

# River Ramblings

Editor - Jeffrey Grimmer

## Riverblenders 2011 Wells Show



First Half - Chorus in their costumes



Director  
Derek Glenna



Second Half - Chorus in their uniforms

\*On Saturday night the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, the Chorus traveled to Wells and put on their show "A Night at the Auditions", sponsored by the Wells Historical Society. Although the crowd was less than desired, they were nevertheless enthusiastic and responded to the great sounds of harmony produced by the Chorus and Quartets. Stan Bruss gave a great performance as the audition stage manager and the chorus and quartets rose to the occasion and performed their music flawlessly. Each quartet gave it all they had to keep the show exciting and harmonious. The second half, emceed by Stan (Bruss) and Ollie (Chuck Brooks), went off without a hitch and as we closed the program with our theme song the audience showed their appreciation with a resounding standing ovation. A special thanks to all who contributed to the show's success. Let's do it again in Gaylord on October 9<sup>th</sup>.

Chuck Brooks

\*After the show, as "Riverbend" was going to the quartet dressing room, Derek said we should go out to the lobby and greet the audience members and thank them for coming. So, I followed him out there, as did a couple of others. Derek was right, the folks were very pleased to see us and eager to shake our hands and thank us for our performance. They made me feel like some big time celebrity. One lady expounded "This was your best show ever", and that she'd been to the previous shows. Another lady, apparently miffed by the lack of attendance, asked, "How do we spread the word around town, about what a great show others missed out on?" And, I got this second hand - maybe heard it from Ron Meyer; A man he knew, compared our performance to that of a theater I was not familiar with - maybe at an area casino - and said we could make a lot more money taking this show there - because it was better than anything he had seen there.

Jim Mongeau



The Band



MC's - Stan Bruss & Chuck Brooks



Photos of the Wells Performance - Mike Beckman - Wells, MN

## Riverblenders 2011 Wells Show - Quartets

A big THANK YOU goes out to our chapter quartets that participated in the Wells Show. Without them we would not be able to produce a show such as this.

It is truly amazing how every quartet improves as time goes on. A lot of credit for this improvement is due to our Director Derek Glena and our Assistant Directors Doug Peterson & Arv Zenk,

who help not only the quartets but the chorus sing better. All of the quartets did an outstanding job and provided a lot of comedy and entertainment to the audience.

It is true, that if you join a quartet, your personal singing abilities will improve. Also, please notice, in the pictures below, the faces on each member of the quartets. Great job guys!!

M  
A  
G  
I  
C



P  
S  
O  
U  
L  
S  
E

R  
F  
D



R  
I  
V  
E  
R  
B  
L  
E  
N  
D



## Chorus Information

Attention Riverblenders!!

We still need your attendance after contest. Not only for Christmas performances, but also to work up our new Disney songs for the spring show. Ryan has proposed Bonus Bucks for being off paper on new songs we are learning. How soon can you be off paper for "Wish Upon a Star" and "Mary Had a Baby"? We are also going to be learning one more Christmas song to be off paper for the Dec 20 performance. Other Christmas music will be sung with music, as needed.

Start getting yourselves charged up for contest. We sang these 2 songs at Division and did quite well. After singing them for 6 more months, we should be able to sing them better than our Division performance. We can't expect to show up at District and then turn on the juice. It won't do the trick. We have to get motoring now!! I hope nobody was satisfied with our Division score and thinks that was 'good enough'. It would be embarrassing to not sing as well.

Assistant Director  
Doug Peterson



.....  
Guys,

I want to personally congratulate all of you for your efforts all year round with community events and sing outs. Though I am not around for the Church singouts, I know how much joy you guys bring to people on Sunday mornings. Thank you.

