

# ◆ Niehaus News ◆

December/January 2005/06

Volume 45, Issue 12



## *Merry Christmas 2005*

### **THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS**

In todays day and time,  
it's easy to lose sight,  
of the true meaning of Christmas  
and one special night.

When we go shopping,  
We say "How much will it cost?"  
Then the true meaning of Christmas,  
Somehow becomes lost.

Amidst the tinsel, glitter  
And ribbons of gold,  
We forget about the child,  
born on a night so cold.

The children look for Santa  
In his big, red sleigh  
Never thinking of the baby  
Whose bed was made of hay.

In reality when we look into the night sky,  
We don't see a sleigh  
But a star, burning bright and high.

A faithful reminder,  
Of that night so long ago,  
And of the child we call Jesus,  
Whose love, the world would know.

Brian K. Walters

*Photo of the --- foot Christmas tree on display in the  
center court at Niehaus Home Center in Vincennes.*

# Niehaus Christmas Window Display



*Niehaus has dressed the windows in the old Ford Building to celebrate the Holidays in grand style.*

The old Ford Building has come alive once again - the windows are gleaming with Christmas cheer. Four separate scenes make up the entire front and side show windows. The corner scene is an entire village made up of Patty Niehaus' personal collection of Dickens Village - pieces she has collected over the past 25 years.

We hope the community enjoys the displays as much as we did creating them.

## Power Tools for Christmas



*Sherry Cummins watches as Wayne Sullivan cuts out wood Christmas ornaments at the Christmas Open House Santa's Workshop.*

Niehaus Home Center has recently remodeled and expanded the Power Tool Department. The new display area is called "The Tool House" and new name brand lines have been added - with over a 1,000 tools in stock. There is now almost any kind of tool - portable and stationary - that would suit the needs of the do-it-yourselfer's workshop or the professional contractor.

At the Christmas Open House, jig saws and band saws were set up and employees cut out wood ornaments to give the children who visited the store.



*Santa made an appearance at Niehaus Home Center Sat., Dec. 10th. to hear the children's wishes and offer a free photo.*



*Manager, Phil Wehrman, presents a \$250 Niehaus Gift Card to winner James Ransford*

## Splinters

by **Bernie Niehaus**  
Chairman of the Board



### Christmas Decorations

I became very fascinated with Christmas decorations while I was in High School. In 1954, the Sun-Commercial held an outdoor Christmas decorating contest. I won first place that year with a life size Nativity scene in the front yard. I won a \$25.00 Treasury Bond and I still have it. Later one of the judges told me the

reason I won was that a neighborhood stray dog was sleeping in the Manger and that made it look life-like. One of my high school classmates, David Mulheron helped me with the display and he won the Sun-Commercial contest the year before, in 1953.

For many years, I have been admiring the Christmas windows at Marshall Fields in Chicago. These beautiful windows bring thousands of people to downtown Chicago. Starting back in the early sixties, we started to decorate our windows at Niehaus Home Center. For several years we had a Nativity scene in our front window. One year we used the Pink Panther theme with hundreds of Pink Panthers in a snow scene. Another year we had a window based on the Nutcracker with a large wooden Nutcracker and mice made by the late Clarence Cummins and his wife Sherry.

This year we acquired the old Ford Building adjacent to us, with a large expanse of showroom windows. The boys decided to follow in the tradition and decorate these windows. They did a spectacular job with the decorating abilities of Brian Kirwer and Dean Riester. One of the windows houses the lifetime collection of the Dickens Village by my wife, Patty. She and her friends decorated this window in a beautiful snow scene.

The other windows in the Ford Building show a life-size Santa behind a beautiful Therma Tru door. Another window shows an elf decorating a tool tree with the theme "Every Elf Needs A Hammer." The last two windows show a lounge for Santa with cookies and milk and a window with a Christmas tree made of Benjamin Moore paint cans.

