

*Grady Kerr's*

# **Preservation Project**

*The Lost Quartet Series*



**World's Greatest Lead**

See Page 6

## The Preservation Project

is published as a continuation and adaptation of the award winning magazine, PRESERVATION, created by Barbershop Historian Grady Kerr.

It is our goal to promote, educate and pay tribute to those who came before and made it possible for us to enjoy the close harmony performed by thousands of men and women today.

### Your Preservation Crew

Society Historian / Researcher / Writer / Editor / Layout

**Grady Kerr**

GradyK@GradyWilliamKerr.com

Patient Proofreaders & Fantastic Fact Checkers

**Ann McAlexander**

**Bob Sutton**

Photo Supervisor

Video Consultant

**Bruce Checca**

**Leo Larivee**

*All articles herein, unless otherwise credited, are written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Barbershop Harmony Society, any District, any historian, any barbershopper, the BHS HQ Staff, or the EDITOR.*

## LATE NEWS



### RIP Bob Whitledge 1931 - 2016

Just as we go to press we learn of the passing of **Bob Whitledge** (85), bass of the **Gentlemen's Agreement**. He is survived by his wife **Sally**, also a champion as the bass in the 1972 Sweet Adelines Queens of Harmony, **The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition**. Two of the original Gentlemen's Agreement survive, **Al Rehkop** (T) and **Drayton Justus** (L). **Glenn Van Tassell** (Br) passed away in September 2005.

[CLICK HERE](#)

To celebrate Bob's life, we offer this video memory.

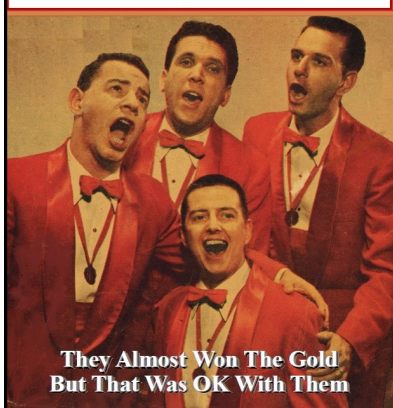
1971 gold medal champ **Gentlemen's Agreement** came out of retirement for one more show. It was the 1984 annual show for the Charlotte, North Carolina chapter.

Bob was still in his prime as the bass of this lineup of super stars. Better than writing a bio, just watch this and enjoy the great voice of Bob Whitledge 32 years ago.

**Gentlemen's Agreement in NC - 20 min.** (left to right on stage) **Al Rehkop** (T) **Greg Backwell** (Br), **Drayton Justus** (L), **Bob Whitledge** (Bs).

How's Every Little Thing in Dixie?  
Ma She's Makin' Eyes at Me  
Spiritual Medley  
My Way (solo by Drayton)  
Kansas City Star  
There is Nothing Like a Dame

Grady Kerr's  
**Preservation Project**  
The Lost Quartet Series



Did you see  
our last issue  
on the  
**Play-Tonics?**

[READ IT  
HERE](#)

**PRESERVATION  
Online!**

All past 21 issues of  
**PRESERVATION**  
are available FREE

[CLICK HERE](#)



# Historic Barber Pole Now on Display at Nashville HQ

Meet Barbershopper **Jon Vickers** of the Winston-Salem, NC chapter and the **Triad Harmony Express Chorus**, a 40-year Society member who serves his chapter as their Marketing and PR Vice President.

Recently he and his wife, **Deana**, attended BHS's International Convention in Nashville, the home of **Harmony Hall**, our Society's International Headquarters.

Jon was there to attend the convention, but he was also on a special mission. He was there to make a delivery that was very personal. He drove 450 miles with a surprise gift safely riding in the back.

It was a vintage **Paidar Barber Pole** with an interesting pedigree and intriguing back story.

Back in the early 60s this pole was removed from the sidewalks of New York and a barber shop in lower Manhattan's Financial District. They were making room for the construction of what would be called The World Trade Center, the record setting 110 story twin towers.

As workers were clearing the massive site of century old business, Barbershopper **Ted Clements** (of the **Asbury Park, New Jersey** chapter) happened to pass by and, to his horror, saw SIX barber poles from demolished shops in the area being cleared away. They were about to be junked. He asked if he could have them. They agreed with the only one stipulation - he had to haul them off himself – DEAL!

Ted quickly rescued them from the huge excavation site and found some were in more



**Jon and Deana Vickers** were proud to donate their barber pole and see it on display

dis-repair than others. Only one was intact and complete. After they gathered dust on Ted's back porch for a while his wife urged him to get rid of them so he gave the good pole to **Tom Cameron** in 1966. Clements sang with Tom (a 61 year Society member) in the **Town Criers** quartet. Tom cleaned it up and did some minor repairs and the pole could be found in his den for the next 40 years.

Tom wanted to share this icon so he took it upon himself to haul this monster to chorus shows and displayed it on stage and in the theatre lobbies for the public to enjoy. This was a chore as this cast iron giant weighed 150 lb.

When in 2012 Tom and his wife decided to move and downsized in 2012, 11-and-a-half-year-old **Nik Vickers-Hymowitz** (new Red Bank chapter member) said that his grandpa in North Carolina would probably love to have it. His grandpa was a Barbershopper by

the name of **Jon Vickers**. The next spring trip to Grandpa's, the beast was in the back!

