

OLD HARP



Number 11
Spring 1993

the
New Harp
of Columbia
Newsletter

NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR — 1993

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DAY</u> | <u>TIME</u> | <u>DINNER?</u> | <u>INFORMATION</u> |
|--------------|------------|-------------|----------------|---|
| March 2 | Tuesday | 7:15 PM | No | 4-Note <i>Sacred Harp</i> Open House, Erin Presbyterian Church, Knoxville, with Gene McCammon (T) |
| March 13 | Saturday | 10 AM | No | Harp Singing Workshop, Laurel Theater, Knoxville (O) |
| March 14 | Sunday (2) | 1 PM | Yes | Epworth Sing, Laurel Theater, 16th & Laurel Ave., Knoxville (Potluck at 1 pm, Singing at 2 pm) (D) (H) (S) |
| April 4 | Sunday (1) | 11 AM | Yes | Oldhams Creek Sing, King Branch Rd., Sevier County(N)(P) |
| April 25 | Sunday (4) | 2 PM | No | Tuckaleechee Methodist Sing, Townsend (C) (K) |
| May/June TBA | Saturday | 6:30 PM | Yes | Blue Mountain Mist Inn Sing, Jay Ell Rd., Sevierville (I) (E) |
| May 2 | Sunday | 11 AM | Yes | Jonesville Methodist (100th Anniversary, Anderson County (O) |
| June 17 | Thursday | TBA - PM | No | Epworth Presentation at Elderhostel (O) (S) |
| June 20 | Sunday (3) | 11 AM | Yes | Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Sing, Sevier County (G) |
| July 15 | Thursday | TBA - PM | No | Epworth Presentation at Elderhostel (O) (S) |
| July 25 | Sunday (4) | 12 NOON | Yes | Little Greenbriar Sing, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park. <i>Bring lawn chairs.</i> (M) |
| 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 -TBA | Sunday | TBA | No | Dollywood Sing—Details to be announced (I) (E) |
| October 24 | Sunday (4) | 2 PM | No | Maryville College Sing, Blount County (K) (D) |
| December 11 | Saturday | 10 AM | No | Sugarlands Visitors Center, Great Smoky Mtns. Natl. Park (I) |
| WEEKLY | TUESDAYS | 7:15 PM | No | 4-Note <i>Sacred Harp</i> Singing, Erin Presbyterian Church, Knoxville (T) (O) |
| MONTHLY | SUNDAYS | 7 PM | No | Old Harp, 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month, usually at the Laurel Theater (downstairs), 16th and Laurel Avenue (S) (D) |
| VARIOUS | | | | Cordova (in West Tennessee) (Q) |

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PHONE THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT PERSON(S) — SEE LIST AT THE TOP OF PAGE 3.

FINANCES

A National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Expansion Grant (1993) has paid for a portion of the production and mailing of the *Old Harp Newsletter* for matched time, donations, and labor. We would like again to thank the Executive Director of Jubilee Community Arts, Janie Wilson, who has included this Newsletter in her grant proposals to the NEA.

Supplemental donations from individuals or groups to the Newsletter other than Jubilee Community Arts or the NEA Grant are: Lawrence R. Banard, Grace Clabo, John O. Clabo, Paul Clabo, John Wright Dunn, Chris Griffin, Marjorie M. Doubleday, Sharon & Allan Hjerpe, Janet Fraembs, Loudon County Historical Society, Dorothy Horn, Conard Layman, Bobby Lovell, Kathleen Mavournin, Karl Moyer, Museum of Appalachia (Epworth Harp Singers), Estel Owenby, Eleanor Patty, Wayne Rial, Oldhams Creek Singing School,

CONTACT PEOPLE

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| (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 |
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| (T) John Wilkins | 531-5927 | 8209 Richland Colony Rd. | Knoxville, TN..... | 37919 |



Finances (continued) ...

Bob Richmond, Carrol Ross, Claude Reagan, Phillip Rhodes, Barbara Seaton, Gary Scales, Sandy Sherwood, Wesley Waycaster, Michael Williams, Francis Wood.

These 28 individuals or groups, plus 16 who gave less than \$5 (in the last six months) made up approximately \$450.00 of the cost of the 850 Newsletters that were printed and or mailed. We would like to thank them for their thoughtfulness and their generosity for supporting the community through the printing of this Newsletter.

Many thanks to those on the contact list for helping with the 1993 schedule. A special thanks to Charlie Clabo, Ada McPherson, Dorothy Horn, Chris Griffin, and Allan Hjerpe for articles contributed. Thank you to Steve Stone, Terry Faulkner, and Ann Strange for proofreading and editing. Thanks to Karen Dotson of Jubilee Community Arts for keeping and updating the

mailing list even after Jubilee's computer was stolen. Thank you to Allan and Sharon Hjerpe for editing, typesetting, and formatting. Thanks to Debbie Billings of Graphic Creations for her excellent help in the printing.

