



Madison County Genealogical Society



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Christmas Events

A Beautiful Christmas

Suggestive of the Delights of Early Fall
Summer Resort Weather

Day was observed in Joyous manner, Santa Claus gives way to the Teddy Bear Craze among the Little Folks Holiday Festivities.

For a third successive Christmas the bright sky and the mild fall-like weather of a summer resort were carried to North Nebraska as a Christmas gift.

Christmas day in Norfolk was as suggestive of the delights of the early fall as a winter day can well be. During the day the thermometer registered as high as forty degrees, averaged thirty-one degrees and at no time during the twenty-four hours fell below twenty-two degrees.

Christmas days in 1906 and 1905 were delightful days. Christmas in 1904 was disagreeable, a cold day with a drizzling rain that turned to ice.

Conservative Dinners

Norfolk---or at least a good portion of it---ate a cautious Christmas dinner. For a good part of the town is on the sick list---not very sick, just "sick." The arrival of comparatively cold weather brought an epidemic of minor ailments not only to Norfolk but to all north Nebraska. In this city serious illness is light but the man who hasn't had the grippe is probably suffering with tonsillitis. There is also an epidemic of sore throat about the city, some physicians being called to examine as many as a dozen "tender throats" in a day. A peculiar infection is aboard that shows itself in abscesses forming on the fingers. Many Norfolk children are ill with the chicken pox, said to be the mildest of the diseases of childhood. And for the lot of the "grown-ups" there is the grippe and tonsillitis.

A Teddy Bear Christmas

This was a "Teddie Bear Christmas."

Skiddoo for Santa Claus! Teddie Bear has the old man on the run.

Good bye to the little toy soldier and the china doll. Teddy Bear has put them both to the bad.

In other years Santa Claus has been the one particular bright star at the Christmas entertainments of the Norfolk Sunday schools. This year old Santa was listed as "among those present." He was on the outside. "Isn't this the twenty-fourth of December?" the old man inquired. "It's twenty-four for us," said Teddie Bear "But it's a day sooner for you---twenty-three, likewise hike, get out, chase yourself, skidoo and make haste. This is our busy night."

Little tots who in yesterday lugged dolls to church on Christmas eve brought "Teddie-bears" Tuesday. On the Christmas program the Teddie bear was the one innovation of the year. Little girls who formerly sang to their dolls, bowed to the audience and sang to their Teddie bears.

"Won't You be My Teddy Bear?" was the favorite song on the Norfolk program Tuesday evening. It was sung in several churches by little Teddie bear owners—present and prospective.

Christmas programs were held in eleven Norfolk churches Tuesday evening. Every church had a Christmas tree and at least one---the Christ Lutheran church---had two trees. Several hundred Norfolk people enjoyed the songs and recitations of the little folks. At the Norfolk Auditorium the curtain did not ascend until 9 o'clock in order to make way for the Christmas programs which began early and were finished by that hour.

This was the first Christmas to fall within the reign of the Teddie bears, now a fad raging over all America. If any Norfolk child was without a Teddy bear last Tuesday—and few were—the "Teddie" was listed among the arrivals of Tuesday evening.

For months Norfolk dealers have had an unending sale of the Teddy bears, constantly appearing in new sizes and colors and selling for a great variety of prices. And they were all great sellers.

But it was a the Christmas tree program that Mr. Teddie Bear really came into his own.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Thursday, December 26, 1907, page 3.

Nebraska Air Has Cured Her

Be Merry Christmas for Miss Alice Reardon
Tuberculosis is Gone

Granddaughter of Mrs. Charles Lodge came here just one year ago expected to succumb to Consumption, but she has won in the battle.

This will be a merry Christmas for Miss Alice Reardon, granddaughter of Mrs. Charles Lodge, who came to Madison county just one year ago Tuesday of this week suffering with tuberculosis from which physicians predicted she would die within a very few months, and who has now, in spite of predictions, practically fully recovered from the disease.

Miss Reardon is fifteen years of age and her home is in Joliet, Illinois. Her mother was formerly Miss Emma Lodge of this city. When Miss Reardon came to Norfolk a year ago she weighed 114 pounds; today she weighs 135.

Fresh Air and Horseback Rides.

Fresh air, raw eggs, pure milk and horseback rides have contributed to the patient's recovery in Nebraska. She slept in a tent all summer and now sleeps with four windows wide open every night. She rides a horse four miles a day and eats four raw eggs every day. Every morning she takes a cold bath. She drinks plenty of pure milk during the day.

As a result of this Nature treatment, her cough is gone and she feels fine.

Miss Reardon naturally thinks Nebraska is the greatest place on earth and the Christmas season will be a merry one, indeed.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Monday, December 21, 1908, page 3.

Busiest of Christmas Seasons

Christmas Shoppers now on Home Stretch---Big Stocks---Sparklers Sell.

The spirit of Christmas, the desire to give, the combined pleasure and the fatigue of choosing presents, the total disregard of the value of the---at other seasons---valued dollar, is already apparent on every face and in every store in Norfolk.

Never before, in the opinion of one of the oldest residents of the city, have the storekeepers been so well supplied to fill the demands of the season. Never before has there been on sale so valuable or so variegated a selection to pick and choose from.

Post card or diamond the goods on display are superior to those of previous seasons.

And speaking of diamonds it is justly open to another mention that Norfolk is unhesitatingly a diamond town.

When prominent men, bankers, business men, and merchants of nearby towns, who are constantly making trips to the larger cities of Chicago, Omaha and Sioux City, will come on special trips to Norfolk to buy Christmas diamonds for their wives and daughters it is assuredly because they can get better values for their money here than they can elsewhere. And there has been a number of outsiders who have during the last week made purchases of "sparklers."

Altogether the sale of jewelry, diamonds in particular, has in the past week completely out shadowed the purchases of any previous week on records. And there is yet the better part of the week to buy in.

At and around the Junction and city depots the scene is just as animated or even more so that it is up town.

Everybody is carrying something, a package, a grip, a hamper, or a Christmas tree. These latter are not over east to navigate through a crowded car, but so far the temporary loss of eyesight or the disarrangement of a tongue has not been reported to have called for anything more serious than a gently worded reproof.

Good nature is the undercurrent of the season and while that stays with us all else go hang.

Source: The Norfolk Daily News, Monday, December 21, 1908, page 3.

A look The Norfolk Daily News paper on Saturday, December 22, 1906 on page 3 showed many families planning on spending Christmas together. Excerpts of the families and their information follow:

Plan Christmas Dinner

Social Activity All Bent in One Direction

To be many Family Reunions

There has been very little doing in a social way during the past week in Norfolk, because of the necessary holiday preparations.

It will be a merry Christmas in the true sense of the word so far as Norfolk is concerned, judging from the festive family dinners that have been planned for the day. So filled with the Yuletide spirit has the past week been that there has been little doing in a social way. Santa Claus has secured a corner on everybody's time and the monopoly has been worked for all it was worth. Society has spent a large part of its time during the past few days in shopping, and none has cared to put in much time outside the home.

Among the Christmas Diners

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Kiesau will spend Christmas with their parents at Waucon, Iowa.

The family of C. S. Bridge went to Fremont to be guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bridge. W. P. Logan family went to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Willis McBride of Elgin.

L. C. Mittelstadt had family dinner with relatives present from Laurel and other points.

The families of A. N. Anthes and Mr. and Mrs. Smith will enjoy Christmas dinner in their home on Norfolk avenue.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Burnham will entertain Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Huse and son Gene.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Zutz expect their son Herbert home from New Ulm, Minn., where he is attending college, for the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Baum enjoyed Christmas dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. Baum.

Judge and Mrs. I. Powers expect their son Isaac Powers, jr., remembered in Norfolk as "Bud," for Christmas dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Weatherby and Mrs. Warrick went to Omaha to spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Shoemaker.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Mathewson had a New Year's dinner for their families instead of one on Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bullock and son, Clyde, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. S. Bullock.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Stafford will enjoy a family dinner at home with their daughter, Miss Genevieve Stafford.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Hansen, 409 Park avenue entertained Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Groesbeck, Mr. and Mrs. E. Markel, and Mr. and Mrs. M. V. Avery at a Christmas supper.

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Matrau will entertain at a family reunion. Mr. and Mrs. Eller and Dr. and Mrs. McKim will be here from Lincoln and Miss Hammond will be here from Stuart, as guests.

Miss Parish of West Point, sister of Mr. C. P. Parish, and Fred Parish of Lincoln, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Parish will spend the day together.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Shaw entertained C. E. Doughty and family, L. E. Wallerstadt and family, M. D. Wheeler and family, and Mrs. Otto Tappert and family at a dinner on Christmas day.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Losch of West Point entertained at a family dinner Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Tucker, jr., of Carroll and Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Huse of Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Tracy entertained the Koenigstein families for dinner. Among those present will be Mr. and Mrs. J. Koenigstein, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Koenigstein and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Koenigstein and Dr. and Mrs. R. A. Mittelstadt.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Witzigman will give a family dinner. Among the guests will be Mr. Witzigman's mother, Mrs. Carolina Witzigman of Dyersville, Iowa, his sister, Miss Kathyryne Witzigman of Wausau, Neb., and his brother, John Witzigman of Battle Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. George B. Christoph had as guest Mr. and Mrs. George H. Burton and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burton of Waucon, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Burton are parents of Mrs. Christoph and Mr. Burton of Norfolk.

The family of Rev. J. J. Parker of Plainview, formerly of Norfolk, will enjoy a reunion on Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Scott in Kearney. Mrs. Scott was formerly Miss Lillian Parker. Mr. Parker and children, Mr. and Mrs. Hauser of Neligh and others will be present.

Mr. and Mrs. Wynn Rainbolt will entertain at a family dinner. Among those present will be Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Rainbolt, Mrs. Kingsbury, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Bucholz and children of Omaha, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. S. Weills, Jack Weills of Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Reynolds and children.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Gow entertained Harold Gow, Mr. Temple, Miss Temple and Miss Beulah Temple, and Leonard Hageland. The Temple's were from Wayne and Hageland was from Lincoln.

A dinner will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Bell for Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jenkins of Madison and Mrs. Jenkins, her son, Fred and daughter Gladys. There is also a probable dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Hardy for Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Sprecher.

The family of M. L. Ogden will enjoy an unusually pleasant Yuletide dinner. Preston Ogden attending Moody institute in Chicago, Glen Ogden attending Wheaton college are here. Mr. Ogden's mother is a holiday guest, likewise, from Illinois.

A Durland family dinner will be given in the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Durland on the Heights. Among those present will be Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Durland, Miss Laura Durland, Miss Dorothy Durland, and Charles Durland, Miss Elvira Durland, Miss Josephine Durland, Miss Etta Durland; Mr. and Mrs. G. F. Durland of Plainview and five daughters; Mr. and Mrs. Burt Mapes and children.

A Luikart family dinner will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Luikart in Tilden. Miss Stella Luikart, Miss Cordelia Lukart, Roy, Ralph and Carl will all be present from Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Butterfield will entertain at a large family dinner party. The guests will be: Mr. and Mrs. George D. Butterfield and daughter, Edith; Dr. and Mrs. P. H. Salter, Miss Dorothy Salter and Master George Salter; Mr. and Mrs. John R. Hays; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Salter; C. B. Salter; and Spencer Butterfield, who had just returned from college near Chicago to spend the holiday vacation at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson and Dr. and Mrs. C. S. Parker will entertain at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Johnson, 1225 Koenigstein avenue, at family dinner. There will be present Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Johnson and family; Mr. and Mrs. J. Storrs Mathewson and daughter; Mrs. W. H. Johnson and children; Mrs. A. J. Johnson. W. H. Johnson, who has been spending the winter in Colorado Springs, will be in Denver for Christmas.

Supreme Judge and Mrs. J. B. Barnes will enjoy a family dinner on Christmas with two of their sons present. John B. Barnes, jr., is expected from Casper, Wyo., where he is now practicing law, and A. Kimball Barnes is expected from Kearney where is private secretary to Supreme Court Commissioner Oldhan. Guy. W. Barnes, who has a position in the Ames sugar factory, will not be home for the holidays and is not expected until after February 1.

A large family dinner will be given at the home of Mrs. Mary Davenport. There will be present: F. E. Davenport, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Davenport and son, Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Odiorne and family, Mr. and Mrs. B C. Gentle, Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Greene, all from Norfolk. Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Davenport and family from Sioux City. Mr. and Mrs. John Davenport, and Mr. and Mrs. Richardson, all from Elgin. Mr. and Mrs. George Davenport and family, and Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Pilger and family, all from Madison.