Friday, December 22, 2006

Volume 21, Number 45



THE STREET

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Your <u>Hometown News</u>paper

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Thought for the Week: Let their always be Christmas in your heart - today and every day. Merry Christmas

THE HOPKINS AND MILLER SHOW AT HERITAGE POINTE

Come be our guests at Heritage Point at 2 p.m. on Thursday, December 21 for the Hopkins & Miller Holiday Edition 2006.

Meet with our guests and join in Fellowship and Holiday refreshments in the Fults Rec Room after the concert.

"Banjo meets Broadway".... a fitting description of the unique blend of musical styles performed by banjoist, Robin Hopkins, and vocalist Kathleen Miller, along with their trio of world-class musicians. Robin and Kathleen draw on music that was written primarily during the first half of this century; Dixie, Broadway, swing tunes, as well as showstoppers are included in their extensive concert repertoire. Their virtuoso musical talent, sincerity and contagious enthusiasm, come together for an unforgettable evening as Hopkins & Miller present their uplifting renditions from the Great American songbook.

Kathleen Miller is one of America's most versatile vocalists. Her wide ranging musical talents allowher to be as comfortable with light and lively swing or Dixie tunes, as well as a great Carmichael or Porter ballad; not to mention hilarious comedy numbers. Tunes such as Hoagy's "Stardust" and Harold Arlen"s "Over The Rainbow", are given just treatment. And when she launches into Sophie Tucker's "Some Of These Days", watch out boys! Her gift of communication allows her to quickly establish a genuine rapport with the audience.

Robin brings to the act, twenty years of New Orleans hot jazz. A veteran of The Steamer Delta Queen, this banjo virtuoso demonstrates his versatility with the classic "Malaguena" and his medley from "Fiddler On The Roof has converted many a non-believer to the possibilities of this truly American instrument.

Hopkins and Miller are joined on the stage with either "The Little Big Band" or their trio, The Sophisticats; all virtuoso musicians in their own right, contributing to the show by performing amazing feats of musical magic.

Recently, Hopkins & Miller were featured at Cypress Gardens in Florida, as well as the national reunion of the U.S. Army's elite 10th Mountain division in St. Louis, MO. They have also appeared at the annual jazz festival on Mackinaw Island and have been broadcast nationally over the ABC/Stardust network. They have also toured with the Grand Hotel Orchestra, opened for Burt Bacharach and were featured guest entertainers aboard the Crown Princess. Their music can also be heard over numerous radio stations across the country.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

When you're done shopping, wrapping, baking, etc. come to McNatt UMC on 800S (in Wells County) for a relaxing service on Christmas Eve at 11 p.m. All are welcome. Bring the little ones too. There will be a variety of Christmas music and pretty lights just for you to enjoy.

It will be a time you may sit still and ponder the meaning of Christmas

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Van Buren Public Library will be closed on December 25th and 26th for Christmas. Please note the library will be open on Saturday, December 23rd.

The Van Buren Public Library will be closed on January 1st for New Year's Day. Please note that the library will be open on Saturday, December 30th.

More Holiday Hours

The Warren Public Library will be closed Saturday, December 23 and Monday, December 25. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, December 26.

The Library will also be closed Monday, January 1, 2007. Preschool Story times will resume in March.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

OPEN COMMUNION

The Warren United Church of Christ will be offering "open communion" (communion for anyone who walks into the church on Christmas Eve afternoon, December 24, from 1:00 - 9:00 PM). Folks may simply go to the altar where the communion elements (already blessed and consecrated) will be available. There will be recommended Biblical and other readings for people's reflection and prayer and thanksgiving to God for His wonderful aift of His Son at Christmas. At 11:00 PM on Christmas Eve, the 24th, the church will have its annual Candlelight, Carols, and Bible Readings Service, with baby Jesus being put into the creche's manger. Featured this year will be a drama by the youth asking the question of whether we today can still hear the real Christmas mes-

All are welcome to come for open communion and/or our Christmas Eve 11:00 PM Service.

Don't Forget

There will be no issue of the Warren Weekly next week due to the Christmas holiday. There will be a paperthe following week—so don't forget to get your news items and advertising information to me by Tuesday, January 2. We will also be running New Year's greeting in that issue if you are interested. You may drop off news and advertising at PJ's Flower & Gift Shop, mail it to PO Box 695, Warren IN 46792, fax them to me at 375-7007

or email them to me at wwkly@citznet.com.

WARREN WISH LIST

Warren Area Chamber of Commerce has formed a new exciting committee, Warren Economic Development. Warren is a great place to live and work. Warren boasts over 100 businesses, many wonderful Churches, the Pulse Opera House, the Knight -Bergman Civic Center, Heritage Pointe, Salamonie School, Tower Park /Below the Hill, a strong Agricultural community, and many vital businesses. Warren is just a short distance from two I69 exits. Located at the southern portion of Huntington County, we serve Huntington, Grant, Wells, and Blackford Counties.

To serve you better, the Warren Area Chamber of Commerce introduces the Great Warren Survey! It's your turn to tell the committee what's on your Wish List for Warren! You will receive the Great Warren Survey in your monthly Warren Utility bill or the Warren Weekly. Completed surveys will be entered in a drawing for The Great Warren Prize package. Stay tuned for more details...

BLOOD DONOR MONTH

Each year more than eight million volunteer blood donors partner with the American Red Cross to help save lives by giving blood. These volunteers are not often publicly thanked for their contribution of time and dedication to donating blood. However, approximately 1,000 patients receive blood transfusions every hour and are thankful for these volunteer blood donors. This January during National Volunteer Blood Donor Month, give blood.

You can join the ranks of our volunteer blood donors by giving blood at one of the following blood drives:

* Thursday, Jan. 4, at Knight Civic Center from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. Knight Civic Center is located at 132 S. Nancy St. in Warren. At this Donorama blood drive, all presenting donors will receive a travel mug and be eligible to enter a regional drawing to win a \$1,000 shopping spree.

* Sunday, Jan. 21, at SS Peter & Paul from 7:15 a.m. until 1:15 p.m. SS Peter & Paul is located at 765 Poplar St. in Huntington.

CONTINUED PAGE 3



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WARREN WEEKLY • Owner/Publisher: Nicki L. Zoda Mailing Address: P O Box 695, Warren, IN 46792 $\textbf{Shipping Address:} \ \ 7920S \ 900W \ 90, \ Warren, \ IN \ \ 46792$ **Phone:** (260)375-3531 or 1-877-811-9089 **FAX:** (260)-375-7007 e-mail: wwkly@citznet.com

WARREN WEEKLY is a free paper for the Warren. Indiana area. It is distributed every Friday to rural postal patrons of Warren, Liberty Center, and Van Buren. Indiana. The Warren Weekly is available at Cady's Express, and next to the Post Office in downtown Warren. The Warren Weekly is also available in severa businesses in Van Buren. Total circulation is 3200.

It is sent anywhere in the Continental United States for three (3) months for \$9.50, six (6) months for \$19 or \$38 for one year. Mail name, address, and payment to WARREN WEEKLY at: PO Box 695, Warren, IN 46792.

Deadline for news and/or advertising is 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, for that week's edition. Call if you need something in but won't have it here on time.

Leave news and/or advertising at PJ's Flower and Gift Shop or mail to P C Box 695, Warren. Van Buren residents may call Mary Jo Zoda at 765-934-3637 WARREN WEEKLY will make every effort to see that all advertising copy is correctly printed. The firm assumes no financial responsibility for typographical errors in advertising, but will gladly reprint without charge that part in which an error may occur, provided that it is reported within five days of publication. The publisher takes no responsibility for statements or claims made in any

KUDOS, KICKS & KARATS

HOLIDAY THANKS

A great big THANK YOU goes to the Country Calico Club. What a delightful mix of goodies you left at our door Tuesday night. After a hectic day, that big bag of thoughtfulness sent us to bed with smiles on our faces.

We don't know about anyone else, but every time we see shirts and ads about other places being the best place to live, we chuckle. They obviously don't know nothing about Warren.

Oh what a blessing and privilege we have to call Warren home \dots David & Pam Uncapher

THANK YOU FROM WVFD

The Warren/Salamonie Township Volunteer Fire Department thanks the public for their support of fundraisers to purchase a Thermal Imaging Camera. This is a hand held device that allows firefighters to see through darkness and smoke. It detects infrared rays/heat from objects and can be used to find people, animals, and hot spots inside a smoky or burning building. The Imager can also be used to locate a missing person at

A fund was established in 2003 when Bonnie Zeller donated Maurice Zeller's memorial fund to the fire department for "something the fire department could really use". Bonnie is no stranger to the emergency equipment and needs of a small town. She was Dr. J.B.Bennett's office nurse for many years and was one of the first EMT's, serving over 20 years for the Tri-township Ambulance Service.