Jon gave the pole a good home and enjoyed its company for several years.

## A Treasure from the Past

**Scott Gohr** of the **William Marvy Company** tells us this pole is a rare antique, a revolving sidewalk Model 376 made in Chicago, Illinois in the early 1900s by **Emil J. Paidar Company**. It's the traditional color scheme of red, white and blue with two tiered sections.



Still sporting the original wiring and works, the rotation motor and electric really should be replaced. The pole is in its original condition and has NOT been restored or damaged. Some expected weathering can be seen as this was on display outside most of its life in New York City.

The motor and lights still work. The cylinder stripes still spin. Jon installed LED light bulbs to ensure economic and long lasting operation and to make sure lamp heat didn't damage the rotating stripes.

The frame is steel, iron, and a painted, enameled, porcelain exterior. The entire pole stands 6.4 feet high and is 13 inches wide.

The value is estimated to be \$2500 to \$3000 (one was recently sold on eBay for \$4500). But with its history and pedigree, its worth is certainly enhanced!

This pole has had a great life. One can assume that important New York City businessmen in the Financial District frequented the barber who displayed this out front on his sidewalk.

As we all remember, the site was later the focus of a massive tragedy on September 11, 2001. Having this pole now residing in Music City and at the World Headquarters of the Barbershop Harmony



Historic Pole has a place of honor in the lobby of HQ alongside the original quartet trophy and the FIRST gold medal

Society seems a fitting resting place for this icon of yesteryear, a former fixture on the hallowed ground we now call **Ground Zero**.

His gift was so welcomed by the Society that they showed a video of the pole and Jon on the big screens during the recent International Convention in Nashville.

See video here.

[CLICK HERE](#)

It will live out the rest of its life in our spacious lobby and be admired for many years by thousands of tourists and Society members as they visit Harmony Hall.

No doubt many will use it as a photo op taking their selfies, sharing photos via social media. Many may even stand around the pole and harmonize a song that was popular in its day.

Ted Clement moved to Massachusetts years ago and today his whereabouts are unknown.

He would have no idea the pole he rescued would be given such an important place to be displayed, but he'd surely be happy about it. Tom Cameron is still singing with the **Chorus of the Atlantic** at the Red Bank chapter, **Nik Vickers-Hymowitz** is taking a barbershop break to focus on his education (just starting college), and Jon Vickers is still singing with both the **Triad Harmony Express** and with **Carolina Vocal Express** choruses and **Sound Counsel** quartet.

Jon says, *"It now has a home where it will be cared for, treasured, and respected."*

... and he's right, it will!



## Who Reads PRESERVATION?

This is our 5<sup>th</sup> year publishing this magazine. There is NO other publication that covers the historical aspects of the Barbershop Harmony Society. We have NO competition. The beauty of this job is it's a win-win passion. EVERYBODY loves looking back and enjoy a little nostalgia.

Our mission is to promote, educate, inform, and entertain Barbershoppers of every generation. We wish to share this information with as many as possible.

So, PLEASE pass this along to your chapter members so we can share our passion.

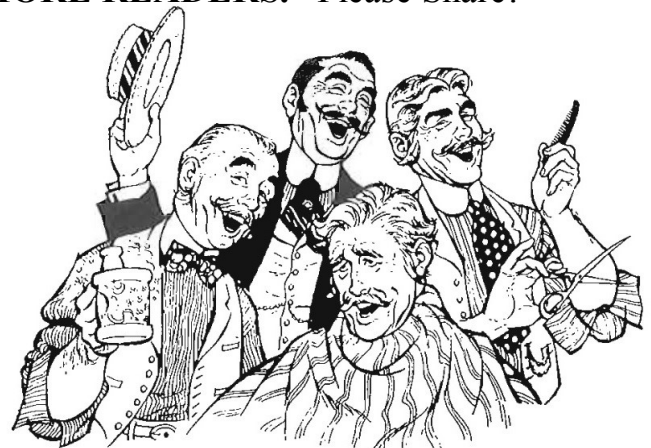
To promote this, we are announcing each issue via multiple FaceBook groups, and sending information to The **HARMONIZER**, **LiveWire**, and the Society webmaster.

The latest numbers we have are measured as "page hits" on the Society web section that holds all the PRESERVATION issues. We're

told the page got a little over 400 page views following the release of the July Issue. Unfortunately we have no way of knowing how many actual "readers" we have for each issue.

We rely on the Society staff to help promote each release. Recently the International Convention, Category School, and Harmony University got in the way of the Society staff promoting the last issue as they were rather busy. We think we have received a little over 1000 page hits since January 2016.

While good, it's not enough. **WE NEED MORE READERS.** Please Share!



# World's Greatest Lead

Back in the 40s there was a man named **OC Cash** who claimed, tongue-in-cheek, to be the *World's Greatest Baritone*. Maybe you've heard of him - he sang with the **Okie Four**. Another member of the quartet was **J. Frank Rice**. Cash gave him the title and took great pride in telling everyone J. Frank was "*The Sweetest Lead This Side of Heaven*."

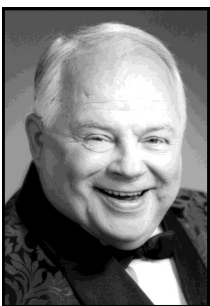
We believe if OC had ever heard **Robert "Diz" Disney** sing, he would have been similarly impressed.

