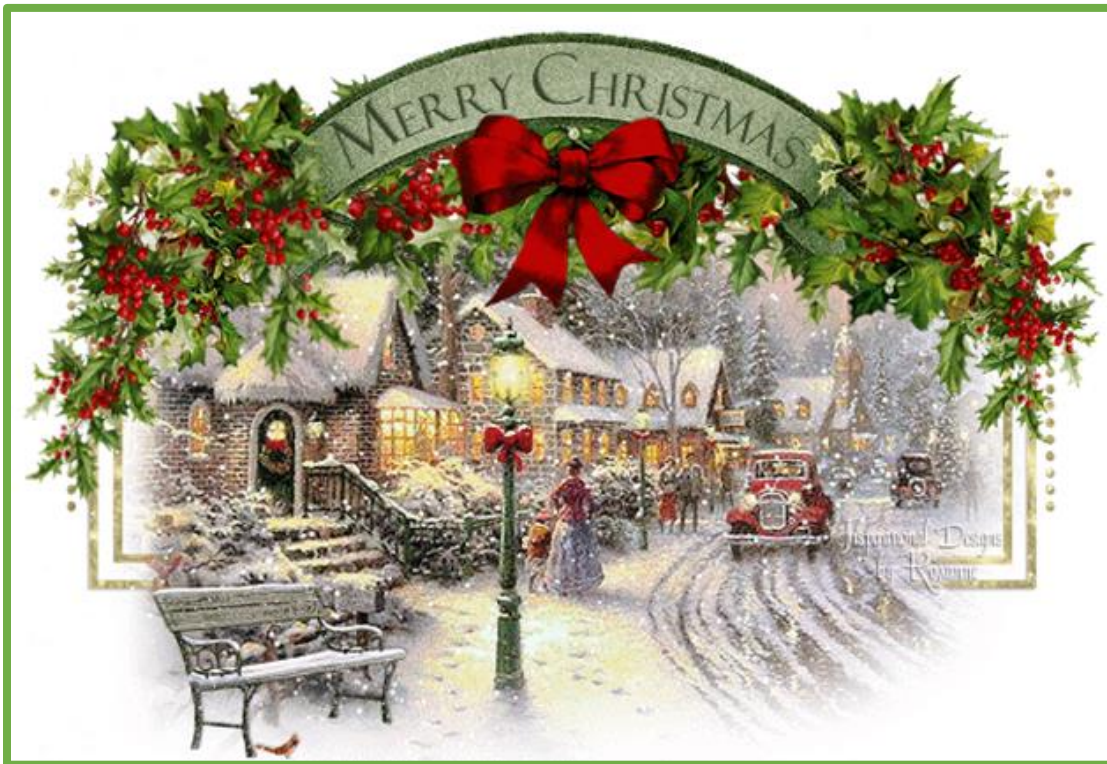


411 MAIN STREET
DONNELLSON, IA 52625
FAX/TELEPHONE: 319-835-5545
E-MAIL: donnibr@iowatelecom.net
WEB SITE: www.donnellson.lib.ia.us

December 2021

Issue #184



Library Happenings

Library Happenings are written and submitted by Brenda Knox, Director of the Donnellson Public Library, unless otherwise noted.

We thank our generous donors: In December, books were adopted by Victoria Matlock, Carol Tull, Barb Schau, and Allison Krehbiel. A donation was received for the Local and Family History Department from Brenda Knox and Matt Crowe in memory of former library volunteer, Millie Kennedy, and a generous donation to the department by Pat Morrison in November.

Throughout the year, we are blessed by our generous donors to the library. We are also very fortunate to have a dedicated team of volunteers, including those who serve on our Board of Trustees, those that volunteer for positions on our Friends of the Donnellson Library group, and those that work in the library as Local and Family History volunteers, Proenneke Museum volunteers, or those that assist the Library Director with covering books. We thank you very much.

Friends of Donnellson Public Library Christmas Décor Contest

The Friends of the Donnellson Public Library sponsored a Christmas décor contest this year. The chair of the event was Victoria Matlock. The only recognition the winners received was a handmade sign in their yard, but we had great participation. We received 18 entries in 3 categories: Business, Religious, and Holiday. The winner of the first prize for a business was Grandma T's Kitchen. The winner for the religious theme was the McDowell home at 701 N. Main. The winner for the holiday themed décor was the Connor home on 25 Greenview Terrace. We hope you enjoyed looking at all of the very nice lights this holiday season. There were many beautifully decorated homes around town, and in the rural areas of our community.

