

# ISCHUA VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## CHRISTMAS IN FRANKLINVILLE IN 1930

The Great Depression in the United States started with the Stock Market Crash of 1929. It was to affect the country for the next 10 years. This article, which is undated, describes efforts to provide a Merry Christmas for the ones suffering from the effects of this difficult time in our history. The article is entitled:

### "Will Give Community Xmas Program at Park Tonight"

Franklinville –The culmination of two weeks of steadily increasing activity toward the end that every man, woman and child in Franklinville might have a cheery Christmas, comes tonight. (Wednesday) When as one big family the Franklinville people will join in celebrating the greatest holiday of the year.

People will gather at the park at about 8 o'clock at which time at which time a program, fitting in content and duration, will be given. The Ontario Knife Company Band has graciously offered to play a number of selections. The school children, under the direction of Miss Edna Blowers, will sing several carols. Rev. Fred Bull will offer prayer and Rev. J.M. Spencer will make a few remarks. At the close of this program old Santa himself with sleigh and bells, announced by trumpeters, will come whizzing into Franklinville and go the park immediately where he will have a merry time distributing bags of candy to the youngsters.

Oldest residents cannot remember when such a prevalent spirit of unselfish concern has been evident as has characterized this Christmas season. Originally sponsored by the Men's Club the idea grew like a rolled snowball. Other organizations came along offering to pool their efforts in on big common cause until just about every group represented in the village has taken up the work in a whole hearted spirit of cooperation.

Too much by way of praise cannot be said in behalf of the various committees and especially to Messrs. Ed Rose, F.E. Smith, E.C. Hawley, Dr. Leo Reimann, Dr. Hammond, Professor Edwards, Mrs. Alfred Williams, Mrs. C.H. Corbin and the Altia Triangle girls, the churches, lodges and a host of others that only space prevents mentioning.

\$259 in money has been poured into the general coffers. Dozens of children have been outfitted with warm clothing, shoes, rubbers etc. Hundreds of warm and wearable garments have been dispensed from the headquarters. 25 bushel baskets containing chicken, pork roast, potatoes, vegetables, canned goods, flour and toys where there were children were distributed by the committee. (Tuesday) Letters from appreciative families started pouring in this morning indicating beyond doubt that the spirit that has prompted this outpouring has been accepted. Many hearts have been made glad this Christmas that otherwise might have been lonely and the least of these are the givers and the workers. In giving joy they too have found it.

Submitted by: Maggie Fredrickson, Village of Franklinville Historian

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