After the order of ranking is determined by the vote of the Selection Committee, the Committee shall determine how many nominees shall be inducted for that year. The final selection vote may be by telephone poll, by mail or e-mail, or, at the request of any member of the Selection Committee, shall be by written ballot. The Committee's action each year shall be completed by August 15th.

The Dixie District extends this invitation for you to submit your nomination, to the Dixie District Hall of Fame, for evaluation and consideration by the Selection Committee.

Please mail your nomination and supporting information to:

Bill Lester  
Dixie District Historian  
1045 Seven Springs Circle  
Marietta, GA. 30068-2660.



## Say Hello To The Newest Dixie District Hall of Fame Member Warren Bowen

**Editor's Note:** *The following is an edited version of the induction notes used by Robert E. Lee as he presented the 2002 Dixie District Hall of Fame award at the fall convention in Chattanooga. To emphasize his importance to the Dixie District, I would add that he was nominated by numerous individuals. When you see Warren, be sure to congratulate him on this most prestigious award.*

May I extend my appreciation and that of the *Spartanburg Chapter* to **Bill Lester** and the *Dixie District Hall of Fame Selection Committee* for their consideration and selection.

I also want to thank **Becky Wolfe** for her encouragement of the *Spartanburg Chapter* to undertake this recommendation. To all those barbershoppers who also made recommendations of support, we thank you also.

In review of those barbershoppers in the Hall of Fame, it is easily understandable why our Hall of Fame is so prestigious. My personal knowledge of **Don Hawkins, Sev Severence, Skinny Harris, Jim Warner, Charlie McCann, Dick DeMontmollin, Charlie Rose** and **Bobby Wooldridge** who are members of the Hall of Fame, make me proud to be a barbershopper in the *Dixie District*. A Barbershop 7<sup>th</sup> to the Selection Committee for their wise and considered selections.

This Committee once again has chosen wisely in the selection of **Warren T. Bowen** to be inducted into the Hall of Fame. Only a few of Warren's contributions are herein presented.

"**Bone**", as he is affectionately known by most of us, has been a continuing contributor to our society for nearly half a

century. After spending his first ten years as a "spark-plug" in the *Danville, Virginia Chapter*, he moved to *Spartanburg* where he started the *Spartanburg Chapter* in 1964 and has been a charter mem-

tor to the creation of the mini-COTS schools at the local chapter's hometown. So far he's pinned 31 man-of-note awards and working on number 32.

It's not only what Warren has done within the society, it is the additional contribution of barbershopping to the community of *Spartanburg*. As our local newspaper stated, "It was the .... luminary, .... peripatetic, Warren Bowen who arranged for the *Palmetto Statesmen* to sing in the Goodfellows Follies, an annual December *Herald-Journal* charity program for more than a dozen years."

Warren is a barbershoppers's, barbershopper to our society, our district, our chapter and to many, many individuals.

I'm thankful and with pride, present and induct **Warren T. Bowen** into our *Dixie District Hall of Fame*.



Warren Bowen accepts the 2002 Dixie District Hall of Fame award presented to him by Robert E. Lee

ber ever since. He soon became its Music Director and led the chapter to its Dixie District chorus championship in 1970. He has been a continuous supporter of quartetting and his own **Upper Echelon** quartet placed a high 2<sup>nd</sup> place in our Dixie District quartet competition.

In the district he was an area counselor, district Secretary, Executive Vice-President, district President, and International board member. He's been instrumental in the starting of many chapters, most recently the *Rock Hill Chapter*.

Warren Bowen was a significant contribu-

### The Palmetto Statesmen

The *Palmetto Statesmen* of *Spartanburg, SC* will present it's annual show on the campus of *Converse College* on June 7, 2003. (at 7:59 PM sharp)

# AROUND THE DISTRICT

## a compilation of chorus happenings

### Heart of Dixie Chorus

The Heart of Dixie Chorus (Troy, AL chapter) earned \$1,700 at their Spaghetti Dinner/Silent Auction on Dec. 6th. The chorus members cooked and served all the food, and provided barbershop singing for all the guests. After eating it was difficult to get the guests to leave because they wanted to hear more singing!

The food was donated by local retail stores. Local merchants also provided items and services to be auctioned off. According to Jim Wadowick, chapter secretary, "Now we will have more than enough money to pay for our guest quartet for our Nov. 1, 2003 chapter concert.

The chapter is in its second full year of existence and has been singing for many clubs and civic events in Troy, and the requests keep pouring in for the chorus or our chapter quartet to sing."

### The Possumtown Choral Society

The *Columbus, Mississippi* chapter (*Possumtown Barbershop Choral Society*) lost two of its oldest members. **Mr. John Bounds** (lead) passed away in December 12, 02 and Sunday, Jan 12, 2003 saw the passing of **Mr. Smith Henley** (bass).

Both of the men had 20+ years with our chapter and will be sorely missed. John sang to the age of 84 and Smith to the age of 94. Both men held offices in our chapter and were well known in their hometown of *Macon, Mississippi*. **Smith Henley** also served as mayor at one time.

### The Big Chicken Chorus

Editor's Note: *Many thanks to Thom Hine for sending this article and accompanying pictures.*

"How the Big Chicken Chorus Saved Christmas...(from the Grinch)" was an awesome production. Three shows on



December 6 & 7 to near capacity audiences at the *McEachern High School Performing Arts Center* in *Power Springs, GA* (in spite of the fact that we were competing with the televised finals of the SEC football battle), resulted in the *Big Chicken Chorus* claiming victory over the Grinch in all three shows. Imagine that! Man, I love those standing ovations. Chapter quartets participating in the show were "FRED" (not bad), 'them' (extremely handsome bari...looks like his Dad) and "Gentlemen From Georgia" (singing great).

The following Friday, 55 of our members jumped on a long delayed, evening flight from Hartsfield and 'winged it' to *St. Louis* where we were met by a

bus and transported to "*Columbia, MO*". There, we joined in the festivities of that chapter's ("*Boonslick Chord Buster's Chorus*") two Christmas Shows.

