



The MVEer Monthly

July, 2013

Interview with Chorus Member Mike Viste

MVEer asks: Mike, weren't you dressed as a giant willow tree in the Gnome set in Portland? Is that the wackiest costume you've ever worn?

Mike replies: Yes

MVEer asks: Perhaps you could volunteer to be dressed as a lamppost in our next set!

I understand that you play tuba, so you must be a "tubist," I think it's called. Actually, you know every instrument and taught all sorts of bands and choirs. Please tell us about your many years of teaching music from Kindergarten through High School.



Mike replies: Let's not get carried away. Anyway, after getting my BA from *UW-Oshkosh* and attending Grad School at *UW-Milwaukee*, it finally dawned on me that I was not going to be the next Arnold Jacobs (principal tubist of the *Chicago Symphony*). I had my Instrumental Music certification, so I set out to find teaching jobs.

My first job was at *Lac du Flambeau* in northern Wisconsin during the spearfishing controversy of 1989. It was a very stressful time but I learned a lot. I was required to teach General Music and began using the Kodaly method which incorporates the use of *solfege*, hand signs and folk songs (Paul has given us a taste of this with his ear training exercises) and using the guitar. This was very rewarding, since I got to work with very young kids and could notice their development right away.

I later taught at a school in North Dakota where I also had to teach choir. Since I had done a lot of singing, doing solo work in church while in grade school and during high school, I was able to put together a good sounding little choir. High School basketball is HUGE in the Dakotas and we had a hot Pep Band. I also started a Jazz Band there, which was unheard of at that time. I later taught at a public school in Lake Geneva and in charter and private schools in Kenosha.

MVEer asks: Mike, tell us a little bit about your family.

Mike replies: My wife, Cherie, and I live on the south side of Milwaukee with our fat little poodle, Oscar. Cherie is a District Manager for a company that merchandises books and CD's. I have a daughter and grand-daughter who live in Green Bay.

MVEer asks: Other than the fact that you are a great bari in the MVE, Mike, tell us about any of your other hobbies or interests.

Mike replies: I am a fanatical baseball fan. I grew up watching the great Hank Aaron and Eddie Matthews, so it's ingrained. I also love the Pack and the Bucks. I'm quite a good cook. (My wife only cooks one meal a week, Sunday breakfast.) As I've gotten older, I have developed an interest in gardening, mostly because I have to care for my wife's flowers when she doesn't have the time. I am quite involved in my church, where we are attempting to keep our choir alive due to dwindling membership. And, of course, I love anything music related - going to concerts, festivals, whatever. The high point of my week is Monday night in Greendale.

MVEer: And we love having you in the chorus on Monday nights, Mike. Your musical knowledge and beautiful voice help us reach our goals of BIGGER + BETTER = BEST: CHOOSING OUR FUTURE.

And the Winner is ... Karen Graskamp!

Karen Graskamp was the winner of a contest with the prize being a **2011 Ford F150 Platinum** pick-up truck owned by Packer QB **Aaron Rodgers** during his Super Bowl and MVP year. Both **Karen and Fred Graskamp** are featured in videos



across the state. Click any of these links for video interviews.

My Ford Could Be Yours Sweepstakes WFRV (CBS), Green Bay
<http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=3245&DateTime=05%2F23%2F2013+22%3A23%3A15&mediapreload=14&playclip=true>

Rodgers' Ride Giveaway WGBA (NBC), Green Bay
<http://mms.tveyes.com/Transcript.asp?stationid=3235&DateTime=05%2F23%2F20>



[13+22%3A19%3A01&mediapreload=14&playclip=true](http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20130523/GPG0101/305230446/Janesville-woman-wins-Rodgers-truck)

Janesville woman wins Rodgers' truck, Green Bay Press Gazette

<http://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/article/20130523/GPG0101/305230446/Janesville-woman-wins-Rodgers-truck>

Janesville woman wins Rodgers' truck Manitowoc Herald Times Reporter online, Manitowoc

<http://www.htrnews.com/article/20130524/MAN0101/130524015/Janesville-woman-wins-Rodgers-truck>

Couple wins Aaron Rodgers' ride Today's TMJ4, Milwaukee

<http://www.todaystmj4.com/sports/green-bay-packers/208758401.html>

Congratulations to our MVE winners, **Karen and Fred!**

A new guy at chorus asked...
Q: "Hey buddy - How late does the chorus sing?"
A: "Oh, about a half a beat behind the director."

July 2013						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
JUNE 30 MVE Singout at Hales Corners Lutheran Church at 7:45am	1 NO MVE PRACTICE International Barbershop Convention in Toronto	2 International Barbershop Convention in Toronto	3 International Barbershop Convention in Toronto	4 	5 International Barbershop Convention in Toronto	6 International Barbershop Convention in Toronto
7	8 MVE Practice at 7PM	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 MVE Practice at 7PM	16	17 MVE Board Meeting at 6:30	18	19	20
21	22 MVE Practice at 7PM	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 MVE Practice at 7PM	30	31			

The Main Bones of an Organization by Tom McGorray, Tucson Chapter, BHS: **"I wish someone would do it," the Wishbones like to say. The Jawbones talk about it; they talk the day away. The Knucklebones complain a lot, and knock the one's that do. The Backbones do most of the work, which one of these are you?**