



**Old Harp**  
*The New Harp of Columbia*  
**Newsletter**

Number 12, Fall 1993



## NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR — 1993

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DINNER?</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
August 1	Sunday (1)	2:30 PM	Yes	Loudon County Historical Society Sing, Philadelphia United Methodist Church (D)
August 15	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Cades Cove Sing, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (C)
September 12	Sunday (2)	2 PM	No	Wears Valley Methodist Church Sing, State Rt. #321 (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (A) (J) (R)
September 26	Sunday (4)	11 AM	Yes	Headricks Chapel Sing, State Rt. #321, Sevier County (B) (O)
October 3	Sunday (1)	11 AM	Yes	Wearwood School Sing, State Rt. #321, Sevier County (J) (L) (F)
October 9	Saturday	10:30 AM	No	Museum of Appalachia—Details to be announced (O)
October 10	Sunday	2 PM	No	Dollywood Sing—Details to be announced (I) (E)
October 24	Sunday (4)	2 PM	No	Maryville College Sing, Blount County (K) (D)
November 24	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Yes	Thanksgiving Singing at Laurel Theater
December 11	Saturday	10 AM	No	Sugarlands Visitors Center, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (I)
<b>WEEKLY</b>	<b>TUESDAYS</b>	<b>7:15 PM</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>4-Note <i>Sacred Harp</i> Singing, Erin Presbyterian Church, Knoxville (T) (O)</b>
<b>MONTHLY</b>	<b>SUNDAYS</b>	<b>7 PM</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Old Harp, 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month, usually at the Laurel Theater (downstairs), 16th and Laurel Avenue (S) (D)</b>
<b>VARIOUS</b>	.....	.....	.....	<b>Cordova (in West Tennessee) (Q)</b>
	.....	.....	.....	<b>Athens (U)</b>

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT PERSON(S) — SEE LIST BELOW

### CONTACT PEOPLE

<u>NAME</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
(A) John O. Clabo .....	453-8930.....	2714 Clabo Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(B) Lois Luebke.....	693-9292.....	311 Triplett Lane.....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(C) John Wright Dunn .....	448-6445.....	7937 Old Hwy. #73 .....	Townsend, TN .....	37882
(D) Gideon Fryer .....	577-2272.....	3312 Bunker Hill Dr.....	Knoxville, TN .....	37920
(E) Martha Graham.....	453-3276.....	210 Conner Hts. Rd. ....	Pigeon Forge, TN .....	37863
(F) Luke Headrick .....	453-2407.....	3007 Headrick Dr. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(G) Shirley Henry.....	453-5983.....	1850 Little Cove Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(H) Terry Faulkner .....	584-3659.....	4178 Ridgeway Rd.....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(I) Reford & Velma Lamons .....	453-4581.....	1418 Jay Ell Rd.....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(J) Henry Lawson.....	453-7638.....	3538 Wears Valley Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(K) Tom & Nan Taylor .....	984-8585.....	603 Court St. ....	Maryville, TN .....	37801
(L) Bruce Wheeler (days) .....	974-7875 .....	Box 1049 .....	Pigeon Forge, TN .....	37863
(M) Elder Art Godfrey .....	525-9640.....	1400 Jourman Ave.....	Knoxville, TN .....	37921
(N) David J. Wilson.....	453-0241.....	2453 Middle Creek Rd.....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(O) Larry Olszewski .....	584-6633.....	1232 Forest Brook Rd. ....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(P) Artie Shults .....	453-8698.....	2028 Upper Middle Creek Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(Q) Joel Kasserman.....	(901)756-6184.....	8261 Shallow Glenn Tr.....	Cordova, TN .....	38018
(R) Warren Massey .....	453-8286.....	3032 Ogle Rd. ....	Sevierville, TN .....	37862
(S) Kathy Jones .....	691-8678.....	9121 Garrison Road .....	Sevierville, TN .....	37931
(T) John Wilkins.....	531-5927.....	8209 Richland Colony Rd.....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(U) Carroll L. Ross .....	745-4505.....	P. O. Box 1356 .....	Athens, TN.....	37371

## FINANCES

**A** National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Expansion Grant has paid for a portion of the production and the mailing of *The Old Harp Newsletter* for matched time, donations, and labor. We would like to thank the outgoing Executive Director of Jubilee Community Arts, Janie Wilson, for including us in her grant proposals to the NEA. We wish the very best for Janie in her next endeavors.

We also would like to thank the individuals who sent a dollar or two to defray the costs of mailing them their newsletters this year. Other benefactors who have donated \$5 or more so far this year and have kept *The Old Harp Newsletter* close to breaking even are: Terry and Charles Faulkner, Al Wishart, Chris Griffin, Kathleen Mavournin, Bob Richmond,

Karl Moyer, Mary Jordan, Leta Olszewski, Billy Hammontree, Francis Brackin, Luke and Lena Headrick, David Wilson, William L. Green, Melba Bollinger and the collection at Jonesville Methodist Church, Reford and Velma Lamons, Wiley Lamons, Claude and Ruth Reagan, Grace Clabo, William L. Green, Dorothy Horn, and Allan and Sharon Hjerpe.

Special thanks to all the Contact People for their input, as well as Terry Faulkner, Ann Strange, and Steve Stone. Allan and Sharon Hjerpe — many thanks for the typing, initial editing, and formatting of a wonderful newsletter. (Allan and Sharon run a small desktop publishing business now, producing logos, newsletters, handbooks, resumes, flyers, price lists, etc.)

Suggested subscription: \$1/year (2 issues).

## UPCOMING SINGINGS

August 15, 1993. *Cades Cove Singing* at 2:30 p.m. The meeting place is at the third church on the Cades Cove Loop — the Missionary Baptist Church — in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Look for Rich Mountain Road veering off to the right for extra parking and a scenic exit from the Park during the high tourist traffic. That also means allowing extra time due to deer, bear, and wolf watchers. For more information, call John Wright Dunn at 448-6445.

September 12, 1993 *Wears Valley Methodist Church Singing* headed up by John O. Clabo. The Singing will start at 2:00 in the afternoon, and is located on State Route #321 between Pigeon Forge and Townsend in the western end of Wears Valley. This a wonderful high ceiling wood church and everyone is invited.

September 26, 1993 *Headricks Chapel Singing* is located on State Route #321 just over the Blount County Line in Sevier County. The

road makes a sharp "S" turn around the Chapel and the cemetery. Parking is on the roadside on the west end of the Chapel. Though Larry Olszewski and Lois Luebke are now organizing the singing, we hope Charlie Clabough and his family are able to attend. Singing starts at 11:00 a.m., lunch at noon, and singing again afterwards. For more information, call Lois at 693-9292 or Larry at 584-6633.

October 3, 1993 *Wearwood School Singing*. Unless plans change, this Singing will be held at the Wearwood School House on State Route #321 between the Wears Valley Methodist Church and Headricks Chapel. This has traditionally been one of the largest singings in the area. The singing starts at 11:00 am, lunch at noon, and singing again afterwards. There has been talk of moving the singing due to poor acoustics in the new gym. Please check with the Elders of the singing if you don't catch the announcements for the



September singings. Henry Lawson at 453-7638, Luke and Lena Headrick at 453-2407, or Bruce Wheeler at 974-7875 (days).

October 9, 1993 *Museum of Appalachia Presentation* — Saturday morning at 10:30 and again after lunch. Take the Clinton/Norris Exit off I-75 North, turn east for a mile and a half and the Museum will be on the left. See Steve Stone for the tickets at the gate or save your ticket stubs for that Saturday and the Newsletter will reimburse you from the gas money donated by the Museum. The remainder gets put into the Newsletter fund. Please show up early, as the parking is rough. The Singing is in the Chapel. It's a bit cramped, but all is in fun.

October 10, 1993 *Dollywood Presentation* - Pigeon Forge, Sunday, 2:00 p.m. at the church. Please give yourself ample time to park and get to the "church on time." Your pass will be your *New Harp of Columbia* book. Someone is usually at the gate to help us along.

October 24, 1993 *Maryville College Singing* — at 2:00 p.m. at the old Post Office in the center of the College. There were over 60 people last year and the Singing seems to be growing at last with visitors who have their own hard-back editions. Tom Taylor and Gideon Fryer are the spokespersons. Tom's phone is 984-8585 and Gideon's is 577-2272.

November 24, 1993 *Thanksgiving Singing at the Laurel Theater* — This affair starts as a potluck dinner at 6:30 followed an hour or so later with a Singing. Everyone is invited to this Wednesday evening occasion.

December 11, 1993 *Sugarlands Visitor Center Presentation* at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 10:00 a.m. on Saturday morning. This is the last singing opportunity of the year until March. There is usually singing for 45 minutes from the *Old Harp*, then a break followed by a couple more tunes out of the *Old Harp*. Then Carl Whaley will break out his old hymnals, and we go into Gospel and Christmas tunes.

## NOTES

**K**athy Jones has volunteered to be the new phone coordinator for the *Epworth Old Harp Singers*. They meet every 2nd and 5th Sunday of the month, in the basement of the Laurel Theater at 7:00 p.m. Please note there are some schedule changes due to Sunday bookings (usually around holidays) and changes to potluck dinners at various people's houses. Please call Kathy Jones for updates if you are interested in attending our Old Harp "Jam" sessions. The usually standard is: if you walk in and sit down, you belong. Extra books are available for use and for purchase. Kathy's phone is 691-8678. Kathy's assistants are Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch, Lee Ann Swarm, Ann Strange, and Terry Faulkner. Thanks to Chris Griffin and Sandy Lawson who have retired from the phone calling to move on to other things.

Those people who consider themselves unreachable by phone and would like to have a calendar or a postcard for the Epworth Sings, please call Kathy and we will start a limited post-card mailing.

Joel Kasserman would not be offended if anyone out in the Cordova/Memphis, Tennessee area would call him about singing Old Harp. He has some people out in that area that sing and a couple of extra books, so give him a call at (901) 756-6184.

Carroll Ross and the people in the Athens, Tennessee area, have gone out for Old Harp big time, with a Singing, Singing Schools, and practices. Please write to him (as he is hard to reach by phone) about the late fall schedules and possibly another Singing School. Carroll Ross, P.O. Box 1356, 130 Washington Avenue NE, Suite 3, Athens, Tennessee 37371-1356.

# BABYLON IS FALLEN

Arr. by G. S. DOSS

1. Hail the day so long ex - pect - ed, Hail the year of full re - lease; Zi - on's walls are now e - rect - ed, And her watch - men pub - lish peace.

2. All her mer - chants stand with won - der, What is this that comes to pass? Mourning like the dis - tent thun - der, Crying, "O a - las, a - las."

3. Blow the town - post in Mount Zi - on, Christ shall come the sec - ond time; Blow - ing with a rod of i - ron, All who now are fast con - vine.

Then our Shi - lah's wile do - min - ion, Hear the thun - der loudly roar.

Swell the sound ye kings and no - bles, Priest and peo - ple rich and poor, Bab - y - lon is fall - en, is fall - en, is fall - en, to rise no more, more.

Be - le's get - mens we've re - ject - ed, And our fel - low - ship is o'er,

From CHRISTIAN HARMONY, compiled by William Walker.

33b

"Babylon Is Fallen":  
The Story of a North  
American Hymn

G. W. Williams

The hymn generally titled "Babylon is Fallen," a name derived from the opening words of the refrain, has had a long and curious history, stretching back in North America for nearly two centuries. The text (the incipit "Hail

the Day So Long Expected") and the tune (BABYLON IS FALLEN) represent two separate strands in the development of the hymn, merging finally in 1878. As the two strands of a United States text and a Canadian tune fused in a single hymn in 1878 are included in the new *Sacred Harp* (1992), we may suppose that they are to be considered as permanently united, to part no more.

The original text was the work of Richard McNemar, stemming from the 1805 conversion to Shakerism during the millennial fervor of the

Kentucky revival. The first stanza appears in a manuscript of tunes which dates the text as having been used in the Shaker community at Enfield, Connecticut, perhaps as early as 1810. The full text (six stanzas) was first printed in the Shaker hymnal *Millennial Praises, Containing a Collection of Gospel Hymns... Adapted to the Day of Christ's Second Appearing* (Hancock, [Mass.], 1813; there were no textual variants between the MS and the 1813 print).

