



They're making a list and checking it twice

On Saturday Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in Wheeling for a visit. They are staying at "Lollipop Lane" in the Chamber Park church, 131 Wolf Road. They will be there until Wednesday.

Area children have been flocking to the church to visit them, to discuss with the Clauses topics of mutual interest, such as toys and candy.

Children may visit them on weekdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturdays and Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m. The Clauses' visit is sponsored by the Wheeling Park District and the Wheeling Historical Society.

Children who visit the Clauses will receive coloring books, suckers and rings. Homemade cookies and Christmas cards will be on sale. Parents wishing more information may call the park district at 537-2222.



Six-year-old David Shoop of Wheeling heads straight for Santa and Mrs. Claus during his visit to Lollipop Lane, while Connie Mah and her daughter, Christine (below) explore the Christmas displays. (Staff photos by Michal Thompson)



Thursday, December 13, 1979
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Reminded 1979



12/17/81 Wh. Herald



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Lollipop lane



The Wheeling Park District and the Historical Society put on their annual "Lollipop Lane" at Chambers Park for Santa and Mrs. Claus to greet boys and girls. The Claus' will be at Chambers Park late afternoons and all day Saturday and Sunday until Christmas. (Staff photo)



Taking an order

SANTA LISTENS INTENTLY AS Marisa Racette fills him in on what exactly it is that she's expecting from him this Christmas. The two were talking things over at Lollipop Lane. (Photo by Steve Donisch)

by Kathy Waugh

Herald staff writer

Like in a Tracy and Hepburn movie, Erwin and Ivy Dreiske met in the flower shop where they worked. He was the owner's son and she was the bookkeeper.

They courted, and, just like in the movies, they've lived happily ever after. Their meeting was more than 50 years ago, and little's changed since then; Erwin's the owner of the Wheeling flower shop now and Ivy still tends the books.

At the age of 82, Erwin still fusses about the shop, making sure everything's done right. More than a dozen workers have manned the store since he moved to downtown Wheeling 30 years ago.

But it's the personalized touch that Dreiske lends to his business that apparently keeps the customers coming back. They're all long-timers, and yell out a greeting as they enter the shop.

The shop oozes Dreiske's charm. Two cats, a calico and a gray and white, roam the greenhouses, sleeping where they choose.

Workers scurry around nodding

hello and putting together the large orders for the upcoming weekend.

AN EXPERT at flowers since his childhood years in his parents' North Shore flower shops, Dreiske still lives and breathes the life of a florist.

"They're not so happy this time of year," he said, talking about a row of orchids as if they were children demanding his love and affection. "Flowers love to show themselves in the spring."

Dreiske maintains a 109-year-old family tradition of closing the shop on Sundays. The only exception comes with the demand for Easter orchids.

"My father was strict and he wouldn't even let us shine our shoes on Sunday," he said. "All my friends told me what a damn fool I was not to open my shop on Sundays because I was losing all that business but what do they know, they are gone now. So, I know my daddy was right."

He knows his father picked the right trade to impart to his son too.

"This is the nicest business in the world to be in," Dreiske said as he picked sweet-smelling gardenias from blooming plants. "It's healthy for you and I just love it."

Marriage,

Tuesday, March 6, 1984 Section 1-5

THE DAILY HERALD

work a bed of roses for Wheeling couple



Herald photo

WITH TENDER loving care, Ivy and Erwin Dreiske watch over the flowers in their shops as they've been doing for more than 50 years. They've watched other flower shops go out of business, and Erwin says the trick to success is keeping prices down and just being friendly.

Santa checks, one more time

By **SANTA CLAUS**

(As told to Rick Sorci)

I really look forward to this time of year. All year long the elves have been busy getting all the toys ready for Christmas for all the good boys and girls.

By the time the gifts are all wrapped, there'll be just enough time to load up the sled. Then I'll be on my way.

Judging from some of the letters I've been getting from Buffalo Grove and Wheeling, I'm going to need a lot of toys. I better check some of these letters one more time, just so I won't forget.

