

Christmas lives in Farmington

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Two families in Farmington will have Christmas in July.

And August and September and November. It's the only thing to do with a last name like Christmas.

Take the case of Colleen Christmas, 19, of Farmington. Do her friends wish her a merry Christmas? No, they exercise their wit by wishing her a Colleen Christmas.

Colleen isn't impressed. Amused maybe. "Everybody thinks they're the first," she said of the teasing.

Besides wishing "a Colleen Christmas," her friends get into the spirit of things by listing all of the more appropriate names for her.

But for a twist of fate, and different tastes in names by her parents, she could have been a Noel Christmas or a Christian Christmas.

COLLEGE LIFE has aggravated the teasing.

"I've been teased about the name, but I started college this year and its worse," said Miss Christmas, a student at Oakland University.

When she was growing up in Farmington, her schoolmates were used to sitting next to Christmas in May, so she seldom heard any remarks about her name.

Around the holiday season, the family collects some interesting double takes when they order a pizza or reserve a table in a restaurant.

"It gets worse around Christmas," she said. "When we make reservations, they think we're kidding. If we order a pizza they'll call us back to check."

Holiday shopping brings special problems.

"When you sign your name for a charge account, people will say, 'Oh, Christmas—are you sure?'"

Comforted by knowing that England has phone books with pages devoted entirely to the Christmas clan, Miss Christmas noted another advantage to sharing her name with the holiday.

"No one forgets your name, ever. They think they know you right after meeting you," she said.

ALTHOUGH COLLEEN seldom receives prank phone calls about her name, another branch of the Christmas family in Farmington admits to receiving its share of joking phone calls.

"We get lots of phone calls," said Mrs. Winifred Christmas. "They'll say, 'is day there?' They want to say Christmas Day but I tell them 'day isn't here.'"

But crafty Mrs. Christmas still contends with pizza store employees who hand out the line "are you kidding" when they write the family's name on an order form.

"You just take it," she said.

When acquaintances ask if there is a merry Christmas in her household, she tells them cousin Merry lives in Ohio.

Although the Christmas children went through a few years being called Tree, Mrs. Christmas wouldn't change her name.

"My husband went along with the name and he's a great guy," she said.



Christmas Carolers

Harrison High School concert choir and brass groups sang and played carols for visitors in the lobby of the American Center Bldg., American Motors' headquarters in Southfield last week. The choir, directed by Mauri Wildt, and the brass group, directed by Paul Barber, so enthused the employee audience that an encore performance was requested in the cafeteria.

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