



A Financially Sound Investment

by Patricia Earnhardt
The Salemite

Holidays are usually full of great excitement and anticipation, and for Neville Watkins and her husband, Doug Patterson, it is no ordinary holiday feeling.

Watkins, Director of Financial Aid at Salem, and Patterson will be leaving on December 2 for Romania as part of the Romanian Orphans Support Group of Canada. The couple hopes to leave Romania in early January with an adopted son or daughter.

As part of the Romanian Orphans Support Group, Watkins and Patterson are gathering 400 pounds of supplies for the Romanian orphan-

ages. These supplies will be used to care for some of the 79,000 children living in Romanian orphanages.

"It is our gift to the state," Watkins said in a recent interview.

Watkins said that needed supplies include: powdered milk, baby formula, educational toys, over-the-counter medicines, clothes, diapers (cloth), shoes, food, medical supplies for maternity hospitals, linens, and blankets.

Watkins said that she and her husband learned of the orphan's support group through several channels.

The couple has been involved with adoption support groups and the

North Carolina Children's Home Society. In September, "20/20" aired a story on the situation in Romania and the new Canadian support group for the Romanian orphans. It was through these groups that they found out about adopting in Romania.

After arriving in Romania, Watkins said that they will begin working with many agencies as part of the adoption process.

"We will work through government sources to find the birth parents for permission and then the Romanian courts to finalize the adoption," Watkins said.

While in Romania, Watkins and Patterson will be living with a Romanian family and aided by a translator.

Once the adoption is finalized in Romania, Watkins said the information would be wired to American immigration in order for the child to

be allowed into the country. There will also be a finalization process with the American Embassy to obtain a visa.

Adoption laws were not passed in Romania until August 1990. The new laws continue to protect the birth parents by giving them the choice of allowing adoption or not. This, however, only applies to those children who are not truly orphans. During the reign of Ceaucescu, birth control was prohibited and abortions were outlawed. This caused many families, who could not afford to rear their children, to send their youngest children to orphanages.

Watkins said that her dining room is already full from the supplies they will be taking in.

"Thanks to the generous support of Salem, family, friends and strangers, I have leave to go overseas and supplies to take."

All Wrapped Up In Salem's Holiday Season

by Jean Williams
The Salemite

Well, here it is again, that relentless period between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The time when anything that might happen, and go wrong, usually does. Some people may call it limbo, as time just passes until we can all pack our bags and get the heck out of Dodge. I, along with many others, have a tendency to call it hell. I think you may comply with my term after reading the top ten list...

1. Take all four cumulative exams.
2. Procrastinate by going to every Salem and Old Salem holiday event. These include:
 - Candle Tea Service
 - Old Salem Christmas Tour
 - Christmas Dinner
 - Christmas Tree Lighting
 - Three Love Feasts a day
 - and, of course, The Nutcracker.
3. Begin research for term paper, meet with professor about research paper, and complete research (all in the course of three days.)

4. Take that last test to try and pull up your grade because you know the research paper and final are going to kill it.
5. Go out in the middle of exams with one of your friends who is turning 21- even if you're not.
6. Replace all furniture and clothes after the bug man comes; then sweep all of the dead bugs off of the floor.
7. Buy all family Christmas presents, including the ten Moravian Stars requested by parents for Aunt Susie and Cousin Jerome.
8. Attend to all Secret Santa stuff.
9. Eat the remainder of the Halloween candy.
10. Balance your checkbook.

And, there is one request. After all is said and done- Go see Ty Rice because of the above ten!!!



The time warp of holiday activities between Thanksgiving and Christmas began on Monday night at the annual Thanksgiving dinner. photo courtesy of Daniel Minus