

Giving provides more joy than receiving

Once again, this year I will be wrapping a Christmas gift from Larry’s mom to put under the tree for each of the girls.

At a family friend’s wedding in Michigan this summer Larry’s mom gave me a box just in case we weren’t able to travel to Minnesota for the holiday’s this year. In it was an item for each Laura, Andrea and Marissa to put under the tree. Of course, it still needed to be wrapped.

And, as it turns out, we will not be traveling anytime soon.

The package reminded me of the days when the girls were little and I was tasked with the challenge of buying Christmas gifts for them from not only Larry and I, but also Santa Clause and my mother-in-law. My mom would always buy gifts and mail them the years we weren’t able to be with them



A SLICE OF LIFE

Linda Wilk



at Christmas.

Now in my mother in laws defense, I understand that if you can’t be with them at Christmas you want to at least have something under the tree from yourself to make it personal. Young children are not as interested in an envelope with money, no matter how much money

it might be.

Only one year when Laura was little and before Andrea and Marissa were born did we travel to both sets of grandparents for Christmas, spending a little time in Nebraska and then traveling to Minnesota. That was just too much for any of us, so after that we traded off holidays, one year going to Nebraska for Thanksgiving and then Minnesota for Christmas and vice versa the next year.

Then as the girls got older, we would travel only for Thanksgiving and go to the other grandparent’s home right after Christmas. Of course, all traveling stopped when Andrea and Marissa got into high school basketball and mandatory practices were the norm.

So, on the off years, I could expect a phone call or email from Larry’s mom asking if I would buy a gift from her out of part of the

money, she would send each of us.

Some years it was not a burden. Other years though it was trying to figure out how to get the best deals, most creative gifts and decide who the gift should be from.

Since I was doing all the shopping, selfishly I wanted to get credit for the best gift.

Ironically, if Larry had done the Christmas shopping like his mom did, Santa gifts were the most boring ones as that is when he always got new underwear from Santa.

I tended to enjoy the mystical Santa gift giving tradition and would attempt to let Santa give at least one sought after gift.

I also didn’t want the girls to think their grandmother was stuffy though, so tried to equally give a trend setting gift from my mother-in-law as well.

So, while you may wonder just how many gifts each of our girls received at Christmas, rest assured there may have been many, but they were not overly expensive.

It was a time that we tended to spoil the girls a little bit though, as we never were parents who gave in to feeling the need to give our daughters the latest or best items just because they were released mid- summer or had a new update in early Fall.

As the girls got older, my expectation for the Christmas gift giving was a wish list. That tradition has not ended, as even this year I have asked and been given their wish lists.

It has been interesting to see what each of the girls are asking for. As Laura gets ready to graduate and move in to her first after college home, her wish list is mixed

with household items, as well as a practical gift of a gift card from Aldi’s.

Andrea and Marissa each have their respective university apparel on their lists, as well as a variety of other items and various gift card options.

And, as always, I have scoured the stores and even searched on-line to find those surprise gifts that they might enjoy and yet not expect.

While gift giving can be a challenge, it is also something I truly revel in, always believing that for me I much prefer giving over receiving.

So, as you finish up your holiday shopping in person or through on- line ordering this year, think about all you have been blessed with this year and who and how you just might brighten their holiday this year.

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The biggest attraction, of course, was the presence of Santa and Mrs. Claus, with whom children and families could snap a picture or two. Children took turns sitting on Santa’s lap, making sure to tell him how good they had been this year and all they want for Christmas.

In order to hold the event safely, the Popcorn Festival Committee made sure that

all COVID-19 guidelines were followed. Eventgoers were asked to wear masks and hand sanitizer was set up all around the fire department so people could keep themselves, and others, safe.

Despite all of those necessary changes, the goal remained the same – to provide a traditional Christmas event in what has been

a tough calendar year for many families in the Grant County area.

“The one thing that has been said to us several times was, ‘Thank you for making this normal for our kids,’” Committee member Jen Plummer said.

All the money raised on Saturday afternoon went directly in the Popcorn Festival Committee, which will

be used to fund the Van Buren Popcorn Festival this coming summer.

“I think people are ready to get back to some kind of normalcy,” Towery said. “We can let the coronavirus lock us in our houses and close everything down, but we still need to try to live. It’s just something we like to do for the community, and I think people like it.”

Deaths — continued from Page 1

Josephine Hall
1939-2020

Graveside services were held at Marion National Cemetery on Friday, Dec. 11 at 1 pm.

Rhonda Edmonds
1957-2020

Graveside services were held at Estates of Serenity on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 1 pm.

Paula Kay Davidson
1947-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Friday, Dec. 11 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Estates of Serenity.

Scott A. Morrow
1962-2020

Funeral services were held at Needham-Storey-Wampner, North Chapel, on Monday, Dec. 14 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Laketon Cemetery in Laketon, IN.

Wayne D. King
1949-2020

Funeral services were held at Southside Wesleyan Church, Gas City, on Thursday, Dec. 17 at 11 am. Burial followed at Riverside Cemetery, Gas City.

Earl L. Brown, Jr.
1929-2020

A graveside service took place at Grant Memorial Park, Marion, on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 10 am.

Robert H. Hammitt Sr.
1939-2020

Services were for Hammitt will be private.

Phil E. Canaday
1932-2020

There will be a service held to honor Canaday when it is safe for friends and family to gather.

Gary R. Bright
1958-2020

Funeral services were held at Brookhaven Wesleyan Church, Marion, on Saturday, Dec. 12 at 11 am. Burial followed at Park

Cemetery, Fairmount.

Donna J. Harris
1924-2020

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Marion, on Wednesday, Dec. 16 at 1 pm. Burial followed at Grant Memorial Park, Marion.

Sacha Myers
1985-2020

Funeral services were held at Armes-Hunt Funeral Home, Fairmount, on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 4 pm.

Robert V. “Bob” Miller
1930-2020

On Friday, Dec. 18 from 4-6 pm, there will be a “Drive-Thru Visitation”. The family will be outside to greet you while you remain warm and safe in your cars. On Saturday, Dec. 19, there will be a private family funeral service from 10:30-11:30 am.

Indiana History Answers

1. Santa Claus, IN.
2. Hammond
3. Mike Pence

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THE NEWS HERALD (USPS 386660) is published weekly by Hometown Media, Inc., an Indiana corporation. Periodical postage paid at Marion, IN, 46952. Postmaster: send address changes to: PO Box 1167, Marion, IN 46952. © 2020, all rights reserved.

Letters to the editor and readers' submissions are encouraged; please email news@newsherald.org. All submissions become the property of Hometown Media, Inc., and are subject to editing and publication at the discretion of the staff.

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