

Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc.

A better quality of life for seniors , their children and grand children

The NSC FOGHORN™



Volume 2, issue 12

December 11, 2003

Special points of interest:

Around the world Santa Claus is known as:

- English - Kris Kringle or Father Christmas
- Belgium - Sinterklass - feast celebrated Dec. 6th, and then De kerstman celebrated on Dec. 26th
- Italy - Babbo Natale
- Germany - Weihnachtsmann or Sankt Nikolaus
- Sweden - Jultomten, or Christmas Brownie
- Hawaii - Kanakaloka
- Chile - Viejo Pascuero
- France - Pere Noel
- Japan - Hoteiosho - a priest who bears gifts or Santa Kurohsu
- Russia - Ded Moroz - Grandfather Frost, also Baboushka, a witch that visits good children on Christmas Eve.

A JOYFUL CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR WISH TO ALL.



This is the time of year when many of us reflect on things in the past and events to be in the New Year. At our age this takes a lot of memory in our memory bank and some of it surely is getting fuzzy. One nice thing about age, hopefully, is that most of our memory is on the good things in our life. This is also a time

for many us to reflect on the sadder part of life which is only natural. Let us hope that the good out ways the not so good things in our life.

At my age I can remember the first canvas-covered biplane that landed in the hay field in our little town of Sheldon Wisconsin where never more than 100 people lived (and I remember looking at the moon when our Astronauts landed there). And years later I also remember sending a diamond engagement ring (costing \$250) in the mail to Agnes from Vallejo California, where I had a job working for the Navy Department, rehabbing Mare Island Navy Yard in 1942. In my proposal I said to Agnes that I had a ten-day break and we could get married or I would go to Yellowstone Park. Well 61 years later on December 26th. I still have not been to Yellowstone Park. So you see I have a great memory of the past and still have something to look forward to in the New Year.

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As you know our motto is, A Better Quality of Life for Seniors, Their Children and Grandchildren. With we older ones this certainly is more on our minds today given how so many of our children and grandchildren are dependent on we elders of the family for emotional and financial support. Even so we love them and do our very best to be the stable part of their life as we were when the kids were growing up. In todays fast pace it seems so many need to run just to stay afloat and we older ones wonder how their future is going to be fulfilled. In my memory I know of no generation like ours who has seen more change in all of mankind history so if we forget a bit of it, that need not be charged up to memory loss, but to memory overload. (Continued on Page 2)

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On my wish list for the New Year, the overriding thing that comes to mind is that, I wish a magic potent could be injected into all of our politicians and bureaucrats making them the most honest, sincere, forthright people of integrity that money can buy to look out for, We The People's Interest, for a change. Well I had to insert money or how else would we get to them? I'm one who remembers the Harry Truman days when "the Buck Stops Here".

Many are unhappy with our being in Iraq and so was I, but the more freedom that comes to them, the more worthwhile that venture will be. If any one needs freedom from oppression certainly all of people in the Arab Peninsula need a breath of freedom. I know many of our children and or grandchildren are serving not only in Iraq but also around the world because it seems we are, whether we like it or not the country that believes, freedom is a God given right and that means for all mankind not just this country. So we wish all of our wonderful sons, daughters, and grandchildren in the service of this great country, a safe, joyful New Years and may God be with them.

I know many of us have the just signed Medicare and Prescription Drug bill on our mind as we should, but don't let it spoil your Christmas or New Year because that bad, bad bill will not live to see the light of day. One thing to remember, it took Democrats and Republicans in the Senate and the House to create the bill and vote for it and the President to sign it, so all parties concerned are culpable and we will deal with all of them come the new year. For those of you who remember back to the Catastrophic Health Care bill 1991, that is when we were formed to kill it and now a few short years later we must do it again.

My wish for the New Year is that a few of you like a 1,000 or so would like to get involved and help us. We can make change we just need helper Elves.