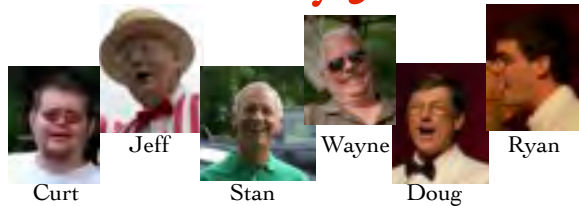
The article (in the Harmonizer) was well written and the pictures were great. Way to go RFD.

Sing Well & Have Fun is truly what we stand for, and unlike most choruses, we live up to that saying.

Thanks Guys,  
Director  
Derek Glenna



## MSU-Mankato Community Job Fair



On August 31st, we had 7 "Riverblenders" attend the Minnesota State University - Mankato's Community Job Fair in the Field House at MSU. Included in the group were: MAGIC Quartet, Curt Buhl, Jeff Grimmer, and Ryan Kuisle. We sang several songs over the hours we were there, entertaining anyone that walked by. We also spoke to a handful of MSU students and will follow up with an e-mail contact to them.

A number of other community organizations were there and heard us sing including the Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines.

We would like to thank Dean Kluge for letting us use his laptop computer to show our show videos.

Thanks to everyone who help in this endeavor, we will have to improve on this next year. This was a great Public Relations and Marketing tool for the chorus.

Doug Peterson

## Chorus Communications

My family and I want to thank the Riverblenders for helping us celebrate the life of Janet.

Charles Youngblom & Family

.....  
Dear Doug, Arvid & all of the Riverblenders,  
Thank you so much for singing at the celebration of "Our Nation" service. It was really a delight.

Cordially,

Tom & the Church of the Holy Communion  
St. Peter, MN

.....  
October 18th will Derek Glenna's final rehearsal with the Riverblenders. We all wish him happiness and prosperity as life unfolds before him. We also wish to thank him for the time and talents he unselfishly shared with us!

***Remember to get your dues paid before the contest!!***

Photo - j. grimmer



The Reverend Jacob E. Conrad, Ron Conrad's great grandfather, was the organizer of the "First Presbyterian Church of Amboy" and was the Pastor from 1860-1890.



Ron Conrad

Do you notice any similarity?



Thom Schubbe warming up the chorus at Wells.  
Duane is praying "No more toe touchers!!!"

## Items of Interest

**Be sure to get your uniforms cleaned for the contest!!!!**

**2012 Show Music** - the final "Disney" music has been chosen and will be available for you on CD.  
Contact - Doug Peterson

## Calendar

**\*October 4, 2011 - Tuesday**  
Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

**\*October 9, 2011 - Tuesday**

Show - Gaylord, MN

3 PM - See Poster - Page 5

**\*October 11, 2011 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School

Board Meeting - 6 PM

Regular Practice - 7 PM

**\*October 18, 2011 - Tuesday**

Loyola High School

Show Committee Meeting - 6 PM

**Coaching with**

**PETE BENSON** - 7 PM

**\*October 25, 2011 -**

Loyola High School

Regular Practice - 7 PM

**\*October 21-22, 2011 - Fri/Sat**

Rochester, MN

LO'L District Contest

**\*October 25, 2011 - Tuesday**

After Contest Celebration

Jakes Stadium Pizza - 6 PM

**\*November 5, 2011 - Sat**

N. Mankato, MN

Minnesota Valley Sweet Adelines Show

See Poster - Page 5

**\*November 12, 2011 - Sat**

Installation of Officers

Loose Moose - Mankato

Social Hour 6 PM - Dinner 7 PM

**\*December 20, 2011 - Tuesday**

Hilltoppers

Christ The King - 11 a.m.

**\*January 21, 2012 - Sat**

N. Mankato, MN

Youth in Harmony - Festival

**\*February, 2012**

Valentines

**\*April 14, 2012 - Saturday**

Annual Shows:

Crossview Covenant Church

2 & 7 p.m.

—SERTOMA TO SPONSOR—

## The Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus

As they present

# A Night at the Auditions

Featuring: Magic,  
Soul Purpose,  
Riverbend,  
Stretch and  
RFD Quartets



Also Featuring  
Gaylord's own: **BRIAN EVANS**

**Sunday, October 9, 2011**  
Showtime: 3:00 p.m.

Sibley East Jr. High Campus (middle gym) - Gaylord

Advance - Adults: \$10 - Students: \$8 (through 12th grade)

At the Door - Adults: \$12 - Students: \$10 (through 12th grade)

Advance tickets available from: ProGrowth Bank, First National Bank Minnesota,  
Jerry's Home Quality Foods, and Gaylord Sertoma members

**the Sweet Adelines**  
-present-  
**Rhythm of Life!**

also featuring...  
The 2011 Adeline Idol Contest and Keepin' Outta Mischief

Saturday, November 5 - 2:30 and 7:00 pm  
Crossview Covenant Church  
2000 Howard Drive, North Mankato

Adults: \$12 Advance / \$15 Door Seniors: \$10 Advance / \$12 Door Students: \$5

Tickets Available At: Music Mart (Mankato), Cub Foods (both Mankato locations),  
HyVee (both Mankato locations), and Swedish Kontur (St. Peter)

For tickets or information, call: 507-388-6148  
Or visit: [www.minnesotavalleychorus.org](http://www.minnesotavalleychorus.org) or  
[www.facebook.com/SweetAdelinesMankato](http://www.facebook.com/SweetAdelinesMankato)

## COMING EVENTS!

Two events that will be here soon, are the "Riverblenders Show" in Gaylord on October 9th and "The Minnesota Valley Sweet Adeline's Show" on November 5th. We encourage all of the "Riverblenders" members, spouses, families and friends to partake in both events. We need to give our support to each other in order to keep both groups viable. Both groups are very important to us and the Mankato area. If you are a current chapter quartet and wish to sing on the Minnesota Valley's "Echo" (afterglow) contact Mary Lou Kudela - [kudela@hickorytech.net](mailto:kudela@hickorytech.net) (507-340-4142) Each "Echo" performing quartet member will be given a free show ticket, but, you will be required to pay your way into the Echo.

## Mankato Riverblenders Barbershop Chorus 2012 Slate of Officers

**\*President** - Ron Meyer **\*Vice President - Program** - Ryan Kuisle / Charles Youngblom (Co-VPs)

**\*Vice President - Music** - Chuck Brooks **\*Vice President - Membership** - Arv Zenk / Thom Schubbe (Co-VPs)

**\*Vice President - Marketing/Public Relations** - Jeff Grimmer **\*Secretary** - Tim Schubbe

**\*Treasurer** - Ron Larson **\*Member at Large** - Bailey Blethen

**\*Chorus Manager - Booking** - Bruce Gray **\*Chorus Manager - House** - Stan Bruss

**\*Chorus Manager - Performance** - Ron Meyer **\*Chairman - Annual Show** - Jeff Grimmer

**\*Chairman - Valentines Committee** - Sandy Allen **\*Bulletin Editor** - Jeff Grimmer

## 2012 "Disney" Show

**Show Date:** April 14, 2012

**Location:** Cross View Covenant Church - Contract signed by Doug Peterson

**Show Times:** 2 PM & 7 PM

**Ticket Prices :**

Show:

Seniors - \$13.00

Students - \$5.00

Advanced - \$13.00

Regular/At Door - \$15.00

**Checking on**- Family Ticket - \$30.00

**Quartet:**

"Humdingers" - (*Traveling Show we may include a Sweet Adeline's Quartet*)

Travel Items - **Working on** - Doug Peterson

Housing - **Working on** - Doug Peterson - will work with hotels for lodging Ad exchange

Host - Doug Peterson

**Sub-Committee Reports -**

Show Content -Tim & Thom Schubbe

**First Half-**

Concept - **Working on** - Fan Club - Convention

Title - **Working on** - open for suggestions

Songs:

Chorus: Disney Medley, Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah, When You Wish Upon a Star

