

# FOX VALLEYAIRES

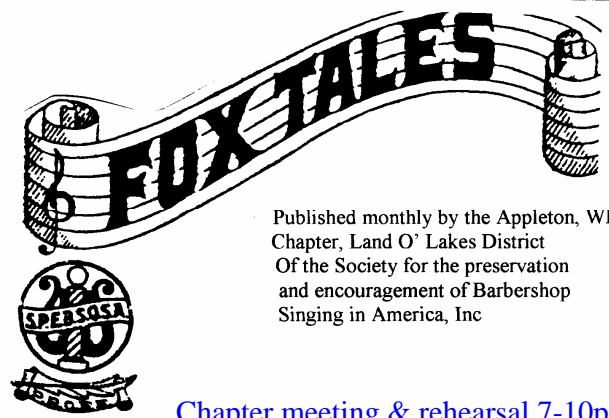


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Chapter meeting & rehearsal 7-10pm  
Tuesday, Little Chute Village Hall  
108 Main Street  
[www.foxvalleyaires.com](http://www.foxvalleyaires.com)

## L O' L District Fall Contest

The L O'L District fall contest was held in Rochester, Mn this year. The chorus with the highest score will go to Denver next July for the International Competition. **Greendale** with a score of 1579 will represent the L O' L District. With a score of 1548, Hilltop will also be able to go. Other scores are:

Minneapolis:	1442	third-place finish
Fox River Valley:	1316	Plateau A Champion.
Fargo-Moorhead:	1311	Plateau AA Champion.
Appleton:	1182	eight-place finish
Milwaukee:	1150	most improved from last year.

Congratulations to **Dick Staedt**, inducted into L O' L District Hall of Fame.

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## AFTER CONTEST BASH

Submitted by **Bill Kutscher**

**O**ur decision to hold an all-out Fox Valleyaires, drag 'em out, back slapping type after-contest party, culminated at the Little Chute Village Hall and turned out to be fairly successful. It was successful despite the fact that only about half of our membership was in attendance for the occasion. However, we did manage to outnumber the guests from the Fox River Valley and Plymouth chapters. The Manitowoc Chapter was also invited, but chose not to attend.



Those who arrived early on the scene found a good-sized group in happy conversation and it wasn't long before the committee, headed up by President, Ken Bester, had the "ball" rolling.

The combined group sang several Barbershop Pole Cat songs directed by **Bill Albrecht**, **Bob Thiel**, **Carl Schumacher**, and **Bruce Beyer**. One of the highlights of the evening was the singing of "**Ham N'wry**" quartet, who proceeded to "roast" **Carl** for his achieving 50 years in the society.

We also had four registered quartets in attendance. Each of the quartets sang two songs. The quartets were **Perfect Timing** (Fox River), **Touch of Old** (Appleton), **Premium Blend** and **Tarnation** both from Plymouth. All three choruses performed two songs with their respective directors.

When the time came for lunch, everyone began filling their faces and became better acquainted with each other. This writer cannot express the warm feeling of friendship that was felt throughout the evening by all participants.

Several of the fellows traveled many miles to attend. One came from as far north as Marinette. Another person came from Sheboygan in the Southeast. Many old acquaintances were renewed and a few new friendships came out of this "After Contest Bash". More than one person was heard to say, "**This was a fun evening, and something we should do again.**"

After a great lunch to top off the evening, it was time to sing a few more chords and shake a few hands and bid everyone farewell and head for home.

Overall, this was an enjoyable affair and I believe all had a good time.

**Fox Valleyaires Chapter 2006 Leaders**

[www.foxvalleyaires.com](http://www.foxvalleyaires.com)

Fox Valleyaires Chorus meets on Tuesdays, at 7:00 PM

at Little Chute Village Hall – 101 Main St.

