MY MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS

At CHRISTMAS TIME, the hearts of Christian folk go out to all the world, especially to those less fortunate than they. These true stories written by Piney Woods students show what Christmas means to the colored folk whom your gifts here helped to educate. Their tender hearts are touched by your kindness. Your heart, I am sure, will respond to their joys and their sorrows. Their assignment was to write of their most memorable Christmas, whether it be sad or joyful.

Spirit of Christmas

Settling in the United States from the four quarters of the globe, our ancestors brought with them the Christmas traditions of their native lands—customs which have become a part of the Christmas observance in various parts of our country today.

Running through all of them is the meaning of the birth of our Savior. Singing of the old familiar carols, trimming the Christmas tree, exchanging gifts with loved ones, attending Christmas programs and religious services, and re-echoing the words, “PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN”—these are a part of our Christmas celebrations.

This year, to give a little variety, the students of Piney Woods School have written about some particular things that made a great impression on them at Christmas time. You will find some very interesting and touching stories in this issue of the Christmas Torch.

Memories

Massachusetts
September 26, 1953
Prof. Laurence C. Jones
Piney Woods, Mississippi
Dear Sir:

Am enclosing check for this. Also would like to express my appreciation for the wonderful work you have done over the forty years. The recollection of you that sticks by me tho is your declamations of Shakespeare at drill time under old Col. Brunnett. I believe in the old armory at Iowa U.

Sincerely,

JOHN SCHEMNER.

The Story of Christmas Time

But one year, our mother and father surprised us. They had us working hard until Christmas, and Santa did not bring us anything but one apple and one stick of candy and all five of the children cried all day Christmas. It was all we folks could afford.

GEORGIA R. NICHOLS, 10th Grade

Christmas in My State of Mexico

-When I was a little girl, I used to go to church and one Sunday some poor little girls and boys were crying and I gave them some money, I told them to come with me. We went to the church and the priest gave them presents, and I gave the little girls some of my dresses and shoes and they were very happy. That made me happy too.

OUR CHRISTMAS begins on the 16th of December and lasts until the 24th of December.

CLAUDINA PLATAS, 7th Grade

Christmas at Piney Woods

Christmas at Piney Woods is somewhat different from elsewhere. Down here, all the students get the same Christmas Spirit. What I mean is that all the students are happy. There is no one any more than the other.

On Christmas Eve night we assemble in the chapel. We sing carols and tell stories. And then, as is over, the smaller children are impressed by Santa Claus. One of the students pretends to be Santa to make them happy. He passes out gifts to everyone. Everyone is happy, but the smaller ones are even happier.

I know now that Christmas time is a time when there is happiness: I have grown out of that stage, so it’s not like it used to be with me. When I was younger, I could hardly wait until Christmas came. And when I did, sleeping was hard on Christmas Eve night. I wanted to see what Santa Claus would bring us. We got almost what we wanted so we had no reason to be unhappy at Christmas.

Only one boy which was our good friend didn’t get too much of anything. His mother was dead and his father didn’t care too much about getting anything. When I said I was going to get something for Christmas, he said he didn’t care. I think about him but I noticed he didn’t ever get what he said.

When I got older, I found out why. Now I think about how much I was blessed. I didn’t get everything I wanted but it was enough to keep me satisfied.

WILLIAM THOMAS SHEDD, 11th Grade

AN AUTOMOBILE

Perhaps someone has a car in fair condition, for various reasons surely want to use it again and would rather see a place like Piney Woods School put it to good use. We’ll be happy to come for it.

GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

Christmas in the Heart

Ada Mae Hoffrek

Around this time of season come Enchantment in the air, Hard to define it, but one feels Its presence everywhere.

A magic wand with heavenly touch Has floated down to earth, To fill the hearts of young and old With peace, good will and mirth.

They smile and laugh, who ne’er before Showed happiness within.

There’s some bewitchery that ends To make the whole world kin.

Oh, that this charm could make its home Within our hearts always— To fill the world that kindly touch We feel on Christmas Day!

Christmas and Family Prayer

Christmas at my home was always something because at an early age, when I was five years old, we all were at home and all were happy. When we arose from our bed on Christmas morning, we all had a family prayer but still I did not know what I meant about Christmas. We had a big dinner that day, and after I ate dinner I asked my mother what it meant about Christmas and she told me the story about the birth of Christ.

OTIS HOWELL

PICTURE STORY

If you did not receive last month a 40th Anniversary Pictorial History of the early and present-day Piney Woods School or if you want another one or more please feel free to write us: Piney Woods School, Piney Woods, Mississippi.