



Festival of Lights



The Tallahassee wards of the Stake are hosting a FESTIVAL OF MUSIC AND LIGHTS to celebrate the Christmas season. The grounds of the Stake Center will be lighted through December 31 with over 50,000 miniature lights. The lights will be turned on at dusk and off at midnight. The gates will be open for driving through the parking lot to view the lights.

A live nativity scene will also be set up on the grounds on the evenings of musical performances. A regular nativity scene will be on display at all other times.

Outdoor musical performances (weather permitting) will be presented from approximately 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Those performances are shown in the following schedule.

December

9	Tallahassee Second Ward Choir*
13	Rickards High School Chorus
16	Marvin Goldstein Christmas Medley (Piano)
17	Tallahassee First Ward Choir*
18	Tallahassee Third Ward Choirs
19	Leon High School "Melodears"
20	Fordham/Moller Ensemble

* The choir will perform John W. Peterson's Christmas Cantata "Night of Miracles."



Following each of these programs, the movie "Mr. Krueger's Christmas" starring Jimmy Stewart will be shown inside the building.

The public will be invited to this Festival. It is hoped that as we extend our hand into the community that we might share the spirit of Christmas with our fellow Christians in commemorating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.



PRICELESS GIFTS

As Christmas time approaches,
We wonder what to give
That those we love most dearly
Abundantly may live.

We feel that gifts most needed
Are gifts inspired above,
The gift of understanding
Of sympathy and love.

The gift of human kindness,
Of tolerance and trust,
The gift of willing service--
Not serve because we must.

The gifts of faith and patience
Of charity and hope,
The gift of golden silence
When we with anger cope.

The gift of true forgiveness--
Repentance from all wrong,
The gift of happy laughter,
The gift of joyful song.

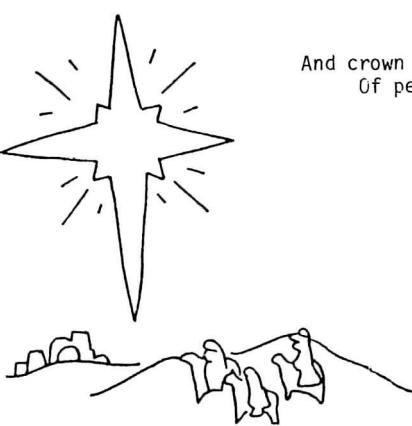
And, yes, the gift of sorrow--
We must the bitter share,
To understand life's sweetness
And learn the power of prayer.

Thus gifts we all would wish for
Are ours to have and give,
If fittingly we'll use them
Abundantly we'll live.

Till our unselfish giving
Of all we have of worth
Brings love of God and neighbor
To all who grace the earth.

And crown life with abundance
Of peace and perfect joy,
Through these free gifts so priceless
That true love doth employ.

--Sarah Hale Warwood



Editor's Note: Sarah Hale Warwood is the grandmother of Elaine Salisbury, Tallahassee First Ward.



Stake Presidency Message

by Richard Chapple
Stake President

Christmas is a time of fun, excitement, traditions, and serious contemplation, all of which should be focussed in the family.

No other holiday brings to my mind such pleasant memories. On the rather rare occasions when we had a really white Christmas, we children would make snowmen and snow angels and play for hours outdoors, oblivious to the cold. When I was not outside playing or uptown shopping, my attention was concentrated on the tree, a bushy pinon pine if we were lucky, and on the treasures underneath. My time was divided among gazing, wondering, wishing, organizing, reorganizing, and squeezing the gifts. When I was finished, everyone had a well-worn pile of gifts in his own well-marked and well-boundaried space under the tree. Naturally, I had the first pile in sequence.

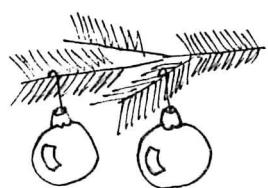
On Christmas Eve we always went to Grandma and Grandpa Johnson's farm. All the aunts, uncles, and cousins gathered for a traditional feast that violated the principle of moderation. Each year a short program was held after dinner during which we sang, performed (I had to say Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in Russian), and exchanged gifts. The purpose of the evening, in addition to family love and interaction, was to tire the children out so that they could go to sleep more easily. It never worked. In fact, I got so excited every year that I would become ill. Christmas morning seemed years away.

Christmas Day was a series of visits to family and friends and one long meal. It was the greatest day of the year. There could not be a more enjoyable time.

This year Christmas Eve comes on home evening and provides an ideal opportunity to establish and reinforce family traditions. In our home we will read or act out Luke's account of the birth of the Savior, tell stories, sing songs, and sit on the floor and talk with all lights out except those on the tree. We will open one gift and then go to bed. With any luck, no one will get ill.

Amidst all of this I will spend a few moments considering the Savior. It is because of Him that I have hope for the future, that I feel so close to my family, and that I feel thanksgiving for life and its experiences. He gives real meaning to who we are and to what we do.

May we all enjoy the excitement, traditions, and joyous reflections that Christmas brings.



Relief Society

by Renée R. Anderson
Stake Relief Society President

We have so enjoyed attending your Ward and Branch Conferences and your social functions to get to know you better and feel your sweet spirit. We plan to make lots of visits to the units in the next three months.

We want to remind you of our first Leadership Meeting of 1985 to be held January 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. All presidents, counselors, secretaries, homemaking leaders, teachers and music personnel should attend this special leadership meeting where we will have departments for each one. We will also introduce our theme for the year, "Striving Together As Sisters in Zion."

Amid the holiday seasons of Thanksgiving and Christmas, we wish to express our thanks to our Heavenly Father for sending His Son Jesus Christ, to bless our lives with His teachings, His example, and His love. We are grateful and recognize Him as our Savior and Redeemer.

We in the Stake Relief Society are grateful for the lives and good works of all you sisters. We know you are striving to represent our Savior in all your good deeds and actions. May you continue to so live is our prayer at this season.

Young Men



by Bill Whitfield
Second Counselor
Stake Young Men Presidency

An open-air Sacrament meeting was held in a planted pine and broomsage field at Tyndall Air Force Base near Panama City on October 21. Attending were 50 to 60 Church and non-member Boy and Girl Scouts and leaders from an area ranging roughly from Tallahassee to Pensacola and southern Alabama to Panama City. All were encamped at the Tri-Council Boy and Girl Scout Camporee at Tyndall. The day was beautiful but not as beautiful as the testimonies that were given.

It was easy to see how the Church Young Men and Boy Scout programs blend together. The testimonies given by the young people and leaders alike told of their love for the Church and Scouting, and how much each has helped them in the other. As we quietly filed away from the meeting, we could feel the spirit was and had been with us.

Since 1913, when the Church adopted Boy Scouting as an extension of the Church Young Men Program, the Church and Boy Scouting have been very close. The Scout Oath and Laws are essentially the path we want our young men to follow. The Church uses Scouting to assist the priesthood in accomplishing its eternal purposes.

Because the goals of Boy Scouting and the Aaronic Priesthood are so close, and active participation in Scouting helps Church leaders guide boys through the Young Men program, Church leaders and parents are urged to see that their ward/branch organizes a Scout troop and that their young men participate. A large number of young men are not necessary since as few as three to five can be organized into a troop. Not all have to be members: you want non-members because Scouting is a good missionary tool.



Moultrie

by Wendell Allegood
Moultrie Branch Public Communications Director

Welcome to the Ted Hayes, Jr. family, baptized in North Carolina. In a classic example of how the member missionary program is supposed to be conducted, the Moultrie Branch recently gained a five member family on its membership roles.

Brother Ted Hayes, Jr. was friendshipped by a good Mormon at his previous place of employment in North Carolina. The golden questions were asked and answered. The elect really do recognize the Good Shepherd as home discussions with the full time missionaries led to a commitment for baptism by Brother and Sister Hayes. Brother Hayes accepted a position with Riverside Manufacturing Company of Moultrie and brought his family into the open arms of Moultrie Branch President Lincoln Barlow, an executive with Riverside for a number of years.

Brother Hayes now serves as scoutmaster for the Moultrie Branch Scout Troop #499. Sister Mary Hayes has been called as branch photograph historian. Daughter Sherri and son Teddy III attend Seminary while son Kent is in Primary.

Bainbridge



by Jan Mulford
Bainbridge Branch Public Communications Director

Folks in Bainbridge have been busy. Fourteen of us went to the Atlanta Temple the week ending November 10. We all got back in time for our meetings (and a yummy luncheon) in Tallahassee on the 10th.

Our single folks are enjoying "The Square Meal Deal." Anyone who is alone on Monday night gets together for a covered dish supper. This has proved not only a way to insure at least one balanced meal each week, but has proved valuable in fulfilling social, mental and physical needs.

The singles are also looking forward to hayrides, firesides, movie nights, swine time and holiday dinners. In Bainbridge we all have our shoulder to the wheel, and we are pushing the work along.

Institute

Here is the Institute schedule for the Spring of 1985. Classes begin Wednesday, January 2.

The course, REL 212, will be the New Testament. This class is about the life and teachings of the early apostles. It also includes the history and doctrine of the New Testament Church as contained in Acts through Revelation.

REL 212 will be taught at the Institute on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm and at the FSU Student Union, Room 352, on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:20 pm.

The instructor will be Arnold K. Garr, Director of Seminaries and Institutes.

Registration is \$3.00 for college students of all ages and their spouses and young adults under 26. Non-college adults, 26 and over, can register for \$15.00.

Spotlight



If you've ever visited the Madison branch, you've probably met the Williamsons. They're sort of hard to miss, as there are five of them. Frank is the branch clerk while Sue is the Primary president.

Frank was raised in the Church, and served in a variety of callings. He's been branch clerk for five years. Sue joined the Church after her marriage; she was attracted by the emphasis on families. She's served in various capacities since her conversion, including Primary and Relief Society teacher and Relief Society president.

Frank works for a chemical company, where he drives a bulldozer, while Sue works with hearing impaired children and drives a school bus for deaf children.

The children keep busy, too. Frankie, 14, is a defensive lineman for the Madison High School football squad, and also attends seminary. He'd like to be either a lawyer or computer programmer.

Kim, 11, is a cheerleader at Lee Junior High School, plays piano and takes dance lessons.

Justin, 4, likes to cook.

Everyone agrees that belonging to the Church has helped them to draw closer as a family. They do things like play volleyball and darts, go to movies, and take turns teaching family home evening lessons. Since both sets of grandparents live nearby, visits with family are also a favorite pastime.

Sue describes her husband as quiet and real patient, the kind to stay calm in a crisis. Relief Society president Sharon Floyd has worked with Sue on various callings and projects. She comments, "Sue has a real talent for touching and teaching children. She also has a way of being aware when someone is down, and making the extra effort to cheer them up."

Any goals the family has? "If the kids can just remain in the Church," Sue says, "then everything else will probably work out."



Carol Bliss would like to start a Chapter of Daughters of the Utah Pioneers. To become a member you must have ancestors who were in Utah before May 1869, (before the railroad). The group meets monthly during the school year with lessons pertaining to pioneers and a biographical sketch of someone's ancestor. If interested, contact Carol Bliss at (904) 386-6307, 2930 Huntington, Tallahassee, FL, 32312.

Young Women

by Cherie Garr
Stake Young Women President

On October 20, the Laurels and Priests went on a four-hour canoeing trip down the Wacissa River. It was a lot of fun with several youth and chaperones getting wet and sunburned. At the end of the river run, Monticello Branch President Larry Brock cooked the group a delicious supper of mullet and hush puppies.



On November 18 the youth had a "Service Film Festival." This was a service activity where the youth went out and gave service to different groups in the community and took slides of what they did. The slides were put to music for a five-minute presentation.

This was a first-time event in our stake and it turned out to be a wonderful experience. It was decided to make this an annual affair, and wards and branches are already making plans for more service projects for next year. There were over 200 people in attendance. Thanks to Quincy Ward for great refreshments.

Bainbridge presented slides of helping landscape their new building.

Quincy befriended and gave service to a sweet girl named Juli Holcomb, who, after they gave her a Smurf birthday party, died of a brain tumor.

Tallahassee II planned an outing in the park with blind children and had homemade ice cream and cake. One little boy said, "Can we do this again tomorrow?"

Thomasville went to the Glen-Mar Nursing Home and provided an evening of games, singing, and other activities.

Tallahassee III had three service activities, a pizza party, an ice cream party, and a scone party for non-member friends. And one non-member will be baptized as a result!

Valdosta helped clean up a home for a wonderful handicapped young adult in their ward.

Moultrie sponsored a dance at the Church for the Green Oaks Mental Retardation Activity Center. It was a great success!

Tallahassee I took a "talent show" to the senior citizens of the Tallahassee Convalescent Home and gave carnation flowers to the patients and provided refreshments.

In the midst of the miracle of serving there is the promise of Jesus Christ "that by losing ourselves in service, we find ourselves." Our youth and leaders certainly grew much from this wonderful service-giving experience.

Thank you youth! for a great job well done!

The View

from the Pews



Last Sunday as I sat in sacrament meeting, a funny thing happened. I found myself looking around at the members who were there and seeing the ones who weren't.

You know who you are. And I just wanted you to know I miss you.

I think of you when something neat happens and I wish you were there to share it. Like crunching into some fried chicken at ward conference or laughing at the roadshows. And I wish you'd have been there two weeks ago when the bishop had me speak at sacrament meeting and it seemed like half the chapel was asleep.

I know you're busy doing a lot of nice things on Sunday. Visiting with relatives is important, and of course the laundry has to be done.

I guess I'm just selfish for missing you. We need you in this ward. There's a skill the scouts have to learn that would be right up your alley. When I saw the tole painting you did in your kitchen, I wished you'd teach a homemaking class. And if you'd seen the centerpieces at the ward dinner dance--well, they were all right, but you'd have done better.

I don't care if you come to church wearing an old dress, smelling like cigarette smoke or half an hour late; I just care that you come. And if you did come, you might find that you weren't the only one in the ward to have a problem. All those well-scrubbed, soft-spoken people at church; well, you might be surprised at how many of them have problems of their own. But they're working on them, and letting us help.

Going to church can be a real pain sometimes. When the alarm doesn't go off and the kids are hollering and the hem falls out of your best dress, it might seem easier to stay home. But if you can just pile everyone in the car and get there, it about always seems worth it. Sometimes the lessons make you laugh or cry, or you see an old friend. And being able to take the sacrament and remember that there really is a God that loves you so very much makes you feel better about things.

A stranger walking past our chapel last Sunday might think it was pretty full. Sure, there were lots of people there. But we'll never be full, we'll never be complete until you are with us again.

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Editor's Note: "The View From the Pews" is an opportunity for members of the stake to present their opinions, either favorable or critical. Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editor, printed anonymously, and should be submitted to the Stake News, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.

(Young Women, continued) Dates to Remember

January 5 - Standards Night for all mothers and daughters 12 to 18, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

January 26 - Mini Youth Conference in Bristol with Marianna Stake youth, 14 years and older

January 29 - Young Women Leadership Meeting, 7:00 - 9:00 pm; presidencies to attend

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our youth and their leaders!

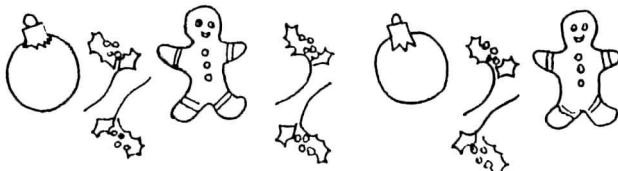
Cairo

by Kati Walker
Cairo Branch Public Communications Director

The Cairo Branch has been busy with fund-raising projects. On October 20 a very successful yard sale was held and on November 4 the branch had a food booth at Mule Day where they sold yummy hoagie sandwiches.

Kim Johnson, a Laurel in the Cairo Branch, was a contestant in the recent Grady County Jr. Miss Pageant. Kim, a senior at Cairo High School, was chosen as one of the five finalists. In addition to many school activities, Kim is an active seminary student, Laurel class president and assistant branch music director.

The Cairo Branch primary has been busy and has many activities planned through the holiday season. A mini-carnival was held at the chapel on Halloween night. Featured games included the cupcake walk, apple bobbing, the fish pond and an exciting balloon game. The Young Women in the branch painted clown faces on many of the primary children. On November 17, Nikki Humphries and Kristy Watts prepared pizza for their fathers at their Merrie Miss Daddy-Daughter Dinner.



Madison

by Lisa Cavanaugh
Madison Branch Public Communications Director

Members of the Madison Branch enjoyed local coverage of the General Conference, October 6-7, when WOAO/Channel 3 -- Madison transmitted the broadcast over their low-power television system. The local station owners agreed to transmit the broadcast, and with the assistance of non-member Fred Howard, President Patrick Lightcap made the satellite dish changes just days before the broadcast.

Several members of the Branch reported they were able to pick up the broadcast, and were most appreciative of the efforts by Channel 3. "We feel just like the folks in and around Salt Lake," said President Lightcap, "being able to sit at home for the broadcast."

The convenience of the localized showing gave many more members the opportunity to see the broadcast, many of whom could not have made the trip to (nearest broadcast sites of) Tallahassee or Valdosta, Georgia.

Special thanks to President Lightcap for his technological efforts and a very special thanks to Channel 3 for making the local transmission a reality.

* * *

New members joining the Madison Branch are Tommy and Jacqueline Harrell. The Harrells were baptized in September after being taught by Sisters Hansen and Farrar. Brother and Sister Harrell have two sons, Joshua and Jason. We are so pleased to have them join the Church for true spiritual growth and uplifting in their lives.

Missionary Mailbag

Elder Ed Bone and
Sister Elma Bone



Dear Stake Member Friends:

Holiday Greetings. May the sweet blessings of our Heavenly Father and his Holy Son, Jesus Christ be with each of you, our dear friends, during this joyous season and always.

We have found the key to happiness! It's called missionary work! How gratifying it is to teach the gospel to good and deserving people, and watch them accept and grow. The gospel can make such powerful changes in our lives if we but let it.

Many of the people here are very poor and we have learned to love them so much. The Lord must surely love them, for in Matthew 11:5 he said, "The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them." It kind of implies that this is the greatest of all gifts of Christ mentioned in that admonition to the imprisoned John the Baptist.

We know the gospel is true and love it. We know that God liveth, and is our Eternal Father in Heaven, and we love him. We know that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Saviour and Redeemer, and we love him. We testify of him with all our hearts, and invoke his blessings upon the Tallahassee Stake in His blessed name, amen.

Elder and Sister Bone
Tallahassee Third Ward
serving in the
New Mexico Albuquerque Mission



CALENDAR

December

- 23 Christmas Devotional Satellite Broadcast
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve Dance

January

- 5 Stake Standards Night
- 8 Stake News deadline
- 26 Mini Youth Conference (Bristol)
- 29 Auxiliary Leadership Meeting

February

- 1-2 Stake Basketball Tournament
- 8 Youth and Young Adult Dance
- 16 Annual Married's Seminar (12:30 - 6:00 pm)
- 16 Valentine's Dance - 7:30 pm
- 23-24 Stake Conference



VISITING TEACHING CONVENTION

by Carolyn Richards
Tallahassee First Ward

On October 13, the sisters of the stake participated in a well-planned, well-executed, spiritual Relief Society Visiting Teaching Convention.

Sister Renée Anderson welcomed us, informing us that the program was planned by the former stake Relief Society presidency and then introduced the new presidency.

The theme of the convention was "Bee a Honey of a Visiting Teacher." Sister Anderson told us how important the honey bee, or deseret, is to the Lord. The Jaredites were instructed to bring them to the New World. Honey bees are sweet and industrious. We should emulate the honey bees as workers in the kingdom, making not only our homes our hives, but also our chapels and other Church buildings. Worker bees are sent out to find nectar and pollen and return and report. Likewise, visiting teachers are to go out, find our sisters, and return and report.

Barbara Johnson led a panel discussion on visiting teaching with Doris Allen, Dee Durrance, Gail Roberts, and Gayle Hardee as participants. They advised us to form close relationships with the sisters we visit so we can be sensitive to their situations in life--to mood changes that might occur, to how best to present the lesson, and to what words of encouragement to offer. Don't unload your problems, but talk about her needs. With inactive members, the most important thing is that you be a friend and make the visit a pleasant, positive experience. Fast and pray--you may be her only contact with the Church. In preparation for going visiting teaching, pray with your companion and leave the book at home. Go early in the month in case arrangements fall through. If a visit becomes physically impossible, contact your area supervisor and call your sister so that some kind of contact has been made. Make your appointments when it is convenient for her and avoid going on Sunday, especially when visiting sisters with families. Let the Spirit guide you.

Sunny Little sang a lovely solo, accompanied by Renée Anderson, entitled "Little Things." Sister Cherie Garr then spoke about how she gained a testimony of visiting teaching. She spoke of the severe winter weather of 1976-1977 and how the Church held a Church-wide fast. Within 24 hours after the decision had been made to hold the fast, the Church members in Palmyra, New York, where she lived had been informed because of the network of visiting and home teaching. Each one of us is an important component of that network.

She also spoke of the joy that comes only from losing yourself in the service of your fellowmen. Visiting teaching is vital to perfecting the Saints in the three-fold mission of the Church.

The Church is growing fast and every member needs to know she's loved and needed. Sister Garr related a story of how one visiting teacher called a sister every morning to let her know that she and the Lord loved her. This sister's self-esteem had been shattered by three divorces and four children, but her visiting teacher had received a spiritual witness that the Lord loved this lonely, frightened sister.

President Chapple talked about how service qualifies us to be in the presence of the Lord. The priesthood has the responsibility to make sure a family is carrying out its duties, but the Relief Society deals with the heart, the emotion, of the family. Often one can do more with the heart than with the head. The Lord expects tangible activity and effort on our part in serving others and, the way he has prepared for us to accomplish this is through visiting teaching. We should go just to go, if that's all we can do at the present time, and then work on refining and perfecting our motivations as we go along.