Diz is a second-generation barbershopper and a celebrated singer. His Dad was **Frank Disney**, a Baltimore policeman and a member of the **Patapsco Valley Chapter** of Catonsville, MD. He was also the lead of **The Windjammers**, a comedy quartet who (ironic for Frank's occupation) dressed as Keystone Cops.

In 1957 Dad took his 10-year old son to his first **Anne Arundel Sons of the Severn Chorus** Chapter rehearsal. He later moved to the Patapsco Valley chapter.



Their music director was the legendary Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Famer **Freddie King**, later the bari of the **Oriole Four**, 1970 quartet champs, and gold medal director of the Dundalk, Maryland chapter's **Chorus of the Chesapeake** (1971 International Chorus Champs). **Patapsco Valley** was the first chorus he took to International. Freddie would become an influential mentor.



Diz was impressed with Freddie and barbershop but hadn't yet joined. Even though he was hooked for life, Diz wasn't old enough to become an official member. The Society rules prohibited kids from joining before they were 16. The chapter supported youth and made an exception. They accepted him at 15.

Father Frank was a very good lead singer and was often compared to **Al Shea**, lead of the **Buffalo Bills**. All this was a strong influence on a kid growing up in Maryland.

Bob Disney (69) has had a nice 54-year career in barbershopping. Each of his quartets was distinctive, entertaining, and popular, thanks in part to Diz's talents.

He began singing in high school as a member of the **Canto High School Chorus**. He was also versatile in several instruments. He played the guitar very early on and took up the bass fiddle, drums, and piano and performed in his high school's jazz band, **The Swingsters**.

Once he discovered Barbershop he was ready to learn more and he caught on fast. Diz quickly made several best friends to sing with. Many have lasted a lifetime.



Frank Disney was a member of the **Anne Arundel Sons of the Severn Chorus**. Diz served as their music director for 12 years.



When Diz started directing them they only had 19 members. In their first contest with Diz up front they won the Small Chorus Award. During his tenure they grew to nearly 95 men.



He also was the director of the **Catonsville, Maryland Sweet Adelines** for four years.



Frank Disney died in 1961. Diz was only fourteen. *"I felt that singing was as close as I could get to my Dad."*

Freddie King sang at his funeral and was very supportive of Diz as a strong supporter of youth in harmony, as was the chapter. He offered Diz any help he may need.

Diz's first chapter quartet was in 1963 at the age of 15. They called themselves **The Unknown Four**. Diz laughingly admits, *"We should have stayed that way."* The quartet included Freddie's nephew **Jay Pugh** (Bs), **Bruce Allender** (Br), and **Mike Hall** (T) (Diz's cousin). None is still singing today except Diz.

They were all still in high school and it didn't last long but Diz got his first taste of singing close harmony with three other guys and he LIKED IT!

His next quartet was his first to compete. They were called **The Stereophonics - Bill**

**Norris** (T), **Ted Hicks** (L), **Jim Farrell** (Bs), and Diz on Bari. They were also short-lived.

His third foursome was more legitimate. They were also very good. They became a popular chapter quartet called the **Union Jacks**. The members before Diz were **Kurtis Brown** (T), **Forrest Williams** (L), **Barry Brown** (Bs), and **Tom Welzenbach** (Br). Tom was the brother of **Bob**, who sang lead with the soon-to-be 1970 International Quartet Champion, **Oriole Four**.

### Union Jacks 1969 Semi-Finalist - 15th



UNION JACKS (Dundalk, Maryland – Mid-Atlantic District)  
Kurtis Brown, tenor; Forrest Williams, lead; Barry Brown, bass and Tom Welzenbach, baritone.  
Contact: Barry Brown, 2812 Kirkleigh Rd., Baltimore, Md. 21222

Before Diz joined them, the Union Jacks qualified to represent the MAD and went to St. Louis, Missouri for the 1969 International, and came in a strong 15<sup>th</sup> place.

After International, Diz replaced Tom on baritone. Over the summer Diz had to quickly learn their complete repertoire including contest songs. Most would remember them for their version of **Berlin's** *When It's Night Time in Dixie Land*. That October, in his very FIRST appearance with them, they won the 1970 Mid-Atlantic District quartet championship.

*“Diz was a great lead with a great lead personality. Forrest Williams was also a good lead with a great voice. I’ve always said I was singing between two good leads; it was just that one of them (Diz) was singing the baritone notes.” - Barry Brown, Bass*

The summer of 1970 The Union Jacks placed a disappointing 24<sup>th</sup> at the International convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. It wasn’t a total loss as their good friends in the Oriole Four won the gold that week.

The Union Jacks did better in 1971 in New Orleans, Louisiana coming in 18<sup>th</sup>, and moved up one place to 17<sup>th</sup> in Atlanta 1972.



The Union Jacks in 1972 with Diz singing baritone

Diz had now been a member for NINE years and sung in THREE International quartet contests as BARITONE. After the Union Jacks disbanded, he thought he’d give singing LEAD a try.

In early 1977 the **Baltimore and Ohio Connection** was born. **Barry Brown** from the Union Jacks was on bass, **George Wagner** sang tenor, **Ted Tarr** was the bari, and Diz took the lead part.

They decided to try something a little different. They created a recognizable personality for the quartet loosely associated to one of the oldest railroads in the United States. Thanks to a suggestion of someone

outside the quartet, they created an image that included a custom outfit: a conductor’s suit that included the traditional light yellow shirt, blue tie, and a blue conductor’s coat complete with hat and their own custom logo. They had these outfits made special with some unique details.



The Baltimore and Ohio Connection with their new custom outfits

If you look closely you can see “railroad tracks” circling the B&O logo on their pockets.

The name was a collective effort as three members lived in Baltimore and Ted lived in Cincinnati. Diz even worked “Cincy” into the lyrics of their hit song which came in handy when they competed in that city in ‘78.



They made a special effort to sing as many original songs and their own arrangements as possible.



They won the MAD Southern Division contest in the spring of (1977), then won the MAD contest in the fall (by most points ever) making them the 1978 District Quartet Champs.



(9) BALTIMORE & OHIO CONNECTION (Anne Arundel and Baltimore, Md. – Mid-Atlantic) George Wagner, tenor; Barry Brown, bass; Bob Disney, lead; Ted Tarr, baritone. Contact: Harry Brown, 2917 Suffolk Lane, Fallston, Md. 21047. Phone: (301) 657-7646.

### A Singer/Arranger

Diz had started writing and arranging when he was 16. His first arrangement was *Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep* (Irving Berlin).

Diz recalls his first **original song** was done at 17 for the Stereophonics. It was called *Baby, I Need Your Love*. He's written about 60 songs from scratch. Arranging four-part harmony came naturally for him.

A few years ago his arrangement of *Brand New Day* appeared in *The Harmonizer*. His *Driving Me Crazy* now appears in the new **Barberpole Cat Songbook Volume II** sold by the Society (catalogue #209327).

It tied for the second-highest scoring song for **OC Times** when they won with it in 2008. Many people are still singing his songs and arrangements.

To date, it's guesstimated that Diz has arranged over **200 songs**.

By the time B&O Connection formed he was a pretty accomplished song writer and arranger. To fit their new image he wrote and arranged *Ride the Railroad Tonight*.

If you've ever heard them sing this song you'll certainly remember it. The song has **everything**. While simple in construction, the intro is exciting and GRABS you immediately. Repeating throughout, it also has one of the greatest hooks of all time.

## Ride The Railroad Tonight

Music, Lyrics and Arrangement by: Robert "Diz" Disney

Intro

Tenor Lead

Hu - ffin', pu - ffin', stea - min', drea - min', ho - hey - moo - nin', lo - vers ki - ssing.

Bari Bass

"Huffin' Puffin' Steamin' Dreaming  
Honeymoonin' Lovers Kissin'  
Ride The Railroad Tonight."

no-thing quite [Click Here to Listen](#) you meet, and

George admitted, "I've never seen anyone stuff so many words into a song before."

*Ride the Railroad Tonight* has several nice variations and surprises sprinkled here and there such as tempo changes, triplets, and even a nice shout out reference to I've Been Working on ... There's also a key change and a sexy bari swipe.

In 1978 the reference to the host city, Cincinnati, was a hit.

Then there's the TAG. It just might be one of the most famous bathroom and lobby sung tags ever:

"I've Been Workin on the Rail-road  
Ride The Railroad To ... ,  
We'll Ride The Rail-road ... Tonight."

Admit it, when reading that, you JUST sang that tag in your head, didn't you? You have Diz Disney to thank for that little moment of JOY.

Legendary songwriter and arranger (and judge) **Walter Latzko** pointed out that the song's use of triplets was, "not stylistic to *Barbershop*." But Walter admitted, "But, I liked it." You can order this song from the Society, catalogue # 200369.

While Diz was always respectful to the barbershop style, he still did it “*his way*” and audiences and singers seem to like the results.

One contest judge (whose name shall not be spoken aloud) told the quartet during an A&R session that he didn’t believe they performed the song “in the way the song writer had intended.” This kind of troubled Diz and the guys, who made it a point to inform the judge that Diz WAS THE SONG WRITER! That was the last A&R session they ever attended.

Diz also wrote its companion piece, B&O Line (cat # 114193). It also has a GREAT intro:

Handwritten musical notation for the song "Headin' over valleys". The notation includes a key signature of one flat (F major/D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes.

*Headin' over valleys  
arrivin' on time,  
all aboard the B&O ...  
pullin' in the station  
and arrivin' on time ...  
get your tickets ready  
for the B&O Line.*

[Click Here to Listen](#)

*Just feel that choo choo chuggin'  
Pullin' twenty-two cars.  
We hope that we make it,  
It's not very far.*

It has an infectious choo choo chuggin', toe-tappin', forward-moving tempo.

Their song selection was a key to their popularity.

Being prominent on the show circuit meant they were constantly encouraged by their fans to produce a recording. In 1978 B&O produced an LP. They pressed about 1000 copies and sold them for \$9.00.



The LP includes a testimonial by their coach **Harry Williamson** (tenor of the 1974 champs **Regents**). The cover photo was a favorite of the quartet and an impressive photo of the four of them with **The Mikado / #4500** (built in 1918) at the **B&O Railroad Museum** in Baltimore, MD taken by **Bill Lumpkin**.

They'd have to schlep these LPs around to shows, but thanks to their popularity they sold out in only four months. In the end they pretty much broke even on the project. These LPs are hard to find and a very rare collector's item.

Diz switching to lead and using his new songs in contest really paid off. In Cincinnati in the summer of '78, their first International contest, The B&O Connection sang Ride the Railroad and B&O Line in the opening quarter-final session in the Cow Palace. It would be an understatement to say they took the convention by storm. Their performance and the crowd's reaction helped catapult them into the Semi-Finals and, ultimately, the top ten for the very first time.



**B&O Connection came in 7th  
in Cincinnati in 1978**

Diz and the gang came in **SEVENTH** and were the hit of the convention. They were 436 points from a 5<sup>th</sup> place medal. Also in the top ten were four future International champs.



B&O Connection 1978  
MAD Quartet Champions  
Tarr, Brown, Disney, Wagner

They made their mark and left feeling like conquering heroes.



1979 B&O Connection  
Semi-Finals in Minneapolis  
Sweet Adeline / Heart of My Heart  
Wagner, Disney, Brown, Tarr

The next summer was their high-water mark. B&O went to the 1979 Minneapolis contest and won the **THIRD** place bronze medals. George, Bob, Ted, and Barry sang B&O Line, Ride the Railroad Tonight, Sweet Adeline, (The Gang That Sang) Heart of My Heart, Is This Just Another Song About Love?, and Leave The Girlie Alone.



1979 3rd Place Bronze Medalists  
Wagner, Disney, Brown, Tarr

SCORING SUMMARY  
41ST INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CONTEST  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. – JULY 5-6, 1979

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| 1. Grandma's Boys . . . . .              | ILL |
| 2. Boston Common . . . . .               | N E |
| 3. Baltimore & Ohio Connection . . . . . | M A |
| 4. Roaring 20's . . . . .                | J A |
| 5. 139th Street Quartet . . . . .        | F W |
| 6. Classic Collection . . . . .          | R M |
| 7. Side Street Ramblers . . . . .        | S W |
| 8. Chicago News . . . . .                | ILL |
| 9. Rural Route 4 . . . . .               | C S |
| 10. Grand Tradition . . . . .            | F W |



Back in those days the head of the Society's music department was **Bob Johnson**. Bob was a champion of "Keep It Barbershop" and was often very outspoken with others who might not agree.

When the quartet came in third, they were asked to perform that night as one of the medalists. They were told to do seven songs and to KEEP IT BARBERSHOP! A popular quartet song, and Diz arrangement, was the **Barry Manilow** hit *Weekend in New England*. They had a lot of fans in the audience of 10,000 barbershoppers that Saturday night in Minneapolis. So they gave the audience what they wanted to hear.

The crowd went WILD! For the quartet, performing that night was the highlight of the week (even better than winning their shiny new 3<sup>rd</sup> place medals).

The next week they got a letter of reprimand from Johnson for not keeping it barbershop.

To his credit, Johnson also admitted that their performance of that song was a “*magical moment.*” *New England* was always one of their most requested songs.

Many thought they would certainly win gold the next year. But the quartet broke up within a year.



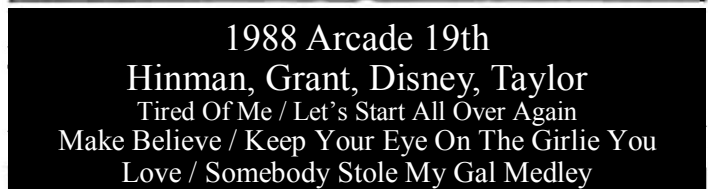
**Jim Grant** was the lead of 1970 champion **Oriole Four**. He organized a new quartet and invited Diz to sing lead. It was called **Arcade**.

They began 1982 with **Rick Taylor** on bari, **Jim Grant** on bass, and **George Wagner** on tenor. For this foursome they all decided they just wanted to have “fun.” Hence the name, which implied “*Fun and Amusement.*”

And they had fun too. In 1990 they couldn’t go to International but they attended the MAD qualifying contest anyway. The quartet believed in “giving back” to the district. With the money they saved up Arcade hosted a PARTY. The quartet paid for the room, the beverages, and the snacks. Cost of admission was NOTHING. The standing room only 200 friends who showed up had a ball. No quartet had ever done anything like this before. Arcade loved their fans and their District.

**George** sang in Arcade for three years. **Dave Hinman** replaced him. When Grant died of a heart attack in 1992, **Bill Cody** replaced him.

Arcade was the “*most fun I’ve had in a quartet.*” says Diz. They were together for 17 years (1982 -1999).



In 1992 **Arcade** won the MAD District Quartet Championship (Diz’s third district title).

As soon as they formed, they immediately became popular on the show circuit. They gravitated toward songs being sung by other top groups of the time but also did some original Diz songs.

They “borrowed” songs from **The Suntones** and **The Easteraires** – and did them well (as many couldn’t). They took advantage of Diz’s strong, high, and effortless lead voice.

## Arcade on Video

Thanks to **Leo Larivee** we found FOUR videos of Arcade made during their 1992 MAD Prelims (great quality videos for the early 90s). Here you can see how smooth they are on *Mary's A Grand Old Name*, *My Gal Sal Medley*, *All Alone* (a great tag), and a Diz original, *Let's Start Over Again*. It includes some very creative references to several Barbershop icons; (Glenn) **Van Tassell**, (Tom) **Felgen**, (Terry) **Clark**, (Dave) **Mittelstadt**, and even **Jim Grant** ("sang high"). *Enjoy These 4 Videos*.



Arcade did about 25 shows a year during their 17 years together. They broke up in 1998.

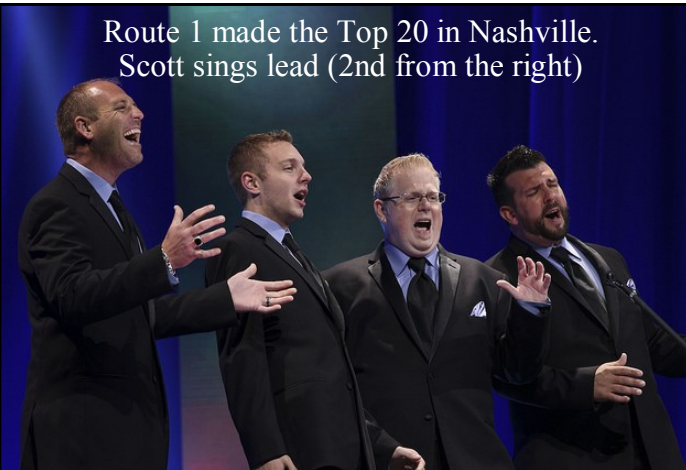
Diz organized **Doc Holiday**, his last quartet, in 1998. He picked his favorite tenor and bass (Dave Hinman / Barry Brown), and future gold medalist **Jack Pinto** (Old School 2011) on bari. They qualified for the 1998 International. They weren't ready and placed a disappointing 45<sup>th</sup> out of 49 quartets. They were together for only about a year until Diz moved to Florida.

1994 Doc Holiday 45th  
Hinman, Disney, Brown, Pinto



Also in that 1998 contest, in a different quartet, was his son, Scott.

**Scott Disney** caught the barbershop quartet bug from daddy at age eight and has gone on to perform in several quartets appearing on the International stage SEVEN times.



2016	19th	Route 1
2008	15th	Ringers
2007	15th	Ringers
2004	24th	Phat Cats
2003	21st	Phat Cats
2002	28th	Phat Cats
1998	37th	Casino

1991 Arcade 32nd  
Hinman, Grant, Disney, Taylor  
When I Lost You / My Gal Sal, Ain't She Sweet?,  
Did You Ever See A Dream Walking? Medley



1993 Arcade 26th  
Hinman, Disney, Cody, Taylor  
All Alone / Swanee



1994 Arcade 15th  
Hinman, Disney, Cody, Taylor  
Seems Like Old Times



Scott won his International Chorus Championship gold medal with the **Alexandria Harmonizers** in 1998. He has won the MAD quartet title FIVE times (**Casino 2000, Phat Cats 2004, Ringers 2007, MAD Hatters 2012, and Route 1 2016**).

He outdid his dad in the number of district titles. Scott was quick to remind Diz of what's important and reminds him – it's "*Quality not Quantity.*"



Diz and his first wife Pat were divorced in 1998. He moved to Fort Myers, Florida and started a limo company. Through the years he's had the pleasure of driving several celebrities – **Bob Newhart, Tony Bennett, Tim Conway, Harvey Korman, Carol Burnett, Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gormé, Glen Campbell, Ann Margret, and Don Rickles**. Each of them has their very own interesting story.

He's been married to **Melody** for eight years. (*Yep, that's her name. ironic, isn't it?*) When he first met her and fell in love he wasn't aware she was the daughter of **Bob Bohn**, bass of the famous **Easternaires** quartet (perennial top ten).

Sometimes things just work out just the way they're supposed to.

He has two sons and a daughter: **Scott, Bob Jr., and Dee Dee**. He has three grandchildren: **Abigail (Abby), Justin and Collin**.

Diz is now retired from his limo business and living the easy life sittin' on the beach, sippin' a beer, just wondering what the poor people are doing.

Most recently, Diz was honored by his District. The Mid-Atlantic District named him to their **Hall of Honor** with the class of 2014.

### A Dream Come True

In the beginning Diz dreamed of being in a quartet. He did that. Then he dreamed of winning the district quartet championship, and he did that. Then he dreamed of competing on the International stage, and he did that. Looking back, he is pretty satisfied and has accomplished pretty much everything he set out to do. Diz has a great life, and he can now look back and reminisce with great pride.

Yes, OC Cash would have loved Diz. OC often ended his letters with his famous signature closer . . . "*... hoping you are the same.*"

Of Diz, Cash would have probably said something like, "*I'm thankful barbershop found him ...hoping you are the same.*"

### We Are!



**Late Night Arcade**  
Dave, Jim, Diz and Rick making the rounds singing for hospitality rooms at an International convention.

