

River Ramblings

Editors - Jeffrey Grimmer & Dwain Frazee

Mankato "Riverblender's" 2011 Valentines Day



Riverbend & the Widows Group at Our Saviors Lutheran Church

Riverbend began Valentines Day at The Happy Chef, a little after 7am. We wore our striped vests and our Driver, Escort, Photographer, Carl was very Valentine-like in his black suit, red shirt, and a red/black striped necktie. Everywhere we went, they could see us coming. Cool!

Our 1st stop was an elderly woman in North Mankato. Tory was living with either a son or daughter and their spouse. She was a small woman who was thrilled by our songs. Her eyes lit up with wonderment. Next, we were off to Lake Crystal, to sing for Ken, at a factory. We got there early, so first we stopped at Kroubetz camping sales and sang for the owners wife...she loved it. Ken was working out back in the factory and was comfortably embarrassed in front of his peers. "He took it like a man".....next we sang for the folks in the office, that had watched us sing to Ken. We were still a little early for the next stop, so we stopped at Minnstar Bank in Lake Crystal and sang to the Tellers and staff. Thunderous Applause! Our next stop was for Malia, a teacher at the secondary school in Lake Crystal. Malia was entertained in front of her students. She seemed to enjoy us.....as we were leaving, one

of the young students was overheard telling a classmate: "if I ever get a woman, I'm gonna have these guys sing to her"....pretty good endorsement, we thought.

We were off to Mankato, to sing for Matt's friend Becky. Becky enjoyed our songs and she even got a special hug from our Baritone, Matt. After getting a phone call for a couple more stops from our coordinator, Ron Larson, we continued on into Mankato.

Our next stop was Pathstone, in Mankato. Our potential recipient was

not available, so we sang for some staff people, stopped by Marv's room and sang a couple songs for him...he was pleased. On our way out, we sang Wild Irish Rose for a lady named Rose, she had a blush to match a rose after we sang. Next, we stopped at The Mankato Clinic to sing to Lisa. Of course, as always, everyone else also enjoyed it. Lots of applause! Our next stop was Sears Optical, where we sang for Chantel. Chantel was very surprised and touched by our music and the special love from the family that gave it to her. As we were leaving the Optical Department, we encountered a couple Sears employees. We sang for them...one was the Store Manager and her fellow employee Jenny. Well, Jenny was so touched, she gave us a free photo of the quartet. Great picture and great memory for all of us, including Jenny. Jenny's husband was curious as to why she



Riverbend and Tim, at Crown, Cork and Seal, Mankato

received a singing Valentine and wondered who it was from. Funny!

At this point, it was noon so we stopped at Erbert and Gerberts, had a great sandwich and sang for the folks there. Lots of fun!

We next stopped and sang for a local Widows Group at Our Saviors Lutheran Church. That stop was paid for by Betty, who had heard a quartet sing a couple of years ago, as her husband was living at a local nursing home. Our music thrilled the group and especially Betty, who was able to relive some old memories of her late husband. Next, we returned to Pathstone and sang for a dear old friend, a Lebanese lady named Deif. Deif was very touched and loved our songs.

Matt Strum, our Baritone had to go back to Minneapolis for his first day at a new job, so we had Mike Frazee join us for the balance of the afternoon.

Our next stop was Tim, at Crown, Cork and Seal, Mankato. It turns out that Tim's Valentine was a "return" Valentine from his wife who had gotten a Valentine from him earlier in the day. Good fun and lots of ribbing from fellow employees.

We were off to Wells, where we sang to Marcella at the nursing home. Marcella received her gift from her daughter in law and family from Beauford. Marcella loved her gift. As we were leaving, the head nurse asked us if we would sing for a lady who was not doing well and had her family there to say final goodbyes. We couldn't say no.



Magic performing at the 1st. National Bank in St. Peter

Our last stop was at Country Neighbors, in Mapleton, where out Tenor, Jim's dad recently became a resident. The facility is a memory care residence. It might have been the surroundings, or possible fatigue, but our Lead, Ron had to restart "Let me call you Sweetheart", several times, due to continually getting the male and female version of the lyrics mixed up. We finally got through it. Ron was pretty relieved, as he feared it made him eligible for permanent residency at the memory care facility.

All in all, Riverbend had a great day. We distributed lots of Steve Pettis's great show promotions. One stop we were unable to make, due to a medical appointment for the recipient, Nancy. That Valentine will be delivered on Tuesday of next week, just before our normal rehearsal.

