

PRESERVATION

The Official Publication of the Barbershop Harmony Society's Historical Archives

Volume 1, No. 1

Living in the Past

Saturday June 12, 2010

History is ALIVE & WELL

The Society Archives Committee has been very active over the past few years.

Once again History is ALIVE and WELL. It is our belief the membership receives a great benefit as we preserve our heritage. We should be proud that the Society's Archive is the **World's LARGEST collection** of Barbershop memorabilia and artifacts and that we have a unique responsibility to preserve and promote our past. The current committee members (**Grady Kerr, Bob Sutton, Steve D'Ambrosio and Bob Davenport**) are actively in contact via email and phone.



"Let Freedom Sing"
2010 International Convention
Philadelphia, PA June 28 - July 4, 2010

As we prepare for the Int'l Convention in historic Philadelphia we'll see more history made. Is it just a coincidence that my flight number is 1776?

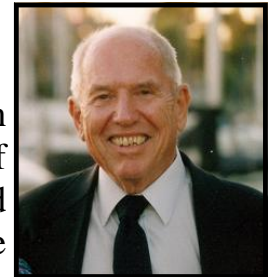
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November 1921 – April 2010

RIP Sir Richard

What a sad day it was when we learned of the passing of super barbershopper and past Archives Committee Chairman, **Dick Girvin**.



He passed away April 13, 2010 at the age of 88.

He served on every level and in many capacities. Always passionate about the Society's history, Dick was a longtime editor of **WESTUNES** and a barbershop journalist of the highest order.

He was active in the judging community (22 years) as a Secretary and Contest Administrator and awarded judge emeritus in 2001.

Dick served as a COTS faculty member teaching chapter secretaries for years and was until recently FWD Secretary. A 50+ year member, he was the go-to-guy for many and always informed and supportive.

I knew him for 30 years and he taught me a great deal. We are all going to miss him dearly.



PRESERVATION

Published by the Society Archives Committee of the Barbershop Harmony Society for all those interested in preserving, promoting and educating others as to the rich history of the Barbershop music genre and the organization of men that love it.

Society Archives Committee

Grady Kerr - Texas (Chairman)
 Bob Sutton, Sr. - Virginia
 Steve D'Ambrosio - Tennessee
 Bob Davenport - Tennessee
 Bob Coant - New York
 Ed Dierdorff - Washington
 Ed Watson - Tennessee (Staff Liaison)

Society Historian and Editor

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All articles herein, unless otherwise credited, are written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Society, any District, any historian, The Archives Committee or the editor



Coant



Dierdorff

Two New Committee Members

I've invited **Bob Coant** of Fulton, New York (SLD) and **Ed Dierdorff, Jr** of Bellevue, Washington (EVG) to join the committee and they have accepted. We welcome these two passionate historians to our ranks. We look to perpetuate the work we're doing and these men will certainly help us do that.

Chapter Historians Identified

After some effort we have been able to compile a list of all the chapter historians Society-wide. The list shows those identified by the chapter secretary in his report and those who have email. They (you) are receiving this report – welcome. I'll be sharing this list with district historians.

Chapter Historians: please contact your District Historian (listed below). Tell him what you're doing – what you want to do and ask him for help. We all share the goal to increase awareness in our chapters and help educate the membership on our rich heritage.

Current District Historians

Cardinal District
Bob Christie rhcpd@comcast.net
 Central District
Jim Nugent bvjan@cox.net
 Dixie District
Gerald Adams bariadams@comcast.net
 Evergreen District
Edwin Dierdorff edierdorff@clear.net
 Far Western District
Don Shively cavemandon@msn.com
 Illinois District
Bob Squires bobsingslead@aol.com
 Johnny Appleseed District
Carl Cash III cjcashiia@aol.com
 Land O'Lakes District
Pat Rydberg rydberg@charter.net
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Waldo Redekop waldo.redekop@sympatico.ca
 Pioneer District
John Baker johnhbaker4@comcast.net
 Seneca Land District
Bob Coant rcoant@twcnny.rr.com
 Southwestern District
Grady Kerr grady@gradywilliamkerr.com

Only a few districts are still looking for historians (MAD, RMD, SUN, and the new Carolina District). We are attempting to help them find a dedicated individual to serve.

Chapter Charter Dates Fixed

Thanks to **Don Fuson** and **Eddie Holt** we have re-discovered the list of chapter charter dates starting with Tulsa April 11, 1938. The correct dates are being incorporated into the current Society database to correct some errors created during the original transition from the old system.

First 10 Chapters

N015 Tulsa	4/11/1938
A048 Kansas City	6/2/1938
N011 Oklahoma City	7/6/1938
J001 Wilmington	9/9/1938
A052 St Louis No 1	10/8/1938
A040 Wichita	3/1/1939
E012 Chicago No 1	6/1/1939
D013 Long Beach	6/29/1939
I008 Detroit-Oakland	7/29/1939
I011 Grand Rapids	11/1/1939

Preservation In Philly



Our Anniversary Champs

The Philadelphia Int'l gives us the opportunity to recognize our gold medal champs on their milestone anniversaries. This year we celebrate **The Evans Quartet** (1960) and **The New Tradition** (1985). There will be "salutes" on the big screen all week and mentions in the Convention Bulletin.

Conventioneers will be able to learn about the two quartets thru two special displays.



Last Years' Display with The Pitchikers

The committee has even purchased a new professional pop-up display / backdrop just for this purpose each year. We've managed to gather, crop, color correct and mount over 100 photos to be velcroed onto the display. Also part of the display will be the quartet uniforms and the original (Landino) quartet trophy. It should be quite a sight. Be sure to come by and view these booths in the exhibit area.

Meet & Greet

We will host the two quartets and families on Friday @ 2:30 in the exhibit area. This Meet & Greet will allow their fans to come by and get autographs, take photos and swap stories. It's always a treat. You're invited too.

50th Anniversary Evans Video

We have once again produced a video for our 50 year champs that will appear on the Convention DVD. It will "air" on the big screen during the AIC show.

Special Guests

Sadly all four members of the championship version of The Evans have passed on but several family members will be in attendance to represent the quartet as special guests of the Society. Each has received a complimentary registration.

No Official Historian's Meeting in Philly

While we will NOT be hosting an official meeting for Chapter and District Historians in Philly, we WILL do one NEXT YEAR. That's not to mean we can't gather. Please stop by the booths. Please introduce yourself to me. While I probably know you, don't assume I'll remember. I have a good memory, it's just short. Thanks for name badges.

Recent Acquisitions

The Archives is alive and well. We've had the benefit of committee member **Bob Davenport** working there for several months along with **Steve D'Ambrosio** and **Patty Leveille** (Office Manager) organizing and taking stock of what we have and where it is.

A most exciting donation to the archives was from the daughter of **Bob Durand**, baritone of the **Bartlesville Barflies**, our FIRST quartet champions. In addition to photos, newspaper articles, and his chapter name badges, we now have his **1939 GOLD MEDAL**. This medal was custom framed and now hangs in the HQ lobby.



Ed Watson, Grady Kerr and Bob Davenport prepare to hang 1939 gold medal in HQ lobby

As you may know we have an extensive collection of Quartet Champion Uniforms. We've been attempting to bring it up to date by collecting a uniform from all the champs from '89 to date as well as filling in some gaps.

Thanks to their generosity we've received the winning uniforms from **Chiefs of Staff** ('88), **The Ritz** ('91), **Joker's Wild** ('94), **Marquis** ('95), **Revival** ('98), **FRED** ('99), **Platinum** ('00), **Michigan Jake** ('01), **Power Play** ('03), and **Vocal Spectrum** ('06). We now have uniforms representing 47 of the possible 70 quartets to date.



These iconic outfits are now part of the Society Archives

One highlight was receiving ALL FOUR of the **Wizard of Oz** outfits worn by the **Most Happy Fellows**. Soon to arrive will be all four of the **Marx Bros.** outfits from **The New Tradition**.



Our plan is to have every quartet represented in the collection and have them on display during the 2013 Int'l and our 75th anniversary convention.



Our New History Section of Barbershop.org



Thanks to **Eddie Holt**, our new webmaster, we have an Internet presence for the entire world to see.

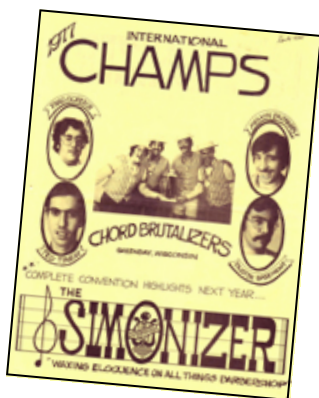
Future Plans and Projects

It is the intention and desire of this committee maintain and manage the Society Archives. We plan to make it, once again, a “*living, breathing*” depository of historical items for research and promotion through multiple programs and projects such as:

- * Offer the OC Cash Book of Harmonizer Articles via Harmony Marketplace (now available)
- * Have a Presence at Each Int’l Convention (via Big Screen & Program Ads, Display Booth)
- * Maintain Huge Contest Information Spreadsheet (being done)
- * Create Traveling Exhibits for District Conventions and Harmony University
- * Create an Archives Catalogue
- * Increase Community Awareness / Encourage Research
- * Seek Museum Accreditation / Seek Professional Awareness / Join Professional Organizations
- * Participate in the 75th Anniversary 2013 Toronto Int’l

Check out www/barbershop.org for all the new additions including complete scans The Harmonizer. Now you can flip thru the first 28 issues with more being added each week.

Be sure to check out the rare and unique “**Simonizer**” from 1977.



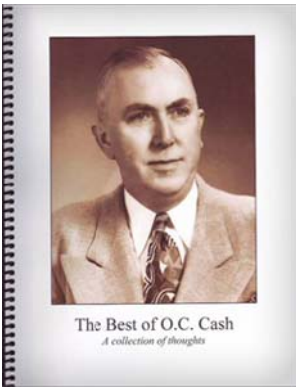
That’s it! Thanks for the work you are doing to preserve the barbershop music genre and our organization’s history. As always contact me if I can be of help.

I look forward to seeing you in Philly.

Grady Kerr – Society Historian



The famous “Joy of Singing” mural that graces the headquarters lobby in our Nashville HQ



OC Cash Book Now Available

This is a very rare collection of the humorous and creative writings of our Barbershop Harmony Society's founder, Owen

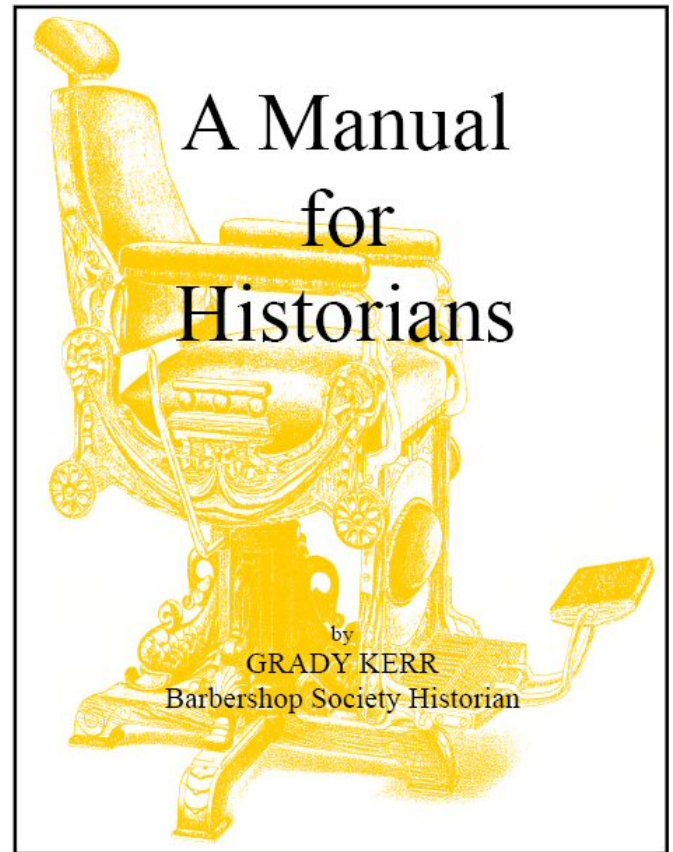
C. Cash. These entertaining observations (36 total) appeared in the early Harmonizers from September of 1941 to July 1953.

