A Christmas Recollection

An especially inspiring event will be added this year to Hawthorne's usual schedule of pleasurable Christmas activities. It is a unique presentation of the story of the Holy Birth, narrated by a shepherd who witnessed the angels' appearance and heard their proclamation. After relating his experiences on that first Christmas Eve the shepherd goes on to describe occurrences in the life of Christ. The story is highlighted at various times by selected choral music.

The Reverend George Kress, who is well known to Hawthorne residents for his fine readings, will serve as the narrating shepherd. Other members of our community will offer prayers of invocation and benediction.

The 72-voice Hawthorne Chorus, directed by Bob Lenox and accompanied by Mabel Lenox, will provide the choral music, and soloists will include Martha Collins, Helen Edger, Bob Gosselink, Paul Newman, Lena Phillips, Arthur Riggs, Howard Walter, Betty Wetzel and Jack Wetzel. Much of the music to be sung will be familiar to the audience, but some selections, not so well known though equally beautiful, will provide surprises. This is particularly true of the final anthem by a contemporary composer, which asks the question whether Mary knew or could possibly have imagined the significance of Jesus' birth.

Organ music is planned to introduce and close the program.

An unusual aspect of this presentation is that three Hawthorne organizations have joined efforts to offer it, the Chorus, the Forum and the Spiritual Life Committee. The special planning committee consists of members from each group as well as the chairmen, Alma Donecker, Ralph Humphrey and Carl Elder.

The Shepherd’s Story: A Christmas Recollection will be presented in the Great Hall on Tuesday, December 22 at 7:30 p.m. All Hawthorne residents and their guests are urged to attend this outstanding event, which will assuredly add to their enjoyment of the Christmas season.

—Marie L. Richardson
Ho! Ho! Ho! Christmas time is here and everyone is hustling and bustling in preparation for the most glorious of all holidays. This is a joyous and merry time when we all seem to be in good spirits and filled with good will toward our fellow man.

Remember when you were a child and Christmas meant anxiously awaiting the arrival of Santa with great expectations that he would fulfill all your wishes? (Every Christmas morning when I awoke I expected to find a beautiful black horse “hitched” to my bedpost -- fortunately good ol’ St. Nick had the foresight to realize what a mess that would have been.)

Anyway, getting back to having our wishes fulfilled... what does it mean to be fulfilled? One of the definitions Webster gives for the word fulfill is: to fill the requirements of; satisfy (a condition); answer (a purpose). Basically when we are fulfilled, we are satisfied... a specific want or need has been obtained. What is required for fulfillment? Usually when we think of fulfillment, we think of ourselves... our goal being self-fulfillment. In order to achieve this goal we need to realize what will satisfy, enrich and complete our lives.

Dr. Kauffman has many times quoted W.I. Thomas, a noted sociologist, who developed the four basic wishes of mankind. They are: 1) the wish for love; 2) the wish for security; 3) the wish for recognition; and 4) the wish for new experiences.

I agree that these are all needed for fulfillment, however, I believe that perhaps a fifth basic wish should be added to this list. These four wishes are all directed at self... self-fulfillment. Let’s face it, we humans are very selfish creatures, which to an extent is essential for survival in this sometimes cruel world. When these four basic wishes of mankind have been fulfilled... something is still missing. Just as at Christmas -- if our Christmas list (a list of things for ourselves) is completely fulfilled, something is still missing.

The ultimate fulfillment of Christmas (as it should be in our lives) is... giving! Receiving is great, but does not have the impact it should without giving... giving not because of having received or in order to receive, but just for the pure pleasure of giving.

If we are able to give without feeling obligated to do so or without expecting something in return, I believe we are able to fulfill a basic need of mankind that unfortunately is not realized as such by the majority of our population. It not only deceives us, but also eludes us.

The following is a quote from the Executive Fitness Newsletter of June 27, 1981: “Possibly the answer to self-fulfillment doesn’t lie in ‘self,’ after all, but rather in the satisfaction of knowing we’ve helped fulfill someone else.”

Perhaps the fifth basic wish of mankind should be: the wish to give. When you think about it... this wish is probably the most selfish of all... because when the requirements to achieve such are met, we will receive the greatest self-fulfillment of all.

Merry Christmas and God Bless!
—Carolyn B. Orme
Town Meeting in Absentia

The latest flight which Bill McCollum, Republican Representative from the Fifth District, could take in order to get to the 9 a.m. Town Meeting on Saturday, November 21 in the Clubhouse was a 3:42 a.m. flight from Baltimore. But the House was sitting in emergency session in Washington on Friday evening, and was ordered by Speaker Tip O'Neill to return at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Nevertheless, the Town Meeting took place, loud and clear, via a “portable conference telephone” connected to Rep. McCollum’s Washington office.