Ron, Charles, Jim, Matt (and Mike)

As you can tell from this article, written by Ron Meyer, this event is a great public relations venture and is a lot of fun for the quartets: Editor



RFD sings to the Offices Workers

Hi, Mr. Grimmer,

All the ladies could do was to rave about how special it was for you to perform for them. I cannot thank you enough for making the whole office's day a memorable one. As I was in class about the time that you arrived, I did not hear about it right away, but it did not take long for the phone call from my wife.

Thank you again for making my wife's (and all of the ladies) day special,
Timothy Madsen

.....

Thank You Very Much!

The "Riverblenders" Chorus would like to thank Ron & Jo Larson for taking care of lining up the schedules for the quartets and their escorts and Dale Mowbray for helping Ron and Jo. Thanks go out to Steve Pettis for the Valentines brochures and show information handout cards. Dick Muesing was the guy responsible for setting up the Happy Chef Breakfast and meeting room along with obtaining the roses and cards. We also need to thank, Bailey Blethen, Stan Bruss, Ron Conrad, Willy Derner, Kelly Gage, Ben Hagen, Dean Kluge, Carl Youngblom (Chuck's son), for being drivers, front men, and photographers. And last but not least all of the Quartets for the time and effort that they gave to make this another successful Valentines Day Extravaganza. As you can see this is truly a chapter function!

YOUTH IN HARMONY FESTIVAL

On January 22, 2011, the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines and the Mankato Riverblenders hosted the first ever Mankato area Youth In Harmony Festival. The Festival was a success! We had 22 students from 4 different High Schools which included; Belle Plaine, Mankato East Mankato West and Maple River.

The show included songs from the Girls Chorus, Boys Chorus, Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus, Mankato Riverblenders Chorus, and chapter quartets; Magic, Rural Free Delivery, and Sunday Punch. The song "Harmony" was the final number and was performed all the groups singing together. A special thank you to Bruce Gray for emceeing the afternoon show.

There were approximately 100 people in the audience that had nothing but great things to say.

We want to thank the students, directors, and friends for their time and effort. Thanks also go out to the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines for getting the festival off the ground and for including the "Riverblenders" in this event. Each group had representatives that spent many hours of their time dealing with all of the details that an

event of this type require. Task Force members were:

Riverblenders

Bruce Gray
Jeff Grimmer
Derek Glenna
Arv Zenk
Jon Ek - Maple River High School

Minnesota Valley

Carol Grimmer
Mary Lou Kudela
Pat Potzler
Ruth Westberry

Robin Hughes - Mankato East High School

Now that we have this one under our belt, we will be looking forward to next year and bigger and better things.

Riverblenders,

A huge thank you for all of the work you put into the YIH festival. It was a very enjoyable day. I was lucky enough to have three of my daughters there and 6 of the grandkids. They enjoyed it also. My one 6 year old granddaughter was singing with the ladies on Dancing Queen. She really enjoys music and loves to sing. A possible recruit in the future??

Thank you again. Looking forward to next year and a bigger turnout. Dwain Frazee

2011 MUSIC REPERTOIRE-

Once upon a time, it was a *Wonderful World* and I was *Feelin Fine* cause I had *Georgia* on my mind. It was *Nighttime In Dixieland*. I had just met *Mary Lou*, she had such a *Baby Face*. We were sitting under a *Paper Moon* when she said "*You Don't Know Me*." I said "*Everybody Loves A Lover* let's have some *Fun In Just One Lifetime*, cause *When The Roll Is Called Up Yonder* I'll be there."

I had to go to, *Oh Canada*, to sing the *Star Spangled Banner*, cause Christina Aguilera wasn't available. They were very pleased and wished me an *Irish Blessing* and prayed for *Peace On Earth*.

I also offered to sing:

Battle Hymn Of The Republic

God Bless America

All Hail The Power Of Jesus Name

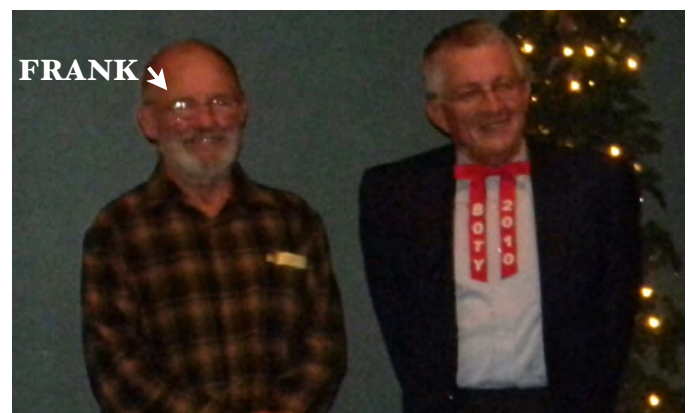
Morte Cristie

But they said they didn't want any of that American stuff.