This 50-page book captures the wit and personality this unique man in articles such as The Story of Jim Wiley, his unhealthy but tasteful recipe, "Gall Bladder's Delight" (tamales, chili, eggs & butter) and his amusing editorial "Blind Empires and Deaf Judges". Cash ended each editorial (whether it was pro or con) with "... hoping you are the same."

The proceeds from this book go to the Society Archives budget to help maintain the world's largest collection of Barber Shop Harmony Memorabilia housed at the BHS headquarters in Nashville.

SPECIAL BONUS – With each book we are adding a special reprint of the ORIGINAL INVITATION to the first Society meeting April 11, 1938 written by OC Cash. This copy has been recreated as an EXCACT replica of that document that was sent to the 14 men invited to that songfest in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The reprint is printed on special paper stock and suitable for framing. This is a brand new item just made available by the Society Archives Committee. It comes FREE with this OC Cash book.

[Order Book Here via Harmony Marketplace](#)



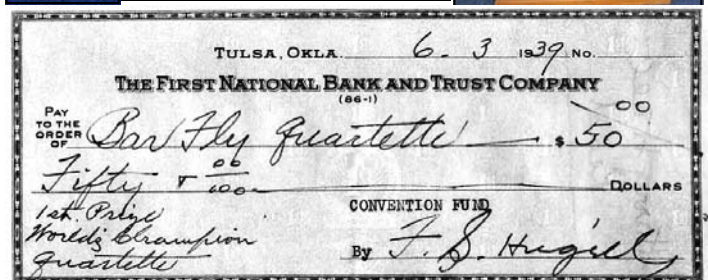
Historian's Manual FREE to all

See the BHS website and download this helpful collection of articles and examples. Every historian should have this manual.

[click HERE to download the FREE manual](#)



Bartlesville Barflies 1939
Items Recently Donated



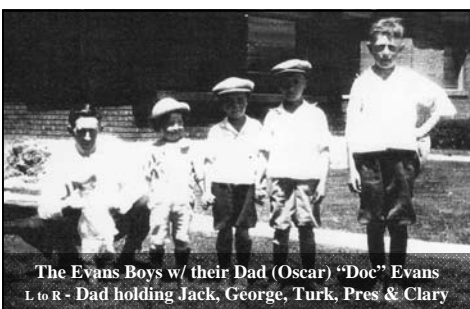
The Evans Quartet's Golden Anniversary

55 Years of Close Harmony

Our 50th anniversary quartet **champs** are remembered for their unique blend, their longevity and even a little controversy.

The Evans Quartet was from Salt Lake City and a faithful Mormon family. Music and service was a significant part of their lives.

When they won in Dallas on June 25, 1960 the quartet had already been singing together for 34 years. The group consisted of nine different men spanning a total of 55 years.



The Evans Boys w/ their Dad (Oscar) "Doc" Evans
L to R - Dad holding Jack, George, Turk, Pres & Clary

Oscar and Ivy Evans had five sons. All would sing in the quartet.

Their father, Oscar "Doc" Evans, was in **The Elgin Four**, a professional vaudeville quartet that also included their uncles. They sang exclusively barbershop harmony.

In addition to the sons singing in their school glee clubs, in choirs and madrigal groups the Evans boys formed their own quartet and emulated their dad.

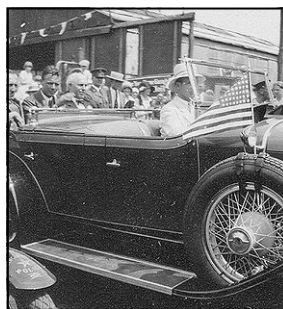
They first formed in 1926 when **Turk, George, Pres and Clary** began singing around the community. They were 7, 9, 11 and 13. They were also all active Boy Scouts.