Little Chute, WI 54140 920) 725-1485

President: Ken Bester 920-969-0136

Past President: Gerry Dunning 920-731-4203

Secretary: John Scherer 920-739-6687

Treasurer: Tom Vandenberg 920-788-3137

Music & Perf. Kelly Aschebrook 920-232-8935

Program: George Paltzer 920-733-5464

Membership VP: Don Derozier 920-235-7905

Public Relation VP: Ken Felton 920-734-8597

Members at large

Clary Reinhardt 920-725-1485

Rick Helm 920-231-1885

Robert Pautz 920-766-0455

Jerry Wagner 920-735-9764

Dan Allen 920-830-1221

YMH Chair: Richard Staedt 920-734-9495

Music Director: Bill Albrecht 920-231-4645

Asst. Director: Carl Schumacher 920-731-0976

Chorus Manger: Bob Starner 920-757-6153

Uniforms, Bob Pautz 920-766-0455

Valentine Chair: Dan Allen 920-830-1221

Octoberfest Chair: John Scherer 920-739-6687

House Comm. Harold Baerenwald 920-733-2179

Bulletin Editor: Clary Reinhardt 920-725-1485

Sunshine Comm. Bill Kutscher 920-725-3855

2005 BOTY: **Bob Pautz**

2005 Frank Wagner Award: **Kelly Aschebrook**

Annual Show Chair: John Micke 920-336-2590

Historian: Will Mackin 920-733-0593

Web Master: Scott Crevier 920-339-9993

Service Chair: Ev Rescheske 920-725-0923

Music Committee: Bill Albrecht, Bill Kutscher,

Bill Hortsch, Will Mackin, Dick Staedt, Carl

Schumacher, Kelly Aschebrook.

**BIRTHDAYS**

**November**

- 02 LeRoy Bauman, Dan Allen
- 07 Scott Crevier 09 Clary Reinhardt,
- 17 Kathy Rescheske, George Paltzer
- 17 Paul Schreiner 23 Robert Starner
- 26 Dorothy Hortsch 27 Don Houdek

**December**

- 01 Paul Holzschuh 04 Sean Carlson
- 02 Dawn Staedt 14 Nancy Allen
- 21 Pat Waselchuk 29 Mary Beth Micke

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

- 12-10-59 Bill and Dorothy Hortsch
- 12-15-45 Robert and Marion Schneider
- 12-27-61 Les and Junice Hannemann

**Fox Valleyaires Vision Statement**

\* To be recognized as one of the most musically exciting choral groups in the area.

Fox Valleyaires Mission Statement

\* To promote the barbershop style of music in the community.

\* To extend to all men an invitation to join our chapter and share in the barber-shop experience.

\* To offer members the opportunity to improve their musical skills through crafts and coaching sessions, quarteting and tag singing.

\* To produce an annual show, perform in the community and for charity.

\* To encourage vocal music in schools and our community.

\* To use competitions to gage musical improvement of chorus.

**Silver Sponsors**

**Wal\*mart and Dawn Leudtke Agency of American Family Insurance**

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**Coming events**

The Appleton, Wis. Fox Valleyaires Chorus meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. at the Village Hall, 108 Main Street, Little Chute, Wis.

The music committee meets at 7:00 P.M. on the first Wednesday of each month.

The board of directors meets at 7:00 P.M. on the third Wednesday of each month. All chapter members are invited to attend.

Harmony for Lunch Bunch meets at 11:45 A.M. every Thursday at Schreiner's Diner, 2437 South Oneida, in Appleton.

**December 7, 2006:** Dinner show at Grand Meridian, 2621 Oneida, Appleton. See page five for song list, uniform, time.

**December 12, Tuesday:** Nursing Home performance at the St. Paul Home in Kaukauna. 6:15 warm up. Sing at 6:45 pm. Come back to the hall for rehearsals.

**December 19, Tuesday:** Nursing home performance at Brewster Village. 5:30 pm warm up. Sing at 6:00 pm.

**December 13 2006:** Joint board and music committee meeting at Casa di Luigi, Appleton.

December 26 Tuesday: **NO REHEARSAL Next rehearsal is on January 9, 2007.**

**January 6, 2007 Saturday:** Annual Wives appreciation and BOTY dinner at Grand Meridian, 2621 Oneida, Appleton.

**January 12-14, 2007, Saturday:** COTS- UW Stout, Menomonie. This is a weekend class for incoming chapter officers, but other members can go as well. Contact **Ken Bester** for details.

