



Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

BYoung505@Outlook.com

The Christmas season brings warm feelings, closeness to family and friends, good cheer, and most of all, at least for me, a flood of fond memories. Many of my childhood memories were similar to those close to my age, but my parent's memories were somewhat different.

Christmas time today brings to mind shopping 'til you drop, and how much you can spend on "Black Friday." Whereas "Early Christmas" had very little commercialism. Today we have all kinds of advertising through television, radio, computers, social media, Craig's list, e-Bay and the list goes on and on.

My parents early Christmases, a huge tree was cut on the farm and brought into the living room, usually cedar or pine, whose top that reached the ceiling. Very early decorations commonly consisted of colored paper, cutouts,

Christmas Memories

popcorn on strings, mistletoe and holly berries. There were few decorations in the early stores.

Mistletoe and holly with beautiful red berries were used for making wreaths and arrangements. Mistletoe was believed to be sacred, offered protection from evil and was credited with mysterious powers. The old saying was, "Any young girl not kissed under the mistletoe would remain single the following year."

Stockings were hung next to chimney and were filled with oranges, apples, nuts and candy. Sometimes they were able to get bananas, but not often since they were grown so far away. Transportation and availability were very difficult. All other gifts were put under the tree. They didn't receive gifts like kids get today. Most were handmade and simple.

If you had been particularly bad during the past year, a knot was tied in your stocking or a lump of coal was placed in the stocking, but Dad always said it never happened to him.

Cookies, sparklers, firecrackers, whistles, hand carved toys, and perhaps a jack knife were some of the toys received. People back then liked noise makers like horns, whistles, cow bells and drums. Another noise maker

was an inflated hog's bladder. This was tossed into the fire for an impressive blast. Sounds gross!

Neighbors separated by some distance, communicated with one another on Christmas by shooting rifles. Those who could afford ammunition answered with another shot.

A Christmas message once heard was when the baby Jesus was born, the shepherds endured the heat, the cold, rain or shine, day and night to protect their sheep from the wolves.

When the shepherd rounded up the sheep each evening, he held out his rod over which the sheep must jump. If the sheep was sick or needed attention it would not jump over, so the shepherd knew it needed attention.

Also, at this time the shepherd counted each sheep. If one was missing, he did not sleep until he found it. But even more interesting was that each shepherd had a distinct whistle. His sheep recognized and heeded his voice or his whistle.

The preacher went on to remind us that the baby born there in the manger grew into the one known today as our good shepherd, (Jesus). He also has a distinctive call. No matter how far away we may have strayed, he still seeks us and loves us. He is the reason for the season.

All roar and no bite Hollywood's Leo the Lion seems harmless enough



America's Heartland
Roger Alford

RogerAlford1@GMail.Com

Maybe you heard about the two rednecks who went on safari. They were sitting comfortably in the shade of a tree one afternoon when a huge African lion came along, looked directly at them, and roared loudly.

"Let's get out of here," one screamed.

"Are you kidding me," said the other. "I want to watch the movie."

That, of course, is a reference to Leo the lion, the mascot for Hollywood's MGM studio. He has become a familiar face to movie watchers everywhere. We've seen

him so often, we have begun to think of him as entirely harmless. Familiarity can do, even with the king of beasts.

It's not at all unusual to read newspaper articles about people who grew familiar with an exotic pet, thinking they have formed a loving relationship only to be bitten or mauled or killed. You might remember the chimpanzee that made news several years ago when it went berserk and attacked a Connecticut woman, leaving her in critical condition, even though the monkey had been living peacefully among people for many years.

Truth is, we're surrounded by dangers every day. Routine things, like driving to work, is dangerous. So is taking a bath, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which reports about 235,000 people a year go to hospitals because of falls in their bathrooms.

The Bible tells us to be on alert. "One who is wise is cautious ... but a fool is reckless and care-

less" (Proverbs 14:16).

That's not to say we should shut ourselves up in our homes, and never take baths. To the contrary, we need to embrace the abundant life promised to all believers. That promise allows us to walk in boldness, because our confidence is in the Lord who will never leave us nor forsake us.

So, if ever we're on safari and encounter an African lion, what should you do? Run for your life? Or watch the movie?

It probably won't matter. A lion is fast enough to catch us and eat us whether we run or whether we foolishly sit and wait for the movie to start.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on our own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Roger Alford offers words of encouragement to residents of America's heartland. Reach him at rogeralford1@gmail.com.

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ESTILL COUNTY SCHOOLS MENUS

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MONDAY Dec. 3	TUESDAY Dec. 4	WEDNESDAY Dec. 5	THURSDAY Dec. 6	FRIDAY Dec. 7
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SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER BREAKFASTS

Breakfast Pizza Juice Milk	Pancake Porky Apples Milk	Cinnamon Toast Crunch Cereal Banana, Milk	Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Biscuit Juice, Milk	Muffin Fruit Juice, Milk
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SOUTH IRVINE EARLY LEARNING CENTER LUNCHES

Chicken Nuggets Biscuit, Gr. Beans Mashed Potatoes Applesauce, Milk	Ham Sandwich French Fries Cucumbers Strawberry Cups	Chicken Noodle Soup, Gr. Cheese Carrot Sticks Peaches, Milk	Pizza Corn Apples Milk	Hot Dog on Bun Tater Tots Mandarin Oranges Milk
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ESTILL SPRINGS BREAKFASTS

Breakfast Pizza or Toast/Cocoa Puffs Pineapple Tidbits Asst. Juice Milk Choices	Mini Maple Pancakes or Cinn. Toast Crunch/Graham Snacks, Applesauce Asst. Juice, Milk	Bacon & Toast Scr. Eggs or Lucky Charms Pears Asst. Juice, Milk	Donuts or Strawberry Poptart Trix Banana Asst. Juice, Milk	Asst. Muffins Fruit Loops Peaches Asst. Juice Milk Choices
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ESTILL SPRINGS LUNCHES

Chicken Pattie/Bun French Fries Steamed Broccoli Pears Milk	TACO TUESDAY Taco/Wrap/Taco sauce Let./Tom./Cheese Refried Beans, Salsa Mandarin Oranges	Pepperoni Pizza Corn Baby Carrots/Dip Pineapple Tidbits Milk	Christmas Dinner Ham/Roll Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Fruit Salad, Cookie	Hot Dogs/Bun Potato Smiles Baked Beans Applesauce Milk
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WEST IRVINE BREAKFASTS

Toast Cereal Applesauce Juice, Milk	Pancake Porky or Cereal Grapes Juice, Milk	Dutch Waffles or Cereal Mandarin Oranges Juice, Milk	Bacon, Egg & Cheese Biscuit Banana Juice, Milk	Assorted Muffins or Cereal Apple Juice, Milk
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WEST IRVINE LUNCHES

Chicken Nuggets Roll, Green Beans Mashed Potatoes Peaches Milk	Corn Dog Potato Smiles Steamed Broccoli Applesauce Milk	Chicken Noodle Soup, Gr. Cheese Cucumbers/dip Mandarin Oranges Milk	Hamburger/Bun French Fries Pork & Beans Lettuce & Tomato Strawberry Cup	Rectangle Pizza Corn Grape Tomatoes Apple Milk
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Dutch Waffle Choc. Mini Wheats Cereal Bars Poptarts, Mixed Fruit	Breakfast Bosco Frosted Flakes, Reese Puffs, Cereal Bars, Poptarts, Milk	Biscuit & Gravy Lucky Charms, Ce- real Bars, Poptarts, Applesauce	Scr. Eggs & Toast, Cocoa Puffs, Cereal Bars, Poptarts Banana	Donut, Apple Cinn. Cheerios Cereal Bars, Pop Tarts, Banana
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ESTILL COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL LUNCH

Asian Chicken w/Egg Roll Stir Fry Vegetables Asian Rice Carrot Sticks/Dip Apple, Pear, Cookie	Hamburger or Spicy Chicken on Bun French Fries Let./Tomato/Pickles Applesauce Strawberry Cup	Corn Dog or Walking Taco w/Chips Mexican Beans Salad w/Tomatoes Salsa, Peaches, Fresh Fruit	Chili, Crackers Grilled Cheese Cauliflower Bites Broccoli Bites Oranges/Sidekicks Milk or Juice	Boscors or Chicken Quesadilla, Marinara Sauce, Corn Cucumber Slices w/Dip, Pears Mandarin Oranges
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL BREAKFAST

Breakfast Honey Bun, Cereal, Cereal Bars, Pop Tart Mini Choc. Donuts Oranges or Apples	Pancake Porky Pop Tarts Donut Holes Yogurt Parfait Apples or Oranges	Bacon, Egg, & Cheese Biscuit Pop Tarts, Yogurt Parfait, Donuts Apples or Oranges	Chicken Biscuit Pop Tarts, Yogurt Parfait, Donut Holes Oranges or Apples Juice, Milk	Dutch Waffle Poptarts, Cereal, Cereal Bars Mini Choc. Donuts Oranges or Apples
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ESTILL COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL LUNCH

Cheeseburger/Bun Chili Dogs Let./Tomato/Pickles Potato Wedges Baked Beans Tropical Fruit Sidekicks Juice/Asst. Milk	Meatball Marinara Chips Pizza Hut Pizza Let./Tom./Peppers Roasted Carrots CA Blend Blueberry Apple- sauce	Cheeseburger/Bun Mini Corn Dogs Let./Tom./Pickles Garden Salad Potato Wedges Baked Beans Pineapples, Peaches Juice/Asst. Milk	Chcken Pattie/Bun w/Roll Let./Tom./Pickles Broccoli & Cheese Baked Potato Bar Pears, Applesauce Juice Assorted Milk	Chicken Noodle Soup, Gr. Cheese Broccoli Bites Carrot Sticks Mandarin Oranges Strawberry Cup Juice Assorted Milk
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