

National Sacred Harp Newsletter

"COVERING the COUNTRY LIKE KUDZU"



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MI & YOU!

VOL I NO 2

July, 1985

Hugh McGraw, PO Box 185, Bremen, GA 30110

"and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps." Revelation 14:2

As President Reagan would say: "...well..." the first Newsletter is history and from hundreds of subscribers, it was great. I believe the National Sacred Harp Newsletter is here to stay. So "here we go" with number two!

A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL CONVENTION.....

As the old colored preacher said, "Not speaking as an authority, which I is..." this was a GREAT SINGING! There were people here from all over the "territory" and they came for the business of singing, which they proceeded to do. It had every reason to be a good singing, for here was assembled the cream of the crop of Sacred Harp Singers. From all of us in Birmingham to all of y'all who came—many from a great distance and at quite an expense—we say: thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!!! We were glad to have you and we hope y'all come back again. The temperature in the auditorium was just right. Half of the people were too hot and the other half were too cold. Adding these two extremes you come up with perfection. And perfection is pretty hard to come by these days!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WOW!!

James Emery "Bo" Bosarg, born 12/2/84, was Christened May 12, 1985 at the First Lutheran Church in Birmingham, Alabama. His proud parents are Pennie Morrison Bosarg and her husband, Jim Bosarg.

Honorable Mr. D.T. White presented a citation of appreciation from the Sacred Harp Publishing Co. to Mrs. Ethel McGough in honor of her father, Joseph Joshua Harper, for outstanding work in Sacred Harp Music May 12, 1985 at Old Hatwoods Primitive Baptist Church, Nouvoo, Alabama.

FESTIVANNI

"Music for the Spirit" Leone Cole Auditorium, Jacksonville State College, Jacksonville, Alabama; Monday, August 5th, 7:30pm, Sacred Harp Singers from all over are invited to attend.

SACRED HARP SINGERS SING AT BASEBALL GAME??

The Chicago Sacred Harp singers sang for the opening ball game (April '85) of the Chicago Cubs. They sang the National Anthem in 4 part harmony, arranged by Phillip Trier. For a copy, write Marcia Johnson, 912 W. Agatite, Chicago, IL 60640.

July 20th & 21st, "Historic Antioch Academy" Louvale, Georgia, teacher—Hugh McGraw

July 22nd - 27th, Glenloch Baptist Church, 4 miles Southeast of Roopville, Georgia,
teacher—Richard DeLong

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GOOD OLD FASHIONED TEA CAKES

by Charlene Wallace

1 egg	2 1/2 cups plain flour
1/2 tsp. soda	1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup sugar	1 stick of margarine, softened
1/2 cup of Crisco	1 tsp. vanilla
2 T. sweet milk	

Mix all ingredients, drop by teaspoon on ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten with glass dipped in sugar. Bake 10 - 12 minutes at 400 degrees.

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JULY BIRTHDAYS!!!

July 1st - T.H. Ross	July 2nd - Hassel Palmer
5th - Cynthia Huckleba	8th - Paul W. Frederick
12th - C.L. Ballinger	16th - Agnes Hocutt
17th - Stanley Smith	27th - Earlis McGraw
29th - Poppy Gregory	!!!HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

* * * * *

DO YOU KNOW...

...that Sacred Harp people stick together like leaches?
 ...that no matter what happens, there is always somebody who knew it would?
 ...that more people fish on Sunday than those who attend a Sacred Harp singing? (I just can't believe this!)
 ...that most of us would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism?
 ...the four things every Sacred Harp singer must possess: 1) Book 2) Car 3) Fan & 4) Halls Cough Drops

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GOING MY WAY?

Marie Aldridge and her sister, Edith Tate, made a trip recently to Florida to visit relatives and had Sacred Harp music all the way. The Sacred Harp music helped keep them from getting tired and also kept Edith from talking so much!! Happy trails girls!!

On Wednesday, May 15, a group met at the Cleburne County Nursing Home and sang from the Sacred Harp. Everyone had a good time and enjoyed the singing!!—Alice Edwards

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MOE: "Did you know daddy is a singer?"

JOE: "Where did he learn to sing?"

MOE: "He says from a correspondence course from Richard L. DeLong!"

JOE: "Well, boy it sure sounds like he lost a lot of his mail!"

TO: Mr. & Mrs. Lonnie V. Cato, 1118 Wood Ln., Arlington, Texas 76017, who will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on July 7, 1985. Call them up and congratulate them. I did. (ph. 817-473-4970)

TO: Mai Kelton. She has finished her dissertation "Analysis of the Music Curriculum of Sacred Harp (American Tune Book, 1971 Edition) and its Continuing Traditions". She received her doctorate from the University of Alabama on May 18, 1985.

