

Holiday Memory



My sister Nancy and brother-in-law Bob made the decision that year to go to Fort Wayne, IN from Deep River, CT and spend the holidays with my parents. Nancy and Bob have six children and their Christmastime always revolved around the children and families coming to their home. Nancy and Bob had never spent a Christmas without their children and we knew this year would be an adjustment for them.

afternoon of Christmas Eve and we headed to the airport in Grand Rapids. Our daughter Lisa and son-in-law Larry Godt would be flying in from Orange County, CA. Our travel time was limited so we hoped their flight would arrive on schedule and it did! We piled Lisa, Larry and luggage into the van - already a very tight space - and continued our "road trip."

time for Lisa and Larry to celebrate Christmas Day with Larry's family. Our "Secret Christmas Mission" was accomplished in 24 hours!

-Betsy Allen

Hometown: Ft. Wayne, IN

My husband, Maurie, and I talked it over and we came up with an idea that would take major planning, good weather conditions, a family team effort, an airline running on schedule and the "secret" mission to be accomplished in 24 hours! We decided to organize a trip for Nancy and Bob's children to visit their parents in Fort Wayne. It would be our "Christmas Road Trip," a round trip from Traverse City to Fort Wayne and back. We knew we would be spending many hours in the van, and after all it was Christmas, so we had a small Christmas tree with battery-operated lights and a picnic basket with many Allen Christmas food traditions.

We arrived at our parents home around 10:30 pm, just as they were thinking of heading to the 11:00 Christmas Eve church service. The game plan was to pull into the driveway with no lights on, exit the van quietly (extremely difficult for the Allen family) and place the big refrigerator box at the front door. Everything went according to plan except the refrigerator box. We hadn't measured the box and at 6' 5", son Matt, didn't quite fit. On top of that, the kids had a very bad case of the giggles. You try getting a refrigerator box over four adult children with bells in their hands! We thought we were doomed to discovery, but we got ourselves in control. Maurie and I rang the doorbell and hid in the bushes. Daddy opened the front door and on cue the kids rang their bells. What a surprise! Dad called Mom, Nancy and Bob to the door. He pounded on the box and said, "What is this, a new refrigerator?" The kids started laughing and the box fell over.

We went into the house getting hugs and kisses, never did go to church, and had a wonderful Christmas Eve. On Christmas morning we had our breakfast, loaded up in the van and headed for Traverse City. We arrived back and safe and sound in



The Allen family, Christmas 1988

Christmas time evokes many memories, but the Christmas of 1988 will always stand out as a special one in the Allen family.

Maurie, Jason and Matt closed the store on the

Warm Conversations

brought to you by your Electric Co-op.

With Cherryland Electric Cooperative long distance, there are no monthly minimums and no service fees... just quality affordable long distance. With our program, you can call *anytime, anywhere in the continental U.S. for just 5.9¢* per minute*. This includes both in-state and state-to-state. There are no time of day restrictions and no hidden fees. We also offer a personal, Toll Free number for the *rate of 6.5¢ per minute* and Calling Card benefits for just 9.5¢ per minute.

So now that we've made long distance calling so easy, you can watch your savings really heat up!

1-888-815-7077



*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions may apply. Please call for details. In participation with TransWorld Network.

114218772000