

Cliff View Notes

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Vol 3 No. 10 News and Notes For Cliffview Owners, Friends and Visitors December 2013

'Murder' In the Lodge

Cliffview's First Dinner Theater Presentation

... "When two families get together to resolve their differences by prearranging a marriage between one of their bosses' son and the other's daughter, what follows is MURDER, intrigue and true love!!!"

Death and Diamonds, a Bluegrass Mystery Theater production, was our first, but definitely not last, Dinner Theater presentation at the Lodge at Cliffview.

That evening was a huge success by any measure. The production was flawless, the crowd entertained and the food was very good. We were planning on fifty attendees, had expected forty to forty-five and were very pleasantly surprised when sixty-five people showed up!

Some of them were local 'celebs' and folks very active in the communities in the area. Some were from as far away as Louisville and Lexington. Our favorite publisher, Pam Hedge, *All Things Country* magazine attended the even and had this to say: "I thought I'd better email you and give my thoughts on the dinner theater. **LOVED IT!** Everyone sitting at our table loved it, as did the others around us. I've seen several posts on Facebook about how much people enjoyed it. So, my suggestion would be to have more :-).

The managers mentioned Cowboy Poetry maybe in the future and I think that would go over well.

The stay in the Lodge was delightful too. The rooms are wonderful. I'm only sorry that we had to leave so early and didn't get to enjoy the morning there. (Storms were moving in Sunday and we had to get animals moved around before church)."

Other local 'celebrities' included Allen Cornette, Chuck Caudill and Dedra Brandenburg. Dedra had this to say: "I really enjoyed the dinner and show. I didn't think it lasted long enough. Loved the audience interaction. It was really neat and the food was good."

Chuck thought the evening was, "A great opportunity for local people to get together and enjoy some good times."

The unexpected number of guests out numbered the catered meals, but, no problem! We have maybe the best team at Cliffview you could ever ask for. Nancy Griffin, the evening's hostess and Wendy Blasdell the Lodge Manager, rose to the occasion. Wendy, planning ahead, had prepared what many said was 'perfect' spaghetti, guaranteeing an enjoyable evening for all.

Christmas at Cliffview

by Christie Foster

Cliffview resort will host its 2nd annual "Christmas at Cliffview" this December. Last year was a wonderful time despite the snow storm that blew in the same day! With an inch or more of snow on the ground, well over a hundred people were present and enjoyed food, fellowship, music and crafts.

The children gathered and sang songs despite not knowing all the words! As the children sang "Here Comes Santa Clause", Santa and Mrs. Clause both walked in the front door. The children were so excited, some ran out the door looking for Rudolph! After a very warm welcome, Santa made his way to a comfy spot where the children were able to sit on his lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas.

It was a very special occasion and we expect this year will be just as special and memorable for us as well as our community.

We plan to have a delicious meal prepared with lots of love, music that will get you up on your feet, and memories you'll never forget

We thank and greatly appreciate all the assistance from our sponsors and volunteers: We would like to thank Cliffview Resort for the use of the Activity Center, Red River Gorge Cabin Rentals owners and staff, Scenic Cabin Rentals Owners and staff, and Good Sheppard Catholic Church.

If you or your organization would like to help, we certainly can use and greatly appreciate food or cash donations. Call Christie at 606.668.3272. Remember, there are those out there who don't have what many of us take for granted.

Merry Christmas!

Cliff View Notes

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HELPFUL WEBSITES & PHONE NUMBERS

State Facilities

Natural Bridge State Resort Park General Information
(606) 663-2214 or 1-800-325-1710 (reservations) 2135 Natural Bridge Rd. Slade, KY 40376 Trail map & descriptions, park laws and regulations, lodging, camping, group meeting facilities, group programs
"Natural Bridge State Resort Park is hiking, arches, exploring, scenery, reflection, and making memories."
www.parks.ky.gov/findparks/resortparks/nb
Kentucky State Nature Preserve Commission
www.naturepreserves.ky.gov
The Skylift (606) 663-2922
www.naturalbridgekyskylift-and-giftshop.com
Red River Gorge National Geological Area (606) 663-8100
www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/redriver_gorge.shtml
Gladie Cultural-Environmental Learning Center (606) 663-8100
www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/districts/cumberland/gladie.shtml
Red River Gorge Trail Crew (Volunteers) www.RRGTC.com
Leave No Trace - Outdoor Ethics www.lnt.org
Kentucky State Parks - Create your own Experience.
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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Kentucky-State-Parks/152588316577>

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The Birth of Jesus

The story of the birth of Jesus Christ was first told by saints Matthew and Luke and has been retold now for 2000 years. While

there are some very minor variations, the story has not been added to in those 2000 years.

According to St. Luke, Caesar Augustus decreed that all the citizens of the Roman empire be taxed. As a way of assuring all the taxpayers were made to account, they were ordered to return to their hometown to be counted. Joseph and Mary were living in Nazareth in Galilee, but Joseph was from the city of David, Bethlehem in Judea, so they had to go there.

Apparently, there were many who had returned to Bethlehem before Mary and Joseph arrived. No doubt, they had been slowed somewhat by Mary's condition, According to Luke, ... *"Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child."*

The very popular story of what happened next is the basis for all the Nativity scenes around the world. There was no room at the inn and the Holy Family was forced to spend the night in a stable. There, *"Mary brought forth her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger."* That reference to a manger is probably why it was assumed they were staying in a stable. The problem with this is, there is no mention in either Matthew or Luke of a stable. As a matter of fact, in Matthew 2:11 it says, *"And when they (The three Wise Men) were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him."* The reference to the child being laid in a manger (no crib for a bed) is where the notion the birth took place in a stable originates, not from the Gospels. As every schoolchild knows, a manger is a feeding trough for livestock, especially cattle, horses and donkeys, so the logical place to find one is in a stable. While many townsfolk had donkeys or a cow, few had the means to afford a stable as well as a house.

Often a manger was set up just outside the front door so an animal could be fed and within eyesight of the owner. Maybe the Holy Family had been taken in by a kind person living near the inn, a *Good Samaritan*. The manger, shaped much like a baby's crib and lined with soft straw or grass, would have made a fairly good substitute for a real crib.

Mary's comfort during this time was not addressed by Matthew or Luke, but legend tells us more. In one version, Joseph gathered wild thyme and sweet woodruff to provide a soft bed for Mary. It is said that the white flowers of the bedstraw turned a brilliant gold and burst open when the newborn Messiah was laid upon them. The sainfoin bloomed and formed a wreath with its pink flowers around the Christ Child's head. Outside the Star of Bethlehem, it's task of guiding the Wise Men completed, burst up into the masses of tiny white flowers we now call Star of Bethlehem. None of this is mentioned in the Bible, but it does sound appropriate and whether true or not, it sounds like a Christmas happening.

News of the birth spread rapidly. Among the first to hear of the event, according to Luke, were some shepherds *"abiding the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night."*

To say these poor shepherds were surprised would be quite an understatement. Imagine, awakened by a great light, *"the glory of God shone about them."*, and an angel trying to calm them down while announcing the greatest event in history! No wonder they, ... *"were sorely afraid."* Now that the angel had "certained" the shepherds, he told them how to recognize the Saviour; wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.

In a grand finale, the angel was joined by a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

continued on next page >>>>



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The Birth of Jesus

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After the angels left to return to heaven, the shepherds gathered their wits and decided to go *"even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass."*

They hurried to find the child then ran out and told everyone they met about what they had heard and seen, then returned to tending their flocks.

There has been much speculation concerning the Star of Bethlehem. Strangely, Saint Luke never mentions it, but Matthew wrote that it was the guiding light for the Wise Men. Some contemporary thinkers variously believe the star was a nova, a volcanic reflection, a comet, a planetary alignment, even a UFO.

Whatever it was, it successfully guided the Wise men from the east to Jerusalem and on to Bethlehem to worship the Saviour. Word of the birth had already reached King Herod so when the Wise Men arrived in Jerusalem asking where they could find the King of the Jews, Herod was a little concerned about his job. Herod summoned all the chief priests and scribes and demanded of them where Christ should be born.

The answer was a kind of, "Oh, yeah, we meant to tell you about that. He'll be found in Bethlehem of Judea. Just like the prophet says, oh King!"

Herod called the three Wise Men before him and asked what time the star appeared. Unfortunately, Matthew doesn't tell us what the answer was, but tradition has it that Christ was born at midnight: *"It came upon a midnight clear..."*

Herod then dispatched the Magi to search diligently for the child and when they found it, to report back to Herod so he *"may come and worship him also."* Right. Herod must have thought these three guys bought the title, "Wise Men".

As the Wise Men left Jerusalem, the Star went before them till it came and stood over where the young Child was. As stated before, Matthew mentions the Wise Men entering the *house*. This does not preclude the fact that the Saviour was indeed born in a stable as surely much time must have passed between the time of the birth and time of the Wise Men's arrival.

The Holy Family may have been able to find better accommodations since many folks had left Bethlehem after paying their taxes.

It really doesn't matter. The birth of Christ is the important thing, not where it took place.

Anyway, the Wise Men fell down and worshipped the Child and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Frankincense is a gummy resin from Asiatic and East African trees which was burned as incense. Myrrh is also a gummy resin from Africa and Asia used as incense, in perfume, and as a medicine. That African connection may be why some believe at least one of the Wise Men was black. These, along with the gold, were very valuable items of the times.

There is no record of what Mary and Joseph did with these treasures. They may have sold them to support their flight into Egypt to save Jesus from Herod's plan to have all children two years old and under, in Bethlehem and all the coasts thereof, slain.

After praising the Child, the Wise Men must have spent at least one night in or near Bethlehem.

Matthew says, *"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way."* The Wise Men are not mentioned in the Bible ever again.

J. Ison

A Short And Pretty Little Christmas Poem.

by a fella named Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

*I heard the bells of Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
and wild and sweet their words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

I couldn't have written a better poem myself!
Ok, I couldn't have come close so I used Henry's.

Merry Christmas and God bless us all!



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Cookin' with Jenny

Merry (Christmas) Muffins

Well, I don't know where the summer and autumn went, but Christmas is upon us and I didn't even realize it. I sure hope everyone remembers what Christmas is about. It is the Savior's birthday. We should all praise God for our health, no matter how bad or good it is. After all, if you're still able to pray, it's not as bad as it could be!

Merry Muffin Cakes

1 pkg. Pillsbury Cranberry Quick Bread Mix
8-1/4 oz. can crushed pineapple, undrained,
reserve 2 Tbs of juice
1/4 cup milk 3 tsp. margarine or butter, melted
1 egg
1/8 tsp. nutmeg

Glaze

1 cup powdered sugar
Reserved pineapple liquid,
2 tsp. margarine or butter, melted

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Generously grease 16 muffin cups. In large bowl, combine all muffin ingredients except reserved pineapple liquid. Stir by hand 50 to 75 strokes until dry particles are moistened. Fill prepared cups 2/3 full. Bake at 375 for 20 to 30 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes; remove from pan. Cool on wire rack.

In small bowl, combine glaze ingredients; beat until smooth. Spoon glaze over muffins. Decorate as desired. Serve warm or cool.

Getting "Christmassy"

This isn't recipes or cooking tips. It is just some Christmas stuff I wanted to share.

If you want to write Santa Claus, there's a real *Kris Kringle* in North Pole, Alaska. His address is P.O. Box 57074, North Pole, AK 99705.

Be sure to tell him I've been a good girl.

There are a couple seasonal websites out there in cyberspace worth checking out. The best Christmas site is just that: www.christmas.com

There you can find just about anything to do with Christmas and lots of links to other seasonal sites.

If you are wondering why we burn a Yule log, decorate trees or go a wassailing, you may also want to check out this next one:

www.infostarbase.com/tnr/xmas/custom.html

Finally I want to wish everyone a wonderful, family filled holiday season. When you're out there fighting the mobs to pick up another gift, you may want to think about those who would love to give but can't.

Think about how much you have and find some way to share your good fortune with those less fortunate.

Two organizations we like and believe do some of the best work are *St. Jude Children's Research Hospital*, www.stjude.org, where no child is ever denied care due to the family's inability to pay, and *Mission of Hope*, www.missionofhope.org, working to improve the lives of deserving people of Appalachia.

Hug one another, kiss the babies, be sweet and remember why we celebrate Christmas.

Hug one another, kiss the babies, be sweet and remember why we celebrate Christmas.

Hug one another, kiss the babies, be sweet and remember why we celebrate Christmas.

Oh yeah, one more thing....



Merry Christmas, God bless and may Peace and Joy be in your lives!

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It's Being Said Many Times, Many Ways...

If you're traveling during this Christmas Season, you'll want to greet "everyone you meet", so here's how to say Merry Christmas in several languages. Even if your staying 'rat cheer' in the Bluegrass or wherever home is, it's still fun to try one of these out on friends and family.

Algeria: Mboni Chrismen
 Austria: Frohe Weihnachten
 Australia: Happy Christmas
 Bulgaria: Vessela Koleda
 Bolivia: Feliz Navidad
 Brazil: Feliz Natal
 China: Sheng Tan Kuai Loh
 Christmas Island: Merry Christmas
 Cyprus: Eftihismena Christougenna, Noeliniz kutlu olsun ve yeni yili
 Czech Republic: Vesele Vanoce
 Germany: Frohliche Weihnachten
 Djibouti: Joyeux Noel, Mboni Chrismen
 Denmark: Glaedelig Jul
 Dominican Republic: Feliz Navidad
 Ecuador: Feliz Navidad
 Estonia: Haid Joule, Rôômsaid Jôule
 Egypt: Mboni Chrismen
 Ethiopia: Melkam Yelidet Beaal, Poket Kristmet
 Finland: Hauskaa Joulua
 Fiji: Merry Christmas
 Greece: Eftihismena Christougenna
 Hong Kong: Sing dan fiy loc
 Hungary: Boldog Karácsonyt

Ireland: Nollaig Shona dhuit
 Israel: Mo'adim Lesimkha
 India: Shub Christu Jayanti
 Iceland: Gleðileg Jól
 Italy: Buon Natale
 Japan: Merii Kurisumasu
 Republic of Korea: Sungtan Chukha
 Liechtenstein: Frohliche Weihnachten
 Varuda Valthukkal
 Mexico: Feliz Navidad
 Netherlands: Prettige Kerstdagen
 Norway: Gledelig Jul
 Philippines: Maligayang Pasko
 Pakistan: Bara Din Mubarrak Ho
 Poland: Wesolych Swiat
 Portugal: Boas Festas
 Russia: Hristos Razdajetsja, Rozdjestvom Hristovim
 Spain: Feliz Navidad
 Sri Lanka: Subha nath thalak Vewa, Nathar Puthu
 Thailand Ewadee Pe-e Mai
 Turkey: Mutlu Noeller
 Viet Nam: Chuc mung Giang Sinh
 Yugoslavia: Cestitamo Bozic
 South Africa: Geseënde Kersfees, Happy Christmas
 Zambia: Happy Christmas
 Zimbabwe: Happy Christmas

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