Heigh Ho, The Bare Necessities, A Spoon Full of Sugar

Quartets: Magic - Ten Feet Off the Ground, Stretch - Be Our Guest,

RFD - Fortuosity, **Soul Purpose?, River Bend?**

Flow - **Working on** - Excitement about the "Humdingers" Quartet

Script - **Working on** -Tim & Thom Schubbe

Props - Tim & Thom Schubbe, Willy Derner

Costumes - Along the lines of Disney - **Checking on what is possible**

**Second Half-**

Humdingers

Chorus - Tux Uniform

**Other??**

Entertainment - **Preshow or Break?**

Preglow/Afterglow - Chuck Schubbe

Preglow - Best Western (4-6pm) - \$10.00

Afterglow - Loose Moose Afterglow - approx. 9:30 pm - \$10.00, Chuch Brooks - MC

**Need to remember to invite Sweet Adeline Quartets**

Publicity - **Need a Chair** - Carl Schoenstedt will help

Program Ad Sales - **Need a chair** - Doug Peterson will help

Print Media - Steve Pettis

Ticket Sales - Jon Schwichtenberg

Award of Harmony - **Need suggestions now**

**OTHER:**

**Suggestions for Publicity Chairman & Ad Chairman**

The aforementioned data is printed here to keep the chapter members informed as to what is transpiring at the Show/Music Committee meetings. Please read all of the information and give us feed back, ask questions, and make suggestions to us so that this can be one of the best performances ever. Without your help we are nothing!!

Jeff Grimmer

2012 - Show Chairman





## Quartet News

### RFD

RFD had another busy month. First and foremost, we would like to thank "Wayne Hughes", pictured below, for filling in at two important performances while our tenor Gene Horning was unavailable. Wayne went out of his way to learn several of our parody's for the performances and did an outstanding job. Thanks Wayne!!! One of the performances was for the Amboy Lion's Clubs 30th Anniversary. We had a great crowd and got to meet the 5M2 District Governor(ess) Sue Bowman along with Amboy's Lion President Ken Irvine. Just a few days later we were in Kiester for their Farming of Yesterday Celebration. Both were a great success! We also had a great time at the Wells Show performing for a very responsive audience!



Amboy



Kiester



Wells



### Grand Design

Thank you to all of our supporters, Grand Design finally made it on the LOL website! We are proud to represent our home chapters! We will do you all proud in Rochester next month!

Performances- October 1st - Stillwater, October 8th - Rochester.

Derek Glenna

Stan Bruss has joined MAGIC as our new bass. Stan hails from Wells but has recently moved to Mankato. Stan is a retired mortician and seems to be interested in the rest of the quartet by measuring us with a tape measure! Just can't get that undertaker attitude out of his mind. We are very glad that Stan has joined MAGIC. He will bring lots of clever ideas to the quartet and has told us that he enjoys dead time! Stan will sing with MAGIC on the Gaylord show on October 9th.

Bruce Gray

### MAGIC



### RIVERBEND



### Soul Purpose



## American Life In 1910

The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.

Fuel for this car was sold in drug stores only.

Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower !

The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

An accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and

\$4,000 per year, and a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births took place at **HOME**.

Ninety percent of all Doctors had **NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!**

Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press **AND** the government as "substandard."

Sugar cost four cents a pound.

Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.

Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.

The five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas , Nevada , was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at the local corner drugstores.

Back then pharmacists said, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the **ENTIRE U. S. A. !**

.....

When his doctor asked Byron about what he did yesterday, Byron told him about his day: "Well, yesterday afternoon, I waded across the edge of a lake, marched up and down a steep hill, stood in a patch of poison ivy, crawled out of quicksand, and jumped away from an aggressive rattlesnake"

Inspired by his story, the doctor said, "You must be an awesome outdoorsman!"

"No," he replied, "I'm just a lousy golfer."



Byron and Carl discussing the upcoming Well's show