The cover logo was created by Doug Beasley—a senior in University of Tennessee Graphic Arts Studies.

Music included in this issue is from the 1848 edition of the *Harp of Columbia*. Clear copy for reproduction in this issue was donated by Cendra and Charlie Price of Austin, Texas (formerly with the Epworth Old Harp Singers in Knoxville). These tunes were edited out of the 1867 edition of *The New Harp of Columbia*.

Comments on the music included in this issue were excerpted from a letter from Dorothy D. Horn to Larry Olszewski, dated February 14, 1992. (Dorothy is doing A-OK. She is just another "vital flame" for harp singing.)

UPCOMING SINGINGS

MARCH 13TH (SATURDAY), 10:00 AM. Workshop at the Laurel Theater. As a part of Jubilee Festival the Epworth Old Harp Singers will give a workshop on Old Harp Singing emphasizing the use of the shapes and going through the individual parts. Kathleen Mavournin and Larry Olszewski sponsoring. All singers are welcome to help the class. For more information call Jubilee Community Arts at 522-5851.

MARCH 14TH, 1:00 PM. Epworth Old Harp Singing at the Laurel Theater. A pot luck dinner will start at 1:00 PM before the Singing, due to the use of the building by a church group in the morning. The Singing will start at 2:00 PM. For more information call Chris Griffin at 525-1321, Terry Faulkner at 584-3659, or Gideon Fryer at 577-2272.

APRIL 4TH, 11:00 AM. Oldhams Creek Baptist Church. This is a singing restarted about three years ago at Oldhams Creek by David Wilson and Artie Shults. This also is a covered dish event with dinner starting around noon. The food is great and the attendance is growing because of the two Singing Schools recently held here. Directions are: take Route #441 South from Pigeon Forge. Turn left onto King Branch Road to the end. 100 yards to the right on Boogertown Road is Oldhams Creek Baptist Church. For more information call David Wilson at 453-0241 or Artie Shults at 453-8698.

APRIL 11TH 7:00 PM. Easter Sunday Potluck. At the home of Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch at 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville. Their phone is 522-0515 and we should have maps available for those who need them.

APRIL 25TH 2:00 PM. Tuckaleechee Methodist Church Singing. This is also the closing event for the Blount County Dogwood Arts Festival. John Wright Dunn and Tom Taylor have been hosting this Singing for the last 15 years. It has always been well attended from the county and usually the Church is filled. Directions: From Maryville take Route #321 to Townsend, turn right at the signs indicating Tuckaleechee Caverns. 1 mile on left. For more information call John at 448-6445 or Tom 984-8585.

MAY 2ND 11:00 AM. Jonesville Methodist 100th Anniversary Singing (Oliver Springs) There were Singings organized there for over 60 years before there were not enough in-house singers to support one. Later on in the 1960s the Knox County Old Harp Singers organized a Singing there for another 10 or 15 years. So it must be ten years or more since these walls had Old Harp Singing bouncing off the ceilings. Let us see what we can do for this Anniversary Singing. Directions from Knoxville: From I-40 take Pellissippi Parkway and State Route #62 through Oak Ridge to Oliver Springs (24 miles). At Oliver Springs take State Route #61 for 3.6 miles to Jonesville Methodist Church. Those coming from Nashville can take the I-40 exit at Harriman/Rockwood Exit and turn left towards Oak Ridge. Turn right at Devaney Grocery (see map, pg. 5). For more information call Melba Bolinger at (615) 435-6884.

MAY 9TH SUNDAY 7:00 PM. (Old Harp practice) Laurel Theater basement, Knoxville (on Mother's day) For more information call Chris at 525-1321.

MAY 30TH SUNDAY 7:00 PM. (Old Harp Practice) Laurel Theater basement, Knoxville. For more information call Chris at 525-1321.

JUNE 13TH SUNDAY 7:00 PM. (Old Harp practice) Laurel Theater basement (Knoxville). For more information call Chris at 525-1321.

JUNE 17TH THURSDAY TBA PM. (Old Harp Presentation — Elderhostel). Place TBA. For more information call Chris at 525-1321.

JUNE 20TH SUNDAY 11:00 AM. Beech Grove Baptist Church Singing. Preacher Shirley Henry turns the church service over to the Old Harp Singers at 11 AM with a covered dish dinner at noon. This Singing is representative of the heart of Old Harp Singing and is supported as such. Directions: State Route #441 south through Pigeon Forge. Take first right onto Caney Creek Road. 5 miles and the church is on the left. For more information call Shirley Henry at 453-5983.

Upcoming Singings (continued) ...
JULY 11TH SUNDAY 7:00 PM. (Old Harp practice)
 Laurel Theater basement (Knoxville) For more information call Chris at 525-1321.

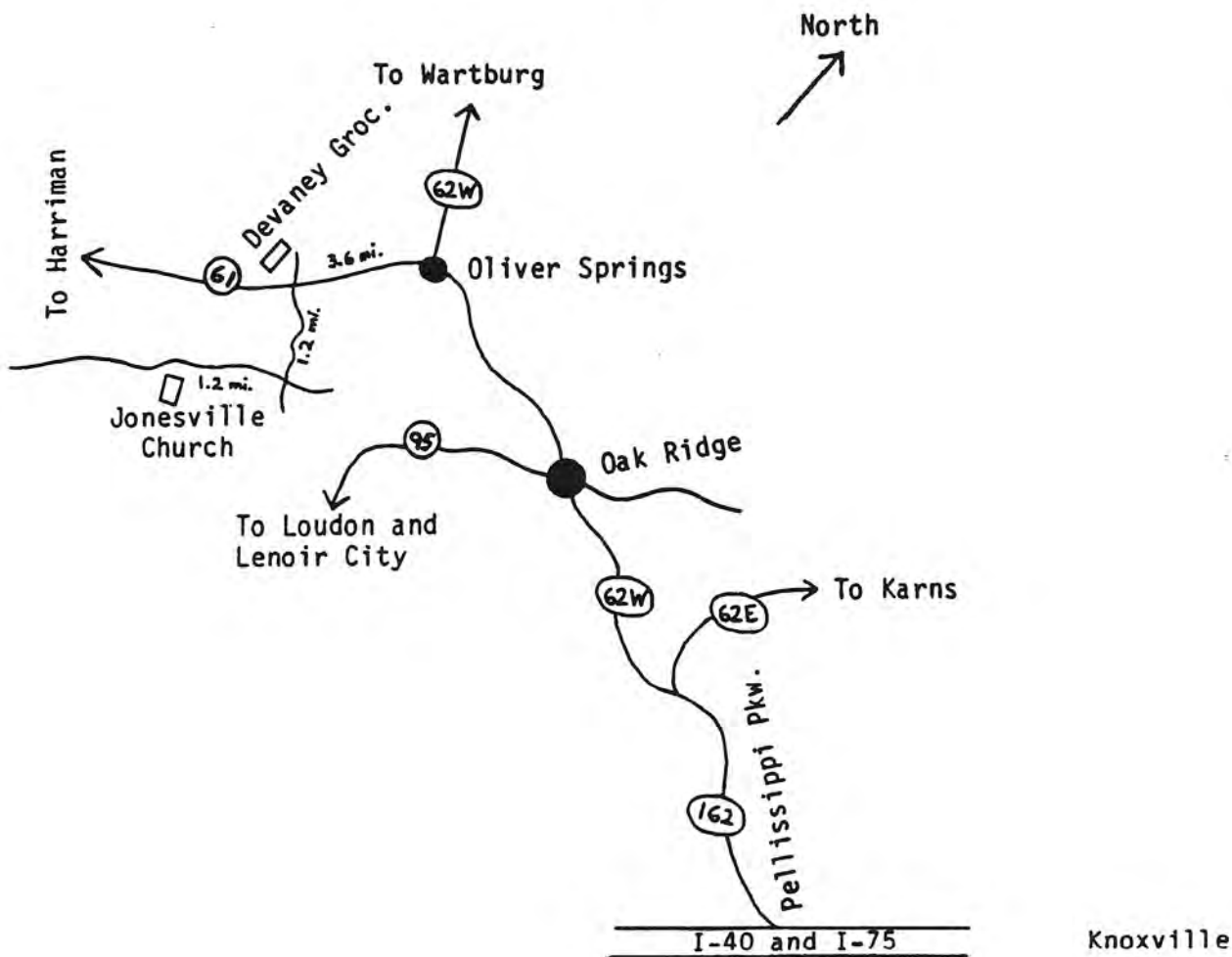
JULY 15TH THURSDAY TBA PM. (Old Harp Presentation — Elderhostel) Place TBA. For more information call Chris at 525-1321.

The Singing dates underlined in the foregoing list of Upcoming Singings are Epworth sponsored Singings or practice dates for the Epworth Old Harp Singers. Everyone is invited to attend and sing with us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BE PUT ON THE PHONE CALLING LIST FOR SINGING UPDATES, CALL CHRIS AT 525-1321 OR LARRY AT 584-6633.



MAP TO JONESVILLE METHODIST CHURCH



ON OLD HARP

After the Headrick Chapel Singing was winding down and the drone and "Amazing Grace" was started, everyone was shaking hands and giving hugs. It had been a glorious day and a great place to be with voices and minds as one. Support and tolerance dappled with uprisings of warm humor to enrich the Singing.

I was thrown a little off balance when giving a hug or a hand-shake to a person who was very stiff. I don't know whether it was me or maybe that person was not comfortable with us as a group. The most important part of *Old Harp Singing* is not the music or the poetry, but the people who are there to share their spirit. Everything else seems to fall into the proper place when that occurs.

It is my thought that more things can be done to enrich the community other than the hand-shakes, hugs, and smiles that we trade after the sings. Starting last year I have been sending out letters to various people saying that I appreciate them as persons and thank them for something they have done for Harp Singing—whether it is getting up and leading for the first time, arranging to get a Singing organized, having patience and carefully leading us through a song that we had difficulty with, or organizing a Singing or a presentation. These attaboys or attagals I have given the title of an **ATTAHARP**.

I appreciate you! Anyone can say that. There is not a monopoly on taking up the extra thoughtful time to say that I remember you and that I appreciated the time you did so-and-so. So you gave them a hug and applauded them. Are they still in your mind today? Let them know. If you don't remember or forgot to ask their name, surely someone did! Ask around. What it takes is a little time. If you feel awkward writing a full-sized letter, just take yourself to a Xerox machine after taking White-Out to the lettering on the cover of this Newsletter and write on the back: Dear Harp Singer, I appreciate you for Thank you again, **ATTAHARP**, Signed, Ira Memba Yew. Or sit down and send a post-card saying thank you.

The least of us are the most important people we have. "...the first shall be last and the last shall be first..." 'Tis a time to reach out and touch

someone. We need to encourage our growing nuclear Harp Singing Family.

Sidelight: The **ATTAHARPS** will most likely remain here on earth, but I am sure going to try to pack all the Hugs and Handshakes to take with me when my time comes to go to Heaven.

Respectfully,

Larry Olszewski



There are several copies of a recording by John McCutcheon for the National Archives. The copy I know of has much static, can only be heard if turned up to full volume, but is wonderful. It was made in the Old Fort Sanders Presbyterian Church/Laurel Theater with a nice mixture of young and old. I do not know if the master is still around.



There is a record that one can get from Smithsonian/Folkways Recordings. The title is *Old Harp Singing* #2356. For more information, call Rounder Records Group 617-354-0700. They also have a 2 cassette tape available: *FASOLA: 53 Shape Note Hymns: All Day Sacred Harp Singing*, Houston, Mississippi #4151.



SINGING SCHOOL

Oldhams Creek Singing School last fall, taught by Gene McCammon, went very well. The class had 23 attendees, many of whom had not attended the basic music class that Gene had taught before. The classes, for the most part, started with the tunes that were at the beginning of the *New Harp of Columbia*, and worked from there slowly back in the singing manual.

The class consisted of: Sharee Rich, Veta King, Claude J. Reagan, Ruth Reagan, Christine Shults, Jimmie Wilson, Betty Owenby, Kathy Williams, Reba Blalock, Jane Scott, Reford Lamons, Conard Lamons, Reece Helton, Sara Baskin, Joyce Hill, Mitch Martin, David Wilson, Dennis Mayhew, Barbara Seaton, Artie Shults, Sue Ogle, Kathleen Mavournin, and Bob Richmond. Please notice that 8 of these singers (including Gene) traveled from Knoxville to make this class.

This class had a surplus of funds after meeting expenses and the remainder was put in the Old Harp Newsletter Fund.

Additional Singing Schools can be arranged by civic or religious groups or organizations or can be arranged by this Newsletter. Please fill out the form on the last page, with your name, phone number, and address, and mail it to **Old Harp Newsletter, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016.**

The Basic Singing Schools usually run about 8 sessions and teach basic music using the *New Harp of Columbia* and a work book devised by Gene. The cost is \$20 to \$25 per person which includes the work book, but not a copy of the *New Harp of Columbia*. The cost varies according to the number of people attending and the cost of driving. Classes are formed also around the availability of Gene McCammon, usually in the spring and fall with 3 or 4 months leeway to get the classes publicized in the Newsletter and the local papers.

Advanced classes do not cost as much, as the *New Harp of Columbia* is mainly used and the classes are only 4 or 5 sessions long. The classes are usually run once per week, but not on weekends.

It may be possible some time in the future to have a one day mini-session or workshop. This is

not in the immediate works as of this date, but please make your wishes known.

Gene McCammon is the chairperson of the **Convention Singing** being held at the Hyatt Regency in November. We wish him much success in pulling this venture together into what might be called a Mega-Harp-Singing. May his hours be not tedious and tasteless, but immensely rewarding.



This Newsletter is for the promotion of Harp Singing in East Tennessee, The *New Harp of Columbia* singing manual as well as serving Harp music in the surrounding areas until they get on their feet with their own newsletter. Material on Singings outside this area will be used as filler since this Newsletter is only printed 2 times a year. Singings outside East Tennessee in over 35 states can be found by writing to the *National Sacred Harp Newsletter*, P. O. Box 1828, Carrollton, GA 30117. The *National Sacred Harp* also has videos, records and song books for sale.



It has been asked if there are tapes available on *Old Harp Singing* in East Tennessee. Dorothy Horn had some tapes made in the 1940's when tape machines first came out. The tapes she has are almost useless as the type of tape machine is not made anymore. It would take an audiophile to be able to make copies of the ones in her possession. They are of Singings in the Maryville area.



DETROIT. C. M.

BRADSHAW.

