

Christmas desires told

by Kimi Wolf, Matt Blackburn, Anna Carpenter, Doug Baucom, Denise Shokey, Pattie TenEyck

"What do I want for Christmas?" is on the minds of most young people at this time. The Pioneer Post probed many of these minds to learn their innermost desires.

The following are the answers we received: Among the freshmen
Mike Marleau, A trip to Lake Tahoe.
Gabby Henry, A stereo and a new name.
Chris Welch, A new pair of skis.
Chuck Woster, A waterbed.
Bob Daffron, A 10 speed bike.
Kathy Maples, A pair of skis.
Wes Betts, A motorcycle.
Roman Scott, India drawing pen.
Shelli Smith, A bike.
Kevin Way, A new stereo.

Sophomore wishes are somewhat different.
Robert Spradling, A week in the Caribbean.
J.J. Lenchitsky, A Simmental cow.
Anna Carpenter, A student desk.
Alice Shoppert, A video tape recorder.
Joe Rowland, Electronic games.
Tammy Kunkel, Charm bracelet.
Kathy Swanson, Fancy jewelry box.
Darla Delay, Leather coat with rabbit fur collar.
Becky Rodrigues, Guitar case.
Mark Brooks, 10 speed bike.
Rick Esposito, 37 record albums.

Juniors seem to be very interested in skiing, stereos and automobiles.
Kevin Layng, Wheels and tires for my car.
Steve Frost, TV.
Tina May, Ski boots and poles.
Rita Carpenter, Clothes, mostly.
Jeff Colt, 25 lb. bag 1 1/2 shot, 1 lb. bag green dot powder, bag of AA wad.
Floyd Proctor, Pickup repaired.
Harvey Hazelett, 12 gauge shotgun.
Doug Miller, Digital car stereo.
Carrie Brewster, Ski outfit.
Matt Falgout, Stereo.
Kelly Jackson, Ski outfit.
Debbie Doering, A key to the car (my very own).
Wayne Grippi, Ski outfit.
Janet Wilson, Stereo, gold watch, clothes.
Mark Fabrycki, Car.
Kevin Hartung, Brand new stereo.
Randy Kubitz, Two chrome wheels for the back of my car.
Donald Martin, Car.
Mitch Gillies, Lots of money.

Senior hopes run a little more expensive. Gone are the wishes for bikes. Cars, watches and money fill the minds of Sandy High senior citizens.

Kathy Van Beek, Happiness, that's all.
Tom Coutts, Houston in the Super Bowl.
Shelly Nippert, Money for my trip to Colorado at Christmas.
Janet Dodson, \$1000.
Jeff Sprouse, Another trip to Hawaii.
Cindi Rudisill, A pretty gold watch.
Pepi Valian, A weight set.
Cindy Monzingo, A Corvette.
Miles Bowman, Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders.
Derrick Berg, A pair of \$6 shoes just like Mike Martin's.
Kristi Sather, A watch that I can pick out myself.
Dalan Askew, Nothin. I got everything.
Julie Anderson, A pearl ring.
Jim Griffin, Pasterin to break his arm.
Scott Weninger, My old Adidas retreaded.
Maybe this list will help some bewildered parents with their Christmas shopping.

Students born Christmas day

by KIM FULLER

How would you like to have your birthday on Christmas?

Four students at Sandy High have birthdays on December 25. Three of these are freshmen this year and the other is a senior.

Mark Mayfield, senior, said, "At the time, it's great because you get twice as much as others, but it does have its drawbacks."

He mentioned that Christmas toys usually last other kids until their birthdays and then birthday gifts will last to Christmas, but not in his case.

His friends often joke about his being a "second Jesus." However, Mark originally was to have been born sometime near the first of the year. Since his mother's doctor was to be out

of town at this time, she wanted her own doctor for the delivery, so Mark was born early and arrived on Christmas day.

Dannette Dugger says, "It's all right," and she doesn't mind having a birthday on Christmas. She would change it if she could though.

"Other kids receive presents two different times, and I have to wait one whole year," she added.

Brenda Langlois was also born on Christmas day. "I think it's something special," Brenda said. She doesn't think it's too bad. "After all, I don't have to go to school on my birthday."

James King says he never really thought about his birthday being anything extra special.

"I just think it's normal," he said.



Area youth collect cans

by Kimi Wolf

The Annual Canned Food Drive to help the poor at Christmastime is on at Sandy schools.

Starting last Monday and going until December 20, the food drive is held at Sandy High, sponsored by the Key Club in conjunction with the Sandy Kiwanis Club.

At the high school, there will be class competition and on December 20 Santa Claus will visit the school to pick up the foods and thank all the students for their help.

Besides the high school, the following grade schools are contributing — Cottrell, Bull Run, Kelso, Firwood and Sandy Upper Grade Schools.

The Kiwanis Club will be packing up to 100 baskets to give to the people in this area, stretching from Government Camp to Eagle Creek. The baskets are given to low income people and families.

Pete Salzback of the Kiwanis is coordinating the food drive.

"Most of the time, the high school gathers up the most cans," Mr. Salzback said in telling who the big contributors to this drive are.

The deadline is December 20, then it will take two days to package the canned food, fresh foods and the meat. On December 22, the baskets will be distributed to the homes along with toys for the children.

If you would like to give at Christmas to people that need love and help, contact the high school, 668-8011, and students will pick up your donation of cans, food or money.

Musicians to perform

by Kathy Hoover

Sandy High choir and bands will perform a Christmas concert next Monday at 7:30 p.m.

Admission is free as a Christmas present from the music department to the public. The performance will be held in Gym A.

During the Hallelujah Chorus, all the bands and choirs will be combined.

A few traditional Christmas carols will be included for the audience to join in the fun.

Merry

Christmas!



Donations given to poor

by Audrey Chapman

Christmas is the time of year when people become enthusiastic to help people who are less fortunate than themselves.

Most fire departments collect toys in "Toy and Joy Drives." They give the toys to the needy children in their districts.

Sandy Fire Department is also conducting a drive. You can leave toys at the fire station. They will be given to children in this area.

The police in Portland have a special division called the Sunshine Division. They collect food and give these food baskets to the needy. Scouts and people who volunteer their trucks help to

distribute the baskets.

The Salvation Army and other such groups collect money to help the needy. You see their collection pots in front of many department stores.

Kiwanis and other men's groups help out with canned food drives. In this area the students in high and grade schools by collecting canned food to be distributed to the needy.

Nearly everyone tries to help out in this season. All these groups work very hard and all their help is volunteer. We salute these people and fervently wish that their efforts would extend throughout the year instead of being limited to Christmas.

A gift of real meaning

by SUZANNE JONES

"Shannon wait for me!"

"I can't Julie. I have to get to the Center early today."

"But you always have to go to the Center. Why can't you be normal and hang out with the rest of us?"

"Julie, the kids need me!"

"Sure, just like they need Godzilla."

"Julie!" Shannon yelled in shock. She wished that somebody could understand why she worked so much with the crippled children. She'd rather help someone than hang out with the "in" people.

As she rushed through town to the Center, she noticed the dazzling Christmas ornaments in the dime store windows.

"Oh, I forgot about the decorating party today. I was supposed to bring a Christmas decoration for the Center. I'll just slip in here and buy something."

Upon entering the store, Shannon noticed the gorgeous toy soldier in the entrance. She immediately fell in love with it.

"This would be perfect and original, and I bet the kids would love it."

Though the price was high, Shannon bought it, having a gut feeling that it

was worth it.

At the Crippled Children's Center, Shannon unwrapped the toy soldier and hung it on the tree. Then she gathered all the children around the tree to sing carols, except Jimmy. Jimmy didn't want to play or participate in anything. He sat in a corner all of his life.

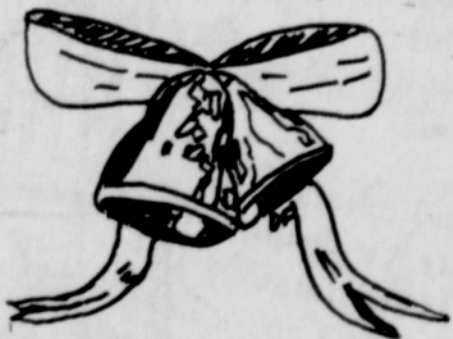
"I wish I could put a smile on his face," Shannon sighed to the head nurse.

In free time, Jimmy noticed the toy soldier on the tree and hurried as fast as he could to get it. Just as he reached for the soldier, Shannon turned around and exclaimed, "Jimmy, no!" Jimmy heard her and immediately ran for his corner. This made Shannon embarrassed and ashamed for spoiling an eventful moment.

Shannon got an idea. She slipped to the tree and secretly took the toy soldier down. Shannon quietly carried the toy soldier and present it to Jimmy.