Our city is also blessed with many beautiful Christmas decorations, which helps us get into the Christmas Season. The Ouabache Trail Park is a spectacular light show and is a must see for every family. This year they have added more lights and a new animated carousel horse display - one of the largest displays in the park. Also, Gregg Park is aglow this year with each of the light poles around the park decorated with Christmas lights.

With all the beautiful decorations, let us all not lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas - the celebration of the Birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

*"...let us not lose sight of the real meaning of Christmas"*

*Bernie*

## ILBSA Presents The Naomi Niehaus Award

Recently, the Indiana Lumber Supply Association presented for the first time, an award honoring the leadership of women in the lumber & building material industry. The award was named "The Naomi Niehaus Award" in honor of Bernie's mother, Naomi Niehaus, who passed away in May of this year. She was a remarkable woman who carried on their lumber business alone after her husband died at an early age.



Naomi Niehaus

The ILBSA chose two women to receive this award. . . one from the retail sector and one associate. The first of the two was Kim Emmert-O'Dell from Brazil, Indiana. She is professionally associated with Timberland Lumber Co., Inc., and is very involved with various organizations supporting the building industry.

The second deserving recipient was Bonnie Roylance from Indianapolis. She is the Manager of Engineered Wood Products with North Pacific. As an associate member, her dedication to the mission and ideals of ILBSA are without question.

Our congratulations to both women, and to all the women out there, who are leaders in our chosen industry.

Give A  
**NIEHAUS HOME CENTER**  
**GIFT CARD**



*The ideal gift for a homeowner or handyman, as well as the professional builder.*

**Birthdays**

In December/January the following employees will be celebrating their birthday!

<b>December</b>	
Susan Sanders	Dec. 4
Allison Stevens	Dec. 7
Dale Nash	Dec. 10
Tim Malooley	Dec. 12
Roger Newhart	Dec. 14
Don Meredith	Dec. 15
Butch Niehaus	Dec. 16
Mike Cavender	Dec. 16
Chad Clem	Dec. 20
Raymond West	Dec. 30
<b>January</b>	
Doug Vantlin	Jan. 1
George Unsworth	Jan. 6
Candy Welsh	Jan. 6
Sue Fox	Jan. 10
Shannon Grantham	Jan. 12
Julie Kays	Jan. 15
Michael Caouldry	Jan. 21
Ginger Welton	Jan. 21
Mary Beth Robinson	Jan. 28
Chris Bennett	Jan. 30

*Happy Birthday!*

**Anniversaries**

December/January will mark the anniversary date of employment with our company for the following employees.

<b>December</b>	
Helen Smith	11 Years
Tim Morris	9 Years
Lisa Ridgeway	8 Years
Kevin Toole	6 Years
Mike Glenn	3 Years
Brian Downen	2 Years
Josh Neikirk	2 Years
Janie Stephens	1 Year
Scott McCrary	1 Year
<b>January</b>	
Mary K Edgin	4 Years
Lorie Hansen	3 Years
Dan McElroy	3 Years
Don Campbell	2 Years
Travis Lewis	2 Years
Jeff Shelton	1 Year
Chad Lukens	1 Year

*Congratulations!*

**New Employees**

We want to welcome the following new employees to our company.

- Bruce Nicewander - WBM, Vincennes
- Jondavid Balunek - WBM, Nashville
- Ryan Hutchinson - WBM, St. Louis
- Gary Gray - Niehaus, Robinson
- R.J. Rains - Niehaus, Robinson
- Jerald Jones - Niehaus, Robinson
- Erin Kirby - WBM, Nashville
- Chad Oliver - WBM, Vincennes

*Our Sincere  
Sympathy  
to the family of*

**Larry Puent**

*who passed away  
November 17*

*He was an outside sales representative for WBM in St. Louis. He had joined our company in 2000.*

**NOT ON OUR MAILING LIST?**

If you (or anyone you know) who are not currently on our mailing list to receive the Niehaus News - but would like to be - just call 812-882-2710 or e-mail [scummins@wbm-online.com](mailto:scummins@wbm-online.com)



**Niehaus News**

This newsletter is the official publication of events and activities of Niehaus Companies, Inc. which include Niehaus Home Centers (Vincennes, IN, Terre Haute, IN and Robinson, IL,) Wholesale Building Materials (Vincennes, IN, St. Louis, MO and Nashville, TN), and is published 12 times per year.

