



SANTA CLAUS IS ALL SMILES, but little Marci Miller had other ideas of what is fun and what is not! Unaware of what was going to happen, Marci was smiling until her mom, Amy Miller, sat her on Santa's knee. And before a camera flash went off, Marci was ready to get the whole thing over with!

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Santa Claus comes to town

By Linda Schneider
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It was the last door to be opened on Santa Day in Bird City, Nick Ketzner, emcee, stood for just a moment on door number three looking out into the audience, a pin could be heard, 30 pairs of eyes lined up along the stage, a small giggle, the door comes open, out comes the man everyone has been waiting for — Santa Claus!

In spite of the chilly weather, many families turned out for the festive party at the American Legion Hall. And before Mr. Claus made his appearance, local residents sat down to a hot soup and dessert lunch provided by the Bird City Community Club. Following the meal, the drawing started with the tickets that had

been given out to everyone.

One of the favorite events was the "Blizzard Booth." The first name to be drawn was Brady Ketzner, 3 years old. His grandma, Donna Johnson, helped this little guy and together they collected \$124, the biggest amount for the day. Maria Garcia collected \$112, Ruben Razo collected \$68, Belinda Serrano, \$64, Preston McCarty, \$40, Jordan Janicke, \$37, Destany Clemans, \$29, a tie for \$25 went to Pedro Gutierrez, Walker Janicke, and Danae Magnani, Dalton Valejo with \$9.

Throughout the drawing, the audience played a game of "Let's Make a Deal," and could choose between one of three doors, or a cash prize.

John Hendricks played it safe

by choosing the cash prize of \$10, Amy Hendricks also choose the cash of \$10, and Demi Shah-an choose the envelope with \$15.

Some prizes won during "Let's Make a Deal," included: Marvin Corder, Shop Vac; Ivan Kemp, game package; Tracy Johnson, 201 tool box; Sharon McCann, luggage, Judy McCarty, digital frame; Dalton Valejo, portable DVD; John Serrano, Hummer truck toy, McKayla Taylor, Papi-son Chair.

In addition to the good prizes, there were "boobie" prizes. It was in fun when Ana Ponce choose the door with bananas, Heather Boyson got a good size squash, Roland Query got a 2-liter bottle of Dr. Pepper.

And the winner of counting all of the M & Ms, went to Haleigh

Rucker with the prize of \$50.

Every kid attending Santa Day received a gift or a cash prize of up to \$25. After the drawing of cash prizes, the Community Club announced the winners of the Lighting Contest cash prizes. Stan Dorsch announced Terry and Tiffany Glasco won third place and \$25 dollars. Mark and Cathy Loop won second place and \$50, the first place winners were Bill and Veronica Potter with \$75. The drawing for the Cancer Quilt was done by Barb Gerdes, and the winner was Randy Reynolds. Mrs. Gerdes raised \$50 to be donated to the research for a cure for cancer.

Then came the prizes everyone was waiting for. At the beginning of the ceremony, young and old alike were given yellow tickets to drop in the prize they wanted to win.



IT'S HARDER THAN IT LOOKS! Maria Garcia was one of the lucky winners participating in the Blizzard Booth. For 30 seconds of catching money, her total was \$112.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

The first prize of the trampoline went to Ivan Kemp, who was quite excited. An I-Pod with to Anita Burton, Wii game went to Alexis Frink, Nintendo DS went to Belinda Serrano, computer to Deb Flemming, television to Brady Ketzner, digital camera to Phyllis Wright, girls bike to Miah Miller, boys bike to Ernie Ketzner, Hometown meat bundle to Linda Smith, toddler package to

Derek Peterson and art desk package to the Peterson family.

The 1-minute shopping spree at Hometown Market went to Barb Gerdes. Mrs. Gerdes' shopping spree netted her \$37 worth of groceries. Whitney Churchwell and Cory Rucker were the top girl and boy prizes of the day by getting the big bag of prizes.

It was a great time for everyone and no child left empty handed.

Hot pancakes on a freezing day-what a combination!

By Vera Kacirek

The temperature may have been below freezing, but it didn't stop the hungry people who wanted the Lions Club pancakes and sausage. Members estimated they served 135 plates of pancakes and sausage.

The most popular man of the day was Santa Claus who arrived after dinner. He took time with each child, listening to their wants and letting them sit on Santa's lap. There were treats for each child and also for the "older kids" who were waiting for the bingo games.

There were lots of bingo prizes

and everyone won at least one prize and most everyone won more than one.

The turkey and ham shoot sponsored by the Legion was cancelled due to the extreme cold, but the pitch games went on in the basement with many winning hams and turkeys.

Considering the cold day, the Lions, the McDonald Area Development members, and the Legion members considered the day a success. It is a big job to put on a day for the community, so they are pleased that so many made the effort to brave the day.



FLOODING FROM BROKEN WATER PIPES causes major flooding in the Wesleyan Church. With nearly 2 inches of water in some areas, Dick Bursch is busy moving water to the front entrance.

Times staff photo by Linda Schneider

Freezing weather causes water pipes to burst in church

In recent days, the northwest corner of Kansas has been experiencing some bitter cold days with temperatures falling into the minuses, and the nights are even colder. With weather like that, something is going to give, namely water pipes.

Last week when Pastor Dan Carson walked from the Wesleyan Church fellowship hall into the sanctuary, he heard a strange sound.

"It sounded like clapping coming from the church entrance," said Pastor Carson.

However, he knew he was alone and when he made his way down the aisle of the sanctuary, he saw the carpet was wet. Upon opening up the doors, he was greeted with about two inches of water.

Upon inspection, water pipes from overhead had burst and water had flooded into several rooms. Pastor Carson called Brad Schneider, city maintenance, to shut off the main water valve.

Members of the congregation soon arrived to clean up. Portions of the ceiling had to be removed and electrical switches covered to prevent turning them on, water had also come down the walls and buckled plaster board and paint.

During church services, Dick Bursch, church board president, updated the congregation reporting that the insurance representative had been contacted and along with ceiling and wall repair; however, the carpet will have to be replaced.