**March 31, 2007 Saturday:** Annual show at Pickard Auditorium, Neenah High School. Headline quartet is the **Hot Air Buffoons.**

**April 14, 20-2007 Saturday:** Youth in Harmony Festival at North High School, Appleton.

**Please note the change in board meeting nights.**



**Hallmarks of a Good Chapter**

Don Derozier

Here are **TEN** hallmarks of a good barbershop chapter.

1. The Chapter's **NAME**: is it descriptive, specific to identify yet broad enough to be inclusive of a wide number of people or does it seem exclusive, elitist in some way?
2. The Chapter's **AGE**: has the chorus been around long enough to have a positive identity and some authority in the music arena or is it a flash-in-the-pan trendy group?
3. The Chapter's **DURATION**: has the chapter undergone many changes and still remain true to its mission and to its members or does it give in/give up to changing pressures?
4. The Chapter's **CONSTITUTIONS**: has the chapter developed guidelines for member involvement and ideals to which it aspires or is it utilitarian, selfish in its purposes?
5. The Chapter's **UNITY**: is the chapter willing to stick together to meet its ideals regardless of individual opinions and feelings or does it fracture for lack of commitment?
6. The Chapter's **INTEGRITY**: is the chapter capable of developing policies that serve the common good of its members or do select individuals make unilateral decisions?
7. The Chapter's **CONSENSUS**: is there agreement within the membership to work together to reach common goals or is the chapter rife by special interest factions?
8. The Chapter's **LEADERSHIP**: has the chapter developed a 'servant leader' model for its directors or does the chapter expect leaders to be dominant?
9. The Chapter's **HAPPINESS**: does the chapter create its own happiness or does it wait for others and other forces to feed it opportunities for happiness?
10. The Chapter's **PROPHECY**: has the chapter produced prophet-members who inspire and educate toward vitality or does it grow 'doom-and-gloom' prophecy for the future?

**The Fox Valleyaires IS a good chapter!**

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**Society Purchases Building for New Headquarters**

The Society's search for a new home in Nashville ended this week with the purchase of an existing building at a prime downtown Nashville address. The Society will breathe new life into the 36,000-square-foot building, located at 110 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, as extensive renovations begin in the next few months. It is just off Broadway in the center of Nashville, with easy access off Interstate 65. The Society headquarters will enjoy a prime location, good neighbors, and great potential for return on investment.

**Prime location**

Centering the Society in Music City will help increase awareness of the organization and the barbershop harmony art form. Located in the immediate area of the new Society headquarters are the Nashville Convention Center, the Gaylord Entertainment Center, an arts magnet high school, a Masonic temple and a planned residential building. Only minutes away are the brand new Schermerhorn Symphony Center, First Center for the Visual Arts, Ryman Auditorium and Tennessee State, Belmont and Vanderbilt Universities. Nashville, itself, is a prime tourism location.

**Nashville waits with open arms**

The news of the Society's purchase brought positive reaction from **Tom Turner**, executive director of the Nashville Downtown Partnership. "It's a good thing for downtown. When you take an existing structure and reactivate it, you're going to see a lot of good things happen." **Turner** ought to know, he has been a driving force behind the redevelopment of downtown Portland, downtown St. Louis, and now, Nashville. He also pointed out that the Society will add to the diverse musical mix that already exists in downtown. "When you have a new component, like the *Barbershop Harmony Society*

that has a rich tradition and education programming, it only enriches the fabric of what is here." **Dr. Robert Fisher**, president of Belmont University, also sees a warm welcome for the Society in his city. "There is a resurgence of music in the public schools, and I would think kids would have a great interest in this musical form."

The purchase and renovation of the building will be funded by money from the 2003 sale of Society's properties in Kenosha and financing arranged through Sun Trust Bank. The purchase price was \$1,450,000. The anticipated move date is late summer 2007.

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**Clary's Clamorings**

It is time to upgrade your call list for annual show tickets. Get your list in to **Tom Vandenberg ASAP**. **Kelly Aschebrook** suggested that you can also scan the show flyer and send it via e-mail. Ticket prices will remain at \$13 for adult, \$8 for student and \$10 for group 10 or more.

