



St. Cloud Quarry Chapter IAAP

December 2005 Newsletter

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Reminder: Please update your information on our chapter website at www.iaap-stcloudquarry.org. Go to the "Members" section and enter your member number. **Please note** the password is "Quarry" which is different from what we were told at our meeting.

Mission Statement:

To provide office professionals with opportunities for educational, professional and personal growth.



HOLIDAY SOCIAL

You and a guest are invited to attend
The St. Cloud Quarry Chapter IAAP
Holiday Celebration and Dinner
Monday, December 12, 2005, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
St. Cloud Holiday Inn & Suites



Social – 5:30 p.m. (Cash Bar)
Dinner – 6:00 p.m. (Order from selected menu)
Christmas Trivia – 7:00 p.m.

Please bring one unwrapped toy for "Toys for Tots" and one wrapped "White Elephant" gift for our gift exchange.

RSVP to Pat Zwack at pat@inhproperties.com or Andi Towner at btandi@chartermi.net.

President's Notes

The smell of pine, hot apple cider, and fresh baked sugar cookies, don't you just love this time of the year? Don't forget about all the Christmas candy (chocolate, chocolate, chocolate), what more could anyone ask for! My daughter started holiday decorating this weekend and she is so creative...she gets that from her dad. This time of year always reminds me of how wonderfully blessed I am. I have a great family and great friends. Speaking of friends, don't forget about our IAAP Holiday Celebration and Dinner. I was even able to get my husband to come. He is so easy-going; I signed him up and told him about it later. I think men are much more apt to go somewhere even if they don't know anyone else. I am just the opposite and need to know that there will be several other people I know before agreeing to go to a function. Maybe it is just a confidence level I need to get to in my life and I am not there yet.

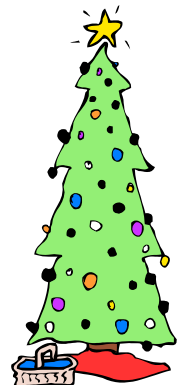
For those who remember my notes last month in which I stated I have a friend who usually has all her Christmas shopping finished before winter even starts. Well, the tables have turned. This year she hasn't had the time to shop and I am almost finished. I made a list and spent two days in St. Cloud before Thanksgiving. I only have a few more presents to get and have even wrapped most of them; but only so I could find the floor in our bedroom and get to our closet. Now I can actually enjoy the Christmas season without the headache of rushing around trying to find things to buy. Of course, I will still end up doing that for the last few presents I need to get but the pressure has lessened tremendously.

I am really looking forward to our IAAP Holiday Celebration and this will be the first time I will be attending. Most years have been so hectic and there just never seemed to be enough time, but this year I am making time and hope you do the same. We need to have a little fun in between all the busy time of the season. If you don't attend, I hope you all have a very blessed Christmas with family and friends and will see you in the New Year!

-- Leah Posterick, St. Cloud Quarry Chapter President

HOLIDAY TRIVIA QUIZ

- In the Ukraine, what does it mean if you find a spider web in the house on Christmas morning?
 - Good Luck
 - Misfortune will strike in the coming year
 - The winter will be unusually cold
 - You need to clean your house
- In many households, part of the fun of eating Christmas pudding is finding a trinket that predicts your fortune for the coming year. For instance, finding a coin means you will become wealthy. What will you be if you find a button?
 - Poor
 - Famous
 - A bachelor
 - Called away on a trip
- If you were given frumenty at a Medieval Christmas party, what would you do with it?
 - Eat it
 - Burn it
 - Put it in your sweetheart's hair
 - Use it to polish your boots
- One of the adventures of Sherlock Holmes takes place during the Christmas season. Which of these does the tale hinge upon?
 - A burglar disguised as Father Christmas
 - A blue diamond found in a goose
 - A cat trapped in an organ pipe
 - A poisoned flask of napoleon brandy
- Which one of these names does not belong to Santa's reindeer?
 - Comet
 - Prancer
 - Blitzen
 - Klaxon
- In Europe, the St. Nick celebration is on December 6th eve and goodies are left in the children's shoes.
 - True
 - False
- The tradition of the Christmas tree came from Germany.
 - True
 - False
- Evergreen boughs have been hung in homes for centuries. Over doors, mantles and pathways, folks have hung evergreen boughs to ward off:
 - Salespeople
 - Witches, evil spirits and illness
 - Mean neighbors
- Christmas trees take this long to mature:
 - 3-5 years
 - 7-10 years
 - 11-15 years
 - 17-20 years
- In the first week, a Christmas tree will consume how much water daily:
 - A cup
 - A quart
 - Two cups
 - One gallon



Trivia Quiz Answers

1. *Answer: Good Luck.* There once lived a woman so poor, says a Ukrainian folk tale, that she could not afford Christmas decorations for her family. On Christmas morning, she awoke to find that spiders had trimmed her children's tree with their webs. When the morning sun shone on them, the webs turned to silver and gold. An artificial spider and web are often included in the decorations on Ukrainian Christmas trees.
2. *Answer: Bachelor.* A ring means you will get married; while a thimble predicts spinsterhood. The idea of hiding something in the pudding comes from the tradition in the Middle Ages of hiding a bean in a cake that was served on Twelfth Night. Whoever found the bean became "king" for the rest of the night.
3. *Answer: Eat it.* Frumenty was a spiced porridge, enjoyed by both rich and poor. It was a forerunner of modern Christmas puddings. It is linked in legend to the Celtic god Dagda, who stirred a porridge made up of all the good things of the earth.
4. *Answer: A blue diamond found in a goose.* In "The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle" Holmes manages to recover the jewel but, in the spirit of Christmas, allows the thief to go free as long as he vows to leave England forever.
5. *Answer: Klaxon*
6. *Answer: True.* In today's world, the date of his death, December 6, is an important holiday in some countries in Europe. On the night before, children put out their shoes or hang up stockings. Early the next morning, they rush to see what gifts Saint Nicholas gave them.
7. *Answer: True.* Since the Middle Ages, or perhaps before, trees have been thought to be good luck. Whenever someone would start to build a house, a small evergreen tree would be nailed to one of the tallest beams. Gradually, this tradition came to be repeated at Christmas time, by bringing a small tree into the house and decorating it. As German immigrants came to the United States, they brought with them the tradition of Christmas trees.
8. *Answer: Witches, evil spirits and illness.* In many countries, it was believed that evergreens would keep away ghosts, evil spirits, illness, and witches.
9. *Answer: 7-10 years.* The average commercial Christmas Tree takes 7-10 years to mature.
10. *Answer: One gallon.* Depending on the size, a typical Christmas Tree can drink up to a gallon of water daily! Keep it wet and you'll have a lovely tree throughout the holiday season.

Mark Your Calendar

January Education Forum & Chapter Meeting

"Office of the Future 2020"
Resource Training & Solutions,
St. Cloud
January 9, 2006

February Education Forum & Chapter Meeting

"Interpersonal Communications"
St. Cloud Refrigeration, St. Cloud
February 13, 2006

MN-ND-SD Division Annual Spring Professional Conference

Bloomington, MN
May 19-21, 2006

2006 IAAP International Conv.

Reno, NV
August 7-10, 2006

Out of the Mouths of Babes...

A Sunday school teacher asked her children, as they were on the way to church service, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?" One bright little girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."