

# OPINION



## Lisa's Lines

by Lisa Ingebrand

"Mom, I really like our Christmas tree. It's not like other people's trees... Ours doesn't match." ~ Ellen, age 8

Oh, the joys of Christmas!  
My little redhead is correct. Our tree does not "match."

It will never be featured in a magazine. It's not much to look at, until you look closely.

Every ornament is different, the star is made of cardboard and aluminum foil, and we still wrap our tree in multi-color lights (it's not a "fancy" pre-lit one).

It's a glorious hodgepodge of shapes and colors.

My ornaments from childhood hang next to my husband's childhood ornaments. Our engagement, wedding, new home, pet, and new baby ornaments are sprinkled in between.

Anna and Ellen proudly hang their ornaments each year... the ones purchased for them and their own creations.

Ellen's favorite is her styrofoam ball and toothpicks ornament. She made it when she was 2 years old and the darn thing loses more glitter every year (much to my husband's displeasure). To "hang" it, Ellen likes to turn her back to the tree and throw it willy-nilly over her head. She's short, so it's always her highest ornament.

Anna still loves her musical Little Mermaid ornament. It sings "I Want to Be Where the People Are" when you push a button. It's cute. But, it doesn't stop after one round. It keeps playing the darn song. (Last year, I removed the battery.)

John doesn't really have a favorite ornament, but is quick to place all of his ornaments at the top of the tree. This includes a small, green-and-red paper chain that he made when he was about four or five. It's adorable (and very fragile).

I treasure my old Cabbage Patch Kid ice skater ornament, which reminds me of clearing off a rink on the lake and spending cold days and nights dreaming of becoming an

olympic figure skater.

At the very top, is the 15-year-old hand-made star. It's a bit dilapidated after so many years of being on display and in and out of storage (and tumbling a few times due to mischievous cats exploring the tree), but it's special.

John made it for our very first Christmas together.

We had just purchased our first home, a little, blue 1950s house that we couldn't afford to furnish.

We didn't have much, but we managed to purchase a 4-foot fake tree from a thrift store. Our parents handed over our old ornaments and a couple used sets of lights, and we made do. But, we needed a star.

Using a ruler, a pencil, scissors, cardboard and aluminum foil, John created a beautiful (and symmetrical) star.

Year after year, the simple star has been placed atop our Christmas tree. (We did eventually upgrade to a larger tree.)

And, every once in a while we ponder purchasing a new star—one that lights up or something cool. But, it would never be as special as the one John made.

It has been interesting to hear our girls' comments about their friends' oh-so-beautiful, magazine-worthy Christmas trees over the years. They recognized the differences, and sometimes pouted or complained about our "old stuff."

Then, I started to tell them the stories—the memories behind each and every ornament and that simple and oh-so-special star.

As we unpacked the ornaments this year, they repeated bits and pieces of those stories as they held each ornament... and decided to have daddy lift both of them so they could put "daddy's star" on together.

I think they're beginning to understand the true treasure of those old and mismatched Christmas items, the memories they invoke, and the love of the season.

But, my 11-year-old still would like the stockings hanging by the fireplace to match.



## Those Were The Days

**100 Years Ago  
December 10, 1920**  
The basket social given by Miss Maud Huss, teacher in the Clarke district, brought in receipts of \$107.

About 500 beekeepers of the state are attending a meeting of the association in Minneapolis. L. Hofmann of Janesville Township, who operates about 840 colonies in the area, was one that attended.

Coffee drinkers are often annoyed by headaches, nervousness, or other ills traceable to coffee drinking. When coffee disagrees, the thing to do is quit coffee and drink Instant Postum.

Mr. J.R. Waters is negotiating for the purchase of the G. Seemaris grocery stock.

George Hale shot a jack rabbit that weighed eight pounds when he was hunting in the Weber woods, east of Elysian.

**75 Years Ago  
December 12, 1945**  
First Lieutenant Wm. Luther has been promoted to Captain in the US Army. He is stationed in Camp Robinson in Arkansas.

George Moench of Waterville will pay the highest market price for furs.

Red Owl Agency has ring bologna on sale for 25 cents a pound. They are also offering a 15 pound peck of potatoes for 49 cents and a 14 ounce bottle of Heinz Tomato Ketchup for 21 cents.

**50 Years Ago  
December 10, 1970**  
Mrs. Clarence Schwartz of Waterville is the new president of the County Extension Home Council.

Bonnie Rinehart, the daughter of Neil and Janet Rinehart of Waterville was introduced as a new employee at Citizens State Bank in Waterville.

