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# ThumbPrint News

An imprint of places and people at work and play in the Thumb of Michigan

"The rights of every man are diminished when the rights of one man are threatened." – John F. Kennedy

DECEMBER 2024

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**NEW THIS YEAR**  
AT THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE WALK!

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to Your  
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What Happened On This Day in History?  
**December**

## The History of the Christmas Tree in America

Originally Printed in *ThumbPrint News*, December 2010 **By Ralph McKinch**, *ThumbPrint News* Staff Writer  
**Edited by Laura Irwin & Bethany Wolf**, *ThumbPrint News* Staff



Photo courtesy of Christopher Wolf Photography

the "History of the Christmas Tree" Walking Tour. It was a hit, and every year since then it has grown. There are now over 300 trees, decorations and displays.

The Kodets did extensive research into the types of trees, ornaments and decorations that are authentic to each period and have informative signs throughout the home sharing that knowledge for the public to view during the holiday season.

The history of Christmas trees in America was almost non-existent until about the 1840s. It most likely began with the immigration of the German and Irish people to this country during that period. They brought their Christmas traditions with them from the old country and Queen Victoria of England popularized the idea of a Christmas tree when she made one a part of her Christmas décor in 1846.

Visitors to the "History of the Christmas Tree Walk" tour can expect to see trees decorated with authentic ornaments from the 1840s to the present. They will learn how those decorations evolved through the decades. There are also trees decorated around a certain theme. Below is a sampling of the unique trees that will be on display:

**Mid-1800s Tree:** The German immigrants in Pennsylvania were the first to display Christmas trees in their homes. Decorations, like their European predecessors, almost always included cookies in their homemade decorations. The cookies on this tree are made from authentic antique German molds. In addition, fruit and nuts were popular adornments. The tree is a real tree, totally devoid of needles. The reason for no needles will be shared with visitors on the Walk!

See *CHRISTMAS TREES* Page 6



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*ThumbPrint News* is dedicated to  
Al & Diane Kodet.

## Don't Balance, Prioritize!

By Rita  
MacDonald  
*ThumbPrint News*  
Columnist



As I sit and write this in November, there is a gentleman on my porch right now blowing away the leaves that have fallen from the trees in my front yard. There's also a pumpkin spice candle burning in my dining room, I just finished a pumpkin-pie-flavored protein shake, and today I'm wearing a bright orange t-shirt with a blue jean jacket over it. I stopped at a roadside market this morning and bought a squash and some green peppers for soup. Do you see a theme here? It's still fall here in "Pure Michigan", or "sweater weather" as I like to call it (because I probably own about 40 beautiful sweaters, including one I haven't worn yet – made by my friend's mom to resemble one I wore back in the 1970s). The seasons are changing fast, and we all know exactly how to prepare. We can tomatoes, store food, freeze soup, attend chili cook-offs, and go apple picking whether or not we like apples. We start making Christmas gift lists and wish lists because before you know it – those guys on my porch will be back shoveling snow, not blowing leaves!

Life has its seasons as well. Some of them we see coming, others take us by surprise. Some we can prepare for, others – not so much. Some we cherish – others are just really, really hard.

I'm not retirement age yet, so I still work full time, but I am always, always

planning for that retirement "season" of life. But life has been unexpectedly busy for the past many months, with less time to spend with my grandbabies, fewer opportunities to go to the gym (sorry, Doc), and a lot more time tending to family needs, and then topped off with a recent last-minute trip to Colorado to assist with more family needs. Whoever said that empty-nesting would bring with it a much simpler life didn't know what they were talking about, or must not have ever raised a family. I'm an empty nester, but I'm definitely still pretty busy.

Chatting this morning with my friend at breakfast, I mentioned that I was trying so hard to "balance" everything I have to do including maintaining and nurturing friendships. She was quick to encourage me not to "balance" my life but to "prioritize" it. Ah! Yes! Prioritize! BRILLIANT! I've been unknowingly, and unnecessarily, trying to keep everyone happy, and in the process of doing that, have exhaustingly spread myself way, way too thin; except for some reason, I'm still not thin. Who came up with that saying anyway? Geez, I wish.

Yes, PRIORITIZE! I've been thinking about that this afternoon and realized that I have friends who have kindly and graciously included my mom in our fellowship, called and offered to sit with her, or even be available to drive her wherever she needs to go,

and even though she is not interested in company or help from my friends – I've been really blessed by those who have offered. They've actually helped me to prioritize the things that matter most. My authentic and genuine friends have recognized and jumped right into this season of my life as if it were a big pile of freshly raked leaves, and made it possible for me to prioritize where God would have me right now.

Friendship is so much more than lunches and dinners, road trips and shows. Friendship is about jumping from whatever season you're currently in, to jumping in with a shovel, a rake, a phone call, or a simple bowl of soup, right into the middle of someone else's completely different season.

And the moral of the story is: you're not going to drop a few sizes and get your figure back by spreading yourself too thin. So, prioritize instead, and let your besties help you. They'll be around whether it rains or snows, and whether it's been 6 days or 6 months since you've seen them. And those, my friends, are the ones worth making a priority. 🌱

**"A man of many companions  
may come to ruin, but there  
is a friend who sticks closer  
than a brother."  
- Proverbs 18:24 ESV**

## THUMBPRINT NEWS CONTEST

Each month, *ThumbPrint News* prints a photo of an object, person or a place for our readers to identify. If you think you know the answer, go to our website [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) and enter your answer. Of all persons submitting the correct answer by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month, one person will be randomly selected to be entered into a drawing for a wonderful surprise gift at the end of the year! Of those monthly winners, just one will be notified via email that they are the grand prize winner.

For our November 2024 contest, we asked our readers to identify what is pictured to the left. Of all the correct answers we received, Dennis Coppola of Casco, Michigan, was randomly chosen. Dennis identified it as a mounted male turkey beard and leg spurs.

According to the National Audubon Society the beards are plumes of hair-like dark brown

or black feathers that protrude from the birds chest, mainly on male wild turkeys, although 10% of females have beards as well. The beards are used by the turkeys for mate selection being a symbol of dominance and health.

The beards sprout when the birds are about five months old and continue to grow throughout the birds life. They grow at a rate of 3-5 inches per year. Anything 10+ inches is a very nice beard. Environmental factors, such as ice or snow build up, rocky terrain or vitamin deficiency can cause turkeys lose their beards. Domestic turkeys can also grow a beard but they are typically much shorter.

For our December 2024 contest, we are wondering if our readers can tell us specifically what we have pictured to the right. If you think you know, answer at [thumbprintnews.com](http://thumbprintnews.com).



## Vocabulary Voyage

Compiled by Laura Irwin, *ThumbPrint News* Staff

*"The beautiful thing about learning is nobody can take it away from you." – BB King*

### acerbic acer·bic | ə-'sər-bik

An adjective meaning 1 : sour, having a sharp biting taste, 2 : a harsh, bitingly critical, sarcastic tone. First known use: 1850, from Latin *acerbus*, meaning harsh or unpleasant. Ex: As a sufferer of chronic pain, she is acerbic, bitter and savagely funny.

### mnemonic mne·mon·ic | ni-'mä-nik

An adjective meaning 1 : aiding or designed to aid memory, 2 : of or relating to memory. First known use: 1672, from Greek *mnēmonikos*, from *mnēmōn* - mindful, from *mimnēskesthai* - to remember. Ex: OATE: ownership, accountability, transparency and empowerment is an example of a mnemonic system.

### perspicacious per·spi·ca·cious | pər-spə-'kā-shəs

An adjective meaning 1 : quickly and accurately able to understand somebody or something, 2 : having or showing keen understanding, DISCERNMENT. First known use: 1640, from Latin *perspicax*, *perspicax* meaning clear-sighted, from *perspicere* - to see through. Ex: The perspicacious counselor saw through the child's facade.



A good vocabulary is a powerful tool, making communication simpler. Readers can contribute to our learning journey by submitting underused, misused or uncommon words they've discovered to [thumbprintnews@comcast.net](mailto:thumbprintnews@comcast.net). Your name will be credited as the contributor.





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**THUMBPRINT NEWS PET PHOTO CHALLENGE**

Meet **Lucky LEO Loverkins**, the big lug!  
Shared by his new hooman, Derek of Marine City, MI.

Leo came to us through the foster-based Paws, Awes & Claws Animal Rescue group out of New Baltimore, MI. This pup is 56 lbs at 6 months and has paws the size of biscuits! He's as mischievous as he can be, playful, and sweet. The original shelter he came from in Texas listed him as a Black & Tan Coonhound mixed with something else. The wife and I are a little nervous it might be Dane or St. Bernard! He's gonna be BIG! He stole our hearts but is too big for our bed!!!

**Thank you, Derek, for sharing Leo with us!!**

He's a Good Boy!!

CHECK OUT ENTIRE MENAGERIE ON OUR FB



## Connecting the Dots

By **Bob Jones**, ThumbPrint News Columnist

Looking back on my early years growing up I had two parents, uncles, aunts, grandparents, cousins, and what I assumed then were normal experiences.

There were holiday gatherings, birthdays, baptisms and weddings to attend throughout the years. What seemed like experiences not out of the ordinary for me, upon even a cursory glance at these occasions, there were other motives my relatives had in mind for me to fulfill their needs, desires, and passions as their lives transcended through the generations.

My aunt (my father's sister) could not have children. She treated me well from the start; buying me a pair a double runner skates at the age of five, taking me to my first movie, buying me a blue peacoat. She would say I was a handsome little man.

My grandfather on my father's side doted on me. When I was only seven or eight, he would tell me stories while we sat on the back stoop of the apartment building he and grandma lived in. He felt his relation with his own son was strained, at best. I filled in as a young boy who was polite and would listen to wherever grandpa's tall tales took him.

My great uncle and aunt also gave me, as a young child, much love and affection. I spent many summers at their resort on Torch Lake and we went everywhere together; fishing, boating, even to the dump once a week. They entertained crowds of people coming and going at the resort. It was upon this reflection I knew my uncle especially did not get on well with his own son.

I again was the stand in son he wished he had.

When I was a teenager, my mother's brother took me under his wing. I was, in effect, his younger brother. A bachelor all his life, he was quite the outdoor adventurer. He took me fishing and hunting and attended wild game dinners.

When I first started teaching, a bachelor myself, every pay period for a couple of years my uncle and I would find a restaurant, usually upscale, to soothe our palates. He was also quite the athlete. He came to all my football and baseball games to cheer me on.

All of these extended family members treated me with kindness and respect. I was lucky to be living and be a part of this nurturing process.

My so called regular home life – day to day; school activities, social events, immediate family time was also very nurturing.

In families there are certainly times of stress, uncertainty, animosity, and all kinds of trials and tribulations, yet I truly believe most families, under whatever circumstances, try to "make the best of it."

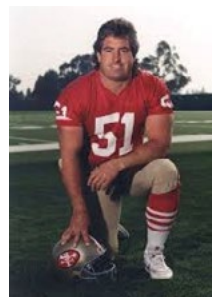
I am only one example. I truly appreciate and love what these extended family members did for my well being and upbringing. Taking care of me in their own unique nurturing environments. I will be taking a few minutes to remember and thank them this holiday season; I encourage you to do the same to your loved ones.

Bob Jones has recently released his second children's book: A Young Soul Maturing During Another Summer in the North Woods on the Big Lake. Available on Amazon.com and Walmart.com or you can email Bob at [robertsparty1@gmail.com](mailto:robertsparty1@gmail.com) for a discounted copy from the author.



## FROM SUPER BOWL TO SHOCKWAVES

Submitted by **Christopher J. Zimmer, D.C.** Owner of Zimmer Chiropractic



### Three-time Super Bowl Champ, Randy Cross, finds pain relief with innovative therapy.

News article out of PRNewswire, June 24, 2024

Veteran football analyst and three-time Super Bowl Champion Randy Cross has endured his share of injuries and pain in his career.

"That's what professional sports is all about. Everybody gets hurt," he said of his 13 years playing for the San Francisco 49ers.

Long retired from football, Cross, a resident of Alpharetta, Georgia, found himself dealing with a new level of pain brought on by hip replacement surgery, knee surgery, and carpal tunnel syndrome.

"I tore the quad tendon off my patella last June and, at the time, a friend called me and said you need to try SoftWave Tissue Regeneration Therapy. At the time, I said, 'I'll be alright, don't worry about it,'" Cross recalled. "Then, I did a hip replacement in October, a revision to my knee in January, and started to notice how fast my hip was recovering, but the quad tendon was not healing like I expected it to."

Cross said he called his friend back and said, this time, he was going to give this therapy a try.

"I wanted something to help me start feeling normal again. After the initial treatment, I got really good reactions on my knee, as well as my hand where the carpal tunnel was causing three of my fingers to start going numb," said Cross. "I know SoftWave has made a huge difference on the flexibility of my knee. I can bend it all the way up and extend it, and I couldn't do any of that stuff before. My doctors were even talking about more surgery. Now, that is no longer necessary."

