

# Cutting Down My First Christmas Tree With Dad



**Times Remembered Betty A. Young**  
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The year was 1957, and I was seven years old when I cut down my first Christmas tree with my Dad. We lived on a farm with lots of cedars but we just hadn't found the perfect tree on our place that year. Dad said he hadn't been able to locate a nice, full round tree so we would go to

my Grandma and Grandpa's farm on Crooked Creek to look for one.

Now just about everyone in those days had real honest to goodness live trees such as cedar, pine, or spruce. We usually had a cedar and when I smell a cedar tree it instantly invokes memories of Christmas as a child.

Dad and I drove to Grandma's that Saturday morning to try to locate the prettiest Christmas tree. There was a snow on the ground that made it even more exciting.

We left our house and headed for Crooked Creek. We drove through Wisemantown, and up Crooked Creek. As Dad turned to go up Church House Hill we nearly went into the ditch on the snow covered road. The truck slid from side to

side but we finally made it up the hill. (This was before 4x4s trucks). In those days we didn't have nice graveled or blacktopped roads; they were mostly mud and had deep ruts in the roads. Some became impassible during the winter months.

We turned to go out Winding Star and went down through the creek that was about frozen over. Then up another hill to get to Grandma's place. We finally got there and parked by the old barn. We walked past the huge hickory nut tree and the oak tree where Grandpa used to split wood. Over the hill we trudged to search for a perfect Christmas tree.

The stiff wind blowing down from the ridge across the meadow made climbing a little hard for me and my feet were froze stiff in my boots but I wasn't about to complain. The December wind rattled among the leaves still clinging to the boughs. It seems we tramped all over the farm to find that Christmas tree.

I followed Dad as we went from tree to tree, pulling branches and shaking. I was carrying the ax and it seemed to get heavier and heavier. Finally, I dragged it through the snow, making furrows.

Dad stopped to look at another tree. He pulled on its boughs to see if the needles came off in his hand. He wanted a perfect tree; he

stood back and sized it up, then said, "This looks like a good one, give me the ax." He cleared a few of the lower limbs with the ax and with a few chops the tree came toppling over. We tied a rope around the bottom of it and began dragging it back to the truck. We put it in the back of the truck and tied it down. Our journey back to town began.

After we got the tree home Dad trimmed the base of the tree and placed it in a bucket filled with gravel and water. The water had to be checked daily to keep the tree from drying out. Then we covered the bucket with a tree skirt made of red velvet.

The decorating began with the huge colored lights, bubble lights, silver garland, icicles and beautiful shaped glass ornaments. We had to be extremely careful not to drop the ornaments on the wood floor. We gently placed the tinsel onto all the branches and put the shiny star on top of the tree. Then we stood back and admired our work and the beautiful decorated tree.

The Christmas tree wasn't put up in those days until a day or so before Christmas. Most homes were heated with wood stoves which caused the tree to dry out so fast and could create a fire hazard with the lights on the tree.

On Christmas Eve, Dad and Mom would bring out

the apples, oranges, tangerines, bananas, coconuts and a barber pole of peppermint from the back closet where the temperature was always cold enough to keep everything fresh.

Our first treat was sampling the bananas, and then Dad would take his pocket knife and poke holes into the coconut eyes and drain the coconut milk into a glass. Everyone got a sip. Then, holding the coconut in his hand, he'd tap it gently with a hammer and crack the

shell. Again, using his pocket knife he'd pry the coconut meat from the shell for everyone to enjoy. We thought it tasted as good as candy. We shared Christmas gifts, fresh fruit, Christmas candy, homemade fudge, jam cake, fruitcake and drank boiled custard.

With the cedar tree cut and trimmed, and the family gathered together, we all thanked God for a good growing season on the farm and for another special Christmas together.



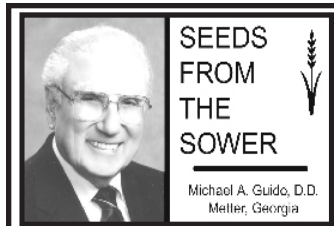
## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



*The days were completed... and she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

LUKE 2:6,7

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**SEEDS FROM THE SOWER**

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And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord's glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. "I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior - yes, the Messiah,

the Lord - has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger."

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others - the armies of heaven - praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased."

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go to Bethlehem! Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

They hurried to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger.

**Christmas 2013**  
Visit us at: [SowerMinistries.org](http://SowerMinistries.org)

## Hardy Oil Recognized By Hospice Care Plus



**ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD WINNERS:** Outgoing board member David Benghe with Above and Beyond Award winners at Hospice Care Plus's annual dinner. From left: David Benghe, Shelley and Doug Clements of Collins Respiratory Care, Barbara Thomas of Thomas Investments, Joan Boewe of Project Linus, Brenda Hardy of Hardy Oil, Becky Elam of Project Linus, and Butch Hardy of Hardy Oil. Not pictured: Sherry Brockman and Dan Caldwell.

Hardy Oil of Irvine was one of five recipients of special awards at Hospice Care Plus's annual dinner Tuesday evening. Hardy Oil earned an Above and Beyond Award, given to businesses or groups who go to great lengths to support the mission of Hospice Care Plus.

Shelley Ward, development coordinator, presented the award. In her remarks, she thanked Butch and Brenda Hardy for "doing whatever they can to improve quality of life in your community." She also thanked them for their nine years of financial support of the organization, including their major role

in helping build the Compassionate Care Center.

Four other regional groups also received Above and Beyond Awards: Project Linus (Richmond), WWAG Radio (Tyner), Thomas Investments (Beattyville) and Collins Respiratory Care (Brodhead).

Gail McGillis, Hospice's CEO, and Kathy Samples, board president, also thanked the winners for their dedication to quality of life and compassionate care for their communities.

Several staff were also recognized at the dinner. Sheila Wright and Susan

Field, both nurses, won Spirit of Hospice Awards. Steve Kelly, who works in maintenance and facilities, and Angie Bailey, special events, each won Cornerstone Awards. Judy Hall, Nancy Isaacs and Lisa Knicely were honored for 20 years of service.

McGillis thanked them for "your compassion, dedication, commitment and hard work. You've given so much of yourselves, and have made a tremendous difference in our communities."

To learn more about Hospice Care Plus, visit [hospicecp.org](http://hospicecp.org).

## BIBLE TRIVIA

by Willson Casey

1. The main Christmas story is paraphrased from what two New Testament books? Mark/John, Acts/Romans, Matthew/Luke, Jude/Revelation?

2. Approximately how old was Jesus when the wise men (Magi) arrived with their gifts? 1 day, 2 weeks, 2 months, 2 years

3. Where did the angel Gabriel appear to Mary saying, "Blessed art thou among women"? Nazareth, Tyre, Ninevah, Gazi

4. In what city of Judaea was Jesus born? Damascus, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Gezer

5. Who plotted to kill the baby Jesus? Archelaus, Herod, Pontius Pilot, Caesar Augustus

6. How many times does the word "Christmas" appear in the Bible (KJV)? Zero, 1, 2, 7

**Bible Trivia answers are at the bottom of Page 12**

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