

METAMORA ASSOCIATION FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER, 2012



From the Metamora Herald Friday, December 22, 1910

"Tablets" were made of paper, 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. ☺

What's Old...

But new at the Stevenson House...

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Questions, ideas...



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 tinselled city could ever encompass.

- High School class pictures from 1918 and 1919 (very high quality panoramic pictures)
- We have the pictures – but no names! If you can help identify the students, please let us know!!

We would love to hear from you. Laure Adams, President, 369-2353 or jrfarmer@mtco.com; Kenneth Willman, Vice President, 367-4426; Shirley Adams, Secretary, 367-2289; Jack Weddle, Treasurer, 645-0963 or jweddle@mtco.com; Board members: Dave Pohlman, 369-3290; pohlman46@hotmail.com; Lee Summer, 367-4059, 635-0259, lsummer@mtco.com; Mary Curry, 367-2185