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## The Spirit of Christmas at Fort Lewis

Over the last two centuries Christmas has evolved from a strictly religious holy day to become one of the most important and joyful holidays on the calendars of many American families. The soldiers and their families who have served on Fort Lewis have always found time, both in times of

war and of peace, to commemorate the Christmas holidays with spirit and style.

We humbly dedicate this issue of the Banner to our military personnel and their families. It is only because of their service to our country that we can enjoy this holiday season in freedom, peace, and security.



*Santa waves goodbye to the children of Lt. Col. Joel L. Deuterman, Medical Corps, December 1942.*

**The Friends of the Fort Lewis Military Museum  
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The *Banner* is printed four times a year and is mailed to all members of The Friends of the Fort Lewis Museum. Articles may be submitted to the Editor or left with the Curator of the Fort Lewis Museum. The Friends assume no responsibility for unsolicited manuscripts or other materials submitted for publication.  
 Editor ..... Alan Archambault

**President's Report**

I welcome my first opportunity to communicate with members of the Friends through this column. Customarily, thanks and acknowledgments are made when a person leaves office, but the first thing I want to do is thank some special members to whom the Friends and the Museum owe a great deal. As a member of the Friends for ten years and a board member for six, it has been inspirational to witness the wonderful dedication of these members and their passion for carrying out the mission of the Friends and the Fort Lewis Military Museum. Our past president and current president emeritus, BG Vasco Fenili, is the first who comes to mind. BG Fenili's steadfast leadership has nurtured and sustained the Friends for sixteen years. He has devoted not just time to the Friends, but his heart and soul. The Friends today are a strong, supportive arm for the Museum and are so because of BG Fenili. Alan Archambault, our Museum curator, is simply the best in the business, period. Visitors to the Museum make comment after positive comment about the excellence of the galleries and exhibits, all unsolicited. The great reputation that the Museum enjoys today is because of Alan. Then there are the volunteers who are so generous of their time with the operation of The Cannon Shop, but especially SGM Clair Stairrett and Mrs. Marion Ball. The time that Clair and Marion devote to the Cannon Shop would qualify them as full-time workers, not volunteers. The Cannon Shop is a class operation, a source of revenue to support the Friends' activities, and is so because of them. Thank you, each of you for what you have done and continue to do for the Friends and for the Museum!

Certainly a Museum highlight this year was the opening of the Army Family Gallery in July. It is a wonderful and highly fitting addition to the museum. The Friends played a role in making the Gallery a reality—the cost of approximately \$19,000 to complete the Gallery came from the Friends, primarily from revenues generated by the Cannon Shop.

The next general membership meeting of the Friends will be on February 4, 2001. Because of the closing of the Officers' Club, we have had to look for a new location for the meeting. We will announce the details of the meeting in the next issue of the *Banner*.

As the holidays approach and you decide on gifts for family and friends, remember that The Cannon Shop is a good source for gifts such as books, prints of Fort Lewis landmarks, any many other items—and members of the Friends receive a 10% discount.

May the peace, joy and blessings of the season be yours as you gather with loved ones and friends to celebrate Christmas and greet the coming year.

*Ian Larson*

**Curator's Update**

As we come to the end of another year it is an appropriate time to reflect on all the blessings that we should be thankful for. This is easy for me since I am surrounded by a group of wonderful people. Our volunteers at the Cannon shop not only provide revenue for the museum, but are truly an important part of our museum family. Clair Stairrett, Marion Ball, Mary Oestreich, Patrick Powers, and Ian Larson all man the Cannon Shop on a regular basis and deserve our thanks for a job well done.

Our Board of Directors also consist of a group of dedicated individuals. Ian Larson, Tom Morgan, Carol Dickson, Isabelle "Jo" Swartz, Marion Ball, Clair Stairrett, Patrick Powers, Jack Hertzog and Paul Knoop provide us with the wisdom and guidance to make the Friends a successful and enjoyable organization. All our board members serve as faithful Friends as well as mentors and role models.

Of course, I would also like to thank all the rest of our Friends of the Fort Lewis Museum who support us through their dues, donations, and attendance at museum functions. Without their kind and continued help the museum could not hope to operate in a professional manner.

As we bid farewell to the year 2000 I am extremely grateful for your outstanding support and friendship and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

*Alan H. Archambault*



# The Spirit of Christmas at Fort Lewis



*In spite of the fact that the world was at war, Santa Claus visits the children of Fort Lewis during the Christmas season of 1942.*



*Santa Claus arrives on Fort Lewis by Jeep during the 1960s.*

*Fort Lewis children perform at a Christmas party held by Mrs. Novikoff on December 18, 1950.*



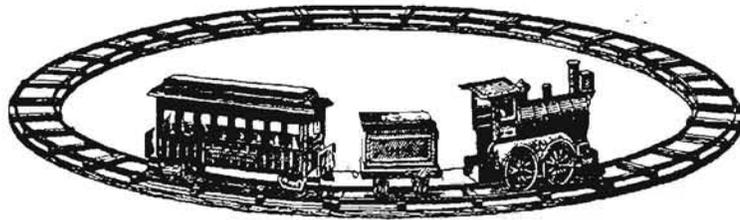
## Christmas 2000 at the Cannon Shop

Over the last few weeks the staff of the Cannon Shop has been busy ordering and stocking great new gift items for your holiday shopping. The shop has a great selection of model cannons, vehicles and aircraft as well as prints, coffee mugs, shot glasses, and post cards depicting Fort Lewis landmarks and units associated with the post. We also stock a large selection of miniature medals and unit insignia that are ideal for the military veterans on your shopping list.

The Cannon shop is open Wednesday-Sunday from noon to 4p.m. For more information call: (253) 967-4523.



*"Hello, I'd like to talk to my Friends in the Cannon Shop."*



## Merry Christmas 2000



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Fort Lewis Military Museum**  
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