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REMINISCE

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2018

SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE



CHRISTMAS HAUL In December 1960, Warren Kostelny, now of Mount Prospect, IL, and a friend paid \$2 for a pair of pines they cut themselves at a Michigan farm and drove back to Chicago. "We must have looked like a bush going down the highway in my '57 Chevrolet."

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TRADITIONS • MUSIC
GATHERINGS • BAKING AND FOOD

THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS



Our extended Christmas feature salutes the season of giving with fond memories of merrymaking with family and friends, a look at festive celebrations at home and abroad, a few cookie recipes for sweetening the fun, and a quiz to test your recall of Yuletide songs.



FACEBOOK POSTS
CARTOONS

Our friends talk about the animated shows they watched growing up—and still enjoy.



The Flintstones and *The Jetsons*. It was hilarious to imagine how families lived in prehistory and the 21st century.

NATALIA REYES



My favorite Looney Tune was “Rocket-bye Baby,” about an alien sent to Earth by mistake.

JULIE GRIFFIN



Warner Bros. ’toons are the best.

JACK TIGGLEMAN



Yabba-dabba-doo!

ROB SUITER



Join the conversation:
**FACEBOOK.COM/
REMINISCEMAGAZINE**

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C.F. Payne paints a picture-perfect holiday scene to illustrate our special Christmas section celebrating the season, page 32.

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One Christmas, So Like Another



Holiday traditions are the stuff of pent-up excitement and unforgettable moments. When it comes to hanging lights, decorating the tree or baking cookies, I'm a traditionalist who strives to build family memories that'll last. My sons will tell you how I have to listen to *The Nutcracker* on Christmas morning while opening gifts and "A Child's Christmas in Wales," read by Dylan Thomas, as my husband and I make

dinner. After taking our Christmas Quiz on page 47, I discovered some new-to-me ditties I'll be adding to our holiday mix.

I know you'll find plenty more to digest in our seasonal package, "The Happiest of Holidays," starting on page 32. In fact, our staff enjoyed your Christmas memories so much, we decided to turn that special section into an annual *Reminisce* tradition.

We wove holiday themes throughout the issue as well. In Lasting Impression, on page 66, you'll learn exactly how many people it took to come to the aid of a young dad after he suffered an untimely Christmas Eve accident at work. Pictures from the Past focuses on holiday pajamas, so be sure to catch the charming photos on pages 56 and 57.

Although many of the stories in this issue are steeped in holiday spirit, others are included as a way for you to harken back to a first love (see page 26), a job you worked hard to get (see page 28), or a blast from your high school past (see page 14). Read the stories, enjoy the photos, then write to feedback@reminisce.com to tell me what you think.

Linda

LINDA KAST
EDITOR, REMINISCE

Share stories and photos:
REMINISCE.COM/
SUBMIT-A-STORY

Jolly Old Elf

Penny Biboux from Monroe, OR, collects Christmas decor like this piece from the '50s or '60s.



BEST HOLIDAY MEMORIES

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REMINISCE EXTRA

- Korea, the Forgotten War
- Candid Camera Shots
- Doris Day's Secretary

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- ▶ **Precision timepiece with accurate quartz movement, a swinging brass-toned pendulum and "corn cob" sculpted clock weights**
- ▶ **Genuine Allis-Chalmers logos decorate the clock's face and pendulum**
- ▶ **Barn-shaped clock body features hand-painted hay bale, barrel and rooster sculptures for nostalgic charm**

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Tell Us Your Story!

Your true tales are the heart of this magazine, so dust off that photo album, high school yearbook or vacation diary.



« LAKE LIVING

Have you ever spent an entire summer swimming, boating, waterskiing and fishing at the lake? Were you lucky enough to own your own cottage, cabin or camp on the water? Maybe you rented a place for the summer. Tell us about your summer getaway. **Label your story “Lake Living.”**



« BEST FRIENDS FOREVER

Do you remember meeting your best friend? Was it your next-door neighbor? Someone at school? What did you talk about? Where are they now? Are you still in touch? Share the details with us. **Label your story “Best Friends Forever.”**

EYEGLASS STYLES

Calling all fashionistas. It's your turn to show and tell. No matter the era, the style of glasses you wore mirrored the current fashions. We love eyewear trends, so share your style with us. **Label your story “Eyeglass Styles.”**

SERVICE ANIMALS

Pets make great companions. But a select group—service animals—fulfills a vital role for people with special needs. Did you or someone you know have a memorable service animal? Tell us! **Label your story “Service Animals.”**

PHOTO TIPS

- Please identify the people, city, state and year the photo was taken.

For photos sent by mail:

- Be sure your photo or reprint is in focus. Do not send photocopies; we cannot print from them.

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- No scanner? Walgreens, OfficeMax and FedEx Office offer this service.

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Please include your full name, address, phone number and email with every submission. See page 64 for submission guidelines.

REMINISCE

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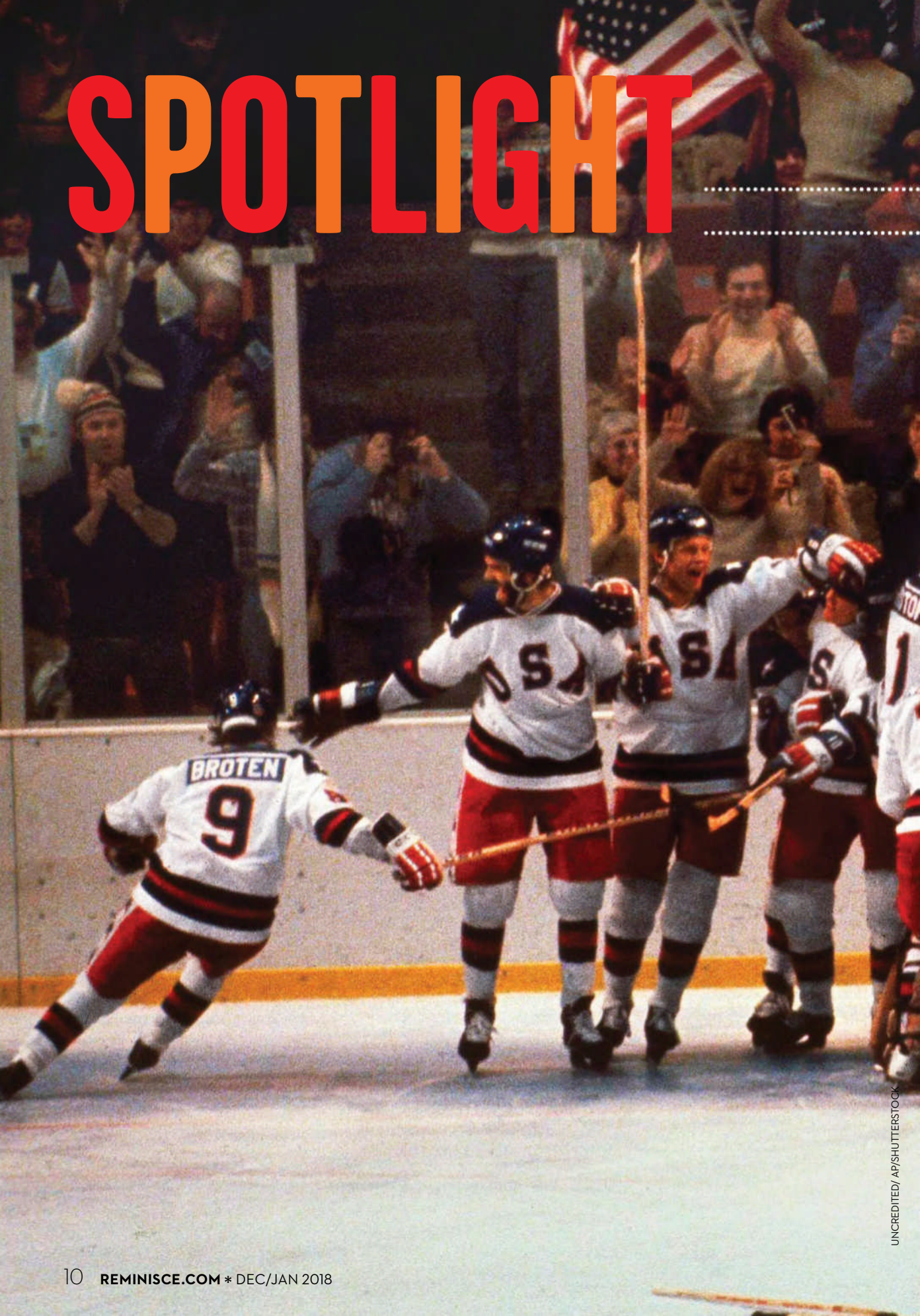
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SPOTLIGHT



UNCREDITED/ AP/SHUTTERSTOCK



DECEMBER/ JANUARY 2018

NOTABLE PEOPLE, PLACES AND EVENTS

- 12 **TIME CAPSULE**
- 13 **TRIVIAL PURSUITS**
- 14 **CLOSE ENCOUNTER**
- 16 **LOOK WHAT WE FOUND**
- 18 **THEN & NOW**

BELIEVE IT!

The **U.S. HOCKEY TEAM** upsets the Soviets 4-3 in the medal round of the 1980 Olympics, in Lake Placid, NY, before a partisan crowd. With less than 10 seconds left, announcer Al Michaels asks, "Do you believe in miracles?," forever dubbing the game "Miracle on Ice."

» *MORE 1980 HIGHLIGHTS on page 12*

1980

TIME
CAPSULE

A DECADE DELVES INTO TECH, GAMES AND CLIFF-HANGERS

Technology ruled in 1980 as personal computers and fax machines changed the way we worked. Sony's Walkman changed the way we listened to music. And we could watch movies at home—as long as we forked over as much as \$800 for a VCR! Cool kids mastered Rubik's Cube and Pac-Man. Mount St. Helens erupted. Jimmy Carter convinced 65 nations to boycott the Summer Olympics in Moscow, while the Winter Games brought us a Miracle on Ice. The year drew to a close with former movie star Ronald Reagan elected president and *Dallas* devotees finding out who shot J.R.

JAN. 7 U.S. President Jimmy Carter authorizes a \$1.5 billion loan to bail out Chrysler Corp.

JAN. 20 President Carter announces U.S. boycott of Summer Olympics in Moscow.

JAN. 22 The PGA creates a Senior Tour (now the Champions Tour) for golfers over 50.

FEB. 13 The XIII Winter Olympic Games begin in Lake Placid, New York.

FEB. 22 The U.S. men's hockey team stuns the Soviets—and ultimately wins the Olympic gold medal in Lake Placid.

APRIL 6 3M introduces an office staple, Post-it notes, to the world.

APRIL 14 Meryl Streep wins her first Oscar at the Academy Awards for her supporting role as Joanna Kramer in *Kramer vs. Kramer*.

APRIL 24 Operation Eagle Claw fails to rescue Americans being held in Iran, which leads to the rebirth of special operations forces within the U.S. military.

MAY 3 Genuine Risk becomes one of only three fillies to win the Kentucky Derby.

MAY 8 The World Health Organization declares smallpox has been eradicated.

MAY 18 **Mount St. Helens**, right, erupts in Washington, killing 57.

MAY 22 Quarters, please! Pac-Man is released in Japan, giving birth to the 1980s' video-arcade culture.

MAY 23 "Heeeere's Johnny!" *The Shining* opens in movie theaters.

JUNE 1 CNN, the first 24-hour cable news network, is on the air.



HOT IN HAWAII



VOLCANIC ERUPTION



JUNE 23 Sony introduces the **Walkman**, at bottom, in the U.S.

The cassette player with tiny headphones brings portable choice to music.

SEPT. 22 Saddam Hussein's Iraqi military invades Iran, sparking an eight-year war.

NOV. 4 **Ronald Reagan** (R), above with wife, Nancy, defeats Jimmy Carter (D) in a landslide for the U.S. presidency.

NOV. 21 Millions watch *Dallas*' fourth season to find out who shot J.R. (See our *Dallas* quiz, opposite; encounter with Larry Hagman, page 14.)

NOV. 23 Southern Italy suffers a 6.9-magnitude earthquake, which kills about 3,000 and leaves more than 200,000 homeless.

NOV. 27: *Bosom Buddies* (starring future Oscar winner Tom Hanks) debuts on ABC-TV.

DEC. 8 John Lennon is shot to death outside his NYC apartment by Mark David Chapman.

DEC. 11 *Magnum, P.I.*, starring mustachioed **Tom Selleck**, above left, debuts on CBS-TV.