A Child's View

Here are some thoughts on Christmas from the children of the Cairo Branch.

Rusty Butler, 10: "My favorite part about Christmas is learning about Jesus' birth. In our house, we get together with grandparents and my aunt. We sing songs and my brother and I play piano."

Stephanie Holt, 7: "My favorite thing about Christmas is when Santa comes. I like it when we put up the Christmas tree."

Greg Taylor, 9: "Food is the best part of Christmas. We have pound cake, ice cream cake -- all sorts of good stuff. I'd like an archery set for Christmas."

Glen Harding, 8: "My favorite thing about Christmas is being together as a family. I'd like a bike for Christmas. If I could give my family anything in the world for Christmas, I would give them love."

Matthew Watts, 9: "The best part of Christmas is the decorations. I like to go to Grandma's and visit with the relatives."

Scott Johnson, 11: "My favorite thing about Christmas is the presents. I want a motorcycle for Christmas. If I could give my family anything, I'd give them a vacuum cleaner."

Rhett Butler, 12: "The thing I like best about Christmas is receiving and giving presents. I want some long-range binoculars for Christmas. If I could give my family anything in the world for Christmas, I'd give them each one of the United States (I'd keep New York for myself)."



"My Turn on Earth"

Ann Cluff, Jim Haskins, and Marcie Madsen performing



"My Turn On Earth," written by Carol Lynn Pearson, was presented November 9 and 10 at the Stake Center. It began with life in the pre-mortal existence where the "council in heaven" took place. It moved to life on this earth where we receive a physical body and gain knowledge and experience as we search for the "treasure" Heavenly Father has for us. Then one day we find it's "time to come home" and we take with us the "gifts" we have received in this life.

Produced and directed by our Stake Cultural Arts Specialist, Linda Hall, the play starred Ann Cluff, Jim Haskins, Tom Russell, Marcie Madsen, and Jackie Stone, with Brandon Christiansen portraying the "Little Boy."

Also appearing on stage were Lori Anderson, Alan Nicholson, Joe Caceras, Lincoln and Mildred Barlow, and Richard and Lorinda Snow in the "Eternity Is You Chorus, and the Children's Chorus with Loel Puddie, Melissa Beasley, Lyla Lybbert, Autumn and Anthea Smith, Lisa and Amy Clark, Rachel Richards, Katie Meik, Allyson and Ashley Chapple, Becky McDermid, Trena West, Christina, Jared, and Frank Barber, Carol Dailey, Dahnelle Madsen, Andy Lunt, and Jenny Maxey.

Working behind the scenes were Gayle Hardee and Jim Haskins, musical direction; Machelle Madsen, choreography; Nyla Roberts, block and set design; Sherry Beasley directing the children's chorus; Vince Atterbury, Bobby Guris, and John Thompson on sound and lighting; Bonnie Pitts, make-up; Sheri Dove, house manager; Dee Durrance and Claire Bowen, scene design; Russell Schrader, stage manager; David Clark, Joe Caceras, and Curtiss Williams, stage crew; Kathy Clark, costumes; Terri Ganson, publicity; Jack and Karen Nelson, tickets; and Richard Rothaus, photography. Missionaries of the Florida Tallahassee Mission served as ushers for the evenings.

The musical was well-received by the audiences that filled the cultural hall both nights. Brother Cal Walker of the Cairo Branch said he thought it was a shame that the play could only be presented two nights, and that even more people didn't have the opportunity to see it. For those who missed it, a video tape was professionally produced for both VHF and Beta and is available for \$45. It could be a wonderful tool in sharing the gospel with others. More information on the video tape can be obtained by contacting Brother Ernie Bone, Assistant Stake Executive Secretary, at (904) 562-5771 (home) or 222-4768 (work).

Congratulations to all who made this production possible, including the supportive families of those who participated.

Books! Books! Books!

by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

Three new books in the 70's Bookstore are concerned with Christ and Christmas:

We Talk of Christ, We Rejoice in Christ by Neal Maxwell

Elder Maxwell presents ideas about the Savior in a unique format--through characters engaged in group gospel discussion. This format brings the ideas to life and helps the reader grow in understanding as the group members learn more about the Lord. Some of the topics included in this book include faith and knowledge, justice of God, plan of salvation and spiritual submissiveness.

The Disciple of Christ by Vaughn J. Featherstone

What are the traits that signify one is a true man or woman of Christ? Elder Featherstone has selected traits that he feels are important for each disciple of Christ: reverence for the Savior, courage, wisdom, love for the words of Christ, Christian service, etc. Each chapter has a wealth of inspiring personal stories.

Christmas--A Joyful Heritage by Susan Arrington Madsen

For most early Church members, especially the pioneers, Christmas was a cold and difficult time. But it was often a joyous time as well. In this book, Susan Madsen has compiled dozens of accounts of Christmases from the journals of pioneers, Church leaders and others. These accounts give us a colorful and moving picture of Christmases past.

WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

by Marion Whitley
Women's Physical Activities
(904) 893-7832

1985 promises to be an exciting year for women of the Tallahassee Stake. I am pleased to announce the formation of a women's athletic program directed by Marion Whitley with assistance from Lynda Bergstrom and Randi Fagan.

Volleyball begins in January with a tournament in March. Softball will begin shortly thereafter with a tournament in June. More information will be given concerning these sports.

For those sisters who would like to participate in sports but feel physically unfit and too overweight, there is hope! Each Tuesday at 10:00 a.m. there is a Women's Weight Loss Support Group at the church. Directed by Sharon West, each class offers guest lecturers, recipe exchanges, and group discussion geared toward helping each individual to succeed in a weight loss program. I would encourage all wards and branches to offer a similar group support program. Once our bodies are fit, we will feel more like participating in the sports program.

I look forward to a fun year of sports, recreation, and socializing with the women of the stake. Let us keep in mind that as we improve our physical self, our spiritual self will blossom and we will be a much happier person.

"There is NOTHING two people CAN'T do if one of them is GOD."

Genealogy Library

GENEALOGICAL INTERVIEWING

by Laura Byington
Stake Genealogical Librarian

Some of the most valuable information about your ancestors may not be recorded somewhere in books or on microfiche. It may be in the memories of people who knew your ancestor, and the only way to discover it is to talk to such a person.

Like all interviews, the genealogical interview must be carefully planned. Evaluate your existing material to determine what information is missing--then make an outline of what you need.

If possible have your questions, and background material, for your ancestor memorized. Become thoroughly familiar with your subject so that you and the person you interview will be more comfortable.

Practice by interviewing a friend. By creating a relaxed, informal atmosphere, you encourage a greater outpouring of information.

Make an appointment, particularly if the person is unknown to you, and make them aware of the person or subject with which you need their help. Give enough information about yourself and your ancestor to "jog" their memory before the interview. Given a few days, they may remember a picture or news article they may have concerning your ancestor.

Listen!!! Listen!!! Listen!!! There is often just the clue you need in the happy ramblings of someone's memory. Direct, but do not stifle that memory. If possible, go back within a few days. Your conversation may bring other memories to mind.

Record: the date and place of the interview and the mental and physical condition, and relationship of the person to your ancestor. This is important in evaluating and resolving conflicts in information.

A tape recorder may be useful in some circumstances, but be careful not to intimidate or make anyone (including yourself) uncomfortable by using one. Always carry a spare tape. The best story told will be the one just after the tape jammed.

Good subjects for interviews are: relatives, friends and neighbors (they know more about you than you think), teachers, ministers, and, especially in small towns, older citizens. Don't forget those closest to home-- mother, father, etc. A quiet evening, a Sunday afternoon, family reunions, vacation time and holiday visits are all good possibilities for rewarding interviews.

Polish your silver tongues, and good hunting!

Congratulations

to the following Scouts who have completed the requirements for their Genealogy Merit Badges:

Daniel Copelin
Lamar Dransfield
Bennett Packard
Billy Roberts



New Converts

We Wish to Welcome . . .

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our stake during September and October:

Bainbridge: Ann Rita LaDonna Hall, James Wilson Mitchell, William Franklin Huggins

Madison: Tommy Hugh Harrell, Jacqueline See Harrell

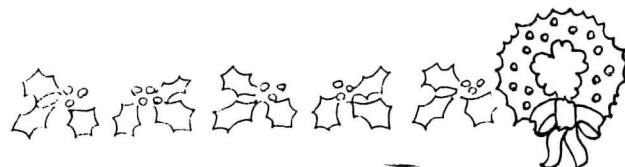
Quincy: Peche Louise Shuler

Tallahassee I: Marty Richard Taylor, Debra Frances Ware

Tallahassee II: Patrick Gilbert Deibler, Carolyn June Deibler, Jack Richard Lewis

Tallahassee III: William Elsworth Winney, Milo Franklin Congden, Jr., Baxter Bennett Wright

Tallahassee Student: James Leonard Williams, Gregory Moore Loveland



Decking the halls with boughs of holly--and other evergreens-- did not start off as a Christmas ritual at all. Indeed, this custom goes back to a Roman festival honoring Saturn, the God of Agriculture. During this celebration, which was held around December 25, Romans would fill their homes with greens and give each other holly wreaths as symbols of friendship. In later years, the first Christians (who had to practice their new religion in secret) hung holly and greens on their front doors to mask their beliefs from the Romans. After a while, the Christians adopted the custom as their own, and now wreaths, boughs and garlands remain a favorite part of Christmas festivities. (Reprinted from Family Circle, Vol 97, No. 17)



MISSING SOMETHING?

The following items were left on the youth temple trip buses and still have not been claimed:

Afghan -- avocado, pumpkin, gold stripes
Toy Greyhound bus

Contact Pat Futch at (904) 878-3554.

A Christmas Story



CHRISTMAS 1974

by Michelle McMillan Gowan
Tallahassee Second Ward

There was something special about that Christmas. I didn't realize it at the time. I was a ripe old age of 12, going on 13. My folks and I had recently moved up to the North Carolina mountains, the boondocks, and I hated it. Making new friends was a drag and I felt no one liked me. Sensing my loss, Mom asked me if I would assist Santa this year in passing out the gifts on Christmas. This should be a lot of fun cause Brother, Sis, Aunt Mildred and Uncle Frank were coming. Our house in the hills wouldn't be so bad after all this year.

About a week before Christmas, Dad and I went to Robert's Tree Farm to buy a live tree. I picked out the tallest tree and he dug it up. It was the prettiest tree you ever saw.

A few days before Christmas, all 7 of us piled in one car to go shopping in Knoxville. The road we took made us all sick as the 2-hour trip on this road would only take about 1 hour if the road was straight. I sure hoped Mom and Dad would remember that typewriter I wanted. We shopped all day and on the return trip Uncle Frank mentioned something about the typewriter, uh-oh. I could wait till Christmas though; after all, I was 12.



