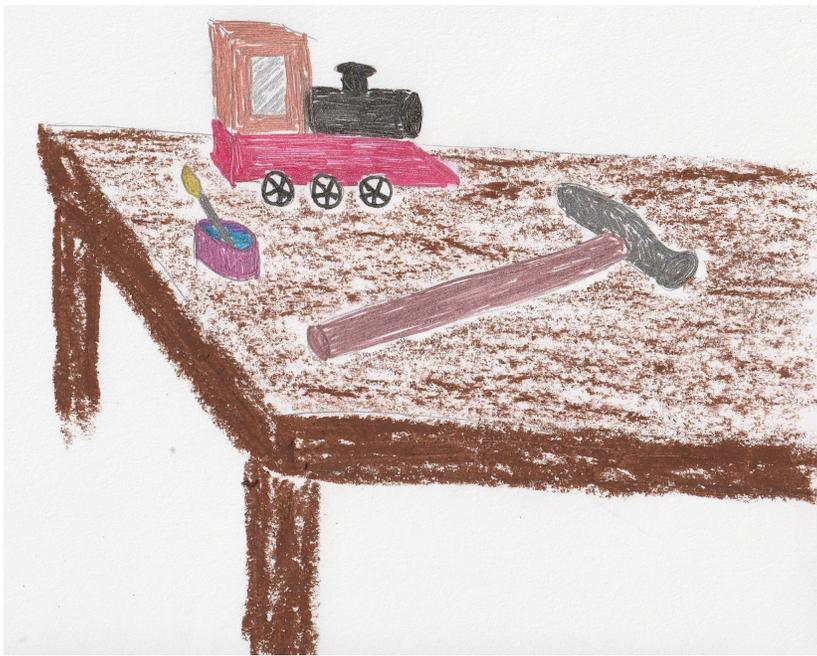


Cookie Chronicles

Workshop Renovation Woes

Christmas Deliveries Escape Interruption



Toy Making Continues In Spite of Dust

Santa's workshop renovation enters its eleventh month, with key changes still incomplete as toy building and packaging efforts resumed for the holiday season.

"The main floor is pretty much complete," said Hans Candle, chief of the Elves Guild, "but we had to move several departments out into temporary quarters to get ready for Christmas."

The gift wrapping department and new electronics workshop were still under construction through the holiday season. Several toymakers were moved to the

Elf Community Center.

"We're not impressed," complained Alice Winterberry, president of the Elf Events Club. "There is glitter dust everywhere, and the relocations had a domino effect across the entire Christmas Village. When they moved toy shop crews into our Community Center, we had no place for our normal seasonal activities, like the Elf Christmas Party and the Snowman Hat Exchange. We had to hunt for new venues, and it was a real scramble!"

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CHRISTMAS CATS



Socks and Boots are the latest additions to the Claus household. Santa brought home the two kittens after rescuing them from the blizzard that hit southern Minnesota just before Thanksgiving.

Santa was out flying a training run with this year's sleigh team, taking advantage of the storm to test out new safety protocols, when he spotted the two lost kittens hiding under a fallen tree when he stopped to rest the reindeer for a few minutes. There were no buildings anywhere nearby, and he knew the cats wouldn't survive the night without proper shelter, so he bundled them up in his jacket and took them home.

"The poor kittens were cold and half starved," said Mrs. Claus. "We started them on children's Pedialyte for the first feeding, and then switched them over to kitten formula. They were frightened, so we set them up in a cozy box in our closet."

According to Mrs. Claus, it wasn't

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Workshop (continued from Page 1)

Santa Claus offered his home for entertaining some of the smaller parties. Mrs. Claus said, "We're happy to help out, since Kris and I felt partly to blame for requesting the renovation. Thankfully, most of the elves were very understanding. We've all known the workshop needed a major overhaul for several years now, and it was time."

The architectural plans for the workshop upgrade were developed in 2018. Demolition started on schedule in February 2019, with the finish expected in September 2019. However, no one predicted the difficulties in renovating a four hundred year old structure.

"We had to gut and completely rebuild the

underlying structure in the east wing," explained Abe Hammer, the head of Construction, Operations, Communications, Organization, and Architecture, or COCOA, the premier building firm in Christmas Village. "Our engineers had to redesign the support beams to hold more weight." The changes added at least four months to the project. Hammer said, "But this sort of thing is normal in a project this complicated. It'll be done by March."

"Oh sure, the project is difficult," said Cherry Sparkle, head of Workshop Logistics. "But initially, the construction team kept saying it would only be a couple more weeks. Now

we're looking at months! At the rate they're going, it'll still be a dust zone next Christmas! And we're not talking glitter dust!"

Cats, continued from Page 1

long before the cats were playing amongst Santa's boots and socks. That's how they got their names. "Boots is all black, with black whiskers. And Socks looks just like Boots, except he has white paws and whiskers."

The newest residents grew quickly. By Christmas, they acted like they owned Santa's house. "They like to visit the stables, too," said Alfred Jinglebell, the stable master. "The kittens entertain the reindeer for hours!"

Interview with Flynn Hollyberry



By Frank N.

Sense and Rob Myrrh, technical correspondents for The Christmas Village Express

FS: Today we're talking to Flynn Hollyberry, head of STAR, Santa's Technical Action Rescuers. Can you tell us how STAR began?

FH: STAR came about after the second world war. My grandfather, Aloisius Hollyberry, enjoyed tinkering with electronics and other new inventions during a time when Santa's workshop only made very traditional toys.

Everyone thought he was a crazy, like Hermey who started Christmas Village Dentistry.

RM: What changed for him?

FH: A man in London managed to capture Santa on film coming out of a fireplace to deliver toys. It revealed one of Santa's trade secrets.

FS: What happened?

FH: Santa knew he'd been compromised. As soon as he got home from his Christmas travels, he called an emergency council. Elf Security was already practiced in rescuing Santa from difficult situations, but no one knew what to do about film evidence.

RM: And that's when your grandfather stepped in?

FH: Exactly! He led a team

into London to stop that film from being shared. They stole the film and replaced it with a blank reel. We still have the original in our archive and show it occasionally at the annual Elf New Year's Party, like a bloop reel! To this day, we continue to come up with new ways to stop people from using their hidden babysitter cams and other tricks to catch Santa in the act. We'll never let them succeed!