← PORTABLE MUSIC

BY DEBRA STEILEN

1980 TOPS IN ENTERTAINMENT

ACADEMY AWARDS

BEST PICTURE

Kramer vs. Kramer

BEST ACTOR

Dustin Hoffman, below,
Kramer vs. Kramer

BEST ACTRESS

Sally Field, below, *Norma Rae*



GRAMMY AWARDS

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

"52nd Street," Billy Joel

BEST COMEDY RECORDING

"Reality...What A Concept"
Robin Williams

TONY AWARDS

BEST MUSICAL

Evita

PULITZER PRIZE

FICTION

The Executioner's Song,
Norman Mailer

SPORTING EVENTS

SUPER BOWL XIV WINNER

Pittsburgh Steelers

AMERICAN LEAGUE MVP

George Brett, Kansas City Royals

NATIONAL LEAGUE MVP

Mike Schmidt, Philadelphia Phillies



TRIVIAL PURSUITS

Season-ending cliff-hangers turned CBS-TV's *Dallas* from a hit show to a national phenomenon. Then in March 1980, season three ended with J.R. Ewing shot twice in his office. The nation debated about the shooter for eight months. See what you remember about this popular prime-time soap.

GREASE: STILL THE WORD IN 1980

When the musical hit *Grease* closed on Broadway in 1980, it had been playing for a record-breaking 3,388 performances. What had begun in a funky nightclub in Chicago in 1971 as a raunchy musical with an amateur cast had been radically transformed.

Stage actors Jim Jacobs and pal Warren Casey based their original tale on Jacobs' experiences at Chicago's Taft High School. The story—first conceived as a book, then as a musical play—followed the adventures of delinquent blue-collar teenagers in 1959. "It was about having rock 'n' roll bands and leather jackets and beehive hairdos, about doing a lot of smoking and spitting on the sidewalk," Jacobs says.

Jim Jacobs also created the pilot for the TV megahit *Happy Days*.

The original *Grease* production grew in popularity. Eventually it moved from Chicago to off-Broadway, then to the Great White Way itself. On its journey, much of its original crude content was diluted in order to appeal to a mainstream audience.

Today when someone mentions *Grease*, people think only of the 1978 smash film version starring John Travolta and Olivia Newton-John.

That doesn't sit well with Jacobs. "We had written the show as the real nitty-gritty story of the kids I went to school with," he says. "It went from an in-your-face show about delinquents to a colorized gang of lovable people singing rock 'n' roll."

RANDAL C. HILL writes about music from his home in Bandon, OR.

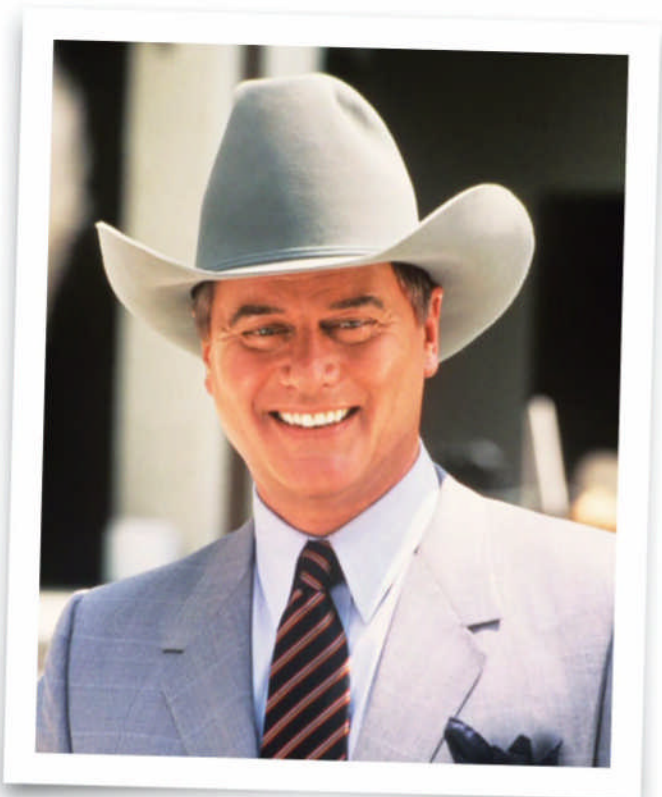
- 1 What was the name of the Ewings' ranch?
- 2 What was J.R.'s personalized license plate?
- 3 Who fathered Sue Ellen's baby: J.R. or Cliff Barnes?
- 4 Las Vegas bookies gave 15:1 odds that this character shot J.R. Who was it?
- 5 After the long-awaited reveal, who actually shot J.R.?
- 6 Name the two actresses who played Miss Ellie, the Ewing family's matriarch.
- 7 Name patriarch Jock Ewing's illegitimate son.
- 8 Who was the only character to appear in all 357 episodes?
- 9 What television show was a *Dallas* spinoff?
- 10 How many Emmy awards did Larry Hagman receive for playing J.R. Ewing?

HOW'D YOU DO?

Check your answers on page 64.

BY DEBRA STEILEN

ALWAYS DAPPER
Actor Larry Hagman wore a signature Stetson cowboy hat as J.R. Ewing in the TV series *Dallas*.



CLOSE
ENCOUNTER



SAVED BY THE BELL Those chicken scratches were indecipherable.

BY WANDA BAKER • BURLESON, TX

Thirty miles west of Fort Worth, Texas, is a charming little place and my hometown, Weatherford. The town was also home to Broadway legend Mary Martin and her son, Larry Hagman. I went to high school with Larry, and in 1949 we worked together on the school newspaper, *The Grass Burr*.

One day Larry walked into the typing room and handed me a piece of paper on which he had written something. He said, "Wanda, would you type this up for me?" I said sure, took the piece of paper, looked it over and thought, *Oh my gosh! I can't read a word he wrote down.*

Just then the bell rang. I handed the paper back and told him I had to get to my next class.

Larry graduated at the end of that school year. I graduated the following year, but after our time on the paper, I never saw him again.

When Larry was on *I Dream of Jeannie*, I couldn't believe how he looked. When we were in high school, he was a tall, skinny kid with ugly horn-rimmed glasses.

Once, while Larry was on the hit television series *Dallas*, my husband and I were checking in at an airport in Ireland to fly to London, then on to Dallas. The young woman who checked us in said, "I've been wanting to ask someone from Texas if the characters on the TV show *Dallas* are really from Texas."

"I don't know about the rest of the actors," I told her, "but I know Larry Hagman is from Texas because I went to high school with him."

She beamed with delight. She said her dad loved that show; she could hardly wait to tell him that she had met someone who actually went to school with J.R.

As it happens, my husband and I were probably the only people in Texas who didn't watch *Dallas*. ●

CLOSE-UP: LARRY HAGMAN

Born Sept. 21, 1931,
in Fort Worth, TX.

Best-remembered
TV roles:
Major Anthony
Nelson,
I Dream of Jeannie
(1965-'70);
J.R. Ewing,
Dallas (1978-'91)

On his new
image after
I Dream of Jeannie:
"I was in *Jeannie*
for some time
and I made the
transition to a bad
guy from a rather
bumbling idiot.
... I'm going to
have a lot of fun
with this."

On his role in *Dallas*:
"People I meet
really want me to
be J.R., so it's hard
to disappoint them."

“To you, it’s the perfect lift chair. To me, it’s the best sleep chair I’ve ever had.”

— J. Fitzgerald, VA



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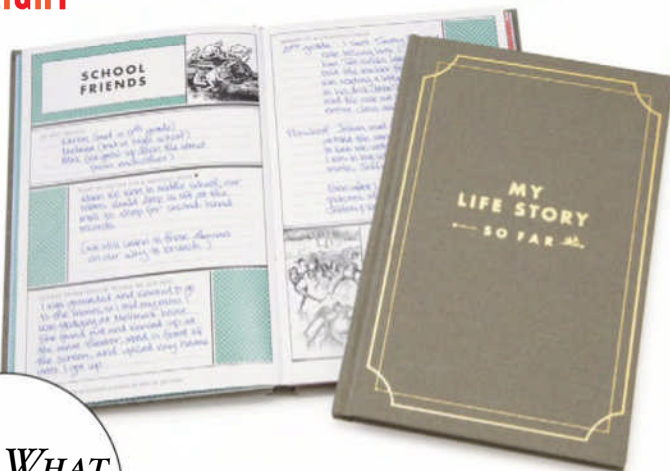
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DuraLux II Microfiber



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LOOK WHAT WE FOUND

KEEPING MEMORIES SAFE

This journal, organized by section, has prompts plus space for photos. \$30, UNCOMMONGOODS.COM

GIFTS OF THE PAST

With the holidays come moments of reflection and remembrance. Explore ways to share those memories with younger generations—and preserve them for those to come. **BY BERIT THORKELSON**



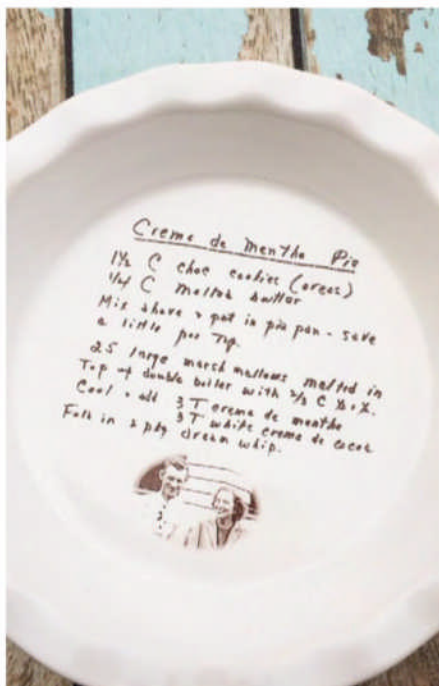
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Spit into a tube, mail it back, then await your online DNA family history results. Starts at \$99, 23ANDME.COM



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DEAR DIARY

MY PINK PLASTIC-COVERED

diary came with a message inside: "Christmas 1957, with love, Mother."

I hadn't thought about that book in decades until I found it buried in a dresser drawer. The worn cover showing a young ponytailed girl transported me back to the year I was 10.

The diary still sported its lock but was missing the key that had kept my writings secret. My first entry was on New Year's Day 1958. After that, I included stories about school days and my teacher Sister Maureen Ann.

One entry tells how Sister Maureen Ann asked me to go outside and burn test papers in the burn barrel. She even gave me matches to start the fire. I wrote that I was scared because Mother didn't let me use matches. I wonder if I ever told her about that experience. Maybe I had secrets after all.

Unfortunately, my daily writings ended on Feb. 16. Not a good showing.

If my mother were still here, I would thank her for giving me that diary so I could relive a few events from 1958.

GLORIA GRIEPENSTROH
EVANSTON, IN



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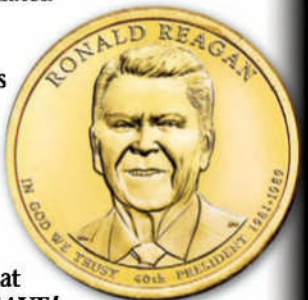
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~ Aretha Franklin ~



~ Beyoncé ~

1980

SINGERS WITH SOUL

In 1980, Aretha Franklin sang a rousing version of her '68 hit "Think" in *The Blues Brothers*. That golden bit of screen time revived her pop status, though she never lost appeal as a gospel and R&B singer. Aretha retires from touring this year, leaving the stage to younger voices like Beyoncé, who, though she's never named Aretha as an influence, owes the Motown monarch a bow of "R-E-S-P-E-C-T."

ARETHA FRANKLIN		BEYONCÉ
Memphis, Tennessee	Birthplace	Houston, Texas
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan	Residence	California and New York
The Queen of Soul	Nickname	Bey
18	Grammys	22
Voice; piano	Instrument	Voice
Shoes ("I just keep buying them.")	Weakness	Public Speaking
At Whitney Houston's funeral, Dionne Warwick mistakenly called Aretha Whitney's godmother, for which Aretha has not forgiven her.	Diva Drama	At the 2008 Grammy Awards, she introduced Tina Turner as "the Queen," angering Aretha.
<i>Amazing Grace</i> (more than 2 million)	Best-Selling LP	<i>Dangerously In Love</i> (5 million)
Won't fly	Unexpected Quirk	Insists crew wear 100 percent cotton
Mink coat	Preferred Stage Garb	Four pairs of tights; bodysuits
Three (1977, 1993, 2009)	Presidential Inaugurations Played	Two (2009, 2013)

BY MARY-LIZ SHAW » ILLUSTRATIONS BY RISKO



Dear Medical Alert,

When I told mom I had purchased the Medical Alert Emergency system for her, she insisted that she didn't need it.