"Jimmy, this is for you. I bought it for someone special, and that is you." Jimmy glanced at the toy soldier and instantly his eyes lighted up. He tenderly took the toy soldier in his arms, caressing it gently.

For the first time, Shannon saw Jimmy smiling! This was what she spent most of her spare time for, to share precious moments such as this.



Christmas, what is it?

by Gail Keyser

After I was asked to write a Christmas story for the Sandy Post and refused, the teacher decided to make it an assignment.

I figured there are too many Christmas stories written. Things are always the same. Writers just change the names and sequences of events, but I'm going to change that.

People sometimes forget the true meaning of Christmas. It's the birthday of Jesus, not vacation from school for children or getting presents.

The people who own stores are out to make money. Before families buy

Thanksgiving turkeys, actually worse than that, before Halloween, merchants are already cutting Christmas trees and decking the halls. By the time Christmas comes, they are trying to rush the New Year, so they can forget the past, relax and live it up with some Scotch on the rocks, etc.

Take things at a pace, not a rush, meaning... what's happening right now! Enjoy Christmas, get the true meaning, a sort of "Old Fashioned Christmas." You, as a reader, know what I mean, chestnuts on an open fire. Christmas should be taken at a pace. Enjoy Christmas for the true meaning.

Cook for Christmas fun

Scramble

2 lb. mixed nuts
1 10 1/2 oz. Cheerios
16 oz. Rice Chex
11 oz. Wheat Chex
17 oz. small pretzel twists
1 5 3/4 oz. pkg. slim pretzel sticks
1 c. salad oil
1 c. butter melted
2 Tbsp. Worcestershire sauce
1 Tbsp. garlic salt
1 Tbsp. seasoned salt
Mix all ingredients in very large baking pan. Bake 250 degrees for four hours stirring every 15 minutes. Makes about nine quarts.

Fudge

3 c. sugar
One third c. cocoa
1/2 c. milk
Cook until it makes softball when dropped in cold water. Remove from heat.
One third c. butter
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. chopped nuts (if desired)
Beat until well blended. Pour into greased 13 x 9 in. pan. Cool at room temperature; cut into squares. Makes three lbs.

Contributed by Becky Rodrigues

Fantasy Fudge

3 c. sugar
3/4 c. margarine
Two thirds c. (5 and one third fl. oz. can) evaporated milk
1 12 oz. jar marshmallow creme
1 c. chopped nuts (walnuts)
1 t. vanilla
Combine sugar, margarine and milk in heavy 2 1/2 qt. saucepan; bring to a full rolling boil, stirring constantly. Continue boiling 5 minutes over medium heat, stirring constantly to prevent scorching. Remove from heat; stir in chocolate pieces until melted. Add marshmallow creme, nuts and vanilla; beat until well blended. Pour into greased 13 x 9 in. pan. Cool at room temperature; cut into squares. Makes approximately three lbs.

Contributed by Scott Bender

Brownies

Melt together 2 Tbsp. cocoa and one third cup shortening
Beat in 1 cup sugar and 2 eggs
Stir in 3/4 c. flour, 1/2 tsp baking powder and 1/2 tsp salt
Spread in 8" square pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 22 minutes. Cool and cut into 2" squares. Makes 16.

Contributed by Becky Rodrigues

Hot Cider Punch

4 c. water
4 c. apple cider
two thirds c. orange flavor instant breakfast drink mix
1/4 t. cinnamon
1/8 t. nutmeg
1/8 t. ground cloves
Combine all ingredients in a sauce pan; blend well and bring just to a boil. Serve hot in punch cups or mugs. Makes about 2 quarts. (16 servings using punch cups, or 8 servings using mugs.)
And try these tasty variations—
Cut 1 orange into quarters. Insert 1 or 2 whole cloves into each quarter. Prepare Punch as directed omitting the ground cloves. Float orange quarters on hot punch.

Substitute 2 cups of cranberry juice cocktail for 2 cups of the cider.
Contributed by Dan Flatt

Caramels

2 c. sugar
3/4 c. light corn syrup
1/2 c. butter
1 c. cream
Bring slowly to boil, stirring constantly. Then stir in gradually one more cup cream. Stir often as it thickens, constantly as it darkens. Cook to 254 degrees (a little dropped into cold water forms a hard ball). Pour into buttered cookie sheet with 1/2 c. nuts scattered over bottom. When cold, cut into squares. Makes five dozen caramels.