Other donations came from the Lunch Bunch's Chili Cook-off prize money, the sales of "Support Volunteer Firefighters" vehicle magnetic ribbons, and the sales of Port-a-Pit Chicken. A little more than half the cost of the camera had been raised. The Heritage Point/United Methodist Memorial Home generously donated the funds needed to complete the purchase of the camera. Salamonie Festival Committee, MarkleBank, National City Bank, Ron & Bonnie Boxell, UREMC, and the Golf Outing Sponsors are some more of the appreciated people and organizations that helped the Fire Department this year.

Nick-named "Morey", the camera will be dedicated in honor of Maurice Zeller. The Warren Volunteer Fire Department thanks Bonnie Zeller, Heritage Pointe, and everyone for all the donations and support from our "Small Town with a Big Heart". .

WVFD, Warren Volunteer Fire Department

CONTINUED PAGE 12



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Bible Study, Wednesday.....10:00 a.m.

Youth Fellowship Sun6:00 p.m. THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY

ALLIANCE — Majenica

Rev. Gus Hacker

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Worship10:30 a.m.

MT. ETNA UNITED METHODIST 260/468-2148

Rev. Tom DeFries - Pastor

Come As You Are

JEFFERSON CENTER UNITED

METHODIST

Corner of 900S & 300W

Kathy Newton, Pastor

Rev. Mike Malone, Pastor

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

Worship10:30 a.m.

WARREN CHURCH OF CHRIST

375-3022

Gerald O. Moreland, Minister

Todd Winkler, Youth Minister

Ruth Moreland, Secretary & BS Supt.

Fellowship9:15 a.m.

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN

8888S 1100W-90, Warren 375-2779

Dick Case, Pastor

(3yrs old - 5th grade) .. 6:30-

McNATT UNITED METHODIST

375-4359

Bill VanHaften, Pastor

Lois Slusher, Supt.

Sunday School

Bible Study - Wed.

Kids Club, Youth Group & Adult

Sunday

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VB CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE WARREN WESLEYAN CHURCH 765/934-3321 Parsonage 375-2330

Jeff Wass, Pastor 6th & Nancy Sts. Warren Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Rev. Andy Trowbridge, Pastor Adult Worship10:30 a.m. Wesley Welch, Supt. Children's Church 10:30a.m. Hour of Power (Wed)7:00p.m. Worship10:15 a.m. **CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH** Wednesday Prayer Service Van Buren, Indiana

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST CHURCH Sunday Evening Service 6:00p.m.
694-6622 VB UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 765-934-2199 Pastor Anna Kroencke

Pastor Dan Somr	ner				
Sunday School	9:00 a.m.				
Fellowship	9:55a.m.				
Worship	. 10:15a.m.				
Wed. Bible Study					
SALAMONIE CHURCH OF					
BRETHREN					

468-2412 Mel Zumbrun, Pastor Sunday Evening6:00 p.m. Worship9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Worship7:00 p.m. Church School10:45a.m. BUCKEYECHRISTIANCHURCH 758-2085

Kyle Dahlquist, Pastor Sandy Keplinger, Supt.

Fellowship & Classes 9:30 a.m. **BANQUO CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 8294S 900W 35 Gary Riley, Pastor

Studies - all Sunday 6:00 p.m. Sunday School9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Choir Practice 5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study6:30 p.m. Thurs. Kings Kids6:30 p.m. Sunday School8:45 a.m. BYG Youth Svc. (2&4Sun.) .. 6:00 p.m. Worship Service10:00 a.m. CWF Ladies (3 Tue)6:00 p.m. Sunday School WARREN UNITED METHODIST 1st Sun. (Qtrly) Praise Hour.. 6:30 p.m. Worship ... **LIBERTY CENTER**

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Dan Helm, Pastor Handicap Accessible & Staff Nursery Morning Worship9:30 a.m. Sunday School HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE

NAZARENE 375-2510 Clyde Gunn, Pastor

Bus Service 375-2510 Sunday School9:30 a.m. SUNDAY:

Worship & Communion9:30 a.m. Sunday School10:45 a.m. Worship10:30 a.m. Morning Worship Evening Worship......6:00 p.m. OTHER SERVICES BY ANNOUNCEMENT Youth Group (Wed.).....6:00 p.m. Tues, Thurs, Fri & Sat Wed. Midweek Service.......6:30 p.m. Chapel Services UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

375-2102

Sun - 1st Worship Service..... 8:15a.m. Rev. Rick Pulling, Interim Pastor Sunday School......9:30a.m. Fun Factory 1st/3rd Sundays 6:00p.m.

THE NEW BEGINNING

SR 218, 2 1/8 mile west of Poneto Steve Sutton, Pastor 765/728-2065 for more info Coffee Fellowship......8:30 a.m. Sunday Worship......10:30a.m. ThursdayPrayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. ..9:15 a.m.10:30 a.m.

WARREN 1st BAPTIST CHURCH Corner of N. Wayne & Matilda Sts. Rev. Bill Fisher, Pastor of Preach-

ing and Discipleship Rev. Robert Bothast, Pastor of Family Life

Debbie Wiley, S.S. Supt. Sunday School9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship10:00 a.m.

> 765-934-1431 Pastor Blake J. Neff

Worship Service 9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30a.m. Jr/Sr High UMYF (Sun)...... 6:30 p.m. Prayer-Bible Study (Thur)..... 7:30 p.m. UMW 2nd Wed 7:00 p.m. www.vanburenumc.org

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST Rev. Barry Humble, Pastor Joe Kober, S.S. Supt.

Sunday Worship 9:30a m Sunday School 10:30a.m. HANFIELD UNITED METHODIST

101 N 400 E - Marion, IN 765/664-8726

Timothy Helm, Senior Pastor 1st Worship......9:00 a.m. 2nd Worship......10:30 a.m. 3rd Worship11:11 a.m. Sunday School Children & Youth Programs

PLUM TREE UNITED CHURCH **OF CHRIST**

375-2691 Dr. Jeane Spoor, Pastor9:30 a.m. .10:30 a.m.

> **LANCASTER WESLEYAN** 468-2411

Doug Sharrard, Pastor David Thrift, S.S. Supt.

......10:45 a.m. Sunday School9:30 a.m. Worship10:30 a.m. Wednesday: CYC/Teen/Adult Meetings 7:00 p.m.

UNITED METHODIST MEMORIAL HOME

MOUNT ETNA WESLEYAN Rev. Charles Dederick, Pastor

Sunday School9:30 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST 8013W 1100S - 90, Montpelier

Rev. John Wallace, Pastor Worship Sunday School10:30 a.m. Wed Evening Carry-in & Fellowship

Attend the Church of Your Choice

AREA NEWS

More Page 1

* Monday, Jan. 22, at Evangelical United Methodist Church from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m. Evangelical United Methodist Church is located at 1000 Flaxmill Road in Huntington.

If you are at least 17 years of age, weigh a minimum of 110 pounds and are in good general health, you may be eligible to donate blood. All donors need to present positive identification. For more information or to schedule your blood donation appointment, please call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE (1-800-448-3543).

SEEKING NEW CROP

If you want to sharpen your gardening skills and you have an interest in sharing your knowledge with others, Pur-due University has the ideal program for you.

Beginning January 24, 2007 a Purdue Master Gardener Program training series will be offered for residents of Blackford County and surrounding areas. The Purdue Master Gardener Program is a volunteertraining program that provides a learning framework for participants to increase their knowledge on a wide variety of horticultural subjects. In turn, participants volunteer, representing Purdue University. As volunteers, participants grow by sharing knowledge while providing leadership and service in educational gardening activities within their com-munities.

Training will be held on Wednesday's from 6-9 pm at the Blackford County Courthouse Annex. Participants will be exposed to a wide range of subjects including soil and plant science, diagnosis of plant problems, pesticide safety, and culture of vegetable,

flower, landscape, and fruit plants.

Materials and expenses for the series of classes cost \$100.00 per participant. This expense fee covers such items as reference notebooks, mailings, and name badges. These materials all become part of the Master Gardener's personal collection.

