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Home-for-Christmas Can Live Up To Your Dreams

A blissful Christmas vacation from beginning to end will come with advance planning. Here are ways to make Mother, Dad and the small ones as glad to have you home as you are to be there.

by Shirliann Fortman

UNUSUAL indeed, is the Iowa State coed who isn't looking forward to Christmas. Her box of anticipation might be wrapped in eagerness to see old friends again, or to be with her special male interest or just to enjoy the bounties of Mother's tasty delicacies. But whatever the wrappings be, a coed's box of Christmas anticipation is all tied up with the thought—home for Christmas!

So whether you're a worldly senior or a rather homesick freshman, take yourself home, all collegiate, happy, pretty, and ready for weeks full of wonderful times. And why not try a little advance planning this year to make certain everyone at home has a good time while you are there, too? Let everybody be as happy to have you home as you are to be there. Really indulge in an all over Yuletide spirit.

Begin when you step in the door! Whether your trip home was a tedious nightmare or as dull as could be, forget about it right away. Instead give your mother a special hug to tell her how glad you are to see her. Remember, Mother and Dad, both, are bubbling over with curiosity to know what you've been doing during these past weeks. Do you like any course in particular and why? And what about this Bill you've been mentioning in letters home? Now is the time to fill in those lines you didn't have time to write home.

Not to be an oddity, you're probably dreaming about those sleep-through-the-morning hours of bliss. Who doesn't? But don't overlook the surprise and fun in store for your family if you come to breakfast frequently as spic and span as you would for dinner. They'll declare college was the finest institution ever conceived—especially if you were inclined to be one of those individuals who preferred to brunch in robe and curlers. If you're wondering what the most fashionable breakfast attire is, try the ready smile. It guarantees good results!

DAD will probably get quite a jolt when you offer to play cards or cribbage with him some night, but why not? If you're all dated up get ready early and make a pre-date with your dad. He can really give you a man's honest opinion on your new black dress, too.

If you think talking to the girls about college life is fun, try it with your mother. She's your best audience yet. After all, aren't you her pride and joy? Make some afternoon hers. Take in a movie and share a soda together, or maybe she'd appreciate some help in the kitchen.

You'll be quite taken back when you discover what a few hours spent with your younger brothers and sisters can teach you, college woman that you are. Sleigh rides, tag in the snow or good old fashion snowball fights are fun insurance.

Parties invariably rate at the top of Christmas plans. The combination of snow, holly and all your old friends make parties spark the holidays. If you're planning to have the crowd over to your home some night, go ahead! Be sharp and get the family working with you to make the evening a success. Everybody loves a party, and they'll be glad to help if you ask them.

Have a conference with your mother on the refreshment problem. Get Dad to help you hang the mistletoe and holly wreaths. Your high school brothers or sisters will be flattered when you ask them to go with you to buy a few new phonograph records.

And even the youngest members of the household can cut out red Christmas bells or blow up balloons.

On the day of festivity instead of hinting very strongly that Mother and Dad go out for the evening, tell them to drop in on the doings occasionally. Your dad might be quite an entertainer in his own way, and you'll probably be mighty glad mother is within calling distance when it's time for refreshments.

TRUE, younger sisters and brothers often add a sharp contrasting note to parties. But they usually are entertaining, you must admit. In fact, you'll probably be amazed to discover just how much your family can add to your party even though you are entertaining your own crowd.

You probably won't get to see all your friends while you're home. But call up those you won't see, just to say "hello." No doubt, they'll be glad to hear from you and will enjoy chatting for a few minutes anyway. If you really missed someone, tell her. You know how nice it makes you feel to hear you are missed. And if you met someone here at school who asked you to call a friend of hers, don't overlook doing that little favor.

Christmas is a time for good will and good times. In your planning ahead don't overlook either one. If you plan on both, you'll have them. There's no set pattern to follow for fun because good times aren't made that way. But when you go home, be happy you're there and show that you are. Good will and good times always walk hand in hand.

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