But on Thanksgiving morning, 2 weeks after I got her Medical Alert, mom woke up in terrible pain. Unfortunately, my husband and I were 2 hours away for the holiday.

I was so relieved that she was able to press her help button because within minutes, an emergency operator was on the phone assessing her medical condition. They immediately dispatched an ambulance, called to inform me of her emergency and was on her way to the hospital, all within a 20 minute time frame.

I really do not know what mom would have done without Medical Alert. Waiting the 2 hours for us to arrive home was definitely not an option! Mom did tell me how glad she was that she had Medical Alert. -"I feel like I have someone here with me all the time!"

Thanks so much for the care you gave my mom.

Vicki T.

TOMORROW IS NEVER A GIVEN!

Being the caregiver for an aging parent can be quite difficult. There is **always a worry** that 'something' could happen **when they are alone** in their home. Remaining independent is of utmost importance to them and as the caregiver, you don't want to be the one to take that away.

1 in 3 people over the age of 65 will fall, **50% of these falls will happen in the home** and 30% will result in an injury which may very well decrease mobility and independence or even death.

At Medical Alert, we can provide you **peace of mind** that mom will **remain safe**, secure AND independent 24/7, 365 days per year. If an emergency does occur, we will be right by her side to ensure that she receives the **best emergency service**. We have a record response time of less than 30 seconds!

And with our added optional **Fall Detection System**, you can be sure that if mom falls and cannot press the button herself, our system will detect a fall and emergency help will be dispatched to her immediately.

Mom will never be alone again when she has the Medical Alert Emergency System.

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The best selling auto-loading scooter in Europe is now available in the US!

Finally... A scooter that loads itself in and out of your car.

Introducing the Quingo® Flyte - the powerful, portable mobility scooter that you never have to lift. Now featuring patented 5-Wheel Anti-Tip Technology.

It's a sad fact. Many people who have mobility issues and could benefit from a scooter aren't able to use them away from home. Struggling to get it into a car or loading it onto a bumper-mounted lift just isn't worth the effort. Now, there's a better scooter, the Quingo® Flyte. It's easy to use, even for one person, and requires no more effort than closing a car's tailgate. Clever design enables it to fit into SUV's, mini-vans, crossovers and hatchbacks.

Quingo® Flyte can load and unload itself in less than 60 seconds using an innovative ramp and a simple remote. The built-in guide rails can be installed in minutes and safely direct your scooter to ground level.

Only one scooter is this powerful and portable

- Patented 5-Wheel Stability™ by Quingo takes you almost anywhere.
- No dismantling or lifting of heavy scooter parts.
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- Extra long range with BIG scooter performance.
- Won't bounce around in your car— locks in place.

Available in portable, auto-loading and luxury models



"For the first time in years I've been able to go with my granddaughters to the mall. A crowd gathers every time I unload my scooter from my car!"

— Judi K, Exeter, CA

This scooter provides 5-Wheel Anti-Tip Technology for stability, agility and comfort with its unique wheel configuration. The patented 5-wheel Bumpmaster™ design by Quingo enables it to ride safely over a wide variety of surfaces. It uses 4 ultra slim powerful batteries providing a range of up to 23 miles on a single charge.

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OUR LIVES

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

- 22 **GROWING UP**
- 24 **OUR HEROES**
- 26 **TRUE LOVE**
- 28 **AT WORK**
- 30 **FAMILY TREE**

JOYOUS NOEL

In 1960, the year I turned 5, my family celebrated Christmas in Karlsruhe, Germany, where my father, Gabby, an engineer, worked for the Singer sewing machine company. My older sister, Phyrne, 13, loved stuffed animals as much as I did. My mom, Fernanda, took the photo.

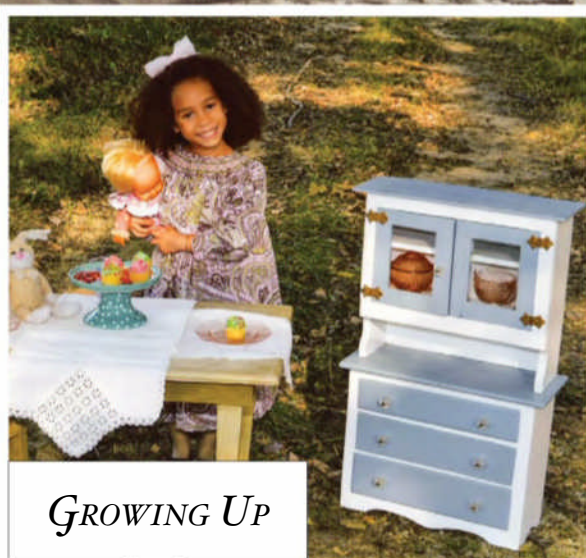
PHYLLIS GEBHARDT
MILWAUKEE, WI



CHRISTMAS 1950

brought Melba, above, plenty of fun playthings.

MELBA'S GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER, Makayla, keeps the family tradition going.



GROWING UP

THROUGH MULTIPLE LAYERS OF PAINT
This cherished heirloom survived five generations.

BY **MELBA BROWN** • OLMSTEAD, KY

My mother, Marjorie Martin Mangrum, was from a family in Williamson County, Tennessee. Her grandfather B.C. Wilkes was a woodworker and made beautiful caskets and custom cabinetry.

In the fall of 1928, when my mom was 7, she visited her grandfather's workshop. She watched as he lovingly built a pint-sized china cabinet. She later told me how she wished that cabinet could be hers.

Her grandfather told her it was for a little girl who lived down the road. Imagine my mother's delight when she found the miniature piece of furniture under the Christmas tree that year.

Fast-forward to Christmas morning 1950. I found the same cabinet with a fresh coat of paint under our Christmas tree. My baby sister was born that year, and we spent countless happy hours playing house with our grown-up kitchen cabinet.

In 1966 and 1969, I had my own daughters. I replaced the cabinet's knobs and repainted it so my girls could use the piece in their playhouse.

My daughters had girls of their own, and every time they came to Granny's house to visit, the first thing they wanted to play with was the little cabinet.

Now I have a great-granddaughter, Makayla, and whenever she stays with me she has a fun time playing outside with the storage unit she calls her kitchen.

I'm sure B.C. Wilkes never dreamed that five generations of little girls would continue the tradition of playing with the petite piece he built with love so many years ago. ●

Share your remembrances of childhood adventures:
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Outstanding Product! "This product is outstanding. Dad loves it, my mom loves it, and I am grateful! Don't believe that you have to spend a lot of money to get a quality hearing aid"

- Gilmore B.

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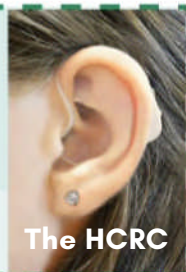


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OUR HEROES

ONE HECTIC NIGHT IN THE E.R.

Mistakes aside, her transfer of duty came as a welcome relief.

BY LOUISE PIERCE • TUPELO, MS

After I graduated in 1954 from Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois, I was assigned to the Navy hospital at Camp Pendleton, California. My first assignment was night duty in the emergency room. We were busy that first night. The pregnant wife of a Marine came in ready to deliver. The doctor told me to prepare her for an examination.

Well, being a very green

recruit fresh out of school with no experience, I had the woman take off all her clothes. That was my first mistake.

The doctor's face got red with anger and he shouted, "I just wanted to see how far apart her contractions were!"

In a sarcastic voice he then asked if I thought I could locate a stretcher. Again, being green, I started looking for a stretcher. When I had a hard time finding one, I should have known something was wrong. I looked up and down

the long hallways before finally finding a stretcher hanging on a wall. After cleaning off all the spiderwebs, I headed back to the ER. That was my second mistake.

The impatient doctor took one look at the stretcher and yelled, "Any idiot would know I meant a gurney!"

At school we'd been taught the difference between a stretcher and a gurney. He went on to say at the top of his voice, "I ought to make you carry this naked woman all by yourself to the delivery room!"

As you might guess, it didn't take long before I was transferred out of the ER. I wound up in charge of the medical unit, working the night shift alone with six or seven patients.

But I was in California, with its beautiful beaches and a handsome young sailor to distract me. Who had time to sleep while off duty?

One night it got especially quiet at work; all the patients were sleeping. Struggling to stay awake, I spread a magazine across the edge of a narrow medical sink.

The next thing I knew, I felt water splashing my face. I had fallen asleep with my head in the sink and someone had turned on the water.

I checked all the patients, who were still fast asleep. I checked the hallways but no one was there. I never found out who turned on the water, but believe me, I was wide awake the rest of the shift. ●



LOUISE SPRAWLS on a stack of books. She got comfortable at work, but the handsome young sailor she married 62 years ago still distracts her.



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For many people, particularly seniors, climbing stairs can be a struggle and a health threat. Some have installed motorized stair lifts, but they block access to the stairs and are hardly an

enhancement to your home's décor. By contrast, the Easy Climber® Elevator can be installed almost anywhere in your home. That way you can move easily and safely from floor to floor without struggling or worse yet... falling.

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*Stan W. US war veteran
and retired professor*



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82837

ELFRIEDE AND NILS found a common language when writing letters back and forth.

TRUE LOVE

CROSS-CULTURAL COURTSHIP BLITZ

Once our paths crossed, being together was all that mattered.

BY **ELFRIEDE LUNNERDAL**
SAN MARCOS, CA

When I joined an international pen pal club in November 1959, I had no idea how it would change my life. I was an RN at a large hospital in Bremen, in northern Germany. By December, the letters started pouring in. One letter from Sweden piqued my interest. It was from a Swedish horticulturist who lived and worked in Helsingborg. He wrote the letter in German, and soon many more of his letters crossed The Sound, or Oresund, and the Baltic Sea.

Around Easter in 1960, Nils wanted to meet. He arrived on Good Friday. On Saturday, we took a 20 km hike in rainy April weather to Worpswede, a famous artist village in Lower Saxony, Germany. In the evening we visited the world-renowned Ratskeller in Bremen, which housed Europe's oldest wine barrel, dated 1653.

By this time, it was not only the wine that had warmed our hearts. Nils proposed, and we planned our wedding in Sweden for Midsommar (midsummer), a joyful annual holiday in Scandinavia in late June. Two days later, Nils flew back home and I was left to plan the wedding by mastering piles of paperwork and fighting bureaucracy.

Now what? I did not speak Swedish and decided to cram in 10 hours of Berlitz language lessons a week before the wedding.



We drove to Helsingborg, where the marriage took place in a beautiful old kyrka (church) with Nils' family and a few friends present. My father was still in East Germany, behind the Iron Curtain. To this day I do not

know what the pastor said, but according to the certificate we were married!

At the end of 1962 we moved to Encinitas, California, to establish a flower business for a well-known Swedish grower. Nils built the business and eventually purchased it from his boss, changing from carnations to roses shipped around the U.S.

We became U.S. citizens and adopted two children. Nils and I did a lot of volunteer work in the community and received many awards.

Nils died at home in 2004 when he was 82. We had a blessed 43-year marriage after our Swedish/German courtship blitz. ●

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IT WAS NOT
ONLY THE
WINE THAT
HAD WARMED
OUR HEARTS.**

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AT WORK

SERVICE CAME WITH A SMILE

Her positive attitude earned praise.

BY E.M. "COOKIE" MILLER • YELM, WA

Times were tough in the 1930s. After my mother, Bertha May Royston Crossley, lost her dad when she was 11, staying in school became a luxury. So she quit school when she was old enough and went to work. She was hired at a local sewing factory in Shrewsbury, Pennsylvania, despite having only an eighth-grade education.

While at the factory, she met my dad, Thomas Crossley, and they were soon married. Afterward, she stayed home with her three children until the youngest, me, was in the third grade. Then she decided it was time she went out and got a job.

Lacking education and experience, she was hired by Sears, Roebuck and Co. for an entry-level job in the garden shop. But when an office job opened, she applied and was put in charge of the routing desk.

School let out earlier than Mom got off work, so on many days I would meet her at Sears. I had a grand time waiting at her office. On occasion, Mom would hand me a ticket to file in the cubby next to her desk. I felt so important, so sure that

I was helping her. Then she would give me a quarter and I would buy a hot dog from the deli downstairs.

A big part of her job was talking to customers on the phone and letting them know when their purchases would be delivered. Sometimes the customers became impatient because deliveries were late or something arrived damaged. But no matter the mood of the customer, Mom always spoke quietly and calmed many potential storms for Sears.

At the end of each day, she walked around the store to pick up order tickets, and took them back to her desk to schedule the deliveries.

