

# Old Harp Newsletter

*The New Harp of Columbia*

Number 13

Spring, 1994



St John United Methodist Church

in Maryville will sponsor an Old Harp Singing School on April 14 (Tuesday) and April 16 (Thursday) evenings starting at 7:30 pm. See Upcoming Singings for more information.

## NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR — 1994

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DINNER?</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
March 11	Friday	6:30 pm	No	Jubilee Festival, 16th & Laurel, Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
March 13	Sunday (2)	11 am	Yes	Epworth Sing, 16th & Laurel, Knoxville (D) (H) (S)
March 27	Sunday (4)	2 pm	No	Oldham Creek, Kings Br .Rd., Sevier County (N) (P)
April 3	Sunday (1)	5:00 pm	Yes	Easter Singing, Mabbs Resident, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville (T)
April 14 & 16	Tuesday Thursday	7:30 pm	No	Singing School, St. John United Methodist Church, Maryville, TN (O)
April 24	Sunday (4)	2 pm	No	Tuckaleechee Methodist Sing, Townsend (C) (K)
May 1	Sunday (1)	3 pm	Yes	Blue Mtn. Mist Inn, Jay Ell Rd., Sevierville (I) (E)
May 22	Sunday (4)	2:30 pm	No	Tennessee Wesleyan College, Old College Center, Athens, TN (U) (V)
May 29	Sunday (5)	6 pm	Yes	Kathleen Mavournin House Potluck, 344 Seven Oaks Drive, Knoxville. For information, call 691-9506
June 26	Sunday (3)	11 am	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Sing, Sevier County (G)
June 26	Monday	7 pm	No	Hymn Society Sing at Maryville College (O) (K)
July 24	Sunday (4)	Noon	Yes	* Little Green Briar Sing, Gr. Smoky Mtn. Nat. Park (M)
August 21	Sunday (3)	2:30 pm	No	Cades Cove Sing, Gr. Smoky Mtn. Nat. Park (C)
Sept. 11	Sunday (3)	2 pm	No	Wears Valley Methodist Church Sing, St. Rt. #321, Sevier County (A) (J) (R)
Sept. 27	Sunday (4)	11 am	Yes	Headricks Chapel Sing, St. Rt. #321, Sevier Cnty. (B) (O)
October 4	Sunday (1)	1:30 pm	No	Wears Valley Singing at Valley View Baptist, Valley View Rd. off State Rt. #321, Sevier County (J) (L) (F)
October 10	Saturday	TBA	No	Museum of Appalachia (time to be announced) (I) (E)
October 16	Sunday (3)	2 pm	No	Dollywood Sing (I) (E)
October 23	Sunday (4)	2 pm	No	Maryville College Sing, Blount County (K)
December 14	Saturday	10 am	No	Sugarlands Visitors Center, Grt.Smoky Mtns.Park (I)
Sundays	2nd & 5th	7 pm	No	Every month, 16th & Laurel, Knoxville (S) (D)
Sundays	2nd	5 pm	No	Sacred Harp Singing, Laurel Theater, Knoxville (W)
Various	.....	.....	.....	Cordova (in West Tennessee) (Q)

**Singing Schools** arranged: Seminars, workshops, 3-day and 10-day classes for basic and advanced music  
 .....                      .....                      .....                      (both 4-note and 7-note notation) (O)

\*We suggest bringing lawn chairs.

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

## CONTACT PEOPLE

NAME	PHONE	ADDRESS	CITY	ZIP
(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) Veta King .....	428-1375.....	313 Wickcliffe Court .....	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 .....	Knoxville, TN .....	37931
(T) Bill Gooch, Meg Mabbs .....	522-0515.....	4401 Alta Vista Way.....	Knoxville, TN .....	37919
(U) Carroll L. Ross .....	745-4505.....	P. O. Box 1356 .....	Athens, TN .....	37371
(V) Sara Hamilton (weekdays).....	745-7504.....	TN Wesleyan College.....	Athens, TN .....	37371
(W) Sara Baskin .....	687-9637.....	4300 Raven Road .....	Knoxville, TN .....	37918

## 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 new Executive Director of Jubilee Community Arts — Melody Reeves — for including us in her grant proposals to the NEA. May many years of harmony continue for both organizations.