**REMEMBER: We want all of your "newsy news". Send it right on in!!

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THE HISTORY OF THE SACRED HARP BOOK, Part One

by: Richard L. DeLong

Aside from the Holy Bible, the book found most often in the homes of Rural Southerners is, without a doubt, the big oblong volume of songs called The Sacred Harp. Few people know the history of this sacred volume, nor do they realize its humble beginning in 1844 and its progress and improvement from that date to the present 1985 - an era of 141 years.

The compiling of an edition known as the forerunner of Sacred Harp was begun in 1834, by Benjamin Franklin White and his brother-in-law, William Walker, of Spartanburg, South Carolina, and was completed in 1835. William Walker took the manuscript to New Haven, Connecticut, to have it printed. When the book came from the press that same year, it was entitled The Southern Harmony and Musical Companion, by William Walker - with no mention of B.F. White. This incident grieved Mr. White and caused him to pack up his worldly goods, leave his friends and relatives in the Spartanburg section, and move with his family to Hamilton, Harris County, Georgia.

In his new home, B.F. White soon became a prominent citizen. In 1844, he published a collection of songs in book form. This new tune-book was known as The Sacred Harp.

by B.F. White and E.J. King. 1500 copies of the first book were printed and sold for 40¢ each. It contained 242 songs. pages 27-262

At the 1849 session of "The Southern Musical Convention", a committee of 8 members was appointed to enlarge the Sacred Harp. The committee was composed of, B.F. White, Chairman, Joel King, Leonard P. Breedlove, A. Ogletree, S.R. Penick, J.R. Turner, R.F.M. Mann, and E.L. King. 103 songs were added, enlarging the book to 366 pages. A total of 345 songs.

A second appendix to the Sacred Harp was produced in 1859. Once again a committee of 8 members chose 74 songs expanding the book to 429 pages. The committee again included B.F. White as Chairman along with E.T. Pound, J.P. Rees, R.F. Ball, A. Ogletree, T. Waller, J.T. Edmunds, and A.S. Webster.

In 1869, a committee composed of B.F. White, E. Dumas, Absalom Ogletree, R.F.M. Mann, and Marion Patrick added a third appendix with 60 songs. The new appendix included such favorites as Fillmore, The Saviour's Call, Blooming Youth, Adoration, and Sharpsburg. (pages 434, 489, 176b, 138t, 39b in 1971 Denson Revision)

Besides adding a new appendix, many songs from the older sections of the book were deleted. This is the first time any songs had been taken out of the Sacred Harp.

22 songs were taken from the 1844 section — adding 31.

19 songs were taken from the 1850 appendix — adding 28.

8 songs were taken from the 1859 appendix — adding 10 — Grand Total: 129 songs added
Example of songs deleted in 1869: Hebrew Children (p. 133, Denson Book, 1971)

Saint's Delight (p. 114, Denson Book, 1971)

The Saint's Bound For Heaven (p. 35, Denson Book, 1971)

Russia (p. 107, Denson Book, 1971)

Example of songs added in 1869:

Bear Creek (p. 269)

White (p. 288)

Jesus is My Friend (p. 345t)

Panting for Heaven (p. 384)

The 1869 revision was printed in 1869 and in 1870; however, no changes in content were made in 1870. B.F. White was working on a 5th edition when he suffered a fall on Spring St. in Atlanta, GA. This resulted in his death in 1879.

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Maud Godsey Adams, died 5/34/85, Double Springs, Alabama, age 89

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[illegible]

B.F. WHITE

1800 - 1879

SONG WRITER,
TEACHER, EDITOR,
LIVED IN HAMILTON,

1843-c.1868, WAS MAYOR, 1865.

NEAR THIS SPOT IN 1844 HE PUBLISHED SACRED HARP,

A "fa-sol-la" ACCAPPELLA SINGING SCHOOL BOOK NOW IN ITS 14TH EDITION.

WHITE TAUGHT IN A LOCAL ACADEMY, CONDUCTED

SINGING SCHOOLS IN MANY PLACES

AND ORGANIZED SINGING

CONVENTIONS, SOME

OF WHICH STILL

EXIST.

HE DIED IN ATLANTA AND IS BURIED AT OAKLAND CEMETARY IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA.



Erected by Historic Chattahoochee Commission and Kindred and Friends of B.F. White.