I was so proud of my mom. She dressed professionally and always wore a smile. Everyone had friendly words for her as she passed their stations. And she took every chance to greet her fellow workers as she walked past.

Those were good times, and I have warm memories of spending so many afternoons with my mom. I acquired my good work ethic from watching and following her example. ●

Share your work history:
REMINISCE.COM/SUBMIT-A-STORY

FIVE YEARS before retirement at Sears, Bertha got written up on the board—big kudos from her boss.

TIME LINE

1886



Richard W. Sears launches a mail-order business selling watches.

1887

Alvah C. Roebuck joins Sears as a watch repairer.

1893

The partners officially call their company Sears, Roebuck and Co.

1924

Sears launches a Chicago, IL, radio station, eventually settling on call letters WLS (World's Largest Store).

1925

The first retail Sears store opens in Chicago.

1933

Sears issues its first Christmas Book, renamed the Wish Book in 1968.

2005

Major merger: Sears and Kmart.

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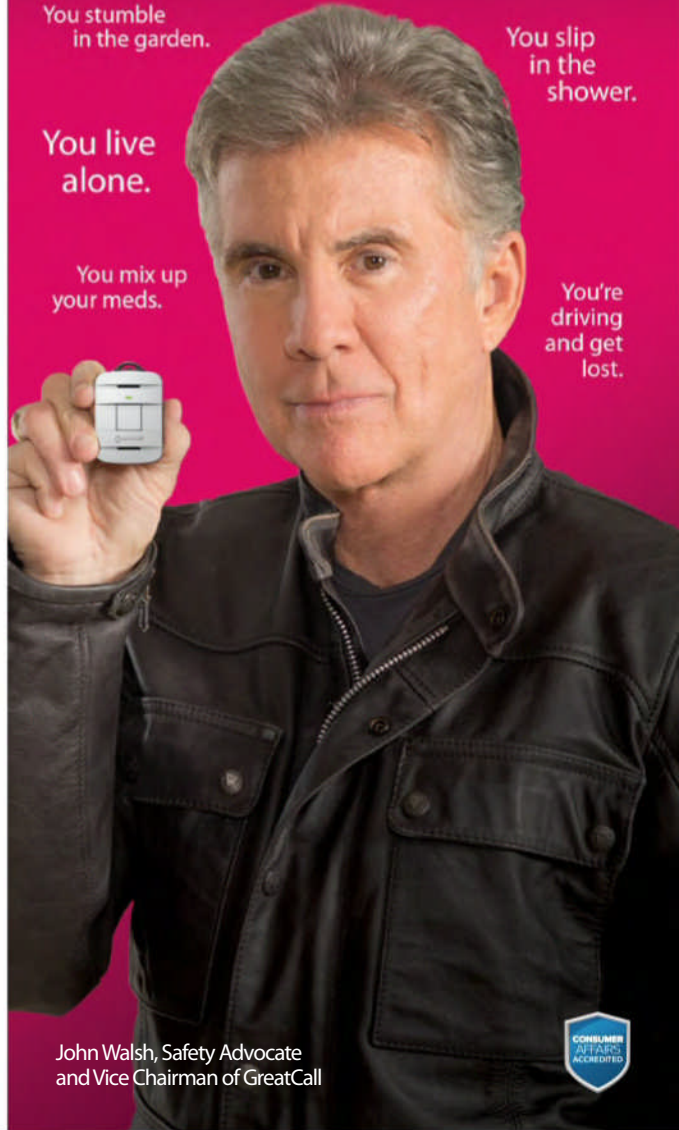
You stumble
in the garden.

You slip
in the
shower.

You live
alone.

You mix up
your meds.


You're
driving
and get
lost.



John Walsh, Safety Advocate
and Vice Chairman of GreatCall



¹25% off device applies only to MSRP of \$49⁹⁹ and is only valid for new customers or new lines of service. Sale price in stores may vary. Offer valid through 12/30/17. ²Monthly service fee does not include government taxes or assessment surcharges and is subject to change. Requires a device purchase and a one-time setup fee of \$35. Valid credit or debit card required for monthly service. ³Good Housekeeping Research Institute - Aug. 2014. ⁴200 savings calculation was determined by averaging PERS market leaders' monthly fees (not all PERS have the same features). The Lively Mobile is rated IPX7 and can be submerged in up to 3ft of water for up to 30 mins. Fall Detection is an optional feature. Fall Detection may not always accurately detect a fall. GreatCall is not a healthcare provider. Seek the advice of your physician if you have questions about medical treatment. 5Star or 9-1-1 calls can only be made when cellular service is available. 5Star Service will be able to track an approximate location when your device is turned on and connected to the network, but we cannot guarantee an exact location. Palus, Shannon. "The Best Medical Alert Systems." *Sweethome*. 6 June 2017. Web. GreatCall, 5Star and Lively are registered trademarks of GreatCall, Inc. Copyright ©2017 GreatCall, Inc.



RMS TITANIC left port in Southampton, England, on April 10, 1912, never to return.

FAMILY TREE

TALES WORTH SHARING

Personal stories bring family history to life. **BY TOM R. KOVACH** • NEVIS, MN

Raising two daughters has given me plenty of excuse to tell stories—some funny, some sad and some of interest only to the family. My mother told me a few; my father, the rest.

I've always been fascinated by one story about my father as a teenager. He traveled by himself from Hungary when it was still part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. He was supposed to sail from Hamburg, Germany, to England and, once there, get a third-class ticket to sail in steerage on the *Titanic*. We've since learned that people in steerage, below the *Titanic's* decks, had the lowest survival rate. Yet by a quirk of fate in my dad's travel plans that kept him from sailing, we are here to tell his story!

Another story is how my grandfather, the mayor of a rural Hungarian village, saved a Jewish storekeeper from a bunch of angry, intoxicated soldiers. Armed only with a chair, courage and a gift for

words, Gramps diffused a very bad situation. Later, that storekeeper's son helped my father get his traveling papers to America.

Then during the Great Depression, just before my parents lost their farm in Pennsylvania, a traveling salesman came to the door. My mother felt sorry for him, so she bought some cheap brushes she had no use for and gave him the few dollars she was saving for a dress. That memory makes me very proud of her.

My folks came from a place and time that had no TVs or radios, so storytelling was important to them. My siblings (there were 10 of us) grew up listening to all kinds of stories. The ones we liked best always had a supernatural twist.

Whether you handwrite, type or download your stories onto computers, record the family history as best as you can. Some day in the future, new generations are sure to enjoy them. ●

TELL ME A STORY

Maybe you've had the chance to listen as your grandparents told stories about the past. Those memories can paint vivid pictures, whether he or she worked as a railroad engineer, planted trees for the Civilian Conservation Corps or delivered babies in rural areas.

Family stories add warmth and color to the statistics you collect while tracing your genealogy, and can serve as a springboard to other records.

Some ideas for collecting and keeping family stories alive:

- Talk to your relatives and really listen. Keep a notepad nearby to jot down notes.
- Listen for details about towns and countries. These clues can be helpful if areas or borders have changed.
- Start a family blog, where family members can read the stories and ask questions.

Stories handed down from grandparents to grandchildren help connect generations and provide inspiration.

PEGGY CLEMENS LAURITZEN, an accredited genealogist, writes and lectures about family history. Visit: misspeggy55.weebly.com

Share your family history with us:
REMINISCE.COM/
[SUBMIT-A-STORY](#)

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ITEM 62859 63055/62860 shown

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- Weighs 86.4 lbs.
- 21" L x 10-1/8" H

NEW SAVE \$400

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WARM MODEL: SE6467 **\$399⁹⁹**

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3-1/2" SUPER BRIGHT ALUMINUM FLASHLIGHT

- 9 LED
- Compact Lightweight

ITEM 69111

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RAYOVAC MODEL: BRSSLR-8 63875/63884/63886 63888/69052 shown

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60177583

60327408



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60327408



CENTRAL PNEUMATIC SUPER COUPON

21 GALLON, 2.5 HP, 125 PSI VERTICAL OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR

- Air delivery: 5.8 CFM @ 40 PSI, 4.7 CFM @ 90 PSI

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$219** 62803/63635/67847 shown
HUSKY MODEL: C201H

COMPARE TO **NOW \$149⁹⁹** ITEM 69091/61454 62803/63635/67847 shown

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



HARDY SUPER COUPON

POWDER-FREE NITRILE GLOVES PACK OF 100

- 5 mil thickness

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$7.99**

COMPARE TO **NOW \$5⁹⁹** ITEM 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68496, 68498 shown

SAVE 55%

COMPARE TO **\$13³²** ITEM 61363, 68497, 61360, 61359, 68496, 68498 shown
VENOM MODEL: VEM145

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



PITTSBURGH ^{Autosmart} SUPER COUPON

1 TON CAPACITY FOLDABLE SHOP CRANE

- Boom extends from 36-1/4" to 50-1/4"
- Crane height adjusts from 82" to 94"

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$179⁹⁹** 60238/624 60238/624
IRON TON MODEL: 46218

COMPARE TO **NOW \$99⁹⁹** ITEM 69512/61858/69445 shown **\$169⁹⁹**

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



HERCULES BEATS DEWALT SUPER COUPON

20 VOLT LITHIUM CORDLESS 1/2" COMPACT DRILL/DRIVER KIT

- 576 in. lbs. of torque
- 2.5 amp hour battery
- Weighs 3.6 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$109⁹⁹** ITEM 63381
DEWALT MODEL: DCD789D2

COMPARE TO **NOW \$99⁹⁹** **RISK FREE TRIAL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE**

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

6.5 HP (212 CC) OHV HORIZONTAL SHAFT GAS ENGINE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$329⁹⁹** 60363/69730 60363/69730
HONDA MODEL: GX200U720X2

COMPARE TO **NOW \$119⁹⁹** **\$99⁹⁹**

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



PITTSBURGH ^{1 Selling Jacks} SUPER COUPON

RAPID PUMP® 1.5 TON ALUMINUM RACING JACK

- 3-1/2 pumps lifts most vehicles
- Lifts from 3-1/2" to 14-1/8"
- Lightweight 34 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$99⁹⁹** 62496/62516 60569 shown
DURALAST MODEL: T815916L

COMPARE TO **NOW \$59⁹⁹** **\$79⁹⁹**

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

4000 MAX. STARTING/ 3200 RUNNING WATTS 6.5 HP (212 CC) GAS GENERATOR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$1,999** 69676/69729/63080/63079 shown
HONDA MODEL: EM4800EEX

COMPARE TO **NOW \$289⁹⁹** **\$229⁹⁹**

Wheel kit sold separately.

ITEM 69728/63090/63089, CALIFORNIA ONLY

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

12 VOLT MAGNETIC TOWING LIGHT KIT

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$335⁹⁹** 60354/123 60354/123
OPTRONICS MODEL: TL211R

SAVE 70%

COMPARE TO **NOW \$9⁹⁹** **\$18⁹⁹**

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



SUPER COUPON

TWO TIER COLLAPSIBLE EASY-STORE STEP LADDER

- 225 lb. capacity

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$338** 60356/609 60356/609
WERNER MODEL: S22A-1

COMPARE TO **NOW \$199⁹⁹** **\$299⁹⁹**

LIMIT 7 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$8⁹⁹** 60357/310 60357/310
BLUE HAWK MODEL: 77200

SAVE 70%

COMPARE TO **NOW \$5⁹⁹** **\$8⁹⁹**

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

30", 5 DRAWER TOOL CART

- 8100 cu. in. of storage
- 704 lb. capacity
- Weighs 120 lbs.

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$1,150** 61427/63308/69397/95272 shown
SNAP-ON MODEL: KRSC3AP80

COMPARE TO **NOW \$159⁹⁹** **\$179⁹⁹**

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



drill master SUPER COUPON

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$2580** 69645/60625 shown
PERFORMAX MODEL: 2411-1

SAVE 61%

COMPARE TO **NOW \$9⁹⁹** **\$14⁹⁹**

LIMIT 8 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

130 PIECE TOOL KIT WITH CASE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$38⁹⁹** 68998/63091 shown
HDX MODEL: H137MHS

COMPARE TO **NOW \$299⁹⁹** **\$66³⁹**

LIFETIME WARRANTY

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



CENTECH SUPER COUPON

2/10/50 AMP, 12 VOLT BATTERY CHARGER/ ENGINE STARTER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$69⁹⁹** 60531/60653 shown
SCHUMACHER MODEL: SE-1250

SAVE 57%

COMPARE TO **NOW \$29⁹⁹** **\$49⁹⁹**

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

4 PIECE, 1" x 15 FT. RATCHETING TIE DOWNS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$12⁹⁹** 63056/63057/63094/63150/61524 shown
SNAP-ON MODEL: KRSC3AP80

SAVE 46%

COMPARE TO **NOW \$6⁹⁹** **\$12⁹⁹**

LIMIT 9 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



UNION ^{SAFE COMPANY} SUPER COUPON

1.51 CUBIC FT. SOLID STEEL ELECTRONIC DIGITAL FLOOR SAFE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

COMPARE TO **\$175** 91006/62678/62977 shown
CENTURYSAFE MODEL: SFW125T6C

NEW

COMPARE TO **NOW \$99⁹⁹** **\$123⁹⁹** **SAVE \$75**

LIMIT 5 - Coupon valid through 4/1/18*



*Original coupon only. No use on prior purchases after 30 days from original purchase or without original receipt. Valid through 4/1/18.