Let's see. Here's the one from Danny Voss, of 309 Maureen Drive, in Wheeling.

Dear Santa Claus,

How are you? I have been a good boy all year. This is what I would like for Christmas.

Play dough, trucks and cars, a crane, 2 Star Wars race track and anything else you think I would like.

Thank you,
Danny Voss

Well, Danny, we'll have to see.

Hmmm. Here's the letter I got from Kristen Ross, of 464 Chatham Circle, Buffalo Grove.

Dear Santa Claus,

I have been a good girl, just a little bit naughty and spankings on the butt.

Please bring me a blanket for Sean, my little brother, so he doesn't take mine. Please bring me a Dolly Pop Dress Show, Sew and Easy and choo choo trains and silly sea serpent.

I love you. I'll stay in bed the night you come to my house.

Love,
Kristen

That's a good idea, Kristen. All children should be in bed when I arrive. By the way, I don't mind if you kids leave me some goodies, like cookies and milk. I get hungry going up and down the chimney.

Here's the letter Jimmy Moran sent me. Oops. He spelled my name wrong.

Dear Santa Clause,

My name is Jimmy Moran. I would like the Dukes of Hazard car and the corvette car for Christmas.

Thank you,
Jimmy

Jimmy, although you didn't leave your address, I'll find your house.

I got a nice letter from somebody on the 400 block of Stone Place, in Wheeling. Hmmm. No name on the letter or the nice bright yellow envelope it came in.

Santa,

I want a Barbie car and Barbie doll. I want a Barbie horse. I want two hook rugs. I want a picture of bunny.

Here's a letter from a fellow who'll be leaving the area soon.

Dear Santa,

My name is Danny Parker and I am moving to Phoenix, Arizona. Will you please send my presents I have tried to be a good boy thank you.

your friend
Danny Parker

Boy, am I going to be busy Christmas eve! In fact, it's almost time for me to get ready for my long trip. So, I can't read anymore letters.

However, before I go, I want to tell Matt and Elizabeth Palcer and Heather Klamrzynski, of Buffalo Grove, and Margaret Bialobok of Prospect Heights, not to worry. I got your letters, too.

For the rest of you who sent me letters, thank you. I won't forget you on Christmas.

Merry Christmas to all.
Love,
Santa Claus



12/2/81
Remember

And what would you like for Christmas?

12/18/80
wh. Rife



WELL, LITTLE TOMMIE, what would you like for Christmas? Village Manager Tom Markas smiles as he thinks of Christmas, while Mrs. Claus gives him a hug.



SANTA seems to be intently listening to the Christmas request of this resident.



MRS. CLAUS takes a moment to present this resident of Addolorata Villa a gift and to engage in a little conversation.

With only six days left until Santa Claus makes his annual trip to all those good little boys and girls, Santa and his lovely wife decided to spend some time in Wheeling at Lollipop Lane.

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived in Wheeling last Saturday and first visited some residents at the Addolorata Villa before arriving at Lollipop Lane in Chamber Park, 65 N. Wolf Road. Santa and Mrs. Claus will visit anyone who wants to visit them at Lollipop Lane until Sunday, Dec. 21. Lollipop Lane, sponsored by the Wheeling Historical Society and the Wheeling Park District, is open from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on weekdays and from 2 to 5 p.m. on weekends.

The historical society had some help this year from Perren Gerber and Associates which donated animated figures; Kocher Corporation New Slip-In Greenware and Ron Auger.

Lollipop Lane set to open soon

FOR THE ninth year, the old church in Chamber Park will be transformed into a winter wonderland.

It's time for the return of Lollipop Lane.

The annual decorating of the chapel and the subsequent visit from Santa begins Saturday, Dec. 12 and will continue through Dec. 22.

Lollipop Lane will be open from noon to 5 p.m. on weekends and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the week.

In addition to the guests of honor, Santa and Mrs. Claus, there are animated figures from Perron Geber Company along with an array of holiday decorations.