Contributed by Becky Rodrigues

The Christmas miracle

by PATTI TENEYCK

The snow glistened white on the bank. Far up on top of the hill, six lone figures were sledding. Cheryl, 13, and Daniel, 10, lived over three miles away, but the sledding here made it worthwhile. The hill ran parallel with the road for over 3/4 of a mile, but on the far side of the hill, the world belonged to the children. There was hill after hill and sledding was superb!

On this day, Cheryl and Daniel had been joined by the Miller children. Eric was the oldest at 16, then the twins Jesse and Robert were 10 and Anne, 7. The family was not rich, but Mr. Miller had made each child his own sled. The runners were hand-hewed and the slats laid tight together and pegged in place.

Today, the cold crisp air and clear blue sky made them all especially daring. Jesse started straight down the hill, careening to the left, just missing going over the bank to the ice-packed road five feet below. At the top he heard Eric yelling at him something about "If you kill yourself, I'll tell father!" As soon as he regained his nerve, he climbed back to the top. He finally convinced Robert to try it. He, too, veered left just at the right moment. Soon all four boys were sledding perilously down the hill.

Cheryl sat at the top with Anne, watching wide-eyed. Soon they grew bored. When they got up, Daniel shouted to Cheryl, "Where are you going? Are you afraid of watching, too?" The boys thought this was a humorous idea. But Cheryl burned red with anger. "I'm not afraid of anything." When she saw the looks on their faces, she added, "It's just that you're too slow!"

"Well, okay then, come race me!" Daniel was smiling broadly now.

"Aw, come on," pleaded Jesse. "If you don't race him, his head will swell up and ruin his hat."

Cheryl handed Anne's sled to Robert and pulled her hat tightly down over her ears. "Dan, I'll race you only once, then I'll head for home." He grinned and nodded his head.

Eric started them. With a blur of snow, they were off! Right from the start Cheryl was in the lead, crouched low and hanging on for dear life. Daniel stayed right on her tail.

From then on nothing was clear. With one glance back, she saw the children pointing up the road. When she looked, she saw a pick-up truck closing in fast. She turned to warn Daniel, but he had made the corner and was slowing to a stop. Cheryl felt herself fly through the air...

The driver of the truck hit the brakes. He didn't slow down, but instead, began skidding towards the fallen girl. He fought the truck for control, turning the wheel right and left. But he knew then it was hopeless.

The next moment Cheryl was only aware of pain, darkness and pain. She hurt all up and down her back. Her head ached with crushing force. She saw all the kids gathered around, vaguely aware of the individual faces, then nothing.

Nine days later, on Christmas eve, the two families were gathered

together. It was not an especially merry time. Cheryl was still in the hospital in intensive care. She had been in extreme pain, and consciousness came and went. The head injuries had been extensive.

The phone rang, and Cheryl's dad answered it. Everyone listened closely. When he hung up, he turned to the families, waiting with anxious looks on their faces. "That was Cheryl's doctor. He said she is out of intensive care and into a private room."

Looks of relief and joy spread over their faces. He motioned to Mr. and Mrs. Miller and his wife to go to the kitchen. Cheryl's dad looked grim.

"She will have a private room, but not for long. It seems she's dying." They all went silent. "Now we can't tell the children. It would ruin their Christmas."

Soon they sent the kids to bed, and they, too, went to bed with their minds full of thoughts of Cheryl.

The next morning the children all ran to the tree to open the presents, but they were halted by the telephone.

"What's up? Is it Cheryl? Oh, God! I'll be there as soon as I can send the kids to the neighbors... okay yes, I understand doctor, Thank you."

He turned to the rest. "He wants us to come to the hospital and bring you kids, too. And the presents."

They all piled into cars and sped to the hospital. When they got to Cheryl's room, she sat up in her bed, her face glowing. The doctor stood smiling at the bedside.

"It was almost a miracle. This morning she woke up and asked for her make-up, so she could look nice for her Christmas," he said.

Both families were laughing and crying at the same time.

"Well, where's my present?" "Open mine first!" "No, open mine!"

They spent four hours, laughing and throwing bright-colored ribbons and paper at each other. Then Cheryl was getting tired so they sang Christmas songs. At about 6 p.m. Cheryl had severe pain in her neck. The doctor sent the kids home with Eric. That night Cheryl died in her sleep.

"You see children, this Christmas was not so bad for her. She spent Christmas with us and then died quietly, not painfully, but still it ended her suffering," her father said.

Then the families joined hands and prayed for Christmases had taken on a new meaning.

