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DADE CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE President Ben Thompson (r) is seen showing Joe Herrmann the

resolution proclaiming last Friday "Joe Herrmann Day" in Dade City.

Chamber Chatter

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By Vivian Flannery

Sometimes, if we care enough, we will make an effort to honor someone during his or her lifetime, showing by our actions and our words, that we really do appreciate and take notice of the many things he has done to make all of us happier.

This happened, after a few set-backs and a cranky weatherman, recently for our good friend Joe Herrmann. Lew Abraham and I had set about way back in September, to put the wheels in motion, and get everyone notified and requested, so that a really super day could happen. Finally, more than a month after the actual date of the propose celebration, we made it.

December 3rd, was officially Joe Herrmann Day in Dade City and San Antonio, so declared by proclamations of the City fathers. The Chamber, the Pioneer Museum, the Fair Association and Rage all honored him with plaques and certificates. All of the people who are closest to Joe, his family (most of them) were there to see him honored. And Joe, being the kind of man he is, took us all to lunch afterwards. It was a wonderful time, and we hope he knows now that we love him for all he does for our area, year after year, because he believes in what he does, Joe continues to serve and especially his own lifetime community, San Antonio.

Joe has a wonderful family, including the incomparable Beaumonts, who by the way, have a new record just off the cutting board, in time for the Christmas buying. You owe it to yourself and your friends to get one of these records, for these kids are special, their music is grassroots and real. I can hardly wait to hear those banjo solos among all the rest. Just get in touch with Margaret, I think she has the records already, if not, she will take your name and save you one.

So Joe Herrman is our newest Friend-

ly Floridian, and he really deserves it too. Thanks, Joe, from all us for a lifetime of service.

Hope you enjoyed the Christmas Parade, it was great fun, with some 54 units, including Santa Claus for the kids. Santa is holding forth now too, at the Chamber Building, sitting in his own chair, handing out candy and listening to the wishes and requests of the children. Speaking of Christmas, the City workers have done us another good turn, they put the lights on our Community Tree this week, so now it shines forth along with the other decorations. Some of you, downtown, have expended special efforts to make your place look festive. The Crest, Mike Fitzgerald in particular is to be commended. It looks very nice, and you can tell that great deal of time and effort went into making it so.

With the elegant new look at the Chamber, everyone seems to be trying just a bit harder to spruce up and match it. And the Chamber building should be the place that sets the fashion, somewhat. For after all, it is usually the very first place that visitors and new citizens come for information and advice. With the "front door" looking elegant and welcoming, we feel sure that people getting their first look at Dade City, will gain a very good impression and want to come back, or maybe just stay.

And, believe it or not, it won't be long until we who work there can be back in the office, to answer all your questions and serve you as we always did. I want it just as much as you do, for trying to keep everything running smoothly under the present situation is no picnic, let me assure you. Just please be patient, you might even drop by and look at the progress being made, and see how nice it is all going to be when finished. And remember, it is your Chamber,

serving you, and that is how we want it too.

On Dec. 15th, the Board of Directors will be served a delicious Mexican Dinner for Board Meeting at the St. Rita's Church. Margaret Simmons and her fellow workers in the Spanish speaking community, are doing this for us. We look forward to it with much anticipation. It is a wonderful gesture on their part, and we hope they know how much we appreciate it.

December 16 and 17th, the Parks and Recreation Department of Pasco County will present a Christmas Concert on the Courthouse lawn just east of our newly renovated building. The schools will each have choruses and band members taking part. Each concert will start at noon, and last until 1 p.m. both days. Hopefully Santa Claus will be around too.

Coming up soon, Dec. 21 thru 24th, beautiful Church Street Christmas will gladden our hearts. Each year it just gets better and better. The cards and luminaries will shine from 11th Street to 17th, and all the lovely homes will decorate to carry out the theme of an "Old Fashioned Christmas." We hope you will spend some time listening to the beautiful music, looking at the life size cards, and enjoying all the things that Luther, Paul and the others will present for us.

For those of you who ask me for poetry, let me say that there are some verses floating around in my head, that may be appropriate for this season, and if they come out well, I'll do a short one just for you soon. Thanks for being such loyal readers, and please let me know a special event you have planned. I'll do my best to showcase it for you through this column. You make it worthwhile to spend time, sometimes racking my poor brain, to come up with interesting reading.

Love you all,

Vivian

Doyle pleads guilty and