

# A POIGNANT LOOK BACK for us, no one else was there. No long by Bill Johanson

Anyone born before the end of the 20th Century must surely recognize how Christmas is tons different now than when they were a youngster, when Santa "sees you when you're sleeping."

I was five or so, and Mom drug me and my two younger brothers to downtown Chicago's Loop to shop and to visit

the Marshall Field's department store Santa – a very popular guy in those innocent days.

Besides the nervous anticipation I felt pre-Santa, waiting in the Santa line was torture. We stood there, sandwiched between piped lane dividers, hot, hungry, and behind maybe a hundred other kids and moms. It was the late 1940's.

Decades passed.



In mid-December 2004, my wife Kris and I went to Chicago for old-time sake. We visited some dear friends. above, then headed downtown always exciting that time of year.

Long story short, we ended up at Marshall Field & Company, hoping for at least some familiar sights from many trips there before. A sign on the building, above, said Santa Claus was there, on the 5th floor.

We wended our way upward on huge escalators, taking in the store's marvelous decorations and endless shelves of merchandise, until the 5th floor. Surprised to see very few kids and moms, we nevertheless continued on to Santa's spot. And wha ...? Ol'St. Nick was there in his chair and, except

line. I started to think my childhood

experience at Field's

embellished by my

mind over the years.

Maybe it was a

many Santas at other

terribly convenient for

working moms. Maybe

Santa Claus had gone

out of style. Recently,

I finally became aware

local stores were

school day. Maybe too

may have been fantasy,



of some old Field's news on Wikipedia:

"Marshall Field & Company, commonly known as Marshall Field's, was a department store in Chicago, Illinois,



that grew to become a chain before being acquired by Macy's, Inc. in 2005.

The former flagship Marshall Field and **Company Building location on State** Street in the Loop of downtown Chicago was officially renamed Macy's on State Street in 2006 and is now one of four national Macy's flagship stores."

So a year after we'd been there, Marshall Field's was becoming no more. That fact signaled for me a massive change, something akin to modern Christmas changes and modern lots of other things. The whole idea is quite poignant, as it might feel to other

members of the "Greatest Generation."



But it also ignites an invitation, to anyone not keeping up with today's world, the world our kids and



grandkids thrive in and ask on occasion that we join in their playing. Think about.it. It's great fun and forever memories for the children when we do.



"Blessings to all during this Special Holiday Season!"

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# **NEWS/ANNOUNCEMENTS-**

President Cathy Brubaker-Clarke-Shoreline Inn and The Lake House



presented the Rotary Club a Thank You card from the staff.

President Cathy shared a quick recap regarding the unfortunate event that occurred on December 7. She reminded

everyone to be careful with our words and not let offensive words that have hurt others go without reconciliation.

## VISITORS-

Kris Johanson, Carrie Kelly (Bill Johanson); and lots of students

## **NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS-**



**Dave Alexander** inducted **Viktor Anderson, right**, as the newest Rotarian in the world.

#### **10 BRAVE ROTARIANS-**

Pamela Babbitt along with her assistant Grace Goskewicz, announced that Lisa Sabourin was disqualified from this Brave Rotarian quest.

## PAUL HARRIS AWARDS-



John Snider presented Bob Landman, left, while Bill Johanson and Roger Spoelman presented Bill's lovely daughter Carrie Kelly with this prestigious award for good work and service to our community.



# **ELECTION DAY RESULTS**



The Muskegon Rotary Board will have some changes after results for this year's election: **Orville Crain, Ginny Sprague,** and **JD Wallace, Sr** are the newest Rotary Board Members. Also, **Mark Meyers** secured his presidentnominee position with full support.

#### LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM MUSKEGON BIG REDS -COMMITMENT VS. SACRIFICE

Speaker: Coach Shane Fairfield By RIM Reporter: **Robin Henshaw Hard** 



Shane Fairfield brought the essence of Muskegon High School's Big Reds football program to the Rotary meeting last Thursday. Fellow presenters were La'Darius Jefferson,

quarterback and Michigan player of the year headed for MSU on a full-ride scholarship, and lineman Eli Jackson, also a scholarship recipient. Of course, the guys were filled with excitement as they talked about the stats and successes from this year's team. There was no shortage of



records broken by an extremely committed group of guys; in fact, Shane was proud to announce that 11 of the 17 young men who played on this championship team received college offers. That, in itself, is pretty spectacular and something to boast about.



But inquiring Rotarians asked for more details. Just what is the real key to the success of the Big Reds football program, year after year? Coach Fairfield said it's commitment versus sacrifice. He explained that the entire staff at Muskegon High School is committed to student success. The students see, experience and understand that relationships drive the staff at the high school. Staff members go above and beyond to provide a safe, warm and caring environment for students that translates into MHS being a place kids want to attend.

A poignant metaphor drove the message home. "When considering bacon and eggs for breakfast," the

coach said, "a chicken sacrifices an egg, but the pig is truly committed; he *is* breakfast!"



We salute the Muskegon High School coaching staff for the commitment they offer students. Student success, including for members of the school's oftentimes championship football team, can be attributed largely to the support they receive from mentors and to relationships they achieve with family members and other students.

# NORTH MUSKEGON INTERACT CLUB



(L to R):Top row: Sarah Muzzy, Chloe Wolffis, Grace Goskewicz, John Slocum, Bella Lindsay, Camryn Klint. Bottom row: Bre Adamczak, Lindsey Piper, Lexi Wolffis, Claire McCall

These students are very active in our community. They have big goals with big hearts.

If you have a famous family chili recipe you would like to compete with in this event, please follow this <u>link</u>, or if you want to just come and enjoy some homemade chili and help judge for the people's choice that is fine as well.

Please support this event by sharing it with anyone you believe would enjoy, and by making the commitment to be there yourself.

February 8 from 5:30PM to 7:30PM at First Evangelical Lutheran Church on Whitehall Road. Tickets cost \$10. Pots of chili donations are needed; please get in contact with **Randy Lindquist** or **John Noling**. See details here. <u>Click Link</u>