Three of McCollum’s aides were present in the Clubhouse: Cliff Rumbley, special assistant in the Altamonte Springs office; Vaughn Forrest, administrative assistant in Washington, and Nancy Abernathy, caseworker on the Altamonte Springs staff, who can be contacted about personal questions regarding Social Security.

At 9:05 a.m., McCollum greeted the audience of 150. After a few general comments, he said he wanted to hear and respond to his constituents’ views, concerns and questions.

An early question concerned McCollum’s own bill, the “Senior Citizens’ Savings Protection Act” which would allow persons over age 62 to avoid paying taxes on dividends and interest on savings. McCollum said that, in the current economic climate, the bill is not apt to get hearings in this session since it means revenue lost to the government, but that its time will come. We are the only industrial nation in the world to tax savings.

In response to several questions about Social Security, McCollum stated he is “unalterably opposed to touching Social Security,” although there may have to be some changes over the long term. He thinks all citizens, including Civil Service employees and congressmen, should pay into Social Security. He is supporting a bill to remove Social Security, which is a trust fund, from the “true budget.” “It is ridiculous for it to be there,” he said, claiming Social Security has become a “political football.”

There were several questions about the size of government and waste in spending. McCollum believes that the sheer size and scope of the government leads to waste and inadequately supervised grant-awarding, and that people are “100% correct to be upset” over costly, unnecessary, congressional junkets.

On the problem of bureaucracy, he spoke of the abuses of the seniority system: the accrual of power, the building of “grossly too big” staffs, and the “loss of a sense of urgency” about the people’s business. He has introduced a bill proposing a maximum of 12 years’ service in either body.

As the meeting ended, Rep. McCollum encouraged audience members to communicate with him. He believes that we are seeing the “American Revolution of 1981.” Not since the Boston Tea Party have people spoken up so strongly about government.

—Nancy C. Uebelmesser

The Star of Peace

A Holy Infant came on the earth
To lead men of good will,
And bring peace by His sacred birth,
A peace so yearned for - still...

The world is torn by angry strife,
And drenched with bitter tears.
We stumble, groping for a better life
Yet, restrained by faltering fears...

How shall we find this Star of Peace
That beckoned when shepherds watched their sheep?
The quest leads far and wide, without surcease -
For our hopeful destiny - to find and keep.

The Star of Peace is in your heart,
A gift of love from God to man
For all to share, and to impart,
When we follow His loving plan...

—Anna K. Merlino
Cross Creek and Cooter

Members of the Great Books Club drove to Cross Creek near Ocala, recently to visit the home of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings. After reading and discussing her books, The Yearling and Cross Creek, written from her experiences while running an orange grove there, they all felt very close to her.

After all, she could be a contemporary, inasmuch as she would be 85 now if a cerebral hemorrhage hadn’t taken her at age 57. She, too, had lived in the north and then fallen in love with the agricultural, hunting and fishing life of what she called “The Invisible Florida.” (Of course, that was before Disney!)

The group toured her eight-room farmhouse, active chicken yard, thriving vegetable and flower gardens and what is left of the orange grove, with the Florida State Park Guide. As he took the group through the bedroom wing of the farmhouse, he brought Marjorie’s humor alive with the story of her trip to the bathroom where she encountered a small poisonous snake slithering over the floor. She didn’t dare let it get out of sight and so she grabbed a book lying on a nearby chest.

“It was a copy of The Yearling,” she says. “I took it and finished off the moccasin. Next morning, I told Little Will (orange grove helper) of the method by which I had dispatched the intruder. He chuckled, and said, ‘It sho’ do come in handy to write books!’”

Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings home.

Blooming red Turks Cap (Hooded Hibiscus) and Marjorie’s fragrant tea olive bushes by the front door, home-canned jars of goodlies in the pantry and her books lying on tables, convey the impression that any minute she could step forcefully into the room, with blue eyes alight, to greet visitors in her northern accent. In fact, an Ocala friend of Marjorie’s, Mrs. Bennett, chatted with the group, reminiscing about the gourmet meals she had enjoyed with Marjorie’s other guests.

Talk of good food started the Great Books group toward their cars and the quick trip to the Yearling Restaurant, about a half mile further down the road. A lighted model fishing boat, seagulls, stuffed lynx and other forest critters, a vacated hornet’s nest, busy aquariums and plants extend the Rawlings visit atmosphere. The more adventurous diners sampled alligator appetizers and Cross Creek Cooter (soft-shelled turtle).

All in all, the consensus was that Marjorie Rawlings was super. She would have been a great fellow HAWTHORNIAN!

—Rosalind MacRae Sykes

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Hawthorne's Great Books Club members recently visited the home of Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings between Ocala and Gainesville, followed by a trip to The Yearling Restaurant for old fashioned Florida food treats.
Club Hawthorne or Macy's bargain basement? The rush is on.

