

Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Memorable Christmases

This week I've been thinking of some unforgettable Christmases from my past. There was the time my brother Russ, home for Christmas from his first year at college in Billings, tried out our brother Stan's new motorcycle on a rocky road nearby, and landed in a field. We had to call our local doctor away from his Christmas dinner. (He was willing to make emergency house calls, even on holidays.) I can't remember whether we ever ate our dinner or not. Russ had a slight concussion, so we took turns checking him every few minutes. Fortunately, he was able to go back to school after a couple of weeks. But we did not feel very PEACEFUL on that Christmas day.

Then there was my first Christmas on the Blackfeet Reservation, in 1949. I was 22, just out of college. As a church and community worker, that winter I was staying with the parsonage family, directly across the street from the church. Like this year, Christmas came on Sunday. When we woke up that morning, there was such a thick blizzard (with the powerful wind SWIRLING the falling snow around) that we could not see the church from the parsonage. Mr. Smith, the pastor, wanted me to be at the church early, in case anyone WAS brave enough to walk to Sunday school. But he did not want me to get LOST crossing the street (like so many have done in dangerous blizzards like that.) So he walked with me half way across the street, where we were able to see the steeple, then he let me go on by myself. (As I remember, there were five young people for Sunday school, and a total of nine persons for the preaching service!) A few had trudged all the way from the "Agency" section of Browning, next to the government hospital.

That winter northern Montana had the worst combination of snow and cold in fifty years! Instead of melting, the snow in Browning kept piling up until it buried cars parked on the streets. For the two weeks after Christmas, not even a train could travel. On New Year's night it was 50 degrees BELOW zero (without considering any "wind factor")! That was the COLDEST Christmas holiday of my life.

My WARMEST Christmas was about five years later. By then I was a rural worker on the "Milton Charge" in Caswell County, NC. I was invited to the farm home of a large family who lived near one of the five rural churches with which I worked (helping with Christian education programs for children, youth, and adults, as well as with the women's groups). That day I felt like it was SUMMER!

We piled out paper plates high with food and went out in the yard to eat!

There's another special memory of northern NC. My assignment, after two years of special training at Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Tennessee, just "happened" to be in one of the few eastern states where some of my relatives were living. My father's bachelor cousin, Max, had married a lady from Taylorsville, NC about the time I started to college in Missoula. Later, Max sold his sheep to my dad and moved to Cora Lee's home. After coming to NC in 1953, I spent most of my Christmases with them. Cora Lee's beauty shop was built onto one end of their rural home. On the day before Christmas she was always busy making her customers look "pretty". Then she would cook a special Christmas dinner. She must

have been tired by the time the meal was over. But instead of resting on Christmas afternoon, she would ask me to ride with her over that rolling hill country to deliver neatly wrapped presents to shut-ins.

This Christmas

As usual I spend a nice Christmas at "Miss Elsie's" home with her family. In spite of her ever-present arthritis and her combination of a full-time and part-time job, she had cooked a delicious meal, as always. Also, going to church on Christmas morning always seems SPECIAL to me.

We were a long way from a white Christmas! But I can still "conjure up" that snowy Montana scene as we crossed the Continental Divide on the way to Butte in November. And I'm enjoying this warm, spring-like weather. It's a lot more pleasant than icy roads or the blizzard of 1949!

Thirty Years Old

It's almost impossible for me to realize that by "baby," Gordon, was born 30 years ago December 28th. I still cherish the pictures of him and the others. As I was telling Leon's brother, George, his wife, Delores, and their two children the other day, I wish I'd taken a lot of casual pictures, instead of waiting until my children were all dressed up. I hope that other families will remember to do this, on ANY day of the year.

May You Have a Blessed New Year!

NEW YEAR'S is a good time to take inventory of our lives, to ask God's forgiveness for all the DAYS and WAYS we have "missed the mark" of living for Him, to count our many blessings, and to ask Him to help us make a FRESH START—a brand new beginning!

Berry and Chavis Wed December 31 at Harper's Ferry



Heather Renee Berry Chavis

Heather Renee Berry of Charlotte and Billy Ray Chavis of Pembroke were married Saturday, December 31, 1994 at Harpers Ferry Baptist Church in Pembroke. The Rev. Clyde Chavis of Fayetteville, uncle of the groom, officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Bobby

and Dottie Berry of Charlotte. She is a graduate of Independence High School and attends Pembroke State University.

The groom is the son of Rabon and Francis Chavis of Pembroke. He attended Purnell Sweet high school and currently attends Robeson Community College. He is employed with Fleetwood Homes in Pembroke.

Matron of Honor was the bride's mother. Bridesmaids were Elizabeth Babson and Lendy Berry. Flower girl was Victoria Berry.