While the class will be encouraged to create new educational outreach programs, there are already plenty of op-portunities for which volunteers are needed. Some of these projects include the staffing information booths at gardening events, teaching public education classes, and speaking to local clubs and organizations.

If you'd like an application to join our league of volunteers or have questions about the program, give us a call at (765)348-3213 or cluppers@purdue.edu.

BOOK CLUB

A Little Ones Book Club for ages 0 -3 years accompanied by an adult will be held from 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, January 3rd.

Stories, songs, snacks and a free book for each child at Van Buren Untied Methodist Fellowship Hall.

To register call Diana Detamore at 934-4372 or the church office at 934-1431.

LIFEGUARD TRAINING

The American Red Cross and the YMCA of Huntington County will be offering a Lifeguard Training Course in January. This class will be open to any candidate who is at least 15 years old and interested in becoming certified as a lifeguard, with certification in First Aid and CPR for the Professional Rescuer with AED. A swimming skills

pretest will be conducted at the beginning of the first class. The class will be held at the YMCA and the dates are Jan. 21, 27, and 28th from 8am to 5pm and Jan. 29th, 4pm to 8pm.

The cost of the course is \$150.00 and includes books, course materials and instructor fees. Certification cards will be given upon successful completion of written and skills testing. CONTACT: Don Cozad at 356-4200 or Bendy Mann at 356-2910. Pre-registration is required and payment must be made 3 days prior to the class.

4-H SCHOLARSHIPS

Applications for 2007 4-HScholarships and National Trips are due January 15, 2007 at the Wells County Office of the Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service.

Locally in Wells County at least thirteen scholarships valued at \$300 each will be awarded to high school seniors. Six of these are funded by the Loren and Helen Decker Scholarship Fund. Six additional scholarships will be funded by the Wells County 4-H Foundation and one will be sponsored by the Wells County 4-H Junior Leaders.

Horse & Pony 4-H members may also apply for one of three \$250 scholarships which will be presented to youth in northeast Indi-



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Students planning to attend Purdue University in Agriculture or Consumer & Family Sciences should also apply for the State 4-HScholarship. Forty six fee remissions will be awarded to students at the Fort Wayne or Lafayette campuses.

Youth can also apply to attend National 4-H Congress and National 4-H Conference by completing the state 4-H trip form.

For more information and applications, contact the County Extension Office, 260-825-6412. Forms are also located at www.four-h.purdue.edu

CAREGIVER PROGRAM

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Indiana Chapter is presenting a special caregiver program on Tuesday January 16, 2007 at the Georgetown Library, 6600

E. State Blvd. Fort Wayne, from 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Dr. Malaz Boustani, M.D., M.P.H. from the Regenstrief Institute, will be discussing Coping and Managing Behavioral Symptoms in Dementia. Dr. Malaz Boustani, MD, MPH is Assistant Professor of Medicine and Geriatrics, Department of Medicine, Indiana University; Center Scientist at Indiana University Center for Aging Research and Scientist at the Regenstrief Institute This free special program will provide a unique opportunity to network with others and learn more about providing care for those with Alzheimer's disease and their families. Registration is requested. For more information or to register call 800-272-3900 or go to www.alzindiana.org.



Community Calendar

Items listed here are open to the public. If there is an admission charge or items are for sale or a donation is necessary, there is a one-time \$5 fee to be listed. Events can be listed for as long as 6 months. (If an event is cancelled, please notify WW.) Only event, place, time, and sponsor, for events in Warren, and the surrounding area will be listed.

Dec 20 Van Buren Town Council, 7p .m.
Dec 22 Warren Recycle Day
Dec 24 Christmas Eve
Dec 25 Christmas Day
Dec 31 New Year's Eve

Jan 1 New Year's Day 2007

Jan 3 Chamber of Commerce Lunch, noon, Assembly Hall

Jan 3 Van Buren Town Council, 7 p.m.
Jan 5 Warren Recycle Day

Jan 5 Warren Recycle Day
Warren Town Council, 6:30 p.m. Assembly Hall

Jan 9
Jan 13
Single Fig. 13
And 14
And 15
And 15
And 16
And 17
And 17
And 18
An

Bread of Life Food Pantry - Wed 4 - 5:30pm, Sat 10 - 11:30 at KBC or by appointment - Call 375-2381. Bargain Basement - Friday & Saturday 9 - 4 at KBC Depression Support Group 2nd & 4th Thurs at Hope Missionary Church, Bluffton 6-7:30 After School Adventure - Tuesdays & Thursdays, after school till 5:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene Preschool Story Time - Warren Library 10:30 Fridays Walking in the Gym - at KBC 7-11a.m. Monday thru Friday.



Christmas Eve - 6 am to 8 pm Closed Christmas Day New Year's Eve - 6 am to 8 pm

New Year's Eve - 6 am to 8 pm New Year's Day - 7 am to 8 pm

Cady's Express
230 N Wayne Street · Warren, IN
375-2529

AREA NEWS CONTINUED

SUPPORT 4-H

Have you heard the news yet? For every ticket purchased to see Paramount Pictures and Walden Media's production of Charlotte's Web through www.fourhcouncil.edu, a donation of \$1 will be made by Hollywood

of \$1 will be made by Hollywood Movie Money to 4-H to help support your state's 4-H program.

Charlotte's Web features the 4-H Emblem multiple times, and the themes portrayed speak directly to the great work that 4-H does in developing youth—building friendships, commitment to goals and having fun! It stars Dakota Fanning as Fern, and the voices of Julia Roberts and 4-H alumnus Reba McEntire, as well as many other noteworthy actors.

You can help by spreading the word to your friends and family! Charlotte's Web premieres December 15. Ticket sales through www.fourhcouncil.edu beginning Friday, December 8 and continue through January 31, 2007.

Tickets to Charlotte's Web may be purchased, by clicking on the Buy Movie Tickets link at the National 4-H Website. This link will take you to a purchase page at Hollywood Movie Money. Here you will enter a ZIP code and purchase as many tickets as you like via credit card. The price of the ticket is determined by your local movie theater. Then you print a ticket voucher that you redeem at the theater. For each ticket purchased, Hollywood Movie Money will make a \$1 donation to 4-H. State 4-H programs will receive 100 percent





of donations as determined by ZIP codes entered at purchase.

For more information about the movie, Charlotte's Web, contact Purdue Extension – Huntington County Office, 354 N Jefferson – Suite 202, Huntington. You can call the office at (260) 358-4826 or email at laldridg@purdue.edu.

COUNCIL NOTES

by Bonnie Lloyd

On Monday evening, December 11 the Warren Town Council met in Assembly Hall. President David Scheib opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with all in attendance repeating the Pledge to the American Flag.

Minutes of the regular meeting November 13, were approved as submitted. The November 27 meeting was cancelled.

A letter was read from a citizen thanking Council for their help in getting properties cleaned up in their neighborhood.

Tom Tallman from Huntington County Rescue informed Council that County Rescue is getting a new unit and stated he felt it would be a good idea to have a backup unit in the southern part of the county, namely Warren. Council agreed to the idea and they plan to check on housing for the unit and other matters for it to be placed in Warren. The new county unit is not expected to be ready before February.

Council agreed to ask Huntington County to conduct the 2007 election.

Heartland Aluminum has requested a tax abatement for equipment.

Council accepted Resolution 4-2006 allowing appropriation transfer for end of year transfers within the budget. Clerk-Treasurer Marilyn Morrison gave the November financial report.

Electric trackers have not been completed yet.

Curtis Day reported from the Utility-Street Departments. He presented his monthly report to Council and noted they had to make truck repairs and have snow plows ready.

A report from the Fire Department indicated that on December 7 the Department elected new officers as follows: Chief, Lee Poulson; Assistant Chief, Scott Canaday; President Chris Boxell; Vice President Greg Lewis; Secretary Treasurer Rick Scheman.

Town Marshal Dennis Spitler submitted a November activity report.

The final meeting of the year 2006 is scheduled for December 21 at 8 a.m.

BAYVIEW READING

Bayview Reading Club met December 11, 2006, at 2 P.M. in the Calico Room of Heritage Pointe. Members were invited by President Lilly Nutter to join in reading the Club Collect. Minutes of the November 14 meeting were read and approved, as was the treasury statement of November 30. Remaining program vacancies for the year were filled.

A moment was taken before the program of the day to sing a Happy Birthday greeting to our president, Lilly Nutter, on her 94th birthday, is December 12.

Margaret Bell presented the program, sharing some "snapshots" of Christmas at this appropriate time, just 2 weeks before the long anticipated day. She called it "Little Bits of Christmas," as it was derived from somewhat unusual but

meaningful aspects of Christmas. She chose four elements of the Christmas celebration: the music, the stories, the treats, and the presents. A lesser known but truly talented 20th century composer of carols, Alfred Burt, was presented through a CD album celebrating the 50th anniversary of his composing. Carols played for the group were "Caroling, Caroling" and "Some Children See Him." A wellknown but not often publicized story was read, "A Cup of Christmas Tea." Snacks of Christmas were served appropriate to the program: hot spiced tea and Mexican wedding cakes, while Margaret read a touching story about the publisher of the "Christmas Tea" storybook. This Guideposts article emphasized the place of compassionate caring of people for one another, especially at Christmas. Small wrapped presents were then given to everyone, with which a hilarious game of passing them left and right was played.

The meeting concluded with roll call from everyone, and each member's thoughts about the program and the season.

gram and the season.

MY TOWN

and Yours

BY DENNIS STROUD

Christmas time, in Warren, in the early 1900s was a time for families to get together. At first, Christmas trees were small and stood on a table. The father carefully picked out the best tree, chopped it down and took it home. Setting up a tree

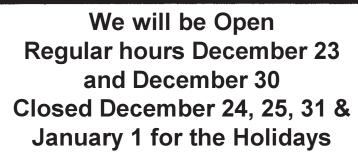
was called "planting it" and decorating a tree was called "dressing it"

Christmas trees were decorated with candies, cookies, fruit and nuts, paper cutouts, popcorn strings and candles. Lighting the candles was an adult's job and a bucket of water was always kept close by. Candles were probably lit only once or twice. Candles dripping wax on the floor led to the invention of the tree skirt.

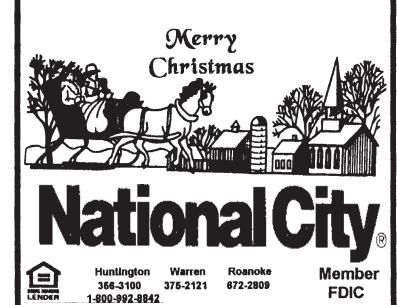
On Christmas day the father would hand out the gifts. Many of the gifts were handmade. A hobby horse was a popular gift for a boy or a girl. One likely gift was a homemade sled or animals carved out by the father.

The parlor was where the family and guest gathered to celebrate. After the gifts were opened, the rest of the day was for games and activities for the whole family. Mothers spent a lot of time in the kitchen so there was a lot of good food to eat. Calling on the neighbors and caroling was done during the Christmas season. I would like to thank everyone for reading my articles and the nice comments that I have received. I hope to continue writing about Warren "My Town and Yours" after the first of the year. Have a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.





All ATM locations will be open for your banking convenience.





Bowers, Brewer,
Garrett and Wiley LLP
Attorneys at Law

A MESSAGE TO ALL

The following letter was sent to Marla Cilley a.k.a. FlyLady and she forwarded to members. With her permission I am reprinting it here for all to read.

Dear FlyLady,

I LOVE the Paying it Forward testimonials. When I was a child, we called it anonymous acts of kindness or doing good for goodness's sake.

When I was about six years old, my grandfather introduced me to the concept. Every week I had to give an anonymous gift or a gift of labor. My grandfather explained it as building the goodness in my heart to get closer to God and be of assistance to Him. He told me that I was going to learn how to do good unto others for no other reason than to do good to feed my soul. He called it "soul food" LOL (before it became an ethnic food category).

Every week I had to give or do a benefit to someone else TOTALLY anonymously. The only one who could know and needed to know was God and me. Believe me, as a child, you want your credits! lol! My grandpa served as my adviser and mentor and I'd check in every week.

If somehow someone guessed or sawthat the good deed came from me, then I had to do another one by week's end. He said that once someone knew, it was no longer a gift just for God to one of His children. Boy oh boy, did I feel like big shot. Plain old me, giving gifts of my humble things and, even more humble, me just doing someone else's chores, was a gift FROM GOD VIA ME! He explained that even though I couldn't totally understand why I'd want to toil or sacrifice with no "apparent benefit" or even so much as a nod of appreciation, my heart and soul would grow and when I matured enough to learn the gifts of giving only for feeding my soul and pleasing God, I wouldn't need him to teach me anymore.

Ittook me a long time before I was mature enough not to have to report to him. I was reporting into God during one of my gratitude prayers. (We were taught to send up gratitude prayers several times a day. Never pray for yourself because God already is giving us what we need or need to learn. Only "bother" Him to give thanks.)

One day, out of the blue, my grandpa came up to me and kissed me on the forehead and said, "You have certainly grown up well. God

is smiling on you." I asked him "What did I do?"....and he answered, "God knows and that is all that matters."

Thank you, FlyLady for bringing this concept to the forefront. It's probably the single most important lesson I've ever learned. We sometimes need to be reminded that we are here as a part of the great community of mankind, and EACH of us do count towards contributing to the world's bounty with what we are and what we do. God bless us all!

FlyBaby V.

HNHS HAPPENINGS

The Huntington North Physical Education Classes were able to incorporate a game called "Sharbade" into their games unit. The name, Sharbade, is short for shoulder (sh), arm (ar), back (ba) development (de). It was developed by Thomas Mulry, a former high school football and swimming coach.

Mr. Mulry, who lives in Indianapolis, travelled to HNHS to introduce the game. The game combines elements of soccer, hockey, lacrosse, basketball and football. In Sharbade, players lie on their stomachs on a scooter. They can use only their hands and arms to pro-

pel themselves around the floor. Players must pull their entire weight and maneuverthemselves on the scooter while keeping control of a ball. Just as in hockey, teams score by putting the ball into the goal.

Besides being a terrific workout, the students are really enjoying this new game.

CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS

Many Christmas customs are based on the birth of Christ. Such as giving presents because of the Wise Men, who brought presents to the baby Jesus. Christmas carols based on Christ's birth and scenes of the birth with figures of shepherds, the Wise Men, and animals surrounding the baby Jesus.

But some of the ways people celebrate Christmas have nothing to do with Christ's birthday. Many bits of older holidays have crept into Christmas!

It wasn't until about 200 years after Christ's death that Christians even thought about celebrating his birth. No one knows the exact date of his birth. It is believed that December the 25th was chosen to turn people away from celebrating other holidays in this time of the year.

Saturnalia, was the Romans holi-

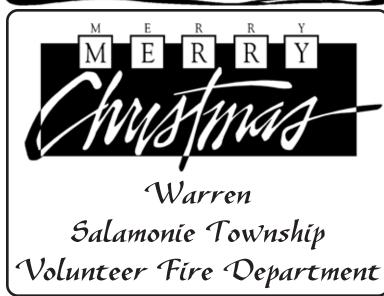
day that they celebrated in December. It was a time of feasting and parties. Also, in northern Europe there was a holiday known as Yule. They celebrated this holiday by making great fires. They then would dance around the fires, yelling for the winter to end. In time, Christmas took the place of these holidays. But people kept some of the old customs — such as burning a Yule log and having feasts and parties. The word Yule is still used as a name for the Christmas season.

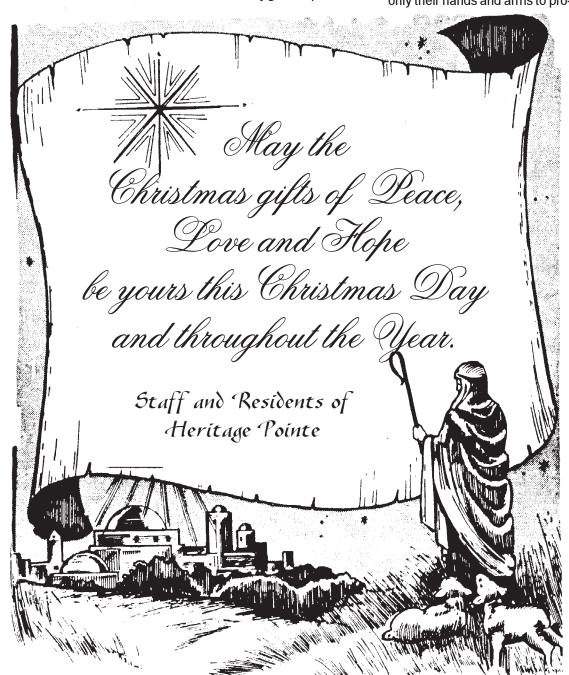
As time went on, new customs crept into Christmas. One was the Christmas tree, which was started in Germany. As the Germans settled in new lands they brought with them this tradition.

