

12/12/07

By the time most of you in the North Forty reads today's column, there will only be 3 weeks until Christmas. I am not ready... but I usually will not start to be ready until 2 or three days before Christmas. That gets a little tricky as your children grow up and have families of their own. Each year I swear I will start early, like in January. Sound familiar?

The Secret Santa's have collected the ornaments with the children's Christmas wishes, and cash donation cans. Fewer ornaments were taken this year, but the cash donations were great, so the secret Santa's will have a "shop till you drop" day, and try to make sure each ornament's three wishes are filled. And then comes the wrapping. If you think you have a lot of wrapping to do, think what these Secret Santa's have to do. I am sure they would welcome any "Elf Helpers" if you are interested, and it is not too late to give cash donations. If you are interested in helping wrap, or give a cash donation, or have a question, please call Virginia Allin at 266-3518, or Lynn Hartley at 266-3980. They will even be glad to pick it up.

Plans for Pastor Fred and Roberta Borings 60th anniversary on January 12 keep rolling along. However, the place to have it may change. I will keep you posted. It would be very helpful if you could call and let us know if you are coming to help decide how large a cake to make, and how much room will be required. You could call the Borings at 266-3900, or Mary Bowen at 266-3623, or Betty Eyman at 266-3440.

The Boring's are providing the meat, and those who wish could bring a side dish salad or dessert. There will be a tiered anniversary cake provided. BUT!!!! Fred said **absolutely no gifts!!** He didn't say **No money tree.** so there will be a money tree for those who wish to use it.

The North Lake Lion's annual Senior Christmas Dinner on December 8 was a huge success again this year. They served between 85 and 95 meals, and delivered about a dozen dinners to shut-in's. The ham and turkey dinner with all the trimmings was catered by Marino's in Weaverville.

Speaking of the Lion's, Santa's helper, John Wagner and his Elf, Mike Mayo will be paying the students of Coffee Creek and Trinity Center schools a visit on Thursday, December 20. Each year, Weaverville Longs Drug Store goes through their Christmas Workshop and donates gifts and candies to help stuff Santa's bags. If you have the opportunity to go into longs, you might mention how much our entire community appreciates their giving hearts for so many different fund raisers through the year.

There is no way we can thank the North Lake Lions Club for all the good they do for our community. They are always there to help with scholarships, building school bus shelters, providing money to emergencies such as the family that was staying in the apartment above the Forest Café. And I haven't even scratched the surface of all that they do. If you are interested in joining the North Lake Lions, call John Wagner and he will be happy to tell you exactly how to do that.

Trinity Center School's Christmas Program, "Santa's Rockin Christmas Eve" on Wednesday, December 9 at the IOOF Hall. There will be two shows. One at 10:30 and one at 6:00. I had the pleasure of seeing last year's production. We have some very talented students in our two schools. We can thank Mary Hanson for the magic she pulls out of these students.

Coffee Creek's Christmas program, "Home for the Holidays, will be on December 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the IOOF Hall. There will be a dress rehearsal at 10:30 that you are welcome to come to if your evening is filled. These students really do put all they have into these productions and it is such a pleasure to watch them work their little hearts out to entertain us.

The Trinity Center church will be presenting the "The Glory Strings Gospel Blue Grass" singers on December 16 at 5:00 p.m. at the Trinity Center Church. Refreshments will follow.

I am still looking for a source of news from the northern part of the North Forty land, as well as the southern areas. We want to represent ALL of you, and sometime there are some great things that happens in your life you would like to share. Such as grandchildren achievements, babies being born, couples getting married (not necessarily in that order) etc.

A couple of weeks ago I shared news about my second grade grandson working on his third food and toy drive. His goal this year was to collect 1000 pounds of food. He met and exceeded his goal. He collected 1059 pounds of food and 53 toys and \$300.

1059 pounds of food, equates to 827 meals. \$300.00, equates to \$1500.00 of food that the food bank can buy, and 53 toys, equates to 53 toys

Rian's three year old sister, Reilly, helped him this year. When all is completed, they will have both walked almost 11 miles for the drive. The neighbors were very sweet and generous. Out of 175 homes, 77 donated in some way. That's the best percentage yet. A lot of them included notes of encouragement to Rian, some came out to say hello, one man even promised to vote for Rian when he runs for president. A man walked up to my grandson's home and gave a check for \$200.00 for the food bank.

A very good friend of mine said someone asked her if my grandson had moved to Trinity Center. because, of course, the North Forty was a column about and for the North Forty Community. And that person is exactly correct. Our children and grandchildren are a very important part of us, and I am proud to print any accomplishments and achievements any child or grandchild does. Please include yours as well.