Ken

To our members of the Nevada Seniors Coalition and readers of the Foghorn we wish you a very special Christmas and joyful New Year. And may the time with your families and or memories of them be the very best.

From Ken Mahal A.I.A. President
Vernon Perry Vice President and great editor of the Foghorn
And the Nevada Senior Coalition Board of Directors

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“Please Don't Quote Me”

Dear Editor--I am 8 years old.

"Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.

"Papa says, 'If you see it in The Sun, it's so.'

"Please tell me the truth, is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon

115 West Ninety-fifth Street



Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no child-like faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if you did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood



HAPPY NEW YEAR

The celebration of the new year is the oldest of all holidays. It was first observed in ancient Babylon about 4000 years ago. In the years around 2000 BC, the Babylonian New Year began with the first New Moon (actually the first visible crescent) after the Vernal Equinox (first day of spring).

The beginning of spring is a logical time to start a new year. After all, it is the season of rebirth, of planting new crops, and of blossoming. January 1, on the other hand, has no astronomical nor agricultural significance. It is purely arbitrary.

The Babylonian new year celebration lasted for eleven days. Each day had its own particular mode of celebration, but it is safe to say that modern New Year's Eve festivities pale in comparison.

The Romans continued to observe the new year in late March, but their calendar was continually tampered with by various emperors so that the calendar soon became out of synchronization with the sun.

In order to set the calendar right, the Roman senate, in 153 BC, declared January 1 to be the beginning of the new year. But tampering continued until Julius Caesar, in 46 BC, established what has come to be known as the Julian Calendar. It again established January 1 as the new year. But in order to synchronize the calendar with the sun, Caesar had to let the previous year drag on for 445 days.

Although in the first centuries AD the Romans continued celebrating the new year, the early Catholic Church condemned the festivities as paganism. But as Christianity became more widespread, the early church began having its own religious observances concurrently with many of the pagan celebrations, and New Year's Day was no different. New Years is still observed as the Feast of Christ's Circumcision by some denominations.

During the Middle Ages, the Church remained opposed to celebrating New Years. January 1 has been celebrated as a holiday by Western nations for only about the past 400 years



Second Notice

*A notice similar to this one was published in the November issue of the NSC Foghorn. A total of **three** people responded. In case you missed it you are being given a second chance. Members who we know to be shut-ins will continue to receive each issue when published.*

After this issue we will no longer mail the **NSC Foghorn** to members who do not want to receive it. Publishing this paper is costly and time-consuming and serves no purpose if it is not read and, hopefully, the issues acted upon. We have been automatically mailing the paper to all members who do not attend a meeting, but we will discontinue this policy starting with the January 2004 issue.

If you are a member and wish to **continue** receiving the **NSC Foghorn** when you miss a meeting, or are physically unable to get to any meeting, please let us know by U.S. mail, phone, fax, or e-mail.

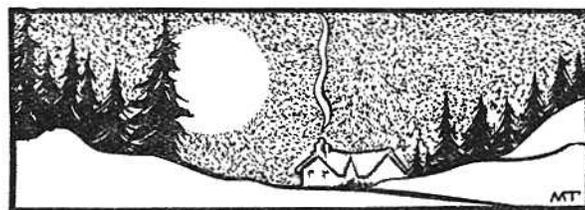
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All issues of the **NSC Foghorn**, since December of 2002, are available, in PDF form, on our website at:

<http://www.nevadaseniors.com>

For those of you not having Internet access, any library, senior center or family resource center should be able to assist you.

Vern Perry, editor, **NSC Foghorn**



Recycled Card Program

Please save your Christmas cards and bring them to our January 8, 2003 meeting. We will in turn deliver them to St. Jude's Ranch for Children where they will be used as described below. —**Jeanie Tabeek**

Over thirty years ago, wishing to show our donors appreciation for making St. Jude's Ranch for Children possible, the idea was conceived for turning the previous years Christmas cards into "new" cards for the coming season. The recipients were so delighted with their unique "thank you", they requested the children sell them the special cards. And so, the St. Jude Card Recycling Program was born.