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE

THE
HAPPIEST
of
HOLIDAYS



BRINGING TOGETHER
THE WARMTH
OF FAMILY, FRIENDS
AND GOOD CHEER.

Illustration by
C.F. PAYNE



'Twas the Night Before

CHRISTMAS EVE STIRRED WITH EXCITEMENT

by FAY LaVIGNE • *Minnetonka, MN*

Christmas Eve 1957. I was 10 and trying to sit still on my grandmother's green mohair couch. The back of my dress was scrunched up behind me and the rough upholstery scratched my bare legs. My sister, Jane, 12, and younger brother, John, needed no reminders to sit still and wait for dinner. I hated that couch (or divan, as my mother called it).

My Aunt Betty and Uncle Bill, who lived next door, were there with their four children, Billy Jo, Timmy, Dick and little sister Terry. We lived just down the hill and we were very close to our cousins.

Grandma Ennis was one of my favorites. At 5 feet 6 inches, with snow white hair, she was always easy to find. That night she wore a lovely apron with a Christmas motif she had designed herself. She made this holiday perfect, and we waited for it all year.

A 4-foot Christmas tree adorned with handblown glass ornaments, bubble lights and tinsel sat on Grandma's TV. Grandma liked to decorate it herself to surprise us when we arrived. Every year the tree had the same decorations, but we always acted surprised.

Brightly colored packages were stacked under the tree, some leaning against the TV cabinet, others spilling onto the living room floor. The boxes and bags were Grandma's works of art. Ribbons matching the wrapping paper wound around each box as if it was the most important gift

she was giving. The Christmas stockings she'd made for each of us hung next to the tree.

Before dinner, Grandma would ask Uncle Bill to play Christmas music. The voices of Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and my favorite, Perry Como, drifted around the room, adding to the festivities. Everyone knew the songs by heart:

"White Christmas," "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman" and "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer." We all sang along and nobody cared if you couldn't carry a tune. This was a family tradition.

My mother, Percy, and Aunt Betty set the table with the good linens and china. They lit candles and heaped food into serving bowls. When dinner was finally served, we chose our seat around the big cherry-wood Windsor table. It was a tight fit, but no one ever suggested that any of us eat at another table.

That year was one of my favorites because my dad, Louis, came home in time to have dinner with us. He worked at the Minneapolis train depot and didn't get holiday pay unless he worked. This year, his boss must have let the men off early.

The food tasted more delicious than ever. This was one of the few times I saw my grandma sit. We laughed and

talked about what we wanted for Christmas and discussed the letters we had sent Santa.

After dinner, the women cleared the table, did the dishes and tidied the kitchen. None of the children helped because the kitchen was



Santa Claus, IN

Live reindeer, lights, festivals and more.
santaclausind.org

Frankenmuth, MI

Shop at Bronner's, the world's largest Christmas store.
frankenmuth.org/things-to-do

Branson, MO

Have an Ozark Mountain Christmas.
bransontourismcenter.com

Zoar, OH

See this historic village decked out for the holiday.
historiczoarvillage.com

so small. We were told to wait quietly while they finished.

When the cleanup was done, everyone scrambled to find a place to sit in the living room. Then Grandma handed out the presents, giving each of us children three very similar-looking packages.

We tore open the boxes to find that Grandma had made pajama bags for us with matching pajamas inside. Each bag was a different design—a dog, a cat, a clown. Mine was a pig with ears and a round snout made out of soft pink velvet. With the PJs out of their bags, Grandma showed us how to fold them so they fit back inside, and then, how to use the bags as pillows.

In the next box were crocheted slippers to match our pajamas, and in the last big box, a bathrobe. I couldn't wait to go to bed that night wearing the cozy bed clothes Grandma had made for me.

The gifts were the best I could have hoped for. The whole night felt special. About 11:30, we left for midnight Mass at St. Therese Catholic Church, a couple of miles away.

Grandma did not join us for the Christmas Eve service and was probably glad to have peace and quiet in her home again. I have no doubt that she cleaned up the mess, stored the dishes in the living



After a traditional fish dinner, **Mary Beth Fulton** and her siblings, Terry, Judy and Janice, knelt to pray before attending Mass at St. Wenceslaus Catholic Church in Wahoo, NE, in the 1950s. “There’d be folding chairs,” recalls Mary Beth, now of nearby Lincoln, “to handle the overflow crowd.”

room buffet and, before retiring, was making plans for next Christmas Eve.

I loved being up so late and taking part in all of the magic of midnight Mass. The choir sang my favorite carols, the priest told us this was a new beginning, and the smell of

incense made it feel that much more important.

When the doors to the church opened and we walked outside, it was snowing lightly. Not enough to be a problem for the cars in the parking lot, but just enough to see Santa's sleigh marks in the snow.

REGIONAL CELEBRATIONS
 • NORTHEAST •



Bernville, PA

Since 1948, Koziar's Christmas Village has lit up barns, cottages and holiday displays. koziarschristmasvillage.com

Ogunquit, ME

Join the festivities at the 31st Christmas by the Sea. chamber.ogunquit.org

Woodstock, VT

Discover Vermont's 34th Annual Wassail Weekend. woodstockvt.com/upcoming-events

• SOUTHEAST •

McAdenville, NC

Its name changes to Christmas Town USA every December. mcadenville-christmastown.com

Charleston, SC

Enjoy millions of lights for 52 nights. ccprc.com

Knoxville, TN

Peppermints and parades spark Christmas in the City. knoxvilletn.gov/search



HANDKNIT CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS, shown in a 2014 photo, include two on the top that Frances made for herself and her husband, Charles.

Big Stocking, More Stuff

OVERSIZE CHRISTMAS STOCKINGS WERE A LABOR OF LOVE FOR AVID KNITTERS

by FRANCES B. WOOD • Boston, VA

Sixty-seven years ago, my mother started a tradition by knitting Christmas stockings for each of my four children. The stockings were quite large and, much to the children's delight, held oodles of goodies. On each was the child's name and birth year. One year my youngest daughter sneaked into the living room, took everything out of her stocking, and then stuffed it all back before she woke us up.

When my mother could no longer knit, I started making stockings for new family members. I'm 98 and still knit simple things, but now, as the family continues to grow, my oldest daughter has taken over the joyful tradition of making the Christmas stockings.

The stockings have become so meaningful that we make sure we bring them when we spend Christmas at another family member's house. A while back, our children came to spend Christmas in Rhode Island with my husband and me. Two days before Christmas, our youngest daughter realized she had forgotten to pack her stocking. Immediately, she called her friend who was house-sitting and had her send the stocking to Rhode Island via overnight mail.

Our family is now scattered around the country, but we still send wrapped stocking stuffers. The children quickly learn that the wrapped gifts in their stockings are not from Santa; they are from family members.

Each year, we look forward to discovering what everyone has sent to stuff in our stockings.

“Stepping over the threshold at my grandparents’ house, we experienced comfort and joy. Red felt stockings for my brother and me, filled to the brim with goodies from Santa, hung from the ornate white mantel.”

MICHELLE GAGNON MARVEL • Brockton, MA



Caught in the act, youngest son Bob, 3, sneaks a peek into his Christmas stocking in 1955. His parents, **Louella and Art Kightlinger**, of Erie, PA, owned a 35 mm camera so they could capture special moments like this one.

Artful Giving

GENEROSITY WAS THE REAL HOLIDAY MAGIC

by ELAINE LANG • *Mosinee, WI*

Spending Christmas Eve with my family made for magical memories. When I was young, we had a tree sprayed white with twinkling white lights and stacks of presents piled halfway to the top. The anticipation was almost too much to bear. On Christmas Eve, my dad sat there on the edge of his seat, as excited as any of us kids.

I was the youngest, so it was my job to give out the gifts—no mad free-for-all at our house. Dad insisted I give out each gift one at a time and announce who it was for and who it was from.

I had to make sure everyone got a gift before I started the next round. Of course, I waited

until everyone had a gift before I got one out for myself. Usually, Daddy would give me my cue: “What about yourself, now?”

We learned how much fun it was to see someone receive a gift from us and we learned how to say thank you. We also learned patience. There were times when my nieces and nephews received mounds of gifts, and unwrapping them took hours. But I wouldn’t have wanted to be anywhere else. I can still see Daddy sitting in delight and watching them open their presents.

Much later I realized this: It wasn’t the opening of the gifts that made the magic, it was the closeness of family and being together. Daddy knew it all along.

ALL BECAUSE OF A 12-FOOT TREE

Four months after Roland and I started dating in August 1963, Christmas arrived and he invited me to his family’s Christmas Eve tree-decorating event. Little did I know how that tree would impact our future.

As we entered the front room, my mouth dropped to my chin. There in the living room stood a perfectly shaped 12-foot-tall Christmas tree. At that moment I knew I would marry this man.

This was an amazing tradition and I wanted to carry it on after his parents retired.

We married three years later, purchased a ranch-style home, and converted our garage into a family room with a vaulted ceiling to accommodate the tree.

Roland’s parents retired to Florida and we found a local farm to supply our 12-foot tree.



Now our oldest son has put an addition with a cathedral ceiling onto his ranch-style home, just waiting for us to retire.

BRENDA HAGEN
East Brunswick, NJ



BRENDA AND ROLAND, left, continue a family tradition that starts with a 12-foot tree.

“It was the first Christmas tree I had ever seen—a real live evergreen tree with aluminum foil icicles and four shiny balls.” **DORIS LEE** • Tyler, TX

REGIONAL
CELEBRATIONS

• SOUTHWEST •

Tucson, AZ

Stroll through the 68th Annual Winterhaven Festival of Lights.
winterhavenfestival.org

Taos, NM

Find Yuletide cheer with caroling, craft fairs, bonfires and more.
taos.org/events

Fredericksburg, TX

Try Christmas in Texas Hill Country.
visitfredericksburgtx.com/holiday

• WEST •

Altadena, CA

Walk a mile-long lane of Christmas trees.
christmastreelane.net

Ogden, UT

Christmas Village lights up downtown.
visitogden.com/events

Seattle, WA

On ship or shore, celebrate the Christmas Ship™ Festival around the Puget Sound.
ArgosyCruises.com



As was their custom in 1957, **Ben Reem**, of Detroit Lakes, MN, found a large tree on the back forty of his parents' home in Aitkin and cut off the top. Decorations included tinsel, frosted-glass globes and a silver spire on top.

Rolling Through the Years

MANY HANDS MAKE SHORT WORK OF TREASURED RAVIOLI RECIPE

by
FRANK C. MODICA • Urbana, IL

My mom and dad started the tradition of making raviolis over 50 years ago, with my brother, sister and me helping out. We always made them on Christmas Day. After getting up early and opening our presents, we'd march into the kitchen and start the preparations for the special meal. Sometimes, as soon as we finished cleaning up, the doorbell would ring, announcing our company.



"We all did our part to help our grandma Lillian Stawarky fix the feast," writes **Mike Simko** of Bridgeport, CT, third from left.

"We polished pans, mashed turnips and potatoes, and made cookies out of leftover piecrust. After dinner, we went downtown to see the holiday lights. My dad, Vin, took this photo in 1963."



CHRISTMAS EVE IS the biggest time of the holiday celebration in some cultures, with Christmas Day, the holy day, a time of quiet reflection. Christmas Eve traditions, such as those highlighted here, usually involve lots of delicious foods, some of them so spectacular and labor-intensive that they are made only on that one special day each year.

Venezuelans make large batches of *hallacas*, tamale-like dumplings of seasoned meats, olives, capers, nuts and raisins in cornbread dough, and wrapped in banana or plantain leaves.

In France's Provençal region, dinner on the day before Christmas, known as *Le Réveillon* (the awakening), concludes with 13 desserts, usually a selection of nuts, fruits and almond nougat.