Ceramic creations to suit every taste.

Plants and poseys brightened this corner.

Bake sale benefitted the Heart Fund.

Roy, Art, Ron and Walt... what are they up to?
Pulleys - Peanuts - and Pinatas

Did you ever attend an activity in the Great Hall, and slightly bored, let your attention drift to the ceiling where you spotted a pulley tied to a supporting cross beam of the roof? Did you then idly speculate on its use? Well, it has been hanging there for eight years and it is used to hang the pinata which is a part of the annual Hawthorne Peanut Carnival.

It is now time again to thread a line through that pulley. The Peanut Carnival will explode on the holiday scene December 29, continuing a tradition for the seventh year.

What is a Peanut Carnival? It is a celebration unique to Hawthorne. The Great Hall is transformed into a carnival midway, complete with barkers, games of chance and skill, a fortune teller and 25 goober games, all of which can be played for peanuts. Children receive five free peanuts at the door. Additional peanuts are available from the “Goober Girls” at 25¢ a bag.

Featured this year will be a “Grandparents for a Day” program coordinated by Louise Humphrey. Surrogate grandparents will collect two children each at the Beverly Shores school, children who otherwise might have no Christmas celebration at all.

The Peanut Carnival is intended to be an antidote for the after Christmas “blahs.” Whatever your age, please come -- bring grandchildren, houseguests and neighbors. It is non-political, non-profit, non-sponsored, often nutty nonsense. It is a lot of fun, and it is free! See you there!

—John M. Roth

Christmas Year ’Round

When this issue of “Penn Notes” comes out, it will be the season for getting Christmas trees and wreaths and lights out of their boxes, and trying to think of new ways to decorate.

Have you been in “Christmas Year ’Round, Inc.”, in Leesburg? It is in an older white frame house on a side street, marked by a green plywood Christmas tree, on the corner of the lawn. Inside, the rooms are full of trimmed Christmas trees -- more than a dozen in all --, and all kinds of decorations.

One tree is an imitation fir, with paper-like needles, from West Germany. Its miniature lights flicker on and off, and a luminous angel perches on its tip. In another room, a tree is covered with hand-crafted red felt doves, nestled between its lights. In still another room, a perpetual snow of styrofoam falls on a tree, decorated with varied miniatures.

There are all sorts of wreaths and hangings, of autumn leaves, holly or other evergreen. There are different kinds and sizes of candles and Christmas lights. Angels, of different sizes, glow when turned on. Music boxes tinkle Christmas tunes.

Do you like creches? There are nativity groups of all sizes and materials, with their figures of the Holy Family, the wise men, shepherds and the stable animals.

And Christmas toys -- since children claim Christmas as their own -- are everywhere. There are dolls of all sizes, dressed in differing ways, Santa Clauses, puzzles, and what-have-you.

Next time you’re in Leesburg, take a look, and perhaps you’ll find some useful ideas for Christmas decorating or gifts.

—Edith Schipper

Cornell Glee Club Coming to Hawthorne

The Cornell University Glee Club, one of America’s leading male choruses, will perform here at a special concert on January 10. This group has been acclaimed by concert audiences in eight countries.

Everyone is looking forward to their concert, especially, Hawthornites who attended their concert here several years ago.
School Volunteers

Many residents have chosen work in Leesburg schools for their special outside-Hawthorne volunteer service and are finding that their efforts are seriously needed and warmly appreciated.

There are several ways in which our volunteers help youngsters to improve their learning abilities or enlarge their educational horizons. Some persons meet weekly with 5th or 6th graders, either individually or in small groups, to assist them toward mastery in the basic subjects of mathematics and reading. One Hawthorne volunteer has been teaching English to a 16-year-old Vietnamese boy in junior high school who knew no English on his arrival in the United States. Listening to first grade children read aloud and encouraging them to gain confidence and experience in this all-important skill is another volunteer activity.

Science lends itself to special group projects such as the one organized by a Hawthorne resident -- setting up a greenhouse to explore the uses of solar lighting and solar energy. Two other residents contribute their skill and expertise in the sports field, one serving as assistant coach in an elementary school physical education department and the other as coach of the high school freshman football team and scout for the varsity team.

Several residents have been serving as “resource persons” for the schools, sharing with the students their hobby, skill, or experience in an occasional lecture or demonstration. A teacher wishing to offer specialized material in an enrichment program can use a Hawthorne consultant to discuss Appalachian folk music, play a dulcimer, give an art demonstration, or present a slide talk on a foreign country, to name a few examples. (A list of a wide variety of such subjects is maintained by the chairman of volunteers in each school.

An activity that serves the school in a slightly different fashion is working in the library, where volunteers have done such jobs as revising the catalog.

The great need for volunteers to work in public schools and the importance of their contribution are recognized by the State of Florida, which presents an annual award to any school reporting a total of volunteer hours double that of the student enrollment. Leesburg's Beverly Shores Elementary school has received this award for two consecutive years.

As might be expected, Hawthorne residents working with and for schoolchildren find their efforts and the children's enthusiastic response to them heart-warming and soul satisfying. Added to that is the pleasure of making friends, young and old, among residents in the larger Leesburg community. Two such friends are the chairmen in charge of volunteers, Pene Hardy for the Middle East school and Ann Brooks for Beverly Shores. These volunteers will warmly welcome telephone requests for information from Hawthorne residents who wish to contribute some time, little or much, to the richly rewarding occupation of helping in our local schools. Mrs. Hardy may be reached at 728-5614 and Mrs. Brooks at 787-7411.

—Marie L. Richardson

Golden Age Games

Twenty competitors represented Hawthorne in the Golden Age Games at Sanford recently.

SWIMMING honors were carried off by Betty Arp, gold and silver medalist; Eleanor McLatchy, bronze. John Creighton and Ray Henderson also entered the swim events.

TRACK AND FIELD awards were given to Joe Hall, who won two gold medals, a silver and a bronze and Ray Henderson who received a silver and three bronze medals.

BALLROOM DANCING: Fred and Mary Patricia were gold, silver and bronze medalists. Gil and Louise Ashley also danced.

ARTS AND CRAFTS: John Palesch earned a gold medal and a blue ribbon for his needle work which won “Best of Show” as well.

GOLF entrees were Bill Mitchell, George Haller, Glyn Jones, Harry Mieth, Darrell Fadely, John Kerns, Chuck Watts, Ed Misiaszek and Kermit Schultz. Schultz also entered the Bowling events.

The contestants appreciated the 40 or more spectators from Hawthorne who cheered them on lustily from the sidelines during the games.

Our new 6-foot long banner emblazoned with “Hawthorne,” and the Logo waved proudly for the first time over our swimmers at the Golden Age Games. In the future everyone will have access to the banner for different events.

Thanks to the Swimming Pool Committee, Jim Moore, Lee Mackin and Amos Henley.
Happy Holiday

How can you try to tell me you're as busy as a bee
You don't have anything to do as far as I can see
I'm only asking you to take me to the Fabric Store
I'll be there for just half an hour and not one second more

Then one quick stop at Francine's Shop to see her Christmas dresses
And on to Dawn's Salon for help about my ailing tresses
Then give me fifteen minutes at the Knit and Crochet Nook
And since we're out of stamps I'll have to buy another book

I'll make it short at Traffic Court about that parking fine
And then we'll buy our Christmas tree -- I'd love a Norway pine
We'll need just two more presents then our Christmas shopping's done
So hurry, get your jacket on, it's going to be such fun

We'll join the Christmas shoppers and hear Santa Ho Ho Ho!
I know you're only teasing me when you say No No No!
How can you be so stubborn Dear, why won't you go with me?
I can't believe you'd rather watch those Dolphins on T.V.

—Ethel McQuillan

Christmas

At dusk the snow begins to fall
As if the heavens wished to weave
A sacramental vestment white
To dress the world on Christmas Eve.

And as the shadows deeper spread,
The drab streets bloom with candles gay,
As more and more resplendent grow
The houses lit along the way.

The hour is late, the snow has ceased.
A frosty clearness fills the air,
A tranquil peace in silence bathed
A soothing balm for worldly care.

Then in the stillness of the night
Comes sounds that thrill our jaded ear,
As carolers with trumpet loud
Chant songs of Christmas cheer.

And I, aroused with all this joy,
Seek to pass it on to you.
Take this Christmas spirit
And keep it dearly all year through.

—Anna K. Merlino

Holiday Florals

It is easy to see why Meta Ott Johnson is called to the White House so regularly. This gracious, fast working lady does floral arrangements for special occasions at our national Capitol.

She has worked with four administrations since 1974. The First Lady decides the theme to be developed and a corps of volunteer workers submit ideas for her approval. Meta is presently working with Mrs. Reagan on the Christmas decorations for 17 rooms plus the private living quarters of the mansion on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Brown Bag Luncheon is a festive, monthly Hawthorne tradition that has grown with the Park. At the November gathering our genial chairman, Homer Alexander, introduced Meta who promptly charmed more than 350 residents in the Auditorium. Working feverishly she produced 10 completely different, exquisite holiday arrangements and decorations. She chatted and answered questions as she went along most informally but with assurance and precise artistic results.

Halls Flowers and Gift Shop from Leesburg generously provided all the flowers and materials used for this most timely and inspiring program.

—Anna K. Merlino