

# Gray Matters

Official Publication Of The Association Of International Seniors Quartet Champions

July 2001

## Champs -- Back to Back

March 31st in Hays, Kansas was the place to be when the Hays High Plains chapter of SPEBSQSA hosted a pair of International Senior Quartet Champions on their 33rd annual show.

In what may well have been a Society first-ever event, the 1998 Senior Champion JURASSIC LARKS were featured along with the 1999 Senior Champs, TRI-COUNTY RECLAMATION PROJECT.

The show, held on the campus of Fort Hays State University in the Beach Schmidt Performing Arts Center, entertained a sell-out audience. When was the last time that back-to-back champions of any era were featured on a chapter barbershop show? No matter...it was truly a thrill for TCRP to spend an enjoyable weekend with the guys who had hung those gold medals around our necks in Biloxi.

It all started at the Kansas City airport when the eight of us met at gate 3A for our "puddle-jumper" ride to Hays. Swapping stories and telling lies occupied most of our free time from then through our final farewells back at the same Kansas City terminal.

After a late arrival in Hays it was off in our own private rental cars for the weekend and a check-in and bed rest for the evening. We all shared an early morning breakfast together before heading off to the Sternburg Museum of Natural History. It was at this museum that the Larks had arranged to provide a short promotional performance. The tie-in with the Larks was most appropriate as the museum was currently hosting a display of the famous T-Rex Sue. Both quartets were treated to a guided tour of this wonderful new museum (Jim had to really keep moving here, because if he stood still for any length of time, people would come up and stare thinking he was an exhibit!) and TCRP joined museum visitors afterwards to be entertained by the Larks, who helped plug the show that evening.

A leisurely lunch followed and TCRP got a chance to do a little impromptu singing before heading over to check out the auditorium. This was followed by a quick visit to historic Old Fort Hays (Even the Indians remembered Jim!)

After a sound check at Beach Schmidt, we headed back to our motel room and a few hours of R&R before it was time for dinner and then off to the show. Upon prior agreement the eight of us put together a quick rehearsal of a recent AISQC show number and we flawlessly performed our rendition of "Jeepers Creepers" during a cameo spot on the shows' first half.

The show and afterglow performances went off without a hitch with lots of singing into the wee hours at the Ever-Glow. Sunday morning arrived all too quickly and after another early breakfast it was off to the airport and our final farewells with our hosts from Hays and with each other back in Kansas City. We all agreed that the weekend was something we all had to repeat again very soon. Our thanks go out to the men of the Hays High Plains chapter for arranging this "first ever" experience.



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## Wanted: Your Quartet Tape, C D or VIDEO

In our continuing effort to maintain current information on all champion quartets, I'm requesting that each quartet that has produced either a CD, tape or video to donate one of these items to the AISQC library.

This request was made at the annual meeting and several quartets have already made a donation but we need one from each quartet to complete our files. Please respond now and send material to Frank Lanza, 491 Roundhill Court, Warwick, R. I. 02886

## Bayou City Music Committee

We're all up and at um. Johnny and I do shows with the Gulf Coast Reunion Quartet; Ken Pacetti is hanging in there, going to the SW Division contest and competing with Grumpy Old Men. He uses a cane now and then, plays golf whenever weather permits, and sings all the time. Grif

## Milt's Doins...

Not singing in a Registered 4-tet right now. I really miss it. I just can't seem to find the right guys to give it a go. I'm so fixed in my ways that I'm not willing to start from scratch. I have been singing in valentine groups etc, but it just ain't the same.

I direct the Aloha Chorus and the Na Leo Lani Sweet Adelines. We're getting ready for the mens show on April 26 and 27th. We will be doing some combination songs, ie Lida Rose etc. We have an arranger who has figured out an 8 part finale with the gals. It will be Sittin on Top of the World. Should be a gas.

The Gas House Gang are the headliners, so it should be great..They're so good! Regards to all.....Cheers, Milt

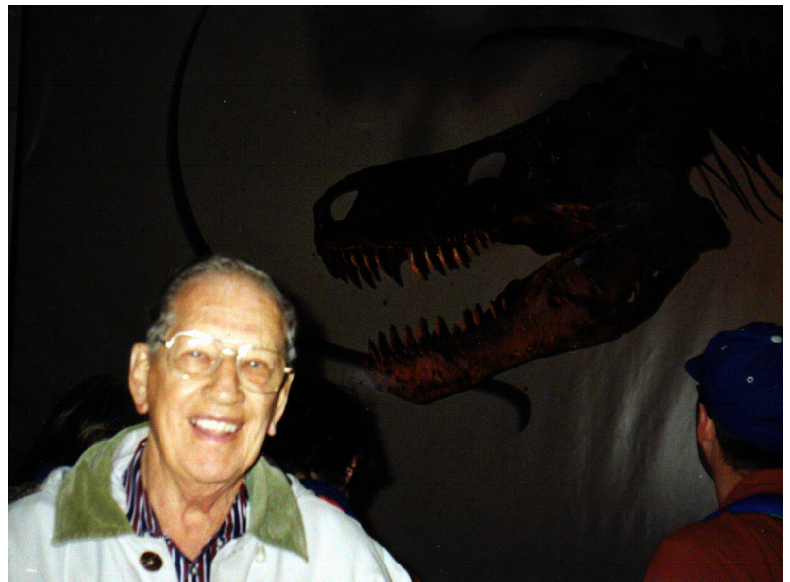
## Bayou Followup....

on our SW Division - Southwestern District Contest.

Ken Pacetti competed with the Grumpy Old Men. They sang great -- scored second place in the first round and third place overall.

All the Bayou City Music Committee guys are doing great - Hammond and I are singing a show this week -- two shows next month with Gulf Coast Reunion Quartet.

I truly believe Hammond's proclamation: "The good Lord doesn't count off any time you spend singing". He's 75+ and sings every day either at retirement homes or with a quartet.



*Smilin Jim Foley of the Tri County Reclamation Project was caught snugglin up to T-Rex Sue at the Sternburg Museum of Natural History in Hays, Kansas during a joint show weekend with the Jurassic Larks. You be the judge.... Which one is Older!*

Winston Churchill once said: "My tastes are simple. I am completely satisfied by the very best." Lets strive to make AISQC the very best!

*Tri County Reclamation Project and Jurassic Larks pose for the historical shot. The Senior Champion Quartets appeared on the Hays, Kansas show on March 31 marking the first time two Senior Champion Quartets have appeared on the same show.*



## Fatherly Advice

On May 31, Fatherly Advice arrived in Greenville, Michigan to attend Burt Staffen's 53rd High School reunion. The quartet provided the main entertainment for the big banquet on Saturday nite and had the opportunity to sing at Burt's family reunion and several additional get togethers for the Class of '49.

Since we were already in Michigan, it just seemed logical that the Traverse City Chapter made us a part of their fabulous annual show which was staged at Interlocken, a fantastic concert hall played by the greatest including Van Cliburn. The show featured the Traverse City chorus and Revival, International Champions. Burt "got up" for the shows and afterglow but did a fair amount of napping and resting to conserve strength.

Sam Love, bari of The Silver Tones, 1988, just happened to be visiting relatives in the area and attended the show. We were glad to see and chat with him. He thoroughly enjoyed himself.

Neil Nugent, Bass of the current District Champion Quartet, picked us up in Greenville and drove us to his spare "cottage" on the shores of Lake Crescent. What a great time we had singing, golfing and coaching quartets from the Traverse City chapter. That trip was a highlight for Fatherly Advice and will always be dearly remembered.



## Joe Mazzone

Submitted by: Griff

A small cancerous tumor was discovered in Joe's prostate. On Monday, June 2nd, he will be having surgery for the removal of his prostate. He's had CAT scans, bone scans, and an MRI. Nothing suspicious shows anywhere else. He's in great spirits and is not overly concerned. God is in control! Joe will be in South West Florida Regional Medical Center on Winkler Street in Fort Myers for approximately 5 days...Then at home recuperating for about 3 to 4 weeks. I will keep you informed of his progress. On a happier note Joe is now a Great-Grandfather to a wonderful, healthy baby girl born on June 15th just in time for Father's Day. Praise The Lord!!

## Burt Staffen

I'm sorry to tell you that Burt passed away today, July 9, 2001 at 7am Burt had been fighting the battle with cancer for some time. We lost a very close friend, a judge Emeritus, and past AISQC President. We will miss you Burt. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, July 14th at 1pm at the Church of Jesus Christ of Later-day Saints, 10115 172nd Ave NE, Redmond, Wa.



