

## Christmas... By Anna M.

December is probably the busiest time of the year. It's so easy to get caught up in all the hype and commercialism of the Christmas season, that it's very easy to lose sight of the real reason for celebrating this time of year.

Over 3,000 years ago, our Lord took the form of a baby and entered the world in a lowly estate - in a manger! Why did He do this? Because He knew the world was lost and we needed a Savior. Jesus was born to save us all from our sins so that we can have eternal life through Him. It's a free gift that is available to anyone who will believe on His name.

Now, it's ok to have all those family traditions, many of which do not focus on the real reason for this season. And these traditions will change over the years, and that's ok, too. Here's a few things that we have done in our family over the years:

- ★ When we first moved into our current home, there were no trees in our yard! We spent several

Christmases picking out the "perfect" potted tree so that we could plant it on an extremely cold January day. We did this about 5 times - until Brian finally decided that it was "too stinkin' cold out there" to be planting a tree in January! Two of the trees have survived over the years and one is my favorite tree in our yard.

- ★ We always do some kind of home-made gift-giving each year. It used to be several varieties of cookies, then it was chocolate drizzled caramel corn, and now we make several different flavors of chex mix. We usually give these home-made treats to the custodial staff and the girls in the office at church, as well as a few neighbors and family members.



- ★ We play Christmas music while decorating our Christmas tree. And we all have special ornaments that go on our tree every year. For me, it's a pink angel that my 1st grade teacher gave to me MANY years ago!



- ★ We adopt 1 or 2 Prison Angel Tree children each year and purchase gifts for them.

- ★ We gift wrap all items that go into our stockings - those are gifts, too! And each person's stocking items are wrapped in paper that is unique to that person - no one else can use it that year for any other gifts!



- ★ On Christmas Eve, right before they go to bed, I still sit on the floor in one of their bedrooms and read a very special copy of "The Night Before Christmas" to Bethany and Ian. Yep - even being college and high school aged, they still want their mommy to read this special story to them on Christmas eve.

- ★ On Christmas day we open stockings, have Pillsbury cinnamon rolls and orange rolls for breakfast, then open presents. And we open presents slowly so that we can appreciate each gift and be able to remember later who gave it to us.

- ★ We got tired of the traditional food items, so Christmas dinner is steak on the grill, garlic mashed potatoes and whatever other delightful things we decide to have with it.

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What are your family traditions? No matter what they are, make sure you don't lose sight of the most important thing of all - we celebrate Christmas because God sent His Son to the world to save us and He offers us the greatest gift of all!

## **Who Did What?** Provided by the Board Members

For those who missed last month's club meeting, here are the answers to the little quiz about the board members. If you'd like to know "the rest of the story" just ask that board member!

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. Mike Walker - <b>E</b>      | A. Has a sister who is a dancer for an NBA team   |
| 2. John Dudley - <b>H</b>      | B. Was in a small village in the West Indies the day after a public hanging took place in the center of the village |
| 3. Brian Matecun - <b>G</b>    | C. Is a distant relative of Franz Gruber, who wrote the music to "Silent Night"                                     |
| 4. Anna Matecun - <b>B</b>     | D. Has 4 college degrees  |
| 5. John Assenmacher - <b>C</b> | E. Met Richard Petty at the Grand Canyon  |
| 6. Tom Latterner - <b>D</b>    | F. Was born at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds Army Hospital in Maryland   |
| 7. Deb Wittkowski - <b>F</b>   | G. Was once in a bakery at the same time as Bill Murray, Harold Ramis and Andie MacDowell                           |
| 8. Ron Jenner - <b>A</b>       | H. Was accepted to the Seminary to become a minister after High School  |

## **C.L.A.D. Survey Results** By Ace C.

The votes are in on that ever so pretty C.L.A.D. and what our members plan to do with their findings! Here is how they ranked:

- |                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 35% - Deposit in Bank      | 14% - Purchase more metal detecting gear |
| 28% - Other                | 3% - Buy gifts                           |
| 17% - Didn't save or total | 3% - Vacation                            |

Several of the members in the "Other" category are planning on spending their take-in C.L.A.D. this year on silver or other old coins to help add to their growing collection. Not a bad investment when you take that dirty money and turn it in to something with character and class! Those "new" old coins will make great additions to their collections.

Another idea for this year's acquired sum has one member thinking toward the future, their kids future that is, and will be investing it in their education! That's right, the C.L.A.D. scholarship is now available to any parent wielding a metal detector. Now would be a great opportunity to thank all those community members, tourists and careless kids who don't see the value of a penny like you do as they support your child's education.

