

2021



*C*hristmas 2021 may have come and gone as we await the end of the Old Year and the beginning of the New, but today, the 29th of December, our “Christmas Snow” has finally arrived, and the little girl-in-me can’t help but revive a carol or two and go “Dashing Through the Snow” in after-Christmas dreams.

And so, in mind and heart, I dashed right over to Grandma’s House too, which in other years had been brimming with holiday activity. Unfortunately, that nasty virus is still causing heartaches, and as I peeked in at a few new treasures, I could see that dear old Santa may well have been our only visitor.

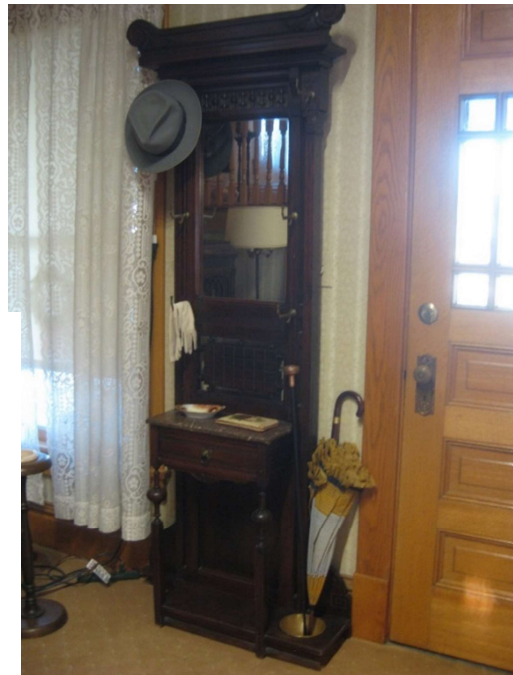
For there in the bedroom stood a lovely bowl and pitcher I had never seen before, a wonderful mirrored hall tree in the parlor, and among several other surprises, a charming little girl’s dressing table in the children’s room upstairs! Despite another Christmas of waiting and

wondering and hoping for better days to come, Grandma's Wish List and her own dreams have not been forgotten.

I know for a fact that an elf or two also happened by, for lights sparkled once again from the eaves and from the pine bough-decorated wagon, beautiful lights that glowed into the night.

A number of evergreen wreaths, with pretty red bows, suddenly appeared brightening all the windows too! You may not be able to see them in the photo on the facing page (taken before those sweet little wreaths came to be), but there they were nonetheless, all through the holidays, to wish passersby a hearty "Merry Christmas"!

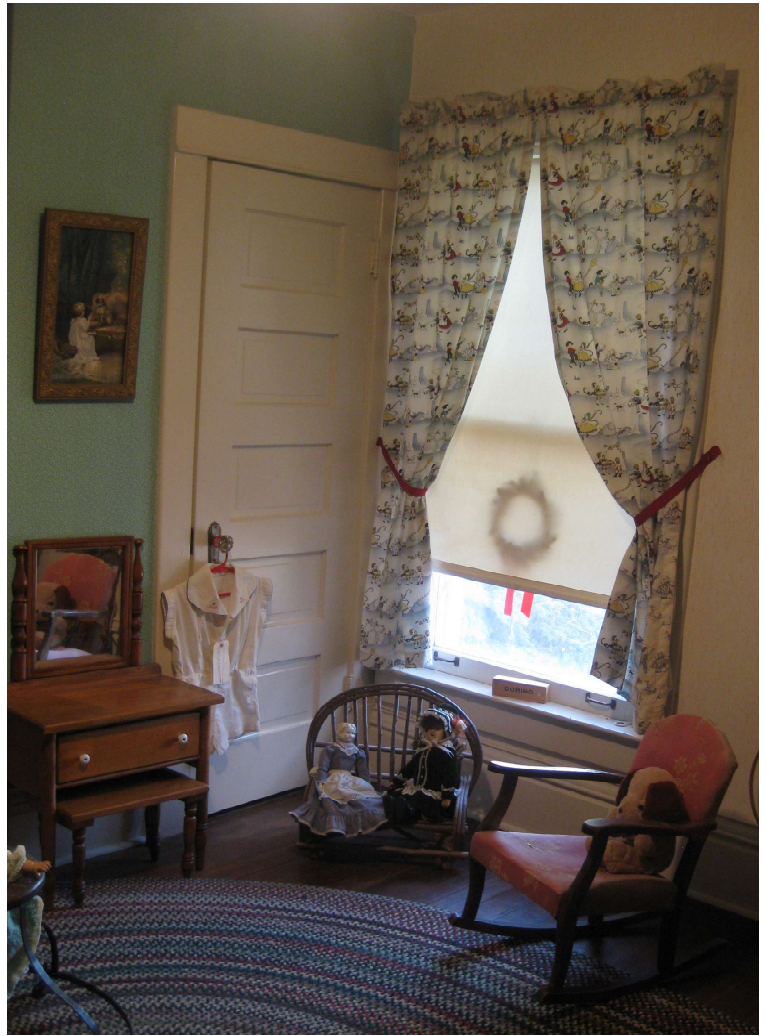
A table tree also brought cheer to a darkened parlor, but our beautiful tinsel adorned Tannenbaum will most assuredly return



once again, and beneath its shimmering branches those wonderful toys of yesteryear.

Meantime Teddy still takes pleasure in his comfy rocking chair while at the window, one of those lovely new wreaths brings the joy of Christmas to the Children's Room.

The enchanting tree with its candles, popcorn strings and colorful paper chains is sadly missing from this cozy corner, but the China dolls share a holiday loveseat and against the wall, Santa's special gift awaits the sweet reflection



of a Little Miss when brushing out her curls.

Like that miniature dressing table the charming dollhouse continues to inspire dreaming, and the baby walker also brings back memories of our littlest dear ones from once-upon-a-time.



This year not a reindeer cookie pranced across the shelves of this little Hoosier cabinet, and we never heard a note of “Jingle Bells” on that tiny baby grand. A “Happy Christmas” greeting was missing from the chalk board too! But we have to remember that Christmas is really in the heart!



Neither a cantankerous and egotistical Scrooge nor a horrendous pandemic can ever take Christmas away. There will always be a hymn of prayer, a gift for the needy, a candle in the window, and a song in the heart of each and every one of us ... and Christmas will come again to Grandma's House.



Actually, it never left! How well I know with a wreath-making elf named Ginny C., numerous other industrious elves who gave an outside sparkle to Grandma's House, and the Careys, Santa's special helpers, who happily shared their own treasures with us this Christmas.

And so, in knowing that the spirit of the season is still alive and well, I take delight in the magical beauty of another winter wonderland and continue to marvel over creative little ones making smiles out of snowflakes. The simple joys and faith of a child is such an inspiration!

I wish you a safe, healthy and peace-filled 2022, and like that whimsical little mouse on the cover, snoozing his way into a Brand New Year, "May all your own dreams also come true"!

Carol Lee Riekenberg