For a few years we made raviolis one week for Dad's family and the next week for Mom's family, but that didn't last very long—it was too much work. We just invited both sides of the family for one big meal.

The family recipe came from my maternal grandmother, Mary Saccaro, who learned it from her mother.

The recipe had been handed down from mother to daughter for many generations in Sicily and carried over to Chicago, Illinois, when Grandma Saccaro's family arrived in the late 19th century.

Grandma never measured anything; it was all done by intuition. The recipe wasn't even written down until the early 1960s, when Grandma was making raviolis one last time to celebrate the birth of a granddaughter, and there was a danger we would lose the knowledge. My mother and several of my aunts

measured and recorded the amounts whenever Grandma called for "a pinch" of this and "a handful" of that. When we tried the recipe the following year, we agreed the raviolis were as good as Grandma's had been.

Before we started the pasta, Mom made a red sauce of canned tomatoes, garlic, basil and oregano. She added Italian sausage, pork neck bones and homemade meatballs. Our sauce—we never called it "gravy," as the characters on *The Sopranos* referred to tomato sauce—simmered for hours; we basked in the aroma while we labored over the raviolis.

We sat around the kitchen table in an assembly line, flattening and turning the dough balls with the rolling pin. We'd fill the flattened dough with cheese, seal the dumplings with a shot glass, and crimp the edges with a fork.

Anyone who needed a break would take the finished raviolis from the kitchen table to the drying sheet in the bedroom, keeping a running tally of our production.

We never rolled out the dough with a pasta machine when I was a kid; we did it by hand to get the consistency

just right. Everybody took turns with the rolling pin because it was a hard job. You could get fired or demoted if your rolling method wasn't up to Mom's standards. I should know—I've been demoted several times.

The yearly task of ravioli-making became a time to bond as we told stories about all the relatives and teased each other about past cooking mistakes. Nothing interfered with the process. Two weeks after my dad died, we still gathered in the kitchen, and making the raviolis helped us get through the grief as a family.

Over the years, spouses and grandchildren have joined the crew. We've also gotten high-tech: Now we grate the cheese with a hand-crank grater—no more skinned knuckles!—and start the flattening of the dough balls with a pasta machine, though we still finish rolling them by hand.

Today we make the raviolis a week in advance and freeze them, instead of getting up early on Christmas Day, but Mom still makes sure we follow Grandma Saccaro's original recipe to the letter. Our raviolis are as tasty as they were when we began the tradition 50 years ago.



“On Christmas Eve, we invited my Great-Aunt Mary and her husband, Carl, over for a Norwegian feast of lutefisk and lefse.”

BETTY ANDERSON • Tigerton, WI



In Canada, Québécois families eat *tourtières*—spiced meat pies—and the log cake known as *bûche de Noël*.

Chocolate Gingerbread Yule Log

Christmas Cravings

CLASSIC TREATS TO SHARE

Butterscotch Gingerbread Cookies

PREP: 15 MIN. + CHILLING • **BAKE:** 10 MIN.
MAKES: ABOUT 2 DOZEN

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 pkg. (3½ oz. each) cook-and-serve butterscotch pudding mix
- 3 tsp. ground ginger
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

1. In a large bowl, cream the butter and brown sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in the eggs. Combine the flour, pudding mixes, ginger, baking powder and cinnamon; gradually add to creamed mixture and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for 1 hour or until easy to handle.
2. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to ¼-in. thickness. Cut with lightly floured cookie cutters. Place 1 in. apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake at 350° for 6-8 minutes or until firm. Remove to wire racks to cool. Decorate as desired.

Red Velvet Spritz Cookies

PREP: 20 MIN. • **BAKE:** 10 MIN.
MAKES: ABOUT 8 DOZEN

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 large egg, separated
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 tsp. paste food coloring, optional
- ½ tsp. peppermint extract, optional
- 2½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Tbsp. baking cocoa
- 1 Tbsp. water
- Sprinkles

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter, cream cheese and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in egg yolk, vanilla and, if desired, food coloring and extract. In another bowl, whisk the flour and cocoa; gradually beat into creamed mixture.
 2. Using a cookie press fitted with a disk of your choice, press dough 1 in. apart onto ungreased baking sheets. In a small bowl, mix egg white and water; brush over cookies. Decorate as desired with sprinkles. Bake for 10-12 minutes or until set. Cool on pans 2 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.
- FREEZE OPTION** *Transfer dough to a resealable plastic freezer bag; freeze. To use, thaw dough in the refrigerator overnight or until soft enough to press. Prepare and bake cookies as directed.*

Santa Claus Cookies

PREP: 40 MIN. • **COOK:** 5 MIN.
MAKES: 32 COOKIES

- 12 oz. white baking chocolate, chopped
- 1 pkg. (1 lb.) Nutter Butter sandwich cookies
- Red colored sugar
- 32 vanilla or white chips
- 64 miniature semisweet chocolate chips
- 32 Red Hots

1. In a microwave, melt the white chocolate at 70% power for 1 minute; stir. Microwave at additional 10- to 20-second intervals, stirring until chocolate is smooth.
2. Dip one end of each cookie into melted chocolate, allowing excess to drip off. Place on wire racks. For Santa's hat, sprinkle red sugar on top part of chocolate. Press one vanilla chip off-center on hat for pompom; let stand until set.
3. Dip other end of each cookie into melted chocolate for beard, leaving center of cookie uncovered. Place on wire racks. With a dab of melted chocolate, attach semisweet chips for eyes and a Red Hot for nose. Place on waxed paper until set.

In Denmark, the *Juleaften* (Christmas Eve) feast features *risalamande* (rice pudding). Whoever finds the whole almond in the pudding will have good luck in the coming year.

In Latin America, families celebrate *Nochebuena* (the Good Night) with whole pigs roasted over open fires, *arroz con dulce* (sweet rice) and *coquito*, a drink with coconut milk and rum.



The Czech Republic feast on Generous Day, Dec. 24, includes fish soup, holiday bread and strudel.

Pecan Apple Strudel

A Table for 66, Please

GRANDPA'S WORK WAS A FEAST FOR THE EYES AND THE STOMACH

by JOYCE ELAINE BORING • *Johnstown, PA*

Christmas Day 1954 will forever stand in my memory. Several inches of snow blanketed the ground and the huge pine trees that surrounded our house. I awoke to a beautiful winter scene, feeling lucky to be there to see it.

We spent Christmas Day with our extended family on my grandparents' farm, which was almost 300 acres. Driving through the dense forest to reach their property was an adventure in itself.

Grandpa, an engineer on the Pennsylvania Railroad, spent long hours preparing his yearly Christmas feast. That year he would feed 66 of us.

The festively decorated tables ran from the large country kitchen into the living room. My grandpa had prepared roasted turkeys and ducklings, mounds of fluffy mashed potatoes and candied sweet potatoes, bread stuffing and several other side dishes. The sweets of the day were his homemade German doughnuts (known as *faschnauts*).

After dinner, we sang carols and read from the Bible. Then ringing sleigh bells and a knock on the living room window announced Santa Claus, who came in burdened with gifts for everyone.

How I love to remember that day!



Kay Schopp, now of Tucson, AZ, recalls holiday baking with her kids Susan and Danny. "Danny is sprinkling a paintbrush, which he used to decorate the cookies," she says. This picture was taken in 1954 at the family's home in Madison, WI.



In the Philippines, street vendors sell *puto bumbong*, a sweet of purple rice served with butter, sugar and coconut on Christmas Eve.

See TASTEOFHOME.COM for these yule treats and more.

"The night of the *wigilia*, the festive vigil, my Polish family shared in the *oplatek*, a wafer of water and flour—a reminder of the bleak outlook facing the family searching for a room in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago."

ED CHROSTOWSKI • Ridgefield, CT



1

Yule Love This Salesman

THE JOLLY OLD ELF IS AN ADVERTISING VETERAN



Though St. Nick appeared in ads as early as 1840, it wasn't until after 1863, when cartoonist Thomas Nast created the now-familiar figure in red suit and white beard, that Santa became the holiday season's most popular pitchman.

by MARY-LIZ SHAW



Give the book that's good enough to eat. Give Life Savers' Sweet Story Book. It's more than readable. It's eatable. Because it's rolls and rolls of Life Savers in everybody's favorite flavors, all wrapped up in a shiny Christmas book. So this Christmas when you need a stocking stuffer, (or a gift for the postman, milkman, paper boy, teacher, or anyone else you like), give Life Savers' Sweet Story Book. And we'll give you 10¢ off.



2



3

KRIS KRINGLE COLD CALLS

1) *Country Life*, 1920: Santa had been a Murad favorite from before WWI. **2)** *Better Homes & Gardens*, 1972: Santa pitches the Sweet Story Book as a last-minute “life saver.” **3)** *Family Circle*, 1962: Santa gives everyone’s



4



5



6

favorite condiment—long before Del Monte conceded to calling it ketchup in the '80s. **4)** *Family Circle*, 1962: Colgate's Soaky Santa bath suds was a popular stocking stuffer. **5)** *National Geographic*, 1954: Coca-Cola Co.'s red-faced, jolly Santa was conceived by illustrator Haddon Sundblom. **6)** *Reader's Digest*, 1966: Santa gets glasses.

One of our favorites was “O Tannenbaum” sung by Nat King Cole. To this day, my family sings “O Tannenbaum” the way he did—in German. I don’t even know the song in English. We still listen to Nat at Christmastime.

ALAN FULLING
Palestine, IL



It became a family tradition to sing along to Bing Crosby’s *White Christmas* album. The kids especially loved to sing “Santa Claus Is Coming to Town” and the line “the big fat man with the long white beard—he’s coming to town!”

LINDA MIXDORF
Cedar Falls, IA

Velvet Pipes Warm Up the Season

THEY SING ALL CHRISTMAS WITH DEAN, ANDY, ELVIS AND—WHO ELSE?—DER BINGLE

by MARILYN FAWELL • Lombard, IL

Our family has always been crazy for Christmas. Back in the ’60s, when our children were small, we used to decorate three trees and every room in the house.

We had music playing in the background all season long. We had LPs stacked up ready to drop into our old 6-foot walnut stereo console for continuous holiday tunes while we decorated the house and wrapped gifts. Our children still remember these beautiful Christmas songs. Here are some of our family favorites.

- ★ **Dean Martin:** “Silver Bells,” “A Marshmallow World” and “Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer”
- ★ **Andy Williams:** “My Favorite Things,” “Do You Hear What I Hear?,” “The Bells of St. Mary’s” and “Little Altar Boy”
- ★ **Bing Crosby:** “White Christmas,” “The Little Drummer Boy,” “Frosty the Snowman” and “Jingle Bells”
- ★ **Elvis Presley:** “I’ll Be Home for Christmas,” “Blue Christmas,” “O Little Town of Bethlehem,” “I’ll Be Home on Christmas Day” and “Here Comes Santa Claus”

We also loved Lou Monte’s novelty songs “Dominick the Donkey” and “Pepino, the Italian Mouse.”

We still listen to these old favorites—on CDs now instead of records—and they always evoke memories of the bygone Christmases when we were all together.

It’s such fun to reminisce!



SLEIGH BELLS RING, ARE YOU LISTENIN’?

One of my most cherished childhood memories is of Dad taking church singers caroling in the bobsled with a wonderful set of sleigh bells on the horses. Here is our pastor holding my own set of bells, which the church choir used for its rendition of “Sleigh Ride” in 2014.

CAROL PRITCHETT
Mobile, AL

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

It's the most musical time of the year.
How many of these holiday songs make your personal Yuletide soundtrack?

