

CARROLL COUNTY COMET

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Memberships include:



There is a real Santa Claus

History teaches that Santa Claus was a real man. It teaches us that he was a Christian man. In fact, he was an early church elder who lived in Asia Minor. His name was Saint Nicholas. He was a wealthy man who shared his wealth and possessions with the sick, the poor, and the suffering. History records that he died as a martyr in about 350 A.D.

After his death, his memory was kept alive. To celebrate his generous example, he was impersonated in long, white robes and a great, white beard. Each December, during the first part of the month, the impersonator would ride on a horse and deliver gifts to the poor children of the village. Added to this practice were traditions in other countries of gift-bearing "Father Christmas" and of the Wise Men who brought gifts to the baby Jesus.

It wasn't long before the tradition of Saint Nicholas found its way into the hearts of people everywhere. On one Christmas Eve, the poet Clement Moore wrote, "The Visits of Saint Nicholas" for his very sick daughter. In his popular poem, Saint Nicholas experienced a change of apparel, from white to red; a change of transportation, from horse to reindeer; and a change of arrival, from early December to Christmas Day. Dr. F.S. Wichman of Los Gatos, Calif., suggests that because of the new mode of transportation for Saint Nicholas, he eventually received a change of address, from heaven to the North Pole.

As we experience this Christmas season, why not tell this story to your children? It can be an effective way to use the artificial Santa Claus to point to the Godly example of a very real person who, in the spirit of Christian love, gave of himself to others. In this way, even Santa Claus can help point people back to the reason behind it all, Jesus Christ. For too long the forces of selfishness and sin have exploited the tradition of Santa Claus for monetary gain.

Let us, once and for all, use this priceless tradition for spiritual gain!

G. Edward Geans

Reprinted from Dec. 25, 1991, issue of Carroll County Comet

Park board does it right

The recent news of funding cuts to various departments was met with different degrees of tolerance and negativity. One group, the Carroll County Park Board, rose to the occasion and turned the bleak situation around to realize the value of change.

Instead of moaning and complaining and organizing letter-writing campaigns to reverse a decision which is not going to be reversed, park board members accepted what was and put their heads together to think of creative, but realistic, ways for them to survive. Their caretakers no longer will be paid a salary for providing mowing and community center rental services. They agreed to stay in their current positions in exchange for a place to live on-site. Youth groups will be engaged to help keep the parks viable for use.

The park board has continued to strive to think of other ways and methods to accomplish what was once funded by tax dollars. They are developing ways to not only increase activity at Deer Creek Park, but they are also developing ideas for practical fundraising activities and a way to secure funds to ensure the park's future. In short, they accepted the inevitable, rolled up their collective sleeves and decided to turn their lemons into lemonade.

The Carroll County Park Board is to be commended for their efforts and their forward thinking to do what they believe needs to be done with a lot less help from tax dollars. The community is privileged to have such a fine group of committed individuals working to preserve that which they believe to be valuable in Carroll County.

Web poll

Tell us starting Wednesday at our web site, carrollcountycomet.com

Each week the *Comet* polls its readers on a different topic. Vote online at carrollcountycomet.com starting each Thursday, and then click the *Comments* link to send us an email voicing your opinion. The best responses will be printed the following week.

What's your attitude toward New Year's resolutions?

1. Good idea for self-improvement
2. Good idea, but I never follow through
3. Just a waste of time

Last Weeks results

What is your favorite type of Christmas gift?

60% Total surprise
13% Something you asked for
13% A gift card
14% Donation to a charity
01% Food/beverage
Total responses: 80

What is it about a Santa's hat that makes just about anyone grin?

You see them all over these days - on tough guys and sweet gals and all kinds of folks in-between. Nobody is too old or too young to don a Santa's hat and there seems to be something universally jolly about seeing these unique head toppers.

I was in the elevator the other day when a pizza delivery guy got on at another floor. The fellow was stern and not saying a word. But there he was in this red and white furry hat with the tassel on the end.

"Love the hat," I said. The pizza guy broke out in a grin. He didn't even say anything. But then, when he got off on his floor he gave a little "ho, ho" as he made his exit. There's just some kind of magic twinkle in that hat.

Truth be told, I've already received my Christmas gift this year. And a Santa hat is featured in it.

No, I didn't steal it from underneath the tree.

Nor did I buy it for myself. It's a photo. It's a photo of seven smiling adults and one screaming, crying infant. The screaming, crying infant is our first grandchild, Julia Grace, and but for her arrival on the scene we might not have visited Santa this year.

But we did, and we got a picture to prove it.

To get Julia Grace's parents, Liz and Jake, her two uncles, Jeff and Brad, the grandparents, Deb and me, and Santa himself all together at the same time on a workday, well that was some kind of seasonal mir-

Midwest Memo

by Alan Shultz



A Santa's hat

acle itself. The miracle required a lot of cell phone calls, long waiting in line, some pushing through the line, and some luck.

No wonder Julia Grace had had it by the time the photographer told us, "smile."

It's been our Christmas tradition for years to meet up with the big bearded man in red at the former Marshall Field's, now Macy's, on State Street in Chicago. We have a couple of decades of photos of our three, Liz, Brad and Jeff. When Jake married Liz, he gracefully consented to the family tradition and now little Julia Grace has joined in.

The line, or cattle call, to see Santa at Macy's involves a maze through a wonderland intended to distract you from how long a wait one is going to experience. If you've been to Disney World you have been in this kind of a line.

The maze is somewhat darkened for effect. You have huge nutcrackers in there, and there's music and moving puppets and all kinds of Christmas displays to view. Santa is a long ways away at the end of the "enchanted" maze.

First into the maze went grandmother and child, soon to be joined by the proud parents themselves. Me, I'm out front looking for the uncles, fielding cell phone calls. Call

me mission control.

Along comes Jeff - and I push him into the maze with instructions to find the group - which he apparently does. At least he doesn't resurface on this end.

Auto traffic is Brad's obstacle and it looks like maybe he won't make it. I better find the crowd and settle for a photo minus one.

I attempt to enter the artificial winter wonderland. I push, I elbow and budge my way into the maze, but I am thwarted by the crowd that fills the crooked, bending passageway from side-to-side. I'm in big trouble.

I go around back to the do not enter area. I figure maybe I could pull this off without anyone calling security. Santa has good security, I'm not getting in.

Out front again, Brad has finally arrived and a hard to decipher message on my cell says the moment is near.

So Brad, fresh from fighting traffic, takes on the crowd in the maze. I guess I never realized he could be so - well - pushy. All the while, following close behind, I'm announcing to anyone who will listen that it's my granddaughter up front as we push and press forward.

Suddenly, we're there, all together and we step up to meet the man in red and say "cheese." Well, seven out of eight of us say "cheese"

The picture is quite a Christmas present.

And next time, I'll be the one wearing a Santa's hat. That way while pushing through the crowd I can claim.... "official business."

Restaurant Inspections

The Sportsman Inn

Routine inspection: 11/8/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Carol's Candies and Cookies

Routine inspection: 11/8/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Brosman's IGA

Routine inspection: 11/9/07
Summary of violations: 1 Critical, 5 Non-Critical

Critical
The fried chicken in the cold case had a temperature of 49 degrees. Directed to correct by one day.

Non-Critical
There was not paper towel available at the hand sink in the deli. Corrected.

There were some cases of frozen food being stored on the freezer floor. Directed to correct by one day.

There was not a thermometer in the refrigerator in the deli. Corrected.

The ceiling above the freezer and the ceiling in aisle 5 are in need of repair. Directed to correct by six months.

The packaged waffles in the frozen food case had frost on them. Directed to correct by one day.

Delphi Pizza King

Routine inspection: 11/9/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Burlington Mid-Land Meals

Routine inspection: 11/13/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

The Burlington Locker Plant

Routine inspection: 11/13/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Delphi Mid-Land Meals

Routine inspection: 11/14/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

The Summer Kitchen

Routine inspection: 11/14/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Spirit of Flora