**Editor/Photographer/Writer:**  
**Sherry Cummins, Advertising Mgr.**  
**Niehaus Companies, Inc.**

**THE DIETER'S VERSION**

Twas the night before Christmas and all round my hips were Fannie May candies that sneaked past my lips. Fudge brownies were stored in the freezer with care In hopes that my thighs would forget they were there.

While Mama in her my gir-dle and I in chin straps Had just settled down to sugar-borne naps. When out in the pantry there arose such a clatter I sprang from my bed to see what was the matter.



Away to the kitchen I flew like a flash Tore open the icebox then threw up the sash. The marshmallow look of the new-fallen snow Sent thoughts of a binge to my body below.

When what to my wandering eyes should appear: A marzipan Santa with eight chocolate reindeer! That huge chunk of candy so luscious and slick I knew in a second that I'd wind up sick.

The sweet-coated santa, those sugared reindeer I closed my eyes tightly but still I could hear; On Pritzker, on Stillman, on weak one, on TOPS A Weight Watcher dropout from sugar detox.

From the top of the scales to the top of the hall Now dash away pounds now dash away all. Dressed up in Lane Bryant from my head to nightdress My clothes were all bulging from too much excess.

My droll little mouth and my round little belly They shook when I laughed like a bowl full of jelly. I spoke not a word but went straight to my work Ate all of the candy then turned with a jerk.

And laying a finger beside my heartburn I gave a quick nod toward the bedroom I turned. I eased into bed, to the heavens I cry If temptation's removed I'll get thin by and by.

And I mumbled again as I turned for the night In the morning I'll starve..... 'til I take that first bite!



## Bernie Niehaus Named Entrepreneur Of The Year By ILBSA



Bernie proudly showing the Entrepreneur of the Year plaque he received at ILBSA Awards

Bernie Niehaus attended the Indiana Lumber & Builders Association Awards Banquet on December 2, in Indianapolis to present the Naomi Niehaus Award. Much to his surprise, after the presentation to the two ladies who were chosen as the recipients, ILBSA cited HIM with an award.

He was given the Sycamore Award for **Entrepreneur Of The Year** by the Association for "significant contributions to the building material industry through superior performance."

The Indiana Lumber & Builders' Supply Association is an organization made up of lumber dealers and associates throughout Indiana.



# Karran



**Solid surface sinks.**  
 Won't scratch  
 Won't dent  
 Won't stain

*The worlds first sinks seamlessly mounted directly to your laminate countertop.*

# Guardian Fiberglass Insulation



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The UltraFit wall system is unique in that it combines UltraFit, specially designed fiberglass insulation, with an inorganic water-activated powder adhesive. This is sprayed into the wall cavity forming a seamless blanket of insulation in side walls.

- High R-values
- Non-combustible
- Noncorrosive
- Inorganic - does not promote fungus growth
- Contains NO asbestos



**Guardian Building Products**  
 fiberglass insulation

# Merry Christmas. . . . . from all of us

## Niehaus Home Center - Vincennes, Indiana



<i>Mark Ashcraft</i>	<i>Todd Ault</i>	<i>Chris Bennett</i>	<i>Eric Bickett</i>	<i>Mallory Bilskie</i>
<i>John Byrnes</i>	<i>Mike Cavender</i>	<i>Chad Clem</i>	<i>Russell Cooper</i>	<i>David Cole</i>
<i>Darrell Dodson</i>	<i>Matt Conover</i>	<i>Chris Cresgy</i>	<i>Sherry Cummins</i>	<i>Ken Doades</i>
<i>Kim Downen</i>	<i>Christina Ewer</i>	<i>Mary K. Edgin</i>	<i>Keith Fox</i>	<i>Sue Fox</i>
<i>Danny Harrington</i>	<i>Dan Hartley</i>	<i>Carl Hensley</i>	<i>Shannon Hopwood</i>	<i>Julie Kays</i>
<i>Kolby Kerzan</i>	<i>Carolyn Lane</i>	<i>Mike Leydet</i>	<i>Travis Lewis</i>	<i>Lisa Litherland</i>
<i>Curtis Martin</i>	<i>Kathy McCreary</i>	<i>Steve McNew</i>	<i>Joshua Neikirk</i>	<i>Doug Mikiska</i>
<i>Matthew Plahn</i>	<i>Robert Regalado</i>	<i>Ali Salhani</i>	<i>Jeff Shelton</i>	<i>Mary Smith</i>
<i>Brad Snider</i>	<i>John Starnes</i>	<i>Janie Stevens</i>	<i>Bill Stevens</i>	<i>Wayne Sullivan</i>
<i>Amanda Tucker</i>	<i>John Wallace</i>	<i>Phil Wehrman</i>	<i>Ginger Welton</i>	



## Wholesale Building Materials - Vincennes, IN

<i>Mike Adams</i>	<i>Paul Anderson</i>	<i>Brian Austin</i>	<i>Dennis Bilskie</i>	<i>Leaha Bilskie</i>
<i>Shawn Brothers</i>	<i>Jerry Burch</i>	<i>Don Campbell</i>	<i>Ron Cardinal</i>	<i>Tracy Catt</i>
<i>Jim Cook</i>	<i>Mary Cox</i>	<i>Doug Daffron</i>	<i>Judy Detty</i>	<i>Todd Donovan</i>
<i>Brian Downen</i>	<i>Eric Feagley</i>	<i>Charles Fields</i>	<i>Jean Fox</i>	<i>Brook Fuller</i>
<i>Ron Gaines</i>	<i>Mike Glenn</i>	<i>Mick Gormley</i>	<i>Kevin Grostefon</i>	<i>Chris Hamilton</i>
<i>Lorie Hansen</i>	<i>John Harrison</i>	<i>Richard Henry</i>	<i>Kevin Hueby</i>	<i>Tony Jamero</i>
<i>Michael Jones</i>	<i>Stephen Kahre</i>	<i>Brian Kirwer</i>	<i>Doug Klumpp</i>	<i>Paul Kopp</i>
<i>Stephen Lanning</i>	<i>Brian Lett</i>	<i>Nicholas Miller</i>	<i>Joshua Litherland</i>	<i>Connie Lockhart</i>
<i>Tracy Lockhart</i>	<i>Scott McCrary</i>	<i>Kyla McKinney</i>	<i>Dan McElroy</i>	<i>Chad Oliver</i>
<i>Mike Montgomery</i>	<i>Tim Morris</i>	<i>Debra Moyes</i>	<i>Dale Nash</i>	<i>Bruce Nicewander</i>
<i>James Noble</i>	<i>Don Pea</i>	<i>Tim Ramsey</i>	<i>Lisa Ridgeway</i>	<i>Roy Roach</i>
<i>Susan Sanders</i>	<i>Craig Sims</i>	<i>Brian Smith</i>	<i>Dana Smith</i>	<i>Kim Smith</i>
<i>Helen Smith</i>	<i>Robert Spade</i>	<i>Randy Stephens</i>	<i>Steve Taylor</i>	<i>Kevin Toole</i>
<i>George Unsworth</i>	<i>Doug Vantlin</i>	<i>Ed Vaughn</i>	<i>Jill Warren</i>	<i>Raymond West</i>
<i>Jonathan Worland</i>	<i>Michael Worland</i>	<i>Clete Yochum</i>	<i>Stephanie Zachary</i>	

*Bernie Niehaus**Butch Niehaus**David Niehaus**Eric Niehaus***Niehaus Home Center - Terre Haute, Indiana**

*Walter Burnett  
Tracy Englum  
Gene Green  
Chad Lukens  
Jack McCullough  
Roger Newhart*

*Curtis Coopridger  
Ted Fields  
Michael Jones  
Tim Malooley  
Mark McHenry  
Preston Rakes*

*Michael Couldry  
Ranson Fisher  
Robert Lawson  
Andrew Maas  
Michael McIntyre  
Mary B. Robinson*

**Niehaus Home Center - Robinson, Illinois**

*Gary Chillingworth  
Gary Gray  
Rebecca Taylor  
Wayne Tracy  
Michael Welsh*

*Cletus Hille  
Albert Lepsi  
Don Mendenhall  
Betty Tuttle  
Bill Wait*

*Jearld Jones  
Larry McCoy  
Ralph Raines  
Candence Welsh*

**Wholesale Building Materials - St. Louis, Missouri**

*Brian Childs  
William Davis  
Bill Egbert  
Steve Gerdeman  
Juanita Lamparter  
Ken Pettry  
Janice Warren  
Joy Whiteside*

*Roberta Craig  
Patricia DiMercurio  
Shannon Fischer  
Ryan Hutchinson  
Tim Murray  
Danny Pratt  
Andy Westerman*

*Jane Deal  
Deborah Dunn  
Darryl Frame  
Barbara Jones  
Dave Nichols  
James Roe  
Trina Wulfert*

**Wholesale Building Materials - Nashville, Tennessee**

*Brianne Anderson  
Shannon Grantham  
Erin Kirby  
Steve Rooker  
Donna Stephenson*

*Tom Barnes  
Hylton Hawkins  
Rebecca McIntosh  
Nora Salinas  
Kim Terry*

*Jondavid Bulunek  
Don Kirby  
Stephanie Potts  
Christina Shafer  
Randall Woody*

**Karran - USA**

*Lorie Hansen  
Todd Donovan*

*Brook Fuller  
Mark Webster*

*Don Meredith  
Randy Wissell*

*Drew Wonning*

## Why Women Would Love Being Santa Claus

1. You'd never be expected to make the coffee.
2. There'd be no more early morning decisions about what to wear to the office.
3. You could grow a gut the size of Guam and consider it a job requirement.
4. Buy one big black belt and you'd be accessorized for life.
5. There'd be no reason to have your colors done.
6. Everyone would be extremely nice to you, even if you weren't.
7. Should people suggest your belly jiggled...when you laughed...like a bowlful of jelly, you could hit them with your purse.
8. You'd always work in sensible footwear.
9. There'd be no need to play office politics; a hearty ho-ho-ho would remind everyone who's boss.
10. You wouldn't need to buy an expensive briefcase.
11. No one would dare ask for a ride to work.
12. You'd never again have to wear pantyhose or worry about your slip showing.
13. No more trips to the vending machine...you'd just snack on milk and cookies all day.
14. You'd never be asked to take an early retirement package.
15. Juggling work and family would be a breeze because your children would adore you; even your teen-agers would want to sit in your lap.
16. You'd be guaranteed the best chair in the office.
17. Age discrimination wouldn't be an issue.
18. You'd never grab the wrong coat on your way out the door.
19. No one would ask to see your job description.




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### Bumper Sticker Ponderings

If Barbie is so popular, why do you have to buy her friends?  
 Experience is something you don't get until after you need it.  
 Change is inevitable, except from vending machines.  
 Plan to be spontaneous tomorrow.  
 More you complain, the longer God makes you live.  
 A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.  
 Two wrongs are only the beginning.  
 We are born naked, wet, and hungry - Then things get worse.  
 The early bird gets the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.  
 Always remember you are unique, like everyone else.



### Saving for college: investing in a 529 Plan

Over the past several years, the cost of attending college has continued to increase, and it is becoming increasingly important for families to consider saving for a child's post-secondary education. Section 529 state college savings plans, named for the IRS code that governs them, allow parents, grandparents, and other relatives to contribute to a child's college education fund, while offering a number of tax benefits.

