



**SIGNING IN** — Each girl scout signed a book, received a pair of gloves and a gift when they arrived for the tea. Pictured, (l to r) are CarolEve Harris, Jenna Confer and Sydney Sundstrum.

# A Christmas tea

By Karen Krien

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Six St. Francis girl scouts experienced a memorable afternoon when one of their leaders invited them to her historic home for Christmas tea.

Dressed in formal attire, they arrived at the home of Carl and Kate Jenkins. The house was elaborately decorated for the Christmas holiday.

They signed in and picked out a pair of dress gloves, some short and some a little longer. The girls were now officially dressed for the event.

They toured the home, then sang Christmas carols with Jean Ann Confer accompanying them on the baby grand piano. Each of the girls had brought a gift for a gift exchange and the girls excitedly removed the paper.

Michelle Wolff, girl scout leader, read the book, "A Cup of Christmas Tea." Mrs. Jenkins told the girls about the etiquette for having tea including how to hold the cup and how to eat their scones. The girls were told that milk, not cream, is used in tea; if lemon is preferred, don't use milk; and a sugar cube is to be put in the cup before the tea is poured, then gently stirred.

And, then the time had come for the tea. There were plates of scones, Devonshire cream, dainty sandwiches including cucumber with dill, olive and walnut, and peanut butter and jelly. The last plates had sweets which included sandwich cream cookies, chocolate krinkle cookies, lemon bars, Neiman

Marcus bars, star-shaped sugar cookies and brownie bits with cherry mousse. There were goblets filled with lemon water and they had a choice of Raspberry Royale or English Tea-Time tea.

The table was set under a chandelier which looked like a decorated Christmas tree turned upside down. The theme of the tea was based around the nutcracker. There were individual nutcracker place cards and a large nutcracker which stood in the middle of the table and played music. Other nutcracker pieces were placed around the dining room.

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins moved to St. Francis three years ago and bought the old Hancock house (or others may know it as the Mlinek house). The house was built in around the first of the century and still has the original woodwork including a beautiful staircase with a landing that has a bench. The Jenkins say they love the house and have done some painting but very little remodeling. However, they have done a great deal of decorating.

They had four sons. When Mrs. Jenkins heard that there was a need for a girl scout leader, she volunteered. She said she had raised four boys and thought it would be fun to help with the girls scouts and give some of her time to the community.

Girl scouts enjoying the tea were Jenna Confer, Desiree Wolff, Emily Elfers, CarolEve Harris, Journey Lee and Sydney Sundstrum. Unable to attend were Sophie White and Hannah Stafford.



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**LEARNING YOUNG** that shoes make a difference was Emily Elfers, above. She said that she would rather have worn her cowboy boots.



**WAITING FOR TEA TIME** — The girls patiently waited for tea to be served. Pictured (l to r) are: Sydney Sundstrum, Desiree Wolff, Journey Lee, Jenna Confer, CarolEve Harris and Emily Elfers

**SERVED IN STYLE** — Carl Jenkins, top, served Desiree Wolff Devonshire cream to go with her scone. 2. Kate Jenkins brings in another plate of food. 3. Michelle Wolff reads 'A Cup of Christmas Tea' to the girls. 4. Jean Ann Confer accompanied the girls as they sang Christmas carols.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien