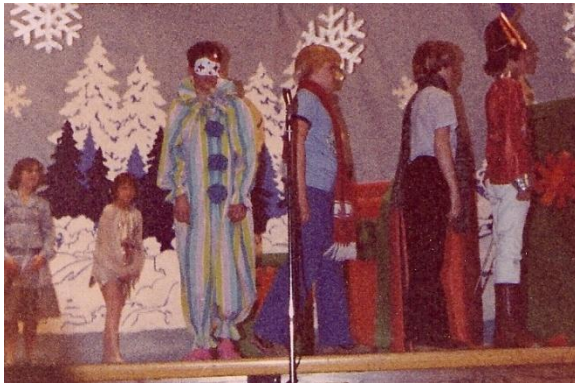


TIDBITS

December 2014
Volume 2 Issue II

Magical Time- The Christmas Play of 1979.

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'Tis the season to be jolly, indeed. With all the traditions that is associated with Christmas- the snow (or the lack thereof), the tree, presents, a visit from Santa Claus and Christmas plays. Nebraska School for the Deaf was no stranger to the traditions and one of the best kept tradition was the annual Christmas Play. Students has staged Christmas plays on stages on the second story in the Old Main Building and at the old and new gymnasiums for so many years.

In the 1970's and 1980's, the primary and Jr. High departments would alternately give plays every other years. The play would be about a lesson that ended happily for everyone. Traditionally, the play would close with "Silent Night" and "We wish you a Merry Christmas" sung by the whole ensemble with an aid from Jill Ramsey, the speech teacher, at the piano. The whole play ended with a visit from Santa Claus who gave presents to each students at the primary department. The families had an option of taking their child home

that night or let them stay and complete a half-day of schooling on Friday.

When the members of the NSD Class of 1987 had their reunion, there was a general agreement that the Christmas play of 1979 was one of the best around. It was on Thursday night, December 20th. It was a cold night and snow has fallen. The whole community came to watch the play, NSD faculty and staff, parents, families, friends and the alumni. The set background was designed and developed by art teacher Ann Eckberg. It was a winter wonderland with fir trees set in various hues of blue and all primary classes each gave performance.



The name of the Class of '87's performance was "The March of Toys". The teacher, Mary Mjeldheim directed the skit. Kyle Miers, Tricia Tighe, Clyde Brack and Kelli Thomas portrayed people who had missed the meaning of Christmas and was visited by a fairy Amy Willman who brought toys to life. The fairy tapped each huge presents and David Weverka as clown came out jumping and hopping while Traci Ivins, a ballerina, danced across the stage. Then there was a tall present in the center of the stage and after the fairy tapped the present thrice, out came Linsay Darnall, Jr. as a toy soldier.

We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas;
We wish you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

From: NSDAA Board



The story cumulated when the clown bowed comically with arms outstretched striking the soldier. In anger, the soldier was about to strike the clown with a sword, Miers' character intervened, "Stop! You can't do that to each other! Christmas means we should be merry and there should be peace on earth. Please, let us all be friends!" With that, the soldier and the clown reconciled and the whole class capped their sketch with a song that began with, "Come to the land of magic/ Come to the land where dreams come true."



As years go by, memories would come to those who were there and remembered how magical that night was. It was a best and jolly time, indeed.