

Times Remembered
Betty A. Young

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Back a number of years ago, I loved to sit by the fire in the winter time with my Dad, uncles and friends and listen to them tell wild tales and stories.

In 1958, I was 8 years old growing up on a farm, we had a barn and plenty of hills where I could sleigh ride. That particular day there was a snow on and it was just right to sleigh ride on my trusty "Flyer" sled. But, before I went outside this fellow insisted on telling a story to us.

The guy that was visiting with Dad began to tell a story about a horse and a sled. He said the boy that owned the horse and the sled lived on a farm, and like me, had plenty of big hills to ride on.

The Sledding Horse

This boy had just received a new sled for Christmas; it was actually a large wooden toboggan. His father told him that he could use it on all the hills except for the ones in the pastures that belong to the animals.

For years, this boy had sledded down every hill around, never touching the ones in the pasture. He did say his horse always watched him while he was sledding. She was Chestnut colored and was 17 hands high. She was his favorite companion.

He said when he was about 12 that winter some of his friends came to visit and wanted to go sledding on the forbidden pasture slope. The boy remembered his Dad's warning, but reasoned that his mare was his best friend and she wouldn't mind.

He noticed the mare watching the friends and himself flying down the hill time and time again. Eventually, they decided to head inside and warm up a bit, they planned to return so they just left the sled at the top of the hill.

As he returned to hook the gate latch behind them,

he saw the mare had wandered out from behind the barn and walked over to his sled. While he watched, the mare put a hoof on the sled. He froze as she lifted her another hoof and carefully placed that one, too, on the sled. He could not believe it! Before he knew what was happening, there she stood, all four feet on the sled, at the top of the sledding hill.

He said his heart stopped, but his horse didn't. The sled started down the hill, picking up speed. Down, down, down she slid as he stared in horror, praying God to keep his horse from breaking a leg. He said he didn't take a breath until the sled came to a complete stop at the bottom. Then she daintily stepped off and looked at him as if a sled riding horse was the most natural thing in the world.

Besides the once in a lifetime scene he saw that day, He also went away with a valuable lesson: When it comes to your best friend, like a horse, always be prepared to share. And I would add always obey your Dad!

Santa finds himself on little boy's naughty list for being forgetful



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I laughed at a story I heard the other day about a mother who took her son to the mall to meet Santa Claus.

"So, what do you want to Christmas?" Santa asked the little fellow.

"I want a Red Ryder BB gun with a box of 1,000 BBs," he told Santa. "Now, you write that down so you don't forget."

A few days later, the boy's grandmother took him shopping with her. The little boy met Santa again, and again Santa asked him what he wanted for Christmas.

The little fellow gave Santa a disapproving look, and said, "I told you to write it down."

You've no doubt noticed just how much effort people put into choosing just the right gifts at Christmas time. That was the case when the wise men came from the East to see Jesus when he was a child. You recall they brought Him gold, frankincense and myrrh. But did you know that's not all they gave Jesus. Let's look at

the scriptures that talk about their visit.

"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

"When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, and thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceed-

ing great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

"And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way" (Matthew 2:1-12).

Obviously, the wise men presented Jesus the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But, we can also see in those scriptures that they also gave Him their worship and devotion.

They also gave Him their time, for they traveled a long distance that could have taken weeks or months or possibly even years, depending on where the starting point of their journey was. The Bible doesn't specify that.

And they gave him their energy and effort. Travel wasn't easy in those days. If you think it's tiring in our day and time to fly to distant cities and to sleep in hotels, try traveling on camels across all kinds of terrain and sleeping in tents.

But one thing is sure, meeting Jesus made it all worthwhile. You can write that down.

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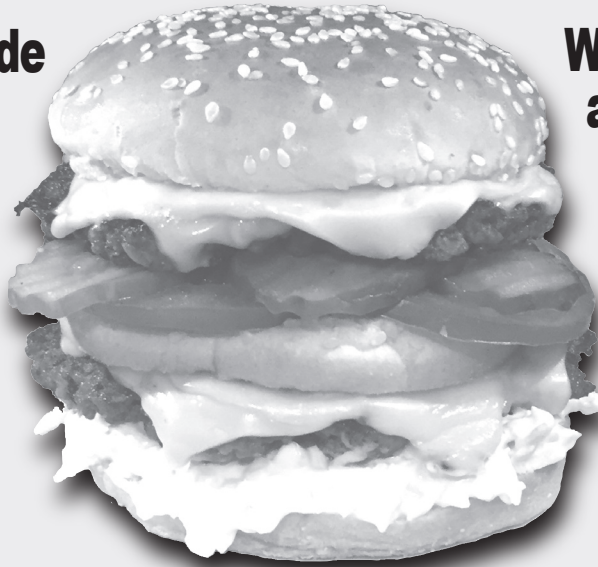
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