Upon the arrival of Christmas Eve, I sensed this day to be one of much cooking. I was right. I don't think Mom, Sis and Aunt Mildred stopped all day, except to eat. During the course of the day, I managed to talk everyone into opening our gifts that evening. Then we could have all day Christmas for doing other things. Later in the evening, everyone gathered around the table to give thanks and feast on the spread. It was an endless table of pies, cakes, turkey, ham, rice, gravy, cream corn, cornfield beans and homemade biscuits. I didn't eat too much, anxious to get ready for the gift giving. Finally, as everyone managed to roll into the living room, I sneaked onto the back porch where my red leotard, red hat and Dad's size 14 black rubber boots were stashed. All attired, I knocked on the front door and bellowed "Ho-ho-ho!" Boy, was everyone surprised, except Mom.

Being the ham I was, I had everyone sit in my lap and tell me what they wanted for Christmas. Dad didn't want much, just to be together. Mom wanted jewelry and kitchen trinkets. Brother and Sis wanted lots of money. Aunt Mildred and Uncle Frank wanted clothes. My dog June Bug wanted the ham hock and a new sweater. Me, I just wanted my typewriter. I passed out all the gifts; it was my turn. Mom brought out a big box. It looked and felt like a typewriter. I began to rip open the package. It's... it's... A DOZEN QUARTS OF GREEN BEANS! I was so shocked. Surely they were joking, but no one seemed to be so I thanked Mom and Dad, teary-eyed. Finally another box came out of nowhere -- my typewriter! Whew!

After all the festivities of singing carols and enjoying the fire, we all went to bed so the real Santa could come and fill our stockings. I never

sleep good on Christmas Eve cause I always try to catch Santa, but I never do. And he always comes. I always get up early to find any traces of Santa. This year he had eaten a piece of Mom's pumpkin pie and left a note.

After breakfast and opening of our stockings, I finally took time to glance out the window. It had snowed about 10 inches and it was still coming down! Bing Crosby never sounded so good. Mom, Dad, June Bug and I went sledding for a while and to check out the roads. Dad drove us to Yellow Creek Mountain where it always freezes over the road when it snows. It didn't take us long to get tired and soon we were headed home to warm by the fire and regroup. Of course, we had to make a snowman. Brother and I put Dad's hat on his head and gave him Mom's broom. Never guess what we named him -- Frosty.

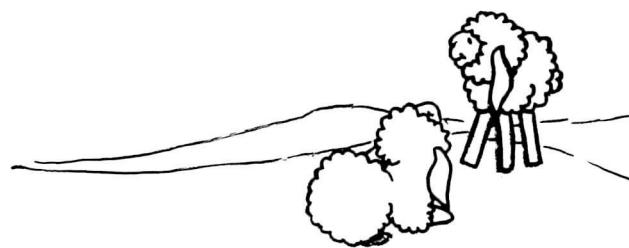


That Christmas holds a warm memory in my heart and all my family enjoys recollecting that year. Aside from the festivity, my folks had a love for our Saviour. That brought us many precious moments. This Christmas was my favorite.

The house is now Mom and Dad's summer retreat. The tree is planted in the front yard. I still have my typewriter, and I ate the beans. June Bug is gone. I haven't made a snowman or had a white Christmas since. Yep, it sure was a special Christmas. And you know, being 12 wasn't so bad either.

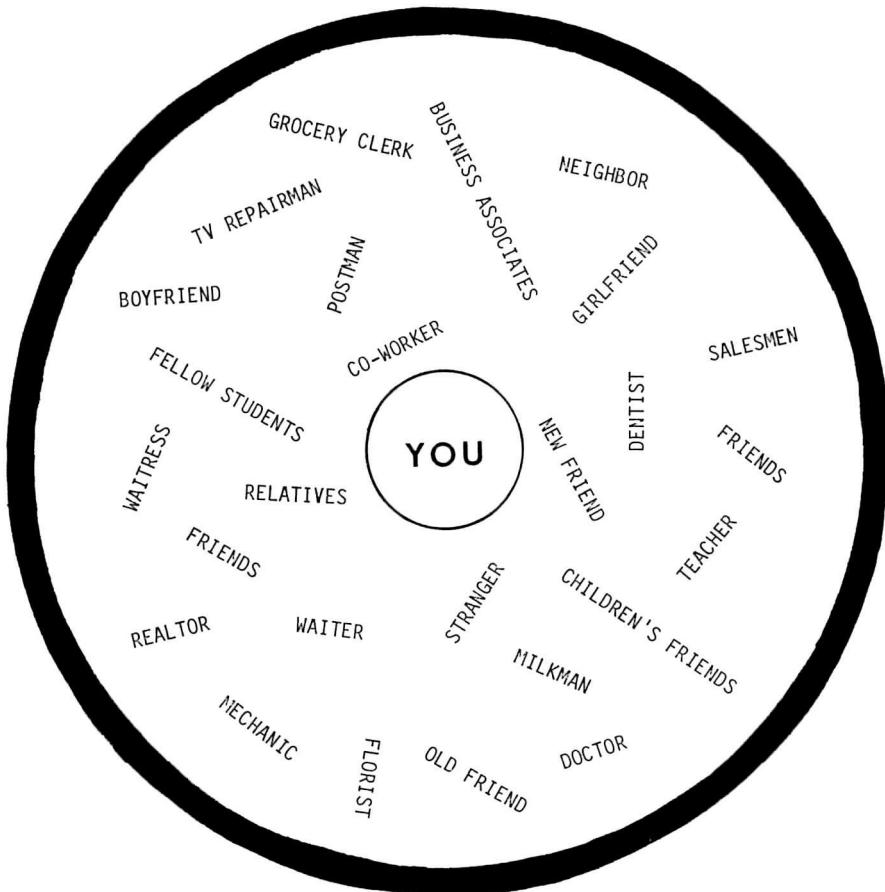
Missionary Calls...