# International Contest Diz-tory

- 1969 Union Jacks** 15<sup>th</sup>  
Kurtis Brown, Forrest Williams, Tom Welzenbach, Barry Brown
- 1970 UNION JACKS** 24<sup>th</sup>  
Kurtis Brown, Forrest Williams, Bob Disney, Barry Brown
- 1971 UNION JACKS** 18<sup>th</sup>  
Kurtis Brown, Forrest Williams, Bob Disney, Barry Brown  
**Quarter Finals Songs** *Let's Start All Over Again / Sailing on the Henry Clay*  
**Semi-Finals Songs** *Tears for Souvenirs / Nighttime in Dixieland*
- 1972 UNION JACKS** 17<sup>th</sup>  
Kurtis Brown, Forrest Williams, Bob Disney, Barry Brown  
**Quarter Finals Songs** *Back in My Hometown / So Long, Mother*  
**Semi-Finals Songs** *Sailing on the Henry Clay / When Your Old Wedding Ring Was New*
- 1978 B & O CONNECTION** 7<sup>th</sup>  
George Wagner, Bob Disney, Ted Tarr, Barry Brown  
**Quarter Finals** *B&O Line / Ride The Railroad Tonight*  
**Semi-Finals** *Each Time I Fall In Love / Heart of My Heart*  
**Finals** *Is This Just Another Song About Love? / The No No Medley*
- 1979 B & O CONNECTION** 3<sup>rd</sup>  
George Wagner, Bob Disney, Ted Tarr, Barry Brown  
**Quarter Finals** *B&O Line, Ride the Railroad Tonight*  
**Semi-Finals** *Sweet Adeline / (The Gang That Sang) Heart of My Heart*  
**Finals** *Is This Just Another Song About Love? / Leave The Girlie Alone*
- 1987 ARCADE** 13<sup>th</sup>  
Dave Hinman, Bob Disney, Rick Taylor, Jim Grant  
**Quarter Finals** *Penny Arcade / Forgive Me*  
**Semi-Finals** *Tired Of Me / Let's Start All Over Again*
- 1988 ARCADE** 19<sup>th</sup>  
Dave Hinman, Bob Disney, Rick Taylor, Jim Grant  
**Quarter Finals** *Tired Of Me / Let's Start All Over Again*  
**Semi-Finals** *Make Believe / Keep Your Eye On The Girlie You Love / Somebody Stole My Gal Medley*
- 1991 ARCADE** 32<sup>nd</sup>  
Dave Hinman, Bob Disney, Rick Taylor, Jim Grant  
**Quarter Finals** *When I Lost You / My Gal Sal, Ain't She Sweet?, Did You Ever See A Dream Walking? Medley*
- 1993 ARCADE** 26<sup>th</sup>  
Dave Hinman, Bob Disney, Rick Taylor, Bill Cody  
**Quarter Finals** *All Alone / Swanee*
- 1994 ARCADE** 15<sup>th</sup>  
Dave Hinman, Bob Disney, Rick Taylor, Bill Cody  
*Seems Like Old Times*
- 1998 DOC HOLIDAY** 45<sup>th</sup>  
Dave Hinman, Bob Disney, Jack Pinto, Barry Brown

# Diz-ography

## 1978 Top 10 Quartets

Baltimore & Ohio Connection  
*Ride The Railroad Tonight*

## 1979 Top Twenty Quartets

Baltimore & Ohio Connection  
*(The Gang That Sang) Heart of My Heart*  
*The B & O Line*

## 1987 Top 20 Quartets

Arcade - *Tired Of Me*

## 1988 Top 20 Quartets

Arcade - *Let's Start All Over Again*  
Arcade - *Tired Of Me*  
Arcade - *Make Believe*

## 1994 TOP 20 Quartets

Arcade - *Seems Like Old Times*

## Baltimore & Ohio Connection - On Track (LP)



*Ride the Railroad Tonight.*

*B & O Line, Each Time I Fall In Love, (The Gang that Sang) Heart of My Heart, When I Fall in Love, Is This Just Another Song About Love?, What I Did For Love, Tomorrow Is Forever, Now That You're in My Heart, Weekend in New England, Zip -A-Dee-Doo-Dah, Memories of You, Leave the Girlie Alone, Danny Boy,*

## Arcade - Arcade (LP/CAS)

*It's a Brand New Day, Each Time I Fall In Love, We Three, Together, Last Night on The Back Porch, It Was Too Sad To Write, That Old Black Magic, Don't Blame Me, Mamie, Sandbox of Dreams, Take A Chance, What'll I Do, May Each Day*

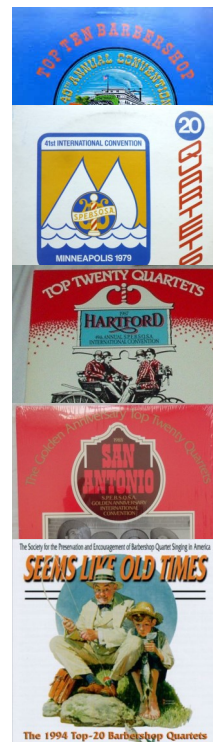


## Arcade - Replay (CAS)

*Penny Arcade, Tired of Me, All The Things You Are, What I Did for Love, I Gotta Be Near You, My Buddy, How Deep is the Ocean?, There I've Said it Again, Time After Time, You Could Show Me How, Take a Chance, My Heart Stood Still, A Time Without Love, Let's Start Over Again.*