Today we have expanded the program to include all occasion greeting cards... just about anything that starts with a used greeting card front.

People from all over the world send us their used card fronts. The children precision cut the card fronts and glue them to pre-printed card stock. The children receive fifteen cents per each acceptable card made which is divided between their savings and college fund, their cottage fund for special group outings, and to provide the kids with extra pocket money.

The children can make special orders for any occasion. Our most popular requests are for angel and teddy bear cards. Custom orders with special printing, etc are also available.

For further information:

St Jude's Ranch for Children
P.O. Box 60100
Boulder City, NV 89006-0100
1-800-492-3562

From the Editor

A lot of things have happened in the last few months some of which had been predicted or hinted at by NSC. However we will put off commenting on them until next month. I'm sure "you ain't seen nothin' yet", but it's the holiday season, let's enjoy it and hope the government crooks and incompetents don't.

**MERRY
 CHRISTMAS
 AND**



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Next Meeting

Thursday, January 8, 2004
 10:00 a.m. at the >>>>>>>>



After the meeting why don't you eat and play, and stay all day?



Featured speaker **Colin Haynes**, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department Abuse/Neglect Specialist speaking on a variety of subjects seniors should be aware of for their own protection.

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Today In History—December 11, 1941

On this day, Adolf Hitler declares war on the United States, bringing America, which had been neutral, into the European conflict.

The bombing of Pearl Harbor surprised even Germany. Although Hitler had made an oral agreement with his Axis partner Japan that Germany would join a war against the United States, he was uncertain as to how the war would be engaged. Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor answered that question. On December 8, Japanese Ambassador Oshima went to German Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop to nail the Germans down on a formal declaration of war against America. Von Ribbentrop stalled for time; he knew that Germany was under no obligation to do this under the terms of the Tripartite Pact, which promised help if Japan was attacked, but not if Japan was the aggressor. Von Ribbentrop feared that the addition of another antagonist, the United States, would overwhelm the German war effort.

But Hitler thought otherwise. He was convinced that the United States would soon beat him to the punch and declare war on Germany. The U.S. Navy was already attacking German U-boats, and Hitler despised Roosevelt for his repeated verbal attacks against his Nazi ideology. He also believed that Japan was much stronger than it was, that once it had defeated the United States, it would turn and help Germany defeat Russia. So at 3:30 p.m. (Berlin time) on December 11, the German charge d'affaires in Washington handed American Secretary of State Cordell Hull a copy of the declaration of war.

That very same day, Hitler addressed the Reichstag to defend the declaration. The failure of the New Deal, argued Hitler, was the real cause of the war, as President Roosevelt, supported by plutocrats and Jews, attempted to cover up for the collapse of his economic agenda. "First he incites war, then falsifies the causes, then odiously wraps himself in a cloak of Christian hypocrisy and slowly but surely leads mankind to war," declared Hitler—and the Reichstag leaped to their feet in thunderous applause.

Story from www.historychannel.com



The Nevada Seniors Coalition, Inc (NSC) is a nonprofit, non-partisan organization. No person is excluded on the basis of race, sex, religion or national origin.

The organization's purpose is to promote the physical and social welfare of senior citizens, their children and grandchildren.

The organizations' goals and objectives are:

- Improvement of political and governmental institutions and processes on local, state and federal levels.
- Identify legislative trends at all levels and set NSC priorities.
- Support domestic policies responsive to the needs and will of the Nevada senior population.
- Work to involve more seniors in government. to assure government is open, responsive and accountable.
- Keep members and the general public informed on current issues affecting them. Encourage them to make their voices heard at all government levels.
- Work with other organizations in a common endeavor when their issues and programs coincide with those of NSC.



**We're on the web at
www.nevadaseniors.com
Check it out**



*Merry
Christmas*

From the NSC Executive Board