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Memories of Christmases Past

by Ann Donovan Rogers
Backward, turn backward,
O Time, in your flight,
Make me a child again!
Just for tonight!

Christmas is never just one single Christmas, but a merging of all our Christmases past. It is that special time when our minds, without our bidding, turn time backward in its flight.

Come with me back to 1926, to an old farmhouse—Mother, Daddy and four children. It's Christmas Eve and we're waiting for Santa, knowing for certainty that he will come. We've finished our Christmas Eve oyster stew supper and now we warm our backsides at the wood stoves and dash up the stairs to bedrooms cold as outdoors. We jump into our feather beds, my little sister and I—our brothers in the room

beyond—we pull the covers over our heads and poke our feet down to that marvelous hot flat iron, heated, wrapped in newspapers and old blanket and smelling of scorched. As soon as our teeth stop chattering we stick our heads out and taking turns we repeat aloud the prayer "Now lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep" and then, its "Good-Night" Walton style and we try to sleep.

Someone is shaking me and whispering, "Let's go see if he's been here yet!" It's dark and cold—Martin is afraid of the dark, I'm cold and afraid of the dark, Nancy is too little and amiable Paul goes shivering and stumbling through the dark to find out... he's back!—"Yes, he's been here!" Martin is no longer afraid of the dark, I'm not cold and we take Nancy's hand and feel our way downstairs and into the "good room" (parlor). Mother bears us comes in and lights the coal-oil lamp and the fire in the grate.

We really have to pinch ourselves to see if we are real! We each take in the whole scene, then focus eyes on "our chair" (chosen the night before). And then! I see the doll! She is really pretty—and with a special feature—arch like protrusion on her head for holding ribbon bows! And here is the little black iron cook stove! And the dresser with real mirror! And a green wicker rocking chair, my size, which I didn't even ask for! I don't recall just what else—nor do I remember all that the others got, but there was a teddy bear, wagon, gun, games, books—fireworks—candy and nuts galore and bags of all kinds of fruits—and a bushel basket of oranges!

We didn't have company on Christmas day when we were little—Mother kept the day just for us. We played all day with our own and each others toys and we ate all the candy and fruit we could hold—I had my fill of oranges which I loved and after supper Daddy went into the yard and put on a show for us with the fireworks.

Before we were ready to admit it that wonderful day was already "time in flight"—we were tired and it was time again to warm backsides, dash upstairs, jump in feather bed, pull covers over heads, thrill to the warmth

of flat iron, poke heads out, say our "Now I Lay Me Down's" and "Good-Night" all around... and then, before we sleep... a time to revive that day.

Surely there was nothing more to wish for—I had gotten all I had asked Santa for, my tummy was full, for once I'd had all the oranges I wanted and now I was warm as toast! I was content. With my little sister snuggled up beside me, my brothers in the next room and Mother and Daddy between us and the outside world I felt safe and secure... and to a six year old country

girl, whose world was essentially home and family, that warm wonderful feeling must be some of the blessed peace—the "peace on earth."

"I'm sure you have your own special Christmas memories—let your mind 'turn backward' and relive some of those Christmases past.

Our wish for you...
May your Christmas be as warm as the little girl nestled in her father bed and may what seemed such blessed peace to her be yours for the New Year.
Again we are remembering the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation—Don't forget your special charity.

Paris may use Nicholas dump facility if feasible

Nicholas county may have found a new source of additional income temporarily while helping a neighbor out of a tough spot.

David Jones, Paris managing agent, met with the Nicholas County Fiscal Court on Wednesday night, Dec. 17 and began discussions on sharing Nicholas county's dump facility on a pay-as-you-go arrangement.

Paris was warned by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in a letter last month that it had to do something about trash and garbage piling up around its incinerator. That garbage, the EPA claimed, was potentially damaging to Snoser Creek which runs by the dump site.

The city of Paris is in dire financial straits at the present time and is trying to figure how to meet their present expenses. The additional expense of complying with this warning would only make matters worse.

The Fiscal Court, along with Joe Smart, Nicholas County Engineer will decide whether or not it is feasible to do this and be sure, before they agree to it, that the county landfill can withstand the estimated 30 to 35 additional loads per week from Paris.

Such items as exact cost per load and length of a contract between the parties have not yet been worked out.

The Nicholas County Fiscal Court plans to reach a decision at their Jan. 7 meeting.

Kentucky Group Banks sponsor annual 'Messiah'

LEXINGTON—The Kentucky Group Banks will present their traditional, uninterrupted broadcast of George Frederick Handel's "Messiah" from 10 p.m. until 12 midnight Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, on Lexington radio stations WYLK-AM (99 KHz) and WYLK-FM Stereo 93 (92.9 MHz).

First performed April 12, 1742, this sacred oratorio has become a tradition of the Christmas holiday season. It is probably performed more often in radio-speaking countries than any other work. While recognized as the cornerstone of Handel's writings, it is not viewed as entirely representative of his style.

