

Toys for TLC pile up at Homestead council party

By Leslie Shaw.
Hi-Desert Star

YUCCA MESA — The room was packed, the banquet table heaped and the bar buzzing at Homestead Valley Community Council's annual Christmas party, held Saturday at the Valley Mesa Community Center.

San Bernardino County's 3rd district supervisor, Neil Derry, provided entertainment by singing several Christmas classics, including the crowd favorite, "Do You Hear What I Hear?"

Party planners had a higher purpose in mind than simple revelry.

"This year's admission fee is a new, unwrapped toy to be given to a deserving youngster at the Tender Loving Christmas event," Nancy

Sammons, vice president of the Yucca Mesa Improvement Association, said.

Sammons added the council is having a food drive to benefit the charity.

Earlene McCloskey, secretary of the Yucca Mesa association, and Jim Harvey, president of the Homestead Valley council, took turns tending bar.

Several directors of the Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency were in attendance.

Margo Sturges, director of

the Hi-Desert Water District, arrived in a dazzling silver blouse with matching smile.

As the jolly evening continued, the pile of presents grew higher and higher.

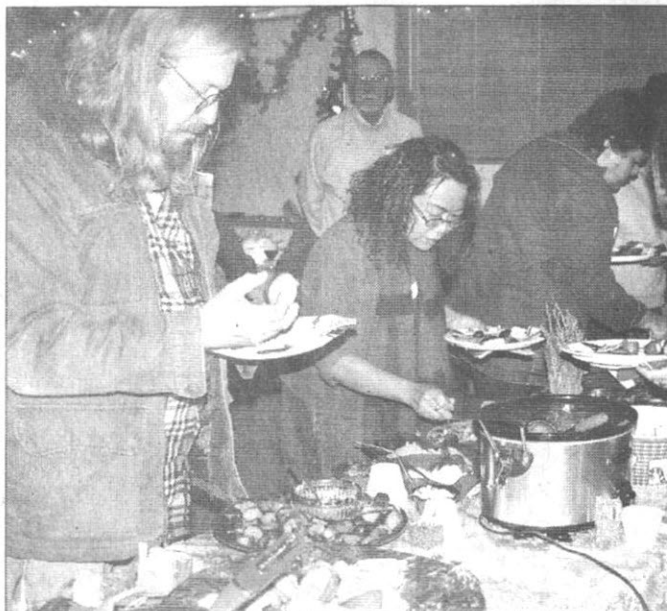
Laura Jensen, executive director of the High Desert Pregnancy clinic, attended the event with her husband, Mike Jensen, of the Hi-Desert Star.

Said Laura, "We brought a robotic car and a doll," while Mike described the banquet as "excellent."



LESLIE SHAW Hi-Desert Star

At Saturday's Christmas party in the Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3rd Third District Supervisor Neil Derry sings Christmas favorites, while the toy donations pile up.



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An elegant feast was laid out for the attendees of the Homestead Valley Community Council Christmas party, hosted by member organization the Yucca Mesa Improvement Association.