So Just Remember, when you wish upon a star it'll be a *Zip-a-dee-doo-dah* day. I think I got em all except *Turn Your Radio On*. Darn it! You find a place for it!

Wayne Hughes

Music Vice President



From the Past President/Acting President -
"Has anybody seen Frank?"

2011 SOUTHWEST DIVISION CONTEST

Mankato will be hosting the 2011 Southwest Division Contest at Fitzgerald Middle School on March 26, 2011.

A second letter was sent out to all the Southwest Division Choruses and Quartets inviting them to participate. We are also pushing the chapters to send their Chapter Quartets and some VLQ's (very large quartets 5-11 members).

An afterglow will be held at the "Loose Moose" just a few blocks from the contest site, right after the contest. We are hoping that all contest attendees will show up and have some fun.

Currently, we have a small number of contestants that have entered. A combined contest is being considered. Hopefully the last email sent will encourage the rest of the guys to give it a try and head to Mankato. We will keep you all informed as we receive updates from District.

Arvid Zenk is the contest chairman, with Stan Bruss, Jon Schwichtenberg, and Jeff Grimmer helping him out with different aspects of the contest. If you have any questions about the contest contact any of the members listed above.

Your All

Marv Ostrom

What'er your task you should give it your all,

Plus 10% until you fall.

The word for today is intensity,

Tis the only way you can be.

You've focused your will like a laser beam,

There's naught left or so it may seem.

Take a deep breath, stretch till you feel pain,

If there's no pain there is no gain.

You've done over and above your ability,

Intensity pays its plain to see.

When'er you think you've given your best,

Tis not yet time for you to rest.

There is a corner you've saved in reserve,

To be called upon for you to serve.

Exertion needed for that extra punch,

Your proving you're ahead, of the rest of the bunch.

Calendar

March 1, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School - 7 PM
Coaching with "Pete Benson"

March 8, 2011 - Tuesday

Board Meeting - 6 PM
Loyola High School - 7 PM

March 15, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Show Meeting - 6 PM
Regular Practice - 7 PM

March 22, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School - 7 PM
Coaching with "Pete Benson"

March 26, 2011 - Saturday

Southwest Division Contest
Fitzgerald Middle School
Afterglow:
Loose Moose
Hosted by the Riverblenders

March 29, 2011 - Tuesday

Loyola High School
Regular Practice - 7 PM
Pizza Party - 8 PM

May 7, 2011 - Saturday

Annual Shows:
Crossview Covenant Church
2:30 & 7:00 p.m.
Preglow :
Best Western
Afterglow :
North Links Golf Course

Items of Interest

Marv Ostrom -
is still convalescing at "Pathstone" -
room 3501
stop in and see him

2012 Show Music - the "Disney" theme
music has been chosen and is available
for you on CD
Contact - Doug Peterson

2011 ANNUAL SHOW - PART #1

Annual Show: May 7, 2011

Show times: 2:00 and 7:00 p.m.

Show Location: Crossview Covenant Church, 2000 Howard Drive, North Mankato

Show name: "A Night At The Auditions"

Next Show Committee meeting:

March 15th, 6 p.m., Loyola High School

At this point, the Show Committee has been meeting regularly and making nice progress. Vallee de Croix Chorus is diligently preparing their songs and The Riverblenders are doing the same, both under the able leadership of Derek Glenna. Each Chorus will do their selections during the show and then both choruses will join in with: "Fun in one lifetime". Thom and Tim are busy creating and refining the show script. Uniform themes for each Quartet have been assigned. Right now the Quartets are in the costume designing stage. Jon Schwichtenberg is working on the Tickets. Steve Pettis is anticipating the Program Booklet design and working on ideas.

Bailey Blethen is formulating his Poster Distribution plan, meanwhile he and Jeff Grimmer are working on Publicity. Ron Meyer and Stan Bruss will appear on KEYC TV, May 3rd with Jan Ellanson, to add to the promotion effort. Chuck Schubbe is putting the finishing touches on the Pre-glow and After-glow. Joe Kunkel has given us each our Sponsorship (Ad) folders and sales have already begun. Don Miller, in spite of not being currently active, has already sold several Sponsorships (Ads). Go Don!!

Sell Tickets.....Sell Sponsorships (Ads), so we have the revenue to make this all a financial reality. Ron Larson is nervously watching the books, so the debits must equal the credits.