Our next major fund-raiser is our Valentines quartet performances. This event is in need of a chairman. The job is not a pushover but on the other hand, you don't have to be a rocket scientist to do it either. See **Bob Pautz** or **Dick Staedt** to help along the way.

It was a no-brainer approving chapter membership for **Tim Miller**. **Tim** joined the bass section shortly before the fall contest and was able to sing with us on stage. Tim and his wife live in Green Bay. Tim is a very talented singer and has sung under the direction of **Freddy King**, **Jim Miller** and others.

Hats off to **Harold Baerenwald** who has faithfully handled the after-glow refreshments for many years. If you are interested, step up to the plate and give **Harold** a well-needed rest. See **Ken Bester** for job requirements.

## Members 'Voice' Opinions

Thirty five members of the *Fox Valleyaires* recently filled a survey questionnaire that covered multiple programs and chapter issues. Designed as a "self-anchoring" device (the meanings of the ratings were established by the members themselves) geared toward ratings on a 5-point scale (1=Poor/Fair, 5= Superior) and an opportunity to answer, "Don't Know or No Knowledge," five categories of items were reviewed. Researcher comments are added for reflection.

### **Category One: Overall Experience of the Chapter:**

Fully one-third of members rated their chorus experience better than average to superior (43 %.) Another third rated it as average while 27% rated it as good.

**Comments:** Most of the members experience satisfaction within the chapter, but 60% experience chapter life as good or average. More data is needed to understand the differences between groups—some have better experiences than others for some reason.

### **Category Two: Impression of Society Programs:**

[Various programs were listed and rated as individual items. These are combined by the author to conserve space.]

**Written communications** are highly rated. The Foxtales Newsletter, Harmonizer and Pitch-Piper all received good marks. Forty-four percent rated the Foxtales as superior and 44% rated the Harmonizer and Pitch-Piper as better than average. **Comment:** Credit is due the editors of these publications, including our own **Clary Reinhardt**.

**Membership promotions** are another story. *The You Can Sing Too* program was seen as average or below by two-thirds of the members. The *Dues Incentive* program was rated above average by two-thirds of the members, but nearly 20% of raters were unclear or had no opinion about it. 84% of members rated the **Pay as You Sing** program as average or below with 20% either not knowing about the program or having no opinion about it.

**Comments:** Regardless of the amount of 'press' and talk time given to these programs, they do not seem to be grasped and applied to the extent intended. The question of "appeal" to members for recruitment and retention purposes remains debated. What is clear is the need to revisit these programs to rate their effectiveness overall and to sell them to the average member who has to apply them. Recruitment seems to be hinged upon personal, one-to-one contacts and retention may have to be seen as a separate variable.

**Spark Plug** awards are rated highly (63% better than average to superior) and another 25% average to good. **Comment:** Spark

plug awards are local, personal, and visibly validated by the average member.

### **Category Three: Chapter Activities:**

Active membership involves rehearsal, competition, fund raising events, family events, an annual show and skill building programs. Among these, members rated the preparation for *competition* as very positive with 85% seeing our preparations at better than average to superior. Similarly, 97% rated preparation for the annual show as better than average to superior.

**Comment:** Considerable singing time is devoted to these two functions. It may be worthwhile for the chapter to discern the essential differences between show and competition. Our annual show is consistently entertaining and appreciated; our performance at competition does not seem entertaining nor appreciated when compared with other chapters.

The chapter also is good at fund-raising (93% better than average to superior and 31% average.)

**Comment:** The chapter appreciates events designed to raise funds through singing. Recent changes in riser-times have been positive. 74% of members rated use of risers as better than average to superior while only 24% rate it as good to average. Quartet development has mixed results. Many members rate this at the average to better than average level (72%) while 25% rate this at only the good or fair levels.

**Comment:** Quartet development seems desirable but methods to develop the skills and confidence might be lacking. Further attention to this would be a good thing.

"**Programs**" for internal entertainment, education or skill building is a concern. A full 59% of members rate these as only average to below.

**Comment:** Attention to internal programs is needed to include all the members. By far the most serious concern addresses the broad area of *Family Activities*. Six percent of members rated these as merely fair and another 19% as only good. Seventy-seven percent rated them as average to better than average and no one rated them as superior.

