

Trees and Memories Go Together

By Joan Mish

One of my funniest stories to share from 20 years back is when my daughter's wedding brought so many folks to Denver. Even her AFS family from New Zealand came. My daughter was married over Thanksgiving weekend.

After the wedding my son, who had driven our car from Wisconsin, drove the New Zealand parents back from Colorado so they could spend some time with us. They mentioned that they had never had a **real** Christmas tree. They were just too costly in New Zealand. But they did have land where they grew walnuts. So we decided to take them out to a friend's Christmas tree farm. Our kids were friends with this family and the two oldest boys who were Boy Scouts at the time had helped plant some of those trees. So the dad who ran the farm as a hobby took us around and explained some interesting things. That day we did buy our Christmas tree there on the farm.

Since my husband at that point used a wheel chair a lot, they helped to decorate the tree and heard lots of fun stories from our past. Isn't that what Christmas trees are about? MEMORIES.

Pretty much after that I bought an artificial tree which fell apart in Denver a few years ago. So I don't put up a tree any longer. I just use my decorations which bring back lots of memories.

Another favorite tree is the weeping willow tree we purchased when we first bought our house in Wisconsin. The kids and grandkids loved to play around it. But it was hit by lightning 30 years later and we finally had to take it down. But I did notice we have one over by a pond on the golf course. That brings back lots of memories also.

Trees and memories go together in my mind!