

Greetings to our Friends and Family.

Winter Solstice is fast approaching. Is 2009 nearly over? We have already received our first season's greetings in the post. Laurel fears our annual Christmas letter is not ready and the fear is quickly reaching a fevered pitch. The children are no longer home with us and they do not protect Mark from the buffeting turbulence of her wrath. (*Wrath? I'm a pussycat!*) Therefore, begging your attention, here is 2009 in review from the Glewwe's perspective from Prior Lake, Minnesota.

Some may say it has been a bad year to go along with an even worst economy. As for us, it has been a challenging, but fulfilling, year. The year did not start too well. MinnPar ("*Boo!..Hiss!*") laid off Laurel from work after 10 years with the company. It was not a total surprise, but it still was traumatic. A week later, our daughter, Diana, lost her job as well. After the immediate shock wore off, Laurel got busy pursuing another job. Thanks to friends and family like you, we realized there were many other opportunities waiting for us. Then an inspirational thought occurred – Laurel embraced the soda business whole-heartedly. (*More like Mark handing me 200 beer bottles & saying "wash these!"*) She would wash bottles, bottle soda, glue on labels, improve our marketing, etc. She even opened up a new venue in New Prague that she could handle all by herself. The father-son business was taking on a completely new appearance and culture. Oh, joy. (*About time, I'd say.*)

Just as he was looking forward to a relaxing retirement, Grandpa Carl was volunteered to spend much of his summer assisting the family in dispensing the soda pop elixir to the growing fans. From mid-May until the end of September, he spent his Wednesday afternoons in Eagan and his Saturday mornings in Prior Lake. He even spent some time in New Prague helping Laurel when the workload became overwhelming. It has been fun for the family and I hope he agrees. (*Ask Carl about the rubber ducky and the wind pinwheels*) Speaking of our growing fan base, apparently Mark's cousin, Frank, has created a fan club on Facebook. Thanks Frank! We know of at least one person that has found us through the posting.

The brewery seems to have taken on a life of its own. Besides the farmers markets, we have had several special events with the brewery this year. Several tours came out, including a couple church groups, an antique car club, and a number of youth groups.



We even co-hosted the Scott County City-to-Country tour. It was a beautiful Saturday with over 250 people visiting and seeing demonstrations on apple pressing, making sodas, and learning about making homemade wines and beers. A special "Thank You" to all the volunteers that helped make it a great success and highlight of the summer. With so many visitors this summer, we even broke down and got a guest book.



We also participated in the local Crofut Family Winery's annual grape stomp. A comedian, Larry the Cable Guy, was a special guest at the event. Laurel and he hit it off quite well. *(We rednecks got to stick together!)* The pictures capture more than words can express.



Laurel also snuck in a couple of trips with her parents (Dick & Mavis Bryson). The first trip was this Spring. They went through Mt. Rushmore, down the California coastline to Solvang. Then to Arizona to see the London Bridge and do some gambling. Then onto Albuquerque, NM where they spent a couple extra days enjoying a snowstorm blocking the roads.

Then towards the end of summer, Mark's uncle & aunt (Howard & Lea Glewwe) invited the gang to the Dave Macon Days festival & competition in Mursfreeport, south of Nashville. There was clog dancing, fiddling, and lots of old-time country music. So, Laurel and her parents were on the road again traveling to Nashville. They all said they had a great time, it appears the Glewwe's, and Bryson's seemed to hit it off just fine.



Now that the summer fun is all over, Erik is back at the University of Minnesota. We understand that he is planning to graduate in the Spring of 2011 with a major in Chemistry and a minor in Political Science. He is living just off campus. *(but still fills a grocery bag of food from my pantry when he comes home.)* We miss his presence; especially now that we have to pick up the chores he was so good at doing.

Diana is currently working with a marketing firm for Sam's Club. She got the position after spending the summer pounding the pavement of Chicago's streets, searching for a job. There was the brief encounter with another marketing firm. Even today, she continues to search for a job better suited to her skills and profession.

Well, 2009 was not done with Laurel just yet. In October, she slipped and fractured her left wrist. Yep. After 6 weeks, the doctor removed the cast the day before Thanksgiving. Of course, she thought all would be well. Luckily, Erik came home for a free meal only to discover he would be making it. *(He was thinking fish, but we had turkey.)* 28 members of both sides of our families joined us for a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Mark is the rock of Gibraltar. *(Ya, right!)* He is still working at Goodrich, providing a stable income and supplying the emotional compass for the family. *(Ha! Anyone that knows Mark should be terrified for the future of the family's well-being.)* Luckily, he occupies his free time in the brewery. He recently bottled an Oktoberfest beer, a couple variations of apple cider, an Italian Borolo wine, and many other things about which gentle folk fear to ask.

Laurel is currently working a temporary position as a benefits specialist at Target Corporate. She is working for Hewitt, a company specializing in benefits administration. We are expecting the contract to be completed by Christmas and then she will begin the search again. Maybe we will sneak a quick trip to Chicago before that occurs. Diana will not be able to make it home this year for the holidays. It seems only fair we extend the holiday a wee bit and bring some Christmas cheer to Chicago.

We wish all of you a wonderful and joyous holiday season. May 2010 be a prosperous and safe new year.

Mark & Laurel Glewwe