Last but not least is Saint Nick. A long time ago, a bishop named Nicholas lived in what is now the country of Turkey. No one knows much about him. There are stories that he often helped children in need. Many years after his death, Nicholas was made a saint. In time, he became the patron saint of children.









NORTH POLE PROBLEMS

by Aly Zoda, age 10

Way up north, where the weather is freezing, if you listen closely you can hear the steady tappity-tap of little hammers, is the North Pole.

Santa lives here and letters and letters from little kids were piling up. Santa read these letters and he noticed something. Five or six letters were from the same kid.

Santa's thoughts were interrupted by Waski, his head elf. "Santa" she cried, "we have major problems. Only one day until Christmas and not all the toys are ready. The sleigh has a broken runner and worst of all," she sighed, "Comet and Beenie the elf (who helps with presents) are sick."

Santa's eyes widened at this. "Major problems indeed my dear little Waski. Get Mrs. Claus, tell her to go make a visit right this minute. I'm checking on the toys." Santa rushed off in a hurry.

Finally Santa reached the bottom of the steps where he saw the problem. The Magic Machine was running on low, so the tools weren't working correctly. Looking around Santa found the Magic Machine engineer, Spindly, and he looked forthe problem. "Uh, Santa," Spindly replied, "There is a chewed cord." "Mice," Santa said. "I can fix it," Spindly replied.

"Ok, that problem is over," Santa

said as he went to fix the runner.

"Santa would you like a cookie," Ricada asked as she reached into a bag of cookies. "Not meaning to hurt your feelings Ricada, but the sleigh is broke and I must fix it. Leave one on my desk," Santa replied feeling rushed. "Ok," Ricada said.

Just as Santa neared the barn, Waski stopped him. "Good news, Comet and Beenie are better and the sleigh is good as new. Oh, and all presents are finished. No go hop in your suit and you need to be leaving. Bye and Good Luck."

Santa delivered all the presents on time and didn't miss a house. Only one thing bothered him, his hands were freezing. In all the commotion he forgot his gloves.

Christmas was not ruined after

THE GREATEST CHRISTMAS EVER

by Olivia Mossburg, age 10 Once there was a boy who was in an orphanage and wanted this year to be the greatest Christmas ever. But the boy didn't have a family any more. His parents died in a fire. There was no chance his parents would survive and the boy's grandparents, aunts or uncles didn't want to keep him. The boy had no friends at the orphanage.

So the boy was miserable. The adults at the orphanage tried to make friends with him, but he wouldn't talk. The kids thought of a plan, so they told the adults their idea and the adults thought it was perfect.

So the kids put their plan into action. As the kids looked for money and a pair of parents who want to adopt a child.

Then on Christmas Day the boy was wakened by the adults and the kids had given the boy gifts. One gift was a toy robot, another one was a watch. And then the parents came in and told the boy that they had adopted him. He was so thankful.

The new family drove home and the sad little boy became the happiest.

This was really a great Christmas.

THE CHRISTMAS CAPER

by Katelyn Kline, age 10 One Christmas Evenight, ten years ago, the elves were just finishing wrapping all the toys. The head elf Quincy was about to put the last present in the sleigh, he screamed in horror. "What's wrong," asked Wincy. "All the presents are gone!," said Quincy.

After they found out about the gifts being gone, they went straight to Santa Claus. "What?" said

Santa. "They're gone! We have looked all over," said Quincy. "We can't find them at all." "Well let's start searching."

That night, they started searching for all the presents. "I wonder whowould have stolen them." "Must have been someone who really hates Christmas!" "We must keep searching."

All of a sudden they saw a guy with a big bag of toys! "Look Santa, there is someone overthere with a big bag of toys." "That is my bag!" "Hey, I have a plan to catch him."

After they discussed his plan, it worked! They had captured the caper! "Ok, let's see who it is." It was Wincy! "I wanted all the presents for myself." "Do you forgive me?" Yes, now let's go inside."

After they went inside, Wincy promised never to steal the presents again.

That's the end of this story of the Christmas Caper.

CHRISTMAS

by Andrea Murray, age 10
It's not what you receive
It's what you give
The power of God so divine
Works of the Lord lives in us all.

CHRISTMAS EVE

By Megan Thompson, age 10 Christmas Eve by an open fire,

Where children wait with high temptation.

To open presents, fun grows higher Christmas Eve around the nation.

THE OVEREATING ELF

Once there was an elf named Frez that would get so nervous during Christmas time that he would eat two lunches at the elf cafeteria. He tried to be just too perfect in toymaking and neverthought they were good enough for the children. The dolls' eyes never sparkled enough, thought Frez, and the wagons were not as shinny as last year. Nothing seemed to be going right and the time for delivery of the presents was getting closer.

It was beyond anybody's understanding why Frez was getting so particular and asking for an elf suit larger than his size. Then, one day Santa found out what the problem was and decided to solve it. It seemed that Frez was not a young elf, but elves never looked their age by the virtue of being ever cheerful and happy. Frez needed to feel he was special, so Santa assigned him his own project called "special toys." These were the toys that

CONTINUED PAGE 8



God Bless your families this
Wonderous Season! Thank you for
continuing to trust us and support
the community in all the
many things Warren offers!

BOLINGER'S PROPANE & SUDDLY



CORRUGATED, INC.

GENEALOGY REPORT

Wood

A longtime Poneto resident, Robert H. Wood Sr., 95, died at 6:15 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006, at RiverTerrace Estates.

Mr. Wood was a lifelong farmer and was a resident of Wells County since 1942. He resided on his farm in Poneto from 1959 to 2003, before moving to Bluffton. He moved to River Terrace in April 2006.

He attended First Church of the Nazarene in Bluffton and was a former member of the Poneto Lions Club and the Liberty Center Odd Fellows Lodge.

Born on Oct. 27, 1911, in Patrick County, Va., he was a son of Samuel and Alice (Bramer) Wood. His marriage on Dec. 23, 1931, in West Virginia was to Ethel Jane (Nicholas), who preceded him in death on Nov. 27, 1992.

Survivors include children Robert H. (Eleanor) Wood Jr. of Markle, Juanita (Kaye) Ivins of Bluffton, Willie L. Wood of LaCrescenta, Calif., and Judy (Robert) Haver of Rockford, Ohio; a brother, Herbert Wood of Meadows of Dan, Va.; two sisters, Anna Wood of Meadows of Dan and Genevieve Crews of Martinsville, Va.; 11 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by a sister; three brothers; and two

grandchildren.

Services were held at Thoma/ Rich, Hewitt & Chaney Funeral Home with Pastor Larry Sheets officiating.

Burial was in Elm Grove Cemetery. Preferred memorials are to the First Church of the Nazarene Building Fund or the American Cancer Society.

PARSONS

Services for Gary Lynn Parsons, 59, of Fort Wayne, who died Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2006 at his home, were held at D.O. McComb & Sons Covington Knolls Funeral Home with Rev. Victor Kolch officiating. Burial will be in Fort Wayne.

Born in Fort Wayne, he volunteered for the Red Cross and was a past president and treasurer for Whispering Meadows Neighborhood Association.

He is survived by his wife, Karen J. (Stroud) Parsons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Stroud of Liberty Center.

Other survivors are a son, Josh L. Parsons of Fort Wayne, his parents, Leonard and Velma Parsons of Fort Wayne, and a sister, Maureena Sue Dusek of Port Charolotte, Fla.

BURNETT

Chester Leon Burnett, 87, of rural Warren died at 1:49 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006, at Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis.

Mr. Burnett was in Ford sales for 50 years at the former Synder Motors in North Manchester, the former Zehe Motors in Huntington and was in partnership at Crain-Burnett Ford in Warren from 1978 until his retirement in 1996. He also was a farmer in Wabash County for many years.

Born on Nov. 19, 1919, in Mt. Etna, he was a son of John and Arrie (Clark) Burnett.

Survivors include his wife, Laura (Wildoner) Burnett; a daughter, Carole (Lyn) Veeser of Powers, Mich.; a son, Larry (LaVonda) Burnett of Argos, Ind.; a sister, Anna Zartman of Kewanna, Ind.; and five grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Reva West and Trula Ford; three brothers, Lester Burnett, Lloyd Burnett and Floyd Burnett; and a granddaughter.

Services were held at Glancy Funeral Homes - H. Brown & Son Chapel, Warren with Pastor Herbert Edwards officiating.

Burial was in Fairview Cemetery, North Manchester. Preferred memorials are to the Huntington County Cancer Society.

