



J. Phillips

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Holiday Memory



"It was a special time for us children even though we never received many toys. There were seven of us. We all believed in Santa, or Weihnachtsmann (as he is called in Germany), but he came not down the chimney, but walked from one house to the other. We would not see him, but heard his voice (my dad's). We never saw the Christmas tree until Santa had been there. There were real candles on the tree.

We have two Christmas days. On the 1st we would go to church while our mom would prepare dinner. She would roast a goose, and the day before she would get the dough ready for the Christmas Stollen (a German fruitcake). It was so big that we had to take it to the bakery to be baked off. Afterward we had to bring it back on an ironing board. All the neighbors did likewise. We didn't have pies.

After dinner we would assemble in the living room where my dad had the Kackeloven going and we would get the instruments out and sing Christmas songs. There was no TV. The lights were turned off and only the tree was lit up. It was called the 'Daemmerstunde.'

Each of us also had a Christmas plate filled with nuts, candy and marzipan. We could eat it at our own leisure, but had to watch out that it didn't get eaten by other siblings. The neighbors would come out and we wished each other 'Frohe Weihnachten.'

*-Elfriede Robinson
Hometown: Germany*

Hometown Shopping in Leelanau County

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