The Wheeling Historical Society will be selling holiday baked goods. Lollipop Lane is sponsored by the Wheeling Park District.

Day with Santa set in Wheeling

Santa and Mrs. Claus will make their annual appearance in Wheeling Saturday, starting with a sleigh procession and setting up shop at "Lollipop Lane" in Chamber Park.

At about 1:30 p.m. the sleigh will leave Addolorata Villa after distributing gifts to the elderly residents there. Santa and Mrs. Claus — played by Wheeling Park Comr. Edward Klocke and his wife, Village Clerk Alberta Klocke — will travel down McHenry Road to Chamber Park, located on Wolf Road, north of Dundee Road.

Lollipop Lane will open at 2 p.m. Children visiting will receive free Santa Rings, coloring books and lollipops. Parents are encouraged to bring their cameras to take pictures of their children with Santa.

For the past nine years, park and historical society officials have decorated the "Little Church" at Chamber Park with trees, toys and other goodies to serve as Santa's headquarters. The path leading to the church is lined with ornamental lollipops and candy canes.

Visiting hours will be from 2 to 5 p.m. weekends and from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. during the week.





'Tis the season

LOLLIPOP LANE WAS the site of Christmas tree decoration last week and, in photo above, Randy and Ed Klocke do exactly that, while in photo below, Bob Buger helps spruce up a spruce. (Photos by Steve Donisch)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1979

W. K. Life





WH

★ A LIFE NEWSPAPER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1981

Gee Santa, you look familiar



NEWS EDITOR SANTA CLAUS, err Stan Zoller, listens intently to the request of a hopeful child. (Photo by Steve Donisch)



ONLY FIVE months old, Timothy Howe didn't ask for much for Christmas. (Photo by Steve Donisch)



JAMIE DOMAIN seems thrilled to have received a lollipop from Santa Claus. (Photo by Steve Donisch)

By STAN ZOLLER
Staff Writer

I ADMIT IT—an Edmund Gwenn I'm not. But Lollipop Lane isn't Macy's. And while the late Mr. Gwenn, perhaps best noted for his role as Kris Kringle in "The Miracle on 34th Street," wowed audiences with his performance, this reporter had to settle for enchanting Wheeling area children with his own performance as Santa Claus.

Lollipop Lane, co-sponsored by the Wheeling Park District and Wheeling Historical Society, is held annually in the old Presbyterian church, now located in Chamber Park in the northwest suburb. In addition to Santa, Mrs. Claus is a regular attraction, along with brightly decorated Christmas trees and animated figures.

As for the little ones, meeting Santa is a thrill no matter who might be behind the white beard and red suit (even if it is a reporter). Naturally, all children have been good during the past year. Popular toys? Atari games, Barbie Dolls, Dukes of Hazard cars and Strawberry Shortcake items seem to lead the list.

Even with the enchanting surroundings, when it comes time to tell Santa what they'd like for Christmas, some children become fearful. Others, however, would just as soon stay for a while and rattle off lists of toys and presents they would like. Then again, kids will be kids.

And, as Art Linkletter would say, children can say the darndest things.

One little boy wanted to know where the reindeer were. Naturally, we told him. They were in the woods resting and eating.

The one request which caught Santa off guard came from the son of a local funeral home operator.

Mrs. Claus (alias Alberta Klocke) asked what his father would like for Christmas.

The answer?

"Oh, probably another hearse."

Needless to say, that was one request which really "sleighed" Santa.



SANTA CLAUS GIVES ESTELLE Dailey a gift during his visit to Addolorata Villa on Saturday, Dec. 8. Santa and Mrs. Claus paid a visit to the senior citizens living at the home and present each one with a lap robe crocheted by various citizen in Wheeling.

Warmth fills

★ A LIFE NEWSPAPER, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1979

Villa after Santa's visit



THE SISTERS at the nursing home create a similar village each year at Christmastime.



12/79
MARIE DICKHAUSER GAZES WITH delight on her gift from Santa and Mrs. Claus. 96 lap robes were made in all, one for each citizen of Addolorata Villa



MRS CLAUS LOOKS pretty stern about her role in handing out the gifts. Rumor has it that Mrs. Claus is the one who came up with the idea about making the lap robes while she was hospitalized last summer.

Her activism mirrors village's growth

*Wheeling
Life*



MAKING HERSELF up for her annual stint as Mrs. Santa Claus is Citizen of the Month Alberta Klocke of Wheeling who has been active in numerous kinds of volunteer work since moving to the village 26 years ago.

By RUTH BOHAN
Staff Writer

SHE NEVER learned to say no.

That's why the list of volunteer jobs taken on by Alberta Klocke in the 26 years she's lived in Wheeling has grown as much as the village itself.

"You name it and I was in it!" laughed Klocke, who has been selected as Lerner LIFE's Citizen of the Month for November.

Her first leap into volunteering (and she quickly adds that she's been leaping ever since) began shortly after she moved to the village. She actually hated it when she first moved there from the Albany Park area of Chicago. There were only about 900 residents then, not the 23,000 population the village now boasts. She felt she was living in the wilderness with no stores within walking distance. It was only a place

daughters: Sharon, Sydney and Randy).

ALL OF HER volunteer efforts have been child-oriented and she was able to combine two interests when she initiated the first free polio inoculations at the Wheeling elementary schools while involved in the March of Dimes.

"I was active in the Band Boosters at the high school before it even opened its doors in 1964," she revealed. "We had our first meeting before the building was finished. Dennis played the sousaphone, Sydney was a captain in the flag corps and Randy was in the color guard. We belonged to the Sports Club at school, too."

She and a group of dedicated volunteers were responsible for getting the school's 10,000 books on the shelves when the school opened. They catalogued, covered and set up all of the

citizen of the month

to pass through on visits to Round Lake and she was dumbfounded when her husband and father announced they had bought a house there because they felt it a better location for her small son, Dennis, who was just recovering from polio.

So she welcomed a request from the Polio Foundation to act as area chairman and she stayed in that capacity for four years, mostly involved with fund-raising activities.

Soon she became interested in the PTA and became president of the first one in the area, located at Walt Whitman. As the village grew, the schools grew also and Klocke served as president of the first three PTAs. "Wherever my kids moved on, I moved on, too," she laughed. "I even became president of the mom's club of my son's fraternity at the University of Illinois." (She and her husband Ed have, in addition to their son, Dennis, three

material, and when the library was burned some years later, another committee convened on her driveway to erase and clean every card in the catalogue. The job took most of one summer.

Her most recent interest has been working with the Historical Society to restore the chapel in Childerley Park, a lengthy process that culminated with the chapel's dedication in the summer under the new name of the Lorraine E. Lark Chapel of the Orchard. It is to be used by all faiths, a fact that Locke fully supports. A Protestant wedding is being held there on Nov. 28 but the Klockes celebrated their 35th anniversary there a few months ago with a renewal of their wedding vows by their rabbi.

"I DON'T KNOW ANYONE who is more ecumenical than me," she an-

(Continued on page 2)

Her activism grew with Wheeling

(Continued from page 1)

nounced happily. "I play Mrs. Santa Claus on Lollipop Lane in the little 120-year-old Presbyterian Church that has been moved from Dundee road to Chamber Park.

"We will arrive in town on Dec. 12 with a visit to Addolorata Villa, where we will hand out gifts to the residents and have lunch with them. Then at about 1:40 p.m., we will travel up the road in an old sleigh to Lollipop Lane, where we will be open weekend afternoons and from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on week nights through Dec. 22. There is no admission charge and we urge parents to bring cameras. Members of the Historical Society will make and donate cookies, which they will sell to cover the cost of the operation." Klocke will no doubt be one of those bakers. For the chapel's opening festivities, Klocke baked more than 1,000 cookies.

Klocke obviously takes great pleasure in playing Mrs. Santa Claus, which she does most, although not all, of the hours the lane is open.