A total of 26 businesses were giving away items for the Christmas holidays. Some of the giveaways included a thermal blanket from Ray's Servicenter, an electric scissors from Coast to Coast Store, head lamp in-

spection and adjustment from Art's Standard Service, and \$3 in merchandise from Ed's Billiards.

**25 Years Ago  
December 7, 1995**  
Sharon Scharfe was the winner of the first Waterville Chamber of Commerce Christmas drawing.

Norma Seifert of Elysian completed 30 years of service with the EF Johnson Company in Waseca.

Returning letterwinners to the 1995-96 WEM gymnastics team are Tara Wesley, Katie Wetzel, Jenny Borth, Abby Morris, Vanessa Morsching, Cassie Warner, Marcy Zwart, Monique Volkman, and Tracy Bennett.

Sue Myers rolled a 581 series which included games of 200, 191, and 190.

**10 Years Ago  
December 9, 2010**  
Rick Anderson and Susan Michael were named WEM Teachers of the Year.

Conrad Masberg was named to the Minnesota Vikings All-State High School Football Team.

Returning All Conference players from WEM who will be playing winter sports include Blake Boran, Dustin Wolff, Brady Ayers, and Skyler Petry in wrestling, Kylie Dorenkemper and Lindsay Ayers in girls basketball, and Conrad Masberg, Jordan Gregor, Grant Pope, and Tate Harmon in boys basketball.

Dillon Fessel harvested a 14-point, 205 pound buck and Danielle Fessel harvested an 8-point, 210 pound buck.

## Letter to the Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

2020, what a year! Words can't express an opinion.

Maybe that's why Christmas in the City of Elysian has exploded with awesome, brilliant lights and decorations.

Go for a drive, and you'll

be truly impressed with the citizens of Elysian, expressing their way of showing everyone, "Hey, the pandemic isn't going to get us down!"

We all know the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of little baby Jesus in the man-

ger. Which we can all be grateful for.

I pray for a true renewal of life for us all in 2021.

*God's Blessing to All*  
**Mack & Jan Evans**  
Elysian

## Library News

All Waseca-Le Sueur Regional Library System libraries are offering free grab-and-go kits and an online book club for teens.

Register for one or more kits by calling one of the libraries or go to wasecale-sueurlibraries.com/getregistered. Good while supplies last.

Gnome grab-and-go kit: Make an adorable Swedish

gnome, known as a tomlen with this curbside kit. Geared for ages 7+.

Story quilts grab-and-go pack: Create a story quilt that combines fabric collage and visual storytelling to create pieces of art that shares your personal story. Geared for ages 7-12.

"You oughta be in pictures" grab-and-go pack: Create a photo ring to dis-

play your favorite pics! Paint and bling it up any way you choose. Geared for ages 13+.

Teen Book Club: Teens will discuss "Skyhunter" by Marie Lu and "The Inheritance Games" by Jennifer Lynn Barnes at a Teen Book Club meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, December 15, starting at 3:30 p.m. Register at wasecale-sueurlibraries.com/get.

## Senior Dining Menu

The kitchen at The Village in Waterville will be delivering meals every day. The congregate part of the meal program is not available until further notice, but pick-up/delivery continues.

Monday, December 14: Meatloaf, Baked Potato w/ Sour Cream, Roasted Tomato, Whole Wheat Bread/Margarine, Cinnamon Apples, Milk.

Tuesday, December 15: Hamburger on Bun, Ketchup/Mustard, Potato Wedges, Green Peas, Dessert, Milk.

Wednesday, December 16:

Chicken & Noodles, Roasted Beets & Carrots, Fruit, Dinner Roll/Margarine, Dessert, Milk.

Thursday, December 17: Beef Pot Roast/Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Green & Wax Beans, Whole Wheat Bread w/Margarine, Pudding, Milk.

Friday, December 18: Cream Chicken Over Mashed Potato, Normandy Blend Vegetables, Whole Wheat Bread w/Margarine, Mandarin Oranges, Milk.

For home delivered meals, call 507-362-8599 (leave message) before noon for the

next day's meal.

Full cost of meals is \$7.40. A donation of \$4.50 to \$7.40 will help us to meet our cost to serve quality meals.

Older Adults (age 60+) and their spouse have a right to a meal based on their ability to donate. Food Stamps (SNAP Vouchers) accepted. For guests under 60 years of age, the charge is \$7.40. Children under 12 years of age pay \$3.70 and receive 1/2 portions.