NOTE: The Epworth Old Harp

Singers have been singing the *Christian Harmony* version of *Babylon Is Fallen* for over 20 years—since Rich Kirby introduced the music. It is in a copy of the Epworth song book (without music) that I have. The material above is from a 5 page article in *The Hymn*, Vol. 44, #2. Your public library service desk can get you a copy, or write to The Hymn Society Book Service, P. O. Box 30854, Texas Christian University, Forth Worth, TX 76129.



## OTHER AREA NEWS

(Gene McCammon, who has taught many Singing Schools in the area, is this year's National Gospel Singing Convention president. The roots of Gospel Singing lie within the Old Harp Tradition, and we are encouraged to attend the sessions.)

### NATIONAL GOSPEL SINGING CONVENTION TO MEET IN KNOXVILLE

The 58th annual meeting of the National Gospel Singing Convention will be in session at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Knoxville on November 19-21, 1993. The convention begins with a singing at 7:00 p.m. on Friday evening and continues with classes on music reading, accompanying, vocal training, and song writing from 9:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday. Singing sessions will be held from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. and from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. on Saturday and again from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on Sunday. All sessions are free and open to the public.

Singing Convention music is a southern tradition, tracing its roots back to the publications of A. J. Showalter in the late 1800's. New gospel songs from seven current songbooks will be used during the convention. The music is written in shape notes, sung in congregational style, and uses piano accompaniment. Singers from some fourteen states will attend.

For additional information, contact Eugene McCammon at 615-577-4675.

In June of 1994 the Hymn Society will hold its convention at Maryville College. I believe they chose Maryville College as a convenient site because of the traditional Old Harp Singing. The public is invited to attend the evening singings. On Monday night, they have asked the Old Harp Singers as well as the public to hold a formal Singing with them. They intend to have enough *New Harp of Columbia* singing manuals to supply all 300 of their members who want them. It ought to be

great fun. I have talked to many of the Elders of the Singings and they agree that it would be a wondrous affair.

I have asked Johnie Autry, Zurma Caldwell, David Wilson, Veta King, Nancy Olsen, and Tom Taylor to help organize a one-night Old Harp Singing.

Some questions have come up:

- 1 -Transportation, since some people are not at their best at night driving, or are without transportation at that time of day
  - 1a — Do we try to run a bus or organize a car pool on that night?
  - 2 — If the Singing starts at 7:00 p.m., what do we do about people getting their dinners? Is it best to let everyone get their own? Or should we hold a tail-gate sandwich line with ice tea or lemonade?

The Hymn Society would like to have an introductory talk on Harp Singing, but I think that we would like to sing more than talk. Nancy Olsen suggested that everyone who gets up to lead say something if they have a mind and have a flyer passed out for those who wish to read. If anyone has suggestions, please contact one of the people above. It would be wonderful to get over 100 of the Old Harp Singers and other locals to make a joyful noise.

Some information on the Hymn Society. The Hymn Society is for everyone. It is an organization that promotes congregational singing, through lectures, workshops, publishing, newsletters, hymn festivals, and a book service which includes historical reprints as well as new hymnals. Many of the people who will be singing with us will be clergy, choir directors, scholars, and librarians, as well as bucket toters.

St. John's United Methodist Church in Maryville. Pastor Gene Kirk (982-6250) wants to start up an Old Harp Singing Group this fall. Please call, put your name on a calling list, and look for announcements.

## PAST SINGINGS THIS YEAR

February 10, 1993, Wednesday, *Alcoa First Methodist Presentation* — About 14 Old Harp Singers showed up for this presentation. After a nice catered dinner we sang for about 45 minutes, after getting some of the church choir up there in the square with us. We got to talking with people who used to go to the Singings over fifty years ago, and with people who had sung and taught in the old Singing schools held locally in the Maryville area.