22

1. De - hold the Sa - viour of man - kind, Nail'd to the shame - ful tree! How vast the love that him in -

clined, To bleed and die for thee!

2.

Hark how he groans while nature shakes,
 And earth's strong pillars bend:
 The temple's veil in sunder breaks,
 The solid marbles rend.

3.

'Tis done! the precious ransom's paid!
 "Receive my soul!" he cries:
 See where he bows his sacred head!
 He bows his head and dies!

4.

But soon he'll break death's envious chain,
 And in full glory shine:
 O Lamb of God! was ever pain,
 Was ever love like thine!

DETROIT is found in the *Original Sacred Harp* (OSH) #39, also on the same page of the new edition of the *Sacred Harp* (SH). It is also found in the *Southern Harmony* #40. It is always found in E Minor and is attributed to Bradshaw. Other places where it is found are the Supplement to *Kentucky*

Harmony and William Walker's *Christian Harmony*. It is distantly related to "The Wife of Usher's Well," collected by Cecil Sharp in Allegheny, North Carolina, in 1916.

— Dorothy D. Horn

1. He dies! the Friend of sinners dies! Lo! Sa-lem's daugh-ters weep a-round; A so-lemn dark-

The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The last two staves are in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves.

ness veils the sky, A sud-den trem-bling shakes the ground.

The score consists of four staves of music. The first two staves are in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature. The last two staves are in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Come, saints, and drop a tear or two
For him who gran'd beneath your load;
He shed a thousand drops for you,
A thousand drops of richer blood.

2.
Here's love and grief beyond degree,
The Lord of glory dies for man!
But lo! what sudden joys we see:
Jesus, the dead, revives again!
The rising God forsakes the tomb;
(In vain the tomb forbids his rise!)
Cherubic legions guard him home,
And about him "Welcome to the skies!"

3.
Break off your tears, ye saints, and tell
How high your great Deliv'rer reigns:
Sing how he spoil'd the hosts of hell,
And led the monster, death, in chains!
Sav' "Live for ever, wondrous King!
Born to redeem, and strong to save!"
Then ask the monster, "Where's thy sting?"
And, "Where's thy victory, boasting grave?"

SALEM is found in all the *Sacred Harps* I own, OSH [Original Sacred Harp] and the 1991 edition on page 68. I found it in 7 other *Old Harps*, including *Union Harmony* of Caldwell, #22. The date given here is 1817. It seems always to be in B Minor. I also found it is Fillmore's *Christian Choralist*, 1964 (round notes, but with scale numbers) in A Minor. The Jackson reference is *Down*

East Spirituals #177 and Sharp's *100 English Folksongs*, "A Brisk Young Sailor." An Episcopal Hymnal I don't care for calls it "An ancient Herfortshire tune." I also don't especially care for this tune, but its credentials are impeccable.

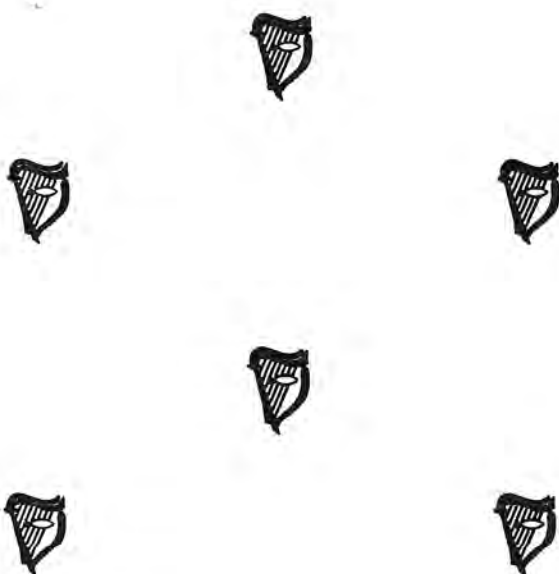
— Dorothy D. Horn

EAST TENNESSEE SACRED HARP SINGERS

Gene McCammon has been conducting on the first Tuesday of every month a review of a goodly percentage of the *Sacred Harp* at Erin Presbyterian Church. Gene has started at the front of the book and slowly helping us to work our way to the back. With some of the more difficult tunes the class reviews three or all four parts. On others we are allowed to wing it. The enthusiasm is great and the music resounds off the walls.

Also, on the remaining Tuesdays, the East Tennessee Harp Singers meet at Erin Presbyterian Church at 7:15 to review the tunes Gene had presented us, or to go through the book at whim and whimsy and at our own pace. We plan to hold an open house on March 2nd—the first Tuesday in March. We would like to invite all other singers, the East Tennessee community, and members of Erin Presbyterian Church to this open house. Again, that is Tuesday, March 2nd, at 7:15 PM at Erin Presbyterian Church. Extra books will be available for use or purchase, and coffee and iced tea will be served. (We have 7 or 8 members of this *Sacred Harp* class that now attend *Old Harp* singings. We ask all who can help to attend and show the newcomers what a joy this music is.)

The East Tennessee *Sacred Harp* Singers would like to thank Erin Presbyterian for the use of their building on Tuesday evenings for the past year and we appreciate your support.



BITS & PIECES

by Larry Olszewski

Other Nearby Singings

I have been asked to list nearby Singings from other books.

April 17th, *Sacred Harp*. Nashville, Tennessee, Harpeth Presbyterian Church. Call Tim Reynolds at (615) 646-6485.

May 15th, *Southern Harmony*. Kentucky State Convention, Berea College Campus.

May 23rd, *Southern Harmony*. 110th Annual Big Singing at Benton, Kentucky. The oldest continuous Harp Singing, and the most traditional. This is your chance to hear what Harp Singings were like in the 1800s. Books and tapes available. *Southern Harmony* is basically what *Sacred Harp* was like before the controversial changes were made in *Sacred Harp* music early in this century. Call Allan or Sharon Hjerpe at (615) 428-3464.

Old Harp in Church Hymnals

Many of the songs that we sing can be found in some church hymnals. Two of them are:

The Good Old Songs, compiled by Elder C. H. Cayce. Published in 1914 with a section on rudiments and a preface. It has not been revised after the initial printing. The music includes folk tunes as well as fusing tunes that are found in the *Old Harp*, *Sacred Harp*, and *Southern Harmony* singing manuals. Order from Cayce Publishing Co., Box 38, Thorton, Arkansas 71766. Cloth-bound \$8.50, paper-bound \$5.50, postage paid.

The Old School Hymnal, 11th edition. The most widely used Primitive Baptist Hymnal. Reported to have 64 tunes found in the *Sacred Harp*, although I have not looked through it myself to find out how many are in the *New Harp of Columbia*. \$7.80 postage paid from Old School Hymnal Co., P. O. Box 57, Ellenwood, GA 30049.

Village Harmony

I would like to thank Larry Gordon and his group *Village Harmony* for visiting Knoxville on Thanksgiving and presenting music from the *Sacred Harp* as well as Balkan music. After a while we sat down with the *New Harp of Columbia* intending to sing a few tunes from it. It turned out to be more like 25 tunes with the youngsters pulling out the dusty odes and anthems from the back of the book when, after a few tunes, they began to master the 7-shape method.

CHARLIE CLABO

(THIS IS COMPILED FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH CHARLIE CLABO ON MARCH 16TH, 1992. CHARLIE IS NOW 87 YEARS YOUNG.)

Charlie has been living in Townsend on this site since 1941, when he purchased 20 acres from Wiley Franklin, father of singers Martha Graham and Henrietta Sharp, who now live in Pigeon Forge.

Charlie's wife was Susie Ledbetter from Cades Cove. "I met her at an Association meeting at Beech Grove. She was with Preacher Andy Grigsby. He had mentioned her in passing many times and this time I got to meet her. We married and had ten children."

Charlie Clabo was born and raised near the Beech Grove Church, where Bates Elliot was raised along with Uncle Rob and Will Perryman, John Rule, Y. J. Shults, Mr. Gibson, Mr. Walker, the rest of the Perryman Clan (including 3 sisters—one of whom became Zelma Alred). Willy Cardwell was raised right over the hill from Caney Creek.

Uncle Rob Perryman held a Singing School there at the Church (Beech Grove). Rob Perryman used the *New Harp of Columbia* as a base for the teaching, but also used the church hymnal and folk tunes to get the timing. ("Scotland's a bur-ning, Scotland's a bur-ning. Look out! Look out! Fire! Fire! Fire! Fire! Pour on water! Pour on water!")

Will used an adjustable tuning fork with a scale on it. He would use this to set the pitch, stopping the class when not everyone had caught the note. Uncle Rob didn't use a tuning fork, but pitched it "naturally."

Charlie remembered droning, but he was about 8 or 9 then and hadn't developed enough in voice to become a part of it. Droning was part of a regular Singing. It might have been "Easter Anthem," which is a hard song to lead and is demanding for everyone. "You have to watch the leader and keep up with him. Last time I heard 'Easter Anthem' was at Coker Hill before the Singing was moved over to Headrick Chapel.

"The Singing at Coker Hill like to went down when Burl Adams asked me to take it over. I

wasn't sure at the time, but I replied that I might with some help."

(The Singing used to be held at the 3-room school in Townsend before it was moved to Coker Hill Primitive Baptist Church. Carter McMillan, who was interested in Old Harp, was the preacher at their church and offered to hold the Singing there. He said that there was more room, and people would attend who were at church on Sunday morning.)

"People were getting to be disinterested some way or another. It [the Singing] was not carried out right. Will Lawson was running it at the time and he was resigning. That day there were not many in attendance, but Burl had asked me to take it over. The Adams family long had an interest in the Coker Hill Singings, and would be of a help with Otha Henry, my first cousin.

