



**Tam's Front Porch Ponderings**  
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## Remembering My Favorite Christmas

While visiting with Mom the other night, Beth and I started to reminisce about our favorite Christmas. "I'll have to think about this", I said as I plopped down on the couch but Beth knew immediately her fondest memory. So she began the story telling session first.

"I couldn't have been more than six or seven years old and it was a few days before Christmas. Little did I know, Daddy was on the roof checking on something, I can't remember what he ever told me he was up there for, the chimney or a piece of tin but anyway, I was laying on the couch watching t.v. in my pajamas. I heard footsteps on the roof! I looked at you with wide eyes and asked, 'did you hear that?'. Of course you were sixteen or seventeen and knew what was going on but you played along 'Maybe it's Santa!' I was excited but scared all at the same time

and just sat there, perfectly still, on the couch waiting for something to happen. It sounded like the footsteps were getting closer and closer until I heard a voice down the chimney, 'Beth, have you been a good girl?' I thought it was really Santa and ran to the hearth, my voice caught in my throat! Again the voice boomed down the chimney, 'Beth be a good girl, Ho, Ho, Ho Merry Christmas', and the footsteps trailed off. It was about that time that Ray and Bruce stepped up on the back porch and knocked on the door. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry, had I really just talked to Santa!? Ray and Bruce walked in with an armload of gifts and Ray told me he had scared Santa as he and Bruce walked around the house and Santa had dropped some of my gifts. They slid down the tin roof and landed in Ray's arms! I can still recall how excited I was and for years I was certain I had had a 'close encounter' with Santa Clause".

We all laughed as we remembered Ray and Bruce and the stunts they could pull on us! Next it was Mom's turn.

"When we were little, we celebrated on Christmas Eve. Bud and I would vow we were going to be brave and wait in the living room by the tree for Santa to come. Daddy would slip around the house and scratch on the wall or make

a loud thump and we would run to see if it was Santa. When we found nothing and made our way back to the living room, Santa had slipped down the chimney and filled our stockings and left our gifts. Back then our stockings mostly had fruit in them, an orange and an apple, sometimes a banana but Christmas gifts weren't like they are now. I remember one year Bud got a tricycle and another year one of us got a wagon, I don't remember who it was but we all played with it. We'd save tin foil and cover the balls off a Sycamore tree for decorations. Momma had some pretty ornaments that she'd brought back from when her and Daddy lived in Hamilton, Ohio and we'd hang them too, along with strings of popcorn. We always cut a cedar tree to

decorate and we'd have a big meal."

I was still thinking about my favorite memory, but there were so many. "You remember how Bruce would put bulbs up her nose?" Beth said laughing. "We'd all be sitting around, opening gifts and throwing wrapping paper and Bruce would be real quiet, then one of us would glance over and see her with Christmas bulbs up her nose!"

"I loved it when Lee Hamblin would dress up like Santa and come visit the kids", I said. "My children still talk about that. I hope he knew what an important part of our lives he was, even though we always told him, I wonder if he ever really knew how special that was to them?"

Before long we were laughing so hard we couldn't

breathe, remembering funny things the family had done at Christmas. Papaw Hicks would stick bows all over his head and we'd take his picture, dressed up like he was a package. Daddy cutting me a Christmas tree in the pouring rain; Corky dressed up like Santa and everyone taking their picture on his lap until Daddy realized there was no film in his camera! The year I fell down the attic steps trying to drag the ornament box down; fighting the crowd at Rose's Department Store for a Cabbage Patch Kid or the Toys R Us line for a Tickle Me Elmo. So many wonderful, exciting, memorable Christmas moments that there would be no way I could choose just one! But looking at my Christmas tree now, alone, here at my house, in what used to be my Grandparents house, sitting under my tree, is my Baby First Step doll. Her

hair is worn thin and her socks are long gone yet she looks like a million dollars dressed in the red, velvet dress and pantaloons that my Granny Muncie made for her when I was six years old. That was probably one of the best Christmases ever. An old doll with a new wardrobe, completely hand made by my Grandmother. I still have all the clothes tucked away in my cedar chest and every Christmas, Baby First Step takes her place of honor under our tree.

I hope you take a minute this Christmas, to reflect on all the fun you've had too. And when you're finished, remember to read Luke, Chapter 2 for the best Christmas story ever written, for without Christ... there would be no Christ-

Merry Christmas to all and May God Bless You in the upcoming New Year!

**Top Ten**  
**Holidays FOR Auto Thefts**

1. New Year's Day
2. Halloween
3. Memorial Day
4. Labor Day
5. Presidents' Day
6. Christmas Eve
7. Valentine's Day
8. Independence Day
9. New Year's Eve
10. Thanksgiving

Source: National Insurance Crime Bureau

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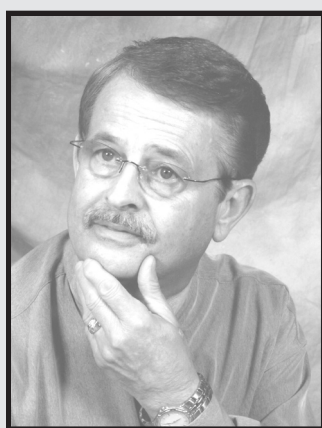
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