"I can't tell you how much fun it is.

It's really precious to listen to these little children," she said. "I spray my hair white each night and then have to wash it all out when I get home. I apply bushy white eyebrows and wear granny glasses, a little white apron and hat. I have a red dress I bought long ago at a Madrigal dinner and never in a million years thought I'd ever use it for anything like this."

Klocke entered the political ring only once. She served as village clerk from 1977 until the spring of this year.

"I gained a lot of knowledge about things I didn't know about before," she said. I also learned I'd be a terrible politician. My husband enjoys being park commissioner. I say, let him be the politician...one politician in the family is enough for anybody."

(Nominations for next month's Citizen of the Month should be sent to Living Today, Lerner Newspapers, 7519 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, 60626. Simply write and tell us in your own words why you think your candidate should be selected. Include names, addresses and telephone numbers.)

Lollipop Lane— Wheeling's world of yule wonder

by Lisa Schab

Herald correspondent

The big wooden doors open and you step out of December's frosty air and into the warmth and wonder of Lollipop Lane.

It's not like anything you imagined; it's better.

The room is lit only by the lights of nine Christmas trees — all sparkling and shimmering with garland and ornaments. Silver snowflakes dance in the air overhead, and wreaths adorn each window.

Standing before you are lifesize wooden soldiers, and to your right sits Santa's sleigh, with runners still wet from the snow. You can't take your eyes off the Christmas trees, and what's lying beneath them: the toys. So many toys as you've never seen in your life.

Dolls you see, and blocks; cars, and trucks; wagons, and games; books, and ice skates; roller skates, and huge stuffed animals. Some of the dolls and animals are even moving — all by themselves. The toys line both sides of the room, and the red carpet down the center draws your eyes up front, to the stage. You look up, and skip a breath: Santa is there; Mr. and Mrs. Claus. They sit in front of a glowing fireplace, under a huge wreath; the joy; the miracle.

IN THE WORDS OF one little boy, "Oh yes, Mommy, this is it! This is the real Santa Claus."

them sit and talk to the Clauses as long as they like."

"THE CHILDREN ARE wonderful," says Ed Klocke ("Mr. C.") with a smile. "They bring Santa gifts and cookies, letters, and pictures they have drawn."

Some of the letters to Santa Claus, saved from previous years, read:

"Dear Santa, I haven't been very good this year, but I'll try to do better. I want..."

"Dear Santa, I want Atari, clothes, nightgown... and an iron for my mom."

"Last year we had over 1,000 children come through," says Alberta proudly. "And that's not including the babies."

Sometimes the "kids" are even older than expected. "Last year a woman came in," Ed says. "She sat right on my lap and asked me to bring her a husband."

Lollipop Lane takes a lot of manpower to put together, and it's all done on volunteer time. But the result is always worth it. Watching the faces of the children light up as they walk into the room is reward enough.

"I love it," smiles Alberta Klocke. "I just love it."

"You know," adds her husband, "sometimes when it's all over with and the kids are gone, we all just sit here for awhile and enjoy the beauty of Lollipop Lane ourselves. It's so peaceful."

Lollipop Lane is made possible solely by donations. Members of the Wheeling Historical Society bake and sell nearly 5,000 cookies each year to help support Santa and Mrs. Claus. This year they also will have available cookbooks and Lollipop Lane Christmas Cards.



Herald photo by Bob Reeder

TWO YOUNGSTERS GET a warm greeting from Santa and Mrs. Claus at Wheeling's Lollipop Lane.

The Wheeling Historical Society, along with the Wheeling Park District, has been sponsoring Lollipop Lane for 11 Christmases now. The idea began back in 1972 when Lorraine Lark, well-known for her work in the community, decided she wanted to "do something for the people of Wheeling."

Every year since then, Lollipop Lane has enchanted the children, as well as the adults, of our village. And the word has spread. Shirley Mueller, vice-president of the Historical Society, claims.

"We have children coming from all over — Dundee, Libertyville, Waukegan; even some from Wisconsin," she says.