The device used is a hand-held, patented shockwave machine that uses a broad-focused, low-intensity, extracorporeal shockwave (Li-ESWT) to promote both a physical and biological response to improve healing. It is currently cleared by the FDA for the activation of connective tissue, treatment of chronic diabetic foot ulcers, treatment of acute second-degree burns, improvement of blood supply, and temporary pain relief.

Cross said his wife is now using the therapy for back issues that have not been relieved by epidurals.

"She's playing golf again. She loves it." ... "I'm actually in contact with people at UCLA and with the 49ers. I think this can give them a gigantic advantage and I know a lot of professional teams already use it," Cross said. "This device is going to get your body to heal itself the way it was intended to do."



Editorial note: Since 1984, Dr. Zimmer and his staff have committed to promoting the health and well-being of all patients. For more information, please visit [zimmerchiro.com](http://zimmerchiro.com) or call the Port Huron location at (810) 987-7500 or the Marine City location at (810) 765-5622.





**COTTAGE  
Living**

By **Pamela  
Lynn Hayes**  
ThumbPrint News  
Columnist  
pammypoo123@icloud.com



What a year it has been! Hard to believe this is the final month of 2024. The craziness of the holidays has arrived. It is a fun craziness, though. Now that the cottage is closed up for her winter nap, I can focus on the Christmas season and making holiday memories.

This past fall was not without a small battle of the wills with a tiny mouse that just refused to go away. He finally packed his bags (I think). I cannot believe how a small rodent can outsmart a human at times. Trying to keep up with catching this guy must have looked like a Laurel & Hardy movie inside my cottage. You can spend a lot of time researching the “better mousetrap”, but in the end, nature always gets her way.

I still decorate for the holidays at the cottage, even though I only go up about once a month now. After Christmas, I will take down all the Santas, snowmen and holiday lights I hang in the windows to keep the place festive. We’ll spend a night or two at the cottage for our New Year’s Eve tradition, as we have for the past nine years, and we’ll visit our favorite restaurant in the Thumb for our prime rib New Year’s Eve dinner. This year a long toast is in order to reflect on the past 12 months and welcome in the new year. This time also gives me a chance to check on the inside of the cottage and do a quick cleaning before heading home. Then begins my spring countdown, what else is there to do in January in Michigan?

The holidays always make me think back to when I was a kid, how the joy and excitement of the time off from school and the busyness of family gatherings took over that month. Everyone says “Christmas is for kids”, well in a way it is, but aren’t we all still kids at heart? I hope you all enjoy this awesome season full of fun, lights, gatherings and great food. I pray this new year brings everyone prosperity, love and peace like we have never seen before.

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Editorial note: Beltone Skoric Hearing Aid Center has been serving the hearing-impaired community in Michigan for over 30 years. They have made it their mission to educate about the negative effects of untreated hearing loss. For more information, please visit their website [www.beltoneskorichearing.com](http://www.beltoneskorichearing.com) or call to schedule a free hearing exam at one of their 38 locations: (810) 356-0559.



**CHRISTMAS TREES**

Continued from Page 1



Victorian Era tree

**Feather Tree:** An artificial tree from the late 1800s, made entirely from goose feathers, is decorated with scrap ornaments that were popular during that era. Scrap ornaments were usually handcrafted from lithographed greeting cards, calling cards and calendar art, and were embellished with wire, ribbon and other add-ons.

**Victorian Era Tree:** Over 15 feet tall, this tree stands in a prominent place in the living room. Only the 30-foot ceilings and 6-foot-wide chandelier made from natural elk horn sheds can compete with its size.

Over 1,000 ornaments decorate this tree alone, from the early heavy German kugels to the delicate blown glass ornaments that were made in every shape imaginable, from fruits to people, to animals and household objects. Cardboard Dresden ornaments, resplendent in their gold and silver trim, join the wax angels and other ornaments from this amazing period in the history of Christmas tree decorating.

**1930s Tree:** The white artificial tree is unique in that it is made of fiberglass! And, yes, it



This tree is made out of goose feathers and decorated with scrap ornaments.

is itchy to put up! Hundreds of milkglass figural light bulbs are displayed on the tree.

**1950s Trees:** The 1950s was a decade when America enjoyed the world's highest standard of living and, at the same time, lived in fear of nuclear annihilation. The mid-1950s saw the invention of the "aluminum" tree – the ultimate in artificial trees. There are four examples of these trees displayed throughout the home, each uniquely themed, including one entirely decorated with ornaments from Poland and another with Russian ornaments.

**Celluloid Animal Tree:** Celluloid ornaments date back to the late 1870s. John W. Hyatt developed the formula for mixing pulp from the cotton plant with solvents and camphor. The 1950s marked the end of the celluloid era. Better-quality



1950s Aluminum tree

plastics quickly replaced the more fragile celluloid objects. Celluloid ornaments are very rare today because of their fragility. However, displayed on this tree is an extraordinary collection that survived through the ages.

**Beeswax Ornament Tree:** Beeswax is the oldest wax in the world. It was first used for creating decorations in the 1600s in Germany. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, the German people brought their art form to Eastern Pennsylvania. Colonial women would gather honey from wild beehives found in the wooded areas. Beeswax ornaments are still being crafted today in the same way.

**Deer Tree:** The deer was believed to symbolize grace, beauty and purity. In 1939, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* was created for Montgomery Ward Department Stores by Robert L. May. May patterned his story after *The Ugly Duckling*, deciding on an underdog reindeer with a red nose. By the end of 1946, over six million copies had been handed out to eager shoppers. May, along with his brother-in-law (songwriter Johnny Marks), developed the lyrics and melody for the well-known song. In 1949, Gene Autry recorded it and two million copies were sold, then in 1964 a special TV movie was produced and narrated by Burl Ives. Deer on this tree span the years from the 1930s through the 1960s.

**Tree Dedicated to those Men and Women Serving in the Military:** One of the more poignant trees on the Walk, this red, white and blue tree is decorated with American flags and other patriotic ornaments. During the first ten years of the Walk, visitors who had a friend or relative in the military were invited to write out a special card with that person's name, branch of military and where they were serving and hang it on the tree. All those cards remain on the tree as a constant reminder of their duty and dedication in protecting our country and freedoms, some making the ultimate sacrifice.

The list above is only a hint of the huge collection of trees, ornaments and decorations that will be on display during the "History of the Christmas Tree Walk". It is truly something to see and is likely to become one of your favorite family traditions each year as well.

Al once shared that people return year after year to share in this wonderful holiday display. "It has become a tradition with many people. They come one year and return again and again with family and friends – sometimes even in the same year. We have had two marriage proposals during the Christmas Walk. We have people laugh or get misty-eyed when they see a tree that reminds them of one from their childhood. People just have the greatest time. They can sit and relax as long as they want in front of one of the four fireplaces in the home. It is not a guided tour – everyone can take as long as they want

See *CHRISTMAS TREES* Page 16

## Pick JOY for Five Minutes

By Patricia Cosner Kubic, ThumbPrint News Columnist



Out of an abundance of transparency, I want to say up front that this is not a political opinion column, even though the idea came from a political event. It is about so much more. Like millions of people, I am devastated after the events of November 5<sup>th</sup>. But, I also accept the results – people voted and a person not of my choosing won. And because of that, I feel hopeless. I'm worried I'll never be able to find joy.

But, that feeling is not exclusive to election outcomes. Like too many, another unwelcome force knocked down my door years ago: cancer. And, I never voted for that, either. Years ago, my then-boyfriend had two battles with cancer while we were dating. The second battle was exceptionally dark because the stage four cancer came back spreading from his neck to his belly button. We were so frightened that we would not get even one day of marriage – a single day that came so effortlessly to couples around us. We felt hopeless and the excitement of planning a future together was stolen.

Hopelessness flourishes in so many other ways, like fertility challenges, babies born with heartbreaking conditions, unscheduled short marriages, pets that suddenly die or failed careers despite worn-out shoes from years of dedication.

But, this Christmas, I have decided there is only one thing to do to get out of this awful trench: fake it. Every day for just a few minutes, I must dig deep to find a joyful light. Even if it feels manufactured, I think it will give my heart a break from the heaviness. I know it will feel weird and fake, but I'm going to try it anyway. We can do anything for five minutes.

I think people who have seemingly lost all hope have no other choice but to fake it. We simply can't stay trapped in a roundabout of despair. When I think about that gloom consuming my outlook, I feel my life getting cut short. And if that happens, well then, the invader wins.

So, this Christmas, pick one of the things that means the world to you, such as your heart, your values, your humanity, your strength, your truth and your ability to plan a future – even if it is different than the one you imagined. And, when you grip tightly to one of those fundamentals even for just five minutes, your soul could be soothed and then a few moments of joy will surely follow. 🌱 You can reach Patricia at [pckubic@gmail.com](mailto:pckubic@gmail.com).

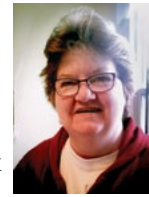


Tree dedicated to those men and women serving in the military



# So Many Quilting Options

By **Theresa Nielsen**  
ThumbPrint News Columnist



Thinking back on the quilts I've made over the years is interesting. Some quilts are just fun, such fun. Then there are those quilts that once I start them, for whatever reason, I change my mind – like those t-shirt quilts. They are so much work and not fun at all. Let me tell you about my Baltimore Album Liberty quilt, what a challenge it has been. It's all applique, using the needle turn technique. What was I thinking? There are tons of details, little tiny flowers and leaves. Each time I start a new block I find it gets easier to do the applique stitches. I know a lot of quilters, but many have never done applique and aren't willing to try. But it has become one of my absolute favorites, and now I'm already halfway done with it.

It's a good feeling of accomplishment when another block is complete. While I'm busy trying to encourage my friends to try applique, they are busy raving about the hexagons, or hexies as we like to call them. It's a good thing I love those too! In my quilting group, it seems every other person is making them, one friend has little boxes of them finished and ready to assemble, I counted at least four boxes. The interesting thing about hexies is they are available in different sizes. Another friend is doing them so small, it's hard to see them in her hands. Let's just say, we're hooked on hexies. Those who won't

do hexies think we're crazy, but of course not. Some of our grandmothers made them way back when without a template, now I call that crazy. Another thing I love about making the hexies is that they are so portable. I can take everything I need in a small box to work, or on the train when I travel, or sitting down to watch a movie. Before I know it, I've got a whole bunch of them finished and assembled into flower shapes for a quilt. Now I call that fun.

Now that the weather has changed a bit and I'm spending more time in the house I've started my hand quilting in the evening. This specific quilt is going to take me awhile, but I can already see the beauty of the different shades of blue in it. It once belonged to someone else, so I didn't make the quilt top, but I am pleased to be finishing it. This particular quilt just speaks to be done by hand – which is just fine by me. I think hand quilting is making a comeback.

All this reminiscing has me excited to think about a brand new project I've taken on. America is celebrating its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2026, and I'm honored to be making quilt blocks to go in a celebratory quilt, it will be beautiful for sure. So many quilts and so little time! If only I could tackle house cleaning in the same way! Oh well, now which quilt to go back to now...and where did my chocolate disappear to? 🍫

*Editorial note: To read more of Theresa's writing, you can find her books about growing up sewing in a small town on Amazon and Barnes & Nobel's website. To reach Theresa, you can email her at [catbirdinn@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catbirdinn@sbcglobal.net).*



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## TRAVELING TASTEBUDS

THIS MONTH WE TRAVEL TO

# ANTARCTICA

FOR

# HOOSH

Survival Stew of Early Antarctic Explorers

By **Laura Irwin**, ThumbPrint News Staff

Antarctica is the coldest, driest and windiest continent on the planet with an average temperature in the interior of -71° F and 14° F along the coast. There are no permanent residences permitted so there is no national dish but the brutal climate makes high fat, high protein, high calorie foods essential to existence.

The main ingredients of the earliest recipes for this portable soup is pemmican and hardtack. Sounds delightful. Pemmican is a mixture of dried meat (usually venison or elk), with rendered animal fat and sometimes dried fruit. It has been described as a thicker version of unflavored, unsmoked jerky. It is said to leave a filmy coating in your mouth if eaten plain but it can literally last for years without the need for refrigeration or any other form of food preservation. A person can survive on it alone for an entire winter. Hardtack is, well, a super hardy, break-your-teeth type of biscuit that can last for hundreds of years. The oldest surviving piece of hardtack is from 1851 and is on display at a museum in Florida. I chose a more modern version sans hardtack.

### FRIGID FACTS

- ▶ On average, explorers need about 6,500 calories per day to survive.
- ▶ The coldest recorded temperature in Antarctica was -136°F in 2010.
- ▶ To enter or visit the country, you need permission from the Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs and the Antarctic Treaty Party.
- ▶ In 1959, the Antarctic Treaty was established to ensure that Antarctica remains peaceful, is used only for scientific research, minimal tourism and to prevent territorial claims, mining and anything that would harm the environment.
- ▶ Approximately 5,000 people stay there during the almost constant daylight of summer (October - March) but that number drops to 1,000 as winter sets in.
- ▶ The first recorded landing on the continent was in 1775 by British explorer, Captain James Cook.
- ▶ Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen is the first human to reach the South Pole in 1911.



*Norwegian flag of Roald Amundsen at the South Pole.*

*"Terra Nova Icebound in Pack" 12/13/1910 – The explorers from this expedition perished. Photo by unseen histories on unsplash.com*

*Emperor penguins are the only animal native to Antarctica.*



*Icebergs off the coast*





- ▶ There are more than 50 research stations representing many countries.
- ▶ Ice covers 98% of the continent.
- ▶ You cannot work in Antarctica unless your wisdom teeth and appendix have been removed.
- ▶ 53 million years ago, palm trees grew on its shores.
- ▶ It is the fifth largest continent in the world, and has 70% of the world's fresh water.
- ▶ There have been 11 babies born on the continent since 1979.

## HOOSH WITH MODERN PEMMICAN

### INGREDIENTS

PEMMICAN (Base for Hoosh)

- 2 lbs lean ground beef, browned, drained and dehydrated
- 1 lb of mixed vegetables, cooked and dehydrated (peas & onions often used)
- 1 lb uncooked brown rice
- 1 lb of whole oats
- 1/2 to 1 c of granulated sugar
- 1/4 c salt
- 1 lb lard



Note: 1/2 lb of this pemmican recipe has about 3,000 calories and is a serving size.

### TO MAKE HOOSH:

Place 1/2 lb of the pemmican in a bowl.

Pour 1 c of boiling water over the pemmican.

Stir until dissolved. Serve hot.

Photo courtesy of Cool Antarctica.com/gallery

### DIRECTIONS

1. Put the dehydrated meat into a food processor or blender and grind it into a fine powder.
2. Powder the dehydrated vegetables like you did with the meat.
3. Grind the rice into a fine powder
4. Grind the oats into a fine powder
5. Put all the dry, ground ingredients into a mixer and mix well.
6. Melt the lard in a pan.
7. Add small amounts to the dry mixture until you reach a peanut butter consistency.
8. Put into loaf pans to solidify.

Author's note: It supposedly tastes better than it looks, but since I elected to make a delicious venison stew in rich gravy with carrots and potatoes and a thick slice of toasted bread, instead, I can't vouch for that statement. At least we will be familiar with survival food if it ever comes to it.

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## Question for our Readers

Dear Readers,

We are asking for your input. As of December 2024, we have traveled to 44 of the 195 countries in the world and while we love to let our tastebuds travel in search of unique culinary delights, we're wondering what you think about it. Is it a keeper or would you rather us put in something different? We have ideas but are open to suggestions. We thank you, in advance for your input. You can visit the home page of our website, [www.thumbprintnews.com](http://www.thumbprintnews.com) to fill out our Traveling Tastebuds Poll! Sincerely, TPN Staff

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
OPEN	CLOSED	CLOSED	CLOSED	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER	DECEMBER
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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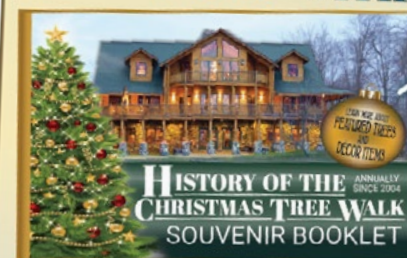
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## Reconciliation: A New Idea By David Gillis, ThumbPrint News Columnist



As I sit with pen in hand or, more appropriately, my fingertips on the keyboard, I have been searching for words that will express a thought regarding this month of December. While I attempt to focus on topics for a possible article, my mind is still enveloped in the extensive and lengthy political process we have just completed. Regardless of where you stand on the results and possible consequences of the elections, you must admit that the vitriolic hatred displayed during the past two years period was egregious.

We witnessed attempts to destroy the reputation of the opponent. I'm convinced that many of those actively involved in these efforts don't fully subscribe to the reasons they claim are the motivation. In fact, I doubt some of them actually know what their objectives are. On both ends of the political hate spectrum are the aggressive protestors and advocates who insist on a form of retribution disguised as something else. Many of them identify themselves as proponents for the return to a more stable life or as seekers of dignity and recognition for the equality of those who are oppressed.

The news media does an excellent job of helping both sides of this ugly story to promote their separate agendas. They have devoted hours of airtime and pages of print to exposing our wrongs and defining what we must do to make it right. As expected, our politicians have caught on finding it beneficial for their next elections to climb in the boat that will sail to the utopia of justice for all. This political action combined with sensationalism offered by the media has moved us to a heightened state of ignorant frenzy. Let's be certain that what we are witnessing is not an equitable redistribution of justice. It is an effort to gain political and economic power.

At this point in the street corner battles for recognition and influence, all useful efforts to right the situation have deteriorated. The focus now is not on the context of justice, but instead has zeroed in on gaining power. All else of a

positive nature and any thought of reconciliation is now somewhere on the back burner.

Ahhh, reconciliation! That's a new thought in what we are witnessing. No one has said anything about reconciliation. That can be defined as a process that causes us to overcome alienation through identification and in solidarity with the other, thus making peace and restoring relationships. Before anyone says that won't work, let's consider some aspects of reconciliation and justice, which must go hand in hand.

A world in which justice fails to lead to reconciliation is one in which spiritual faith has deteriorated. When reconciliation is the goal, we seek to build rather than burn bridges. In the process, we change our tone of language, work to perceive all as human beings, and pray for justice that coincides with reconciliation.

In justice that coincides with reconciliation, we can find hope, which becomes counter to the cynicism we are now experiencing. Honestly, much of the work for justice being put forth today provides little evidence of tangible results. Why? Because it lacks the main ingredient of reconciliation and thereby the real hope we need. That sounds almost biblical, doesn't it? Well, it is.

There is no amount of political rhetoric, media condemnation, or misdirected governmental strategy that can produce the kind of heart-changing action that's necessary. When reconciliation is our goal, we will become more acutely aware of the limitations of our current justice efforts.

History tells us that justice can be achieved through the strategic, persuasive and relentless efforts of sincere justice seekers. But it is through reconciliation coupled with hope that brings about a true solution manifesting itself in repentance, forgiveness and solidarity. Do you think that's spiritual, too? Well, yes, it is. 🌱

*Author's note: For those wanting to express their thoughts regarding this article, you may send an email to [chaplaindgillis@gmail.com](mailto:chaplaindgillis@gmail.com). I promise I will reply.*



## Native American Words of Wisdom

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*"We are Indians, and we have no such bank; but when we have plenty of money or blankets, we give them away to other chiefs and people, and by and by they return them with interest, and our hearts feel good. Our way of giving is our bank."*

– Chief Maquinna, Nootka

MUQUINNA (Macuina, Maquilla, Maquinna) was the chief of the Nuu-chah-nulth people of Nootka Sound in the 1780s-90s, which is now Vancouver Island, B.C. His name means possessor of pebbles. It is believed he died in 1795. His hat can be found in the Museum of the Americas in Madrid.



# Holiday Wishes

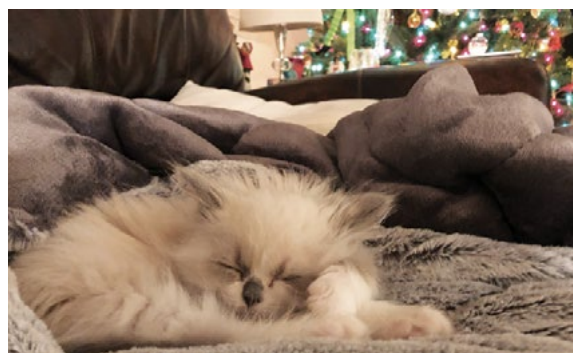
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## Bring Peace to Your Clowder – Achieve Harmony in a Multi-Cat House

By Dr. Elizabeth Gray, ThumbPrint News Columnist



Sometimes it can be a real challenge to keep a multi-cat household peaceful, especially when there's a new addition. Bringing a new cat into your home is a big decision. Whether it's your first pet, or an addition to a growing family, there are many things you can do to make the transition a success. Here are key areas to consider before adding another cat, or if your

feline friends aren't getting along as well as you would like.

**1) Acclimation Time and Space** – Set up an area specifically for your new feline. A small bedroom or other area that can be closed off works well. Be sure to include a litterbox as well as a comfortable sleeping area. Fresh water should be always accessible. Whenever possible, find out what type of food was offered prior to your adoption. Abrupt food changes can cause stomach upset and diarrhea. Take the time to gradually transition from one food to another over a period of 7 to 10 days. It is also beneficial to offer a variety of formulations, including dry and canned food. Introducing variety early in life can make necessary diet changes easier in the future.

**2) First Vet Visit** – Ideally your new cat or kitten should make a trip to the vet within the first week of adoption. Invest in a good carrier for the trip. Carriers with lids that easily (and quietly) come off can make getting your new pet into and out of the carrier much easier. Leave the carrier out with a comfy blanket or bed in it so your new pet can explore it before the appointment. At this first vet visit you will set up a plan for vaccines, discuss spay or neuter options, start flea/heartworm prevention, and run any necessary testing, such as a fecal check and an FIV/Feline Leukemia test. Getting this first visit done early ensures you are introducing your new kitten safely. If there are already felines in the house, we wouldn't want a kitten to bring uninvited friends such as roundworms or fleas to the party.

**3) Household Introduction** – Patience is key. While your new kitten may be excited and ready to explore, current cats may not be as willing to accept a newcomer. Gradual introduction is best. The moment



you bring the new kitten home the introduction has started. Your cats can smell the new guy even if they can't see him. Over several days to weeks, gradually increase interaction. First, let them smell each other through a closed door. Once face-to-face interaction happens, make sure it is supervised. Hissing is likely, but this doesn't mean the relationship will never work. Cats can take weeks and even months to adjust to a newcomer. It is important that both cats can escape from the situation at any time. Never force an introduction to occur.

### 4) Plan for Long-term Success – Indoor cats can live up to 15 years!

**a. Litterboxes** – Cats can seem picky about their litterbox situation. Imagine sharing a bathroom with a messy roommate who didn't flush the toilet. The basic recommendation is one litterbox per cat plus one extra. For example, if you are introducing a second cat into your home, ideally there will be three litterboxes. If you are currently experiencing litter box problems and medical issues have been ruled out, consider adding an additional litterbox in another space of the home. While not always convenient, this can sometimes solve the issue.

**b. Water Stations** – Ensure there are several different spots where your cats can get a fresh drink. While cats do not drink as much or as often as dogs, they are selective about the quality. Stainless steel water bowls that are changed regularly or fountains work well. Cats also prefer water and food to be kept in separate areas to prevent contaminating their water source.

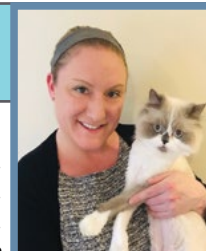
**c. Feeding** – Many cats will eat peacefully together after the initial introduction. If your new kitten is young, make sure they are getting proper kitten food and are not being pushed out of the way by the older cats. As kitten food is higher in protein, adult cats love to get a taste. This can become a problem if older cats in the house are on the heavier side. Ideally, cats "hunt" for their meals. This can be mimicked by hiding kibble in different areas or putting meals in a toy that requires some work to obtain.

**d. Individual Areas** – Cats love to be social with each other and with their humans, but they also need "me time". Each cat in the house, given the opportunity, will find a quiet area they claim as their own. It may be a bedroom, a cat stand in a sunny window, or the basement. Having this personal space is important for feline relationships to run smoothly. A nice addition to a place where your cats spend a lot of time is a "happy cat" pheromone diffuser. These devices plug into the wall and dispense feline pheromones. They are odorless to humans but provide a calming effect for cats. They can be found at most pet stores or purchased online.



Following these steps can be beneficial to reaching harmony and bringing peace to your clowder of cats. 🐾

*Editorial note: Dr. Gray serves the St. Clair County area with In The Pink Mobile Veterinary Services. She is based out of Goodells, Michigan. To reach out to Dr. Gray, please call (810) 985-3011 or visit her website at [inthepinkpetcare.com](http://inthepinkpetcare.com).*





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**General****TICKET SALES FOR HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS TREE WALK IN ALGONAC!**

Come get in the spirit of Christmas and view over 300 trees inside a 9,500 square foot log home. The trees are decorated in authentic style from 1850 until the present and tell the story of Christmas decorating customs, ornaments and traditions. The tour is 14 select days with either two or three tour times available. For more info and to purchase tickets, visit TheChristmasWalk.com.

**EXPERIENCE ELEGANCE IN ALGONAC!**

The Algonac Lions Club Hall is available for rental for all occasions. Located at 1905 Mill Street in Algonac. For questions or to book, call the Club at (810) 512-8020.

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the definition of "human" is: a bipedal primate mammal (*Homo sapiens*) : a person. The definition of "rights" is: something to which one has a just claim: such as the power or privilege to which one is justly entitled.

On December 10<sup>th</sup>, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed a Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) protecting the *inalienable rights that everyone is entitled to as a human being – regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status*. This document is available in over 500 languages and is the most translated document in the world.

Article 1 reads: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

René Cassin, (1887 - 1976), French-Jewish jurist, judge and law professor had a key role in drafting the first UDHR, and became a driving force to the UN Commission. He won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1968 "for his struggle to ensure the rights of man as stipulated in the UN Declaration." The commission was made up of 18 members from various political, cultural and religious backgrounds.

*"I perceived clearly that I was participating in a truly significant historic event in which a consensus had been reached as to the supreme value of the human person, a value that did not originate in the decision of a worldly power, but rather in the fact of existing – which gave rise to the inalienable right to live free from want and oppression and to fully develop one's personality."*

Visit UN.org for more info.

~ Hernán Santa Cruz of Chile, member of the drafting sub-Committee

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"I will treat others as equals and with dignity, respect and compassion.  
I will strive toward the empowerment of all people. I will celebrate  
diversity, respect local knowledge and encourage others to do the same."



# DECEMBER

## CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

If you have an event in January that you would like listed in the January issue of *ThumbPrint News*, email it to [ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net](mailto:ThumbPrintNews@comcast.net) by December 18, 2024. *There is a small charge for the listing.* Before traveling beyond your hometown to attend any of these events, please call ahead for any changes in dates or times or for any cancellations. We welcome events from Genesee, Lapeer, Macomb, Oakland, St. Clair and Sanilac counties.

## MACOMB

### MACOMB

**6 Symphonia Chorale Holiday Concert** Bethel Church of the Nazarene, 51850 North Ave., 7:30PM. Please join us with an accompanying orchestra, as we celebrate the holiday season with Vivaldi's "Gloria" and seasonal anthems. \$20/adult, \$5/student. For more info visit [symphoniachorale.weebly.com](http://symphoniachorale.weebly.com).

### ROMEO

**8 Symphonia Chorale Holiday Concert** Romeo United Methodist Church, 280 Main St., Please join us with an accompanying orchestra, as we celebrate the holiday season with Vivaldi's "Gloria" and seasonal anthems. \$20/adult, \$5/student. For more info visit [symphoniachorale.weebly.com](http://symphoniachorale.weebly.com).

### SHELBY TWP.

**20 'Twas the Night Before Christmas 1939 with Santa** Packard Proving Grounds Historic Site, 49965 Van Dyke Ave., 5PM – 9PM. Step back in time for Historical Tours of the "Albert Kahn designed" Lodge lighted and decorated for a 1939 Christmas. Visit with Santa, hear the 1939 introduction to Rudolph with Mrs. Claus, and check out 1930s Christmas cartoons. We'll also have make and take crafts, cocoa, coffee and Christmas cookies. \$12. Tickets available at [packardprovinggrounds.org/event/twas-a-night-before-christmas-1939/](http://packardprovinggrounds.org/event/twas-a-night-before-christmas-1939/). For more info call (586) 739-4800.

### WASHINGTON

**15 Santa Sunday** The Loren Andrus Octagon House, 57500 Van Dyke, 12PM – 4PM. Come early to self-tour the house decorated for Christmas. Santa & Mrs. Claus will be here 1PM – 3PM. \$7, children 4 and under are free. The gift shop will be open so you can find all those last-minute gifts, we'll also have Christmas items for sale. For more info call (586) 781-0084.

## OAKLAND

### HOLLY

**1, 7, 8, 14 & 15 Annual Holly Dickens Festival** in historic

downtown, 11AM – 6PM each SAT and 12PM – 5PM each SUN. Step into the magical world of the Holly Dickens Festival, where the famous story of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens comes to life. Enjoy visits with Santa, street performers, live music, tasty food, and local vendors in a festive holiday atmosphere where period costumes abound and are encouraged. Free to all ages! **Go to the website for more info and a complete schedule of events** [hollydickensfestival.org](http://hollydickensfestival.org).

## ST. CLAIR

### ALGONAC

**5, 6 & 7 Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale** Restoration Branch of Jesus Christ Church, 818 Market St., 10AM – 4PM. We'll have a variety of stuff! Free admission, all welcome. For more info call (810) 794-5534.

### CASCO

**8 Live Nativity** St. Paul's Lutheran Church Sanctuary, 5322 Palms Rd., 3PM. Take time during this busy Christmas season, to come, hear, and see the story of Jesus' birth – a 'live' reflection of that time long ago. Sit in our church pews, put in place 112 years ago. Feel the history of generations past while we share our voices to be the largest 'pew choir' in St. Clair County. We will be singing and harmonizing beautiful Christmas carols with guest organist, Christian Schoen. Donations accepted but not necessary. Reservations not needed...come just as you are! For more info visit [stpaulscasco.org](http://stpaulscasco.org) or call (810) 765-4808.

### MARINE CITY

**14 Marine City Civic Women's Club Holiday Home Tour** 5PM – 9PM. Join us in touring six beautifully decorated locations for only \$20! Addresses will be provided upon ticket purchase. Tickets are available at many Marine City and St. Clair locations, just email us to find out where: [pdavis@candgnews.com](mailto:pdavis@candgnews.com) or visit our FB page.

### ST. CLAIR

**7 Euchre Tournament Hosted by Cornell Marysville Chapter #93 OES** St. Clair Masonic Temple, 1800 St. Clair Hwy., doors open at

12:30PM, play starts at 1PM. Public welcome \$12/person. Refreshments, door prizes and Share the Wealth. For more info call Diane at (586) 337-2729.

### SMITHS CREEK

**8 Monthly Breakfast** Smiths Creek Masonic Lodge #491, 335 Henry

St. (across the street from the Pink Elephant), 8AM – 12PM. Join us for delicious eggs, bacon, potatoes, French toast, pancakes (plain & blueberry), along with coffee, orange juice, white and chocolate milk. AYCE for only \$10/adult and \$5/child under 12. For more info email [clintonsharrard@comcast.net](mailto:clintonsharrard@comcast.net).

### CHRISTMAS TREES

Continued from Page 6

[within the 2-hour tour time frame] to become wrapped up in the magical moments of Christmas past and present."

In 2010, Al and Diane were asked if it wasn't an awful lot of work for just eight days of displaying, or if having so many people going through their home was inconvenient. Diane replied, "It is a lot of work, but it is also very rewarding – and fun. As each ornament gets unpacked from its box each year, I remember where it came from. I also look forward to the smiles and joy I see on the visitor's faces when they are viewing the trees. It seems like everyone is happy and that joy is something I look forward to each year that we put on the Walk."

