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Remembering.....

By Ed McBride



Christmas Toys

Who said that we did not celebrate Christmas back in my days? Well, we did (and still do) - the above picture is of the first wagon that Santa brought me - in about 1927. The wagon body was solid oak, with very little metal bracing - the wheels also were oak with steel "tires" and roller bearings.

Yes, I still have it, along with some of my other toys. (The picture was made February 17, 2001) You see, back then we got very little in the way of "extras" and usually then only at Christmas time - so unlike these days, we took care of what we had or else!

Now, this is 2003 - so many things have changed - radio, television (more than one snowy station), computers, cars with starters, power steering, power windows, etc., planes that travel a little farther than the Wright Brothers' plane did at Kitty Hawk on December 17, 1903, space

travel, modern paved roads and bridges (no longer do we cross the Pee Dee River on a ferry), modern farm equipment (instead of plowing a mule), electricity to power a multitude of modern appliances (instead of oil lamps), telephones (no longer do you go to the phone on the wall, ring the operator, and say, "Give me number 551, or whatever!").

More advancement in my years, I guess, than at any comparable period of history.

So, this is a good time to say thanks to each of you for reading our "Remembering" column - for your help and support - for every kindness... many thanks.

All these and many more continuing changes - but Genesis 1:1-5 and John 3:16 still haven't changed!!

So...Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - "You All"

Ed

Travel Tips to Help Kids Stay Injury Free

Holiday travel can be filled with a lot of fun memories for kids - road trips with the entire family, visits to grandma and grandpa's house and more. Since road injuries are the leading cause of preventable deaths and injuries to children in North Carolina, Safe Kids North Carolina offers some simple travel tips to help keep the holiday fun and injury free.

- 1) Check your car seat before holiday travel. 73% of car seats are not used or installed correctly. If you have questions or concerns, certified child passenger safety technicians are able to help install or ensure the seat is correctly installed.
- 2) Use booster seats. Kids who have outgrown a forward-facing harness seat are not ready yet for a seat belt or the front seat. They are safest in a booster seat that enables the adult seat belt to fit properly. Even when children have graduated from booster seats, they should remain in the back seat until they reach the age of 13.
- 3) Bulky coats and car seats don't mix. If it's cold outside, cover babies and young children with a thick blanket to keep them warm after they're securely strapped into their seat. Bulky winter clothes and coats can keep a car seat from correctly doing its job.
- 4) Have an exit strategy. If you need to change a diaper or feed your children, take the time to safely stop at the nearest exit to do so. Stopping along the roadway can be hazardous to the occupants in your car or the vehicles that need to pass you.
- 5) Remember the car seat for air travel. If you plan to travel by air this holiday season, be sure to bring your child's car seat onto the plane. Check to ensure the car seat is labeled "certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft." For babies and toddlers, this is the safest way to travel.

To learn more safety tips for children, visit www.safekids.org/safetytips.

JOHN DEERE

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