(Image from the Connor home on Greenview Terrace, and Brenda delivering the sign to Grandma T's Kitchen.)



The Donnellson Book Core:

The Donnellson Book Core had their annual Christmas party with fun snacks and a game when people swapped unopened, wrapped books for a time, and then revealed which one they wound up receiving. They discussed a rather sobering book entitled *The Winter Sisters* by Robin Oliviera, which was not a holiday themed book, but a mystery involving the deaths of two young girls in the 1860's. It was a very good discussion, and most people said it was a good book, though the subject matter was very difficult.

January's book is the 2021 All Iowa Reads selection: *Little Faith* by Nickolas Butler. **Here is what Good Reads has to say about this award-winning book:**

Lyle Hovde is at the onset of his golden years, living a mostly content life in rural Wisconsin with his wife, Peg, daughter, Shiloh, and six-year-old grandson, Isaac. After a troubled adolescence and subsequent estrangement from her parents, Shiloh has finally come home. But while Lyle is thrilled to have his whole family reunited, he's also uneasy: in Shiloh's absence, she has become deeply involved with an extremist church, and the devout pastor courting her is convinced Isaac has the spiritual ability to heal the sick.

While reckoning with his own faith—or lack thereof—Lyle soon finds himself torn between his unease about the church and his desire to keep his daughter and grandson in his life. But when the church's radical belief system threatens Isaac's safety, Lyle is forced to make a decision from which the family may not recover.

Set over the course of one year and beautifully evoking the change of seasons, Little Faith is a powerful and deeply affecting intergenerational novel about family and community, the ways in which belief is both formed and shaken, and the lengths we go to protect our own.

The book for discussion in February takes-up where we left off with the horseback librarians in Depression-era Appalachia. (The group read *The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson in September.) The February book is entitled *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes.

Senior Crafternoons:

We have been having great participation for our Senior Crafternoons, supervised and taught by Victoria Matlock, and sponsored by Sunnybrook. In December, participants made a holiday Christmas gnome of artificial greenery, fabric, and quilt batting. January's theme is still in the works, but the group of people who have pre-registered will meet on Wednesday, January 12, for a hands-on winter craft.



Library Newsletter

Where has the time gone! The library newsletter, which was started in November 2005 as a two-page publication, has become a mini-monthly newspaper to keep our patrons apprised of library news, its activities, and historical articles of interest.

Today, issues are read locally and out-of- area from New York to California. It is hard to believe as I edit this newsletter, I am beginning my 17th year as the editor. Over those many years to this December 2021 issue, the collection of reports equates to six 3” binder volumes of news covering many library and local and family history activities. If anyone wishes to read the news from past years, all copies are on file in the Local & Family History Department.

