

Sign on...

Most of you regular listeners will remember that I am a member of the Humboldt Harmonaires, a Barbershop Chorus. We are a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, or BHS, which is a name changed from the SPEBSQSA, or the Society for the Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America. I can't understand why the change in names, but that's life in the fast lane. Barbershop singing was started in 1938 when a man by the name of O.C. Cash put out a call for men interested in Barbershop singing. He got quite a crowd, and the Society grew from there into 40,000 or so singers. Choruses range in size from a dozen or so men, to as many as 150 men in the larger big city choruses. The membership ranges from competition-minded choruses to groups of men, such as the Harmonaires, who just like to sing. The competitions are regimented contests with rules and regulations and judges who score choruses or quartets on a number of regimens, such as song types, STAGE, presentation and a host of other rules. I have been a member of the Harmonaires for 53 years, and several other men have belonged for about the same number of years. We put on two annual shows, a spring show, which is coming up on May 7th at the Eureka High School auditorium, with our chorus, conducted by Charles Young, EHS's choral director and teacher, who has put new life in the group. We will also feature the EHS' Limited Edition, three local quartets, and a quartet from San Francisco named "Some of My

Best Friends". The show starts at 7:29 P.M., and we would like for you to join us. Tickets are \$20.00, with a senior citizen's discount of one dollar. Our other show is a "Beer and Peanuts " show, put on in the Fall where refreshments of peanuts, popcorn, soda pop and beer are served by the singers between sets. It is an informal show and a lot of fun.* One of the signs of the times is that the choruses were always directed by men. The Harmonaires were directed for a time by the late Jackie Edmondson, wife of Bill Edmondson, and we listed her as Jack E. Edmondson in the records. We were found out, of course, but it changed the rules, so that women could be directors. * Jackie was a wonderfully talented lady, as are other women directors. Many of you may have known Mac Gardner, who was a driving force with the Harmonaires, and passed away a year and a half or so ago. So, if any of you men out there would like to come and sing with us, we meet at the Congregational Church, at the South end of J Street at 7:00 P.M. on Mondays. You don't necessarily need to be able to read music , but it helps.* You can't think of anything else while you are singing, so come take a load off and have some fun. I promise, you won't be sorry-we are a great bunch of guys!

Sign off...

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