



THE STORY OF SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Bruce and Lloyd White owned White Bros. Machining and Manufacturing Company on what was then called The Dyke Road. They started their business in 1952. Bruce was a machinist, and Lloyd was a welder.

About 1958 they took a load of scrap metal to the dump and happened to notice some bicycles there that looked repairable so thinking it was a shame to see them go to waste they asked if they could have them to repair for needy kids at Christmas. And this was the beginning of Comox Valley's "Santa's Workshop".

Dr. Stuart came in to the shop one day and without saying anything he left a bicycle at the shop. The brothers repaired it, painted it, and gave it away with the other toys at Christmas. A few weeks later he came back and wanted to know if they had fixed his bike! When they explained what had happened Dr. Stuart was very understanding.

They not only did bikes but began collecting all sorts of second hand toys; bikes, trains, dolls and all sorts of assorted toys. The women would take the dolls and clean them, do their hair and make clothes for them. Bruce had a basement in his home and that's where most of the dolls were repaired. Jim Wilson was working for the Free Press and got them some big barrels that they kept filled with spare parts. Art Brazier and Harry Kerton were two of the many men who'd drop in at the shop and work alongside Bruce and Lloyd.



Some of the people who worked on the toys were; Elizabeth White, Marion Frame, Betty Annand, Bessie Pritchard, Asta Queen, Pearl Longland, and Roxie Ellis. Sid Donaldson, a very generous and kind person, collected food for Christmas Hampers for the needy, and Bruce and Lloyd partnered with him delivering both the food and toys on Christmas Eve. They did this every year for quite a few years until the economy improved and there was no longer a need for it, so they gave it up. In late years other organizations picked up where they left off.