**Comment:** Those members with families may need to signal to the board the kinds of activities that are conducive to family fun while keeping within our *Mission Statement*.

### **Category Four: Evaluation of Rehearsals:**

Two extra-singing portions of each evening received the highest ranks. The 'afterglow' social and the visitor recognition behavior each were rated as average to superior by 97% of members.

**Comment:** The Fox Valleyaires Chapter is a friendly and sociable group. From the time a new member enters the door to the time of dismissal he is included as part of the chorus family, regardless of personal attributes

or disabilities. This is a hallmark feature of the **Appleton Chapter**.

Sectional meetings are mostly seen as better than average although about 9% rate them as superior and 6% as only fair.

**Comment:** Suggestions for improvement included the use of practice tapes/cd's and choreography specific to the songs rather than piece-by-piece learning as determined by the leader. Business meetings are rated as average to above average by 85% of members and amount of time on risers is rated as above average to superior.

### **Category Five: Miscellaneous Items:**

Ninety-four percent rated the board leadership as average to superior with 25% rating it as superior.

The statement of responsibilities has mixed ratings. Sixteen percent of respondents had no opinion or did not know what this was. Three percent rated the statement as either superior or only fair.

**Comment:** The Board and individual members should review this statement on an annual basis so that commitments to chapter functions can be assumed.

Seventy-five percent rated individual member contacts as average or better than average and the **Mission Statement** was seen as above average to superior by 60% of members.

Relationships with other chapters were rated variably. Eighty-one percent saw them as average to superior but 16% saw the need for improvement.

### **Suggestions for Improvement:**

Many good suggestions were given. They are combined into associated categories for this review.

**Music:** Find music that fits our mission. Get away from Southern songs. Work on matching vowel sounds within sections. Develop more tag singing. Expect members to learn words and music at home. Less talk, more singing. Develop quartets. Develop breath support. Put theory to practical use.

**Social:** More activities with wives. More family activities. Ladies involvement would be nice. Quartets sing after rehearsal. Bowling or ice-cream social or sing tags all night once.

**Planning:** Give a schedule of songs to be practiced a week in advance (rifle approach as compared to shotgun approach). No make-up. Members to invest more in the chorus. Follow Rule-6 closer. Train and assign choreographer for each section. More contacts with local choruses. Thanks to all who participated. Additional input, questions or interpretations are always welcomed by the board.

**Don Derozier**  
VP-Chapter Development

**Grand Meridian Concert**

**2006**

**“December 7, 2006 Barber-shop Bistro”**

**2621 Oneida Street**



Uniform:  
Class A  
Tuxedos,  
Winter  
Scarves. (No  
Santa Hats.)

7:00 Warm up  
8:00 Chorus enters wearing Class A Tuxedo. (Bring along scarves.)

Are You From Dixie  
Chattanooga Choo Choo  
Georgia  
Richest Man in the *World* (**Touch of Old**)  
Minstrel Montage  
Jazz Came Up the River  
Nighttime Down in *Dixieland* (**One Button Short**)  
Basin Street  
Peggy O’Neil (**GQ4**)  
Showboat Came to Town  
If the Lord Be Willin’  
"This is my country/God Bless the U.S.A"  
Chorus puts on scarves.

Cabaret (**One Button Short**)  
Rudolph (**Touch of Old**)  
Children’s Medley (**GQ4**)

Oh Come All Ye Faithful  
Winter Wonderland  
Silent Night  
Silver Bells  
Jingle Bells (Sing-a-long)

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**SONGS WE SING**

**Christmas Carols**

Seen in the ProbeMotor. Steve Jackson, editor. Lifted from the Pitchburgh Press, Tom Koch, editor, Pittsburgh, PA – Nov/Dec 2005  
I periodically include song histories about various songs in our repertoire. This issue

I decided to write about Christmas Carols and put it in the form of a quiz. I provide some facts; you guess the carol.

**Carol 1**

Sometimes given the English spelling, Nowell, it first appeared in print in England in a collection of William Sandy (1833). The words and music are traditional. Most think it is from 16th or 17th century France; others claim it never had any French origins and is very English.