"The next Singing we just about had the house full as well as for the next 3 years before we moved over to Wear Cove (Headrick Chapel). I called up Frank Carter as well as other people that I knew and drummed up their interest. Frank Carter would drive up a bus load of the Knox County Singers from Knoxville.

"When I took over the Singing there were not any records kept as to who lead and what went on. I just carried on the same way but I managed to get people contacted for the Singing. Different people even then had their special songs that they liked to lead. Mine is #35. [The fugal tune "When I can read my title clear...."] Gideon Fryer now leads that song. He is a good leader.

"The closing song at Headrick Chapel is 'Amazing Grace' or 'Sweet By and By' and sometimes #95, 'Parting Hand.'

"It has rained a couple of times at Headrick Chapel but never rained out. We had to move the tables inside to eat once, but I didn't like that. We have always managed to have a dinner at the Singing. But there was one time it was so dark we could not read our books, because we didn't have lights back then. But since most of us knew the songs by heart it didn't much matter.

"There were some great singers and leaders that came to the Singings at Headrick Chapel. The Adams, of course. Mrs. Alred, who would lead any song in the book and would stop if she was not pleased and make the class do it again. Frank Carter, who drove the bus from Knoxville.

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

Harp Singing in Tibet

THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER FROM ALLAN HJERPE TO LARRY OLSZEWSKI DATED NOVEMBER 4, 1992:

"...friend Stu Jamieson just returned from his second trip to Tibet, documenting what happened to the music his grandfather taught the people there.

"His Grandfather left the Sparta-McMinnville area in 1892, went to Tibet as a missionary, founded a number of churches, and taught the congregants a number of hymns. The people there had had no contact with Westerners since World War II, so the music has been frozen in time since then. (The Hymnals that they have contain only the text.) Amazingly enough, the music appears to be sung exactly the way it was sung 50 years ago. Shape-note hymns are being sung shape-note style. Gospel hymns are sung in gospel-hymn style. And there are some that appear to be sung in the single-voice Psalm Singing style of old New England.

Question #1: Did the New England Psalm Singing tradition reach Tennessee before the shape notes did?"

Answer: According to a dissertation by Emma Catherine Crews (*A History of Music in Knoxville, Tennessee, 1791-1910*), "A Presbyterian church was organized in 1793...a building not completed until 1816.... Howard Bellows described the Singing...as...led by a precentor [sic], generally one of the elders of the church, who set the tunes and lined out the Psalms, as had been custom in the Old Country.... Usually the precentor, with the aid of a tuning fork, led the singing and parceled out two lines at a time. After the precentor had 'set' the tune by singing a couple of lines, the congregation joined in."

Question #2: "What shape-note book was used in the Sparta-McMinnville area in 1892?"

Answer: If we have any knowledgeable readers with the answer, please write to us at: *Old Harp Newsletter*, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016, and we will print it in the next issue.

New Harp of Columbia

Marion Hatchett from Sewanee has done much research on old hymnals and singing manuals. (Marion had a hand in the 1981 Episcopal

Hymnal.) At this moment, he is doing research on the *Harp of Columbia* and the *New Harp of Columbia*, tracing the poetry back to early American sermon writers and the music to the original folk tunes. Marion believes that this work, when finished, might take up about 200 pages plus perhaps another 25 for the missing music that was left out when the *Harp of Columbia* was edited and arranged into the *New Harp of Columbia*. We would like to find out how many people out there would be interested in purchasing a copy. (Please see page 15.)

New Harp of Columbia People have asked me about getting a hard cover copy instead of the ones with floppy binders. I am willing to seek out a one-time deal with a book binder to have the floppies made into hard covers. (See page 15.)

I have had people ask many times if there are any tapes available of *New Harp of Columbia* Singings. The answer is: No—not yet. I have talked to a couple of people—one at WUOT here in Knoxville and a man from Texas who did some wonderful chrome tapes at the Benton, Kentucky Singings. If there is enough interest, a formal tape can be made up. (Please see page 15.)

I have also been approached by several different people about doing a video on *New Harp of Columbia* Old Harp Singing. We would like to know if anyone would be interested in such a product. (Please see page 15.)

The *Old Harp Repository* project has been shelved due to dollars and priorities.

Christian Harmony

I have heard from Scott Swanton (see the article by Bob Richmond in the last Newsletter) concerning the original version of William Walker's *Christian Harmony*, in North Carolina. He has been searching about for a publisher for a facsimile. One of the questions that pops up is how many people are interesting in singing using this book? Another is how many people are interested in purchasing a copy. (See page 15.) As far as I know there are three *Christian Harmony* Singings scheduled. They are: 1st Sunday in May at Etowah Elementary, the 2nd Sunday in September in Morningstar, and the 1st Sunday in September (half-day singing) at Canton, North Carolina, off State Highway #64 on Dutchcove Road. Please confirm dates, times, and places with Scott Swanton if you are interested. His address is Route #2, Box 317A, Horseshoe, NC 28742. Phone

Notes From All Over (continued)...