TARR

Ruth P. Tarr, 91, of Warren died at 10:03 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17, 2006 at Heritage Pointe in Warren. Mrs. Tarr was a homemaker.

She was born in Blackford County on Sept. 3, 1915, a daughter of Vinel W. Baker and Cora Ellen (Shannon) Baker. She was a 1933 graduate of Montpelier High School. She lived in Blackford County until 1950 when she married A. Merle Tarr on Dec. 23, 1950. Mr. Tarr preceded her in death on Dec. 27, 1974. She resided in Liberty Center for

24 years and then moved back to Montpelier following her husband's death. She was a member of Boehmer United Methodist Church. She entered the United Methodist Memorial Home, now Heritage Point in 2003, where she enjoyed many crafts.

She is survived by her daughters Susan (Stephen) Siebold of Poneto and Nancy E. (Gary) Fulk of Warren. She is also survived by four grandsons and one step-grand-daughter. She was preceded in death by her brother Robert Baker and her sister Doris Pugh.

Calling will be on Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at the Glancy Funeral Homes - H. Brown and Son Chapel in Warren. Services will be on Thursday at 11 a.m. at Boehmer United Methodist Church in Liberty Center with Pastor Barry Humble officiating. Burial will be in Mossburg Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Boehmer United Methodist Church.

HALL

Melvin E. Hall, 90, died Monday, December 18, 2006 in Warren. He was born November 20, 1916, in Washington Township in Grant Co., to Milford Hall and Ada (Shoemaker) Hall. Melvin had spent most of his life in the Van Buren area.

Mr. Hallgraduated from Van Buren High School, class of 1934. On December 22, 1942, he married Hazel Thompson. She died October 3, 1994. He was an Army Air Corps Veteran of WWII. Melvin retired from the Indiana Dept. of Revenue in 1987 after 17 years of service. Mr. Hallwas a member of the Hanfieid United Methodist Church, on state Rd. #18 East of Marion

Surviving are four brothers, Rev. Lloyd Hall, Hartford City, Lymon Pete Hall and Wayne Hall, both of Marion, and Merrill (Verna) Hall, Sebring, Fla.; sister-in-law, Martha Scott, Van Buren; 24 nieces and

nephews; many great-nieces and nephews; great-great-nieces and nephews; cousins; neighbors and friends who were all much loved and appreciated.

He was preceded in death by mother, Ada (Shoemaker) Hall; father, Milford Hall; wife, Hazel Hall; two sisters, Betty Lou Bragg and Addie Lorene Hall; three nieces, Cindy May King, Lore Jean and Lori Jo Hall; nephew, Bill Thompson; and sisters-in-law, Frances Hall, Dea Ruth Hall and Julia "Peachy" Hall.

Services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday at Hanfield United Methodist Church, 101 N. 400 E., Marion, with the Rev. Tim Helm and Rev. Kent K. Kessler officiating. Internment will follow in the Van Buren Cemetery. The Grant County Honor Guard will conduct Military Graveside Rites at the Van Buren Cemetery. Arrangements are being handled by Ferguson & Glancy Funeral Home, 201 W. Main St., Van Buren, IN 46991.

Visitation is from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday at the Ferguson & Glancy Funeral Home, Van Buren. Also on December 21st, one hour before services at the church.

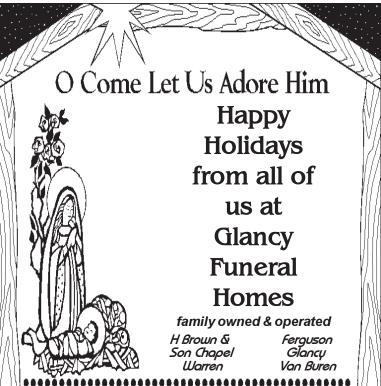
Preferred memorials to Family Hospice of Northeast Indiana, 265 W. Water St., Berne, IN 46711.

BIRTHS

Nick B. and Cheris Diane (Slusher) Miller, are the parents of a son, Cohen Nicholas Miller, born December 6, 2006 at Bluffton Regional Medical Center. The infant was born at 11:56 p.m. and weighed 7 pounds 11 ounces and measured 21 inches.

Grandparents are Verlis and Lois Slusher of Montpelier and Bruce and Mary Alice Miller of Liberty Center. Great-grandparents are Wayne and Sharon Miller of Bluffton and Eulis and Karen West, also of Bluffton.









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were broken and needed to be repaired with love. Frez was so glad to be in charge of such a project that he had only one lunch that day because he had to hurry back to his tasks.

There is a lesson to be learnt from what Santa did for the elf. Sometimes we have off days when we just don't feel positive. Someone's smile or invitation to join some friends can make our whole day worthwhile.

Frez is now content with assembling the broken toys and transform them into something new, and he has stopped being a voracious eaterthat he once used to be because he is happy. He even wears his old suit now, and his new suit is taken in for his smaller waist.

Its wise for us to try and do something worthwhile everyday so that a "Frez Attack" will never get us. We all have special talents and potentials and we can definitely help someone out if he is feeling a bit low. It takes only a few seconds to be able to know why someone is not feeling happy. Take out that time from your usual day and listen. Most importantly, we are here to help each other and all of us have that hidden talent to do it. Start to make use of that talent today.

How Claus Made the FIRST TOY

Excerpt from "The Life and Adventures of Santa Claus" by L Frank Baum

Truly our Claus had wisdom, for his good fortune but strengthened his resolve to befriend the little ones of his own race. He knew his plan was approved by the immortals, else they would not have favored him so greatly.

So he began at once to make acquaintance with mankind. He walked through the Valley to the plain beyond, and crossed the

Merry Christmas from the employees North Central Co-Op

plain in many directions to reach the abodes of men. These stood singly or in groups of dwellings called villages, and in nearly all the houses, whether big or little, Claus found children.

The youngsters soon came to know his merry, laughing face and the kind glance of his bright eyes; and the parents, while they regarded the young man with some scorn for loving children more than their elders, were content that the girls and boys had found a playfellow who seemed willing to amuse them.

So the children romped and played games with Claus, and the boys rode upon his shoulders, and the girls nestled in his strong arms, and the babies clung fondly to his knees. Wherever the young man chanced to be, the sound of childish laughter followed him; and to understand this better you must know that children were much neglected in those days and received little attention from their parents, so that it became to them a marvel that so goodly a man as Claus devoted his time to making them happy. And those who knew him were, you may be sure, very happy indeed. The sad faces of the poor and abused grew bright for once; the cripple smiled despite his misfortune; the ailing ones hushed their moans and the grieved ones their cries when their merry friend came nigh to comfort them.

Only at the beautiful palace of the Lord of Lerd and at the frowning castle of the Baron Braun was Claus refused admittance. There

were children at both places; but After a time the winter drew near.

The flowers lived out their lives and faded and disappeared; the beetles burrowed far into the warm earth; the butterflies deserted the meadows; and the voice of the brook grew hoarse, as if it had taken cold.

air in the Laughing Valley, dancing boisterously toward the earth and clothing in pure white raiment the roof of Claus's dwelling.

At night Jack Frost rapped at the

"Come in!" cried Claus.

you have a fire inside."

So Claus came out. He had known Jack Frost in the Forest, and liked the jolly rogue, even while he mistrusted him.

tonight, Claus!" shouted the sprite. "Isn't this glorious weather? I shall nip scores of noses and ears and toes before daybreak."

"If you love me, Jack, spare the children," begged Claus.

"And why?" asked the other, in

"They are tender and helpless," answered Claus.

declared Jack. "The older ones are

We wish you a Merry Christmas!

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the servants at the palace shut the door in the young stranger's face, and the fierce Baron threatened to hang him from an iron hook on the castle walls. Whereupon Claus sighed and went back to the poorer dwellings where he was welcome.

One day snowflakes filled all the

"Come out!" answered Jack, "for

"There will be rare sport for me

surprise.

"But I love to nip the tender ones!" tough, and tire my fingers."

"The young ones are weak, and can not fight you," said Claus.

"True," agreed Jack, thoughtfully. "Well, I will not pinch a child this night—if I can resist the temptation," he promised. "Good night, Claus!"

"Good night."

The young man went in and closed the door, and Jack Frost ran on to the nearest village.

Claus threw a log on the fire, which burned up brightly. Beside the hearth sat Blinkie, a big cat give him by Peter the Knook. Her fur was soft and glossy, and she purred never-ending songs of contentment.