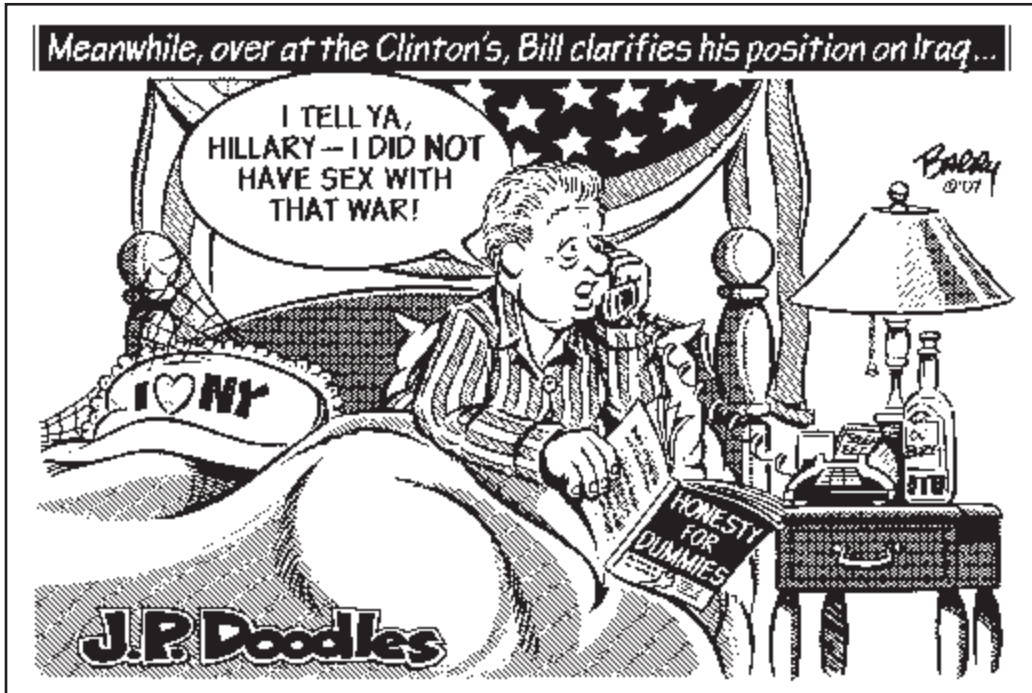
Routine inspection: 11/15/07
Summary of violations: No Violations Noted

Marriage Licenses

David B. Phillips, 36, and Shirley D. Cook, 42, both of Monticello.

Joe Lynn Morris, 29, and Ashley Lania Weedon, 22, both of Monticello.

Robert Vernon Wilcoxon, 77, of Monticello, and Nellie Ruth Voorhees, 71, of Bringham.



Letters to the Editor

The Comet welcomes letters to the editor responding to articles and events in the news. They must include the author's name, address and telephone number. The letter writer's name and city/town will appear in the paper - no exceptions. Letters must be 400 words or less in length. Please send your letters to: editor@carrollcountycomet.com; Letters to the Editor, Comet, P.O. Box 26, Flora, IN 46929 or P.O. Box 179, Delphi, IN 46923; or fax 574-967-3384 or 765-564-2010. By submitting a letter or opinion article, the author grants the Comet the right to publish, distribute, archive or use the work in print, electronic, on-line or other format.

Commends Ashby

I feel the need to respond to the attack on Councilman Steve Ashby. I've known Steve for several years and have seen first hand how he managed a budget as a teacher. He ran an excellent automotive and technology program while at Carroll.

As far as spending goes, if you are buying something for yourself with your own money, you care about price and quality. If you are buying something for yourself with someone else's money you care about quality but not price. If you buy something for someone else with your own money, you care about price but not quality. If you buy something for someone else with someone else's money, you don't care about quality or price.

Almost all politicians fall within that last category but I know for a fact that Steve Ashby does not. Steve seems to be a lone voice of reason when it comes to the stewardship of our money. I was excited to read of his suggestion of moving the museum out of the courthouse and moving the extension office in to save the taxpayers \$14,000 a year. It is high time that our politicians quit spending the money of their constituents like drunken sailors.

Commissioner Brown, if the museum brings in so many visitors, why not charge them admission? Can you offer any evidence in actual dollars that proves the museum brings in more revenue to the county than what it costs to operate it? You can only speculate. If visitors aren't willing to pay \$5 to see what our museum has to offer, they aren't going to come to Carroll County as a tourist.

I think that the commissioners, councilmen, auditor and treasurer should have to sit in

the county jail until they can get the county's finance issues resolved. I'm sure the proper solutions will be implemented rather quickly then. They got us into this mess, it is their responsibility to get us out of it. I hope people remember this come election time.

Darren Pullen
Bringham

Praises finance committee's efforts

Thank you, Ann Brown, Ron Slavens, and Steve Ashby, the Carroll County Council's finance subcommittee members who are/have been trying to sort out the county's financial mess, especially Ron Slavens whose four-year degree in accounting is proving very useful to the county. It looks like all of you are making great progress. That's why it's hard to understand why Council president Rob Baker for a long time, wanted to remove you and put others on the job instead (*Carroll County Comet*, Nov. 21, 2007). I hope you succeeded.

\$4,000,000 that was in the cash reserve, plus about \$1,000,000 that the county is in the red for this year, is a lot of money to be unaccounted for. (I understand the tax rebate that's said will put the county general fund in the black for this year is not recommended to be used for that purpose, according to the state. I hope someone can clear that up.) To repeat, about \$5,000,000 compared to an annual county budget of about \$6-7,000,000 is a lot of money to be unaccounted for.

Thanks to the *Comet* too for really digging into this and publishing many detailed articles about it, although the *Monticello Reminder* was the first to bring this to our attention last summer.

And yes, it does matter how we got here. It's our money and we want to know where it went. It's said our taxes will be raised to make up for this wild spending. How can we avoid making these awful mistakes again if we don't know what happened this time? Too many of our

elected county officials have had their heads stuck in the sand on this.

Joanne Ratcliff
Delphi

County being led to slaughter

I do not know how many county residents are familiar with the term "Judas goat." This name and term was given to a goat trained to lead livestock to slaughter.

Figuratively, it appears we have a "Judas goat" alive and well within Carroll County. This "goat" entered under the pretense of economic development and is leading the county to economic and cultural decimation.

Before rejecting the aforementioned statements as being a misrepresentation, and erroneous assessment, please consider the status of the county prior to the implementation of "economic development."

A solvent treasury existed containing sufficient funds to construct a new correctional facility, without a bonded indebtedness (I believe we paid cash.) County schools were of the highest caliber and the envy of other districts. Now, as per an article in the *Comet*, parents in one district are considering paying tuition so that their children may obtain their education in a district they consider superior.

Our roads were in good serviceable condition and we weren't assessed a wheel tax. What are the present road conditions?

When questioned about financial returns (taxes) from the Cutler dairy project, both Daryl Smith the current director of "economic development" and Commissioner Bill Brown, a former director, professed to have no knowledge of taxing policies. To use a modified version of an old colloquial term, "this is a heck of a way to run a railroad."

If current and previous directors aren't knowledgeable regarding taxing policies and statutes, how do they assess and calculate financial benefits (returns) to the county from in-

vestments in economic development?

Moreover, without accurate certified public accounting, what criteria do they employ to justify spending your tax dollars on this financial boondoggle?

I could cite numerous other conditions and items, however I am positive these haven't escaped your observation.

Perhaps if the commissioners had acted in a more prudent manner, funds would have been available for the museum.

Carl Perry,
Carroll County resident,
Rossville

Because the public has a right to know...

In an effort to help our readers understand what government meetings are happening when and where, the *Comet* will now print upcoming meetings on a weekly basis.

Wednesday, Dec. 19

√ Delphi Board of Works: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 21

√ Burlington Town Council end of year: 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 26

√ Flora Town Council end of year: 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 27

√ County council: 8 a.m.
√ Camden Town Council end of year: 6 p.m.
√ Delphi City Council end of year transfers: 7 p.m.

Public Notices appearing in this issue of the Comet:

Sheriff Sale-Martinez5B
CCSC-Not to Bidders.....5B
CCSC-Bond Sale6B
Sheriff Sale-Woodhams5B
Nance Estate5B
NIPSCO-Cause# 433965B
NIPSCO-Cause# 433935B
Oakley Estate5B
Bachelor Run Pub Mtgs5B
Bachelor Run Ann Mtgs5B
County Council-Addl App5B
Questions concerning Indiana's Open Door and Public Access Laws may be directed to the state's public access office, at 1-800-228-6013.