



The Cougar Cry

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"What Does Christmas Mean to You?"

"Christmas means Frosty Friends, Christmas ornaments, Christmas cards, and going shopping bundled up, while carrying packages in the 'cold' winter air," replied 'bubbly' Brenda Moore.

What does Christmas mean to you? While questioning the faculty and students, I found Christmas to have a variety of meanings. Each one, certainly, an appropriate response to his or her past experiences.

First there were those who considered Christmas to be a time to spend with others. Eric Bare said, "Christmas is a time to see relatives that live far away," while Matt Cashion's response was, "Christmas means going home to Brunswick, Georgia and spending time with family and old friends." Ann Moffett's reply was, "Christmas is a special time of the year when I'm with my daughter for a period of two weeks, and we have lots of fun." Wanda Hutchinson said, "Christmas means friends, family, and love," while Donna Lyall said, "Christmas means family, friends, and being together." Lorne Vidrine agreed by saying, "Christmas is a time of year that you want to spend with the people that you care the most about," and Jenny Ray summed it up by insisting that, "Christmas is a time of love, to share with 'everybody' . . . not so commercial . . . and diamond rings."

Mark Watson suggested that, "Christmas means two weeks away from WCC," while Donna Ham added, "Christmas is a time to show

what's in your heart."

Then there are those who put the emphasis on gifts. For instance, Jonathan Smithy said, "Christmas used to mean lots of presents, but now it doesn't mean much," while Randall Miles suggested that, "Christmas means a break from school and being so broke that I can't even buy my 'poor ole' mom something for Christmas." Wade Collins got a little carried away as he went on saying, "Christmas means a new watch, new shoes, Santa Claus, Red and Green, Rudolph, and Kris Kringle," and Siv Sov said, "Christmas, to me, means Santa Claus, lots of presents, and love."

Then there were those who responded to the more 'traditional' aspects of Christmas. A good example is Diane Wagner, whose response was "Christmas means decorating the tree with my favorite Christmas ornaments and seeing The Nutcracker," while newly wed Frances Blevins replied, "Christmas means mistletoe and Ho, Ho, Ho!" Melissa Martin reminded me of a few of the 'Christmas Extras' by saying, "Christmas means lots of food, the Christmas parade and going to my Grandma's house."

Last, but certainly the initial cause for celebration is the religious aspect. Robert Walker subtly stated, "Christmas is the celebration of one of the most famous birthdays. He didn't have much education nor did He travel much, but He did enough to make a name for Himself," while

Charlie Earp insisted that, "Christmas just isn't Christmas until I've heard the Messiah." Nada Rowland replied that, "Christmas is a very holy time, a new beginning of life, as we receive new gifts and renewal of friendships with a basic concept of love. People are 'usually' happy and pleasant, and will often speak to those of whom they ignore the remainder of the year."

While gathering this information from these cooperative individuals, I ask this question of my children. Jessica, age 10, said, "Christmas means candy canes and eggnog." Paul, age 8, said, "Christmas means Jesus being born," and Patrick, age 4, replied, "Christmas means toys," while Christmas to me, means the aroma of freshly popped popcorn garlands, childrens 'hand-made' tree ornaments, happy faces, colorful blinking lights and a God who loved us so much that He sent His Son as a babe in the manger such that the heavens and earth did rejoice. Dictators have come and gone, Governments have risen and fallen, but the teachings of Jesus Christ have endured, according to the Prophet Isaiah.

*For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given; and the
government shall be upon his
shoulder; and his name shall
be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
The mighty God, The everlasting
Father, The Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)*

By: Pat Eskins



Saint Nicholas Day



To a child, it seems as if Christmas will never arrive. But, I was lucky--my family kept a tradition that helped carry us over until Christmas day. That tradition is Saint Nicholas Day.

On the morning of December 6, we would awaken to find our Christmas stockings filled with goodies.

I was always thrilled with this little holiday and loved to share the tale with my friends.

I knew it was a tradition kept by the German side of my family, but I was not sure of the true origin.

At work, I got into a discussion with a co-worker about St. Nick. Actually, we were fighting over him. I swore he was German and she claimed him to be Dutch.

As I went about my search for answers, I found varying stories.

The most constant story is the following:

Saint Nicholas was a bishop in Asia Minor around the 4th to 6th century. He was known and loved for his generosity. Legend says that there was a poor man that could not afford dowries for his three daughters. He was going to leave them all to a life of sin. However, the Bishop Nicholas left three bags of money on their doorstep--they were saved!

The legend goes on to say, St. Nick left gifts to the good children on his feast day, December 6th.

His tradition was kept alive by children all over the world. And now the former Bishop Nicholas, or Sinter Klaus, is known to children as Santa Claus.

. . . Helen Gunton

Thespians Among Us

At Wilkes Community College we are fortunate to have the excellent theatre facilities of the John A. Walker Community Center. Even more importantly, the drama students at WCC have the chance to study under accomplished artists such as Bud Mayes and David Reynolds, who bring to the class room valuable first hand experience in the realm of Dramatical Arts.

Among the students presently benefiting from the theatre program WCC is Kevin Isenhour. Kevin is a diverse actor who at the age of twenty years played the role of sixty-five year old Willy Lowman in the Arthur Miller classic *Death of a Salesman*. Kevin impressed Wilkes County theatre goers with the dexterity with which he handled the challenge of playing such a complicated character. Kevin plans to make acting his career after completing his education.

Two more sophomore members of the student drama group are Penny Dillinger and Nicole Walsh. Penny and Nicole, when not performing on stage, have proved themselves invaluable backstage working with props and costumes. Performing on stage, however, is where the girls shine. Penny is a fine actress with a well developed sense of characterization and poise in the portrayal of whatever character she is playing. Nicole too is an accomplished actress and a top notch singer. Nicole is attending Wilkes Community College on a Fine Arts Scholarship and will be transferring to Appalachian State University to major in music.

There are three new freshmen members of the student drama group at Wilkes Community College. They are Steve Roten, Tammy Anderson and Denise Johnson.

Steve Roten graduated from West Wilkes High School this past spring

and is now attending WCC on a full drama scholarship. Steve is a personable young man who shows great promise as an actor. He has already proved himself on the Wilkes County stage with excellent performances in *The Butler Did It* and *Death of a Salesman*.

Tammy Anderson is also a graduate of West Wilkes High School and has received a full drama scholarship at Wilkes Community College too. Tammy is a charming young lady with become her trademark among her friends. Her experience in theatre is impressive for someone so young. She has won awards from the North Carolina Theatre Competition and a \$2,000.00 scholarship to Catawba College.

Denise Johnson is the only member of the student drama group who has yet to grace our stage with her presence. Denise has spent her time backstage working with lights, sound, set construction, properties and costumes. Denise is a graduate of R.J. Reynolds High School who is now furthering her education in the Fine Arts department at Wilkes Community College. We look forward to benefiting from Denise's technical expertise in future productions and maybe even coaxing her to perform on stage.

The members of the student drama group at Wilkes Community College would like to extend an invitation to everyone enrolled at WCC and members of the community to participate in the community theatre. The student drama group would also like to express their gratitude to the college and the community for the support they have received in their theatrical endeavors.

Martin Joines

The Fall quarter was completed on November 23, 1987, with 131 students making the President's List. A student must be a full time student and have a grade point average of 3.5 to qualify for the honor.

The following students were placed on the list:

Absher, Diane E.
Adams, Angela D.
Adams, Paul E.
Alexander, Andrea D.
Bard, Janice H.
Barker, Ray W.
Barlow, Marlene G.
Barr, Melissa S.
Beshears, Rodney R.
Billings, Marcella L.
Black, Carlos W.
Blackburn, Mary Beth
Blevins, Irene K.
Blevins, Leslie R.
Blevins, Linda D.
Blevins, Stephanie L.
Brown, Katherine A.
Brown, Neil C.
Bullis, Edith D.
Caldwell, Rosie A.
Cashion, Matthew D.

Caudill, John R.
Church, Gregory C.
Clark, Jeffrey H.
Cloer, Tony W.
Combs, Debbie B.
Crater, Rodney G.
Crouse, Randy C.
Darnell, Jeriann M.
Deal, David S.
DeCelle, Delos R.
Dehart, Mary E.
Dickerson, Alesia G.
Dillard, Sherry P.
Dollar, Tammy E.
Duncan, Shirley M.
Duval, Lyndell D.
Dyer, Lane H.
Finney, Kendall L.
Fowler, Carolyn S.
Galloway, Roxanne A.
Gambill, Lynnette K.
Garris, Donna K.
Gibbs, Karen F.
Greer, Judy M.
Grit, Penny B.
Groce, Marty R.
Hamby, Jodi D.
Hamlin, Jamie L.
Harless, Janis C.

Harrington, Brenda K.
Harrington, Quintina M.
Hayes, Jennifer E.
Hayes, Terry M.
Hincer, Jody L.
Hutchens, Billy S.
Hutchinson, Wanda P.
Ingram, Patricia D.
Jarvis, Mary S.
Johnson, Barbara R.
Johnson, Hunter L.
Johnson, Michael L.
Johnson, Pebble L.
Johnston, David A.
Joines, Martin M.
Jones, Timothy Z.
Joyce, Brenda T.
Keasey, Freda M.
Kimmer, Laura L.
Lail, Steven D.
Lankford, Shirley H.
Latham, Donna S.
Laws, Leesa L.
Lee, Kim M.
Lyon, Melissa A.
Mabe, Penny C.
Mahaffey, Cyndi B.

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