February 14, 1993. *Dance Festival Singing*. Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. As usual, a Singing that got organized at the last moment seems to turn out really nice. Most of the dance festivals that go on now have a Singing as a Sunday Service. About 30 people from out of town mixed with 14 of the Epworth Harp Singers and all had a good way to start their Sunday.

March 14, 1993. *Epworth Old Harp Singing*. We sang alone at home and by the fireplace due to power failure. The Singing was snowed out by a 100-year blizzard.

April 4, 1993 *Oldhams Creek Singing*. David Wilson called this singing together at 11:00 a.m. Artie Schultz, David Wilson, Hal Wilson, Mike Oakley, and Beth Oakley were members of Oldhams Creek who got up and lead during the two sessions that day. We easily got in more than 40 tunes with at least one that had not been heard in many a year — #24 led by Hal Wilson. It has what one might call a wonderful marching-to-heaven tune, one "with a thousand thoughts resolved." I gave Angie Oakley an Old Harp book, and I would be curious to see if the youngster takes in upon herself to up and lead by this time next year. We hold this tradition in trust for the generations to come and it warmed our hearts to be a part of them on this day.

April 25, 1993 *Tuchaleechee Methodist Church Singing*. We had a very good Singing here with representatives from the Athens,

Tennessee area as well as a Sacred Harp Singer, who had a hard time leading/singing #65 (*Texas*), which wasn't what he was used to. Other songs led this afternoon we 107, 112, 51, 141, 35, 94, 42, 117, 14, 68,65, 68b, 99, 114t, 115, and we closed out with *Amazing Grace*. (This report was taken from a letter from Bob Richmond of April 25, 1993.)

May 2, 1993 *Jonesville Methodist Singing* (100 Year Anniversary). The Singing here predates the church, on land which was donated by Pleasant Ferguson Jones, and which was also used for a cemetery and to build a school. The church, like Headricks Chapel, was a Union Church with a Sunday allocated to the Methodist, Baptist, and a mixed congregation. Jones' wife was the first person to be buried in the cemetery in 1883. Pleasant Jones introduced the Old Harp Singing to the congregation in 1890, and it had been carried down until about 1980. The morning group was a bit sparse, but after lunch we had about 16 people in the choir and another 10 or 12 people in the audience too shy to get up and elbow a place with the rowdies. All in all, it was a very pleasant, comfortable, and tummy-warming experience. We would like to express our deep thanks to Melba Bolinger and friends for having us share their anniversary. We would enjoy going back again some time.

May 23, 1993 *Athens Tennessee Singing*. The first annual Singing was held on the campus of Tennessee Wesleyan College. The new group formed by Carroll Ross had a successful drawing of people from East Tennessee counties as well as Northern Georgia. We met at the Old College, built in 1857, which was a perfect setting for the Singing. Formerly a women's college and later a Confederate hospital, the building has high ceilings, wooden floors, and is



surrounded by huge trees. The *New Harp of Columbia* singing manual was chosen because it had been traditionally in use in years gone by. *Athens* (from the *Harp of Columbia*) was sung to honor the occasion. Over 100 people were in attendance. One of the features was that the new singers in from the singing school classes in Athens were asked to get up and lead a song. Martha Graham was asked by Carroll Ross to conclude the Singing with *Paradise*, #68.

Refreshments were served at the end, and everyone was pleased to sample fried apple pies made by Carroll's mother. I believe that all who attended plan to make this an annual event. (Submitted by Sarah Baskin, a school teacher in Knoxville. She is

now singing with the Tuesday night Singing at Erin Presbyterian and also with the Epworth Old Harp Singers.)

June 20, 1993 *Beech Grove Singing*. It was hard to sing here at Sharee Ann Rich's church after she had been absconded. (She was back on Monday.) Kathleen Mavournin led #99 for Sharee. The air abounds with memories of Old Harp Singers from the past who branched out in neighboring counties to help keep the tradition alive. It was a good, solid little Singing with an abundant larder. Wooden ceilings and pews helped the music resound off the walls. We will be back again next year.

## NOTES FROM ALL OVER

### NATIONAL SACRED HARP NEWSLETTER FOLDS UP

**T**he National Sacred Harp Newsletter final edition was Volume 9 Number 1. The official reason for this disaster was that the Sacred Harp Publishing Co., Inc. has lost its 501(3)(c) status. It is a disaster in that those who are journeymen (and women) Harp Singing groupies will have a harder time attracting new people from out of their immediate area. Communication is an effective way of keeping this tradition alive.

This Newsletter has offered its assistance to the Editor of the Sacred Harp Newsletter and the ex-Secretary of The Sacred Harp Publishing Company to help keep the lines of communication going between the Singings and the Harp Singers in the U.S.A.

It is my personal opinion as compiler of the Old Harp Newsletter that a new or renewed national newsletter should be a bit more aggressively formatted.

1. All the Singings listed should list the chairperson or co-chairpeople and their phone numbers if not also their addresses.
2. All the Singings in the U.S.A. should be listed as well as weekly, monthly, area, or regional practices and singing schools. I do

not recall seeing the Christian Harmony singings in North Carolina listed, the Southern Harmony Singings in Kentucky, or the Social Harp Singing in Athens, Georgia. There are no singings better or worse than the others. They all have people there, and they all reach out and touch one spiritually.

3. A master-file for each Singing should be maintained by this national newsletter. A one page, double-sided crib sheet should be made for each singing and each group formed in the U.S.A. The first side should contain a history of the singing or the group. The second side should have a list of officers, contact people, maps and location directions, a picture of the singing and, of course, date and time of the next singing. Every year these singing crib sheets should be updated right after the event, filed, and copies made available to the chairperson for mailing or publicity use.

Any newsletter is a means for effective communication. A harp newsletter is a ministry or a trusteeship for those who will come.



This might seem to be a lot of bother to some. But I have seen in the last three years a new edition of Sacred Harp with new and old songs incorporated, education video tapes made, every large singing selling their own tapes, a Sacred Harp concordance published, and six to ten more regional newsletters starting. Many new converts have a wealth of talent, trying to find the best way to use their new-found joy of singing the Harp.

Larry Olszewski

(I would appreciate any comments on this. Just send them to me at the return address of this Newsletter.)

**Please have all material to me by June 1, for the Fall Issue, or January 2 for the Spring Issue.** As of now, this Newsletter is a regional one with an emphasis on those singings within an easy half a day driving, New Harp of Columbia singings, people and places concerned with these affairs, and singings just beginning to get off the ground. More than that and we would become a national newsletter, which is not in the original covenant or budget.

#### **Christian Harmony Notes**

Our Christian Harmony brethren and sisters have started a new newsletter over the mountains in North Carolina. I believe they are asking for a contribution of \$3 or \$4 a year

to offset costs. There is a singing in Etoway, North Carolina, the first Sunday in September, the second Sunday in September in Canton, North Carolina at Morning Star Methodist, Mountain Heritage on the last Saturday in September, and Highland Farms Retirement Center on the first Sunday in November. For more information about these singings as well as a copy of their Newsletter, write Willie Israel, 124 Brucemont Circle, Asheville, North Carolina 28806. The phone is (704) 254-1330 or (704) 669-6474 ext. 318.

Bob Richmond of the Epworth Old Harp Singers is making rumblings about buying the software needed to re-typeset the Christian Harmony. If you have any advice or suggestions, please write to Bob Richmond, 2912 Glendale Road, Knoxville, TN, 37917 or call (615) 525-5599.

It has come to our attention that Barbara Kemper — a schoolteacher who has attended Christian Harmony Singings as well as being an Old Harp singer — is willing to coordinate all the interested parties in getting the Christian Harmony reprinted, retypeset, published, research grants, and financing. She says she isn't much with a computer and does not have much extra cash, but she is willing to coordinate and help in any way that she can. Her address is 1114 LeConte Road, Knoxville, TN 37914.

## **In Memorium**

**Nola Hannah Godfrey**

**James Alvin Autrey**

## REPLY FORM

In the last edition of this Newsletter we surveyed people concerning a wish list, and here are the findings.

5 people wanted a full basic singing school — two in the Knox County area and the rest in Roane County.

6 people signed up for a copy of the Newsletter. They are now on the mailing list.