One member is thinking about others when it comes to C.L.A.D. Their plans are to cash that change in at the bank and then write a check for that amount and send it off to their missionary friend in Paraguay. Hopefully that money will lead to a good cause, especially around this time of year. Who knows, maybe it will open up some invitations to come down and do some metal detecting there as well!

And if another member had a penny for every year they've been married, they could turn them in for a quarter! Well, in 2013 that is... which is when they plan on taking their 25th anniversary trip! Hopefully they've found more than a quarter's worth otherwise they won't be getting very far for that trip. However, with all that wonderful C.L.A.D. that is out there along with those other silver and golden goodies, I'm sure this trip will be magnificent and will encourage them to shoot for another spectacular 25 years after that!

Hopefully everyone had a great year detecting, made some great finds, acquired new friendships along the way, and was able to save a piece of history from being forgotten. No matter if it was the bad, the C.L.A.D., or the rad... remember to keep your coil to the soil.

## ***Find of the Month Winners***

### **Jewelry**

1. Sterling silver ring (Eric O.)
2. Lobster clasps (Martin K.)
3. Siamese Cat Pendant (Mike W.)
4. Silver ring (Lester R.)
5. Cat earring (Deb W.)
6. 10K & CZ man's wedding band (Tim P.)

The winner was man's wedding band found by Tim P.

### **Coins**

1. 1871 Half dime (Henry H.)
2. 1867 two cent piece (Mike W.)
3. 1840 O seated liberty half dime (Bruce W.)
4. 1857 Flying Eagle Cent (John A.)
5. 1921 Canadian penny (Rick B.)
6. 1850 Large Cent (Anne K.)
7. 1958 British six pence (Ace C.)
8. 1838 large cent (Tim P.)

The winner was the 1838 large cent found by Tim P.

### **Fob, Badge & Token**

1. Post Cereal tag (Mike W.)
2. Dog Rabies tag (Martin K.)
3. Jury Rowe Co. \$1 off token (Anne K.)
4. Cat tag (Lester R.)
5. Piccadilly Inn, Kalamazoo \$1 token (Ron J.)

The winner was the Piccadilly Inn token found by Ron J.

### **Most Unusual**

1. Two cowbells from same hole (John D.)
2. 1920's State Farm license plate topper (Mike W.)
3. 1895 Brass Eagle Lock Company lock (Hal D.)
4. Brass (Lester R.)
5. Antique Key (Bruce W.)
6. Zinc Blob, meld-down from fire (John W.)
7. Cracker Jack toy pistol (Rick B.)

The winner was the cow bells found by John D.

### **Miscellaneous**

1. Red light token (Wayne M.)
2. Keys to Mayberry Jail (John D.)
3. 1854 half dime w/arrows (Mike W.)
4. 1827 half dollar (Mike B.)
5. 1954 Mexican 2 pesos gold coin (Henry H.)
6. Back pain reducer (Ron J.)
7. Antlers from 8-point buck (Tim H.)

The winner was the keys to Mayberry Jail brought in by John D.

*Congratulations!*

*Keep finding all those great items!*

### ***Winners!***

Our Fishbowl Silver Cache winner was Bob R. but he was not present so it carries over to next month!

Our silver dollar winners were Tim J. & Tim P.!

Our 50/50 winners were Billy K. & Tim P.!

The gold coin raffle winner was Henry H.!

The turkey winners were Tim J. & Steve J.!

**Congratulations,  
everyone!**



The Scoop News  
6692 Whitehorse Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

Look us up on the web!  
[www.swmss.org](http://www.swmss.org)

The Scoop News is the official newsletter of the Southwest Michigan Seek & Search Club. The newsletter is edited by Anna Matecun.

The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Plainwell Community Center.

From U.S. 131, take exit 49A and go east on M-89. go through three traffic lights, then another 1/8 mile. Turn right into the drive just before the second set of railroad tracks. The building is near the road on the south side of M-89. Parking is in the rear of the building. Enter on the west side.

Meetings are open to the public.

## *Things You Should Know...*

- This month is also our annual **AUCTION & CHRISTMAS PARTY**. We will have several auction items. but are in need of more. If you have something that you would like to donate to the club to include in the auction, please bring it to the club meeting and let Mike know. Also, if you can bring finger-food or a dessert to share during the break, we will have an extended time to eat, bid on auction items, and enjoy each other's company.
- This month is also our **BUY-SELL-TRADE-SHOW** month. If you have something you'd like to sell, trade or show, be sure to bring it to the club meeting. And keep your eyes peeled in case you see something you'd like to buy at the meeting!
- We will give away two **turkeys** at the club meeting this month.
- We will vote to adopt the new **By-Laws** at the this month's meeting.
- Save the date of **February 20**. That is when we will have our annual Winter Banquet. Watch for more details next month!

