



Robert Lee's Small Town Christmas! Robert Lee Vision with a Purpose president Debbie Childers expresses to the crowd gathered Friday night, December 14, at Robert Lee's Small Town Christmas how much Bryan's Barn meant to the community of Robert Lee. Shown is Wilson Bryan's daughter Cookie Burns (left) during the ceremony held at the Wilson Bryan Mini-Park.

No, she loved both and gave him the kiss she had waited on for so long. They held on to each other and Old Cowboy wondered is this how Horse felt the first time he allowed Old Cowboy to get his hand anywhere near his head; to trust once again.

More tears down Sarah's face but these were happy tears not sad tears. "My goodness", as she wipes her eyes once again. The two gather themselves and back to the task. "We don't have long, I can hear Alisa" Sarah announces.... "Ok you ready?" Old Cowboy hands her a string of goat and deer bells and he takes some and goes outside. All this a well-oiled plan from last night; John from Dallas would narrate to the kids while Old Cowboy and Sarah played the part of Santa and the reindeer.

Old Cowboy slips outside and makes his way around to the ladder and with bells and two long sticks positions himself above the loft. He starts off with the bells....softly at first and getting louder to simulate Santa's sleigh approaching....Alisa the first to hear it....."Daddy?"..."What... is that?"..."Is that?". she says excited. "quiet kids we have to be quiet"...the bells really loud now ... "Daddy"...Alisa repeats wide eyed ...Brent is frozen....Old Cowboy takes both sticks and pounds them on the roofand a second time ...as Santa's sleigh bounces to a halt...."O my word kids, I think Santa just landed on the roof!"Quiet".....not a peep out of either now.... eyes and mouths open wide as Brent buries under the covers....All eyes glued to the ceiling now...

Old Cowboy is working

the bells with one leg and taping the roof with the two sticks with both hands. "Listen, you can hear their hooves on the roof top"....both kids speechless at the commotion above them... Brent reaches for Celine's hand...."HO HO HO"....Old Cowboy belts out...Every animal on the place and even the roosting wild turkey on the river answer back....Dog, barking, runs upstairs and jumps on the bed....now there's 5 staring up at the ceiling.....

Sarah is on Que and jumps and lands on the floor ...the bells ringing as she walks toward the tree....Old Cowboy keeps up the hoof stomping and bells and makes snorting sounds....."Daddy, is he down there?!" Alisa is just ecstatic...She looks at Mom ...she looks at Dad.....Brent still can't even move...John from Dallas just puts his finger to his lips..Shhhhh...the 5 lay there listening to Santa at work. "Daddy was I good?!!!" "Please, tell me I was good Daddy!!!" Alisa is wound like 9 day clock....Shhhhhhh "Yes child you have been good" ...Brent is still speechless and just points at himself in question...."Yes you too, you were good too"... as John from Dallas asks "You ok?"...Brent can only nod his head yes and smiles and Celine takes him and holds him.....

Sarah moves about the room bells ringing each time she steps...she lets some time pass...Then, a bang on the stove pipe.takes the stove brush and drags it from bottom to ceiling.....never have 2 kids been so spell bound.....

Old Cowboy, back on Que, is making reindeer sounds,

Santa sounds, sled sounds and lets out one last HO HO HO dragging the two cedar sticks across the roof and then, quiet, nothing but bell sounds as Santa and sleigh go airborne...Old Cowboy almost coming off the ladder lets out a!!! You guessed it...Santa cussed....Brent goes on point..."Did Santa

say???"... as Celine grabs his mouth...Alisa has her hands over her ears wild-eyed...starts giggling...Dog cocks his head like he recognizes him...."No, No John assures them, he said on Blitzen ,up Dancer...uh uh gitty up Cupid!!!"

Its total chaos upstairs now as Old Cowboy regains composure...and a grip....the bells loud at first tapering off till quiet as Santa disappears in the distance...then quiet....All this has stirred up every animal for miles including Donkey braying to the top of his lungs...death quiet inside now.....Brent awakes from his trance stands straight up in the bed ..."LETS GO!!!".....

Alisa squeals and both bale out of bed and down the stairs in a sprint...Dog passing them....Sarah barely beating them back to her bedroom....Celine looks at John from Dallas..."I'm not so sure it wasn't Santa!, How real!" She whispers to him....."I was even a little scared", "were you scared"?...as they jump up and slip something on and try to catch up to the kids.....

Sarah comes from the bedroom all yawning and stretching, realizes there's still a bell on one ankle. Grabs it and tosses it back into the bedroom only to

have Dog go after it! She catches him just at the door and takes them from him. Walks in to see the two kids just standing there, staring.....Alisa has her hand over her mouth....afraid to move as if they did it would all disappear. Sarah takes a picture. Alisa looks at Sarah..."Is that for us"? She asks...."I'm sure it is sweetie" ...The two move ever so slowly toward everything....Brent reaches the bike and says "Really?...These are ours"? as he looks up at Sarah and back at his parents....

The bright red bike shines like a new coin as Brent finally reaches for the handle bars....Celine takes Ailsa's hand and they get in the floor and begin to play Barbie....Sarah just smiles and thinks how Tessa would approve. Old Cowboy walks in all sly and excited; explaining he was out at the barn and heard such a commotion...and "Something flying off to the south"....Sees the presents and says "See? I told you he'd come" as he looks down and points out the foot prints. As if those two needed any more conformation? Celine pointing out the cocoa and cookies were gone. It was a wonderful Christmas morning. Besides what Santa brought there were presents to be unwrapped. Sarah just could-

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