

News

A mother's flock heads home for a single day

On Gleamer and Sunshine, Soy and Vrolet, Paulaya and Pasha and Sparkelynn.

I can hear my mother, like Santa Claus calling his reindeer, calling her children home.

She doesn't care about Thanksgiving, Easter, President's Day or the 4th of July, as long as all of her kids come to momma's cabin on Christmas day.

Consequently, I will be making the 20-hour drive to Buffalo, N.Y., on Dec. 23 and the 20-hour drive back to my Destin home on Dec. 26. Yes, I am going to be really sleepy at work on Dec. 27, which actually is the day I turn 24. But to me, that one day makes the 40 hours worthwhile.

With long drives, the hubbub of the holidays and the importance of one single day, you have to wonder, is that one day worth it when the other 364 days of the year could serve the same purpose?

Before I am accused of Grinch-like ways, let me say this: There is no time or place like my mother's home for the holidays.

My granny, my five sis-

ters and their husbands, boyfriends and kids join me for my mother's traditional festivities. We would have five more beyond the already 20 immediate family members at Mom's, but my brother's family doesn't generally fraternize with us girls.

Another tidbit, out of those 20 people, only five are male...we are a family dominated by estrogen.

So all day Christmas we gossip, cook, run after kids and love like we won't ever see each other again. The kids of course, are psyched about the plethora of presents from their aunts and Nana. But us girls are so happy to be together for a single day that we spend it loving like we used to.

But we could do that randomly on Aug. 15 every year. And sometimes just that happens. When one of us gets married, graduates or has a baby, we all gather a la Christmas day.

There is one sole reason why Christmas is a different day, and my mother insists our family celebrate together. It isn't Santa, it isn't presents, it's

Can't Get There From Here



By Pasha Carroll

not the tree, the lights, the cookies or the sprawl of food in the kitchen.

It is Christ. Why do you think it is called Christmas?

In my family, when we slip on ice, we turn to Christ. It is the thread that has held my family together through the times we shudder at. So on Christmas we celebrate the love of Christ, the same love that has kept us girls so tight through petty arguments and thousands of miles.

Any day of the year, I would drive a million miles to be with my family, but on Christmas I am reminded that my family remains amazing with a little help from above.

And every year, the scenario changes. We add new people, take people away,

kids get older, we have new jobs, new homes and new lives to share.

This year, we have a new baby, Dasia Constance (pronounced deja). I can't wait to hold Dasia so close to me that every breath is filled with the scent of her powdery skin.

My oldest niece, Samantha, is 16, which catapults her into the adolescent adult category. At 16, she will defiantly be participating in the seedy conversation us girls gleefully make.

Between the oldest and youngest are Kristen, Dillon, Darien, Destiny and Riesling. While I love them all the same, I am especially excited to see Destiny Pasha, who is my god-daughter.

Destiny has a sweet, harmless quality about her that makes her so special. If you could bottle her sweetness it would sell quicker than Tickle Me Elmo in 2002. It is the quality that even at five-years-old has been jaded out of so many children.

I am excited to see my Granny, who at 85 is still the most eccentric of us

all. No doubt she will be in the middle of the fiasco, playing with the kids, gossiping with the girls and acting like she is 20.

But the person who I can't wait to see the most is my momma. There is a special relationship between moms and daughters that is unlike any other. Besides that, she is the coolest person I know.

I haven't seen my mom since August and I miss her like it has been years. The first long hug from my mom will make the hours of driving disappear.

This Christmas I hope you all have family to spend the day with. While you can do it any other day of the year, remember the reason we celebrate. My thoughts and prayers will be with the men and women that couldn't spend Christmas with their own families but my heart will be at home in the snow with my own.

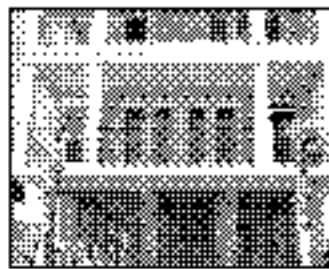
Pasha Carroll is a staff reporter at The Walton Sun. Her column appears the fourth Saturday of each month. She can be reached at 267-4555 or pasha_carroll@link.freedom.com

Our readers are our most important business at The Sun.

Gulf Front



Watersound Bridge Lane
C-108
3BR/3.5BA condo with attached garage.
Best buy in Watersound. Gulf front.
\$2,025,000



51 Green Street
"BEACH FRONT BEAUTY"
3 Story gulf front home with beach access & pool. 5BR/4BA with all the extras! Fabulous kitchen, 10' ceilings, crown molding throughout, & elevator ready.
\$2,425,000

South Side of 30A



139 Geoff Wilder Lane
"Casa Verde"
4BR/4BA Plus Bonus Room, Private Pool and Great Rental History.
\$1,999,000

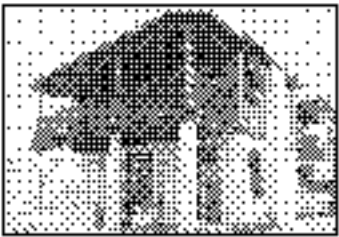
Condos
High Pointe 132
2BR/2BA, Furnished

\$795,000

Beachside Villas #1213
2BR/2BA Furnished
\$375,000

Lots

Lot 13 Camp Creek Point **\$3,250,000**
A25 Pelican Circle Lakefront **\$1,350,000**
Lot 14 Milton Fosse Lane **\$875,000**
C7 Dunes Estates of Seagrove **\$849,000**
99 Vicki Street **\$449,000**



29F Sunset
2BR/3BA Beach Cottage in Gated Community with Private Beach Access and Gulf Front Pool.
\$825,000

Seacrest Beach

58 Cobia Run West, "Adele's Mansion"
3BR/3BA house on corner lot. Perfect location across the street from the pool with great pool views, wraparound porch, & beautiful furnishings. **\$1,250,000**



- Lots**
- Lot 15 Chance Street, Lakefront, gated \$750,000
 - Lot 4 Brenda Lane, Possible Gulf Views \$675,000
 - Lot 110 Cypress Walk, Prestigious Cypress Dunes \$520,000
 - Lot C6 Greenway Park, New Subdivision \$499,000
 - Lot C3 Greenway Park, New Subdivision \$475,000
 - Lot 73 Forest Lakes PENDING.. \$399,900

Condo

Heron's Watch # 5101, 2BR/2BA, New \$299,000

House

88 Camp Creek Rd. S. 2BR/2BA \$679,900

Lots

Q15 Blue Dolphin Loop **\$669,000**
Corner Lot, Gulf Views
M3 Beach Bike **Why \$650,000**
50x100, Back Entrance to Property
H3 Seacrest Beach Blvd. E **\$599,000**
50x100, Back Up To Green space

The Village

V409 Penthouse 4BR/4.5BA, Furnished **\$1,425,000**
V241 Studio 1BR/1BA, Furnished **\$299,000**

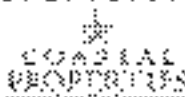
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"The Smile" of 30-A



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