We would also like to thank the many individuals who have sent their money to defray the cost of their newsletter mailing. Other benefactors have seen fit to help the community by donating more than \$5 are: Art Deason, Janet Fraembs, Loudon County Historical Society, Zurma and Leo Caldwell, Cathy Lynn Neeley, Hubert Atchley, Allan

and Sharon Hjerpe, Genevieve Wiggins, Connie Dickey, Berkley Moore, R. K. Gast, Jerrie and Dr. Moffat, Alberta Trulock Brewer, Berkley Moore, Julianne Wiley, Myron and Sanford Downs, Toby Koosman, Dave Puryear, Grace Clabo, Martha Graham, Paul Clabo, Janet Whaley, Teresa Wiley, Laquita Graves, Julianne and Don Wiley, Frank Holland, David Hough, Daniel Sisk, Dorothy Horn, Museum of Appalachia, Luke and Lena Headrick, Sharon Luttenburger, Richard Schmeidler, Carroll Ross, John O. Clabo, C. L. Langone, Earlene Love, and Al Wishart.

We'd also like to thank the contact people for their input as well as Terry Faulkner, Ann Strange, and Linda Glass. Special thanks to Allan Hjerpe for the initial editing and the formatting for this newsletter.

The suggested subscription of \$1.00 per year (2 issues) is to cover some expenses.

The cover spread was donated by the

Reverend Gene Kirk of St. John United Methodist Church where the April Singing School will be held.

## UPCOMING SINGINGS

**March 11 (Friday, 6:30 PM)** is the Jubilee Festival at the Laurel Theater, on the corner of 16th and Laurel Avenue. The Epworth (all Harp Singers) Old Harp Singers will open the festival with 15 minutes of singing to let the community know what we are all about. We will do something unique, and that is to practice at 6:30 PM before we go on with Kathleen Mavournin taking the lead. For more information, call Kathleen at 691-9506.

**March 13 (Sunday 11:00 AM)** is the annual Epworth Old Harp Singing. We plan to leave out the snow storm this year. A potluck will cap off the morning Singing at noon, with Singing again at 1:00 PM. This is also held at the Laurel Theater (the old Fort Sanders Presbyterian Church) at the corner of 16th and Laurel Avenue in Knoxville. For more information, call Kathy at 691-8678, Gid at 577-2272, or Terry at 584-3659.

**March 27 (Sunday at 2:00 PM)** is the annual Palm Sunday Singing at Oldhams Creek Baptist Church. David Wilson will preside. Directions are: take Route #441 south from Pigeon Forge. Turn left onto Kings Branch Road to the end. 100 yards to the right on Boogertown Road is Oldham Creek Baptist Church. For more information call David at 453-0241 or Veta at 428-1375.

We would like to thank Artie Shults for his work with the Old Harp Singing here and wish him and his family well up in Lake City, Michigan. Maybe Artie can find the Harp Singing up there to his liking.

**April 3 (Sunday 5:00 PM)** is the Easter Sunday Singing at the home of Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch. We had at least 40 singers last year and tried out the house for its acoustics.

(It was not found wanting.) The address is 4401 Alta Vista Way in Knoxville. Maps can be sent if needed. Meg's phone is 522-0515.

**April 14 & 16 (Tuesday and Thursday 7:30 PM)** is the St. Johns United Methodist Church Singing School. The church is located at 2201 East Broadway (Old Knoxville Highway) in Maryville. Gene McCammon will again be the instructor. The course will cover the transition from regular music to the shaped notes used in the *New Harp of Columbia*, basic singing in harmony, and some of the history and traditions will also be covered. Gene intends to schedule at least half of the class for singing. It should last until 9:00 PM. The cost of the two night session is \$5., or \$2 for pre-teens. Books will be on hand for use or for sale at \$5 for those who need them. For more information, call the church at 983-2290. (Please show up early on Tuesday for registration.)