We arrived at our billeting around 4:00 AM but made it to the auditorium on time for a rehearsal with our host chapter, one of their chapter quartets ("*Dogs Without Leashes*")...I suggested they change their name to "*Chickens Without Leashes*"...'them', "*Gentlemen From Georgia*" and the "*Columbia, MO Fifth Grade Honors Choir*" prior to the Saturday matinee. Then the matinee, then dinner, then the evening show. What terrific and appreciative audiences. On to the afterglow, back to the dorms and up at 4:00 AM on Sunday to head back to St. Louis. The highlight of the shows for the 'Chickens' was the opportunity to perform with the "*Columbia Chapter's Chorus*" and the "*Columbia Children's Fifth Grade Honors Choir*"...neat kids and they sing beautifully. Our thanks to Clay



The Big Chicken Chorus performs with the 5th grade Honors Choir in Columbia, MO

**Hine** for the 63-part arrangement of "*Silent Night*" and "*Oh, Holy Night*".

Continued on page 11

## AROUND THE DISTRICT (cont'd)

Continued from page 10

Monday evening found the Chickens performing once again for the *Peach*

celebrated the life of **Gene Moore**, a long time member and dear friend, at his memorial service in *Woodstock, GA*. We'll



The Big Chicken Chorus performing at the Peach 94.9 Carols in the Park celebration

**94.9 FM 'Carols in the Park'** at *Centennial Park* in downtown *Atlanta* before a fantastic hometown crowd. Then on Tuesday evening we came back to earth as the **Big Chicken Chorus** cel-

miss Gene but we'll forever hold him in our memory. We'll also remember the two standing ovations and the encore...for that was the way Gene would have wanted it.

### The Rocket City Chorus

By Gerald Roberts

**O**n December 7, The **Rocket City Chorus, Huntsville AL**, in conjunction with the local **U.S. Marine Corp Reserve**, held a second annual Christmas benefit for the Marine's Toys For Tots program.

An hour-long evening show was held in the **Chan Auditorium** at the **University of Alabama** in **Huntsville** (UAH). Admission was five dollars or a new toy. We raised over \$500 and a lot of toys for this worthy benefit; and we had 25 performers on the risers and 5 in the audience, which is about 90% of our active chapter members.

Both years we allowed non-members to sing with us if they came to practice

and were ready. We gained several new members each year this way.

Following the show, an afterglow party was held at a member's home with the usual boisterous singing and snacks. The Christmas spirit was definitely showing, and it was a good morale builder for the chapter.

For the performance this year we put the music down and sang several numbers from the SPEBSQSA **Yuletide Favorites** Christmas book and a few specialty numbers like **Frosty the Snowman, Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, Jingle Bell Rock**, and the **Secret of Christmas**.

### what is the audiofile?

From SPEBSQSA's Live Wire

Check out this great new addition to the **Members Only** section of the society website. It's the **Audiofile**, an index to a private collection of more than 12,000 recorded songs, most from the early '20s to the late '40s (the golden age of popular song), and many of them unobtainable from any other source. Each of these performances is now available to barbershoppers on cassette or CD (unless protected by copyright, of course).

Access to the database is free for your first look; but after that, we encourage you to make a donation of any size to the society's **Harmony Foundation**. If you see performances you'd like to own, the owner will dub them onto cassette or CD and send them to you at no charge. We ask only for a donation to **Harmony Foundation** of \$10 for the first song in a request and \$5 for each additional song.

What a great way to help build the Foundation! Log on to the **Members Only** site and have a look. You'll be amazed at this database, and you'll have fun browsing it. If you have questions, contact Lynn Hauldren at [elhhaul@attbi.com](mailto:elhhaul@attbi.com).

One of the wives with her grandson did a Frosty pantomime, which was the highlight of the show, and another member's son also appeared on stage with antlers and a red nose for **Rudolph**. We finished with the traditional "**We Wish You a Merry Christmas**." It was a wonderful show for a very appreciative audience. We are already planning to do it again next year!

continued on page 12

## AROUND THE DISTRICT (cont'd)

### Winston-Salem Chapter

By John Vickers

#### VETERANS DAY Celebration In Song

On November 10th at the second annual Veterans Day Show presented by **Triad Harmony Express**, the *Winston-Salem Chapter*, presented "A Celebration In Song", featuring seven vocal groups from the *Winston-*



The Triad Harmony Express sings for the Veterans Day celebration

*Salem, Greensboro, and High Point "Triad" area of North Carolina.*

They invited two high school groups and four college groups to be part of this community songfest. Most of the singing



The East Forsyth High School group performs

was A Cappella and in three to eight part harmony!

One high school group of six young men did a "doo-wop" medley. CAPRICE, another high school group of 24 audi-



The Demon Divas perform



The group known as "One Accord"

tioned young women, has a strong record in state level competitions and performed music of their time. **One Accord** and **Demon Divas**, both female groups from Wake Forest University, were very entertaining. One Accord sang christian music and Demon Divas performed secular numbers. The **Spartones** from the *University of North Carolina at*



The Spartones entertain

*Greensboro* and **Temporary Reprieve** from *Wake Forest University*, both male groups, entertained with contemporary secular music. These accomplished young groups have all produced CDs of their music for sale.

As a finale, the groups massed to perform "*This Land Is Your Land*" and "*God Bless America*". This cooperative production provides a great opportunity for all to share in a

## AROUND THE DISTRICT (cont'd)



Temporary Reprieve

community recognition of Veterans Day, and a shared experience, which fosters mutual appreciation for the musical contributions of each group.

### Chapter Barbershoppers of the Year Announced

By Robert Strong

#### The Dixie Cotton Boll Chorus

The BOTY for the *Memphis Chapter* is **Steve Pendley**. Steve is the bass in the quartet *SHOWCASE*. He is the current bass section leader. He also serves on the show committee doing sound and lighting and is on the SP team.

It is customary in the Memphis chapter for the out going BOTY to write a poem about the incoming BOTY for the presentation of the award. What follows is that poem, which was done in rap style by yours truly assisted by my son **Jacob** doing the back up sounds?