## Arcade - The Very Thought of You (CAS)

*It's A Brand New Day, As Time Goes By, Hopelessly, Forgive Me, More I Cannot Wish You (Velvet), Sit Right Down and Write Myself a Letter, The Very Thought of You, So Long Dearie, When I Lost You, I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face, Keep Your Eye on the Girlie You Love / Somebody Stole My Gal Medley, Didn't We, Glad Rag Doll, One for the Road, Smile.*



### Arcade - After Hours (CAS)

Dedicated to the Easternaires  
*Talking a Chance on Love, Mary's a Grand Old Name\*,  
Moonglow, All of Me, On the Street Where You Live,  
Impossible Dream\*, Watch What Happens, Emmaline, Peg O'  
My Heart\*, All Alone, Driving Me Crazy, Gigi\*, Live 'til I  
Die\** \*arrangements by Bob Bohn - Easternaires

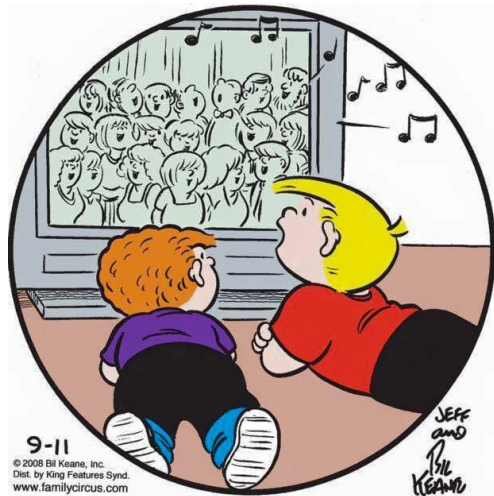
Diz's personalized,  
autographed photo  
of The Easternaires.  
  
Notice faint writing  
upper left.



Our PRESERVATION Series is called LOST QUARTETS. These two lost quartets had a loyal following, spanned fifty-five years, and had ONE great lead singer in common.

Robert "Diz" Disney should not be forgotten. He has inspired thousands of singers, both young and old. His contribution to our Society of close harmony singers cannot be denied. We're honored to pay tribute Diz in this issue.

**LONG LIVE ARCADE AND THE B&O CONNECTION**



9-11  
© 2008 Bill Keane, Inc.  
Dist. by King Features Synd.  
www.familycircus.com

JEFF  
and  
THE  
KEANE

"Singers are smart. They make music without having to carry instruments."



Beatles Do Barbershop?

[Click Here](#)



"Forgive me, gentlemen, if I'm stating the obvious, but it would appear your relationship is suffering from a serious lack of harmony."

**KEEP AMERICA SINGING**

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.





# We Got Mail

*(E-Mail, FaceBook Posts, and Tweets)*

Thanks to all those who responded to the previous issue

**Ralph Brandt** – Hawaii

**Play-Tonics** - Bass

*What a job! You made me proud of being a member of the Play-Tonics again! God bless them every one! Thanks again for putting together a really fine summary of the “real” Play-Tonics!! Aloha.*

**Arlene Mittelstadt**

*It is a beautiful article. It brought smiles and tears.*

**Nancy Senter** – Los Angeles, California

*Spent a happy afternoon looking through these, brought back SUCH great memories. Why didn't I know about this sooner?*

**Bill Billings** - Dunnellon, Florida

*Great job Grady! I had the honor of getting to know Ralph during his time in Florida. I actually directed the chorus that he and his father in law Harry sang in. He is a super guy and talented performer. It was nice to get more of the story on the Play-Tonics and a current update on Ralph. Thanks for the fine work you do!*

**Liz Sloan** - Victorville, CA

**Harborlites Chorus**

*I think you may have a typo on page one (upper left). Thought you might like to know. Thanks for all you do! I love reading stuff like this!*

[Ed: Great catch – fixed it. I'm blessed to have TWO outstanding proofreaders on staff. They've been with me for years. Yes, I NEED TWO proofreaders. An extra pairs of eyes help. Thanks gk]

**Ken Potter**

Federal Way, Washington

Director - **Northwest Sound**

*I sang with **Jerry Smith** in **Sound Syndicate** in Denver 1990, while I was beginning my immersion into the Society. I appreciate reading more about his history with this quartet. Great work.*

**Jan Scofield** – San Antonio, TX

*What a fabulous job on this publication!!! Thanks so much for all you do!*

**Lois De Rosa** - Lakeland, Florida

*Just wonderful! 🎵🎹💕 Thank you, Grady!!*

**Steve White** - MAD Webmaster

*Terrific job, Grady! Very interesting and comprehensive. I send a notice to the MADAQC guys with a short bio remembering champs who have passed. At our District Convention, before the MADAQC Chorus sings for our new quartet champs, I highlight for the audience those men who had died since the previous convention. I do feel bad to learn that **Gene Loeb**s died in December 2013. I did not know about Gene and, sadly, I had never met him.*

**Doc Dockendorf** - Show Low, AZ

*Thoroughly enjoyed this Grady. Can't wait for the issue about the **Nighthawks**!*

**Rob Seay** - Towson, MD

*Great article! Dave Mittelstadt was one of the finest gentlemen I've ever had the pleasure to meet. A barbershop legend and yet so humble. Sure do miss Dave....*

*This Issue Researched and Written by **Grady Kerr** - [GradyK@GradyWilliamKerr.com](mailto:GradyK@GradyWilliamKerr.com)  
Barbershop Harmony Society Historian - August 2016*