The groom chose his father as his Best Man. Groomsmen were Willie Chavis and Sidney Chavis. Ring Bearer was Jacob Bullard. Ushers were Charles Berry, Jr. and Chris Locklear. Organist was Maggie Mercer. Pianist and soloist Ricky Strickland sang the Lord's Prayer.

After a honeymoon to Hilton Head, South Carolina, the couple will live in Pembroke, NC.

Pembroke Kiwanis Report

by Dr. Ken Johnson

The weekly meeting was held at the Town and Country Restaurant Thursday evening. President Grady Hunt presented Representative Ronnie Sutton who spoke of the "Preview of what the General Assembly will be doing, the changes that will be made. It is the first time in 96 years that the Republicans have a majority in the House. The Senate is pretty even in numbers. There is to be a run off to fill one vacant seat. There will be drastic changes in Committee leadership and membership. Republicans will chair all Committees. And the Speaker will be a Republican.

The many items on the Agenda include tax cuts, \$200,000,000 by the Assembly. Governor Hunt says he will cut \$480,000,000, so there is a difference in philosophy between the Assembly and the Governor. The Governor also wants veto power. He may get it. North Carolina is the only state that the Governor does not have veto power. Line item veto may not come about as both Houses passed the bill that the Governor will get in on it.

The Lottery. The Republicans stay away from it. The problem is how will the money be spent. The people may

vote on it in 1996. Welfare reform bills will be fled but there will be intermediate steps leading up to passage.

Prison Concerns-Republicans always favored building more prisons but the staff cost is enormous.

Insurance reform. The bar organizations favor a mandatory requirement of a 50-100,000 premium.

The People Programs. Medicare and Medicaid matching programs will come up as Medicaid in 31% of the health budget.

The Education Programs may take a hit. The republicans want to discard the least populated areas 1.6 million concept. The Governor's Smart Start program does not have equal funding so this will have to be worked on. Our area needs to be funded.

The farmers Market program, an 11 million dollar program needs more funding.

The PSU Economic Center. Dr. Oxendine wants it badly. Rep. Rose was able to get 2 million and we will ask for more money. Dr. Hackney and the Community College program will fare well. This is excellent perspective by Rep. Sutton.

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FREE IDENTIFICATION SERVICE HELPS LOST PETS GO HOME AGAIN

WHITE PLAINS, NY: According to animal control experts well over 7 million pets were lost and never returned home in 1992, the last year for which figures are available. "If only people would wake up and realize the best way to insure their pet's safety is to make sure that they have some kind of identification," says Lt. Richard Felosky, officer at the shelter which is just two miles from the epicenter of the infamous Northridge earthquake in California. "What people don't seem to grasp is how quickly disaster can strike. Whether it's an earthquake, a flood, a fire or something close to home, from a car accident to a simple scare, any animal at any time and anywhere can suddenly become frightened and disappear," warns Felosky.

In response to the need for pet identification, The SCRATCHEX® Pet Safety Center has announced the opening of The Lost Pet Hotline™ an exclusive, free pet registration service to consumers. The Lost Pet Hotline offers this service and allows pet owners to safely I.D. their pets. A small white tab is riveted to each SCRATCHEX All-Season Flea and Tick Collar. This identification tab contains an exclusive registration number for that pet and a toll-free number. The pet's owner completes the registration form and returns it to The Lost Pet Hotline. If a pet is found wearing a Lost Pet Hotline I.D., the rescuer simply calls the 800 number, gives the operator the registration number and soon the owner and pet can be reunited.

The Lost Pet Hotline, underwritten by the SCRATCHEX Pet Safety Center, has been lauded by animal control professionals as the first free service available to any pet owner. "For the price of a flea and tick collar you can buy something that is priceless—the peace of mind of knowing that your lost pet has an excellent chance of getting home again," comments Clark Allen, Vice President and Group Marketing Director.

The SCRATCHEX Lost Pet Hotline registration service does not eliminate the need to comply with all local pet licensing laws and registrations.

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Hospice of Robeson

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VOLUNTEERS TRAINING COURSE

Orientation: January 31, 1995-7:00-8:00 PM
Training Course: February 2-March 27, 1995 6:30-9:30 PM
(Meets once a week for 8 weeks)

Registration Information:

NAME _____ DOB _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE CHECK:

I plan to attend Orientation Class January 31, 1995 to learn more about Hospice of Robeson and the volunteer opportunities. I understand that attendance at Orientation is required for those interested in taking the volunteer training course and becoming Hospice of Robeson volunteers.

I plan to participate in the Hospice of Robeson Volunteer Training Course beginning February 2 and continuing through March 27, 1995. I understand that final registration for the 1995 Hospice Training Course will be at the Orientation Class on January 31, 1995.

DATE: _____ SIGNATURE _____