

Phil's Forum 9/3/08 – A Christmas Story

This was sent in by one of our readers...

"Hi Phil,

"I just couldn't help but respond to the favorite Christmas gift story challenge! This one sticks in my mind.. I try to use this as a reminder in my life, as an example: "Don't count your chickens before they're hatched!"

"This particular year we knew that gifts would not be plentiful as they had in the past. The nine of us were expecting only items that were needed. Mom and dad divorced earlier that year and mom remarried a gentleman who she had dated back in high school. That's another story!

"Christmas was always moms favorite time of the year. After the tree was up, usually the day after Thanksgiving, we would have a family night and string popcorn. Mom would stir up a huge batch of sugar cookies and we would get to frost them.

"With the new family just getting started, my 2 brothers and 2 sisters along with my 3 step-sisters and 1 step-brother, we were confident that Christmas just wouldn't be the same this year.

"One morning my sister and I, she was 12 and I, 14, saw two large boxes under the Christmas tree, our name on each one. We couldn't imagine what was inside these big boxes for us.

"Throughout the season, mom would drop little hints that the package held something we both needed. She even made sure we overheard her tell someone we needed snow suits. I was so upset. I couldn't imagine me wearing a snowmobile suit. I dislike the cold and outside and did not go out much. I was a real hermit in the winter. Oh, I just knew this was going to be the worst Christmas ever!

"The season was pretty much like the rest. We did the popcorn stringing and the cookies. Much to my dislike of knowing Christmas day would be a disappointment. I did try to make my mother feel better by not letting on, I heard her talking about a snowmobile suit. Gosh she already had so many kids to provide for.

"On Christmas morning, my brothers and sisters were so excited. They were up at the crack of dawn wanting everyone to get up so we could open gifts! I finally dragged myself out of bed for their sake. We all looked in the stockings first. The usual stuff, some finger nail polish, pencils, candy cane, and fruit. Then came the gifts. Mom handed them out one at a time. The little ones got theirs first. I was surprised when the younger ones had presents they asked for, lucky them! I was envious, it was going to be the worst for me!

"It was my turn. I slowly took the bow off the large box, broke the tape at the bottom of the wrapping. Unwrapped the paper, ever so slowly. What was to hurry. I knew what was in the box. Hey, the box isn't heavy. What kind of snowmobile suit is this? I finally got the paper off, untaped the top and what did I see? The box had paper inside. Wadded up paper! What in the world is going on. I pulled the paper out piece by wadded up piece. At the bottom of this box, I found something other than the wadded up paper. It was an envelope with Merry Christmas and my name written on the outside. By this time, I'm excited, I can't believe this is not a snowmobile suit... I opened the envelope and to my surprise was a check for \$50.00. This was my first check ever! I have never felt so adult like. My sister also received a check. I knew we were going shopping.

"Now, I couldn't wait until the store opened the next day. My sister and I were all day deciding what we were going to buy. A million and one things went through my mind.

"The only thing I remember of my purchase was going to the Toy House for the first time ever in my life. I purchased the game of Aggravation, so all of us could enjoy.

"This was my favorite memorable present!"

Wow! What a story! Thanks for sharing.

-Phil Wrzesinski