

My Most Memorable Christmas

By Jack Joyce

In my family Christmas was a very big holiday even though times were tough. My father loved the holidays. Right after Thanksgiving he would start working on setting up the trains, which he said were mine, but today I have my doubts. We had a room that we called a sun parlor where the tree was set up. The glass doors were covered with a sheet so my sister and I could not peek in.

This one Christmas I wanted a table radio for my room. It was the Christmas after WWII and things were still scarce like appliances, cars and radios. My dad had forewarned me that my likelihood of receiving a radio was almost nil. I reluctantly resigned myself to the fact that a radio was not forth coming. When Christmas morning arrived we never went into the room until after mass and breakfast. When we went in my dad would be Santa, and he would distribute the presents. Of course there was a great abundance of shirts, ties, socks etc. He did tell me that there was one present that he thought I would enjoy. The last present I opened was a pair of suspenders. I thought to myself I don't even remember asking for them, but with a grin I said thanks for all the presents. In this sun parlor was a couch which had three large pillows. My father said son see what that bulge behind the pillow is. I took the pillow off and there it was a table radio. I let out such a scream of joy I am sure the people three houses away heard me. I was thrilled. My dad later told me that he had been to this radio store and the fellow had one left, but a person had been in and left a deposit on it. My dad said how much is the radio, I believe it was \$20.00. My father said I will give you \$25 and the deal was made. We had no car so my father tucked the radio under his arm and trudged home through the snow and kept it hid from me until that glorious Christmas morn. I have had many good Christmas's since then, but I'd have to say that was my best, and most memorable. That happened almost 70 years ago, and I have never forgotten it.