**April 24 (Sunday 2:00 PM)** is the Tuckaleechee Methodist Church Singing. John Wright Dunn will chair the event, which is the closing event of the Blount County Dogwood Festival, along with Tom Taylor. The directions are: from Maryville take Route #321 south to Townsend. Turn right at the signs for Tuckaleechee Caverns, and the church is one mile on the left. For more information, call John at 448-6445 or Tom at 984-8585.

**May 1 (Sunday 3:00 PM)** is the Blue Mountain Mist Singing. The Inn is located on Jay Ell Road off of Middle Creek Road between Sevierville and Pigeon Forge. Refer will host the event and does not promise brook trout for the potluck this year. The Singing is scheduled to be between the morning church services and the evening

ones and for those people who have trouble traveling at night. This has always been a large, warm, and informal singing. For more information, call Refer or Velma Lamons at 453-4581 or Martha at 453-3276.

**May 26 (Sunday 2:30 PM)** is the **Wesleyan College Singing** in Athens, Tennessee. Carroll Ross will host this Singing in the Old College Building with one of the newest and — vocally — strongest Old Harp Singings heard in many a year. For more information, call Sara Hamilton during the day at the college at (615) 745-7504 during the week or Carroll at (615) 745-4505.

Note: This Singing was started at a Singing School taught by Carroll Ross. The Singing School was received with enough enthusiasm to result in a tradition-type Singing. Congratulations, Carroll, and welcome back to the Old Harp Community, Athens, Tennessee.

**June 26 (Sunday 11:00 AM)** is the **Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing**. Preacher Shirley Henry will turn the service over to the singers promptly at 11:00 so we can get in an hour of singing before the potluck at noon. Directions are: take State Route #441 south from Pigeon Forge, make the first right on Caney Creek Road, and the church is 5 miles on the left. For more information, call Shirley Henry at 453-5983.

**June 27 (Monday 7:00 PM)** is the **Hymn Society Singing Convention** in the Alumni Gym at Maryville College. About 300 musical educators have chosen to have their annual conference so they can participate in an Old

Harp Singing with us. Please — everyone attend who can tote a book. Everyone is invited and there should be room enough for all. For more information, call Larry at 584-6633.

Note: If there are any major changes, will include them in a June Newsletter for the Fall Issue.)

**July 24 (Sunday, noon)** is the **Little Greenbriar School House Reunion Singing**. This is located in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park just off Metcalf Bottoms. Please leave early and bring lawn chairs. A Potluck at noon and singing after. For more information, call Elder Art Godfrey at 525-9640.

**August — The Loudon County Historical Society Singing** was not put into their schedule for this year. We have enjoyed singing at the different churches, parks, and at Eblins Cave through the past five or six years. We hope that a group in Loudon County will sponsor an Old Harp Singing or a Singing School/Old Harp Singing School some time in the future.

**August 21 (Sunday 2:30 PM)** is the annual **Cades Cove Singing** sponsored by John Wright Dunn. The Singing starts in mid-afternoon at the Missionary Baptist — the third church on the loop road. Please leave a minimum of a half-hour more than you might normally allow and you might still be late due to camera-toting tourist safaris, and parking can be tight for late-comers. For more information, call John at 448-6445.

## OLD HARP NOTES

**2**nd Sundays of the month starting April 10. The East Tennessee Sacred Harp Singers will regroup at the Laurel Theater April 10th at 5 PM. This is a change from the Singing on Tuesday nights at Erin Presbyterian Church as the attendance was getting below the critical mass needed to

sustain a viable group. We hope that the Sunday setting and time will restart us. For more information, call Sara Baskin at 687-9637.

Note: We deeply appreciate the efforts of John Wilkins and family and the Erin Presbyterian Church for sponsoring the East

Tennessee Sacred Harp Singers and the Singing schools for such a long time. Thank you again.

**2nd and 5th Sundays** Epworth Old Harp Singers, usually at 16th and Laurel Avenue, although the times do change as well as places. There is a phone calling committee to help remind people. For more information or to check on possible changes, call Kathy at 691-8678. As of now, the schedule for the Epworth Old Harp Singers (and anyone who would like to join) is **March 3, 11:00 AM Old Harp Singing at the Laurel Theater/Potluck.**

**April 3, Easter Sunday, 5:00 PM/Potluck** at Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch. For information, call 522-0515.

**April 10, Sunday, Laurel Theater basement 7:00 PM**

**May 8, Sunday, Laurel Theater basement 7:00 PM**

**May 29, 6:00 PM Kathleen Mavournin House**

**Potluck 344 Seven Oaks Drive, Knoxville.** For more information, call 691-9506.

**June 12, 7:00 PM, Laurel Theater basement.**

**July 10, 7:00 PM, Laurel Theater basement.**

**August 14, 7:00 PM, Laurel Theater basement.**

**Cordova/Memphis** Joel Kasserman, formerly of the Epworth Old Harp Singers, enjoys getting together and singing Harp. If you are in his neighborhood of West Tennessee, please give him a call at (901) 756-6184.

**Singing Schools** With enough notice, Singing Schools can be arranged for both learning music and for those who can read music on singing Old Harp or Sacred Harp. Both ways use shaped notes and are taught by Gene McCammon. There is a fee to cover expenses and books, if needed. For more information, call Larry at 584-6633.

## LOCAL NOTES

**T**he New Harp of Columbia is available from the University of Chicago Press for \$14.94, for those who can't find it anywhere else. The toll-free number is 1-800-621-2736. As of this printing there are still at least 800 copies left. That works out to a little over 200 books sold a year for 4 years. (Where are all those closet singers?)

**Erin Whaley** — From a letter from Paul Clabo... Janet Whaley missed the Singing at Headricks Chapel to give birth to daughter Erin. It is fitting that Erin was born on this day because she is the fourth generation Old Harp Singer. Janet is the daughter of Paul Clabo and grand-daughter of Herb Clabo, who bought his first book from A. B. Shields for \$1.00 after attending a singing school taught by Clellon Williams in Gatlinburg.

**Kathleen Mavournin and Bob Richmond** were married in a Quaker ceremony at the Laurel Theater on November 21, 1993. There

were enough Old Harp singers there to help celebrate the occasion, as well as many friends, family, and well-wishers. Bob led #144, Rowley, "Come away to the skies, my beloved arise, and rejoice..." We just about got sung out. Congratulations to them both and we wish them many anniversaries.

**Bates Elliot**, the last president of the Knox County Old Harp Singers, was found hiding out in the Sevier County Health Care Center. Martha Graham heard his voice while walking down the hallway to visit a friend. At 97 he doesn't see very well, but knew her voice was familiar and asked who she was. Martha started to sing #114 and was immediately found out. Martha is planning to set up a Singing at the nursing home sometime soon, so give Martha a call at 453-3276 or stop and visit Bates in Room 111. The nursing home is just off Dolly Parton Parkway.

**Mrs. Doris DeSpain** has come to Knoxville from Texas, and we welcome her. She has

been singing Harp from the Sacred Harp for 70 years.

### Harp Notes From Afar

Note — the intent of the Old Harp Newsletter is to inform people about Harp Singing in East Tennessee. Over the years, people from New York to California have passed through and taken a part of us with them after singing with us. The intent of the following is to let everyone know that there are many who are becoming interested in one of America's oldest continuous traditions — the Singing School and Harp Singings. There is most likely a role for any who choose to do so in keeping it as a living tradition to serve those to come. To misquote JFK: Don't ask what Harp Singing can do for you. Ask what you can do for Harp Singing.

**1959 edition Christian Harmony — William Walker.** Per a letter from Art Deason, Box 535, 501 Walnut Street, Centreville, Tennessee, 35042, dated August 30, 1993, they are planning to redo and correct the errors of that edition. They plan to print 1,000 copies. They expect that the reprint with corrections will cost \$10,000 or more. For more information or offers of help, drop Art a letter, or call (205) 926-1074.

**1873 edition Christian Harmony — William Walker.** According to the Christian Harmony Notes newsletter and conversation with Willie Israel, their initial costs might run \$15,000 or \$15.00 per copy. They are looking for initial start-up funds, donations, or subscriptions. Zack Allen of the Folk Heritage Committee of Western North Carolina has set up a tax deductible fund just for the book publishing effort. They are also looking for a clear copy of the 1873 edition or at the least the 1979 Brent Holcomb edition. For information or offers of help, write to Willie Israel, 124 Brucemont Circle, Asheville, North

Carolina 28806, or phone (704) 254-1550 (evenings). If you are also interested in the Christian Harmony Singings please write to Willie and she will send you a copy of their Newsletter. I would enclose some money to help cover her costs.

The **William Walker Memorial Singing** was held on January 8, 1994 in Spartanburg, South Carolina, singing works by him from the Southern Harmony and Sacred Harp. They plan to make this an annual affair. We hope both Christian Harmony books will be available by then to be included in the event. For information, call Dr. John Bullard, Wofford College at (803) 597-456- or 4020.

### New books or music on Sacred Harp available

**Northampton Harmony**, a "Collection of Sacred and Secular Harmony, Containing Hymns and Songs of the Pioneer Valley. Old and New, Printed in Shape Notes for Music Teaching and Social Singing, compiled by Tim Eriksen.

This compilation contains a historical forward, rudiments of music, and 27 pages of music popular, printed, or written in Western Massachusetts. It is very easy to read and the historical foreword is most enlightening. The Singing School Manual/Booklet may be obtained from Tim by writing to Northampton Harmony, P. O. Box 38, Northampton, MA 01061, or (617) 863-2858. The cost is \$13.50 postage paid.

**The Sacred Harper's Companion**, a Collection of Hymns and Anthems in Traditional Shape Note Style by Contemporary Composers. The title covers about everything. These people are in the forefront of the Harp Singings that are going on and expanding throughout the country. There are notes on the composers of the 50-page collection plus a foreword. Cost: \$13.50. The address is: Glen Wright or Susan

Mampre, c/o Musica, 4 Lewis Road, Belmont, MA 02178.

**Original Sacred Harp** by The Universal Pickers, an all-male group who attended a singing school taught by Hugh McGraw. There is not as much bulk as found at a regular singing with 40 to 200 voices, but for those who wish to be able to pick out the parts, it is a good tape to listen to. I believe the cost is \$10 and the address is Original Sacred Harp, c/o Universal Pickers, 1190 Old Hwy. 100, Waco, GA 30182.

**The Fourth Annual NY State Sacred Harp Convention.** Sounds like a group of trained singers got together with a couple of Southerners to help out. It is a bit pretty on a couple of songs early on and then they seem to lose some of their stuffiness and you can later hear them keeping time with their feet and exclamatory remarks after one or two powerful tunes. This turns out to be one of my favorite tapes. (Thank you, Sara.) Some of the songs included are Amsterdam, Babylon, New Jerusalem, David's Lamentation, and Return Again. The price of this tape is \$10. Write to Tim Wheeler, 66 Van Buskirk Gulf Road, Newfield, NY 14867. This also is an annual convention held on the Friday and Saturday before the third Sunday in October.

**The Missouri Harmony Singing Manual** will be available for \$12 per copy (plus postage) by the time this newsletter hits the mail. The address I have is Missouri Harmony, c/o University of Nebraska Press, P. O. Box 880484, Lincoln, Nebraska 68588-0484. Phone

(800) 455-1105 or fax (800) 426-2617. Larry O has bought 12 books and will have some for sale at the Singings for \$12.50. A copy will be in the Knox County Library.

**Harpeth Valley Sacred Harp News** by Tim Reynolds. This is a one-page newsletter put out by Tim to keep Mid-Tennessee informed about Harp Singings going on in his area. To get on his mailing list write to Tim at 704 Harpeth Parkway West, Nashville, TN 37221-3505. A couple of dollars might keep you on his mailing list for a time.

**1994 Sacred Harp Singing and Birthday Calendar.** This includes on the calendar the place where a singing is being held for Sacred Harpers. On the flip side are the birthdays of traditional singers. In the back is a listing of the Cooper book Singings and in Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi, the Christian Harmony Singings. The cost is \$6.50 from Charlene Wallace, 5089 Mt. Zion Road, Waco, Georgia 30182. Though it wasn't the intention of the compilers of this calendar to do so, I wish it had included phone numbers of contact people to get directions to these Singings. A hillbillyski like me might get lost trying to find them. Maybe I was hoping that this calendar would take the place of the Sacred Harp Newsletter.

**Harmonia Sacra — Funk.** Available for \$19.95 plus postage. Call or write Good Books, P. O. Box 419, Intercourse, PA 17534-0419, 1-800-762-7171. A copy will be in the Knox County Library. (This is a soft-cover edition.)

## DIARY ON AN OLD HARP SINGING

**H**eadrick Chapel, September 26, 1993. Getting there early to do last minute touch up. Lois Luebke had made the effort to see about most things with her parents. Had been working long hours and been remiss in my duties as elected official to keep this Singing in good order. Took the liberty of mailing out 95 flyers to those who might forget about this affair.

Sharee Rich and her grandparents are the only ones there at 10:00 AM. She has grown so much since she first started and is an inspiration for us older singers. I get my much wanted and needed hug and traded happenings since the last meeting.

Two vans pulled up. They carried 12 or so people from Ohio who caught the Tuckaleechee Singing in the spring and were having



an outing this weekend to include the Singing here today. They were even so good as to bring a covered dish, though claiming to be just spectators. I went into my spiel that it was not a spectator sport but a community sharing of voice, song, and heart. Also suggested that they stay until at least after dinner before trekking back to the North. Maybe half of the people here don't show up until after their own morning worship service.

Ernest Headrick, whose grandpa had donated the land for this "Union Church," drove up to open the doors. He is one of the three trustees and I have grown fond of him while we were working on fixing the leaks in the steeple last year. (Must remember to take up a collection for repairs.) Ernest and his wife still live in grandpa's log cabin on the other side of the Chapel Cemetery.

For a while there it seems that the contingent from Ohio might make up half the choir had they chosen to sing. But, as usual, people start to wander in. I ask Sharee to ring the bell to start the service.

Mr. Abbott, who is the preacher here once a month, leads us in a prayer. Sharee is asked to lead us off and she chooses as a surprise, #16, "How tedious and tasteless the hours." The youngster must have read some anxiety in my waiting for more people to show. Only one in the treble section, four altos, a bench and a half of leads, and the same for the bass. Sharee also leads #107, Holy Manna — another song that she has never lead before. I am proud of her.

To pick up the pace, I chose to lead #51, a simple but swiftly moving fugging piece. Lena Headrick takes up #184, "Long Ago," with that old well-known tune. Carroll Ross, Steve Stone, Bruce Wheeler, and Bruce Helton now have arrived and bulk up the voices in the bass and treble section. Lois leads #60, "Importunity," another that Burl Adams, who was a local Harp Singing Patriarch, used to call a lot. Carroll calls the fugging tune "Lenox," which is a nice way to pick up the pace. Steve Stone then picks out #46, a

favorite of many of the traditional singers. The tune skips up and down around the scale. At one time this must have been a good Singing School tune for practicing jumping in the scale and timing. Lois Liebke reminds me it is getting close to lunch and I ask Kathleen Mavournin to lead a song and she chooses #117, "All Hail the Power of Jesus Name...," a powerful tune to whet the appetite for the dinner. Class dismissed. Ann Strange has wandered in just before the break along with Toby Koosman. I greet Odis Abbott and his wife, who sits alongside us in the Alto. Rhonda Lubke has taken up residence alongside her with Sara Baskins.

I seem to miss Paul Clabo and his two daughters, Janet Whaley and Teresa Wiley. Paul usually leads "Morality," John Dunn and a couple of other Townsend singers are also in attendance. The singing is holding true to form. Starting out slow and building up after the local church services let out.

Mr. Abbott had set up the horses and connected the numbered pieces of plywood over the top before the Singing started to make a table about 50 feet long beside the chapel. Within 20 minutes the spread is just about complete as I put my 3-cheese gowash down and ask Brother Abbott to lead us in prayer.

Allan and Sharon Hjerpe, Liz Webb, Tom Taylor, Eleanor Patty, and about 20 more singers join the fold. Some of Charlie Clabo's kin are also represented. Don't see "Uncle" John Clabo either. Hope he is well. Probably a good thing that I don't get much to eat while talking to everyone. Always nervous that I would forget something or forget a name. Talking to Ernest, learn that the Building Fund is getting down to about \$44 for the upkeep of Headricks Chapel. Also informed of efforts to get Headricks Chapel on the National Register of Historical Places. Believe the Ohio people will stay for part of the afternoon session.

Lunch is about over and I get Sharee to ring the bell in the steeple to call the Singing

back to order. Lena pulls me aside and reminds me about taking up a collection for the building fund. I ask Mr. Abbott to open with a prayer after Refer leads #107, "Brethren we have met to worship..." Refer declines to lead a second time and everyone in the front row of the Bass section declines. Don't wish to slow the singing so I call #30, a powerful minor tune called "Sion Security." The pace is rapid, but stately and demanding. I spend my time leading the tune by heart and capturing individual's eyes as I keep time, wandering around the "Choir," listening to the feet keeping time, watching smiles grow as everything, everyone is as one. This is a good singers' Singing. The old wooden Chapel was made for this. John Wright leads #98 at a good pace.

Ann Strange calls #61. A slight pause while we negotiate the pitch and we are off again with a strong beat. Ann could be a little awed at herself and the song as a smile is trying to break her face in half. As Nancy Olsen comes in and takes a place in the Alto Section, Lois leads us in #206, Ocean. She knows what she wants and gets the choir to follow her and not lose their place. We fly through it. Kind of hard to top it, but her mom Lena Headrick leads #180, and the vibrations just keep flowing from everyone. Henry Lawson leads Humility, and Sharee Rich leads #99 — her favorite — at a fast clip. She also leads #18, which surprises me, but the little gal increases her store of tunes to lead. Sharee also took my suggestion of looking out at the audience and sharing of the touching of the eyes.

Nancy Olsen leads #139. She has always been a favorite leader in any Singing. Allan Hjerpe does not look well and is near the back of the church. He said that he would probably leave early. I ask him if he would like to lead. I don't recollect what he was leading, but he was standing erect and a smile stretched as far as it could go. The tune was uplifting to the body as well as the soul.

His wife Sharon declines to lead.

Kathy Jones trips off #56b and Toby Kooseman and Refer Laymons co-operate on #164, New Topia. Toby and Dean Turley, singing bass, are scheduled to get married next year. Martha leads #181. Mary Beth McGee leads 120b, which I have not heard at the Old Harp Singings but it has been sung at the Sunday evening Singings held at Helen Hutchinson's. I make a point to ask her name as I don't remember if I have met her before. Nan Taylor leads Mear, and Steve Stone leads #81, which has some wonderful harmonies. Steve stops us and repeats the shapes a second time.

Bruce Wheeler gets flying again with Northfield. Carroll Ross from Athens leads Duke Street. Refer overcomes his shyness and leads Pleasant Hill. Mitch Martin tackles Gideon Fryer's tune #35, a fugging piece. Tom Taylor asks if anyone has led #60. The retort from the choir members was that it was called in the morning, but had not been ripped out of the book when we did so, and that those words were good enough to repeat.

Eleanor Patty leads us through #21, Mendon. I ask if we can repeat the notes again, and it turns out to be a wonderful tune. Sharee wants to sing Rockingham on the same page, as that tune was a part of the Singing School, so I get up to lead it for her. As I sit down Lois Lubke, the co-chairperson of the Singing, whispers for me to pass the hat for the Headricks Chapel building fund.

As the Singing moves along and different organizers get up to lead, I ask them to announce the upcoming Singings. Done this way, it gives a short breather between songs but doesn't slow the affair down by having one long list of announcements. Since we have had everyone lead who wanted to, it is time to open the Singing to requests. The first is from Bruce Wheeler and he is asked to lead #124. The way he leads it, it is the most powerful song and poetry in the book. Bruce

has indicated that in four or five places the chords send shivers down the spine.

Since Russell Whitehead had lead that song (#124) many times in memory of his father, Liz Webb requests #75T, which she and Refer lead in memory of Russell, since it was one of the other songs that he would lead.

We are winding up now. I think #159 was called. I don't remember, as my notes stop here. My guess is the song that Mr. Helton led was #206. Martha, in her wisdom, suggests that we stand. He is a joy to watch lead as his delivery is sharp, crisp, and exuberant. As we are getting a bit ragged at the end, Lois suggests that it is time to wind it up. I ask for 69b Middleton, and on the third verse we slide into Amazing Grace, and Martha caps off with "When the Battle's Over." In the middle of this, many of us are wandering around to old and new faces, shaking hands and exchanging hugs. When the last note is sung I ask Brother Abbott to close with a prayer. It was an emotional finish, as the preacher was filled with the spirit of the singing.

I dismiss the class until next year. I move out of the way and start trying to collect my loaner books — the last of the hard-cover books with gray duct-tape on them for easy spotting. I talked to David Puryear, who has moved into the Nashville area with his wife. (He found an 1868 edition of the New Harp of Columbia.) Martha Graham walks up to me

and said I should have passed the hat for the building fund. (Despite all the reminders, I forgot.) Grace Clabo gives me \$5 for the Newsletter as do Martha and David. I meet Virginia Tindell of Maryville, and Darrell Billingsley of Eaglesville, Tennessee. Mrs. Wiley thanked me for the book I sent her last week. Toby gives me three dollars for the newsletter. I sell two or three other books. I guess that is why there is an extra \$24 in my pocket to go into the revolving book fund.

Different people are wandering up and down the pews picking up the trash and a loose book or two — checking out whose name is in them — and we get the building locked up for the night. I greet the few people who are left, exchange a few warm words and hugs and take a few deep breaths. It was a good Singing, and it was the place I most wanted to be. Time to relax, and we get back to the car and load up. OK, that was enough. Off to Bruce Wheeler's place to get time to talk to some old friends, finish up the left-over potluck dishes, have something cold to drink, and sing some more if so inspired. Old Harp Singers really don't fade away. They just get hoarse for a while.

Larry Olszewski  
Epworth Old Harp Singer

## SO-TE SINGERS

### SO-TE Singers

Since I started singing Old Harp 14 years ago, I have been trying to define or figure out what makes a HARP SINGER.

1. The first thing I see is that a Harp Singer is a spiritual person. Those who continue to sing year after year have more of a sense of peace and serenity about them that grows and seems to spread and encompass others around them.
2. A Harp Singer is a giving person — a sharing person. People who have been singing for

long organize singings for rest homes, churches, community centers. They also get on the phone and say "Bates is over at the Sevier County Rest Home. Let's go over and sing for him. It would make him happy." We did that for Russell Whitehead for many a year. We visited Kate, Refer, Burl, and many others because of this bond that gets formed.

3. Harp Singing makes friends. Sometimes we see each other only two or three times a year, sometimes twenty or more. I can picture Martha or someone saying to some newcomer, "You there, you been at Odems Creek last

year?" "What's your name?" "What song do you like the best?" "Refer Laymon, why don't you help this gal lead #...?" Maybe some cold notes at times, but warm hearts. (Thought) I have been surprised at the acceptance of the Old Time Harp Singers of having us young and different outsiders

inside their churches to sing with them. But maybe I shouldn't. If one is cold or in need or warmth give them your coat. A spiritual coat at a Harp Singing is a great gift to share as it creates more warmth to the giver. Maybe the best way to describe an Old Harp Singer is Salt Of The Earth. (SO-TE)

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