Congratulations to **Steve Anderson** of the **Tallahassee Second Ward** who has been called to serve as a full-time missionary in the **Belgium Brussels Mission**.



"This impression weighs upon me -- that the Church is at a point in its growth and maturity when we are at last ready to move forward in a major way. We have paused on some plateaus long enough. Think, Brothers and Sisters, what would happen if each active family were to bring another family or individual into the Church before next April Conference; we would be joined by several hundred thousand new members of the Church. I believe the Lord's Church is on the verge of an upsurge in spirituality. I feel impressed to say, Brothers and Sisters, that the Lord has placed, **in a very natural way within the circles of our friends**, many of those thousands He intends to bring into the Church. This is one of the reasons I am so confident that the Church can grow in a major way."

President Spencer W. Kimball



Scouting News

If you have boys of scouting age (or even if you don't) chances are that sooner or later you'll be called to the troop committee. But what does a troop committee do?

A functioning troop committee is the foundation of a solid scouting program. Each committee has at least three members, and usually more. The purpose of the committee is to support the troop in several areas.

1. Assisting with the advancement program of the troop. Committee members supervise courts of honor and sit on boards of review for advanced ranks.
2. Helping with the acquisition and maintenance of troop equipment.
3. Assisting with financing and records.
4. Supporting the outdoor program. This often means providing transportation to and from campsouts.
5. Helping the troop recruit new boys.
6. Providing and supporting competent adult leadership for the troop.

There are no set rules on how to organize a troop committee; it will vary with the size and make-up of

the troop. Often, committees assign one member to each of the areas of responsibility. When committees work together, they provide valuable assistance to scouts and leaders. Rides are there on time, equipment works, and there is enough money for troop needs. The members of a functioning troop committee are truly scouting's unsung heroes.

"Having a troop committee that does their job helps free a scoutmaster," explains Richard Meik, scoutmaster for Troop 119 in Tallahassee. "It spares him a lot of phone calling and paperwork so that he can spend more time with the boys."

The deadline for submitting articles for the January/February Stake News will be January 8. Submissions can be mailed to Stake News at 2310 Oxford Rd., Tallahassee, FL, 32304, or they can be left in the Stake News box in the stake office.



New Editor

The Stake News has a new managing editor, Colleen Porter. Sister Porter has served as Print Media Specialist on the stake Public Communications Committee for the past two years where she dealt primarily with the Tallahassee Democrat. During that time she contributed many articles to the Stake News.

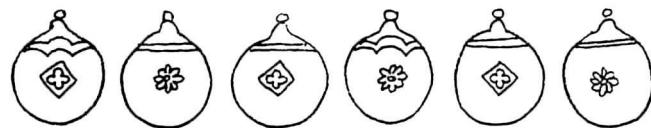
Earl and Joanne Childers have been in charge of the Stake News since they were called as stake Public Communications Directors in 1981. They will still handle policy decisions and some selected duties, but will be freed from the day-to-day editorial affairs. This will enable them to devote more energy to the other aspects of their calling, such as coordinating activities with the public media and becoming more involved in community affairs.

Born in Michigan, Sister Porter is a convert of eight years, who gained her journalism skills serving in the U.S. Army in Germany. A graduate of Brigham Young University, she is an interviewer for the U.S. Census Bureau. She is a volunteer counselor at the Tallahassee Area Problem Pregnancy Service, and was recently awarded a BYU Independent Study Scholarship to study public relations.

She is married to Sanford Porter, a research biologist at FSU and scoutmaster in Tallahassee First Ward. He is also the Stake News photographer. They have three children: Phillip, 9; Julia, 5; and Becky, 3.

"My big goal is to have articles that will be interesting to people in the outlying wards and branches as well as in Tallahassee," Sister Porter commented.

Suggestions for articles are always welcome. Sister Porter can be reached at (904) 576-5774. The mailing address for the Stake News remains 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.



Under the mistletoe wasn't always a place to be kissed. In Roman times, this white-berried plant was more a symbol of peace than romance. When people warring with each other met beneath a mistletoe-covered tree, they would throw down their weapons--at least temporarily. Later on, in England and Scandinavia, the plant was hung over entryways; anyone passing under it was supposed to come in peace and would receive a friendly greeting -- such as a kiss. Today's romantic custom of kissing under the mistletoe was probably derived from this. And part of the fun, according to tradition, is that you can't refuse a kiss from anyone who catches you there! (Reprinted from Family Circle, Vol. 97 No. 17)



Stake News "Subscriptions"

We would be happy to send the Stake News directly to any out-of-town address as a "subscription" for the cost of mailing. You can subscribe for any length of time up to a year. Write or call the Stake News at 2310 Oxford Road., Tallahassee, FL, 32304, (904) 575-2117 to arrange a subscription.

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Managing Director	Loran C. Anderson
Executive Editors	Earl Childers
Managing Editor	Joanne Childers
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	Terry Trent
Photographer	Barbara Young
	Sanford Porter

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The rates for advertising in the Stake News are as follows:

"Newsletter Sponsors" (back of the newsletter - including typesetting) \$10 per block/per issue. Those who advertise for one year (six issues) will receive a discount of one free issue, or \$50 for the year.

"Classifieds" - \$1.00 for first 3 lines and 50 cents for each additional line.

Please mail business card, or words on paper to STAKE NEWS, 2310 Oxford Rd., Tallahassee, FL, 32304 or call the Childers at (904) 575-2117.

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FOR RENT: 4-bedroom, 3-bath furnished home in Betton Hills. Available January 18 to August 1985. \$475 per month if willing to care for two dogs. 904/222-4641.

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