3 people signed up for a hard cover copy of *New Harp of Columbia*.

3 people signed up for a *Concordance for the New Harp of Columbia*.

9 people are interested in a chrome cassette of Old Harp Singing.

4 people wanted a video of Old Harp Singing.

54 people wanted a 1908 edition of the *Christian Harmony*. There are now two editions out.

Please write to:

*Christian Harmony Notes*

c/o Willie Israel

124 Brucemont Circle

Asheville, NC 28806

Please send at least \$4 for 4 issues per year.

9 people would like a new copy of the *Harmonia Sacra* due out this summer. We will let you know where to write in the next issue.

6 people would like a copy of the *Missouri Harmony*.

2 copies of the *Sacred Harp* were ordered from me by mail, although I believe that I have sold close to fifty copies in this area in the past year and a half.

25 copies were anticipated by Steve Sabol of the DC area.

1. I would like to thank the *National Sacred Harp Newsletter* for printing a shortened version of this. Half of the responses came from an ad in the last full issue. I do wish they had room to put the "want list" in McCurrys' *Social Harp* as well.

2. Also, I have extra copies available of the tunes edited out of *Harp of Columbia* as well as most of William Walker's *Fruits and Flowers* available at cost.

## SOUTHERN HARMONY C.D.

**T**he Big Singing in Benton, Kentucky (on the 4th Sunday every May) is the oldest continuous shape-note singing and probably the most traditional. Local singers who have attended include Bruce Wheeler, and Allan and Sharon Hjerpe. The music is basically what Sacred Harp was like before all the changes and added parts made early in this century. In recent years, Steve Jones of Cleburne, Texas, has made extremely professional recordings of the Big Singing and sold the tapes at cost. This year, something additional. Following is an excerpt

from a letter received from Steve:

"The supply of 4th Edition books [i.e. *Southern Harmony*] is exhausted but the University Press of Kentucky is printing a 5th Edition which should be available around the 1st of September. It will be unique in that a CD (Compact Disc) which Dr. Glenn Wilcox and I prepared will be included in the back cover of the book. The CD is an anthology of the 25 favorite tunes over the last thirty years plus several other tunes. The recordings date from 1966 to 1992 and include a couple of early recordings of Duke Nichols, the reputed great leader of our time. Maxine Story, his



daughter, wrote and told me that Duke began preparing for the Big Singing at the first of the year each year and sang through each part of each tune in the book. In other words, he was ready when the fourth weekend in May rolled around! I have a supply of the CDs if you wish to retrofit your 4th Edition (or earlier) book.

The cost will be \$10.00 plus \$2.00 S/H."

The address for ordering is HSJ & Associates, 810 West Kilpatrick, Cleburne, Texas 76031-1614.

## "FIRE ALARM" ("SCOTLAND'S BURNING")

Excerpt from a letter from Dorothy Horn dated March 27, 1993

Speaking of tunes, I identified your "Fire Alarm." (See article on Charlie Clabo in previous issue. "Fire Alarm" is also in the *Rudiments of Music in the Sacred Harp Singing Manual*.) It's an old 19th century round titled "Scotland's Burning," or rather, a variant of it. There must be hundreds of these variants. I found another in 3/4 time, in an old school songbook that belonged to my mother. I am enclosing a variant that she sang and which

she taught me. Every variant is a round, incidentally. It would be fascinating to speculate on the origin. I think it came from England, and may have referred to the border raids that were constantly going on. Could this one refer to the Duke of Cumberland (son of George III) who raided the lowland Scots and burned everything possible? That, I do emphasize, is pure speculation. Anyhow, the raids must have stopped in 1603, because England and Scotland were effectively joined when James VI of Scotland became James I of England. (I had to look up that date...)

The image shows two staves of handwritten musical notation in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The first staff contains the melody for "Scotland's Burning" with the lyrics: "Scot-land's Burn-ing Scot-lands Burn-ing Look Out Look out". The second staff contains the melody for "Fire! Fire!" with the lyrics: "Fire! Fire! Fire fire! Pour on wat-er Pour on Wat-er". The notation includes various note values, rests, and phrasing slurs.

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