Many of the trees now stay up all year, as not every room in the home is occupied. The trees left up get wrapped to make sure nothing is accidentally damaged by family, friends, dust and sun fade. A few months before the Walk starts, a team goes in to rearrange, clean and spruce things up to make sure everything looks great for visitors! The tradition of this event is being carried on by Brett Kodet in memory of his father, mother, and older brother: Allen, Diane, and Keith Kodet. Allen passed away in September of 2019, and Diane and their oldest son, Keith, followed in January of 2022. Visitors will be able to pay their respects by The Kodet Memorial Trees that have been set up in the pool room. The trees have been decorated to reflect each of their personalities and preferences.

If you've never been to the Walk, you may be wondering how there is room for over 300 Christmas trees inside a log cabin. Well, this is no small log cabin in the woods. The home has 9,500 square feet of spacious living. Five bedrooms, seven bathrooms, an indoor swimming pool, and a magnificent natural stone fireplace that towers through all three levels in the center of the home are just the beginning. Rustic furniture and décor themed around Michigan wildlife create the perfect balance for a home that seems one with nature.

Many years before the log home was built, Al and Diane began a hobby of collecting Christmas ornaments and Christmas decorations representative of all periods in the history of the Christmas tree in America. That collection eventually grew to such a size that now an 800-square-foot room is used to store the collection year-round.

Brett and the staff still look forward to seeing the smiles and joy that light up people's faces. And it's a lot of joy! There have been up to 2,700 visitors to the home in one season! For the first time in 21 years, this year's Walk begins in November, on the 30<sup>th</sup>, and runs the first three Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays of December, totaling 14 days! Each visitor will be able to take a pleasant stroll through the various traditions and decorations of Christmas in eras gone by. This remarkably unique event is definitely worth the it. 🌲

Learn more about the History of the Christmas Tree Walk, and how to visit, please see the ad on pages 10 & 11. For questions you can call the ThumbPrint News office at (810) 794-2300 or for more info and to purchase tickets visit our website [www.thechristmaswalk.com](http://www.thechristmaswalk.com).



Photo of Al & Diane Kodet in front of the fireplace in their log home, circa 2004



Photo courtesy of Ann Robbins via Facebook












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<b>1</b> On this day in 1990, British and French workers meet in the middle of the Channel Tunnel under the English Channel.	<b>2</b> On this day in 1982, the first permanent artificial heart is successfully implanted in retired dentist Barney Clark.	<b>3</b> On this day in 1847, abolitionist Frederick Douglass publishes the first issue of his anti-slavery newspaper <i>The North Star</i> .	<b>4</b> On this day in 1872, the merchant ship <i>Mary Celeste</i> is discovered mysteriously abandoned by her crew in the Atlantic Ocean.	<b>5</b> On this day in 1784, Phillis Wheatley-Peters, the first published African-American woman and second published African-American, dies at 31 giving birth.	<b>6</b> On this day in 1923, President Calvin Coolidge's U.S. Presidential address is the first to be broadcast on radio.	<b>7</b> On this day in 2001, <i>Ocean's Eleven</i> , starring George Clooney, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon and Julia Roberts, is released.
<b>8</b>  On this day in 1925, American singer, actor, comedian and dancer, Sammy Davis Jr. is born in Harlem, NYC.	<b>9</b> On this day in 1978, the first game of the Women's Pro Basketball League (WBL) takes place; Chicago Hustle vs. Milwaukee Does.	<b>10</b> On this day in 1868, the first traffic lights are installed outside the Palace of Westminster in London. Resembling railway signals, they use semaphore arms and are illuminated at night by red and green gas lamps.	<b>11</b> On this day in 2009, <i>Angry Birds</i> , a Finnish puzzle video game is released. 	<b>12</b> On this day in 2000, the U.S. Supreme Court releases its 5-4 decision in the Bush v. Gore case, settling the recount dispute in Florida's 2000 presidential election in Bush's favor.	<b>13</b> On this day in 1920, Francis G. Pease's interferometer at Mount Wilson Observatory is the first to measure the diameter of a star – the Betelgeuse.	<b>14</b> On this day in 1911, Norwegian Roald Amundsen's Antarctic expedition is the first to reach the South Pole.
<b>15</b> On this day in 1939, the American epic historical romance film, adapted from Margaret Mitchell's novel, <i>Gone with the Wind</i> premieres in Atlanta.	<b>16</b> On this day in 2020, air pollution is officially listed as the cause of death of a nine-year-old girl who died of an asthma attack in February 2013.	<b>17</b> On this day in 2018, a U.S. poacher is sentenced to watch the film <i>Bambi</i> once a month while serving a one-year sentence in jail.	<b>18</b> On this day in 2019, the U.S. House of Representatives votes to impeach President Donald Trump, for the first time, for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.	<b>19</b> On this day in 1958, the first radio broadcast from space takes place when President Eisenhower sends a Christmas message "to all mankind, America's wish for peace on Earth and goodwill to men everywhere."	<b>20</b> On this day in 1990, the world's first website and server go live. 	<b>21</b> On this day in 1891, the first game of basketball, based on rules created by James Naismith, is played by 18 students in Springfield, MA.
<b>22</b> On this day in 1882, the first electric lights on a Christmas tree are used. 	<b>23</b>  On this day in 2000, potentially the first National Christmas Movie Marathon Day is celebrated.	<b>24</b> On this day in 1823, the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas" is published anonymously in the <i>Troy Sentinel</i> , later authorship was claimed by Clement Clarke Moore.	<b>25</b> On this day in 1889, the first known Christmas tree in the White House is placed during the presidency of Benjamin Harrison.	<b>26</b> On this day in 2018, American Colin O'Brady is the first person to cross Antarctica solo and unassisted after 54 days.	<b>27</b> On this day in 1932, Radio City Music Hall opens. 	<b>28</b>  On this day in 1860, Harriet Tubman arrives in Auburn, New York, on her last mission to free slaves.
<b>29</b> On this day in 1911, Chinese revolutionary 孫中山 (Sun Yat-sen) is elected the first President of the Republic of China.	<b>30</b> On this day in 1903, an electric arc lamp sets fire to the Iroquois Theatre in Chicago, leaving 602 dead in one of the deadliest single-building blazes in American history.	<b>31</b> On this day in 2009, both a Blue Moon and a lunar eclipse occurred, not to happen again on New Year's Eve until 2028.	<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>What Happened On This Day in History?</p> <h1 style="color: green; font-family: cursive;">December</h1> </div>			