**Carol 2**

The words for this American carol are based on a poem written by Unitarian Minister Dr. Edmund Sears in 1849. The following year, inspired by the poem, Richard Storrs Willis, a composer as well as editor and critic for the New York Tribune, wrote a melody called “Carol” to which the words were adapted.

**Carol 3**

When Scrooge, in Dicken's "A Christmas Carol," heard this cheerful carol, he grabbed a ruler and the singer fled, in terror. It is traditional English going back to the 16th or 17th century. The usual harmonization, like that of "The First Noel" is from Sir John Stainer (1840-1941).

**Carol 4**

This traditional American carol is generally considered anonymous, although Wiff Carter, who was also known as cowboy singer Montana Slim, may have written it.

**Carol 5**

This carol was written by Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-1856), the French composer best known for his ballet "Giselle." At the time, it was frowned upon by church authorities who denounced it for lack of taste and "total absence of the spirit of religion." The French text is by Cappeau de Roque-maure; the English by American clergyman John Sullivan Dwight (1812-1893).

**Carol 6**

Frequently thought to be much older than it is, the words and music for this American carol were written in 1857 by John Henry Hopkins as part of a Christmas pageant for the General Theological Seminary in New York City.

**Carol 7**

This melody is the beautiful Green Sleeves. It dates from Elizabethan time, possibly even earlier. The song was first registered in 1850 to Richard Jones with lyrics that were neither religious nor respectable. Shakespeare mentions it by name in "The Merry Wives of Windsor" in which it is played while traitors are

hanged. In 1865 William Chatterton Dix (English) wrote "The Manger Throne," three verses of which became this carol.

**Carol 8**

The music is an old Welsh melody. Mozart used it in a piano and violin duet in the 1700's. The words are believed to be American from the 19th century.

**Carol 9**

Bishop Phillips Brooks (1835-1903) wrote the words in Philadelphia in 1868. He was recalling his trip to the Holy Land three years earlier, especially the view of Bethlehem from the hills of Palestine at night. His church organist, Lewis Redner wrote the music for the Sunday school children's choir.

**Carol 10**

This carol is sometimes attributed to John Wade, a British exile living in France. Otherwise it is considered to be an anonymous Latin hymn. Around 1751, Wade put the text to music, probably by John Reading. In 1853, the familiar translation first appeared, attributed to Rev. Frederick Oakley.

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**Jingle Bells**

Believe it or not, Jingle Bells, one of the most famous American Christmas songs, was originally written for Thanksgiving! The author and composer of Jingle Bells was a minister named James Pierpoint, who composed the song in 1857 for children celebrating his Boston Sunday School Thanksgiving. The song was so popular that it was repeated at Christmas, and indeed Jingle Bells has been reprised ever since.

The essence of a traditional Christmas is captured in the lyrics of Jingle Bells and the sound effects using the bells have become synonymous with the arrival of Father Christmas or Santa Claus to the delight of children of all ages!

**Subject: Christmas Stamps**

A woman goes to the post office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards. She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?" The clerk says, "What denomination?"

The woman replies, "Oh, my Gosh. Has it come to this? Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Evangelical, and 32 Baptists."

**NOTE-ables**

Submitted by **Don Derozier**

**Dateline: January, 1932:** FDR (later President Roosevelt) enters the political arena with a song and a promise that “Happy Days Are Here Again.” The Great Depression is peaking even as wooden nickels still circulate in cities where banks failed. The country needs re-birth a finding of itself as able to cut a ‘new deal’ with the challenges of a threatening world.

Laurel and Hardy help with “The Music Box”, and Boris Karloff keeps things in perspective with “The Mummy!” The Mills Brothers calm radio fans and bring barbershop-style singing into the mainstream.

It was anything but calm in the **Ver Bockel** homestead. **Baby John** joined his four older sisters (eventually the 5<sup>th</sup> of 11 children) to grace the family farm near Hollandtown, rural Kaukauna. As first-born son, he was introduced quickly to both the privileges and the responsibilities attached. Tending the animals, learning the many skills needed on a family farm, and raising a little cane once in awhile filled his childhood with perceived normal experiences. He attended St. Francis School until his transfer to Kaukauna High School from which he graduated in 1950.