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Things We Could Readily Do Without: References to Sacred Harp "sings". This is an affectation which some of the new book people have picked up from other sources and has no place with us. We realize the problem of grammar and we know the difference between an adjective and a noun, but (for Heaven's sake) let's have done with the business of saying, "There was (or will be) a Sacred Harp Sing" at such-and-such a place, and use the good-old honest term of SINGING!

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CELEBRATE ***** with a BIG SINGING!!!

We hope you have a safe and happy holiday. Listed on the next page are some special singings you may want to attend on July 4th and many other days during July. Let's be thankful for the freedom we enjoy in the good ole USA!!!

COOPER BOOK*****

- July 4th - Union Hill Singing Hall, 1 mile South of Miller's Crossroads, Florida
 - Ramah Church, Lenox, Alabama
 10th - Harmony Church, 5 miles North of Sanford, Alabama
 12th - Enon Church, 4 miles South of Josie, Alabama
 15th - Mt. Gilead Church, 10 miles North of Samson, Alabama, Hwy. 87
 17th - Covington Courthouse, Andalusia, Alabama
 27th - Cluster Springs Church, 7 miles Northeast of Defuniak Springs, Florida

DENSON BOOK*****

- July 3rd - Gauley Free Will Baptist Church, 2 miles West of Calhoun, Mississippi
 4th - Muscadine Methodist Church, Muscadine, Alabama
 4th - Liberty Church, near Helicon, Ala., 6 miles South of Hwy. 278 and one mile West of Hwy. 77
 4th - Mt. Herman Primitive Baptist Church, North of Hwy. 8, 3 miles West of Vardaman, Miss.
 4th - Mt. Zion Church, 4 miles Southwest of Ashland, Alabama
 20th - Walker County Convention, City Auditorium, Jasper, Alabama

JULY SCHEDULED SINGINGS

COOPER BOOK*****

- 1st Sunday - Southeastern Alabama Convention, Carroll Church, Pleasant Grove, East Broad St., Ozark Alabama
 2nd Sunday - Liberty Church, 3 miles Northwest of Vernon, Florida, Hwy. 278
 - Cool Springs Church, Opp, Alabama, Hwy. 84 east
 3rd Sunday - Zion Chapel, 15 miles North of Elba, Alabama, Hwy. 87
 - Excambia Convention, Ramah Church, Lenox, Alabama
 - Holly Springs Methodist Church, Hwy. 64, South on Martin Mills Rd., Canton, Texas
 4th Sunday - Valley Grove Church, 10 miles North of Opp, Alabama, Hwy. 331.

WIRE GRASS SACRED HARP SINGERS...COOPER BOOK*****

- 1st Sunday - Christmas Singing, Greater Beaulah Church, Dothan, Alabama
 3rd Sunday - Pea River Baptist Church, New Brockton, Alabama
 4th Sunday - New Bethel Church, Campbellton, Florida

CHRISTIAN HARMONY*****

- 4th Sunday - Bibb County Convention, Old Pleasant Hill Church, 4 miles west of Centreville, Alabama, off Hwy. 82, 89th Session

DENSON BOOK*****

- 1st Sunday - Cross Roads Baptist Church, 9 miles North of Tallapoosa, Georgia
 - New Flatwoods Church, 3 miles South of Nauvoo, Alabama, and east of Hwy 11, Nauvoo to Carbon Hill
 - Pleasant Hill Church one mile Southwest of Warner Robbins, Georgia on South Pleasant Hill Rd.
 1st Sunday and Saturday before - Henagar Union Convention, Liberty Church, 2 miles North of Henagar, Alabama
 2nd Sunday - Springs Creek Church, 3 miles West of Banner, Calhoun County, Mississippi
 - Mt. Zion Church, 18 miles North of Gordo, Alabama, Hwy. 159
 - Pleasant Grove Church, 5 miles West of Buchanan, Georgia, Jacksonville Rd.
 2nd Sunday and Saturday before - Cullman Courthouse, Cullman, Alabama
 3rd Sunday - Mt. Oak Church, 5 miles Northeast of Arab, Alabama
 - Mt. Carmel Church, 5 miles East of Millport, Alabama
 - Mt. Parion Church, 7 miles North of Fruithurst, Alabama, South of Hwy. 69
 - Mt. Zion Church, near Fyffe, Alabama
 - Second Annual Connecticut Convention, 12:00pm, Memorial Chapel, Wesleyan University, Middletown, Connecticut
 3rd Sunday and Saturday before - Rocky Mt. Church, 3 miles Southwest of Daviston, Alabama
 4th Sunday - Chickasaw County Convention, Enon Primitive Baptist Church, 3 miles South of Hwy. 8, 8 miles East of Houston, Mississippi
 - Dosses Creek Church, 15 miles Southwest of Cullman, Alabama, Hwy. 69
 - Marion County Courthouse, Hwy. 54, 78 and 278, Hamilton, Alabama
 4th Sunday and Saturday before - Alabama Convention, Sardis Church, 3 miles west of Hwy. 31 Morris, Alabama
 4th Sunday and Saturday before - Cotaco Convention, Harmony Primitive Baptist Church, Lawrence Cove, East of Falkville, Alabama, in Morgan County
 4th Sunday and Saturday before - Mt. Zion Methodist Church, Mt. Zion, Georgia, Hwy 16, West of Carrollton, Georgia

SPECIAL GROUPS—SINGINGS

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(by state or country)

- ALABAMA - 1st Monday in ea. mo., Estes Nursing Home, 6pm, Tuscaloosa
- 1st Friday night in each month, 7pm, Highlands United Methodist Church, Huntsville/more information call David Ivey/ 205-881-5291
- Saturday night before 2nd Sunday in each month, Shady Grove (Keeton Cemetary), Walker County 1 1/2 miles East of New Flatwoods Church on Hwy. 11, Nauvoo to Carbon Hill
- 1st Sunday night in each month, Friendship Church, 8 miles Southeast of Haleyville on Hwy. 195 South at church sign 2 miles
- 1st Sunday night in each month, Gum Pond Morgan County, 18 miles Northeast of Cullman
- 4th Sunday night in each month, Old Flatwoods Church, 3 miles South of Nauvoo just West off Hwy. 11
- 2nd Sunday night in each month Mt. Lebanon Church, 10 miles Northeast of Fayette on Bluff Rd.
- 2nd Sunday night in each month, Rice School House, Arab; also, every 5th Sunday night
- 1st Wednesday in each month, Jones Chapel Community Center, Hwy. 278 West of Cullman
- CANADA - Every Tuesday, 7:30pm, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada; call Sheldon Posen for location / 613-235-9947
- COLORADO - June 3rd, 16th and 30th, Denver; for time and place call Alfred Saussothe / 303-665-4455
- CONN. - 2nd Sunday of each mo., Conn. Valley Harmony meets at Memorial Chapel Wesleyan U., Middletown, Conn., 7-9pm, Call Susan / 203-583-0841 (Also, last Sunday of each month 3:00pm - 5:00pm)
- ILLINOIS - Once a month on Sunday, Chicago; call Maria Johnson / 312-878-3661
- INDIANA - 1st and 3rd Sundays, 7:00pm at the home of Patrick Hauck, 1201 N. Windsor, Indianapolis / 317-636-2466
- KENTUCKY - 2nd Sunday—Sept.—May, 3:00pm, The Appalachian Assoc. of Sacred Harp Singers - Chapel Hill Presbyterian Church, Tates Creek Rd., Lexington more information call Ray Turner / 606-277-9250
- MARYLAND - 2nd Friday, 7:30pm, Takoma Park, call Bob Esty / 301-434-4737
- MISSOURI - 1st and 3rd Sundays, 2:30pm, St. Louis, call Karen Isbell for location at 314-644-5422 or Elliott Ribner at 314-535-6138
- NEW YORK - 2nd/3rd Sunday, October thru May, New York Pinewoods Sacred Harp Singers - - Plus special sessions, at Joe Beasley's, 3555 23rd St., Apt. 524, Jackson Heights, New York; more information call 718-898-3436, they sing from 10 different shaped-note books
- N.C. - 2nd Sunday in each month, Person Hall, University of N.C., more information call Dan Patterson / 914-962-4065
- 3rd Sunday in each month, 3:00pm, Wachovia Arbor Moravian Church on Arbor Rd., Winston-Salem, more information call Gene Anderson at 919-274-5943
- OREGON - Monthly in Eugene, call or write for details: Mary Fulton, 2976 Mill Rd., Eugene, Ore. 97405 / ph. 503-344-8521 or Darothy Jackson, 2680 Riverview Dr., Eugene, Ore. 97403 / ph. 503-345-3153
- Corvallis Folklore Society, Corvallis, call Frank Hull for time and place / 503-752-1303
- TENNESSEE - New Harp of Columbia Book, each Sunday at 8:00pm, 1638 Highland, Knoxville. New singers welcome and taught, coffee & cookies during breaks, for futher information call Ronald Peterson / Home: 615-688-5119
- WISCOSIN - 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 3:00pm at St. Francis House, 1001 University Ave., Madison, call 608-651-2897 or 609-255-3245