*Two old far... no...two over-the-hill singers trying for one more chord.*

## Ken Jordahl

Submitted by: Marty Mendro, Lead  
Mid States Four, 1949 International Champions

What a joy it was for me to be able to visit my old buddy Ken Jordahl. I brought along a video tape I had of my old quartet, and we reminded each other of the great times we had in previous years. Here's a photo taken by Karen.

We sang a few songs, and had a ball. I sang lead and Ken harmonized, or he sang lead and I tried to harmonize. In any event, it sure sounded good to me.

For your information, Ken is really with it. You'll be sorry if you're ever in the Chicago area and don't take the time to stop in to visit. He will surprise you with the great advances he has made toward recovery.



*Jurassic Larks at the Sternburg Museum in Hays, Kansas. They must have been singing "If You Knew Susie".*

## Advice for Mariners....

On Thursday, June 29, Fatherly Advice, with Wes Sorstokke filling in on lead for Dick Bek, sang the National Anthem before a sold out crowd of over 45000! We warmed up the wireless mikes at 4:15 pm to set sound levels and thought we were doing great with the mikes about 6 inches from the mouth but noooo.... Mr. sound man had us put the mikes a mere inch from the lips. Sounded like about 10,000 watts - - maybe more! The next couple hours were spent in the Green room waiting for the big moment. Burt spent most of that time napping to conserve strength. Finally the time came. We walked down past the Umpire's room onto the field and waited for the cue. Burt led us out to the home plate area and the announcement was made. Our picture was up on the giant video screen. What a thrill!. It turned out fantastic and we heard after the fact that all except the first two measures was carried on the radio. The photographer got two shots of us and hopefully will send the photos in time for this issue of Gray Matter.

## Livin' the Life We Love

I have been barbershopping over 50 years and some of you have that half-century mark beat. For instance, Warren "Buzz" Haeger has been in our Society almost 59 years. The point is: We have lived the life we love and we're still Livin' the Life We Love.

That's my lead-in to tell you about our show in Riverside next January 25. We're going to call the show Livin' the Life We Love, if you haven't already guessed that.

It's a song I taught to the Osmond Brothers 38 years ago when they did a made-for-TV movie with Bob Hope called the "Seven Little Foy's". I think you'll love the song because it makes a great opener!

So Far, several of our AISQC quartets have indicated THEY WILL BE in Riverside: Harmony (2001), OverTime (2000), Jurassic Larks (1998); and there are several other AISQC past-champs who are trying to confirm with their 4th man.

Our headliner quartet (and I feel so very fortunate to announce this) is a quartet that I saw and heard in England. They have been or are members of Disneyland's famous Dapper Dans quartet and are called THE PERFECT GENTLEMEN! You probably know their lead, Dan Jordan, a quartet gold medalist. And I'm proud to announce the lead of our 1992 champs, One More Time and gold medalist lead of the Golden Staters, Milt Christensen, will be our MC.

Scott Werner will be directing the AISQC Chorus and here is the song line-up:

### Livin' the Life We Love

#### What Happened To the Good Old Songs?

(Medley for Chorus & Quartets)

*Intro: "Where do you find the girl of your dreams? That little black book is the wrong book. You'll find her in any song-book. She's...."*

*Five Foot Two (quartet - 6 measures)*

*Baby Face (quartet - 14 measures)*

*Margie (quartet - 14 measures - 12 measures)*

*For It Was Mary (quartet - 7 measures)*

*Cuddle Up A Little Closer (Chorus - 6 measures)*

*K-K-K-Katy (quartet - 6 measures)*

*Cecilia (quartet - 4 measures)*

*Closing Segment: Chorus and Quartets*

### Heart of my Heart

(Chorus and 2 quartets)

### Dear Hearts and Gentle People

### That Old Quartet of Mine

So that's it -- 5 songs! Can you deal with those? The opener is the only "new" song you will have to learn. In the "...Good Old Songs" medley you need to learn the introduction, a few measures of "Margie" and the tag. The quartets will do the rest. In "Heart of my Heart" 2 quartets will sing the introduction. The Chorus will sing the first chorus; quartets will do the 2nd chorus and we will all do the new tag. "Dear Hearts..." is the published version and you know Lou Perry's "...Old Quartet of Mine".

Tim Brooks is working on the learning tapes and reports an August 1 completion date.

I look forward to seeing you in Riverside and KNOW your music BEFORE you arrive.

Thanks for all you have done thru the years to enhance chapters, choruses, quartets and districts and if you are in Buzz Haeger's league, the whole Society.

**Val Hicks, 2002 AISQC Show Producer/Director**

