

Tam's Front **Porch Ponderings Tammy Terry** TamsFrontPorch@IrvineOnline.Net

Several random thoughts are running through my head today, first Mom had surgery on her knee yesterday and I'm just zonked. I haven't slept well; you know how I don't like traveling in Lex- cussed the placement of the cane, her coat, her bag full ington which is where Mom furniture in the waiting room of clothes and my tote bag had the surgery and no...I and the temperature that the with my planner, glasses

aren't wrapped, matter of where we could conduct a fact the gifts aren't even purchased, I've been nominated to hostess the Christmas dinner for Corky's family and did I mention...Mom had surgery on her knee?!

1While Beth and I were where me and Beth and our waiting for Mom to come out of surgery, we discussed several things that's been bothering us both for some time now. Who is the person that decides 10 and ½ inches of paper towel is all that is needed to dry your hands in a hospital bathroom? We both wondered, who has that job? What are the job requirements to be hired for have a chair. It can't be any that position? And where heavier than packing around can we apply? Next we dis- my purse, mom's purse, her

... it's just lipstick! haven't put up my Christmas thermostat was setting on. and a big ol' bottle of contree yet! Let's see, the gifts The furniture wasn't placed tact lens solution in it. I'm sure you're wondering why we just didn't take that stuff pleasant conversation with to the car and it's because those who had come to be Beth had to park on the top of encouragement while we floor of a four story parking waited, so we moved it! Why garage with an elevator that aren't there enough chairs in was slower than me walking the 'holding' room? That's down four flights of steps. Several things were quite preacher and his wife AND

the nurse, were stationed

for two, yes 2, hours before

pre-op. I think next time we

have to schedule something

like this, I'll just bring one of

those chairs in a bag. Like the

one I carry to the kids soccer

games, that way no mat-

ter where they send me (or

Beth) in the hospital, we'll

hysterical about the whole day of Surgical Adventure though. We're driving along, Beth as the driver, Mom as co-pilot and me as the back seat driver, when Beth looks over at Mother and says, "Mom? You weren't supposed to wear any makeup today!"

"I don't have on any makeup!", she replied

"Yes you do! You have on lipstick!" Beth advised

"Oh, that's not makeup, that's just lipstick!" she comes back.

"Makes no difference, it's still makeup", I informed

"No, No it isn't! This is lipstick, NOT makeup!" she

We figured there was no use in arguing, there were certain things you just did not do. Momma had always taught us never wear white or carry straw from Labor Day to Easter Sunday; makes no difference how much of a good time you are, you don't write your name or number on a bathroom stall and that you never, EVER, leave the house without your hair and makeup done. Although she wasn't wearing foundation, blush, eye shadow and mascara, she DID have on the lipstick AND...her hair was perfect! Forget about leaving the hairspray off, she'd sooner die than leave home without Tresemme!

When Beth and I left

Mom last night, in the capable hands of the hospital nursing staff, we both looked like we could haunt a house! We'd wallowed in every chair, in every waiting room, from the first floor to the sixth, we'd packed blankets and canes, we got lost on the way to the hospital cafeteria and ate food that really didn't sit well with us. We drove home singing Rod Stewart at the top of our lungs with no truer words ever spoken still ringing in our ears, if we heard it once, we heard it a dozen times before we left Mother sleeping soundly in her bed, "Your Mom's hair looks soooo good! I can't believe she's just had surgery!"

See? Never, EVER, leave home without your hair and makeup done. And remember, lipstick is NOT makeup, it's just...lipstick!

What Makes the "Miracle of Christmas?"

What makes the "Miracle of Christmas?" Is it a wreath that adorns a door: Is it the Christmas presents we buy in the store? Is is that single. lighted tree we came to love so much? Is it that candle that burns so

What makes up a miracle Christmas in a child's eye . . . a light of you, a sign of hope, a baby face that's all aglow when it sees that first fresh snow? Is it a long ago story, most-ever told, of a Saviour born in Bethlehem, lying in a manger? They all follow the shining star on that special

We take this day once a year to celebrate that Christmas miracle. The star they followed that long-ago night was a sign of our Saviour's everlasting love and hope. The night they lay him in a manger . . . our Saviour was

The children's eyes are aglow, even when the smaller ones sing, "Glory to God in the Highest, peace on Earth, good will toward all men. The miracle of Christmas doesn't just come in a box with a ribbon or bow, it comes from the child-like heart. The bells will be ringing in the church-yard; fresh

We used to go to the woods to cut a pretty Christmas tree; take it home and decorate it with all homemade ornaments. We trimmed it with all home-made ornaments. We trimmed it with a star, paper chains, tinsel and popcorn. It was so beautiful, when I reflect on Christmases passed; the love we had for each other, our neighbors, family and friends, gathering around to enjoy the holidays. That's a Christmas miracle, memories that

Christmas of long ago, I think of cold, frosty nights, stars so bright, Grandpa and Grandma of long ago; brothers, sisters, moms and dads, snow sleighing over the hills and valleys.

I look up on the old home place, the fields covered with fresh, white snow; the old barn, cows in the fields, oil lamps in the windows of our neighbor's house. We loved them so dearly. I think of Christmas services and Christmas plays. We are all in church, praying for everyone, giving

What makes up a miracle Christmas . . . this and so much more. Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new born king, God and sinners recon-

1 think of Christmas as being the most beautiful time of the year . . . frost on the meadows, Christmas trees lighted up in all the stores. Take to heart the simple things in life. Most of all, believe in God, cherish the moment, be grateful, give thanks. Let's all have a blessed Christmas; have a child-like heart, loving one another. Let every day be like Christmas. Give

"Merry Christ, God bless everyone!" What makes the miracle Christ-

brightly for us? Or is it that dear letter we send to Dear Ole Saint Nick?

night.

flakes of fresh, white snow, little faces all aglow.

last forever. family trimming trees, lighted candles, Christmas feasts, fireplaces, singing Christmas carols, going back home in memory and mind; thinking of

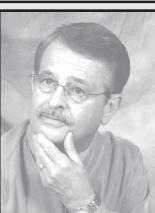
thanks for all our blessings.

gifts of love, peace and joy.

mas? It is God's gift of love that comes from your heart.

By Frieda Holliman

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Out on a Limb



by Gary Kopervas

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