1-704-891-8375. We apologize for the error in the address in the last Newsletter. Scott would also like to get up his own Newsletter. (See form at bottom of this page.)

Texas Sacred Harp

We have been asked to advertise the *Away Here In Texas* newsletter. It is a newsletter concerning harp singing in Texas and Oklahoma. Call Gaylon Powell at (512) 258-7080.

Missouri Harmony

I have talked to Karen Isbell from St. Louis concerning *Missouri Harmony* by Allen D. Carden. Its longest use was between 1820 and 1858, with 9 reprints, and was used from Indiana to Missouri and from Mississippi through Georgia and areas in between. The book is on hold pending the finding of a publisher. Dr. Shirley Bean had written a dissertation on this Singing Manual and was asked to do a foreword. (See form at bottom of this page.)

**Miscellaneous**

It is my sincere wish that everyone who is a true "aficionado" will subscribe to the *National Sacred Harp Newsletter*. It attempts to list every Singing practice and meeting throughout the United States, including the *Old Harp Singing*. The subscription rate is \$8 per year. Write to *National Sacred Harp Newsletter*, P. O. Box 1828, Carrollton, GA, 30177.

Another important item for the aficionado is a master list of every shape note newsletter in the U.S.A., plus references, records, books, videos, tune books (singing manuals), and tapes. This is *Sacred Harp & Shape Note Music: Resources*, and it is available for \$1.00. Here are 10 to 12 pages jam-packed with information. It has been compiled and updated by Steve Sabol. *What Is Going On Here*, and *Basics for Beginners* are also available. Steve Sabol's address is 5504 Lincoln Street, Bethesda, MD 20817.

NOTE: NONE OF THE ABOVE PUBLICATIONS, TAPES, VIDEOS, ETC., ARE CONNECTED MONETARILY TO THIS NEWSLETTER OR ANY OF THE EDITING OR PRODUCTION PARTIES FOR THIS NEWSLETTER.

Cut on this line

REPLY FORM

Cut on this line

Please note how many copies you would be interested in if the following were available for purchase:

Number

- _____ Attending a Basic Singing School: Loudon Knoxville Pigeon Forge Maryville
 _____ Oliver Springs Wears Valley Other: _____ (Circle as many as apply.)
- _____ *Old Harp/New Harp of Columbia Newsletter* - (\$1.00 per year)
- _____ *New Harp of Columbia* - softcover edition (available at singings)
- _____ *New Harp of Columbia* - hardbound edition (Not currently available)
- _____ *New Harp of Columbia/Harp of Columbia Concordance* by Marion Hatchett (Not yet in print)
- _____ *New Harp of Columbia* - chrome cassette tape (Not yet in print)
- _____ *New Harp of Columbia* - video tape (Not yet in print)
- _____ *Christian Harmony* - 1908 William Walker ed. facsimile. (Not yet in print.)
- _____ *Christian Harmony* - Newsletter (Not yet in print)
- _____ *Harmonia Sacra* - Funk. (1993 edition due out in mid-1993).
- _____ *Missouri Harmony* - 1848 Allen D. Carden 1848 ed. facsimile. (Not yet in print)
- _____ *Sacred Harp* - 1991 edition
- _____ *Social Harp* - McCurry. University of Georgia Press (out of print)

Name: _____

Address: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Please mail to:

Old Harp Newsletter, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, 1538 Laurel Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016

MAILING EXPENSES

As of 1993, a subscription to the *Old Harp/New Harp of Columbia Newsletter* is still \$1.00 per year. Please note that this does not even cover the mailing costs of the two Newsletters sent each year. The diminishing NEA Grant and private donations make up the rest.

There will be 850 copies of this issue printed with 800 mailed. Fifty copies are used at the various Singings to inform new people of upcoming events as well as people, places, and times. There is a box on the front of this Newsletter. If it is checked, this will be your last Newsletter, due mainly to the fact that I have not seen or heard from you in over a year. I may be negligent in keeping track of people, so please at least send me a card letting me know you are alive, even if you cannot afford the \$1.00 subscription.

For new or renewal subscriptions, please check the appropriate box on the last page, fill out the name and address, and mail it to *Old Harp Newsletter*, c/o Jubilee Community Arts, Knoxville, TN 37916-2016. Make checks for the Newsletter or books to "Old Harp."

Our last Newsletter resulted in over 25 returned with changed addresses. And that meant another mailing. Please keep us in mind when you move.

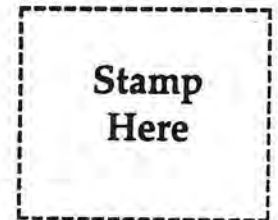


My apologies to the two or three people who left phone messages for me between September and mid-December. I was either out of town or laid up. (I'm now recovering very well.) Please check with me again.

Respectfully,
Larry Olszewski



Old Harp Newsletter
c/o Jubilee Community Arts
1538 Laurel Avenue
Knoxville, TN 37916-2016



If this box is checked, this is your last newsletter

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED