

At Christmas time the trees came in by the ship in November and when the Christmas trees came to town everybody went and got their Christmas tree. And they're all shipped in. Everybody would get their Christmas trees and all the kids in the neighborhood would go to everybody's house and, can we have your Christmas tree when Christmas is over? So, they promised the Christmas tree to them, so when everybody took the Christmas tree down, the kids would all go to the house, they would put them outside or whatever. We go to the houses and put them on the—guys would usually put them on the back of their bike and our end of town—I lived in, Diablo—was the bomb shelter. Our end of town, we kept our trees in the bomb shelter and the kids on the other end of town—the town wasn't that big, but the other end of town, they had a gang of people that kept their trees up there. I don't know where they kept them. They had a big pile. But we had the bomb shelter. And the boys, the older boys, they would oftentimes steal the trees from each other's gang right. But if they were seeing some kid going with the tree on the back, they'd go steal them. I mean the same with the other kids would do it to ours. So, we'd keep them in the bomb shelter and everybody had to protect them. And I mean there are tons of trees in there and I look back at it now and we used to, I mean the whole place was piled up with trees, but the bomb shelter was really big. And there was columns in them and it was dark. And we would light candles and stick them on the columns, the concrete columns and I think about it now. So, we'd all save the trees and then in January, early January, the guys on the north part of the town would have their bonfire. And our bonfires were always huge, so we take all the trees out to the field. The school was right behind our house too, down a hill and there's big fields out there. And they take all the trees down there and pile them up. Everybody in all the neighborhood would come down there for this bonfire. And the parents, everybody throw the trees in. We cook marshmallows. Do all kinds of things. So, so it was a huge huge part of Christmas. Christmas time in our neighborhood there was a man, Mr. Hollowell, Tinker and Cody Hollowell's father, he made a sleigh. And it was a big sleigh, we'd all get in and sing and he'd drive us all through the neighborhoods. We'd sing Christmas carols. Yeah, it was really nice and people were big on decorating their houses and decorating their yards with lights. And the men that were more like woodworkers and things they make great things for their yards and put them on the roofs and the lights would be everywhere. There was one town, Curundu Heights, they were known for it. They had beautiful displays, Christmas displays, that they did every year. And everybody would drive through all the neighborhoods looking at all the Christmas lights. Oh, and the other thing about Christmas is everybody shopped in the commissaries. But at Christmas time, all the toys and everything were shipped, and when the toys came they had these warehouses that they converted for them to put the toys. So, all the kids we got to go and look at all the toys you know you go. The kids will go after school. And we'd all go in there. We'd see, like, the Tiny Tears Dolls. My girlfriend and I would go look, we'd be deciding of all the things that we wanted to have for Christmas, and we go tell our parents what you know what it was. So, there's a Tiny Tears Doll or there's a Tony Doll or there's, whatever it was. So, it was so much. Because we didn't have those—toys weren't around until Christmas time so it was huge everybody was in there checking all the toys.