

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

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Bowlers and Violin Class

Bet you know several of these spiffy looking Lincoln Tap bowlers. (Love those uniforms...!)

The 1920 violin class is a little harder... can you identify any of these very serious musicians?

(Don't peek... the answers are at the end of the Newsletter)



From the Herald December 22, 1910

"the bank gave brand new pennies..."

Occasion One of Most Enjoyable Holidays of the Year – Hundreds of Children Made Happy With Gifts Distributed From Stores – Santa Delighted With Reception.

In traditional garb and with a generosity and kindness that stamped him at once in the juvenile mind as a "sure enough Santa Claus", albeit riding in metropolitan style in a modern auto and being greeted in broad daylight in such enthusiastic manner as to remind him that the best days are not of the past, jolly old Santa made his appearance in Metamora Saturday afternoon exactly according to schedule.

Through the afternoon, with the streets and stores crowded with people as a midsummer celebration day, the patron of the children went about from store to store distributing remembrances of candies, nuts, gum, apples, pencils, pennies, handkerchiefs and other souvenirs from each place of business among the merry horde of prattlers that followed at his heels, while out in the streets Herr Spiegelburger in his immense major domo hat and flowing whiskers marshaled his "little German band", which was combined with Attig's band to the amusement of old and young alike. Parents caught up the infectious enthusiasm of the youngsters and there was naught but pleasantry among the large gathering, while words of surprise and appreciation as well as praise of the liberality and enterprise of the Metamora merchants were to be heard on every It was a few minutes past the appointed time and the children were

getting impatient when an auto came bearing down from the west.

The band immediately went on parade and followed by long ranks of children marched out to meet the auto. The auto was met at the school house and sure enough it contained Santa Claus, the hero of many a dream. He was riding in J. R. Wagner's car, Mr. Wagner having been sent to meet the honored guest. Beside Santa sat Mayor Giehl, who extended a hearty welcome to the distinguished visitor. Marshal Martin rode in the front seat with Mr. Wagner. Led by the band the parade moved through the business section of the town, Santa waving greetings to the crowds as he passed along.

The first stop was made at J. W. Miller's store, Santa alighting with bows right and left in acknowledgement of the greetings of the immense crowd that filled the street. With Marshal Martin clearing a path Santa made his way into the store and beckoned the children to come in, and as they filed past him with the assistance of the clerks he handed out handkerchiefs and lead pencils to the children. Twenty-five minutes were required for the line of children to file past.

The next stop was at J. R. Wagner's store where the children were treated to gum and Santa then moved on to the store of C. Rohman and Son, from which the kind old Santa distributed parcels of candy among the children. Entering Frank Giehl Jr.'s store next the line of children was treated to apples and aluminum souvenir. The line had increased to almost 500 by this time, composed mostly of children under 11 years of age, with an occasional parent leading his toddlers who wanted to see Santa Claus but were afraid to meet him alone.

The scene was next transferred to Theena's meat market where Santa handed out a half thousand apples. The Metamora bank provided 500 Lincoln pennies direct from the mint which Santa passed out to the happy children.

Out in the street, while the children were being made happy in the business places, the band kept the crowd of older people entertained with tuneful old airs and formed an escort for Santa as he moved from place to place.

At Meister's store, the next place visited, tablets and pencils were given out. Santa then moved to J. F. Isch's store where parcels of candies and nuts were given out. Santa made his final bow to the enthusiastic crowd here and followed by the band went to the Orphan's home where he distributed a quantity of good things among the children of that institution. He made a speech to the children and in return was greeted with Christmas songs. He was deeply touched and expressed himself well repaid for his trip to Metamora in his visit to the Orphan home alone.

Santa was profuse in his compliments of the enthusiastic welcome he received in Metamora on taking his departure and spoke in highest praise of the people and merchants.

The unanimous sentiment of the large gathering of people was that the day was one of the most enjoyable in Metamora has ever provided, not excepting the annual Fourth of July and Old Settlers' day celebrations. The merchants expended considerable money to make the day a success and the band boys donated their services. All should have the heartiest of thanks and appreciation for their efforts. Everything, even the weather, which was tempered with bright sunshine was propitious and it is safe to say more hearts were gladdened and more of the spirit of "peace on earth" was manifest in the short afternoon hours than a giddy tinsel city could ever encompass.



Picture Answers

How many did you get right...?

Bowlers - The Lincoln Tavern bowling team.

Ladies from left to right are Odie Stickelmaier, Jean Kinhofer, Frances Scheirer, Alverna Rohman, Pearlina Paluska and Marie Scheirer. Also on the team was Mary Lou Briggs. Circa 1940's.

Violin Class - 1920 Metamora Grade School Violin class.

Front row - Eloise Ranney, Melvin Attig. Back row - Frank Mason, Florence Moore, Phyllis Knoblach, Emma Sommer, Mr. Seitz, Edna Moulton, Verna Hesselein, Orval Malone.

Contact Us

Questions, ideas - Love to hear from you

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