

Special Edition Newsletter

MEETINGS: December 18th



M U N S T E R H I S T O R I C A L S O C I E T Y

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

Hello All,

From all of us on the Munster Historical Society Board 'HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!'

Once again we will be have the 'Holiday Open House' on Saturday, December 6th, see the press release from JoAnne below:

*'The **Munster Historical Society** is sponsoring its annual Holiday Candlelight Open House from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6, 2008. The old-fashioned, family-oriented event features a visit from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. by Santa, his elves, and Mrs Klaus to the historic 1910 Kaske House located in the Munster History Museum (1154 Ridge Road, corner of Ridge Road and Columbia Avenue). Cookies and hot chocolate will be served. This year the open house is held in cooperation with the Munster Jr. Historical Society and Munster Parks and Recreation.*

Parking is available at the Munster School Administration Building located south of Ridge Road on the west side of Columbia Avenue (behind Bieker Woods). Heritage Park is just a short walk north on the east side of Columbia Avenue to the candlelit brick entryway. '

Anyone who is willing to help please contact me at: mhs.president@yahoo.com.



Len Walavich, President
Munster Historical Society



Hello,

M I C H E L E ' S P O P C O R N C O R N E R

Once again I would like to share some information I came across concerning a very old tradition—'Stringing Popcorn' to decorate the tree.

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The Proper Way to String Popcorn for Your Christmas Tree



There are many fabulous Christmas traditions that are seen less and less as the years go by. Some scenes, like wrapping gifts and drinking hot chocolate, may never quite disappear, but other traditions have fallen by the way side. It doesn't have to be that way, though. Some Christmas traditions were once popular because they brought the family together on Christmas - an important holiday for most people. Get together this year and resurrect one of the old traditions: stringing popcorn.

Everyone has seen the images of a family, sitting down to string popcorn for the Christmas tree, while children and adults alike pop some of the corn in their mouths, and enjoy it while stringing the corn for the tree as well. Well, as lovely as these images are, they're not helping you to learn the proper way to string popcorn. To have the string turn out perfectly, and prevent the popcorn from breaking apart, pop the corn at least **24** hours in advance. On the night of the popcorn stringing, though, feel free to pop some more for the family. Allowing the popcorn to sit out makes it stale and much easier to string.

Never add salt, butter or any other substance to the popcorn which will be used for stringing. It's okay to cover the popcorn while it stales, but there's no need to wrap it up tightly. The popcorn needs some air for it to become stale. When the popcorn is ready simply thread an ordinary needle and thread.

The needle you choose is all important. Too large a needle and you'll likely crumble the popcorn as you try to pass the needle through. Too small a needle and you may have trouble passing it completely through the popcorn. A size 14 needle is ideal for most popcorn stringing crafts. Use a single strand of thread, rather than doubling it, to start the stringing process.

The thread you choose is just as important as the needle. Thick thread, obviously, will not pass through the popcorn as easily as thin thread, but really thin thread will break easier. Choose a nice dressmakers thread that's somewhere between, and make sure it's a new spool. Old thread that's been lying around awhile can be dry rotted and break many times while stringing the corn.

Pass the needle through the first piece of popcorn then slide the popcorn down the string. If the corn seems difficult to slide you can slightly oil the string. As you continue to add each piece of popcorn you'll slide them down the string, but trying to slide several at a time can sometimes cause one or two of them to crumble, so be careful when sliding more than a couple at a time.

Lots of people enjoy dying the strands of popcorn to hang on the tree. There are a couple different methods you can use. After the corn is popped and cooled, use spray-on dye - normally used for tie dying - directly onto the popcorn. Allow to sit for at least **24** hours before stringing. You can also string the popcorn then spray on the dye, or use a paintbrush to brush the dye on the strings of popcorn. Stretch the strings out and brush the entire thing with a paintbrush dipped in the dye. For me, the easiest way is to spray the dye on after the popcorn is popped and cooled.

It's a little time consuming to string popcorn for a tree, but it's a great time to get together with family and friends, and it's a lovely addition to any tree.

ANNUAL MUNSTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY DINNER

Just a quick update, our Annual Dinner will again be held at Centennial Park on February 6, 2009. The dinner will be similar to last year using stations. We have once again hired Terry Lynch who will do a presentation on Lewis and Clark. Mark your calendars for this exciting annual event.

We will let you know more details as they become available.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!!