Meals provided by Lutheran Social Services.

MN South Lake Region

## LifeEnterprise

- Established in 1883 -  
Published weekly by Suel Printing Co., Inc.  
at 115 S. 3rd Street, Waterville, MN 56096

**SINGLE COPY PRICE: \$1.25**

Official newspaper of the City of Waterville,  
Waterville-Elysian-Morristown School  
District #2143, City of Elysian,  
City of Morristown, and City of Kilkenny

### CONTACT INFO

Phone: (507) 362-4495 • Fax: (507) 362-4458  
lrlife@frontiernet.net • lrnews@frontiernet.net  
lrlifeoffice@frontiernet.net • mnsouthnews.com

Managing Editor: **Jay M. Schneider**  
Staff: **Deb Atherton & Lisa Ingebrand**

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

**\$44 per year** in Le Sueur, Waseca,  
Rice and Blue Earth Counties  
**\$51 per year** in Minnesota & Snowbirds  
**\$59 per year** outside Minnesota

Postal regulations require that all subscriptions be paid in advance. Pre-paid subscriptions are transferable, but NOT refundable.

### AD RATES

Display Advertising.....\$10.00 per column inch  
Classified Display.....\$10.50 per column inch  
Word Classified.....\$12.00 first week  
\$7.00 each additional week  
Garage Sale / Thanks.....\$10.00 per column inch

### POSTAL INFORMATION

Periodicals postage paid at  
Waterville, MN 56096  
USPS 007-200

### POSTMASTER

Send address changes to:  
LifeEnterprise  
115 S. 3rd Street  
Waterville, MN 56096

Member of the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

Material in the LifeEnterprise is copyrighted under United States copyright laws and can only be reprinted with permission.



Image courtesy of the Eggers Family

**Waterville had one of the finest movie theaters in southern Minnesota for many years, according to former Waterville resident and historian John Eggers. "During Christmas vacation, the Waterville Commercial club sponsored a free Saturday matinee for all the kids in Waterville that featured cartoons and movies like 'The Three Stooges.' It was one of the highlights of the year. At the end of the movie all of the kids were give a paper bag filled with nuts, candy and fruit." On this billboard (pictured), the matinee is listed to be held on Saturday, Dec. 20. It dates from the early 1950s, when Waterville was booming. The theater closed in the early 1960s. Eggers' brother, Craig, was one of four people to attend the last movie to be shown at The Gem. The movie was "Farewell To Arms."**

## WEM School Menu

### Breakfast and Lunch

Monday, December 14: Peanut Butter/Jelly Sandwich, Chilled Fruit, Cheese Stix, Milk. Nachos, Meat Chips, Cheese Sauce, Broccoli, Pineapple/Orange, Milk.  
Tuesday, December 15:

Egg & Sausage Muffin, Chilled Mixed Berry Cups, Milk. Deli Sandwich, Baked Beans, Apple Juice, Carrot Stix, Milk.  
Wednesday, December 16: Cinnamon Rolls, Orange Smiles, Milk. Cook's Choice.  
Thursday, December 17

French Toast Stix, Juice, Milk. Roasted Turkey, Mashed Potato, Gravy/Butter, Cranberries, Peaches, Christmas Cookie, Milk.  
Friday, December 18: Cook's Choice. Pizza, Corn, Mixed Fruit, Snack Treat, Milk.

## THE BOOK CORNER

"The Christmas Wish" by Lori Evert—Picture Book  
"Christmas in the Forest" by Marian Dane Bauer—Reader Fiction  
"Wild Weather: Blizzards!" by Lorraine Jean Hopping—Reader Non-Fiction  
"The Case of the Christmas Snowman" by James Preller—Junior Fiction  
"Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the Meltdown" by Jeff Kinney—Junior Fiction  
"A Snowstorm Shows Off: Blizzards" by Belinda Jensen—Junior Non-Fiction  
"Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening" by Robert Frost—Junior Non-Fiction  
"A Christmas Carol and Other Stories" by Charles Dickens—Fiction  
"Broken Ice" by Matt Goldman—Fiction  
"Winter Garden" by Kristin Hannah—Large Print Fiction  
"Beartown" by Fredrik Backman—Large Print Fiction  
"Deep Freeze" by John Sandford—Fiction

These items and many more are available through the Traverse des Sioux Library System at tds-mt.iii.com and can be picked up at the Elysian Area Library.

"It is a fair, even-handed, noble adjustment of things, that while there is infection in disease and sorrow, there is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour." ~ Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol