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Christmas Traditions

Shayna Hepner
shayna.hepner@aggiemail.usu.edu

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“Christmas Traditions”
Holiday Custom

Informant:
Courtney is a college student majoring in psychology at Utah State University. She is the only child in her family. Courtney grew up doing everything with her cousins who now seem like siblings to her. She is excited to graduate and start a family of her own.

Context:
Courtney spends Christmas Eve at her house in Nibley with all of her extended family and occasionally her best friend. On Christmas Courtney and her family drive to her grandparents house in Hyrum to celebrate the holiday some more. Courtney’s father was also an only child and his mother has passed on. Cache Valley is the only place while celebrating.

Text:
My extended has been celebrating Christmas Eve at my house since I was 9 years old and we bought the house I live in now. As a kid I thought that was so much fun because all of my toys were there and I never got bored. When I got older it was not as much fun because it takes a lot of time to get ready to host a party. On Christmas Eve, all of my mom’s brothers and sisters would come over with their families. My grandma and grandpa would come over too and sometimes they would bring my grandpa's brother and his family. We would play games and eat dinner and around 8 o’clock Santa would come. He would call each of the kids by name to sit on his lap and tell him what they wanted for Christmas. Sometimes the really little kid would get scared and cry the whole time they were on his lap but I never was scared. When we told him what we wanted he would give us a small present, an orange, and a candy cane. After Santa left
everyone helped to clean up then went home. On Christmas morning we would wake up and open the presents. I always had one present from my parents under the tree and the rest of them came from Santa. The first year after I found out about Santa, I got a bowl of fruit instead of a bowl of candy for Christmas and I loved it because I do not like candy that much and every year after that, I get fruit. One year me and two cousins who were around my age all got a makeup kit for Christmas. Mine was purple, one was blue, and the other one was green. We spent Christmas day putting on our makeup together and it was so much fun. My favorite gift I had gotten as I got older were tickets to a Philadelphia Eagles football game. After we were done opening presents, we would clean up and make pancakes, bacon, and eggs for breakfast. We would drive to my grandmas at noon and open presents from grandpa and grandpa. We would also trade presents with one of the cousins. When everyone was done, grandma and grandpa opened theirs last. My family would go home and watch National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation and The Christmas Story.

Texture:
Courtney liked remembering past Christmases. She express joy in recalling the traditions that have stayed the same and those that her family no longer does. Courtney mentioned that there were some traditions she would like to get started again and a few new ones she wants to start when she as a family of her own.