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12/83

Childhood

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I don't recollect any special traditions at Christmas as a child. We always opened our presents on Christmas ~~to~~ morning. My Mother always woke everyone up by calling Christmas gift. We always had plates of goodies sitting around to eat. She made lots of cookies - probably fruit cake too. We usually decorated our tree the week-end nearest my birthday and took down all the decorations on Jan. 1. The other thing I remember we always did was go around to visit friends to see what they received & share their goodies. I'm not sure how it worked because our friends always came to our home too - (I don't know how we avoided missing each other.) It was fun! Oh yes I almost forgot we usually had a present from "Old Santa." This was a gift to beware. One year my present from Old Santa was a case of canned peas. (I hated canned peas - I still think they are not very tasty.)

I don't recall any Christmas being more of a favorite than any other or any more memorable. I do recall two Christmas' that were not much fun. The first one

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was when I was about 9 years old. I talked my parents into opening presents on Christmas Eve. That meant Christmas day was not much fun. We didn't know anyone that year well enough to visit so it was kind of an ordinary day. Since there was only the three of us. The second time Christmas was sad for me: I went to Denver with my Aunt Ethel and Uncle Leo to see his family. I was probably about 14 or 15. He was working here in Salt Lake for my father and his family had not moved here yet. I had presents & there was lots of excitement & fun - food etc. Uncle Leo had 3 lively boys - the eldest was about 1 1/2 yrs younger than me, but I missed my parents - most of my presents were home - anyway I never wanted to do that again. I remembered how cold the car was in going along highway 70. My Uncle had a Ford - it had a heater but if you sat in front by door you suffocated - if you sat in middle or back you froze to death.

I guess the main way Christmas has changed is: you begin preparing very early - sometimes late summer or early

fall - the stores now begin to account
 & sell Christmas decorations even before
 Halloween - most people don't wait till
 Christmas eve to do their shopping, if you do
 the selection is very picked over & lean.
 Especially this is true if you are buying
 toys. also I feel the atmosphere is more
 materialistic & certainly there are lots of
 gifts.

I guess my most favorite time at
 Christmas is the decorating of the tree &
 getting ready I hate to take down & put
 away it is so sad!

One other thing my parents always did
 at Christmas was to drive around one eve-
 ning to see all the lights & decorations.
 then as now there were lots of pretty lights to see.

adulthood-

Our first Christmas after we were married
 was spent in Clarksville, Tenn. We were in-
 vited to spend Christmas Eve with our land-
 lord. They burned a ^{special} candle for one hour.
 During that time they read of the birth of Jesus
 & sang carols. We thought that was very nice so
 we began to do that in 1949. For 35 yrs we
 have had one candle & have burned it

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every year with the exception of one or two years when we have been elsewhere.