

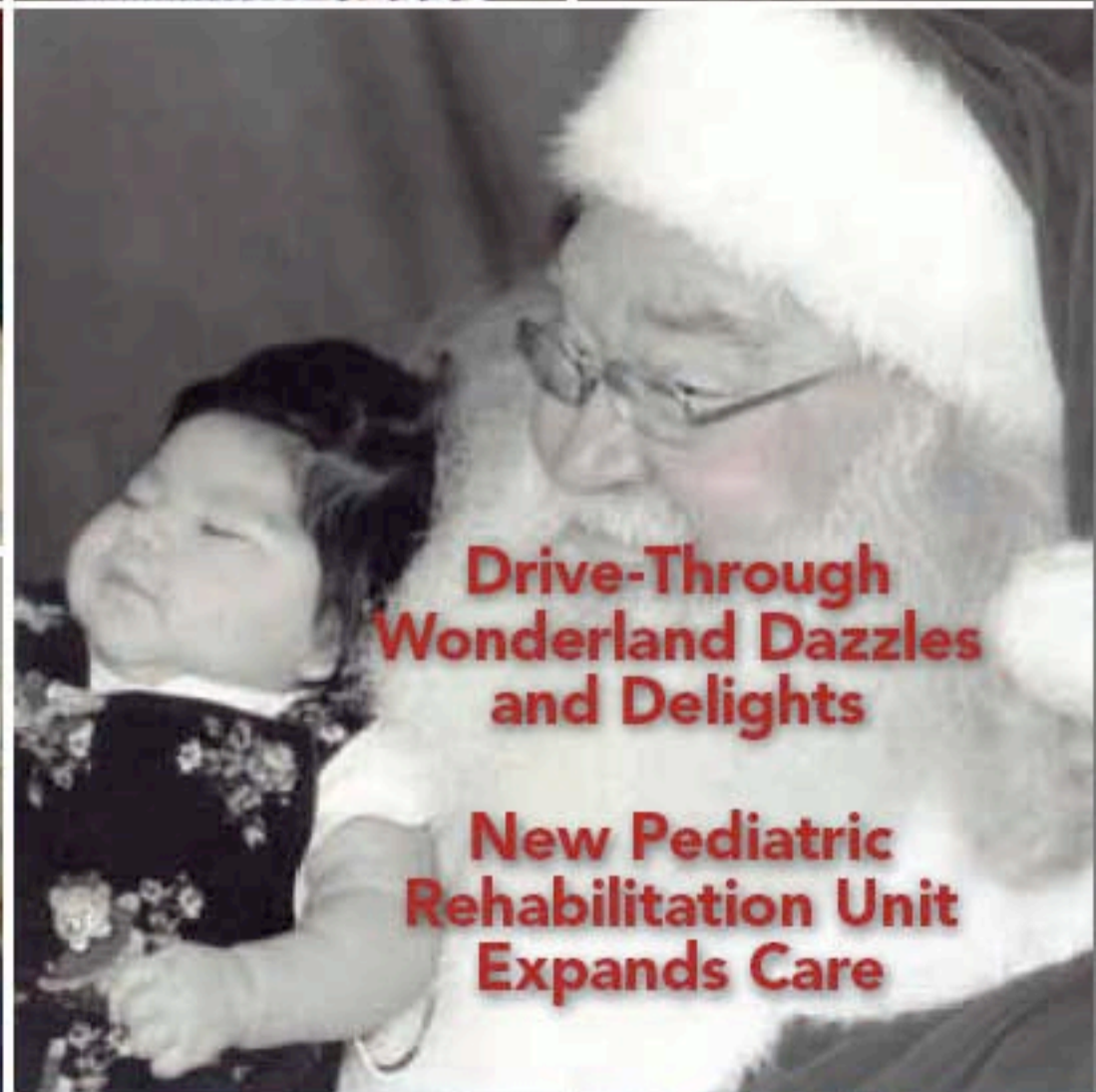
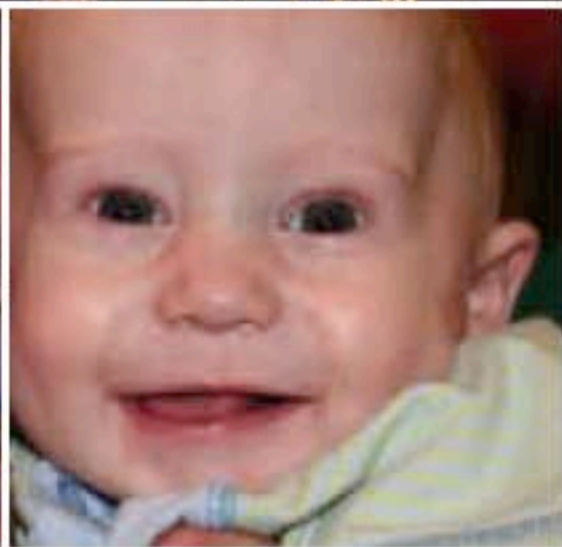
BethanyTM magazine

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"It's All About The People"
Volume 1 Number 4

Holiday Happiness & HOPE

at The Children's Center



**Drive-Through
Wonderland Dazzles
and Delights**

**New Pediatric
Rehabilitation Unit
Expands Care**



A Holiday Stocking of Travel Destinations

Text and Photography by Terry Zinn

At this time of year, it's all about gifts and giving and preparation. This month, I'd like to share with you what is happening elsewhere and what you might want to sample yourself. After all, you've been a good girl or boy all year. You deserve to be good to yourself.

Old Mexico Christmas

Just a day's drive west on I-40 is the enchanting Santa Fe, New Mexico. A short time ago, it was my joy to visit the city once again and this time at a Santa Fe veteran. The Inn of Five Graces (www.fivegraces.com) has a Moorish style mixed with an adobe charm. Originally a habitat for artists and then owned by a Persian rug merchant, it is now an upscale Inn. Each renovated room is unique in design and size. Some have extensive tile décor and others sport multi-room luxe.

Perhaps one of the best qualities of the inn is its location on the little known street of East DeVargas. It rests near the oldest church in Santa Fe and around the corner from the fabled Pink Adobe Restaurant and the neighborhood Dragon's Bar. The old town square is only minutes away on the Old Santa Fe Trail.

An "Old Mexico Christmas" at the Inn starts with its cranberry sangria and ends with Christmas cookies on your pillow. The Holiday dream catcher above your bed also hints at the holiday season with red beads and is yours to take home. On Christmas Eve, East DeVargas street is closed for bonfires, helping St. Nick find his way, where posoles and chili await his arrival.

With a dusting of snow on the warm adobe walls of the old town's architecture, often flickering with candle-lit luminaries, you know you are someplace special. On a crisp winter night's walk, you can't help but communicate with the spheres of old under stunning starlit skies.

Southern Treat

For a southern holiday treat, visit Mobile Alabama's Bellingrath Gardens (www.bellingrath.org), which sparkle with three million holiday lights. Inside the Museum home that is filled with antiques, you'll find the holiday decorated, complete with your own photo with Santa and a supper in the Gardens. Hot cider or hot chocolate can accompany you as you tour the 500 outdoor holiday displays.

White Christmas

For an extra treat, you could ship your personal holiday ornaments to the Lake Placid Lodge (www.lakeplacidlodge.com) in New York and they will adorn a fresh-cut tree in your own cabin upon your arrival. When you can take your



Above, left: Inn Of Five Graces, Santa Fe; above, right: San Miguel Chapel in Santa Fe is the oldest church structure in the United States. The adobe walls were constructed around A.D. 1610

homey Christmas with you, there's little reason not to have your own White Christmas cabin, complete with fireplace, smores and your own snowman-making kit. All the memories of a Christmas Card White Christmas personalized with your very own holiday mementos.

Desert Holiday

Last year, I threw homebound holiday traditions out the window, hopped on a plane and spent Christmas in Palm Springs (www.palm-springs.org). I hiked in majestic palm canyons accompanied by splashing streams and later celebrated at a randomly chosen Christmas Eve church service. I was surprised Christmas Morning

to find Santa had visited my guest house, and left stockings filled with Christmas treats.

New Orleans Bound

In New Orleans this year, the International House (www.ihhotel.com) will be celebrating Twelfth Night, which signifies the end of the Christmas Season and the start of Mardi Gras. New Orleans is eager for your visit, which I'll share with you in more depth next month.

Until then, be good to yourself.

Terry Zinn is a native Oklahoman who has been a travel journalist for more than 20 years and is a past president of the International Food Wine and Travel Writers Association. Contact him at TravelsWithTerry@aol.com.



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