

December 2010

*Greetings to our Friends and Family.*

Ok, I'm ready for October. "Hey Mark, did we celebrate Halloween? **What?!?** What happened to November? and Thanksgiving? Please tell me I have at least two months before Christmas." OK! I am starting to shift gears – the snow is giving me a clue – and I am cold! Our Christmas tree is up, and even with lights. No decorations, but I'll find time for that later. Right? Alright I'm ready. Here it is and I am beginning my panic attack. The review of 2010 from the Glewwe's perspective in Prior Lake, Minnesota is always better if there is a cloud of confusion and sprinkle of hysteria.

### Laurel's Perspective

2010!?! What happened to 2000? Hey, it was a great year in many ways. I did a contract position in Brooklyn Park that lasted three and a half months. Plus, there have been increasing number of interviews, which keeps me hopeful. The two questions asked during interviews that hit me particularly funny: "Are you working?" and "How do you relieve job stress?" My immediate thoughts are, "I work maintaining a house on ten areas, wash 200 beer bottles a week and sell our soda at three markets." & "I have a brewery in the back yard. What stress?" I did those responses to myself, but I thought it was humorous. As for the soda business, I have enjoyed the summer selling and entertaining many guests at the brewery.

As for the **Glewwe Castle** news - Grandpa Carl is still a big part of the business spending much of his summer assisting the family in dispensing the soda pop elixirs 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. We also started something new - having monthly open houses. We have been inviting people out to see the craziness, relax on the patio and sample our beverages. The last open house was extra special for us. We had two local gentlemen (*called Celtic Cat and Prairie Dog*) providing musical entertainment. My family came up from Albert Lea and Iowa, and Mark's Uncle Dick Glewwe was able to make it from Red Wing along with numerous friends we have made from the Prior Lake, Eagan and New Prague Farmers Markets.

Two groups I really had an enjoyable time with were the Red Hat Ladies. One from Jordan and the other from New Prague came for a tour. Mark & I told our stories, demonstrated how we make soda and had refreshments. They were so delightful I hope to entertain more like them in the future.

**Erik** is living in Minneapolis close to the U of Minnesota finishing his chemistry degree. We thought he might graduate in May 2011, but he has two classes he needs to complete his degree and they are not offered until the summer. We are looking at a graduation celebration after he successfully passes the summer courses.

**Diana** is in Chicago working for a furniture company importing merchandise from China into the United States. We were fortunate to make two trips to Chicago this year. The first was in March during St. Patrick's Day. The second trip was this past Thanksgiving. Diana and Clint hosted their roommate, Clint's parents, Wally and Susan, and us at a

### Mark's Perspective

Kind of puts a whole new meaning to "living in the past", eh? But I continue to be gainfully employed - even doing some software-like stuff.

Hey! Why is my column smaller?!? I recently read that women speak an average of 7,000 words a day and men only 2,000. Now I think I know why. We men are starved for space.

Ooh! She forgot to mention that Erik developed a new flavor - Raspberry Ginger Ale! Tasty and it has been a big hit. We even delivered a keg to a wedding.

She is being too modest to mention the luncheons we did for two groups of Red Hat Ladies. She did very nice!

It was good to see Dick. It was one his last social events prior to passing away in October. We will miss you.

So much for the modesty, eh? Hey?! Why do my words look like clown writings?

Oh very funny! Who can read this?

Speaking of Halloween (remember? Way up at the top of the letter?), we had 9 kids this year. Wahoo! That is a 9-fold increase from last year.

As for Thanksgiving, we had a wonderful dinner in Chicago with Diana, her boyfriend (Clint) and his folks. How could Laurel forget that? Oh! I see her memory must be improving.

restaurant. We had a great time and I highly recommend dining out for Thanksgiving. We all then went back to Diana's apartment. While getting acquainted, Clint was kind enough to take a family photo for our Christmas letter. Diana's dog, Malcolm, felt compelled to be included.

Which brings me to **Pet News**...I find that now my children have left the nest and I am not employed our pets have become a bigger part of our family. Shadow Kitty Kitty Glewwe still allows us to live with her and keep her alive after 16 years of cohabitation. Sunshine (AKA Beelzebub, Mark's name for the lovebird) enjoys life sitting on my shoulder and fighting off anyone (not especially fond of men) who interrupts our daily routine. As for Xena, we lost our half Lab & Rottweiler to cancer in September. I did not realize how many of the neighborhood kids knew her until they came and visited the brewery and asked where she was. My wish is to find another Rottweiler-Lab mix as friendly as she was.

The summer seemed to fly by with the brewery events but the biggest highlight of the summer was the celebration of my father's, **Dick Bryson, 80<sup>th</sup> birthday**. My brother and sisters and their families along with Mark, Erik and me all went to Disney World, Florida in June to celebrate. What a blast we had taking in shows, rides and of course the food. At Animal Kingdom Dad & I went down the Himalayan Ride where we saw the Yeti! I was even brave enough to take in two of the newer rides: Soar'n and the Mission to Mars ride. Thanks to the coaxing of my nephews, Sam & Max.

Late summer events were of joy and sorrow. Mark's Uncle Howard and wife Leah Glewwe came for a visit. I had a great time visiting and shopping with Leah. My parents even came up from Albert Lea to see them, as they know Howard & Leah after visiting them in Nashville last summer. The visit was marred by sadness. Mark's uncle Dick Glewwe passed away from cancer while they were here. While we will miss Dick Glewwe, it was good to see so many friends and family at the funeral

This brings me to December. Mark and I look forward to Christmas with Erik coming home for the holiday. Diana and Clint will be joining us for Christmas in January, as airfare is cheaper. In addition, if plans work out I am looking forward to hosting both Mark's and my family for the holidays. I therefore wish all of you a wonderful and joyous holiday season. May 2011 be a prosperous and safe new year.

*Mark & Laurel Glewwe*

**Disclaimer:** *Mark, are you done with your comments? Geez! It will be January 22 before this letter is done.*

I feel compelled after reading Mark's comments to add this disclaimer...While I love this man dearly I am deeply sorry for any comments he may make or may add without my knowledge. The views are his and his alone. Please understand that these are from his perspective and as a wife I can not always control his thought process. God help us, keep smiling and **Happy Holidays!!!!**

You know, with the kids out of the house, you would think that we were empty nesters leading carefree lives. But the pets are more needy than the kids ever were. When Laurie ran off for a week to take a business class at St. Thomas, she left me to tend to the pets. Clean my cage. Feed me. Clean my litter box. The kids were never as selfish as that.

That bird attacks anyone except Laurie. Many of Erik's friends will testify to the hostile behavior.

Did I mention Erik put raspberry into some apple cider too. Ooh! Very tasty. Raspberries seem to improve most everything.

Now wait a minute ... put a bunch of people together in tight quarters and in a hot and humid climate ... and this seemed like a recipe for erupting tensions. Nevertheless, we did have fun, and we all came back alive. Oh! If you get the chance to eat at an Irish Pub called "Raglan Raod" on Pleasure Island in Disneyworld - Take It! It was superb! I could have spent the whole week there and called it worth the trip.

There were quite a few funerals this autumn. Minnesotans are a peculiar bunch - we will do pretty much anything to get out of snow shoveling.

Well, may you all share in the blessings offered by Christmas, and have an adventurous 2011. Cheers!

Stop by any time and we can share some of those beverages.