1. Written in 1942, it made the Billboard 100 every year until 1963.

- A. "I'll Be Home for Christmas"
- B. "Silver Bells"
- C. "White Christmas"

2. This 1944 song was deemed too sad until the singer helped to rewrite it.

- A. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas"
- B. "(There's No Place Like) Home for the Holidays"
- C. "The Holly and the Ivy"

3. Co-written by crooner Mel Torme, this was a hit for another beloved crooner.

- A. "Sleigh Ride"
- B. "Frosty the Snowman"
- C. "The Christmas Song"

4. This novelty hit in 1952 was by a 13-year-old singer.

- A. "I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas"
- B. "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus"
- C. "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer"

5. This jazzy 1953 hit was from the singer who later played Catwoman.

- A. "Here Comes Santa Claus"
- B. "Santa Baby"
- C. "Must Be Santa"

6. This is considered the first rock 'n' roll holiday hit.

- A. "Jingle Bell Rock"
- B. "Baby, It's Cold Outside"
- C. "Let It Snow"

7. It was on Elvis' first Christmas album in 1957.

- A. "Jingle Bells"
- B. "Winter Wonderland"
- C. "Blue Christmas"

8. It didn't chart until two years after Brenda Lee recorded it.

- A. "Santa Claus Is Coming to Town"
- B. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree"
- C. "Deck the Halls"

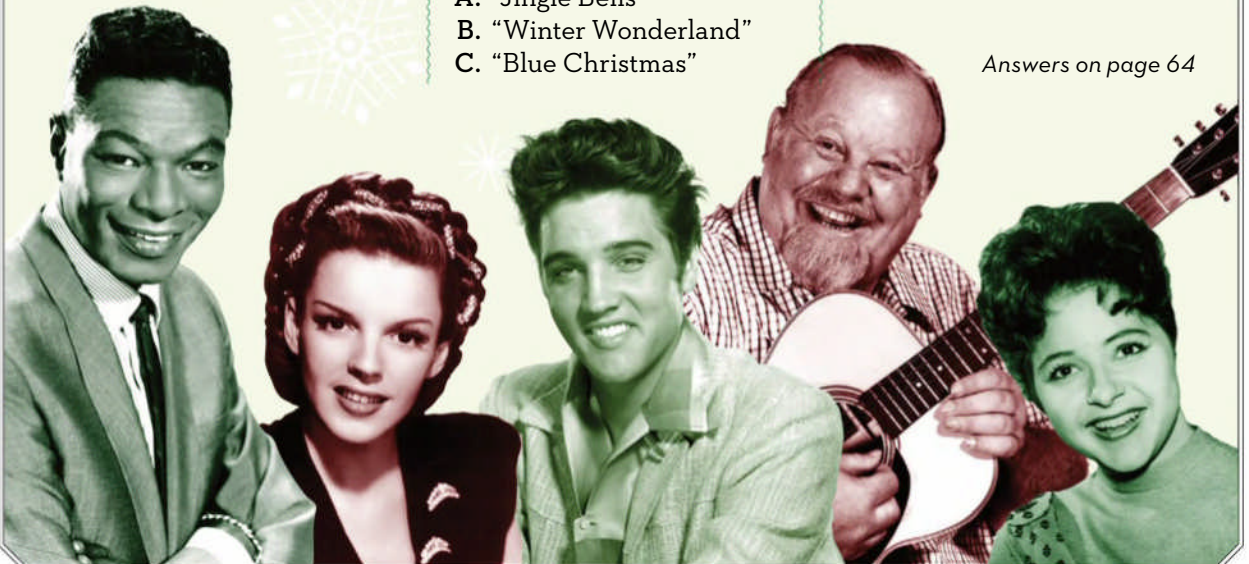
9. This one's a country favorite from Buck Owens.

- A. "Santa Claus Is Back in Town"
- B. "Thinking About Drinking for Christmas"
- C. "Santa Looked a Lot Like Daddy"

10. It appears in the popular stop-motion movie *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

- A. "Holly Jolly Christmas"
- B. "The Wassail Song"
- C. "The First Noel"

Answers on page 64





**CELEBRATING
GRANDMA'S**
birthday in
1949, Arlene
sits with her doll
and Grandma
Elizabeth Scott.

All Aglow in Lights

GRANDMA'S BIRTHDAY WAS THE FINAL HURRAH

by ARLENE SHOVALD • *Salida, CO*

Little Christmas, also known as Epiphany, was nearly as special as Christmas when I was growing up in the 1940s in Iron River, Michigan. On Jan. 6, all my relatives got together to celebrate my grandmother's birthday and take down her Christmas tree. Sometimes my aunts, uncles and cousins from as far as Marquette, Michigan (almost 90 miles away), would come for a visit.

We cousins were allowed to carefully remove the special ornaments from the tree. I remember them well, especially two wooden Easter eggs given to Grandma by a neighbor girl who went to college—a big deal in our small town. Grandma tied ribbons around them and turned them into ornaments.

The ornaments were carefully wrapped in tissue paper and packed in a box that was stored behind a curtain in Grandma's closet until the week before Christmas the following year. In those days, we never put up decorations any earlier than a week before Christmas. It just wasn't right.

Some years I helped Grandma make paper chains from construction paper to decorate the tree (those we threw away). Once, we made popcorn-and-cranberry chains, but we didn't

try that again because it was too hard to run the needle and thread through the popcorn without breaking it and pricking our fingers.

Taking Grandma's special sugar cookies off the tree was the best part of the event. By early January the cookies were pretty stale, but to us kids they were still delicious. We felt very grown up eating cookies and drinking coffee with the adults. Of course, our coffee was diluted with canned milk and sugar.

Uncle John also bought a special birthday cake at the A&P store. Grandma couldn't be expected to bake her own birthday cake.

We sat in her living room, turned on the tree lights and basked in their glow one last time, enjoying the stale Christmas cookies, store-bought birthday cake and coffee.

The final step was to remove the lights from the tree. It was always a little sad being tucked into bed that night, knowing it wouldn't be Christmas again for another whole year.

But that wasn't the end. The next morning my uncles hauled Grandma's tree outdoors, where my older cousins and their friends placed it on the hill in front of our house and covered it with snow. Their makeshift ski jump lasted until about March, when spring sunshine finally melted the last of the snow.



ONE GRATEFUL BIRTHDAY GAL

Born on Christmas Eve, I never tired of hearing how the nurses sang carols as they carted the newborns to their mommies on Christmas Day. My mother always treated me to a cake and wrapped my gifts in birthday paper. Now my thoughtful husband, children, daughter-in-law and grandkids make Christmas Eve a very special occasion for me.

DENISE ROBINSON • *Rochester, NY*



What's Christmas without a fireplace, even if it is cardboard? Siblings, from left, Kevin, Gregory, Paula and Kathleen show off their Christmas gifts in 1966 as Mom, **Barbara Mohr** of Millington, MI, gets them to smile. ●

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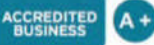
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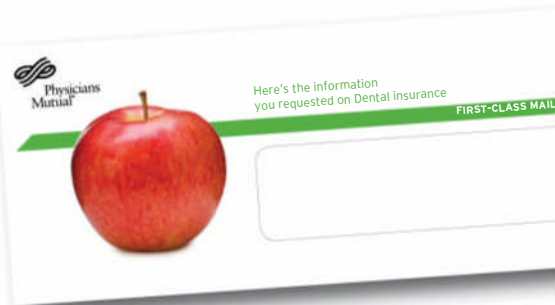
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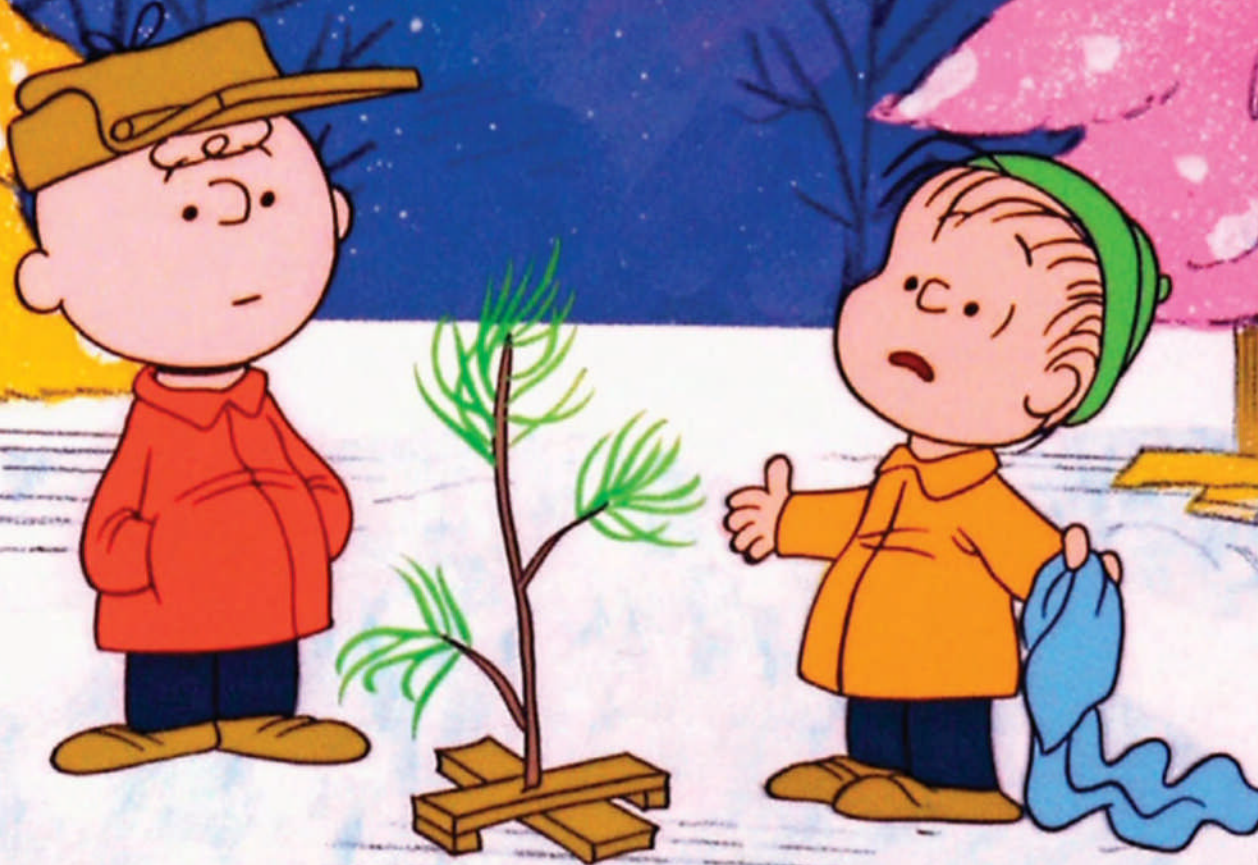


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RETRO REPLAY

BLAST FROM
THE PAST



GOOD TIDINGS

Charlie Brown and Linus van Pelt discuss their sad tree in the CBS special **A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS**. Almost half of TV households tuned in to the show Dec. 9, 1965, making it No. 2 in ratings that week, after *Bonanza*.



SPLITTIN' IMAGE CARS, such as this one, joined the Hot Wheels model lineup in 1969.



POP CULTURE

THAT PRESENT WAS RIGHT ON TRACK

Hot Wheels car sets were the coolest.

BY **ELLIOTT MATTICE** • SYRACUSE, NY

One Christmas in the late '60s, my brother and I got a Hot Wheels set from our parents, and it was all we'd hoped it would be.

Of course we'd seen the TV commercials leading up to the holiday. They showed real dragsters and souped-up muscle cars in California interspersed with pictures of the tiny metal cars that sped incredibly fast down cheddar cheese-colored tracks. At the end of each ad, a gruff voice spoke the slogan "Go...with the winner!"

These were not the slow-moving Matchbox cars we were used to; Hot Wheels were the real deal, with gleaming metal finishes and chrome mag wheels that spun effortlessly on pinlike axles. To say we were excited would be an understatement. We carefully opened the pop art packaging emblazoned with the flaming logo and assembled the track.

Growing up in the country, we were about as hip as saddle shoes. Our parents regularly had us get crew cuts, which really helped us stand out in the school yard.

But the toy car set gave us our own piece of trendy California, with a miniature racetrack, a speedometer and a stunt loop. I even had a sparkling race car called Beatnik Bandit. I had no idea what a beatnik was, but I knew it had to be cool.

As kids, we had been far from spoiled and our parents rarely bought us toys, so that Christmas we felt as if we'd won the lottery. We lost ourselves racing our cars, making our own revving engine sounds, and marveling at their speed as they whipped down the tracks, often flying right off. We were transported to an exotic place, the western desert flats, where cars just like ours raced in blazing heats and sometimes broke land-speed records.

I am guessing our dad had picked out the set, but I can guarantee that he had no idea how much his present meant to us. We would go on to get more racing sets and special-issue cars, slowly amassing a collection that became the toys we played with the most over the years.

Thanks, Mom and Dad, for such a wonderful gift that Christmas a long, long time ago. ●

RACING FORM

16 million sets of Hot Wheels sold in 1968, the top-selling toy that year.

Mattel co-founder Elliot Handler wanted Hot Wheels to look like custom hot rods and move faster than any other toy car.

Led by a former Chevrolet designer, the toy team released 16 models in 1968, including a Barracuda, a Camaro, a Corvette and a mini version of the concept car known as the Beatnik Bandit.

Thick plastic wheels spun on seemingly frictionless axles, and the cars were painted in sparkly Spectraflame.

