



GETTING RIGHT DOWN to the business of the day, brothers KC and Adam Krien take turns telling Santa Claus what they want for Christmas.

Times staff photos by Linda Schneider



THIS YOUNG MAN looked Santa right in the eye and said, 'Yes!' when Santa Claus asked him if he had been a good boy.

Santa Day fun in Bird City

By Linda Schneider
dublinls@hotmail.com

Santa landed in Bird City as scheduled on Saturday!

Santa Day, an annual event that kids and adults anticipate for weeks in advance. Moreover, no one really knows when it started, some folks remember as far back late 1940s. Nevertheless, the motto of Santa Day has been the same, "No child leaves empty-handed!"

Bird City Community Club started the day's program by supplying a piping hot lunch of hot dogs, assorted soups, homemade cookies, and by handing out the raffle tickets for the drawing which would soon start.

Everyone was anxious as the program began. Nick Ketzner, this is his fourth year as emcee, started the program by thanking everyone who contributed to the \$5,600 collected for this year's Santa Day. Then Mr. Ketzner got right down to business by giving cash prizes of up to \$50 to both kids and adults. Bird City bucks were also given out to the adults, which can be redeemed at any of the merchants in town.

Throughout the cash drawing, names were drawn for people to get into the "Blizzard Booth." Both kids and adults went in a glass booth filled with money and as air was forced up, the money went flying. The occupants had 30 seconds to catch as much as they could. Jade Ketzner, 4 years old, was the youngest, he gathered up \$6. The average amount was \$35 with Jeremiah White catching the most, \$103.

As Mr. Ketzner continued to draw more ticket numbers, it was prizes, prizes and more prizes! Prizes included portable DVD player won by Clayton Janicke, a leapfrog computer-learning package won by Breann Vandike, motorized scooter won by Jacob Sermo. There were many other great prizes, but the one prize that received the most entries was the Wii game. And the winner of the Wii game was Jacob Burbaker.

The excited fifth grader had told everyone that he was going to win the Wii and he did!

Still more to come was the 1-minute shopping spree at Hometown Market won by Sherri Krien, a one-year subscription to The Saint Francis Herald won by Marten Estrada and a one-year subscription to Bird City Times won by Theresa Knapp, but Santa Claus still had not arrived.

So the program continued with "Let's Make A Deal" game. It was exciting and fun for everyone. Names were drawn to have a choice of picking one of three doors. And behind the doors could be a great prize or \$2 and a bag of coal. The audience was encouraged to call out the door numbers.

It was all in good fun when Kelly Flannagan, who had just become engaged to Cliff Leach, picked the door with the coal. She said she received \$2 and a bag of black cookies, the crowd laughed, "You tell Cliff they are black cookies, he will still eat them!"

In between "Let's Make A Deal" and the final drawing of the grand prize, this year's holiday house lighting was judged by Doug and Karen Flemming. The winners were announced by Mrs. Flemming. First place winner of \$75 Bird City bucks went to Darren and Tana Dale. Second place winner of \$50 Bird City bucks went to Alan and Kim Oster. Third place winner of \$25 Bird City bucks went to Mike and Karen Hewitt.

The final drawing of the day was for a boy and a girl who would pick one of the three doors. Behind the door of their choice was a box of Christmas gifts worth over \$100. However, the best was yet to come, because after they had opened up the two doors, there was still one door left to be opened. The audience called for them to open it up and out came Santa Claus! The crowd went wild!

Jolly Ole Santa Claus did not

disappoint anyone when he sat down and let each child scurry up to sit on his lap. He listened intently as they told what he or she wanted for Christmas. It was a busy day for Santa Claus and after the day was

over, he headed back with his list to the North Pole to prepare for Christmas day. And it could still be said for Santa Day, "No child left empty-headed."



THE WINNER OF THE one minute shopping spree at Hometown Market, Sherri Krien, makes off with \$59 of groceries.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY flying all around Holly Riley as she scrambles to collect as much as she can in 30 seconds. Her haul was \$57.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider



Season's Greetings

Early deadline for ads

Linda Schneider, editor for the Times, and her family are planning a Christmas trip to visit family in California, weather permitting, starting Dec. 20 through Dec. 30.

Articles, announcements and such need to be to the St. Francis Herald office as soon as possible to get in the paper. The deadline for articles during this holiday time will be Friday, Dec. 21, and Friday, Dec. 28. People can call Linda at

785-734-7031 or call The Herald office directly 785-332-3162.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