Turk Evans (Tenor), Pres Evans (Lead), Gene Smith (Baritone), Jack Evans (Bass)

One very special quartet moment occurred September 3, 1927.

Following his historic flight across the Atlantic, **Charles Lindbergh** was making a tour of the country. His open car motorcade moved slowly along the Salt Lake City parade route when, from a porch, the four Evans boys began singing "*Lindy, Lucky Lindy*, in four part barbershop harmony.



The parade stopped while Lindbergh listened to them sing. Lindy showed his appreciation shaking their hands and thanking them personally.



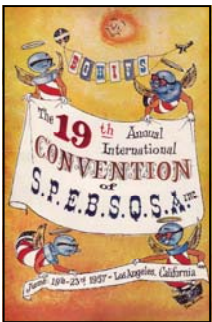


Turk, Jack & Pres with Al Nielsen

There were some personnel changes thru the years. Early on Jack replaced Clary.

And later while still waiting for voices to change, neighbor and good friend, **Al Nielsen** was recruited to sing bass.

The Evans performed three times a day on local vaudeville shows and soon signed as an act on the western vaudeville circuit.



Fifteen years after Nielsen joined the Evans Quartet; they competed in the 1957 International Competition and came in 16th, ONE POINT short of making the semi-finals.

Due to work, Al Nielsen stepped down and **Gene Smith** joined the quartet causing some more musical chairs and re-voicing.



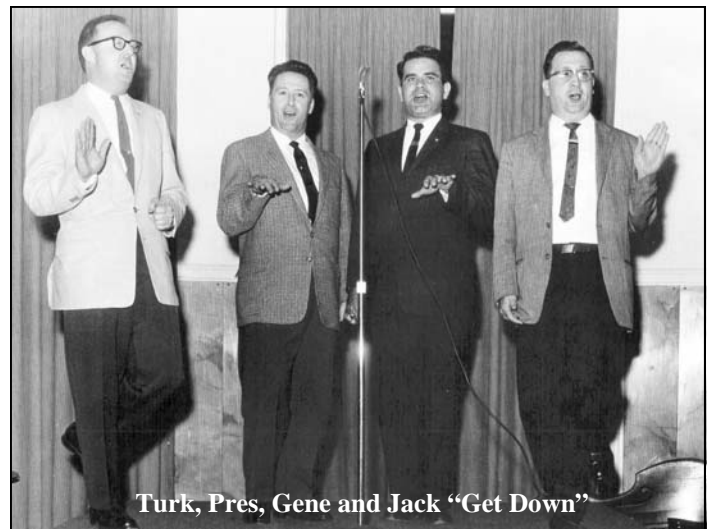
Turk, Pres, Gene and Jack Always Animated

Two months later they placed third at District. They went to the 1958 International in Columbus only 8 months after the reorganization and placed 5th.



In 1959 they moved up to second and the silver medal and went into Dallas in 1960 ready to win.

In 1960 most Society quartets displayed very limited choreography in contests. The Evans Quartet was one of the first quartets to make extensive use of choreographed movement influenced by their father's early quartet and reminiscent of their vaudeville days.



Turk, Pres, Gene and Jack "Get Down"

They won the 1960 International Gold medals by 386 points over 40 other top quartets and four future champs. However there was a little controversy with their win. One of the favorites of the contest was **The Nighthawks** of Canada. In the semi-finals the Nighthawks received a standing ovation with the powerhouse song, "*Buddy Can You Spare a Dime*".

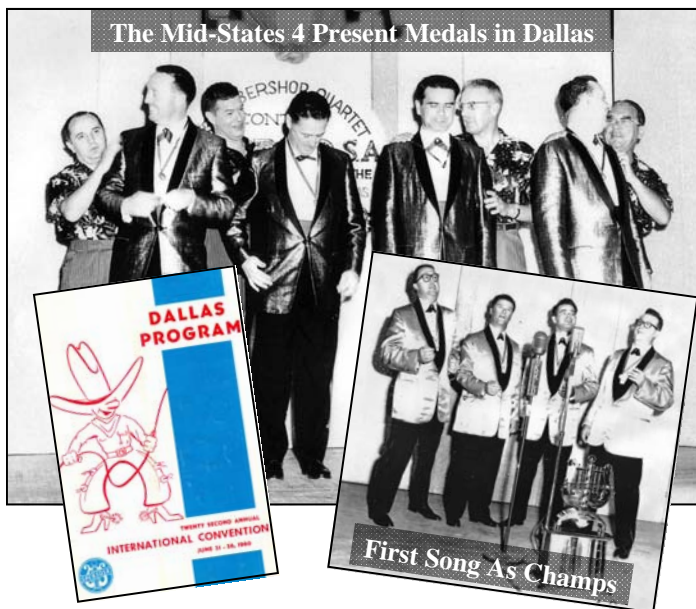


After the finals many in the audience had picked them to win. There was a large Canadian contingency in Dallas cheering on their boys. When the countdown was presented they announced: **The Saints** as fifth, **The Bay Town Four** as fourth and **The Colonials** third.

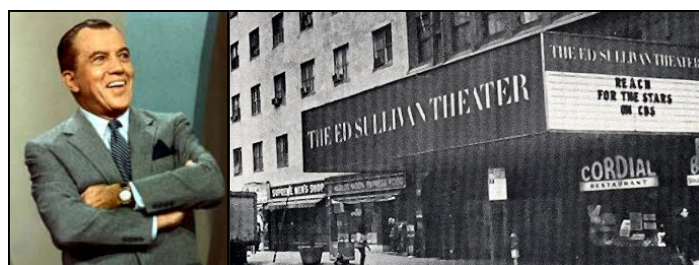


When the **Town & Country Four** were presented in second, many cheered the Nighthawks as the obvious winners. When the Evans Quartet was announced as our new champions, some in the audience were upset and let their opinions known vocally. Some even were reported to have walked out.

The Evans Quartet, then in their 30th year, continued to perform for the next 21 years and went on to represent our Society in grand fashion

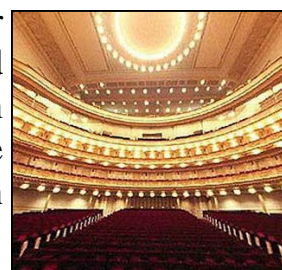


They met many other entertainers and dignitaries during their performing career. Such notables included **Irving Berlin**, bandleader **Ted Lewis**, gospel singer **Mahalia Jackson**, opera singer **Gladys Swarthout**, Grammy award winning jazz pianist **Ramsey Lewis**, **Spike Jones and his City Slickers** and even President **John Kennedy**.



It was an uncomfortable moment and rare for a barbershop contest. After the emcee calmed the crowd, The Evans Quartet took the stage and, as the perfect gentlemen they were, graciously accepted the trophy and sang their acceptance song.

They performed on the **Ed Sullivan Show** in 1958 and made an appearance on the **Lawrence Welk Show** in 1960. They met and performed for **Meredith Willson** and turned down his invitation to join the road tour of **The Music Man**. They even sang **Carnegie Hall**.



The Nighthawks finished sixth.



Cousin **Bob Evans** joined as their bari in 1965. He also went on to win a Senior Quartet gold medal with **One More Time** in 1992.



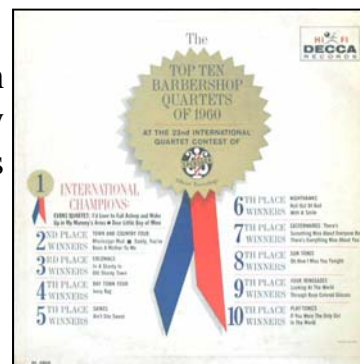
The Evans Quartet was a very generous group of men. On many occasions they performed on chapter charter shows - for free.

It was The Evans Quartet who invited another boys' quartet from Utah to attend the 1962 Kansas City International Convention as their guests. **The Osmonds** made their first appearance at a Society International Convention during this trip.