Hot Wheels were inducted into the National Toy Hall of Fame in 2011.

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— Sherri H., Granville, NY

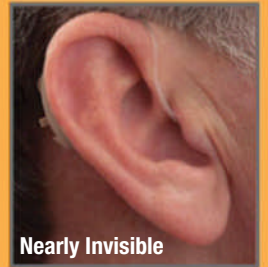
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BACK IN TIME

TAKE A BREAK

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- 58 NAME THAT CAR
- 60 LAST LAUGH
- 62 CROSSWORD
- 66 LASTING IMPRESSION

SANTA'S SECRET

Even though I could not speak English then (1945), I was excited to see **SANI CLOSI**, as we called him in Italian, in Santa Cruz, California.

NORMA WILSON
SCOTTS VALLEY, CA

ON A HECTIC Christmas in the early 1960s, Lee Turner of Norwood, NY, takes a moment to admire a toy with his sons Daryn and Lee Jr.



PICTURES FROM THE PAST

CHRISTMAS IN PAJAMAS

Who has time to dress when there are presents waiting?

COMING UP: Foreign Travel

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ON CHRISTMAS MORNING

in 1957, the entire Chapman family of Newark, OH—Gary, Donna, Rod and baby Chris—dressed in new pajamas, even Donna's doll. Their parents,

Don and Dorothy, aren't pictured here, but they had a matching set of PJs, too.





1969

OAKVILLE,
ONTARIO

“My brother Ted looks more excited about my new skates than I do,” says **MARY-LIZ SHAW**, of Fox Point, WI. “Not surprising, for as I recall, we had to return them because they were too big.”



A HOLIDAY BEDTIME STORY

My father, Paul Prough Sr., took this picture of me reading from *The Santa Claus Book*, surrounded by my other Christmas gifts (including a Gilbert Erector set), in 1957. To the left, you can see a bit of the model train display Dad always built under our tree. ●

PAUL PROUGH JR. · MOUNT UNION, PA

NAME
THAT CAR

HIS TURN TO FLEX SOME MUSCLE

He finally found one beauty of a beast.

BY JAY BENEDICT • COLUMBUS, OH

When we baby boomers came of driving age, high performance wasn't just an option, it was a movement. Premium gas was 35 cents a gallon—who cared about economy? In high school, I'd see some of the neighborhood's hottest cars being driven around the block. Like a lot of the kids who were walking instead of riding, I was in awe. I wanted one.

Big-block, high-performance cars like these were always described by the cubic inches under the hood: 426 Ramcharger, 426 Hemi, 409, 427, 389, etc. Many of the cars came with multiple carburetors and suspensions tuned up for drag racing. Naturally, they weren't fuel sippers; most averaged 10 to 12 miles per gallon in normal driving.

My friend Wayne's sister owned

one of these beasts and often let him drive it. Acceleration was an art form on the streets and in the culture, and Wayne had a gift for it. I'd smile whenever he'd peel out—floor it from a dead stop so the back tires would spin in place—and burn out—mash the gas while braking with the other foot, which caused the rear tires to smoke.

In 1998, 35 years after high school, I found a ride like the one Wayne's sister had. It has two four-barrel carburetors, a 425-horsepower 409 engine, a four-speed manual transmission and a Positraction 4:11 rear end. It was a dream come true for that kid who stared with longing at those muscle cars years ago. But I confess: I've retired my car from burning up the drag strip. Parts are too expensive and hard to find.

Oh, and I still get only 10 miles to the gallon. ●

CLASSIC
CLUES

1 When GM fired him as CEO, William Durant became a co-founder of this automaker.

2 The company was named for a Swiss-born car racer and engineer.

3 The model name still exists today.

4 The high-performance option package on this car was later extended to other cars in the line.

5 Italian sports car maker Lamborghini debuted its brand the year this car was built.

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Check your answer on page 64.



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LAST
LAUGH

THE MYSTERY OF THE DISAPPEARING FORKS

BY PATTY BALLARD • LAKE WORTH, FL » ILLUSTRATION MATT ZUMBO

As the lab director at a hospital, my dad always had his employees come to our house for various seasonal parties. On the day of the party Mom would be busy cleaning, decorating and setting up the table. Her place settings were intricate, with the napkins all in a row and beside each plate a precise semicircle of forks. It was a tricky operation that required all of her concentration.

On one of these occasions, my sister Linda and I were supposed to be helping Mom. Even these many years later, I have no explanation for what happened next. It was as if Linda and I were of one mind. We looked at each other and smiled. We executed our plan perfectly, as if we had rehearsed it many times instead of just dreaming it up on the spot.

Coming back from the kitchen with silverware in hand, Mom set about lining up the forks with the efficiency of a general. She counted them and decided that she needed more, so back to the kitchen she went.

Then Linda struck: She swept up several forks and casually made her way to the kitchen. As our sweet mother returned with more forks, she passed Linda, who was on her way to deposit the stolen ones back in the drawer. Mom, puzzled, stared at the table and very carefully counted again—and went back to the kitchen for more forks. We repeated the trick flawlessly at least three more times.

Finally, we couldn't contain our laughter any longer and told Mom what we had done. I think she was so relieved she wasn't going crazy that she didn't have time to be mad at us.



**MOM, PUZZLED, STARED AT THE TABLE AND
VERY CAREFULLY COUNTED AGAIN.**



Merrily They Rolled Along Their Malted Milky Way

During the busy Christmas season in 1972, I worked at J.C. Penney selling luggage and greeting cards.

It was the custom that sales associates would fill in for clerks from different departments who were taking their breaks. When my turn came, I relieved the candy clerk. I hated working the candy counter because you had to weigh every ounce of candy manually to calculate the cost.

Every day, the candy department featured two specials loaded in bins at each end of the counter. Malted milk balls were one of the specials that day. My first customer asked for a quarter-ounce of them. I opened the bin, but realized too late I'd used the wrong door. Malted milk balls spilled out faster than coins from a slot machine, bouncing loudly onto the floor and rolling everywhere.

Several customers had lined up, and I was ankle deep in malted milk balls. I tottered in my high heels, murdering milk balls—*crunch! crunch!*—as I struggled to remain upright while trying to serve everyone.

Just then, the regular candy clerk returned from her break, and seeing my predicament, burst out laughing. The two of us scooped up the runaway candy as fast as we could. We may have eaten one or two (or 10)—purely in the interest of cleanup, of course. I kept thinking of that *I Love Lucy* episode where Lucy and Ethel can't keep up with the conveyor belt of chocolates at the candy factory.

After that, I was happy to return to luggage and greeting cards, where no one could order a quarter-ounce of anything. ●

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WEST ALLIS, WI



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Signature: Jim Woods, Vice President, Planning, Consumer Marketing



HOLIDAY MOVIES

BY KELLY WHITT

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14						15						16		
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59				60	61					62	63			
64				65						66				
67				68						69				

ACROSS

- 1 Spontaneous (hyph.)
- 6 Tragic king
- 11 Cleopatra's killer
- 14 Native New Zealanders
- 15 Atmospheric layer
- 16 Mauna _____ Observatory
- 17 Sharif and Khayyam
- 18 1946 holiday movie *It's A _____ Life*
- 20 1964 holiday movie *Rudolph, the _____-Nosed Reindeer*

- 21 Obeys
- 23 Piercing sites
- 24 Type of frost
- 25 Desktops (abbr.)
- 27 Allow
- 30 Money in Malta
- 32 Wash the floor
- 35 Shreds
- 36 Coastal African country
- 37 "Chances _____"
- 38 Funny bone locale
- 39 Opposite WNW
- 40 Some federal agents
- 42 None antonym
- 43 Word before circle
- 45 Brilliant success
- 46 A Stooge
- 47 Gasoline
- 48 Like this clue
- 49 Wager
- 50 Get in
- 51 Sheltered

- 54 Saguaro and prickly pear
- 56 1942 holiday movie *Holiday _____*
- 59 1990 holiday movie _____ (2 words)
- 62 Special appearance
- 64 Tidbit
- 65 Deep sea _____
- 66 Student or Soviet
- 67 Affirmative
- 68 Large amounts
- 69 1,000 kilograms

DOWN

- 1 Love in Spain
- 2 Judi Dench's title
- 3 Pile on
- 4 Abbreviation for potential profitability
- 5 1947 holiday movie *The _____ (2 words)*
- 6 Landscaper's need

- 7 Preppy brand
- 8 Puts on
- 9 Conjunction
- 10 Recognize
- 11 _____ Romeo
- 12 Like some candy
- 13 Buddies
- 19 *In medias _____*
- 22 Nosh
- 24 Kind of sandwich
- 25 Expert
- 26 1945 holiday movie *Christmas in _____*
- 27 Mr. T's group (2 words)
- 28 Stringed instrument
- 29 Electric cord
- 30 Painter's prop
- 31 Lyft competitor
- 32 Actress Thomas
- 33 Killer whales
- 34 Wasps and termites
- 36 Wilder or Hackman
- 41 Farmer's plot

- 44 Pistachio
- 48 Carpenter _____
- 49 Spelling or geography
- 50 Computers of a certain brand
- 51 Sailor's shout
- 52 Legend
- 53 Rescue workers (abbr.)
- 54 Cades _____
- 55 Once again
- 56 Declare participation (2 words)
- 57 Bright color
- 58 Zero
- 60 Commercials
- 61 West's Diamond _____
- 63 A year in Mexico

HOW'D YOU DO?
Solution on page 64.

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Hattie has lost a hatpin in this issue! If you find it, tell us at reminisce.com/hatpin. We'll randomly select winners to receive a year's subscription to *Reminisce*. In the October/November issue, we hid the hatpin on page 30, along the top of the picture frame.

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TRIVIAL PURSUITS, PAGE 13:

- Southfork
- EWING 3 3. J.R.
- J.R.
5. His sister-in-law and former mistress, Kristin Shepard
6. Barbara Bel Geddes and Donna Reed
7. Ray Krebbs
8. J.R. (Larry Hagman)
9. *Knots Landing*
10. Zero

CHRISTMAS MUSIC QUIZ, PAGE 47:

- 1-C; 2-A; 3-C; 4-B; 5-B; 6-A; 7-C; 8-B; 9-C; 10-A.

NAME THAT CAR, PAGE 58:

Jay Benedict's beast is a 1963 Chevy Impala Super Sport 409.





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LASTING IMPRESSION

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO RAISE A CHILD'S BIKE

A last-minute elbow injury is no match for a dad armed with determination.

BY JEANETTE DYESS RYAN • ROBERTSDALE, AL

Johnny and I, along with our two young sons, Barry and Doyle, lived in a small rural community in southern Alabama in 1959. We had bought Barry a bicycle and Doyle a tricycle for Christmas, and had hidden them in the carport, where Johnny would assemble them on Christmas Eve after the kids were asleep.

But on Christmas Eve day, Johnny had to go to Brookley Air Force Base in Mobile, an hour away, to repair a Thunderbird F-100 Super Sabre jet. I had my hands full with baking, preparing for Christmas dinner and caring for two energetic boys.

Just as I was making my

favorite frosting for the chocolate cake, a neighbor knocked on the door. Beatrice was the only person on our road with a telephone. The base had called to say that a heavy torque wrench had come apart in Johnny's hand, knocking his elbow out of

A HEAVY TORQUE WRENCH HAD COME APART IN HIS HAND.

joint and chipping the bone. My sister-in-law Ruth and her husband, Otto, took me to the hospital while my mother-in-law stayed with the children.

We got there to find Johnny with a cast on his arm, raring

BARRY AND DOYLE smile with pride atop their newly assembled Christmas gifts.

to get home despite the doctor's orders that he stay. It was Christmas Eve, Johnny argued, and he had bikes to assemble for his boys. The doctor said he'd consider dismissing him the next morning if Johnny could find someone to drive him home.

On Christmas morning, Johnny contacted the base and was told everyone was off duty; there was no one to drive him home. Then he tried the motor pool. They said orders would have to come from higher up, so Johnny kept making calls. At last, a big blue car with the Air Force insignia rolled up to the hospital asking for the man who needed a lift home so he could put together Christmas bikes for his boys.

Johnny's mother and I were putting dinner on the table when we heard the car. We were thrilled to see Johnny, his arm in a sling, getting out, assisted by a uniformed Air Force officer.

With Otto's help, Johnny assembled the boys' gifts, and they all had a jolly time playing together that afternoon.

Johnny would later require two surgeries on his arm, but those were in the future. That cold Christmas Day, our hearts were full of gratitude for the many people who had gone the extra mile to bring us together on the holiday. ●

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NEW YEAR

- from -

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