Above all, let's all make this a show to remember! Remember, "Sing Well and Have Fun"....!

Ron Meyer, 2011 Show Chairman



2011 ANNUAL SHOW - PART #2

The Show Committee needs your help now to finalize a few Show details to really make this a great performance. The Show Committee has determined that to make our variety show theme work, we need members of the chorus to dress the part...and that means VARIETY (not just one of our current chorus uniforms). We plan to have the stage filled with different acts who all want to audition for the show.

We have plans for each of our quartets (we'll connect with you in a separate email), but now we're asking all chorus members if they could help us find any of the following costumes and accessories:

Old choir robes (6 to 10 of any color...as long as they're matching)

Elvis impersonator outfit (we could even have more than one of these)

A ventriloquist's dummy (we don't need you to dress like one...we actually want the dummy)

Cowboy vests, hats, chaps, boots, spurs, lasso rope, guitar (we're trying to help one of the quartets with this)

Old marching band uniforms (4 or more, with hats if possible)

We have a few other ideas for the more adventuresome guys if you can help us find the right costumes: Juggler - Dare devil (you know, like Evel Knievel) - Animal trainer (you pick the animal) - Knife thrower.

Can you suggest other types of acts (maybe from your own secret past)?

This should be an exciting show, so can you help us find some of these costumes?

Please reply back soon and let us know how you can help us track down one or more of these costumes or accessories. Also, let us know if you have an interest in one of these types of acts for yourself (and you don't have to perform the act...just dress like it.).

Thanks and we'll watch for your replies!

The 2011 Stage Prop Handlers:



Tim and Thom Schubbe



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Notes of the RiverBlenders

"NOTES OF THE RIVERBLENDERS" is published under the watchfull eye of its President and resident tenor, Charlie Barbarise, and is under the editorship of Dale Lammi. Vol. I No. 1. October 16th, 1973.

Barbershop\$

Although Spiro Agnew probably never sang barbershop, the Mankato Chapter of the S.P.E. B.S.C.S.A. is finally getting its feet off the ground, gradually gaining momentum and putting out some chords that are right on. For the newcomer it is an experience to sit with his fellow contemporaries and actually sing for the fun of singing, and even learning a few pointers from our director.

New members will always be welcomed with open arms. This is the time of year to encourage those new, undiscovered talents to give in to the sounds of barbershop singing. If you know of anyone else who would enjoy a good time, meet some great people, and sing for a cause, bring him to our meetings. We get together on Tuesday nights at 7:47pm. in the Mankato West Choir Room.

RANDOM NOTES:

Tickets for the Eau Claire Festival can be obtained from Charlie B.

New Board Members-Bill Anderson, Mankato; Nel Goede, Cleveland; and ODean Hokenson, Le Sueur.

Contributions for this newsletter will be accepted, as will any criticism that is within reason.

DUES DUE\$

The most important aspect of any organization is how it is run. Today, that means money. Our Mankato Barbershop Chapter has a good way of making the main money matters easier on the pocket book. Don Felch is our "Pay-As-You-Go-Joe."

Don has a system that is set up by the society that makes the collection of money work on the installment plan with each member keeping track of what they have paid. He will collect from those who want to pay their dues in small amounts, record them, the payments, and give the member a copy. Dues this year are a total of \$30.00, and can be paid at anytime. The sooner that our dues are paid in full, the sooner we can get our charter and become a regular chapter.

COMING EVENTS-PARTIES-SING-OUTS-WHAT HAVE YOU

- OCT. 22: Barbershop-7:47;Mankato West
27-28: District Barbershop Festival in Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Mankato Chapter to receive their liscence in a presentation by the district president.
29: Mankato Chapter invited to sing with the Minnetonka Chapter.(Mon. night)
NOV. 6: Barbershop-7:47;Mankato West
13: Barbershop-7:47;Mankato West
15: Combination Ladies Night and Sing-Out at Cleveland, Minn.(Thurs.)
Details to follow at a later date.
Things to look foward to in the future:
December-Auditions;Madison East
May-Package Show(1974)Bill Lydecker, chairman, or is it chairperson.
Nov., 1974-Chapter Show for America

Note:

To All Chorus Members

I am still in the need of a member/s to take charge of CCTV. Duties: Use Quartets/Chorus for promotional TV ads along with some display work.

Contact - Jeff Grimmer

Three Old Guys

Three old guys were out walking.
The first one says, "Windy, isn't it."
Second one says, "No, it's Thursday!"
Third one says, "So am I. Let's go get a beer."