Each state has its own Section 529 Plan, and most states allow non-residents to contribute to their plans, although investing in your own state's plan may entitle you to state tax deductions on contributions or exemptions on withdrawals. As long as earnings from the Section 529 college savings plan are used for qualified higher education expenses, the funds are not subject to federal income tax. Qualified higher education expenses include, but are not limited to, tuition, room and board, fees, and books.

In addition to the benefit of tax-free earnings, Section 529 Plans offer the following benefits:

- Tax laws allow for an exemption for gifts up to \$55,000 at a time, \$110,000 for married couples.
- The donor maintains control of the funds until they are withdrawn by the beneficiary.
- The contributor is not subject to any Adjusted Gross Income limitations.
- If the beneficiary does not use the funds or does not incur any higher educational expenses, the funds can be withdrawn or transferred to another beneficiary.
- Although a 529 plan has only one owner for tax purposes, others may make contributions to the account.
- Donors may contribute a lump sum or make smaller contributions over a period of time.
- The contribution is considered a completed gift, therefore it is exempt from estate tax for the donor.

If you would like any additional information about investing in a Section 529 state college savings plan, contact the tax professionals at Kemper CPA Group LLP today.

Kemper CPA Group LLP  
 505 North 6th Street  
 Vincennes, IN 47591  
 (812) 882-7730  
[www.kempercpa.com](http://www.kempercpa.com)



Please be advised that, based upon current Internal Revenue Service (IRS) rules and standards, the advice herein is not intended to be used, nor can it be used, as the sole basis for decisions. Additional issues may exist that could affect the treatment of the individual transactions, and this narrative does not provide a conclusion with respect to all such issues.

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**It is always fun to learn new information that can make your life a bit easier. Here are a few for this month.**

- As we enjoy the frenzy of holiday preparations, be sure to take care of yourself and make time for personal enjoyment and traditions that make our lives special. Maintaining healthy diets, getting enough sleep, and keeping out workout schedules will not only keep us healthy, but ensure that you don't end up with coal in your stocking at Christmas.

- While entertaining, be sure to pay close attention to the holiday merrymaking so that no one leaves your home unable to drive safely. Remember that the cost of a cab ride is much cheaper than that of a funeral or the loss of a friend. Honor the designated drivers at your parties by offering them virgin versions of typical holiday potables. That way, they can enjoy the mood of the evening while remaining sober.

- Trying to keep one gift receipt separate from another is quite a challenge during the holidays. A sales clerk at a larger department store taught me a new trick. While ringing up the sale for me, she took the time to staple the gift receipt to the price tags on the item. What a creative, but simple way to keep the gift and receipt together. If your sales clerk cannot do this for you, take the time to attach them to your gifts as soon as you get home. It will save hours of work and aggravation for you.

\* Take a mesh bag used for delicate laundry or the leg of an old pair of nylons and stuff it with a couple dry cinnamon sticks, some dry cloves, dried orange rind, and a vanilla bean ( or the like).

\* Secure the open end and then toss it in the dryer with your bedding and linens.

\* This makes crawling into bed at night quite an toasty treat with aromatic dreams. The drying process also makes your house smell good too.

\* Make sure your herbs and spices are nice and dry so as not to make your linen sticky.

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**A Door For Every Home - The Door System You Can Believe In.**

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- Many options available
- Fiber-Classic
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**New Patio Door Systems**

**New Patio Door Systems Include:**

- Fiber-Classic Hinged Patio Door Systems
- Smooth-Star Hinged Patio Door Systems
- TS2 Steel Hinged Patio Door Systems



**501 S. Howard St. Robinson, IL**



**1023 Main St. Vincennes, IN**



**1110 Ft. Harrison Rd. Terre Haute, IN**

## Santa's Bad Day The Birth of a Tradition

One particular Christmas season a long time ago, Santa was getting ready for his annual trip, but there were problems everywhere. Four of his elves got sick, and the trainee elves did not produce the toys as fast as the regular ones so Santa was beginning to feel the pressure of being behind schedule.