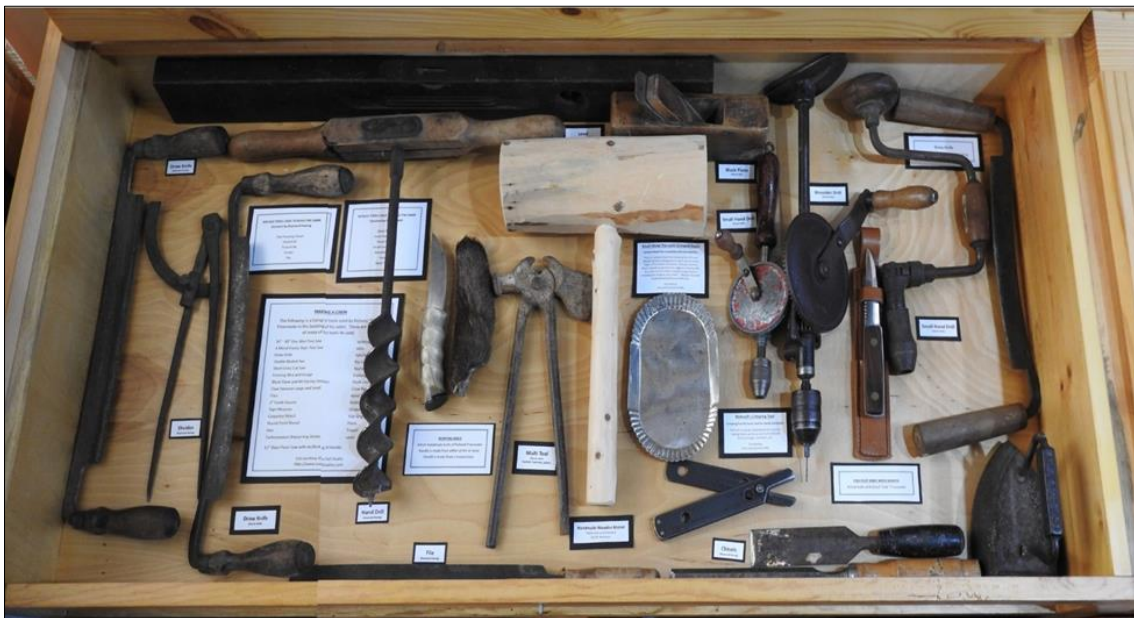
I hope the issues have been as exciting and interesting to read as they have been for me to compile on a monthly basis. If there is anything of interest you would like to see in the newsletter, please let me know. ~ Newsletter Editor: **Diane P. Kruse**, Retirees4Now@aol.com

Writers' Bloc



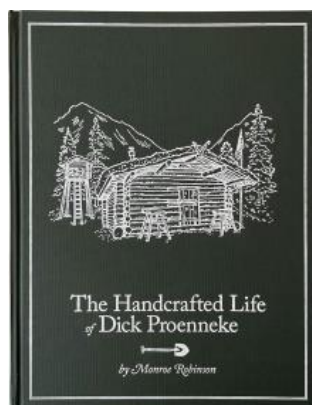
The Writer's Bloc for December was cancelled due to a busy schedule in the library and the upcoming Christmas holiday. The Bloc will resume its schedule on January 19, 2022, in the Local & Family History Department at 1 P.M. ~Written and submitted by **Diane Kruse**

Richard L. Proenneke Museum



New to the Richard Proenneke Museum is the book by Monroe Robinson, “The Handcrafted Life of Dick Proenneke”. No one holds a more intimate knowledge of Dick’s handcrafted life than Monroe, and just as Dick shared his life through letters and film, Monroe knew he had a responsibility to share all that he had learned. This book, which includes excerpts from more than

7,000 pages of Dick's transcribed journals along with hundreds of photos, dozens of illustrations, and Monroe's thoughtful and detailed commentary, is the result. It's nonfiction, how-to, adventure and memoir, but at its heart, it's a guidebook on how to live a life that's "true," with materials found and a few simple tools. Appealing to woodworkers, toolmakers, homesteaders, hikers, naturalists, conservationists, survivalists and lovers of Alaska, this book is for those who want to know how one man lived an intentional life, the kind of life many dream of living.



The book is hardbound, 456 pages, pricey, but worth every penny.

From Richard's Journal "The Early Years" December 25, 1968 entry

As I came around the point I saw three people packing sacks and boxes. The nose of the Cessna covered with a red motor cover to hold the engine heat. It was Babe, Glen and a girl (a friend of Glen's). . . . Lots of mail and grub. Nearly a sack of packages and letters, 6, 4 pound packages of rice, 2 large boxes of corn meal, 4 dozen eggs, cheese, candy bars, cocoa – a lot of grub.

They were having goose at home so they must get back. Glen started the engine but Babe took over for the take off. I lost no time in getting at my mail. I opened and read mail all afternoon and till it was so dark I couldn't see so lighted the lantern and read some more.

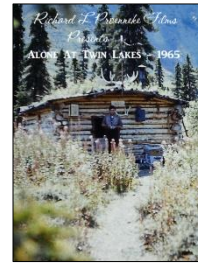
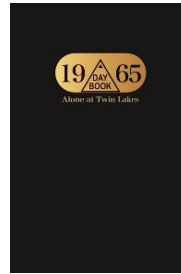
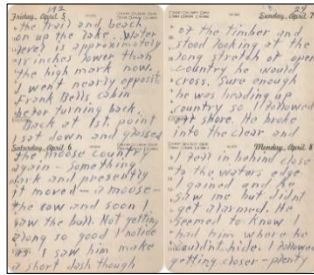
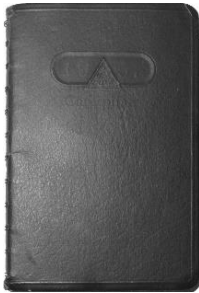
Packages from Brother Jake. Seasonings, prunes, candy, peanuts and other items too numerous to mention. Packages from Spike and Hope. Cooking ware gifts, candy, cheese, more journal tablets and items I had ordered from their end. Also, the new good looking boot laces that will replace my spliced up worn pair. A good book and a very nice note from Roy Allen in the Southwest Pacific. I hope to see him at Twin Lakes again sometime.

Good news from everywhere except from good old Sid Old, my Alaskan sourdough friend. He is in the hospital with a serious stomach disorder and fear he is in a bad way. I hoped he could come spend one more summer in the country he liked so much.

This has been a Christmas I will never forget. The most no-nonsense Christmas I have ever had.

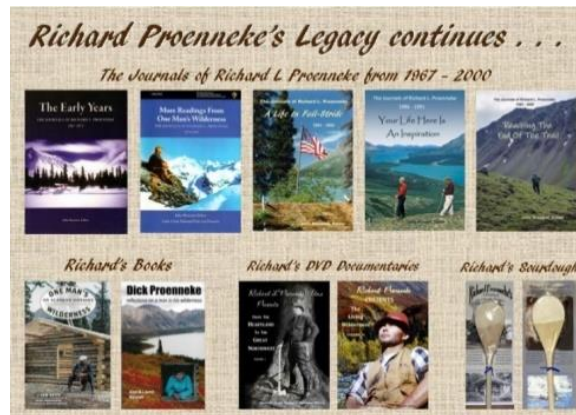


Don't forget to pre-register for your copy of the upcoming new Richard Proenneke Journal "Alone At Twin Lakes – 1965" and the accompanying DVD Documentary to be released on Richard's 106th Birthday, May 4, 2022.



The original 1957 Caterpillar Daybook & two pages from the Journal Published Journal and DVD Documentary "Alone At Twin Lakes - 1965"
 To pre-register for your copy of the Journal, or DVD Documentary, or a copy of both please contact:

brie@richardproenneke.com

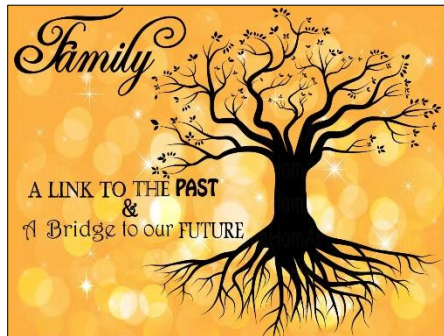


The complete set of the Journals of Richard L Proenneke and the book "One Man's Wilderness;" the "Reflections on a man in his wilderness;" DVD Documentaries, "From The Heartland To The Great Northwest" and "The Living Wilderness;" The Homeland and Kodiak Sourdough Starter Spoons are all available at the Donnellson Library or at our website: richardproenneke.com

Are you a Richard Proenneke fan? Would you like to learn more about this incredible man who grew up in our backyard? Consider joining us and lending a helping hand. Drop us a line at: Brie Anderson, Richard Proenneke Museum Curator: brie@richardproenneke.com Brenda Knox, Librarian bknox@donnellson.lib.ia.us

A December Suggested Reading

No book review was written because the normal reviewer was “under the weather” for several weeks but promises to return in January to start off the year with a great review. ~Submitted by **Diane Kruse**



Local & Family History Department

The month of December again proved to be a little slower than usual for our Local and Family History volunteers due to fewer requests for family research, setting of the usual “favorite display” of the year, and the Christmas holidays. However, volunteers still worked from home to keep on top of projects. Lee County as well as local Illinois, Missouri, and Van Buren obits were alphabetized and ready to be filed in the appropriate binders and files for continued easy location of information.

~ The scroll donated by Mary Ann Hasse Engle and written by Leonard Haase on Iowa’s first school was enlarged by Dodd’s Printing and mounted on a 17”x 22” foam board. It is now a permanent reference for research and presentations of the history of the Galland School building project.

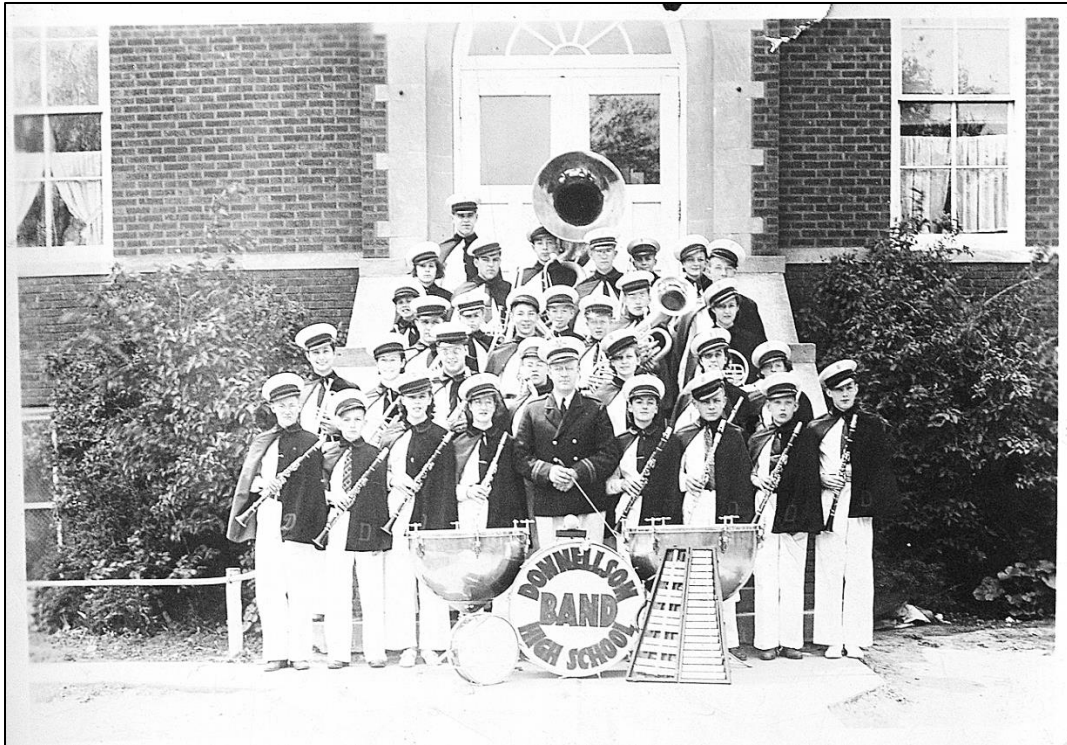
~ The Local & Family History Department is still looking to add more family album information on the shelves. If you have a family album you would like to donate it, we will be happy to accept your copy or make a copy and return the original to you.

~ Corresponded with Laurie Constantino in Alaska regarding the Cruickshank-Perkins Family. Laurie was looking to find missing pages from “Our Family History” by C.W. Cruickshank. Since the department does not have a Cruickshank/Perkins family album, individual files of both names were researched for the family history. It was noted we do not have the “Family History” on file but suggested the following to Laurie:

The obituary of Charles W. Cruickshank was located. We found he was born on a farm north of Donnellson, but he spent most of his life living in Mt. Pleasant, which is located in Henry County. He was past president of the Southeastern Iowa Teacher’s Association and a member of the Henry County Historical Society. Since Charles was a 40-year resident of Henry County it was suggested the Henry County Historical Society be contacted for a copy of the Cruickshank Family History written by him.

Three attachments were forwarded with the statement: if the library doesn't already have the materials, please feel free to include them in the library file. Two of the three attachments were found in the files, and we thanked Laurie for sending them. Also, department volunteers promised to be on the look out for typewritten pages 38-45 of the family history if they are not located in the Henry County Historical Society.

If anyone has information on the C.W. Cruickshank Family history, we would love to hear from you.



The above photograph of the Donnellson High Band of 1937 (Mr. Lake's Band) was donated by Marilyn Krehbiel Jabour Anderson (sister of Herbert Krehbiel). Photograph will be placed in the Donnellson High School binder. Note: Most members of the band were identified.



DHS Pillow

The black and orange pillow was donated to the department by Kelly Burk. Kelly mentioned the pillow was given to her by her mother Karen Thon Nelson. Kelly decided to return it to where it belonged saying "It's finally back where it was created – Donnellson, Iowa".

Flowers and Baked Goods for Local & Family History Volunteers

Several days before Christmas two lovely flower arrangements were delivered to the Local and Family History Department - one for Diane, the other for Sharon. Each card read “Merry Christmas” Your Friends at the Library. Below is a photo of the arrangement received. Sharon and I thank “our friends at the library” for their thoughtfulness. As of this writing both arrangements were well taken care of and lasted through the holiday season.



Santa also stopped by to deliver several loaves of sour dough raisin bread for the volunteers to enjoy during the holiday season. So, as you can see, there is no photo of the delicious bread because it was “enjoyed” by all as instructed. Thank you, Brenda Claus.

Donations and Memorials

In addition to the memorial donation from Brenda Knox and Matt Crowe in memory of former library volunteer, Millie Kennedy, the Local and Family History Department received a generous donation from Pat Morrison to help with materials for our many different projects as well as the huge obituary project. Pat is a frequent visitor to the department and helps us build our obituary information for Lee County as well as local Illinois and Missouri. Pat has also been very generous with her time in providing copies of local cemetery updates and mostly recently provided a copy of all veterans who served in the War of 1812. The names are in the process of being filed in 3” binders for our patrons to review.

The Local and Family History department volunteers thank Brenda Knox and Matt Crowe and Pat Morrison for their generous donations to our department.

December Display

Again, the final display of the year was hailed a “sure” favorite, although all the displays are of interest to our patrons. As a special note, there were 19 elegant White house ornaments donated to the Local & Family History Department by David and Pat Lau in addition to items on loan from Sharon Meierotto, Carole Elston, and Diane Kruse. Below are photographs from the December display courtesy of Carole Elston.

A Christmas card invitation was extended to the Lau’s to visit the library to personally view their White House tree ornaments. However, the Lau’s were unable to come since they had moved

from their Ft. Madison address to another area in Iowa. As promised in their Christmas invitation if they were unable to view the Christmas display, photos of their donation would be sent so they could see their elegant 2001-2019 ornaments.



Remembering our Veterans in December



Presidential Proclamation of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, 2021

Below is an excerpt from the Presidential Proclamation of National Pearl Harbor Day, 2021

On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy attacked our forces at Pearl Harbor and other locations in Hawaii, taking the lives of 2,403 service members and civilians and leading the United States to declare its entrance into World War II. It was a day that still lives in infamy 80 years later. As we mark National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, we honor the patriots who perished, commemorate the valor of all those who defended our Nation, and recommit ourselves to carrying forth the ensuing peace and reconciliation that brought a better future for our world. Today, we give thanks to the Greatest Generation, who guided our Nation through some of our darkest moments and laid the foundations of an international system that has transformed former adversaries into allies.

On that terrible December day 1,177 crewmen lost their lives. To this day, beads of oil still rise to the surface of the water — metaphorical “Black Tears” shed for those lost in the attack. Reading those names etched in marble was a mournful reminder of the sacrifices and the human cost of protecting our Nation and the ideals this great country represents. Our Nation remains forever indebted to all those who gave their last full measure of devotion eight decades ago. We will never forget those who perished, and we will always honor our sacred obligation to care for our service members, veterans, and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

The Congress, by Public Law 103-308, as amended, has designated December 7 of each year as “National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim December 7, 2021, as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. I encourage all Americans to reflect on the courage shown by our brave warriors that day and remember their sacrifices. I ask us all to give sincere thanks and appreciation to the survivors of that unthinkable day. I urge all Federal agencies, interested organizations, groups, and individuals to fly the flag of the United States at half-staff on December 7, 2021, in honor of those American patriots who died as a result of their service at Pearl Harbor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

**Warmest thoughts and best wishes for a wonderful
Christmas and a Happy New Year.**

May peace, love, and prosperity follow you always.

Newsletter Editor, Diane P. Kruse, Retirees4Now@aol.com