Of German descent, Handel spent the majority of his life in Great Britain and is, in fact, entombed in Westminster Abbey. He was not in favor with many of Britain's ruling class, but the performance of the "Messiah" on one occasion so moved King George II that he rose to his feet during the "Hallelujah Chorus," creating a precedent followed by modern audiences.

Kentucky Group Banks is an

affiliation of 18 banks in the Commonwealth with combined total assets in excess of \$200,000,000 and serving over 1,000,000 Central and Southwestern Kentuckians through more than 50 banking offices.

Trooper requests break-in reporter to contact him

State Trooper John Hall requests that the person who reported the break-in at Dr. Allen Hamon's office on Thanksgiving night, contact him or the Nicholas County Sheriff.

The break-in was reported to city police on Nov. 27 by an unknown person who is being sought for more information.

Lodge to elect officers Dec. 27

The Dougherty Lodge will have its annual oyster supper and election of officers Saturday, Dec. 27.

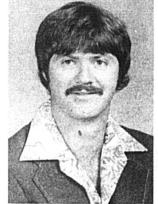
The oyster supper will be at 6:30 p.m. and election of officers at 7:30 p.m. All members are urged to attend.

OSHA seminar scheduled Jan. 7

FRANKFORT—The Kentucky Department of Labor has announced plans for a free seminar covering OSHA Recordkeeping, Workmen's Compensation, and the Wage and Hour Laws. Speakers will discuss current rules and regulations which affect all Kentucky employers in these areas.

The seminar will be held Jan. 7, 1976 at the Holiday Inn on Fern Valley Road in Louisville.

Contact the Kentucky Department of Labor to make reservations. The phone number is (502) 564-3100.



Hatton named

Rodney Hatton has been named general manager of WindStone Farms, a 320 acre operation here specializing in Simmental cows. Making the announcement was Wayne Shumate, owner of WindStone Farms. Hatton, a recent graduate of Eastern Kentucky University with a degree in Animal Husbandry with a minor in business, has been working for WindStone since high school.

Cub Scouts presented badges in ceremony

Cub Scout Pack No. 50 met Tuesday night, Dec. 16 in the annex of the Carlisle Christian Church.

The boys were presented with badges that they have earned. Woody Buzzard, Billy Tucker, Richard Denton, De-

wayne Baker, Damon Smoot, Greg Smart, Shawn Taulbee and Glenn Smith got their Bobcat badges.

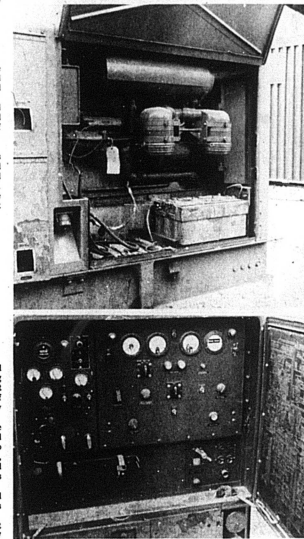
Tim Hall and Mark Sampson got their Wolf badges. Mark Johnson received his Round-up badge.



Cub Scout Pack No. 50

Cub Scouts Pack No. 50, left to right: Tim Hall, Woody Buzzard, Billy Tucker, Richard Denton, Dewey

Baker, Mark Johnson. Top row, standing, Damon Smoot, Greg Smart, Shawn Taulbee, Glenn Smith, Mark Sampson.



Hospital gets generator

In top photo is the engine of a 6-cylinder 66-kilowatt GE generator, the control panel of which is shown in the bottom photo. The machine procured by local Civil Defense head, Hubert Williams for use as emergency power at the

Nicholas County Hospital. It governs medical supplies and cost local sources \$1,000. Williams stated it took 10 months to get the device, and that J.W. Zetson furnished the truck used to haul the machine to the hospital—Mercury photo

Traditional Midnight Mass to be held Christmas Eve

The traditional Christmas Midnight Mass will be celebrated by the Reverend Herman B. Kamaga, pastor of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, on Christmas Eve at the Shrine Church. The program will begin at 11:50 p.m. The church doors will be opened to the public at 11:15 p.m. Recorded Christmas Carols will be played as a meditative prelude to the celebration of the Birthday of our Savior.

Guest soloist for the Midnight Mass will be Mrs. T. Russell Lawrence. Other participants will be Joseph F. Conley as lector; Mrs. Kenneth Knapp, organist; Michael Conley, Hammad Kouzy and James Tubbs, altar boys; and Offertory Gift bearers: Jay Conley,

Mary Jane Harper, Michelle Knapp and Kelli Robinson Conley.

The Christ Child will be placed in the crib by Mark Conley, assisted by Amy Fuller and Monica Tubbs, members of this year's First Communion Class.

Father Kamaga's sermon topic will be "Christmas—a Christian's Vacation."

Health Office to close

The Nicholas County Health Department will be closed Thursday and Friday, Dec. 25 and 26 for Christmas and Thursday and Friday, Jan. 1 and 2 for New Years.



'Decking halls'

This candid view catches all Christian church workers in the act of 'decking the halls'. Just what Bill Power, second from right, was saying and what he was pointing out is unknown—Mercury photo

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