Then Mrs. Claus told Santa that her mom was coming to visit. This stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two had jumped the fence and were out, heaven knows where. More stress.



Then when he began to load the sleigh one of the boards cracked, and the toy bag fell to the ground and scattered the toys.

So, frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of apple cider and a shot of rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered that the elves had hidden the liquor, and there was nothing to drink. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider pot, and it broke into hundreds of little pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found that mice had eaten the straw end of the broom. Just then the doorbell rang, and irritable Santa trudged to the door. He opened the door, and there was a little angel with a great big Christmas tree.

The angel said, very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa. Isn't it a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you. Where would you like me to stick it?"

Thus began the tradition of the little angel on top of the Christmas tree.

### Make a Difference

We've got simple steps that will allow you to get yourself off some of the major junk mail lists, ask Congress to create a national Do Not Junk registry modeled after the wildly successful Do Not Call registry, and even more tips to help you prevent the flood of unsolicited mail.

## Holiday Fruitcake Recipe

1 C Water  
1 C Sugar  
4 Large eggs  
3 C dried fruit  
1 tsp. baking soda  
1 tsp. salt  
1 C Brown sugar  
Lemon juice, nuts  
1 FULL bottle of your favorite whiskey

Sample the whiskey to check for quality. Take out a large bowl.

Check the whiskey again to be sure that it is of the highest quality.

Pour 1 level cup and drink. Repeat.

Turn on the electric mixer; beat 1 C of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add 1 tsp. sugar and beat again.

Make sure the whiskey is still OK.

Cry another cup. Turn off the mixer.

Break two eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit.

Mix on the burner.

If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters, pry it loose with a screwdriver.

Sample the whiskey to check for toxicity. Next, sift 2 cups of salt. Or something. Who cares? Check the whiskey. Now sift the lemon juice and strain your nuts.

Add one tablespoon of sugar or something...whatever you can find. Grease the oven. Turn on the cake tin to 350 degrees. Don't forget to beat off the turner. Throw the bowl out of the window.

Check the whiskey again. Go to bed.

Who the heck likes fruit cake anyway???

## Your Eggnog's Too Strong

If you see a fat man

Who's jolly and cute, wearing a beard and a red flannel suit, and if he is chuckling and laughing away, while flying around in a miniature sleigh with eight tiny reindeer to pull him along, then lets face it...

**Your eggnog's too strong!!!**



## Sugar Cookies

A simple sugar cookie recipe with a tender, flakey texture and a buttery taste. Yum! Makes about 24

1 cup butter, softened  
1 cup granulated sugar  
1 large egg  
1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla  
3 cups all-purpose flour  
1-1/4 teaspoons baking powder

Beat together butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add egg and vanilla, mix until just combined. Add flour and baking powder in intervals. Dough will seem as if doesn't have enough moisture but continue to mix with mixer until combined (it will come together when chilled). Divide the dough into four equal parts, shape into four disks, wrap with plastic wrap and refrigerate about an hour or until firm. Preheat oven to 375 F. Lightly grease baking sheets or line with parchment paper or a non-stick baking mat. Roll out dough between 2 sheets of waxed paper, about 1/4 inch thick for crispier cookies and 1/3 inch thick for softer cookies. Cut out shapes with cookie cutters and place on prepared baking sheets. Bake for 7-8 minutes or until edges just start to turn a golden color. For softer cookies, do not allow the cookies to take on color. Remove from oven, let cool for one minute and then transfer to wire rack. Allow cookie sheet to cool thoroughly before placing uncooked dough on it. Decorate cookies with Royal Icing or Buttercream Frosting and sprinkles.

## When Christmas Was Not So Great

When I was young, my family was so poor that for Christmas we got batteries with a note attached saying "Toy not included."

### Three Wise Women?

Do you know what would have happened if it had been Three Wise Women instead of Three Wise Men?

They would have asked directions, arrived on time, helped deliver the baby, cleaned the stable, made a casserole and brought practical gifts.



*Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
from the Niehaus Family*

*Bernie & Patty Niehaus*

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