"I shall not see the children again soon," said Claus to the cat, who kindly paused in her song to listen. "The winter is upon us, the snow will be deep for many days, and I shall be unable to play with my

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Wishing You The Very Best of the **Holiday Season and Our Hope** That You Have A Happy and Healthy New Year. **ACKLEY AUTOMOTIVE INC** Mike, Trudy, Dan, Josh and Dave



More Page 8

little friends."

The cat raised a paw and stroked her nose thoughtfully, but made no reply. So long as the fire burned and Claus sat in his easy chair by the hearth she did not mind the weather.

So passed many days and many long evenings. The cupboard was always full, but Claus became weary with having nothing to do more than to feed the fire from the big wood-pile the Knooks had brought him.

One evening he picked up a stick of wood and began to cut it with his sharp knife. He had no thought, at first, except to occupy his time, and he whistled and sang to the cat as he carved away portions of the stick. Puss sat up on her haunches and watched him, listening at the same time to her master's merry whistle, which she loved to hear even more than her own purring songs.

Claus glanced at puss and then at the stick he was whittling, until presently the wood began to have a shape, and the shape was like the head of a cat, with two ears sticking upward.

Claus stopped whistling to laugh, and then both he and the cat looked at the wooden image in some surprise. Then he carved out the eyes and the nose, and rounded the lower part of the head so that it rested upon a neck.

Puss hardly knew what to make of it now, and sat up stiffly, as if watching with some suspicion what would come next.

Claus knew. The head gave him an idea. He plied his knife carefully and with skill, forming slowly the body of the cat, which he made to sit upon its haunches as the real cat did, with her tail wound around her two front legs.

The work cost him much time, but the evening was long and he had nothing betterto do. Finally he gave a loud and delighted laugh at the result of his labors and placed the wooden cat, now completed, upon the hearth opposite the real

Puss thereupon glared at her image, raised her hair in anger, and uttered a defiant mew. The wooden cat paid no attention, and Claus, much amused, laughed again.

Then Blinkie advanced toward the wooden image to eye it closely and smell of it intelligently: Eyes and nose told her the creature was wood, in spite of its natural appearance; so puss resumed her seat and her purring, but as she neatly washed her face with her padded paw she cast more than one admiring glance at her clever master. Perhaps she felt the same satisfaction we feel when we look upon good photographs of ourselves.

The cat's master was himself pleased with his handiwork, without knowing exactly why. Indeed, he had great cause to congratulate himself that night, and all the $children \, throughout \, the world \, should \,$ have joined him rejoicing. For Claus had made his first toy.

Who Stole the CHRISTMAS COOKIES?

My brother Joey and I had just finished hanging our stockings by the fireplace one Christmas Eve, when the most disturbing thought crossed my mind.

"Joey!" I shrieked.

"Did you know that we forgot something?"

"No we didn't," said Joey crossly. "We've got both our stockings hung up. What could we possibly have forgotten?"

"We forgot the cookies," I explained to my seven year old brother, who happened to be older than me and who also happened to be more selfish than me.

"Cookies!" Joey laughed. "Why would you want to have cookies just before you go to bed?"

"They aren't for me silly," I declared. "They're for Santa Claus."

"Oh my!" Joey suddenly clued in. "Mom! Mom! We forgot to leave a snack for Santa! He'll never leave me the racing car set if we don't leave him a snack. How could we have forgotten something so important?"

Mommy came running into the family room. She had flour allover herface and in her hair. She looked very funny.

"Children!" she cried. "What is all this screaming about? I've got to finish my pies. This had better be important."

"Oh Mommy," I said very seriously. "We forgot something."

"Now Missy," Mommy said, a bit impatiently. "What did we forget?" "We forgot Santa's snack," Joey and I cried in unison.

"Oh my!" sighed Mommy.

"Santa's snack! How did we ever forget that? Come on children, let's go into the kitchen."

Joey and I followed Mommy into the kitchen. We both sat down at the table while she got out the milk and poured Santa a big heaping glass full. Then she went to the pantry to get the cookie jar and she set it on the table.

"Now," said Mommy. "You two each pick out a cookie for Santa and put them on the saucer."

Het Joey pick out the first cookie. Very carefully, he took the lid off the ceramic jar and set it on the table. He reached deep into the jar and then he let out the loudest scream that we had ever heard.

"There are no more cookies left!" he cried.

"That's impossible!" Mommy said, as she picked up the cookie jar and examined it. "I just baked a fresh batch this afternoon. Where could they be? Who stole the Christmas cookies?"

Just then, Daddy walked into the kitchen. He had a plate full of Christmas cookies in one hand and an empty glass in the other.

"I just came up to get another drink of milk," he said as he walked over to the refrigerator. "These cookies are really great!"

Mommy dropped the cookie jar onto the floor.

"No!" she cried. "Don't eat those cookies! We need them for Santa Claus!"

Daddy gladly gave up his cookies for such a worthwhile cause when he saw the look of anguish on our faces. Joey and I put the cookies on the table beside the glass of milk and then we went to bed to dream of sugar plums, Santa Claus and those cookies, all night long.



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A time for telling the special people in our lives they are fondly remembered, cherished and loved today and all year through.

Have a Wonderful Christmas Season

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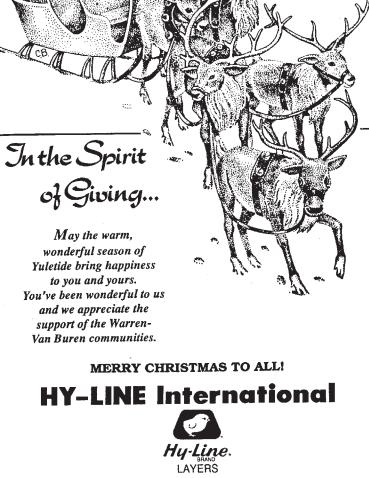
"Live a life of love, just as Christ loved us..." **EPHESIANS 5:2 NIV**



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Warren, IN 375-3401 उत्तवस्ति सम्बद्ध



SANTA GOT STUCK IN THE CHIMNEY

It was Christmas Eve. The children had hung their stockings by the fireplace and were all snug in their beds.

Sometime during the night, they were visited by a big, jolly, old man dressed in red. You got it, it was Santa Claus!

Santa and his bright red toy bag came down the chimney. This was his last stop of the night. First, he filled each stocking with special treats. Then, for each child, he left some gifts. "A new bike for Suzie," said Santa, pulling a beautiful pink bicycle out of his bag. "And, a train set for Billy."

By the time Santa was finished his work, he was a little hungry. He spotted a glass of milk and a plate of goodies, sitting on the kitchen table.

"I'll just take one," said Santa, reaching for a piece of chocolate cake. "If I eat too much, I might get stuck in the chimney on my way out."

The cake was so gooey and so good that Santa just had to have another slice. Soon, the plate was empty.

"Oh my!" said Santa, realizing what he had done. "I'm so full now!" Santa got up from the chair. As

he did, he heard it snap in two. "Oh my!" said Santa again. "I've broken the chair!"

Santa gathered up his bag and went over to the chimney. With a twinkle of his eyes and a twitch of his nose, up the chimney he rose. However, he was only able to get halfway up the chimney before he got stuck. He tried to go further, but the further he went, the more he got stuck.

Oh no!" said Santa. "I'm stuck!" No matter what Santa did, he could not get out. He dangled in mid-air with his big black boots hanging overthe fireplace.

"I'm glad there is no fire on right now," said Santa, after a few hours had gone by. "My feet would get pretty hot!"

Morning soon came. Suzie and Billy were quite anxious to go downstairs and see what Santa had brought them. They both went into their parents bedroom.

"Merry Christmas!" they shouted. "Merry Christmas, children!" Mom and Dad said.

Within a few minutes, the whole family was downstairs. Suzie spotted the empty plate.

"Santa Claus was here!" she exclaimed. "And, he ate all the goodies."

Billy noticed the broken chair. "Yeah," he said. "He ate so much that he broke the chair."

Dad was by the fireplace. He had just placed some kindling into it and was about to strike a match, when he just happened to look up. He saw a pair of big, black rubber boots hanging down.

"That's nothing children!" Dad said, tugging on one of the boots with all his might. "Santa is still here!"

The children rushed over to the fireplace. They helped Dad pull Santa out of the chimney. They tugged and tugged and tugged. Finally, down came Santa, with a crash.

"Ho! Ho! Ho!" he rang. "Merry Christmas!"

He was gone in a flash, this time, out the front door.

"What was all the commotion about?" Mom asked, coming out of the kitchen.

"Oh, it was just Santa Claus," laughed Billy. "He was so fat from eating all your baked goods that he not only broke the chair that he was sitting on, but he also got stuck in the chimney!"

The whole family laughed.

A heavy thump, thump, thump was heard on the roof of their house and then a jingle, jingle, jingle and finally, a "Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!"

Twas the night before Jesus

by Union Fork Creek Baptist Church 'Twas the night before Jesus came, when all through the house, not a creature was praying, not one in the house; The Bibles were lain on the shelf without care In hopes that JESUS would not come there; The children were dressing to crawl into bed, Not once ever kneeling or bowing a head. And Mom in her rocker with baby on lap Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap. When out of the East there arose such a clatter, I sprang to my feet to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!

When, what to my wondering eyes should appear But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here, With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray I knew in a moment this must be THE DAY!

The light of His face made me cover my head It was Jesus! returning just like He had said. And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth, I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.

In the book of Life which He held in His hand Was written the name of every saved man. He spoke not a word as He searched for my name; When He said "it's not here" my head hung in shame. The people whose names had been written with love He gathered to take to His Father above. With those who were ready He rose without a sound While all the rest were left standing around. I fell to my knees, but it was too late; I had waited too long and thus sealed my fate. I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight; Oh, if only I had been ready tonight. In the words of this poem the meaning is clear; The coming of Jesus is drawing near. There's only one life and when comes the last call We'll find that the Bible was true after all.

Who STARTED THIS CHRISTMAS STUFF?

Awoman was out Christmas shopping with her two children. After many hours of looking at row after row of toys and everything else imaginable; and afterhours of hearing both her children asking for everything they saw on those many selves, she finally made it to the elevator with her two kids.

She was feeling what so many of us feel during the Christmas season time of the year. Overwhelming pressure to go to every party, every housewarming, taste all the Christmas food and treats, getting that perfect gift for every single person on our shopping list, making sure we don't forget anyone on our card list, and the pressure of making sure we respond to everyone who sent us a card.

Finally the elevator doors opened and there was already a crowd in the car. She pushed her way into the car and dragged her two kids in with her and all the bags of stuff. When the doors closed she couldn't take it anymore and stated, "Whoever started this whole

Christmas thing should be found, strung up and shot."

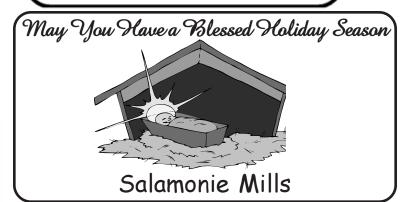
From the back of the car, everyone heard a quiet calm voice respond, "Don't worry, we already crucified Him."

For the rest of the trip down the elevator it was so quiet you could have heard a pin drop.

Don't forget this year to keep the One who started this whole Christmas thing in your every thought, deed, purchase, and word. If we all did it, just think of how different this whole world would be.













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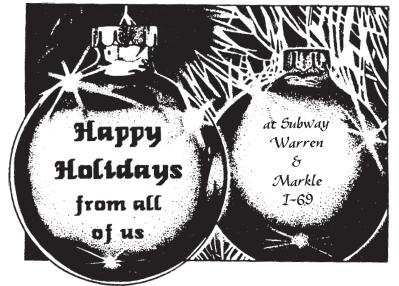
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AND THE ANGEL SAID UNTO THEM...

Shepherdswere tending their flocks by night.

"And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

"And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

"And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

"And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

"And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger."

THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS STORY

In her 2004 Christmas message, Queen Elizabeth II recounted an experience by an overseas visitor to Britain.

When the traveler was asked about the best part of his visit, he said it had been traveling from Heathrow into central London on the tube. The Queen continued ...

"His British friends were, as you can imagine, somewhat surprised, particularly as the visitor had been to some of the great attractions of the country. 'What do you mean,' they asked? 'Because,' he replied, 'I boarded the train just as the schools were coming out.

'At each stop children were getting on and off. They were of every ethnic and religious background, some with scarves or turbans, some talking quietly, others playing and occasionally misbehaving together, completely at ease and trusting one another. How lucky you are to live in a country where your children can grow up this way.'

"I hope they will be allowed to enjoy this happy companionship forthe rest of their lives," the Queen said.

Peace on Earth. Goodwill toward

Season of Faith: Americans believe

With political attacks on the culture of Christianity and Christmas a common occurrence during the Christmas season, a Newsweek poll shows that Americans believe

in the religious message of Christmas, and they celebrate the holiday.

The poll showed that 93 percent of Americans believe Christ lived and 82 percent believe He was the son of God. More than 67 percent of Americans believe the entire story of Christmas, including the Virgin Birth, angelic proclamation to the shepherds, Star of Bethlehem and Wise Men from the East.

CHRISTMAS PHOTOS: A LIFETIME OF MEMORIES

We don't know about you, but we love thumbing through old photo albums. Ridiculous hairdos from years ago that you had totally forgotten about (and upon close inspection wish everyone else would forget about as well), grandma making funny faces after one too many eggnogs, the expression of enthusiastic anticipation on your baby sister's face as she was about to receive her Christmasgift, your teenage brother tugging at Santa's beard: memories are priceless, and there's no better way of saving memorable moments for all eternity than by photographing them.

No better time to be snapping away than Christmas either. Sure, that beach holiday on the picturesque white sand beach with the palm trees leaning towards a magical pink sunset provides some pretty photo opportunities, but nothing can compare to the magical glow of hundreds of Christmas lights illuminating the faces of people who are happy to be spending a joyous night together. Or the face of your little cousin after he's fallen asleep right into his plate, and wakes up with gravy all over his nose and cheeks. Or the overthe-top Christmas decorations that your neighbors put up on their roof, and their desperation when the fuses blow because electric Santa seems to be eating away enough electricity to power their house for a whole year. Or the cute little carolers who will inevitably show up at your doorstep, painfully singing out of key but looking ever so sweet. Or, when you live in the city, the grateful expressions of those who are down on their luck when you bring them a bowl of steaming soup and fresh rolls with lots of butter. And then there's all those goofy Christmas sweaters...

Taking pictures has become increasingly easy over the past few years, too: for one, there's no more messing about with expensive film. Just get yourself a decent digital camera (they don't even cost that much anymore anyway) and snap away as much as you want: just

delete the pictures you don't want, and store the ones you do like on your computer and - this is really important, if you don't want those memories to be lost - on an external data carrier, like a cd or an external hard drive. And the best ones you can simply print off and frame or paste in an album, just like in the old days. Digital cameras are really easy to handle to: you get loads of modes from which you can just select the most appropriate one, so you don't even have to think about lighting, focus and whatnot: the camera takes care of everything for you.

Christmas is a time for sharing, and it's great to be able to not just share the moment and the gifts and the food, but to also be able to share the memories afterwards. Why not create an online photo album and send the link to everyone who was there that wonderful evening? Or to distant relatives, who you haven't seen in ages? That way everyone gets to have their bit of that beautiful holiday spirit...

IDENTITY THEFT

By Dorothy M Garretson

My identity has been stolen and it is very plain Something has been taken from

for I am not the same.

The gold is missing from my hair my knees snap and crack I'm top heavy like a bobble head I have a pain in my back.

All parts have shifted to the south my eyes are getting weak Something happened to my ears I can't hear when people speak.

I glanced into a mirror

"My goodness who is that!"
The wrinkles around my eyes and mouth

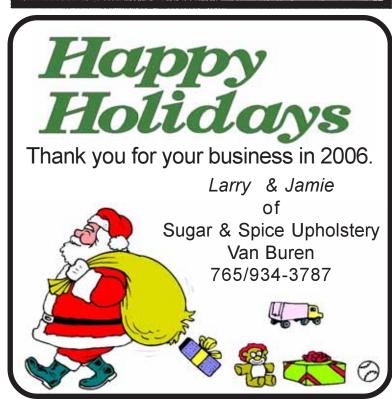
look like a highway map.

Hey, I think I know who the culprit is

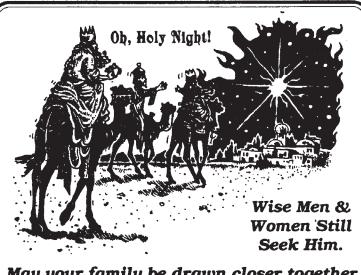
I believe I've solved this crime. But there is nothing I can do about it.

You see, the thief is "Father Time"!!









May your family be drawn closer together as you remember the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

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