Farming allowed for little extracurricular time but he got into boxing and was quite successful there and later in the military. After a short time in a machine shop, John’s dad suggested he take the challenge of a small business. He bought a truck and established a milk pickup route that quickly doubled in size.

Like so many of his generation, military service was inevitable, even if not expected. He joined the Air Force and served as a cartographer for the Strategic Air Command in Omaha, Nebraska until his honorable discharge. Because he was in “great shape”, he found the physical side of service easy. Eighty-pound field packs were nothing to a man who tossed around 100 lb. milk cans, stacked two-high, onto a truck!

Always intuitive, with an eye to the common good, **John** quit the high risk fighting sport and became a golfing, and hunting enthusiast. His prize trophy buck graces one wall of his rec-room. The other walls contain trophies, awards, certificates and paintings or drawings he produced.

**John** worked for Wisconsin Electric for nearly 38 years as a draftsman who sketched, drew or helped engineer a wide variety of projects throughout the region. Trusted for his common sense as well as his good-natured temperament, he participated in civilian activities nearly as secret as his classified military work. **John** met **Joanne** from The College of St. Mary, Omaha, as part of a multiple blind-date setup arranged by the military chaplain and Joanne’s housemother, a religious sister! It seems that four “nice” girls and four “decent” guys were paired for a spring dance. Not a social butterfly and historically somewhat shy, **John** knew his date was the best.

After he was discharged, **John** returned to Appleton. **Joanne** graduated and went to work as a medical technologist in Iowa. When she secured a comparable job at St. Elizabeth Hospital she moved to be with him in marriage. **John and Joanne** have been blessed with four children and 10 grand children.

Character and trustworthiness are two virtues **John** believes were instilled in him by his life in a large family on a small farm. His commitment to a good work ethic, and careful stewardship of his talents led to success in business, family, and

recreation. **John** has sung most of his life. Church choirs, civic music (including the Attic Theater where he sang in a quartet for “The Music Man”, and barbershop singing are his passion. He joined the Appleton Valleyaires 49 years ago and he has sung in various quartets over these years. Many of his fondest memories relate to “The Four J’s” (Joe, John, John, Jerry) who performed many gigs around the area. He sings every Valentine’s Day and has nearly perfect attendance at rehearsals.

There was a time when John’s health challenged him deeply. Treatment caused a loss of his ready smile and his clear voice. He continues to mend as he copes with on-going needs. He believes “*you get out what you put in*” and has served 5-terms as President of the chapter. He is always ready to help and he is attentive to the needs of others in the group.

**John** values “clean-cut” friends who are truthful and neat in presentation. He finds the **Fox Valleyaires** consistent with his values and he is optimistic for the future of the chorus. “*With quality members we continue to draw (and a) great director, we have the chorus that can only improve.*” His advice for newer members is to “*step up for leadership roles*”, be friendly and positive and have regular attendance. Diving into it will help new guys enjoy “*one of the finest and wholesome hobbies available.*”

It began in 1932, but 2007 will be a banner year for **John Ver Bockel**. He will celebrate 50 years marriage, 50 years barbershop singing, and 50 years in church choir! Along with 50 years golfing with the same partner (he hopes to win his second championship in a row), he will continue to offer his tenor voice to the betterment of the Fox Valleyaires.

**Not bad for a shy guy from a small town!**

**Thanks, John.**

**“Happy Days Are Here Again!”**

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**RIVER SONG**

Submitted by **John Micke**

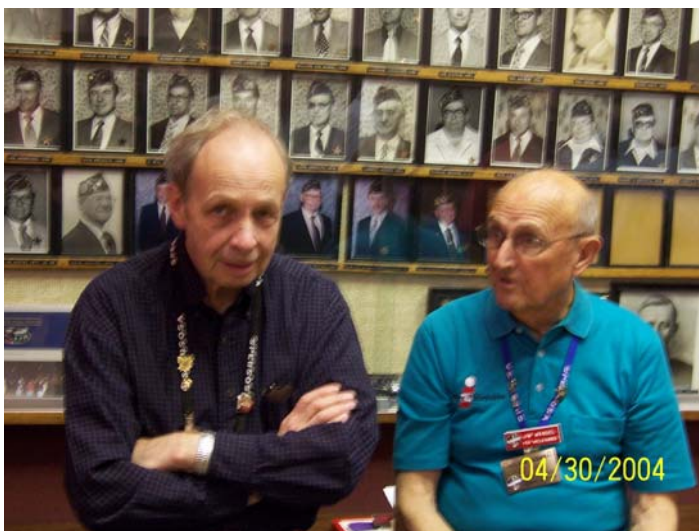
Another exciting annual show will unfold as the Fox Valleyaires present “**RIVER SONG**”. Our 63<sup>rd</sup> annual spring show will be on **March 31, 2007** at 3:00 pm and 7:30 pm at Pickard Auditorium in Neenah. **John Micke & Tom Vandenberg** are co-chairing this year's scripted production. The kick-off show-committee meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Thursday, Nov. 30, at Northern Comfort. Directions can be found at our web site. Show tickets are in the process of being printed and will be ready on November 30. Be sure to check your ticket customer list. Add any new contacts and make any corrections or deletions of existing ticket customers that are listed. Show flyers with singing valentine information are scheduled to be mailed the second week of **January 2007**.

With a great lineup of outside talent, which includes “**Voices Only**”, current L O 'L district quartet champions, and a fabulous comedy quartet in “**Hot Air Buffoons**”, we have a showstopper line up of entertainment. Start **S-E-L-L-I-N-G** your show tickets **Now!**

The following pictures were taken by **Ken Bester** at our after-contest party with the Fox River Valley and Plymouth Chapters.



Don Houdek and Plymouth chapter member checking in.



Ham N' wry quartet entertaining the audience

A relaxing moment with **Bill Hortsch** and **Jim Manual**



Enjoying an evening with song and good fellowship

Appleton Chapter  
137 State Street,  
Neenah, WI, 54956  
[www.foxvalleyaires.com](http://www.foxvalleyaires.com)



We have a busy schedule for the next few weeks. Check the events page for details. There is still time to sell tickets for our **annual dinner show**. The Grand Meridian can seat over 300 diners. We have a long way to go before we sell out. Update your call list. New members please check with **Tom Vandenberg** for an explanation.

Two nursing home singouts are scheduled. **St. Paul Home** performance in Kaukauna is on December 12, and **Brewster Village** in Appleton is on December 19. The annual **"White Elephant"** party will take place after the Brewster Village performance. As of this printing, a location has not been determined.

#### Answers to musical quiz on page 5

- Carol 1 The First Noel
- Carol 2 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
- Carol 3 God Rest Ye merry Gentlemen
- Carol 4 Jolly Old St. Nicholas
- Carol 5 Cantique De Noel (O Holy Night)
- Carol 6 We Three Kings of Orient Are
- Carol 7 What Child is This
- Carol 8 Deck the Halls
- Carol 9 O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Carol 10 O Come all Ye Faithful

#### The Very Best Vocal Coach

(Seen in several chapter bulletins, most recently in the Atlantic, Iowa , Nishna Notes, Gordon Renfeld, Editor)

(By Carol Johnson, Director, Manahawkin Chapter)

I will remember the first time I heard myself on a tape recorder. It didn't sound anything like me! My friend sounded exactly like herself, but that strange voice singing with her just wasn't mine. I was shocked to realize that it was indeed me. I suddenly knew that the wonderful voice I have lived with all of my life isn't the same voice that everyone else hears.

For months, I taped myself singing in the chorus. I listened in amazement to this awful voice ... it sang wrong notes, wrong words, bad vowels, made funny sounds, scooped, and even went flat. I became very aware of pitch and went right to work to produce a better voice. Little by little, I improved myself as a singer under the cold truth of this heartless coach, my **tape recorder**. Yes, your tape recorder is the best coach you will ever find. It gives you the opportunity to hear the voice that everyone else hears.

Remember that the only person who hears the voice in your head is you. Any time you are serious about good singing, the truth is there for you to hear. Just press the button.