On Saturday, May 4th, I was chauffeured to Zion Rest Primitive Baptist Church in Jasper, Alabama for a Memorial Singing for Ruth D. Edwards, Elmer Kitchens, and Ernest Nunn. I arrived one hour early and found the door key in a very secret place. I unlocked the church and then I turned on the power and the water. I then relaxed until the crowd arrived. We had a good singing. The fellowship and dinner were delightful. I got back home around 6:30pm — 220 miles. I got up early Sunday morning (5:00am), May 5th, drove myself down to Ozark, Alabama to the Heath Memorial Singing out of the Cooper Book. We had a large crowd and you have never seen so much dinner. I can't remember when I've seen so many kids running around all over. All ages!! Pallets were everywhere. And they were all dressed up in their Sunday best. I got back home near 7:00pm — 420 miles.

On Saturday, May 11th, some others and myself motored up to a new singing in Huntsville, Alabama. It was held at the Burritt Museum on top of the second highest mountain in Alabama. The sight was breath-taking. Visitors came from everywhere and the little church was filled up. I don't know what they'll do with the crowd next year! The church was moved from Madison, Alabama and put back together just like it was 105 years ago. It was so good to sing in a church that old. I got to see my long-lost friend, Elder J.L. Hopper, whom I have not seen in years. He led two new songs in the old section of the book. (Pages 450 and 266.) We had to sing 266 twice and we did pretty good the second time. You look it over and see how well you could do singing it. Some of our best singers had an awful cold. I know because they coughed all through the song!! Dr. Julietta Hayes celebrated her birth and we all sang "Happy Birthday!" to her. (Words only.) We had a good day and just a wonderful lunch. The home people really did express themselves by bringing out the food. You have never seen so many cakes and pies. We got back home at 7:00pm — 220 miles.

I attended my home church (First Baptist, Bremen, Georgia) on May 12th, morning and evening services and sang in the choir. (— 5 miles)

On Monday, May 13th, I took my famous quartet to Atlanta, Georgia to do a program for Clarkston Baptist Church. Arrived back home around 10:30pm — 140 miles.

On Saturday, May 18th, we drove up to Berea, Kentucky for the 3rd annual State Convention. Over 100 singers were present — the largest crowd they have ever had. They spread lunch this year and really had plenty for all. I met a good friend, Fred Haver, from Indiana. He sang page 184, "Enfield". I have never heard this song sang in all my singing years. Why did I have to go 800 miles to hear this song used? Why don't we sing it at our singings? Folks, the best songs in our book are never used. There were 8 states represented at the singing. The home people were real pleased at the turn-out. We got back home about 9:30pm on Saturday evening — 800 miles.

On Sunday, May 19th, I drove over to Tallapoosa, Georgia to Poplar Springs Baptist Church to attend their annual singing. We had a good singing and a delicious lunch. After lunch I left and drove over to Cain Creek Primitive Baptist Church (located 10 miles East of Heflin, Alabama). Believe me, I had to park one mile from the church. You have never seen so many cars. I believe everyone came in their own car. I sang a memorial lesson for Preston Warren, a good friend of mine who passed away earlier this year. I presented the family with a certificate of appreciation from the Sacred Harp Publishing Co. for Preston's outstanding work in Sacred Harp music. I arrived home close to 5:30pm — 60 miles.

On May 24th, a group from Georgia and Alabama left the Atlanta Airport at 8:30am heading for Paxton, Illinois to be a part of the 1st Illinois State Convention. It started on Friday night with about 50 singers warming up in a motel room. You know all about this. Any Sacred Harp singer who goes off to a convention gets started in a motel room. Some of them gets stopped by the police. (I won't say who they were—you know!) Then on Saturday, around 11:00am, singers from 9 states assembled in the First United Methodist Church in Paxton, Illinois. You have never heard such singing as they did. It was really wonderful and the dinner was very filling. I don't believe there was a dry eye at the end when we took the "Parting Hand". We did not cease singing until 5:15pm (Ga. time). And no one left early. This was their first convention, but it will not be their last.

We had to sit in the airport all day Sunday waiting to catch our plane back to Atlanta. We thought about all the singing that was going on and how we missed them. Arrived home around 11:00pm — 1800 miles.

30 HOURS OF SINGING

3665 MILES

AND HOW WAS YOUR MONTH??