In addition to "Dear Little Boy of Mine", "I'd Love to Fall Asleep and Wake up in My Mamma's Arms", The Evans' signature songs also included "My Wonderful One" and "Red Rose Rag".

They appeared on eight Society recordings as well as two LPs of their own.



More musical chairs followed with several personnel changes allowing the quartet to continue another decade.

Musical Chairs – Evans Quartet Style

	<i>Tenor</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Baritone</i>	<i>Bass</i>
1927 - 1933	Turk Evans	George Evans	Pres Evans	Clary Evans
1933 - 1942	Turk Evans	Jack Evans	Pres Evans	George Evans
1942 - 1957	Turk Evans	Jack Evans	Pres Evans	Al Nielsen
1957 - 1962*	Turk Evans	Pres Evans	Gene Smith	Jack Evans
1962 - 1965	Turk Evans	Pres Evans	Gene Smith	Shirl Beckstead
1965 - 1971	Turk Evans	Pres Evans	Gene Smith	Jack Evans
1971 - 1981	Turk Evans	Pres Evans	Bob Evans	Jack Evans

*Championship Version



The Evans Quartet was the first Society quartet to release a Christmas LP. Dressed up as a Santa Claus Quartet, they also appeared on the cover of The Harmonizer.

As late as 1980, they were making yet another appearance as the **River City School Board** in their third production of The Music Man.

The Evans return to 'Music Man'

By Howard Pearson
News entertainment editor

When "Music Man" opens at Promised Valley Playhouse next week, a barbershop quartet that has sung before a president, gotten ministers, governors and mayors will be in the cast.

In fact, three members of the quartet were international champions in barbershop singing.

They are known as the Evans Brothers, and they have been singing throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico together for more than 50 years.

Their names are Jack, Preston Turk and Bob Evans. The first three were members of the championship outfit in 1959. They won the title in Dallas, Texas, that year. Gene Smith, fourth member, dropped out later but had won the championship and went his own way.

"This will be the third time for us to do 'Music Man,'" recalled Turk during a break in rehearsals the other night at the Promised Valley Playhouse. He and the other three were strutting around the lobby, as original "Music Man" before it hit Broadway. Meredith Willson, the composer, heard them sing and wanted them for road company for "Music Man" before it went to Broadway. "We thought about it, but we couldn't get together and besides we just like to do music as a hobby. Also, we didn't want to travel away from home too much," said Turk.

And in "singing around home, we have appeared in concerts all over Utah," Turk went on. However, staying away from home has allowed them to record more than two million air miles of travel.

Pres and Turk have recorded 52 years of singing together. The former was 3 and the latter 7 when they first got together. Then they brought the other brothers in — Clare, George and Jack, but two dropped out. Jack was singing bass when they won the championship. All performed in Waukegan on the old Postage circuit years ago.

They were singing together before barbershop received the recognition it has today. "At first, it was

The Evans quartet sang their last performance in Park City, Utah, during the late winter of 1981, some 55 years after they first sang as a quartet.

By the time they retired they found they had performed in 47 states, Mexico and Canada and averaged about 200 performances a year. In their career it's estimated they travelled over two million air miles.

The Evans Quartet will always be known as honorable men and tireless performers who believed in their duty as champions to spread their close harmony with the zeal of evangelists. And they did it for over a half century.



We thank Smitty, Jack, Turk, Pres, Clary, Al, Shirl and Bob.

Long Live The Evans Quartet!



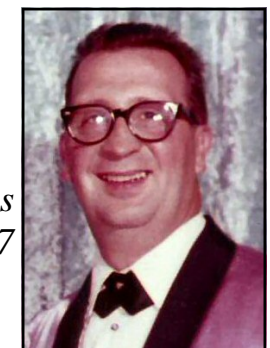
Thayer "Turk" Evans
1918-1999



Preston "Pres" Evans
1916-2006



Gene "Smitty" Smith
1923-1984



Jonathan "Jack" Evans
1924-1987



Congratulations to **The New Tradition**
on the 25th anniversary of their championship