*The BOTY for this year 2002  
Did a really good job for me and you  
He brought to this chapter talent and laughter  
When he stood out front it was never a disaster  
He jumped right in and took jobs galore  
And when he was ask he took on some more*

*When show time comes around  
he'll be lite with a smile  
And man his sound goes that extra mile  
He stands on the stage with great presentation  
He gives the audience that tingling sensation*

### The Grand Strand Chapter

By Chuck Swenson

The Low Country Chorus provided the entertainment for the Horry Telephone Cooperative annual shareholders meeting in October at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. Before a crowd of 3,000 shareholders, the chorus performed their repertoire highlighted by the unveiling of our new uniforms. (A great experience for all those involved in the performance)

The Grand Strand Chapter started a holiday chorus this fall organized by member Jack Cox. Interested men were invited to rehearsals during the month of November followed up by performances in December at the Alabama Theatre, the Hospice Festival of Trees at Litchfield, Christmas at the Hammock Shops on Pawleys Island, and the Myrtle Beach Estates Nursing Home. The holiday chorus is a great way to increase numbers for performances during the holiday season, develop potential new chapter members, and offer men in the area an opportunity to "raise their voices in song".

Our Young Men In Harmony program is in full swing. Under the direction of Dave Alexander, the chorus has visited two high schools, with three or four more schools still to come. The picture below is our visit to Waccamaw High School in Pawleys Island in December. The combined choral groups performed holiday music and the enthusiasm for barbershop



music was outstanding and well received by the students.

**Continued on page 21**

*One of these days he'll win First Place  
In the Dixie District quartet race  
I'll give you a hint he is the bass  
Of that quartet called ShowCase  
He caresses his sound so sweet and tenderly  
Know you know the man is Steve Pendley*

**continued on page 23**



**2003 DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION**  
 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, MARCH 21-23 - 2003  
**OFFICIAL HOUSING FORM**  
 DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT - FEBRUARY 21, 2003

**INSTRUCTIONS**

- ★ The Dixie District Housing Bureau must receive this form no later than February 21, 2003. Please print this application in detail. RESERVATIONS WILL NOT BE TAKEN BY PHONE. Please fax or mail forms to the DD Housing Bureau listed below. USE ONE FORM PER ROOM REQUIRED. Make additional copies if needed. Keep a copy for your records. Reservations are processed in the order received.
- ★ Preference of hotels must be indicated. If a housing form is received with just one hotel indicated and that hotel is full, the housing form will be sent back and you will lose your place in the queue.
- ★ In order to guarantee your reservation, a one night's deposit must accompany your request. Please complete the credit card information below. If you prefer to pay by check, do not send your check with this application. Please wait until you receive a written confirmation, at which time your check should be sent directly to your assigned hotel.
- ★ Upon receipt of your application, the DD Housing Bureau will assign you to a hotel. The hotel will then send you a written confirmation detailing their individual payment and cancellation policies.
- ★ Any changes to your reservation, after it has been received and processed, must be made in writing and received by the DD Housing Bureau no later than 5:00pm on February 21, 2003 to avoid any potential change/cancellation fees. Any changes after that date must be made directly with the assigned hotel.

NAME:		E-MAIL:	
ADDRESS:			
CITY:		STATE	ZIP CODE
PHONE # - Home: (    )	Work: (    )	FAX #: (    )	
CHECK-IN DATE (required)		DEPARTURE DATE (required)	#OF NIGHTS
TYPE OF ROOM NEEDED:		ONE KING BED	DOUBLE/DOUBLE (TWO BEDS)
I AM INTERESTED IN SECURING A HOSPITALITY SUITE:			
Send me information about suites from my assigned hotel:		YES	NO

**ROOMMATE INFORMATION:**

NAME OF PERSON #2
NAME OF PERSON #3
NAME OF PERSON #4:

**HOTEL CHOICES AND ROOM RATES:**

Hotel	Price Per Night (Subject to Tax)	CHOICE # (Please rate 1-2)
Knoxville Marriott (Headquarters) (formerly Hyatt Regency)	\$95 (HEADQUARTERS)	
Knoxville Hilton	\$95	

SPECIAL REQUESTS/NEEDS:	Smoking	Non-smoking	Handicap	Cot/crib
Other (please specify)				

**PAYMENT INFORMATION:**

PLEASE CHECK ONE:	MC	VISA	DISC	AMEX
CARD #				EXP DATE
CARDHOLDERS NAME (Please Print)				
SIGNATURE				

FAX or MAIL this form to:  
 Dixie District Housing Bureau  
 7921 Harpeth View Drive, Nashville, TN 37221  
 FAX #: (501) 694-1282  
 PAGE 14



**DIXIE DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION**  
**March 21 - 23, 2003**  
**Knoxville, Tennessee**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter \_\_\_\_\_ Voice Part \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Category	Registration Fee	Number	Late Fee*	Total
MEMBER	\$25.00 Early Bird	X _____	\$ _____	=\$ _____
GUESTS	\$25.00 Early Bird	X _____	\$ _____	=\$ _____
			Total Amount Enclosed	\$ _____

**(LATE FEE OF \$5.00 FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS APPLIES AFTER MARCH 11, 2003)**

**MAKE CHECK/MONEY ORDER PAYABLE TO DIXIE DISTRICT, SPEBSQSA, INC.**

Special Needs Handicapped \_\_\_\_\_

**Members who joined the society after October 6, 2002 are entitled to one free registration for this spring convention in Knoxville. Pay only for any guests.**

-----  
**THIS SECTION FOR CREDIT CARD PAYMENT ONLY**

CREDIT CARD (MC/VISA) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Print name as it appears on the card \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL COMPLETED FORM TO:

**John Whalen**  
**9629 Dortmund Dr. SE**  
**Huntsville, AL 35803-1113**  
**Fax: (256) 883-5578**  
**E-Mail: jwhalen104@msn.com**

**FAX SERVICE AVAILABLE ONLY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8AM AND 6PM**  
**CENTRAL STANDARD TIME**

# The Dignitaries Introduce Their New Bass

By Dave Haines & Gil Oxendine

When **Jack Henley** went to be with his Lord earlier this year, he left a huge void that needed to be filled in the *Smokyland Sound Chapter*.

Not only was he sorely missed by the many people who loved him, but his various chapter duties needed to be filled as well. Thankfully, **Mike Crawford** (lead) immediately stepped up to assume Jack's duties as Vice President of Marketing and **Ed Pendleton** (lead) took over as Chap-

Bob has had a long and varied career in the society. He joined in 1956 as a charter member of the *Huntsville, Alabama Chapter* and sang with the *Dixielanders* quartet. Bob accepted a job with the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1960 and was assigned to Chattanooga, Tennessee. While there, he became involved with organizing and chartering the *Chattanooga Chapter* as well as singing in a quartet called the *Moccasin Blenders*.

His job assignment changed, and he was

during this time that he organized and sang with a quartet known as *The Skylarks*.

During the course of time Bob has also served as a chorus director, a *Harmony College* coach, *President* of both the *Knox Metro Chapter* and the merged *Smokyland Sound/Greater Knoxville Chapter*. While on the *Harmony College* faculty for seven years, he coached choruses and quartets in much of the eastern United States and Canada, to include three international competitors.

**Bob** and his wife, **Lois**, have a daughter, **Janet**, whom he lovingly refers to as his "barbershopping buddy". Bob and Lois currently live in Knoxville where he is now employed by the *Whirlpool Corporation*. Please join us in welcoming Bob to the Dignitaries, one of the society's longest active tenure quartets.



Bob Roark (the one not off paper) shows his talents as the new bass of the Dignitaries

ter Historian.

The void he left in the *Dignitaries*, however, was another story; after all, Jack sang bass with us for 37 years and those were some big shoes to fill. The "Digs" found they had not only lost a dear friend and brother, but they also were faced, after almost four decades, with the task of recruiting a new member. During Jack's illness prior to passing away, **Bob Roark** had filled in for him on numerous occasions, so we thought it was only natural to ask him to become a full time member. To nobody's surprise, he graciously accepted the invitation,

sent to Knoxville where he joined the *Smokyland Chapter* and competed on the international stage in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1968. When the *Smokyland Chapter* hosted it's first *Youth in Harmony program*, Bob distinguished himself as the coach of the winning quartet. All four of these young men went on to join the society and are currently active in several leadership roles within the *Dixie District*.

In 1972 and 1973 Bob Roark was elected *President* of the *Dixie District* and became an international board member in 1974. He was also a certified sound judge from 1975 to 1978. It was

## 2003 spring convention judging panel announced

CATEGORY	JUDGE
Music	Scott Kitzmiller David Wright Kirk Young
Presentation	Jim Bagby Marty Lovick Dwain Brobst
Singing	Charles Lower David Mills Bill Rashleigh
Contest Administrators	Bill Lathom Jim Ramsey



**Here is a chance to test your knowledge about barbershop celebrities.**

Look at the following and indicate yes or no next to each celebrity who is a barbershopper. (answer on page 27) (courtesy of Bill Lester)

- |                        |                                     |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Arthur Godfrey      | Radio and TV                        |
| 2. Burl Ives           | Folk Singer                         |
| 3. Meredith Wilson     | Composer                            |
| 4. Fred Waring         | Conductor and Musician              |
| 5. Dick Van Dyke       | Television Actor Doctor & Detective |
| 6. Giovanni Martinelli | Opera Star                          |
| 7. Dr. Sigmond Spaeth  | Tune Detective                      |
| 8. Frank Sinatra       | Singer                              |
| 9. Art Baker           | Radio & TV announcer                |
| 10. The Kings Men      | Professional Quartet                |
| 11. Irving Berlin      | Composer                            |

**The Fort Sumpter Harmonizers**

By Rupert Hickler

Our “Barbershopper of the Year” is **Mac Stanton**. A member for four years, Mac is an enthusiastic and dedicated barbershopper who sings in the chorus as well as a quartet, and who wears three hats in our chapter; these being Development VP, Membership VP and our PR officer.

In the course of the year, Mac initiated a member recruitment drive that extended over a period of several weeks, which resulted in the signing of six new members. Since the chapter is modest in size, (30 at the start of 2002) this represented a 20 percent increase.



Mac Stanton

Mac also implemented the practice of providing all members with a weekly e-mail activity report, commenting on attendance as well as the weekly rehearsal content, number of guests present, list of upcoming events, board meeting decisions, etc. These reports were instrumental in updating all members of the chapter, thereby greatly improving intra-chapter communication and cohesion

**Taxes and barbershopping**

Some things you do as a barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize your deductions, you may be entitled to include some barbershop related expenses.

If you had verifiable out-of-pocket expenses in connection with a chapter duty as an elected or appointed officer or board member, or if you sang in one or more local shows, expenses such as travel (14 cents per mile, or actual cost) telephone, postage, parking, etc., for which you were not reimbursed are deductible. Expense of travel to chapter meetings is not deductible unless you hold an office directly involved in conduct of the meeting.

A different rule applies to travel away from home. Meals, lodging, and transportation may be deducted only if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the trip. If golf games, sightseeing, or similar activities heavily overbalance singing and participation in meetings as a duty for the away-from-home expenses, these expenses would not be deductible.

The cost of tuition at schools is specifically barred as a deduction, as well as dues.

If you use these deductions, here is the procedure. With Form 1040, use Schedule A; under “gifts to charity, other than cash or check”, enter the total of your out-of-pocket expenses. (Remember the words “non-reimbursed” and “verifiable”) If over \$500, attach the appropriate schedule and categorize expenses by groups (lodging, transportation, etc.), captioned “expenses incurred in connection with contribution of services to an organization classes as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)”. Then state the name and location of your chapter and the full name of the Society. Your chapter should have a list of events that are applicable to this expense tabulation.

Your cash contributions to the chapter or the Society or to Harmony Foundation Inc. (for the general fund to support our service projects or to the Endowment Program) are directly deductible. Include this figure in Schedule A, under “gifts to charity, cash or check”. Be sure to retain verifying records such as appointment books, calendars with notes, etc.

Additional information is available at [www.spebsqsa.org/Operations/taxdeduct.htm](http://www.spebsqsa.org/Operations/taxdeduct.htm).

# 2002 Top Gun Report

By Drayton Justus, VP Music & Performance

The active quartets in Dixie District have a wonderful opportunity each July at our “Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend” (the District’s harmony education school held at Clemson University) to receive excellent coaching from the faculty assembled.

## What is Top Gun?

Some of our more serious competitors single out coaches of their choice and work with them on a regular basis. In addition, several

of our Society’s Districts, including Dixie, have for several years provided a program called “Top Gun.” This program is designed to provide additional assistance to quartets whose experience, stated goals, and past successes show the most promise of representing the District in International competition.

## When Is It?

Since its inception in Dixie, “Top Gun Invitational” has been held the first weekend in January, and brings together several of the top coaches in the Society who provide an intensive workshop for the invited quartets.

The obvious purpose is two-fold—to help some of our most serious competitors achieve their objectives, and to help the district achieve the highest possible representation and ranking at Inter-

national contests.

## Results?

It is interesting to note that, since the beginning of the Top Gun program in Dixie, we’ve had two International Champions. It is also interesting to note that last year we had three quartets in the top twenty, a champion, a medallist, and a semi-finalist. It is inter-



Spectrum gets some hints from Tom Gentry

esting to note that these achievements are all at a much higher level than Dixie enjoyed prior to Top Gun, and that all these successes were achieved by quartets who participated in the Top Gun program. Certainly this program cannot take full credit for the achievements, but there is no question that it made a meaningful contribution.

## Who Attended?

“Top Gun Invitational 2003,” held at the Norcross, GA, Marriott, was another exciting and positive experience for the participants. Four very serious, eager, and dedicated quartets—Ablaze, them, Spectrum, and Tag Team—



Tim Brooks teaches Tag Team how to sell the song

came to spend a jam-packed weekend working with four of the Society’s most highly regarded coaches—Tim Brooks, Tom Gentry, Lance Heilmann, and Dave LaBar. All four coaches are certified judges in the C&J Program, and all three contest judging categories were represented.



## What Can We Accomplish?

It is our sincere desire that this program will contribute to future accomplishments of these quartets; we wish all of them—indeed all our Dixie competitors—success



OH NO! It’s “them” again! is coach Lance Heilmann ready to gag, or WHAT!

at the prelims in March. Better than that, we wish every quartet in Dixie a marvelous 2003 and success in reaching your goals, whatever they may be. If you’re not in an active quartet, try it; you’ll love it!

**“When I die, I want to die like my grandfather who died peacefully in his sleep. Not screaming like all the passengers in his car.”**

Will Rogers

THE GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA  
**TARHEEL CHORUS**  
 -PRESENTS-  
**BARBERSHOP**  
**ON THE COMMONS**

FEATURING THE MOST POPULAR  
 QUARTET OF THE PAST 50 YEARS  
**THE BOSTON COMMON**

*ALSO FEATURING:*  
 THE TARHEEL CHORUS  
 THE GRAYTONES  
 GUYS & DOLLS  
 A LITTLE OFF THE TOP  
 THE TARHEEL PLAYERS  
 AND A SURPRISE OR TWO!!!



Tarheel Chorus 2003 Annual Show **TICKET ORDER FORM**  
 "Barbershop on the Commons" -- Featuring **THE BOSTON COMMON**

**Saturday, April 5 2003 at 8PM**

**Huggins Performing Arts Center, Greensboro College**

Mailing Address	Tickets			
	Type	Qty.	Each	Total
Name:	Regular		15.00	
Address:	Senior		12.00	
City, State & Zip:	Student		12.00	
Phone Number:				
<b>PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: THE TARHEEL CHORUS</b>			Grand Total	

Mail to: **DARL L. FOWLER, 430 WEST FRIENDLY AVE., SUITE 303, GREENSBORO, NC 27401**  
 -OR FAX THE ORDER FORM TO: 1-336-274-1136

**More info? [HTTP://drivetime.home.mindspring.com/tarheelbarbershop](http://drivetime.home.mindspring.com/tarheelbarbershop)**

## COTS (continued)

Continued from page 6



Attendees were entertained in the barbershop style by a high school group

and lunch, then the formal classroom sessions, which ran until 9:30 in the evening. A highlight of the Saturday sessions was a YMIH presentation by members of the *Rockdale County Select Men's Choir*, under the direction of **Kathy Carroll** (kudos to **Jim Moore** for making the arrangements). Also, on Saturday we ran a concurrent CDWI (Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive) session for director "wannabes" at an off-site facility (many thanks to the *McDonough Chapter* for

die) have performed at COTS for the past three years and put on an excellent show featuring not only the chorus but several quartets as well. The quarteting, tag singing, et al, went on until the wee hours as usual (hey—these guys worked hard in class all day!)

Sunday morning, it's back to the classroom at 8:00 am until noon for the rest of the formal training. The sessions were



There was some terrific singing by Georgia Connection

making these arrangements).

The afterglow featured the *Georgia Connection*, from Harmony, Inc., under the direction of **Gene Rusch**. These la-

wrapped-up with a final general session and a charge to the incoming leaders to take what they've learned and put it in place in their home chapters.

We also take this opportunity to thank the faculty and bestow upon each of them honorary membership in the district and have **Bill Nordmark** (Asst. Coordinator) present them with a token of our appreciation (a box of "Dixie" grits!).

While this year's attendance was outstanding, we know there are still a lot of chapters (more than 20) that are missing out on this excellent opportunity to learn chapter administration "best practice" techniques from some of the finest instructors in the society and encourage everyone to make next year's sessions a "must do" on their planning calendar.

**Did you notice the advertisements in the Chattanooga Fall Convention program? I invite you to use this venue to advertise your show, quartet, CDs, etc. in this Spring's program in Knoxville. This is another way the district is keeping your convention costs to a minimum.**

**The ads should be the proper size and ready to scan into the program, if possible. The ads can be emailed or a hard copy can be snail mailed. The printable area of one full page is 10.25" X 3.55" and 5.12" X 3.55" for one half page.**

**The cost is \$150 for a full page and \$75 for a half page. These are the only two sizes to be sold.**

**CONTACT:**

**Barry Owens  
Program Editor  
423-893-8347**

**bowens44@comcast.net  
8918 Villa Rica Circle  
Chattanooga, TN 37421**

## AROUND THE DISTRICT (cont'd)

Continued from page 13

### Golden Corner Chorus

By Wally Storm

The *Golden Corner Chorus* of *Seneca, South Carolina* had a very busy holiday season of community sing-outs. During November and December, the chorus had three performances of Christmas music for a church convention, a civic club and the Retired Officers Association.

Also, “*Four/Sevenths*” (a barbershop sextet plus one) sang at two private Christmas parties, the Cancer Center of Greenville, a Girl Scout office, a middle school, an elementary school, a special education school a bank, a sports medicine clinic and at *Clemson University*. Not to be outdone,

In all, Golden Corner Chorus members sang at 21 outside engagements. There was one common denominator in each of these sing-outs; **Dean Manning**, a 21 year society member, sang in all of them. Dean is the one on the left of the included picture of “*Turn of the Century*”.

As an added bonus for the chorus this past year, we were honored by the presence of our new district President, **Don Lang** at our annual installation of officers banquet. “*Singing is life, the rest is just details*” was the theme of his comments as he performed the installation at *The Club at Keowee Key*. He inducted each officer using this theme, saying that the charge for each comprised a “chapter in this book”.



Turn of the Century

“*The Turn of the Century*” quartet sang at a retired federal employees meeting, The Red Hat Society, a helping hands church group, a nursing home concert, a Heritage Corridor open house and three private Christmas parties. WHEW!

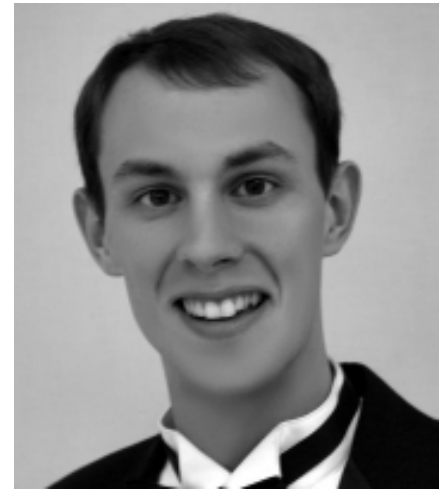


Here Don Lang charges Bob Ely with his duties as President. Also pictured are L-R, Jack Eckenrode, Wally Strom, Ed Vangombos, John Schlueter, Warren Alm and Herb Klinker

### Triad Harmony Express signs new director

By Jon Vickers

The Winston-Salem Chapter, *Triad Harmony Express*, is delighted to share with our colleagues our excitement at landing **Matt Troy**, recent tenor of 2001 Dixie Champs, *CRESCENDO*, as our new director. Matt brings not only his professional credentials as a graduate in performance music from *UNCG*, but the keen savvy in our barbershop craft he so ably demonstrated with *CRESCENDO*. With such an able director, we knew we had to give him the best support, so we convinced **Tom Parker**, *CRESCENDO* bass alum himself, to serve as our *Music VP*. The chapter and chorus are very invigorated and empowered with this most able combo at the front of our music program.



Matt Troy, new director of Triad Harmony Express

# Providing More for YOUR Website

By Patrick Thomas, Dixie District Webmaster

Over the past year, the district has worked to provide even more capabilities on the district website ([www.ddspebs.org](http://www.ddspebs.org)), and we thought there might be things that you want to know a little more about.

In the past, when the time came for chapters to inform the society and district about its officer changes, it had a bit of a hard time.

## How Do I Update the new officer list?

Relaying info through a district officer was about the only way to get it updated. Now, between *Kenosha* and the district, we are making it easier. Today, to update officer info, you first go to the Members Only area of the SPEBSQSA website ([www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org)) and update information in the area provided. In addition, the Dixie District has also provided an online page to update that same information. Not only can you use this to update officer names, but changes of meeting location, time, website, etc. as well. Sorry, you will have to insert this information in both places. Eventually we will have a trickle-down effect in the flow of information from *Kenosha*, but until then, this should provide all chapters a great new tool.

We all enjoy going to the large number of annual shows and other events that are held in our district each year. The number of great quartets and choruses that perform on our chapter stages are a testament to the success of this district and its chapters. However, the amount of advertising that has been done by the district website has been little or none.

How do people attend if they don't know about it? The website has been provid-

ing a calendar of events for some time now, but hasn't given much info past date and city. We are now looking to enlarge this area in an effort to assist you.

## How About An Event Scheduler?

We have now created an event scheduler that will allow you to provide the district with all the information needed to list on the website. All chapters know that there are many steps in placing an event on the district calendar past filling out this new scheduler, however. Completing the Show Tax form, available on the district website under *Links/Forms and Documents*, is a must. Between the assistance of the webmaster and our new District Secretary, **Russell Bell**, we will make sure you are prepared to have your show and make available for all to see.

## On-line Payments!

The Dixie District debuted the ability to accept online registration payments via PayPal. This payment service, widely used by such websites as eBay, is extremely trustworthy and a great help in receiving data for the registration staff.

If such successful websites as eBay can use this great payment service, then the Dixie District family should certainly be able to as well. Over time, we are working towards receiving payments for other activities within the district, such as Dixie Lakeside Harmony Weekend and COTS.

## So You Want The Contest Scores Fast?

Another service made possible now is the ability to view all contest scores on

the website within a few hours of completion. We realize many of you cannot attend the convention, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't know who won. Please keep in mind that your webmaster, always working hard for you, is also a member of the quartet *MUSIC ROW*, which often finds itself singing on Saturday night and in hospitality rooms later than that. Don't worry, he will make sure that the scores are available online before his weary head hits the pillow early Sunday morning.

## Officer Information Now Available.

Many have asked why names of chapter and district officers are only listed with e-mail addresses on the website and not postal addresses and phone numbers. The decision was one made by the district board not to list this for security reasons. As we do not know what could happen with that information listed, it was felt that listing emails only would suffice. If you need the contact info of an officer, I'm sure they will provide it to you, or you should be able to locate it in the printed Dixie District Directory, given to all chapters each year.

*Editor's Note: You will also find the district officer information in each issue of the Rebel Rouser.*

There are lots of other services that have appeared within the last year, such as the online version of the REBEL ROUSER, Young Men in Harmony News, updated listings of championship quartets and choruses, award winners, past presidents, listings of quartets by alpha order and by state, etc.



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## Website (cont'd)

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Not only is this site a centralized location for keeping aware of district and chapter events in the future, but it a treasure trove of our shining history. We are constantly striving to make sure this website gives you all the things you are looking for and more.

If you have any constructive comments on how to make YOUR website even better, we'd love to hear them. Feel free to drop a line at [isingbass@comcast.net](mailto:isingbass@comcast.net).

## Chapter BOTY's (cont'd)

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### Upper Cumberland Chapter

The Upper Cumberland, TN Chapter "Barbershopper of the Year" is 2002 President **Jere Mitchum**. He has been a member for eight years. Jere has also been Secretary, Show Chairman, Bulletin Editor as well as the Singing Valentine Chairman.

### High Country Harmonizers

The High Country Harmonizers selected **Chuck Dierker** as their "Barbershopper of the Year". This information was provided by **Carl Hubbell**, newly elected chapter President & bari with **USTA BEES**.

## 2003 Spring Contest Registration Instructions

By Larry Deters, VP Contest & Judging

On March 21-23, 2003 the Dixie District will hold it's Spring Convention and Contests. In order to enter one of these contests you must complete an entry form. There are three contests, the Dixie District Chorus Contest, The International Quartet Preliminary Contest and the Collegiate Quartet Contest.

The entry forms for the Preliminary Quartet Contest and the Chorus Contest will be found at [www.spebsqsa.org](http://www.spebsqsa.org) click on members only button, go down page to contest registration and click on enter a quartet or chorus, click on enter members only, fill in chorus or quartet information and electronically sign the form. Click on submit. If this doesn't work, let me know.

A copy of the form will be forwarded to the District VP for C&J who will acknowledge receipt by return e-mail. If after a week you have not received an acknowledgment by the DVP for

C&J, please re-submit the entry. If that fails, call **Larry Deters** or e-mail him at [DETERSL@aol.com](mailto:DETERSL@aol.com) or 615-373-4507.



All members of a competing chorus or quartet must be paid up members in good standing of the society and a Dixie District chapter. They also must be registered for the convention. Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification of the quartet or chorus. College quartets must register with **Jim Debussman** in **Kenosha**. [Jdebussman@spebsqsa.org](mailto:Jdebussman@spebsqsa.org) He will mail you an entry form and will notify the DVP for C&J and provide the information from your entry form.

The deadline for entries for all contests is Friday, March 7th, 2003

### The Golden Corner Chorus

By Robert Ely

The 2002 "Barbershopper of the Year" for the *Sen-eca, South Carolina* chapter is **Dean Manning**. Dean, who lives in *Mountain Rest, South Carolina*, is the Assistant Director of *Seneca's Golden Corner Chorus* and a member of two quartets, singing tenor in one and baritone in the other.

He joined the *Houston, Texas chapter* in 1981, eventually relocating to *Atlanta, Georgia* and the *Fayetteville Chapter*. Dean is a participant in the district "Standing Ovation" program, a Colonel in the *Confederate Harmony Brigade* and an enthusiastic *ASHOW* member.

### RTP Chapter

The RTP Chapter has selected **Steve Tremper** as their BOTY for 2002. Steve has been a Society member since 1981, starting in the *Burlington, Vermont*, chapter of the Northeastern District (The *Green Mountain Chorus*). He moved to *North Carolina* in 1987 and immediately transferred membership to the RTP Chapter, and he indicated that he has been a happy guy ever since! :)

This past year he served as both "Music and Performance Vice President" and "Events Vice President" (a title created by the chapter board to focus on coordination of all of their events...sort of a glorified Chorus Man-

Continued on page 24

## BOTY's (cont'd)

Continued from page 23

ager but including other activities).

As Music Vice President, he helped the Music Team select and develop a brand new repertoire of about a dozen songs, which the chorus learned and debuted on their June Annual Show.

As Events Vice President he was the focal point for coordination of all logistics related to their public performances, including contests, local appearances, afterglows, etc.

He also got involved with other aspects of chapter life, including the development and expansion of their marketing and publicity efforts, helped out with show ad sales and putting the show program together, took part in the chapter's singing valentines and high school quartet contest efforts, and also entered the three year program for certi-



Steve Tremper

fication as a Contest Administrator for the Dixie District.

Here's a quote from **Dick Dee**, which he passed on to him as part of the reason he was selected for the 2002 BOTY award:

*"I was most appreciative of the 'professionalism' and upbeat positive attitude you continually bring to every subject I have seen you work on throughout the year. Your willingness to 'wear many hats' in order to get all the chapter things done that need attending... from shepherding and guiding the Music and Director Team all year, to finding a rehearsal room at contest, to 'pasting up' the ads for the show program, to urging the guys to get 'into' the song and let their faces and body movements tell the message of the song, to spending the weekend personally sending out 110 fliers to church choirs announcing the Holiday Chorus. If we had more guys like you, we'd be the Vocal Majority by Tuesday!!! :) The selection to honor you, as you have honored us by your efforts all year, was not difficult".*

### 2003 SPRING CONVENTION IN KNOXVILLE

By Jack Donaldson, VP Events

The 2003 Dixie District Spring Convention will be in Knoxville on March 21-23. The Hyatt Regency Hotel is now a Marriott. It will once again be our headquarters hotel. We will also use the Knoxville Hilton. The contests will take place at the Civic Auditorium. It is located across the street from the Marriott.

The contests at this convention will be the Dixie District Chorus Contest, the District International Prelims, and the District Collegiate Quartet Contest. The district convention team is at work to provide some fun activities and classes to enhance the convention weekend. Make your plans to come to Knoxville in March for a great barbershop weekend. DIXIE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS - MORE THAN JUST A CONTEST WEEKEND!

Convention registration and housing forms are available on the District web page. Contest entry forms for choruses and quartets are available on the Society web page.

## The Music City Chorus, Nashville, TN

By Tom Holshouser

### From Student To Director

The Nashville chapter overwhelmingly elected its director, **Jesse Turner**, as its BOTY for 2002.

Jesse began his eight year career in barbershopping as a student at **Tennessee Tech University** where he majored in Music Education. He faithfully commuted with friends, the 120 miles round trip each week during school and after graduation moved home to Nashville.

Jesse was employed as Director of the **Music City Chorus** a little over a year ago and has brought new energy and vi-



itality to the chorus leadership. His understanding of the music, the barbershop style and his ability to communicate while directing have given the chorus an exciting new enthusiasm which we believe will take us to new levels of success.

His insistence on attention to detail in performance and adherence to good principles of barbershop singing give us new challenges each time we get on the risers.

He is sometimes a hard taskmaster and is difficult to please, but we know the standards he is setting will have positive effect on us for the present and years to come. Congratulations Jesse and thank you for all you do.



## From the YMIH Desk

By Bob Dickson, VP Young Men in Harmony

The year 2002 closed with a rush as most years do and we barely had time to reflect on what was accomplished before we were starting over. I had a head start on my list since I had to put together an end-of-the-year summary of our Dixie District YMIH activities for outgoing President, **Jim Sams**. He has served this district well and was an absolute gentleman to work with.

Just for a change of pace I emailed a copy of that report to each of the 51 chapters where I have a contact. You might want to ask your chapter YMIH VP (or Chairman, your M&P guy, or your chapter email contact) what he did with the copy that went to your chapter so you can see if I said anything about you. If you do get to read it you'll get a good idea of the types of events and activities being conducted by our brother chapters. You can see what chapters can do if they choose to initiate a Young Men In Harmony Youth/Community outreach program.

The YMIH article in the fall issue of the *Rebel Rouser* contained a lot of reminders about things coming up early

in 2003. They all bear repetition, so here goes:

- Call **Jim DeBusman** in *Kenosha* @1-800-876-SING for an update on the *MBNA/CBQC* eligibility rules; get your favorite collegiate foursome signed up and primed for the spring prelims in *Knoxville* scheduled for March 21 and 22.

- Scout out your music educator candidate you think qualifies for the Dixie District Harmony College Scholarship (St. Joseph, MO. July 27 to Aug 3): send his/her resume' and your letter of recommendation to me by March 1st; the candidate will be selected by March 24.

- Promote the *Clemson Harmony Camp* (July 18,19 and 20) that the district sponsors for high school and college age young men; extend invitations to individuals, quartets and ensembles, the more the merrier. Any quartets that attend will be given quartet coaching as part of the *Harmony Camp* program; the subsidized \$70 fee for campers will be extended for another year.

- The district will grant scholarships to any fulltime male or female music educator (M/E) who attends the *DLHW* at Clemson; M/E's can monitor the camp activities or take regular DLHW classes; this scholarship is an extremely beneficial YMIH outreach. One choral music teacher nominally impacts about 150 kids per semester and that's a lot of "bang for the buck".

- There are at least six *MENC/MEA* conventions in the Dixie District in 2003. If your chapter calls on you to help design, setup and man a barber-shop booth at your state's convention, I hope you'll be a willing participant; the publicity your state's chapters would get out of such an event is extremely valuable.

We now have a district-wide YMIH team that meets twice a year to plan and promote YMIH activities; so don't be surprised if one of the gents on the team gets in touch with you in 2003. (We're networking).



## Editor (cont'd)

Continued from page 5

concerns presented. What will it take to get you interested enough to savor the convention atmosphere? These functions are the only place to enjoy the best singing in the district, all in one place and time.

Let someone know just how you feel. Write a letter to the Editor, pass the word to your chapter President and have him contact a district board member, or take it upon yourself to attend the spring convention to sample what is there for your enjoyment.

At minimum, your chapter President, or his delegated person, should attend the House of Delegates meeting. How else will you or your fellow members know what is happening?

In conclusion, I can only say that in order for the entire district to grow and prosper, every chapter must take an active part in the functions the district provides. In the overall picture of things, where are YOU and YOUR CHORUS in the picture?

**"Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment."**

Will Rogers

# A Christmas Story Worth Telling Over & Over

Author unknown

**Editor's Note:** *Although the Christmas season has passed, this story is worth telling as it portrays the simple gift of love for others; a gift that barbershoppers around the world share in a never-ending basis.*

Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted so bad that year for Christmas.

We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible. So after supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read scriptures.

But Pa didn't get the Bible; instead he bundled up and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though; I was too busy wallowing in self-pity.

Soon Pa came back in. It was a cold clear night out and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight." I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one drag-

ging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up the big sled unless we were going to haul a big load.

**NOT ONLY  
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RIFLE FOR  
CHRISTMAS,  
NOW PA WAS  
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COLD, AND  
FOR NO  
EARTHLY  
REASON THAT I  
COULD SEE**

Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy.

When I was on, Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me."

The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high sideboards on.

When we had exchanged the sideboards Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood—the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? Finally I said something. "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?"

"You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked. The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with

three children, the oldest being eight. Sure, I'd been by, but so what? "Yeah," I said, "why?" "I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt." That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him.

We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, then we went to the smoke house and Pa took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled and wait. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack of something in his left hand.

"What's in the little sack?" I asked. "Shoes. They're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunnysacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us. It shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The

## Christmas (continued)

door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?" "Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt. Could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally lit the lamp.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children—sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last.

I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said, then he turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring enough in to last for awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up." I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and, much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks and so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak. My heart swelled within me and a joy filled my soul that I'd never known before. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference.

I could see we were literally saving the lives

of these people. I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord himself has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his

way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it. Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little

for quite a spell."

I was the youngest. My two older brothers and two older sisters were all married and had moved away. Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, "May the Lord bless you," I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled I felt a warmth that came from deep within and I didn't even notice the cold. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square.

Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that. But on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunnysacks and I knew what I had to do. So, Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand".

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Just then the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children.

For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night; he had given me the best Christmas of my life.

**YOUR MA AND ME WERE REAL EXCITED, THINKING THAT NOW WE COULD GET YOU THAT RIFLE**

*answer to barbershop celebrities  
all except Frank Sinatra*

**YOUR AD HERE WOULD BE  
SEEN BY  
COUNTLESS EYES!!**

**IT'S WISE  
TO ADVERTISE!**

**DISTRICT CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**2003**

March	21 - 23	Dixie District Spring Convention, Knoxville, TN
June	29 - Jul 6	International Convention, Montreal, Canada
July	18 - 20	DLHW, Clemson, SC
	27 - Aug 3	Harmony College, St. Joseph, MO
November	8 - 9	COTS, Atlanta, GA

**SHOWS**

**2003**

March	7 - 8	Hilton Head, SC
	8	Huntsville, AL
April	5	Greensboro, NC
May	2 - 3	Winston Salem, NC
	3	Augusta, GA
	3	New Bern, NC
	10	Wilmington, NC
	17	Fayetteville, GA
	24	Hickory, NC
June	7	Spartanburg, SC
November	1	Pinehurst, NC

**Visit the Dixie Website at  
[www.ddspebs.org](http://www.ddspebs.org)**

If your show is not listed here, please inform District Secretary Russell Bell, 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](http://www.ddspebs.org) for more listings.