

# Steve's Report: Saint Nicholas County

The original Saint Nicholas was born in Greece during the latter part of the third century A.D. His wealthy parents raised him to be a devout Christian and he dedicated his life to following Christ's challenge: "Sell all that thou hast and give to the poor." Indeed, Nicholas spent his entire inheritance blessing the lives of the poor and the suffering.

Another time, the city of Myra, where Nicholas was Bishop, ran out of grain for the sailors near starvation. One day, a ship laden with grain arrived in port, but the sailors refused to sell any because the wheat had already been paid for by a merchant at their final port. Nicholas convinced the sailors to sell



Photo by Stephen Scott

When the Catholic parish learned they were allowed to host a party for Nicholas County children this year, they jumped at the opportunity.

a small amount, promising them that their good deed would be repaid. When the sailors arrived at their final port, they discovered that all the wheat they had sold in Myra had miraculously reappeared.

The miracle continued. Each home in the village received only a small amount of wheat. Some they planted, and the rest they kept for food. Even though the supply should have only been enough for a few weeks, more of the homes ran out of grain until the crops were ready for harvest.

So it was that Saint Nicholas became well-known throughout the world for his numerous acts of charity and kindness. And he was especially tender-hearted when it came to the children. Everywhere he went, he was always giving them something good.

Friday, it was the Police Department's turn to take some children to Wal-Mart in Paris as part of the "Shop with a Cop" program. The following week, the First Christian Church, the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, the Carlisle Christian Church and the Migrant Program had a celebration for the children of Nicholas County, providing snacks or a meal, warm clothing and plenty of toys and presents.

I felt truly blessed for the chance to go from place to place, taking pictures of the happy children and witnessing the generosity of the good people of this community. Truly, the spirit of St. Nicholas is alive and well in Nicholas County.

Some folks might try to tell you that Nicholas County was named after Colonel George Nicholas, a Revolutionary War veteran and a prominent lawyer in early Kentucky. But from what I have seen since arriving here, I would have guessed the county was named after Jolly Old Saint Nicholas.

First, the Rotary Club held its annual "Christmas with the Children" event. Next, that following

Not only has it added to my own enjoyment of this Christmas season, it serves as a wonderful reminder about why we celebrate Christmas.

I see the whole-hearted pure love of Christ - like the kind I have witnessed since our arrival here back in August, and to an even greater degree during this Christmas season.

Truly, the spirit of St. Nicholas is alive and well in Nicholas County.

Photo by Stephen Scott

Of course, St. Nicholas visited the children at each of the parties, preserving his 1700-year-old tradition of spreading joy.

daughters' shoes or stockings as they were placed by the fire to dry. This is where the tradition of leaving a stocking out for St. Nicholas to fill with gifts came from.

According to one story, a poor farmer had three daughters who could not marry because they could not afford a dowry (money the bride's family paid to help establish a household) which meant they would most likely be sold into slavery. On three different occasions, bags of gold appeared in the

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## RECURRENT HEARINGS

California, District of Columbia, Nicholas County EM residents who find if you are interested in applying for property financing, file, or an emergency order of sale, to follow these steps:

1. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
2. Use the correct fuel for your unit.
3. Refuel outdoors (ONLY) and only when the unit is cool.
4. Keep the fuel tank three feet away from buildings and other flammable objects.
5. When using the heater, use fire safeguards and visible property.

Remember, the fire hazard is greatly increased in the winter because the older heating sources often are used without following property safety precautions.

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