



Christmas Past & Present 2018

Christmas Past

December 1861:

Menck Cabin - A shortage of supplies and the threat of the recently started war in the east will make less available for the growing family to have a happy Christmas. Visit and see just how resourceful they can be. Open each date of the event.

Vieregg Cabin - *Open Members Only Night Only.* Stop in and visit Mrs. Rosenbach and Mr. Burg as they prepare for a simple Christmas on the plains.

December 1898: **Railroad Town:** In Railroad Town everyone is very busy preparing for the season. Brisk holiday trade is expected by the merchants in town and the residents of the community are looking forward to a great many visitors for the holidays.

This is the 31st year of Christmas events in Railroad Town.

MEMBERS NIGHT ONLY

Railroad Town Bandstand: Join us for a tree lighting ceremony at 7 p.m. as dozens of candles are lit on the tree in the center of the bandstand. *This event is weather permitting – no wind!*

Stolley House: It's Christmas time and many chores have yet to be finished. Another valient attempt to secret the presents is underway. Can you help?!

Bell (Fonda Birthplace): The fire is lit in the cookstove and preparations are underway for a simple family Christmas. Will there be practicing for the Christmas piano recital?

Peter Stuhr House: It's the first Christmas for the Peter Stuhr House! The house will open on Members Only Night at 7:30 p.m. after the Tree Lighting at the Bandstand.

Leshner House: The house girls are busy with the many visitors who stop in to see Mrs. Nelson, as well as the demands of the lady herself. Mrs. Nelson is delighted with the new furnishings in BOTH of her parlors!

Milisen House: The dining table has been tastefully arranged for a special holiday meal following the latest guidelines in the Ladies Home Journal, and preparations for the great day are ongoing in the Parlor.

Blacksmith Shop: Blacksmith Dack's forge is rarely idle. He is never likely to pass up the opportunity for your business, even if it is Christmas time.

Tin Shop: Tinsicles are the order of the day! Mr. Miller will let you take your work home.

Depot: Stop in and warm up by the stove! You can purchase and enjoy a delicious cookie or a hot drink from the branch location of the Silver Dollar.

Planing Mill: The gentlemen in the mill are busy trying to keep warm in the shop while filling Christmas orders. Make and take home the newest train car or an old favorite with their help for \$5.

Hardware Store: Ready for your business! Stop in to see the finest line of goods available, including a new line of holiday gifts! Take some time to warm up by the fire.

Town Hall: Father Christmas is here and waiting to hear from all the little ones. While you visit take time to make a scrap ornament or a length of paper chain!

General Mercantile Emporium: Mrs. Condon has arranged for a delightful selection of nobby holiday items for you to choose from, making it very easy to find something for the most difficult to shop for. Many items are produced by Railroad Town's own tradesmen and are among many other good things for the season at prices

you can afford to pay. Do not fear if you have no room in your buggy, Mrs. Condon can ship your purchases. **Members Always receive a discount!**

Silver Dollar Cafe: The Silver Dollar has plenty of hot drinks and tasty treats available for purchase at Railroad Town's acclaimed eating establishment.

Telephone Exchange: Just what is that aroma wafting from the Telephone Exchange? That can't possibly be a candy.... can it?

The Rural Community: December 1915:

Cleary Farmhouse: A cozy fire is set, and the family has settled in for the evening. Last minute preparation for gifts and decorations are underway, but one present has already arrived!

Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church: The Ladies Circle, with Mrs. Hughes in charge, is preparing for the annual Christmas service and choir practice is underway. Listen in or join along with the singing!

*** Due to State Health Department regulations, food prepared for foodways demonstrations or display in the historic areas are not for public consumption.*

Christmas Present: December 2018

Fantasy of Trees

The Fantasy of Trees is back in the Stuhr Building! This beautiful annual display opens November 23rd, 2018 and runs through January 3rd, 2019 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, and noon to 5 p.m. on Sundays.

The Fantasy of Trees Open House is Sunday, December 2nd from 2 to 4 p.m. *This is the 50th year of the Fantasy of Trees!*

Members Night Only - Stuhr Building

Visit Members Night to enjoy samples of Christmas treats!

Members Night Only - - Deck the Tree!

The *Deck The Tree* adventure will be a special activity held during Members' Night of Christmas Past & Present on Friday, November 30th. Groups of up to 6 people are invited to take part in a fun and festive hunt around Stuhr Museum's grounds.

The adventure begins at the Reynolds Building where your group will receive a set of clues that will take you across the museum grounds. Your mission will be to follow clues provided to find ornaments to decorate your tree. On your way to collecting all the ornaments you will get the chance to experience all Christmas Past & Present has to offer from our historic homes to the Fantasy of Trees in the Stuhr Building and much more.

Once all your ornaments are collected, you'll be presented with a Christmas Tree to decorate using your ornaments. The tree, which is small enough to fit on a table, will be yours to take home after you enjoy an evening around an open fire featuring music, s'mores and other holiday treats. The entire event takes around an hour to complete. It's a new way to kick off the holiday season at Stuhr Museum.

The cost is \$35 per group of up to 6 people. Pre-registration is required. For more information contact the museum at (308) 385-5316.

SHOPPING!!!

Beginning in late November, shoppers will find all their unique modern gift-giving needs fulfilled in *two* locations one in the Fonner Rotunda, and the second in the Stuhr Building!! Featured within each are ornaments, a special selection of books for children and adults, made in Nebraska food products, plus much, much more. Shopping in the Mercantile is only available during the Christmas Past and Present event dates. **Become a member and receive 10% off your gift shop purchases in any of our gift shop locations!**

Holiday Music will be performed in locations in Railroad Town, the outer sites such as the Church and Cleary Farmhouse, as well as the Leo B. Stuhr Building on many of the dates for Christmas Past and Present.