With many families visiting Santa at Lollipop Lane has become a tradition.

"In fact," Shirley says, "We had one couple who had come here when they were children, and they returned last year with a baby of their own."

LOLLIPOP LANE IS unique in that it has remained untouched by the "shopping center Santa Claus" image. This charming fairyland is set in the middle of Chamber Park, 251 N. Wolf Road, in Wheeling. The building that houses Santa and his wife is a 117-year-old one-room churchhouse, which formerly occupied the land where Dunkin Donuts now sits on Dundee Road.

Each December, members of the historical society and the park district bring Lollipop Lane back to life. They haul out boxes, set up trees, clean and polish, and dust off toys, climb ladders and pound nails, all to create the marvel and magic that is Lollipop Lane.

Santa arrives in town via Dundee Road in his authentic circa 1900 sleigh — which up until recently, was pulled by real horses. ("Horse rental got too expensive," Shirley Mueller says with a frown. "We had to switch to a flatbed.")

The atmosphere inside the churchhouse is the Christmas spirit itself: warm, quiet, enchanting, loving. Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus pride themselves in the time they take with each child who visits them.

"No one is rushed here," says Alberta Klocke (alias "Mrs. C." this year). "We let

Couple's school work doesn't end with retirement

by Kathy Waugh

Herald staff writer

Nelda and Don Paisley are retired, but they can't seem to get beyond elementary school.

"We like it here and have always been involved," Nelda said.

Once a member of the board of education in Wheeling Township School District 21 — "more years ago than I can remember" — she still keeps in touch with the schools she helped build by volunteering with her husband to help teach children in the Mark Twain Elementary School library.

Times have changed since their children were young. The two Wheeling residents have two grandchildren in school in Buffalo Grove, and those children are aided by calculators, adding machines, computers and headphones.

But some things never change.

ASK 9-YEAR-OLD Brett Wolowski, who visits with Nelda each Thursday to get some special help with his reading. She sits next to him, attentive to his reading, encouraging him on occasion.

"When I have trouble, they help me — sometimes, especially on the big words," Brett said.

"Once in a while, I go to the board meetings, but I prefer the schools because I love children and my husband does, too," Nelda said, her less talkative husband on the other side of the room trying to pass out crayons while simultaneously trying to get a little

girl's headphones to work.

Avid theater fans, Nelda and Don regularly pick up season passes to the Marriott Theatre in Lincolnshire. They live in the Dunhurst subdivision, a short distance from Twain School, and also volunteer time for the Wheeling Historical Society.

MOST VOLUNTEERS are mothers who might also help out at lunch time or as room-mothers, library teacher Nancy Maroulis said.

When Nelda was on the board, the district was expanding. Back then, 26 years ago, "everybody's children went to Walt Whitman," she said, "because that's the only school we had."

Since then, Don has retired from his office job at Chicago's South Side Midway Meat Company, and the districts are facing school closings.

"It was just a field out here before Twain," Nelda said. "I remember I was on the board at the time and we were building schools, but we decided at the time that we would try to keep all the names all authors."

"I THINK WE should keep the schools open if we possibly can, but it's a financial thing. I hate to seem them close, too, because I think we are growing.

"There are five or six new babies on my block. Where are they going to go to school?"

She stops talking because a new group of kids are filtering in.

The Paisleys have to get back to work.



With a little help from Don Paisley, Cynthia Hamm, left, has her head phones adjusted for size and volume. Chris Lowery, at right, listens to his lesson.

NORTHWEST WHEELING

11/7/84



Photos by Jon Kirn

The Paisleys volunteer time to help children improve reading skills and and even math. Most important is the encouragement volunteers give to students like Phillip Ajarapu, pictured here with Nelda Paisley.



Kelley Powers appears to have Santa's undivided attention as she gives him her Christmas list. She was one of several youngsters who made their annual pilgrimage to the jolly fellow's lap at Chamber Park.

Photos by
Rosemary Kaul

